

INDEPENDENT

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Lord Ashcroft makes a charity donation to Tristan da Cunha

Airlink Raise St Helena Air Fares Again



Have Your Picture Taken



The Message is Out There

Is it Global Britain?

**Feature -
Your Right to Legal Representation
"Justice, like the Ritz Hotel, is open to everyone."**



CULTURE MONTH

MAY 2024

ST HELENA'S
DAY CELEBRATIONS
FLOAT THEME: IDENTITY-
WHAT MAKES ST HELENA, ST
HELENA?
SUNDAY 19TH MAY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A
STALL OR VOLUNTEER ON THE
DAY PLEASE CONTACT RADKA

HENRY:

RADKA.HENRY@TRUST.ORG.SH

25531

SCHEDULE OF THE
DAY TO FOLLOW



St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air



Lord Ashcroft makes a charity donation to Tristan da Cunha



Lord Ashcroft has marked first visit to Tristan da Cunha by making a generous donation to a charity which supports the islands' community.

The £50,000 gift to the Tristan da Cunha Association was pledged by Lord Ashcroft when he stopped off this week at the archipelago during a cruise to the South Atlantic.

Lord Ashcroft, who is an international businessman and philanthropist, is a keen supporter of the British Overseas Territories and has made several visits to St Helena since the island's airport opened. He has supported several projects on St Helena, including the renovation of Jacob's Ladder.

The Tristan da Cunha Association is a UK registered charity that promotes education, culture and other activities on the islands.

Lord Ashcroft told *The St Helena Independent*: "I am thrilled that I have finally been able to achieve a long-term ambition to visit Tristan da Cunha. It is widely regarded as the world's most remote inhabited archipelago, so it is perhaps unsurprising that it has taken me some time to get here.



"Sadly, a very heavy swell prevented me and other passengers from actually landing on the main island. Nevertheless, I am delighted to be here and to be able to make a donation towards supporting the local community. I plan to return to Tristan da Cunha soon and next time I hope to be able to land and to meet islanders."

Anyone wanting to know more about Lord Ashcroft's work should visit www.lordashcroft.com or follow him on X (formerly Twitter) or Facebook @LordAshcroft.

Visit of the MS Ambience, April 2024

Report and photos from Kelly Green, TDC

The cruise ship MS Ambience arrived at Tristan da Cunha in the morning of the 10th April 2024 just after 6:00am.

The ship came in close to the settlement, which gave passengers a good view, but unfortunately no landing operations were possible then due to the swell. However she went for a cruise around the island and came back a few hours later to see if conditions had improved

Close-up of the Ambience inshore, showing passengers lining the rails for a good view of the settlement, while curiously the BBC News is shown on the outdoor cinema screen of her lido deck.

When the Ambience returned at 11:00am, operations were cancelled by the Captain. Even though the harbour was workable for islanders, the ship was not able to use her tenders to

land passengers, and it was deemed unsafe for island personnel to board the vessel using her pilot ladder.

This was a sad disappointment for all the islanders as they had spent two days in preparation. All the shops had packed up enough items to take on board to sell to over 1000 passengers and 500 crew!

But safety comes first! We wish her safe sailing onwards to Brazil!





Editorial

There was something on the Saint FM news this week about the Cayman Islands threatened by climate change. I thought I would find out more. I was amazed when I discovered that some experts think the Caymans will be under water by 2050. That's only 25 years away, we might as well say it's tomorrow.

This information is in the introduction to the report which caused the Caymans mega-problem to be reported in international media. Saint FM followed this up by reporting on the reports of the original report. The original report, called *Rising Tides, Departing Shores* is written by a group of young people who are understandably wondering what on earth is going to happen when they are old and grey. In the introduction the writer, an established environmentalist, recalls when meeting these young people they asked his advice on a particular issue. It seems the Cayman government plans to build a road through the middle of a mangrove forest. The young people wanted to know what the writer thought they should do about it. The writer wrote, "I was shocked and lost for words. I thought for a few moments then decided I had no option but to say something I really did not want to utter. 'But aren't your islands going to be underwater by 2050?'

My first thought was, why is the government building a road which will be under water in 25 years' time? My second thought was, why is it a group of young people are pushing this issue? What are the older ones doing? Based on what is written in the report it seems very little, maybe nothing. Reading further on, it is explained, "The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan serves as a conversation starter". What! 25 years to go and no-one is talking about it? It seems not. On the same page it says the report is intended, "to kick-start this vital conversation with the government of the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom". Later, the group, called *Sustainable Cayman* describe themselves as a Non-profit Organisation which is leading discussion on this calamitous situation.

The report includes brief descriptions on what other islands are doing about rising sea levels. Another Caribbean Island, Anguilla, has been progressively assessing flood risk and damage since 2017. In the Pacific, the Maldives are planning a floating city that will house 20,000 people in 5,000 low-rise homes. As sea levels rise, so too will the city, which will be built upon a series of hexagonal-shaped floating structures by 2027. Nearly all of the Maldives is just 3 metres above sea level. Another Pacific Island, Tuvalu, suffers from sea levels rising 1.5 times faster than the world average. Tuvalu plans to live on in a digital world by replicating the islands' terrain, traditions and landmarks using virtual reality. Next is the UK, where sea levels are rising by about 4cm every decade. The UK central government have handed the problem over to the local authorities. One scenario the young people of Sustain-

able Cayman suggest should be explored is, moving somewhere else. "For a potential destination, Scotland offers shared British heritage, linguistic ties, and a coastal culture that aligns with Caymanian seafaring traditions. Diplomatic negotiations should explore the feasibility of migration to Scotland, emphasizing historical and cultural connections."

Digging further into Cayman and climate change, there was a draft Cayman Climate Change Policy 2023 - 2040. It was adopted in July last year. It will finish 10 years before the Island is expected to be underwater. Public consultation on the policy brought a reported reaction from some attendees at a meeting who queried the effectiveness of the proposed policy, noting that unless rampant development and questionable planning decisions are addressed, a policy that aims to protect Cayman from rising sea levels and flooding is unlikely to have an impact. The Cayman Premier is also the Minister of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency. He cried off from this public consultation meeting because he had to be at a parliamentary session the following day. That particular Cayman Premier resigned in November last year after he ended up on the wrong side of a vote of no confidence. No surprises there then.

Yesterday the UK increased the cost of a new passport from £82.50 to £88.50. The last increase was only 14 months ago. The two increases combined have hiked the price by 16%. Postal applications cost more. Up from £93 to £100. And of course, more still for applications from overseas. If you are 95 or older, you get one free – overwhelming generosity.

In March this year SHG announced British passports for adults increase from £104.50 to £112.50 and for children the price is £77, an increase of £5.50. The new improved prices start today.

Back in the Day

They used to use urine to tan animal skins. Families used to pee in the same pot and take the pot to the tannery once a day to sell the result of their work. If it was necessary to get money this way you were called 'piss poor'.

Some families were so poor they could not afford to buy a pot. This led to the saying; 'they are so poor they don't have a pot to piss in'.

Vince



End of Term Report for Legco

1st April is the start of a new year; mostly for financial reporting. For Legislative Council the government budget should have been settled by the end of March. Deciding the details for St Helena's £30 million seems to have defeated the 1,200 FCDO UK-based staff spread throughout London, East Kilbride and Milton Keynes. As too often happens, Legco rubber-stamped arrangements for last year's budget to be rolled forward for the first few months of this year. Plans for new spending are on hold until FCDO hands down its judgement on what is important and urgent for St Helena and what is not. The delayed budget decisions may put on hold progress on some long-awaited projects: -

- developing wastewater solutions for Half Tree Hollow and Jamestown
- building a new prison
- implementing renewable energy solutions in the national power grid
- a water resources management plan which prioritises investment in the water collection and distribution.

Looking at what Legislative Council did between April 2023 and March 2024 leaves a distinct impression that new legislation is either not needed or held up in some big bottleneck within the Castle walls. Four Bills were presented which were minor amendments to existing legislation. This mostly meant just changing the words because committees and Exco do not exist as they once did before ministerial government started. A fifth Bill was presented as a private members Bill,

it was the Female Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Bill, 2024. It can only be assumed the Attorney General's Chambers was heavily preoccupied with litigation brought by outside parties which focus on what SHG did or did not do. Beyond that, much of the rest concerned putting stuff through Legco because it was necessary in order to keep the financial wheels turning. The Bill confirming last year's budget finally got through at the end of June last year, three months late. Other financial items dealt with overspends and financial statements which are required to go to Legco. Nothing of momentous importance; just routine. Also routine were the reports and proceedings which have to be tabled at a Legislative Council before they can be published. The readership for this type of stuff must be very limited.

Lastly, there were a total of 83 questions asked by Legco members of ministers. As one of the elected members is known to have grumbled, "asking questions does not change anything". Since ministerial government was introduced, those in charge seem to have pushed Legco right into the background. Legislative Council being organised when some financial matter or other has to be rubber stamped by Legco. One description of legislative councils in general is that they 'play a crucial role in ensuring balanced governance and the enactment of well-considered laws.' When there are no laws to enact in St Helena, our Legislative Council needs to find a new reason to live.

Legislative Councils. . .

Cape to St Helena Yacht Race – The Message is Out There



A publicity campaign launched by St Helena Tourism has caught the attention of the world's yachting and sailing media. The 2024 Cape to St Helena Yacht Race leaves Cape Town on 26th December, the awareness campaign to attract race entries started two weeks ago. The yacht race is up there with Jonathan and Napoleon for what St Helena is known for in the wider world.

Now Media, who have several sailing websites reported, "The event offers a unique challenge and the allure of reaching one of the world's most remote inhabited islands. Competitors have until November 1 to enter." They added, "The 2022 race saw yachts battling intense weather, enduring heavy rain, high winds, and turbulent seas. Despite the challenges, the shared experience forged bonds between racers. Beyond the excitement of the race, St Helena invites visitors to discover its fascinating past and enjoy its natural wonders."

Time Out, is a large and well established multi-media business covering 59 countries. "Ahoy sailor! Mark your calendars for the starting gun of an iconic 3000-kilometre yacht

race this December." This is the introduction to their piece on the Cape to St Helena Race. Giving St Helena a further push in the direction of tourism, they add, "Haven't found your sea legs? No matter. You can still be on the quayside to welcome the winning yachts: from December 2024 to March 2025 Airlink will offer a weekly flight service from Cape Town direct to St Helena Island!

The race is now on to attract a record number of entries before the 1st November deadline. The 2022 race had 12 entries; It is hoped MACS Shipping will be involved with transporting yachts back to Cape Town. This would be a big plus for the 2024 race crews who do not feel like doing it all again after a few days rest in St Helena.



8,000 Population by 2050 is 'Rough and Ready Stuff'

At the news conference last Thursday on the draft immigration policy Ann Muir, the SHG Strategic and Social Policy Coordinator, pointed out that reversing the outward migration trend will be difficult and the number of people it is possible to attract to St Helena will always be small. The draft immigration policy points out, "there is no lack of prospective migrants in the world, they just do not currently migrate to St Helena." Also, "Even with the modest reforms proposed, there is no real risk of the island being "inundated" with migrants." Ann Muir repeated these and similar observations from the draft policy, following this up with a remark that 'the economist(s)' want to see a population of 8,000 by 2050.

Muir's off-hand comment has truth in it, but not the whole truth. There is no intention to try to raise the population to 8,000 but the mention of it had gossip shift into top gear with the accelerator pressed to the floor; the grapevine was in overload.

The draft policy does mention increasing the population from 4,000 to 8,000. The 8,000 bit only refers to a previous report, written in 2018, known as the Marlow Report. In the 6 years that have passed, the island population has reduced further and 2050 is closer. The Marlow Report obviously had little impact. Also, the Marlow Report is given only as background information with the draft policy. As the *Independent* reported last week, "The 47-page document is not just a recitation of a new policy. It is an explainer of past events and future intentions; it holds a detailed record of the entitlement given by present and future types of visas and much more besides." The bit about having 8,000 people resident on the island by 2050 falls firmly into the 'explainer of past events' category.

The verdict in the draft policy of the 2018 Marlow Report is that the report is "based on various assumptions and must be treated as fairly rough and ready stuff: they are estimates for general guidance only." The draft policy adds. "An island of 8,000 residents will look very different to one of +/-4,000 – and will require major economic, social, labour market and immigration reforms to achieve." This is a polite way to say, 'that's never going to happen'. What would we do with 4,000 extra people anyway?

Regrettably, the '8,000 by 2050' comment has let loose the Mad March Hares as well as the Red Herrings. This has diverted discussion from the main points in the draft policy which do need some proper thought.

Deserving closer attention is, what will happen if the current outward migration trend continues? And, what number of people immigrating here will reverse the population decline. One of the charts in the draft policy gives us food for thought.

1. If the working age population reduces by 20 per year, as it does now, in about 10 years the working age population will be less than 2,000.
2. If no more people of working age leave St Helena for the next 6 or 7 years, the working age population will still decline.

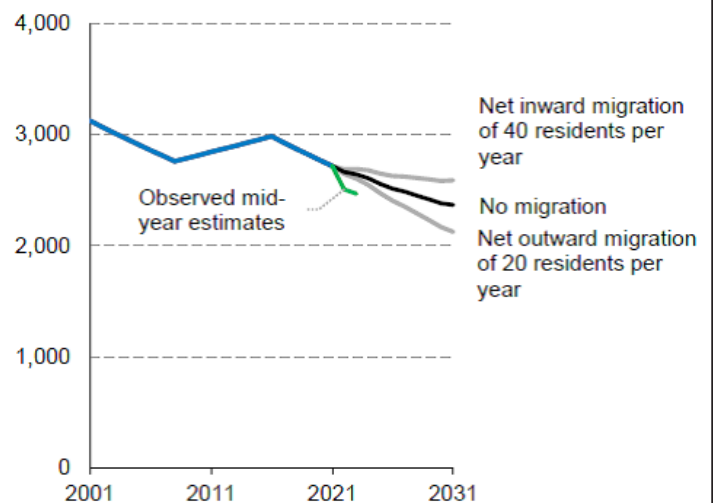


March is the breeding season for hares – they get excited

3. If around 40 people of working age are encouraged to settle in St Helena per year, over the same period, the decline in population will still not be reversed.

Under all three scenarios shown on the chart, St Helena is certain to get poorer. The life-prospects for the reducing number of teenagers will become even more disheartening. The increasing population of retired people will be ever more. More people will be dependent on a reducing working age population. The tax burden on the working age population will certainly increase while the opportunities for wage increases in continually shrinking economy will become less and less. Real poverty is a real prospect in a do-nothing scenario.

Diagram 1.3b Resident working age population (15-64): 2001 to 2021 observed, and 2021 to 2031 projection



It can be truly said, this one is a 'no-brainer': there are no two ways about it, the decline in population has to stop; otherwise, we all lose out.

8,000 Population by 2050 is 'Rough and Ready Stuff'

Refugees or Internationally Displaced People

Last Thursday's news conference also mentioned the section in the draft immigration policy called, **Targeting Internationally Displaced People**. Also known as refugees, mention of displaced people seems to have pressed a button with some.

The draft policy refers to Displaced Talent Mobility, which the UK government has been testing as a pilot scheme since July 2021. The scheme involves specialist agencies identifying, vetting and representing doctors, engineers, skilled trade workers, software developers, and more. These are forcibly displaced people who find they have sought refuge in a country where they do not have the right to work and are locked out of employment opportunities where their skills and experience would be an asset. The UK government uses Talent Beyond Boundaries as the special agency for this scheme.



The St Helena government is considering using the same agency in a similar way as the UK government.

Using this agency will not be the answer to St Helena's skills shortages. It will only offer another possibility to attract some

valued human resource to St Helena. But, as is indicated every time, the numbers involved are expected to be less than the number of fingers on one hand.

The draft policy explainer states, "This may be a take a lot of human resources for little gain." And then explains, "Talent Beyond Borders has a database of job candidates of 78,000 and covers the UK, Canada, the USA and Australia. There is a target of 200 to 250 candidates for the UK and only 25 candidates have found work, this does not bode well for St Helena which is remote and culturally very different to the countries of the Middle East where most candidates come from. The UK is losing out to, for example, Ireland and Canada." If the UK has only 25 since July 2021, St Helena will be lucky to attract a handful over a decade.

The vision some may have of plane-loads of refugees arriving at the airport is more hallucination than vision. We struggle under a low wage/ high price economy. Investors in St Helena are few and far between; many investors, local and overseas, fail. Career opportunities are extremely limited; even Saint students who study overseas often decide to stay away. Without more people in St Helena the situation will only get worse. It is extremely bad now; which makes any thought that hundreds of refugees will want to come here, given half the chance, just an illusion. Reversing the population decline is a massive job, hard work and will take years to achieve. During the years this will take, the situation for us who live here will only get worse.

Airlink Raise St Helena Air Fares Again

On 1st April Airlink increased the price of their air fares by about 5%. The cheapest economy L Class return fare is now £920. Add to that the agency booking fee if you pay the fare in St Helena and not book on-line, the price is now £940. The one-way fare is now £477 with the agency fee.

The fare increases have not been officially announced through press releases or on Airlink's website. Until now, the people booking Airlink flights have only been aware of the extra payment when buying tickets. The 1st April increase follows another fare increase a few months ago.

The Y class economy fare, which allows for a reservation to be re-dated with no extra cost, is now £1457.70 with the £20 agency booking fee. A business class ticket has been increased to £1,813.70.

Tarek Dachraoui of Da Nova Travel at The Market told the Independent that full details of the fare increase are on his IATA booking system but it is an unwelcome surprise to his customers who are not aware Airlink have increased their fares for St Helena flights. Tarek also pointed out that it is possible to fly from Johannesburg to Australia and back for less than the cost of an economy class return ticket from St Helena to Jo'burg - £800 for Jo'burg to Sydney, £920 for Jo'burg to St



Helena. And, Tarek says, the cost of the fare from South Africa to St Helena is about the same as an all-inclusive package from the UK to the Seychelles or Mauritius. Beyond that, Jo-burg to London on Virgin or British Airways can be just £650. There are reasons why St Helena fares are more expensive, short runway, smaller planes, fewer passengers. It still remains the St Helena fares are enormously expensive by comparison and this scares off many who would like to come here.



Return Fares – St Helena to Johannesburg from 1st April 2024

Class of Service	Fare + Fees	Final Cost
L Economy class	£919.70 + £20	£940
Y Full Economy class	£1437.70 + £20	£1,457
C Business class	£1813.70 + £20	£1,814

Your Opinion Counts

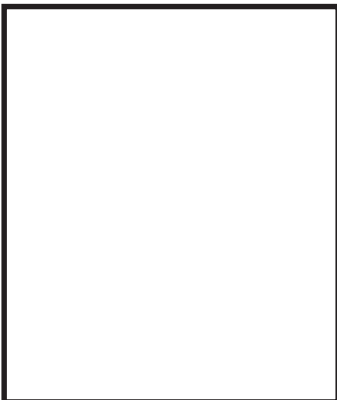
Dear Editor,

Is our Island moving forward or moving backward.

I was employed by Solomon & Company from Sept 2015 working as a shift worker at BFI, Ruperts. After 3 years I was seconded to Penspen to be trained as an Aircraft Refueller/Operator. I was then sent to Athens International Airport in Greece for 2.5 weeks to become certified as a Refueller/Operator. Obviously money was invested in my training so that I can be a benefit to St Helena & the Airport. After returning to the island training still continued for another 2 years with Penspen while they ran the Aviation contract at the Airport. I then continued working for the past 3 years as an Aircraft Refueller/Operator for Puma who is the current Aviation contractor, only to be told by management of Solomon's that due to the complexity of my role as per the Company's terms & conditions Section 5 Retiring Age, their intentions is not to offer me employment after reaching the age of 60. This seem to be very confusing and unfair to me because there is still a vast number of staff that is over 60/65 still working for the company and there is still people being offered employment by Solomon's that is over the age of 60.

So, if this is the way we are going forward I can understand why the younger generation is leaving the island.

**Yours sincerely,
Brian Peters**



Another Push to Improve Education Provision

Education is not in the public spotlight in the same way health issues hit the headlines. This week there is information from SHG about almost £800,000 of FCDO funds spent on new equipment for the hospital and what benefits will come from this. The new hospital equipment is expected to reduce the number of people requiring medical referrals to South Africa and obtain quicker diagnoses. This in turn should reduce the budget needed for medical referrals. Education has a similar list of priorities, plans for improvements and a shopping list to go with it.



Education standards need to be improved and a comprehensive, detailed review is underway to set out in equal detail what is required and why. It is the UK government that will pay for improvements and the answers to their many questions have to be readily to hand.

Included in the big issues is the recruitment and retention of staff. In many of the most urgent cases this means qualified and experienced teaching staff. Again, the Health Department faces a similar situation. There is a significant need to recruit overseas staff. Recruitment from overseas takes a long time and has become increasingly difficult. The UK itself relies heavily on overseas recruitment for jobs in both health and education. Recruiting skilled staff from a big pool of eager applicants in the UK for these public services is a thing of the past. The number of overseas teachers recruited by UK schools has increased by 81% in just three years. St Helena has a big battle on its hands recruiting in such a highly competitive market. The battle does not end with a successful recruitment. The skilled and experienced teaching staff need a teaching environment which encourages them to stay here.



Another Push to Improve Education Provision

There is also the thorny and contentious issue of student finance and registration for St Helena students who go to the UK for higher or further education.

Providing suitable and adequate special education needs for pupils who require it is a big priority that is getting bigger. Again, St Helena is not alone in this. The number of pupils identified as having special education needs in the UK recently increased by almost 6% in one year. The rest of Europe is in a similar position. The main reason for this is that the ability to identify children having special education needs has improved significantly in recent years. Having the resources to provide for special education needs gives a child the opportunity to grow and mature in line with other school-children. It gives them a chance to lead a better adult life. Once again, St Helena's first big job is to persuade the UK government the resources for special education needs in St Helena is as high a priority for our UK funders as it is for us.

Persuading (or lobbying) the UK government or one of its ministers, like Gillian Keegan, Minister for Education, is so often long, laborious and repetitive hard work. To put this in context, lobbying MPs has increased rapidly since the mid-1990s. Figures from back in 2007 estimate the money spent by big commercial interests, large charitable organisations and special interest groups estimate 14,000 people are employed organising lobbying campaigns. They spend, collectively, £1.9 billion. It was also estimated an MP is contacted by lobbyists about 100 times a week. In 2024, these figures will have increased out of sight. This is another area where competition is fierce. SHG and other Overseas Territories need to get their message through a blizzard of information and opinion which well-resourced organisations constantly fire at ministers and MPs.

This week St Helena's Chief Minister and Minister for Education has submitted evidence to a House of Commons inquiry on the UK government's support of education for Overseas Territories students. Even if the committee holding the inquiry agree with everything Julie Thomas argues for and includes this in their report, the UK Minister for Education could disagree and give reasons why St Helena's high priorities will not be taken forward.

There are regular video calls between SHG officials and the Minister for the Overseas Territories, and others. There will be another video conference soon where leaders of all the Overseas Territories link up with the Minister and his colleagues. Our Chief Minister told the *Independent* she intends to 'keep banging the drum' on St Helena's main issues and high priorities. This means repeating again the urgent need for improvements to St Helena's indispensable public services.

The indications are that the UK is drifting towards the backward way the United States do things. US education has a stark rich and poor divide. Private schools have smaller class sizes with 10-15 students, allowing for a more personalised tuition. In contrast, public schools have larger class sizes and higher student-teacher ratios. An elementary school may have up to thirty students. This is often due to funding short-

ages or budget constraints.

Public health is the poor relation of private health in the US. The cheque book has to be brought out before medical attention is given. The chance of receiving decent medical care depends on how good your medical insurance is. This leads on to another St Helena issue – Solomon's pulls out of medical insurance.



Solomons' Pull Out of Selling Medical Insurance

Solomon's no longer sell medical insurance for more than 30 days. The consequences of this are far reaching. The effect of their decision is reflected in the new immigration policy SHG have published for public information.

The new policy simplifies the range of visas available. One new type of visa is called the Permission to Stay and Work Permit. The visa is available only to people who have work arranged upon arrival. If for whatever reason people holding these permits stop working, they will have no access to public funds; this includes medical care at local rates. They will also need to show evidence of medical insurance and sufficient funds for medical evacuation. Previous exemptions for SHG staff will be removed.

The new draft policy states, "In the absence of medical insurance from Solomon and Company Plc medical services at local fees and charges will be linked to registration as employed, a business or investor status after 30 days of registration." Also, "30 days is consistent with Solomon and Company Plc only providing medical insurance for up to 30 days." The policy links local medical fees and charges with being registered as employed and paying for medical care at local rates. If a Permission to Stay and Work Permit holder gives up registered employment the entitlement to local medical care fees and charges is withdrawn.

The effect of this new arrangement on the workload of the health service is not expected to be significant. Some holders of this type of permit might need repeat prescriptions for an existing medical condition but this needs to be balanced with payment of taxes, import duties and other charges. It is also expected, for various reasons, the number of people attracted to St Helena because of small changes in the new immigration policy will be few.



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 14th April 2024 – 2nd Sunday after Easter

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral

The Parish of St James

Sunday 14th April 2024 – 2nd Sunday after Easter

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 18th April	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 14th April – 2nd Sunday after Easter

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 16th April	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mark

Thank You

The Chapel Warden of St Andrews church would like to express appreciation to all those who supported the Easter raffle – £480 raised will assist with maintenance costs.

The winners of the raffle are as follows:

- Easter Hamper: Ms Linda Glanville
- Easter Cake: Mrs Dorothy Lawrence
- Basket of Chocolates: Mr Derek Henry
- Easter Cake: Mr Larry Francis
- Floral Arrangement: Mr Roman Maggott
- Assortment of Chocolates: Miss Jody Thomas
- Easter Cake: Mr Aubrey Peters



Friends of Hope Day

You are warmly invited to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for our special **Visitors day** program on **Saturday 20th April 2024**

You can join us for the following:-

- Sabbath School program- 10:00am- 10:45am
- Divine service- 11:00am-12:00pm
- Afternoon musical program- 14:00pm-15:00pm

Contact Georgia for further details on tel.25710

NEW PRISON PROJECT – UPDATE

In October 2023, an open procurement exercise was launched to identify a contractor to design and build a new prison. This project is being delivered under the UK-funded Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

Three tenders were received in response to the procurement. However, following the evaluation of tenders, none were selected as they did not meet the requirements identified.

Given that this is one of the government’s key Altogether Safer strategic objectives, the approach of this important project is being adapted to secure a viable contractor. We will therefore soon be launching an open procurement for a design and supervise consultant to finalise the design and oversee the construction works. This will take place in consultation with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The construction contract will then be advertised again once the designs are completed and approved.

We will provide further information on this in due course.

SHG
11 April 2024





Meet Harper

When you meet Harper for the first time, she will probably seem like a typical 7-year-old girl. For a lot of the time, she is. However, there is often a lot going on under what she portrays.

As a family, we always knew something was a bit different with Harper. Like most young children, Harper would have tantrums, but we grew concerned about the intensity of the frustrations and it was difficult to understand what triggered them. As she got older, communication became an increasing concern. Harper's speech was delayed, so she couldn't tell us what she wanted or needed. This must have been very frustrating for her. At age two and a half, when most children her age were at least saying one or two phrases, Harper was barely communicating with one or two 'words'. We followed our instincts and started taking her to speech and language therapy (SALT) on the island.

Although communication was an issue, we also noticed how she often lined up her toys, walked on tippy toes, had a concentration facial tick and used vocal stimming (through repetitive noises) to regulate. There was also bedtime procrastination, lack of social boundaries (like hugging strangers) and her preference for parallel play. These were not always problematic, but it was a combination of these traits along with the delayed speech and language development that made it more noticeable for us.

During her SALT sessions the focus was on regulation, which in turn helped her to communicate her needs. We did our sessions religiously and so did her carers in the crèche. Over time, Harper was picking up more words and phrases and the timing of the meltdowns were a bit more predictable. A visit to another SALT in Cape Town and a Consultant Psychologist on the island revealed Harper had significant speech and language difficulties and confirmed that she needed more ongoing support. We continued her SALT sessions on the island, and later sought advice from the Special Educational Needs Advisor, who was a qualified tester for autistic assessments.

We attended interviews, completed various forms and Harper was observed and assessed. On 15th March 2022 we received Harper's formal diagnosis of autism. It confirmed our suspicions, but it was certainly a day of mixed emotions. We immediately started worrying about the future, but we had to remind ourselves that Harper hadn't changed. She was still Harper. It was down to us to educate ourselves and to accommodate her needs as best we could. Being autistic doesn't define Harper, but knowing she is autistic helps us to understand her thoughts, actions and anxieties.

Harper is doing well with her communication today. She still has some of her earlier autistic traits and we've noticed a few new ones. Routine is important for her but communicating change lessens her anxiety. She can be very adaptable, and it helps when people understand her needs and accommodate them, with patience and understanding.

It is amazing to witness Harper's verbal progress. Her vocabulary has grown tremendously, and it is so satisfying to actually have a two-way conversation with her. The small things others may take for granted are milestones to us.

Autism shows differently for everyone and the positives of Harper's autistic traits are many. She says things as she sees them. She is creative - loves music, baking, the water and has developed quite a sense of humour! She has a good memory, vivid imagination and genuinely loves and cares about her friends...and to her, anyone can be her friend, including all cats and dogs.

As Harper is getting older, we have noticed that she 'masks' a lot. Masking is a coping mechanism where individuals cover up (or suppress) their true self to fit in - in this case, Harper's autistic self. We've noticed she does this by copying expressions, body language and interests. This is something we'd rather she didn't need to do, but that level of observance and self-image from her is admirable.

As a family, we are still learning and the best lessons are coming from Harper herself. There is no clearcut answer for autism, as "If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism." - Autism Advocate, Dr. Stephen Shore.

We appreciate all the support we receive from everyone who has a positive influence on Harper's life, directly or indirectly.

If anyone needs a support network, the Au-Some Parents Support Group is there if you need us. We share our experiences, invite guest speakers to share their knowledge and expertise and advocate for acceptance and inclusion - all in a welcoming environment.



Contributed by Laura & Barry Stroud

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week



Date: Sunday, 14 April 2024

Start Time: 9am

Meeting point: Bellstone, Levelwood

Led by Tom Wortley of Rock Mount walking tours, this walk takes in the geological contrasting colours with a climb at the end to the Great Stone Top. You are rewarded with a spectacular view of the St Helena Airport. Great Stone Top is also a prime location to spot the Red Billed Tropic bird. Remember to bring a minimum of 2L of water, suitable walking shoes and sunscreen.

Walk grade: suitable for fit walkers with some experience

7-8 Fairly strenuous

The final two walks of the festival, see you there!

To register your interest and receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Dianne via dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or call the Tourist Office T:22158 or M:67245

Next Week



Join us for the final walk of the festival!

Date: Saturday, 20 April 2024

Start Time: 9am

Meeting point: Rosemary Plain/bus pick up at the Canister

Led by Adam Sizeland, Director of the Museum of St Helena, who will give insight into the historic landscape of Lemon Valley and its significance to the islands history. The walk descends into the valley, past historic farmhouses, graveyards and fortifications. Discover how Lemon Valley played a role in St Helena's early East India Company history, it's importance as a quarantine station for the sick and how it became the first depot for receiving the Liberated African's.

For those that do not wish to walk back to Rosemary Plain, a boat will be provided to transport you to Jamestown. Leave your vehicle in Jamestown before the walk - a bus will leave the Canister at 8.30am and transport you to Rosemary Plain (the start of the walk) - collect your vehicle when you arrive back in Jamestown by boat. Booking is essential. Please book your seat by noon on **Wednesday, 17 April 2024**. Call the Tourist Office on 22158 or email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh. If sea conditions are unfavourable then we will walk back to the start point (Rosemary Plain)

Walk grade: Post Box Walk

5-6 Moderate

The final two walks of the festival, see you there!

To register your interest and receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Dianne via dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or call the Tourist Office T:22158 or M:67245

Your Right to Legal Representation

“Justice, like the Ritz Hotel, is open to everyone.”

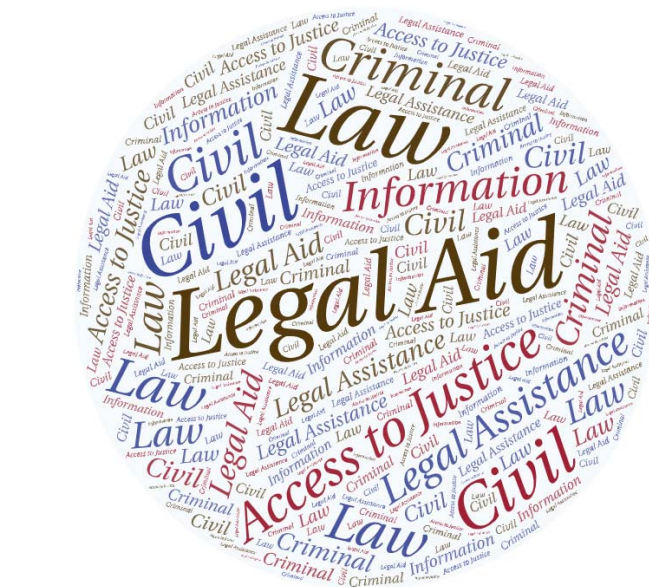
The above remark is generally attributed to Sir James Mathew, a judge in the late Victorian era. What it conveys, of course, is that what is theoretically available to everyone might be out of reach of many. Justice comes at a cost, which must either be met by a person who has the means to pay for legal advice and assistance or it must be met from public funds. This brings into question competing priorities when it comes to public expenditure. There is nothing new about this. The issue of the St Helena Chronicle dated 8 December 1917 carried an item on this subject, simply headed ‘Justice’. It stemmed from the requirement to replace a retiring magistrate who had legal training and experience at a time when there was no other qualified person on the Island. A petition was circulated calling on the Acting Governor to recommend to the Colonial Office the appointment of ‘a qualified legal gentleman from overseas’. The item addressed the cost factor as follows: ‘The Island at the moment is not in what we may term a tip-top financial position...However the question of the appointment of a magistrate is one on which no doubt or hesitation should be entertained. The remuneration for this appointment we contend without fear of contradiction is money well expended.’ And it remains the case today that justice must compete with other Government priorities when it comes to expenditure. As with the writer of the article in 1917, we could suggest some areas in which money might be saved in order to prioritise expenditure on justice.

Proposals From the Chief Justice

The Chief Justice divides his current ‘consultation’ into three parts on its front cover: Rights of Audience before the Courts of St Helena, Regulating the right of practising before the Courts of Saint Helena, and Regulating the representation of persons appearing before the courts of St Helena. At first sight, it seems that the consultation is purely and solely about representation in the courts of the island, but there is more to legal practice than court work, as is recognised when one reads the document as a whole. In order to assist the ordinary reader in following this, including the legal language used, The Independent has carried out some research and sought external assistance.

Rights of Audience and Enrolment

On the first page of proposals the Chief Justice states that he is considering amending the Courts (Rights of Audience and Enrolment) Rules 1992 (‘the Rules’). A right of audience and enrolment as a lawyer on the Island are two different things. A right of audience is the right to appear before the court as an advocate. An enrolled lawyer may carry out a wider range of legal services. A professionally qualified person under the rules does not need to be enrolled in order to exercise a right of audience in any particular case. The right comes with the qualification itself. Thus, under the rules, an English Barrister has an automatic right of audience. In order to exercise it, the only formality required, under rule 3, is that he or she must, before appearing for the first time, deliver to the Registrar a certified or photographic copy of the certificate or other document recording his or her call. ‘Call’ means being called to the Bar.



Enrolment is dealt with at rule 6. Only professionally qualified Islanders (qualified under rule 2) have an automatic right of enrolment. Non-Islanders, qualified under rule 2, may be enrolled at the discretion of the Chief Justice. The effect of enrolment is set out at rule 7: persons enrolled as advocates under rule 6 may perform all the functions of barristers and solicitors. Unlike in England, there is no ‘split profession’ in St Helena (or in the other Overseas Territories) so, following enrolment, a barrister may perform all or any of the functions that would be those of a solicitor in England, and vice versa. Following enrolment, all legal work may be undertaken on the Island, not just court work. Enrolment is not a requirement of exercising a right of audience before a court. At least, it is not as things stand at present.

Codes of Practice and Standards

The next question is the regulation of lawyers undertaking work on the Island. This would deal with such issues as professional misconduct, handling of client money and having professional indemnity insurance to cover any claim that might be brought against them by a client. Barristers, for example, do not handle client money in England, only solicitors do, but a barrister would be able to handle client money on the Island once enrolled here.

Continuing to use a barrister as our example, his or her conduct is regulated by the Bar Standards Board in England, which publishes what is known as the “BSB Handbook”. This contains rules about how barristers must behave and work. It also contains a Code of Conduct for barristers. The rules and Code of Conduct continue to apply if a barrister undertakes work overseas. A Barrister undertaking work overseas must also observe all rules applicable in the relevant overseas jurisdiction. This is made clear by both the Bar Standards Board and the Bar Council. It is doubted that the BSB or Bar Council would deal with infringement overseas of a local rule not mirrored in England, probably leaving this to be a matter to be

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dealt with locally. But if the local infringement also breached the English rules the barrister would be liable to be dealt with in England as well. In short, English lawyers would be governed by the English professional rules while undertaking work here but some local regulation may also be required in order to meet specific local needs, such as in the case of barristers handling client money.

No Locally Based Private Legal Representation in St Helena

It is difficult to compare St Helena with other United Kingdom Overseas Territories. St Helena is almost unique among these in having no lawyers in private practice. Even the Falkland Islands have two firms of solicitors with lawyers resident there, plus backup from their parent firms in England. The first of these to be established, over thirty years ago, was a Hull firm called Andrew Jackson and it is believed that it still maintains a presence in Stanley. They have provided long term continuity of service with both a local presence and a broader support base back in Hull. Both personal and business incomes in the Falklands are high enough to make it viable for a lawyer to work there on a private fees basis and there is also a Legal Aid system from which they can be paid when necessary, as in England. It is understood that another English firm, Pinsent Masons, also established itself there with a similar arrangement. Two of their locally based solicitors took this over in their own right in 2022 and now operate as Waverley Law, supported by three paralegals. Although the Chief Justice seems to be envisaging a similar arrangement to the above here, speaking of a local presence to be maintained, it is difficult to envisage any firm of lawyers finding it viable to base a lawyer here. At least as things stand.

No Legal Aid for Private Legal Representation in St Helena

A lawyer would only be able to earn a living here if there was a Legal Aid Fund from which he or she could be paid to represent those unable to pay the lawyer's fees themselves. As stated above, in both the Falkland Islands and In the UK there is a Legal Aid Fund from which barristers and solicitors in private practice may be paid. This applies to both criminal and civil matters. The system operates in the Falkland Islands, under the provisions of their Legal Aid Ordinance 2020 and the Legal Aid Regulations 2020. This obviates the need for a Public Solicitor there. In 2020, the Falkland Islands Attorney General wrote: "Access to Legal Aid is the cornerstone of the Justice system – enabling access by providing representation and ensuring litigants before the courts understand, and take part in, proceedings. The importance of legal aid should not be overlooked – Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights – the basis of our Constitution – demands of all societies access to legal aid." Much the same may be said of Saint Helena's Constitution and Human Rights requirements here.

At first sight here in St Helena, anybody reading through our local laws might well think that a similar situation provid-



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ing for Legal Aid applies here. We have a Legal Aid, Assistance and Services Ordinance 2017. Part V of this is headed 'Legal Aid'. But this applies to legal advice and assistance provided by the Public Solicitor, not to a lawyer in private practice. However, Part III of the Ordinance also provides for there to be a Legal Assistance Fund. The stated purpose of this, under section 11(b), is 'to ensure (so far as is practicable) that legal advice and assistance is available to members of the public by whom it is sought.' This is not linked to the advice and assistance being provided by the Public Solicitor. Payments from the fund are made to Lay Advocates but there is a discretion to make other payments under section 12 (d). These could include, as in the Falklands, payment to a private practitioner here, except that there are none. We understand that the annual funding made available is £30,000, which would not go very far if spent on the services of a private lawyer or lawyers based here.

Other Ways to Fund Private Representation

Another way of funding a lawyer or lawyers in private practice here would be by way of alternative fee arrangements. These are arrangements other than the conventional one of charging by way of an hourly agreed rate for the time taken by the lawyer on work for a client. They require some explanation, as such arrangements come in a variety of forms. The Chief Justice appears, at page 3 of his Consultation document, to be talking about damages based fee agreements, although he does not use that expression. This is an arrangement under which a lawyer agrees to take a percentage of any damages recovered as his fee. If unsuccessful, there is no fee payable. This does, as the Chief Justice says, diminish the amount of money that a successful litigant receives. Obviously, this is the downside of such an arrangement. The upside of it is that it allows the client to receive advice and assistance from a lawyer that he would not otherwise be able to afford, in which case he would not recover anything at all. In any event, the true effect of financial recovery is often diminished by reason of the fees paid to a lawyer exceeding the costs recovered from the third party, which has much the same effect in reality as a damages based fee arrangement

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in diminishing the true value of what has been recovered. The Chief Justice has observed at page 3 of his consultation document that a previous Supreme Court ruling has held that conditional fee arrangements, the expression which he uses, are not appropriate for St Helena unless authorised by the Chief Justice, and success fees (another expression he uses) are unsuitable for the jurisdiction. Conditional and success fees are different to a damages based fees arrangement and, in that respect, they do not seem to be what the Chief Justice is describing. An internet search using the words ‘conditional and success fees in civil litigation’ brings up the following summary:

‘Conditional Fee Agreements (CFAs): A CFA is an agreement where part or all of the solicitor’s fees are only payable if the litigation is successful. If the case is won, the client pays the normal fees plus a success fee. If the case is lost, the client may pay reduced fees or no fees at all, depending on the terms of the CFA.

‘Success Fees: The success fee is an additional charge on top of the normal fees and is calculated as a percentage uplift on these fees, up to a maximum of 100%. The level of the success fee is based on the solicitor’s assessment of the risk involved in the case.’ It may, therefore, fall well short of an uplift of 100%, which is simply a maximum.

Scrolling down the search page to an entry by ‘Pinsent Masons’. This is the firm that has been active in the Falkland Islands for many years. The entry is headed ‘Conditional fee agreements and damages based agreements’. As stated above, the Chief justice does not mention ‘damages based agreements’ but states, perhaps erroneously, that conditional fee agreements can lead to fees being paid from damages recovered under a CFA. Under a CFA, some or all of the ordinary costs, but not the success fee, may be recovered from the unsuccessful party. The success fee, if it becomes due, must be paid by the client. It is clear from what Pinsent Mason state online that ‘A CFA success fee *cannot* (our italics) be a percentage of the level of damages awarded or agreed by the client. We take ‘agreed’ to mean accepted by the client in settlement of the claim. On this point, Pinsent Mason are at variance with what the Chief Justice has written in his consultation paper.

Although there has been a decision of a previous Chief Justice to the effect that conditional fee arrangements are not appropriate for St Helena unless authorised by the Chief Justice, and success fees are unsuitable for the jurisdiction, it would, of course, be open to the present Chief Justice to give authority for such arrangements, but he is considering preventing these altogether. If this is done, there will have to be suitable alternative methods of funding made available in order to ensure that litigants can afford to bring cases. Otherwise, conditional (or success) fees or even damages based agreements may be the least worst option.

The Chief Justice appears to have overlooked the fact that

a damages based arrangement already exists here, in the case of the Public Solicitor. Section 28 of the Legal Aid, Assistance and Services Ordinance, 2017 provides as follows:

‘Contributions by successful aided persons

28(1) Subject to the following subsections, if an aided person is successful in proceedings in which he or she has been a party, either wholly or in part, and in respect of which a certificate has been issued under section 23 (1), a contribution is payable by the person to the Public Solicitor *in an amount the equivalent of a prescribed percentage of the total sum of monies recovered or preserved for the aided person in the proceedings,...* Again, the italics are ours. What’s sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If an alternative fee arrangement is acceptable in the case of the Public Solicitor then why not in the case of a private sector lawyer?

Other Ways to Fund Private Representation

As already stated, in this jurisdiction, Legal Aid means assistance from the Public Solicitor. It does not envisage payments being made to a lawyer in private practice. By contrast, the Legal Assistance Fund here is a charitable trust, administered by its trustees. This could be so used and perhaps already has been, under the discretion set out earlier. At present, the trust only holds funds provided by SHG, but funds may be accepted from other donors, unlikely though it is that any may come forward. The SHG funding is, as stated earlier, £30,000 per annum. Our figure may be a little out of date, but it is the most recent one we have been able to find. Could extra funding be acquired from the UK outside the provisions of budgetary aid? Perhaps in accordance with what is known as ‘Good Government’. In terms of expenditure on legal representation, the most expensive local case ever was probably the ‘Frontier’ trial in 1991. Solicitors and barristers from the UK acted for the seven defendants who were accused of drug trafficking offences. As the then Attorney General was compromised by having arranged this representation (he was the only lawyer on the island at the time) he could not prosecute the case, so a barrister also came out from the UK to be the prosecutor. Funding for all of this was not met by SHG but from ‘Good Government’ funds provided by FCO (as it then was). We mention this as the Constitution provides at section 2 for a number of ‘Partnership val-



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ues’, which include ‘Good Government’. The section states:
‘The partnership between the United Kingdom and St Helena shall continue to be based on the following values –
(a) good faith;
(b) the rule of law;
(c) good government;...’

Section 4 is headed “Duty to give effect to the partnership values. Subsection (1) of this provides: ‘In exercising their responsibilities and powers, all organs of government in St Helena have a duty to give effect to the partnership values.’ No equivalent on the part of HMG is provided, but a partnership is exactly that, and one would think that HMG has a responsibility to ensure that SHG has the means to fulfil its duty, perhaps by contributing to the Legal Assistance fund as a donor, separate from any question of budgetary aid. ‘Good Government’ is a two way street.

One of the questions in the consultation document concerns having a ‘presence’ on the Island. Ideally, this would be a lawyer from an outside firm based here, as in the Falkland Islands. But this is unlikely to happen. The Chief Justice himself, of course, does not have a day to day presence here, mostly dealing with matters by video link. Most of the significantly populated Overseas Territories have a resident Chief Justice. The Falkland Islands and St Helena are exceptions to this. In both places there is a resident Magistrate who has both a personal civil jurisdiction and may sit as required as an acting judge, then having an unlimited jurisdiction in terms of the financial amount of a claim. The financial limit of the Chief Magistrate, sitting as such, is surprisingly low (when compared to the Falkland Islands) currently being set at £20,000. He is well equipped to deal with much higher claims in his capacity as Chief Magistrate, perhaps up to £100,000. Which brings us to the subject of litigants in person. The best option for many here may simply be to represent themselves. Most litigants in person would probably find it less daunting to appear before the Chief Magistrate than the Chief Justice, hence our suggestion that his civil jurisdiction be expanded. He is resident here and is a familiar figure. We understand that courts, in England and elsewhere, bend over backwards to assist litigants in person, particularly when the other side in the case is represented by a lawyer. In some jurisdictions, the court even takes responsibility for settling what are known as the pleadings when litigants are not legally represented. Where lawyers are involved it is they who prepare these. The court itself formulating these is understood to be the case, for example, in the Solomon Islands, a jurisdiction mentioned in the report on the Public Solicitor, although its writer did not consider the Solomon Islands an appropriate comparison for here. That said, he seems only to have had in mind the way its Public Solicitor functions there, not what happens when litigants there are unrepresented. By way of explanation, the ‘pleadings’ are the documents setting out the claim being brought (a Statement of Claim on a writ, for example) and the Defence setting out the answer to it. These define what the court will have to decide. The procedure in the Solomon Is-

lands is believed to be that the parties appear before the Magistrate, who then reduces the Plaintiff’s claim to writing and then reads it back to him or her for confirmation that it fully reflects the claim. He then adopts a similar procedure for the Defence. Following this, both parties are asked what witnesses they have and a date is set for hearing the claim, with both parties then attending with any witnesses they might have. There may not be much enthusiasm for this here but we give it as an example of how different procedures can be formulated to deal with differing local needs.

Conciliation not Conflict

One thing that struck us about the report concerning the Public Solicitor was the suggestion that there is a need to improve working relationships with the Attorney General’s Chambers. In a small jurisdiction this should be a given. Lawyers are by nature adversarial, but sensible outcomes can be arrived at without a battle royal. In some regards, the relative proliferation of lawyers here in recent years may have had a negative effect. The Australians tell a joke about lawyers feeding off conflict between themselves: “When you have a town with only one lawyer he is very poor – when you have a town with two lawyers they are both very rich!” Lawyers here are not, of course, motivated by the pursuit of fees, but there may still be a tendency to ‘fight’ cases. Locally, conciliation should be the name of the game. After all, litigants have to continue to live with each other in this small community. We leave you with the following fact. In England, only 1% of writs issued in the King’s Bench Division (the busiest branch of the High Court) ever reach trial before a judge. This is as it should be. Conciliation rather than conflict should prevail.

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2003 - AUTOMATIC

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- Reluctant sale - need smaller car
- Will sell with new MOT
- Runs beautifully
- New head and associated parts
- Lots of spare parts
- 124K miles (only 10K miles on Island)

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20 Years on...



Diana Benjamin
2004 - present

Di's journey began behind the counter as a Bank Teller and through her 20 years, progressed through the ranks working as Accounts and Payments Clerk to Senior Accounts and Payments Clerk before stepping into Senior Management as the Chief Operations Officer overseeing both operations and compliance. Today, she is the Teller Services Manager. Watching the Bank develop, Di pinpoints Online Banking as the project she was most excited for as the Teller Department was to see some of their familiar visitors become more independent in their banking. Online Banking was also a proud moment as she watched the local team work towards this digital breakthrough and has continued to watch more digital services being introduced by the team. What might the future hold? Di hopes to watch St Helena continue to strive for independent banking by further embracing automated services offered and to witness the continued development of the Online Banking service.

Moving from the Government Savings Bank, Rosie stepped into Bank of St Helena as a Teller Supervisor and later took on the role of Compliance Supervisor and is today a Customer Service Officer. Working in these different departments, Rosie sees her time working in the Teller Department as her most fond years, interacting more in-person with customers and continues to enjoy this when working at the Customer Service Terminal. Over these 20 years, Rosie saw Online Banking as a breakthrough for the Bank back in 2014, but today is most excited for the Tourist Card, the most recent addition in the Bank's list of products and services. For the years to come, Rosie would like to see more visitors embrace the Tourist Card as something that might be completely new to them as a QR payment system; but also to see our local customers take the opportunity to take up all the different types of services from the Bank as we now have 20 years of development and a list of different banking services for them to explore.



Rosemary Benjamin
2004 - present

Jackie entered the Bank as a Teller and was later promoted to Senior Teller. Working within a few departments, she moved into the positions of Accounts and Payments Clerk to Senior Accounts and Payments Clerk, and then Compliance and Operations Assistant before settling into Customer Service Officer. Identifying the Bank's largest achievements spanning 20 years, Jackie commends the development of all the digital services, starting with Online Banking moving towards Local Debit Cards and now Tourist Cards and is excited for what might be next for the Bank's continued exploration of digital banking. The Bank can continue to introduce more and more services, however, Jackie recognises the continued success of the Bank is dependent on the continued support of our customers on-island and all over the world.



Jacqueline Thomas
2004 - present



2004

Celebrating 20
Years of
Progress and Innovation
2004 - 2024

2024

On 01 April 2024, Bank of St Helena celebrated their 20 Year Milestone of operations following a transition from SHG as The Government Savings Bank in 2004.

Below are a few memorable milestones that has brought us to the point we are today.

2004

Established

Opening at the Post Office Building with Teller Services, Lending Services and Accounts & Payments, with a Branch on Ascension.

2005-2007

Community Outreach

Adding additional automated services, savings accounts and cheque books to the list of offerings. First Youth Games sponsored in 2005 with New Horizons which has continued until now and introduced the Community Projects Fund in 2006.

2014

Introduction of Online Banking

Bank of St Helena takes a leap into digital services by offering customers Online Banking which continues to be developed today.

2015-2016

Continued Development

Term Savings Accounts introduced in 2016, the first Savings Accounts allowing withdrawals. Marketing and branding revamp along with an updated website.

Introduces SWIFT payments in 2014

Extended repayment periods for Mortgages from 20 to 25 years in 2020, and from 25 years to 30 years in 2022

Suspension of loan repayments for businesses in the Tourism Sector during COVID-19 in 2020

Offers for first-time homeowners / mortgagors with reduced interest rates introduced in 2020

Lending Services increased adding Short-Term Contract Finance (2022), Support for Young Entrepreneurs (2022), Agriculture Lending (2022) and Student Assistance Loans (2023)

2020-2023

Expanding Digital Tools

Additional digital marketing tools to communicate with customers, develops online application forms and introduces the virtual 'Tourist Card', expanding St Helena Pay automated services.

St Helena Pay expanded in 2023 with the introduction of both Start Smart Cards and Tourist Cards

2008

First St Helenian Bank Manager

Rosie Bargo takes on the role of Bank Manager.

2009-2013

Movement and Development

The Bank relocates to the current Market Street Branch in 2008 and introduced remote banking in 2010. Recruitment of an in-house IT Team in 2012 to develop an Online Banking platform to increase automated services.

Bank of St Helena becomes a Limited Company in 2013

2017-2019

Joey George promoted to Managing Director and introducing on-island Debit Cards

St Helena Pay launched in 2017 with Local Debit Cards and the 'Local Debit Card Acceptance Service'. Also saw an upgrade of Online Banking services.

Reaching these milestones making up the Bank's 20 year journey would never have been possible without the driving force of its employees. We have celebrated many achievements and seen our staff succeed with an array of different institutes with different levels of qualifications with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Chartered Banker Institute, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Chartered Institute of Marketing, City and Guilds NVQs, Institute of Leadership and Management and certifications in Information Technology (CompTIA, Cisco and Microsoft). We continue to strive for our employee's personal and professional development and look forward to the many celebrations to come.

St Helena Pay introduced on Ascension Island in 2022

Awarded World Commerce Review Best Bank for Financial Inclusion 2023 and 2024, and Best Bank Start-Up in the 21st Century 2024

2024

Watch this space!

VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Assistant Lending Services Officer (Admin)

Commencing at £8,400 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the vacant position of an Assistant Lending Services Officer (Admin).

Responsible to the Assistant Lending Services Manager, the successful candidate must be flexible to work demands and have excellent customer service skills. They must have a keen eye for detail, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

The main duties of the post include:

- Responsible for the conversion of all pertinent documentation to electronic filing and maintaining an accurate filing system;
- Compile and send letters to clients;
- Maintaining lending records on excel applications;
- General administration assistance across the Lending Section;
- Any other duties.

Interested persons can contact Mrs Julie-Marie Yon, Assistant Lending Services Manager on email asst.lendingmanager@sainthelenabank.com or contact her on 22390 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank. Completed application forms should be addressed to Miss Merle Peters, Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 19 April 2024

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.



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



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+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR LEASE

4 BUSINESS UNITS FOR LEASE

Known as units 8, 14 and 15 situated within the Ladder Hill Business Park, Ladder Hill, and unit 7 situated within the Longwood Enterprise Park, Longwood. These units offer a great space; preference is for first time businesses for a two year lease but established businesses can also apply for a five year lease. The units will be advertised via an open market tender, the terms of which will be subject to negotiation between SHG and the preferred bidder.

Main conditions of the units are:

Minimum operating of 20 hours per week, which shall include a least one peak interval for example: 07:00-09:00, 12:00-14:00 and 16:00-18:00 per day.

First time business - rent per month to be paid on the first of every month are:

Unit 7

Year one - £172
Year two - reviewed + RPI

Units 8, 14 and 15

Year one - £221.70
Year two - £245.10 + RPI

Lease term: two years for first time businesses. If the decision is made by the existing tenants to continue their lease, this will be considered from year three rates as below:

Commercial rates from year three to year five

Unit 7

To be reviewed

Units 8, 14 and 15

Year three - £268.49 + RPI
Year four - £291.89 + RPI
Year five - £315.29 + RPI

Five year lease rates for established businesses at commercial rates

Unit 7

To be reviewed

Units 8, 14 & 15

Year one - £221.70
Year two - £245.10 + RPI
Year three - £268.49 + RPI
Year four - £291.89 + RPI

The closing date
for the
Business Units is
12:00 on Friday
19 April 2024.

For more information, please
contact the Head of Trade and
Investment or the Investment
Coordinator on tel: 22470
or via emails:

Michael.ormrod@sainthelena.gov.sh
or kyle.snow@sainthelena.gov.sh.
Alternatively, you collect the forms
from the Castle, Jamestown.



PROPERTIES FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE

Residential land for purchase or lease at Market Value:

Land - registered as parcel number 1223 within the Half Tree Hollow registration section, measuring 0.156 acres

Land - registered as parcel number 1225 within the Half Tree Hollow registration section, measuring 0.262 acres

Commercial property for lease:

One year lease for the Kiosk at the Customs and Passenger Terminal Building, measuring 8.84m² and storage area measuring 2.298m²

The closing date for commercial
property is 12:00 on Friday
19 April 2024

The closing date for residential land
is 12:00 on Friday 10 May 2024

For more information such as plot details, locations and
pricing, please contact the Crown Estates Officer on tel:
22270 or via email: gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh or
alternatively, you collect an Invitation to Tender from
Essex House, Jamestown.

For further information, please visit the Property page of the
SHG website via: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-
infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/)

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Blue Belt Project and Communications Administrator (1- year Fixed Term) (£11,542 per annum)

An exciting opportunity has arisen within the Marine & Fisheries Conservation Section of ENRP, this role will be primarily responsible for the communication requirements and project administration in relation to the UK Governments Blue Belt Programme. The aim of the role is to raise awareness of St Helena's category 6 Marine Protected area within the local and global communities and to ensure SHG has sound governance and timely action of the programme requirements in terms of resources, financial and administrative management. We are seeking a motivated individual who has a keen eye for detail, has the ability to apply sound judgement and who possesses excellent communications and project planning skills.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Kirsty Jones on Tel no. 25966 or Email**
Kirsty.jones@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **17 April 2024**

Economic Development Officer (£9,197 - £11,239 per annum)

SHG's Economic Development Portfolio is seeking a dynamic individual to help deliver the island's economic development strategy. You will work flexibly across the services and functions of the Portfolio - assisting with research, analysis, policy writing, project coordination, and operational delivery of policies and projects. These areas of work will include tourism, trade and investment, civil aviation, property, and financial services development.

You will work directly with stakeholders from a variety of growing economic sectors, including those set to be enabled by improved digital connectivity.

This is a varied role with the opportunity for significant training, development, and career growth in one or more of the Portfolio's services and functions. The successful applicant will display a commitment to making St Helena an attractive place to live, learn, work, and invest. You will be expected to display a genuine desire to work with a diverse team to deliver positive outcomes for the community.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Damian Burns on Tel no. 22470 or Email**
Damian.Burns@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: **16 April 2024**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Fixed Term 1:1 Teaching Assistants (Harford Primary) (£7,823 - £8,114 per annum)

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. The individual needs to be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and have good communication skills to be able to communicate between students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carlean Crowie on Tel no. 24719 or Email
Carlean.Crowie@primary.edu.sh

Closing date: 23 April 2024

Human Resources Support Officer (£7,341 per annum)

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to fill the role of Human Resources Support Officer, responsible for undertaking a range of important financial and administration duties. This includes setting up and maintaining spreadsheets for expenditure accounting of our budgets, producing documents to support reporting and decision-making, and HR payroll administration, Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Delma Stevens on Tel no. 22470 or Email
delma.stevens@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 17 April 2024

Senior Human Resources Assistant (£9,197 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high quality HR service. Key areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sharina Williams on Tel No 22470 or Email
sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 23 April 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/governments/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number 22470 or via the email address below.

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Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Programme & Project Coordinator

(£11,542-£14,215 per annum)

A Market Enhancement of £3,500 per annum will apply and be reviewed after a 2 year period

In this role, the Programme & Project Coordinator will be required to collaborate with all functions of the PMO, including elements of project planning and delivery, as well as work to improve overall project and programme capacity.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Paul Cherrett on Tel No 22270 or Email**
Paul.Cherrett@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 23 April 2024

Support Workers x 2 - 6 months Fixed

Term Contract

(£7,341 - £8,946 per annum)

Are you interested in providing assistance and direction to persons living within Sheltered Housing which will enable them to live relatively independent but, with an oversight of support for their wellbeing?

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Hannah Herne on Tel No 23230 or Email**
Hannah.Herne@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 24 April 2024

Accounts Assistant (1 x Permanent and 1 x Fixed-Term up to November 2024)

(£7,341 per annum)

Are you a highly motivated individual with good teamwork and a problem-solving skills? If so, Central Finance has an opportunity for you to join their team. You will ensure efficient and accurate entry of financial data through the government accounting system and the effective monitoring of St Helena Government's transactions.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Charmaine Murawu on Tel No or Email**
Charmaine.Murawu@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 24 April 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.



Part-time Water Caretaker, Thompsons Hill

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking the services of a Part-time Water Caretaker to monitor the water systems in the Thompsons Hill, Spring Gut, Mackintosh, Gold Mine and Iron Pot areas. The successful applicant will be engaged on a services contract for four hours per day, seven days per week.

Duties of the role include:

Checking all pipework and reporting any leaks; Dipping and recording the borehole levels on a daily basis and reporting any abnormalities; Checking all tank levels twice a day; Documenting bulk meter readings and reporting any abnormal readings on a daily basis; Turning water supplies on/off as required; and providing the Water Maintenance Co-ordinator with copies of their readings.

Candidates should possess good time keeping skills and the ability to prepare weekly worksheets.

They must be able to correctly read meters and recognise if there is a fault on the system.

As the role involves unaccompanied work in isolated areas, they must also be safety conscious and abide by Connect's procedures. Training will be provided.

For further information on this post, please contact Paul Duncan, Water Operations Manager, on (+290) 22255 or email paul.duncan@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 9:00am on Tuesday, 23 April 2024.

To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers

Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Security Officers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Be able to work with a high degree of attention to detail
- Have the ability to remain calm under pressure

For further information contact:

Tegan Turner, Agencies Business Co-Ordinator via  22523  agencies.admin@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **16 April 2024**.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PURCHASE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY

The Economic Development Portfolio is inviting Expressions of Interest for the purchase or lease of property known as the former playground, near the Quarry, Jamestown, and the property known as the former pig pens near the Longwood Enterprise Park, Longwood.

For further information, please contact Crown Estates Officer, Gina Henry, via email: gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh or on telephone: (+290) 22270, Ext 224.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is Friday 19 April 2024.

SHG
27 March 2024



WHARF KIOSK CLOSURE

Bank of St Helena wishes to inform their customers that banking services will no longer be offered from the Wharf Kiosk, at the Seafront, Jamestown with immediate effect. The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause but continues to encourage customers to use the alternative services such as Online Banking and their Local Debit Cards, or visit our Main Branch in Market Street.



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

FIRST POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2024

The first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will take place on **Wednesday 24 April 2024 from 14:00 to 16:00**. This meeting will be held at the Education Learning Centre, Jamestown.

The agenda will include a Police and Crime Panel report from the Chief of Police and a question and answer (QA) section. A report summary will be made available to the public the day before the meeting via the SHG website at www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/safety-security-and-home-affairs/police-service/.

Last year, reforms were announced for the Royal St Helena Police (RSHP) to enhance transparency, performance, and community confidence.

A new Police and Crime Panel was established to review police performance and complaints, and an independent peer review process for serious complaints was set up with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

Collaboration between Ascension Island Government (AIG) and RSHP improved support for police officers on Ascension and ensured that the level of service provided by RSHP is consistent across both islands.

Monitoring our community's trust in the police force is an important part of the police reform process. Annual community surveys will assess community confidence in the police. The purpose of the panel will be to monitor police performance, foster better community engagement, and provide advice and guidance to ensure we align policing policies and priorities with public needs on both St Helena and Ascension.

The participation of residents in this new approach would be welcomed. The panel consists of the following members:

- Governor Nigel Phillips CBE (Chairperson)
- Administrator of Ascension Island, Simon Minshall
- Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs (SSHA), Jeffrey Ellick
- Elected Member of the St Helena Legislative Council, Gillian Brooks
- Portfolio Director for SSHA, Alex Mitham
- Crown Prosecutor, Simon Dykes
- Chief Executive Officer for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Catherine Turner

We welcome input from all community members and stakeholders as these reforms progress.

For more information please contact Chief of Police, David Price, by telephone on (00290) 22626 or by email through david.price@sainthelena.gov.sh. You can also view the Police and Crime Plan online at www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/St-Helena-Police-Service-Police-and-Crime-Plan-v1.1.pdf. #StHelena #RSHP #PoliceReforms

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt , www.twitter.com/StHelenaGovt

SHG
10 April 2024



WOMEN'S CORONA SOCIETY (ST HELENA BRANCH)

Calling all women of St Helena

Dear All

The Women's Corona Society (St Helena Branch) celebrated 70 years of its existence on St Helena Island last year 2023. During those 70 years several hundred women will have been dedicated members of this well renamed and respected Society. The few of us that remain are passionate about its continuation.

WHAT IS THE WOMEN'S CORONA SOCIETY?

It is an International Society with some 14-15 Branches around the world. The Headquarters are based in London.

The Society is voluntary – Non-political, Non-religious and is open to all women who are in sympathy with the aims of the Society. An official Constitution guides us in our on-going operation.

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

1. To give practical service and friendship to people of the Community in as many ways as possible
2. To raise Funds for Charitable use and Community Service through a variety of activities
3. To hold monthly meetings where the business of the society and its financial accounts are recorded and shared with all members. A modest Annual Membership Fee is paid and an Annual General Meeting takes place when an Election of Officers is held.
4. For members to derive information, entertainment and experience through meetings and the various planned activities. Over the last two years, sadly 6 of our valued members have passed away. Off the 14 of us left on Island at least 3 are not in good health – so regrettably they cannot be as active as previous. Therefore the 11 of us still standing – majority late 70's and over 80 years will continue to strive and struggle to keep this beloved society afloat but we are desperately in need of help for new members.

Here is where we are appealing to and inviting you as younger women (or not so young) to come and join us to help with the Charitable work we do for the benefit of our St Helena Community. You will enjoy being a Corona Member. On the other hand, if you feel you cannot manage to join and attend Monthly Meetings, then please consider being a Friend of Corona where you are willing to donate to and help with our various Fund Raising Activities. A few willing "HELPING HANDS" will be very much appreciated.

Thank you so much for your attention. We look forward to hearing from you before the next Annual General Meeting which will take place at the Baptist Hall, Jamestown on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 4 p.m. You will be most welcome to attend.

Please contact any of the following members: J Patsy Flagg – Tele 23727, Phyllis Coleman on 24656, Faith Nicholls on 22338, Heather Cranfield on 22395.

Yours sincerely

J Patsy Flagg (Chairperson)

On behalf of all members

IMPROVING ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES PROGRAMME UPDATE – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

In November 2022, it was announced that St Helena would receive funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) bespoke 2022/2023 Improving Essential Equipment in Overseas Territories' Programme.

St Helena was allocated up to £1,800,000 for the purchase of equipment of critical importance to the island. This was in areas including healthcare, emergency services, port operations, road maintenance and the airport.

Focus on the Health and Social Care Portfolio

A total of £797,159.48 was allocated to the Health and Social Care Portfolio. This was used to purchase:

- Cardiac equipment
- Biochemistry analyser
- Haematology analyser
- Haemoglobin A1c analyser
- FibroScan 530 Compact and M probe
- Immunoassay analyser
- Blood culture analyser
- CT Scanner (and servicing contract)
- Portable ultrasound

These new tools have now been installed and commissioned. They will allow medical staff to better manage illnesses on-island and reduce the need for off-island referrals. Doing so will improve the turnaround time for assessments and results, delivering better and more timely care to patients, without them needing to travel abroad.

Cardiac stress test, ECG machines, and Heartstart Intrepid Defibrillators

£138,600.74 was used to purchase a cardiac stress test, electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, and Heartstart Intrepid Defibrillators. This cardiac equipment will be used to improve early detection of heart disease and provide lifesaving care in an emergency.

Biochemistry and haematology analyser

£53,512.13 was used to purchase a biochemistry analyser and a haematology analyser. These analysers are upgrades have replaced ones previously in use which were coming to the end of their useful life.

Hemoglobin A1C analyser

£27,429.40 was used to purchase a Hemoglobin A1C analyser. This is used to diagnose and monitor persons with diabetes. Due to the increased demand for these tests, it was necessary to replace the smaller analyser with one which could cope with the rising demand.

FibroScan 530 Compact and M probe

£82,089.96 was used to purchase a FibroScan 530 Compact and M probe. This machine allows health staff to objectively monitor for liver disease, something which may not be picked up on routine biochemistry testing. This forms part of the Health Directorate's primary prevention and treatment strategy for obesity, diabetes and alcohol dependency.

Immunoassay analyser

£46,751.30 was used to purchase an immunoassay analyser. This instrument will increase the range of tests that can be done on the island and reduce the number of tests that are sent overseas. This in turn will improve the turnaround times for patients receiving results, whilst also reducing costs.

Blood culture analyser

£24,909.88 was used to purchase a blood culture analyser. This is an automated piece of equipment which can detect sepsis in a patient at a very early stage. Positive results can be detected as early as 10 to 12 hours from onset, as opposed to the old manual method which could take 72 hours or more.

CT scanner and portable ultrasound machine

£423,866.07 was used to purchase a CT scanner and portable ultrasound machine.

The new CT scanner allows health staff to do scans of the heart (looking at the function and coronary arteries). Health staff are also able to do bone mineral density scans which look at how brittle the bone is. One of the software features also allows health staff to reduce artefacts caused by metal from prostheses or other metal structures in the body which may obscure surrounding anatomy and pathology. The scanner has significant improved functionality when compared to the previous scanner. This is due to the 64 interleaved detectors which create a 128 slice mechanism, allowing for significant radiation dose reduction, improved image quality and faster scanning time. The cost of the CT scanner also includes a servicing contract.

The portable ultrasound is a way to provide improved quality health scans for patients. The machine is smaller, more cost-effective than other traditional console ultrasound systems, and able to support patient assessments right at the point of care. Some of the benefits include being able to do the scan in any location, accelerated treatment decisions, less waiting time and the ability to deploy it in emergency situations.

SHG,

8 April 2024



Is it Global Britain?

Or Britain on the Edge of the World?



Former senior diplomats advise the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to reset its corporate thinking, attitudes, organisation and just about everything else; right down to changing the name

Three former Foreign Office senior diplomats published a paper this week with the intention that, “the ideas shared in this note can stimulate a constructive public debate about the UK’s future role in the world”. They modestly call the record of their ideas and suggestions a ‘note’, elsewhere it is called a pamphlet. The overall effect of the suggestions is colossal and aimed more at foreign office ministers and senior officials, than ‘the public’. But diplomats would put it like that, wouldn’t they.

Unlike Sir Humphrey Appleby of *Yes, Prime Minister* TV fame, they do not use ten times more words than are necessary. They jump straight in, describing Britain as an ‘off-shore’ nation and a mid-sized power outside the European Union. They point out, “The past decade has seen the UK wrestle with its national identity and place in the world.” Britain needs to regain a sense of confidence and more self-awareness. The sub-text seems to suggest the self-awareness includes the Foreign Office realising that in the world of international politics and diplomacy, the UK is an off-shore, mid-sized power and not a colonial super power.

Britain could learn from Norway, Canada, Switzerland and Japan say the former diplomats. Those countries are able to exert considerable international influence using their size and independence. Britain continues to have significant influence as a member of NATO and as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, as the 6th largest economy and as an international hub for finance, technology and investment. The former diplomats also point to the ‘soft power’ influence through higher education, sports and creative industries.

Then comes the bad news. The former diplomats point to differences in “our domestic and international conduct on issues such as climate change and human rights not only exposes us to accusations of hypocrisy on the world stage but also weaken the institutions and values essential to the UK’s interests.”

Continuing quickly on, they suggest the UK builds new alliances, “We have historically under-invested in our relationships with Asia and are at risk of doing the same with Africa now. The countries in the G20 – representing 85% of global GDP and almost 80% of carbon emissions – should be a core focus.” With the Commonwealth HQ close at hand maybe it is time to give that collection of nations some attention? The 20th century East versus West alliances are now changing to looser groupings of nations gathering together to promote specific issues such as climate, global health, migration, economic and trade stability and development. The Foreign Office is advised to move with the times.

Targeting outdated attitudes, the pamphlet or note from the former diplomats includes, “The UK has often sought to project an image of “greatness” to the world that today seems anachronistic. We will be envied for what we are good at, not what we say that we are good at. This means the state working hand in hand with our universities, our creative sector, our sports bodies, news and civil society organisations, so they can serve as effective ambassadors for the UK and maximise the country’s considerable ‘soft power’.”

Rather than exuding greatness with puffed out chests, the opposite attitude is suggested. “We should not always see ourselves as the leader in efforts to tackle global challenges. UK convening power has achieved significant results. But effective solutions to global problems in a multi-polar world need a wider array of leaders. We should give space, be more of a ‘team-player’, showing humility and respect, ready to follow and support wherever appropriate. Sitting where we do in St Helena, we can readily agree with that one.

The UK political leadership is often a burden to good and efficient administration. Ministers should be better briefed (or trained – house-trained even?) and should remain in office for longer. The frequent cabinet reshuffles mean another raw recruit needs to be house trained. With equal importance, the Foreign Office (and most parts of government no doubt) should be “involving civil society, think tanks, academics and business in meaningful ways.” Why senior government officials think they are world experts on any major issues that need to be decided is mystifying. Tellingly, the former diplomats point out that if Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are not involved in the development of foreign policy the union of nations that makes up the United Kingdom will continue to be less united.

Pursuing this topic further the former diplomats state, “The Foreign Office all too often operates like a giant private office for the Foreign Secretary of the day, responding to the minis-

Is it Global Britain?

Or Britain on the Edge of the World?

ter's immediate concerns and ever-changing in-tray." Going even further, the merger of DFID with the Foreign Office has resulted in a struggle to deliver what was expected from it. It is then suggested the 'Development' part of FCDO should be more independent and should work on objectives and priorities in its own way.



The Foreign Office minister and his senior officials have as their place of work a very imposing building completed 1868. It took 7 years to build it. Queen Victoria became Empress of India 8 years later. The building was designed to impress visiting dignitaries and leave them in no doubt that Britain was THE world power.

The British Foreign Secretary leads through his office his opposite number from the United States. There is no truth in the rumour the foreign secretary told the US secretary of state it was possible to fit Texas inside his office three times over. The former diplomats think all this must change. "A new brand would help signal a forward-looking ambition for the 21st century. The very name of the Foreign, Commonwealth (formerly 'Colonial') and Development Office is anchored in the past. A new Department for International Affairs (or Global Affairs UK)

would signal a potentially quite different role. The physical surroundings on King Charles Street also hint at the Foreign Office's identity: somewhat elitist and rooted in the past. Modernising premises – perhaps with fewer colonial era pictures on the walls – might help create a more open working culture and send a clear signal about Britain's future?

There is more; not least is keeping up with fast moving development in telecommunications. "New technologies can help deliver our international objectives. We should use artificial intelligence and big data to enhance the effectiveness of our diplomats and experts. We will also need better knowledge and institutional memory management and retrieval systems to support our learning." With 222 embassies and consulates around the world, can it be that Global Britain still struggles to communicate by telegram?



Designed to make visitors feel small? Dubar Court, part of the massive King Charles Street FCO building; just down the road from Buckingham Palace and not far from the Two Chairmen, an excellent pub.

Airfield resurfacing project in the Falkland Islands completed

The British Government Defense Infrastructure Organization (DIO) has completed an £8.9 million project to resurface the alpha loop at Mount Pleasant Complex airfield on the Falkland Islands.

The loop is part of the taxiway system which allows aircraft to move to and from the runways. DIO worked with contractor Mitie and British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) staff to facilitate the landmark delivery of the project.

The work progressed rapidly from concept to delivery within one financial year, having been initiated due to the degradation of the previous surface. If left untreated, it would eventually have threatened closure of the airbridge from the UK.

The logistical challenge was significant. The team needed to transport an entire concrete batching plant and vast amounts of heavy plant equipment over 8,000 miles from the UK to the

Falkland Islands, an extraordinary achievement given the timeframe and challenging weather conditions. The team completed the 9,400m² resurfacing project in less than a month, removing 3,500 tons of concrete, initially laid 40 years ago, and replacing it with stone mastic asphalt.

Maj Dan Ellis, Project Manager, commented: "Having been set up for success by my predecessor Major James Grant, seeing through the delivery of this project has been a tremendous privilege and great professional learning experience. Working closely with DIO and Mount Pleasant Complex staff, as well as with Mitie Defence and their sub-contractors has been the key to success. The speedy delivery of the Alpha Loop project should now serve as a showcase example of what can be achieved.

Main contractors Mitie, and subcontractors Dyer & Butler and Associated Asphalt, worked through challenging conditions and used local companies where possible, supporting the Falkland Islands' economy. **MercoPress**

ST HELENA TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE WORLD TRAVEL MARKET AFRICA AND TOURISM INVESTMENT FORUM AFRICA

St Helena will be represented at the World Travel Market (WTM) Africa at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 10 April to 12 April 2024.

This globally important travel show attracts representatives from over a hundred destinations, along with thousands of attendees from the travel industry. It provides opportunities to generate sales leads, launch new products, enter new markets, raise brand awareness, conduct market research, garner media coverage and assess other travel destinations that St Helena competes with for travellers.

Head of Tourism, Matt Joshua, and Tourism Manager, Dianne Venning, will attend. Joining them will be representatives from two local destination management companies; Julie George from Aaron's Adventure Tours, and Derek Richards from Island Images.

WTM Africa is part of Africa Travel Week, which is running from 08 April to 12 April 2024. This includes a number of travel shows and tourism-related investment events.

Director of Economic Development, Damian Burns, will attend the Tourism Investment Forum Africa (TIFA) from 10 April to 12 April 2024. He will be presenting a segment to a range of potential investors from across the world during this time. This will pitch investment opportunities in existing and new markets, as in line with the island's Sustainable Economic Development Strategy. St Helena Tourism will also attend the smaller International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) trade show earlier in the week.



When the Economic Development Portfolio team members return to St Helena on 13 April 2024, they will be accompanied by a group of 26 tour operators, travel agents and potential investors to the island. This delegation will take part in St Helena Tourism's 'St Helena Showcase' event, from 13 April to 20 April 2024. This will provide them an opportunity to understand first-hand the tourism and investment potential St Helena has to offer. A full range of events and activities has been organised for their time on the island, ensuring representatives from each sector are exposed to the key markets and opportunities relating to their fields.

Head of Tourism, Matt Joshua, said:



"I'm very excited about the opportunities that the WTM, ILTM and the TIFA will present to St Helena. They will put us in front of the people that can make a real economic impact on not just our tourism sector, but other key economic sectors on the island too."

"One of the biggest challenges we face once we've engaged tour operators, and potential investors, is getting them to the island to experience the destination first hand. Sometimes years of engagement with tour operators falls flat because we can't get interests to solidify. The showcase event later this month will provide an opportunity for attendees to immerse themselves in our beautiful island and see for themselves the range of opportunities available."

The St Helena Showcase event has been created to directly connect a number of firms in UK and South African travel trade with suppliers and stakeholders in St Helena, whilst showcasing the very best of the destination through fantastic experiences. It will also provide the chance to explore investment opportunities, collaborate with local service providers and develop tourism-related business partnerships.

SHG
5 April 2024





APRIL NIGHT SKY



SHARON WADE (assisted by the WorldWideWeb)

It has finally arrived....and gone as quickly! The total eclipse of the Sun on 8th April was visible along a narrow track spanning North America from southwest to northeast. While the majority of people across the U.S. saw a partial eclipse of varying degrees, millions travelled to be in that special location inside totality for the spectacle of seeing the corona surrounding the intensely black disk of the Moon as it covered the Sun, an apparent hole in the sky. It was described as the 'greatest show on earth'. A partial solar eclipse can be viewed from St Helena on 6th September 2027 and again on 25th November 2030. However, a Penumbral Lunar eclipse is due on 18th September this year which is when Earth's shadow will only cover parts of the Moon.



Although the awesome and rare spectacle was not visible from St Helena on the 8th, there is an array of planets visible all month, as Jupiter and Uranus lie close together in a conjunction. Venus is sliding behind the Sun, but Saturn and Mars grow in visibility in the pre-dawn sky. They are joined by Mercury, which switches from east to west of the Sun during the month.

Mercury is fading in brighter evening twilight after last month's eastern elongation. Over the next few days, the already tough target fades and sinks too low to pick up. After reaching inferior conjunction with the Sun yesterday (meaning it was in a straight line between Earth and the Sun), Mercury will quickly spring into the morning sky. It will rise around 5.30 am on 20th April to the East, but is too faint to see. By the 30th it will rise an hour and a half before the Sun and will have brightened by then.

Jupiter stands above the western horizon about an hour after sunset in early April, offering a narrow window for observation which closes fast, so the planet is best viewed in the first half of April; after that it will be more challenging, depending on your local obstructions. The evening drama began on Wednesday 10th, when a slender crescent Moon stood out in the deepening twilight not far from the Seven Sisters, with Jupiter off to the West as if on sentry duty. Grab your binoculars tonight to spy **Uranus** in the same field of view, located just above Jupiter.

However, there is a fine conjunction to watch for as Jupiter passes Uranus on the 20th. An added attraction is the appearance of Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks (discovered in 1812) in the same area of sky, although it may be too faint to see in binoculars due to the twilight. It lies just West of Jupiter so scan the area with binocs about an hour after sunset.

The main planetary action is in the morning as **Mars** and **Saturn** grow in visibility. The ringed planet and the Red Planet continue to close in, with the conjunction occurring late last Wednesday. By now, Mars stands to the NNE of Saturn. Catch the planets soon after they rise and from around 5 am, you should have a nice view if your eastern horizon is clear.

High above stands the Summer Triangle, which is comprised of three of the brightest stars in the sky – Vega, Altair and Deneb. They are so much brighter than the stars around them that they make the triangle a skymark.

Neptune passed solar conjunction with the Sun last month and remains difficult to view due to morning twilight. By the end of the month it will be high enough in the east to be seen in your scope around an hour before sunrise.

Venus is approaching superior conjunction with the Sun in early June. This is when Earth and Venus are on opposite sides of the Sun with all three bodies nearly in a straight line. For the remainder of April, with a clear eastern horizon you might spot it soon after it rises about 30 minutes before the Sun.

For the *International Space Station* spotters, it will next pass over St Helena tomorrow Saturday 13th at 7.05 pm travelling from WSW to SSW. At low magnitude, it will need to be a clear night in order to see it's journey across the evening sky.

This month's *Full Moon* known as Hunter's Moon will be on Tuesday 23rd April changing just before midnight. Keep looking skyward.....





From the Cricket Pitch

Saturday 6th April 2024
 Longwood Rebels v Lions
 222/4 – 111/9

Rebels: Sanjay Clingham 59
 Anders Bowers 59
 Weston Clingham 3/18
 Lions: Jordan Johnson 27
 Kurt Lawrance 1/26

Sunday 7th April 2024
 Jamestown AS v Cobras
 154 / 4 – 116 / 9

Jamestown: Jamie Essex 57
 Hugo Richards 2/7
 Cobras: Michael Bedwell 2/24
 Patrick Crowie 38

Levelwood AS v Challengers
 142 / 6 – 112 all out

Levelwood: Christian Leo 49
 Sefan Leo 2/2
 Challengers: Joey Thomas 37
 Tristan Thomas 2/16

Sandy Bay Pirates v Mustangs
 199 / 4 – 161 / 6

Pirates: AJ Bennet 82 not out

Mustangs: Rhys Francis 1/19
 Dane Wade 56
 Barry Stroud 2/19



Fixtures Week 5

Saturday 13th April

10:00 Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Allstars
 U: Scott Crowie and Ashton Benjamin
 13:30 Lions v Mustangs
 U: Matthew Benjamin and David Young

Sunday 14th April

10:00 Sandy Bay Pirates v Challengers
 U: Damien O'Bey and Jamie Essex
 13:30 Levelwood Rebels v Cobras
 U: Barry Stroud and David George

FOR SALE

CHEVROLET CAPTIVA LT 4 door
 hatchback car (Silver in colour) Reg: 1010.
 For further details or viewing please contact
 Telephone 22400

Premier League Football

Manchester City maintained their title challenge in ruthless fashion as "incredible" Kevin de Bruyne claimed his 100th goal for the club in a comeback victory at Crystal Palace.

In an entertaining encounter, Palace stunned City with an early opener from Jean-Philippe Mateta, before De Bruyne's wonderful finish pulled the visitors level in the first half.

Mateta raced on to a pass from Adam Wharton and slotted the ball inside the far corner in only the third minute as noise erupted from the stands at Selhurst Park.

But De Bruyne's curling effort was a sublime equaliser just 10 minutes later and, with a starring role for the rest of the game, City boss Pep Guardiola said their success was thanks to his "incredible" qualities.

"For many years he has been one of the best players for our club," Guardiola told BBC Sport.

"What he has done in England has been unbelievable. Many goals, assists and consistency. We had four or five months without him and now we need him at the end of the season. "I think he likes to score goals but I don't know if he enjoys it



more to make an assist. He is so generous with that - but he has to continue."

Palace's Jordan Ayew also struck the crossbar as Oliver Glasner's side showed plenty of attacking threat but they were undone in the second half.

Having earlier made a crucial stop to deny Erling Haaland finishing off a clever De Bruyne through-ball, Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson was unable to block Rico Lewis' strike within two minutes of the second half.

Premier League Football



The defending champions then took control as De Bruyne teed up Haaland again and this time the Norwegian striker finished, before the Belgian added a fourth - marking his century of goals for City since joining in 2015 - with a ferocious first-time shot.

Substitute Odsonne Edouard slotted in a late consolation for Palace but this was another crucial victory for Guardiola's side in an enthralling three-way title race.

City moved level on points with Liverpool, who visit Manchester United on Sunday, but Arsenal lead the table by a point after their 3-0 win at Brighton.

Arsenal maintained their pursuit of a first Premier League title for 20 years as they moved top of the table with an impressive away victory over Brighton.

Mikel Arteta's side edged one point ahead of title rivals Liverpool, who face Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday, and Manchester City after the reigning champions beat Crystal Palace 4-2 earlier on Saturday.

The returning Bukayo Saka, absent for Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Luton with a minor injury, kept his composure under pressure to slam in a first-half penalty awarded for Tariq Lamptey's foul on Gabriel Jesus.

David Raya leapt across his goal to keep out Julio Enciso's spectacular long-range effort after 43 minutes, which repre-



QUARTER-FINALS

Tuesday 9th April 2024

Arsenal 2 Bayern Munich 2

Real Madrid 3 Manchester City 3

sented Brighton's first attempt on target, to protect Arsenal's advantage before the interval.

It was the in-form Kai Havertz who gave the Gunners breathing space, slotting in from Jorginho's cut-back to settle nerves among the travelling Arsenal support after the hour mark.

Former Brighton player Leandro Trossard was denied by Bart Verbruggen, but the substitute made no mistake later when played through by Havertz, calmly lifting the ball over the Seagulls goalkeeper to put the result beyond doubt.

Brighton dropped to 10th with defeat as their hopes of achieving European football for a second successive season were dealt a blow by wins for West Ham and Newcastle directly above them.

Arsenal supporters will not need reminding that it was at this stage last season their club's hopeful grip on the Premier League trophy began to loosen. An eight-point advantage, which they held as late as 7 April, evaporated entirely.

With seven games to go this time, there remains no sign of Arteta's side falling away as they seek redemption in a fascinating three-team title race.

With last year's painful experience and another 12 months of progress behind them - as evidenced by the steely point achieved at champions Manchester City last week - the Gunners appear to be getting stronger as they chase the club's first league title since 2004.

They have now won 10 of their past 11 league games, taking 31 points out of a possible 33 in 2024, with an aggregate score of 38-4.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Saturday 6th April 2024

Crystal Palace 2 - Manchester City 4

Aston Villa 3 - Brentford 3

Everton 1 - Burnley 0

Fulham 0 - Newcastle United 1

Luton Town 2 - AFC Bournemouth 1

Wolverhampton Wanderers 1 - West Ham United 2

Brighton & Hove Albion 0 - Arsenal 3

Sunday 7th April 2024

Manchester United 2 - Liverpool 2

Sheffield United 2 - Chelsea 2

Tottenham Hotspur 3 - Nottingham Forest 1

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

Saturday 13th April 2024

11.30 Newcastle United - Tottenham Hotspur

14.00 Brentford - Sheffield United

14.00 Burnley - Brighton & Hove Albion

14.00 Manchester City - Luton Town

14.00 Nottingham Forest - Wolverhampton Wanderers

16.30 AFC Bournemouth - Manchester United

Sunday 14th April 2024

13.00 Liverpool - Crystal Palace

13.00 West Ham United - Fulham

15.30 Arsenal - Aston Villa

Monday 15th April 2024

19.00 Chelsea - Everton

Golf Report for Sunday, 7th April 2024

Report by SHGC

Conditions and Competition Overview: On Sunday, 7th April 2024, a Stableford competition took place in favorable weather conditions at the golf course. The day was characterized by dry weather with occasional sunshine, providing ideal conditions for the golfers to showcase their skills.

Winners of the Competition: Mr. Jeffrey Stevens emerged as the top performer in the competition, securing the leading position on the leaderboard with an impressive score of 33 points. Following closely behind was Mrs. Helena Stevens, who claimed the second spot with a commendable score of 31 points. The Stevens couple showcased their prowess on the course and conquered the field with their exceptional performance.

Noteworthy Achievement: Neil Joshua stood out during the competition by achieving a remarkable feat on the 16th hole. He managed to score the only two of the day, showcasing his skill and precision in a challenging situation. As a result, Neil Joshua collected all the balls in the two-ball pool, highlighting his exceptional performance during the round.

In conclusion, Sunday's golf competition on 7th April 2024 witnessed competitive gameplay under favorable weather conditions. The standout performances of Mr. Jeffrey Stevens, Mrs. Helena Stevens, and Neil Joshua added excitement and intrigue to the event, making it a memorable day for all participants.

Coming up: On Sunday 14th April 2024 the club will host a Gruesome choose your partner stableford competition sponsored by Mr Douglas Augustus. A card with information on



the format will be provided before teeing off. Tee off is 12:00 registration closes on Saturday 13th at 3pm.

Lastly members are advised that the St Helena Golf Club Championship (SHGCC) 2024 is on starting this month of April. Members are encouraged to play official competitions regularly to earn points and stand a chance to win big prizes at the end of the season. The event will conclude on the final day of The SHGC Players championship on 10th November 2024.

We wish you all a happy weekend and happy swinging

ST. HELENA



The Annual General Meeting of the St Helena Football Association will take place on 24th April at 7pm.

Venue of the meeting is to be confirmed and will be relayed soon.

There are a few items on the agenda with the main one being the election of a new committee, so they urged all captains, footballers or interested persons of any gender who has an interest in the future of the St Helena Football Association to attend.



Cape to St Helena Yacht Race – The Message is Out There

A publicity campaign launched by St Helena Tourism has caught the attention of the world's yachting and sailing media. The 2024 Cape to St Helena Yacht Race leaves Cape Town on 26th December, the awareness campaign to attract race entries started two weeks ago.

The yacht race is up there with Jonathan and Napoleon for what St Helena is known for in the wider world.

More Inside