



INDEPENDENT

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**MORE MONEY THAN
SLAVES BURIED
IN RUPERTS.....**

**Field Road Closed
Until October**

**Interesting
Letters**



OPINION

ARE YOU

REGISTERED

TO VOTE?



Only One - Bernice

**1939-2024
Always in
Our
Memory**

**Her Story
next Week**



**Another Petition
about Utility Charges**



MORE MONEY THAN SLAVES BURIED IN RUPERTS.....

It is incredible how much money has been spent in the small valley of Rupert's. Audit reports have suggested that £80-90 million has been spent on a dysfunctional Fuel Farm, which is taking up valuable space in Rupert's. This week again, we were reminded of the £30 million Economic Development Investment Programme, funded by the UK Government. A large part of this Investment Programme is going towards huge concrete slabs and more buildings in Rupert's. The question would be how much money needs to be invested in off-loading 60 to 80 containers per month. It is unimaginable what investment is believed to be needed to sustain less than 4,000 people. We are already aware that there will be insufficient money available to actually maintain the infrastructure projects which are ongoing. We know that Isaac's Contractors and their sub-contractors are doing a great job, but are the plans they have been provided with, actually what the island needs? The entire project could have been tailored more towards the island's needs which would have been more suitable to the island's economy. Spending well over £100 million for the investments in Rupert's, for which we do not even have a budget to maintain, is a recipe for disaster. New toys are always appreciated until you find out that sometimes they have to be repaired.

St Helena is marred with bad policies where it is believed that big infrastructure investments could solve the island's problems. We are lumbered with fabulous infrastructure gadgets which have not been maintained, and therefore end up on the scrap heap. Some examples are the wonderful Asphalt Machine, the Side-Loader which was not workable, the Customs building, (complete with luggage carousel – all funded by European Union) which now is used as an extension of Government offices and non-working Waste-stabilisation Ponds.... and the list can be made much longer. It is absolutely clear that what has happened in the last few decades has been detrimental to the island and is dragging it into a constant recession and despair.



The persistent view and policy-direction from ODA/DfID/FCDO has been to apply targeted subsidies for St Helena, instead of realising that because of the island's isolation, St Helena is in need of un-targeted assistance. Nobody here asked to be born in the middle of the Atlantic thousands of miles away from any mainland. What needs to be subsidised would be access for freight and passengers to the island. The island cannot develop when the container freight charges are exorbitant beyond belief and this is prohibitive to any development and sustainable future. Nobody in their right mind could be encouraged to invest in any manufacturing or production here, under those circumstances.

On the same subject, air-fares should also be partly Government-funded, meaning that the traveller would only be charged for part of the fare. It is not feasible that this island can attract any large number of tourists or returning Saints when an air return ticket from Johannesburg can cost almost £1500. This fact has been proven through the extremely low number of tourists arriving here. It is clear that the high-value, low-volume Tourist Strategy has not worked, as we do not have the facilities to cater for that category of tourists. What we can provide is a wonderful holiday for a middle-class tourist at a reasonable price. To accommodate superior-class facilities would simply be a pie in the sky.

Sometimes, we have to realise what our abilities are, and do not stray away into dreams, empty policies and strategies – we need to build this island up which only Saints can do. We are in a predicament where only the people on the island can sort out the problem. As highlighted last week we need to get people, even from Government offices, to actually work to encourage visitors coming to the island and also to attract Saints to return to the island and enjoy what the island has to offer. The issue of targeted versus un-targeted subsidy has led to the demise of our economy and our future. It is apparent that we need a strategy and a policy which is more focused on future sustainability, not just repairing the roof when it is leaking. We need more offence rather than defence to ever achieve any kind of sustainable development. Any thoughts anyone???

To be continued.....

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

I write about the St Helena Government draft policy on immigration. The main aim of the policy is to increase the working age population on St Helena in order to develop the economy, which will include a whole raft of reforms to make it happen. It intends to raise the present resident population of about 4000 to 8000 in 25 years' time. The approach of inviting in immigrants is seen as a way to address the number of St Helenians who are leaving, and the low birth rate. There is no evidence that increasing the population will improve the economy.

I would like to deal with one important aspect - housing. Housing is fundamental to any development as a critical element in social development, and it is a central part of island culture. Housing for immigrants will also be critical, adding to the current housing problem.

For any major planning document it has to be in context of St Helena's special circumstances which the draft immigration policy fails to do.

Background

St Helena was not set up to have its own economy. Britain took possession of the island to develop their own economy, by trading with the Far East. Run by the English East India Company (EIC), St Helena and its people played a critical role in amassing great wealth for the EIC and Britain, as well as global influence. This significant contribution by St Helena and its people lasted for almost two centuries from 1659 to 1834 when the EIC left the island. It cost the EIC about £100,000 a year to run St Helena.

The Royal Charter of 1673 established St Helena as a British Island and the right of its people as British Citizens (English at the time) in perpetuity. St Helenians are British Citizens living on a British Island.

The entire island was a fortress and a strategic position for Britain in the South Atlantic. It was also used by the British as a prison island for notable prisoners.

Slavery on the Island, instituted since the time of settlement, was finally abolished in 1839. Though it was a racially divided society, integration had been taking place before the abolition and continued afterwards making St Helenians the people we are today.

St Helena was transferred to the Crown in 1834. As Britain wasn't able to match the financial support of the EIC to run the island, it became really poor. At the same time, slavery on the island was abolished. This led to people emigrating to the Cape. This pattern of poverty and emigration continued up to about the 1960s when offshore employment increased on Ascension, and later in the Falkland Islands, sending money home called 'home pay'. As an example of the extent of poverty, population statistics in 1931 show that out of a total of 3995, about 40% of islanders lived in accommodation of two rooms or less. A report a year later shows that the "housing situation is shocking. Island reduced to extreme poverty". I grew up during this extended period.

The St Helena Government, in order to alleviate the problem of housing, started to build Government Landlord Housing. Unable to keep up with the demand, the St Helena Government came up with a scheme to allow islanders to build their own homes on a lease basis with a price islanders could afford, with an option to buy after seven years. As a consequence of this Government policy, a recent population census shows that almost 75% of St Helenians are now home owners with most of the capital coming from them working offshore. It shows collective investment by St Helenians of £150 million at today's rate, the largest private capital investment since the EIC left in the 1830s.

Why was this incredibly successful policy replaced? The new scheme of first time buyers places it hugely out of price range for the majority of St Helenians and that is one of the major reasons why people are leaving the island. It also undermines a key component of island culture, family and community cohesion.

Draft immigration policy

The draft immigration policy gives priority, focus and public resources to targeting large numbers of immigrants, while failing to assess and address why St Helenians are leaving, especially as they have made more than a major contribution to economic and social development, sustained over several decades.

This discriminates against St Helenians. There have been two main streams of income to the island in recent years - British Aid and remittances from St Helenians working offshore, the latter currently in the region of £10 million a year, involving about 60 percent of the adult island population at some period in their lives. These annual remittances contribute to the economy by circulating money on the island in what economists call the multiplier effect.

The draft immigration policy intends to invite large numbers of immigrants as the only means to improve the economy. There is a risk that immigrants will be sending money back home to their families (which is commonplace worldwide and includes St Helenian's working offshore), reducing the money in circulation on St Helena. How does this meet the main objective of the draft immigration policy of bringing in immigrants to develop the economy? There has been no risk analysis applied to the content of the draft policy.

As a consequence of the concerns raised, the draft immigration policy should not be approved or implemented – there is no evidence that increasing the population through immigration will improve the economy; there is no evidence of the extra cost to SHG for implementing the policy, including the extra cost of all the various associated reforms; it fails to be put in context of St Helena's special circumstances; it does not have a risk analysis; it discriminates against St Helenians; it is not a policy but a discussion document.

Recommendation

Having one major approach to development is always going to be a risk. It is recommended that an independent comprehensive review of all the various aspects of the island, namely constitutional, political, economical, social, environmental and cultural should be undertaken to produce a model and make recommendations to take the island forward in context of the islands special circumstances. It is also recommended that the preamble to the islands constitution, put up by island people, which includes having a harmonious community, should form the main guideline for any such future planning. A recommendation along these lines was given in a letter dated 14th June 2023 sent to Executive Council.

**Best regards
Basil George**

Also See PAGE 5



Editorial

I have been giving some thought recently to people who need and seek too much attention and want people to admire them. I have been giving people like this some thought because, as I hop around the internet, it seems many other people are giving the same kind of people some thought. At first glance, people who always want recognition and reassurance can be dismissed as being sadly insecure and, because of this, cannot be much harm to anyone. But that is not true.

People described as attention seekers are, in a word, narcissists. This affliction is a personality disorder. It is a mental health condition where people have an unreasonably high sense of their own importance. People with this disorder may lack the ability to understand or care about the feelings of others.

Our old friend Donny Trump has long been labelled a narcissist. Among all the stories about him, there is one where his main occupation while sitting at his desk in the White House Oval Office was watching the TV news to see what the US media were saying about him. His next main occupation was to send a constant stream of Tweets.

Another article on this subject asks if D. Trump has changed the type of leader we have, for ever? Another tries to answer the question 'How to stop psychopaths and narcissists from winning positions of power'. For myself, I have often wondered for a long time why the ones who climb to the top of the greasy pole to take the top power jobs too often seem to be mad men, or women. After reading about narcissists, I can turn that around. Do you have to have a serious mental health condition to achieve positions of power?

One of the things I have read talks about the 'dark triad'. A narcissist can also have in his or her mental blender something of a psychopath and a few choice bits of Machiavellianism. A psychopath is a two-faced little rat who shows absolute charm and normal behaviour on the outside. But inside is coldly calculating, putting his or herself first every time and scheming against everyone else. Machiavellians are much the same. They are sly, deceptive, distrusting, and manipulative. They are cynical, callous and strive for money, power and status, using all the low cunning they have. It is also the case that people with these mental disorders can't sense other people's feelings or see the world from any perspective apart from their own. They don't have a sense of conscience or guilt to stop them behaving immorally. They feel superior and enjoy manipulating and controlling other people. At the same time, they need to feel respected and admired and like to be the centre of attention.

Apart from scheming into positions of political power, they also are attracted to top jobs in big business. Why do we let madmen govern us? Ah! Yes! At this point I should make

clear; in St Helena we so not have these types of fruitcakes ruling us. Anyone who tries to crave attention and admiration or acts 'The Big I Am' in any way would just get laughed at. Unfortunately, other world leaders who are as nutty as fruit cakes do affect the way we live.

The most evil leaders of the 20th-century, such as Stalin, Hitler, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein and Colonel Gaddafi, clearly had severe 'dark triad' traits. They didn't become leaders because of their ability or intelligence, but simply because they had a tremendous desire for power and were incredibly ruthless and cruel in their pursuit of it.

As the writer of 'How to stop psychopaths and narcissists from winning positions of power' observes, "Many present-day politicians appear to have psychopathic and narcissistic traits too. It's easy to spot such leaders, because they are always authoritarian, following hardline policies. They try to subvert democracy, to reduce the freedom of the press and clamp down on dissent. They are obsessed with national prestige, and often persecute minority groups. And they are always corrupt and lacking in moral principles." It is sad but true that this does sound so familiar as we gaze at the trouble and strife right across the world.

The writer of this 'How to stop psychopaths etc' piece suggests applicants for the top jobs in politics and business should be screened to find out if they showed any signs of the dark triad tendencies when at school or in previous jobs. I think there is a big flaw in that.

The 'nutty as fruit cake' leaders will have surrounded themselves very early on with henchmen who have similar mental disorders, as will their many sidekicks and sycophants. Getting effectively at the ringleader in such a situation will be difficult.

Even the 'average' supporter will be short on tolerance, the ability to reason calmly and to compromise. Look at the average Trump supporter, the foot soldiers of far-right AfD in Germany, and in Italy and France where similar political shifts are happening. As Gordon Brown (Chancellor of the Exchequer when Tony Blair was Prime Minister) wrote recently; "There's a hard-right tidal wave about to hit Europe". Add all that to the increasingly fragile situation in the Middle East, Putin and his Ukraine War, climate change and rejection of the increasing movements of populations to supposedly safer havens and we have most things well set to last for most of this century.

Vince

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

Last week's "Independent" contained a misleading 'contributed' article relating to Minister's Question Time which was so inaccurate that we consider it necessary to correct parts of it in the public interest.

Firstly, it is not true that the Minister's Question Time (MQT) held last week was the first occasion on which Councillors were able to ask supplementary questions in response to the answers given to all Questions on the Order Paper. This has taken place at all eleven MQT's, although it had been necessary to suspend relevant Standing Orders to make this possible until the relevant Standing Order was formally amended at the November 2023 sitting of Legislative Council.

Furthermore, the article stated that not one councillor had raised concerns of the public regarding the draft Immigration Policy. This is also totally untrue as all seven Questions asked, and the supplementary questions which followed, conveyed points of concern voiced by constituents either in the consultation meetings or in direct interaction with councillors, and sought feedback regarding how these would be addressed, or clarification as to why other alternatives could not be recommended. The areas of concern put forward in last week's MQT related to:

- The need to revise other policies to align these with the Immigration Policy to ensure that there are not negative impacts;
- The importance of ensuring that a level playing field exists for the public and private sectors when employing immigrants;
- The need to have adequate measures in place to reduce the risk of immigrants becoming a burden to the island's limited resources, particularly with regard to medical expenses;
- An urgent requirement to review the current policy relating to payment of medical fees by 'Saints' returning from overseas to ensure that this is eq-

uitable with the charging policy applicable to immigrants;

- The need to have checks and balances established to prevent St Helena's job market becoming flooded with immigrants;
- The need to determine the carrying capacity of key services such as medical care and schooling;
- The need to ensure that the rights and privileges of "Saints" are not eroded;
- Clarification regarding why the three year period required for spouses/life partners of 'Saints' to be granted St Helenian status is not being shortened,
- The importance of adequate training and up-skilling for Immigration Officers;
- The need for a realistic and possibly phased approach for implementation of the Immigration Policy.

We are aware that there are other areas of public concern relating to immigration

which we did not mention, but in MQT each Councillor can only ask one substantive Question and supplementary questions must relate directly to this, or to the response given. Furthermore, there is a time limit of one hour for MQT's. Therefore, we could not cover everything in one MQT and had to prioritise what had been brought to our attention by constituents.

Also, as the topic was the draft Immigration Policy document itself, we could not raise issues such as what is being done to retain and attract back 'Saints' and grow our local population. These will be put forward at the forthcoming formal Legislative Council meeting and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Councillors Bargo, Brooks, Coleman, Essex, Midwinter, Thrower and Turner.

GOOD TERN SEABIRD RESCUE & RECOVERY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Time: 5.00pm

Where: The Dive Club, Wharf, Jamestown

Join us for our AGM and hear about our rescued birds.

If you want to get in touch, email goodtern@outlook.com

Registered Charity C0052

Petition launched on proposed utilities increases

A petition has been launched in order to gather views on the latest proposed utility tariffs from Connect St Helena.

The petition, following public request, is being facilitated by Cllrs Karl thrower and Andrew Turner

The petition aims to make it easier for people to engage with the consultation process that has been launched by the Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) into proposed increases to Connect St Helena's utility tariffs.

The URA is independent of SHG and Connect St Helena. It will be the URA who will ultimately decide whether the proposal goes ahead.

The URA have asked people to submit their views/representations on the proposal by the 31st of May.

Electricity

Option 1: The first option for electricity is for a standing charge of £45 for domestic users and £60 for commercial and government per quarter or £180 / £240 per year, with per-unit costs remaining the same.

Option 2: The second option is an increase in the unit costs of electricity as in the below table:

INCREASE IN TARIFF PER UNIT

Consumer Type	Current Tariff	Proposed New Tariff	Increase
Domestic Single Phase First 1,000kWh	35p	40p	5p
Domestic Single Phase Above 1,000kWh	53p	61p	8p
Domestic Three Phase	53p	61p	8p
Commercial	53p	61p	8p
Government	53p	61p	8p

There is also proposed a 10% increase in water and sewerage costs, along with 4% for other services.

Option 3: This option is introduced by the petition for there to be no increase in utility charges as any increase would create undue hardships for households on St Helena.

As with previous petitions, the document with a covering letter explaining the proposals, will be made available in shops across the island.

The petition form will give people the option to feed back on each of the proposals individually to state if you prefer Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3.

The petition will run until the 29th of May.

Provisional Register of Electors Published Today

Will the New Register be Another Work of Fiction?

The register of electors is not a lively discussion point for anyone in St Helena, or anywhere else. It is the first in a chain of events which leads to the election of councillors and, these days, ministers. The election of councillors fills many people with an urgent desire to join a monastery or a nunnery for a few weeks; just to avoid anything about a general election.

For just two weeks from today, there is the opportunity to add your name to the register of electors, or to remove your name. You can amend the register if you have changed your address or your name. People who have St Helenian status and are aged 17 or over are able to vote. You have to be on the register of electors if you want to vote.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GROUND MAINTENANCE/HANDYMAN AT PILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced persons to provide a grounds maintenance service for Pilling Primary School.

Interested persons must have some experience in maintaining grounds including hedges, lawns, gardens, etc. The ideal candidate will be able to handle general maintenance tasks and has their own equipment to complete the work.

For further details, interested persons should contact Business Support Officer, Christine George, on tel: 22607 or via email: christine.george@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Interested persons may submit their proposal to Business Support Officer, Christine George, at the Education Learning Centre, Jamestown, by no later than 16:00 on Thursday 23 May 2024.

Contractors must produce a clean vetting certificate with their proposal.

SHG
08 May 2024



The tricky bit is attempting to get accurate information on people who have left St Helena on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. There are also those who have left on a temporary basis due to employment requirements, education, training or for medical treatment. Leaving St Helena on a temporary basis means a person has "not been absent for a continuous period of 30 months or for periods exceeding in aggregate 625 days in the preceding 30 months". It might be necessary to read that three times, even then, it still sounds strange.

There is also the need to be up to date on the people who have died since the last time changes to the register were made. The SHG announcement tells us it is our responsibility to check the Provisional Register when it is issued and to make an application to have your name included if it is not already listed. What about removing a name from the register because someone has died. Whose responsibility is that? Does the registration officer for births and deaths inform the registration officer for the register of electors at regular intervals of the names on death certificates issued. Or is it the responsibility of a close relative to make the required notification?

If the burden of responsibility to make the alterations lies with the people concerned and the people concerned forget or cannot be bothered, what happens then? Nothing? SHG also state in their announcement "The importance of including accurate information in the register cannot be overstated". What assurances can SHG give that the register they publish is as accurate as possible? If the responsibility for changes rests only with the people concerned and there is no incentive to register changes or additions, then SHG will continue to publish a very inaccurate register once more. It must be a soul-destroying waste of time.

And don't forget, there is also the . . .



Further information about registering and making amendments can be obtained from the Registration Officer, Carol Henry, at the Castle, by telephone on 22470 or via email through carol.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh.

You can also find further information on the SHG website at www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/elections/. If you go to the website, scroll down to the 8th item for the one you want. This may change as further items are added.

More Opinions and Views....

Dear Editor,

DRAFT IMMIGRATION POLICY

By the time this article appears, the period of 'consultation' allowed for the above will have ended and it may even have been put before ExCo for consideration of moving proposals for a new policy forward. But there is a long way to go yet and it is not too late to avoid any potentially damaging effects of implementation. As a first step, it needs to be put into a form that is capable of implementation, which would at least make clearer what the proposed changes will actually entail.

NOT A DRAFT POLICY:

A "Draft Policy" is one that is capable of being published and implemented in its present form, subject to any agreed changes, simply by removing the word "Draft". The present document is no such thing. It is an extended (47 page long) list of things that may or not be included, with discussion and at least some explanation of them. It is far from being a properly formulated policy. Under "Reciprocity to Attract UK Passport Holders", for example, it refers to "this proposal". If it becomes policy, it must be clearly described as such, it will no longer be a proposal.

PERMITS TO STAY AND WORK ON THE ISLAND

This proposal would ride a coach and horses through the present rules. Under the present rules, a newcomer who wishes to work on the island must have a job to come to and the prospective employer (who, at present, is the one seek-



ing permission for the person to be employed on the island) must be able to show such things as how the person and any family will be housed, not simply where they might stay on first arrival. All of this is set out in the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance 2011 and the Immigration Rules. The Immigration Board, when considering the application, must have regard to the state of the labour market on the island, which will include whether there is a suitable local applicant for the post. A permit to live and work on the Island (the present proposal), will be granted by an Immigration Officer, not by the Board. It will enable a person to come to the island without having any previously arranged employment here or long-term accommodation arranged. It would, it seems, allow the person holding the permit, and any accompanying family member, to look for work, without any safeguard to protect employment opportunities for local people. It would also allow unrestricted change or changes of employment. Under the present rules, permission only applies to the employment for which it is given and every work permit must state "the nature of the work in which the immigrant may be engaged."

No provision is made for what criteria, if any, an Immigration Officer will apply when considering an application to live and work here. The only provision is as to what the applicant must provide when applying for a permit. Will grant be automatic once these requirements are complied with?

RECIPROCITY IN THE CASE OF BRITISH CITIZENS

This is perhaps the most concerning of the proposals. Saint Helenians with British Citizenship are able to move to the United Kingdom and settle there without restriction, with all the same rights in relation to such things as living, working and holding property there as a British Citizen already living there. Importantly, this also includes full access to the NHS once 'ordinarily resident' in the United Kingdom, as opposed to simply visiting, in which case a charge may be made. Reciprocity would mean United Kingdom Citizens having the same rights here. Presumably, British Citizens from other British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) will be treated in the same manner (the draft policy refers to "UK Passport Holders", not where they come from), although none of these places allows UK Passport Holders from other Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies similar rights, so there will be no reciprocity with them.

There is a risk of unintended consequences flowing from reciprocity. An elderly British Citizen would, it seems, be able to move here (with or without younger family members) in order to escape prohibitive care costs in the United Kingdom, which can include the Government compelling the sale of a person's home to meet those costs.



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 12th May 2024 – Sunday after Ascension		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Worship & Praise	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 12th May 2024 – Sunday after Ascension		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Monday 13th May		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
Thursday 16th May		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 12th May – Sunday after Ascension		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	St Mark
Tuesday 14th May		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist/Cell Group	St Mark

More Opinions and Views....



OPINION

NO LEGAL ADVICE TAKEN

At the recent Minister's Question Time, as reported in last week's *Independent*, the Minister was asked whether any legal advice had been taken before presenting the policy. The Minister replied that it had not "but he would be taking some later". This is startling. As long ago as 2018 a UK Home Office Report recommended "extensive work on immigration legislation and policy." These, necessarily, must go hand in hand, a new policy cannot be introduced that is in conflict with the present law. Without seeing the proposed legislative changes, the true effect of them in conjunction with policy cannot be properly assessed. Also, advice on the legal ramifications of any policy changes is essential.

EQUALITY OF CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

This is said to be one of the aims of the draft policy. Under 2.5 "Principles/guidelines" it states "c) That all people economically contributing (employed, in business or investors) to the island are entitled to the same conditions of services, including medical and education." This is difficult to square with what is the case in the Public Service. An available description of the employment of officers under the Technical Co-operation Programme reads: "These positions...typically come with internationally competitive pay scales and terms that differ from those recruited locally." Suitably qualified holders of Saint Helenian status recruited locally cannot expect

to receive the same pay and terms if and when they get to fill these same positions. SHG, of course, does not itself have to follow the immigration laws and policies that it applies to others and will not have to offer "equality of conditions of employment".

IT IS NOT A CURE ALL

As the "Draft Policy" makes clear, a new approach to immigration will not, of itself, cure the ills of the Island, whatever form it takes. For any new approach to result in an increased and viable population, there must also be "a reasonable expectation of economic opportunities, education and medical services available." The latter two of these come with a cost factor. It is only economic opportunity that will stem departures from the island and result in people returning or seeking to migrate here. It is pointless trying to grow the island's population by widening the right to work here if economic opportunity in the form of reasonably paid employment is not to be found. At present, it is the lack of such opportunity that is causing the island to depopulate.

Contributed.....

Dear Editor,

A Case for Optimism

The dwindling population of St Helena is alarming. Extrapolate the decline and there is a risk of passing a point of no return. But don't fret, we aren't there yet; there is a case for optimism. Here we consider St Helena's story since 2015 and make recommendations on how the next 10 years should play out.

Let's take stock in 2024. St Helena's development has come a long way and we have not been short of historic moments. The commercial air service started in 2017 along with the infrastructure which came with it, such as the jetty and haul road. We saw the Equiano cable and landing station lead to an incredibly improved internet service. We saw new cancer treatments and obtained a lifesaving medivac service.

But are these changes happening fast enough?

When we look at other islands which have dramatically increased their GDP per Capita, (Gross Domestic product per Head) we think of the financial services and company registry stories of the 1960s Cayman Islands and 1990s Mauritius, tourism in 1970s Maldives and 2010 Iceland, and we look to other British Overseas Territories who have large military bases. But a low tax jurisdiction, mass tourism and a military base is unlikely to be in St Helena's future, because they don't play to St Helena's comparative advantages.

What can St Helena do instead?

With an aging global population, there are growing opportuni-

ties to provide competitive care, hospice and end of life services. In South Africa, 35% of people between the ages of 65 years and 75 years require some assistance with daily activities. For those 75 years and older, the percentage increases to 45%. Meanwhile care isn't cheap; frail care and assisted living villages in SA cost between £825 and £1,275 per month. It might be attractive for some to spend their latter days in St Helena, away from barbed wire, with a view of the ocean. To provide end of life care services or legal euthanasia a company like BUPA or Nuffield needs to be sought to build the infrastructure required.

The number of digital nomads looking for a temporary base has more than doubled since the pandemic; one US study reported an increase from around £7m remote workers in 2019 to £17m in 2023; around 11% of the US workforce. Over 40 countries grant specific visas for digital nomads and host co-working spaces. In an air-conditioned office block in Cape Town, it's £12 a day for the privilege of sharing desk space, enjoying fast WIFI, heading out to hike and drink wine at the end of the working day before settling down in £20 night dormitory beds. With temperate weather and plenty of natural attractions, St Helena can appeal to these working tourists to stay a month or more.

At the end of 2020, St Helena modernised its Company Registry Policy, providing a fair tax jurisdiction for global companies to do business, in line with OECD recommendations, but where are the businesses queuing up to register? For St Helena to get its toes dipped in the game, investment funding is needed to comply with transparency requirements such as FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act). Systems and

Continued on NEXT PAGE

More Opinions and Views....

processes for compliance will be needed to increase the attractiveness of registering both traditional companies and specialist companies which use blockchain technology or trade in NFTs (tokens which are unique and cannot be replaced); something that Minister Brooks has his eyes set upon.

There are two schools of thought in economics which could make this happen. The first is that the government should create an attractive business environment, step up to the mark on all the regulatory measures needed across the board, and let the private sector do its job. For one thing it means ripping up most immigration boundaries until such time St Helena tackles its population problem; let foreigners come in to spend their last years in paradise and reciprocate the UK's open border for St Helenians to enter.

This won't change the face of the Island if incomers are invited to integrate. If there is a good example of a country that is still both proud of its heritage and culture, and open minded to immigration, it is Scotland. The Highlands and Islands are also facing a population crisis and have set out a plan to welcome newcomers to slow the decline. Similarly, St Helena can welcome foreigners to take part in traditions to maintain national pride whilst stemming population leakage.

The second school of thought would be that government should seed growth through public sector investment. SHG should invest in co-working spaces and marketing to attract digital nomads, seek an operator for an end-of-life centre and cremation services and invest in the practices needed to comply with FATCA. They should continue to subsidise freight and subsidise flights.

As usual, St Helena Government won't have money to play with, unless they persuade a Development Bank to support



OPINION

the Island as a Small Island Developing State. But SHG do have the ability to change policy cheaply and for that there is hope.

Which comes to the Island's new Sustainable Economic Development Strategy and Immigration Policy. The aspirations are good. The focus on increasing the working age population through openness, facilitating business growth, investing in infrastructure, and a focus on marketing is right. Being bold on these policies are important. As will be the implementation.

However, as it stands the draft Immigration Policy will fail to deliver. Currently the short-term entry permit is easy to get and allows anyone 6 months to live and work in St Helena for £20. The new policy states certain nationalities can arrive to holiday, easily, but if you open your laptop to do a day's remote working, undertake some research, pick up a small seasonal contract, picking or serving coffee, you'll be breaking the law unless you throw down an extra £50-£100 and provide a huge amount of supporting evidence to upgrade to a stay and work permit. The draft policy does nothing to promote growth in digital nomads, end of life care, or short-term company executive visitors. Small tweaks can make this work. Continue to allow 6 months flexibility to work and play, as it currently exists. And remove visa requirements at all for anyone with a UK passport, with the proviso that if they commit a serious crime their right to stay will be removed.

Contributed

FIELD ROAD PROJECT UPDATE – MAY 2024

The project to widen and resurface Field Road is progressing well. All hillside and road surfacing excavation works are now complete. The service strip, which contains an empty duct which will allow services to be installed in the future, is currently underway. The slipper drain is also now under construction. This collects and directs road and hillside surface water run-off into the cross drains, which then dissipate the energy of the flow before discharging the water downhill. These works are expected to be completed this month.

The geological conditions encountered during the construction works proved to be more challenging than anticipated. This resulted in the contractor having to undertake significantly more hillside excavation than originally estimated. This means that additional time and resources will be required to complete the project.

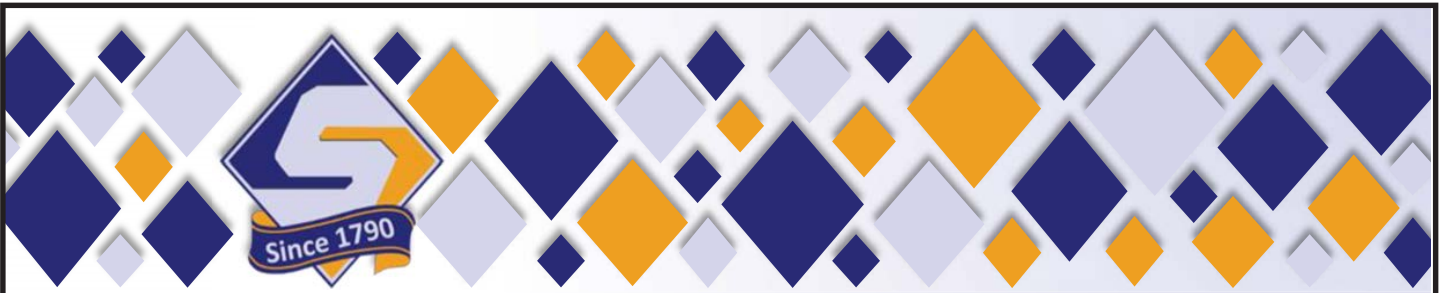
Side Path Road will close for an additional six weeks to complete the concrete work at the transition and junction. We will provide specific closure dates as soon as they are confirmed.

The re-opening of Field Road, including the Side Path Road section, is now estimated to take place in late October 2024. However, this is subject to constant review as there are variables, such as weather conditions, which could impact progress further.

The Field Road project is part of the £30 million Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), funded by the UK Government.

The additional excavation quantities were only confirmed by the project team after ministers gave their updates on the Field Road project during their constituency meetings in March 2024. Therefore the information regarding the impact to the project were not available to ministers at that time.





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.



PUBLIC PANEL

WITH

PROFESSOR DAN YON

'DIASPORA & IDENTITY & CULTURE'

Thursday 16th May, 6.30pm

At the Museum

On line participation welcomed.

Join us via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82508460226?pwd=NWF0kUVt4gVBvqh19TfDjktjxc6M4E.1>

Meeting ID: 825 0846 0226 | Passcode: 529231



ST HELENA'S DAY CELEBRATION FLOAT COMPETITION PRIZES



1ST PLACE—£200

2ND PLACE—£150

3RD PLACE—£100





ST HELENA'S DAY CELEBRATION SWEET 'N SAVORY COMPETITION!



CATEGORIES ARE:

COCONUT FINGERS

FISH CAKES

TOMATO PASTE



FOOD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE DAY: 19TH MAY



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CONTACT

RADKA HENRY

25531

EMAIL: RADKA.HENRY@TRUST.ORG.SH



Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Head of Communications (£30,224 per annum)

Are you a confident leader with advanced written and verbal communication skills? Do you have the ability to multi-task across a wide range of news and communications channels? Can you plan and manage multiple communications projects and have an in-depth knowledge of public sector media handling? The Central Support Services currently has an opportunity to head the Communications Hub. In this role, supported by a small team, you will coordinate and lead the entire portfolio of St Helena Government communications as well as proactively support and advise the Chief Secretary, Portfolio Directors, senior officials and Ministers on all communications and media matters.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carol Henry on Tel No 22470 or Email
carol.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 22 May 2024

Community Nurse (£11,542 per annum)

Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress your career? If so, The Health & Social Care Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their team. The Community Nurse will manage a caseload of patients under the direction of the Sister or Community Nursing Officer. Working within the community either at the District Clinics or in the patient's home. Deliver Nursing Care as part of a team. Will support the Sister in the delivery of an efficient/effective nursing service and has responsibility for assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of care. The occasional out of normal working hours will be expected for clients at home needing palliative care and end of life care.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Jackie Henry on Tel No 22500 or Email
jackie.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 22 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

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing date: 22 May 2024

Casual Kitchen Assistants x3 (£3.65 per hour)

The Health & Social Care Portfolio is seeking to recruit 3 highly motivated individuals to work as Casual Kitchen Assistants within the Community Care Centre. The successful candidates will be responsible to the Head Cook and Cooks for the provision of high quality domestic and catering services at the Community Care Centre and Hospital, to include all cleaning, kitchen duties and assisting the cooks with food preparation, which includes delivering of meals. The successful candidates will also be responsible for ensuring the unit kitchen areas in the Community Care Centre are maintained in line with the cleaning schedules.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Michelle Clingham on Tel No 23090 or Email michelle.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 22 May 2024

Immigration/Customs Officer (18 years +) (Permanent) (£9,197 per annum)

We are looking to fill these important roles in our busy customs team, to undertake the duties and responsibilities to reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena. This is a critical role which requires experience of front line / customer facing responsibilities, an inquisitive mind-set and the ability to work well as part of a team.

Enquiries: Delmarie Williams or Rosemond Fowler on Tele No 22287 or Email delmarie.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh or rosemond.fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 22 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.



VACANCY – INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL TECHNICIAN

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Instrumentation & Control Technician.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and maintenance of instrumentation, control and electronic systems within Connect Saint Helena Ltd and will provide these services across all areas of the Company (Electricity, Water, and Wastewater).

Applicants for this position should possess a HND qualification in Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering or Control and Instrumentation Engineering. Applicants should have experience within a utility company environment, with wind turbine maintenance, SCADA (or similar), Telemetry and PLC control systems and a Class A drivers licence. Applicants must also be computer literate and have good verbal & written communication skills; have an awareness of, and comply with, safety rules and procedures when working on HV/LV systems or when testing or operating electrical equipment and systems, and be able to work at heights.

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

For a full job description and/or further details on this position please contact Geoffrey Augustus on +290 22255 or email Geoffrey.Augustus@connect.co.sh. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh by 9:00am Friday, 24 May 2024.

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



Trail Building & Maintenance



Following a successful walking guide training programme that accredited 12 local guides to international standard, Green Flag Trails www.greenflagtrails.org is offering training on trail building and maintenance.



Training will take place in June and will be delivered over a 2 week period. There will be no cost element to those undertaking the training.

If you would like to take part in this training, please register your interest by **Tuesday, 21 May 2024** with Loretta Coleman at the Tourist Office on T:22158 or email loretta.coleman@shg.gov.sh

sthelenatourism.com

Vacancy

Grocery Sales Assistant



Salary for the post will be £8,076 per annum (£673 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Star for a Grocery Sales Assistant.

As the Grocery Sales Assistant you will assist with the day-to-day running of The Star, including in the Food to Go area, and ensure a high standard of customer service

Interested Persons Should:

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

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

Charlotte Williams, Grocery Manager (The star & Butchery) via ☎ 22683 ✉ charlotte.williams@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 **14 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

Ad-Hoc Grocery Sales Assistants



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies within the Half Tree Hollow Supermarket for Grocery Sales Assistants to work on an Ad-Hoc basis on Saturdays and Sundays as and when required.

Rate of pay will be £3.87 per hour. Any hours worked on Sundays will be paid at the overtime rates.

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information regarding the position, contact:

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **14 May 2024**.



AUDITOR

Salary range £11,035 to £14,215 per annum
12-month fixed term contract

Audit St Helena is seeking to recruit an Auditor to join their audit team.

The Auditor will undertake financial audits under supervision across the public sector.

Prospective candidates are required to have GCSE grade C or above in English and Mathematics and an Introductory Certificate in Financial and Management Accounting.

Key skills for this position include good oral and written communication, an aptitude for figures and an analytical and enquiring mind. IT skills in Excel, Word and Outlook are also essential.

The job profile and application forms are available by calling (290) 22111 or e-mailing rebecca.young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Applications should be submitted by hand or by e-mail to the Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown no later than **9am on Monday 13th May, 2024.**

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



Through the Lens

Not too long ago, a concerned mother sought my advice regarding an incident at her child's school. As we discussed and devised a strategy that I believed would benefit her child, she suddenly looked at me in astonishment and exclaimed, "Wow, I didn't realize I had that option!" Meeting her gaze, I replied firmly, "Repeat after me, 'As a parent, I have the right to effectively and strategically advocate for my child.'" Through similar conversations with other parents, it became clear to me that not everyone feels empowered or informed enough to stand up for their children. I chose the term **ADVOCATE** to outline eight key ways in which you can provide optimal support for your children in various aspects of their lives, whether it be at school or any other endeavour they pursue.

A . Attend Meetings: Participate actively in meetings like PTA gatherings and parent-teacher conferences to show your commitment to your child's education. Volunteering and engaging in school activities can also strengthen your role as an involved parent.

D . Document Issues: When faced with a problem, document all the details including who was involved, what happened, when and where it occurred, how it will be resolved, and why a specific action was taken. Creating a note-taking template can help maintain clarity.

V . Voice Concerns Appropriately: Use an appropriate tone of voice when advocating for your child with teachers, coaches, administrators, friends, and siblings. Avoid yelling, cursing, or using patronizing tones.

O . Observe Behavior: Pay attention to changes in your child's behavior, social circles, or appearance as they could be signs of underlying issues. Trust your instincts if you sense that something is wrong.

C . Celebrate Milestones: Celebrate both big and small achievements with your child, and acknowledge challenges and setbacks to show support.

A . Affirm Their Identity: Be your child's biggest cheerleader by recognizing their strengths, nurturing their talents, and providing comfort during failures.

T . Teach Them: Empower your child to advocate for themselves by teaching them to respect themselves and others, communicate effectively, and use their voice confidently.

E . Empower Them: Give your child the power and permission to advocate for themselves, preparing them for success in various settings. Encourage respectful and confident expression of opinions.

Remember, advocating for your child doesn't have to be overwhelming. Seek support from trusted individuals if needed, and empower your child to advocate for themselves to equip them with valuable skills for life.
Written by: Ed Oyewo



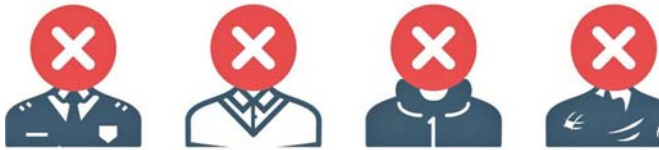
"I like work, it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours"

"Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood." — Bill Murray

Do You Forward Fake Photos and Help Them Go Viral?



How to Spot A Fake Facebook Account



Edited and misleading images are often used online. Sometimes they are done very amateurishly and are not difficult to spot if you give them a closer look. You might come across misinformation through fake photos every day.

One example given by Full Fact, an organisation that has a website of the same name. They check claims made by politicians and others as well as the trickery that is so prevalent on social media. One example they give of a social media fake is about a pro-Trump rally held in London before Trump made an official visit which Queen Elizabeth II had to endure.

The rally was organised in support of a far-right group leader who was previously openly fascist. At the time of the rally, he was serving a 13-month prison sentence for contempt of court. The supporters posted an image on social media showing a vast crowd attending the rally. They claimed the crowd was bigger than the anti-Trump protest the day before.



This is the scene at Tahrir Square in Cairo where Muslims gather to celebrate a religious festival. It is a photo very similar to the one posted by far-right supporters who claimed it was a rally held in London. First, rallies or marches held in the UK in support of any political leader are never that big. Secondly, most of the buildings and other landmarks have been cropped out of the photo but those that remain are easily recognisable as not being in London.

Full Fact identified the original photo after some research and found it to be an image of people praying in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. It was taken in November 2011. Full Fact explained how they found the original image and proved the photo used in the social media post was an outrageous fake. They explained, "How did we find the correct image? If you are suspicious of an image online, but still not certain that the image is misleading, one of the best options is to do a

reverse image search. The popular method to do this is via Google image search. If using Google Chrome, you can right-click on the image and click "Search image with Google". Google Lens will then appear at the side of the screen giving you the option to "find image source". Clicking this will open a new tab that should show you websites that include matching images and visually similar images. You can also see visual matches if you scroll down on Google Lens."

They add, "If searching with Google doesn't find any results, there are many alternatives: you can use Bing, the dedicated reverse image search engine TinEye, or install a Google Chrome plug-in called RevEye, which allows you to reverse image search on five search engines in one go."

Fake photos include many situations, some of them very petty and a little silly. One example given by Full Fact is when the leader of one of the major political parties in the UK had a poppy digitally 'pinned' to the lapel of his jacket in a photo of him speaking in the House of Commons. As 11th November and Remembrance Sunday approach, all politicians on all sides wear a red poppy. Wearing a poppy at the end of October/beginning of November is the most stringently applied bit of political correctness there is. Everyone appearing on TV does the same.

All except for this one particular political party leader. To hide the fact that he had been politically incorrect in such a high-profile way, his backroom boys digitally added a poppy before posting the photo on social media. In this case, the poppy was out of proportion with the jacket lapel and a close up of the poppy showed how badly the digital pinning was done.

Another bit of misinformation is to misidentify people in a photo. This is often not done accidentally but for viciously selfish reasons. On one occasion a young person was misidentified during a street protest. He could have been in serious trouble for no reason. Friends came to his aid and were able to prove he had been wrongly accused.

In traditional media there is a thing about verifying sources of information. There are several tests that can apply. In social media anyone can post almost anything they like and get away with it. People who want to bend the truth or tell an outright lie know there will be no come-back on whatever they do. So they continue to do it. Fake photos and other false postings are so prevalent social media users must get used to being digitally 'street wise'.





VACANCY NOTICE

General Maintenance Assistant

Job Description

Located at English Bay, Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a full-time **General Maintenance Assistant** at the Power Station on Ascension Island. The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Maintenance of HV Diesel Engines for Electricity Generation, Water Production & Distribution and other mechanical maintenance related duties.

Requirements

- Good understanding of Safety procedures and Safe Working Practices.
- Competent in the use of hand tools, power tools and workshop machinery
- Basic Knowledge of Vehicular maintenance.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role.
- Knowledge of working with hazardous substances used as part of function.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours and be available for call-outs and faults outside of working hours.
- Possession of current driving licence up to B category.
- Basic Computer/Keyboard skills including Word, Excel and email applications.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

- Experience of Power Stations' operations and maintenance work.
- Experience in Diesel Generators Engines overhaul and maintenance.
- Basic working knowledge and understanding of RO Plants Operation and Maintenance.
- Operation of vehicles such as Cranes or Fork Lift Trucks.
- Competent in corrosion control, the use of paint and rust treatment when maintaining equipment and structures
- Experience of civils works, such as brick/block building and concrete work

Remuneration and Package

We are offering a two-year contract with either Single or Accompanied status. The salary, dependant on experience, starts at £11,031 (taxable on Ascension). You will also be entitled to:

- Rent-free accommodation
- A food allowance of £3,905 (or £7,329 if joined by eligible dependants)
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- One paid return journey to country of residence during your contract period

Please note that any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal and professional vetting, valid travel documents as well as satisfactory medical clearance.

For a **Job Application Form**, full **Job Description** and for any further information, please contact Administrative Assistant, Jodi Joshua at JJoshua@encompass.tv

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, no later than **Friday 31st May 2024**



MAY NIGHT SKY



SHARON WADE (assisted by the WorldWideWeb)

The evening sky loses its last planet early in May, shifting the attention of planetary observers to the morning. Try to glimpse Jupiter before it's lost in the Sun's glow soon after sunset. Meanwhile, Mercury, Mars, Saturn, and Neptune are up before sunrise. A waning crescent Moon joins the group twice during May, adding beauty to the scene.

Jupiter sets within an hour of the Sun in early May and earlier each successive evening, limiting its observability. The planet is lost quickly and reaches conjunction with the Sun on 18th May. The gas giant will reappear in the morning sky next month.

Moving to the pre-dawn sky, first up is **Saturn**, rising around 2 am in early May. The planet climbs higher before dawn as the month progresses. The waning crescent Moon returns to the vicinity on 31st May and can be seen very close to Saturn. Look to the East (Longwood/Levelwood) and you will see both just after they rise around 1 am.

Neptune is difficult to spot low in the eastern sky as morning twilight begins. This weekend it is rising around 3 am and by the end of the month, the planet will be quite high in the sky to the Northeast just before sunrise, placing it in easier range for telescopes and binoculars.

Mars remains low in the eastern sky. It crosses Southern Pisces, spends a few days in the second week of May cutting the corner of Cetus the Whale, then returns to Pisces for the remainder of the month. The Red Planet ends the month rising after 3 am revealing best views around 6 am.

Mercury returns to the morning sky rising around the 5 am mark and may be best viewed through binoculars, given the brightening sky after that time. It rises later each morning and reached its greatest Western elongation from the Sun yesterday. Mercury brightens as the month progresses but it is a difficult object to spot, however, observers with a clear eastern horizon especially here in the Southern hemisphere—and in particular those that live at higher altitudes—have a chance of following the planet at least until month end.

Uranus passes through solar conjunction on the 13th May. It is too faint and close to the Sun to view this month.

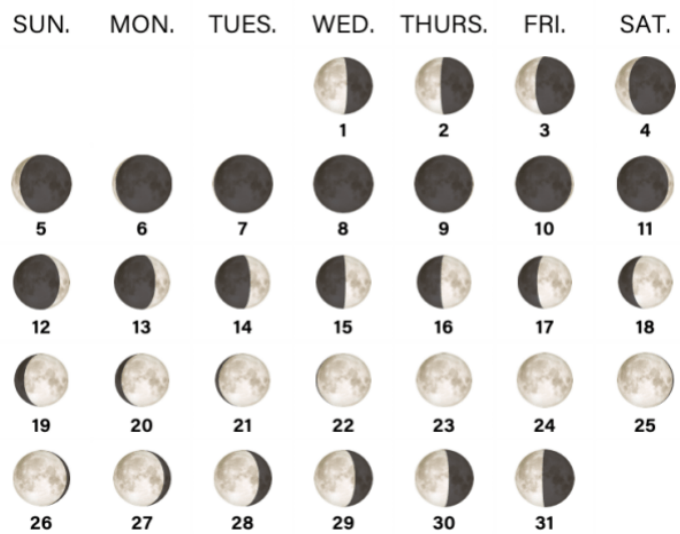
Venus is also too close to the Sun for observation this month, as it approaches conjunction with the Sun in mid-June.

Following a recent run of the shortest days ever recorded by atomic clocks, Earth's rotational speed may be slowing. Last year, for the first time in seven years, the average 'length of day' became longer. Latest predictions suggest this slowdown may continue into 2025. It was at its swiftest in June 2022 and measurements by atomic clocks recorded the shortest days ever. However, since then the trend has reversed. In general, Earth's rotational speed is decreasing. Around 100 million years ago, a day was only 23 hours long. This gradual slowdown is caused by the gravitational pull of the Moon acting as a gentle brake on Earth's spin.

Note: An atomic clock measures time by monitoring the resonant frequency of atoms. It is on these clocks that the official definition of the second – the Standard International (SI) unit of time – is based. With an error of only 1 second in up to 100 million years, atomic clocks are among the most accurate timekeeping devices in history.

MAY 2024

Moon Phases



Depending on the area of the southern hemisphere, some commonly-used names for the May Full Moon are Beaver Moon, Frost Moon or Hunter's Moon.....Rabbit Cacciatore anyone??

DATA PROTECTION PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

St Helena Government (SHG) recently announced that public information meetings to raise awareness of ongoing work towards the introduction of data protection policy/ legislation would take place during May 2024. These meetings will be held in various districts across the island. The first meeting will take place at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre on Thursday 9 May at 19:30.

Subsequent district information meetings will take place at 19:30 as follows:

Venue	Date
Jamestown Community Centre	Monday, 13 May 2024
Guinea Grass Community Centre	Tuesday, 14 May 2024
Harford Community Centre	Thursday, 16 May 2024
Sandy Bay Community Centre	Monday, 27 May 2024
Blue Hill Community Centre	Tuesday, 28 May 2024
Levelwood Community Centre	Thursday, 30 May 2024
St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Monday, 3 June 2024



The following information will be discussed:

- What is data protection?
- What does it mean to the individual?
- How might legislation affect businesses and organisations?

The public are encouraged to attend.

SHG
07 May 2024

www.sainthelena.gov.sh



NEW CASH WITHDRAWAL FORM COMING SOON



You will soon be filling out a new Cash Withdrawal Form and we are letting you know what to expect to help make it a little easier when the time comes.

CASH WITHDRAWAL		Requested Breakdown	
Date:	Amount: £	Denomination	Amount
Account Name (Capital letters):	Amount in words:	£20.00	
Account Number:	Printed name of customer withdrawing (Capital letters):	£10.00	
Customer Reference:	Signature:	£5.00	
	<i>For Bank use only:</i>	£2.00	
	System Ref:	£1.00	
	Date Input:	£0.50	
	Input by: Checked by: Auth by:	£0.20	
		£0.10	
		£0.05	
		£0.02	
		£0.01	
		Total Amount:	
		Bank of St. Helena Ltd.	

Let us know how you'd like to receive your cash by telling us exactly what you're looking for.

To assist our joint account and business account holders and for anyone withdrawing on behalf of another customer (you will still need to submit an authorisation form and give us a call if someone is collecting on your behalf).



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

info@sainthelenabank.com

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Market Street, Jamestown

Bank of St Helena Ltd



On St Helena celebrates 140 years

1884 – 2024

To help commemorate this wonderful milestone will be Major Robert Wright and Captain Juanita Wright - Divisional Leaders of the Salvation Army from the Western Cape. They will be the Guest Speakers at the following events to which you are all warmly invited to attend.

Sunday 12th May

11am - Internment of Major Wendy's ashes with a short service at the Salvation Army cemetery St Paul's.

3pm - Celebration Service of Praise & Worship at the Half Tree Hollow Hall followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 14th May

3pm - Ladies & Gent's Fellowship at the Half Tree Hollow Hall.

Wednesday 15th

7.30pm - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at the Half Tree Hollow Hall.

Friday 17th May

10am – 1pm 'Quality Seconds' Thrift Shop open.

Saturday 18th May

7pm - Open Air on the Bridge in Market Square.

Sunday 19th May

12pm - St Helena Day celebrations with Float parade.

Wednesday 22nd May

7.30pm - Prayer Meeting at the Half Tree Hollow Hall.

Friday 24th May

10am – 1pm 'Quality Seconds' Thrift Shop open.

7.30pm - Musical Evening - at the Half Tree Hollow Hall with Guest Singers.

Marching along, marching along, The Salvation Army is marching along.

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these special events. Take care and God bless.

A Spin Around Saint Helena Island In Praise of Sailing in the South Atlantic

The second WavySail voyage for this time of year on the Aurora from Cape Town to St Helena and back to Cape town ended yesterday as the crew berthed the Aurora outside the Royal Cape Yacht Club. This short account of the entire voyage from one of the crew makes it clear that good food is the top priority for sailors. The weather and sea-state definitely comes second. And St Helena, as always, "remains a special and unique place".

38 days since our departure from Cape Town, 4000 + nautical miles later we are on the final approach to our berth in Royal Cape Yacht club.

After a windless start with no one being able to drive in a straight line we eventually found the wind that shot us into Lamberts Bay. The short 5-day trip to our first port of call gave ample opportunity for the crew of 7 to get to know each other and the boat. One important thing was catching a skipjack that promptly got consumed. Everyone adapted well and were still friends on arrival. A short stay with some minor repairs and we bid farewell to the desert town with a deep reefed mainsail and small jib.

The next two days the guys enjoyed the sled ride provided by the often near gale to gale force winds offered. This pushed us well into the trade winds and in no time, we were all settled and in a routine. Great food and company made the time fly. Sadly, we had no luck on the fishing side, but at least the good ship Aurora was working wonderfully and her crew did well. Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Captain James, Dependable Mike and Chef/Top secret Chris. No more deep sleep knowing James is at the helm taking it seriously, no more amazing food that I still can't spell or cook, no more boat yoga on the foredeck with Mike in the early hours of the morning.

The island still remains a special and unique place and the visit was fantastic. Again, we made a few minor repairs and topped up the fuel and water while awaiting the arrival of the next crew. Miles of smiles the trooper and Louis the helmsman. After the first two days of both looking for George, they settled and we began the slog home. The crew quickly became a unit as we made our way south for our first low pressure. This time of year is perfect for a short track home.

We decided to take the first one slow, setting all possible aft support for the mast we deployed 30 % headsail and gently cruised. About twenty hours later we got the sun back and the wind dropped. Although the sea state was still high we could comfortably set 2 reefs in the main and headsail. The post frontal weather had other plans for us. The following night we found ourselves deep reefed playing hide and seek with squalls and at time winds over 30 knots.

Just like that the sun was out and we had to endure the painful noise of a diesel motor for a few hours. Not long and the forecast said we needed to prepare for round 2, this time we were ready and managed to utilise the weather to give us a



A beautiful sunset and Neptune is in a good mood. As the day's work moves on to night watches, the big question on the Aurora is, "who's in the galley cooking what?"

good push for nearly two solid days. The crew worked hard and it paid off. We will be arriving in 14.5 days instead of the expected 18. Our last day on the good ship has been filled with much laughter and music. To top it off we managed to hook a Tuna over 10 kg as the sun started to set. Again, this was promptly prepared and consumed and the remaining gift wrapped for those expecting us tomorrow.

The South Atlantic as always has provided fantastic sailing and new found friends.





From the Cricket Pitch

Results for the weekend

Saturday 4th May

Western Mustangs 155/8 (20 overs)

Chris Owen 86

Kyle Bennett 15 not out

Damian Burns 3/14 (3 overs)

Jamestown Heat 156/4 (20 overs)

David George 36 not out

William Knipe 30

Chris Owen 2/30 (4 overs)

Man of the Match Damian Burns

Challengers 263/1 (20 overs)

Andrew Yon 153 not out

Joey Thomas 69 not out

Perry Leo 1/29 (3 overs)

Levelwood Rebels 92 all out (18.1 overs)

Delroy Leo 40

Ralph Knipe 15

Trystan Thomas 4/5 (2.1 overs)

Sean-Lee Thomas 3/14 (4 overs)

Man of the match Andrew Yon

Sunday 5th May

Sandy Bay Pirates 164/6 (20 overs)

Brett Isaac 50

David Young 34

Brendan Leo 3/26 (4 overs)

Levelwood Allstars 59 all out (15.3 overs)

Brendan Leo 18 not out

Dane Leo 10

Brett Isaac 3/13 (3.3 overs)

Greg Coleman 3/14 (4 overs)

Rhys Francis 3/18 (4 overs)

Man of the Match Brett Isaac

Cobras 171/5 (20 overs)

Scott Crowie 80

Jamie Peters 24

Chadwin Lawrence 2/32 (4 overs)

Lions 102 all out (18.4 overs)

Scott O'Bey 25

Cruyff Buckley 25

Mark Anthony 4/16 (4 overs)

Man of the Match Scott Crowie

Fixtures for this week

Saturday 11th May (Semi-finals)

10:00 Sandy Bay Pirates v Cobras (1st v 4th) Umpires:

Damien O'Bey and Gareth Johnson

13:30 Challengers v Levelwood Allstars (2nd v 3rd) Umpires:
Jamie Essex and David George

Sunday 13:00 (Finals)

RMS T20 Final Umpires: David Price and Gavin George



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

A public engagement session on the new Sustainable Economic Development Strategy and Delivery Plan (SEDS) will take place on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 19:00 in the Jamestown Museum.

The SEDS is available for download at www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Sustainable-Economic-Development-Strategy-2023-2033.pdf. It is also available in hard copy at the Public Library and Customer Service Centre in Jamestown.

Comments on the SEDS can also be submitted to Director of Economic Development, Damian Burns by email through damian.burns@sainthelena.gov.sh. The period of public engagement will close at 16:00 on Friday 24 May 2024.

**SHG
8 May 2024**

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Joint Statement from the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) and Ascension Island Government (AIG)

8 May 2024

Update on Travel to Ascension Island via the South Atlantic Airbridge

Following discussions between the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) and Ascension Island Government (AIG), we are pleased to provide the following clarity on the requirements for non-military personnel residing in the Falkland Islands, who want to visit family or close friends on Ascension via the twice weekly northbound South Atlantic Airbridge.

These arrangements will be on a trial basis and subject to the periodic review of the Joint Policy Statement, the agreement which governs the access the UK's Ministry of Defence permits to the South Atlantic Airbridge flights.

To book a flight, passengers must:

Book their flights through the Falkland Islands Company (FIC) Flight Booking department. Seats are subject to availability within the FIG approved seat allocation.

Provide evidence of the following to access the Airbridge for visits to Ascension – as per the requirements of the MOD Joint Policy Statement on use of the Airbridge:

Passengers have a family member or friend as their nominated sponsor on Ascension, or;

Passengers have a documented work or business reason for them to visit Ascension, which again will require a nominated on-island sponsor.

Those travelling from or to the Falkland Islands via Ascension on the Airbridge who fall outside the above criteria will not be permitted to stopover or visit Ascension.

Residents of the Falkland Islands who intend to visit family members and friends that live on Ascension are permitted to do so subject to meeting the requirements of Ascension's Entry Control Policy and being granted an e-visa. These can be applied for at <https://www.ascension-visas.com/>

Please note, the policy on the allocation of access to the Airbridge via FIG and AIG is distinct from the Entry Control Policy in Ascension. Your seat allocation on the Airbridge is contingent upon you satisfying the conditions in the FCDO/MOD's Joint Policy Statement on use of the Airbridge, as listed above. Being eligible to obtain a visa to visit Ascension does not guarantee the ability to gain a seat on the Airbridge.

Proof of return/onward flights is required before an Ascension e-visa can be applied for. E-visa applicants will need to submit evidence of:

Confirmed flight reservations
Accommodation arrangements
Adequate travel insurance

Passengers should also be aware that:

AIG Immigration Officers will request evidence in relation to

accommodation during an applicant's stay, which may include contacting the e-visa applicant's nominated sponsor in Ascension, before the decision on an e-visa application is made.

If you do not believe you will be eligible for an e-visa under the terms above, you should not proceed with booking an Airbridge seat. FIG, AIG and FIC are not responsible for Airbridge bookings made by those who are refused an e-visa. The usual Airbridge cancellation policies apply.

If you meet the requirements for a stopover in Ascension and wish to then continue your journey north to the UK on a subsequent Airbridge, or do the same in reverse travelling south, this is possible but is subject to seat availability on the Airbridge and must be booked as a set of flights via FIC so there is proof of onward flights to satisfy AIG's e-visa process.

It is important to note that in times when Airbridge seats need to be prioritised, for example due to a cancelled flight, those travelling to or from Ascension for non-work reasons will not necessarily be prioritised over those needing to travel to or from the UK for medical, study, or urgent work purposes. Prioritisation is done by FIG on a case-by-case basis.

For further information regarding travel to Ascension Island, via the Airbridge, please visit <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/travel-and-shipping/travel-by-air>, or contact FIC Booking Agents on email: traveltoascension@fic.co.fk / telephone: +500 27633.

Travel to St Helena via Ascension

The above guidance is separate to that covering the transit arrangements for journeys to and from St Helena, via Ascension, utilising the Airbridge and Ascension's monthly Airlink charter flight.

At present booking this route requires booking an Airbridge seat via FIC, subject to availability, and then separately booking an Airlink seat via Ascension Island Government, and then applying for the relevant e-visa. FIG is aware of the risk and varied seat availability associated with these separate booking systems.

FIG has entered into negotiations with BFSAI and Ascension Island Government to guarantee a number of seats on both the Airbridge and Airlink, to allow those travelling to St Helena to book both flights via a single agent and be assured of seats on both flights. We will make a public announcement as soon as these discussions are concluded, giving clear guidance on how to book, and the e-visa requirements for transiting through Ascension.

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIO – NURSERY PROVISION

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio offers non-compulsory nursery education for all children between the ages of three to four years.

We will be in contact with parents/guardians of those children born on island and who are eligible to enter nursery education in the school year September 2024 – August 2025. This is to offer a place in nursery education and to give details of school placement and date of admission.

It would be appreciated if parents of children who were not born on St Helena could submit the following information in writing to the Assistant Director of Schools Kerry Lawrence so that an offer of placement can be made:

- The child’s full name and date of birth
- Name and address of parent or guardian
- Telephone number and email address (if applicable)

Once all required information has been received, parents will be advised of their child’s nursery placement.

It should be noted that a child should attend school in the catchment area where he/she is resident. However, for non-compulsory schooling, exceptions will only be made for regular attendance outside the identified catchment area if numbers in the requested school are low enough to accommodate the extra intake and if there is a valid reason for this, such as child care.

Parents who would like their child to attend nursery schooling outside of their catchment area must apply in writing to the Assistant Director of Schools stating which school they would like their child to attend and the reason for the placement outside of their catchment area. In such cases parents must be willing to take responsibility for transporting their child to and from school.

Correspondence can be sent to the Assistant Director of Schools Kerry Lawrence at the Education and Learning Centre, Jamestown or by email to kerry.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG

02 May 2024



DISPOSAL OF SHG FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (EX BASIL READ) VEHICLES

The Fuel Infrastructure Project (formerly Basil Read) is offering the following vehicles for sale through a public tender process.

VEHICLE TYPE	REGISTERED
Toyota Hilux Double Cab 2.5L/D	3932
Toyota Hilux Double Cab 2.5L/D	3525
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3551
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3537
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3471
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3472
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3509
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3527
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3613
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3733
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3734
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3776
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3528
Toyota Hilux Single Cab 2.5L/D	3470



The vehicles will be sold on an ‘as is, where is’ basis.

Viewing is available at the FIP Site Office, Upper Rupert’s Valley, on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday 22 May 2024 between 10:00 and 14:00
- Saturday 25 May 2024 between 10:00 and 13:30

Tender forms will be available on the viewing days mentioned above.

All tenders must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope marked “Tender Reference SHG FIP (EX BASIL READ) Vehicles”, and placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by no later than 15:30 on Tuesday 28 May 2024.

SHG

08 May 2024 www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Golf Report for Sunday, 5th April 2024

Report by SHGC

The Tombstone Golf Competition that took place on Sunday, May 5th featured 13 players. As the competition progressed, most of the participants managed to make it to the 17th hole before exhausting their allotted strokes. This left three players - Ruben Oliphant, Jeffrey Stevens, and Nicholas Steven - to continue on to the 18th hole.

Ruben Oliphant was the first among the trio to run out of strokes, leaving Jeffrey Stevens and Nicholas Steven to complete the final hole with a stroke to spare. Both players then teed off at the 1st hole to determine the winner. Jeffrey's drive landed approximately 50 yards from the green, while Nicholas impressed with an exceptional drive that ended just a foot away from the green, securing his victory in the competition. There weren't any two's scored the balls are roll over to next week

Congratulations were extended to all participants for their sportsmanship during the event.

Upcoming Events:

The upcoming competition 12th May would be the "Gwyneth Howell Trophy Challenge Cross Country," with exciting prizes up for grabs. Those interested in signing up were directed to do so via the clubhouse sign-up sheet or by leaving a message on the answering machine at 24421. Alternatively, messages could be left by calling Tel 25848

The Euchre tournament is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 11th May 2024, at the clubhouse starting from 7 pm. Call KJ to register your team 63698

Happy swinging.....!



ST. HELENA



GOLF CLUB

Saints Motocross Club

Family Night Out

Jamestown Community Centre

Friday 17th May 2024

Gates Open @ 6PM

UNCLE BORB'S
ICE CREAM VAN



DIRTY DEEDS FROM 8PM



Entrance Fee
£1.00 Adults
50p Kids



KIDDIES ZONE
(inside the hall)
JOSHUA'S FAMILY FUN
(FACE PAINTING & GLITTER TATTOOS)
& OTHER ACTIVITIES





BAR



FAMILY DELUXE FISH FRY
Conger, Bullseye, Fish N Batter, Curry Beans,
Coleslaw & Fries @ **£10.00**
Kiddies Fish N Batter & Fries @ **£4.00**

