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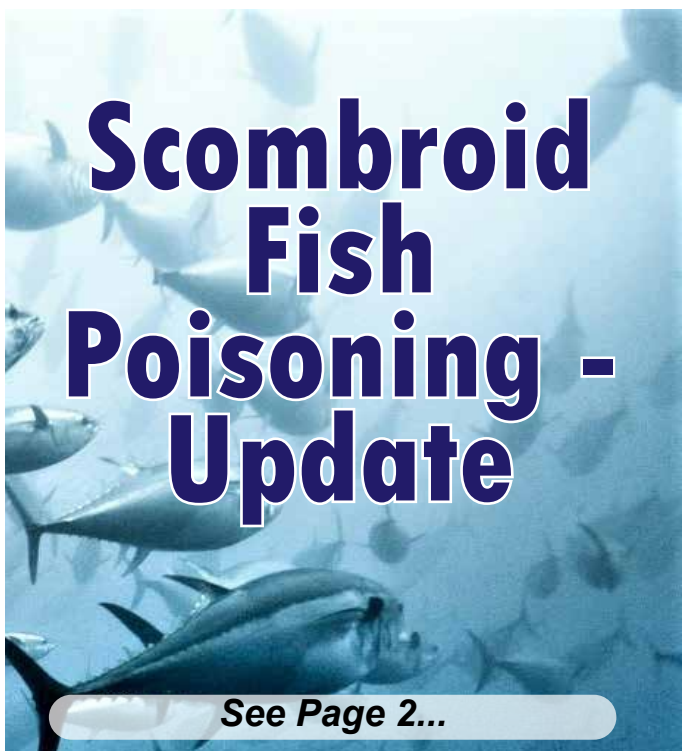


Toby's Cottage - Secrets Revealed

See Pages 3 - 5...



Trump to Blame - Chagos Agreement Extended
See Page 8...



Scombroid Fish Poisoning - Update

See Page 2...



See Page 20 Where To Buy...

Scombroid Fish Poisoning - Update

Health and Social Care Directorate has received fewer than twenty reports of minor health issues that have been associated with the consumption of certain fish products.

Scombroid fish poisoning is not life-threatening and usually settles on its own within 4–6 hours. Reports indicate affected individuals have experienced symptoms of facial flushing, headaches and diarrhoea within approximately 10-60 minutes following the consumption of tuna, with tuna mince being implicated in reported cases. Oral antihistamines may help to alleviate symptoms.

The likely cause of these symptoms is scombroid fish poisoning, or histamine fish poisoning. Scombroid fish poisoning may occur following the consumption of certain types of fish that have been improperly stored or during handling, processing, retail distribution or home preparation.

Initial investigations and inspections conducted by Environmental Health and Public Health have identified that tuna mince processed by the Saints Tuna Corporation (STC) in March 2026 may be one possible source of the scombroid fish poisoning. STC have been instructed to recall all tuna mince processed during the period between 12 March 2026 and 27 March 2026, which is a wider range of processing dates than those to the health authorities.

Further investigations and inspections across the fishing industry and laboratory testing continue with certain fish products.

In the meantime, the public are requested to:

- avoid consuming products or meals containing tuna mince until further notice;
- seek immediate medical care if developing difficulty breathing, blurred vision, tongue swelling or fainting episodes after eating tuna;
- report any adverse reactions after eating tuna (including in the past 3 months) to Environmental Health at eh.office@sainthelena.gov.sh; and
- return any tuna mince products with labelling that was processed by STC between 12 March and 27 March 2026 to the place of purchase for a refund. Retailers will return products to STC for reimbursement.

A further update will be issued by Wednesday 29 April when the majority of investigations and inspections will have concluded.

SHG - 23 April 2026

Coming Soon?

Illegal for UK 17 Year Olds Ever to Smoke During Entire Lives

UK Parliament Bans People Born After 2008 From Buying Tobacco

A bill banning anyone born after 2008 from buying tobacco in the UK has completed its progress through parliament in a move that ministers hope will create a “smoke-free generation”.

Under the tobacco and vapes bill anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be able to be legally sold tobacco across the UK, in an effort to save lives and reduce the burden on the NHS.

The bill will become legislation when it receives royal assent next week. Its long journey through both houses of parliament began when it was introduced on 5 November 2024 and ended on Tuesday this week, when the House of Lords approved amendments made by MPs in House of Commons.

Ministers hope it will end the sale of tobacco products altogether over time and break the cycle of addiction and the disadvantages associated with tobacco.

Reception at Longwood House

A welcome for Julien Steimer, Mr Julien Steimer, Director General for Administration and Modernisation at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the accompanying archaeological mission led by Professor Philippe Charlier was held at the Generals Quarters, Longwood House on Monday.

Julien Steimer was making a social visit to Michel Martineau while the archaeologists were keen to start work immediately. Their arrival was delayed from Saturday to Monday and there was now only four days before the return flight tomorrow.



Governor Phillips, on left, talks with Julien Steimer. Michel Martineau, centre, is in conversation with some of the archaeologists. Dr Phillippe Charlier, a deputy dean who will be focusing on his application of interdisciplinary, anthropological, archaeological, and biological skills with those of his team at Toby's Cottage while in St Helena.

Toby's Cottage Secrets Revealed

Even with just four days to work on Toby's Cottage, the archaeologists were chasing some significant finds by Wednesday and knew of more discoveries that could be made during the remaining two available days.



The front view of Toby's Cottage – The room on the left was the sleeping quarters for nine slaves, couldn't call it the bedroom. In the centre was the room slaves used when not sleeping, couldn't call it a dining room. On the right is a later extension, the kitchen does not appear in earlier photos.



From left, the Governor, the Chief Minister and the Director General respond to requests for a photo

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Toby's Cottage Secrets Revealed

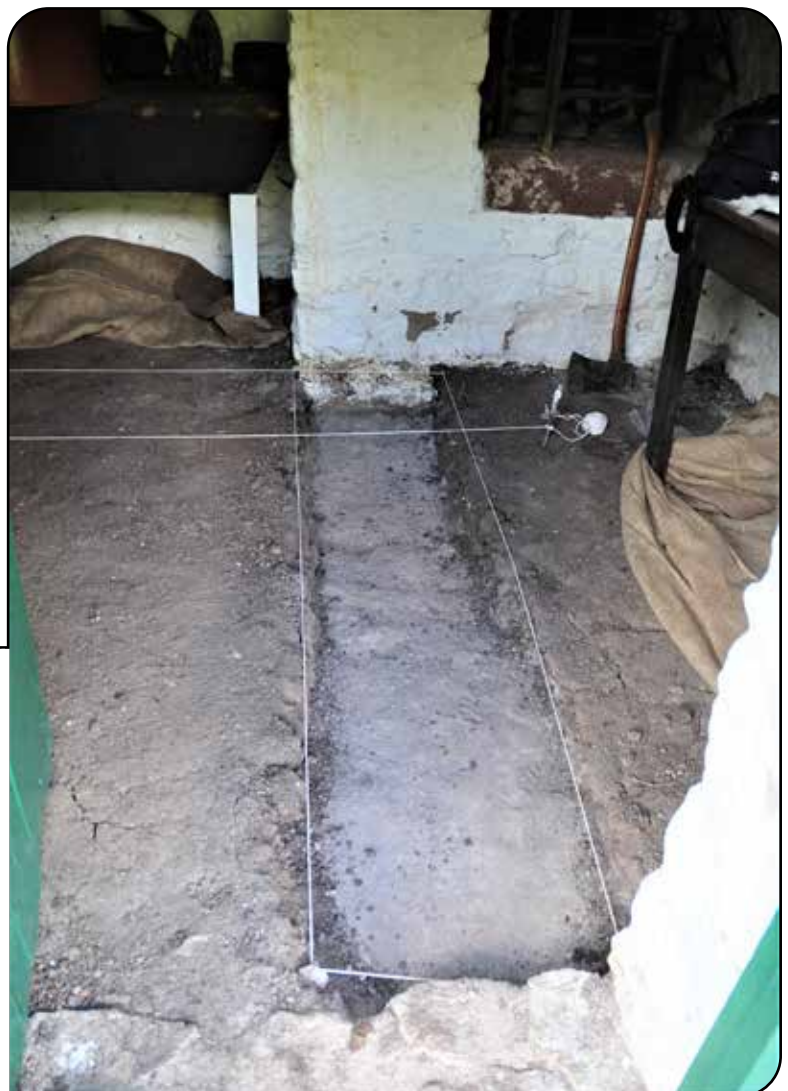


In the slave sleeping quarters work has started on the central section below the floorboards. Just below the surface of the previous dirt floor an open fireplace was found in the centre of the room. The footings of what is thought to be a low stone wall are around the open fireplace. This area was being uncovered on Wednesday morning. Due to time limitations, it may not be possible to completely expose the area around the fireplace, nor remove the dirt surface in the rest of the room to see what lies beneath.

In the kitchen dirt has been removed from a section of the flooring. A further strip will be removed to form an 'L' shape exposing what exists below. The exposed subsurface appears to be a weak concrete mix spread over stone laid in a similar way as in the adjoining room. Work on the kitchen floor was scheduled for yesterday.



Work in the day room has also required removing a dirt floor covering. Work was underway on Wednesday removing the dirt covering to reveal the stone floor beneath and anything else which may be hidden below the dirt.



Toby's Cottage Secrets Revealed



As dirt is removed and what lies hidden exposed, small finds are collected to be examined in detail later. Notable among the collection in this bag is the remains of a comb made from bone. The handle is broken and the teeth of the comb are missing. Also shown is a button which may reveal some information after being cleaned.



The view through a window, as the archaeologists press on with the work without posing for the camera.

Between Wednesday morning and finishing work on Friday it is likely more will be discovered about life in Toby's Cottage, possibly even before Toby lived there. It is also likely the archaeologists will not have time to reveal all the information the building holds about how our ancestors lived two hundred and more years ago. This aspect of St Helena's history is a story which remains to be told.

The Big Blind Spot

The lives of the governing class, the owners of land and slaves, and others with some kind of authority is documented in some detail. The lives and way of life of the people who were governed, owned nothing and had no authority remains unrecorded and we know very little about the part their lives contributed to this Island's history.

There is now only one way to find out vivid, reliable detail about how the poor lived two or more centuries ago and that is through archaeology. The documentation of their lives lies buried across the Island. It's not just the major finds that matter; the many scraps left of possessions they had and things they used tell a big story when all are put together.

St Helena has many conservation areas of various types, right across the island. The focus is always about what is above ground, sometimes not even that. Amazingly little thought is given to what might lie below ground.

The most significant archaeology in St Helena so far was at the burial grounds in Rupert's. Books have been written about what was found. A growing global awareness of the momentous history of Rupert's Valley is evident by the funding now attracted to renovate and re-purpose the No.1 Building so the story can be told for generations to come.

But so much of lower Rupert's is now under a thick layer of concrete. The groundwork probably means that any historical information hidden just below ground level has been destroyed and lost forever. We are all the poorer for it. A condition of development permission should be possible which requires some measure of archaeological monitoring in these situations. Jamestown is another location where decision makers need to apply a similar condition to any development permission where the ground will be significantly disturbed.

Extracts From Informal Meeting Summary of the Ascension Island Council - 2nd April 2026

Telecoms Update

Nathan Millington (DoOF) advised that during the free trial of Ascension Island Mobile (AIM), there were 843 services activated, not including business lines. On 1 April, the paid service was activated and at the time of the meeting, there were 150 active paid services in use, with business services taking it closer to 300. The DoOF explained that this was a slower uptake than anticipated, but hoped this would increase in the coming days as teething issues were resolved. The DoOF advised that issues with payment have slowed down the process as accounts are managed manually however this should become automated soon. Despite the glitches experienced, the DoOF believes the launch of AIM to have been successful.

Councillor Shearer raised some questions around services, including issues with downloading E-SIMS. The DoOF explained that AIM were aware of these difficulties, and were working to resolve them as quickly as possible. Councillor Shearer also raised concern around international calling. The DoOF advised that this was a roaming issue, not related to the network and relied on commercial roaming agreements being completed with international network providers. This work is ongoing by Kevin Werry (Werry Consulting) and hoped to be resolved as soon as possible. Catherine Jones (Ag DoR) advised that AIM was working with the Bank of Saint Helena to ensure direct debits could be made from their accounts. The Administrator thanked the DoOF for his update.

Employment Ordinance 2022 – Proposed Amendments

James Twigg, Crown Counsel (CC), advised Councillors of proposed amendments to the Employment Ordinance 2022. The proposed amendments include a minimal requirement for employing organisations to provide new employees with their contract 48 hours prior to commencing travel to Ascension Island, and that new contracts signed by the employee will require a third party to witness the signature. These changes will ensure that new staff Informal Ascension Island Council meeting summary – 02 April 2026 2

fully understand the terms and conditions of their employment before they arrive on Ascension, increasing transparency. Councillor Bally questioned why 48hrs was given as the time frame. CC advised that 48hrs would allow time for new employees to digest and understand the terms of the contract, while also allowing flexibility for contracts to be offered at short notice when required by an employing organisation. CC continued that sanctions could be imposed if employing organisations did not comply. Councillor Nicholls thanked CC for the proposed changes to the Employment Ordinance 2022, based on suggestions made by Councillors. Councillor Shearer requested the terminology within the Ordinance to state '30 working days' when referencing leave (currently 30 days). CC agreed, and also advised that all but one employing organisation had provided information on contracts and salaries for review and would be able to provide a further update on his findings at the next formal council meeting.

Police Discussion

The Administrator introduced the Deputy Chief of Police for Royal Saint Helena Police, Rachel Griffiths (RG). A discussion was held on plans to improve policing provision on Ascension Island, with an update of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between the Ascension Island Government (AIG) and Royal Saint Helena Police (RSHP). RG advised plans to move towards more neighbourhood policing, highlighting the importance of integrating staff into the community to build trust. RG also advised that 'Police Specials' would be reintroduced to provide further support to the Ascension policing team and allow for wider police presence to deter alcohol related offences. Councillors raised questions over recruitment and staff retention, confidentiality concerns, minimum staffing for effective policing and concerns over new or non RSHP officers understanding Ascension's local laws. Councillors also requested that police avoid attending constituents' place of work to avoid speculation and cause for concern, recommending that individuals should be invited to attend the police station outside of working hours.

A meeting of Executive Council (ExCo) was held 13 April 2026

Extracts - Civil Litigation (Cost) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Civil Litigation (Costs) Notice, 2026 (ExCo Memo 15/2026)

Executive Council approved the amendments to the Civil Litigation (Costs) Ordinance 2025. The amendments will be published for public consultation before being brought to the next Legislative Council Meeting for consideration and approval.

The proposed amendments are intended to strengthen fairness and improve access to justice. A key element of the proposal is the introduction of provisions relating to ATE insurance. These changes would allow the courts to include some or all of the cost of ATE insurance premiums in cost awards for medical negligence and personal injury claims. This is intended to reduce the financial risk for individuals pursuing legitimate claims and ensure that access to justice is not limited by personal financial circumstances.

Executive Council also approved the Civil Litigation (Costs) Notice, 2026 to be effective immediately. These amendments aim to provide greater clarity and transparency around recoverable legal costs. It sets out when the cost of initial legal advice may be recovered, helping individuals better understand their position from the outset. The 2026 Notice links the appropriate national rates applied in England and Wales which may be amended from time to time.

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination Clinics for Next Two Weeks

The following dates and times and locations have been scheduled for those who have registered with the Health Promotion team and for walk-in appointments:

Week 2		
Monday 27 April	11:00 – 15:00	Longwood - Harford Community Centre
Tuesday 28 April	10:30 - 12:30	Levelwood Clinic
Tuesday 28 April	14:00 – 16:00	Sandy Bay Community Centre
Wednesday 29 April	10:00 – 15:00	HTH - Community Care Complex
Thursday 30 April	10:30 – 15:00	Jamestown Community Centre
Week 3		
Monday 4 May	10:00 – 14:00	Kingshurst Community Centre
Tuesday 5 May	10:00 - 12:00	Blue Hill Community Centre
Tuesday 5 May	14:00 – 16:00	Guinea Grass Community Centre

No Potholes – From Bottom Woods and White Wall to Jamestown Seafront

The Roads Section are pleased to announce the completion of its major resurfacing programme, delivering 9km of upgraded road, most being primary roads across the island. The project reached its target on Thursday, 26 March 2026. Approved by the Project Steering Committee on 15 May 2025, the programme began with the procurement of materials, with the first shipment of bitumen arriving at the end of June 2025. Although initial progress was delayed due to unsuitable bitumen being supplied, work formally commenced on 4 August 2025.

Key project figures include:

Litres of Bitumen	150,000
Crusher dust yards	1,000+
Days worked	103
Days lost due to rain, cruise ships or any other requests	16
Total meters resurfaced (full width)	9030
Average meters done per month	1129
Average meters done per day (half widths)	175

It is anticipated that these improvements will remain maintenance-free for the next 7 to 12 years, enabling future recurrent funding to be directed towards other priority areas.

Chagos Agreement Extended – Further Extension Under Review

The agreement SHG had with the UK government for refugees that may step ashore on any of the Chagos Islands to be dispatched, eventually, to St Helena has been extended for one month. There will be further discussions on whether there may be a further extension to the agreement. The original agreement was for 18 months and that expired on 15th April.

The one-month extension is a continuation of the original agreement. This means UKG agrees to several conditions, including, UKG accepts responsibility for arranging the safe and lawful transfer of migrants to St Helena. The arrangement does not present a financial burden for St Helena. UKG will screen any migrants prior to transfer for any particular concerns including physical or mental health, security or criminal history - so far, we haven't seen one Chagos refugee of any description. Lastly, there are different scenarios written into the agreement allowing SHG or UKG to pull out at short notice.

It appears the one-month extension is to allow time for SHG and UKG to decide if a further, longer-term agreement can be signed off.

Trump to Blame

The main Chagos agreement between the UK and Mauritius has been beset by several delays. One reason was Mauritius had a general election around the time the agreement was just about ready to be concluded. The new government wanted to take their own view on what the previous government decided. Eventually, they finished looking and arrived at an agreement. The main reason the delays was Trump. Why? Because Trump was being Trump.

First Trump was in favour, then he wasn't and he changed his mind about three times after that. Sometimes the US state department was in favour of the deal, but Trump wasn't. The most recent change of mind is said to be caused by the UK government not supporting Trump with his Iran war and especially because the UK denied permission for the US to use Diego Garcia as an airbase to attack Iran.



Iran have fired missile towards Diego Garcia on two occasions without success

Trump's second term as president ends on 20th January 2029. If SHG/UKG do decide on a second longer term agreement maybe it should be for 3 years rather than 18 months. That could save doing the same job gain for a second time. Trump will be gone by 20th January 2029. 🙏

The present UK government has to call the next general election on or before 15th August 2029. It's probably no good having an agreement beyond that date, a new UK government may want to look yet again at the whole agreement if

the present government is not returned. The window of opportunity to get the main Chagos agreement settled with Mauritius seems to be 21st January 2029 to 14th August 2029. If that happens, the St Helena agreement with the UK on Chagos will not be needed.

The SHG announcement states 'Any future agreement must serve the interests of St Helena.' The interest will most likely be how much additional revenue SHG can persuade the UK to part with. Remember, we received an additional £6.65 million last time. This time, if we get a sweetener, it probably will not be the same amount. Maybe St Helena should bid for a big one-off something. How about some big barges and the set-up needed to unload our cargo from MACS Shipping's big ships. The general expectation is, if we have that, prices in the shops should drop by a sizeable amount.

The Big 4 Walk



One Mind. One Heart.
Supporting Saints Together



On Sunday the St Helena Community spirit stretched across ocean as participants took part in the Big4Walk, a multi Saint driven community event raising funds for Mental Health awareness and supporting the newly established Island Minds Foundation.

From Kingshurst community centre to the dampen streets of Stanley in the Falkland Island and the hot roads of France, the vent demonstrated a powerful show of strength for mental health support, bringing together Saints and supporters in St Helena, Ascension Island, Falkland Island, France, and in Swindon United Kingdom where there is a large part of the St Helena Community resides.

Johnny Clingham from St Helena Online said “the logistics of the event spanned miles apart, proving that distance is no barrier to supporting the cause.

Under a clear spring sunny day the Coatwater Country Park in Swindon, the St Helena Association registered thirty one walkers and many supporters.

On completion of their walk, walkers joined their supporters for a picnic in the park.



On St Helena the Island Minds Foundation team registered two hundred and fifty four in total which one hundred and ten walkers tackled the long walk, sixty six doing the medium walk and seventy eight completing the shorter walk.

On the walkers returned, each was awarded an engraved logo on a green ribbon as a thank you for their participation and could enjoy an amazing atmosphere at the centre with various stalls, hot food and entertainment



The Big 4 Walk



One Mind. One Heart.
Supporting Saints Together



Next Island to take on the challenge was very hot Ascension Island, but this did not deter the fifty eight walkers who gathered at the Volcano Club to register up with Organiser Kimberley Peters.



After a relaxing walk, the walkers returned to a traditional spread of St Helenian favourites such as a selection of cakes to include the much loved Jam Tarts and Swiss Rolls along with a hot pot of 'Around the Mast'.



With three groups of walkers on their way St Helenian Keri Thomas, daughter of Derek Thomas and Sandra Clingham more affectionally known as Sainty and Frenchie joined the Big 4 Walk from France, where she now resides.

Keri posted on social media "it was very different Sunday for us but we both had fun and enjoyed it, we managed 5 miles, nothing extravagant but like I said very enjoyable and it was for such a good cause Island Minds Foundation, thanks to Luke Bennett at SAMS for keeping us entertained with some good rock jams whilst we trotted along, unfortunately when we got back to the van nobody was waiting with the pot of curry and rice but we lived."

Last Island to get on top of the walk was the Falkland Island due to the time difference, despite the weather being miserable and pouring with rain sixty four walkers to include a group of saints working for Sodexo made the long journey to Stanley's town hall to register.



The sixty four brave walkers dressed warm and with rain jackets left Stanley's town hall, going along Ross Road West towards Felton Stream before finishing at the Infant and Junior School with some well deserve hot treats to include Soup, St Helenian Speciality Pliau and other treats to raise money for the newly registered charity Island Minds Foundation which was reported to be £490.20.



Once all monies have been totalled then we will published it but Well Done to all involved in organising and helping to make this event a success on St Helena, Ascension, Falklands, Swindon & France.





Dear Editor,

As President of the St. Helena Association U.K. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to each and every one who took part in the Big4Walk last weekend. It was such an achievement to get people from all four islands together to take part in this event to support a very important charity on the island, The Island Minds Foundation.

People on the Falklands, Ascension, St. Helena and Swindon can be very proud of themselves for their great efforts, and I would like to say thank you to all organisers on all four islands. Also a big thank you to SaintFM for all their help. I know that a lot of very hard work went into this project and I am sure that everyone involved deserves great applause. To all those big and small, young and old — a very big well done.

The St. Helena Association U.K. is very happy to be involved with this project and we are looking forward to doing it all again next year, bigger and better.

The Big4Walk came about because of the St. Helena Association U.K.'s concerns about people's mental health issues on the island and thought something needed to be done about it, and to see what help the Association could give.

Members of the Association discussed this and it was Charmaine Peters-Benjamin, the co-chairperson, who came up with the idea of a Big4Walk. Along with members of the St. Helena Association U.K. committee there was also the massive banging of heads together to come up with ideas for merchandise — something that we could sell and make additional funds for the charity (every little helps). The designs of the merchandise are fantastic and will be on the online shop soon.

The Island Minds Foundation is an important charity and must be supported.

The St. Helena Association U.K. has over the past years tried to help as many island charities as possible. We achieved our goals and have helped many charities. However, we can only do this with the generosity of the public, so it is the general public that must be applauded also.

This Big4Walk was, in my opinion, a great success and we are all grateful that we could help.

Now for our next projects: the St. Helena Association U.K. are now looking forward to our St. Helena Day celebrations which is held at Swindon Supermarine Club 23rd and 24th May 2026 — look out for our adverts. Also coming up in August is our Annual Sports Day at the Abbey Rugby Club in Reading.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards

Pat Harris

President

St. Helena Association U.K.

WINNERS OF EASTER RAFFLE IN AID OF THE LADIES FUND RAISING GROUP

The Ladies Fund Raising Group would like to say a Big Thank You to everyone who bought raffle tickets in support of the Group's on-going efforts to raise funds for the senior citizens and less fortunate on the Island. Special thanks are also extended to those who donated prizes and to the Tourist Office for their assistance.

The raffle was drawn on Thursday 26 March 2026 and the winners were:

The sum of £450.50 was raised.

PRIZE/WINNER	TICKET NUMBER
1. Single Air Mattress & Sleeping Bag Yvonne Henry, Half Tree Hollow	215
2. Super King Duvet Iyla Bell, Cow Path	56
3. Blue Tooth Speaker Shirley Bowers, Blue Hill	225
4. Kettle Sandra Stevens, Half Tree Hollow	226
5. Food Hamper Deborah Williams, Sandy Bay	275
6. Food Hamper Joelle Henry, Moonshines, Blue Hill	335
7. Collapsible Bucket Mark Henry, Thompson's Hill	418
8. Chocolate Cake James Fantom, Half Way, St Pauls	160
9. Solar Lanterns Joan Flagg, Harlyn, Half Tree Hollow	276
10. 15L Foldaway Water Carrier Olivia Timm, Longwood Avenue	15
11. 15L Foldaway Water Carrier Terrence Richards, Barracks Square, Jamestown	81



Dear Editor,

While the Centre for Global Development's observations about the increased level of financial support for St Helena and Montserrat were regrettable, at least they were from a different angle from the Daily Mail and The Sun, for whose journalists and readers those territories might as well be as foreign as Sudan, rather than as British as Gibraltar or the Falkland Islands. Or the Chagos Islands, whose people's plight most of them had probably never heard of until recently, and couldn't have cared less if they had.

Yes, we all remember the Daily Mail's attack on St Helena's 'useless' airport, but it also mounted one on the UK's decision to fund Montserrat's internet cable, as did The Sun, with quotes from Tory MPs and their constituents complaining about this use of 'foreign' aid. Admittedly, it could have been funded by the island's own telecom operator, Flow, owned by Cable & Wireless, not least as it is integrated into a wider regional network, serving a much larger market in the Caribbean than it ever did in the South Atlantic, but the attack still symbolised that while all of the British Overseas Territories are British, some, in the eyes of the right, are less British than others.

However, the left also has a lot to answer for, with The Guardian and Daily Mirror seeing these places as embarrassing anachronisms, or economic parasites, if not as stolen property or paradises lost, and both St Helena and Montserrat are made to feel guilty by association with those territories with offshore finance centres; I saw one Green Party member (former Lib Dem) on X/Twitter bring this up in response to a post on Montserrat, accusing it of being a tax haven, despite it being no more one than St Helena, despite its proximity to those that are. It doesn't augur well for cross-party support at Westminster as the Greens make inroads, though I have encountered enough ignorance and prejudice toward the Overseas Territories in the Lib Dems. As for Reform UK, were it not for Andrew Rosindell's defection from the Tories, I doubt any of its members would know anything about them.

Or even Northern Ireland, recently described, along with the Chagos Islands, as 'what remains of British overseas imperial control'; after all, there once was a plumed-hatted Governor in Stormont, just as there still is in Government House, Stanley, if not Plantation House. As for the cost of its upkeep, government spending per head in Northern Ireland is £16,116, 19 percent above the UK average, and for that matter, more than the £15,441 per head that St Helena, Montserrat or Pitcairn are going to get. That said, much of what is spent in Northern Ireland ends up going back to Whitehall through taxation, as well as the TV licence fee, also payable in the Isle of Man, which only gets back some of the VAT and duties it collects on the UK's behalf under a revenue sharing scheme, and how much that is depends on how good a mood Whitehall is in.

By contrast, what people in St Helena pay Sure for internet access ends up being funnelled to Bahrain through Guernsey, and with what they pay Sure for TV ends up being paid to MultiChoice in South Africa, now owned by Canal Plus in France - say what you like about Elon Musk, but he has less blood on his hands than Sure's Bahraini owners, whose ancestors once had dissidents banished to St Helena, and at least Starlink pays taxes in the UK to operate in the UK. In the aid industry some years back, there was the expression 'boomerang aid', appropriately enough from Australia, in which money given to a country

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in aid ended up being spent on goods and services from the donor country, but in the case of St Helena, I'd rather have money given by London end up returning to London, rather than ending up in St Peter Port, Manama, Johannesburg or Paris.

Perhaps, in the wake of demands for the UK to increase spending on the armed forces, financial assistance to St Helena could be classified as defence spending. The St Helena Regiment could be reestablished, and given that there are still conspiracy theorists who claim that St Helena's airport was built for military purposes, perhaps it could be restyled 'RAF St Helena', but it's no sillier than Ascension being designated as a stone frigate, as 'HMS Ascension', under the Admiralty, with its population being listed as 'HMS Flora (Tender)'. This would be the reverse situation from the US, where much of that country's foreign aid budget has actually been military aid to Israel as well as South Korea, or rather, subsidising US arms exports to those countries; ironically, some have gone along with this, on the grounds that if this military aid weren't included in the foreign aid budget, it would leave actual development aid more vulnerable to cuts.

Yours,
Ken Westmoreland



Proud parents **Sharday Green** and first time father **Myliek Thomas** along with big brother **Seanix** would like to introduce their little princess **Thyia Ella Rose Thomas -Green** who was born on the **11th March** at **9:20am** weighing **6lb 10ozs**.

At 6 weeks old, baby Thyia has settled in well and enjoys having the attention from family and friends who talks to her all the time, especially Daddy and Brother Seanix who is very hands on with and over protective of their bundle of joy and she loves bath times and could stay in the water if she could.

Sharday is a second time mum and express how happy and completed her family is now that she has her peach and pear.

Sharday, Myliek and Seanix and would like to thank doctor Tacora, Midwives Erica and Rosie and all the medical staff for all their help and support throughout the pregnancy, Moms Jean and Emma along with all other family members and friends for the messages, cards and gifts of congratulations for their constant support.



If you have recently given birth, got married or celebrate a special milestone and would like to share the good news with wider community through the St Helena Independent, then please get in touch with independent@helanta.co.sh or call 22837.



THE MARINE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION SECTION QUARTERLY CATCH

JANUARY - MARCH 2026 www.sainthelena.gov.sh



The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section (MFCS) team, in line with the vision of the Marine Management Plan 2023-27, aim to conserve, protect and restore the rich biodiversity and unique natural ecosystems of St Helena's Marine Protected Area (MPA) with use of its natural resources managed in accordance with its International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category 6 sustainable use principles now and for future generations.

To kick-start the first quarter of 2026, MFCS has been exceptionally busy:

MFCS Welcomes Our New Apprentice



Lauren Duncan has joined the section as an apprentice through the blended learning route offered by Career Access St Helena (CASH), a local service that provides employment-related support and opportunities on St Helena. This pathway allows her to combine formal studies with practical, on-the-job experience.

Lauren will be with us for one year, during which she will gain hands-on experience in both fieldwork and

data processing. We hope she will enjoy her time with the team, develop new skills and knowledge, and bring fresh ideas to the section. We are very pleased to have an additional pair of hands to support our ongoing monitoring and conservation work, and we look forward to working with her during the time she is with us.

2026 Grouper Tagging Expands



We have now commenced our 2026 grouper tagging work, building on previous efforts that focused mainly on shallow waters on the windward side of the island. This year, we are extending surveys to the leeward side and targeting deeper waters, allowing us to compare grouper populations between the two sides of St Helena.

Alongside key data collection on tagging and catch per unit effort (CPUE), part of this work is assessing the effects of barotrauma, something that can occur when fish are brought up from deeper water too quickly. At greater depths, fish experience higher pressure, and gases in their swim bladders expand rapidly if they are brought to the surface too fast. This can cause internal injuries or make it difficult for fish to swim. To reduce this risk, we have developed a device called a grouper descender, essentially a "fish elevator". This tool allows the fish's swim bladder to adjust gradually as they are lowered back to deeper water, rather than forcing the

fish to swim down themselves. This method has already proven successful for fish caught in waters of 20m or less.

These surveys will now be conducted two days per month, one day on the leeward side and one on the windward side, doubling the frequency of our monitoring. The expanded effort will strengthen our understanding of grouper populations around the island.

Professor Casey Dunn Visits St Helena to Study Portuguese Man-of-War



We were pleased to welcome Professor Casey Dunn from Yale University to St Helena, who visited the island to further his research on Physalia (more commonly known as bluebottles or Portuguese man-of-war).

The open ocean covers approximately 75% of the Earth's surface, yet we still know remarkably little about the organisms that inhabit it. Advances in scientific tools that have now enabled scientists to study DNA alongside physical characteristics, are revealing that ocean biodiversity is far richer than previously recognised.

Professor Dunn's laboratory has recently shown that Physalia, long considered a single, globally distributed species, actually comprises at least five distinct species. Three of these occur in the South Atlantic, though their full



THE MARINE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION SECTION QUARTERLY CATCH

JANUARY - MARCH 2026 www.sainthelena.gov.sh

ranges are still being determined. St Helena is pivotal to this research, providing a key location for understanding species range boundaries and advancing knowledge of global ocean biodiversity.

During his visit, Professor Dunn carried out fieldwork to support his research. He collected specimens from Sandy Bay Beach and also went on an inshore trip around the island with our Fisheries Science Programme Coordinator, Jake Letori, to obtain live samples from the surrounding waters.



The visit also included a public talk at the Museum and to GCSE Marine Science students, where Professor Dunn shared insights into his lab's latest discoveries in open-ocean biodiversity and explained how genetic science is reshaping our understanding of species once thought to be globally uniform.

Sea|mester Visit to the Marine Centre



Sea|mester visited St Helena aboard the STV Vela, as part of its at-sea academic programme, which

combines higher education studies with practical seamanship, sailing and marine science experience. Students aboard their training vessels earn college credits through the University of South Florida while travelling across oceans and engaging directly with marine environments around the world. As part of this learning model, they also take part in port visits which provide opportunities to gain insight into marine conservation in different regions.

During their time in St Helena's waters, the group visited the Marine Centre to learn more about the island's MPA and the work undertaken to conserve and manage its marine resources.



Our Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer, Adam Riggs, delivered a presentation providing an overview of the conservation and fisheries management work carried out on St Helena. This was followed by a bait fish sampling practical session led by members of our scientific team. Students observed and participated in the collection and recording of biological data, including measuring length and weight, extracting otoliths for age analysis and determining sex and maturity stages by extracting the fishes' gonads (reproductive organs).

The session provided a practical demonstration of how some of the

scientific data is gathered on St Helena, while also offering students valuable hands-on experience aligned with their marine studies programme.

Blue Belt Skills Framework: St Helena Visit

As part of the Blue Belt Programme workplan, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has been developing a skills framework across the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) that the Blue Belt Programmes supports. The framework aims to identify skills gaps and explore opportunities for training and knowledge exchange between territories in the field of marine conservation. This approach has already been applied in the Western Indian Ocean, and its implementation across all UKOTs is now being explored.

To support this work, Lawrence Sisitka, an outside contractor, who has worked in the West Indian Ocean region, visited St Helena in January to gain an overview of how the island's MPA is managed, the roles of different teams and team members, and the skills required for each position. Lawrence joined routine activities to observe a typical working week and held brief one-to-one discussions with team members to better understand their responsibilities and how they contribute to the management of the MPA.

Both MFCS and MC&ES had the opportunity to review the skills framework, identifying the skills required for different roles, assessing their relevance, and considering how they apply in the St Helena context.



THE MARINE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION SECTION QUARTERLY CATCH

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The teams also highlighted any gaps that could be addressed through future training or knowledge exchange opportunities.

Marine Awareness Week 2026: Celebrating 10 Years of St Helena's MPA



Marine Awareness Week 2026 marked a significant milestone for marine conservation in St Helena, celebrating ten years since the designation of the island's MPA. Established in 2016, the MPA encompasses St Helena's entire Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles, covering 448,411 km², an area the size of France.



To mark the anniversary, a week of activities brought together schools, community groups, decision-makers and members of the public. A central feature was a marine and fisheries conservation timeline, charting the section's development from its establishment in the 1990s to the present day. The display highlighted the breadth of projects delivered over the years, as well as the ongoing work that continues to safeguard St Helena's marine environment.



Education and engagement were at the heart of the week. A total of 22 school groups attended, including Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes, students from St Helena Secondary School and home-schooled learners. Following a short introduction to the timeline, students were invited to share what they value most about the ocean. Their responses were displayed in the Porteous House window throughout Marine Awareness Week and the following week, serving as a visible reminder of the community's connection to the sea. Younger children also took part in creative activities, colouring local fish species and crafting their own fish and jellyfish, while interactive games and outdoor sessions brought energy and enjoyment to the learning experience.



A range of community-focused events complemented the school activities. An information session brought together Ministers, Councillors and key stakeholders to reflect on progress and future priorities. A fishers' social combined presentations with practical discussion, before continuing informally at the Yacht Club and Dive Club. With food and refreshments provided, the event encouraged open and constructive dialogue within the fishing community.



The week also featured a well-attended Quiz Night, delivered in partnership with the Good Tern Charity at Ann's Place. Twelve teams took part in a lively evening of competition, raising over £350 through entry fees, raffle ticket sales, donations and even an impromptu auction.



Activities continued into the weekend. A disco hosted by New Horizons on Friday evening added to the celebratory atmosphere. On Saturday, attention turned to ocean stewardship, with a wharf clean-up in Jamestown and James Bay. Volunteers from the St Helena Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Scouts, the St Helena Dive Club and the wider community worked both along the shoreline and underwater to remove litter and debris.



The celebrations concluded with a sponsored swim organised by the Yellow Fins Swimming Club. More than 40 swimmers took part, providing a vibrant and fitting finale to a week that not only celebrated ten years of the Marine Protected Area, but also highlighted the strong community commitment that underpins its continued success.

Interesting sightings

Mystery Marine Mammal at Sandy Bay



In February, a washed-up marine mammal was reported to MFCS at Sandy Bay Beach, prompting a team visit to investigate. The MFCS team documented the scene with photographs, collected relevant samples, and safely removed the animal from the beach.

The specimen has now been positively identified as a Bottlenose dolphin, with confirmation provided through photo identification by Simon Elwen PhD, at Stellenbosch University.

We thank the members of the public who promptly reported the sighting, which enabled the team to respond quickly and carry out necessary investigations.

Rare Sighting During Lobster Dive

During our lobster dives in March, the team encountered not one, but two live specimens of *Tonna pennata*! A type of tun shell, a large marine snail known for its thin, lightweight, balloon-like shell and impressive size.



One individual appeared to be actively hunting, with its mantle fully spread (which is a soft, fleshy layer covering the snail's body that extends beyond the shell, helping it to move, sense its surroundings, and capture prey). This specimen measured approximately 25 cm across.

Deep-Sea Creature at Jamestown Swimming Pool

A very unusual sighting occurred recently at the Jamestown swimming pool when a deep-sea species was

found far outside its normal habitat, usually living approximately 200-1000m deep. The specimen had fallen from a seabird's nest, which had been built on the pool wall, before being discovered by one of the pool lifeguards, Donny O'Bey.

While further identification is ongoing, this rare and unexpected event highlights the sometimes-surprising ways marine life can appear on St Helena.



St George's Day in Ascension

Falling on 23 April each year, St George's Day is the national day of England. It is celebrated as such in honour of St George, the patron saint of England.

In recognition of the special relationship Ascension has with England, alongside the other British Overseas Territories, Embassies and High Commissions across the world, the Ascension Island Government is flying the St George's Cross in front of Government House in Georgetown to mark the day.



Happy St George's Day!

Office of the Administrator
23 April 2026

VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Bank Teller

Commencing at £10,908 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the vacant position of a Bank Teller on a full-time basis.

This position will incur significant contact with the public and other Bank staff. The successful candidate must be flexible, demonstrate courtesy and provide excellent customer service at all times. Must have a keen eye for detail, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

The main duties of the post include:

- Undertaking counter transactions for customers and posting these to the Bank's computer system;
- Cash handling and assisting customers in meeting their banking needs and queries;
- Providing assistance in the delivery of Remote Banking services;
- Any other duties.

Interested persons can contact the Teller Services Manager on + 290 22390 ext 211 or email tellerservicesmanager@sainthelenabank.com or Operations Manager on email operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com or on +290 22390 ext 205 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 01 May 2026.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



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+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



*The stimulating taste of Ironstone.
Ready to kickstart your weekend.*

Jamestown

Rose & Crown
Thorpes Grocery
The Standard Bar
The Mantis Hotel
Chad's Shop
Anne's Place
Yacht Club
Blue Lantern
The Mule Yard
The Star

Ladder Hill

The Crown Supermarket

Longwood

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

New Ground

McDaniels

Half Tree Hollow

Joshies
A&D Mini Market
HTH Supermarket
SydneyRays

St Pauls

Philip John

Levelwood

Silver Hill Shop

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

NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, 07th May 2026, at 10 am in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown.**

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted version of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Web Site. Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting".

VACANCY



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking Expressions of Interest from persons for the role of Non-Executive Director of their Board to direct the Company's overall vision, mission and values.

Non-Executive Directors act with a degree of independence from the operational activities and have a role in providing strategic vision; monitoring the Company's performance; the financial reporting process; the review of risk and controls and governance.

Interested individuals are invited to submit an Expression of Interest together with a detailed CV. Submissions should be addressed to Callie Leo, Company Secretary, either by email at callie.leo@connectonline.co.sh or delivered in person to Connect Saint Helena Ltd Offices at Seales Corner. The deadline for receipt is **12 noon on Wednesday, 13th May 2026.**

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html



[connectsainthelenalt](https://www.facebook.com/connectsainthelenalt/)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/>



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.

Mechanic (£11,604 per annum)

The Transport Division is seeking to recruit a Mechanic to join their team. If you are a motivated individual who has the ability to work independently when required and have a sound knowledge of practical mechanics and diagnostics with good attention to detail this could be a good opportunity for you. The role requires you to be fully conversant in applying health and safety procedures to guarantee the safety of employees and products/services ensuring that the vehicles and heavy plant equipment are maintained in a safe operational condition. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Theodore Fowler on Tel No. 23643 or Email: garage.manager@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 29 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 04 May 2026
Interview date: 11 May 2026

Handyman-Driver (Local interest only) (£9,573 per annum)

The handyman driver is dedicated to enhancing the lives of everyone in our community and fostering the island's prosperity by assisting with the daily operations of the Central Support Service across various service areas. This includes performing minor maintenance tasks and taking on driving responsibilities as needed. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No.22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 06 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 May 2026
Interview date: 27 May 2026

Administrative Assistant (£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Central Support team? If so, we are looking to recruit an Administration Assistant. The Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Portfolios and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support across the Portfolios. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 23643 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 04 May 2026
Interview date: 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.

Driver – CCC (Local interest only) (fixed-term to 31 July 2026) (£10,088 per annum)

The Health & Social Care Portfolio is currently seeking to recruit a Driver within the CCC who will be responsible for the transporting of service users which includes to and from day care, hospital appointments and social outings. The Driver will support staff in helping service users to safely get in and out of vehicles including those who have mobility needs, sensory impairment, learning disabilities and those with limited or no verbal communication skills. This requires the post holder to be caring, compassionate and flexible. If you are interested, please contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Tinevimbonashe on Tel No 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 8 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 13 May 2026
Interview date: 20 May 2026

Emergency Planning Officer (Local interest only) (£11,604 per annum)

As Emergency Planning Officer you will join a very small team to assist with planning and preparing to ensure that St Helena can respond effectively to major emergencies and business disruptions. You will work with a range of partners to plan, prepare and practice our response arrangements.

In the event of an incident occurring you will play a vital role, responding to the event, supporting the management of the response, end enabling the recovery and restoration following on.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and/or demonstrable experience:

- GCSE Math's and English at Grade D or above
- Clean driver's license in Class A
- Proficient in IT skills i.e. Microsoft Office
- Previous experience of working with the Emergency Services
- Ability to remain calm under pressure and in intense emergency situations

Some working out of normal hours, especially during Emergency Incidents this includes being on-call on a rotation basis. If you are interested, please 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: 8 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 14 May 2026
Interview date: 27 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.

Vacancies

Part-Time Aircraft Cleaner



Rate of pay will commence at £5.60 per hour, increased to £6.50 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

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 hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **07 May 2026**

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent



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 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 **07 May 2026**

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

DPLUS190 Grasslands Project Draws to a Close

The conservation work supporting St Helena's endemic Wirebird (St Helena plover) has been delivered through the project DPLUS190: Improve St Helena's grasslands for the benefit of people and wildlife, led by the St Helena National Trust. The project focused on restoring and managing grassland habitats, strengthening monitoring, and working with local land users to support both biodiversity and sustainable land use.

As the project draws to a close, monitoring between 2023 and 2025 shows a generally stable Wirebird population with encouraging signs of recovery in key areas, alongside ongoing pressures that continue to threaten long-term survival.

Population Trends and Monitoring

Between 2023 and 2025, census work recorded a significant increase in adult Wirebirds to around 639 in 2024, representing an 8% rise and surpassing previous records. While the overall population remains small at roughly 600 adults, this stability is a positive indicator for the species.

However, results vary across the island. Some sites show strong or stable populations, while others indicate declining suitability due to habitat pressures. This variation highlights the importance of continued site-specific management.

Monitoring Techniques and Ecological Data

A key development under DPLUS190 has been the expansion of the colour leg-flagging programme, allowing individual birds to be tracked across breeding sites. This has improved understanding of movement patterns, survival rates, and habitat use.

Additional monitoring work includes Wirebird census surveys, nest monitoring during the breeding season (October–March), invertebrate and vegetation surveys, and rabbit population surveys. These datasets have been essential in identifying priority conservation zones and informing targeted habitat management.



The Wirebird (St Helena Plover) Charadrius sanctaehelena

Road Collisions and Wirebird Survival

Despite improvements in adult numbers, survival remains a major concern. Between 2023 and early 2026, more than 56 Wirebirds were lost, largely due to road collisions, especially along Airport Road, and accidental trampling in breeding areas linked to off-road driving.

Incidents are particularly frequent after rain, when birds are attracted to puddles along roads for bathing. With the species now classified as Vulnerable, even small losses have a significant impact on the population. Conservation messaging continues to emphasise simple behavioural changes such as reducing speed and increasing awareness in known breeding areas.

Trial Techniques: Restoring Grassland Habitat

A range of habitat restoration trials has been implemented, including rotational grazing systems at Flagstaff and Broad Bottom, use of sheep and pigs to manage vegetation, mowing prior to grazing, and soil and grass improvements supporting species such as kikuyu and wiregrass.

Weed management has also been critical. Techniques such as weed wiping have reduced invasive species and helped maintain short grass essential for nesting and foraging.

Partner Engagement and Community Involvement

Collaboration between the St Helena National Trust and the farming community has been central to the project's success. Farmers have helped maintain key habitats such as Deadwood Plain and Man and Horse, where bird numbers remain relatively strong compared to degraded areas.

Community engagement has also included volunteer participation, school visits, and guided conservation walks.

Looking Ahead

As DPLUS190 concludes, its outcomes highlight both progress and ongoing challenges. Stable adult numbers and improved monitoring systems provide a strong foundation for future conservation, but continued collaboration will be essential to ensure the Wirebird remains part of St Helena's landscape for generations to come.



Farmers played a key role in maintaining habitats, such as Deadwood Plain



Family Forest Walks

Sunday 26th April

Join us in celebrating the end of Autism Awareness Month with a pair of welcoming, inclusive Family Forest Walks, designed around our theme of **sensory differences**.

Forest walks offer a calm, yet stimulating natural setting for everyone.

Walk 1 – Sensory, Mindful Walk
10:00am

Starts at The Sawmill, Scotland

This gentle, mindful walk will
through Plantation Forest,
finishing at White Gate.

Perfect for those who enjoy a slower
pace and time to take in the
surroundings.



Walk 2 – Activity-Based Walk
11:30am

Starts at Model Cottage

A more interactive walk through
Merriman's Forest, also
finishing at White Gate.

Ideal for those who enjoy movement
and activity along the way.

After the Walks

From 12:30pm at Kingshurst

New Horizons will be selling hot food, with a cash bar available for drinks — a great chance to relax, refuel, and connect with others.

- Everyone is welcome, and you're very welcome to join one or both walks.
- No booking required — just turn up on the day at the appropriate start time.
- Come along, enjoy the fresh air, and celebrate sensory diversity together in nature.



ST HELENA



NATIONAL TRUST



Requirements

- ✓ Open to all St Helena residents, aged 15 - 25
- ✓ A passion for, and existing engagement with the ocean
- ✓ Play an active role within the SHDC
- ✓ Be an ambassador for diving on St Helena
- ✓ Ability to swim

Contact

For further information or application forms
sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh | 22307

Closing date: 1st May 2026

You will receive

- ✓ PADI Open Water Diver Qualification
- ✓ Dive opportunities with St Helena Dive Club (SHDC)
- ✓ Mentoring and support from participating partners
- ✓ An opportunity to engage with marine conservation work



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



PART TIME VACANCY



We are hiring part-time tellers

Are you looking for a little extra flexibility? We have part time vacancies that are suitable for those wanting to boost their weekly earnings, work around family commitments, or enjoy a fresh change of scenery for a few days each week

Get in touch with us for further details.

Interested persons can contact the Operations Manager on +290 22390 ext. 205 or email operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com for more information.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



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+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd

St Helena Secondary School's Swimming Gala Results



1st Place: Cavendish 85 points

2nd Place: Jenkins 79 points
3rd Place: Mundens 58 points
4th Place: Dutton 35 points

New Records:

33m Front Crawl: William Caswell 16.56 seconds - Jenkins House

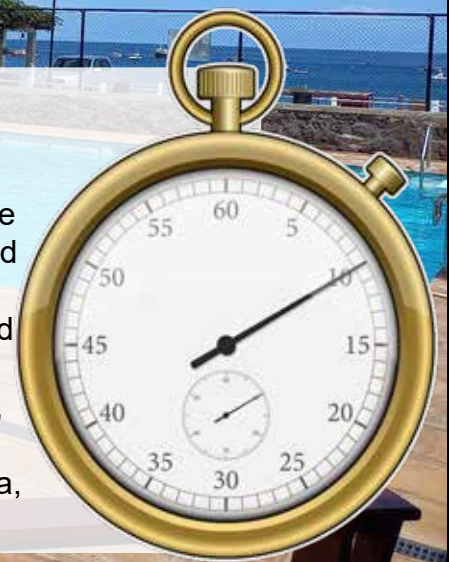
33m Skill Race: William Caswell 21.91 seconds - Jenkins House

3 x 33m medley relay Girls: Georgia Bennett, Aimee Joshua and Erin Wade 1:21.63 - Cavendish House

3 x 33m Medley relay Boys: William Caswell, Nolan George and William Scott 1:07.80 - Jenkins House

4 x 33m Freestyle relay Boys: William Caswell, Nolan George, Tyler Anthony and William Scott 1:19.22 - Jenkins House

4 X 33m Freestyle Mixed Relay: Georgia Bennett, Aimee Joshua, Joel Peters and Lukas Robbertse 1:25.89 - Cavendish House



FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Saturday 18th	Brentford	0	0	Fulham
Saturday 18th	Leeds	3	0	Wolves
Saturday 18th	Newcastle	1	2	Bournemouth
Saturday 18th	Tottenham	2	2	Brighton
Saturday 18th	Chelsea	0	1	Man United
Sunday 19th	Aston Villa	4	3	Sunderland
Sunday 19th	Everton	1	2	Liverpool
Sunday 19th	Nott'm Forest	4	1	Burnley
Sunday 19th	Man City	2	1	Arsenal
Monday 20th	Crystal Palace	0	0	West Ham



Match Report

This weeks biggest game had to between the League Leaders Arsenal losing to the team who's hot on their tail Manchester City. I bet there are some sad Arsenal faces to the likes of the infamous Tony Brooks, Cruyff Buckley aka Indy Blue, Derek Richards, Connie Johnson and others to the smiling Man City fans Joe Terry, Jeffrey Stevens aka Gigglo, Perry Leo and 2 youngsters Cohen Leo and Lexus Joshua and others.

Erling Haaland was the hero as Manchester City struck a huge blow in the Premier League title race by beating rivals Arsenal 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal had two huge let-offs inside four minutes. Their goalkeeper David Raya almost had the ball taken off his toes by Haaland, then Cherki's shot deflected off Gabriel and struck the inside of the post, with City appealing in vain for handball, but Haaland outmuscled Gabriel to meet Nico O'Reilly's centre in the 65th minute of a tense encounter, ending his two-month wait for a league goal.

Cherki's next involvement resulted in a wonderful goal as he danced around Gabriel before slotting into the far corner, but Arsenal were gifted an equaliser just 107 seconds later, followed by Eberechi Eze and Gabriel who hit the woodwork for Mikel Arteta's side either side of Haaland's winner, but the Gunners' best chance to snatch a point came when Havertz headed onto the roof of the net deep into stoppage time.

It had previously looked as though a glaring error from City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma might keep Arsenal in the driver's seat in the tussle for the title, with the Italian's clearance being charged down by Kai Havertz soon after Rayan Cherki's 16th-minute opener, but now Man City are now three points off the summit ahead of visiting Burnley in their game in hand on Wednesday, when a victory would see them leapfrog Arsenal with five more matches to play.



Man of the Match



Premier League Fixtures

Tuesday 21st	19:00	Brighton	vs	Chelsea
Wednesday 22nd	19:00	Bournemouth	vs	Leeds
Wednesday 22nd	19:00	Burnley	vs	Man City
Friday 24th	19:00	Sunderland	vs	Nott'm Forest
Saturday 25th	11:30	Fulham	Vs	Aston Villa
Saturday 25th	14:00	Liverpool	vs	Crystal Palace
Saturday 25th	14:00	West Ham	vs	Everton
Saturday 25th	14:00	Wolves	vs	Tottenham
Saturday 25th	16:30	Arsenal	vs	Newcastle
Monday 27th	19:00	Man United	vs	Brentford



CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by Cricheroes in conjunction with St Helena Cricket Association

RMS T20



Levelwood Allstars 78/1 (7.2 overs)

beat

Cobras 74/9 (20 overs)

Clayton Leo - 36* (20)
Stefan Leo - 23* (18)
Brian Faas - 1/34 (3 overs)

Brian Faas - 22 (40)
Kirk Lawrence - 10* (15)
David Francis - 2/1 (3 overs)
Brendan Leo - 2/11 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars)

RMS T20



Sandy Bay Pirates 162/4 (15.4 overs)

beat

Challengers 161/6 (20 overs)

David Young - 62 (25)
Rhys Francis - 48* (20)
Joey Thomas - 4/30 (4 overs)

Jordi Henry - 30 (32)
Joey Thomas - 33* (25)
Kieran Williams - 3/23 (4 overs)
Rhys Francis & Brett Isaac - 1/38 (4 overs)

Player of the Match - David Young (Sandy Bay Pirates)

UPCOMING FIXTURES



Saturday 25th April @ 1:30pm Challengers vs Western A Mustangs

Umpires - Rhys Francis & Brett Isaac

Sunday 26th April @ 9:30am Levelwood Allstars vs Jamestown Heat

Umpires - Cliff Richards & Jordi Henry

Sunday 26th April @ 1:30pm Sandy Bay Pirates vs Cobras



Website:

www.sthelenacricket.org/

Games can also be followed by the Cricheroes app which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.



Facebook

Find us on our facebook page. You can also send us a message via facebook.

[@sthelenacricketassociation](https://www.facebook.com/sthelenacricketassociation)



Tweet us

During our competitions we tend to tweet updates and information about our games

[@StHelenaCricket](https://twitter.com/StHelenaCricket)



Instagram

The best place to find all the great images of our progress from games to training

[@cricketsthelena](https://www.instagram.com/cricketsthelena)



ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

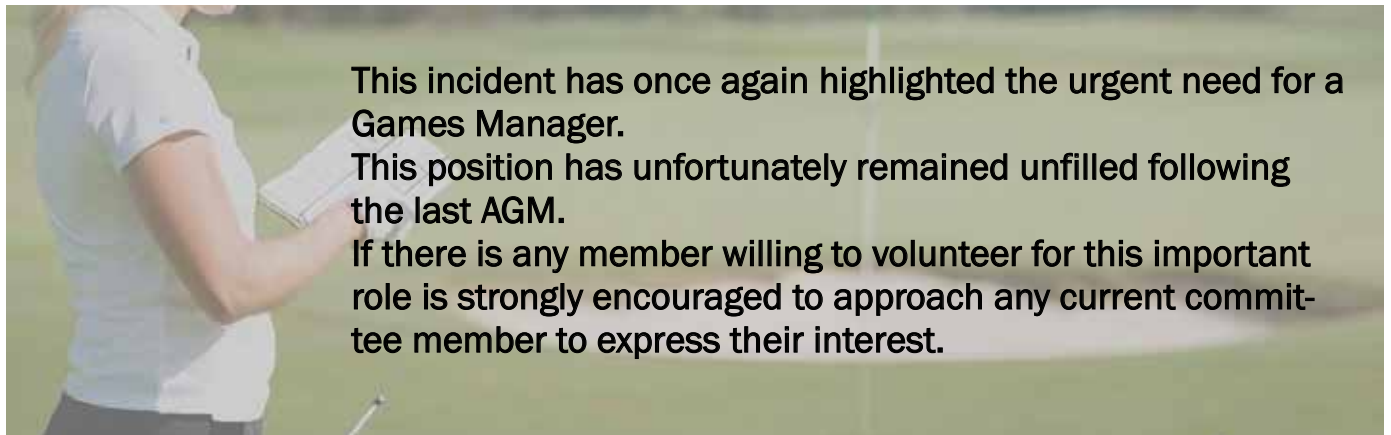
Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

4BBB Competition

A total of 24 players turned out at the St Helena Golf Club on Sunday, 19 April, to contest a FourBall BetterBall (4BBB) competition.

Unfortunately, during the verification of scorecards it became apparent that there was a lack of uniformity in the way some teams recorded their scores, and this inconsistency compromised the integrity of the competition results, so following discussion, a decision supported by the majority of those present was taken not to issue prizes for the event.

The management and committee of the St Helena Golf Club sincerely apologise to all participants for the inconvenience caused and thank members for their understanding.



This incident has once again highlighted the urgent need for a Games Manager.

This position has unfortunately remained unfilled following the last AGM.

If there is any member willing to volunteer for this important role is strongly encouraged to approach any current committee member to express their interest.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, 26 April 2026,
Monthly Medal, played in stroke play format
Sponsored by the club.



Happy Swinging
SHGC

Teeoff: 12:00

Registration closes: Saturday at 15:00

Members are encouraged to support the event and take part.



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<https://www.facebook.com/shgc.org.sh>



Key Stage 1 School's Sports Day



On Wednesday 15th April, EYFS had their first Sports Day as part of KS1 school. We were very lucky with beautiful sunshine the whole day and a fantastic turn out from parents. Everyone wore blue for autism awareness, and to celebrate coming together as one school, rather than our previous red, yellow and green.

The children had lots of fun in their races; we had the sack race, straight races, egg and spoon and the shopping race! Our parents also had a go at the sack race and egg and spoon - and were much more competitive than the children! The day ended with a parent and child race and finally we all joined in for the hokey pokey. Thank you to everyone for coming along to show support and taking part.



MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP

	GREY FOX 261206	BLUE MASTER II 261208	LILAC ROLLER 261210
Immingham	21-Feb	28-May	01-Jun
	KAROLINE 261703	KAROLINE 261704	KAROLINE 261705
Cape Town	03-Apr	04-May	03-Jun
Rupert's Bay	11-Apr	12-May	11-Jun
Ascension Island			
	KAROLINE 261803	KAROLINE 261804	KAROLINE 261805
Cape Town	24-Apr	25-May	24-Jun

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



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