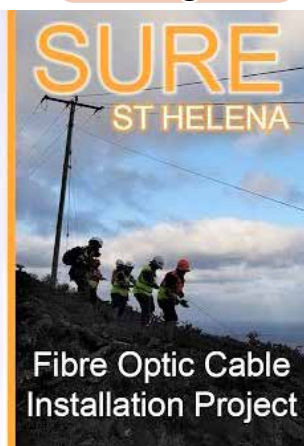




**Hayden Cope – Omnitouch founder and lead engineer**

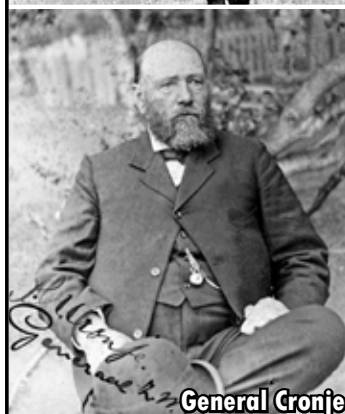
## Omnitouch Ascension or Sure St Helena - Which Would You Choose?

See Page 3...



## How They Do Christmas on Tristan

See Page 11...

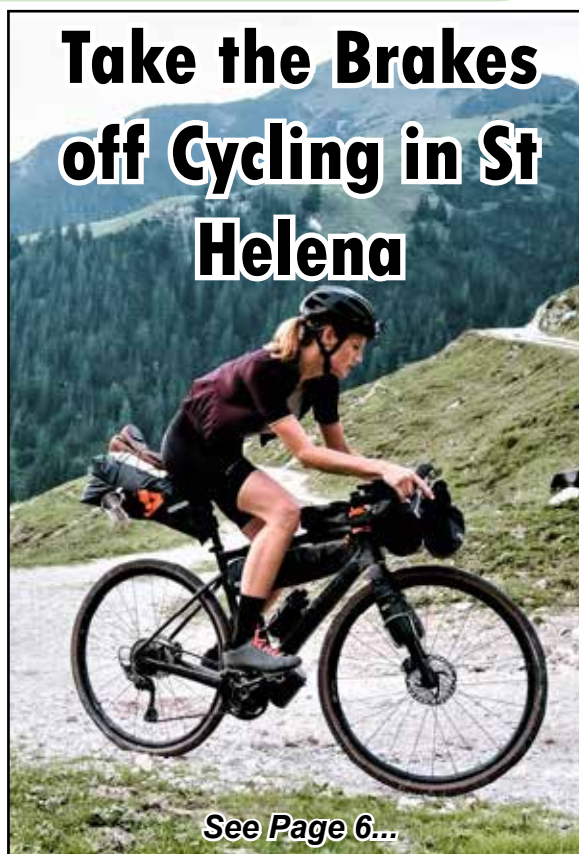


General Cronje

## The Search is On - for Boar POW Dog Cart

See Page 5...

## Take the Brakes off Cycling in St Helena



See Page 6...



# Festival of Lights 2025

*Credit: Ed Thorpe*



# Ascension Bets on Omnitouch



The Ascension government (AIG) announced just before Christmas that a little-known Australian telecoms business has been contracted to be the telecommunications service provider for Ascension Island. Sure South Atlantic pulled out of negotiations to continue in that role and will cease operations on Ascension at the end of next month. The announcement goes on to say the new partnership with Omnitouch 'should ensure' the ongoing availability of reliable telecommunications for the community from 01 March 2026.

Saying the new contract with Omnitouch 'should ensure' continued telecom connections can't be called a comforting description of what the future holds but it's always advisable to be cautious when attempting to foretell the future. Omnitouch is little known in this part of the world and it is a new business – formed a few years ago. On the face of it, this could be to Ascension's advantage. At first sight, Omnitouch appears not only new and relatively small but also flexible and responsive to their customer's requirements.

The Omnitouch website tells us, "You are equally likely to find us up a tower installing cables as you are behind a desk, and that's exactly how we like it. Whether it's designing a complex RAN (Radio Access Network) solution or implementing intuitive and user-friendly software solutions, we utilise a dynamic and hands-on approach to service delivery, which ensures that our projects are completed to a world-class standard."

Most business websites have an 'About Us' page where they tell you how good they are. Sure St Helena have such a page; they tell us –

## Our Promise

### Billing

**You need** to receive an accurate bill.

**We promise** to supply an accurate bill each month.

**You need** to have a clear understanding of when you will receive service.

**We promise**, where capacity is available and service is offered, to meet maximum service delivery times shown in the table below. After acceptance of an order, we will meet the agreed delivery times.

The difference is alarming and very telling. While Omnitouch focus on what they can do for their customers, Sure St Helena focus first on you paying your bill.

The Independent contacted Omnitouch, asking for further information and comment. The company's founder, Hayden Cope, responded almost immediately, despite it being 9pm in Perth, Western Australia. Cope's response was, "We would be happy to provide a quote and other information for you to use, however before doing so we will need to clear this with our media teams. We will get back to you as soon as possible."

They did get back to me. Obtaining clearance ended with Omnitouch finding out that all public announcements will be through AIG and no-one else.

Hayden Cope leads on Radio Access Network (RAN) installations. On the Omnitouch website he is described as having, "years of experience in the industry, Hayden has a passion for building world-class networks. He excels in designing and implementing solutions that ensure efficient and reliable operations - regardless of geographical or environmental challenges." That last bit should be a prompt to SHG to investigate further, in the interests of us all. Omnitouch have a history of providing telecom installations on small islands, Norfolk Island is an example. They have designed and installed networks in Alaska, South America and a Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN), which could possibly be a consideration here as we already have an earth station at Horse Point.

AIG said in their announcement before Christmas that Omnitouch are already working on the design, installation and testing; this includes a new 4G mobile network. AIG will provide updated information as work progresses.

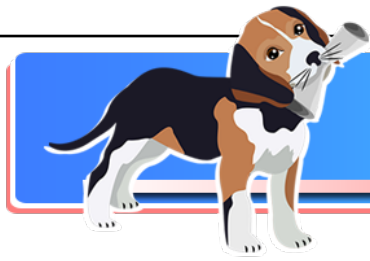
## St Helena Ministers Continue Talks with Sure

St Helena's ministers also discussed options just before Christmas for the future of telecoms. They decided that government officers should continue working with Sure South Atlantic on a 'longer-term relationship' on all aspects of telecom provision.

Clarification on the following sentence in the announcement has been sought.

"In the event an agreement with Sure is achieved, Executive Council have instructed SHG Officers to concurrently explore alternative options for telecoms provision."

It is not clear how alternative options can be explored concurrently after an agreement has been achieved, nor why alternatives are considered if an agreement is finalised with Sure.



# EDITORIAL

## 56,000 people control three times as much wealth as half of humanity

The stark inequality between the wealth, power and privilege held by just 56,000 people and all the rest of us in the entire world was brought sharply into focus when the World Inequality Report was published at the end of last year. This number of super-rich is so small they are too few to fill any one of 208 sport stadiums across the world. In the largest stadium of all, they could have two seats each.

### World Inequality Report 2026

Coordinated by  
Lucas Chancel  
Ricardo Gómez-Carrera (Lead Author)  
Rowalda Moshrif  
Thomas Piketty

Foreword by  
Jayati Ghosh  
Joseph Stiglitz

Elon Musk is top of the pile; he is valued at \$600 billion due to a great extent to the value of businesses he privately owns. The co-founder of Google, Larry Page, is next in line with around \$270 billion. Jeff Bezos, co-founder of Amazon and private owner of Blue Origin which, Bezos tells us, is 'building a road to space' follows next. And so it goes on. Even among the 56,000 super-rich there is a big difference between the richest ten or so and the average wealth of all of them; calculated at \$1 billion.

All of this boils down to 0.001% of the world population controlling three times the wealth of the 2.8 billion adults who make up the poorest half of all humanity. The richest few also get richer faster than the poorest half are able to improve their material well-being. Reinforcing the privileged position of the super-rich are better education funding, international interest rate bias which favours developed countries more than the value of global development aid. Gender bias in salaries and wages still favours men. Add

climate change which affects poorer nations most and the lack of political will to remedy any of the institutional inequalities and wealth disparities are on course to increase indefinitely.

## King Charles and Prince William expected to visit US in 2026 to revitalise trade deal

It's reported King Charles III and the Prince of Wales are expected to make separate trips to the US in 2026 as part of a campaign to revitalise a trade deal with Donald Trump. US tech companies pledged to spend billions in the UK, including a £22bn investment from Microsoft and £5bn from Google as part of the £31bn deal, hailed by Keir Starmer as "a generational step-change in our relationship with the US" when it was announced during Trump's second state visit. Trump recently paused the implementation of the agreement, citing a lack of progress from the UK in lowering trade barriers in other areas.

Advanced talks on a visit by the King are said to be under way, the London Times newspaper suggested that Charles's visit to the US was likely to take place in April.

For the second time, King Charles is being wheeled out as some kind of honey-trap to manipulate Trump's vanity and infatuation with the British Royalty. Trump's 2025 state visit to Britain was organised with the same reason in mind; to help ease the way to Trump agreeing trade tariffs at much less than he threatened. That didn't work very well. The UK ended up agreeing to an overall 10% trade tariff when previously there was nothing at all. The trade deals worth £31 billion, formally agreed when Trump made his state visit in 2025, didn't hold for long. The state visit was in September, by December he pulled the carpet from under all of it. So why is the King being wheeled out in another attempt to massage Trump's malignant narcissism for a second time? It is so very belittling.

Why bother anyway? If such a massive share of any wealth created through trade deals gravitates to the super-rich, exactly what is the real advantage of them to the people who pay the taxes to cover the massive cost of state visits.

The St Helena Independent  
April Cottage  
Putty Hill  
Alarm Forest  
Tel: 00 290 23836  
Email:  
[independent@helanta.co.sh](mailto:independent@helanta.co.sh)

**To ensure inclusion, please  
submit adverts and copy  
by 1pm on Wednesdays.  
Later requests subject to  
available space.**





## General Cronje's Dog Cart

### *An appeal for information*

During the Boer War the 6,000 Boer prisoners of war held on St Helena were under the command of General Piet Cronje (pronounced Kronyer with the emphasis on 'yer'). He was a well-respected commanding officer and his own men built him a horse-drawn dog cart for his personal transport on the island.

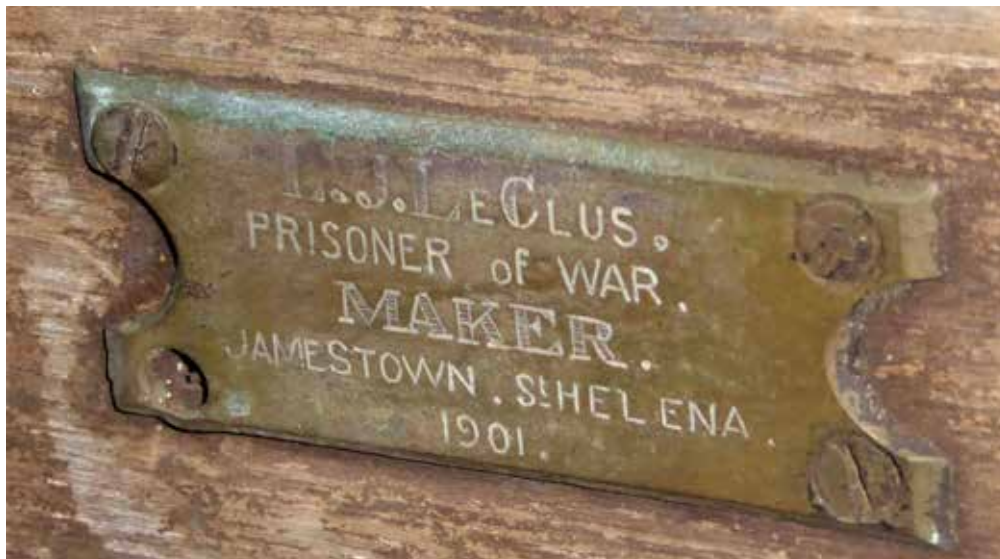
A dog cart is the name for a type of horse-drawn vehicle, either two-wheeled or four-wheeled, originally with a box under the seat for the owner's dog. The term seems to have been used commonly from about the 1820s onwards and, later, it was still used for similar

vehicles but without the box for a dog, as seems to be the case with General Cronje's dog cart. If you look online, you will find the term dog cart also used for carts pulled by dogs but strictly this is incorrect. Interestingly, one of the reasons for founding of the RSPCA in Britain, in 1824, was to control the use and abuse of dogs in this way. Indeed, there are photographs online of relatively small dogs in London made to pull carts with people in them that must have been immensely hard work for the animals.

General Cronje's dog cart has survived, in pieces, in Fairyland flax mill. It has been badly damaged by white ants and the iron parts by rust but enough of it survives to permit restoration. I trained in wheelwrighting in Britain, under Robert Hurford, one of the most eminent of wheelwrights, and I have undertaken to restore the dog cart for the St Helena Museum. Robert has expertise in all sorts of horse drawn vehicles, including chariots which he has researched from buried remains and cave paintings all over the world. I shall seek his advice on the Cronje vehicle as the restoration proceeds.

The restoration needs to be as authentic as possible, including the paintwork and upholstery but more information is needed. There is known to be a photograph of General Cronje in the dog cart, looking back over his right shoulder but, so far, we have been unable to find it. If anyone has a copy or knows where one is to be found, I should be most grateful if they would get in touch either with me or with Adam at the museum.

Confusingly, there is a relatively well-known photograph of a horse and cart in front of Kent Cottage where General Cronje and his wife lived, but it is not of this vehicle, being smaller and with wheels of 14 spokes whereas this one has wheels with 16 spokes. We know these wheels are the correct ones because major components attached to the axle match exactly those forming part of the body of the dog cart. Its seat has, on its back, the small brass plate marked "prisoner of war", and the date 1901, making clear its origin. A photo of the brass plate is below.



If you have any information, please contact David Taylor

Email: [dht1946@hotmail.com](mailto:dht1946@hotmail.com)

# Cycling on St Helena

David Taylor

The recent very good work done by the Roads Manager, Deon Robbertse and his team in improving significant lengths of road surfaces on the island, has made me think it is time again to persuade SHG to lift the antiquated restrictions on cycling on many of the roads.

Cycling is such good exercise and so enjoyable in St Helena's clean air, good climate and relatively little traffic. It certainly keeps me going and studies in the USA have shown it is an ideal exercise for people with Parkinson's. It is acknowledged world-wide to be good for everybody's fitness.

The present restrictions are nonsensical: I am allowed to cycle down to Sandy Bay or Blue Hill but not to go on the W-Road or Side Path or through Half Tree Hollow. Why not? The same lengths of road are open to motorcycles and scooters.

Gravel riding is the world-wide growth area in cycling, a mixture of on-road and off-road cycling. St Helena meets all of its criteria. Gravel Union, an online magazine and forum, ran an article about St Helena's potential last year, to which I contributed. It has attracted wide interest and there is clear tourism potential; clean, environmentally responsible tourism exactly in line with the island's tourism strategy. - <https://www.gravelunion.cc/article/a-future-gravel-riding-paradise>

So come on SHG, let's get these daft restrictions lifted and make 2026 the year when cycling can be encouraged and enjoyed by everyone.

## Travel Gravel – A future gravel riding paradise?



Can you imagine riding somewhere where you might literally be the first ever gravel rider to visit? It won't happen quite yet, but the tiny mid-Atlantic Island of St Helena will one day soon be open for business to gravel riders. We get the inside scoop on what the future may hold for this gravel riding paradise.

In the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, 1950 km west of the coastline of Namibia and Angola, lies a tiny gravel-strewn utopia which looks like something from the spotter's book of paradise islands. With an extraordinary setting of cliffs rising up to 300m high out of the limitless ocean and the land going on up to 820m with a wetland on top, is an island that measures just 17 x 9.5 km, with a lot of gravel – some of it full of potential for gravel riding.



It is of course St Helena Island, a British Overseas Territory with a population of just 4000 people



# Cycling on St Helena

David Taylor

The island seems to tick all the boxes for the perfect adventure riding location. It has a network of twisting country lanes that might be found in Tuscany or the Ardeche. It has scenery in places reminiscent of Dartmoor or the Brecon Beacons (complete with sheep) and climbs to test the fittest of us (and our brakes). Add in a Mediterranean-like climate and every landscape from stony desert to lush semi-jungle, fine Georgian architecture, good seafood, bananas and mangoes to eat, brilliant snorkelling, diving and sailing and it's all starting to sound too good to be true.

You might wonder why gravel riders are not already coming here in numbers? Well, the problem is getting here with bikes – at the moment.

Until forty years ago Union Castle liners called regularly at St Helena, on their voyages between Britain and South Africa. When that service finished in the 1980s, Britain provided a Royal Mail Ship, the RMS St Helena, which sailed monthly between Cape Town and the island and alternately on to Ascension Island – and annually to Britain. Bikes could be carried on these but, alas, they are no more and the RMS St Helena was sold off in 2018.

Today, the island has just a small airport, opened in 2017, with 80-seater aircraft flying in weekly to and from Johannesburg (with occasional additional summer time flights from Cape Town too). There is additionally a once monthly flight to Ascension Island. At present civilians are not permitted to travel on the military flights which fly to Ascension from the UK and the USA, which means that travelling to St Helena via Ascension Island is not currently a viable option.

The airport on St Helena has a short runway and tricky wind conditions on the top of cliffs so the scale of aircraft that can use it is limited. That, combined with the fuel demanded by the 3700 km distance from Jo'burg, limits the payload. This unfortunately means no gravel bikes at the minute.

Nevertheless, the future economy of the island probably lies with high-value-low-volume tourism and specifically tourists who value the natural resources of the island. Discussions are currently being held to change the flight to Cape Town in the future, a flight of 'only' 3130km, rather than 3700kms to Jo'burg and that may open up some potential to carry bikes. Cape Town is also much more civilised than Jo'burg so your bike is more likely to survive the transfer between flights! Also, the Western Cape has its own wonderful potential for gravel riding, so a two-centre holiday is a possibility.

Time will tell, but keep your eyes open for news. St Helena needs tourists of the sort who will respect and rejoice in its natural environment without creating unnecessary pollution, not least to protect the island's remarkable ecology and gravel riders will meet that admirably and find huge challenge and enjoyment.



***Endless opportunity for off-road biking***

***David Taylor, with Billy and bananas – but the bike is out of shot***



## Short Bits

### ***Trumps Tariffs Fry Kentucky Bourbon Chickens Go Free***

A recent report in USA TODAY mentions restaurants and retailers being hit with bankruptcies and goes on to focus on distilleries that have gone under. Ohio, Texas, California, Oregon, Massachusetts, Colorado AND Kentucky; some of the US states which had the most spectacular distillery failures – but especially Kentucky.

The famous Jim Beam distillery in Clermont, Kentucky is mothballed for an indefinite period, starting this month. Talking of Trump's trade tariffs, "This is a self-inflicted mess," said one industry spokesman. "When a major bourbon producer shuts down for a year, that's not the market talking, that's politics getting in the way of common sense."

Alcohol consumption in the U.S. is declining but it's not the only concern for distillers. Trade tensions including tariffs have contributed to a 9% decline in spirit exports during the second quarter of 2025, compared to a year ago, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. Exports to the E.U., the U.K. and Japan fell during the period, but exports to Canada fell the most, plummeting 85% to below \$10 million in the second quarter. The majority of Canadian provinces had banned American spirits from their shelves in response to U.S. tariffs targeting Canada. Brewers have also been hit with bankruptcies.

### ***Chief Minister attempted grossly improper interference in police investigation***

Gibraltar Chief Minister Fabian Picardo attempted "grossly improper" interference in a police investigation. This was the finding of Sir Peter Openshaw, the chairman of the McGrail Inquiry, in his long-awaited report published 23rd December. Sir Peter, a retired UK High Court judge, found there was no actual interference in the police investigation, which continued its normal course and months later resulted in Mr Levy, who was never arrested or charged, being "exonerated" by police.

But he was highly critical of the actions of the Chief Minister during a "fraught" meeting in No.6 Convent Place on May 12, 2020, a central element of the evidence heard by the McGrail Inquiry.

He found Mr Picardo had "berated" former police Commissioner Ian McGrail even as officers attended Hassans (a Gibraltar law firm) with a search warrant against Mr Levy, describing this as "a grossly improper attempt to interfere in a legitimate police investigation and operation". Sir Peter found that Mr Picardo's actions in the days after the search warrant also amounted to "grossly improper" attempts by the Chief Minister to influence the police investigation into the alleged "hacking and sabotage" of the National Security Centralised Intelligence System [NSCIS], and into an alleged conspiracy to defraud Bland, the private company that operates the system.

The McGrail Inquiry was tasked with looking into the reasons and circumstances leading to the early retirement of former police Commissioner Ian McGrail in June 2020, after a 36-year career and halfway through his term in the top post at the Royal Gibraltar Police.

Mr McGrail alleged "misconduct and corruption" at the highest levels of government, insisting he was "muscled out" after being placed under huge pressure over the conduct of a live criminal investigation.



## Short Bits

### ***Saving threatened South Africa albatross from lethal fishing lines***

The captain of a bird-watchers tour boat is 50km out from South Africa's Cape Point when he spots a fishing boat. He makes straight for it because many birds follow fishing boats to catch the fish heads and guts thrown out by the fishermen. His birdwatchers will see all they want. But looking for food this way can cost these seabirds their lives.

Some of the long lines that go out the back of fishing boats are 100 kilometres (62 miles) long. They have 4,000 hooks on them. Every 4,000 hooks are baited with a bit of squid or fish and of course the birds try and get the bait and end up getting caught on the hooks, dragged under and drowned.

Albatrosses spend almost half of their life on the high seas, making them particularly vulnerable to being injured or killed by fishing boats.

BirdLife South Africa is a conservation organisation, with an Albatross Task Force. For the past 20 years it has been working to stop the birds from being killed by fishing trawlers.

There are only 22 species of albatrosses globally, 15 of those are threatened by fishing activity. Albatrosses roam the seas and live exclusively on squid, fish and things that they catch in the ocean. So most of their lives are spent at sea, which means that they encounter fishing vessels more than any other bird.

One way to prevent the accidental death of albatrosses at sea is the use of bird scaring lines: they're essentially nautical scarecrows, scaring the birds away from the nets and fishing lines. Colourful plastic streamers hang above the fishing nets and fishing lines, fluttering in the wind to stop birds from getting caught in them. Made of plastic tubing and rope, they can be cheaply and easily made.

BirdLife has been collaborating with disabled workers, training them to make the bird scaring lines. Building bird scaring lines has been an incentive for the disabled workers. It's enabled them to still be productive and it gives them that self-worth.

Since the Albatross Task force was set up in 2004, it's seen a 90% reduction in the number of seabirds killed by southern African fisheries. The hope is to replicate its success in other parts of the world to ensure these majestic birds can keep reproducing for years to come.

### ***Gunmen kill nine in Johannesburg township in South Africa's second mass shooting within weeks***

Attackers wound 10 others in Bekkersdal after opening fire at tavern patrons and 'randomly' shooting in the street, police say.

Just before Christmas gunmen killed nine people and wounded 10 others in an attack at a township outside Johannesburg, police said on Sunday. It was the second mass shooting in South Africa in December.

The motive for the attack at Bekkersdal, 40km (25 miles) south-west of Johannesburg, was not clear, "Some victims were randomly shot in the streets by unknown gunmen," a police statement said. The attackers in two vehicles "opened fire at tavern patrons and continued to shoot randomly as they fled the scene", the police statement said.

The dead included a driver from an online car-hailing service who had been outside the bar. The shooting took place near an informal bar in Bekkersdal, an impoverished area near some of South Africa's major goldmines.

South Africa is grappling with entrenched crime and corruption driven by organised networks. Shootings are common and often fuelled by gang violence and competition between informal businesses, contributing to one of the highest murder rates in the world.

On 6 December, gunmen stormed a hostel near the capital, Pretoria, killing a dozen people including a three-year-old child. Police said the shooting was at a site that was illegally selling alcohol.

# ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION.....

The St Helena Yacht Club annual fishing competition was held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December and was once again reported by the club as a roaring successful day.

Many boats entered the competition, where a set of guidelines and bag of ice was given to each entry.

By 3pm, a large crowd was gathered at the landing steps to witness the weigh in of the fish before the presentation at the Yacht Club in the following categories, which were as follows:

## Most Species



1st place: Sea Otter  
21 different species

## Largest Tuna



3rd place: Seahorse  
28.95 kg

2nd place: Ocean Queen  
29.75 kg



1st place: Ocean Gypsy  
32.05 kg

## Largest Wahoo



3rd place: Selene Amber  
9.10 kg



2nd place: John Mellis  
11.85 kg



1st place: Seahorse  
12.30 kg

## Largest Conger

3rd place: Selene Amber  
3.15 kg



1st place: Ocean Wave  
4.05 kg



2nd place: Sea Otter  
3.70 kg



## Largest Deepwater Bullseye



3rd place: Norma  
1.80 kg



2nd place: John Mellis  
2.15 kg



1st place: Ocean Queen  
3.20 kg

## Largest Grouper



1st place: Seahorse  
3.50 kg



3rd place: Ocean Wave  
2.90 kg

2nd place: No Problem  
3.45 kg





# Christmas on Tristan 2025

## Report and photos from Philip Kendall

It could be said that the Christmas season on Tristan starts with the arrival of last ship of the year, which this time was the MFV Lance on the 22nd November, bringing the last fresh produce and supplies for the island's supermarket. Everyone also hopes that the Christmas mail will include presents ordered months previously as well as cards and gifts from family and friends overseas. Things get busier in December as people prepare for the Christmas and New Year break, when all but the most essential services shut down for three weeks. That includes no supermarket and no pub, so the shop gets especially busy before it closes.



**Christmas mail being brought ashore from the MFV Lance.**

### Carol Service

Christmas activities proper started in the third week of December. The first event was a Nine Lessons and Carols service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 14th December, attended by both the Anglican and Catholic congregations.



**Readers of the lessons at the Carol Service (from top left): Barry Thacker, Ian Lavarello, Louise Kendall & Anne Green.**

### School Show

Monday the 15th December was the day of the School's Christmas Show, held in the hall at St Mary's School.



**Continues  
on NEXT  
PAGE...**



# Christmas on Tristan 2025

*Report and photos from Philip Kendall*



**Administrator Philip Kendall thanks the school pupils for their hard work and their wonderful show.**

The island store closed on the 16th December, which happened also to be the day when the expedition yacht SV Urchin called to drop off the Inaccessible Island flax eradication team. They will be working there until February.

## Pensioners' Christmas Party

The annual pensioner's Christmas party took place in Prince Philip Hall on Wednesday the 17th December.



**Tristan's pensioners playing bingo at their Christmas party, and one of the lucky winners, Ches Lavarello.**

The Albatross Bar closed on the 18th December. By now departmental workers were busy completing their business before Break-up Day on the 19th, when office parties and braais are held and everyone lets their hair down.





# Christmas on Tristan 2025

*Report and photos from Philip Kendall*

## Contract Work Continues

After Break-up Day, life in the settlement normally quietens down. This year however, there are two teams of contractors on the island who will continue working through the summer break upgrading electrical systems and resurfacing the roads.



***Digging up the old, damaged road surface.***



***Pouring new concrete.***

## Christmas Day

Christmas itself was a day for family meals, including the traditional stuffed roast mutton. A Christmas meal for expatriates was hosted at the Residency by the Administrator Philip Kendall and his wife Louise.

***Louise Kendall lays out Christmas dinner and desserts.***



# Spreading the Laughter

## *Jokes and Humour Page*



**“Laugh, and the world  
laughs with you; Weep,  
and you weep alone.”**



A bus that broke down and the driver who set about trying to fix it himself. After a while, the passengers were getting restless. So the conductor, an attractive girl, went to check. “Do you want a screwdriver?” she asked, to which came the reply: “No, we’re ten minutes late as it is.”

The last time I was with Spike Milligan, at a lunch, a guy came up to him very sycophantically and said to him, 'May I shake hands with the greatest living Englishman?' And Spike said, 'I'm Irish. Bugger off.'

One stand-up comedian had a great series of tips

- Never go to a doctor with dying plants in his waiting room
- Never go on holiday to countries where they still point at planes
- Never go to a dentist with blood in his hair
- Never go to a psychiatrist who has always got his mother with him
- A man bought a parrot off another man and they were chatting a few weeks later.

The new owner said, 'Sadly, the parrot's died.'

'Already?' said the old owner. 'What happened?'

'I don't know!' said the new owner. 'I got him a new cage, a new perch, a bell he could ring with his beak and a swing and everything.'

'Did he speak at all?' said the old owner.

'Yes, he did actually, just before he fell off his perch.'

'And what did he say?' the old owner asked.

'Food!'

A man walks into a pub with a toad and a frog.

The toad starts to play the piano – and the barman is astonished.

Then the frog starts to sing along, accompanied by the toad on the piano.

'That's amazing,' says the barman. 'I tell you what. I'll pay you £100 for the singing frog.'

'Forget it,' says the man. 'It isn't worth that much.'

'Why on earth did you turn down £100 for a singing frog?' says the barman. 'It's worth a lot more.'

'No, it isn't – the frog's useless,' says the man. 'The toad's a ventriloquist.'

Donald Trump was in Japan.

Someone mentioned Pearl Harbor. He denied ever meeting her...





| The Parish of St Paul's                                       |                                |           |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 1st Sunday of the Year |                                |           |
| 8.00 a.m.   | Eucharist                      | Cathedral |
| 9.30 a.m.   | Eucharist                      | St Martin |
| 11.00 a.m.  | Eucharist                      | St Andrew |
| 5.00 p.m.   | Choral Evensong                | Cathedral |
| The Parish of St James  |                                |           |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 1st Sunday of the Year |                                |           |
| 9.30 a.m.   | Eucharist                      | St John   |
|   |                                |           |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                        |                                |           |
| 7.00 p.m.   | Eucharist with Healing         | St John   |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 1st Sunday of the Year |                                |           |
| 11.15 a.m.  | Family Eucharist/Church Parade | St Mark   |
|   |                                |           |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                         |                                |           |
| 7.00 p.m.   | 70x7 Forgiveness               | St Mark   |

# Hey Kids!



Come and join Adventure Kids for some Fun & Games, Arts and Craft, Songs & loads of stories to be told.

WHERE: Baptist School Hall/James Town  
 WHO: Age 4-11yrs old  
 WHEN: 10/01/26  
 TIME: 10:00-11:30am

Refreshments will be served.



# JOB VACANCY

## THORPE'S JAMESTOWN SHOPS

### TILL/SHOP ASSISTANT

#### PART TIME / FULL TIME

This role involves shelf stocking, using an epos till and dealing with customers.

- Free home to duty transport
- Attractive leave and sick leave package
- Salary to increase considerably with proficiency in the job role and further increases with time spent in the company.

Contact: Henry Thorpe or Carol Yon Tel: 22781,  
 email: admin@thorpes.sh or come and see us in our office above  
 Thorpe's grocery shop



## St Helena Legislative Council MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME Tuesday 13 January 2026

The third meeting of Ministers Question Time will take place on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 10am in the Council Chamber. This meeting is open to the public and will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1

The topic for this meeting is: Strategic priorities identified within the first 100 days in office

A copy of the Order Paper will be published on the SHG Website on Tuesday morning, and can be accessed via [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/legislative-council/order-papers/](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/legislative-council/order-papers/).

Legislative Council  
 5 January 2026



## Account Security

### Protection Against Online Scams

Do not share financial details.

Do not discuss your assets, account balances, or financial information with someone you've only met online.

When you connect with someone new online, keep your finances entirely private. Scammers often use innocent details about your money to lay the groundwork for a scam.



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



@sainthelenabank



Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

## RABBIE AT THE CROWN



## BURNS SUPPER

SAT 24TH JANUARY 2026

CROWN CAFE & BAR

6.30PM FOR 7PM

TICKETS £35

FROM THE ROSE & CROWN SHOP,  
JAMESTOWN

## Vacancy

## Farms Assistant



Salary for the post will commence at £930 per month (£11,160 per annum)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Farms Department for a Farms Assistant.

The Farms Assistant will assist in maintaining the Livestock, Piggery and Cattle Operations, including all aspects of animal husbandry, bee production, land and pasture maintenance, and manure preparation to meet weekly production by agreed measures of quality standards.

### Interested Persons Should:

- Have proven experience working with animals and demonstrate genuine care and concern for animal well-being
- Have basic numeracy and literacy ability
- Have a good understanding of Health & Safety Awareness
- Have experience in operating common hand and power tools
- Be able to carry out duties within the abattoir safely and hygienically
- Be able to undertake land clearing duties
- Ideally have experience with animal husbandry
- Ideally be in possession a clean and valid drivers' licence in Class C
- Be willing to work flexible hours, including weekends and out-of-hours livestock care
- Be physically fit, able to perform manual handling, work on slopes, and undertake demanding outdoor farm duties in all weather conditions.

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

Daren Duncan, Farms & Coffee Production Manager via



24461



[daren.duncan@solomons.co.sh](mailto:daren.duncan@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](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **22 January 2026**.

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



Pension Contributions



Staff Discounts



# Vacancy

## Part-Time Ramp Handlers



Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

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

### Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

### For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via  22523  [gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh](mailto:gm-agencies@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](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 22 January 2026**.

*Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.*

# Vacancy

## Part-Time Security Officers



Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

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

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

### Interested Persons Should:

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

### For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via  22523  [gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh](mailto:gm-agencies@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](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 22 January 2026**.

*Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.*

# VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

## Lending Services Officer (Commercial)

*Commencing at £12,984 per annum*

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

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

The main duties of the post include:

- To ensure all loan applications received are accurately completed, all supporting documentation is included and that loans are processed in line with the Bank's policies and procedures;
- To ensure key principles of professional credit management are maintained and the lending service is administered in an efficient, objective and timely manner;
- Liaising with clients throughout the loan approval process providing a high standard of customer service;
- Analysing loan applications in line with Bank's Policies and Procedures, to ensure they meet the Lending criteria;
- Liaising with clients to ensure they are compliant with the terms and conditions of their Facility Agreements

Interested persons can contact the Assistant Lending Services Manager on email [asst.lendingmanager@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:asst.lendingmanager@sainthelenabank.com) or contact her on 22390 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to [hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com).

**Closing date for applications is Friday, 23 January 2026.**

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



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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



[info@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:info@sainthelenabank.com)



[www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)



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



+290 22390

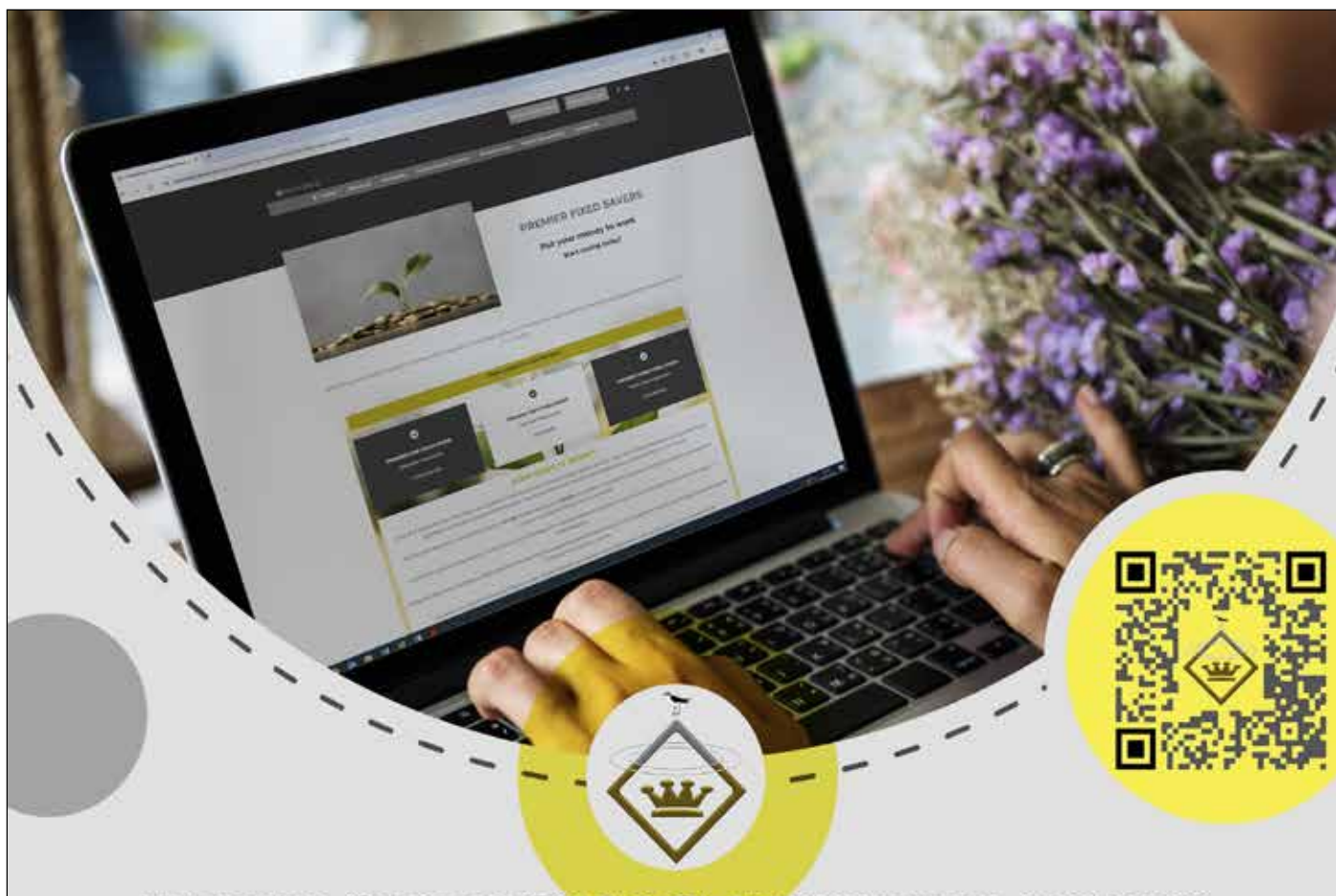


Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd





# INTRODUCING THREE NEW PREMIER FIXED SAVERS

**Our new savings accounts are now available  
with interest starting at 1.25%!**

**Premier One Fixed Saver: One-Year Saver with 1.25% Interest**

**Premier Two Fixed Saver: Two-Year Saver with 2% Interest**

**Premier Three Fixed Saver: Three-Year Saver with 2.5% Interest**

Whether you're saving for a project or just want the reassurance of a growing safety net, a Premier Fixed Saver could help reach your savings goals with money locked in for 1, 2 or 3 years.

Visit our website or drop in to see us for more information.  
Applications now available to complete online!

*With the launch of the new Premier Fixed Savers, Current Accounts with effect from 1st August 2025 will no longer be interest bearing.*

**[www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)**

**[info@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:info@sainthelenabank.com)**

**| (+290) 22390**





**ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT  
VACANCY NOTICE**

**ICT Technician (Digital Skills, Telecommunications & Cyber Security)**

**Total package value up to £34,636**

(comprising of a salary of up to £17,458 per annum plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

**About the role**

We're looking for an ICT Technician to help drive AIG's transition to modern telecommunications and cloud-based systems. This role is central to enhancing digital capability across government, providing hands-on, on-island support to departments and at Two Boats School, and acting as the local point of contact for our external ICT service partner. You'll help staff confidently adopt tools such as Microsoft 365, Teams and other cloud-hosted platforms, supporting the rollout of modern, secure digital ways of working. A key part of the role will involve managing and supporting customer-facing telecommunications services. You'll assist colleagues in the provision of SIMs and eSIMs, help users with the activation, setup and ongoing management of mobile services, and act as the technical liaison between customer-facing teams and our telecommunications provider's online systems. This includes troubleshooting issues related to service sign-up, account maintenance and the end-of-service process. You will also play an important role in promoting cyber security awareness and good practice across AIG.

**What you'll do**

You will provide practical on-island support using a wide range of digital systems and services, including ongoing migration to cloud-based platforms. You'll work closely with remote engineers to deliver technical tasks requiring on-site access, set up secure user accounts and devices, apply authentication updates, and carry out physical checks, installations and configuration work. You'll also help build digital confidence across government by supporting and delivering learning sessions, enabling staff to use new systems safely and effectively. You will promote cyber security awareness and contribute to initiatives aligned with Home Office programmes and AIG policies. Additionally, you will manage and support customer-facing telecommunications services. This includes helping users with device setup, SIM/eSIM activation, troubleshooting mobile service issues, and resolving problems linked to service sign-up, account maintenance or end-of-service requests. You'll keep accurate records of telecoms stock, usage and service interactions, escalating complex issues where necessary. Full technical support and onboarding will be provided.

**What you'll bring**

You'll have solid ICT experience and be confident supporting users with a wide range of day-to-day technical issues. You'll be able to explain systems and processes clearly to colleagues with varying levels of digital ability, and you'll bring an enthusiasm for building digital skills and supporting organisational change. You'll have familiarity with Microsoft 365, cloud-based systems and ICT support environments, and ideally experience with mobile devices, SIM/eSIM activation or telecommunications services (though training will be provided). You'll also be proactive, organised, and have the ability to work independently as the on-island technical presence. A clean Class A driving licence is essential.

**What we offer**

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,458 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two-year accompanied status contract and these benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth up to £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,680 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,840 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £3,296 pa
- A water allowance worth £3,202 pa accompanied, or £1,921 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care on island, with off-island referral if required, including medivac arrangements in an emergency.
- Free schooling for dependent children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory Employment References.
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check.
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance.

Closing date: 30 January 2026

Interviews: Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews by MS Teams may be scheduled before the application deadline.

Start date: as soon as possible

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/vacancies>

If you have any queries about the role, please email [recruitment@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:recruitment@ascension.gov.ac)



**For sale on an as is basis - one two seater and one three seater settees. Phone 24733 for further information.**



\*Demonstration Image Only

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

- Open to Negotiation

3 bedroom detached bungalow  
Cott Cheds, Longwood

This bungalow sits on approx. 0.20 acres (1,983 sq.m)  
House is approx: 15m x 10m (150 sq.m) - including large bay.

The house is situated in a northwest-facing plot overlooking Millfield and Deadwood. Offering a pleasant sunny view, including the flagstaff to the north. The plot is virtually flat.  
The room layout is on two levels, with a step down into the Dining Room, lounge and Conservatory area.

### Main features:

- Master bedroom with En-Suite
- Bathroom with Toilet
- Guest Toilet
- Large garden area
- Double Garage
- Integrated Sewage system, that connects to main sewage line

5-minute walk to main grocery store in Longwood  
10-minute drive to local Airport

Interested persons can contact

Marvin and Michele via email, for more information  
[marvinmichele2009@gmail.com](mailto:marvinmichele2009@gmail.com)

No time wasters please.



## CUSTOMER NOTICE



### UPDATING CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Have you updated or verified your customer details with the Bank of St Helena in the last two years?

#### The importance of Up to Date Information

Ensuring your correct details are on file is essential for security, receiving essential communication on service updates, and it also allows the team to verify your identity when you need assistance.

To ensure the security and efficiency of the services provided by the Bank of St Helena it is important to have your current information on file.



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+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd

# VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

## Customer Service Officer

**Commencing at £11,472 per annum**

Bank of St Helena is seeking to recruit suitable persons with the right mix of skills and experience to fill the exciting position of Customer Services Officers.

Reporting to the Operations Manager the Customer Service Officers will be responsible for providing an efficient and effective delivery of customer services and Banking products to all customers in a professional and timely manner.

You must provide excellent customer service at all times; be able to deal with customers in a professional manner and have the ability to deal with awkward/irate customers. Be highly organised and have a keen eye for detail, maintain confidentiality, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

Skills and experience the candidate should have:

- GCSE's in Mathematics and English at Grade C or above;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency in IT skills, including Microsoft Applications and Database;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- At least 2 years' experience of working in an office environment and/or in a customer service environment.

Interested persons can contact the Operations Manager on email [operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com) or you can call + 290 22390 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank. Completed application forms should be addressed to Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to [hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com).

**Closing date for applications is Friday, 23 January 2026**

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[www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)



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



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd





## JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

### Senior HR Assistant (£11,604 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: Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No. 22470 or Email: [sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Closing date: 21 January 2026

Shortlisting date: 27 January 2026

Interview date: 05 February 2026

### Customs/Immigration Officer (£11,604 per annum)

We are looking to fill these important roles in our busy immigration/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.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Emerald Newman-Yon or Delmarie Williams on Tel No. 22287 or Email: [emerald.newman-yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:emerald.newman-yon@sainthelena.gov.sh), [delmarie.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:delmarie.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Closing date: 21 January 2026

Shortlisting date: 27 January 2026

Interview date: 05 February 2026

*The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at [recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh) to discuss how we can support you.*

*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...

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.*

## Senior Care Assistant (Ebony View) (£11,935 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit a Senior Care Assistant to work under the direction of the Learning Disability & Residential Manager, to deliver care and well-being to service users in accordance with the individuals Care Plan and Unit procedures and guidelines. We are looking for an individual with good interpersonal skills and experience in working with challenging behaviour in a care setting.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: [kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
Closing date: 23 January 2026  
Shortlisting date: 28 January 2026  
Interview date: 05 February 2026

*The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at [recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh) to discuss how we can support you.*

*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.*



# Public Consultation Announced for 2026/27

## Minimum Wage Proposals

The community is invited to share their views on the proposed minimum wage options for the 2026/27 financial year. A series of public engagement events have been scheduled to ensure that both employers and employees can contribute to this significant economic decision.

### Public Engagement Schedule

- Public Consultation Meeting: Tuesday, 20 January 2026, at 19:00 at The Museum.
- Information Stalls at The Canister: Thursday, 8 January and Thursday, 22 January, from 12:00 to 14:00.

### Proposed Minimum Wage Options

*Option 1. No increase, below projected rate of inflation*

| Option 1   |        |          |        |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Adults 18+ |        | 16 to 17 |        |
| £4.50      | £8,775 | £3.55    | £6,922 |

*Option 2. Increase by the projected rate of inflation, 4.1%*

| Option 2   |        |          |        |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Adults 18+ |        | 16 to 17 |        |
| £4.70      | £9,165 | £4.00    | £7,800 |

*Option 3. Increase by slightly above projected rate of inflation, 7.8% (4.1% plus 3.7%)*

| Option 3   |        |          |        |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Adults 18+ |        | 16 to 17 |        |
| £4.85      | £9,457 | £3.83    | £7,468 |

*Option 4. Increase above the projected rate of inflation, 11%*

| Option 4   |        |          |        |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Adults 18+ |        | 16 to 17 |        |
| £5.00      | £9,750 | £4.35    | £8,482 |

## Road Maintenance Programme: Longwood Area, January 2026

Scheduled road maintenance will continue throughout the Longwood area during the month of January commencing Tuesday 6 January 2026. Works are projected to reach Longwood Gate by the end of the month.

To facilitate these essential improvements, road works will take place as follows:

- Duration: Every weekday throughout January 2026.
- Hours of Closure: Daily from 09:00 to 15:00.
- Affected Areas: The road between the Golf Club House and Longwood Gate, including Longwood Avenue.

Appropriate signage will be in place to direct road users. The public is kindly requested to follow all temporary traffic signals to ensure the safety of the workforce and to help us complete the project on schedule.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and apologise for any inconvenience these necessary works may cause.



## New Year's Premier League

The Premier League returned with a full slate of fixtures over the weekend, bringing goals, gritty draws and a big statement win as the 2025/26 campaign hurtles toward the business end of the season.

### Saturday Highlights

The action began on Saturday with Aston Villa claiming a convincing 3-1 win over Nottingham Forest, as Villa looked to stay close to the top-of-the-table pace. Brighton & Hove Albion also picked up three points, securing a 2-0 victory over Burnley with a composed display. Meanwhile, Wolverhampton Wanderers enjoyed a rare triumph, thumping West Ham United 3-0 in a game that underlined the Hammers' struggles near the bottom of the table. In the later kick-off, Arsenal edged past Bournemouth 3-2 in a thrilling contest where the Gunners held on despite a late scare.

### Sunday Showdowns

Sunday saw a number of tight battles:

Leeds United and Manchester United played out a 1-1 draw at Elland Road, as Leeds extended their unbeaten run while United dropped valuable points in the chase for European football. Brentford impressed on the road with a 4-2 win at Everton, showcasing their attacking verve. Fulham and Liverpool couldn't be separated in a 2-2 thriller, both sides trading blows in an entertaining encounter.

Newcastle United picked up a solid 2-0 home victory against Crystal Palace, strengthening their mid-table position.

Tottenham Hotspur were held 1-1 by Sunderland, and Manchester City shared the spoils with Chelsea in a 1-1 draw, leaving both big clubs with work to do as the title race tightens.

### What It Means

The weekend delivered a mix of expected results and intriguing moments. Arsenal's win keeps them firmly in the title hunt, while City and Chelsea's draw suggests neither side can take points for granted at this stage. Leeds continue to impress with their resilience, and Brentford's attacking display will give their fans plenty to cheer. Meanwhile, teams like West Ham and Burnley remain embroiled in relegation battles, as pressure mounts in the lower reaches of the table.

This weekend, there will be no Premier League Matches. Kick-Off will resume on Saturday 17th, with the two Manchesters starting the weekend off.

Full details next week.

### In other news:

Manchester United's Manager departed the club on 5th January, sparking debate as to who will take his role...



Man Utd's New Manager



# **St Helena Golf Club Report – Sunday, 4th January 2026**

*Report by SHGC*

The first competition of the year teed off in style with a Par 3 Strokeplay event featuring 12 enthusiastic players. Competitors played under warm and dry conditions, making for an enjoyable round. The format applied 3/8 of the full handicap, adding an extra layer of challenge.

## **Results:**

1st Place: Keith Joshua – 63  
2nd Place: Jeffrey Stevens – 64

There were some exciting highlights on the course:

Jeffrey Stevens and Neil Joshua both birdied the 13th hole, sharing the balls with Kip House, who birdied the 1st hole.



## **Upcoming Competition**

The next event will be an 18-hole “Choose Your Partner” Strokeplay Competition, sponsored by Eileen Wallace. Expect great prizes and a delicious meal at the end of the day!

***Date:*** Sunday, 11th January 2026

***Registration closes:*** Saturday, 10th January 2026

### **Important Notice**

Members who have not yet paid their annual subscription for 2026 are kindly reminded to do so. You can pay into the club's BOSH account number 13270002 Ref “Your name Subs 2026” The fee is £60 per person.

For more information on our events, follow us on Facebook and visit [www.sthelenagolf.com](http://www.sthelenagolf.com).

Happy golfing year to you all!



# Home For Sale

**OFFERS INVITED IN THE  
REGION OF £97,500**

For Sale by Owner

A lovely, almost complete home set in peaceful, green surroundings. This property offers a solid foundation and modern layout.

Visualised impressions below show the home's full potential as a bright, welcoming residence blending comfort with natural beauty.

For inquiries, contact: [shpropertysales@gmail.com](mailto:shpropertysales@gmail.com)

YouTube Channel (Video, Slideshow, Virtual Viewing): <http://shorturl.at/ltKuc>



## Online Viewing

360° Self-Directed Walkaround: <http://shorturl.at/YtMh8>

## Property Highlights



Impressions of How the  
Finished Property Could Look ;



- Freehold Title, Fast Closing
- A Quality Investment
- Quiet, Private Location
- Near Bus Stop In Alarm Forest Area
- Fiber Internet Available on Island
- Close to the Capital Jamestown
- Potential for Open-Plan Living/Dining Area & Two Spacious Bedrooms (Including Ensuite Master) & a 3<sup>rd</sup> Bedroom / Office
- Large Windows and Sliding Doors
- Outdoor Space & Garden
- Sunset Views of Castle



<https://www.propertyfinder.sh/properties/hunts-bank-property-for-sale/>



[shpropertysales@gmail.com](mailto:shpropertysales@gmail.com)

# MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



**WHATEVER  
YOU NEED  
TO SHIP**

|                  | BLUE MASTER II<br>261202 | LILAC ROLLER<br>261204 | GREY FOX<br>261206 |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Immingham        | 20-Dec                   | 17-Jan                 | 14-Feb             |
|                  | KAROLINE 261701          | KAROLINE 261702        | KAROLINE 261703    |
| Cape Town        | 30-Jan                   | 1-Mar                  | 01-Apr             |
| Rupert's Bay     | 07-Feb                   | 09-Mar                 | 09-Apr             |
| Ascension Island |                          | 14-Mar                 |                    |
|                  | KAROLINE 261801          | KAROLINE 261802        | KAROLINE 261803    |
| Cape Town        | 20-Feb                   | 30-Mar                 | 22-Apr             |

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



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Get in touch with us: [macship.com](http://macship.com)

CPT +27 21 405 3400 | [sthelena.cpt@macship.com](mailto:sthelena.cpt@macship.com)

