



Clinical Negligence

Meeting

Public Mood Changing



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Independent Handed Copies of Clinical Negligence Court Papers
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Almost Whole Day Swimming

See Page 2...



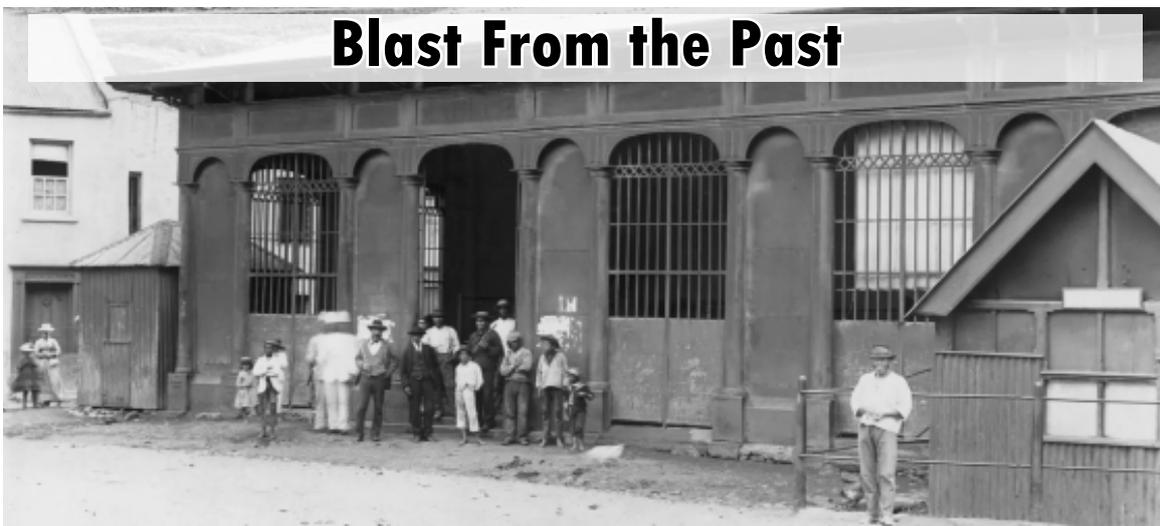
Almost a Whole Day Swimming

Angus MacPherson is the first man to complete the ultra-marathon swim around the Island. His official time was 22 hours, 2 minutes, 14 seconds. That's 5 hours more than Dina Levačić last week. Angus took a few rests during the swim and looked in good spirits when he returned to the landing steps. Maybe he was not too concerned with timekeeping. Which ever way you look at it, not many people in this world would attempt the same swim.



The moment Angus completed his ultra-marathon on Wednesday

Blast From the Past



On the far left, you can see a structure where the clock now stands. This was the old Police Shed.

It's presence next to the Market might be loss, but you can still see one Police Shed just above The London Gift Shop, situated in the Playground.

Nowhere Left to Sit at Sergio Law Public Meeting

Last week's well attended public meeting organised by the team of solicitors and barristers to update clients and everyone else interested had a different feel about it compared to previous meetings. The feel appeared to be those adversely affected by Sergio Villatoro's clinical negligence had the deck of cards stacked against them by their own government. They clearly did not like this.

Mr Willems referred back over 10 years to the case when Dr Du Toit was accused of sterilising two women without their consent when performing operations on them. The judge in that case ruled the two women were entitled to the same compensation as would be received in similar circumstances in the UK. They were British citizens and entitled to equal compensation.

SHG appealed against this decision of the court and lost. They took their case to a higher court and lost again. Showing incredible obstinacy and disregard for the legal costs involved, SHG appealed again, right through to the highest court in the England and Wales legal system. They lost again. SHG were finally forced to concede. They had to accept and respect the citizenship rights of the Saints they governed and not attempt to pay out cut-price compensation when found to be at fault and people suffer because of it.

Mr Willem then turned to the Civil Costs Ordinance. This legislation is focussed only on the kind of legal scenario where a doctor is not monitored and regular checks are not made to ensure clinical standards are maintained. In the Sergio case, lack of effective monitoring allowed him to cause personal injury to a large and probably still unknown number of people. What we do know is that about 140 claims for compensation are waiting to be heard in a court of law.

He explained there are several obstacles in the detailed procedures laid down in the Ordinance which make it extremely difficult for a top-flight UK lawyer to provide adequate representation for claimants. Some obstacles make it impossible.

Mr Willem pointed to a particular type of insurance claimants need to take out which cover costs they have to pay, whether they win the case or not. Now the Civil Cost Ordinance is on the statute book, no insurer is prepared to offer insurance to a Saint with a compensation claim. The rigorous restrictions in the Ordinance are the cause of that.

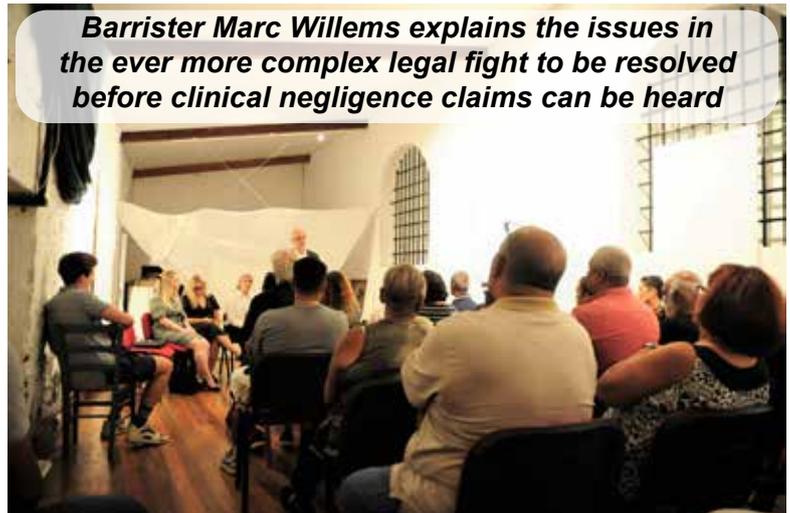
Without that insurance, adequate legal representation cannot be obtained. As the law stands, the only legal representation available is the Public Solicitor Office. The PSO is widely regarded as unsuitable for complex, high volume cases due to the meagre government funding they have to exist on, the small number and inexperienced staff available and inadequate resources in every direction.

A former attorney general is reported this week claiming the 'whole purpose' of the Civil Costs Ordinance is to ensure lawyers are not profiting unreasonably. First, the Ordinance only applies to lawyers representing claimants in personal injury cases. It does not apply to top-flight lawyers instructed by the government to fight such claims.

At a fairly recent court hearing on costs claimed by lawyers representing claimants, the to and fro of discussion touched on what the government was paying the top-flight barristers who represented them at that particular hearing. Eventually the answer to this question was provided. SHG were paying their own barristers more than they were claiming was reasonable for lawyers representing the claimants for clinical negligence.

Catherine Turner, as Commissioner for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) was invited to speak at last Thursday's public meeting. The EHRC also took legal action to obtain a judicial

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Nowhere Left to Sit at Sergio Law Public Meeting

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review of the Litigation Costs Ordinance. Catherine managed to obtain the services of top-quality lawyers. She said the EHRC had a budget of £20,000 for legal representation. The lawyers she persuaded to act in this case were willing to do it for next to nothing.

The £20,000 in her budget set aside to pay lawyers is held by SHG. EHRC has to gain their permission for the money to be released. As usual, there is painful bureaucratic process involved. The final person required to give permission said no. The full amount requested would not be released, only half the amount. As it happened, the lawyers who had agreed to work for next to nothing then agreed to work for half of next to nothing.

That Andrew Dawson, the former attorney general, should tell councillors the purpose of the legislation is to ensure lawyers 'are not profiting unreasonably' is a world away from this particular reality. We have to ask how unreasonable are SHG? And why?

Having lost the battle to pay cut price compensation, we should also wonder why SHG are spending so much time, effort and money on what is paid to lawyers representing people with claims against the government. Reality is not always obvious.

Luke Jones is a journalist/broadcaster who spent last week with his microphone in hand interviewing a range of people about what he calls 'The Sergio Case'. While interviewing, his colleague Louisa kept two cameras ticking over.



Luke introduces himself on his website with, 'I'm a freelance broadcaster and journalist. I host The Times' flagship podcast The Story and for the BBC World Service I present OS, Newsday and Weekend.

In 2025 I released my podcast series The Pitcairn Trials, which investigates the small British territory in the South Pacific and its legacy of abuse.

The Times gave it 5 stars, The Observer called it "gripping" and the FT called it "compelling...and illuminating". I was nominated Best Host at the British Podcast Awards.'

If Luke wanted to impress, he did. But there's more. 'I've presented shows on BBC Radio 4 including PM, The World at One, Broadcasting House, The World Tonight, Front Row, Any Questions and Saturday Live. For two years I was a Breakfast presenter on Times Radio. I've presented for Sky Arts, National Theatre Live and written for The Times, The Sunday Times and Daily Mail.'

It's a glittering list of top line media platforms and programmes, except for.... the Daily Mail! That one sticks out like a sore thumb. Still, he knows a good whisky when it comes into view, can smell a good coffee from 100 paces and is kind to dogs. Anyway, we all have our quirks. There's no getting away from the widely held view, the Daily Mail is quirky.

As for St Helena, Luke said, "I've never walked down a street with so many welcoming and waving faces looking back. It's true what they say about the generosity, the chattiness, and the kindness of Saints." Well said Luke, but what about work? "We're heading back to the UK to cut together our podcast series on the Dr Sergio case, its fallout, and the island. This will be released on all platforms in due course. We'll release some short videos with the series as well."

He added, "I think Brits in the UK will find it interesting to hear what is happening on British soil that many don't realise exists." His final tantalising remark to make sure we all seek out his podcast, "I hope Saints will find it interesting too. Particularly what some of their elected and unelected representatives said into my microphone." He's good!

The Independent Has the Court Papers on Judicial Review of Sergio Law

Four months ago, the SH Independent requested copies of documents submitted to the court by legal representatives acting in the application for a Judicial Review of the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance. Last Friday, they were released to us under instruction from Sir Nicholas Blake, who was appointed in January to be the Acting Supreme Court Judge to hear the application.

Judge Blake has permitted the Judicial Review to go ahead and will make orders on the issues accepted for review. It is generally agreed Judge Blake seems keen to move quickly on the Review. A three-day hearing has been scheduled for May. It is now expected to start on Monday 18th May. The hearing will take place in London. The court proceedings will be screened live in the court house on the Grand Parade. It may be at a different venue within the court buildings as the court house itself is booked that week on other matters. An update will be provided nearer the time.

The court papers are mainly written statements confirmed by oath or affirmation, for use as evidence in court. There are several written statements containing numerous details supporting reasons why a judicial review of the Ordinance should be allowed. There is too much information for one report in one issue of the Independent. We plan to publish a series of articles over the coming weeks.

From the Court Papers

The Mario Peters Case – Statement of Facts and Grounds

This week we give information on an affidavit, or sworn statement, in the name of Mario Peters, submitted by his mother and litigation friend Mrs Gillian, with Ruth Powell, Head of Clinical Negligence at Hugh James Solicitors as the applicant.

Introduction

On behalf of Mario Peters, the application requests a judicial review of various parts of the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance. First, a costs capping order that

(i) limits the costs which the *Defendant*# may recover from the Plaintiff to £1.00, and

(ii) limits the costs which the *Plaintiff*## may recover from the Defendant to £30,000. The Plaintiff is Mario Peters; the Defendant is the St Helena government.

Defendant is the St Helena Government in this case

Plaintiff - a person who brings a case against another in a court of law

Also requested is an order quashing sections of the Ordinance on the following grounds;

1. incompatible with section 10(10) of the Constitution;
2. violates the Plaintiff's rights protected by section 10(10) of the Constitution in light of their effect on the Plaintiff's ability to progress ongoing negligence proceedings against the Defendant;
3. violates the Plaintiff's rights protected by section 19(1) of the Constitution by frustrating the Plaintiff's legitimate expectation that he would secure damages from the Defendant through ongoing negligence proceedings; and
4. are therefore repugnant to an order made under authority of an Act of Parliament and are absolutely void and inoperative.
5. Such other relief as the Court sees fit, in the exercise of its jurisdiction; and

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From the Court Papers

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6. Costs.

There follows a STATEMENT OF FACTS AND GROUNDS

In the introduction, Ruth Powell makes three main points about the Ordinance;

1. To make it practically impossible for Saints to secure adequate legal representation in complex claims
2. To deprive the Plaintiff and other negligence claimants of legal representation and effective access to the courts in their existing claim against the Defendant. As detailed in the second affidavit of Ruth Powell, that appears to have been a specific objective, or at least a known consequence, of the Costs Ordinance.
3. The Ordinance violates rights protected by the Constitution
4. The Plaintiff is aware of and supports the grounds for a judicial review made by the St Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission

The next section is the Factual Background where incidents and situations supporting clinical negligence are recorded.

The facts include:-

In 2015, the Defendant employed Mr. Sergio Villatoro Bran as the Resident Orthopaedic Surgeon on St Helena on a short-term contract with St Helena Health Directorate. This contract was extended and Mr. Bran was further employed between 1 July 2016 and 18 June 2021. Between July 2016 and February 2021, he carried out over 400 orthopaedic surgeries on residents of St Helena, the population of which is less than 4,000 residents.

Mr. Bran was left to operate on island unquestioned and unchecked. A physiotherapist in St Helena raised concerns regarding the lack of physiotherapy referrals from Mr. Bran. Questions were raised regarding Mr. Bran's practice and ultimately a police investigation was opened. Several UK based police officers were seconded to St Helena to assist with the investigation. In early 2022, Mr. Bran was charged with 5 counts of unlawful wounding and 2 counts of sexual assault committed during the course of his employment in St Helena.

In November 2022, Hugh James Solicitors ('Hugh James') was asked to look into the situation on island by contacts of the British police officers who carried out the criminal investigation. Three potential plaintiffs approached Hugh James to act on their behalf in a civil clinical negligence claim against the Defendant. Following the criminal conviction and sentencing of Mr. Bran, Hugh James received a surge in enquiries. To date, Hugh James have been instructed by approximately 140 proposed plaintiffs who have been affected by clinical negligence in St Helena.

Hugh James proposed alternative dispute resolution by way of a compensation protocol scheme ('the Protocol') which all suitable clinical negligence claims would proceed through. The Protocol was intended to achieve justice for plaintiffs and the Defendant alike, as cheaply and efficiently as possible.

On 23 September 2023, the Defendant made the following press release which supported

From the Court Papers

the compensation protocol. The press release included:-

To this end, an independently operated compensation scheme will be established to process and manage claims associated with previous treatment delivered by Dr Bran. SHG have therefore engaged an external law firm with significant experience in these matters to develop and manage the scheme, which will be operated entirely independent of SHG. People potentially making claims based on the care they received by Dr Bran may see compensation. We believe that setting up a specific compensation scheme devoted to review and decide those claims, along with deciding levels of compensation to be awarded, is a sensible approach by a responsible government

In providing for a dedicated, experienced and independent team to deal with claims, it is hoped that claimants are able to get justice and achieve a fair outcome in the most cost and time effective, and least stressful, way possible.

And then. . .

The Defendant instructed Weightmans Solicitors ('Weightmans'), another UK based law firm, to negotiate the Protocol. Weightmans and Hugh James worked cooperatively on the Protocol. However, as a final draft was nearing completion, the Defendant reneged on their promise to remain "*at arm's length*" from the process and rejected the emerging Protocol on the basis that it was too expensive. The Defendant proposed an entirely new and unworkable scheme.

Hugh James was left with no alternative other than to attempt to litigate the proposed clinical negligence claims. The first of such claims, which was already proceeding through the Supreme Court, was the Plaintiff's claim.

Background to the Plaintiff's Claim

Some Points made in the Statement have been abbreviated

- The Mario Peters claim originated from clinical negligence by Mr. Sergio Villatoro Bran from 23 August 2017.
- The Plaintiff first instructed the Public Solicitor Office (PSO) to bring a clinical negligence claim against the Defendant. Proceedings commenced on 21 July 2020.
- It is understood that no issues in respect of the PSO's costs and the Defendant's likely liability for the same were raised.
- The Defendant filed an Amended Defence, dated 24 October 2023, which admitted breach of duty and causation.
- Despite the Court ordering directions through to trial to be heard in the summer of 2024, and the admission, very little occurred in respect of progression of the Claim and directions were not complied with.
- Mrs Peters considered that the Plaintiff was receiving inadequate representations from the PSO and instructed Hugh James in their place. Hugh James came on the Court record on 22 April 2024.
- Thereafter Hugh James faced a hostile environment whilst attempting to pursue the litigation on behalf of the Plaintiff. Legal costs became an increasingly prevalent issue.
- On 29 November 2024, the Plaintiff's claim was put on hold by the Supreme Court

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From the Court Papers

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pending resolution of procedural issues set out below.

- On 29 May 2025, Her Honour Judge Sarah Campbell gave judgment on the Plaintiff's application for declarations that his Compensation Fee Agreement was valid and enforceable and that he was permitted to take out an After the Event insurance policy. Upon invitation from the Defendant, the Supreme Court also sought to exercise early control over costs.
- Judge Campbell ruled on this application declaring it is not necessary to apply to the Legal Assistance Fund and there is entitlement to After the Event Insurance.
- The judge disregarded the usual rules for controlling costs and imposed a cap on fixed hourly rates for the Plaintiffs legal representatives. Rulings on other procedures were seen as contentious and contradictory.
- On 10 June 2025, the Plaintiff indicated his intention to appeal Judge Campbell's decision
- On 26 June 2025, four days prior to the dissolution of the Legislative Council in advance of the United Kingdom General Election, and without any public consultation, the bill that became the Costs Ordinance was presented to and passed through the Legislative Council. All stages of the formal legislative process were completed in the course of one hour and twenty minutes. In what was plainly not a coincidence, the fixed hourly rates set by Judge Campbell on 29 May 2025 in relation to the negligence proceedings were largely adopted by the Governor of St Helena as applicable under the Costs Ordinance.
- the Costs Ordinance was introduced and enacted with the negligence proceedings in mind. This amounted to the St Helena legislature intervening in ongoing judicial proceedings against the St Helena Government with either:-
 - i) the objective of depriving the negligence cohort* of effective legal representation; or
 - ii) in circumstances where the legislature knew or ought to have known that the effect of the Costs Ordinance was likely to result in the deprivation of the negligence cohort* of effective legal representation.
- the direct consequence of the Costs Ordinance is that Hugh James is unable to continue acting for the Plaintiff or any of the negligence cohort* in the negligence proceedings.
- Moreover, neither the Plaintiff nor any of the negligence cohort* can secure alternative adequate representation. The effect of the Costs Ordinance is, therefore, to deny the Plaintiff and others within the negligence cohort* effective access to court to seek a remedy for torts** for which the Defendant has (in at least a number of cases) already admitted breach of duty and causation.

* cohort – refers to the 140 approx. claims for clinical negligence

** tort - a wrongful act or an infringement of a right leading to legal liability.

This document is dated 1st October 2025 and has the names of:-

Marc Willems KC

Toby Fisher and

Jennifer Dickenson

Barristers instructed by Hugh James Solicitors

MORE NEXT WEEK

Changes to the Personal Tax-Free Allowance

Statement from Chief Minister

The next sitting of Formal Legislative Council will take place on 19 March 2026, where three Bills are scheduled to be discussed.

This includes the bill to amend the Income Tax Ordinance 2012 to make provision for changes to the personal tax-free allowance.

As a government, we are acutely aware of the pressures many households are facing from the rising cost of living. Where we can provide support, we will do so, but we must also balance this with our responsibility to maintain a sustainable budget and avoid placing financial burdens on future years.

For the first time in 12 years, this Government is proposing an increase to the personal tax-free allowance, which has remained at £7,000 since it was introduced. While the increase is modest, it signals the direction we intend to take over the term of this Government.

The proposed adjustment reflects an inflationary increase of just over 2%. This is about protecting people from inflation rather than handing out a short-term “perk”. Inflation in the last quarter of 2025 was around 2.2%. Without adjusting the allowance, its real value gradually erodes, meaning people effectively pay more tax simply because everyday prices have risen. We know this change is not as much as some people had hoped for. However, we have been determined to find a way to begin making improvements at the start of our term, while acting responsibly with public finances.

Our approach is to move away from the pattern of leaving thresholds unchanged for many years and then making sudden large increases. Instead, we want to move toward smaller, regular adjustments that protect people’s living standards and keep key financial support in line with rising costs over time.

In short, this change helps maintain the real value of the tax-free allowance year by year. This is also only the first step. We are looking at a range of measures that can help give support to those most affected by rising costs of living. This includes the annual review of the minimum wage, which we know has a direct impact on disposable income, as well as looking closely at utilities and other essential costs.

We recognise the challenges people are facing, and we remain committed to making steady, responsible changes that support our community while protecting the long-term stability of St Helena’s public finances.

NOTE:

A calculation of what cost £7,000.00 in 2014 is that it would cost £9,763.31 in January 2026. This is based on, between 2014 and January 2026, price inflation was 39.5% overall. You would need £9,763.31 (£2,763.31 extra) in January 2026 to have the same purchasing power as £7,000.00 in 2014.

Income tax at 26 pence in the £ means £718.50 is the tax paid on £2,763.31 in current year because the personal allowance of £7,000 has not been adjusted for inflation. See <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/income-tax/> for more details.

Commonwealth Day Message from Hon Shirley Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General

This Commonwealth Day, we affirm the truth that co-operation among nations – freely chosen, values-based and equal – remains the surest foundation for peace and prosperity.

The Commonwealth is not held together by force or geography. It is sustained by conviction. Fifty-six countries, one third of humanity, united by a shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

The world is changing – economically, technologically, environmentally and geopolitically. Institutions are under strain and trust is being tested.

Communities everywhere feel the weight of disruption and the anxiety of transition.

The temptation to narrow our horizons and turn inward can be powerful, but the Commonwealth chooses partnership.

Partnership as lasting friendship, as strategy, as joint action and as a clear statement that sovereignty is strengthened, not diminished, when nations work together in mutual respect.

Our diversity is extraordinary. We include small island states on the frontline of climate change and major economies shaping global markets. We are young, entrepreneurial, creative and resilient. And we are connected – through language, education, business, law, culture and enduring human ties.

Those connections are powerful instruments for resilience and progress.

They lower barriers, deepen trust and create the conditions in which trade can flourish, investment can flow and innovation can spread. In uncertain times, trust itself becomes a source of strength.

True partnership is never passive. It asks more of us – and this is such a moment.

Across the Commonwealth, citizens seek security in their livelihoods, fairness in global systems, and confidence in the future. They want growth that includes them. Transitions that protect the vulnerable. Institutions that listen and respond.

As we work together towards the consequential Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, we carry a shared responsibility: to ensure that our co-operation translates into stability, resilience and a truly prosperous Commonwealth.

Our family of nations has always evolved. From supporting newly independent nations to standing firm for democratic principles and climate action, we have shown that our values are most powerful when they are lived.

We meet this time of change with the promise of renewal – of our purpose, our partnership and our confidence.

Confidence that multilateralism grounded in shared values is our only path to transformation and shared prosperity.

Confidence in the energy and ingenuity of our people.

Confidence that by acting together, we expand what is possible for every nation.

Commonwealth Day is both a celebration and a promise.

I hope that this Commonwealth Day, each of us can share in a celebration of enduring bonds



Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey is a Ghanaian politician, diplomat and lawyer who has served as the seventh secretary-general of the Commonwealth of Nations since 1 April 2025.

Commonwealth Day Message from Hon Shirley Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General

across oceans and generations, and renew our promise that – despite the uncertainty of our times – we choose co-operation over division, dialogue over discord, and partnership over isolation.

When we do, we do more than navigate change. Together, we shape a future worthy of our shared values and all our people.



Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey. The Secretary-General read the Commonwealth Day Affirmation at the multi-faith service of celebration at Westminster Abbey in London. The audience at Westminster Abbey included His Majesty King Charles III, Her Majesty the Queen, foreign ministers, Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon Shirley Botchwey, High Commissioners, senior government officials, and dignitaries. More than 700 schoolchildren also attended. In total, almost 2,000 people from around the Commonwealth attended the service.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING OVERSEAS CONFERENCE



Deputy Speaker Connie Johnson and Councillor Denis Leo, accompanied by Legislative Council Office Assistant, Marita Bagley are currently attending the 74th Westminster Seminar in London on 'Effective Parliaments' from 9 to 13 March 2026. Delegates will return to the island on Saturday 21 March 2026.

This event is funded by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK.

During the period Councillor Denis Leo is away from the Island, Councillor Ronald Coleman will cover the Longwood district and can be contacted via email ronald.coleman@parliament.sh. Councillor Denis Leo will also remain contactable during this period via his email dennis.leo@parliament.sh.

Commonwealth Day on St Helena

On Commonwealth Day St Helena joined millions of people around the world in celebrating Commonwealth Day — a day that reminds us of the strength of partnership, shared values and cooperation across a global family of 56 nations representing more than 2.7 billion people.

Here on St Helena, the day was commemorated with a meaningful and uplifting gathering at Anne's Place, where members of the community came together for the Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony.

HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE delivered the Commonwealth Day Message from His Majesty King Charles III, Head of the Commonwealth, while Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairnsicks read the Commonwealth Day Message from The Rt Hon Shirley Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretary-General.



The ceremony commenced with an introduction by Hon. Ronald Coleman MLC, followed by a welcome by Hon. Maureen Thompson, Speaker of the St Helena Legislative Council and President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

This was followed by the reading of the Commonwealth Affirmation by Miss Lilli Adams, Youth Parliament Vice Chairperson, reaffirming the shared values and commitments that unite the Commonwealth community.

Inspirational contributions were also shared by Jonathan Passaportis, Head of Tourism, Louis Youde, Youth Entrepreneur, and Zac Bargo, Chair of the Youth Parliament, each highlighting the importance of opportunity, leadership and the role that young people play in shaping the future of our island.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Hon. Ronald Coleman MLC, marking a fitting end to a proud and reflective celebration.

Across the island, Elected Members also visited all three schools, participating in assemblies and delivering His Majesty King Charles III's Commonwealth Day Message, encouraging our young people to recognise that they are part of a wider global community.

At St Helena Secondary School, students were reminded that while our island may be small, our connection to the Commonwealth means we are part of something much bigger.

Students were encouraged to recognise the many opportunities that exist through Commonwealth partnerships, youth initiatives and leadership programmes.

Commonwealth Day on St Helena

Commonwealth Day reminds us that while we may be separated by oceans, we are united by shared values, friendship and cooperation — and together we can continue building a brighter future for our island and the wider Commonwealth community.

Falklands Legislative Assembly Marks Commonwealth Day with Youth-Focused Sitting

The Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly marked Commonwealth Day 2026 on Monday with a public statement highlighting the Territory's links to the wider Commonwealth network and the role of local democratic institutions.

The statement said Commonwealth membership connects the Falkland Islands to a network of 56 countries “united by shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law,” matching the organisation's own description of its purpose and membership.

A central element of the day's programme was a special sitting by the FICS Youth Parliament, with young Islanders putting questions directly to elected members in the Legislative Assembly chamber. The Assembly said the event was intended to mark the day by having “the future of our community” engage directly with the democratic institutions that serve it.

The Youth Parliament has previously taken part in formal sittings and civic education activities in recent years.

For the Falklands Assembly, the day linked that broader framework to two local themes: institutional belonging within the Commonwealth and direct civic participation by younger Islanders.

Events in London

In London, Richard Hyslop, the Falklands Representative at the Falklands Government Office, attended a number of events to mark the Commonwealth Day.

Births (Feb '26)

Imani Evie-Grace Joshua (F) - 14/02/2026

Deaths (Feb '26)

Patrick Kenneth Francis (Male, 88) - 18/02/2026

Keith George Benjamin (Male, 77) - 23/02/2026

Marina Dawn Young (Female, 72) - 24/02/2026

Wilfred Stephen Young (Male, 68) - 25/02/2026

Happy Mother's Day!
You are truly a blessing!
Enjoy the day, you deserve
it. Today acknowledges all
the things you do that
make you the
Fantastic Mom you are!

LoveThisPic.com



HAPPY
MOTHERS DAY







WORD SEARCH

E	N	E	R	G	Y	X	T	Q
A	S	H	I	N	E	R	L	A
R	A	Y	M	H	G	I	L	T
T	W	A	R	M	T	H	T	S
S	O	L	A	R	N	S	I	R
L	G	H	T	E	S	T	A	
L	G	H	T	W	A	A		
E	N	E	R	G	Y	S		
S	T	A	R	H	R	H		

WORDS TO FIND:

SOLAR ENERGY
 RAY SHINE
 STAR WARMTH

DRAW IT!

DRAW THE SUN IN THE SKY...

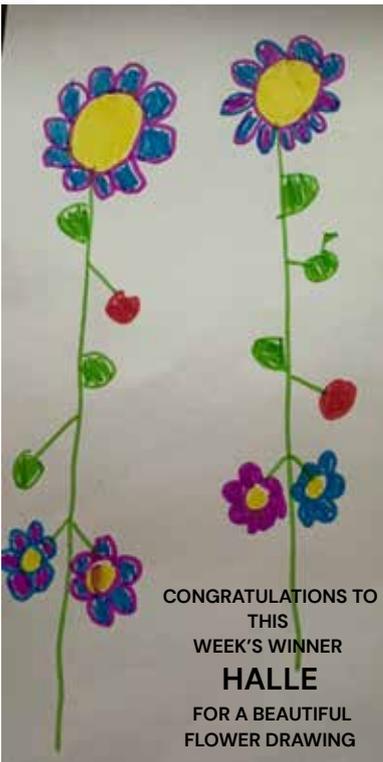


GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR SUN...

HOW ABOUT FUN ?!

CALL ME RAY!

<p>WHY DID THE SUN TAKE A BREAK?</p> <p>It was too burned out.</p>	<p>WHAT PROTECTS CLOWNS FROM THE SUN?</p> <p>A Bozone layer.</p>
<p>HOW DOES THE SUN DRINK WATER?</p> <p>Out of sunglasses.</p>	<p>WHY DIDN'T THE SUN GO TO COLLEGE?</p> <p>Because it already has a million degrees.</p>



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS
WEEK'S WINNER
HALLE
 FOR A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER DRAWING

WHICH ONE IS NOT THE SAME ?

8 SUNS...

PHEW ! NO WONDER IT'S SO HOT TODAY !

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.

Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/ Church Parade Mothering Sunday	Cathedral
Wednesday 18th March 2026		
6.30 p.m.	Growing the Church Youth & Young Adult Ministry	St Andrew
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	Cathedral
Thursday 19th March 2026		
7.00 p.m.	Mission Praise & Worship/Lent Course	Blue Hill Community Centre
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade Mothering Sunday	St James
Monday 16th March		
7.00 p.m.	Growing the Church	St James
Thursday 19th March		
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday		
11.15 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade Mothering Sunday	St Mark
Tuesday 17th March 2026		
7.00 p.m.	Growing the Church	St Mark

Venues for Growing the Church Mission		
Monday 16th March 2026		
19.00 – 20:30pm	Releasing God's Abundant Blessings	St James
Tuesday 17th March 2026		
18:30 – 20:30pm	BSOW3 – Breakthru to the Next Level	St Mark's Hall
Wednesday 18th March 2026		
18:30 – 20:30pm	Lent Course – Langham "Becoming Like Jesus"	Cathedral
18:00 – 19:00pm	BSOW Youth & Young Adults Material	St Andrew
Thurs 19th March 2026		
19:00 -20:30pm	Mission & Worship	Blue Hill Co munity Centre
Fri 20th March 2026		
18:30 – 20:30pm	BSOW3 – Anyone Can Teach so Students Excel	Cathedral

MARCH OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30
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Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Tuesday, 24 March	09:30 - 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Wednesday, 25 March	09:30 - 13:00

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com

www.sainthelenabank.com

@sainthelenabank

+290 22390

Market Street, Jamestown

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

SEMINARS ON Women's Health & Parenting

ENJOY TWO EVENINGS OF LEARNING, EMPOWERMENT AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

6:30PM Each Evening At The Longwood
Rock Praise & Worship Centre

SEMINAR 1:
MONDAY 23RD MARCH 2026

**UNDERSTANDING
MENOPAUSE**

**Embracing Change
with Confidence**

Supporting women through every stage of life. Gain deeper insights into the physical, emotional and mental changes of menopause. Learn effective self-care tips, wellness strategies and ways to embrace this new chapter with strength and grace

SEMINAR 2:
TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026

**PARENTING IN THE
MODERN WORLD**

**Raising Confident, Resilient
Children in today's
fast-changing society**

Discover practical strategies, communication techniques and positive discipline approaches to help you guide your children with wisdom, patience and confidence in the digital age

! ALL ARE WELCOME !

Join us and be empowered
to thrive at every stage of life!

CONTACT: CHERYL BEDWELL 25710, SARAH NEWMAN-LEO 61946,
DONNA HERNE 25490 OR EDSON STEVENS 64943 FOR MORE DETAILS

Baptist Church Gospel Outreach

MAKE A JOYFUL Noise TO THE LORD

sing!

When: Sunday:
15th March 2026

Where: Kingshurst Community
Centre

Time: 3.00 pm

Gospel in Song

Refreshments

Preached Word

sing!

Vacancy

Internal Auditor



Salary for the post will range between £18,000.00 - £20,386.00 per annum;
depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Internal Audit Department for an Internal Auditor.

As Internal Auditor you will review organisational controls and add value through the systematic, disciplined approach to evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance, and conduct independent appraisal projects in relation to the effectiveness of policies, processes and standards of financial, physical and information asset management.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have a minimum of 3-years financial experience, through accounting / auditing and ideally possess an ACCA or similar qualification
- Have experience in a Management role, with strong leadership skills, with the ability to lead and develop a team
- Possess Grades C or above in GCSE Maths and English or equivalent with proficiency in ICT
- Have knowledge of computerised accounting / audit record keeping systems
- Have knowledge of audit procedures including planning, techniques, test and sampling methods involved in conducting audits
- Have knowledge of risk management & compliance
- The ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and prepare and present concise oral and written reports
- Have excellent communication, problem solving and analytical skills with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Be in possession of a clean and valid driver's licence in class A

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

Mr Neil Wilshere, Chief Executive Officer via ☎ 22380 ✉ neil.wilshere@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **26 March 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

Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper



Salary for the post will commence at £11,100 per annum (£213 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper.

As the Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for the loading and delivery of fuels to clients, provide support to the Watchkeepers as and when required, assist with general maintenance duties and also assist with Ship-to-Shore Tanker operations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally be familiar with the safe loading, transportation and dispensing of fuels in bulk via Road Tanker
- Be in possession of a clean & valid drivers' licence in class J4
- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Ideally be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

Mr Rico Yon, BFI Manager via ☎ 22332 ✉ bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **19 March 2026**.

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

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

Property For Sale



4 Bedroom Home Alarm Forest £185,000

- ▶ Modern finished and well presented 4 Bedroom House
- ▶ Internal area 110m²
- ▶ Great location with large parking area and facilities which benefits with ocean views
- ▶ Property would make a fantastic family home or AirBnB or long-term rental
- ▶ An investment property which will provide good Return on Investment

Building Plot Near the Rock Club £17,500

Potential for a modern 2 or 3 bedroom family home
Minimal excavation as the land is flat
Offers great location and easy building opportunity



Further details available at DPS, The Market,
Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email
derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290
53222/25836





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

Emergency Medical Technician (2-year fixed term) (£16,248 per annum)

As an EMT, you'll respond to emergencies, deliver clinical care across community and hospital settings, and take responsibility for the Emergency Department in the absence of a senior clinician. You'll provide care in line with JRCALC and UK Resuscitation Council guidelines, ensuring safe, high-quality, and compassionate care for every patient. The role includes on-call duties, unsocial hours, and opportunities to support service development and training. This is an opportunity to use your skills in a challenging but rewarding environment where teamwork, adaptability, and professionalism are key. You will be part of a service that plays an essential role in supporting the island's health and wellbeing. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Michael Gaga-Hale on Tel No. 25870 or Email: michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 20 March 2026
Interview date: 30 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.



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.

Data Management Officer (1-year fixed term) (£25,000 per annum)

The Data Management Officer will support the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer and the broader Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section team in the management, storage, and analysis of critical data necessary for the effective oversight of St Helena's Category 6 Marine Protected Area. The individual in this position will be instrumental in enhancing data systems, facilitating staff development, and ensuring data integrity throughout the section. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Adam Riggs on Tel No. 25966 or Email: adam.riggs@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 March 2026
Interview date: 03 April 2026

Senior Marketing Manager (£24,503 per annum)

The Senior Marketing Manager will help to improve the lives of all within our community by raising awareness of St Helena as a place to live, learn, work, visit and invest and help the island thrive by leading and coordinating all St Helena Government (SHG) marketing activities. A key focus of the role will be on improving visitor numbers and expenditure by delivering destination marketing initiatives that develop the island's tourism sector. The Senior Marketing Manager will report to the Head of Communications and will be part of the Communications Hub, overseeing the marketing function. The role will serve as a firm link strengthening working relationships, systems and structures between St Helena and external stakeholders, and will support a wide range of PR, product/service development, marketing issues and initiatives, and provide strategic marketing leadership for projects and partnerships. Interested? Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anne Dillon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anne.dillon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 March 2026
Interview date: 02 April 2026

Casual workers (Tourist Office) (Rate of pay - £8.60 per hour)

Are you a highly motivated and reliable individual looking to grow your global skills in a customer facing role? The Tourist Office is looking to recruit a pool of casual workers to join the team when required, over weekends at the airport and office, during cruise ship visits and at various events.

As a Tourism Officer (Casual), your primary role would be customer facing, providing information about St Helena and liaising with service providers to give visitors a positive visitor experience. Role may include assisting at special events, raising awareness about St Helena and promoting the various tourism activities the island provides. Applicants must be able to work at weekends and flexible hours.

Enquiries: Dianne Venning on 22158 or Email: dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 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.

PRESS RELEASE

Draft St Helena Vision and Strategy 2026 - 2029

A Stronger, Fairer Future for St Helena: Government Sets Out its Vision

St Helena has come a long way in recent years with the successful delivery of some key projects and policies, including the delivery of a new port in Ruperts, improved road infrastructure, the recovery of tourism through the Tourism Recovery Strategy, internationally recognised marine and terrestrial conservation initiatives, and the commencement of primary re-organisation.

Despite these wins, St Helena still faces a complex set of interlinked social, economic, and environmental challenges that threaten the island's long-term sustainability and the well-being of our community. Rising costs of living, an aging and declining population, labour shortages, fragile national infrastructure, and declining trust in institutions have eroded public confidence and reinforced a cycle of uncertainty and outward migration. These dynamics reinforce one another. Population decline reduces the labour force and tax base; weak systems undermine confidence; environmental degradation threatens water, food and health; and uncertainty drives outward migration.

The Government is developing its new Vision and Strategy setting out a clear path to first stabilise and start to reverse these trends and build a fairer, more resilient, and forward-looking St Helena. We believe in a community where every person is valued, has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life, and where families, businesses, and the environment can thrive together.

Our vision is for a fair, inclusive, more resilient and forward-looking St Helena, confident in its future, responsible in its stewardship and united in purpose to become a sustainable thriving community with people at its heart.

We recognise that rebuilding confidence will require phased reform, and a clear focus on what is affordable and what can be delivered sustainably within our financial and institutional capacity. We also recognise the increasing costs of service delivery, as a result of our aging population and shrinking workforce as well as the impact of increasing international costs, for example supply of pharmaceuticals. This means we need to look carefully at the sustainability of our current range of service delivery.

The strategy will be built around three themes that have been shaped by the voices and experiences of St Helenians across the island:

1. **Stabilising the Population and Labour Market:** Creating conditions for people to stay, return, and contribute through fulfilling careers, skills development, and fair access to services.
2. **Protecting Living Standards and Core Services:** Ensuring immediate support for those under pressure, while reforming health, social care, education, and infrastructure for long-term sustainability.
3. **Enabling Sustainable, Locally Driven Growth:** Diversifying the economy, investing in digital and physical infrastructure, and developing productive economic sectors which safeguard the environment as a strategic asset, creating an enabling environment to accelerate opportunities for growth.

Key actions include aligning education and workforce planning with current and future needs, commitment to partnership with the community in preventative healthcare, affordable utilities, and public service modernisation. The strategy also recognises the need for incremental tax and revenue reform and disciplined public financial

management. The strategy will support initiatives already in train, such as the continued implementation of the Tourism Development Programme, Company Registry and Financial Services Development Programme, and completion of the long overdue immigration reforms. It also seeks to explore new areas of government intervention, with fresh thinking already commenced with the fishery, in high value agriculture, wharf redevelopment, and on expanding the St Helena Research Institute.

Implementation will be phased, with clear milestones and measurable outcomes, which will be shared pending the outcome of budget discussions with the UK Government. Government will communicate openly about progress and constraints, adapt as needed based on evidence and lived experience, and work in partnership across portfolios, communities, business, and civil society.

Government is clear that St Helena cannot only tax its way out of structural challenges by increasing the burden on wages in a shrinking population. Long-term sustainability requires a broader and fairer revenue base, improved compliance, and growth-linked revenues, alongside disciplined public financial management.

By focusing first on stabilising people's lives and rebuilding trust, while strengthening the foundations of our economy, services, and environment, we will restore confidence and set St Helena on a more secure and hopeful path, step by step, and together.

Policy Priorities 2026–2029

Following on from the above, the Government will focus on nine cross government policy priorities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Stabilise the population and labour market | 5. Enable sustainable, locally driven economic growth |
| 2. Protect health and social care and improve prevention outcomes | 6. Grow revenues fairly |
| 3. Reform education and build the future workforce | 7. Reform and strengthen the public service |
| 4. Reduce the cost of living through investment in utilities and infrastructure | 8. Safeguard the environment as a strategic asset |
| | 9. Protect living standards during transition |

These priorities are aligned with a set of Strategic Outcomes, that reflect the importance of cross portfolio partnerships, the reality of resource limitations, and the interconnections and interdependencies inherent in bringing about changes.

Each outcome guides the various work streams and activities across the different sectors, for example:

- Health: stabilising hospital flow, reducing overseas referrals, expanding residential care, developing sustainable financing models.
- Education: COBIS accreditation, primary school reorganisation, Additional Educational Needs reform, post-16 vocational pathways, a more inclusive educational system and establishing a Higher Educational Provision on St Helena.
- Utilities: renewable energy transition, telecoms regulation, water security.
- Growth: tourism development, Impact Company Registry, financial services reform, agriculture and fisheries revival.
- Public Service: digital transformation, workforce planning, performance management.

Over the coming weeks, the Government will discuss the draft strategy more widely with focused stakeholder groups and invite discussion to help identify any remaining gaps, including issues relevant to groups we have not yet reached. Our aim is to finalise and publish the strategy once we have confirmation of our budgetary aid settlement, expected in April 2026 and at this time clear milestone and timelines will be confirmed. We will review the strategy annually to ensure it remains responsive to the island's changing needs.



PRESS RELEASE

St Helena Government Launches Business Support Scheme

The St Helena Government (SHG) today announced the launch of a Business Support Scheme to provide financial relief to tourism-sector businesses directly affected by the temporary closure of St Helena Airport in February.

Background

On Friday, 6 February 2026, St Helena Airport was unable to operate under normal conditions. Unfortunately, the airport could not provide the ICAO Rescue and Firefighting Category 6 required to support the scheduled Airlink service.

This situation led to four flights being cancelled before Category 6 was restored. The interruption had an immediate and significant impact on the tourism sector, particularly for businesses reliant on visitor arrivals.

Who Can Apply?

The scheme is open to businesses that are incorporated or normally domiciled in St Helena, operating in one of the following sectors:

- Destination Management Companies
- Travel Agents
- Tour Operators
- Tourist Accommodation Providers (Food and Beverage excluded)

To qualify, businesses must be able to demonstrate that a confirmed booking or contract was directly affected by the airport closure, and that this resulted in a loss of guaranteed profit. Supporting evidence will be required as part of the application.

What Support Is Available?

Once an application has been approved SHG will provide assistance to affected businesses.

Support options approved by Executive Council are:

- Interest-Free Loan: This scheme will be most suited to businesses who have experienced significant cash flow issues because of the airport closure but can reclaim the losses from suppliers or through insurance. This will need to be repaid within 24 months.
- SHG Booking and Prepayment Scheme for 2026–2028 Services: SHG will provide assistance by booking and prepaying for services that match the loss incurred due to the airport closure. This is most suited to accommodation providers and tourism service operators. For example, if an accommodation provider is determined to have lost 10 nights stay, then SHG will book and pre-pay for 10 nights' accommodation. SHG portfolios will utilise these bookings within a 24-month period for familiarisation, media, academic, or other approved trips.

These schemes provide businesses with both immediate relief and confidence going forward.

Businesses may apply for one or both types of support.

Minister for Economic Development, Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, Karl Thrower, stated:

“This scheme demonstrates SHG’s commitment to supporting our private sector through extraordinary circumstances. We recognise the very real impact this disruption has had on businesses and the livelihoods that depend on them, and we want to act quickly and fairly.

How to Apply

Application forms are available on request from Head of Trade and Investment, Michael Ormrod, by telephone on 22470 or via email at invest@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed application forms and supporting documents must be submitted to the SHG Trade and Investment Team by Thursday 9 April 2026.

If you believe you may be eligible, please get in touch as soon as possible.



TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR WATER FUTURE

Connect Saint Helena Ltd – Water Conservation Update

Climate change is impacting rainfall patterns, groundwater levels, and seasonal water availability on St. Helena. While we are working to ensure a reliable and safe water supply for our community, it is crucial that conservation remains a shared priority now and every day.

How You Can Continue to Help



Fixing leaks promptly



Water gardens early morning/evening



Run full loads only



Choose water-efficient appliances

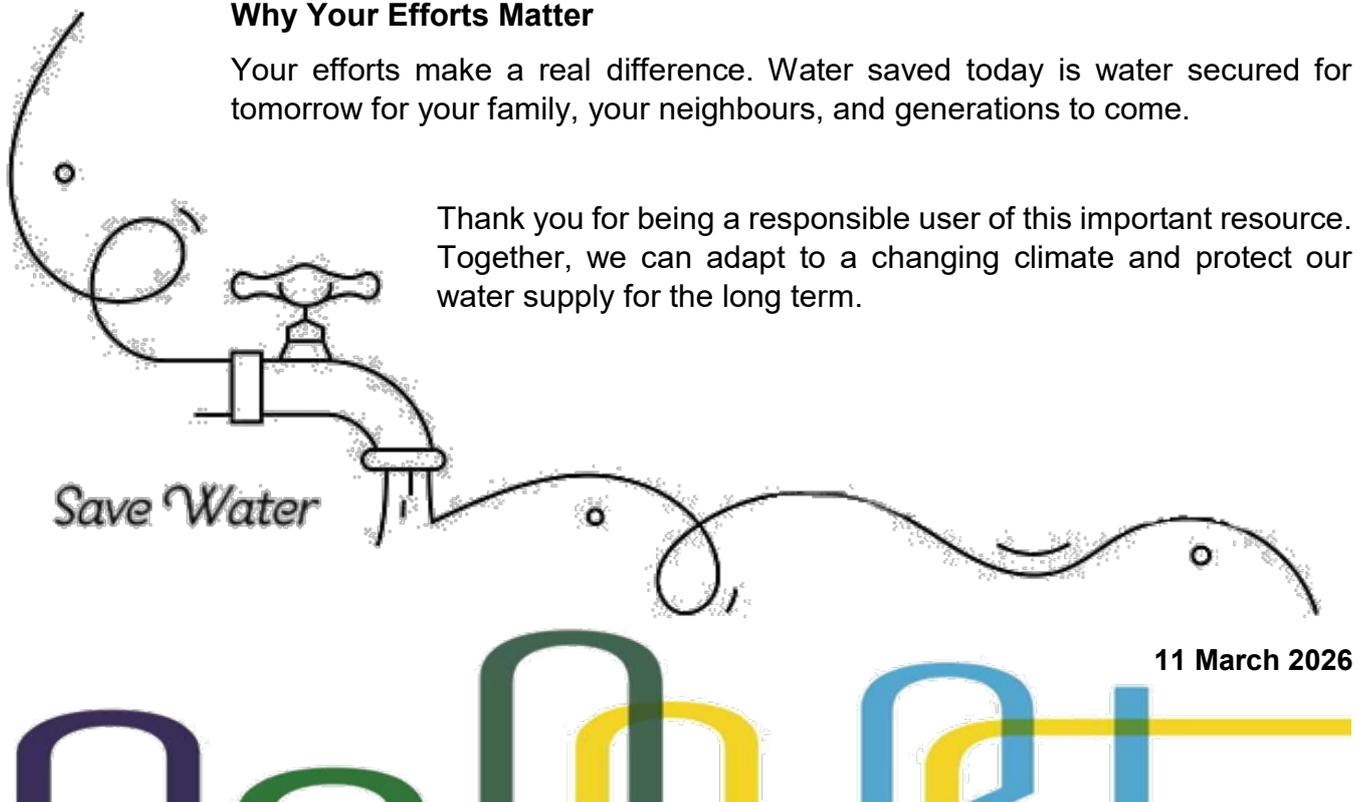


Collect rainwater for gardens

Why Your Efforts Matter

Your efforts make a real difference. Water saved today is water secured for tomorrow for your family, your neighbours, and generations to come.

Thank you for being a responsible user of this important resource. Together, we can adapt to a changing climate and protect our water supply for the long term.



11 March 2026

Festival of Walking Walk of the Week



Date: Saturday, 14 March 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain, Longwood
Google Map Location: -15.94344, -5.68789
Duration: approx 3 hours



Walk grade: Fairly Easy | 2 - 3

Starting at Deadwood Plain, home to the endemic wirebird, this walk will take you through pastureland and the site formerly occupied by the Boer Prisoners in the early 1900's. Continue along the uphill slope to the summit of Flagstaff offering stunning coastal views.

On the return downhill, the terrain has uneven surface underfoot. Ensure that sensible footwear is worn. Bring lots of drinking water and wear sun protection.

The walk will be led by the St Helena National Trust who will talk about the wirebirds and the January wirebird census.

Date	Upcoming Walks
22 March 2026	Casons to Rosemary Plain (family walk)

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

The St Helena Football Association will be holding an AGM meeting on Monday 30th March at 7pm. Calling on all captains and players to attend at New Horizons.



*The Merula has landed
Available from our island retailers*

Jamestown
 Rose & Crown
 Thorpes Grocery
 The Standard Bar
 The Mantis Hotel
 Chad's Shop
 Anne's Place
 Yacht Club

Longwood
 Rose & Crown
 Hardware
 Rose & Crown
 Supermarket
 St Helena Golf Club

Ladder Hill
 The Crown Supermarket

New Ground
 McDaniels

Half Tree Hollow
 Joshies
 A&D Mini Market

St Pauls
 Philip John

We are grateful for the support of our retailers and look forward to our customers enjoying our beer.

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2026/11 [Re-advertisement to include additional drawings/ plans and a revised Historic Impact Assessment]:** FULL Planning Application for Proposed Half Tree Hollow Wastewater Treatment Works, The Guns, Ladder Hill on Parcel HTH1213. **Applicant:** St. Helena Government
2. **Application 2026/26:** FULL Planning Application for Proposed Excavations and Extension to Joshie's Roadside Drop-In to provide a Bakery Area with the siting of 2x 20ft Containers under a Covered Area to Provide a Bar and Storage, Joshie's Roadside Drop-In, Nr Salvation Army Hall, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1344, **Applicant:** Alan Joshua.
3. **Application 2026/27:** FULL Planning Application for Proposed Excavations, Retaining Concrete Block Wall and Concrete Steps, New Bridge, Jamestown on Parcel JT150034, **Applicant:** Mark Corker.
4. **Application 2026/28:** FULL Planning Application for Proposed Jamestown Wastewater Treatment Works, The Sand Yard on Parcels JT020013 and JT020018. **Applicant:** St. Helena Government

Corrections:

Application 2025/05 advertised in the *Independent* dated 30 January 2026 should read **2026/05**. Also, details of the Applicant should read **Triple Finance Ltd., C/o Derek Pedley**.

Application 2025/06 advertised in the *Independent* dated 30 January 2026 should read **2026/06**.

Application 2026/07 advertised in *The Sentinel* dated 19 February 2026 the description should read **Proposed Demolition of Existing Timber Frame/ Metal Clad Garage and Construction of Replacement Garage with Concrete Blockwork, Concrete Driveway and Covered Area**

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 – 27 March 2026

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

The Showroom

is a new business that will open at Ladder Hill in October 2026, bringing main dealer Franchise's to the public with full manufacturer warranties from Kawasaki & Vmoto Motorcycle's and KGM SUV's and Pickups.

Senior Mechanic and EV Technician, starting August 2026

You will play a critical role in ensuring that our customers receive the best possible service, and that our workshops are efficient, well-managed, and always up to standards. You will be responsible for diagnosing and repairing in warranty and out of warranty repairs on the brands we have sold, recommending and selling appropriate parts and accessories, and maintaining accurate records of all repairs and transactions. Applicants will have the ability to work within given timescales and be able to tackle all aspects of vehicle in warranty and out of warranty repairs and servicing. Main duties and responsibilities include:

- Performing all work assigned in a timely and economical manner and to Company and Manufacturer standards
- Safe removal and refitting of HV batteries from electric and hybrid vehicles prior to sale or repair
- Supporting vehicle preparation, including pre and post sale checks, following strict safety and quality procedures.
- Adhering to all high-voltage safety protocols, isolation procedures, and risk assessments
- Using appropriate lifting, diagnostic, and mechanical equipment safely and accurately
- Maintaining accurate records of all work performed, including inspection checklists and process forms and claim backs online.
- Participating in ongoing technical and HV safety training provided by the company or our brands.
- Mentoring other technicians
- Advising customers if additional work is required on a vehicle and seek manufacturer assistance and authority in all in warranty repairs.
- Maintaining a high level of competency by undergoing on-site training by KGM, Kawasaki and Vmoto, as well as attending online courses and reading technical bulletins as required
- Assisting customers with any questions or concerns regarding their vehicle

Hours of work are Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, and one-in-four Saturdays 8.30am to 12.30pm.

Skills & Experience required:

- Applicants **must** be a qualified Vehicle Technician with a formal qualification in Automotive City & Guilds/NVQ Level 3
- 3 Light Vehicle Maintenance (or equivalent), IMI Level 2 or 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Maintenance (or equivalent HV safety qualification), refrigerant handling qualification together with a commitment to achieve KGM Gold Level Certification within 12 months if not already held
- Exceptional communication skills with an aptitude for multi-tasking
- Strong teamwork skills with an eye for detail
- Ability to work under pressure with quality awareness
- Full UK driving licence

Extremely competitive salary (£18,000 to £25,000) plus bonus structure, 20 days holiday (plus bank holidays) raising to 25 after 5 completed years of service; plus a days holiday on your birthday, Company Pension Scheme and Death in Service Policy

If you can demonstrate the required skills and enthusiasm for customer service, and share my passion for our brands, please contact me today to discuss this opportunity, call +290 53222. To apply, send a copy of your CV and a covering letter to derek@dps.co.sh

FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Wednesday 4th	Aston Villa	1	4	Chelsea
Wednesday 4th	Brighton	0	1	Arsenal
Wednesday 4th	Fulham	0	1	West Ham
Wednesday 4th	Man City	2	2	Nott'm Forest
Wednesday 4th	Newcastle	2	1	Man United
Thursday 5th	Tottenham	1	3	Crystal Palace



Match Report

Palace thought they had scored an opener when Sarr's shot deflected off Pedro Porro and looped into the net 29 minutes in, only for it to be ruled out for a close offside following a lengthy VAR review.

Shortly after, at the other end, Spurs made the most of that reprieve, getting themselves in front in the 34th minute when Solanke tucked home following good work from Archie Gray down the rights. However, fortunes turned for the home side soon after when captain Van de Ven was handed a straight red card four minutes later for fouling Sarr inside the box.

The Senegalese forward restored parity from the penalty spot before Jorgen Strand Larsen put the Eagles in front in the first minute of first-half stoppage time.

And the win was sealed when Sarr grabbed his second with a smart finish in the seventh minute of stoppage time, with Spurs unable to muster a response after the break.

The result means that Spurs have lost their first three matches under Igor Tudor and remain 16th in the table, one point above 17th-placed Nottingham Forest and 18th-placed West Ham United.

Palace, meanwhile, jumped up to 13th and are on 38 points, 10 clear of the bottom three.



Man of the Match




Premier League Fixtures

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



CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by Cricheroes in conjunction with St Helena Cricket Association

T20 DISTRICT



Sandy Bay 120/10 (19.4 overs) beat Levelwood 121/2 (14.2 overs)

Brooklyn Fowler - 43 (11)
Rhys Francis - 42 (26)
Stefan Leo - 2/3 (1.4 overs)
Aiden Leo - 2/7(3 overs)

Delroy Leo - 63 (45)
Weston Clingham - 38* (31)
Rhys Francis - 2/31 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - Delroy Leo (levelwood)

Longwood 197/4 (20) b St Pauls 195/4 (20 overs)

Sean-Lee Thomas - 117 (62) Jordi Henry - 89* (45)
Ashton Benjamin - 42 (36) Cliff Richards - 29 (19)
Gareth Johnson - 2/37 (4 overs) Sean-Lee Thomas - 2/25 (4 overs)
Kyle Bennett - 1/14 (2 overs) Ashton Benjamin - 1/32 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - Sean-Lee Thomas (Longwood)

St Pauls - 78/10 b Levelwood 81/3 (11.5 overs) (16.3overs)

Michael Bedwell - 22(26) Aiden Leo - 32 (30)
Gareth Johnson - 18(24) Clayton Leo - 28* (17)
David Francis - 3/11(4) Jordi Henry - 2/14 (4 overs)
Kirk Lawrence - 1/19 (1.5 overs)

Player of the Match - Clayton Leo (Levelwood)

HTH 150/9 (20 overs) b Longwood 133/9 (20 overs)

Andrew Yon - 53(21) David Young - 32(17)
Blaze Baldwin - 26*(22) Zach Francis - 23(29)
Ashton Benjamin - 3/28(4 overs) Andrew Yon - 4/34(4 overs)
Sean-Lee Thomas - 2/15(4overs) Jamie Ellick - 1/5(1 over)

Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (HTH)

Sandy Bay - 165/3(20 overs) b Jamestown 166/6(19 overs)

Ronan Legg - 67* (47) Scott Crowie - 56 (43)
Sanjay Clingham - 42 (46) Trystan Thomas - 29 (17)
Scott Crowie - 1/30 (2 overs)
Jordan Yon - 1/33 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - Scott Crowie (Jamestown)

Good Luck Team St Helena



No cricket scheduled until 11th April due to team departing this weekend.

UPCOMING FIXTURES



Saturday 11th April @ 1:30pm Jamestown Heat vs Challengers **Umpires** - Aiden Leo & Brendan Leo
Sunday 12th April @ 9:30am Levelwood Allstars vs Sandy Bay Pirates **Umpires** - Andrew Yon & Joey Thomas
Sunday 12th April @ 1:30pm Cobras vs Western A Mustangs **Umpires** - Damian Burns & Scott Crowie



ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

The St Helena Golf Club staged a Texas Scramble Strokeplay competition (3/8 combined handicap allowance) on Sunday, 1 March 2026, with 15 teams taking part in a competitive day's golf.

Arthur Francis and Neil Joshua set the pace with a gross 69. After applying their 11-stroke allowance, they returned an excellent net 58 to secure the overall victory.

Helena Stevens and Jeffrey Stevens finished on net 61 (76-15), claiming second place on the last nine holes countback.

Bramwell Bushuru and Asa Grahams Bushuru also posted net 61 (71-10), finishing third after countback was applied.

Laura Buckley and Keith Buckley placed fourth on net 62 (75-13), while Lawson Henry and Keith Joshua completed the top five with net 63 (71-08).



Following the competition, the Club held its Annual General Meeting, where the following members were elected to serve on the committee for the coming year:

President: None

Captain: Bramwell Bushuru

Vice-Captain: Neil Joshua

Honorary Treasurer: Dave Brown

Honorary Secretary: Ed Oyewo

Lady Captain: Helena Stevens

Course Manager: Jeffrey Stevens

Entertainment Manager: Phanual Shangwa

Games manager: None

Handicaps Manager: Laura Buckley



Congratulations to the new committee and all the best for your term in office.

Dry and warm conditions greeted golfers at the St Helena Golf Club on Sunday 8th March for the Par 3 Stroke Play competition, with a field of 17 players taking to the course for an enjoyable afternoon of golf.

Emerging as the overall winner was Larry Legg, who produced an excellent round to finish with a nett 57 (63-6), securing first place with a strong performance across the short-format course. In second place was Martin Joshua, returning a nett 58 (62-4). In addition to finishing runner-up, Joshua also recorded the lowest gross score of the day, highlighting the quality of his round. Third place went to Gerald George on nett 63 (71-8), edging out Jeffrey Stevens, who also finished on nett 63 (69-6) but placed fourth on countback.

The Two-Ball Pool was won by Martin Buckley, adding an extra highlight to the day's competition.

A total of 17 scorecards were processed, reflecting a good turnout for the club's regular Sunday competition.



Follow us on **Facebook**

Visit our website: www.sthelenagolf.com



The annual **Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge** is scheduled for **Sunday 15 March 2026**.

This will be an **18-hole stroke play competition**.

The competition is kindly sponsored by the Flagg family in memory of Arnold Flagg.

Tee-off is at 12:00, and **registration will close on Saturday 14 March at 3:00 pm**.

Members are encouraged to register early and support this special memorial event.

Home & Land For Sale

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Impressions of How the Finished Property Could Look:

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shpropertiesales@gmail.com



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



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MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP

	GOLDEN KAROO 261203	GREY FOX 261206	BLUE MASTER II 261208
Immingham	17-Jan	21-Feb	28-May
	KAROLINE 261702	KAROLINE 261703	KAROLINE 261704
Cape Town	02-Mar	04-Apr	02-May
Rupert's Bay	10-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
Ascension Island	15-Mar		
	KAROLINE 261802	KAROLINE 261803	KAROLINE 261804
Cape Town	31-Mar	25-Apr	23-May

*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 David Johnson.

On 28th December 2025 after a near 13 year relationship, David formally of Longwood and Isobel of The Briars tied the knot in a civil Ceremony under the blue sky with breath-taking views at Bertrand's Cottage Afropolitan Restaurant.

The Groom was smartly dressed in a Navy suit with white shirt accompanied by best men father Peter and brother in law Darren.

The beautiful Bride who wore an ankle length dress with Navy sandals was accompanied by her father Cyril, Maid of Honor Elizabeth and Daughter Isis, Bridesmaids Vanessa, Kelly, Laura, Clare, Joanne, Melissa, Anisa, Charlene, Alaina and Bobbi. The couples son Gabriel and Nephew Caleb were ring bearers with Harper and Oceana completing the wedding party as Flower girls.

After the ceremony, the couple posed for the camera in various locations of the Venue's Garden whilst Guests started the reception with refreshments and music.

David and Isobel would like to thank all those involved in making their day a memorable one.



If you have recently got married and would like to share your story, get in touch with independent@helanta.co.sh

Why not visit St Helena Airport this Sunday and give team St Helena a good send off as their of to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifiers B, set to take place from March 24-29, 2026 at the Achimota Cricket Grounds in Accra, Ghana.



TEAM SAINT HELENA



AIDEN LEO



ANDREW YON



BARRY STROUD



BRENDAN LEO



RHYS FRANCIS



JORDAN YON



BRETT ISAAC



CLIFF RICHARDS
CAPTAIN



DANE LEO



DAVID YOUNG



SCOTT CROWIE



DELROY LEO



JAMIE ESSEX



JOEY THOMAS



St. Helena Cricket Association



NADEEM AHMED
COACH



DEREK RICHARDS
TEAM MANAGER



GOOD LUCK



St. Helena Cricket Association