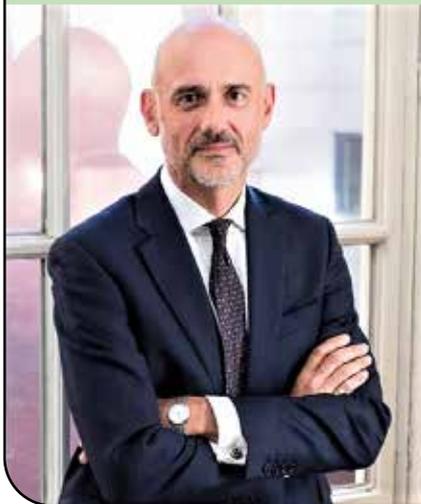




The Gang's All Here!



See Page 5...

The Kids Take to Cricket...

See Page 20-21...



St Helena Tourism Follow

Bye Bye, Come Back Soon

Dina has Jamestown in sight as we go to print

See Pages 2-4...



We Need 'Measurable Progress'

Chief Minister Tells The Lords

See Page 6-7...

The Ultra, Ultra Marathon – as it happened

The Announcement - 4 hours before the start

Dina Levačić has officially announced that she will be starting her around the island St Helena Ultra-Marathon Swim very shortly around 00.01 Thursday.

This is to be the first OFFICIAL swim around this remote island located deep in the South Atlantic Ocean, home to around 4000 individuals.

Dina will be swimming 'unassisted' adhering to the typical traditional values of Open Water Swimming, wearing a standard swimming costume along with 1 silicone hat and goggles. She will not be wearing or utilising a watch or any other devices that will enhance her performance.

The swim will see two support boats. Enchanted Isle, skippered by Johnny Herne and his crew, will be on the outside along with Seahawk Odessey, skippered by Jamie Yon and Jamie Essex. Dina will swim alongside to her favoured breathing side.

Howard James from Open Water Africa will be the formal observer documenting all things related to the swim, including; stroke rate, fluid intake and frequency, wellbeing, wind direction, water temperature, etc. All will be transcribed and submitted to a Board who will ratify the swim, placing it into the history books with a route and standard being formed.

The swim itself will take the course swimming point to point. There will be some rock and reef formations that we will have to slightly divert away from at certain locations.

Dina will be swimming against a backdrop that cannot be described any other way than intimidating. A backdrop that AI would be jealous off, there are sure to be some incredible images and footage being shared shortly.

From the whole team under the Open Water Africa banner and from the community of St Helena Island, we look forward to safe waters and success.

A last goodbye



St Helena Tourism  Follow

And Go!



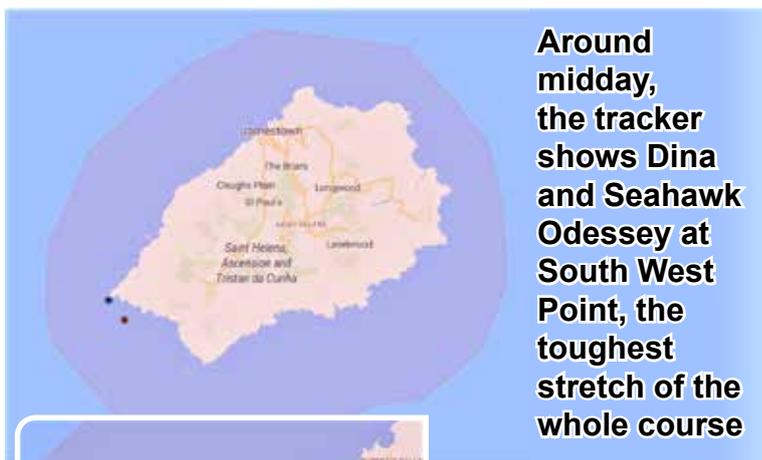
St Helena Tourism  Follow

Dina's Support Boats



Enchanted Isle Limited  Follow

The Seahawk Odessey in the foreground, the Enchanted Isle standing by and Dina in the water



Around midday, the tracker shows Dina and Seahawk Odessey at South West Point, the toughest stretch of the whole course



Just after 2pm and Dina is on the home stretch, Jamestown almost in sight.

Howard and Dina Explain Ultra-Marathon Swims



Dina loves the clear water and the marine life

Howard James is an ultra-marathon swimmer who has swum the English Channel several times. These days his focus is on organising swimming events for others who have an overpowering driving force to push themselves to the limit against the forces of seas and oceans. Until now, St Helena has not been much aware of this singular breed of people and it is amazing how many there are out there and the strong following they have.

A marathon swim is 10km (6.2 miles) or more. If an official course is 25km (15.5 miles) or more it is an ultra-marathon. The ultra-marathon Howard James is organising this week for Dina Levačić is 45km (27.9 miles). Of the 24 official organisers recognised by the global governing authority, the World Open Water Swimming Association (WOWSA), there are just three courses longer than 45km. Two of the courses are in Brazil and organised by the Big Island Swimming Association but their website shows no events scheduled at present. The third 45km ultra-marathon swim is also organised by a Brazilian swimming association but again, no events are shown scheduled at present.

Howard James and Open Water Africa are preparing everything so the St Helena ultra-marathon is officially recognised by WOWSA with this week's race being the first to be officially recorded. The time registered by Dina Levačić will be the first officially recorded time and the one to beat by all who follow her.

Followers there will be. Two ultra-marathons are scheduled immediately after Dina. Next to arrive is Angus Macpherson who is telling everyone about his forthcoming adventure on social media. Another series is scheduled for next year with ultra-swimmers already signed up.

The 2026 schedule is:-
Ultra 1 - 21st Feb to 7th March
Ultra 2 - 28th Feb to 14th March
Ultra 3- 14th March to 28th March

The Ultimate Adventure that Marathon Open Water Swimming Didn't Know it Had Been Waiting For!

As Dina is the first to attempt an official around-the-island ultra marathon, several things have to be carefully planned. Decisions made on things like the start/finish point and clockwise or anti-clockwise direction will have to be followed by all who come after so a true comparison can be made on timings. Of major importance are the safety procedures. Two support vessels will accompany Dina during the swim. Johnny Herne and Enchanted Isle will be the 'mother ship' and take position in front and seaward of Dina. Johnny Herne will be the pilot, he will decide if sea conditions become too dangerous to continue. Positioned closer to Dina as she swims will be Jamie Essex and Jamie Yon of the Seahawk Odyssey. One of their jobs is to handover food and water when required. Dina's general wellbeing will also be monitored from the Seahawk Odyssey. Dina always has a phase of feeling sick as she gets into the rhythm of the swim. Seawater in the lungs has to be monitored as well as the possibility that too much seawater has entered the body through the mouth. Sixty strokes a minute is taken as a good indication Dina, or any swimmer, is feeling well. If the stroke rate drops to 55 per minute, it is a sign that something could be wrong

Dina has a focus only on her swimming. All safety procedures and precautions she is happy to leave

Continues on NEXT PAGE...

Howard and Dina Explain Ultra-Marathon Swims

Fresh water before the salt water



Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...

to someone she knows and trusts. If, during the swim, the pilot calls off the ultra-marathon, Dina knows there is no alternative but to climb into a boat and abandon her attempt. "I will not like it, but it has to be done", she said. The same calm and even-handed attitude was shown when discussing the False Bay marathon. False Bay was a breeding ground for great white sharks. Anyone planning to swim in False Bay was immediately thought insane. Recently, a pair of orcas have preyed on great whites to the extent that the shark population has shrunk to almost nothing. Dina gave the open water swimmer's view on this, she said, "I would rather swim where there are two orcas than hundreds of great whites". After attempting the St Helena ultra marathon, Dina moves

on to the Bolivia/Peru border and Lake Titicaca. Located in the Andes at 12,500 feet it is the highest navigable lake in the world. Covering 3,205 square miles it is also the largest freshwater lake. From the swimmer's point of view, Dina says, "There are lots of mites in the water, they cover you and cause skin irritation." Dina first swam open water when she was 9 years' old. Two kilometres (1.2 miles) she managed. She loved it so much she has never looked back.

On her own Facebook page Dina posted – 'Do you know what I like the best?

People are so hospitable, ready to help and it's an insult here if you don't greet each other. It's a beautiful feeling, a feeling of acceptance.'

All Smiles at the Canister



The Tourist Office boardroom in Jamestown hosted a productive meeting on Tuesday, 24th February, focusing on integrity and safety for the Saint Helena Ultra Marathon swim.

We discussed:

- Swim Plans
- Risk Assessments
- Communication timeframes
- Support Boats
- Proposed route
- Start time
- Emergency plan procedures
- Monitoring of swimmer safety
- Maintaining open communication

The meeting fostered great conversation and recommendations, solidifying a robust infrastructure for Saint Helena Marathon swims.

A huge thanks to everyone involved:

- Jonathon Herne (Enchanted Isle Captain)
- Annae Young (Enchanted Isle)
- Anel O'Bey (Saint Helena Government Head Emergency Planner)
- Dan Marlow (Saint Helena Paramedic)
- Jonathon Passaportis (Head of Tourism)
- Tyanne Williams (Marketing, St Helena Tourism)
- Jamie Essex (Seahawk Odyssey)
- Jamie Yon (Seahawk Odyssey)
- Dina Levacic (swimmer)
- Zeljana Levacic (Swimmer Support)
- Howard James (Open Water Africa)

Your input has created a solid blueprint for safe practices in Saint Helena marathon swimming - thanks!

Arriving Tomorrow. . .

The Hugh James Clinical Negligence Team

Leading the team, of Hugh James lawyers who touch down at the airport tomorrow afternoon will be Ruth Powell, Head of Clinical Negligence. Ruth has been representing people with claims against Sergio Villatoro Bran from the beginning and has already made several visits to St Helena.



Marc Willems KC

With Ruth will be Marc Willems KC, a leading personal injury and clinical negligence senior barrister.

Jennifer Dickinson, is also a specialist in clinical negligence claims, who often works with Marc Willems on complex, high profile cases.



Jennifer Dickinson



Lilly Weiss-Skjørten

Accompanying them are Lilly Weiss-Skjørten who has worked with Hugh James for 15 months as a clinical negligence paralegal, and Carlie Englefield also a paralegal who has been with Hugh James for almost three years. She is a Master of Laws in Legal Practice with Distinction and a future trainee solicitor at Hugh James.

The team will be here for one week when they will be meeting with many of their clients in St Helena. There could be more to talk about on this occasion. The civil claims for compensation for Villatoro Bran's proven criminal negligence are the subject of complex legal procedures resulting from the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance - or the Sergio Law - passed just before the last government closed down before the general election. Applications for a Judicial Review were partially successful. Some aspects of the legislation were allowed for judicial review and the door was left open for additional points of contention to be raised during the Review. The situation has been described as confused and contradictory. What is certain is that the position of claimants, in the many Sergio cases and in the future, is very uncertain, with human rights and access to justice already contentious issues.

A general public meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5th March at the Museum. Ruth, Marc and Jennifer will be speaking on the Judicial Review and how the Sergio Law will affect the residents of St Helena in its present form. An invitation is extended to the public to attend this important meeting for an update on the Judicial Review and its implications.

Anyone who like to speak to Ruth and team in person they can get in touch via email to:

Ruth Powell: Ruth.Powell@hughjames.com
Carlie Englefield: Carlie.Englefield@hughjames.com
Lilly Weiss-Skjørten: Lilly.Weiss-Skjørten@hughjames.com
Or Tel: [290 53043](tel:29053043)

The St Helena Independent
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Alarm Forest
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Email:
independent@helanta.co.sh

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

Joint Declaration, Bi-lateral Agreements, Compacts, Article 73, Charters and an outdated 14-year-old White Paper

In December 2023, the UK and Overseas Territories governments published a Joint Declaration. The aim was to set the foundation for a 'modern partnership' and a 'stronger British family'. Hey! Don't go away, I've hardly started on this.

A committee of the House of Lords decided to review progress so far with the Joint Declaration. On Wednesday our chief minister joined with her counterpart in Gibraltar and representatives for Tristan da Cunha and the Falklands to give their opinion on what is working and what isn't.

The chairman of the committee first asked each OT representative in turn what the key issues are. Chris Carnegy spoke first on behalf of Tristan. He drew attention to freight costs which caused the shop price to be twice what others pay and Tristan's depopulation. Passenger links are equally worrisome, with some Tristanians having problems after unavoidable overstaying their visas and being banned from South Africa for five years.



Appearing in person, Richard Hyslop (left) represented the Falklands, Chris Carnegy represents Tristan

Rebecca Cairns-Wicks pointed out St Helena had the same restriction on economic development due to similarly expensive freight costs. She said communications were also a restriction on progress, as were energy prices. Development of the education and health services continued, but the absence of grants for students who wanted to progress to further and higher education, but couldn't due to lack of funding, not only impacted adversely on their quality of life, it is a contributory factor in the de-population of St Helena.



On stage and screen, St Helena's chief minister on screen at the Committee session and on UK Parliament TV

Falklands cited air, sea and telecommunications as problematic but then pointed to the biggest capital expenditure programme for some years which makes a new port, and a new power station possible. Overall, the Falklands are doing quite nicely. Probably their main complaint was the amount they paid the EU in trade tariffs since the UK left the EU. Sitting where we do, it would be nothing short of wonderful to be able to complain about the import duty other countries charge on our exports. Gibraltar talked about their relationship with Spain.

With that, the first question had done the round of the four OTs present. Other questions followed which went around the four OTs. One question was if the 2023 Joint Declaration had caused any benefits to be realised in the relationship between the UK and the OTs. Chris

Carnegy for Tristan pointed to a couple of new and useful ways the UK had assisted Tristan in a familial partnership way. Richard Hyslop for the Falklands offered some warm words about proceeding along a journey as a result of the Joint Declaration and the Bi-lateral Agreement or Compact and the Charter were the fruits borne by the blossoming of the Declaration. And so it went on.

Then Baroness Hamwee, a member of the Lords Committee, very politely and with the admirable elegance expected from a member of Their Lordship's House, inserted a stick between the spokes of the wheel. Quoting the Anguillian representative at an earlier committee session, the Baroness said the point made was that White Papers take priority over Declarations, Charters and whatever else a bundle of paper on policy might be called. So, however affectionately the words printed on a paper

Joint Declaration, Bi-lateral Agreements, Compacts, Article 73, Charters and an outdated 14-year-old White Paper

headed Joint Declaration may be regarded, they count for nought if the White Paper is interpreted differently. Reaching for another stick, the Baroness added that whatever the White Paper contained, it could be overridden merely by something announced in a ministerial statement, or speech, or just by something stated during a debate.

The views on this were invited from OT representatives. As often happens with football matches, it was a game of two halves. Rebecca C-W was

in favour of pursuing practical agreements and achieving measurable outcomes. Chris Carnegy said Tristanians had a 'sleeves rolled up' attitude and cared nothing about what name or colour was given to any policy paper. Richard Hyslop for the Falklands asserted the White Paper published in 2012 was not fit for purpose. It referred to matters now irrelevant and out of date. He mentioned as an example the section in it about the OTs relationship with the European Union. And so it went on.

Chris Carnegy, (Tristan) said in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK government organised the vaccines, personal protective equipment and other additional measures to be in place on Tristan in double-quick time. The Gibraltar chief minister mentioned that obtaining medicines from the NHS was unreliable. This meant ordering their own small supplies at a much higher price. Later, a further contribution from Mr Carnegy observed that the UK often did well in emergency situations but with longer term, strategic improvements – not so good. This, in turn, fitted well with a later comment that the OTs were gradually becoming more firmly fixed in the consciousness of the many government departments, not just FCDO, but other UK government organisations and agencies remained absent-minded in this respect.

And so we come full circle regarding Rebecca Cairns-Wick preference for measurable outcomes rather than interminable navel-gazing on a new White Paper.

Lord Griffiths (of Bury Port) contributed to the discussion. He pointed out that Gibraltar and the Falkland are in a very different situation compared with St Helena and Tristan. "Both for St Helena and Tristan that there is absolutely a critical moment from the financial point of view of upholding the range of services and other requirements and that it puts quite a heavy burden on a rather small number of inhabitants." He added, "It is simply that I don't know how you sustain, you've talked about sustainability. . . it seems to me that our responsibilities towards disparate and smallish bodies like yours requires us (HMG) to Spend More Money." He ended with "I just want to say that it would be remiss of us in this Committee if we didn't recognise how fragile the economies of St Helena and Tristan De Cuhna, are."

The committee session lasted for one hour and twenty minutes. One of the many whims governments have is to talk about the 'Vision'. It seems to be merely a vain hope. After the committee session finished, the impression left was blindfolded people feeling their way around an unknown darkened room. Fearful of banging their heads or tripping on something. And so it goes on.



The Committee in session – the chief ministers for St Helena and the Falklands appeared on the screens, on the floor

Celebrating the Future



St Helena Secondary School celebrated the achievements and qualifications of fellow students with their annual Certificate and Award Ceremony.

Following the welcoming speech from Minister for Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, Andrew Turner, former Year 10 - 13 students received their certificates for their qualifications in GCSE, VRQ, AS-Level and A-Level.

Sitthipon (Om) Sawangwong received the **Jean Beaden Art Award**, whilst **Jude Jacobs** and **Bethany Bennett** received the **Governor's award for academic excellence and achievement at Key Stage 3**. The **PTA Student of the Year Award for the top performing student in Year 11 and Year 13** went to **Leah Bedwell**, **SURE Award for the top performing male and female in Year 11** went to **Rebekah Braaf** and the **Jeanette Williams Mathematics Achievement Award for the highest Mathematics score in Year 11 and Year 13** went to **Kalem Henry** - all three were accompanied by **Asa Bushuru**. **Rebekah Braaf** also joined **Isabella Scott** to receive the **English Achievement Award for the highest English score in Year 11 and Year 13**. **Ashley Henry** received the **Eliza Mary Lloyd Trust Agriculture Award for commitment to agriculture**, **Diederik Robbertse** received the **Bishop Houghton Award for pastoral care and support of the community** and **Jacob Herne** showed off his skill with the **Joy George Award for outstanding effort, progress and achievement at the end of Key Stage 3**.

It weren't just the students that received awards. Steve Plato received his Professional Development Qualification Diploma in Teaching and Learning, and Gavie Williams received her Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

Throughout the day, students, teachers and invited guests were entertained by James Fantom and his musical students, from Willow Yon-Duncan playing '10,000 Reasons' on the violin, to the Enrichment Rock Band performing 'Seven Nation Army'. Well done to all awardees!





Week 3

Est.2026 by
Helen Jones-Gentle

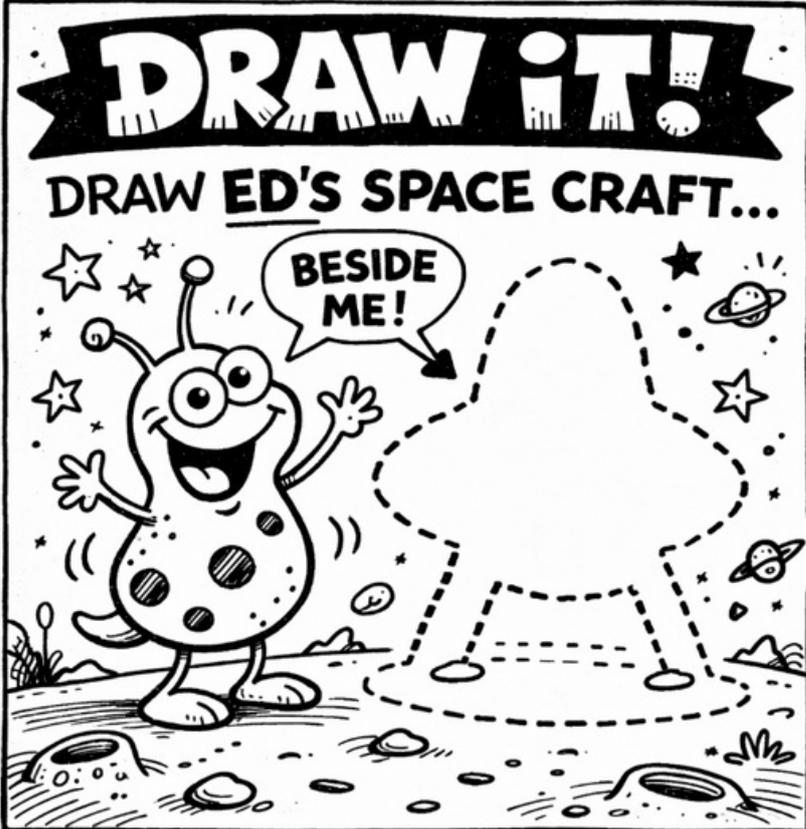
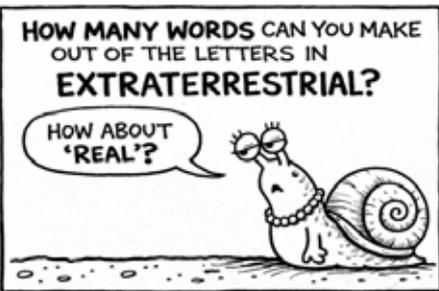


WRITE US...

Jokes or PICTURES?
Send them to DUG at
Red Gate House Post
Box, Red Hill, St.Paul's.

We will write back to
YOU and send it to
your school.

HELP ED FIND HIS PLANET!



CUSTOMER REMINDER

Go paperless – Sign Up for E-Bills

Why not sign up to receive your utility bills by email. Simply send your name, address and customer reference to:

alison.wade@connect.co.sh or
annabel.jonas@connect.co.sh.

Its quick, convenient and helps reduce paper use.

Important Reminder for All Customers

When paying your Connect bills at the Bank of St Helena (BOSH), please ensure you insert your Connect customer reference in the Detail box on the account transfer form as shown below.

Details:

For those using BOSH online banking, please enter your customer reference in the credit narrative box.

Credit Narrative

If you are unsure of your customer reference number, please contact Connect on the details above.

For further information then contact Alison Wade or Annabel Jonas on telephone 22255 or 22341 or email them at the addresses listed above.

18 February 2026

Dear Editor Actions and Timelines

With reference to the article printed in The Sentinel dated 19th Feb 2026, I wish to comment and question the article printed. The update to date that concerns me was the 2019/20 figures of 50% losses; at that time the URA agreed with Connect that this should be 35% within 5-7 years.

The recent report confirms the loss of 48% water from the network in 2024/25.

With a demand of 411m3 per day X 48% losses = 197m3 loss per day. At a cost of £7/ m3, this equates to a loss of £1,379 per day. One cubic metre (1m3) equals 220 gallons, therefore 197m3 per day X £7.00 per cubic metre equals £1,379.

My question to the URA is, can we afford these losses? Why should we have to pay for all this water seeping into the ground for the past five years?

Cyril Robert George



The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 1st March 2026 - 2nd Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
Tuesday 3rd March		
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	St Peter
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	St Helena & The Cross
Wednesday 4th March		
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	Cathedral
Thursday 5th March		
7.00 p.m.	Mission Worship and Praise/Lent Course	St Andrew
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 1st March 2026 - 2nd Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
Monday 2nd March		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
Wednesday 4th March		
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	St James
Thursday 5th March		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 1st March 2026 - 2nd Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
Tuesday 3rd March		
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	St Mark



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

CONNECT SAINT HELENA LTD UPGRADES EMAIL SYSTEM TO MICROSOFT 365

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is proud to announce a major step forward in modernising our IT infrastructure. Over the coming weeks, we will begin migrating selected staff email services from our current on-premises Exchange system to the cloud-based Microsoft 365 platform.

This upgrade represents a vital investment in our Company's future. By moving to Microsoft 365, we are creating a more secure, reliable, and connected environment for our staff and strengthening the way we connect with our customers.

As part of this transition, we're launching a new domain: connectonline.co.sh. Both connect.co.sh and connectonline.co.sh will run simultaneously to ensure uninterrupted service and smooth communication for everyone.

We want our staff and the public to be aware of this exciting change. This migration to Microsoft 365 will provide us with the tools to work more efficiently and securely, while strengthening the way we work together to deliver trusted services to the island community.

For further information or queries, please contact our Business Support team on 22255 or via enquiries@connect.co.sh.

23 February 2026



TIP OF THE WEEK

Every Drop Counts!

Seen a water leak? Please report it immediately:

☎ Connect Office: 22255

🌙 Out-of-hours contractor: 22522 or 61307

Your quick call helps us save water and protect our island's precious resources.

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: 28/02/26

TIME: 10:00-11:30am

Refreshments will be served.

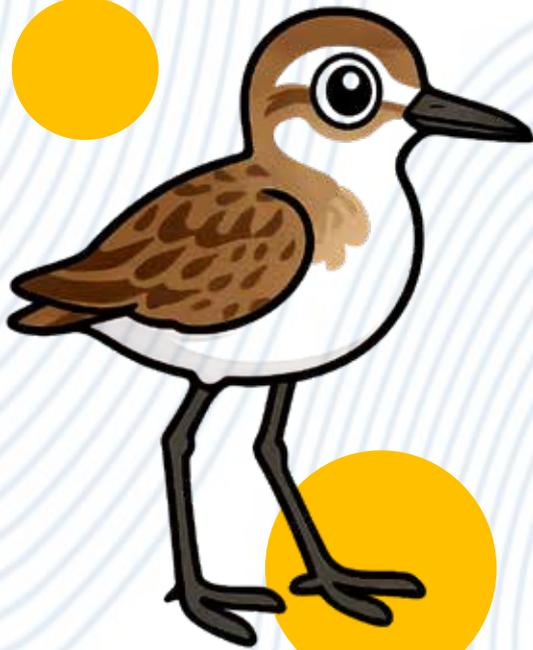


ST HELENA



NATIONAL TRUST

2026 WIREBIRD CENSUS



575
ADULTS

6
JUVENILES



35
NESTS

34
CHICKS



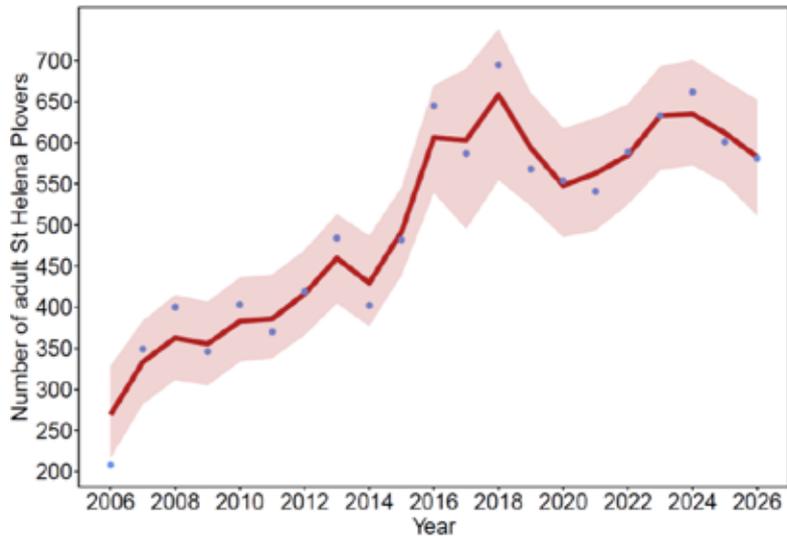
DARWIN
PLUS

Trust News : Wirebird Census 2026

St Helena Plover population trend

The annual Wirebird census was successfully conducted throughout January 2026 by the Grasslands team as part of the Darwin Plus funded project (DPLUS190), marking another important step in the conservation of St Helena's national bird.

This year's census estimates between 511 and 652 adult Wirebird, with a best estimate (median) of 583 adults. While this figure is slightly lower than the past three years, the range is consistent with previous results.



This estimate was derived from detailed field counts, during which the team recorded 575 adults, 6 juveniles, 35 nests and 34 chicks. These snapshot figures give a picture of breeding activity and distribution across the island, adding depth to the overall population estimate.

Findings from January 2026 revealed a clear and consistent pattern. More wirebirds were recorded in significantly higher numbers in clean, well-managed pasturelands (grassland) compared to pastures heavily affected by invasive plant species. Dense vegetation reduces the open ground that Wirebird rely on for feeding and nesting, while also limiting visibility needed to detect predators.

The DPLUS190 project continues to play a vital role in guiding grassland management and conservation on St Helena. The 2026 census findings provide strong evidence that invasive species control and grassland restoration remains essential tools for safeguarding the future of the Wirebird and local livelihoods.



St Helena Plover (Wirebird) Charadrius sanctae-helenae

The Grasslands team was joined by Andy Timm, Freddy Green from the Environmental and Natural Resources Programme (ENRP), Dr Chris Hillman, Aurelie Hector, Dr Casey Dunn from Yale University, and Jan Henry and Max Peters. Their combined efforts ensured comprehensive coverage of key Wirebird sites across the island.

The team extends heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and partner organisations. Their contribution was invaluable, and the success of this work is a testament to the strength of community collaboration. The Trust hopes that this spirit of teamwork will inspire even more people to take part in next year's census, helping to safeguard the future of St Helena's national bird.



F(L-R) Martina Peters, Aidan Plato, Gavin Ellick, Dr Casey Dunn, Matthew Owen

February 2026



Business Skills Training



St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Following the successful delivery of Tour Guide and Destination Management Company (DMC) training programmes, tourism operators on St Helena have expressed strong interest in strengthening their business and operational skills to enhance sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness within the tourism sector.

St Helena Tourism is therefore seeking **Expressions of Interest** from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to design and deliver a tailored Business Skills Training Programme for tourism operators.

Proposed Training Topics (Full details will be provided to registered applicants):

- Business Plan Development
- Financial Management (basic accounting, tax compliance, cash flow management)
- Legal & Regulatory Compliance (business registration processes, liability and insurance)
- Customer Service Skills
- Sales (B2B sales, commission structures, working with the travel trade, B2C, digital and direct sales)
- Sustainable Tourism Practices (responsible tourism, environmental sustainability)

Who Should Apply

We welcome submissions from experienced trainers or a consortium of trainers with a strong understanding of:

- Small business development
- Tourism industry operations
- Training delivery within small or developing economies

The training programme is anticipated to be delivered in **March 2026**.

Submission Requirements

Expressions of Interest should include:

- Relevant experience and/or qualifications
- An outline of the proposed delivery approach
- Confirmation of availability in March 2026
- Fee proposal

Submissions should be delivered to the Tourist Office or emailed to **visit@sainthelena.gov.sh** no later than **4pm on Friday, 6 March 2026**.

sthelenatourism.com

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Single and Double glaze Aluminium Windows and Doors .

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1800 mm Fold tables .

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Fold Multi function Exercise press up boards

Olympic 2.1m weight lifting Bar.

16mm Stainless Steel Treaded Rod .

Safety Specs

Ford lazer /Trazer Exhaust and parts.

48 Volt GO KART with 3 speeds and Disc brake.

400 x 200 x 200mm Moulded Concrete Blocks

For sale PROPERTY WITH 300 SQUARE METRES

OF FLOOR SPACE AT HUTTS GATE.

Car creeper.

6 Ton Ratchet Axle stands

200 mm Scaffold Caster Wheels on Base jacks .

ESTIMATES FOR HOUSE BUILDING.



Property for Sale at Hutt's Gate

375 Metre's from Napoleon's Tomb.

Approved Plan's .

Or Storage .

A six Metre container with building Materials included.

Contact 23163.



PRESS RELEASE

CONNECT CELEBRATES THE RETIREMENT OF ERIC LEO, WATER CARETAKER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) extends heartfelt congratulations to Mr Eric Leo, who retired in December 2025 after an extraordinary 55 years of public service, including 34 years dedicated to the Water Division.

Eric began his career with the St Helena Government in 1970, working within the Agricultural and Forestry Department before transferring to the Water Division in 1991. As a resident of Blue Hill, he took great pride in safeguarding the district's newly installed piped domestic water supply. He walked the pipelines daily, often before dawn, to ensure the community always had water.

Eric's deep local knowledge, practical wisdom, and steady dedication made him a trusted caretaker and mentor. His contribution was formally recognised in 2022 when he was awarded the Badge of Honour for long and dedicated service.

On behalf of the entire team, Connect expresses sincere thanks to Eric for his decades of commitment and the legacy he leaves behind. We wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

25 February 2026



**St Helena Legislative Council
MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME
Tuesday 03 March 2026**

The fifth meeting of Ministers Question Time will take place on Tuesday 3 March 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: THE AGEING DEMOGRAPHIC: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (AD2)

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/.

**Legislative Council
23 February 2026**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, 2 MARCH 2026**

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will be held in the Council Chamber, The Castle, Jamestown at 9.30am on Monday, 2 March 2026.

The main programme of business will focus on the Government of St. Helena, Statement of Expenditure in Excess (Amended), for the Financial Year 2024/25.

Members of the public and other interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcast and streamed live via SAMS Radio 1.

**ST HELENA PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
24 February 2026**

**Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week**



Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Silver Hill Shop, Levelwood
Google Map Location: -15.974767, -5.683016
Duration: approx 5 hours



Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Sharks Valley is an impressive walk on a cliffside with sections of wild mango brambles, streams and rock formations. In the valley there are a couple of small waterfalls and a pebble beach to relax and enjoy the ocean view.

There are narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Pathway can become muddy and slippery when wet. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water. Walk suitable for fit and experienced walkers.

Walk led by local Tour Guide, Louis Youde.

Date	Upcoming Walks
07 March 2026	Sugar Loaf - Banks - Ruperts - Jamestown

Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Tourist Office T: 22158



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. 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.

Legislative Council Office Assistant (£11,604 per annum)

The Legislative Council Office is seeking to recruit a motivated individual with proven effective administrative skills to provide the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of the Legislative Council with secretarial, research and administrative support. If you are interested in this opportunity, then we would be keen to hear from you. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anita Legg on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 March 2026

Harbour Master & Port Manager (£19,814 per annum)

The Harbour Master and Port Manager role is focused on enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by overseeing the management of St Helena's Port in compliance with the Ports Ordinance 2016, ensuring safety and efficiency. The Harbour Master and Port Manager serve as the authoritative figure for coordinating the daily operations, management, and development of the port of Jamestown, along with any other designated harbours and landing sites, and will undertake any additional responsibilities necessary for the effective management of the position. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Alex Mitham on Tel No. 25870 or Email: Alex-richard.mitham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 March 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 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.

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2026/21:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling**, Windy Point, Nr High Knoll on Parcel HTH1485, **Applicant:** Tanisha Benjamin.
2. **Application 2026/22:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Roof Alterations to Existing Dwelling**, Taglate, Levelwood Parcel SH0166 **Applicant:** Deon Knipe
3. **Application 2026/23:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Three Bedroom Dwelling Including a Detached Double Garage and Carport**, Alarm Forest on Parcel AF0472. **Applicant:** Linda Cave, C/o Simon Francis.
4. **Application 2026/24:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Amendments to Existing Depot Building including new septic tank**, Red Hill, St Paul's on Parcel FP0468. **Applicant:** Connect St. Helena Ltd.
5. **Application 2026/25:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Double Garage**, Woody Ridge, Levelwood on Parcel SH0449. **Applicant:** Anna-Lisa Leo, C/o Cassandra Peters.

Correction- **Application 2026/08** advertised in the Sentinel dated 19 February 2026 should read - FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Conservatory & Change in Roof Profile** Nr St. Mary's Church, The Briars on Parcel FP0001 **Applicant:** Evelyn Yon

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 08.30am 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 planning.mailbox@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 13 March 2026
Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

The Queen Mary & Victoria shops *has two vacancies*

1 shop floor assistant
1 shop floor assistant/cashier

We are interested in either full
time or part time enquiries

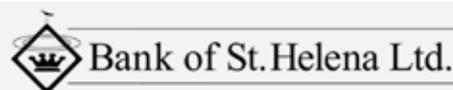
Interested persons should
contact Anita or Gregory on
22168 for an interview.



EARLY CLOSURE AT MAIN BRANCH WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH 2026

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers the Main Branch will close from **1:00pm on Wednesday, 4 March.**

The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause and thank customers for their support.



 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

FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Saturday 21st	Aston Villa	1	1	Leeds
Saturday 21st	Brentford	0	2	Brighton
Saturday 21st	Chelsea	1	1	Burnley
Saturday 21st	West Ham	0	0	Bournemouth
Saturday 21st	Man City	2	1	Newcastle
Sunday 22nd	Crystal Palace	1	0	Wolves
Sunday 22nd	Nott'm Forest	0	1	Liverpool
Sunday 22nd	Sunderland	1	3	Fulham
Sunday 22nd	Tottenham	1	4	Arsenal
Monday 23rd	Everton			Man United



Match Report

Manchester City applied pressure on Premier League leaders Arsenal by beating Newcastle United 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium and Arsenal's draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers in mid-week opened the door for Man City to close the gap at the top to just two points, and Pep Guardiola's men grasped that opportunity on Saturday.

Omar Marmoush scored against Newcastle in the EFL Cup earlier this month, and he turned provider for another early goal this time around, as he charged forward and fed O'Reilly, whose first-time finish had too much power for Nick Pope.

Yet City's lead was short-lived, and after Anthony Gordon drew a smart stop out of Gianluigi Donnarumma, the Italian was beaten when Hall's deflected effort found the bottom corner, parity lasted only five minutes when Erling Haaland stood up a right-wing cross to the far post, and O'Reilly sent a towering header back into the far corner and Dan Burn headed in from an offside position as Newcastle kept up their attacking threat prior to the break, while Hall sent a free-kick wide at the start of the second half.

Antoine Semenyo failed to generate enough power on a shot to truly test Pope just after the hour, before Rayan Ait-Nouri squandered a golden chance to play Haaland through on goal, but Pope pulled off smart saves to thwart Haaland and Phil Foden late on, but City's failure to add a third ultimately did not cost them, despite a late Newcastle flurry. Both teams had chances to win the game late on as Thiago was denied by a superb Cristhian Mosquera block before firing over the bar, while Kelleher denied Gabriel Martinelli at the death.

Guardiola's side are gaining ground on the Gunners, ahead of the north London derby on Sunday, while Newcastle stay 10th.



Man of the Match




Premier League Fixtures

Friday 27th	20:00	Wolves	vs	Aston Villa
Saturday 28th	12:30	Bournemouth	vs	Sunderland
Saturday 28th	15:00	Burnley	vs	Brentford
Saturday 28th	15:00	Liverpool	vs	West Ham
Saturday 28th	15:00	Newcastle	vs	Everton
Saturday 28th	17:30	Leeds	vs	Man City
Sunday 1st	14:00	Brighton	vs	Nott'm Forest
Sunday 1st	14:00	Fulham	vs	Tottenham
Sunday 1st	14:00	Man United	vs	Crystal Palace
Sunday 1st	16:30	Arsenal	vs	Chelsea



CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by the St Helena Cricket Association

Cricket matches reported below are from 8th, 14th, 15th, & 21st February respectively.

Levelwood 120/7 (17.5) beat Jamestown 119/9 (19.2)
 Stefan Leo - 36* (17.5) Trystan Thomas - 44 (16.6)
 Cormac Crowie - 59* (17.5) Dane Wade - 36 (10.5)
 Jordan Yon - 3/24 (4) Clayton Leo - 3/11 (3.2)
 Damien O'Bey - 2/37 (4) Brendan Leo - 2/13 (4)
Player of the Match - Clayton Leo (Levelwood)

Half Tree Hollow 172/6 (20) beat St Pauls 147/9 (20)
 Chris Owen - 95 (18.5) Dax Richards - 56 (13.4)
 Joey Thomas - 39 (14.5) Gareth Johnson - 46* (20)
 Cliff Richards - 2/13 (4) Joey Thomas - 3/13 (4)
 Dennis Leo - 1/16 (4) Barry Stroud - 2/20 (4)
Player of the Match - Joey Thomas (Half Tree Hollow)

Longwood 144/5 (12.2) beat Sandy Bay 140/9 (20)
 David Young - 117* (12.2) Brooklyn Fowler - 38 (8.4)
 Sean-Lee Thomas - 6* (12.2) Brett Isaac - 37 (16.3)
 Rhys Francis - 3/29 (4) Sean-Lee Thomas - 3/27 (4)
 Brendan Leo - 2/13 (4) Gilbert Young - 2/0 (1)
Player of the Match - David Young (Longwood)

Sandy Bay Pirates 205/9 (22.3) beat Jamestown Heat 172/8 (35)
 Rhys Francis - 55 (18.1) Dax Richards - 69 (20.4)
 Brooklyn Fowler - 43 (12.6) Zach Francis - 22 (23.6)
 Jamie Essex - 2/37 (4.3) Kieran Williams - 2/24 (4)
 Hugo Richards - 2/12 (43) Ronan Legg - 2/25 (7)
Player of the Match - Rhys Francis (Sandy Bay Pirates)

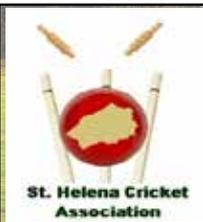
St Pauls 29/1 (5.3) beat Sandy Bay 28/10 (10.2)
 Cliff Richards - 23* (15.3) Austin Fowler - 9 (3.5)
 Ephrem Stroud - 2* (15.3) Stewart Henry - 5 (10.2)
 Rhys Francis - 1/9 (3) Gareth Johnson - 7/11 (4)
 Hugo Richards - 2/6 (1.2)
Player of the Match - Gareth Johnson (St Pauls)

Longwood 97/3 (13.3) beat Jamestown 96/9 (20)
 David Young - 24 (4.2) Andrew George - 36* (20)
 Zach Francis - 19 (9.6) Dane Wade - 13 (6.1)
 Andrew George - 1/11 (1) Ashton Benjamin - 4/15 (4)
 Joel Peters - 1/13 (2) Sean-Lee Thomas - 2/14 (4)
Player of the Match - Ashton Benjamin (Longwood)

Half Tree Hollow 127/1 (11.1) beat Levelwood 123/8 (20)
 Chris Owen - 56* (11.1) Weston Clingham - 44 (16.2)
 Andrew Yon - 44* (11.1) Delroy Leo - 23 (9.5)
 Brendan Leo - 1/22 (3) Andrew Yon - 2/25 (4)
 Jerry Thomas - 2/29 (4)
Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (Half Tree Hollow)

Western A Mustangs 118/10 (19.5) beat Cobras 70/10 (19.5)
 Kyle Snow - 33 (14.3)
 Kyle Bennett - 25 (16.2) Brian Faas - 10 (3.1)
 Tyler Anthony - 22 (12.2) Gareth Johnson - 4/17 (6)
 Kirk Lawrence - 3/19 (6) Tyler Anthony - 3/6 (2.5)
Player of the Match - Gareth Johnson (Western A Mustangs)





CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by the St Helena Cricket Association

Levelwood 150/2 (15.5)

beat Longwood 147/8 (20)

Delroy Leo – 61 (9.2)

Zach Francis - 69* (20)

Weston Clingham – 44* (15.5)

Damian Burns – 43 (13.2)

Jason Thomas - 1/28 (3.3)

Cormac Crowie - 3/28 (3)

Ashton Benjamin 1/31 (4)

Weston Clingham - 1/18 (3)

Player of the Match - Weston Clingham (Levelwood)

Half Tree Hollow 221/3 (20)

beat Sandy Bay 73/10 (13.1)

Andrew Yon – 132 (17.2)

Rhys Francis - 40 (12.2)

Joey Thomas– 43* (20)

Austin Fowler – 10 (5.4)

Brett Isaac - 1/27 (4)

Andrew Yon - 3/26 (3)

Austin Fowler 1/39 (4)

Chris Owen - 2/16 (3)

Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (Half Tree Hollow)

St Pauls 113/5 (17.3)

beat Jamestown 112/7 (20)

Dax Richards – 52* (17.3)

MaKYLE Fuller - 41 (10.1)

Cliff Richards– 15 (5.6)

Scott Crowie – 28 (9.5)

Damien O’Bey - 2/22 (2)

Jordi Henry - 2/13 (3)

Lebron George–1/10 (1)

Kirk Lawrence - 2/14 (4)

Player of the Match - Dax Richards (St Pauls)

Gavin George Vs The World

Update on Gavin George’s Over 70’s Cricket Journey



In case you missed it, Gavin George, who you may remember as being able to play in the Over 70’s World Cup, has successfully played a match against Sri Lanka Seniors Over 70’s on Tuesday.

From the ‘Armchair Supporters View’ report, Sri Lanka were the ones to bat first and managed to score 188 for 8 from their 45 overs, with the Rest of the World chasing that score, making 189 for the lost of 4 wickets in 40.3 overs. Gavin George scored with 40 and Prakash Ganatra with 85 not out.

The last two matches will take place on Saturday 28th at 9pm against India and then on Monday 2nd March at 9pm against England.

The St Helena Independent would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gavin for this tremendous achievement and wish both Gavin and his team good luck for the upcoming matches.

ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

St Helena Golf Club hosted its Monthly Medal Stroke Play competition on Sunday, 22 February 2026, with 12 golfers taking to the course—11 senior players and junior golfer Lukas Robbertse, the sole youth participant. The event was generously sponsored by Gerald George, and the warm, sunny weather provided ideal playing conditions.

Gerald produced an excellent round, finishing with a superb net 66 to top the field. In a fine display of sportsmanship, he declined to claim the winner's prize as the event sponsor. This moved Laura Buckley into the first place position, after carding an impressive net 67. She was closely followed by Dr Nigel, who secured second place with a strong net 68.

The junior prize went to Lukas, who showed great promise as the only junior competing on the day.

In the 2ball pool, both Gerald George and Paddo Johnson shared the honours after each made a well-earned birdie on the 16th hole.

The club extends warm congratulations to all prize winners and sincere thanks to Gerald George for his continued support as sponsor.



Sunday, 1 March 2026.



The club will host a Texas Scramble – Choose Your Partner Stroke Play event, with an **11:00 am** shotgun start, followed by the **AGM at 4:30 pm**.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Members are reminded that the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will take place on **Sunday, 1 March 2026**, at the Clubhouse.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All documents relating to the AGM will be:

- emailed to members on the mailing list, and posted on the Club notice board for easy access.

During the AGM, the Club will also be **electing new committee members**. We encourage as many volunteers as possible to step forward. You do not need to be a playing member to serve on the committee. You can sign up as a non-playing member and put your name forward for election enabling you to make valuable contributions to the Club and the wider community.

Stay Connected

For updates on fixtures, results, and club activities:

- Follow us on **Facebook**

Visit our website: www.sthelenagolf.com



Happy Swinging
SHGC



Home & Land For Sale

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YouTube Channel (Video, Slideshow, Virtual Viewing):

<http://shorturl.at/itKuc>

360° Self-Directed Walkaround:

<http://shorturl.at/YtMh8>

shpropertiesales@gmail.com



propertyfinder.sh/properties/deadwood-property-sale/



shpropertiesales@gmail.com

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP



	BLUE MASTER II 261202	GOLDEN KAROO 261203	GREY FOX 261206
Immingham	20-Dec	17-Jan	21-Feb
	KAROLINE 261701	KAROLINE 261702	KAROLINE 261703
Cape Town	31-Jan	02-Mar	02-Apr
Rupert's Bay	09-Feb	10-Mar	10-Apr
Ascension Island		15-Mar	
	KAROLINE 261801	KAROLINE 261802	KAROLINE 261803
Cape Town	25-Feb	31-Mar	23-Apr

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



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Mr & Mrs

During the month of December and January, 11 couples tied the knot to become Mr & Mrs.

At the *Independent*, we invited all couples a chance to share their magical day with you, which we will bring exclusively to you over the coming weeks. Today, we introduce Mr & Mrs Martin Richards and Mr & Mrs Kurt Bennett.

On the 10th January 2026 at 2pm and after six years of courting, Martin and Tracie of Barren Ground tied the knot at Willowdene.

Martin - who was dressed in a smart black suit with a gold waist coat, white shirt and black and gold neck tie and handkerchief and a gold rose on the pocket of the jacket - was accompanied by his two best men; his dad George and his best friend Anthony, who also wore the same theme suits.

The bride wore a breathtaking Cinderella inspired wedding gown with a fitted corset bodice that created a true princess silhouette. Her hair was done in a sophisticated, voluminous bun with delicate curls falling from it and was perfectly complemented by a sparkling tiara.



After the ceremony at Willowdene, the couple took the traditional photoshoot in the gardens at Willowdene, before heading to St Paul's Cathedral for a blessing of the marriage and rings conducted by Bishop Dale before making their way to the Rock Club for their reception .

The couple, Martin and Tracie, would like to thank all those involved in any way who made their day a beautiful and memorable one.



On the 31st December 2024, Kurt Bennett and Charmaine Scott of Half Tree Hollow made the special trip to sunny Cape Town to tie the knot in Grassy Park.

The Groom was smartly dressed in a blue suit, with a white shirt and tan accessories and was accompanied by his nephew and Best Man Renzo, who wore a matching outfit, whereas the Bride looked elegant as she wore a long white, sleeveless dress with her sister-in-law Candice by her side.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party travelled to the Brass Bell to join family members and enjoy a delicious meal, followed by the traditional wedding photoshoot at St James beach. The day wasn't completed for the newly-weds as they joined other family and friends at Grassy Park for the reception.

To mark their first anniversary on New Year's Eve, Kurt and Charmaine renewed their vows with family back here on St Helena.

More next week.....