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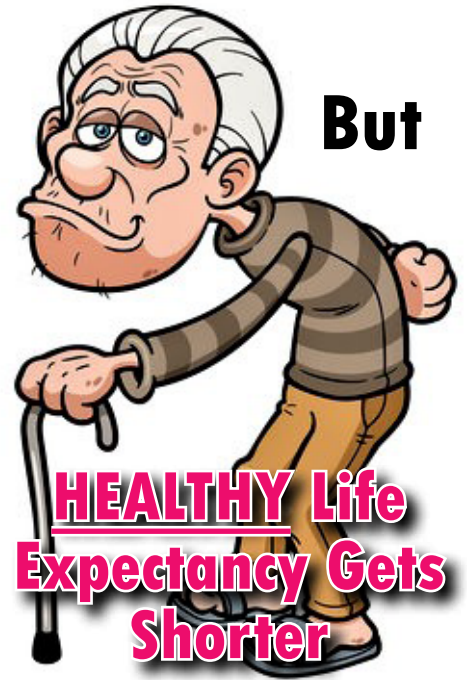
Email: independent@helanta.co.sh

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 13, 27th MARCH 2026

There's Life Expectancy - which keeps getting longer

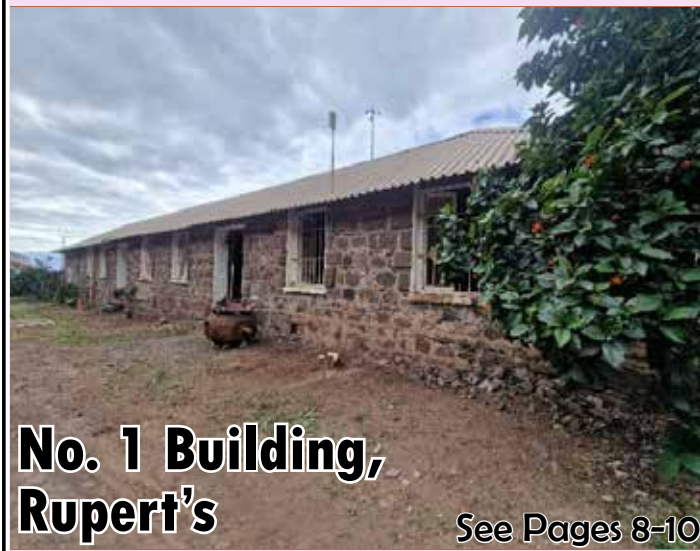


See Page 11



Court Papers Part 4: Access to Justice

Important Historical Landmark gets Funding



No. 1 Building, Rupert's

See Pages 8-10





Court Papers Part 4

Access to Justice – Not a Simple Matter

The Right of Equal Access to Justice for All – United Nations

The United Nations tells us, “Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law. In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to have their voice heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination or hold decision-makers accountable. The Declaration of the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law emphasises the right of equal access to justice for all, including members of vulnerable groups, and reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all.” The Task Force on Justice is a global initiative which aims to accelerate action on the UN Sustainable Development Goal which targets ‘justice for all’ by 2030. The 2019 Task Force report highlighted that 5.1 billion people in this world lack meaningful access to justice.

Access to justice is a basic human right, in a similar way as access to healthcare and education. The basic difference is, in developed nations healthcare and education services are funded by governments. However, while governments fund the court system, only limited funds are available for less well-off people to use the courts, thereby obtaining access to justice.

Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance – Requirements & Restrictions

Ruth Powell’s affidavit states, “Crucially, in the UK, how they (claimants) wish to proceed and fund their case is the claimant’s own choice. A Conditional Fee Agreement (CFA) is not considered invalid due to a failure to first apply for legal aid, even if legal aid is available and the defendant is a public body. A CFA is not considered invalid due to a failure to first apply for legal aid, even if legal aid is available and the defendant is a public body.”

The St Helena Legal Assistance Fund

A requirement of the Civil Costs Ordinance is that an application has to be made in the first instance to the Legal Assistance Fund and no alternative can be considered unless that application is refused. In St Helena, the Legal Assistance Fund assists Saints with the costs of access to justice. In the UK it is called Legal Aid. In her affidavit to the St Helena Supreme Court, Ruth Powell wrote, “The budget for the LAF (Legal Assistance Fund) in 2024/25 is £35,000 (exhibit RP33) and is unchanged for 2025/2026.” The SHG Budget Book shows the funding was £35,000 last year and remains the same for this year, next year and the year after that.

When comparing LAF with UK Legal Aid, Powell said, “Even in the UK, if there is a case which is potentially eligible for legal aid funding, this is not always the best option for claimants. Legal aid funding is very restrictive about the hourly rates which will be paid to experts. Many experts simply will not work for those hourly rates and therefore it is not in the claimant’s best interests to continue with legal aid.” With many compensation claims, an expert witness is often called to court to give an opinion. A cost budget submitted by on behalf of Mario Peters in January 2025 stated the total incurred and estimated costs amounted to £867,381.94. Ruth Powell states in her affidavit, “On that basis, it is fanciful

Court Papers Part 4

to consider that the LAF is or was a realistic option to fund his negligence claim.” Judge Sir Nicholas Blake observed in his Order, allowing a judicial review, “I consider the grounds relating to hourly rates to be arguable” – meaning open for judicial review. The grounds include the hourly rates for legal representation specified in the SHG Litigation Costs Ordinance are too low.

Expert Witnesses

An expert witness is an individual with specialised knowledge, or experience in a specific field who is qualified to offer opinions in a legal proceeding. Their role is to assist the court in understanding complex evidence outside the knowledge of a typical layperson. These experts charge for their research, opinion preparation and presentation. They charge an hourly rate which can mount up to a considerable total. Assuming an application to the Legal Assistance Fund has been refused and a Compensation Fee Agreement is sought. The Civil Costs Ordinance makes it a pre-condition that expert opinion is sought to support the claim.

Insurance Against Costs

The Powell affidavit points out, “After the Event 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. . . they 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 CFA is not a viable option.”

At the public meeting held when the Hugh James Solicitors were here with the barristers from Cobden House Chambers, Marc Willems, the lead barrister, explained that it was now not possible for Saints to obtain the required insurance. The reason given is that insurers are not prepared to offer insurance because of the requirements and restrictions in the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance.

Justice is Blind

"Justice is blind" is a foundational principle of English law, representing the ideals of impartiality, objectivity, and equality before the law. It means that the legal system—judges, juries, and officials—should make decisions based solely on evidence and legal principles, without being influenced by a person's wealth, social status, race, gender, or power.

In her affidavit, Rith Powell wrote, “

Funding of individual applications is totally at the discretion of the Legal Assistance Fund trustees. I understand that the trustees include the Public Solicitor, the Clerk of the Peace, the Chief Magistrate and at least one but not more than 3 Justice Trustees. Any appeal is to the Chief Justice. In order to apply, Saints must provide their (or their representative's) analysis of the merits of their claim and any supporting evidence to the trustees together with information relevant to their financial means. Contrary to the foundational principle that ‘Justice is Blind’, where judges, juries, and officials — should make decisions without being influenced by a person's wealth, a judge and officials have detailed knowledge of a person's wealth, or lack of it, if the case proceeds after an application to the Legal Assistance Fund.

In the UK, legal aid is administered by the Legal Aid Agency which is within the Ministry of Justice and therefore part of the administrative arm of government. In St Helena, The Legal Assistance Fund is administered by trustees, one of which is the Chief Magistrate. It is argued the judicial arm of government should not overlap with the administration of legal aid.

Ruth Powell pointed out in her affidavit, “In January 2025, Acting Justice Cooke was hearing the Plaintiff's case. He is the same judge who would preside over any application the Plaintiff made to the LAF in which the Plaintiff would have to provide his assessment of prospects. This begs the questions

(1) why should a Plaintiff tell the court their assessment of the risks within their own case if that judge

Court Papers Part 4

is ultimately going to hear the case, and
(2) how is that access to justice? Saints are very much aware of these overlaps which contributes to their distrust of the PSO, the courts and SHG.

The Separation of the Three Powers

The separation of powers is an important principle whereby the lawmakers are entirely separate from the arms of government which implement the law or enforce the law. In truth, complete separation is not achieved and if it was, there would likely be a paralysis of government as a whole. In St Helena, Legislative Council is the lawmaker, but it includes the chief minister and ministers who implement the law. In St Helena we follow the Westminster system of government, it is exactly the same as in the UK. There is considerable overlap, but without it, the wheels of government could well have the brakes permanently on. The third power is the judiciary. The independence of judges and their courts to interpret the law and enforce it is guarded more rigorously but there is still overlap. As Lord Chancellor, the UK Minister for Justice is responsible for upholding the rule of law, judicial independence, and integrity in the justice system. Behind that structure is the Public Service; the aspiration is the public service is entirely neutral, fully supporting whatever government is in power to implement their policies. Ruth Powell in her affidavit, describes a situation on 12 June 2024.

“On 12 June 2024, the Attorney General wrote to the Chief Justice to express his concern relating to the potentially high volume of civil litigation arising from the criminal conviction of Mr Sergio Villatoro-Bran and the “likely high costs of litigation; financial, time and reputational, in the event of a multitude of litigated claims” (exhibit RP37).

The extraordinary letter bears reading in full. 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 through costs management. The correspondence was not shared with Hugh James or any of the parties to the litigation until December 2024. It was, with respect, a wholly inappropriate interference by the executive with the judiciary’s management of a case in which the executive was a party.

The Attorney-General’s concerns were exactly the concerns rejected as irrelevant by the Privy Council in AB and others, namely that the cost of compensating the plaintiffs through a scheme “may be unaffordable” and the cost of litigation “could be more costly than a scheme”. Consequently, “these inevitable costs could pose a risk to core public services” and SHG “believes it has a duty to ensure that any litigation is resolved fairly, within the means of the government, whilst reducing the risk of prejudicing core services”.

The St Helena Attorney General is a member of the Public Service and a non-voting member of Legislative Council and Exco. In the UK attorney generals are members of the House Commons or Lords. As such. They are lawmakers and ministers implementing the law. On 12th June 2024, David Ballantyne was Attorney General. Despite being a public servant standing astride two of the three arms of government, his extraordinary letter to the Chief Magistrate shows he felt entitled to muscle in on the judiciary as well.

The Independent took advantage of a photo opportunity at the airport when Ballantyne was leaving St Helena for the last time. He complained that he had been treated like a criminal after he was ‘found out’. He was not allowed to return to his desk, he was dispossessed of his computer and other equipment and marched out of the Castle.

Despite that, some argue the SHG ‘aims’ as set out in his letter to the Chief Magistrate now sit behind the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance passed by councillors a year later.

The St Helena Independent
April Cottage
Putty Hill
Alarm Forest
Tel: 00 290 23836

IMPORTANT!!: It’s Good Friday next week. To ensure inclusion, please submit adverts and copy by 1pm on Tuesday. Later requests subject to available space.

Increase in Income Tax Threshold Thrown Out by Legco

It's been a long time coming, but it did come at this month's Legco – and promptly went again. For 14 years this clause has remained unmolested in the statute book:-

“A personal allowance in the amount of £7,000 (or such other amount as is approved from time to time by resolution of the Legislative Council) must be granted in each tax year to every individual”

Two weeks ago, the simplest bit of amending legislation proposed:-

In section 10(1) of the Income Tax Ordinance 2012, for “£7,000” substitute “£7,150”.

The ministers proposed it; the other councillors voted it down.

Feelings ran deep about the supposedly simplest of amending legislation. Rob Midwinter kindly supplied the Independent with the text of his speech, which was short but mercilessly to the point. First, he accused the ministers of misleading the public, “Ministers have told the public that the proposed “Personal Tax-Free Allowance Increase” will, I quote, “keep more income in the pockets of working people, particularly those on low or middle wages. A simple calculation shows that higher earners—those in the 31% tax bracket, including my five colleagues opposite—stand to benefit more than those of us in the 26% bracket.”

With the proposed £150 increase, raising the allowance to £7,150, a basic rate taxpayer gains just 75 pence per week. A higher rate taxpayer gains 89 pence per week.

Cllr Midwinter continued, “this measure will cost the public purse £90,000 every year. Yet an alternative was presented—one that better supports low-income earners while generating an extra £20,000 annually for SHG.

That option introduced a new 15% tax band for earnings between £7,000 and £8,000, (down from 26%) balanced by raising the higher rate from 31% to 35%. such an approach would actually achieve what Ministers claim they are trying to do—without costing the Government a penny.”

“Apart from one individual who told me he'd be grateful for anything, every person I've spoken to has reacted with either disbelief—wondering if the Government is joking about helping low earners—or feeling outright insulted by the proposal,” said an obviously displeased Midwinter who pointed out, in the UK, the gap between the lower and higher rate of income tax is 20 pence in the pound. On St Helena, it's just 5 pence—“a system I believe is fundamentally unfair to our lower earners”.

He closed by reminding the ministers that the last amendment to income tax, 6 years ago, stripped away almost one-third of the allowances enjoyed by TC Officers. Raising the higher 31% rate by 4 pence in the pound would not have the same effect.

SHG issued a press release soon after losing the vote. They described the 75 pence a week for basic rate income taxpayers as providing immediate relief through an inflationary increase to the personal allowance, recognising the limited timeframe available for changes that must be in place for 1 April. Tax adjustments cannot be made mid year, and therefore the proposal represented the best possible route to offering short term support to the public.

This does sound like a time pressured proposal made fairly close to the deadline. As the budget process usually starts in September of the previous year – 6 months before the start of the tax/financial year – we have to wonder when discussions started on changing income tax payment thresholds. What was eventually offered looks to be the least of whatever options might be available.

The 14 years with no movement in the tax threshold will now run to 15 years. Throughout that time here has been extreme reluctance to ease the tax burden for basic rate taxpayers. Only now was there an attempt to make an adjustment, however small. Someone has to start now to get a fairer income tax system in place for April 2027.

Due to price inflation, to buy £7,000 worth of goods at 2012 prices, you will need £10,160.02 today.

The Bank of England inflation calculator shows an average annual inflation over 14 years of 2.7% and a devaluation of the pound in your pocket by 45 pence.

The winner in all of this is the government. Their own figures show they will suck up an additional £1,530,000 in tax revenue, in the next tax year alone, just because and only because the £7,000 tax threshold has not been adjusted since 2012 to take account of price inflation.

Odd Bits

Rockfall Last Friday

Reports have been received of rocks falling between Coal Yard and Needle's Eye at the Jamestown Landing Steps. The area remained accessible, but swimmers advised they entered the water at their own risk.

Air Port Closure Announcement Last Friday

Independent Investigation into the Closure of St Helena Airport

HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE has today announced, on behalf of Executive Council, an independent investigation into the causes of the St Helena Airport closure to commercial air services between 5 and 17 February 2026.

Intended to establish the root cause and learn lessons to prevent future recurrence, a selection exercise will be taken forward to identify a suitable, independent contractor to undertake the investigation. This will also determine the cost of the investigation. The contracting will be taken forward by St Helena Government.

The investigation will focus on understanding why all three fire tenders developed similar faults within a matter of weeks of each other. It is for investigators to decide who they wish to talk to and what they wish to examine but it is likely that they will want to review commissioning, usage, servicing and maintenance, consumables and other areas to build a comprehensive understanding.

It is important that we keep the scope proportionate and relevant, with a view to learning lessons before the delivery and commissioning of our new airport fire tenders, later in the year.

We are grateful to St Helena Airport Limited and other partners for their co-operation in this matter.

Once complete, we will consider the findings of the investigation before deciding if further work is necessary. A summary of the findings will be made public, ensuring transparency.

A further update will be issued once an investigator has been appointed and the timescales for reporting better understood.

SHG - 20 March 2026

Chevening Overseas Territories in the Atlantic and Caribbean British Library Fellowship

There is a unique opportunity for one exceptional candidate from an Atlantic or Caribbean British Overseas Territory to be awarded a fellowship under the Chevening Overseas Territories in the Atlantic and Caribbean British Library fellowship programme. The programme is open to mid-career professionals from St Helena along with other Overseas Territories - Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Island, Falkland Islands, Montserrat and Turks & Caicos Islands.

The fellowship is cofounded by the British Library and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The aim of the fellowship is to increase and preserve information on the British Overseas Territories (BOTs) and explore how the territories are represented in British Library collections. Based in the Eccles Institute for the Americas and Oceania of the British Library, the fellow will have the opportunity to create

Odd Bits

a collection guide on one particular BOT or a general overview of all of the BOTs, publish blogs, prepare and deliver presentations to audiences and write a report on the cultural and educational landscapes of the BOTs.

The fellowship will start in January 2027 and end in December 2027/January 2028. To learn more about the fellowship, eligibility criteria and to apply online visit: [Chevening Overseas Territories in the Atlantic and Caribbean British Library Fellowship | Chevening](#). Applications will close 15th May 2026.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha - 24th March 2026

A Walk Through History

For an island so small and remote, St Helena has played host to a remarkably large number of influential figures throughout its history. Some visitors are remembered for their positive contributions to the world, while others are perhaps more infamous than famous.

As part of the UK Government funded Tourism Development Programme, an interpretative art installation titled A Walk Through History has been installed to showcase some of the island's notable visitors. The installation features an initial 28 plaques commemorating internationally significant figures who have visited St Helena since its discovery.

Set along one of Jamestown's most historic areas, the walk presents St Helena's rich and varied past in chronological order, allowing visitors to experience its story as they move through the space.

To complement the plaques, and to encourage a relaxing feel, the area has been beautified with trellised seating and planters.

UK Passport Fees Are Increasing

The price of British passport renewal applications will rise on April 8th 2026

Online Applications

Adults: £102 (was £94.50)
Child: £66.50 (was £61.50)

Postal Application

Adults: £115.50 (was £107)
Child: £80 (was £74)

Premium Service (1 Day)

Now £239.50 (was £222)

Overseas Online Application

Adults: £116.50 (was £108)
Child: £75.50 (was £70)

Overseas Postal Application

Adult: £130 (was £120.50)
Child: £89 (was £82.50)



Location and Site Description

The Castle Terrace wall in Jamestown has been identified as the ideal setting for the installation. This important heritage structure has been underutilised in recent years and, at times, affected by antisocial behaviour, particularly at night.



St Helena National Trust Announces Major Milestone in the Restoration of No.1 Building for Trans-Atlantic Slave Memorial Project

The St Helena National Trust (SHNT) is proud to announce a significant milestone in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Memorial Project. On March 23, 2026, the Trust officially signed a contract with the Commonwealth Heritage Forum (CHF) to fund restoration works on the historic No.1 Building in Rupert's Valley. This First Stage, will restore the building that will become a permanent memorial dedicated to the Liberated Africans, as part of Phase 2 of the Liberated African Advisory Committee's (LAAC) [Master Plan, approved in October 2020](#).

The Commonwealth Heritage Forum has awarded the project £165,000 under its Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Commonwealth Heritage Skills Training Programme, supported by the Vinehill Trust, which develops hands-on craft skills and the sustainable strategies needed to repair historic buildings at risk and manage change in the historic environment in the Commonwealth and wider anglosphere. Both the Commonwealth Heritage Forum and the SHNT are grateful to the Vinehill Trust for funding Phase 2 of the Heritage Skills Training Programme, under which St Helena's grant has been awarded.

The No.1 Building, often referred to as the 'old hospital,' is the last remaining structure from the Liberated African Establishment, built in 1865. This long, single-storey stone building once provided accommodation for those disembarking from slave ships, marking a dark yet essential part of St Helena's history. The restoration project will preserve the building's historic fabric, including the repair of the roof, walls, floors, and windows, while maintaining its original appearance to honour those who passed through it.



Figure 1- No.1 Building in Rupert's Valley

The Interpretation Centre is part of a broader effort to promote public awareness of the tragic history of enslavement and St Helena's role in this global narrative. The building will serve as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the Liberated Africans and the island's own involvement in the slave trade. The restoration work will also incorporate a building heritage skills training program, designed to equip local professionals with conservation-focused skills, fostering sustainable, long-term capacity for the preservation of St Helena's built heritage.

The CHF, a global network dedicated to the conservation of historic buildings within the Commonwealth, has been instrumental in supporting this project. Their funding and expertise will help ensure that the restoration meets best practice conservation standards.



VINEHILL
TRUST





“We are incredibly grateful for the support from the St Helena Government and the Commonwealth Heritage Forum in making this project a reality,” said Helena Bennett, Director of SHNT, and Chairperson for the LAAC. “This restoration is more than just about preserving a building – it’s about recognising and commemorating a key part of our shared history. We are thrilled to move forward with this vital project that will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.”

The restoration design plans will soon be submitted for approval by the Planning Office, and public meetings will be held to present the designs and outline the restoration process. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about the project, and understand the next steps, including fundraising for Stage Two. This next phase will focus on fitting out the No.1 Building for its use as museum, exhibition, and research facility. Details of these meetings will be announced in local newspapers and on social media.



Figure 2 - LAAC members and Conservation Architect

The SHNT would like to extend its thanks to SHG’s External Funding Coordinator and the St Helena Government UK Office for their invaluable support in negotiating the project’s funding application and contract.

- For further information, or to donate, please contact the St Helena National Trust at shelley.magellan-wade@trust.org.sh, +290 25531, or visit our website <http://www.trust.org.sh>
- For information about the Commonwealth Heritage Forum, please visit: <https://www.commonwealthheritage.org/>
- For information about the Vinehill Trust, please visit: <http://vinehilltrust.uk>

St Helena National Trust
25 March 2026



VINEHILL
TRUST



We Shall Remember Them

"A visit to a full-freighted slave ship arriving at St. Helena is not easily to be forgotten; a scene so intensified in all that is horrible that it almost defies description. The vessel, scarcely a hundred tons at most, contains perhaps little short of a thousand souls, which have been closely packed, for many weeks together, in the hottest and most polluted of atmospheres. I went on board one of these ships as she cast anchor off Rupert's Valley, and the whole deck, as I picked my way from end to end, in order to avoid treading upon them, was thickly strewn with dead, dying, and starved bodies ..."

Colonial Engineer John Melliss – 1861



In August 2022, excavated human remains were respectfully reinterred by members of the St Helena community in coffins made by students at Prince Andrew School.

No. 1 Building

The objectives of this project are to:

- Memorialise the liberated Africans through acknowledgement of the tragedy of slavery;
- Educate future generations about the lingering consequences of the centuries-long enslavement of and trade in Africans supplied to the colonies of the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe;
- Enshrine the legacy of the liberated Africans whose untold stories, memories and contribution to humanity changed St Helena and the world.



**SELECT COMMITTEE 1
LIVE HEARING
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2026**

The public are advised that the Select Committee 1 live hearing originally scheduled for Monday 16 February 2026, will now take place on Monday 30 March 2026 at 9am in the Council Chamber, The Castle.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comprehensive updates from the relevant Ministers and Portfolio Directors regarding progress made against recommendations arising from previous inquiries.

On this occasion, the committee will discuss recommendations from the following inquiries:

09:00am - Inquiry 2 ENRP: Farming Support, Land Use Review and Poultry Production (Day Old Chicks / Incubation Unit).

09:45am - Inquiry 1 ENRP and H&SC: Fisheries – A Cross-Functional Review

10:30am - Inquiry 3 H&SC: Provision of Facilities and Services

The event is open to the public, and proceedings will be broadcast live on SAMS Radio 1.

HLE: Not the Code for St Helena Airport – It's Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy Life Expectancy is a more recent addition to the statistician's tool box. It's only in 2011 that figures were first produced indicating how long people lived before ill-health badly affected the quality of life. Now, with more than 10 years of data showing trends and information that was not immediately available before, figures for healthy life expectancy reveal a range of information that is very different from the previously produced rosy figures for whole-life expectancy.

Life Expectancy, that's simply the time between being born and dying, has grown longer as most of us get older. . . and older. Longer lives has been a common trend among richer nations for decades. The only blip in the trend was the Covid pandemic. St Helena is the same. A baby born this year can expect to live 6 years longer than the babies born in 1991 according to government statistics. A six-year difference over 33 years is impressive.

Now, closer attention is given to HEALTHY life expectancy. That is how long most people live until dodgy hearts, painful joints and an inability to get about take over and too often make life a burden. Statistics for healthy life expectancy only started in 2011. While life expectancy in the UK continues to recover from Covid - 83 for women and 79 for men. Healthy life expectancy is now the lowest it's been since records began in 2011.

In St Helena, the latest life expectancy figures are 81 for women and 77 for men. There are no healthy life expectancy estimates for St Helena and gathering the required data may be next to impossible but there is little reason to think they could be better than the UK. The average Brit born today can expect to stay reasonably healthy until about 61 years old. The remaining two decades of living will probably turn out to be increasingly, an endurance test.

All these figures only give the national average and conceal some alarming differences arising from the widening gap between the comfortably off and the poor. One writer explained he was born in a poor district of west London. As he established himself in his job, he was able to move to a better part of town. Recent healthy life expectancy data shows that his children have a healthy life expectancy 10 years longer than children of same age born where he was born. This alarming difference within a small area raises many questions, more than a few of them involving services provided by the government or local authority.

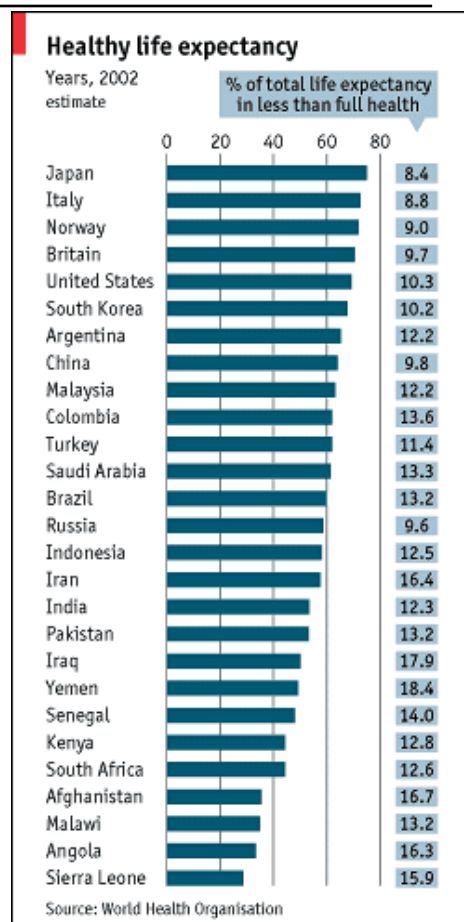
Experts also say government economic policies are a contributory factor. What governments can and cannot do has everything to do with money, of course. Healthy life expectancy information can tell us a lot about how effectively governments spend money; with the people they govern always in mind.

A retired professor pointed out, the power held by international pharmaceutical and junk-food industries has a great impact on the cost of healthcare; the petro-chemical industries can be added to that list.

On the other side of the coin, governments' health departments focus on reducing waiting lists for appointments, consultations and operations while turning a blind eye to the harm caused by junk-food industries and the rest.

Prevention is always better than cure, which should always be a cheaper, more effective and much preferred option. Healthy life expectancy and the analysis that goes with it will expand and deepen in the years to come. Governments love to tell us how much has been spent on various things. Hopefully, the increasing attention on healthy life expectancy will show if the money is being spent effectively, increasing the quality of life for people they govern.

For instance, does the education department know how many children go to school hungry? Does the health department know the long-term effect of this kind of deprivation on the health of a child? Does the finance department know how much cheaper it might be to have breakfast clubs in schools instead of the long-term healthcare cost of not having them?



Time to GO!



Missile lands next to presenter during live report from Lebanon

Footage from Russian state broadcaster RT has captured the moment a missile lands just a few feet from where its reporter was broadcasting in southern Lebanon.

RT, formerly Russia Today, said Steve Sweeney, its Lebanon bureau chief, and his cameraman had "miraculously survived" and were being treated in hospital.

Verified footage.





St Helena Island, Ultra Marathon Swim

A Tribute to Saint Helena: Where Dreams Meet the Ocean



As we bid farewell to the enchanting island of Saint Helena, we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared – Open Water Africa, the individuals who dared to dream, and the teams that made it all possible.

The goal set by Open Water Africa was clear: to bring open water swimming to this unique and special island, and to inspire individuals to push their limits. The individual goals were just as bold – to conquer the challenging waters, to find personal triumph, and to experience the raw beauty of Saint Helena.



The Enchanted Isle and Seahawk teams have been the heartbeat of this endeavour, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every detail was in place. The trust placed in us by the SHG Emergency Planning Room and the entire island community has been humbling.

Saint Helena, with its rugged coastline and warm people, has left an indelible mark on our hearts. As you land and find your feet, it truly does become home. The individuals who've joined this journey are filled with joy and gratitude for the experience, the island, and its people.

This is more than a swim; it's a celebration of what happens when passion meets purpose, and when a community comes together to support dreams. Thank you, Saint Helena, for being our stage, our challenge, and our home.



Dina Levčić



Angus McPherson



Ryan Stramrood
St Helena Island Ultra Marathon Swim



See you in 2027
Howard James



WHY DON'T FISH PLAY FOOTBALL?



BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED OF THE NET!

HA HA!




WHAT DO YOU CALL A FISH WHO LOVES MUSIC?

A TUNA STAR!



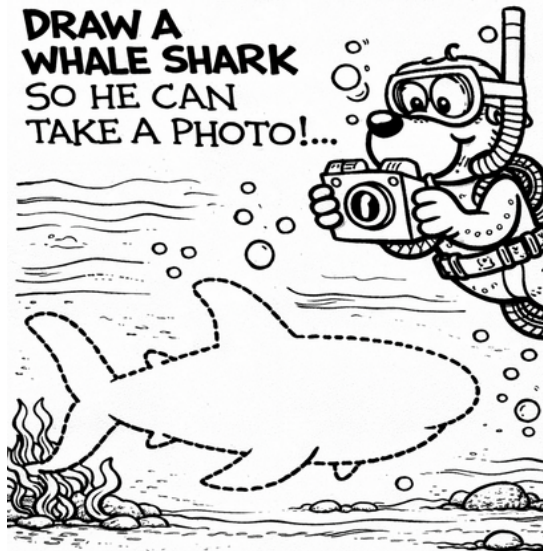

WHY ARE FISH SO SMART?

BECAUSE THEY SWIM IN SCHOOLS!




DRAW IT!

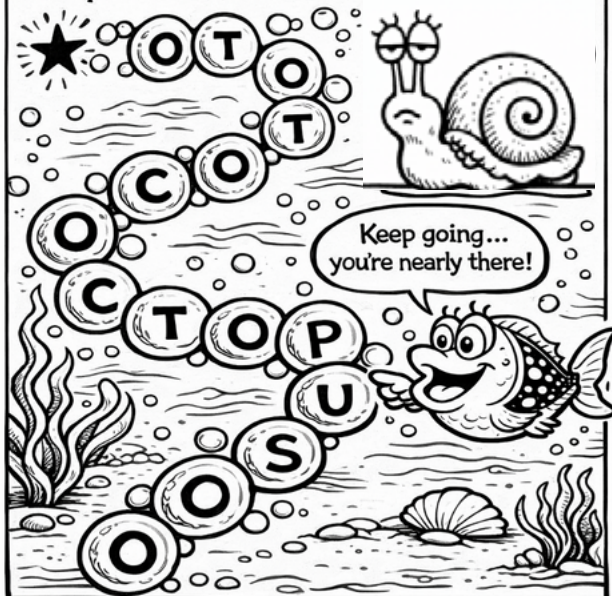
DRAW A WHALE SHARK SO HE CAN TAKE A PHOTO!...



..... **Whale shark**

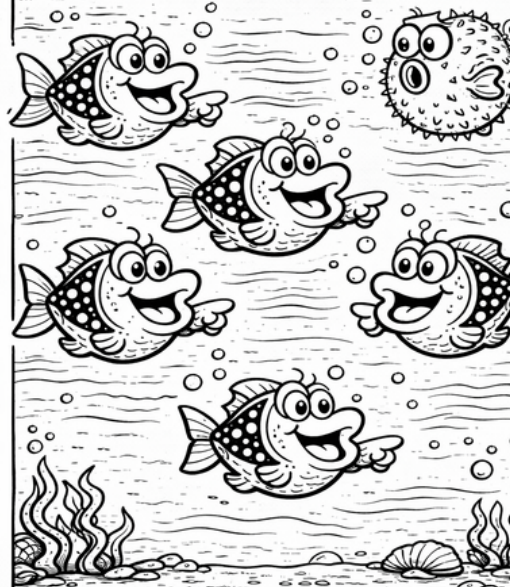
FOLLOW THE BUBBLES!

Start at the ★ and follow the bubbles to spell a **SEA WORD!**



FIND THE ODD ONE OUT!

Which fish is **NOT** like the others?



Festival of Walking Walk of the Week



Date: Sunday, 29 March 2026

Start Time: 09:00

Meeting Point: Tourist Office at 08.30, for bus to starting point at Rosemary Plain

Location: -15.92633, -5.71718

Duration: approx 5 hours



Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Lemon Valley is a popular walk for locals. Descending into the valley to historic ruins of farmhouses and fortifications. Discover how Lemon Valley played an important role in St Helena's history, it's importance as a quarantine station for the sick and how it became the first depot for the Liberated Africans. If sea conditions are favourable, there will be an opportunity to go swimming (bring swimming gear).

Note: there will be a bus from Jamestown to Rosemary Plain and a boat from Lemon Valley back to Jamestown. Booking in advance for the bus and/or boat is essential (by noon on Friday, 27 March).

Safety details - Please wear suitable footwear, wear sun protection and bring at least 2L of water. Terrain of various elevation and cliffside paths, with gravel underfoot, cliff-side walking at height on parts of the walk.

Walk led by Director of the Museum of St Helena, Adam Sizeland

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

THANK YOU

The family of the late Wilfred Stephen Young, affectionately known as Norris, would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered support during this difficult time.

We are deeply grateful to the medical team at the General Hospital for the care and compassion shown to Wilfred at the time of his sudden passing. Our sincere thanks also go to Father Rudie for conducting the funeral service, to Mrs Karen Thomas and Mrs Kim Henry for the beautiful wreaths and floral arrangements, to all the generous people who gave floral tributes and to Roy and his team for their assistance with the burial.

A special thank you to all family and friends for your overwhelming support, kind messages, and expressions of sympathy. Your love and presence have brought great comfort.

Wilfred's memory will forever remain in our hearts.

Thank You

The family of the late Auntry May Lawrence from Cleugh's Plain would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses for their care and attention given to her during her long battle with cancer which she sadly lost on 8th March 2026.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Bishop Dale and Father Ernest for conducting the Funeral service and to all those who played the music in the church and at the Grave side.

Also special thanks to all those who donated flowers, sent cards and messages of condolences and assisted with the funeral arrangements.

She will sadly be missed but never forgotten.





Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	Cathedral
	Wednesday 1st April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St Swithin
	Maundy Thursday 2nd April	
9.00 a.m.	Chrism Mass	Cathedral
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	Cathedral
	Good Friday 3rd April	
12.00-3.00 p.m.	Devotions, Liturgy & Veneration	Cathedral
	Saturday Easter Eve 4th April	
7.00 p.m.	Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter/Baptism	Cathedral
	Easter Sunday 5th April	
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena

The Parish of St James

Sunday 29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday

9.15 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	St James
	Wednesday 1st April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St James
	Maundy Thursday 2nd April	
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	St James
	Good Friday 3rd April	
12.00 p.m.	Mattins	St James
	Easter Sunday 5th April	
6.00 a.m.	Vigil/Mass	St John
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	St Mark
	Wednesday 1st April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St Mark
	Maundy Thursday 2nd April	
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	St Mark
	Good Friday 3rd April	
12.00 p.m.	Mattins	St Mark
	Easter Sunday 5th April	
6.30 a.m.	Vigil/Mass	St Mark
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew



PRESS RELEASE

SHG Public Transport Service Survey

The Central Support Service Transport Section is keen to hear your views on the SHG operated Public Transport Service (PTS), which launched on 1 December 2024. We are conducting a short survey to gather your feedback, assisting in future decision about the PTS, from timetables and journey frequency to fares and overall user experience.

The survey is anonymous, takes only a few minutes to complete, and is open to everyone whether you use the PTS regularly, occasionally, or not at all.

A survey form is available from the SHG website, the Customer Services Centre, Public Library, Tourist Office in Jamestown, PTS buses, and selected shops.

The survey is also available online via the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTSSStHelena>

Completed surveys can be left in the designated collection boxes at the Customer Services Centre, Public Library, Tourist Office, on PTS buses, and in participating shops. The survey closes on 20 April 2026, so don't miss your chance to have your say. Your views will make a real difference.

QR Code



Hey Kids!



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

WHERE: Baptist School Hall/James Town

WHO: Age 4-11yrs old

WHEN: 28/03/26

TIME: 10:00-11:30am

Refreshments will be served.

Vacancy

Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent



Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour



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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via  22523  gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **09 April 2026**

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

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

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 hradmin@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

Vacancies

Part-Time Aircraft Cleaner



Rate of pay will commence at £5.60 per hour

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

The Aircraft Cleaner will be responsible for the cleaning of the Airport Terminal on the days of aircraft operations and also cleaning of aircraft cabins of arriving and departing Aircraft.

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

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training including both classroom and online-based training
- Be available to undergo the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake manual handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Be able to work with a high degree of attention to detail
- Have the ability to remain calm under pressure.

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via  22523  gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **09 April 2026**

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

Vacancy

General Assistant (Bread Production)



Salary for the post will be £11,940 per annum (£995 per month)

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

The General Assistant will become a vital part of the day-to-day preparation and production of bread and related products, ensuring high standards of quality and hygiene are achieved.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic numeracy and literacy ability
- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in this field, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness with the ability to carry out manual handling duties
- Have the ability to take on physically demanding duties and stand for extended periods
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment and follow instructions
- Be able to manage time effectively to ensure production deadlines are met with good organisation skills
- Be available to work unsocial hours

Basic Applicable Skills include:

- Be able to carry out and understand basic measurements and follow written recipes
- Be able to prepare bread dough and other bakery products according to recipes and production schedules
- Ability to follow instructions accurately and work effectively as part of a team
- Operating production equipment as required
- Packaging and delivering products
- Ability to carry out routine and deep cleaning tasks to a high standard

Further details contained in job description

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

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 Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **09 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

Vacancy

Safety & Compliance Officer



Salary for the post will range between £18,513.00 - £20,000.00 per annum;
depending on qualifications and experience

Job Outline:

Responsible for planning, implementing and overseeing safety all elements of safety and compliance, through BOU Managers, in accordance with laws, regulations, standards and ethical practices as applicable to the Company in respect of environmental management and workplace health and safety, as applicable to all aspects of the Company's diverse portfolio of business interests.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have IOSH or similar Health & Safety Certification
- Have 3 – 5 years' experience in a Health & Safety / Compliance role
- Have 3 years' experience in a supervisory or management role
- Have grade C or above in English and Maths or equivalent
- Be computer literate in the use of Microsoft Applications
- Have the ability to multi-task, organise workload and meet tight deadlines
- Have excellent organisation, interpersonal & communication skills
- Be analytical and have a high degree of accuracy with attention to detail
- Be able to maintain total confidentiality within the Company
- Be experienced in data collation, analysis and able to create reports
- Ideally be knowledgeable of Food Safety practises.

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

Paul Gasteen, Chief Operating Officer via ☎ 22380 ✉ paul.gasteen@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 **09 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

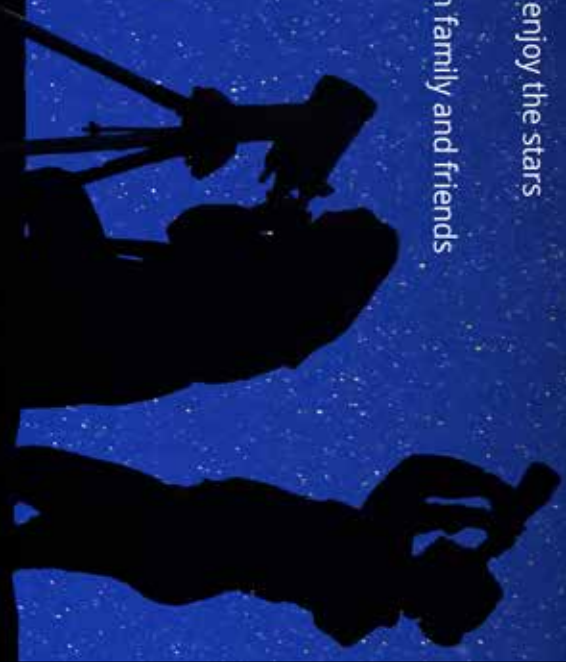


EARTH HOUR

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



ST HELENA
NATIONAL TRUST



*The lively taste of Sundial
A new taste not to be missed*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Jamestown</u> | <u>Ladder Hill</u> |
| Rose & Crown | The Crown Supermarket |
| Thorpes Grocery | |
| The Standard Bar | <u>Longwood</u> |
| The Mantis Hotel | Rose & Crown Hardware |
| Chad's Shop | Rose & Crown |
| Anne's Place | Supermarket |
| Yacht Club | St Helena Golf Club |
| Blue Lantern | |
| The Mule Yard | <u>New Ground</u> |
| The Star | McDaniels |
| <u>Half Tree Hollow</u> | <u>St Pauls</u> |
| Joshies | Philip John |
| A&D Mini Market | |
| HTH Supermarket | <u>Levelwood</u> |
| SydneyRays | Silver Hill Shop |

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



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)



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: Emerald Newman-Yon or Juliette O'Dean on Tel No. 22287 or Email: Juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh or emerald.newman-yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 02 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 07 April 2026
Interview date: 15 April 2026

Receptionist (£9,573 per annum)

We are seeking to employ a Receptionist who 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

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: 15 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 20 April 2026
Interview date: 27 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.



CONNECT SAINT HELENA LTD APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Connect Saint Helena Ltd is pleased to announce the appointment of Roeland van der Hoeven as Chief Executive Officer. He took up the role on 16 March 2026.

Roeland brings extensive senior leadership experience from island-based organisations delivering essential utility services. His background spans operations, finance, and people leadership in small island environments, where maintaining reliable infrastructure and strong teamwork are critical.

A people-focused leader, Roeland is motivated to make a meaningful difference to Connect Saint Helena Ltd and the communities we serve. We look forward to welcoming him and working together under his leadership.

Nicole Shamier, Chair of the Connect Board, commented:

"We are excited to welcome Roeland to the team. With him comes renewed energy, a devotion to work with our staff to unlock our vision for 80% of energy from renewable sources, water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, and to build stronger relationships with Ministers and the community. We also sincerely thank Phanual Shangwa for doing an excellent job undertaking the interim CEO role since October and to all those who have been covering vacancies and stepping up in that time."

Roeland van der Hoeven added:

"Connect Saint Helena Ltd plays a vital role at the heart of island life. I'm proud to join the team and look forward to working together to deliver reliable services, strengthen our operations, and support the island's future development."

Together with staff, the Board of Directors extends congratulations to Roeland and wishes him every success in his new role.

Under Roeland's leadership, Connect Saint Helena Ltd will continue to pursue its vision to contribute towards a sustainable island environment that creates opportunity and inspires social and economic progress. The Company remains committed to ensuring a better quality of life for all while providing quality utility services safely and reliably for the island of St Helena.

19 March 2026



CUSTOMER UPDATE - MONTHLY BILLING

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is introducing monthly billing for water and electricity, effective 1 April 2026. Currently, customers are billed once every three months for usage from the previous quarter. From April, bills will instead be issued monthly for the previous month's usage. This change affects how often you are billed, but does not change current tariffs.

Why this change is being introduced?

Moving to monthly billing will:

- Help you manage household budgets more easily by spreading costs across the year
- Provide more regular and up-to-date information on usage and charges
- Reduce the likelihood of larger, less predictable quarterly bills

How monthly billing will work

- You will receive a bill each month based on your estimated usage.
- For two months of each quarter, charges will be estimated based on your past usage.
- In the third month, your bill will be calculated using actual meter readings. At that point, any differences between the estimated and actual usage will be clearly adjusted, ensuring you are charged accurately.
- Empty property charges will continue to be billed for properties consuming less than 10 units of electricity in a quarter.
- Payment methods and arrangements will remain unchanged.

What it means for customers

- You will not pay more overall as a result of this change; the total cost of usage remains the same over time.
- Bills will be smaller and more frequent, rather than larger and less frequent.
- Estimated bills will be reconciled regularly through meter readings.
- No action is required from you ahead of the change.

Readings

At present, monthly bills are estimated using historical usage patterns. We will notify you once actual meter readings are accepted.

Support & Information

We recognise that any change to billing frequency may raise questions for some customers. Anyone who would like further information or support is encouraged to get in touch on tel. 22255 or email: enquiries@connect.co.sh.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we continue working to enhance our services and provide greater transparency for all customers.

24 March 2026



Nursing Sister (3-Month Fixed-Term Cover)

Total package value up to £29,515 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £17,458 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

This is a short-term opportunity to join the Health Services team on Ascension Island, helping to maintain the smooth delivery of patient care during a period of cover. Working in a small and supportive team, you'll take on a varied role that combines hands-on nursing with some pharmacy support, in a unique and remote setting where flexibility and teamwork are key. As part of a small team, you'll take part in a rota-based shift pattern, which can include evenings, weekends and occasional on-call cover.

What you'll do

You'll provide day-to-day nursing care across the hospital, support outpatient services, and assist with dispensing medication. You'll also respond to emergencies when needed and work closely with colleagues to keep services running safely and effectively. More broadly, you'll help maintain a clean, organised environment and ensure patient care remains consistent throughout your time with us.

What you'll bring

You'll be a registered nurse with experience in a hospital or acute setting, confident in delivering patient care and handling medication safely. You'll be a good team player, able to communicate clearly and stay calm under pressure. Just as importantly, you'll be adaptable, reliable, and comfortable stepping into a new environment and getting up to speed quickly.

What's it like to live and work on Ascension?

Ascension is a small volcanic island, situated in the South Atlantic, with a warm stable climate (26-34°C). We are part of the wider UK Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, situated approximately 1,000 miles from the mainland of Africa and 800 miles from our nearest neighbour, the island of St Helena. To thrive here in this high-profile role, you must be resilient, adaptable and able to live and work in a remote environment and small community.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,458 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a single status contract and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- A Single status £3,840 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £3,296 pa
- A water allowance worth £1,921 pa
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays) pa
- Free primary dental and medical care and off island, with medical referral if required including medivac arrangements in an emergency.
- Death in Service insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references; Enhanced Criminal Records Check; Satisfactory Medical Clearance

Closing date: Friday 03 April 2026

Interviews: Week Commencing 06 April 2026 (via video call if off island)

Start date: As soon as possible

For more information and to apply visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac



**ASCENSION ISLAND
GOVERNMENT**

Nurse and Pharmacy Assistant

Total package value up to £34,636 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £17,458 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

This is a unique opportunity to live and work on Ascension Island, where no two days in healthcare are ever the same. Based at Georgetown Hospital, you will play a key role in managing the pharmacy while also supporting the delivery of patient care. You will be responsible for overseeing medication supplies, dispensing prescriptions and ensuring the pharmacy operates safely and efficiently. Alongside this, you will contribute to clinical care across the hospital, including outpatient services and emergency response. This is a varied, hands-on role where you will use a broad range of skills and make a meaningful contribution within a close-knit community.

What you'll do

You will manage the day-to-day operation of the pharmacy, including ordering, stock control and the safe storage of medicines, ensuring accurate records are maintained at all times. You will dispense medication and support outpatient clinics as required. The role also involves providing nursing support when needed, including covering for colleagues and responding to emergencies. You will contribute to maintaining a safe, clean and well-organised clinical environment and work collaboratively with colleagues to ensure effective service delivery.

What you'll bring

You will be a registered nurse with experience in a hospital or acute setting, confident in administering medication and working with patients with a range of needs. You will have strong attention to detail, good organisational skills and the ability to work independently, using sound judgement. A flexible and adaptable approach is essential, along with the ability to respond to changing priorities. You will be IT literate, maintain confidentiality at all times and communicate clearly with both colleagues and patients. A Pharmacy Technician qualification would be desirable, or a willingness to work towards this.

What's it like to live and work on Ascension?

Ascension is a small volcanic island, situated in the South Atlantic, with a warm stable climate (26-34°C). We are part of the wider UK Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, situated approximately 1,000 miles from the mainland of Africa and 800 miles from our nearest neighbour, the island of St Helena. To thrive here in this high-profile role, you must be resilient, adaptable and able to live and work in a remote environment and small community.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,458 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and the following benefits:

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

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

Closing date: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Interviews: Week Commencing 20 April 2026 (via video call if off island)

Start date: As soon as possible

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit:

www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

BIG 4 WALK

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2026

10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

 **ST HELENA, KINGSHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE**
One Heart. One Mind. Saints Together.

Live
streaming
via
Facebook

COMMUNITY WALKS

3 Routes + Prizes

Wear
green

10.00 A.M. Registration & Sponsorship Submissions

11.00 A.M. Long Route: Kingshurst> Knollcombes>W Road>Lemon Tree Gut>Ridges>Kingshurst

11.30 A.M. Medium Route : Kinghurst>Red Hill>Harpers Gut>Francis Plain>Knollcombes>Kingshurst

12.00 P.M. Easy Kiddie-Friendly Route: Kingshurst>White Gate>The Stables>Model Cottage>Merrimen's Forest (painted rock scavenger hunt will take place here) **or** Red Hill Road>White Gate>Kingshurst

AT KINGHURST

Entrance Fee

£1 for Adults, 50p for children under 12

Food Stalls Tea & Cakes | Hot Food |
Uncle Bob's Ice-Cream Truck | JJZ Pick
& Mix || **Music** || **Info** Island Minds
Foundation | Mental Health || **Kids**
Activities Face Painting | Bouncy
Castle

To take part in the walk:

Collect sponsors or pay
£5 on the day

Sponsor Forms available
from

Susan Knipe - tel.22930
after 5pm, or Shelby
Bargo - tel.67983

Want to get involved? We'd love your help!

Call Shelby on tel. 67983

A collaborative fundraising event by



ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

Sunday's competition at St Helena Golf Club was played under cool, cloudy conditions, ideal for golf and produced a strong field performance in the Full Net format.

The day belonged to Harry Seelbach, who delivered an excellent round of 83 gross, nett 64, to secure first place and overall winner, finishing closely behind was Bramwell Bushuru, who claimed second place with a score of 78 gross, nett 66, while also taking the accolade for Lowest Gross Score of the day, Patrick Johnson and Gerald George both returned nett 68, with Johnson edging ahead on countback to take third position. Other notable performances included Peter Bagley (nett 69) and Nigel Leaver (nett 72), rounding out the top six.

A total of 15 cards were processed, reflecting a solid turnout from club members. In the Two ball pool, three players recorded twos on the day: Peter Bagley on hole 12, Jeffrey Stevens on hole 14, and Bramwell Bushuru on hole 18.

The club extends its congratulations to all prize winners and participants for an enjoyable and competitive outing.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The committee also advises members that a new disciplinary policy has been developed. A copy will be emailed to all members and will also be available on the club noticeboard for reference. This policy is out for consultation and will come into effect on 1st May 2026.

Members are asked to provide feedback no later than 12th of April 2026

Parents and guardians are also reminded that junior membership at the club remains free. Juniors up to the age of 18 are eligible, and application forms can be completed physically or online through www.sthelenagolf.com to register.

St Helena Golf Club continues to encourage participation across all age groups as it develops the game on the island.



Follow us on **Facebook**

Visit our website: www.sthelenagolf.com



: Golfers are reminded that next **Sunday, 29 March**, the club will host the Monthly Medal **Strokeplay** Competition.

Tee-off: 12:00.

My golf game is like a selfie—awkward, unpredictable, and somehow still posted.

My swing has a mind of its own. Unfortunately, it's not very bright.



Salah announces he will leave Liverpool

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Mohamed Salah's statement, released at 18:33 on Tuesday evening, announcing he would be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season:

In this statement to the world he said "Hello everyone. Unfortunately the day has come. This is the first part of my farewell. I will be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season.



I wanted to start by saying that I never imagined how deeply this club, this city, these people would become part of my life. Liverpool is not just a football club. It's a passion. It's a history. It's a spirit. I can't explain it in words to anyone not part of this club. We celebrated victory. We won the most important trophies and we fought together through the hardest time in our life.

I want to thank everyone who was part of this club throughout my time here, especially the team-mates, past and present. And to the fans, I don't have enough words. The support you showed me through the best time of my career and you stood by me in the toughest times. It's something I will never forget and I something I will take with me always.

Leaving is never easy. You gave me the best time of my life, I will be always one of you. The club will always be my home, to me and to my family. Thank you for everything. Because of all of you I will never walk alone."

Salah's contract, which he signed only last April, will be cut short by a year after a difficult season for the 33-year-old, which has seen him dropped and publicly fall out with head coach Arne Slot.

Liverpool's statement read: "Salah expressed his wish to make this announcement to the supporters at the earliest possible opportunity to provide transparency about his future due to his respect and gratitude for them, and stated that the Egyptian, one of Liverpool's greatest-ever players, will have his Anfield farewell against Brentford on May 24 on the final day of the Premier League season."



LIVERPOOL ALL-TIME LEADING GOALSCORERS	
Ian Rush	346
Roger Hunt	285
Mohamed Salah	255
Gordon Hodgson	241
Billy Liddell	228
Steven Gerrard	186
Robbie Fowler	183
Kenny Dalglish	172

Andy Robertson called Salah "the greatest" as he led the tributes, while another team-mate, Cody Gakpo, described him as a "true legend".

Salah was signed from Roma for £34m in the summer of 2017 and will leave as Liverpool's third highest goalscorer, having won the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and Carabao Cup.

FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Friday 20th	Bournemouth	2	2	Man United
Saturday 21st	Brighton	2	1	Liverpool
Saturday 21st	Fulham	3	1	Burnley
Saturday 21st	Man City	0	0	Crystal Palace
Saturday 21st	Everton	3	0	Chelsea
Saturday 21st	Leeds	0	0	Brentford
Sunday 22nd	Newcastle	1	2	Sunderland
Sunday 22nd	Aston Villa	2	0	West Ham
Sunday 22nd	Tottenham	0	3	Nott'm Forest



Match Report

Danny Welbeck scored twice as Brighton & Hove Albion dented Liverpool's UEFA Champions League hopes with a 2-1 victory over the reigning Premier League champions on Saturday, however, Fabian Hurzeler's side would retake the lead early in the second half, thanks to Welbeck's simple finish to hand Liverpool a second defeat in three matches.

After losing Hugo Ekitike to injury early on, Liverpool found themselves behind in the 14th minute when Welbeck rose above Ibrahima Konate and nodded in at the back post, but Arne Slot's side hauled themselves level through Kerkez on the half-hour mark, with the full-back stealing in to lift the ball over goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen and punish Dunk's slack backwards header.

Brighton upped the pressure after the break and only a fine stop from Giorgi Mamardashvili stopped Ferdi Kadioglu's shot from nestling into the goal, with Mats Wieffer heading narrowly wide from the resulting corner, but the Seagulls' persistence was rewarded, though, when Yankuba Minteh's brilliant cross picked out Jack Hinshelwood, who squared for Welbeck to double his, and Brighton's, tally.

Marmadashvili was then called into action to deny Minteh from a 1v1, with Yasin Ayari seeing his late effort cleared off the line by Curtis Jones as Brighton claimed the win.

The result sees Liverpool stay in fifth on 49 points. Brighton, meanwhile, are 10th on 43 points, and within six points of the Reds.



Man of the Match



Premier League Fixtures

Friday 10th	19:00	West Ham	vs	Wolves
Saturday 11th	11:30	Brentford	vs	Everton
Saturday 11th	14:00	Burnley	vs	Brighton
Saturday 11th	16:30	Liverpool	vs	Fulham
Sunday 12th	13:00	Crystal Palace	vs	Newcastle
Sunday 12th	13:00	Nott'm Forest	vs	Aston Villa
Sunday 12th	13:00	Sunderland	vs	Tottenham
Sunday 12th	15:30	Chelsea	vs	Man City
Monday 13th	19:00	Man United	vs	Leeds



CRICKET REPORT

St Helena National Team in Ghana



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** is currently in Ghana participating in the sub-regional qualifiers Cricket.

It was an early start for the team on Sunday, as to see the Titans play fell through as rain tried to ruin the day's events, so

the team took the opportunity to travel early to the airport, get bags wrapped and checked in, well ahead of the 3pm departure to Accra, with all of the team was ready for competition it was not before the final farewells with hotel staff and those who had made their stay for the past week so comfortable and welcoming.

After an uneventful flight from OR Tambo, saw Team St Helena land at Kokata Airport in Accra 15 minutes ahead of schedule Sunday evening in a sticky 30 degree heat, where the team were met at the airport by the Ghana

Cricket Association and following the obligatory welcome photos, the team was transferred to the Alisa Hotel where they are spending the next 10 days.

As is customary on the first day of tournament, all captains must take part in a photoshoot. The host country determines the venue and Monday Ghana had chosen Independence Square near the beach and Kwame Nkruma Memorial Park, where all six teams represented by their captains struck various poses for the photography/videography team which all photos and videos will be used in pictorial material for and about the tournament and made available to the various countries at the end of the event.



All participating nations were present at Sunday night's opening ceremony at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, where Ghana Cricket representative thanked everyone for being there and trusted that everyone would enjoy the tournament and the country in general.

Ghana's Minister for Sport also welcomed everyone and giving a special mention to St Helena as not many people knew of the island before they found out they were coming to play cricket and ICC representatives were thanked for their input and support throughout the entire process and

Justine Ligyalingi the Development Officer spoke about the tournament and wished everyone a spirited tournament, followed by cultural music and dancing which also formed a part of the evening and the evening was concluded with a complimentary dinner.



CRICKET REPORT

St Helena National Team in Ghana

Team St Helena enjoyed a 2 hour training session at the Oval Monday afternoon, in preparation for the start of the tournament on Tuesday.

Skipper Cliff said “It was good to get a training session on the ground where we are playing, it allowed us to get a feel for the conditions of the ground and also the climate. The humidity is something we have to adapt to but everyone managed well. Our session consisted of some fielding and some batting in the turf nets, the nets were difficult to bat on because of the inconsistencies with some of the teams opting to not bat at all, however our batters persevered and completed a great session.”



On Tuesday afternoon Team St Helena had their first match against Eswatini which gave an unfortunate start to the tournament for St Helena as having dismissed Eswatini for 115 runs they fell short by 28.

Rhys Francis put in a notable performance taking 3 wickets for 17 runs and taking 2 catches for the team whilst batting it was Jamie Essex who scored 30 runs.



Having limited the score to just 115, St Helena were in control up until the drinks break and then found runs hard in a second half of the innings which can only be described as moments which the team could not take advantage of or which went against them.

Despite the lost, Team St Helena was in high spirits and looking forward to their next game against the Seychelles the following morning.

Despite a spirited defence of 95 runs, St Helena could not prevent Seychelles getting over the line with 12 balls to spare.

Once again the team started strongly with the bat, but after the 10th over the batting failed to click with Joey Thomas top scored for the team with 26, Jamie today scored 19 and Andrew Yon 15.

The team always felt they were 10 to 15 runs short on the ground and that proved to be the case. It was made difficult for the Seychelles with some very good bowling and excellent fielding, again a game of moments where some of the team’s safest hands dropped catches and there were a few wayward balls were taken advantage of by the opposition.

Tomorrow is a rest day for the team, then it’s back to the field where the games do not get easier, as up next is the host nation Ghana on Friday, 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 return 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 continue to follow the team’s progress.



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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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