

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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Three Guinness World Records Already

See Page 11...



MERULA STOUT

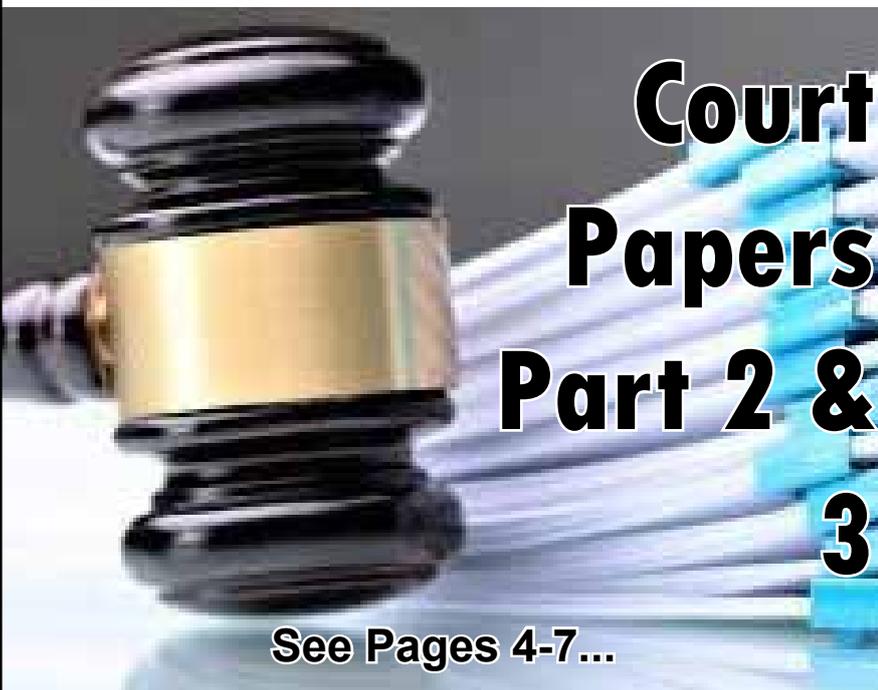
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**SORRY
I'M LATE
I SAW
A
LEPRECHAUN**



**From The Supreme Court
& Magistrate Court**
See Pages 9 & 10...



Court Papers Part 2 & 3

See Pages 4-7...

New Range of Beer Launched (or is it Landed) This Week



The shire horses are ready for another delivery round in front of the brewery. Hook Norton is one of only two breweries that still uses shire horses for deliveries of beer barrels to the pubs in the area.

For those who like a choice in what they drink, St Helena now has beers from very different worlds. As well as Nambian Windhoek from a brewery with many giant fermentation tanks that give the appearance of an oil refinery and Castle Lite's lo-carb, lo-calorie, lo-alcohol, hi-chill lager there is now available an alternative from the Hook Norton Brewery.

Located in the leafy, sleepy backwaters of Oxfordshire, Hook Norton village has had a brewery since 1849. The 'new' brewery dates from 1900. Within 50 years of starting from nothing, the booming demand meant a larger brewery was needed. The independent family brewery is still going strong.



When not working on the delivery round, the 'Hooky Horses' are seen at agricultural and country shows, often picking up awards.

In St Helena, a lager, an India Pale Ale and a stout are being marketed by the St Helena Brewery, a fairly recent addition to the landscape at Scott's Mill. The plan is to brew at the Scott's Mill brewery but it's at the fitting out stage now.



Blast From the Past

The pre-facelift appearance of a favourite "landmark". The more obvious visual change is not only the change from a 2-story building, but also the ground level entrance.

Nowadays, most donkeys cannot easily enter the building for a topper.

'Licensee W.S George'...

Mike Olsson knew him well.

Picture provided by Tony Brooks

A Global Fund Raiser for St Helena



A new St Helena based organisation currently in the process of securing official charity status is going large with its first fundraiser. It is a St Helena based organisation which has valuable involvement from the UK St Helena Association and vigorous support from Saints in the Falklands and Ascension.

Called the Island Minds Foundation (IMF) the charity has been formed with the aim of making mental health support accessible to everyone, helping individuals access therapy, counselling, and wellbeing services regardless of income, background, or ability to pay. The foundation also aims to promote mental health awareness, reduce stigma, and ensure people can access safe, ethical support from qualified professionals.

Everyone's mental health can go a bit wobbly from time to time for any of an endless number of reasons. Thankfully, the stigma often attached to mental health is slowly disappearing. So often, it is very useful to talk to someone, even if it's just to get things into perspective. The IMF works with trusted practitioners with the aim of removing financial barriers to getting the right help at the right time from trained professionals.

Just One Month Away

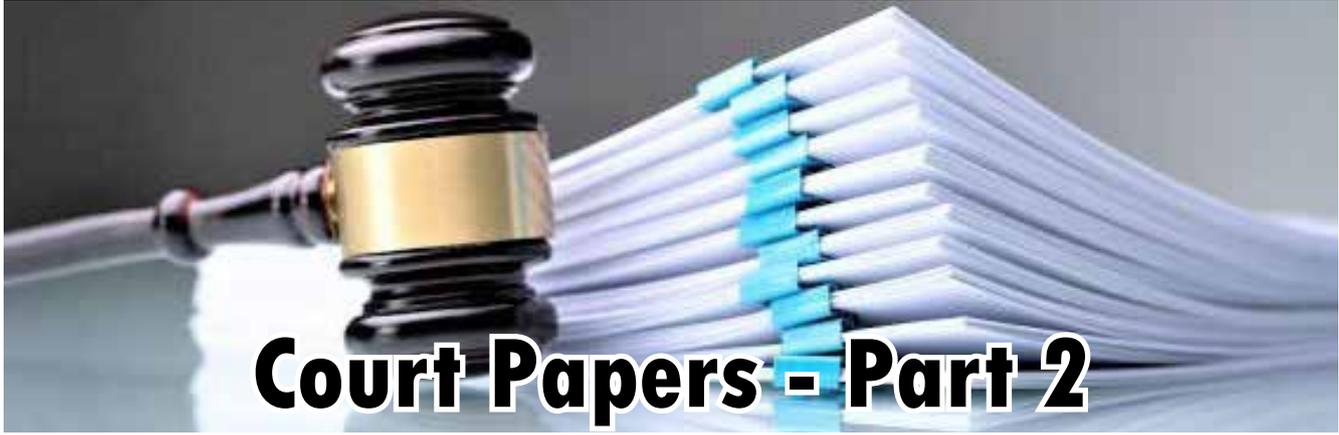
The organisers of the Big 4 Walk are doing every thing they can to launch the first fundraiser with a big bang. The Big 4 Walk for Mental Health will take place on Sunday 19 April, uniting communities across St Helena, Ascension, the Falkland Islands, and the UK in a shared effort to raise awareness and reduce stigma around mental health.

Participants in all four locations will join together on the same day for a community walk, forming part of a wider family friendly fundraising event.

The organisers are inviting the public, businesses, and community groups to support the Big 4 Walk through sponsorship, donations, or participation. Every contribution will help strengthen mental health support across the island and beyond, while demonstrating a shared commitment to the wellbeing of our communities.

One Mind, One Heart, Saints Together

Check out Page 23 for the Official 'Save The Date' Advert



Court Papers - Part 2

SECOND AFFIDAVIT OF RUTH POWELL

This is the second in a series of extracts from the court papers submitted as evidence which relate to the judicial review of the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance. It is statement made to provide the court with further information to accompany the application on behalf of Mario Peters for a Judicial Review. Extracts from that application were published last week.

Last week's extracts were from Statement of Facts and Grounds, a tightly worded document with almost every opinion linked to legal sources. Legal people seem to take it all in their stride, for the rest of us it is very heavy going.

The Second Affidavit, or sworn statement, is easier to read but sets your head spinning with the complexities, the planning and plotting, the smoke & mirrors and most of all, how far, (or high) some people with a bit of authority can get above themselves.

For this week, from the many different issues raised, the focus is on how the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance was brought to Legislative Council and how it was passed. This will be followed by the effect it has on us.

There have been several complaints about how the legislation was brought to Legislative Council very quickly, with insufficient time to understand it and its implications. Who knew about it, why were they so secretive, what did they hope to gain and what damage can this legislation do?

When Did It All Start

The sequence of events seems to have started on 12th June 2024. A former Attorney-General, David Ballantyne wrote what is described as 'an extraordinary letter' to Chief Justice Rupert Jones. In his letter, Ballantyne refers to the "likely high costs of litigation; financial, time and reputational, in the event of a multitude of litigated claims". The affidavit points out, "The Attorney-General's concerns were exactly the concerns rejected as irrelevant by the Privy Council" in a similar case 12 years earlier. In addition to ignoring a ruling by the Privy Council, the highest court in the English legal system, Attorney General Ballantyne also ignored the constitutionally protected independence of the Judiciary by contacting Judge Rupert Jones directly about the outcome of an active case. "The Attorney General, as the Defendant in the clinical negligence claims, directly addressed the Chief Justice as one of the presiding judges in the case, with the purpose of inviting the Chief Justice to restrict the ability of Hugh James to progress the case". Some may think describing Ballantyne's behaviour as 'extraordinary' was charitable. Surely Chief Justice Rupert Jones should have ignored the letter instead of responding to it. Both Ballantyne and Jones retired before the end of their contracts. Even so, rulings on active clinical negligence court cases were delayed until the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance was on the statute book. The consequence was the contentious legislation could be applied. If the ruling was made before the legislation became law, it wouldn't apply.

In her affidavit, Ruth Powell concludes, "It is clear therefore that by April 2025 the Defendant's legal

Court Papers - Part 2

representatives were aware, at least, of the policy intent of the pending legislation". Others only had suspicions.

Process for Enacting the Costs Ordinance

In the affidavit, Ruth Powell states, "It is ordinary practice to consult on the introduction of new legislation in St Helena. However, for reasons that are not known, and in what appears to be a breach of the St Helena Government Consultation Policy – September 2017 (exhibit RP41), there was no consultation on the Bill that became the Costs Ordinance."

Moreover, the Costs Ordinance was enacted under urgency, with all three stages of the Bill process being completed within two hours on 26 June 2025. The Plaintiff does not know the basis upon which the Governor considered it was appropriate to sign a certificate of urgency but this is presumably recorded in SHG records.

My impression is that the failure to consult on the Bill and its enactment under urgency was driven by the desire of SHG to avoid proper scrutiny of the Costs Ordinance and the clear intention to frustrate the ability of the negligence cohort to progress the clinical negligence claims against SHG."

The affidavit presses further points. "There can be no serious doubt that the Legislative Committee had the clinical negligence cases in mind when enacting the Costs Ordinance. I am unable to exhibit a written record of the former Chief Minister, Julie Thomas's, speech as the records on the Hansards page of SHG's official website go only as far as 18 July 2023." A transcript from the SAMS broadcast of Legislative Council was used. The former chief minister Julie Thomas introduced the Bill and concluded with, "Broadly, the Bill restricts the level of costs that are recoverable in civil claims, setting the maximum recoverable rates for the services of lawyers as well as other associated costs. The Bill limits the circumstances in which higher levels of costs may be recoverable and ensures that such costs can be appropriately monitored and managed. Madame Deputy Speaker it is intended that the details of the Bill will be explained in depth when we proceed to the committee stage. Madame Deputy Speaker I beg to move."

Very little detail was discussed about anything. The committee stage at Legislative Councils bears no resemblance to what they should be. Normally, a committee is appointed to scrutinise the Bill in detail. In this case, to do the job properly it should have taken several weeks, based on the little that Members of Legislative Council knew about what it involved.

Three LegCo members (Madame Deputy Speaker Ms Cathy Cranfield, Honourable Mr Robert Midwinter, and Honourable Andrew Turner) declared an interest in the legislation on account of their own contemplation of litigation or their association with others who were engaged in ongoing litigation on the island. Notwithstanding his declared interest, Mr Turner expressed his clear concerns on the process adopted. He said: "Because, for a Bill with such serious implications to have come to this stage with such little consultation is extremely worrying, especially when it has profound implications on state influence in the independence of our Judiciary. But I'll simply urge members to be especially cautious in their deliberations today."

Honourable Dr Corinda Essex rose to support the principles of the Bill, then added: "But there is one area which does give me considerable concern, and that isn't actually to do with the provisions of the Bill or the principles of the Bill, it's to do with wider principles of fairness and equity across the piece. How is equality of arms, to use the colloquial phrase, going to be achieved when litigants are taking action against St Helena Government, and I would be very grateful if either the Honourable Mover or the Attorney General would explain what measures and mechanisms are in place to ensure that both sides in any court case will have access to similar levels technical legal advice and support."

No counter motion was proposed, the concerns expressed were ineffectual and the Ordinance was enacted. Another extraordinary and exceptional aspect of the whole thing is the Bill received Royal Assent and came into force immediately.



Court Papers - Part 3

THE EFFECT OF THE ORDINANCE

No Insurance – No Chance

In her affidavit, Ruth Powell first raises After the Event Insurance (ATE). “As explained in paragraph 86 (92?), the availability of ATE insurance is critical to the ability of a plaintiff to progress a clinical negligence claim without the risk of liability for prohibitive adverse costs and/or expenses.”

The affidavit explains, clinical negligence claimants require After the Event (ATE) insurance to protect them from the risk that they will be liable for expert fees and/or adverse costs. Without such insurance protection, someone, either the client or the solicitor, would be required to fund the disbursements and take the financial risk of failure. Therefore, for the majority of claimants without ATE insurance, litigation under a Compensation Fee Agreement (CFA) is not a viable option.

It was explained at the most recent Hugh James public meeting at the museum that now the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance is enacted, providers of ATE insurance are not willing to insure anyone in St Helena. This single restriction has effectively denied 140 claimants from proceeding with claims against Sergio Villatoro Bran’s negligence.

A second point on the effect of ATE insurance restrictions is “The restrictions on fee rates and the imposed restrictions in the Primary legislation on After the Event Insurance and Conditional Fee Agreements frustrate Section 10 of the Constitution and have the effect of denying access to justice to this and other plaintiffs.” Section 10 of the Constitution covers Provisions to Secure a Fair Trial.

Hugh James Unable to Continue Acting

Hugh James is taking a significant financial risk in seeking justice for Saints. We are unable to continue to bear that financial risk under the conditions, and rates, prescribed by, the Costs Ordinance and Costs Notice.

As set out above, no serious comparison can be made to the rates charged by the PSO or by off-shore firms acting for defendants. That is because:

- i) acting on a CFA means that there is always a risk of non-recovery of fees; and
- ii) claimants in complex clinical negligence cases are required to carry out a very significant amount of exploratory, investigative work at risk. By contrast, defendant firms are guaranteed payment for their work and are not required to carry out initial exploratory, investigative work at risk.

No Other Off-Shore Solicitors Willing and Able to Assist Plaintiffs

We have not seen any analysis by SHG to demonstrate that there are competent off-shore legal representatives willing to take on complex clinical negligence cases (including our cases) under the conditions prescribed by the Costs Ordinance. We are certainly not aware of any competent off-shore legal representatives who have expressed an interest in taking on our cases under the conditions prescribed by the Costs Ordinance. As far as we are aware, no other UK solicitors or international lawyers have indicated any desire, or intention to take on these clinical negligence claims, nor do I anticipate any doing so. St Helena is a unique place and any solicitor acting for a Plaintiff in St Helena would need to visit the island to understand how life operates for that Plaintiff. Hugh James have visited

Court Papers - Part 3

the island many times now and I believe have a good understanding of St Helena and the difficulties the island faces.

To my knowledge, no clients have been approached by other law firms, certainly no other solicitors have asked us to transfer any cases to them and no clients have said they would prefer their case be dealt with by other solicitors. Whilst Saints are of course free to instruct whichever solicitor they wish, the reality at present is that the only options in terms of legal representation are the Public Solicitors Office and Hugh James.

Further, there is no legal representative on St Helena with the capacity and competence to take on complex clinical negligence cases such as ours. As HHJ Barker KC found the PSO have accepted they are not clinical negligence specialists as mentioned in paragraph 24 above. The PSO can neither cope with the complexity nor the volume of cases. This is abundantly clear from the cases Hugh James has taken over from the PSO, at the request of the plaintiffs, some of whom experienced potentially negligent service from the PSO and have had cause to complain.

In some cases that we have seen, and taken over, the Public Solicitors Office has allowed limitation to expire, failed to act on instructions and failed to obtain relevant documentation. In fact, the Plaintiff in this action, Mr Peters, transferred his claim to us from the Public Solicitors Office.

We have been instructed by a number of clients who wish to investigate professional negligence claims against the Public Solicitors Office.

In my opinion, a general dissatisfaction with the limited choice and on occasion the service provided by the Public Solicitors Office, is why we have been instructed in around 140 clinical negligence claims by those who received medical treatment on St Helena

There are no private firms on island capable of managing the cases. As such, there is no alternative on island at a lower hourly rate.

The upshot is that the Costs Ordinance means that the plaintiffs in the proceedings against SHG, arising out of the negligence of Dr Bran, are unable to access competent legal representation. This is a major barrier to access to justice on island: with approximately 3% of the island indicated so far to have a potential claim for clinical negligence due to the actions of the Respondent and the Part 20 Defendant. The same applies for future potential claimants in similarly complex claims.

Importance/Consequence of Claims to Saints

I have now met many Saints and have come to understand their vulnerable position. Saints have expressed their gratitude to me in having Hugh James representing them as a completely independent firm willing to take up issues on their behalf.

I feel a huge personal responsibility to Saints to ensure their legitimate claims are seen through to a just result. They are British citizens and not only deserve, but are entitled to, equal access to justice. The Plaintiff in this case, Mario, as a protected party with a life limiting condition, is more vulnerable than most. It has been over 7 years since the events leading to his injury. In all that time he has not received a penny in interim payments despite his dire and urgent need for funds. Funds which could make a substantial improvement to his daily life and that of his parents.

SHG made an unequivocal statement of their intention following the sentence of Mr. Bran. Their actions since have gradually rolled back on those assurances. Had SHG seen through the protocol and engaged in the manner that they first assured the public they would, I have no doubt that the scheme would now be operational with legitimate claims proceeding if not already compromised. The Plaintiff's claim would have been one of such claims.

Another Little Tale of Medical Woes

I have been a patient, on St Helena, of Senior Medical Officer Dr Jannas Du Plessis for a number of years since coming to live on the island. He is familiar with my medical history and the numerous orthopedic procedures I have experienced over my lifetime. I was last seen by him on Wednesday 4th February 2026, after attending several other local doctors, due to a bad fall from a height on the 5th January 2026. This fall severely impacted both of my wrists which have suffered the effects of advanced osteoarthritis, confirmed by local x-rays, over a considerable period. Since this fall the sustained levels of pain in both my wrists and their Carpal bones is constant day and night and becoming intolerable despite painkillers and prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs which have undesirable side effects if taken long term.

Resulting from my last appointment with Dr Du Plessis he listed me to see visiting orthopedic surgeon Dr Phillip De Lange from South Africa who was due to arrive in St Helena on Saturday 7th February 2026. Unfortunately, due to the sudden airport closure over defective fire appliances this flight was cancelled and my enquiries indicate it is not known when Dr De Lange will next visit the island now that the airport has reopened. Presumably, Dr De Lange would have referred my case to a specialist hand clinic in South Africa equipped with MRI scanning facilities which are essential to map the surgical area prior to the required Carpal bone surgery.

Due to the passage of time plus enduring constant discomfort and pain I contacted the outpatients 'appointments' receptionist on Friday 6th March 2026 to book another appointment with Dr Du Plessis only to be told that he does not hold regular clinics but she would forward my request. I confirmed with the receptionist that I was an existing patient of his and needed to see him urgently to discuss my surgical options. I am aware that Dr Du Plessis has personally been instrumental in referring various recent medical cases to South Africa for surgical treatment hence my faith in his ability to move matters forward. On Monday the 9th February 2026 I again contacted the receptionist and was informed that Dr Du Plessis might respond directly to my request but she wasn't expecting a reply via herself -----To be continued

As a retired old grunter who has lost enough blood, sweat and tears in service to the Crown I have developed a thick skin and know when I am being given the run around to speak out loud and clear. I have nothing but respect for the medical skills of Dr Du Plessis but this selective lottery of who benefits from his medical attention, or a surgical referral, and who does not is evidence of a broken medical system still in need of urgent overhaul.

A.H. Nicolls

Supreme Court Imprisoned for Child Abuse Forty-Five Years Ago



Alan Lawrence was sentenced last Friday to 23 months in prison for child abuse offences committed forty-five years ago. Lawrence was 16 or 17 years old at the time of the offences and his victim was aged between 12 and 14 years. Lawrence was found guilty after trial of the offences of buggery, indecent assault and gross indecency with a child.

Duncan Cooke, presiding as acting judge of the Supreme Court, referred to a victim statement that speaks of the impact of this offending upon the abused in this case. He concluded the victim had struggled with relationships, had trouble trusting people and feels angry, frustrated, sad, unfulfilled and misunderstood. His alcohol intake is also high which is no doubt a coping mechanism. This type of reaction is all too common in this type of offending.

Acting Judge Cooke also referred to an application for a restraining order. He said, I cannot make this order as St Helena law only permits it for offences contrary to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This is a matter I have sought to bring to the attention of the Attorney General through numerous previous Crown Counsel to no avail. To my mind victims of sexual offenders deserve protection from their abusers, unfortunately this is not available on St Helena by the making of a restraining order on conviction.

A Pre-sentence report suggested Lawrence may have cognitive deficits. It was noted that Lawrence posed a low risk of re-offending but that if he were to re-offend the risk of harm would be high. What was said in the report about Lawrence's vulnerabilities and ability to cope in a custodial setting was accepted.

Acting Judge Cooke also noted that he had received a number of character references that spoke very highly of Lawrence, including one from his employer. It was clear that Lawrence worked all his life caring for others and did so with dedication.

When sentencing Lawrence, Acting Judge Cooke took into account the age of the accused at the time of the offence and the passage of time between the offending and the date of sentence. The ruling was, these two factors can properly be reflected by imposing a sentence of 50% of that which would have been imposed had Lawrence committed the offences more recently as an adult.

This provided a total sentence of 2 years and 3 months' imprisonment. Making an allowance of 15% for prison conditions this provides a total sentence of 23 months imprisonment.

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

Magistrate Court

6th February 2026

Christopher Owen of Half Tree Hollow was charged with three counts of driving without due care and attention, and without insurance and a driving licence.

He was found not guilty for driving without due care and attention. For driving without insurance, he received a fine of £77.00, with £15.00 costs. For driving without a licence, he was fined £30.00



12th March 2026

Rick Mark Thomas of Longwood was charged with use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause harm.

He pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 11 days imprisonment – time spent on remand was counted towards his sentence.

Keegan Melvin Thomas of Longwood was charged with use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause harm. He was also charged for being in breach of a Domestic Abuse Protection Order made by the Saint Helena Magistrates Court on 20 April 2023. The Defence made application for bail which was refused and was remanded in custody to 26th March.

Moonshines Bar

will be hosting an evening on Saturday 21st March 2026 to Raise funds for Saint fm community Radio. Music will be provided by DJ Prudi from 9pm. All are warmly welcome.



*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
Blue Lantern

Ladder Hill

The Crown Supermarket

Half Tree Hollow

Joshies
A&D Mini Market

Longwood

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

New Ground

McDaniels

St Pauls

Philip John

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

Three-time Guinness World Record Holder Takes On the St Helena Challenge

Ryan Stramrood is the 3rd ultra-marathon swimmer to take on the challenge to swim around St Helena. Starting early yesterday, it is anticipated he might complete the swim by mid-afternoon. Unfortunately, we cannot report the finish we have to go to print. Starting just after midnight, Ryan has made good progress, so far. Estimated to be making 60 strokes a minute, the tracking technology calculates progress to be as much as 3 kilometres an hour at times. This a bit faster than the two previous ultra-marathons completed by Dina and Angus. At the time of writing, Ryan is about to swim past Lemon Valley and has completed around 80% of the total distance in 15 hours.



Ryan Stramrood

Ryan is a three-time Guinness World Record holder, ultra-extreme open-water and ice swimmer, and one of South Africa's most inspirational endurance athletes. Renowned for testing the very limits of human capability, he has undertaken over 120 crossings between Robben Island and the South African mainland, completed the 33-kilometer False Bay swim, and conquered the first official "Ice Mile" south of the Antarctic Circle at -1°C .

As a founding member of the International Ice Swimming Association and author of *Push Past Impossible*, Ryan has become an international authority on resilience, courage, and mental resilience. His story embodies what it means to push through discomfort and reframe fear as opportunity. Like Dina and Angus, Ryan earns income as a motivational speaker when on dry land. He says, we don't even know that we can challenge ourselves sometimes. He says, "This mind of ours is the gateway to absolute greatness. It is super powerful—and no one ever argues when I say that, because it really is. But where I do get a bit of pushback, and wide eyes I suppose, is when I say that this gateway to greatness—this mind of ours—is our biggest limitation. It's designed to keep us safe. It's designed to keep you right inside that comfort zone so that we don't fail, don't face humiliation, consequence, or embarrassment."

When talking with Howard James (another extreme swimmer) of Open Water Africa on Saint FM, they talked about coming from almost the same part of Cape Town as Angus MacPherson who completed the challenge last week. Ryan even knows Dina Levačić who is from Croatia. People often say that it's a small world but it's difficult to resist the idea that Ryan and Dina swam into each other in the middle of the ocean somewhere.

Quick Turn to the Camera



Partner Leigh supporting Ryan, one stroke at a time...





Performance Audit: Implementation of St Helena's Energy Strategy

Audit St Helena, an independent external body responsible for financial and performance audits of the island's government, released a report yesterday summarising its performance audit of how well SHG implemented its 2016 Energy Strategy. Also known as a 'value for money' audit, the report documents various actions SHG and Connect took to try to achieve the strategy's goal of powering the island entirely through renewable energy, relying on wind and solar sources. This conversion to 100% 'clean energy' was targeted start on 1st April 2022. But renewables have never contributed more than 29% to the island's energy supply since 2016; in fact, the percentage fell to 21% by the target date and has continued to decline in the years since.

The Performance Audit Summarises the Reasons for the Failure of the Energy Strategy Strategic Planning

- SHG's 2016 Energy Strategy was not robust, with typical strategic elements such as defined metrics, established timeframes, and plans for both implementation and ways to track progress.
- SHG did not develop an energy policy to support its Energy Strategy.
- SHG did not develop an energy plan to support its Energy Strategy.
- The Energy Strategy's targets were not included in Connect's Strategy and Energy Delivery Plan.

Governance

- No governance structures were put in place to ensure effective oversight and monitoring of the Energy Strategy.
- There was no in-house renewable energy expert or specialist advisor for SHG or Connect.
- SHG did not recommend the appointment of directors with renewable energy backgrounds to Connect's board.

Project Management

- There was a lack of proper contract management after the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement.
- There was no performance monitoring or evaluation of performance against targets during the Energy Strategy's 5-year term.
- No rebates or subsidies were offered to key stakeholders to accelerate implementation of renewable energy.

The failure to meet the ambitious target for the renewable energy project has resulted in SHG and island consumers continuing to subsidise outdated infrastructure, which could have reduced or ceased altogether had the project been successful.

According to SHG's audited financial statements, in 2023/24 total payments amounting to £2.7 million were made to subsidise Connect's operations and provide customs rebates for duties paid on diesel fuel for the utility's generators. Audit St Helena state that subsidising diesel fuel and generators to the extent they did, (and still do) was a disincentive to conversion to Renewable energy sources. Greater value for money would have been achieved if financial resources available for subsidies had been diverted to funding renewable energy technologies. The Utilities Regulatory Authority also support the transfer of subsidies away from diesel fuel and generators. In their most recent report the URA stated a preference for subsidy directed to customers rather than fossil fuels.

Tickle Your Funny Bone

"I'm 59 and people call me middle-aged. How many 118-year-old men do you know?"

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

Police hear about a jewel robbery by an elephant – so they interview the old man who claims to have witnessed it.

'You saw it?' asks the policeman.

'Yes,' says the old man.

'Tell us everything,' says the policeman.

'Well, this elephant came up to the jewellery shop, smashed the window, sucked all the jewellery up in his trunk and then ran away.'

'Was it an African or an Indian elephant?' asked the policeman.

'How should I know the difference?' says the old man.

'Well, African elephants have bigger ears than Indian elephants,' says the policeman.

'How on earth would I know?' says the old man. 'He was wearing a stocking over his head.'

Two goldfish in a tank.

One says to the other, 'How do you drive this thing?'

A gorilla walks into a pub and asks for a pint of bitter.

'That'll be £6.50,' said the barman.

'What? That's outrageous!' said the gorilla.

'You're the first gorilla we've had in this pub,' said the barman.

'I'm not surprised at those prices,' said the gorilla.

I said to my parrot, 'Are you in isolation?'

He said, 'Look at me in this cage. Are you bloody serious?'

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

And Spike said, 'I'm Irish. Bigger off.'

A man has just bought his wife a silver wedding present.

A friend in the pub asks him what it is.

'It's a really beautiful table,' says the man. 'I hope she likes it – even if she doesn't play snooker.'

Willie Rushton had a great series of tips

Never go to a doctor with dying plants in his waiting room

Never go on holiday to countries where they still point at planes

Never go to a dentist with blood in his hair

Never go to a psychiatrist who has always got his mother with him

A young comedian in Liverpool is having a hard time. A man shouts at him, 'Get off!'

The comedian replied, 'That isn't very witty. Can't you say something topical?'

And the man said, 'Get off... NOW!'

The Editor, The St Helena Independent
April Cottage Putty Hill
St Helena
STHL 1ZZ

Dear Sir,

I have acted in most of the St Helena Supreme Court and Court of Appeal cases since 2024. I have been surprised by the description of the Public Solicitor's Office in your newspaper and wanted to write to you to set out my views. In London, I have a varied commercial and public law practice that has exposed me to some of the leading law firms in the world. I have also undertaken cases in several other jurisdictions around the world. Having been instructed by the Public Solicitor's Office on several occasions, I feel well placed to express a view on the service offered to Saints.

In my experience, the lawyers working in the Public Solicitor's Office are not "inexperienced" nor is the service they offer to their clients "inadequate". I have worked on highly complex, highly adversarial litigation against the Government for the Public Solicitor and I have always been struck by the knowledge, professionalism and tenacity of the lawyers working for his office. The PSO have fought litigation which I have been involved in as effectively and robustly as any firm I have worked with in London or indeed anywhere else in the world. What's more, those working in the Public Solicitor's Office are imbedded in, and absolutely committed to, the community of St Helena. This local knowledge is invaluable.

I have found the implication that the Public Solicitor's Office is not truly independent of Government particularly surprising, as I suspect has the Attorney General's Chambers. The litigation against the Government which I have been involved with in St Helena has been as adversarial as any litigation which I have conducted in the English Courts, and I have never known the PSO to duck a point, hold back, or do anything other than seek to fearlessly advance the best interests of their clients.

In London, I volunteer every Thursday night in my local church's legal advice centre. Through this volunteering experience, I have seen first-hand how impossibly difficult it is for the average person in the UK to access legal advice following the decimation of civil legal aid. Every week, homeless people, people living in terrible conditions, victims of domestic violence and those who face unfairly losing their homes, or their jobs come to seek advice which is not available to them anywhere else. The system in St Helena is immeasurably better. The Public Solicitor's Office is an invaluable public asset which allows everyone in St Helena to access justice. The fact that it does so in the most cost-effective way possible is all the more reason to celebrate it.

Of course, none of this means that the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance 2025 is defensible. Hugh James have instructed me in the past and it is a leading firm with the resource, size and experience to handle the very large number of clinical negligence claims in St Helena. I also know both Mr Willems KC and Ms Dickinson to be excellent barristers. In my view, if Saints wish to instruct such leading UK firms and barristers, the law should not stand in their way.

However, the fact that many Saints reasonably wish to instruct a specialist English firm in a wholly exceptional set of litigation involving many, many claimants should not cause people to lose confidence in the outstanding provision of free and low-cost legal services which is available to them in St Helena for their day-to-day needs. Your system would be the envy of many countries around the world.

Yours faithfully,



Joshua Hitchens



THE WOMEN'S CORONA SOCIETY WORLDWIDE – ST HELENA BRANCH HONORARY MEMBERS HONOURED

On a beautiful sunny morning, in the lovely green tree and shrub surrounds of Cape Villa, St Pauls, the Executive Committee of the Women's Corona Society – St Helena Branch, met in the cosy No 12 flat of resident Miss Pat M. Williams.

The reason for this special visit, on Monday 10th March 2024, was to honour and acknowledge 3 very special ladies – long time & dedicated members of the St Helena Women's Corona Society.



They have each reached a stage in life, where health issues and other related difficulties have hampered their active attendance/participation in monthly meetings and the various Fund Raising activities and other Corona Events.

Based on our constitution and in recognition of their hard work, generosity and support, over the years, all Members (at a recent Meeting) wholeheartedly agreed that they are each eligible for HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – whereby, they will not have to pay an ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION but will be kept informed of ANNUAL and SPECIAL EVENTS of the Society.

The Chairman/President – Mrs J. Patsy Flagg, presented each of them, Miss Pat M. Williams, Mrs Maureen Young and Mrs Faith Nicholls with a special letter of welcome to HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, together with a keepsake mug with the Corona logo.

Executive Members, Mrs Phyllis Coleman, and Mrs Heather Cranfield, greeted them with good wishes for the future. The whole group then formed a circle of raised hands as our motto – “HANDS AROUND THE WORLD – HANDS RAISED IN FRIENDSHIP.”

This heartwarming and somewhat emotional session was concluded with tea and refreshments and happy chatter of many Corona memories.

J Patsy Flagg



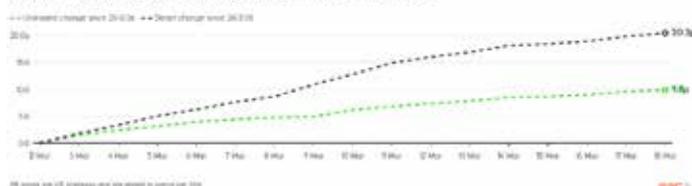
A Sign of Things to Come

When the next mini-tanker offloads fuel at Rupert's, how big is the shock that is surely in store for us. Checking the prices at UK fuel stations this week has not been a happy experience. Fuel prices at UK pumps vary. Supermarket fuel stations are often cheaper and solitary fuel stations are often more expensive. In towns and cities, the fuel stations are closer together and there is more competition. Overall, the message is clear; we can expect a big jump in fuel prices due to the Trump-Netanyahu war in Iran.

The 2026 Iran war - how is it affecting UK petrol and diesel prices?

The RAC is tracking how pump prices in the UK are being affected by the conflict in the Middle East that began on 28 February 2024. The following chart shows changes.

Increases in pump prices since outbreak of 2026 Iran conflict



£1.41 per litre. Since then, prices at the pumps have increased at least by 10p per litre for petrol and 20p per litre for diesel.

The USA and Israel started sending missiles and drones into Iran on 28th February. The chart shows prices from that date to 18th March. The prices are in pence per litre. The top line shows the daily average increase in diesel prices. The lower line records daily average petrol prices. On Monday 23rd February, five days before the missiles started to fly, the average UK petrol price was £1.31 per litre. Diesel averaged at



THE AUTUMN NIGHT SKY

SHARON L. WADE (assisted by the WorldWideWeb)



In the Southern hemisphere, Autumn offers a unique opportunity to observe the night sky and on St Helena where you can choose from many areas of minimal light pollution, you will find extended viewing sessions providing there are clear evening skies. Autumn officially begins on 21st March and the long evenings we all have been enjoying will slowly diminish until we reach the shortest day of the year on 21st June....the first day of Winter.

Here are some basic notes for planet-spotting during Autumn....

MERCURY: Not much to see right now since the planet rises just before sunrise and sets just before sunset, so it is lost in the solar glare, but you should be able to see it in the Eastern morning sky from around 28th March. 'The Iron Planet' returns to the evening sky in late May when you should see it setting in the Western sky around 7 pm. Binocs will assist, but good eyes should pick it up as a shiny pin-head.

VENUS: Always brilliant, shining with a steady, silvery light, the planet that is known as both the Morning and Evening star can be seen in the Western sky around sunset. Look in the direction of Horse Pasture and you should see it sparkling like a diamond against the fiery red/orange/cerise-coloured skies that appear in the wake of the setting sun. Views will get better as we head into Autumn - rising around a minute-and-a-half later each morning, by late May/early June, the planet (known as Earth's twin) will set around 8.30 pm. If there are no clouds on the horizon, you will see it flickering like a disco ball and changing a variety of colours as it makes its exit from the night sky.

MARS: The Red Planet is suffering the same fate as Mercury right now – it cannot be seen due to its rising/setting times being lost in the glare of the sun. It rises around 5.30 am so the window to spot it in the East is relatively short, however by late May/early June it will rise after 4 am from ENE, making it higher in the sky as the mornings get shorter, giving you longer viewing times.

JUPITER: A splendid object visible in the evening sky – quite possibly the first bright light seen in a direction that appears to be over Jamestown, just on twilight. Now it is rising around 2.30 pm, travelling in a WNW direction and setting around 1.30 am. The Gas Giant or Massive Planet as it is sometimes known, rises about 3 minutes earlier each day, so by late May/early June, best viewing times will be around 6 pm when dusk will be settling over the island later than it is now.

SATURN: Shining like a yellowish-white star, the Ringed Planet can be viewed briefly in the evening (if you are lucky to spot it), as it sets just after the Sun so much of it is lost in the kaleidoscope of colours that is on display in the West at this time. Again, a narrow window of opportunity, but all is not lost because by mid-April you will be able to view Saturn in the early morning hours, rising from due East around 5.30 am. With shorter mornings expected then, you should have a good view before the Sun's rays make their first appearance to announce a new day.

Autumn on St Helena means that Easter is approaching – another wonderful Christian Festival, quite possibly the most important. Easter is a moveable feast, meaning its date changes each year. For Western Christians using the Gregorian calendar (that is most of us Saints), Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon – the first full moon on or after 21st March. This calculation ensures that Easter can fall anywhere between 22nd March and 25th April. It is interesting to note that Eastern Orthodox churches often celebrate Easter on a different date to most Western churches as they follow the Julian calendar and there is a 13-day difference between the calendars.

So, with the Moon determining when we will get ready for fishing, camping, glamping and whatever else it is that we Saints love to do at Eastertide, for now we can enjoy the Lent rains and the lives replenished by it. The next Full Moon stage will occur at 0211 hrs on 2nd April, with Easter Sunday falling on the 5th this year. For the fishermen going on a trip to the regular hot-spots around the coast hoping to bring in a catch of those delicious rock 'bullies' – the moon will rise at 6.37 pm on Maundy Thursday (2nd) giving everyone enough to light their way in the dark for most of the night..... This brings another Maundy Thursday to mind when moonlight was not so available...thanks to the one above it ended with a 'lost' supper instead of the last supper, for which the day is known. A special mention and thanks should be made for the St Helena Sea Rescue service which supports the Maundy Thursday fishing tradition with their regular patrols around the coast - their time, dedication and efforts are certainly appreciated and hopefully acknowledged, not just then but at all times.

To 'The Captain' and his crew that night – I can't find enough words, but with the strength, wisdom and quick-thinking of a good Skipper behind you, what can I say?? Fancy a fried bullseye with hand-cut chips (fried in the same fishy pan), sauteed onions and some bread & marge to help it along???? Lets hop to it, Easter won't wait forever and don't put all your eggs in one basket unless they are chocolate!!



OTHER NAMES FOR THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AUTUMN FULL MOONS.....

APRIL ~ Hunter's, Harvest or Blood Moon

MAY ~ Beaver or Frost Moon

JUNE ~ Oak, Cold or Long Nights Moon

Blue Moon Due: 31 May (2nd Full Moon in a month)



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Mission and Worship	Cathedral
	Wednesday 25th March	
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	Cathedral

The Parish of St James

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 26th March	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 24th March	
7.00 p.m.	Mission and Worship/Lent Course	St Mark



You're warmly invited to join our
Easter 2026 Programme

Grace

THROUGH THE CROSS

Sunday 29 March 2026

11:00am **Palm Sunday Service**
(HTH Salvation Army Hall)

Wednesday 1 April 2026

7:30pm **Easter Bible Study**
(HTH Salvation Army Hall)

Thursday 2 April 2026

7:30pm **Evening of Shadows**
(HTH Salvation Army Hall)

Friday 3 April 2026

10:00am **Good Friday Service**
(HTH Salvation Army Hall)

Sunday 5 April 2026

6:00am **Easter Sunrise Service**
(Top-of-the-ladder, Ladder Hill)

11:00am **Easter Sunday Morning Family Service**
(HTH Salvation Army Hall)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To: All Judo Players and Parents

Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2026

Time: 18:00 (immediately following the Wednesday Judo class)

Location: Jamestown Community Centre

The St Helena Judo Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening, 8 April.

We invite all our players and their parents to join us briefly as the Wednesday training session concludes. The meeting will be kept short and to the point, focusing on essential club updates, plans for the year ahead, and the election of the Committee.

Your presence is important to us as we continue to support our judo community. We look forward to seeing you there.

For any enquiries, please contact:
sthelenajudo@gmail.com

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: 21/03/26

TIME: 10:00-11:30am

Refreshments will be served.

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

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

ST HELENA GROWERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

UNIT 13, THE MARKET, JAMESTOWN

TEL:+290 22511

Email: growers@helenta.co.sh

The St Helena Growers is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the role of a Shop Manager/Society Secretary for the St Helena Growers Store.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone passionate about fresh produce; local fruit and vegetable. The ideal candidate will bring strong leadership skills, a commitment to excellent customer service, and a genuine enthusiasm to support the agriculture sector.

About the role

The Manager will oversee the daily operations of the store, including:

- Leading and supporting staff
- Providing knowledgeable, friendly customer service
- Maintaining high standards of produce presentation and freshness
- Managing stock rotation, waste reduction, and ordering
- Ensuring pricing accuracy and effective merchandising
- Building relationships with local suppliers where relevant

What are we looking for

We welcome applications from individuals who:

- Have strong financial and administration skills
- Are confident in leading a team and creating a positive working culture
- Have strong organisational and communication skills
- Can work proactively, adapt to seasonal changes and maintain high standard

How to apply

Please submit your application to Mrs Delia Allen at Lower Farm Lodge by 10 April 2026, or by contacting her on telephone number 24440 outlining;

- Why you are interested in the Store Manager role
- Any experience you have with fresh produce or retail management
- Any experience in finance and administration
- The strengths and qualities you would bring to the position



Expressions of Interest – Kings Baton Relay 2026 Photography & Videography

The National Sports Association of St. Helena (NSASH) invites local photographers and videographers to submit expressions of interest to professionally capture St. Helena's leg of the Kings Baton Relay 2026. We are looking to document a weekend of activities, with the theme having a special focus on community action to reduce plastic pollution in commonwealth oceans.

Coverage will be required for activities taking place between the 10th–13th April 2026. NSASH welcomes quotations from interested individuals or teams to provide these services.

It is also a requirement for all photos and video material produced to become the exclusive property of NSASH. Prospective tenderers must bare this in mind when producing final content.

Photographers and Videographers should submit quotations and any details by 12 noon on Monday 30th March 2026. For the full brief and further information, please email nsash@helenta.co.sh.

Be part of documenting this historic moment for St. Helena.

Kings Baton Relay 2026 – Community Events & Social Activities

The public is warmly invited to take part in a series of community and environmental activities celebrating the St Helena leg of the King's Baton Relay for the 2026 Commonwealth Games from 10th – 13th April 2026.

Led by the National Sports Association of St. Helena (NSASH) – the programme aims to highlight community spirit, youth engagement, and a shared commitment to reducing plastic pollution across our island and beyond. Below is a schedule of the activities with times to be confirmed in the coming weeks:

FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026

Schools Presentation & Baton Unveiling @ New Horizons Youth Club

A special presentation and witness the official unveiling of the King's Baton for invited guests and New Horizons. This will be followed by team sports for the youth.

SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026

Community Beach Clean-Up Day - Sandy Bay & Ruperts Beach

Please come along and join efforts to remove as much plastic waste and marine debris from our most popular beaches.

SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026

Coastal Clean-Up & Diver Initiative - Lemon Valley & James Bay

Beach clean-ups will take place alongside a special diver clean-ups, removing waste from the seabed and helping protect our marine environment. (There will be a boat provided for transport to and from Lemon Valley)

Community event Fish fry at the Yacht Club

The community can view the Baton near the Yacht and Dive Clubs from 2–5pm. The Yacht Club bar will be open, with a fish fry. Please note: drinks served from the bar will not be issued in plastic cups. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own drinking receptacles.

MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026

Schools Baton Tour

The King's Baton will visit schools across the island, giving students the opportunity to see and interact with this important symbol of the Commonwealth Games.

Join us in celebrating sport, strengthening community spirit, and helping create a cleaner, plastic-free St Helena.

If anyone has any questions or require further information, please feel free to get in touch via email nsash@helanta.co.sh.

Festival of Walking Casons to Rosemary Plain



Date: Sunday, 22 March 2026

Start Time: 09:00

Meeting Point: Rosemary Plain for the bus transfer to the start of the walk at Casons, Blue Hill

Google Map Location: -15.95663, -5.73007

Duration: approx 2 hours

Walk grade: Easy | 1 - 2

A family friendly walk organised by the Health Directorate and New Horizons, the walk will start at Casons and head along the road to Rosemary Plain (approx. 5km).

Before the start of the walk the SHG Physiotherapists will be providing stretching exercises to reduce the aches the next day. For the younger walkers there will be the opportunity to win prizes!

This walk takes place along the main road to Rosemary Plain. Shuttle buses will be provided to get walkers from Rosemary Plain to the walk start at Casons, Blue Hill.

Please make sure you wear suitable shoes for walking, bring water, a hat and sunscreen.

Walking guide(s) – Scott Crowie (New Horizons), Ian Hambleton/Selvi Jeyaseelan

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 29 March 2026	Lemon Valley (Pre-booking for bus and boat by 4pm on Thursday, 26 March 2026)

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

Vacancy

Bakery Assistant (Packaging)



Salary for the post will be £8,320 per annum (£160 per week) – 30 hours per week

Job Outline:

To perform the daily duties associated with slicing and packaging of bakery products, in accordance to company standards while ensuring the effective cleaning and maintenance of bakery equipment and facilities to meet health, safety, and hygiene requirements.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in food production, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness
- Have basic numeracy and literacy understanding
- Be able work efficiently in a fast paced environment
- Be able to stand for extended periods and carry out manual handling and repetitive tasks;
- Have good time management, organisational skills and observational skills
- Be competent with operating production equipment as required
- Be able to undertake cash handling duties as and when required
- Be able to perform cleaning duties in accordance with operational requirements
- Be energetic and able to communicate and work well within a team
- Be committed to work unsocial hours and meet tight deadlines

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via 📞 22380 📧 gm-productions@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **02 April 2026**.

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

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts



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.

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

If you're looking for a challenge, have an inquisitive mind and see yourself working as part of a team why not join the Customs and Immigration team. We need you on the front line where you will be required to help reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena. This is a critical and demanding role where you will interact with the public on a daily basis. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Juliette O'Dean on Tel No. 22287 or Email: Juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 02 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 07 April 2026
Interview date: 15 April 2026

Receptionist (£9,573 per annum)

The Receptionist will be based at Essex House and will be the first point of contact for all visitors, providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon Tel No. 22470 or Email: Sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 02 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 07 April 2026
Interview date: 15 April 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.



SAVE THE DATE



BIG 4 WALK



 ST HELENA, UK, ASCENSION ISLAND AND FALKLAND ISLANDS

One Heart. One Mind. Saints Together.

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2026

Kingshurst Community Centre

More details coming soon!

A collaborative fundraising event by



ISLAND MINDS
FOUNDATION



The St. Helena
Association UK

Registered Charity 1042040
Supporting St Helena Island and Her People

Supporting community wellbeing for St Helena



EARTH HOUR

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026
8:30PM – 9:30PM

The St Helena National Trust and St Helena Tourism invite the whole community to take part in a global moment of action for our planet.

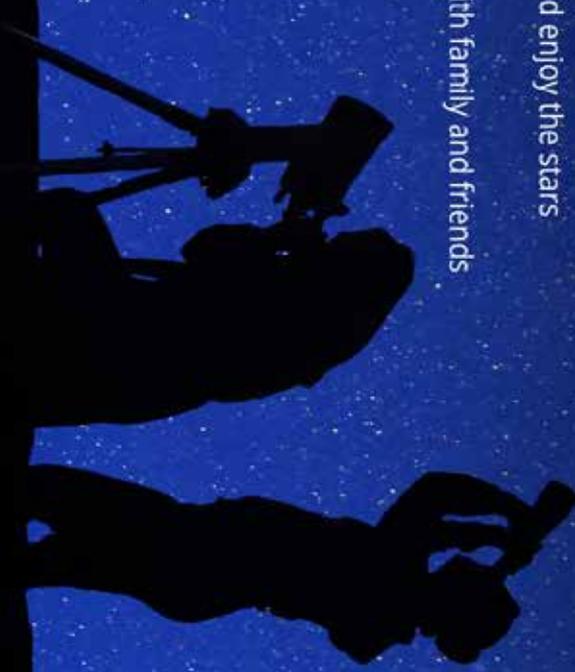
💡 Turn off all non-essential lights

🌙 Enjoy the natural darkness of our island

♻️ Think about small changes you can make for the environment

🌟 Go outside and enjoy the stars

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Spend time with family and friends



‘Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest’ News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project



Welcome to another ‘news bite’ from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Recently, some exciting work has been done on how we are able to monitor the long-term health of our precious cloud forest habitat through ecological indicators!

Leading on this innovative work was a three-strong expert team, comprising Dr Alan Gray from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Dr Silvia Pressel from the Natural History Museum and Dr Laurens Sparrus from the Bryological and Lichenological Work Group.

The team’s work centred on the development of long-term monitoring of habitat health and ecosystem integrity through ecological indicators from our endemic plants bryophytes and lichens, which are sensitive all to moisture level changes. Indicators also can show how cloud forest ecological processes change over time as cloud forest restoration proceeds.

It was great to have this team on-Island to improve our efforts to monitor the health of our cloud forest habitat! Thanks to all involved.



Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:



Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project



FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Saturday 14th	Burnley	0	0	Bournemouth
Saturday 14th	Sunderland	0	1	Brighton
Saturday 14th	Arsenal	2	0	Everton
Saturday 14th	Chelsea	0	1	Newcastle
Saturday 14th	West Ham	1	1	Man City
Sunday 15th	Crystal Palace	0	0	Leeds
Sunday 15th	Man United	3	1	Aston Villa
Sunday 15th	Nott'm Forest	0	0	Fulham
Sunday 15th	Liverpool	1	1	Tottenham
Monday 16th	Brentford	2	2	Wolves



Match Report

Richarlison rescued a potentially huge point for Tottenham Hotspur in their battle against relegation as Igor Tudor's side fought back to earn a 1-1 draw at Liverpool, with Spurs seeing West Ham United, Nottingham Forest and Leeds United all pick up points before they took to the pitch at Anfield on Sunday, and although their winless run in the Premier League now stands at 12 matches, it was a welcome first point for head coach Tudor.

A positive start by Spurs was punctured in the 18th minute, as Szoboszlai added to his personal highlight reel with another fine free-kick, despite goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario getting a hand to it. Gakpo nearly doubled Liverpool's tally, but Vicario nudged the strike brilliantly on to the post. Spurs responded and twice went close just before half-time – Richarlison headed wide and then saw an attempt clawed away by 'keeper Alisson.

Arne Slot made a triple change in the 64th minute, introducing Ekitike, Mohamed Salah and Curtis Jones, though Richarlison soon tested Alisson with an outside-of-the-boot attempt. Radu Dragusin's mistake almost cost Spurs dearly, with Vicario nudging Salah's strike wide, though the 'keeper's touch was not spotted by the officials.

Richarlison was then inches away from connecting with a teasing Archie Gray cross. The Brazilian's moment finally came when he was played in by Randal Kolo Muani, and he duly kept his cool to level. There might have been one more twist as Ekitike led a blistering counter deep in stoppage time, but Dragusin made a vital block as Spurs held on.



Man of the Match




Premier League Fixtures

Friday 20th	20:00	Bournemouth	vs	Man United
Saturday 21st	12:30	Brighton	vs	Liverpool
Saturday 21st	15:00	Fulham	vs	Burnley
Saturday 21st	P	Man City	vs	Crystal Palace
Saturday 21st	17:30	Everton	vs	Chelsea
Saturday 21st	20:00	Leeds	vs	Brentford
Sunday 22nd	12:00	Newcastle	vs	Sunderland
Sunday 15th	14:15	Aston Villa	vs	West Ham
Sunday 15th	16:30	Tottenham	vs	Nott'm Forest

ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge 2026

The St Helena Golf Club came alive this past Sunday 15th March 2026 as players turned out in force for the Annual Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge, proudly sponsored by the Flagg family. This tournament stands as one of the club's marquee events, held in memory of a remarkable man whose influence stretched across both the island and the fairways he loved.

Blessed with cloudy but warm conditions, the course offered near-perfect golfing weather and set the stage for a dramatic contest.



Bagley Brilliant: Peter Claims Top Honours.

Finishing at the top of a competitive leaderboard was Peter Bagley, whose impressive 67 secured him first prize. Adding to his triumph, Peter also scooped up every ball in the wo-Ball Pool, completing a memorable clean sweep.

Second Place Showdown: Johnson Triumphs in Playoff, a tense tie for second on 68 between Freddy Thomas and Paddo Johnson led to a sudden-death playoff. Displaying composure under pressure, Paddo Johnson powered through to claim second place, leaving Freddy to settle for a well-earned third.



A Touching Ceremony & Fun Facts from Mrs Flagg Prize giving was led by Mrs Flagg, accompanied by members of the Flagg family. She expressed heartfelt thanks to all participants and reaffirmed the family's dedication to sustaining this special legacy.

Adding a delightful twist to the ceremony, Mrs Flagg entertained players with surprising golf trivia, including the astonishing Guinness World Record for the longest round of golf: 36 hours nonstop, completed to raise funds for charity. She challenged the club leadership to consider doing something out of the ordinary for a worthy cause.

In celebration of the day, she also presented extra prizes, including exclusive invitations to Harlyn House, which marks its 200-year anniversary this year.

A Grateful Club

The St Helena Golf Club extends its sincere appreciation to the Flagg family for their unwavering support, generosity, and commitment to honouring Arnold Flagg's memory through this beloved annual event.



Follow us on **Facebook**

Visit our website: www.sthelenagolf.com



: Golfers are reminded that next **Sunday, 22 March**, the club will host an **18-hole Cross-Country Strokeplay** Competition.

Tee-off: 12:00.

Registration closes Saturday, 21 March at 3pm.



CRICKET REPORT

St Helena National Team in Ghana



St Helena Cricket hosted a Kit Presentation on Wednesday 11th March, presenting the fourteen players of the National Team namely **Cliff Richards, Andrew Yon, Kirk Lawrence, Joey Thomas, Jamie Essex, Delroy Leo, Dane Leo, Stefan Leo, Aiden Leo, Barry Stroud, Brendan Leo, Jordan Yon, Rhys Francis & Jordi Henry** with playing kit which they will use during the upcoming sub-regional qualifiers in Ghana from 24th – 29th March.

In a short opening speech Derek Richards the Associations President thanked the team and their families for the commitment and support during the past 18 months and commented how pleasing it was to see the team come through an intense training plan partly managed remotely by Coach Nadeem who is also accompanying the team and also added that the preparation for the qualifiers was not without its own set of challenges, but as a team they were overcome and now they are set to leave for Ghana.

After a slight delay in the flight, all fourteen players along with team manager Derek Richards and Coach Nadeem Ahmed, left on Airlink 4Z132 amidst a farewell from fans, families and other players who all gathered at St Helena Airport to wish them well as they finally got on their way shortly after 2pm Monday 16th March, headed for Ghana via Johannesburg where they stayed overnight in the Garden Court before heading off to Supersport Park in Centurion for the day on Tuesday.



The day was spent exploring the stadium with Stuart Fortuin, who visited St Helena last year with the Titans where they spent a while equipment shopping at the stadium shop before grabbing lunch and relaxed for the remainder of the afternoon ahead of a training session.

Team St Helena will train over the next 3 days before travelling to Accra along with the other teams to arrive at the Achimota Cricket Grounds in Accra where the games

will take place on the 22nd March with **St Helena scheduled to play Eswatini on Tuesday 24th at 9:30am** followed by the **Seychelles at 9:30am on Wednesday 25th** then **Ghana at 9:30am on Friday 27th**, **Tanzania at 1:50pm on Saturday 28th** and finally **Malawi at 1:50pm on Sunday 29th** with all teams departing for the journey home on 30th.

The National team will be away from the island for 3 weeks returning on the 4th of April, with Coach Nadeem travelling home to Cape Town and Manager Derek Richards travelling directly to Namibia to attend the ICC Africa Conference.

We will follow the teams progress as the games begin,



Good Luck Team St Helena



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Online Viewing

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



Impressions of How the Finished Property Could Look ;



Property Highlights

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



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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	03-Apr	04-May
Rupert's Bay	10-Mar	11-Apr	12-May
Ascension Island	15-Mar		
	KAROLINE 261802	KAROLINE 261803	KAROLINE 261804
Cape Town	31-Mar	24-Apr	25-May

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



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