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St Helena Resilience Forum Has A Lot of Work Ahead

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DIS AGREE

It's OK to Disagree

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DIS AGREE

Alfred Nobel



Jonathon Joins List of the Famous Reported Dead When Alive

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UK Aid Settled Earlier This Year

- 3 Year Settlement
- More Investment Money

See Page 6...

Someone once said - "It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato."

Vince Thompson

There was a time, not long ago, when anyone could go into a shop at anytime and buy as many homegrown tomatoes as wanted. That time has gone. Tomatoes have joined the legion of good nutritious foods that were here one day and then gone the next. I love eggs too. Despite one thousand day-old chicks imported to be future layer hens, the Easter Egg Hunt is a year-round activity. So, if I want fresh tomatoes in my cheese sandwich (with a sprinkle of pepper), or as a taste boost to the tins of chopped tomatoes I pour into a curry or a bolognese, I decided I will have to grow my own. That was the aim, it went almost according to plan. I found some carrot seed first, hidden away in the garage. I like juicy fresh carrots too. In for a penny, in for a pound. It will be carrots, then tomatoes. Lettuce seeds too were discovered as I attempted to tidy up the garage. Into the ground they went. My answer to the rising cost of living – grow your own.

The carrot seeds produced two carrots willing to see daylight. Despite regular watering on days when the rain gave way to sunshine, I could not encourage more carrots seeds to spring to life. Growing tomatoes meant buying new seed. I eventually did this. The recently dug ground for the carrots was re-used for tomatoes. The tomatoes seeds showed a gratifying keenness to show themselves above ground. But this tale has another twist.

The most recent bout of rain caused the lettuce to start growing, and very quickly. I had forgotten about them. The tomato plants continued to flourish and the stubborn carrots seeds suddenly decided to show their bushy green tops among the tomatoes. As things stand, it looks like I am achieving my aim, but the plan was changed a couple of times. I like courgettes, but they are a rarity in the shops. The plan could change again when the right time arrives for planting courgette seeds. The point of this little story is that in my own small way, despite a wobble or two here and there, I'm reducing my reliance of shops having the fresh food I like, when I want to buy it. It can be said that reduced Reliance means more Resilience. Despite the long introduction, 'Resilience' is the main point of this piece. There is much more to resilience than immediately meets the eye. We have to wonder if the word isn't used too easily, too often.

Someone once said - "*resilience is endurance with direction, not mere survival.*"

These eight words hit the nail on the head. Even more so for small remote islands like St Helena. This island's fortunes depend entirely on decisions and events that are not our own. The UK Government keeps us alive with annual funding. That is not resilience, it is reliance. St Helena's reliance on the goodwill of the UK for our survival.

The language of large institutions, businesses or governments includes using words that are fashionable for a while. Resilience is one of those words. Vibrant was fashionable at one time. Fashionable words become devalued. They are not used with sufficient care and attention. They lose their meaning. We have a Resilience Forum in St Helena. It can be argued it could more accurately be called the Survival Forum. The official explanation on the SHG website of the purpose of the Resilience Forum is to "oversee Emergency Planning arrangements for the Island". Resilience goes much further and deeper than that. Resilience is the ability to endure or resist hardships and dangers. And not to be vulnerable to external threats. It is often said we now live in an uncertain world; a dangerous world. We can't really argue against that.

The St Helena Resilience Forum came into view last week. This Forum met "to assess the potential impacts of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on the island." Conflict? Potential? Ill-chosen words. We can only hope the Resilience Forum met to assess the real and immediate effects of the war in Iran on St Helena. The lack of resilience in every nation has been exposed over the past year by the

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Vince Thompson

disruptive actions of Trump’s United States. The threats and imposition of trade tariffs certainly did that. The US war against Iran even more so.

The SHG official explanation of what the Resilience Forum does includes, “The Chief of Police will provide resilience, deputising and chairing the SHRF (Resilience Forum) as required.” This does not make any sense at all. This is not a rock fall, as mentioned, it goes much deeper and further than that. Surely the Governor and the Chief Minister would be involved. Hopefully there is also close liaison with the UK Minister for Overseas Territories.

Next the press release tells us “Following the delivery of fuel this week, the SHRF (Resilience Forum) are reassured that St Helena has sufficient fuel supplies to last until at least August 2026 based on current usage.” Reassured? Reassurance is not resilience. The Survival Forum, the Reassurance Forum – nothing yet about Resilience. The war in Iran stretches 1,500 miles from Yemen to Lebanon; other countries might join in before the missiles are permanently silenced. The effects of the war are already with us, and it is generally acknowledged the effects of the Iran war will last long after the missiles are finally silenced. On the basis of the official information available, resilience requires more organisation, effort and strategic focus. Being reassured because the mini oil tanker has just called is nothing more than irrelevant to the task that should be addressed. Can we be reassured St Helena is prepared for the worst? The answer is surely no and it is certain we cannot be fully prepared for the worst-case scenarios. Can we have emergency supplies flown in? This cannot be guaranteed. Aviation fuel supplies are already more unreliable than petrol or diesel with several airlines affected to some extent.

This week we had some better news about the financial aid the UK has agreed to give St Helena. The capital funding means work is expected to go head to finally complete the Bulk Fuel Installation in Rupert’s. More fuel storage capacity means improved resilience and fewer calls from tankers delivering fuel. But this must still be a at least two years away. What about right now?

Is there anything more effective than an agreement with the UK government to provide funds earlier than scheduled so stocks of certain essential commodities held on-island can be increased? Let’s call it the Resilience Fund. This fund could exist so SHG can draw money from it to pay for another earlier delivery of fuel assuming there is sufficient storage capacity. The same applies to medicines. The fund could also be used to pay for food with a long shelf life and building materials. These stocks would remain owned by government until importers and wholesalers are ready to buy the stocks. The money could then be returned to the Resilience Fund.

It can normally take 2 or 3 months to get an overseas order delivered here, depending where the order is placed. It would be unwise to decide not to bulk buy additional supplies if funds and storage are available because the Iran War might be over by then. Putin is still fighting his Ukraine war four years after thinking his invasion would succeed in a matter of weeks. Trump thought the same thing six weeks ago when he started to attack Iran. As this piece concludes, 254 people have been killed by Israel bombarding Lebanon despite a supposed two-week truce. And oil prices are rising again in early Thursday morning Asian trade as fragility in the truce agreement is increasingly exposed. Resilience means preparing for the worst-case scenario – not in hoping everything will turn out OK.

The Other Press Release

On 2nd April SHG issued another press release telling us Jonathon is alive and well. We all know it was a hoax which attracted global attention so there is no need to repeat any part of that here. Worth a mention is this press release ended with, “SHG encourages the public to rely only on official SHG channels for accurate and verified information about Jonathan and other matters of public interest.”

😊 Have a happy day.

UK Parliament's Newest MP – 'This Place is a Bubble, Most MPs Don't Understand How Most People are Struggling Right Now'



This is Hannah Spencer. A plumber and plasterer by trade. She had to give that up when she was elected to the House of Commons.

The MP she replaced is Andrew Gwynne; he was a junior minister in the Health and Social Care Department. Gwynne visited St Helena in 2023 with a FOTBOT delegation – otherwise known as the Friends of The British Overseas Territories. In February last year Gwynne was sacked from his junior ministerial post after the many misguided comments he recorded on a WhatsApp chat group were revealed. In January this year he resigned as an MP, leaving the way open for Hannah Spencer to take over.

Gwynne's misguided WhatsApp comments included, suggesting one of his constituents should be 'mown down by a truck', also hoping another constituent, an old lady, would 'croak' after she complained about rubbish collections. A local vicar was not spared, Gwynne recommended he be 'burned on a bonfire'. Other comments were sexist or racist.

Thankfully, Hannah Spencer seems a more genuine person. In an interview published last Friday she said, "Six weeks ago, I was doing what I've always done – working as a plumber in people's houses. I'd just completed a plastering qualification and was looking forward to putting it to good use. Now, I'm here in parliament, and to call it a culture shock would be an understatement."



At Anne's Place 2023, from left – Michael Binyon, Andrew Gwynne MP and Oliver Wilderspin

Hannah explained, "It's easy to see why a lot of MPs don't understand how hard things in the country are right now. This place is a bubble. And there just aren't enough of us here who get it; who come from working-class backgrounds, who've had ordinary jobs like me."

She continued, "The fact is, most people are struggling right now, finding it harder and harder to pay the bills each month, to buy the same things we usually buy at the supermarket; to get the kids new shoes every time they have a growth spurt."

Too many people I speak to say the same thing – they know they're never far away from things

UK Parliament's Newest MP – ‘This Place is a Bubble, Most MPs Don't Understand How Most People are Struggling Right Now’

unravelling even further. The washing machine breaks, they get a parking ticket, or their hours get cut at work, and the whole house of cards collapses. There's nothing left to cut back on to make the budget add up. "Luxuries" were cut out a long time ago."

It is sad but true, there are an increasing number of new MPs who find their 'way in' to the House of Commons by studying for a degree at university while at the same time cultivating contacts within parliament by spending most of their spare time working for nothing as one of the support staff that every MP has. From there it is a short step to getting on the short list of candidates for a constituency at the next general election. The youngest MP elected at the 2024 UK election was 22 years old.



With the plaster washed out of her hair and jointing compound scooped out of the fingernails, Hannah Spencer is polished up and ready to go on the election campaign trail.

It's OK to Disagree

Sir Lindsay Hoyle Answers Questions from Secondary School Students



On Thursday this week, students from Years 8 to 10 at St Helena Secondary School took part in a 30-minute Question and Answer session with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle. The session offered a unique opportunity for the youth of St Helena to engage directly with one of the most senior figures in the UK Parliament, fostering a deeper understanding of democratic processes.

The students led the conversation, touching on the daily responsibilities of the Speaker, the mechanics of parliamentary debate, and the relationship between the UK and its Overseas Territories. Mr Speaker

responded with clear and engaging insights, creating a comfortable environment that encouraged active participation from all the students involved.

Throughout the session, the discussion highlighted the importance of respectful disagreement, and the vital role young people play in the future of their community and country. It was a highly positive and valuable experience, leaving the students with a firsthand perspective on how Parliament functions and how their voices can be heard.

During the 30-minute exchange, students asked a range of questions, including:

- The Role of the Speaker: What is the Speaker's job, and why is it important in Parliament?
- Managing Debate: How do you keep debates fair when Members of Parliament strongly disagree with each other?
- Representation: How are people in British Overseas Territories like Saint Helena represented in UK Parliament?
- Democratic Values: Why is respectful disagreement important in a democracy?
- Future Leadership: What skills do you think are most important for future leaders?

The session was a useful link between St Helena's youth and the British parliamentary system, encouraging students to see themselves as active participants in public life.

Three Year Financial Aid Settlement With FCDO

£1.72 million more than last year and 2% increases for the each of the following two years

One week into the new financial year and SHG are able to announce the financial aid settlement with the FCDO. Too often, a month or so can go by while SHG wait and wonder what expenditure plans they can get started.

Even more surprising, the financial aid settlement is for a three-year period – not the usual one year. A three-year settlement has long been an unfulfilled aspiration. There will be better opportunity now for longer term planning and procurement and no stop/start as one financial year moves on to the next.

For the financial year just started, 2026-27, the settlement is £37.51 million. That's a 4.8% increase on the £35.79 million for 2025-26. There will be a 2% annual increase for each of the following two years. The 2% increase for years two and three may seem tight but the prospect of additional funding being available is possible, subject to performance.

Capital Investment Programme

Further encouraging news is that £40 million is being made available over the next three years to fund essential investment in infrastructure projects. The Strategic Plan for the Capital Programme (2020-2030) lists projects in the programme, however, several of them are either finished or at some point in project development. A new fire station remains listed, as it has done for at least 10 years. 'Waterfronts' and 'parking solutions' are also listed.

It will be good to have some information on what has been chosen to move forward. Renewable energy is in the 'pipeline' but projects in the pipeline flow at different speeds. Improvements in primary health is shown in the pipeline document dated 2023, (couldn't retrieve anything more recent off the SHG website) and telemedicine is mentioned in the context of 'superfast internet connectivity'. That particular improvement is likely to have been shelved for the foreseeable, but some aspects of smarter delivery of primary health care have been introduced. It would be in the public interest if readily available updates were regularly featured. Hopefully, the Independent will have more information next week.

Jonathon Joins an Impressive List of the World Famous Who Were Reported Dead When Still Alive

Alfred Nobel is best known for leaving £2.5 million in 1895 to fund prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace. £2.5 million in 1895 is worth more than £120 million today. Nobel was a Swedish chemist, inventor, engineer, and businessman. He is known for inventing dynamite. When Alfred's brother, Ludvig, died a French newspaper confused Alfred with Ludvig and published Alfred's obituary. The headline was, 'The Merchant of Death is Dead'. Nobel was deeply offended; he decided to establish the Nobel Prizes to erase the reputation he gained because he invented dynamite.

P T Barnum was a legendary showman best known today for Barnum and Bailey's Circus. He didn't start his three-ring circus until he was 60. After a full working life thinking up original ideas for big, spectacular extravaganzas which thousands of people were happy to pay to see. Barnum read his own obituary because he persuaded the New York Evening Sun to publish his obituary while he was on his deathbed so he could read it.

Pope John Paul II: read his own obituary three different times, including after the 1981 assassination attempt.

Mark Twain still a famous writer and wit 125 years after his death, went on a lecture tour of Europe to pay off his debts. While touring, he received news that he was reported dead in the United States. He sent a message saying 'the report of my death was an exaggeration'.

Ernest Hemingway read reports of his death in a plane crash, which he found "unsettling".

Margaret Thatcher a former UK prime minister had so many fake death announcements during her life, that hardly anyone believed it when she finally passed away on April 8, 2013. Like Jonathon, most of the death announcements were hoaxes originating on Twitter.

Art & Crafts Centre Becomes Living Cultural Hub

Contributed by Giselle Richards



The St Helena Art & Crafts Centre is entering an exciting new phase — evolving from a traditional retail space into a living cultural asset dedicated to preserving and promoting the island's craft heritage.

At the heart of this transformation is 'Uniquely Saint' — a landmark that represents authentic, locally made products rooted in skill and lived experience. From lace-making and seedwork to flaxwork, aloework, woodwork and traditional bottle lanterns, each piece carries the story of St Helena and its people. These are not mass-produced souvenirs, but meaningful items that reflect identity, pride and belonging.

The Centre operates as a social enterprise with a mission: to safeguard traditional skills and ensure they are revived and passed on to future generations. Many of these crafts are at risk of fading, and there is growing demand for more seedwork, lacework, aloe craft, alternative flax products and traditional lanterns.

Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, the Centre is now open at least five days a week, with a trial of Sunday mornings from 10am.

The Centre also offers interactive workshops and live demonstrations, giving both residents and visitors the chance to experience Saint craft first-hand. It has also partnered with SHAPE, who use the space on Tuesdays to showcase products and, where possible, offer demonstrations by trainees.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for an immersive cultural experience at the reinstated Toby's Cottage, further celebrating St Helena's living heritage. They are exploring further collation ideas with the National Trust.

While working in collaboration with St Helena Tourism, the Art & Crafts Centre does not receive financial grants and instead relies on commissions from sales, as well as donations, sponsorship, and community support to continue its work. It is far more than a shop — it is a place where stories are shared, skills are strengthened, and Saint heritage thrives.

The Centre also welcomes anyone interested in offering a workshop or contributing to the revival of traditional crafts. Please get in touch at the Art & Crafts Centre on 22101 or arts.crafts@helanta.co.sh





Leading up to Easter, Lent is recognised where people give up a certain item or hobby for 40 days.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy week where traditionally people attend church services and receive a small cross made out of palm leaves as a reminder of Jesus entrance into Jerusalem.



Whilst many on-island take the opportunity of the long weekend to relax, unwind and enjoy their different traditional excursions to celebrate Easter; some families and friends get together for a camping weekend whilst others got out their fishing gear to enjoy a traditional Maundy Thursday fishing trip on the rocks, high seas or from various points around the island and the kids (or adults too) on Easter Sunday look forward to a game which is catching on as a tradition on island, the Easter Egg hunt then enjoying the sugar rush by munching into those Easter Eggs.

Church Services across the island were held throughout Holy Week and Easter with Maundy Thursday being referred by the Christians as The Last Supper when many share bread and wine together in churches across the island commonly known as Holy Communion to remember The Last Supper. Then follows Good Friday services to commemorate the execution of Jesus by Crucifixion and Easter Sunday marking the Resurrection.

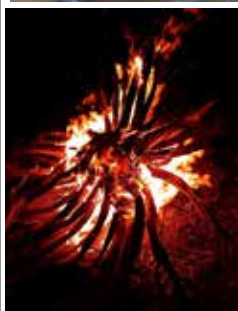


After a great fishing trip on Maundy Thursday, the smell of Fried Bullseyes, Conger, Soldiers, Grouper and other species along with a Hot Cross Bun, pickled fish and Cup of Coffee on Good Friday was a treat and could be smelt in every district as you drive through.

Some observe Easter Saturday, as the holiest day of Easter as it's the day Jesus laid in the tomb guarded by Roman Soldiers but on St Helena most take advantage to restock their supplies, have a day visiting friends at the camping grounds or just relax.



Easter Sunday began on St Helena with a sunrise service organised by the Salvation Army followed by services by other denominations across the island to mark the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. Many families marked this day by getting together, sharing a meal, drinks and enjoying each other's company with fun, games and laughter.





Many talks about traditions of St Helena but unfortunately being a young chicken myself I only remember things such as New Horizons Easter Sale, the Fish Fry at the Standard Bar, families lined up alongside the seafront with their gas burners and pans waiting on a freshly caught fish to fry, Mr Sammy George pulling in those Silver fish at Middle Steps, Dive Club members have a cook up outside the dive shed, families got their pots of soup and plo, buns, sandwiches, tea & coffee etc and most of all the late Ms Daphne O'Dean got a boot full of goodies to feed us or whoever turns up at 3am looking to buy a bullseye from the fishermen.



Sadly those traditions have died out but they were good memories I hold as a young chicken and I'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to share your memories with the St Helena Independent.

Let's hope in future years we can pick up some of these traditions again. It leaves me to say hope you had a Happy Easter from all at the St Helena Independent.



Full detail of UK-US pharmaceutical partnership agreed

The details of a new pharmaceutical partnership between the UK and US Governments have been agreed.



The pharmaceutical partnership is estimated to be worth at least £5bn a year in UK exports but also means the NHS paying more for new branded medicines.

Win, win, win

The Government described the deal, which makes the UK the first country to secure commitment to 0% tariffs on pharmaceutical exports to the US, as a 'win for British patients, British businesses and the British economy'.

The Government said the deal means some treatments that deliver significant health improvements that might previously have been turned down on cost grounds alone, will now be approved.

In addition, the UK has secured preferential terms for medical technology exports, with no additional new tariffs on medtech for at least three years and have agreed to work together towards mutual recognition of medical device approvals with the US.

Higher costs for new medicines

Nuffield Trust senior policy analyst Sally Gainsbury said the agreement committed the NHS to paying 25% more for new branded medicines and weakened its cost control and efficiency measures.

Gainsbury said the health benefit of spending on new branded medicines was only half that of extending existing services such as GP care or operations from the waiting list.

'The agreement will mean an increasing share of the NHS budget will be diverted towards treatments that deliver lower health benefits per pound,' Gainsbury added.

Nuffield Trust has called for the Government to publish its detailed impact assessment of the costs and benefits of the deal.

'The NHS being rewired by the policy of foreign governments is an unusual step, and needs well-informed debate,' Gainsbury said.





WRECK 2 WRECK

White Lion RAF Darkdale Papanui Spangieried

The “Wreck to Wreck” swim was a great success, attracting strong participation and a lively atmosphere. A total of 17 competitive swimmers and 3 leisure swimmers took part in the solo event, alongside 4 relay teams, making it a well-attended and enjoyable competition for all involved.

The results in each category was as follows:

Competitive Swimmers Results

Position	Name	Time
1	William Caswell	24:32.59 New Record
2	Nolan George	29:34.29
3	Blane Bennett	34:30.95
4	Georgia Bennett	34:36.13
5	Derek Pedley	36:49.87
6	Nola Henry	39:13.91
7	Aldem Garner	39:25.14
8	Lesla Davidson	39:36.43
9	Heather Donovan	40:43.24
10	Sara Mcilroy	41:07.80
11	Dr Nigel Leaver	42:00.62
12	Pete Tolmie	42:06.99
13	Tom Wortley	42:07.00
14	Erin Wade	46:01.26
15	Aimee Joshua	46:01.26
16	William Scott	46:05.58
17	Scott Angell	56:10.88



Leisure Swimmers Results

Position	Name	Time
1	Lourens Malan	33:31.71
2	Clara Pysh	44:41.16
3	Dr Thomas North	54:29.52



Relay Results

Position	Teams	Time
1	Isabella Scott Nolan George William Caswell Aimee Joshua	30:56.60
2	Louie Yon Joel Henry-Williams Blane Bennett Lukas Robbertse	34:30.40
3	William Scott Dr Nigel Leaver Derek Pedley Erin Wade	36:38.30
4	Nola Henry Bethany Bennett Georgia Bennett Jaymie Lawrence	37:20.24





WRECK 2 WRECK

White Lion RAF Darkdale Papanui Spangieried

Trophies, certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the following participants:

1st Youth Female: Georgia Bennett 34:36

1st Youth Male: William Caswell 24:32 (new course record)

1st Adult Female: Nola Henry 39:13

1st Adult Male: Blane Bennett 34:30

1st Leisure Swimmer: Lourens Malan 33:31

1st Relay Team: Isabella Scott, Nolan George, William Caswell and Aimee Joshua 30:56



Yellowfins Floating Shield, awarded to the **fastest swimmer on the day** went to **William Caswell**.

The **Bill Bolton Trophy**, created by his wife Jill in celebration of his life, holds special meaning for the event as Bill remains the oldest contestant to date, having completed the race to mark his 80th birthday.

This trophy is awarded to the **overall fastest competitive swimmer of the day** and was also presented to **William Caswell**.

Yellowfins Swim Club would like to thank its generous sponsors: **St Helena Coffee Shop, St Helena Tourism, Bank of St Helena, Solomons & Company, Thorpes, Queen Mary Store, Rose and Crown, Joshies, St Helena Dive Club, St Helena Yacht Club, New Horizon Youth Centre, and Sea Hawk Odyssey.**

Special thanks are also extended to the **safety support team of kayakers and boatsmen, as well as all volunteers working shoreside.**



Tickle Your Funny Bone

An Englishman, a Scot, and an Irishman walk into a pub with their wives:
They all order tea.

The Englishman sweetly asks his wife, "Pass the honey, honey."

Inspired, the Scotsman turns to his wife saying, "Pass the sugar, sugar."

Not to be outdone, the Irishman glances at his wife and barks, "Pass the milk, you bloody cow!"

A man finds his seat at the Super Bowl, but notices that there's an empty seat between himself and the next guy. "Who in their right mind would miss the Super Bowl?!" The man next to him smiles and says, "Well, actually this was my wife's seat. She passed away recently, and we had already purchased the tickets."

The first guy responds, "Oh, I'm sorry for your loss," but then thinks for a second and adds, "Don't you think it would have been nice to take one of her family members to the game?"

The man looks ahead and replies, "I would, but they are all at her funeral right now."

A Polish immigrant goes to the optician for an eye exam. The optician pointed to a board with the letters:
C Z W I X N O S T A C Z

"Can you read this?" the optician asked.

"Read this?!" the Polish man replies, "I work with this guy!"

Angry, a man sits down at a bar and orders a drink. He mutters "These lawyers are jerks... all the same...".

Sitting not too far, a man in a suit responds "Hey, watch your mouth."


"Why, you're a lawyer?"

The man responds: "No, I'm a jerk."

The Internet NEVER Disappoints...

Recently, the world's most recognisable treat maker released a statement confirming that, in late March, nearly 12 tons of KitKat chocolate bars was stolen during transit from Italy to Poland.

It is a very sad news for the finger-snapping chocolate brand, yet the internet did what it does best and caused what would be a worrying piece of news into humour, as did the major chain Domino's...



OFFICIAL STATEMENT


We can confirm that 12T of KitKat products were stolen while in transit between our factory in Central Italy and their destination in Poland.

We are working closely with local authorities and supply chain partners to investigate.

The good news: there are no concerns for consumer safety, and supply is not affected.

Thank you

While Nestle mourns...



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

We would like to share our thoughts and condolences with Kit Kat following their recent sad news.

On a completely unrelated note, we're pleased to announce we'll now be selling a new Kit Kat pizza.

Dominos shines...



With the chocolate brand having a higher reputation than the current US President, a KitKat van was given that "presidential" treatment in Toronto.

Week 6



Est.2026 by Helen Jones-Gentle



DRAW IT!

FINISH THIS TREE...

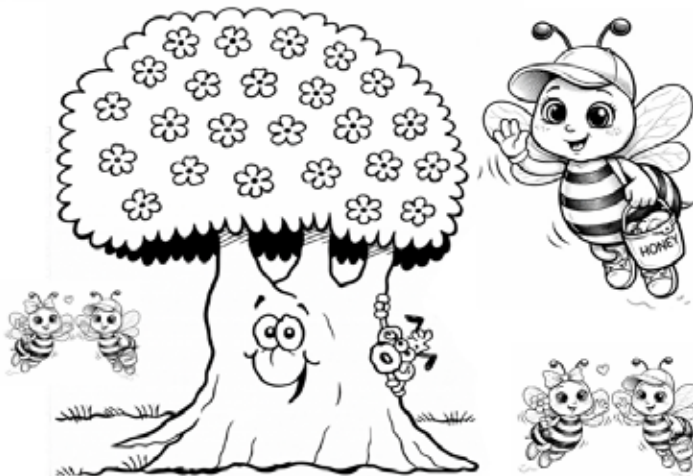


GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR TREE...

HOW ABOUT ME?!



This tree covered in flowers is ready for our crayons. It won't take you that long to color them in bright _____



Pick fun colors for my flowers!

TREE JOKES!



What kind of tree can fit into your hand?
- A palm tree!



What did the tree wear to the pool party?
- Swimming trunks!



How do trees get online?
- They log in!

These are TREE-mendous!



Which TWO trees are the SAME?





Our son is more than his silence

One of the most common questions we face as parents is about our son's silence. People often ask "Oh, he doesn't talk?" or "Why isn't he talking?" "Will he ever talk?". The truth is, he does speak, but only when he feels comfortable and when given the time to respond. Ziggy's voice is soft and low likely because he is still adjusting to his deeper, changing voice.

While there is a communication barrier, this does not mean his voice is unheard. Ziggy uses some Makaton, gestures and writing to communicate. Ziggy may not speak in the traditional way, but that does not diminish the power of his words or his ability to connect with others.

We need people to understand that Ziggy is an intelligent young man. He has an excellent memory, a fair understanding of the world around him, and many practical life skills that will help him thrive as he enters into adulthood. We know that he will continue to need 1:1 support throughout his life, but this kind of support will only help him become more independent, regulate his emotions and enhance his skills.

Unfortunately, the communication barrier often leads people to underestimate Ziggy. They mistake his need for extra processing time as lack of understanding. They misinterpret his anxiety as defiance and they see his silence and assume there is nothing there.

As parents, we see and feel his struggles/challenges. We witness the frustration that arises when routines are disrupted, when people come into his space unexpected, and when he's told he can't do something. Ziggy prefers to be told what he **can do**.

Ziggy copes best when he is supported by an adult who understands his needs, someone who respects his preferences for routines and structure, offering consistency is also key.

There are tough days of course. Some battles are big, some are small, and there are times when we feel overwhelmed and frustrated. But no matter what, we find the strength to keep going. Autism is a part of our lives and a part of who Ziggy is and it should never limit who he can become.

We are so proud of the young man he is becoming and, as parents we will continue to advocate and educate others about Autism.

There is a powerful voice behind the silence - you just have to be willing to hear it differently.

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.

COMMUNITY WALKS
3 Routes + Prizes

Live Streaming via Facebook

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: Kingshurst> Red Hill> Harpers Gut> Francis Plains> 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 KINGSHURST

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 Barigo - tel. 67983

Want to get involved? We'd love your help!
Call Shelby on tel. 67983

A collaborative fundraising event by:
 SDA Males' Organisation
 The St Helena Association

Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 12th April 2026 - 1st Sunday after Easter

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong with Admission of Church Officers	Cathedral
Tuesday 14th April		
7.00 p.m.	Mission Worship and Praise	Sandy Bay Community Centre

The Parish of St James

Sunday 12 April 2026 – 1st Sunday after Easter

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Thursday 16th April		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Admission of Church Officers	St John

Sunday 12th April 2026 – 1st Sunday after Easter

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
Tuesday 14th April		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Admission of Church Officers	St Mark

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT 



communion in action

WEEK OF PRAYER 2026

18-25 April

Sat 18 **11 AM**

 Sun 19 - Fri 24 **7 PM**  SDA Church Hall

Sat 25 **11 AM**

 Youth Ministries Leader - Georgia Bedwell 25710

HGV PLANT MECHANIC WANTED PJ'S PLANT HIRE

Join a leading team! We are looking for a skilled HGV Plant Mechanic to handle general truck and excavator maintenance and repairs.

The Ideal Candidate:

Proven experience with HGV and plant machinery.
Proficiency in welding and electrical systems.
Ability to use modern diagnostic tools.

What We Offer:

Competitive Rates of Pay.

Travel Covered: Outbound and return flights provided (return flight upon contract completion).

Housing: Accommodation available to rent for the successful applicant.

Apply Today:

Contact Kevin Thomas via email:
kevinbonzo1958@gmail.com or Pjmckay60@gmail.com



*The Merula has landed
Available from our island retailers*

<u>Jamestown</u>	<u>Longwood</u>
Rose & Crown	Rose & Crown
Thorpes Grocery	Hardware
The Standard Bar	Rose & Crown
The Mantis Hotel	Supermarket
Chad's Shop	St Helena Golf Club
Anne's Place	
Yacht Club	<u>New Ground</u>
Blue Lantern	McDaniels
<u>Ladder Hill</u>	<u>St Pauls</u>
The Crown Supermarket	Philip John

Half Tree Hollow
Joshies
A&D Mini Market

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

JOB VACANCY THORPE'S CARGO HANDLERS



CARGO HANDLER

PART TIME WHEN SHIP GETS IN

- The role involves unpacking containers, picking orders, checking stock and making deliveries.
- Free home to duty transport
- Attractive hourly rate
- Pay to increase considerably with proficiency in the job role and further increases with time spent in the company.

This is to aid in unloading of containers and will be approximately ten days work each month.

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



JOB VACANCY

THORPE'S JAMESTOWN SHOPS

TILL/SHOP ASSISTANT

PART TIME / FULL TIME

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

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

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



St Helena
Government

Call for Nominations for UK State (2027 New Year Honours) and St Helena National Awards

Nominations are now being invited for the following awards:

UK STATE AWARDS – 2027 NEW YEAR HONOURS

Honours are awarded on merit for exceptional achievement or for any service carried out over and above what normally is expected. This can include making a difference to the community or in a specific field of work, innovation and entrepreneurship, improving life for people less able to help themselves and displaying moral courage. Where possible, nominations should place emphasis on voluntary services, and the service must be recent. Nominees must not be made aware they are being put forward for an award.

To find out more about the different types of Honours Awards please visit: www.gov.uk/honours

CERTIFICATE AND BADGE OF HONOUR 2027

This award is presented to public servants on behalf of St Helena Government for loyal and valuable service worthy of recognition or, in the case of other persons, for their loyal and meritorious conduct that has provided exceptional benefit to the people of St Helena. Nominees should be residents of St Helena, either being born on the Island or have been residing on St Helena for not less than ten years prior to the date of the award.

ACT OF BRAVERY AWARD 2027

This award is presented to individuals who have shown a clear display of moral courage and bravery in adverse situations.

THE BADGE OF ST HELENA

This award is available to both St Helenians and non-St Helenians. It is of a higher status than the Certificate and Badge of Honour. The Badge of St Helena recognises exceptional service provided by individuals or organisations who make significant contribution to St Helena's development or by supporting and/or enhancing social, cultural, economic, environmental improvement or the understanding of St Helena internationally.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF JAMESTOWN

This award is symbolic in nature and is the highest-level of local government award that can be conferred. It is awarded to both St Helenians and non-St Helenians whose achievements are significantly admirable and highly worthy of distinctive recognition. Those who receive this award will have made an outstanding contribution that is of huge national impact to St Helena and its citizens and will have served the best interests of the Island.

Nomination forms for all of the above awards, are available from Central Support Service at the Castle, Jamestown, or can be requested via email: linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' addressed to 'The Secretary, Honours and Awards Committee', by Monday, 27 April 2026.



St Helena
Government

St Helena Resilience Forum Meet to Monitor Essential Supplies

The St Helena Resilience Forum (SHRF) met on Monday, 30 March, to assess the potential impacts of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on the island. Stakeholders gathered to evaluate risks to the local supply of essential commodities and services, including fuel, food, medicines and building materials.

Following the delivery of fuel this week, the SHRF are reassured that St Helena has sufficient fuel supplies to last until at least August 2026 based on current usage.

The SHRF continues to monitor global events and developments closely and stands ready to implement any measures necessary to maintain steady supply chains and safeguard the island's resilience.

While the SHRF is actively managing risks, the public can also play a positive role. By making sensible efficiencies where possible, such as reducing unnecessary fuel usage, minimising waste and supporting local products and services, everyone can contribute to strengthening on-island resilience.

Travellers undertaking holidays abroad, work trips or other journeys are advised that delays, cancellations and wider travel disruption may occur. Those transiting through the Middle East should check with their travel providers for the latest information and ensure they have appropriate travel insurance in place.

St Helena Government thanks the community for its continued cooperation and encourages the public to stay informed through official updates.

Vacancy

Part-Time Rigger



Rate of pay will be £5.50 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Rigger to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicant will be responsible for preparing, identifying and selecting the correct lifting accessories, attaching and detaching lifting equipment to cargo ensuring all loads are secure and balanced for safe lifting and transportation.



This position will primarily be based ship-side.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent communication skills (including signalling and radio communications).
- Have a good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks.
- Have excellent eye hand coordination and the ability to work at heights.
- Possess an excellent level of vigilance and attention to detail.
- Be able to work effectively in a fast-paced and dynamic team environment while remaining safety-conscious and adhering to Health and Safety and Port compliance at all times.
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions with the flexibility to work outside of normal hours as and when required.
- Be available to undertake the necessary training to develop skills further ensuring competency in the role.

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Operations Manager via  22030  mario.coleman@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 **16 April 2026**.

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Skilled Operators



Rate of pay will be £7.02 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Skilled Operators to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicants will be responsible for operating heavy equipment, including facilitation of the loading and offloading of shipping containers and cargo from sea vessels and transporting containers and cargo to specified lay down areas.



The positions will include working within ship side or shore side operations.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers' licence in classes H3, J1, J3 & J4, with a minimum of two years' experience
- Have strong technical skills
- Have excellent hand-eye coordination and the ability to work at heights
- Have the ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions ensuring operations remain safe
- Demonstrate attention to detail with an excellent level of vigilance within the work environment
- Possess strong communication skills
- Have a good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with a high regard for Health & Safety and Port Compliance
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Operations Manager via  22030  mario.coleman@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 **16 April 2026**.

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers



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

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport. Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information contact:

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

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 **Thursday, 16 April 2026**.

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers



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

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Security Officers to join the team at St Helena Airport. Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information contact:

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

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 **Thursday, 16 April 2026**.

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



Minimum Wage to Increase from 1st July 2026

Executive Council approved an uplift to the minimum wage at their meeting of 24 March 2026.

This change will take effect from 01 July 2026, and will raise the minimum wage as follows:

- for persons aged 18 yrs and over: from £4.50 to £4.85 per hour
- for persons aged 16 or 17 yrs: from £3.55 to £3.83 per hour

The approval of this increase supports the objective of establishing a more ambitious minimum wage which benefits workers while providing adequate time for businesses to plan and adapt.

In determining the increase, consideration was given to current cost of living pressures on both employees and employers. It was noted that a balance must be struck; the Minimum Wage Policy recognises there are limits to what businesses can absorb in a single year, while also acknowledging the need to continue raising minimum income levels on St Helena to help encourage residents to remain in employment on-island.

This year's increase follows consultations with employers, employees, and other relevant stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception in 2013, the minimum wage has risen:

- for persons aged 18 yrs and over: from £2.30 to £4.85
- for persons aged 16 or 17 yrs: from £1.45 to £3.83



Public Meeting: A New Future for Rupert's Valley No. 1 Building

The St Helena National Trust (SHNT) and the Liberated African Advisory Committee (LAAC) are pleased to announce a public meeting regarding the development of the **No. 1 Building in Rupert's Valley** into a dedicated **Museum and Interpretation Centre**. Built in 1865, the No. 1 Building is the sole surviving remnant (above ground) of the 'Liberated African Establishment.'

The Centre is envisioned as a part museum, displaying reproductions of artefacts which were reburied. A place to convey historical information and interpretation both about St Helena's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade abolition and also its enslavement legacy when it was originally colonised.

We therefore invite the community to attend our open sessions to ask questions and share feedback:

St Michael's Church, Rupert's: 7:00pm - Tuesday 21st April

Museum of St Helena: 7:00pm - Weds 22nd April

Your participation is essential to preserving and interpreting our shared heritage.
We look forward to seeing you there!



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.

Sea Rescue Crew (Auxiliary)

(£6.38 per hour) 18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test. The successful applicant will receive a monthly retainer of £70 on completion of basic training.

Are you passionate about protecting lives at sea and helping our island community thrive? The St Helena Sea Rescue Service is seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team. If you have the ability to stay calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, this could be the opportunity for you.

It's a hands-on, immersive day that could be the start of your journey with us. Why not give it a try—you might discover this is the role you've been waiting for.

Ongoing Training

Our crew trains every Wednesday afternoon, giving you the chance to build skills, gain confidence, and become part of a dedicated team committed to saving lives at sea.

We invite you to contact us for more information and to discuss these exciting roles

Enquiries: Leeroy Caswell or Mark Caswell on Tel no. 25215 or
Email: leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh
Email: mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 15 April 2026
Swim Test: 21 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 April 2026
Interview date: 01 May 2026

Maintenance & Supplies Supervisor (£11,604 per annum)

The Community Care Centre is seeking to appoint a Maintenance & Supplies Supervisor to join its small and dynamic team. The individual will be responsible for supervising Handymen/Drivers, including the daily allocation of work schedules, overseeing cleaning and general maintenance activities, and reporting any vehicle repairs to the Transport Section. The post holder will also be required to carry out maintenance tasks and minor repairs across all Social Care premises, as requested. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email:
Tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 20 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 April 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 11 May 2026

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

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.



JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

- **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- **Training and Development**
- **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

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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.

Maritime Officer (£11,554 per annum)

The Maritime Officer is a supporting role to the Maritime Authority.

The Maritime Officer will provide administrative and operational support to the development and remit of the Maritime Authority and assist with the design and implementation of the required systems and processes when needed. This will include providing direct assistance to all relevant SHG Officers involved in achieving, implementing and maintaining maritime compliance as necessary.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mia Henry on Tel No. 25970 or Email: mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 15 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 17 April 2026
Interview date: 23 April 2026

Health & Safety Officer (£13,569 per annum)

The Health & Safety Officer will enhance the well-being of everyone in our community and support the prosperity of the island, collaborating with Emergency Planning, while implementing and ensuring adherence to SHG health and safety (OHS) regulations. The main responsibility will involve providing guidance on strategies to reduce mitigate hazards and uphold a safe and secure working environment throughout SHG, in compliance with legal safety requirements and fostering a culture that prioritizes security and safety. This is a perfect opportunity for someone starting out in their career to build knowledge of SHG and progress into management and leadership positions in the future.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Anel O'Bey on Tel No. 25052 or Email: anel.obey@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 15 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 17 April 2026
Interview date: 23 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.

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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.

Claims Officer (£13,569 per annum)

Do you have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to apply objective judgement? Here is an opportunity for you to join the team at the Claims Office. In this role you will carry out the duties of the Adjudication Officer, as provided for in the Social Security Ordinance, through the interview and assessment of Income Related Benefit and Basic Island Pension applicants. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Gail Beard on Tel No. 22605 or Email: gail.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 17 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026
Interview date: 30 April 2026

Social Care Officer (£13,569 per annum)

Are you interested in joining a small, dynamic team? If so, Social Care is offering an opportunity to become a Social Care Officer. In this important role, you will work directly with children and families, building meaningful relationships and contributing to the delivery of family and parenting support programmes. You will also support Social Workers with assessments by gathering information, carrying out direct work and delegated tasks, and contributing to observations. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Amy Martin on Tel No. 23312 or Email: amy.martin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 April 2026
Interview date: 04 May 2026

Cook (Community Care Centre) (£10,088 per annum)

The Community Care Centre is seeking to recruit a Cook with the ability to prepare high-quality, nutritious, and well-presented meals and baked goods for large numbers of people. The individual will be responsible for providing meals to residents, including hospital patients and other Health & Social Care services. The role requires strict adherence to safe catering practices, alongside maintaining a clean, organised, and hygienic kitchen environment. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: Tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 17 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 11 May 2026

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

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.



JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

- Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- Training and Development
- Paid sickness absence

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Care Assistants – Social Care (£10,213 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit Care Assistants to support the delivery of high standards of care and promote the well-being of clients across Ebony View, the Community Care Centre, and Sheltered Accommodation. In this post, the individuals will be responsible for assisting with all aspects of client care, including personal hygiene, toileting needs, and mobilisation. They will be required to ensure that clients' privacy, dignity, and respect are maintained at all times.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Latoya Thomas on Tel No. 23151 or Email: latoya.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh

Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh

Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 17 April 2026

Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026

Interview date: Wk. commencing 4 May 2026

Assistant PAYE Officer (£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in being a part of a small dynamic team? If so, Treasury has an opportunity to join their Income Tax team. In this important role, the Assistant PAYE Officer will be providing day to day management of the PAYE system, auditing the Tax data for individual employee taxpayers and dealing with tax queries, ensuring all PAYE taxes are collected in line with the Income Tax Ordinance. The post holder will also be responsible for the storage and updating of all PAYE tax information (both physically and electronically) on a regular basis, for easy retrieval and to satisfy statutory obligations.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Pamela Joshua on Tel No. 25880 or Email: pamela.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 17 April 2026

Shortlisting date: 22 April 2026

Interview date: 06 May 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.



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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.

Senior Care Assistants - Social Care (£11,935 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit Senior Care Assistants to work across the areas of Ebony View, the Community Care Centre, and Sheltered Accommodation. The successful candidates will be responsible for delivering care and promoting the well-being of service users in accordance with individual Care Plans, as well as established unit procedures and guidelines. Applicants should possess strong interpersonal skills and have experience of working with challenging behaviour within a care setting.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Latoya Thomas on Tel No. 23151 or Email: latoya.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh
 Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
 Tinevimbonashe Hove on Tel No. 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 21 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 April 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 4 May 2026

Senior HR Assistant (£11,604 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high-quality HR service. Key areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No. 22470 or Email: Sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 22 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 April 2026
Interview date: 01 May 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.



KING'S BATON RELAY
GLASGOW 2026



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 the schedule of activities:

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 guest and New Horizons. This will be followed by team sports for the youth.

SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026

Community Beach Clean-Up Day - Sandy Bay (10:00 – 11:00) & Ruperts Beach (14:00 -15:00)

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

SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026

Coastal Clean-Up & Diver Initiative – Ruperts Bay & James Bay (09:00-12 noon)

Beach clean-ups will take place alongside a special diver clean-ups, removing waste from the seabed and helping protect our marine environment.

Community event at the Yacht Club

The community may view the Baton near the Yacht and Dive Clubs from 2–5pm. The Yacht Club bar will be open. NB: 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.



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** after spending the past 11 days in Ghana started their 8,400km journey back to the island after participating in the sub-regional qualifiers Cricket.

Whilst results in the actual tournament did not go as planned it was a very successful tournament in terms of learning, building a good team spirit and gaining experience in playing teams that are better, and during the additional days in Accra, the team did some exploring, visited the local market and took part in some tennis sessions.

The return to St Helena started last Thursday afternoon, flying to Johannesburg and spending Friday in Johannesburg and then boarding Airlink 4Z131 to St Helena early Saturday morning under the supervision of captain Cliff Richards, where they met up with family and friends who have been supporting them throughout this epic journey.



Team Manager Derek Richards left the team last Wednesday and flew via Johannesburg to Namibia to participate in the 2026 ICC Africa Regional Conference and will return to St Helena on April 18th, whilst Coach Nadeem Ahmed travelled to Johannesburg with the team and left them at OR Tambo to fly to Cape Town where he arrived at 11.15am local time. St Helena Cricket hopes to engage his services later in the year.

Whilst the team has held a debrief shortly after the tournament Nadeem, Derek and Cliff and Andrew will have a briefing in the coming weeks, to discuss other cricketing issues going forward.



As mentioned above Team Manager Derek Richards, who is also the President of the St Helena Cricket Association travelled from Ghana on Wednesday 1st April, where he travelled to Windhoek, Namibia to participate in the ICC Africa Conference which run from the 3rd to 5th April.

The theme for the Conference was "building sustainable cricket eco-systems" with the main purpose to empower the members to unlock opportunities and diversify income streams beyond ICC funding and providing excellent networking opportunities and learning scenarios.



CRICKET REPORT

St Helena National Team in Ghana

The Namibia Cricket Association is hosting the conference at the FNB Cricket Stadium and since the last Africa Conference they hosted 9 years ago the Association has developed tremendously in that time and is really one of the up and coming leaders in cricket in Africa.

Day one of the Africa Regional Conference concluded day 1 with a positive forward trajectory with presidents, CEOs and leaders for the cricketing Africa nations.

The day started with member networking and welcoming speeches before embarking on topics including women's cricket and ICC strategic development and the afternoon was focused on Governance, capacity building and finally an overview of the current cricket facilities in Africa.



The first nights experience following day 1 of the ICC Africa Regional Conference was at the Xwama Cultural Village and at their star Xwama Restaurant, where the delegates were treated to local food, music and dancers and had an ideal opportunity for networking.

The second and last day of the Conference was a 2 hour consultative forum for ACA Members.



Well Done Team St Helena !!



UPCOMING

Saturday 11th April

13:30 - Jamestown Heat v Challengers (Umpires: Aiden Leo and Brendan Leo)

FIXTURES

Sunday 12th April

09:30 - Levelwood Allstars v Sandy Bay Pirates (Umpires: Andrew Yon and Joey Thomas)

13:30 - Cobras v Western A Mustangs (Umpires: Damian Burns and Scott Crowie)



ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

There was no official golf competition at St Helena Golf Club on Sunday 5th April, as the Easter celebrations meant we didn't quite have the numbers to tee it up competitively. That said, the course still enjoyed a relaxed Easter atmosphere, with a few social rounds played and plenty of good cheer around the clubhouse.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for this coming Sunday, 12th April, when the club will host the Annual Captain's Challenge Cup, proudly sponsored by the Club Captain. The event promises a great day of golf, friendly rivalry, and generous rewards.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, along with special competitions for Nearest to the Pin and Longest Drive for ladies and gents, so there will be plenty to play for all round.

Registration is ongoing, and members and visitors are encouraged to sign up early. Registration closes on Saturday 11th April at 3pm. The club looks forward to a strong turnout and another memorable Sunday on the fairways.

See you on the tee!

After a second attempt to hold the Annual General meeting of the St Helena Football Association, it has been reported that it was successful and a new committee was formed on the night.

The new committee of the St Helena Football Association now stands as:

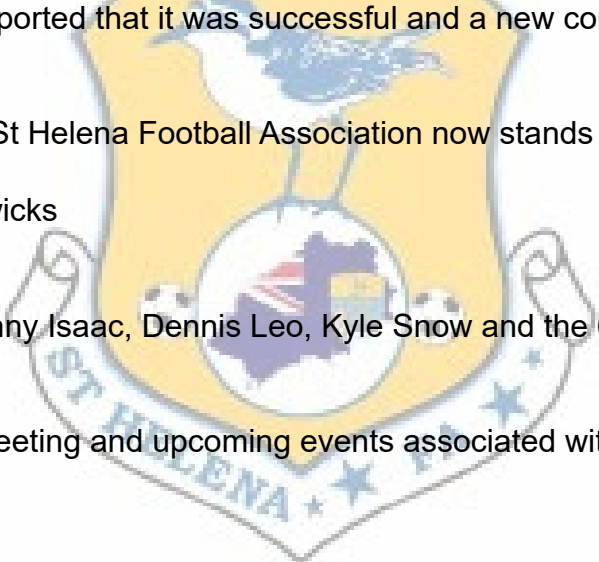
Chairman - James Cainswicks

Secretary - Jordan Yon

Treasurer - Jake Letori

Members - Keith Yon, Johnny Isaac, Dennis Leo, Kyle Snow and the 6 captains of the teams in the upcoming season.

More information on the meeting and upcoming events associated with the association will follow.



FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis

With the English Premier League on the last week break we thought we would take this opportunity to bring you some statistics, today we share with you the Premier League Hotshots which can be seen below.



Premier League Hotshots

As of 10th April 2026

TOP SCORERS



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>GOALS</u>
Erling Haaland	Man City	22
Igor Thiago	Brentford	19
Antonie Semenyo	Bournemouth/Man City	15
Joao Pedro	Chelsea	14
Danny Welbeck	Brighton	12

MOST ASSISTS



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>GOALS</u>
Bruno Fernandes	Man United	16
Rayan Cherki	Man City	8
Erling Haaland	Man City	7
Jack Grealish	Everton	6
Mohamed Salah	Liverpool	6

PLAYERS WITH HIGHEST XG

(expected goals)



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	
Erling Haaland	Man City	20.88
Igor Thiago	Brentford	16.86
Joao Pedro	Chelsea	14.00
Jean-Philippe-Mateta	Crystal Palace	11.19
Dominic Calvert-Lewin	Leeds	11.17

MOST YELLO W CARDS



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	
Cristian Romero	Tottenham Hotspur	10
Yerson Mosquera	Wolves	10
Lewis Dunk	Brighton	10
Casemiro	Man United	10
Alex Jimenez	Bournemouth	9

PLAYERS WITH HIGHEST XAG

(expected assisted goals)



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>GOALS</u>
Bruno Fernandes	Man United	8.76
Rayan Cherki	Man City	6.88
Declan Rice	Arsenal	6.43
Enzo Fernandez	Chelsea	6.09
Adam Wharton	Crystal Palace	5.91

MOST RED CARDS



<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	
Cristian Romero	Tottenham Hotspur	2
Anthony Gordon	Newcastle	1
Dan Burn	Newcastle	1
Ezri Konsa	Aston Villa	1
Harry Maguire	Man United	1

Blast from the Past



Who remembers this structure? St Helena is well known for its heritage sites, but this one holds a very big part of our island's history- oh... wait, what? This isn't right. Why is there a picture of Tony Brooks here? What do you mean it was found in the "Blast from the Past" folder? This was taken last week! What do you mean it still counts as it was taken before the present day?

Okay, fine. Because of a mistake by Freddy the Folderman and Ian the image-placer, here's a treat for you Tony! All dressed in blue thanks to recent world events instead of his arsenal of "Arsenal" attire, coincidentally the colour coincides on the same page as our blue advert.

There's a lot of Blast from the Past moments coming up that will definitely jog your memory, provided by this walking encyclopedia.

Photo IS Tony Brooks

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	02-May
Rupert's Bay	10-Mar	11-Apr	10-May
Ascension Island	15-Mar		
	KAROLINE 261802	KAROLINE 261803	KAROLINE 261804
Cape Town	31-Mar	24-Apr	23-May

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



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