

THE ST HELENA

INDEPENDENT

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Mark Brook's **Budget 2025**

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Michael
Gets His



Thorpe
Gets Back

SHG:
**'We could run out of
money'**



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**Monday is Overseas
Territories Day.**

Who Knows? Who Cares?

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Tuesday's Budget – the money and the numbers

Personal and Company Taxes

The **personal allowance** remains at **£7,000**, and the tax bands remain the same:

£7,000–£25,000: taxed at **26%** (or **21%** for SEDS businesses)

Over £25,000: taxed at **31%** (or **26%** for SEDS businesses)

Whilst we explored adjustments to tax thresholds, any changes would have reduced revenues - at a time when fiscal caution must take priority, to progress with such initiatives was not deemed feasible.

Corporate tax will remain at **25%**, or **15%** for businesses aligned with our Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS).

Alcohol and Tobacco Duty

New rates will take effect from 1 July 2025.

Pensions and Allowances

The **Basic Island Pension** will rise by 5.5%, setting a new maximum weekly rate of **£85 or £340 per month** for those who are entitled to full qualifying years.

Better Life Allowance will also increase by 5.5%

Public Sector Pay

£750,000 allocated to raise the salaries of the lowest-paid public servants. This addresses a long-standing imbalance in pay scales.

SHG has long aimed to bring public sector salaries up to at least **60% of the UK's 2019 National Joint Council (NJC) scale**. through the minimum wage and this year additional funding allocation the lowest pay grades will now reach **around 55%** of the UK's 2019 NJC – a significant step forward from the **35%** position in 2021.

This pay uplift comes with a renewed commitment to **performance management**. Every public servant must be accountable for delivering on their objectives. Notably, this increase does **not** apply to senior civil service pay bands, which remain unchanged, however the performance management across all levels of the public service must be maximised, from the top to the bottom.

Minimum Wage

The St Helena minimum wage is now £4.00 an hour, and it is set to increase to £4.50 from the 1st July this year. This is 38% more than the 2021 rate of £3.25 an hour, an increase which is more than double the rate of inflation.

Population Decline

The resident population has declined again - from **4,099 in December 2023** to **4,048 in October 2024**. Of concern, the number of working-age residents fell by 47, while the number of residents aged 65 and over rose by 37.

UK Financial Aid

A **5% increase** in core financial aid - equating to an additional **£1.7 million**. This brings the total core financial aid to **£35.79 million** up from £34.06 million in 2024/25. In addition, there is **£13.5 million** for capital expenditure.

There is an **additional £6.65 million** through our cooperation with the UK on interim arrangements for BIOT. While this funding sits outside the formal aid package, it will play a crucial role in delivering key government priorities. This means that St Helena is well placed to receive nearly **£56 million** in support this year.

Tuesday's Budget – the money and the numbers

BIOT (Chagos Refugee) Funding Allocations

1. **Overseas Medical Referrals** – £1.65 million to clear the patient backlog. This is already helping reduce pressure on our health budget.
 2. **Preventative Health Care** – £1.5 million to launch new preventative services, starting with **audiology** and longer-term health strategies.
 3. **Education Reform** – £2 million over three years to support structural improvements, training, and capacity-building in our schools.
 4. **IT Infrastructure** – £1.5 million to overhaul SHG systems, to enable the implementation of Office 365, the deployment of **cybersecurity AI**, and begin **cloud migration**.
- These investments are targeted, strategic, and designed to create **lasting improvements** in public service delivery.

The General Reserve Fund

The **General Reserve** sits **below the minimum £5 million benchmark**, with projections suggesting it may drop further to around **£4 million** by the end of this financial year.

Inflation

Inflation for the final quarter of 2024/25 stood at **6.8%**, though forecasts suggest this will drop to around **3.3%** in 2025/26. Still, global instability from the Middle East to Ukraine continues to affect supply chains, prices, all of which impact negatively on our island's cost of living.

Government Department Spending Budgets

1. **Pensions and Benefits** – £6.2 million
2. **Health and Social Care** – £9.7 million - Supplemented by £3.15 million from BIOT funding
3. **Education, Skills and Employment** – £3.9 million - With £0.3 million in additional support and £1.2 million from BIOT for this financial year
4. **Environment, Natural Resources and Planning** – £1.7 million
5. **Treasury** – £8.9 million - Includes grants, subsidies, swimming pool contract, public transport, and salary uplifts
6. **Economic Development** – £5.9 million - Includes subsidies to St Helena Airport Limited, shipping, and fuel management
7. **Central Support Services** – £10.8 million - Includes Technical Cooperation funding and support to Council
8. **Safety, Security and Home Affairs** – £3.0 million - Now includes infrastructure
9. **Police Operations (ring-fenced)** – £0.9 million
10. **Attorney General's Chambers** – £105,000
11. **Judicial Services** – £147,000
12. **Capital Expenditure** – £0.6 million (in-year only, excluding EDIP)
13. Additionally, there is a **ring-fenced support budget of up to £1.2 million**, which can be used—with FCDO agreement—for priority areas such as:

Air Services

Medical Evacuations

Litigation Costs

Other urgent and unforeseen expenditures

This contingency fund provides flexibility, but will **not be enough** to cover all possible risks—particularly in areas like air access, which alone cost over **£1 million** last year.

Tuesday's Budget – Treasury Minister's Comments

1. Government's role is to create the conditions for prosperity, not to micromanage it and together, I believe we have laid the foundation on which the next government can continue to build a strong and sustainable future for all.
2. In the context of the UK's own fiscal tightening - including a reduction in the Foreign Aid budget from 0.5% to 0.3% of Gross National Income (GNI) - this support is not just generous, I believe it depicts a vote of confidence in the direction of travel St Helena is heading, and the hard but much needed steps we are taking in moving the island forward.
3. We have also grown the relationship with the wider UKG, in addition to direct financial aid and capital funding we have established working relations with the likes of the Health Security Agency (HSA), Hampshire County Council, Government Legal Department (GLD), Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA), Ministry of Justice, the Department for Transport and His Majesty's Revenue & Customs HMRC. These agencies have made available resources to support our specific priority work streams that supplement the recurrent and capital budgets and provided us with much needed human expertise in respect of training, advice and guidance.
4. Our public finances remain under pressure. Let me be clear: this is not a reflection of mismanagement - it is the result of increasing demand on services, the real cost of past underinvestment in essential service, and a shrinking working aged population.
5. It's important to dispel a dangerous myth: there is no endless pot of money, and the UKG will simply not bail us out of every challenge. In fact, HMG has been very clear and has stated that any compensation payments as a result of litigation or responding to major shocks may require us to borrow and repayment will need to come out of the recurrent budget, and that means more difficult decisions ahead. **More next week...**

Dear Editor

Response to SHG Financial Update – Addressing the Real Challenges Facing St Helena and Your Right to Justice

We extend our sincere gratitude to Chief Minister Julie Thomas for her transparency in presenting this financial update. Open communication between government and the community is essential, and we acknowledge the effort to keep the people of St Helena informed about the economic challenges facing the island.

However, the financial difficulties outlined in this report are not simply the result of budgetary pressures but rather the consequence of longstanding structural shortcomings. The persistent neglect of critical sectors, such as healthcare and prison facilities, has led to severe repercussions, including claims of medical negligence and human rights violations. The failure to ensure the recruitment of properly qualified professionals and the continued use of facilities that have been unfit for purpose for centuries have contributed to the present crisis. Had such matters been effectively addressed in previous years, the financial burden now placed on the government might have been substantially mitigated.

While difficult decisions must be made in light of fiscal constraints, it remains imperative that SHG acknowledges past administrative deficiencies and commits to proactive measures aimed at restoring public trust. This includes respecting the courage of those who have been prepared to come forward and say, this was wrong, I will not let it happen again. These are people, some of whom have been left with long term medical and psychological conditions and deserve to be compensated. As British Citizens and as human beings they deserve real justice. It is the people of St Helena that make the island the special place we all love.

The residents of St Helena deserve governance that is not only financially responsible but also unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding their wellbeing and fundamental rights.

Despite the challenges, we remain hopeful that with prudent financial planning, accountability, and a renewed commitment to sustainable governance, St Helena will overcome its present difficulties. Through collective effort and responsible leadership, we can work toward a future that ensures economic stability while upholding the dignity and welfare of all its people.

Yours Sincerely
The Equality and Human Rights Commission.

SHG: We Could Run Out of Cash

SHG announced on Friday that litigation claims for clinical negligence and human rights claims linked to the conditions in HM Prison, Jamestown could take most or all of the money in the already depleted government general reserve fund.

The aim is to keep £5 million in the general reserve fund as a kind of insurance fund against unexpected costs. The reserve fund was £500,000 down at the end of last year and is expected to be £1million down when the accounts for financial year 2024-25 are finally signed off. The remaining £4million could be severely depleted if litigation claims go against SHG. The Sergio clinical negligence claims involve about 140 individuals who suffered at the hands of Sergio Villatoro. The prospects for SHG are not encouraging as former Dr Sergio is already convicted of criminal negligence. The clinical negligence claims are proceeding through civil law.

These claims have already been struggling through a tortuous process for almost two years. Originally, SHG announced they would follow a streamlined process which was being agreed with the plaintiff's representatives to cut both costs and time. Eventually SHG pulled out of that agreement. The alternative, for each of the 140 claims to be heard separately, will take longer and cost more. The judgement on the first case is expected soon. Friday's announcement from SHG echoes in a moderated form the claim made in court by the barrister representing SHG. Andrew Roy KC claimed the legal representatives for the claimants would bankrupt SHG if the costs they were claiming were paid. After some back and forth between the opposing barristers it was revealed SHG is paying their barrister more than the claimants' representatives are claiming in costs. That's one big self-inflicted bullet hole in the foot.

Social media comments have expressed disgust at SHG's 'victim shaming'. Using bankruptcy claims, aimed at claimants wanting redress for Sergio Villatoro's negligence. To blame the innocent victims of Villatoro, whom SHG properly and successfully prosecuted in the criminal courts, for the legitimate costs of his negligence which SHG are legally responsible for, is totally reprehensible.

The first case can be seen as a test case. If the judgement goes against SHG, our government have now put themselves in a position where they will be obliged to pay more compensation and costs than if they honoured the agreement they originally entered into for proceeding with the claims. Why SHG pulled out of the original, simplified, streamlined, cheaper, process they originally agreed has never been explained. Nothing ever is. The litigation on human rights violations due to keeping prisoners in cells that should have been demolished 100 years ago is another strange story. If SHG lose this one how many prisoners past and present will queue up with a claim for compensation? We can only speculate, based on the sketchy and informal information that has been passed around. SHG tell us the UK Government will not come to the financial rescue if SHG have to pay out £millions in claims and costs. What we do know is that SHG are not good at winning court cases like these. And there is more litigation in the pipeline, SHG say. We also know UKG like to say that SHG is responsible for just about everything you can think of. How does that work? A new prison is a capital investment. In last year's Budget Book SHG explained, "Capital investment by SHG is dominated by projects funded under the UK-funded Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP)." What does UKG do? Do they write a cheque for a few £million and then hand it over to SHG saying, "here you are, spend this, have fun." Is it SHG who decided not to use the money to build a new prison for the last few years? Or do UKG begrudgingly hand over money for capital projects (which is so often used for maintenance and refurbishment) after endless discussions and instructions on what every penny is to be used for. How does all this work? UKG cannot be believed when they claim they hand over £millions to SHG every year and there are no strings attached to how the money is spent – because it's all the responsibility of SHG. We don't know any of these details because these two governments seem to think it is none of our business how our money is spent.



Andrew Roy KC – SHG's new legal representative, touted on his website as having "A razor-sharp intellect coupled with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the case law, who is able to combine both into dazzling and fearless advocacy" and is "a great choice of counsel when you know you have a fight on your hands".

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Chagos Agreement: Last Minute Appeal to High Court Fails

The Chagos Agreement was finally signed by Mauritius and the UK last Thursday as scheduled. Last week, the Independent reported on the last-minute attempt by Chagossians who applied to the UK High Court for the signing to be delayed because they had not been consulted on what happens to the country of their birth. The Independent gave the latest position in the fast-moving hiatus which started just hours before the signing ceremony was scheduled. Before the printing of the Independent was completed, the chaotic situation had changed completely; the High Court cleared the way for the signing ceremony to go ahead later the same day.

Bertrice Pompe, one of the two Chagossian women whose legal action led to the last-minute legal action, spoke to the media gathered outside the High Court after the court injunction was 'discharged' – which means the application for the Chagossian representatives to be heard had failed. Pompe told the media it's a "very, very, sad day" but "we are not giving up". Adding the British government has not "been able to rectify the wrongs" of the deal and "They still want to give a deaf ear to our cries."

Mr Justice Chamberlain, who presided over the High Court case decided "The public interest and the interests of the United Kingdom would be substantially prejudiced by the grant or continuance of interim relief, and these matters provide a strong public interest reason against the continuance of interim relief." Later the same day, in the House of Commons, the UK MOD minister told MPs the agreement (now ceremonially signed) "does now guarantee the UK's national interest and national security." He added, "By signing this treaty on our terms, the Prime Minister has ensured that the UK retains full control of Diego Garcia throughout the next century and beyond. It is a deal struck in the national interest and a deal that makes Britons today and generations to come safer and more secure."

The value of British citizenship can depend on where in the world you are born

During the debate following the minister's announcement, Peter Lamb, the MP representing Crawley in Sussex, where many Chagossians live, said, "In the '60s and '70s, Labour and Conservative Governments removed the Chagossian people from their islands in the interests of national security. In response to written questions, the Foreign Office has confirmed that many certainties that would be required for Chagossians to return to the islands have not been secured as a part of this deal—once more banning them in the name of national security. What should I tell my Chagossian constituents when they ask about the moral basis on which the UK is once again ignoring their right to self-determination while we fight for it in Ukraine for Ukrainians? On what basis can members of British Overseas Territories feel any certainty that they will retain possession of their islands in the event that our national security interests are suddenly piqued?"

Al Pinkerton, an MP for a nearby constituency added, "This morning, I was at the High Court to listen to the judgment. I was with a very large group of Chagossians, who told me that they feel betrayed. They also feel that the United Kingdom is acting in exactly the same high-handed, colonial-like manner that led to their dislocation and displacement from the islands in the 1960s. Can those on the Government Front Bench assure us all that when this deal comes back to the House, we are not going to be asked to vote for a new round of colonial practice that will further disadvantage the Chagossians?"

Despite the discreditable treatment of Chagossians by successive British governments over 60 years, Beatrice Pompe told the media outside the High Court "We are British citizens...we don't want to hand our rights to Mauritius".



Update on Former RMS

After last week's report in the Independent, a reader in Dubai sent the Independent a photo of the former RMS moored at Port Rashid, in Dubai.

Port Rashid is about 200 kilometres from Iran, and also within eyesight of the famous former Cunarder, Queen Elizabeth 2, which is now permanently moored nearby as a floating hotel



The St Lawrence Lime – a tree inside the cricket boundary



The St Lawrence Ground is the home ground of Kent Cricket Club. The ground had a 27m-high lime tree within the boundary ropes. The tree was fully grown in 1847 when the pasture land was taken over and made a cricket field. If a batsman hit the tree with a possible six or four, it was scored as a four even if it would have gone on to score six otherwise. No batsman could be caught out from a rebound off the tree. The tree fell in 2005 during high winds after being weakened by fungus.

A new lime tree was planted as a replacement for the 200-year-old fallen tree. It was placed inside the playing area but outside the boundary ropes.

Other trees within the boundary ropes.

The VRA Cricket Ground in Amstelveen, Netherlands has a massive tree right inside the playing arena. However, the Netherlands has not hosted many high-profile international matches over the last decade.

The South African city of Pietermaritzburg is famous for being the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi's freedom struggle and, to a lesser extent, having a cricket ground with a tree at its boundary.

Monday is Overseas Territories Day

But No One is Celebrating

Last year, the president of the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) announced “the establishment of UK Overseas Territories Day. This event will be celebrated annually on the first Monday of June, which this year (2024) falls on the 3rd of June.” This year (2025) it is next Monday, 2nd June. The UKOTA website proclaimed, “The primary objective of the UK Overseas Territories Day is to raise awareness and foster a deeper connection between the UK and its Overseas Territories.” Last year, the president of UKOTA was the premier of the Cayman Islands. She said, “UK Overseas Territories Day is a wonderful opportunity to take pride in the extraordinary diversity of the Overseas Territories. It provides a moment to celebrate the unique ties that bind us together as a Global British Family and to reflect on what more we can do together to address global challenges and pursue common goals. She added, “It is a very special journey that we are all on together and I look forward to celebrating UK Overseas Territories Day for many more years to come.”



The first ever UK Overseas Territories Day was marked by an Evensong service at Westminster Abbey in London, which included special prayers for the Overseas Territories. The service was followed by a reception to celebrate UK Overseas Territories Day in The Cellarium Terrace (café) of Westminster Abbey. Somehow, nobody noticed.



To mark the second UK Overseas Territories Day, UKOTA have said – nothing.

Times is running out. There is just this weekend to kick-off the celebrations. With due diligence, the Independent contacted UKOTA via their website contact page asking, “Please say what is planned for UK Overseas Territories Day, on Monday 2nd June.” The repeated auto-response was “There was a problem sending your message, please try again later.” This time I don’t think Sure St Helena is responsible for this piece of investigative journalism falling at the first hurdle.

Undeterred, an email was sent to secretariat@ukota.org, asking the same question. Independent readers will be the first to know, if there is a reply.

It seems the British Virgin Islands have taken over the admin work for UKOTA from the Cayman Islands, for this year at least.

For completeness of information, Caribbean News Global Media reported in January this year, “The government of the British Virgin Islands announced Dr Natalio Wheatley has been elected as the president of the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) and will also assume the role of president of the political council. In addition, Tracy Bradshaw, UK representative and director of the BVI London Office, has been elected as the chair of UKOTA. This change in leadership underscores our resolute commitment to collaborative governance and the advocacy of the interests of all UK Overseas Territories.”

The UKOTA Secretariat is headed by Karen Mentipty, also of the British Virgin Islands. Both Bradshaw and Mentipty have been contacted directly for information on the events planned for UK Overseas Territories Day. The Independent awaits with keen anticipation for a response to just one of our enquiries.



Tracy Bradshaw, Chair of UKOTA

Speakers Debate Pros and Cons Use of Artificial Intelligence in Parliaments

Using Artificial Intelligence in legislatures was the focus of a meeting of Speakers from the British Overseas Territories.

At a conference hosted in London by Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons – the representatives heard that AI could have multiple applications in Parliaments.

However, Speakers from Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena, and the UK, also conceded that using AI did not come without its risks.

Hon Tara K Carter, Speaker of Anguilla's House of Assembly, who led the debate on Artificial Intelligence, joked that her island was the 'birthplace of AI' as it had been assigned '.ai' internet address in the 1990s.

While there was 'a lot of fear and resistance' to the use of AI in parliamentary proceedings among smaller islands, she said, as a lawyer, AI had reduced her legal drafting and analysis - from three hours to half an hour.

'If we are AI based, there's no reason why I can't have the transcript coming up in real time,' she added.

Hansard – the Official Record of the UK Parliament – has been experimenting with auto speech recognition.

Judge Karen Ramagge, Speaker of the Gibraltar Parliament, expressed concerns about 'the reliability of what is being produced.'

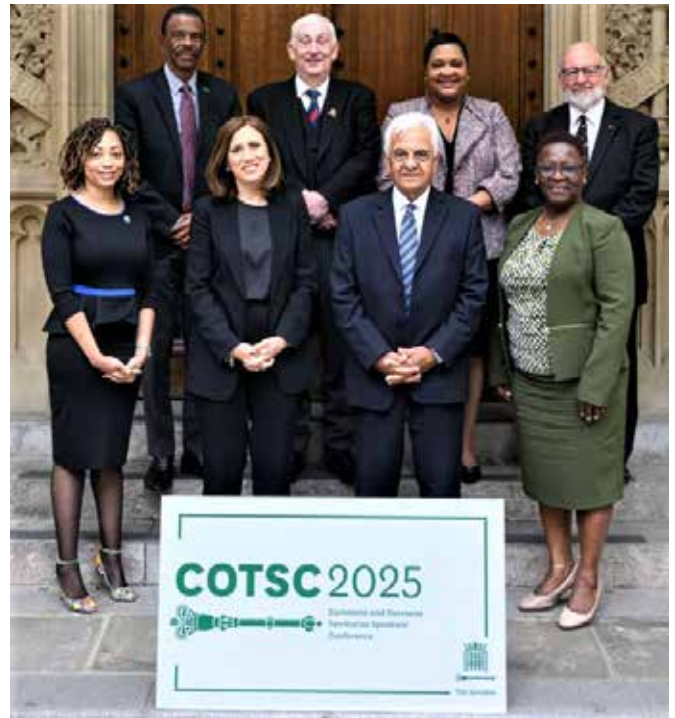
'What holds us back in constitutional practice is the fear and responsibility to produce accurate transcripts,' she said.

Hon Corine N. George-Massicote, Speaker of BVI's House of Assembly, added her fears about the use of 'deepfakes' on social media, where the voice and image of parliamentarians has been manipulated.

'If you see something on Facebook, it seems very real – the face of a Member; the voice is very close. How do you hold the person responsible or accountable for this?' she said.

In their communique at the close of the four-day conference, the Speakers agreed to focus on the challenge of transcribing chamber proceedings over the next year, and to share resources, solutions and virtual training 'to use AI for good'.

During the gathering, COTSC also discussed the role of Speakers during election times, and keeping Parliaments secure and resilient in the face of natural and humanmade disasters.



Last week, the Speaker of the House of Commons welcomed Speakers and representatives from the British Overseas Territories to the 2025 Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference – hosted at the UK House of Commons.



St Helena, one of the world's most remote inhabited islands, has won accolades at two international film festivals with two short films, *Bone Shark Island* and *Come and Find Me*, which showcase St Helena's unique marine life and tourism appeal.

Bone Shark Island, a six-minute, short-form documentary featuring St Helena's whale shark population, has been named joint winner in the Environmental category at the Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) 2025.

The innovative tourism film *Come and Find Me* has been selected as a finalist at the International Tourism Film Festival Africa (ITFFA), with the awards ceremony taking place in Johannesburg from 3-6 June 2025.

The HUFF-winning film, produced in collaboration with the St Helena National Trust, highlights the island's unique relationship with whale sharks, known locally as 'bone sharks' due to the distinctive cartilage ridges which run the length of their bodies.

Each year between December and March, adult male and female whale sharks gather around St Helena in almost equal numbers, the only known place in the world where such an aggregation occurs.

Scientists believe the gathering is an indicator of courtship and mating behaviour, of which there have been a number of anecdotal reports, although none have, to date, been captured on film.

Related articles

- A Scuba Diving Guide to St Helena
- An Island of Hope – St Helena's extensive MPA
- St Helena's whale shark mating secret
- The big questions remaining about whale sharks

Bone Shark Island documents how researchers have identified more than 360 individual whale sharks in St Helena's waters using their unique spot patterns for identification.

New sharks arrive each year; others have been spotted over multiple years, including the

St Helena makes a global splash with double film festival success

affectionately named 'Snowflake', which has been seen every year since 2012.

The documentary also highlights the islanders' relationship with the world's largest fish.

'We feel enormously protective,' says Kenickie Andrews of the St Helena National Trust. 'The safety of our whale sharks is paramount.

'For example, we know that whale sharks and other species, like rays, are adversely impacted by plastic pollution. Through education and awareness, locals not only ensure that there is zero plastic pollution in St Helena's marine protected area – but also that we're creating a blueprint for responsible tourism interaction.'

'Diving with whale sharks is an extraordinary experience that draws visitors from around the world,' says Dianne Venning, Acting Head of Tourism for St Helena. 'We understand our responsibility, and each year we celebrate the arrival of these mysterious and wonderful creatures and take pride in the fact that our waters remain safe, welcoming and pristine.'

St Helena's whale sharks also have a cameo appearance in the ITFFA finalist film *Come and Find Me*, which the filmmakers say represents 'a bold departure from traditional tourism marketing'.

Having previously won the Director's Choice special award at the Japan World's Tourism Film Festival (JWTFF), the narrative-driven approach celebrating the wonders of St Helena continues to receive international recognition with its nomination as a finalist in the ITFFA

'I am beyond proud of what we have achieved,' says director Darren Peens. 'I say "we" because there were some truly brave and dedicated individuals who made this film possible, including Martin George, who could take on a producer's role anywhere in the world; Matt Joshua, then Head of Tourism for St Helena, for having the insight to see the vision; and of course, Katie Raye Williams, a remarkable actress whose work ethic was unmatched on set.'

Darren Peens and Katie Raye Williams will be in Sandton in the first week of June for ITFFA 2025 and the announcement of the winners.

Both films showcase St Helena's commitment to biodiversity, environmental stewardship and responsible tourism practices.

'These accolades highlight what makes St Helena truly special: our remarkable natural heritage and innovative approach to sustainable tourism,' says Venning.

'The recognition at these prestigious festivals puts our tiny island firmly on the global map for eco-conscious travellers.'



ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

From our UK correspondent

There are no answers to Parliamentary Written Questions concerning Saint Helena to report this week. Once again, questions put to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ('FCDO') have not been answered on a timely basis. Unfortunately, this is par for the course. A report by the House of Commons Procedure Committee, published earlier this year, showed FCDO to have the distinction of being one of only two Departments that answered questions 'on time' on less than 80% of occasions. 'On time' is defined by the Committee as within 5 days of being tabled. The questions awaiting answer were tabled on 20 May and I am writing this on 28 May in order to meet the deadline for publication in this week's Saint Helena Independent.

As readers will be aware by now, there is little that can be done about dilatory answers. By way of contrast, the Table Office acts under the Speaker's authority in ensuring that questions meet the House's rules. The Table Office Clerks have the authority to refuse questions or require changes in wording before allowing a question to be tabled, as I am informed they have done in relation to some questions concerning Saint Helena. But they have no powers, it seems, as far as answers not provided 'on time' are concerned.

Hopefully, I will have more to report next week.

St Helena Day Celebrations

Wherever there is a Saint



Two Boats Club on Ascension Island hosted St Helena Day celebrations on Saturday 24th May from 2pm until late. There was fun games with Kaylee, various competitions including the Fishcake and Tomato Paste Cook-Offs. Also an eating contest to see who can eat the most spicy tomato paste sandwiches.

Hot food were provided by Two Boats Club and the ever popular DAD'S Street food. Music was provided throughout by DJ Shadz. People danced the night away

With many Saints also on MPA on the Falkland Island, the popular 120 Bar hosted a St Helena Day celebration party.

A Saint who attended said "it was a great night, the bar was decorated Saint style with many people dressed in their St Helena shirts to celebrate home".

Live sounds from Alex 'Buckaroo' Vanguard on the keyboard followed by some great dance tunes from DJ Tonz. Favourite tunes kept the dance floor crowded. The atmosphere was similar to home, outside the Standard.

It was enjoyed by all, celebrating the Saint culture.



St Helena Day Football Association Raffle Winners

The St Helena Football Association and friends would like to thank all those who donated, helped in selling tickets and those who generously brought tickets towards our Local and Multi Raffles which raised £963.00.

Winners for the Local Raffle were

- 1. A whole Wahoo** – Robin Youde, Seaview – sheet 4, ticket 17
- 2. Wranghams St Helena Coffee** – Raymond Benjamin, HTH, sheet 14, ticket 18
- 3. A whole Lamb** – Debbyanne Clingham – sheet 6, Ticket 14
- 4. A iced cake by Issy Bakes** – Rhionna Richards – sheet 32, ticket 15
- 5. Choco Cake by Auntie Sugar** – Bernice Thomas, Jamestown – sheet 13, ticket 1
- 6. Farm Lodge St Helena Coffee** – Lilly Williams, Sapper Way, sheet 7, ticket 9
- 7. Pastry Hamper** – Marina Piek, The Briars, sheet 3, ticket 12
- 8. St Helena Cufflinks** – Larry Yon, HTH, sheet 22, ticket 19

Winners for the Multi Raffle

- 1. Meal for 2 at Blue Lantern** – Jodie Scipio-Constantine, sheet 18, ticket 20
- 2. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Merle Peters, sheet 14, ticket 11
- 3. Case of Beer** – Karen Henry, HTH, sheet 14, ticket 3
- 4. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Gus Williams, sheet 15, ticket 16
- 5. A gift from GK Crafts** – Booker, Longwood, sheet 9, ticket 14
- 6. Mini Photo Shoot Voucher** – Peter 'Darker' Benjamin, sheet 18, ticket 9
- 7. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Taylan Phillips, sheet 2, ticket 2
- 8. £50 Gift Voucher The Anchor** – Thomas Family, Rock Cottage, sheet 9, ticket 11
- 9. Brow Wax Voucher, Essence** – Eliyah Buckley, HTH, sheet 22, Ticket 6
- 10. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Winnie Johnson, sheet 1, ticket 9
- 11. Hair Styling Voucher Bliss** – John Isaac sheet 17, ticket 1
- 12. Bt Malibu** – Donny Obey – sheet 33, ticket 18
- 13. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Rex Stevens, Wonder Villa, sheet 3, ticket 7

- 14. Bt of Liquor** – Melody M, Toby's House, sheet 3, ticket 1
- 15. £5 Gift Voucher Pure Vida** – Gwen Crowie, Longwood, sheet 5, ticket 13
- 16. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Lahna Thomas, sheet 15, ticket 3
- 17. Bt of Gordons Gin** – Tara Wortley, sheet 14, ticket 12
- 18. A collection of Books** – Elton Kingston, sheet 13, ticket 7
- 19. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Brett Isaac, sheet 17, ticket 13
- 20. A Football Training Set** – Ashley Isaac, sheet 10, ticket 3
- 21. A Mini Golf Set** – Tanya Stevens, HTH, sheet 19, ticket 20
- 22. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Annagail Henry, sheet 8, ticket 10
- 23. A soft Toy** – Justine Joshua – sheet 18, ticket 15
- 24. £5 Gift Voucher Pure Vida** – Wendy Constantine, sheet 12, ticket 15
- 25. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Karen Thomas-Furniss, sheet 6, ticket 8
- 26. Womens Watch** – Taio Benjamin, sheet 19, ticket 3
- 27. White Wine** – Karen Brinsden – sheet 3, ticket 8
- 28. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Glenda Corker, sheet 21, ticket 20
- 29. Red Wine** – Mavis Williams, Cow Path, sheet 5, ticket 12
- 30. £10 Gift Voucher Rose & Crown** – Elias Buckley, sheet 1, ticket 4
- 31. Scented Diffuser** – Leatrice Benjamin, HTH, sheet 25, ticket 1

They would also like to thank all who helped in selling the sweepstake tickets and generously brought tickets towards the sweepstake which raised £371.00 with 50% going to the winner and 50% to the SHFA.

The Winner of this sweepstake was **Asita O'bey**

St Helena Day Cancer Awareness Raffle Winners

- 1st prize:** Air Fryer. Peter Francis sheet 33, ticket 7
- 2nd prize:** table top cooker. Mark Yon sheet 22, ticket 12
- 3rd prize:** double bed comforter. Hazel Bowers sheet 5, ticket 23
- 4th prize:** utensil kitchen set. Mandy Thomas sheet 26, ticket 25
- 5th prize:** wireless headphones. Fred Thomas sheet 3, ticket 6
- 6th prize:** vase. Cherry Murray. Sheet 32, ticket 20
- 7th prize:** Yoghurt maker. Patsy Moyce sheet 15, ticket 5
- 8th prize:** Coffee maker. Hazel Henry sheet 23, ticket 16

- 9th prize:** tyre pump. Robbie Youde sheet 23, ticket 34
- 10th prize:** LED lights. Saad Mohammed sheet 18, ticket 1
- 11th prize:** kitchen scale. Dorothy Thomas sheet 4, ticket 28
- 12th prize:** House mats. Prudy Francis sheet 25, ticket 31
- 13th prize:** stainless steel pot. Joel Peters sheet 31, ticket 7
- 14th prize:** Duvet Set Anette Dela Court, sheet 34 ticket 27

On behalf of the Dubbs family and special friend we would like to thank the general public for supporting this annual raffle.

Thank you also to those who helped with selling raffle tickets for this worthy cause.

£885.00 Was donated to The Cancer Support and Awareness Group and £50.00 was donated to The St Helena Football Association

St Helena Day Celebrations 2025

Saints around the world celebrated St Helena's Day in their own way with private and public events but here on island, the St Helena Football Association (SHFA) took on the task of hosting this year's celebrations on the Grand Parade which brought a large crowd into Jamestown.

The day started at 11 am with the traditional parade and service led by Bishop Dale Bowers. Hearing the Scouts band set the scene for the day, as they made their way to the Grand Parade followed by the Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Pathfinders and St Helena Veterans.

During the service, speeches were made by Mr Keith Yon, Executive Member of the SHFA, Chief Minister Julie Thomas, and Acting Governor Natasha Harris, who conveyed the message from HM King Charles before declaring the day open.

Whilst everyone joined in the service, stall holders prepared their stalls with cakes, candy, sweets, pastries, bread, local crafts, miscellaneous items such as clothing, books, plants and much more. People browsed and purchased throughout the day. The New Horizons Centre opened for activities, and the bouncy castle and Bungee Rebound kept the kids occupied.

The SHFA Sports Bar brought much delight to those present as it was filled with a variety of spirits, beers, water, cigarettes and a vast selection of much needed can drinks to quench the thirst. The many food places around the square kept the public's bellies content.

The brass band provided live entertainment after the service before Charles Williams took the spotlight, playing a mixture of music with Gareth Drabble on the PA.



Around 12:30pm, a little Miss St Helena pageant, sponsored by PEAKS Enterprises and the SHFA, drew the crowds attention with the entry of six beautiful young girls in two categories.



Winners of the 0-3 years were Leyah Tae Peters-Brady in 1st place, followed by twin sister Keyah Jae and Ziaya O'Bey.

In the 3-6 years category, the winner was India Ellick followed by lyla Bell and Nora Burns.

About 2pm, the float parade took place which attracted five floats. Longwood was awarded 1st Place for their Tiki Bar and Longwood Rescue Boat, the Anthony Family in 2nd place with the Beach, and St Pauls in 3rd place with their dolphin and boat.

Once all floats had assembled on the parade, the ever popular novelty sport was held to see how many people could fit into the car with a team from Longwood emerging as the winners.

As the games were finishing, the Singspirationalists and friends were getting ready to take centre stage which proved enjoyable to all. The ever-popular bingo also attracted a good crowd.

St Helena Day Celebrations 2025



The crowd enjoyed the sounds of Gareth Drabble and friends on the acoustics until the long awaited firework display, which was a spectacular sight and went down a treat, judging by the favourable comments that were received.

Next to take to the stage providing live entertainment was Love Affair which was enjoyed throughout the remainder of the evening.

Overall, the SHFA confirmed to the St Helena Independent that it was a successful day and was pleased that everything went off smoothly.

The SHFA would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make St Helena's Day 2025 a success.

Thanks are extended to SHG for allowing us (SHFA) to organise the day and their support; Jamestown Community Centre, Pilling School, Melvyn Benjamin and Kingshurst Community Centre for the loan of their tables and chairs, Ms Leigh Richards and all volunteers, Dax Richards and the Scouts along with Martin 'Kunya' Buckley with erecting and dismantling of marquees, Saint FM for the radio promotion, St Helena Independent for advertising and printing of the service sheets, Scouts, Tourism & Island Images for loan of marquees and their help, and Dusti Boy for the use of his car.

Thank you also to Saints Tuna Corporation for the ice, Jeffrey Augustus and Kyle Shoe-Smith and team members who helped with bar sales, Keith Yon & the Brass band, Charles Williams, Singspirationals and friends, Gareth Drabble & friends and Love Affair for the musical entertainment throughout the day, Olive Williams for calling Bingo and the Museum for allowing the use of their premises.

The Royal St Helena Police are appreciated for their presence and in helping to ensure the day went smoothly, all the stall holders, food vendors and trailers who kept the crowd there with their bits and bobs and most of all, you, the volunteers who helped prior to, during and after the event - too many to mention but you know who you are.

Finally, but by no means least, thank you, the public, who turned up, supported and generously donated on the day which takings on the day amounted to £3500. Without you the day wouldn't have been the success it was.

Thanks
St Helena Football Committee

Does Delay and Dithering Mean Another Missed Opportunity

The world's biggest wind power developer has cancelled plans for one of the UK's largest offshore windfarms, in a significant blow to UKG's green energy targets. Ørsted, the Danish power developer said the renewable energy project no longer made economic sense because of soaring costs in the industry's global supply chain. Ørsted won the government contract last year.

Ørsted's chief executive, Rasmus Errboe, said "the combination of increased supply chain costs, higher interest rates and increased execution risk" meant the project was unlikely to provide value for the company.

The project is the latest to be derailed by increased costs caused by higher inflation and interest rates combined with problems in the global offshore wind supply chain in recent years.

Last year Ørsted scrapped two offshore wind projects off the US coast because of concerns over rising costs and delayed the start of a third US project.

One summary of the overall renewable energy market concludes, the cost of renewable energy supply chains is expected to continue its downward trend, driven by factors like declining costs of wind, solar, and battery technologies. While some supply chain issues persist, particularly in specific components like wind blades, overall, renewable energy projects are becoming more cost-competitive with fossil fuels.

Showing more optimism than the world's biggest wind power developer, Bloomberg reports, wind, solar, and battery technologies are expected to see further cost reductions in 2025, potentially breaking records. Solar power is experiencing overcapacity, leading to lower prices and global benchmark costs for battery storage may fall below £74 per MWh. But – the disruption to trade caused by Trump's tariff and trade barriers could disrupt supply chains and affect costs. Also, decrease in investment in manufacturing and anticipated raw materials problems could cause problems for wind power; but green hydrogen costs are projected to fall.

The main message is effective procurement strategies are crucial for managing supply chain uncertainties and driving value within the renewable energy sector. SHG's stance, as described in the 2024-25 Budget Book, during what are uncertain times is, "it is likely that renewable energy solutions will form part of the suite of projects funded by EDIP in the next few years." will it be too little, too late? Is UKG more alert to present-day challenges? Doubtful.

The Chapel warden and sides-persons of St Helena & The Cross Church would like to thank everyone who took part in the moonlight stroll which took place on Saturday the 10th May. It was a very successful event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A big thanks also to all who donated so generously on the night, donations amounted to £263.00.

Another walk will be planned for later in the year, so put aside those walking shoes and head out west once again!!

Thank you one and all, and God Bless!



The Family of the late **Arthur Henry Williams** affectionately know as **Billy** would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses of the General Hospital for their care and attention during his illness.

Thanks goes to the Chemo Department and the community nurses for their daily visits.

Special thanks goes to Roy Williams and his team, Vincent and Vilma March and Nicky Williams for conducting the service, Stedson Stroud for the musical tribute, Gay Marr for playing the organ, Coral Yon for the reading of the Eulogy, Sandra Leo for making the wealth's and all who attend the Funeral, and who send flowers, cards and made comforting phone calls.

Our Dad, Granddad, Brother and Uncle will live on in all of us.

May You Rest in peace Mr. Billy

***It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone for part of us went with you
the day God call you home***



There are some hand knitted items for sale at Rockville, HTH.

Please call telephone number 23857 to check if the item you are looking for is available or pop in to make your choice



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 1 st June 2025– 6 th Sunday after Easter		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
Tuesday 3 rd June		
7.00 p.m.	Praise & Worship Mission	St Peter
Wednesday 4 th June		
7.00 p.m.	Praise & Worship Mission	St Andrew
Thursday 5 th June		
7.00 p.m.	Praise & Worship Mission	St Helena & The Cross
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 1 st June 2025 – 6 th Sunday after Easter		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
Monday 2 nd June		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
Thursday 5 th June		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 1 st June 2025 – 6 th Sunday after Easter		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
Tuesday 3 rd June		
7.00 p.m.	Alpha	St Mark

Baha'i Faith

*'Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee.
Get thou from it thy radiance and seek
none other than me'*

Baha'u'llah

7pm on Thursdays
at the St. Helena Gumwoods
Baha'i Centre.
You are invited to consider the
Revelation of Baha'u'llah
in the 19th Century
and its application today.

Light Refreshment



CATFISHING

LEAVES YOU WITH A BROKEN HEART & AN EMPTY BANK ACCOUNT



WHAT IS CATFISHING?

Catfishing occurs when a cybercriminal creates a false online identity, usually through fake profiles on dating apps, websites, and social media platforms. This is done to trick you into believing you're in a real online friendship or romance with them. They use this fake relationship to manipulate you into sending them large amounts of cash. They may also obtain intimate images from you and use them to extort or blackmail you. They can also use the personal information you've shared with them to commit identity theft.

Requesting money early in the relationship, often disguised as needing money for travel costs

Backing out of planned calls or meetings due to various excuses

Speaking with poor language and grammar skills or messaging at odd hours

CATFISHING SIGNS

Using fake profile images that are suspiciously beautiful or, in some cases, blurry or unclear. At times there's no picture at all

Avoiding any face-to-face contact, such as video chats or meeting in person

Their stories don't add up. Assuming another identity requires a huge string of lies. It is easy for a careless catfisher to slip up

AVOID CATFISHERS



RESEARCH THE PERSON: Conduct background research e.g. Google their name and check social media accounts to confirm their identity.



MEET IN PERSON: Arrange a video call or face-to-face meet up in a public place. If they aren't willing to do this, they're most likely a scammer.



TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS: If a person you've met online seems too good to be true, they probably are. If you feel uncomfortable or unsure about someone, it's best to err on the side of caution and cut off all communication with them.



AVOID SHARING PERSONAL INFO: Never share sensitive data online e.g. your phone numbers, home address, or financial data.



DON'T SEND MONEY: Refrain from sending money until you're certain the person is real and you have a solid relationship.



BE CAREFUL ON SOCIAL MEDIA: Avoid accepting friend requests from strangers or engaging in conversations with people you don't know. Also set your privacy settings so that only your friends can view your profile.



St Helena
Government

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2025



VACANCY



PROJECT MANAGER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) is seeking to employ a Project Manager to deliver Connect's Capital Programme and provide hands on delivery of individual projects. This is a management position within the company and the post holder is responsible for ensuring that projects are developed and delivered to international best practice.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- 5 years' experience in project management and delivery
- Experience of budget management and cost control
- Demonstrable experience of managing a capital expenditure programme
- Experience of donor budgetary and project management requirements
- Health & Safety awareness
- Driving Licence

QUALIFICATIONS

- Prince 2 Practitioner (or equivalent)

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For further information contact Mercy Ncube on +290 22255 or email Mercy.Ncube@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 on Wednesday, 04 June 2025**. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html



[connectsainthelena](https://www.facebook.com/connectsainthelena)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/>

VACANCY



WATER RESOURCE MONITORING TECHNICIAN

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ a Water Resource Monitoring Technician to support all water resource data collection tasks associated with St Helena Cloud Forest Project (SHCFP). Other tasks include maintenance and operation of the SHCFP surface water and ground water monitoring network. Organise and plan weekly data collection. Assisting with the drafting of project reports and supporting stakeholder consultation objectives with the project team at Saint Helena

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Experience of working with Desktop publishing Software
- Basic knowledge of GIS
- A Level in Science, Math, or Geography or equivalent
- Driving Licence A & C

QUALIFICATIONS

- GCSE in English, Maths at Grade C or above or equivalent

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For further information contact Mercy Ncube on +290 22255 or email Mercy.Ncube@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 on Wednesday, 04 June 2025**. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html



[connectsainthelena](https://www.facebook.com/connectsainthelena)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/>

VACANCY ADVERT



The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit a person for the following post: **Junior Mechanic**.

We are seeking a keen individual to assist the Mechanic in providing an efficient service and repair operation for vehicles and equipment at St Helena Airport Ltd.

The individual will work through an agreed development programme comprising self-study and on-the-job work experience, with a view to developing the skills and competencies of the development programme over a period of time.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- Relevant Specialised trade qualification in Vehicle Maintenance (NVQ-1) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- Work experience or other exposure to a vehicle maintenance role.
- A basic knowledge of vehicle systems (including the engine area, transmission area, chassis area, body area and electrical area).
- An understanding of procedures for the systematic inspection of vehicles.

Applicants must be of a professional manner and also be able to provide the following:

- A full medical assessment
- A 5-year verifiable employment history check and be able to show proof for periods of unemployment in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.
- Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- A Criminal Background Check.
- A clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence categories A (E) and category C (D).

The starting salary for this post is between **£10,109.14** and **£10,507.24** per annum, depending on qualifications and experience plus a transport allowance of £1,020 per annum and a 12.5% company pension contribution.

For more information on the role contact Hensil Williams, Workshop Supervisor on Telephone number 25180 Ext 141 and if you would like to receive an application form, please contact Mandy Peters, Business Manager, on email recruitment@sthenanaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 132.

The closing date for this position is **1600 hrs on Friday, 6 June 2025**.

Vacancy

Operational Supervisor - The Star



Salary for the post will commence at £876.00 per month (£10,512 per annum)



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Star for an Operational Supervisor.

As the Operational Supervisor you will assist the Senior Supervisor and the Grocery Manager with the day-to-day running of the Outlet as a sustainable business unit, and take responsibility for the BOU when the Manager and Senior Supervisor are off site.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess 2 years proven experience in a supervisory role with the ability to organise and lead a team
- Possess grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English
- Be computer literate namely in the use of Microsoft applications and able to perform administrative duties
- Possess RSPH Level 2 Food Safety or equivalent
- Be knowledgeable of Health & Safety and Manual Handling practices
- Be able to coach and develop team members
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent frontline customer service skills
- Possess knowledge and experience in Stock Management / Control
- Have experience in Cash Handling
- Ideally have experience working in a retail environment
- Have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Have the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment.
- Be able to work on 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 **Tuesday, 10 June 2025**.

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

- ★ Pension Contributions
- ★ Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Labourer/Driver



Salary for the post will commence at £9872 per annum (£190 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within Warrens Wholesale for a Labourer/Driver.

As the Labourer/Driver you will provide an efficient service preparing and distributing goods to customers and company outlets.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic skills in English & Maths
- Be customer focused and committed to providing excellent customer service
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with the ability to use own initiative
- Be knowledgeable of, and able to carry out manual handling duties as well as undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to perform maintenance and minor repair works
- Ideally have cash handling experience
- Have a valid drivers' license, including Class D and ideally Class H3 (Forklift)

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

Jeremy Thomas, Senior Supervisor, via  22422  jeremy.thomas@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 **Thursday, 12 June 2025**.

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

- ★ Pension Contributions
- ★ Staff Discounts

Annual Property Auction: Disposal of a number of Residential Properties, Building Plots and Land For Sale by Public Auction 29th July 2025 at 6pm, The Market, Jamestown, STHL 1ZZ

Listed for Entry:

- Residential Property Near Hutts Gate
- Part Built Residential Property at Bottomwoods
- Four building plots near New Ground
- Land in Sandy Bay
- New Entries will be added shortly

New Entries Are being accepted until 30th June 2025.

Property Information Packs Available 30th June 2025

All enquiries please contact us:

By email: derek@dps.co.sh

or Telephone: 00 290 25836

or WhatsApp: 00 290 67022

or visit us at The Market,

Jamestown, St. Helena,

STHL 1ZZ



Disposal of Restaurant Equipment For Sale by Public Auction 31 May 2025 at 10am, at Tasty Bites Ladder Hill

Listed for Entry with no reserve:

- Tables and Chairs
- Catering equipment
- 2006 Ford Ranger Pick Up Truck
- Office Equipment

Entries Are being accepted until 21 May 2025.

All enquiries please contact us:

By email: derek@dps.co.sh

or Telephone: 00 290 25836

or WhatsApp: 00 290 67022

or visit us at The Market, Jamestown, St. Helena,

STHL 1ZZ





MILLENNIUM FOREST ACTIVITY DAY

Saturday 31st May 2025 | Millennium Forest

12:00 – 6:00 PM (Sponsor Walk starts 10:00 AM)

Join us for a fun-filled family day out celebrating St Helena's heritage and community spirit as part of Culture Month!

MORNING SPONSOR WALK – 10:00AM START

Route: Mulberry Gutt → Weather Station Ridge → Great Wall → Millennium Forest

Entry: £5 or sponsor form

For forms/details: contact.sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh | 22190

TRUST STALLS:

- **Marine Team:** Dive into St Helena's ocean wonders through technology
- **Heritage Team:** View vintage photos and share your memories and insights
- **Garden Centre** – Plant Sales
- **Sponsor a tree** – planting of an endemic tree

LOCAL CRAFTS & EATS

- **Abiwans, GK Craft** and Some gorgeous local crafts celebrating
- **Rockin' the Rock** – Craft Table Fun
- **Food & Treats** – Auntie Sugar – sweet treats, JZZ – teas, coffee & hot dogs, New Horizons – hot food

RELAX & UNWIND

- **Yoga in the forest** – with Teegan – two sessions – more info soon
- **Millennium Forest Guided Adventure** Join the **Wirebird & Bug Team** for a guided adventure, observe, learn and explore.

Vacancy

Electrician



Salary for the post will commence at £11,856 per annum (£988 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

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

As the Electrician you will carry out all of the Company's electrical maintenance and repairs, ensuring that all work is completed by the specified deadlines and to the required standards.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess Grade C in GCSE Maths or English, or equivalent
- Have at least 3 years proven experience in Electrical Engineering
- Be in possession of a current Wiremen's license
- Possess Level 2 City & Guilds Diploma in Electrical Installations Course, or equivalent
- Desirably possess knowledge of, and experience undertaking Air Conditioning and Refrigeration maintenance & repair and/or be willing to develop in this field
- Be flexible to work out of normal working hours and be available to work as part of an on-call rota as and when required
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Have a valid drivers' licence in classes A & C
- Be aware of Health & Safety practises as well as be able to perform manual handling duties
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Be willing to undertake any further training

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

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via ☎ 22380 📧 gm-services.properties@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **12 June 2025**.

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

- ★ Pension Contributions
- ★ Staff Discounts

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2025/24:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of Two Storey Building to Comprise a Shop and Storage Space for Shop Goods & Some Domestic Items**, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1047 & HTH1050. Applicant: Christopher Bargo
2. **Application 2025/25:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation of Extraction System in Food To Go Section of The Star**, Main Street, Jamestown on Parcel JT050025. Applicant: Solomon & Company (St Helena) PLC
3. **Application 2025/26:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Change of Use Class A3 Restaurants & Cafe to Class A2: Financial and Professional Services & Change of Façade Colour from Magonlia to Pure Grey**, The Bazaar, Market Street, Jamestown on Parcel JT080028. Applicant: Solomon & Company (St Helena) PLC
4. **Application 2025/27:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Change of Windows on the West & North Elevation from Timber Sash to uPVC Windows**, Scullards, Market Street, Jamestown on Parcel JT100002. Applicant: Colin A. Johnson
5. **Application 2025/28:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Three Bedroom Dwelling**, Nr Princes Lodge, St Pauls on Parcel SCOT0580. Applicant: Tracey & Dani Thomas
6. **Application 2025/29:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Change of Use from Shop to Dwelling Comprising Internal Alterations & Construction of Timber Deck**, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1048. Applicant: Christopher Bargo
7. **Application 2025/30:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Covered Area to provide Weather Protection & Additional Space for Church Functions**, At the rear of Seventh Day Adventist Church, Jamestown on Parcel JT100031. Applicant: Seventh Day Adventist
8. **Application 2025/31:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Bedsit for Tourism Accommodation**, Old Playground at the Quarry, Upper Jamestown on Parcel JT150002. Applicant: Jonathan Clark
9. **Application 2025/32:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling & Carport**, Bottom Woods Comprehensive Development Area on Parcel LWN0538. Applicant: Keith Buckley
10. **Application 2025/33:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling**, Bottom Woods Comprehensive Development Area on Parcel LWN0504. Applicant: Kerry Thomas
11. **Application 2025/34:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Storey, Three Bedroom Dwelling**, Upper Cow Path, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1246. Applicant: Russell Harrison
12. **Application 2025/35:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Covered Area, Decking and Siting of Container Bond Store**, Scotts Mill, Francis Plain on Parcel FP0068. Applicant: Russell Harrison, St Helena Brewery Ltd
13. **Application 2025/36:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Extension to Existing House to Form a Conservatory, Study, Bedroom and Bathroom**, Knollcombes, St Pauls on Parcel FP0239. Applicant: Michael Stevens
14. **Application 2025/37:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling**, Burnt Rock Comprehensive Development Area on Parcel TH010107. Applicant: Mark Williams
15. **Application 2025/38:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation of a Power Box**, Near Staircase at IT Building, Jamestown on Parcel JT030012. Applicant: Connect Saint Helena Ltd

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm.

Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 13 June 2025

Public Notice Hearing : The Appeals Tribunal hereby notifies that the Appeal Hearing against the decision to refuse development application 2024/13 by the Governor in Council at its meeting on 23rd July 2024, and to serve an enforcement notice or as to the terms thereof issued on 20th February 2025 that was scheduled to be held at the Court House, Jamestown on Wednesday, 4th June 2025 at 10am has now been postponed until further notice. A date of the Appeal Hearing will be publicized in the near future.

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Trainee Forestry Services Officer (£10,747 per annum)

The Trainee Forestry Services Officer will help to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive through leadership of the Forestry and Facilities Section's forestry services for the SHG National Forest Estate and building maintenance programme for the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio's properties. The Trainee Forestry Services Officer will be on a training programme and will learn to manage the Forestry and Facilities Management Section's (F&FM Section) tree harvesting and extraction programme to meet public demand for raw material, including firewood, saw logs, fencing material and miscellaneous forest products.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Myra Young on Tel No. 24724 or Email
myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 04 June 2025

Education IT Systems Administrator (£14,120 per annum on the IT Cadre)

Are you interested in playing a key supporting role within the transforming digital landscape of the Education Skills & Employment Portfolio? If you are then the IT section has an exciting and rewarding opportunity for you to join their team. This role will entail responsibility for the provision of technical support and the management and maintaining of the IT teaching and learning platforms across the Primary and Secondary sectors. You will undertake or assist in the setup, deployment and management of e-learning and teaching platforms that facilitate progression and delivery of technology within our schools and will provide support and data management of the associated platforms.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Nicole Richards on Tel No. 22819 or Email
nicole.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 04 June 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

Cloud Forest Project Conservation Technician (£7,960 per annum)

The Conservation Technician will assist with the delivery of project objectives under the CSSF funded Cloud Forest Project through innovative invasive plant management techniques. You will be responsible for the day-to-day specialist restoration fieldwork activities under the project and supporting the Peaks Management Team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Myra Young on Tel No. 24724 or Email:**
myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **04 June 2025**

Benefits

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

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Human Resources Support Officer (£7,960 per annum)

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Meliza Lawrence on Tel No. 22470 or Email:**
meliza.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: **04 June 2025**

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Electrician

(£9,781 per annum)

The Electrician will be responsible for carrying out wiring and maintenance of electrical installations and associated equipment and assisting with testing and inspections of electrical installation along with ensuring that the generation of uninterrupted power supplies to critical emergency equipment/buildings and special locations such as Community Care Centre, the Hospital, St Helena Secondary School, Rupert's Jetty and the main server hob at Carnarvon Court and fibre optic system.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Anders Bowers on Tel No. 22054 or Email:**
anders.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: **04 June 2025**

Healthcare Assistant

(£7,960 per annum)

The Health and Social Care Portfolio is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual with a caring and empathetic nature to support our Nursing team in providing direct patient care in a highly pressured working environment. The role involves assisting nursing staff with primary patient care, able to work shifts, be flexible when needed to cover shifts, assisting nurses in any ward emergencies, carry out patient care duties, help with patients meals. Good verbal and written communication skills with a keen eye for detail and accuracy is essential for this role.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Erika Bowers on Tel No. 22500 or Email:**
erika.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: **11 June 2025**

Shortlisting Date: **12 June 2025**

Interview Date: **23 June 2025**

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

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

School Secretary (Pilling Primary) (£7,960 per annum) (Fixed –Term until August 2026)

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a School Secretary to provide a first point of contact by receiving and addressing visitor enquires by telephone or in person, redirecting enquires as considered appropriate. You will have to undertake administrative duties which include collating and distributing information and correspondence to parents and staff.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Elaine Benjamin on Tel No. 22640 or Email:
elaine.benjamin@sainthelena.edu.sh

Closing date: 13 June 2025

Cover Supervisor (St Helena Secondary School) (£10,361 per annum)

Within the role of Cover Supervisor you will be required to provide effective and efficient support to the school in organising and undertaking cover for absent colleagues. In addition where applicable, be also involved in planning, teaching and assessing students in designated subject areas.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Isabel Andrews on Tel No. 24290 or Email:
isabel.andrews@sainthelena.edu.sh

Closing date: 12 June 2025

Shortlisting date: 16 June 2025

Interview date: 23 June 2025

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

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Fuel Infrastructure Project (FIP) Maintenance Worker (£8,878 per annum) (Fixed Term Contract until October 2026)

The Fuel Infrastructure Project within the Programme Management Office is seeking a Maintenance Worker. In this role, the Maintenance Worker will be required to work to the FIP's fuel facilities preservation and maintenance programme and keep accurate records of all preservation maintenance work. You will also be required to take responsibility for site maintenance, particularly relating to the SHAP fuel systems in Rupert's and at the Airport. From time to time this may involve work in other parts of the Airport Development Area.

If you are interested, please contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Darrell Clingham on Tel No. 22289 or Email: darrellclingham.fip@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 13 June 2025

Shortlisting date: 16 June 2025

Interview date: 26 June 2025

Fuel Programme Coordinator (£12,049 per annum)

A Market Enhancement of £3,500 per annum will apply

The Fuel Infrastructure Project within the Programme Management Office is seeking a Coordinator. In this role, you will be responsible for all organisational functions related to fuel projects for the PMO, including but not limited to: review and distribution of documentation, meeting planning and preparation, and responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the delivery of post meeting actions.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

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

Closing date: 06 June 2025

Shortlisting date: 10 June 2025

Interview date: 18 June 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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ROAD CLOSURE - NAPOLEON STREET

The Highways Authority has granted approval for the closure of Napoleon Street from the Brow to Nosegay Lane from 09:00 to 15:00 on the following days:

- Wednesday, 4 June 2025
- Wednesday, 11 June 2025
- Wednesday 18 June 2025

This closure is essential to facilitate slurry works, which will improve the surface quality of the road.

Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the duration of the closure. Roadside pavements will remain accessible, and on-site personnel will be readily available to guide pedestrians safely through the work area.

Side Path Road will remain open for vehicular traffic, specifically cars. Vehicles will be diverted near the Guide Hall at the brow, adhering to the 2-ton weight restriction in place. Trucks and buses will be required to divert at Constitution Road to access Jamestown. We encourage drivers of larger vehicles to plan their routes accordingly to minimise disruption.

The Road Section extends its sincere thanks to all residents and road users for their continued support and cooperation during these necessary works.



ST HELENA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the St Helena Football Association will take place at the Jamestown Community Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Monday 16th June 2025. We would like to invite anyone interested in promoting and developing football on St Helena, together with representatives from any teams interesting in entering this year's competitions to attend the meeting. As a registered charity, this meeting is an essential requirement and we would encourage as many people as possible to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

LOCAL SPORTS

Cricket Results & Fixtures

St Helena Cricket Association

Saturday 24/5/25

Challengers 259/3(20 overs)

Andrew Yon - 110*(57)
Sean-Lee Thomas - 49(19)
Hugo Richards - 1/37(2 overs)
Lebron George - 1/39(4 overs)

Jamestown Heat 46/10(15.1 overs)

Saad Mohammed - 14(13)
Zach Francis - 11(33)
Damien O'Bey - 3/8(3.1 overs)
Trystan Thomas - 2/4(2 overs)

Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (Challengers)

Sunday 25/5/25

Levelwood Rebels v Cobras Match Abandoned Cobras Forfeit

Western A Mustangs 136/3(20 overs)

Barry Stroud - 50(52)

Kyle Bennett - 26(22)

Greg Coleman - 1/13(2 overs)

Brett Isaac - 1/15(3 overs)

Sandy Bay Pirates 137/9(18.2 overs)

Sanjay Clingham - 43(27)
Brooklyn Fowler - 41(16)
Gareth Johnson - 4/20(4 overs)
Ephrem Stroud - 2/14(2 overs)

Player of the Match - Gareth Johnson (Western A Mustangs)

Cricket Fixtures for the Weekend:

Saturday 31/5/25

13:30

Cobras v Western A Mustangs
(Umpires: Sandy Bay Pirates)

Sunday 1/6/25

09:30

Levelwood Allstars v Challengers
(Umpires: Jamestown Heat)

13:30

Levelwood Rebels v Sandy Bay Pirates
(Umpires: Western A Mustangs)

You Never Walk Alone

Saints Celebrate Liverpool Victory



Liverpool made history on Monday as it was reported a staggering 1.5 million people filled the streets in a record breaking celebration - the biggest parade England has ever seen to celebrate Liverpool Football Team winning the English Premier League as they parade from Allerton Maze along Queens Drive, Mill Bank,

West Derby Road, Islington, Leeds Street, The Strand before finishing at Blundell Street.

Many Saints living in the UK and even a few travelling from St Helena Island was among that 1.5 million people to witness this terrific moment in history for their club.

Almost to the end of the parade route at Water Street, the celebration took a bad turn as a car collided with a number of pedestrians.

Police said on Tuesday that, overall, there had been 65 confirmed casualties. 27 people, including 4 children, were taken to hospital and at time of writing 11 people remained in a stable condition in hospital. The man has been charged.



MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO SHIP

	BRIGHT SKY 251211	GREEN MOUNTAIN 251213	LILAC ROLLER 251215
Immingham	10-May	14-Jun	12-Jul
	KAROLINE 251706	KAROLINE 251707	KAROLINE 251707
Cape Town	15-Jun	18-Jul	19-Jul
Rupert's Bay	23-Jun	26-Jul	27-Jul
Ascension Island	-	31-Jul	-
	KAROLINE 251806	KAROLINE 251806	KAROLINE 251806
Cape Town	06-Jul	16-Aug	16-Aug

*schedule may change without prior notice. For the latest updates, please visit our website.



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Golf Report: Gwyneth Howell Trophy Competition

Report by the St Helena Golf Club

The "Gwyneth Howell Trophy Competition" was held last Sunday, attracting 24 players. The event was an exciting "Cross Country" golf tournament.

The competition saw four players scoring below 70. Gerald George claimed the first prize with an impressive score of 65. The runner-up was Anthony Green with a score of 68, while Martin Buckley secured third place with a score of 69.

The event featured four Category awards. Helena Stevens won both the "Ladies' Longest Drive" and "Nearest the Pin" Gents awards.[1] Chadwin Lawrence took home the "Gents' Longest Drive" award for his efforts.[2] Bramwell Bushuru won the "Gents' Nearest the Pin" award.

Two "2" were recorded on the day. Peter Bagley scored his two on the 18th hole, while Anthony Green achieved an eagle "2" on the 16th hole. Both players with a share of the balls in the two-ball pool.

St Helena Golf Club Fact, that last year 2024 the youngest member, Asa Bushuru, won the competition, and this year 2025, the oldest member, Gerald George, emerged as the winner. Well done to you both!

In conclusion, the golf competition was a success, special thanks to the support of Gwyneth Howell and her team. Their sponsorship enabled the event to take place, providing a platform for golf enthusiasts to compete and enjoy the exciting Golf "Cross Country" Competition and with wonderful prizes.



Upcoming Events JUNE 2025

1st June :	Furrows Competition (Stroke play)
8th June:	3 Team Texas Scramble (1 Non member)
15th June:	18 Hole Stroke Play (No Handicap)
21st & 22 June	St Helena Open Championship
28th & 29th June	St Helena Open Championship

Happy Swinging!

