

THE ST HELENA

INDEPENDENT

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ST HELENA DAY 2024



GOVERNOR SWINGING



Jonathan is Big Boy But. . .



OPINION

What is Happening to Our *Island*?



Elections in Britain



What is Happening to Our Island?

The news received last week which said that the new Immigration Policy had been approved has not gone down well. I do not think that this is from people being racist, but Saints are sincerely feeling that they have been let down. There is no reason to import people when no attempts are being made to keep our own people on the island. Saints are fleeing in droves because of bad policies and bad circumstances on the island.

I do not know where the ideas of Ministerial Government came from, I guess it was FCDO – the over-arching masters of St Helena's future. I do not have complaints about individual Ministers, but the system is not appropriate for an island with less than 4000 inhabitants. It is also questionable where our Ministers are getting their advice, as it is obvious that the policies and strategies are not anchored within the society. We saw this in the recent Immigration Public Consultation/Information Meetings, where a vast majority of people opposed the new ideas, but still it was adopted by our Ministers. It is a funny kind of democracy!

The system has been created as a pretence of St Helena being a democracy, which it is not. No place or territory can be a democracy without being able to, at least in part, fend for itself. On this island, what has happened is that we produce less and less and the Administration getting bigger and bigger. This has become even worse with the Ministerial system because, opposite what was promised, less money is available for the people because more is taken by up-keeping the system. It was heard several times before the Ministerial system was introduced, that it wouldn't cost any more than the old system. This was bluntly a lie. Nobody can say how much this new debacle is costing, but with the individual pays to Ministers, Secretaries and new premises, it must come up to millions.

This island would be better-served by a small Island Council with limited remuneration, which might sit once or twice per week, preferably outside working hours. We do not need a full Ministerial Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, or Ministers Question Time to run a place like this. I have written several times about abolishing most of the local legislation and depend on the laws of Gibraltar, where they are written for a small community of 35,000 people and most of their laws would be applicable here as well. We are spending millions to create a legal system for a community which is smaller than a normal overseas church parish – why?

Tomorrow, we have a group of Parliamentarians leaving the island after a week of discussions regarding democracy and how to run it. Still, apart from voting every four years, the feeling of living in a democratic society has been lost. This is a large part of Saints dispersing into the diaspora and might never be seen again.

We hope that the CPA Parliamentarians enjoyed their stay on the island and can travel to many more relics of colonialism in the future. It is apparent that people who cannot rule their own country prefer to advise others how to run theirs. St Helena



OPINION

is perfectly capable of sorting out most of its own problems with some co-operation from the UK Government, but the constant detailed instructions is bringing the island into despair. It has been historically proven that most things which have gone wrong here, have been due to ludicrous advice from HMG, as they do not listen to people with local knowledge. The degree of frustration from islanders is overwhelming. They want to be listened to and be involved in how the island is managed. A vote every four years for a Councillor taking directions from an overseas government is not good enough to call this island a democracy.

It is quite funny how the word 'sustainability' is used where it is absolutely improper. How many sustainable development plans have we seen and how many have we seen fail?

How many advisors sent to teach us sustainability have tried, just to be replaced with another one with a new idea? In the end where is the sustainability? I have not seen it.

I cannot understand how we as a people can sit down and allow the island and its culture to just go under. We have to come together to find a better way of running the island and protect our way of life, and it can only be done with a unified community which is looking forward to prosperity.

How can we stop inappropriate policies from coming into force? The new Immigration Policy is not appropriate for the island (as the majority have said) so what happens when the realisation kicks in and there is no way back to the sense of belonging as once was?

To be continued.....in the meantime, opinions are always welcome.

Mike



Governor Breaks Ground as Heritage Society Begin Renovations to Convert PWD Store to a 'Cultural Centre'

As part of the St Helena's Day celebrations on Sunday the Heritage Society held a short ceremony to mark the start of renovations which will convert the old PWD Store into a Cultural Centre.

The renovated building will have a bigger public library on the ground floor and the government archives will occupy the 1st floor. As with the library, there will be more floor space and, because the interior of the building will be completely new, the designs for the library and archive will offer improved facilities. A 3rd floor is to be added which will be an extension to the museum.

The ceremony took place at 1pm. Members of the Heritage Society entered the old PWD Store to witness the event. On the public address system in the Grand Parade it was announced that the ground breaking ceremony was about to take place. Immediately, many more people arrived to witness the event.

Museum curator Adam Sizeland welcomed everyone present and introduced Edward Baldwin, a long-time stalwart of the Heritage Society. Edward gave a brief description of the Heritage Society's involvement with the old PWD Store.

Then it was the main event. The governor grasped a double-headed grubber with both hands and prepared to strike a blow at the concrete screed which covers the beetle stones which was the previous floor finish.

The construction of the ground floor is not suitable for a public building and is to be removed. It will be re-laid as a foundation slab. At the same time the level of the ground floor will be lowered slightly, providing more ceiling height.

The Heritage Society have already raised a very useful six-figure sum for the cost of renovations. This funding will certainly get the work well underway. More funds will be required to finish the job and the Heritage Society will have another series of fund-raising campaigns for that purpose. The Society will also be looking to Government for some support with the costs of relocating the Public Library and the Archives



X marks the spot. The governor prepares to take aim.



The governor strikes the first blow. The ceremonial breaking of the ground floor is done.

During Michael Ashcroft's most recent visit to St Helena he set a challenge to the Heritage Society. He said he would match the Heritage Society's own fund-raising £ for £ to a maximum of £100,000. How exactly this will work is still to be discussed.

Thank You

Great to catch up with Lord Ashcroft this morning, to thank him for his recent generous donation to Tristan da Cunha and discuss areas of mutual interest.

Philip Kendall, Administator of Tristan da Cunha





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Editorial

The headline on a three-page paid-for feature in this week's Independent got me thinking about different situations when I was well outside my comfort zone. In fact, it triggered a memory or two, and then a few more. One of the earliest memories was a couple of things that happened on a school trip to Spain. I must have split off from those I went with and found other company. There was a German who was probably a year or two older than the rest of us who was always good company and full of laughs – called Hans, a typical name but an unusual person. Then there was this girl from Keighley and one or two more. We always met in the same bar and took it from there.

One night I was lying on the beach with a girl tucked under my arm. All was going well until two Spanish policemen approached. At the time the dictator Francisco Franco still held power, so his police were feared. They approached with rifles over their shoulders. They stared stonily ahead, as if we were not there. Marching slowly, one of them just missed stepping over my head. The other probably did step over my feet. We lay there not moving one muscle. The two policemen continued on their way at the same slow march. When there was a good distance between the police and us, we got off the lovely sandy beach after deciding it was an excellent idea to find somewhere else to go.

At around the same time (of life) a ferry from Dover to Ostend (Belgium) made a permanent imprint on my mind. It was cold, wet, very windy and the ferry bounced up and down, constantly. Most of the passengers were seasick. The smell was terrible. Eventually I tucked myself in on the leeward side of the tunnel where there was some warmth from it and less wind. For some I can't now remember I had to go into the lounge/bar for something, maybe the toilet. In the lounge the floor was covered in plastic bowls, dozens of them, for people to be sick in. No-one was sitting on the bar stools sipping a Belgian beer. Unfortunately, the plastic bowls were round, not square, and the miserable wretches who were sick never seemed to aim right. Most of the vomit landed in the gaps between the round bowls. The smell in the lounge lingered permanently in the memory and it also clung to my clothes for far too long.

Moving on a few years, I decided to get off a Greyhound bus in Lake Charles, Louisiana and find a bed for the night. Sleeping overnight on a bus, again, just could not happen. My usual approach was to walk from the bus station until I found an area of town that looked interesting. This usually worked out OK. The area in Lakes Charles where Greyhound buses drop people off was very dark; maybe a weak streetlight here and there. There were no brightly lit bars or shops, nothing really, no people on the street. Eventually I came to a bar which advertised rooms to let. I went straight in because it could be a long time before I came across another. The first

thing I saw was a big notice behind the bar informing me that police check out the bar every two hours. Too late to change my mind; I had started so I finished. I told the barman/manager I wanted to book a room for two nights. "TWO nights?!" He bellowed. Looking back, he probably thought I was an idiot for wanting to book a room at all. "I can put your wallet in my safe" he said. Who can I trust, I thought. I thanked him but kept my wallet close to my heart. I then teamed up with someone who must have been some kind of local Godfather. Maybe the barman put me in his care and protection. I can't remember that detail. The Godfather was not good at conversation and things got a bit boring. The bright spot in this episode was the two young fellas at the next table who suddenly stood up and pulled out their knives. They made feeble attempts to threatened each other for a moment or two and then sat down again.

Eventually, after thanking the Godfather for his hospitality and his help in fending off the wizened old prostitutes I got through the door in the corner, up the stairs and found my room. Walking along the passageway I passed doors that had been kicked in. They were only wooden frames with hardboard nailed on. Eventually I slept. The following morning, I met the Godfather again who had a room further down the passageway. He invited me into his room and showed me items he possessed which he claimed were of good quality. He seemed to need to prove to me he was no bum with no money. He also showed me his (good quality) gun he kept under his pillow – just in case. Eventually I announced that I had decided not stay a second night and would head off to the Greyhound bus station to get the next bus going west. He told me I could not walk on the streets alone. I must go in a taxi if I wanted to get out alive. I went along with his suggestion but was not alarmed. The night before I had walked from the bus station without incident. Maybe the Godfather would get a cut of the taxi fare. The taxi arrived at the back stairs of the building; it could not have parked closer to the bottom step. Off I went and that was that – apart from the bits I will not tell you about.

Before Lake Charles I spent a night or two in New Orleans. One night I was in a bar that had the word 'Jazz' in bright lights at the entrance. Inside was a good blues singer going through his repertoire. I mixed in with some people and we sat at a table chatting and getting another pitcher of beer at regular intervals. The blues singer finished. After that the barman fell asleep at the bar. We had to serve ourselves to more pitchers of beer.

When the barman woke up, he muttered that he was closing the place. He did not stagger off home to bed, he took us to another bar further down the street. This second bar sat snuggled beneath a high bank – higher than a house. That's the Mississippi behind that bank, I was told. I was looking at a levee which kept the Mississippi River flowing high above



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Editorial

my head. The call of duty meant we entered this second bar at around 3am. After a drink or two I thought I would get something a bit livelier going on the juke box. I was discussing what choice I should make on the juke box with someone I met at the first bar when a little old lady approached. "Excuse me" she said in an immaculate voice, "I could not help hearing your accent – I'm from Tunbridge Wells". I showed surprise and exchanged a few pleasantries. On reflection, I should have sat down with her and chatted. It is certain a little old lady from Tunbridge Wells who is in a bar tucked under the Mississippi at 3am would have some good stories to tell.

More recently there was the time I was in Burma. . . and so it goes on. Which brings me back to where I started. The three-page feature I mentioned at the start is headlined, "Celebrate the beauty that emerges when diverse cultural backgrounds come together, fostering understanding, creativity, and shared experiences". The French might say 'Vive la difference'. Or, switching back to the United States again, as Mark Twain famously said, 'Travel broadens the mind'. Did I ever tell you about the time I nipped into a few clubs on the Soho Road in Birmingham?

Another time, perhaps.
Vince

Jonathan is Big Boy but. . .

No disrespect to Jonathan at all, but, while our national treasure is heading for his double century, we cannot ignore the big beasts that were Jonathan's distant cousins. They roamed parts of the earth 10 million years ago.



A computer-generated image which compares the massive size of the Stupendemys geographicus tortoise with the usual size of modern man

Fossils of the Stupendemys have been found in northern parts of South America. They have been discovered in rocks known to be between 15 and 11 million years old. Other fossils have been found in rocks which were formed 2 to 5 million years ago. Two million years ago the warmer climate gave way to an Ice Age. Climate change and the loss of wetlands which this giant depended upon caused the spectacular monster to become extinct.



This photo shows pieces of the fossilised carapace (shell) of Stupendemys geographicus which have been reassembled. In the top right of the photo a man lies beside the remains of a Stupendemys, indicating how big this reptile was.

CONTROLLED ROCK REMOVAL – TUESDAY 28 MAY

The Rock Guards will carry out a controlled rock removal on the hillside of Ladder Hill, above the Museum on Tuesday 28 May 2024, from 09:30 to 15:00. During this time, the road from the back of the Prison to the entrance of the Grand Parade will be closed to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Vehicular traffic will be diverted to exit Narra Backs via Shy Road or Church Lane.

The road to West Rocks on the seafront will also be closed at the Cenotaph.

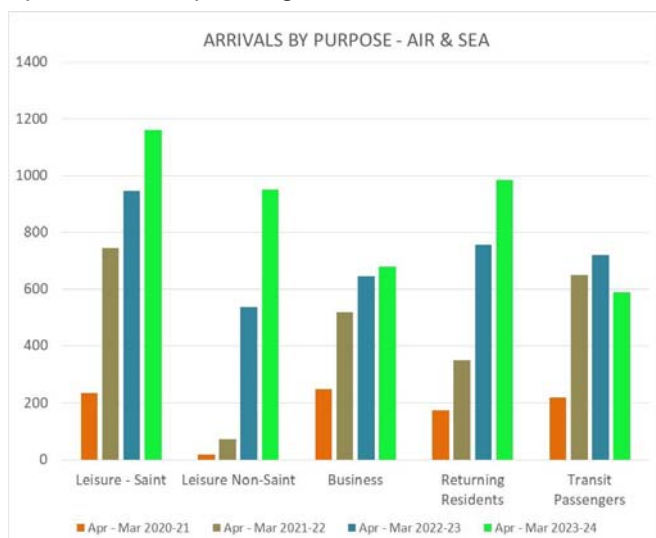
There will be no parking allowed at the Museum car parks or near the Cenotaph during this time. Vehicle owners are asked to move your vehicles by 08:00 on Tuesday 28 May 2024. Jacob's Ladder will also be closed to the public for the duration of this work. Appropriate signage and marshals will be in place.

The Rock Guards thanks you for your cooperation. **SHG, 28 May 2024**

Number of Arrivals – Statistics Update

Statistics were released late last week giving the numbers of people arriving and departing up to the end of March and the end of the most recent peak tourism season. The numbers are broken down in many ways; by age, place of origin and length of stay. The chart below is broken down by the reason people come here.

There is a good increase in non-Saint leisure travellers from 538 last year to 950 this year. It is too early to see any trend because the COVID pandemic caused havoc with everyone's travel plans. Saints returning for leisure purposes continues to be the highest category with returning Saints also remaining strong. All categories show increased numbers with the exception of transit passengers.



	Apr-Mar 2020-21	Apr-Mar 2021-22	Apr-Mar 2022-23	Apr-Mar 2023-24
Arrivals - Air Only	785	1953	2878	3772
Arrivals - Yacht Crew	81	282	696	574

the number of arrivals during the most recent 12 months is probably due to the moorings at West Rocks being closed immediately after Christmas due to lack of maintenance to the mooring chains.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVES IMMIGRATION POLICY

The Immigration Policy 2024 was approved by Executive Council on Tuesday 7 May 2024. The policy, which supports increasing the working aged population, is critical to growing the economy and sustainable prosperity for the island.

To fuel economic growth, this policy aims to attract a skilled workforce with streamlined, user-friendly processes for visitors, professionals, and investors. Importantly, there are no changes to St Helenian Status or existing partner exemptions.

To ensure smooth execution, the policy comes with a detailed implementation plan. This plan outlines the necessary steps, including revisions to immigration laws and timeframes for enacting complementary policies. These complementary policies address various aspects like health fees, minimum wage adjustments, public transportation access, land ownership rights for immigrants, property transactions (disposal and purchase), and stamp duty regulations.

To strengthen border security, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed with the UK Home Office, granting access to their watch lists. Additionally, training for immigration staff will be facilitated.

A dedicated Head of Customs and Immigration will be appointed in July of this year to further support staff training and ensure the policy's smooth implementation. Securing funding for modern immigration equipment remains a crucial step.

It is envisaged that the legislation will be enacted in September 2024.

SHG
17 May 2024

The number of air passengers make the majority of all arrivals by air and sea. The increase in numbers reflects the data shown in arrivals by purpose.

The arrival of yachts and crews showed a similar strong recovery after COVID restrictions were lifted. The reduction in

Thank You

The Dubbs Family Raffle

- 1st prize - Airfryer - Diana Roberts
- 2nd prize- Mobile Phone - Sharnell Benjamin
- 3rd prize- Tracker Fit Bit - Donald Thomas (Blue Hill)
- 4th prize- Headphones - Steven O'Dean
- 5th prize - JBL Earbuds- Kasana Balchin
- 6th prize - Ladies Bag - Colin Johnson
- 7th prize - Wall plaque - Elaine Bennett
- 8th prize - Lava Lamp - Gwen Peters
- 9th prize - Bath Mat set - Max Benjamin
- 10th prize - Duvet Set - Paighton Roberts
- 11th prize - Cutlery Set - Jackie Henry
- 12th prize - Mugs - Rosemarie Leo
- 13th prize - Kiddies mermaid tail swim mat - Myrell Leo
- 14th prize - Hand Mixer - Teapot Leo
- 15th prize - Ladies Bag - Violet Stevens
- 16th prize - Bathroom Scale -Sasha Benjamin

£900 will be donated to Cancer Support & Awareness Charity and £50 will be donated to St Helena National Trust.

The Dubbs Family and Special Friends would like to thank the General public for their support towards their Stall/ raffle on St Helena's Day 2024.

Special thanks to all those who help to sell raffle tickets, we really appreciate your time and effort each year.



Thorpes

W.A.Thorpe & Sons Ltd would like to advise their customers that all Jamestown retail outlets will be closed half day on Tuesday 28th May from 12.30pm for a staff function.

Normal opening hours will resume on Wednesday 29th May.



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 26th May 2024 – Trinity Sunday

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
3.30 p.m.	Patronal Festival	St Helena & The Cross

The Parish of St James

Sunday 26th May 2024 – Trinity Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	St James
	Thursday 30 th May	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 28 th May	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist/Cell Group	St Mark

Baptist Church Gospel Outreach



sing!
When: Sunday:
26th May 2024

Where: Kingshurst Community Centre

Time: 3.00 pm



Your Opinion Counts

Dear Sir,

Is Jamestown the World's Remotest City?

The UK press have recently been reporting the introduction of the longest non-stop flight from the UK, which is to Perth, Western Australia. Both the Mirror and the Express have stated that Perth is the world's remotest city. The test appears to be the distance from the nearest other city. If it was simply from the nearest town then the claim would fail, as Fremantle is only a short drive from Perth. Perth's nearest other city is Adelaide, 1327 miles away.

Jamestown has been a city since 1859 and the nearest other city is Walvis Bay, 1405 miles away. Which makes Jamestown more remote by 78 miles. If I am correct, it might be worth promoting this as a plus point for the island's tourism offer.

*Yours faithfully,
David Jeremiah*

Dear Editor,

Concerned ex Councillors!

St Helena prides itself in good governance and the rule of law and fairness to all. We believe though it's right to bring a serious matter to attention. Nothing else has worked. Our efforts to follow due process have failed. We were Executive Council members serving on the previous Council completing our four year term in late 2021. We have diligently followed the correct procedures but after more than three years and a serious amount of patience we believe the powers that be have been content to turn a blind eye to the correct processes not been followed.

Our issue. In February 2021 we made an official complaint to the then Speaker's Office. The matter was investigated and two members of the previous council were found to be in breach of section 6.5 of the Code of Conduct and as a

result were to offer us, members of the then Executive Council, an apology. At the time neither side made an appeal against the Commission's findings nor was an apology received. The fact that no appeals were made within the fourteen days allowed has been categorically confirmed in an email by the previous Speaker, a copy of which we have. This is a significant point. The next step in the process was for the Investigative Commission's Report to be brought before Legislative Council, a procedure normally referred to as 'Laid on the Table'.

A new council came into being in October 2021 and the two councillors concerned were re-elected. It became difficult for us to get updates on any follow-up to the Investigative Commission's Report. In March 2022 we were informed that the matter had been referred to the Attorney General. In the following month the Clerk of Councils informed us that the Sessional Paper in relation to the Investigative Report would be laid on the table at the Legislative Council meeting on 6 May 2022. By then no mention of appeals. However on 12 April 2022 we were told that circumstances had changed and a date for laying the report on the table at LegCo couldn't be given. On 28 April 2022 we wrote to the Speaker for an explanation but none was immediately forthcoming. Since then to keep things moving we had meetings at different times with Governors Rushbrook and Phillips. At the meeting with Governor Phillips on 17 November 2022 the new Speaker and the Attorney General were present. The Speaker said he was not aware of the complaint. There is a written record of that meeting. We also met with the visiting CPA team in November 2022 who quite rightly said there was nothing much they could do but they did not see any reason why we should not go public with our long running issue. On 14 December 2022 we were advised by the Clerk of Councils that following further investigations there was clear evidence that at least one appeal had been submitted within the time frame. We asked for evidence but received a reply that they could only confirm that an appeal had been lodged within the timeframe allowed. Bear in mind that the timeframe for appeals had been the fourteen days from 22 July 2021!

In January 2023 FCDO was informally made aware on the situation. Although we continued making enquiries nothing

further was heard during the following months until 8 December 2023 when we were told that Sessional Papers regarding the matter had been laid on the table at a Legislative Council meeting on 30th November 2023. This we had been unaware of. We were also provided with two reports dated 8 November 2023 from which we learnt to our surprise that another Investigative Commission had been convened to investigate the appeals with the result that this second Commission had upheld the appeals. Yes, by then two appeals had emerged presumably dated as far back as July 2021?

Our immediate reply was that we had not been made aware that a new Commission had been set up and that a sessional paper was laid on the table at LegCo on 30 November 2023. We pointed out that our layman's view was that in terms of the Code of Conduct a Commissions Report could only be laid before LegCo if no appeal had been made against the findings in the (2nd) Investigative Commission's Report. Further we stated that we had not been able to consider whether to make an appeal because we had not been told that a new Commission had been set up and that nor were we allowed an opportunity to put across our side of the story to the new Commission.

The response from the Speaker's Office which did not come until 7 May 2024 said that they are unaware of the reasons why we were not informed of the matters we had stated and that officers at the time are no longer working here. It went on to say however we do acknowledge procedural wise, that lessons can be learnt from this and that in section 9.1 of both reports on the investigation of the appeals, it was the Commission themselves who felt there was no need to conduct interviews with the complainant. Is that an admission that correct procedures had not been followed? If so, what's next?

An apology is irrelevant now but like us you might be wondering what's going on!

**In alphabetical order –
Cruyff Buckley, Anthony Green,
Lawson Henry, Derek Thomas.**

Vacancy

Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic



Salary for the post will commence at £10,968 per annum (£914 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Electrical Works Department for an Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic.

As the Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic you will ensure that in-house and private jobs are undertaken competently and in a timely manner whilst ensuring high standards of work are delivered at all times in accordance with Company requirement and local regulations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess grade C in GCSE Maths or English, or equivalent
- Have at least 3 years proven experience in Electrical Engineering
- Be in possession of a current Wiremen's license
- Have experience of maintaining air-conditioning and refrigeration systems
- Possess Level 3 City & Guilds Diploma in Electrical Installations Course, or equivalent
- Be flexible to work out of normal working hours and be available to work as part of an on-call rota as and when required
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Have a valid drivers' licence
- Be aware of Health & Safety practises as well as be able to perform manual handling duties
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Be willing to undertake any further training

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

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via ☎ 22380 ✉ gm-services.properties@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 **30 May 2024**.

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

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

Vacancy

Special Orders Clerk



Salary for the post will be £10,176 per annum (£848 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Procurement Department for a Special Orders Clerk.

As the Special Orders Clerk you provide primary support to the Special Orders and Procurement Department whilst ensuring a high level of customer service at all times.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Be computer literate namely in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word and able to undertake online research
- Possess experience in basic administration
- Possess experience in Cash Handling
- Possess experience of working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Have excellent communication skills and ability to use own initiative
- Be well-organised with a keen eye for detail
- Have the ability to multi-task and work to deadlines
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be available to work Saturdays

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

Julie Lawrence, Procurement Manager via ☎ 22207 ✉ procurementmanager@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 **23 May 2024**.

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Passenger Services Agents



Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Passenger Services Agents 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 good standard of English & ICT
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertaking the required training, including training in Johannesburg, as well as the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake manual handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations

For further information contact:

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

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Vacancy

Part-Time Male Security Officers



Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Male 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.

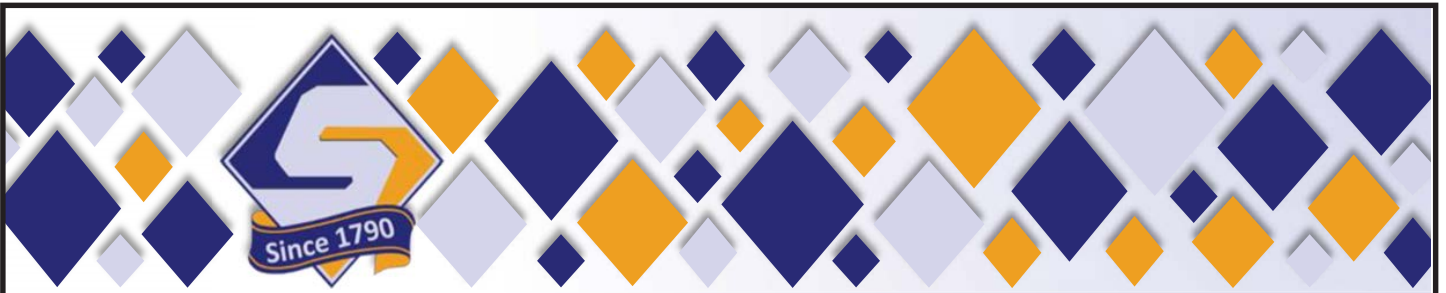
Interested Persons Should:

- 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
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations

For further information contact:

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

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Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

has a Vacancy for a

Chief Executive Officer

This is a high profile fixed-term leadership position as the responsible officer of a Company with diverse business interests in agencies, services, insurance, production and retail.

The **Chief Executive Officer** will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies and policies to ensure that the Company will meet the strategic goals determined by the Board of Directors, leading the Corporate Management Team to progress the Company's agenda against financial and operational performance indicators, fulfilling its stated Purpose and upholding its stated Values.

Interested Persons should have:

- The following knowledge and experience:
 - 5 years senior management experience
 - Financial Management experience at senior level
 - Business development experience (relevant to the diverse portfolio interests)
 - Proven track record of commercial management success
 - Proven track record in leading teams and achieving results
 - Experience in growing/building new business
- Be highly literate and numerate with a strong academic background
- Possess MBA or equivalent level management certification
- Excellent leadership/management and decision-making skills
- Strong strategic planning and implementation skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with an ability to communicate with a diverse range of people at varying levels of operation both internally and externally
- Risk assessment and risk mitigation skills and abilities
- Commitment to quality and excellence
- A high degree of integrity, maturity and professionalism with the ability to lead and adapt effectively in changing circumstances and in a demanding, fast paced team environment

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Eric Constantine, Human Resources Committee Chairman, on telephone number +290 63746, or via email: eric-c@helanta.co.sh. Application forms can be collected from the Main Office Building, Jamestown, or alternatively, an electronic copy can be requested via email address: hadmin@solomons.co.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, or via email address hrm@solomons.co.sh by **1600hrs, Friday, 31 May 2024.**

Property For Sale



Commercial Property Ladder Hill £400,000

- ▶ Currently used as a bar and restaurant
- ▶ Internal area 258m²
- ▶ Great location with large parking area and facilities which benefits with ocean views
- ▶ Property could be converted into a retail outlet or residential apartments subject to planning permission
- ▶ An investment property which will provide good Return on Investment



Residential Property Gordons Post £119,950

2 Bedrooms

Stunning views of High Knoll Fort

Further details available at DPS, The Market,
Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email
derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290
67022/25836



Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Human Resources Support Officer

(£7,341 per annum)

Do you have a flair for figures with good attention to detail and is proficient in Microsoft excel? If so come join our HR team in the role of Human Resources Support Officer where you will be responsible for undertaking a range of financial and administration duties. This includes setting up and maintaining spreadsheets and producing accurate payroll data. This will be a good opportunity for you to contribute to capturing HR data to support the efficient running of HR. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Clare O'Dean on Tel No 22470 or Email
clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 29 May 2024

Human Resources Assistant

(£7,341 per annum)

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to undertake a range of HR transactional processes and deliver a high quality HR service. You will be required to provide administration duties in connection with recruitment and selection, processing of leavers and contractual changes in accordance with employment related policies and procedures. This is a great opportunity to start your career in HR if you are a motivated, self-starter who has a passion for delivering great customer service and administration. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Sharina Williams on 22470 or Email
Sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 29 May 2024

Communications Officer

(£9,197 per annum)

The Communications Officer will work across the Communications Hub to deliver successful external and internal communications by using a range of communications channels to deliver internal news and content including the intranet, video, newsletters and events, and support the delivery of external news to the public, press, media and stakeholders. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Jamie Drabble on 22470 or Email
jamie.drabble@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 29 May 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/Line Manager (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

Carpenter (Building Maintenance) (Salary ranging from £6,722 - £8,465 per annum depending on qualifications & experience)

The Carpenter will be required to deliver daily operations and maintenance services within the Building Maintenance Section. You will be responsible to the Foreman (Works) for the daily operations and services within the Building and Maintenance section in the execution of carpentry, woodwork and other building related tasks, which includes assist the decorators, plumbers/drainage and mason team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Rex Young on Tele No 22056 or Email
Rex.Young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 29 May 2024

Assistant Caretaker – PAS (£7,341 per annum)

Are you a motivated individual with good handyman experiences? If so, this could be the perfect job for you. As the Assistant Caretaker, you will be responsible for supporting and ensuring the management, maintenance, safety and security of the whole premises of Prince Andrew School including Francis Plain playing field so that it is kept in good condition for use by the school population and the wider community of St. Helena.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Stuart Leo on Tele No 24290 or Email
stuart.leo@princeandrew.edu.sh

Closing date: 28 May 2024

Deputy Head Teacher (Harford Primary) (Fixed Term) (£19,852 per annum)

Are you looking to progress in your career within the teaching profession and take on a leadership position? Then this is the opportunity for you. The Deputy Head Teacher will provide assistance to the Head Teacher of Harford Primary to ensure the effective and efficient management, organisation and administration of a primary school including Nursery provision. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing date: 28 May 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.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

General Teaching Assistant (Prince Andrew School) (£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: Carolyn Yon on Tel No 24290 or Email
Carolyn.Yon@princeandrew.edu.sh

Closing date: 29 May 2024

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (Prince Andrew School) (£9,401 per annum)

Are you looking for a new challenge? Here is an opportunity for you to further your career in the teaching profession. The Higher Level Teaching Assistant takes on the responsibility of planning, preparing and teaching 25% of the Schools Teaching Time Table including any specific support groups and lesson cover in the absence of the Class Teacher. You will also assist with supervising the children in the playground to ensure pupils feel safe and secured in the school environment, and to have a good level of written and verbal communication to be able to interact with between all students, colleagues and Parents. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carolyn Yon on Tel No 24290 or Email
Carolyn.Yon@princeandrew.edu.sh

Closing date: 29 May 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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Emergency Care Assistant (£9,197 per annum)

The Health Services, Emergency Services team are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to undertake an exciting development post as an Emergency Care Assistant, to join the team in providing an Emergency Ambulance and Emergency Department service under the direction of the Paramedics. The role will see the successful applicant undertake the Level 3 and Level 4 QA First Response Emergency Care qualifications (A UK recognised and regulated course), receive training in emergency driving, and on-the job mentorship and training. The role will require participation in an on-call rota to provide an efficient, responsive, and reliable emergency service. Contact us for more information.

Enquiries: Michael Gaga Hale on Tel No 22500 or Email
michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 04 June 2024

Trainee Mechanic (Fixed term – 2 years) (£7,341 per annum)

Mechanic (Fixed term - 2 years) (£9,197 per annum)

The Transport Division is seeking to recruit a Trainee Mechanic and a Mechanic to join their team. If you are a motivated individual who has the ability to work independently when required and have a sound knowledge of practical mechanics and diagnostics with good attention to detail this could be a good opportunity for you. The role requires you to be fully conversant in applying health and safety procedures to guarantee the safety of employees and products/services ensuring that the vehicles and heavy plant equipment are maintained in a safe operational condition. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Nicholas George on Tel No 23643 or Email
vehicle.fleet@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 04 June 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/Line Manager (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.



Editor: Ed Oyewo
Content Contributions from Africans resident on St. Helena

AFRICAN 25th May, 2024 DAY 2024

DIASPORA

The 2024 theme is "Third Culture," which celebrates the beauty that emerges when diverse cultural backgrounds come together, fostering understanding, creativity, and shared experiences.



St Helena Island played a key role in the transatlantic slave trade as a stopover for ships traveling between Africa and the Americas. Between 1840 and 1872, over 25,000 liberated Africans were offloaded at St Helena as part of Britain's efforts to end the slave trade. Many of these individuals were in poor health, leading to overcrowded and unsanitary conditions at the Liberated African Establishment in Ruperts Valley. Approximately 8,000 Africans were buried there, with recent DNA analysis revealing their likely origins in the general area between northern Angola and Gabon.

African Day, formerly known as African Freedom Day and African Liberation Day, is an annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963. The OAU was replaced by the African Union in 2002, but the holiday continues to be celebrated on May 25.

Background:

The First Congress of Independent African States was held in Accra, Ghana on April 15, 1958, where the concept of African Freedom Day was introduced. This day was meant to mark the progress of the liberation movement and symbolize the determination of the African people to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation.

Contemporary Celebrations:

Africa Day is celebrated both in Africa and around the world, with themes set for each year's celebration. The 2024 theme is **"Third Culture,"** which celebrates the beauty that emerges when diverse cultural backgrounds come together, fostering understanding, creativity, and shared experiences. Events and activities include cultural performances, lectures, and exhibitions, with a focus on promoting African unity, culture, and development.

Global Celebrations:

Africa Day is celebrated globally, with events and activities taking place in various countries. For example, the Africa Center in Hong Kong is hosting a celebration on May 26, 2024, which will feature African cultures, food, arts, and music. Similarly, Afriiconado is presenting an inaugural Africa Day 2024 event, dedicated to leveraging African music, storytelling, and cultural exchange. AFRICA DAY 2024 in Austria aims to highlight business opportunities in various regions of the continent and provide a platform for Austrian and African companies to connect.

African Day 2024 is a significant event that celebrates the rich cultural heritage and diversity of the African continent. It is a day to promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations and to recognize the progress made towards achieving these goals. African Countries with its citizens resident on **St. Helena Island** includes **South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Lesotho and Namibia.**



South Africa, a country at the southern tip of Africa, is gearing up to celebrate Africa Day on May 25, 2024, a public holiday that commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. This year's celebration marks a significant milestone in the country's history, as it reflects on its own journey towards independence and its role in the broader African community.

Celebrating 30 Years of Freedom: The 10th edition of Africa Month is celebrated under the theme: "Celebrating 30 Years of Freedom: Building a Better Africa and a Better World". This theme highlights South Africa's progress since gaining independence in 1994 and its commitment to building a better future for all Africans. As South Africa celebrates Africa Day 2024, it is a reminder of the country's history, its cultural heritage, and its role in the African community. The day is a celebration of African unity, cooperation, and development, and a call to action for South Africans and Africans around the world to work together towards a brighter future.



Nigeria, a country located in West Africa, has a rich history and culture that spans over a thousand years. The country has been inhabited by various ethnic groups, each with their own distinct culture and traditions. Nigeria gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960 and has since become a federal republic with a diverse population of over 200 million people. Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa, driven primarily by its oil and gas sector. The country is also a major player in the agricultural sector, with crops such as cocoa, peanuts, and rubber being significant exports.

Nigeria is home to several popular tourist attractions, including the Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Benin City National Museum, which showcases the history and culture of the Benin Empire.

Nigerian cuisine is known for its rich flavors and variety, with popular dishes including jollof rice, suya (grilled meat skewers), and egusi soup. The country is also famous for its traditional snacks, such as puff-puff (fried dough) and chin-chin (fried dough strips).

Nigeria has produced several notable figures throughout its history, including Nnamdi Azikiwe, the country's first president, and Wole Soyinka, a Nobel laureate in literature. In present day, notable figures include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a renowned author, and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first female and first African to serve as Director-General of the World Trade Organization.

Nigeria is currently facing several challenges, including security concerns in the north and economic instability. However, the country is also making progress in areas such as healthcare and education, with initiatives aimed at improving access to these services for all citizens. African Day is celebrated in Nigeria with various events and activities, including cultural performances, lectures, and exhibitions. The day is marked by Nigerians both within the country and in the diaspora, with a focus on promoting African unity, culture, and development.



Ghana, known as the Gold Coast until its independence in 1957, boasts a rich cultural heritage. As the first African country to gain independence from colonial rule, Ghana has played a pivotal role in the Pan-African movement. The nation is a melting pot of ethnic groups, including the Akan, Mole-Dagbani, Ewe, and Ga-Dangme, each with unique traditions, languages, and customs. Ghana's culture is vibrant, expressed through its music, dance, festivals, and art.

Ghana's economy is diverse, with key industries including agriculture, mining, and services. Cocoa production is a significant sector, making Ghana one of the largest cocoa exporters in the world. Gold mining also contributes substantially to the economy, earning Ghana the nickname "Gold Coast."

The Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle are UNESCO World Heritage sites, significant for their roles in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The Kakum National Park, with its famous canopy walkway, provides an exhilarating experience for nature enthusiasts.

Ghanaian cuisine is rich and diverse, featuring dishes such as Jollof rice, Waakye (rice and beans), Fufu (a dough-like staple), and Banku (fermented corn and cassava dough). Street foods like Kelewele (spicy fried plantains) and Chinchinga (grilled meat skewers) are also popular.

Ghana's history is adorned with notable figures such as Kwame Nkrumah, the first Prime Minister and President, and a leading figure in the Pan-African movement. Contemporary figures include Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, Edward Enninful, who is the editor-in-chief of British Vogue, Kwasi Kwarteng is a prominent British politician of Ghanaian descent.

Political stability remains a cornerstone, with the nation frequently hailed as a beacon of democracy in West Africa. Recent developments include efforts to enhance digital infrastructure, initiatives to boost renewable energy, and ongoing discussions on economic policies to combat inflation.

African Day, celebrated on May 25th, is a significant event in Ghana. The day is marked by cultural displays, music, dance performances, and educational events highlighting Africa's unity and diversity.



Kenya is one of the 54 countries in Africa located in East Africa. It has a population of approximately 52 million. It is a peaceful country, and the current president is Dr. William Ruto. As a Kenyan family living on St. Helena Island, we have the unique privilege of representing Kenya's presence in a distant corner of the world. Here are some interesting facts about Kenya to mark this special day:

1. Rich Cultural Heritage: Kenya has approximately 40 ethnic groups with distinct traditions, dialects, and customs. Kenyan tribes like the Maasai, famed for their red clothing and jumping dance, are famous.

2. Kenya is named after Mount Kenya, Africa's second-highest summit after Kilimanjaro. This UNESCO World Heritage Site holds cultural significance for many Kenyan tribes.

3. Diverse Wildlife: Kenya is known for its "Big Five"—lions, elephants, buffaloes, leopards, and rhinoceroses. Kenya's Nairobi National Park is the world's only national park within a city 7 kilometres of a metropolis.

4. Swahili is Kenya's national language and East and Central Africa's lingua franca. It is a blend of Bantu languages with Arabic influences due to historical trade connections along the coast.

5. Innovation Hub: Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is known as "Silicon Savannah" for its innovation scene and entrepreneurial zeal. Numerous tech businesses and innovation hubs in the city advance technology across the continent.

6. Tea Production: Kenya is one of the world's largest producers of high-quality black tea from Kericho and Nandi Hills. Kenyan tea is known for its fresh taste and vibrant colour.





Zimbabwe, a country in Southern Africa, is gearing up to celebrate Africa Day on May 25, 2024, a public holiday that commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. This year's celebration marks a significant milestone in the country's history, as it reflects on its own journey towards independence and its role in the broader African community.

Africa Day is an opportunity for Zimbabwe to reaffirm its commitment to African unity and cooperation. The day is marked by cultural events, music, and traditional food, highlighting the diversity and richness of African cultures.

The celebration of Africa Day also presents an opportunity for Zimbabwean businesses to connect with their African and international counterparts, exploring opportunities for trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

Africa Day is a time to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the African continent, with a focus on increasing the appreciation and demand for arts and culture goods and services, and stimulating competitive markets for trade among African countries.

As Zimbabwe celebrates Africa Day 2024, it is a reminder of the country's history, its cultural heritage, and its role in the African community. The day is a celebration of African unity, cooperation, and development, and a call to action for Zimbabweans and Africans around the world to work together towards a brighter future.

ZIMBABWE



Namibia, officially known as the Republic of Namibia, is a country located in Southern Africa. It shares borders with Angola to the north, Zambia to the northeast, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the southeast and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Namibia has a rich history, with evidence of human habitation dating back to prehistoric times. The country was colonized by Germany in the late 1800s and later governed by South Africa under a League of Nations mandate. After a long struggle for independence, Namibia finally gained its freedom on March 21, 1990, under a democratic multiparty constitution.

The current president of Namibia is Nangolo Mbumba, who took over following the death of Hage Geingob in February 2024. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has been the prime minister since 2015 and is a longtime member of the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

Namibia is an upper-middle-income country with a **strong economy driven** by its natural resources, including diamonds, uranium, and oil. The country has a long coastline on the South Atlantic and is rich in mineral resources, making it an attractive destination for investment and trade.

Namibia has a diverse population of around 2.5 million people, with a mix of ethnic groups, including the Ovambo, Kavangos, Herero, Damara, and Nama. The country has 13 recognized national languages, including 10 indigenous African languages and 3 European languages.

The country's economic growth is projected to moderate in the coming years, but investments in the extractive industries and tourism are expected to drive growth.

As Namibia celebrates **Africa Day 2024**, it is a reminder of the country's history, its cultural heritage, and its role in the African community. The day is a celebration of African unity, cooperation, and development, and a call to action for Namibians and Africans around the world to work together towards a brighter future.



Lesotho is located in southern Africa. It is totally engaged and enclaved by Republic of South Africa. It is a former British Crown colony which was called Basotholand (1868 – 1966). She got independent on the 4th October 1966.

Total Area: 30,355 k²

Altitude:

- a. The whole country is above 1000mASL
- b. 80% of the country is above 1800mASL
- c. Highest point is Thabana-Ntlenyana at 3482mASL

Capital City: Maseru

Population: Approximately 2.5 million

Currency: Lesotho Loti (LSL)

GDP per capita: Approximately 960 US dollars

Tourism Attractions includes Afriski Mountain Resort, Katse Dam, Maletsunyane Falls, Thaba Bosiu, The Lion Rock Mountain, Mafika Lisiu Pass and Kome Caves (Geology) and Thabana Ntlenyana

Languages spoken includes SeSotho (official), English (official), SePhuthi, SeNdebele (Setebele), seXhosa(iSiXhosa) and SeZulu(iSiZulu)

Lesotho cuisine (usually not spicy food)

Carbohydrates - i) Likhobe (beans & sorghum), ii) Papa (maize meal), iii) Bohobe, iv) Poone, v) Leqebekona, vi) Setampo (samp), vii) Makoonya (fat cakes), viii) liphaphatha; kooro . Fruits & Vegetables - Meroho – Bobatsi, Tenane, Theepe, Qhela, Lepu, Rapa, Sepaile Cabbage, Spinish, Beetroot, Tamati (tomato), Mokopu (pumpkin); Litholoana: Liperekisi, liapole, lipurunu; morara.

Protein - Linaoa (beans), Erekesi (peas), likahare (mala -moholu); nama ea khomo (beef), kolobe (pork), nku (Sheep); poli (goat), khooho (chicken); lebeso (fresh milk); mafi (sour milk) and mahe (eggs) le makheea (honey); fish (trout).

Beverages - Motoho (sorghum drink), Khemere (ginger drink), Joala-ba-Sesotho (sorghum beer with its variants); Beer (Maluti from Maluti Mountain Brewery); tee (tea) .

Main Exports: Water, Diamonds, Electricity, Fish (trout) and Textiles.



JOB VACANCIES

Yang Enterprises, Inc. has the following open positions at the American Base, Ascension Island.

Bartender

Handle U.S and St Helenian currency and familiar with Point of Sale (POS) system
Mix and serve alcohol beverages/drinks
Assist with the monthly and annual merchandise inventory
Maintains work area in a clean and orderly manner
Unloads food and supplies when collected from the cold and dry storage
Work evenings, split shift, weekends & holidays and fill in at the package store

Fire Inspector

Develop base fire prevention training and education programs, and fire hazard assessment schedules
Inspect building structures and locations of fire extinguishers to detect and correct fire hazards
Determine compliance with fire safety laws and ordinances, and maintain records of them
Investigate complaints and answer questions regarding fire hazards and violation of fire safety regulations.
Participate in fire drills and classes and prepare required reports
Inspects, tests, and corrects deficiencies on a variety of fire protection systems
Develops and maintains a fire prevention inspection schedules and facilities files

Mess Attendant

Assists in food preparation with tasks such as peeling potatoes; cutting, sorting, and washing vegetables and fruits
Assembling lunch meat trays as needed for shift workers
Keep coffee station stocked to appropriate levels and fill the juice containers on the serving line
Keep the tables in the dining area clean as customers leave; clean serving carts and food preparation areas
Returns carts, dishes and leftover food to the kitchen and dispose of all food waste and trash.
Pre-rinses and washes pots, pans, dishes, glasses, and silverware in either a mechanical dishwasher or manually
Unloads food and supplies on bi-weekly plane days

Plumber

Assembles, installs and repairs pipes, fittings and fixtures of heating, water, and drainage systems, according to specifications and plumbing codes. Installs and repairs plumbing fixtures, such as sinks, commodes, water heaters, hot water tanks, garbage disposal units, dishwashers, and water softeners. Repairs and maintains plumbing by replacing washers in leaky faucets, mending burst pipes, and opening clogged drains. Backflow Certified (preferred).

HR/Admin Assistant

Perform a variety of clerical duties including: typing correspondence and form letters; updating and distributing forms
Assist in preparation of various required reports, plans, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), etc.
Make travel arrangements for staff as assigned
Maintain desk procedure manuals to improve departmental efficiency and effectiveness
Cross-trained in other departmental areas (Accounting and Transportation/Housing) to assist in covering for absences
Provide orientation for new staff on an as-needed basis and cross-training to others in the department

YEI provides its employees meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and dinner) and housing. Upon completion of a one-year contract, YEI will provide a round trip passage to the home of record. Laundry and MWR facilities are available free of charge. A valid Passport/Visa with a minimum of 18 months is required for an offer letter to be extended. To be considered, there should not be any major offences recorded with law enforcement agencies.

Any interested person **currently residing on Saint Helena** who would like help with the application can call 25971 or send their CV to AscensionIslandJobs@gmail.com

Any interested person currently not residing on Saint Helena may apply online at <https://www.yangenterprises.com/getapplication.aspx> and attach their CV.



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT
~ TWO BOATS SCHOOL ~
VACANCY NOTICE



Primary School Teacher (Yrs. 3 & 4)

Total package value including allowances up to £39,515

(depending on qualifications, experience and family status)

About the role

Two Boats School is a delightful primary and secondary school on the beautiful and tiny island of Ascension in the South Atlantic. We have approximately 80 students between the ages of 3-16 (Primary 53, Secondary 27) and we offer a range of subjects up to IGCSE level.

What you'll do

Due to an internal promotion, we have a vacancy for a primary school teacher to start in September 2024 or soon after. Due to the size of the school, teachers are required to teach combined year groups. As we are a small all through school, the willingness to teach across the key stages would be advantageous. Travel to Ascension would ideally be August 2024.

What you'll bring

With ideally 2-3 years' experience, you'll hold qualified teacher status, ideally to UK or IB standards. You'll have strong interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written) and you'll be excited and passionate about working as part of a small team of professionals making a big difference to the education and development of children on Ascension Island.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of between £21,853 and £23,488 - dependent on qualifications and experience (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts accompanied status contracts and the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation worth up to £400 a month
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,560 per annum (or if Single status £3,780)
- Electricity allowance worth £938 per annum
- Water allowance worth £2,729 per annum accompanied and £1,360 if single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2 year contract
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Medevac provision in an emergency
- Free schooling for dependent children under 16
- Free annual travel insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check and Teacher Status checks
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

What's it like to work on Ascension?

Ascension is a small volcanic island, situated in the South Atlantic, with a warm stable climate (26-34°C). We are part of the wider British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, situated approximately 1,000 miles from the mainland of Africa and 800 miles from our nearest neighbour, the island of St Helena. Ascension Island has no right of abode, so all people living on the island are employees or dependents of one of the organisations here. Children accompanying parents up to the age of 18 are dependents, following which they are either required to take up their own employment on the island, or move away.

To thrive here on this unique, challenging and beautiful island, you must be resilient, adaptable and able to live and work in an incredibly small community.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews undertaken on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here | If you have any queries about the role, email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the following proposals:

1. **Application 2024/16:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Sump Tank & Lift System**, Colt Sheds, Longwood on Parcel LWN0198 & LWN0355. Applicant: Marvin Benjamin
2. **Application 2024/17:** FULL Planning Application for **Amendments to Approved Application 2020/41 Container Handling Facilities**, incorporating Office Buildings, Warehousing, Secure Compounds and Car Parking, comprising a Change to Permanent Use and to increase Staffing Levels with consequential Extension to the Mezzanine Ancillary Office Floor to the Container Freight Station Building and Internal Alterations to increase Staff Desk Space to the Port Control Building with **Additional Windows to both buildings**, Lower Rupert's Valley on Parcels RV0033, RV0063, RV0054, RV0022, RV0069, RV0005, RV0035 and RV0036. Applicant: Programme Management Unit: EDIP, St Helena Government



St Helena
Government

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 7th June 2024

Any person who wishes to make Representations on any of the above Applications should make them in writing within 14 days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

**SUNDAY
26
MAY
1:30PM**

**Dive
Clean-up**

CULTURE MONTH

Free divers that would like to join are more than welcome and no limit on numbers (need to be competent in free diving, not a kids activity).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RADKA HENRY AT
25531 | EMAIL: RADKA.HENRY@TRUST.ORG.SH

ST HELENA
NATIONAL TRUST

St Helena Island
A SAINTELENA TRUST

ST HELENA
MUSEUM



Through the Lens

Addressing Challenging Situations with Your Children.

Written by: Ed Oyewo

Children are highly perceptive and are impacted by the events occurring in the world. It is crucial for Parents and Teachers to acknowledge that children are not immune to global events. When faced with distressing or violent incidents, such as natural disasters or man-made tragedies, both children and adults may experience a range of emotions including fear, confusion, sadness, and anger.



To alleviate fear and provide comfort, parents, teachers, and caregivers should create a safe space for children to express their emotions and channel them into positive actions. Engaging in discussions with children during difficult times can serve as an opportunity to reinforce family and community values, beliefs, and traditions.

Here are some valuable tips to consider:

Prepare

Before offering guidance to children, adults must first acknowledge and process their own emotions. Discuss your feelings and perceptions with other adults, recognizing that past experiences may influence your current outlook.

Be-Attentive

Pay attention to signs of distress in children, such as withdrawal, lack of interest, or changes in behavior. Take note of any deviations from the child's usual demeanor.

Listen



Listen attentively to understand what children know and

how they are feeling. Respect and take seriously all questions posed by children. Avoid dismissing or ignoring their concerns.

Clarify

When addressing children's questions, seek clarification to understand the underlying reasons for their inquiries. Reflect back on their emotions to ensure you have grasped their concerns accurately. By approaching difficult situations with empathy and understanding, adults can provide children with the support and guidance they need to navigate challenging circumstances.

Reassure

It is crucial to reassure children in age-appropriate ways that they are safe. When speaking to toddlers, keep your responses simple and direct: "I love you and I will always do everything I can to keep you safe." Let children know that numerous people and organizations are working tirelessly to ensure our safety, including police, rescue workers, and government and private agencies. Despite the occasional difficult-to-understand events, it is important to reassure children that we live in a wonderful island where, for the vast majority of the time, we are safe.

Be Truthful

Answer questions as clearly and honestly as possible, using language and definitions that are appropriate for the child's age. If you are unsure of the answer to a child's question, admit it and make a plan to find out. Correct yourself if you provide incomplete or inaccurate information. By admitting our mistakes, we show children how to acknowledge their own mistakes. Be direct in acknowledging errors and avoid defensiveness by simply saying, "I made a mistake."

Express Your Thoughts

Share your perceptions and feelings, but strive to avoid conveying hopelessness. While it is important to acknowledge the seriousness of a situation, maintaining perspective and conveying it to children is crucial. Be cautious not to provide young children with more specific details than necessary to prevent frightening them. Limit their exposure to media coverage of such events.

Take Initiative

It is essential for children to understand that people are not powerless in the face of disasters, whether man-made or natural. There are numerous actions that both children and adults can take. Engage in regular discussions about ways to address such events and specific steps to make a positive impact. Get involved, give back, and take action to help children see themselves as individuals who can contribute to creating a better world.

Let's empower our children to make a difference!

Till Next Time, Keep Well!



AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST HELENA

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) invites interested persons to apply for the position of Commissioner. Commissioners work to influence law and policy makers and support organisations, groups, and individuals to protect and promote human rights in St Helena, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

The functions of the Commission include:

- investigating complaints of human rights infringements, conducting inquiries and investigations
- researching of laws, keeping up with human rights news, trends and thinking to keep St Helena on par with the UK and current best practice
- raising awareness throughout the community about human rights, providing information to help people understand and assert their rights
- monitor the operation of the Constitution and Human Rights Instruments, and to produce reports for the UK and United Nations
- Advocating for and empowering by raising awareness on equality and human rights across all parts of the community

Interested persons should possess excellent communication skills and the ability to communicate at all levels, empathy, and patience, be approachable and a good listener, have a flexible approach to the demands of the role, operate in strict confidence and be able to work independently as well as in a team. Flexible working arrangements will apply. Interested persons are encouraged to apply and full training will be given.

Commissioner roles are currently part time with regular meetings and training.

For further details and terms of reference please contact Catherine on telephone 22133 or email catherine@humanrightssthena.org . A motivational letter and CV should be sent to Catherine Turner, CEO by Wednesday 5 June 2024 at 12 noon.

PREVIEW EXPECTATIONS & ANALYSIS

The Mayor of Greater Manchester is noted for several things, not least because he has just been elected for the third time as Mayor. After the release of the reports on the scandal that led to the Infected Blood Inquiry, Burnham listed some of the major failures of UK government where abject incompetence resulted in misery for hundreds and sometimes thousands. His started with 15 April 1989 when 97 people were crushed to death because of inadequate crowd control during a match between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool. To keep a very long and shameful story brief, the legal system that dragged bereaved families through 32 years of adversarial battles finally concluded in May 2021. The result is that nobody has been held accountable for 97 people dying, nor for the police campaign of lies designed to shift blame on to the victims.

Next on Mayor Burnham's list was the Grenfell Tower disaster; a housing block which went up in flames very quickly because highly combustible cladding was used on the exterior of the building. On 14 June 2017, 72 people died as the tower was destroyed by fire. The inquiry into the fire is still ongoing, after 7 years. Compensation for victims of the fire remains to be resolved. As an interim measure, each household affected by the fire will receive an initial payment of £5,000. There is a further £500 payment for individuals who have permanently lost their home. The first word to come to mind is 'derisory', but a word much stronger than that is appropriate.

Next on the Burnham's list is the Post Office Scandal. With this one, more than 900 sub-postmasters were wrongly prosecuted for stealing because of incorrect information from a new and inadequately tested computer system. This scandal ruined many peoples' lives. 236 sub-postmasters were wrongly jailed. This scandal started 25 years ago. Four wrongly disgraced sub-postmasters ended their own lives and 33 others have also died with the passage of time. They will not be compensated for this travesty. It included the too familiar lies and cover-ups by those in authority who were content for anyone but themselves to suffer for their own incompetence.

Also mentioned by Burnham was the Windrush Scandal. The UK Immigration Act 1971 states foreign nationals that were "ordinarily resident" in the UK on 1 January 1973 (the date that the act came into force) were deemed to have "settled status" and given indefinite leave to remain. The Windrush Generation (those persuaded to come from the Caribbean to Britain to work from 1948 to help Britain recover from WWII) were officially accepted without documentation. The UK government did not keep a record of those that travelled to Britain in response to the invitation. In 2017 investigative media brought attention to individual cases of long-term UK residents facing hardship due to difficulties proving their lawful immigration status. Subsequent reports highlighted instances of individuals losing their jobs and homes, in addition to access to healthcare and welfare benefits, such as pensions. In some cases, individuals were detained, threatened with

Is She Crying for the Hundreds Wrongly Accused and Imprisoned or Is It Self-Pity?



Paula Vennells, former chief executive of the Post Office and Anglican priest, breaks down and cries when admitting at an inquiry held this week that she had previously lied to MPs.

deportation, removed from the UK or denied re-entry to the country following trips abroad.

One report stated 60 people were wrongly deported but accurate figures will never be known. In 2018 a compensation scheme was set up for people affected by the incompetence of the UK Home Office. Latest figures indicate over 7,000 compensation claims have been submitted and, by December 2023, 2,000 of them have been processed to completion. Compensation payments at that time totalled nearly £76 million. The compensation scheme has been revised on multiple occasions and the subject of inquiries and reports. The Home Office has a reputation for only being able to issue vehicles licences with any degree of efficiency.

Now, the UK prime minister has called a general election for Thursday 4th July. Will it make a difference? The scandals listed by Burnham and the inquiries that followed, meandered their way through a long and often ineffectual course while prime ministers from both the main political parties came and went. This does not bode well. It is likely the buffoonery of prime minister's question time will continue unabated; the TV interviews with politicians will continue with similar clowning and TV shows that have panels of politicians answering questions from the public will continue to reduce to petty bickering. Meanwhile, workaday citizens will continue to have their lives turned upside down, or even destroyed as the quality and competence of politicians falls even further. Based on past performance, it is likely that powerful but unelected top officials of government funded organisations will continue to hide below the radar of accountability; able to cover up mistakes and watch others suffer because of their incompetence. The first impressions after speeches by leading politicians after the election was called were quite revealing. The Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders talked about bringing benefits for people and communities. The Conservative prime minister, when announcing that 4th July will be general election day spoke of the wonderful things he has achieved. And that was mostly about money. It takes more than a little extra money to improve the quality of life of the voting public.

Other Island's Problems Are the Opposite of Ours

When is Tourism Too Much

The number of tourists coming to St Helena has increased since COVID -19, but not fast enough for some.

In the Canary Islands, the start of the tourist season kicks off with protests against mass tourism.



Thousands in Tenerife call for a temporary limit on tourist arrivals

Protestors say they are not against tourists coming to the Canaries, but tourist development is destroying their islands. Major concerns include massive tourist development where they are not needed and an enormous hydro-electric dam required to meet the increasing demand for electricity where mass tourism plays a large part. The dam will flood scenic gorges in an especially beautiful part of Tenerife. Big hotel developments are also destroying the natural environment. Protestors argue the money made from tourism has no benefit to society as a whole.

The protesters are backed by environmental groups including Greenpeace, WWF, Ecologists in Action, Friends of the Earth and SEO/Birdlife.

Melting Pots or Freezer Containers - Immigration and Migrants Rights

St Helena's Immigration Policy was revised on 7th May after public consultation followed by publication of the draft revised policy.

New Caledonia in the South Pacific had a big change imposed from Paris by the French Government.

The indigenous population of New Caledonia, called Kanaks, consider themselves to have always drawn the short straw since the French occupied the islands in 1853. The violence that erupted two weeks ago, and continues, stems from a long history. This time, the violent Kanak protests are in opposition to thousands of French people, now resident in New Caledonia, being given the right to vote.

After similar protests in the 1980s, agreement was reached between the French government and the Kanak community (which is 40% of the total population) which meant that no further French born residents will have the right to vote. Two

weeks ago, the French parliament overturned this agreement. The National Assembly in Paris decided that all French born residents who has been resident in New Caledonia for 10 years will have the right to vote for members of the New Caledonia parliament. The Kanaks believe the changes to the electoral system will dilute their vote and political influence. New Caledonia has four representatives in the two houses of the French parliament. In the National Assembly, both representatives are of French descent. In the Senate, one representative is a Kanak. None had much influence over the vote which was overwhelmingly in favour of change to the voting system for New Caledonia. There were 351 in favour of change and 153 against. Kanaks in New Caledonia are angry because they were not consulted.

The motive for changing the voting system is widely held to be French ambitions to increase their influence in the Pacific to counter China's increasing influence. One report pointed out, "French President Emmanuel Macron's ambitions to deepen French influence in the Pacific, where China is expanding its security ties, could be put at risk by the heavy-handed response to civil unrest in New Caledonia, Pacific analysts and officials said."

Chagossians Have Their Birthright Taken from Them

Much has been reported on the long fight by former residents of Chagos Islands (a British Overseas Territory) to win the right to return to their homeland. The British government has expended massive amounts of energy, time and money resisting their efforts.

Further insult and injury has now been dealt to the Chagossians by the Government of Mauritius which also lays claim to the Chagos Islands.

The birthplace and parents' names are being removed from the passports and birth certificates issued by the Mauritian government. The Seychelles government is doing the same thing.

One report quotes Marie Sagai who was born on the Chago Islands, "People are trying to deny we exist". Sagai now lives in Mauritius. Another Chagossian said, "The passport officer told me my homeland doesn't exist." The 65-year-old Chagossian renewed his passport in Seychelles in February. His new document now falsely states he was born in Mauritius instead of Diego Garcia. He requested anonymity, fearing a backlash. "It's traumatic, and it makes you lose your dignity," he said. "I don't have a place I can call home." Even the British government have not gone that far.

Prejudice is a great time saver.

You can form opinions without having to get the facts.

E. B. White

The Newest and Biggest Indoor Arena in Europe Opens Finally

It can seat up to 23,500 people, and it's had its own kind of wind shear problems despite costing £200 million more than our airport to build. It's owned by the City Football Group who own Manchester City FC together with a US sport and property company, and Harry Styles. The Co-op supermarket chain is part of the financial backing somewhere, that's why its called Co op Live.



The Manchester Arena, less than 2 miles away, can only hold 21,000, making it the 4th largest in Europe.

The US sport and property company operate Co op Live. Due to open on 23rd April the venue finally opened on 14th May after a succession of false starts and 14 cancelled concerts. One short notice concert cancellation was due to a ventilator falling from the ceiling to the floor below. There are 95 of these ventilators fixed (hopefully) to the ceiling. The ventilator fall happened minutes before the doors were due to open for what became another false start. The boss of the operating company for the Co-op Live arena described how the incident could have been "catastrophic" if it had happened 15 minutes later. Nobody blamed wind shear for bringing the ventilator down; it had not been screwed to the ceiling. All 95 ventilators had to be checked.

The main contractor for Co op Live is the biggest construction company in the Netherlands. The architects are based in the US. That leaves us with Harry Styles (born in Redditch, Worcestershire) as the only Brit involved. Nobody has tried to blame him, yet, for the embarrassing 23 day chaos.

Millions of British Children Born Since 2010 Have Only Known Poverty

Former prime minister, Gordon Brown, now an effective campaigner on child health, child education and child poverty has claimed. "Children born after 2010, perhaps now at secondary school – and they account for 3.4 million of Britain's 4.3 million children in poverty. Most have never known what it is like to be free of poverty. And yet in almost every single year of the past decade, even as their need has been mounting, the government's support for children has been spiralling downwards, each year more difficult than the year before as, with almost surgical precision, the government has made the already poor even poorer and propelled the number of poor children up by 100,000 a year."

He continued, "For the past 40 years we have talked of Thatcher's children – the generation of children brought up in the 1980s at a time of mass unemployment and social security

cuts, which I witnessed at first hand as an MP in a mining constituency. Study after study has charted her government's impact in educational underachievement, broken families and the crushed aspirations of millions of young people unable to find decent work."

Brown quoted some deeply worrying figures before observing, "Commentators now write about Britain's endemic problem of underinvestment, highlighting the state of our railways, roads, utilities and physical infrastructure; but there has been less focus on the decade-long experiment – the greatest and most damaging underinvestment of all inflicted on austerity's children, who will, soon enough, come of age. The damage to them runs deep." Adding, "Children raised under UK austerity are now smaller in height at age five than their European counterparts, with tooth extractions among five- to nine-year-olds in poorer communities three and a half times more frequent than in the most affluent communities. Dental decay has become their most common reason for hospital admission."

He never did mince his words, Gordon Brown. An excellent champion of a cause and a formidable adversary; certainly, head and shoulders above the current crew.

Trump Trial: His Supporting Politicians Stage a Beauty Contest ***Happy Face - Being Call to Account***



It's no fun, being accountable

The Trump Trial, and all the dirty detail, is expected to end some day soon. Thank the Lord for that! Before it comes to an end, prominent supporters of Donny Trump have turned up in the courtroom, for 10 minutes or so, and then gone to the front of the court building to meet the media multitude outside.

The TV and radio crews, reporters, cameramen and the just plain nosey are playing the long waiting game. Out of sheer boredom, they will pick up any scraps thrown their way.

The court judge has prohibited Trump from speaking about this and that to media, so his prominent supporters show up at the court house to speak for him. This is not because Trump has anything to say, it's because an election campaign is warming up. Free airtime on the major TV channels cannot be ignored. Trump and his followers have trashed the judiciary and accused judges and lawyers of being politically biased. It is a dangerous game to play. If Trump can show no respect for the rule of law, why should anyone else?

ST HELENA DAY 2024



PICTURES - ED THORPE

ST HELENA DAY 2024



Wednesday Was Biodiversity Day



BE PART OF THE PLAN

International Day
for Biodiversity
2024

The 22nd May came and went in St Helena without even a whimper about the importance of biodiversity, how to protect it or how to rescue it when in peril. Biodiversity is often promoted here but somehow its special day was ignored. A casualty of the bank holidays, no doubt?

The Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, otherwise known as CABI, marked the Day with a useful account of what they are doing to help safeguard the way nature looks after itself, if humans do not interfere too much. CABI is heavily involved in finding solutions to combat the disease which threatens endemic trees and insects in the Peaks National Park.

Interference includes the use of pesticides. On this island pesticides are treated by many with caution. Not only is there the risk of cancer for the users but, as CABI tells us, "Pesticides can create a vicious circle, upsetting the natural balance and creating more pest-related problems." And, "Everything in the natural world is connected, and synthetic pesticides upset that balance." And just to make sure they have driven the point home, CABI point out, "synthetic pesticides might solve specific pest problems in the short term, they can negatively impact non-target species in the long term".

Natural alternatives to chemical products should be used whenever possible is CABI's conclusion. Natural alternatives include biological control and natural biopesticides. They also describe techniques such as Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). CABI have a global programme called PlantwisePlus which is aimed at the urgent need for farmers to increase the use of lower-risk plant protection products.

The Plantwise Plus programme is already established in many countries and involves thousands of farmers. The programme concentrates on establishing and strengthening systems which: -

1. identify pest outbreaks at an early stage
2. promote the use of affordable and integrated pest management solutions
3. increase awareness and use of pest management methods among farmers.

Direct training is often used as part of the programme but the CABI website has a range of information and advice for farmers to improve their crops and reduce the workload. A main part of this is the PlantwisePlus Toolkit. It is more like a range of toolkits where anyone can specify what they want to

know from three menus. The website link is <https://plantwiseplustoolkit.org/>.

Other freely available information sources from the CABI website include; a knowledge bank, a factsheets app which can be downloaded onto mobile phones and the CABI BioProtection Portal. This is a free tool that enables users to discover information about registered biocontrol and biopesticide products around the world.

CABI mention that mealybug can destroy more than half the yield of some crops. Using pesticide to control mealybug is not only expensive, it kills insects we would rather have more of and has other unintended consequences. Biocontrol is the alternative. In certain situations, a type of wasp has been an effective natural enemy of the mealy bug.

The many individual efforts farmers can follow should be organised and co-ordinated into an Integrated Landscape Management Plan. The integration would include sectors such as arable agriculture, conservation, environment, forestry and livestock. Added to the mix, for completeness, should be an Integrated Pesticide Management Plan.

CABI claim that participants in such plans respond positively; they support the comprehensive and participatory approach and the long-term aim of creating and preserving healthy and sustainable natural landscapes.

CABI sums up the importance of this part of their work with, "The ability to act in a connected way is critical. We face a trade-off between the diverging goals of conserving biodiversity and feeding a global population of 10 billion people by 2050. We can only feed a growing population by conserving biodiversity and associated ecosystem services."

St Helena may be only 4,000 of the 10 billion but the same principles and methods apply where food security is concerned. With the effects of climate change becoming ever more evident at an increasing rate, food security has never been more important.

CABI is strengthening its working relationship with the International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet) with plans to further collaborate on projects related to the management of pests and diseases.



**CELEBRATING THE REAL ST HELENA'S DAY WITH ST PAUL'S PARISH
AT THE BLUE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 21ST
MAY....Thanks to all of the organisers for a great day of activities,
games, food, music and laughter....**

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller.



**The St Helena Heritage Society will be
occupying areas in front of the former PWD
stores and the Parks adjacent to the Museum.**



The St Helena Heritage Society will be carrying out construction work on the old PWD Stores from the 22nd of May 2024 to 14th of June 2024; we will require the whole area in the front of the PWD stores and parks, and the side adjacent to the Museum.

In the interest of public safety, this area will be closed for approximately 3-5 weeks for excavation works. Appropriate cordons and signage will be erected during these times. The St Helena Heritage Society would like to thank the public in advance for their continued understanding and cooperation during the construction phase.

Golf Report for Monday, 20th May 2024

Report by SHGC

Event Overview: On Monday, 20th May 2024, the St Helena Golf Club hosted a Texas Scramble event with a field of 18 players. The format of the event involved a player and a non-player forming a team, playing in stroke play format on a beautiful day with a gentle breeze.

Results: Impressive scores were returned during the event, with six teams scoring in the 60s. The top three placements were as follows:

1. **Gerald George and Tony Green** secured the first-place position with a score of **62**.

2. **Arthur and Wendy Young** claimed second place with a score of **65**.

3. **Reuben and Jamila Oliphant** rounded up the podium finishers with a net score of **66**.

Two Ball Pool Winners: Several teams scored twos during the event, earning them spots in the two ball pool:

- Bramwell Bushuru and Ed Oyewo on the 2nd hole
- Arthur and Wendy on the 5th hole
- Peter Bagley and Freddie on the 11th hole

Closing Event: The day concluded with a fish fry where guests joined to enjoy the evening, adding to the camaraderie and festive atmosphere of the day's activities.

Upcoming Event: On Sunday, 26th May 2024, we will be hosting the Monthly Medal Strokeplay competition with tee-off scheduled for 12:00. Registration closes on Saturday 25th at 3pm.

We extend our gratitude to all participants and guests who contributed to making this day a success at St Helena Golf Club.



St. Helena Cricket
Association

Save the Date... 1st June 2024

Presentation Day

More Details To Follow ...

