



INDEPENDENT

PRICE: £1

Email: independent@helanta.co.sh

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 18, 1st MAY 2026

This Week, It's **GOOD** News

See Pages 2-3...

Wildlife Wonders **NOT** Human Disasters



Lonesome Red-Tailed Traveller

We Now Have TWO Gecko Species
Will They Compete to Survive?

See Page 4...

Green Turtles are **MAJOR** Miracles



See Pages 6, 7 & 9...



Offers YOU:

The Stimulating Taste of Ironstone
Sensational Sundial
Marvelous Merula Moments

See Page 17 Where to Buy...

First Ever Red-Tailed Tropicbird Discovered Among St Helena's Red-Billed Tropicbirds.

Many of us love to watch the red-billed tropicbird gracefully gliding around the cliffs above West Rocks.



Easily recognised by a long tail or 'tail streamer' which can be twice its body length, the red-billed tropicbird has distinctive markings in addition to its red bill. This bird is found in limited areas of the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans as well as the Caribbean Sea.



When the birdwatchers on the Atlantic Odyssey cruise called last Friday, three wildlife specialists well equipped with cameras, with lens big enough to be mistaken for portable canons, spotted something not just unusual, it may well be unique.

Among the red billed tropicbirds one of the wildlife specialists caught sight of a red-tailed tropicbird. The red tailed variety are usually found in the Pacific or Indian Oceans. The photographers could be seen on Friday in the Grand Parade aiming their telescopic lens at the trees near the prison and also near West Rocks. It was a battle against time to get good quality photographs before the MV Hondius weighed anchor and left James Bay.

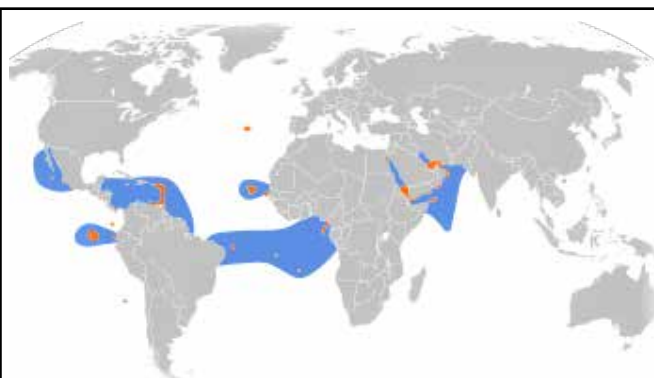
The red-tailed tropicbird was thousands of miles off course. It is thought either the wind blew the bird to the South Atlantic or climate change caused it navigational confusion. Photographer Emin Yoğurtcuoğlu said, "I couldn't believe my eyes for a second," describing the moment he saw the bird. "It is not known from here. This appears to be the first record for the Island, only the fifth record for the entire Atlantic Ocean, and the northernmost sighting of

First Ever Red-Tailed Tropicbird Discovered Among St Helena's Red-Billed Tropicbirds.

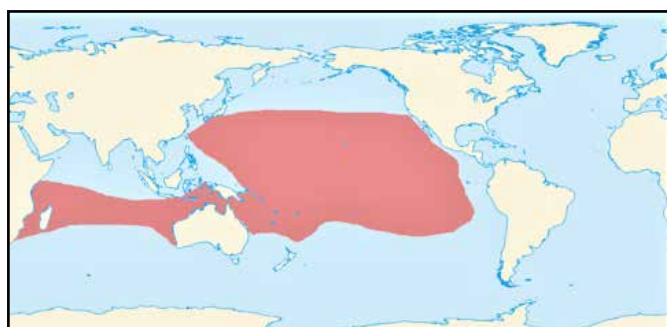
the species to date."

Emin explained, "It was trying to be a part of the red-billed tropicbirds, but they were ignoring him. He was calling and trying to join them in the nests, but they didn't recognise him as one of their own. He was quite aggressive, as if saying, 'Accept me, I am also here!'"

While the resident birds remained indifferent to the intruder, if another individual of the same species (and of the opposite sex) were to arrive, it would be inevitable for them to establish a breeding presence on the island; therefore, Emin emphasised the importance of local nature enthusiasts or any birdwatchers on the island keeping track of this bird.



The range of the red-billed Tropicbird



The red-tailed tropicbird is normally at least 2,000 miles away



Caught in the same frame – A red-billed tropicbird flies above the red-tailed tropicbird

Emin is currently preparing a formal scientific paper on the St Helena record in collaboration with Daniel López Velasco for the publication Dutch Birding.

A plea for records: Emin Yoğurtcuoğlu and the research team are eager to verify if this is indeed the absolute first sighting.

Does anyone else on St Helena have a record or a photograph of a red-tailed bird among the tropicbird colonies?

Information can be shared with the "Bird Detective" via his Instagram [birddetective](#) reported to local environmental authorities, or emailed to editor@sthelenaonline.org

Second Species of Gecko Found on St Helena

The most recent UKOT Conservation Forum News includes a report on a second type of gecko in St Helena. The information is from a research paper published in October last year called 'Just the Two of Us'. Included as co-authors are Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, Lisa Fowler and Julie Balchin.



Photographic records of *H. mabouia* verified from the citizen science platform iNaturalist

The first photograph of a second species of gecko in St Helena to receive close examination was taken in November 2022. Further investigation showed the same gecko in a photo taken in 2012. Called *H. mabouia*, this gecko has been making its home in areas of Jamestown for at least 14 years. It was only in October last year that *H. mabouia* was formally reported with sufficient information and detail. It is thought almost

certain that the first *H. mabouia* stowed away in a container and then found themselves in St Helena when they sneaked out of the opened container.

Both gecko species are non-native. They have similarities but are different enough to be classified separately. The gecko we all know is called *H. frenatus*. The *H. mabouia* gecko has been found within Jamestown and the wharf. This second species of gecko has not yet been identified in any other areas of the Island.

The presence of a second gecko naturally caused gecko specialist to assess what effect one gecko may have on the other. Will the two types of gecko compete against each other or live with each other? The research paper, 'Just the Two of Us' notes, *H. frenatus* was commonplace on Sister's Walk in Jamestown under rocks above Anne's Place in November 2022 but no specimens of *H. mabouia* were found in the immediate habitat; this is despite the aforementioned locality being a little over a hundred metres from where *H. mabouia* was found by various people. It could be that *H. mabouia* is currently only sustained within human habitation within Jamestown. Further monitoring of geckos on-island is strongly encouraged. Also of concern is the how the two species of gecko will compete for prey. It is possible the threat level will increase, causing environmental, biological, and anthropogenic changes affecting the survival and reproductive success of endemic invertebrates.



Our old friend – *H. frenatus*

“large-scale, high-tech glasshouse growing could mark a significant turning point for food security and food production”

The Falklands have Stanley Growers, the main horticultural producer, utilising 44 polytunnels and hydroponic systems to growing over 50 varieties of produce. Following a 2023 purchase by the government, it serves as a supplier of local salads, fruits, and herbs, while also importing fresh produce. Since taking Stanley Growers into public ownership, the Falklands government looked at the state of the business. The latest work examines what a long-term, sustainable business model might be. Stanley Growers currently loses significant sales opportunities due to limited capacity and inconsistent supply. “We can’t produce the quantity or the quality at the right price to meet both of those markets,” said Steve Dent, Deputy Director of Development and Commercial Services, referring to demand from the military and cruise ships. He explained, pricing also remains a challenge at Stanley Growers. While there was an initial attempt to reduce prices following the government takeover, rising costs have forced adjustments. “We’ve had to put prices back up again this year because we realise that the model we chose, it wasn’t ideal,”

The proposed business model is now based on large-scale, high-tech glasshouses capable of producing crops year-round under controlled conditions. This concept relies on modern technology that combines natural light with LED systems, allowing production to continue through the seasons. The aim is to drive down production costs significantly. “The cost of production goes through the floor,” Mr Dent said. “It also means that you can then produce a variety of crops cheaper than the UK.” A move to modern glasshouses would strengthen food security and reduce costs: “The biggest cost to the customer for us is the cost of import,” he explained. “We would import significantly less than we would do today.” Mr Dent pointed to the recent seasons. “Any variances in the weather... everyone who is growing potatoes in the Falklands will tell you they’ve lost most of their spuds because of a couple of frosts.” Growing under cover is increasingly seen as the solution globally, he explained, but in the Falklands it comes with its own challenges. “They want us to think about growing all of our outdoor crops undercover,” he said, but noted that this requires significant investment in infrastructure.

The glasshouse model aims to overcome those limitations by creating a fully controlled environment. Systems can switch between soil and hydroponic growing, allowing flexibility depending on the crop. Water, heat and even carbon dioxide are recycled within the system. “All the water’s recycled, all the heat’s captured... you push carbon dioxide into the glass house to encourage growth,” Mr Dent explained. the proposal is not without risk. “It all works in Europe,” he noted, “it’s whether we’re working in the Falklands.” Wind, logistics and the wider “Falklands factor” all need careful consideration before any decision is made.

Capital cost is another key factor, though Mr Dent suggested it may be less prohibitive than assumed. “The capex isn’t as much as you think it is... it becomes more expensive [with the Falklands factor], but it’s still not crazy, and the return on investment is quite quick.”



Large-scale, high-tech glasshouses – a way forward for St Helena’s food security?

He indicated that, based on current sales, investment could be recouped within a decade.

The proposed system is designed to be modular: “The first half-hectare site proves concept... adding other half-hectares or one hectare glass houses onto that then increases your market share.”

He emphasised that the glasshouse proposal remains several years away and is dependent on investment decisions. An Executive Council paper due next month will set out options for Stanley Growers. “The aspiration of the government is to return it back to the private sector,” Mr Dent said.

EL PAÍS “They Have Been Doing This Since the Time of the Dinosaurs” The Journey to Survive of the Ascension Green Sea Turtle

Ascension Island has recently been featured in Spanish newspaper, El País, following a recent media visit. The feature highlights how the island is home to the largest green turtle nesting site in the South Atlantic.

The article also describes the global recovery of green turtles, recently reclassified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature from “Endangered” to “Least Concern” following decades of conservation efforts. Laura Shearer, Head of the AIG Coastal Nature Reserve, is featured in the article, noting: “These animals have been doing this since the time of the dinosaurs; it is a privilege to take care of them.”

The female green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), which can reach 1.3 meters in length and weigh more than 150 kilos, and which has just crossed 2,300 kilometres of open ocean from the coast of Brazil has taken about six weeks to return to Ascension. She hasn't eaten anything along the way. She is returning to the same beach where she was born. And now she has a job to do.

It moves across the sand, leaving a double trail. It cries: tears cleanse the sand from its eyes, though for centuries sailors who observed it believed it wept from fear or sadness. When it finds the right spot, it begins to dig. First, the body cavity, turning slowly; then the egg chamber, using its hind flippers, without looking, blindly, with pinpoint precision. It lays around 150 soft, white eggs, covers them, camouflages them, and returns to the sea. In two or three weeks, it will be back to spawn again.

The Star of One of the Greatest Marine Conservation Successes

What this turtle doesn't know is that it's the star of one of the greatest marine conservation success stories in recent history. In October 2025, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) removed the green sea turtle from the endangered species category, where it had been for 43 years, and reclassified it directly as “least concern,” skipping two intermediate categories at once. This is an unprecedented move on the Red List, which tracks endangered species worldwide, and reflects the more than 28% increase in the global population of this animal since the 1970s.

It's a Privilege to Look After Them

“These animals have been doing this since the time of the dinosaurs; it's a privilege to look after them,” explains Laura Shearer, head of the AIG Coastal Nature Reserve. This turtle is now starring in a strange story of hope in these dark times for biodiversity.

The story of the green sea turtle on Ascension Island is also the story of how much a species can endure under almost industrial-scale pressure for four centuries. When Portuguese sailors first sighted the island in 1501, they found thousands of turtles coming ashore to nest without fear, as they had no land predators. What followed was the systematic exploitation of this resource. Ships crossing the



Laura Shearer

Atlantic quickly learned the technique of flipping the turtles: when the female comes ashore to lay her eggs, she enters a trance-like state induced by oxytocin, leaving her oblivious to her surroundings. The sailors would then turn them onto their shells. In this position, from which she is unable to escape on her own, she could survive in a ship's hold for weeks, fed only with buckets of seawater. Fresh, long-lasting meat in the middle of the ocean, at the cost of this incredible animal's suffering.

In 1829, a circular pond about 20 meters in diameter was built south of Long Beach, with openings for seawater to flow in and out. Up to 300 turtles were kept there at a time, awaiting consumption or shipment. That same year, a record 1,500 turtles were captured in a single season. The end came not from ecological awareness, but from the depletion of the resource. From 1,500 turtles captured in 1829, the number dropped to a few hundred in just 40 years. In 1944, the green turtle was granted protected status on the island.

The recovery of a species with the biology of the green sea turtle requires patience measured in decades. They take between 25 and 30 years to reach sexual maturity. Their survival rate to adulthood is between 1 and 10 out of every 10,000 hatchlings. Those that don't make it are eaten by birds or fish; those that do disappear for years in the open ocean—the so-called “lost years”—without science knowing exactly what they do or where they go.

“They Have Been Doing This Since the Time of the Dinosaurs” The Journey to Survive of the Ascension Green Sea Turtle

Most hatchlings emerge at night, when predators are scarce and the heat won't kill them. They weigh barely 80 grams. Their soft shell fits in the palm of your hand, but even if they are eaten by birds or crabs along the way, you mustn't touch them: if you pick up a hatchling and take it to the water, it will be lost. Those meters of sand imprint the magnetic map of the beach, the same one that will bring them back decades later to nest in the same spot. Without that magnetic map, there is no way back. Systematic monitoring of Ascension Beach began in 1977. In that initial period, an average of 3,752 nests were recorded annually. Today, more than 25,000 nests are counted per year, six times more than 50 years ago.

For Laura Shearer, the data is compelling, but also calls for caution: “We have one of the longest-running turtle monitoring datasets in the world. The importance of that long-term monitoring cannot be underestimated. It reveals subtle patterns that are only perceived with decades of observation.”

The mechanism of their recovery remains a mystery. How these turtles find the island—barely eleven



One of 150 hatchlings emerging from one of 25,000 nests laid in a single year on Ascension Island beaches. No more than 10 in 10,000 survive to return.

kilometres wide in the middle of the Atlantic—after travelling 2,300 kilometres from Brazil remains without a satisfactory scientific explanation. “If the protections disappear, the species would once again be endangered,” Shearer warns. The Ascension Island green turtle is only safe while on that island. Females spend about six months there during the nesting season. Males, who arrive earlier—from December to February—and leave without ever setting foot on land, spend even less time there. Mating occurs in the water before the females come ashore to nest, and it has a surprising biological peculiarity: the eggs the female

is about to lay are already fertilized from the previous season, and the sperm she receives now—from several different males—will be used for the next one. The female can store it for months.

The threats are real. Climate change is altering the temperature of the sand, which determines the sex of the hatchlings: above 30 degrees Celsius, females are born; below 28, males. Today, more than 96% of Ascension Island hatchlings are female. The AIG has conducted nest shading experiments that managed to increase the proportion of males by 12%, but Shearer estimates that in about ten years it may be necessary to implement it on a large scale.

Invasive plants—Mexican hawthorn, tree tobacco, Mexican poppy—are advancing toward nesting beaches, covering the sandy habitat and harbouring rodents that prey on hatchlings and can trap newborns in their root systems. Each year, the conservation team removes hundreds of trees from coastal reserves. And then there's bycatch: fishing nets lost or abandoned in international waters—more than a million tons annually—entrap turtles that can drown if they can't free themselves. “We can only conserve these animals while they're in our care. But their life cycle means they only spend a portion of their lives in our waters,” Shearer says.

One in ten thousand hatchlings will reach adulthood and return decades later to this same beach, guided by a magnetic map we still don't fully understand. Four hundred years of persecution nearly wiped them out. Eighty years of protection have brought them back to us. The question now is whether the world around them—its beaches, its seas, its climate, its humans—will give them enough time to fully recover.

St Helena's Future Is Dependant on Downward UK Trends

Deaths projected to outnumber births in UK every year from 2026

Deaths are projected to outnumber births in the UK every year from 2026 and the population is expected to grow at a slower rate over the next few decades than previously reported, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The projections have been revised downwards to reflect the recent sharp fall in net migration, as well as lower fertility rates in the future. The latest projections indicate slower population growth than previously projected. The UK population is projected to peak in the 2050s before decreasing.

UK population growth is projected to peak at 72.5 million in 2054 and then going into decline, dropping to 71.4 million in 2074. Previous projections suggested the population would continue to grow until 2096.

An additional 2.2 million people are projected to be added to the population through net migration in the 10 years to 2034, while natural change will see 450,000 more deaths than births.

While England is projected to have a peak of 62.1 million people in 2056, the peak is likely to come much sooner elsewhere, arriving in 2035 in Wales (3.2 million), 2033 in Scotland (5.6 million) and 2031 in Northern Ireland (1.9 million).

The Young are Leaving Britain

For the pension system, this means fewer future workers supporting more retirees. Figures show a third of those leaving the UK are aged 16 to 34, meaning the pension system faces a double hit: fewer contributors and more retirees, putting real strain on the state pension and long-term investment flows.

Other UK Trends

Findings on healthy life expectancy in UK shed light on deteriorating health

The obesity crisis, the record 2.8 million working-age Britons too sick to work and the rising prevalence of mental illness are sobering reminders that the UK population's health is not good. The UK government is trying to rescue the NHS from an ever-rising demand for care, to grapple with public finances hamstrung in part by lost tax revenue from those unable to earn, and to pursue its key goal of economic growth.

Healthy life expectancy captures how long people live in good health, free of illness or disability. It gives a more comprehensive picture of the nation's health than life expectancy, which only measures how long people live for. The measure involves quality, not just length of life. The longer one remains free of pain, surgery, medical attention and regular medication, the better their life.

Internationally, among other rich countries, healthy life expectancy is rising slowly. It is a different picture in the UK. Between 2012-14 and 2022-24 it fell by two years across the population as a whole. It now stands at 60.7 years for men and 60.9 years for women.

Dissatisfaction with life in UK unchanged since Covid

The proportion of people in the UK feeling dissatisfied with life has failed to improve since the Covid pandemic despite the economic outlook improving.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said a survey of personal wellbeing in the UK showed average life satisfaction remained below its pre-pandemic peak. The report also showed a more recent decline in living standards. The ONS also said trust in the UK government remained low, with about one in five adults (21.9%) in Great Britain reporting trust in December 2025 to January 2026.

After a period of stability through the mid-2010s, the proportion of people reporting low levels of life satisfaction rose sharply between 2020 and 2021 during the Covid pandemic. This reached a nine-year high in the first three months of 2021, when 6.4% of adults aged 16 and above said they felt very unsatisfied with life.

St Helena's Future Is Dependant on Downward UK Trends

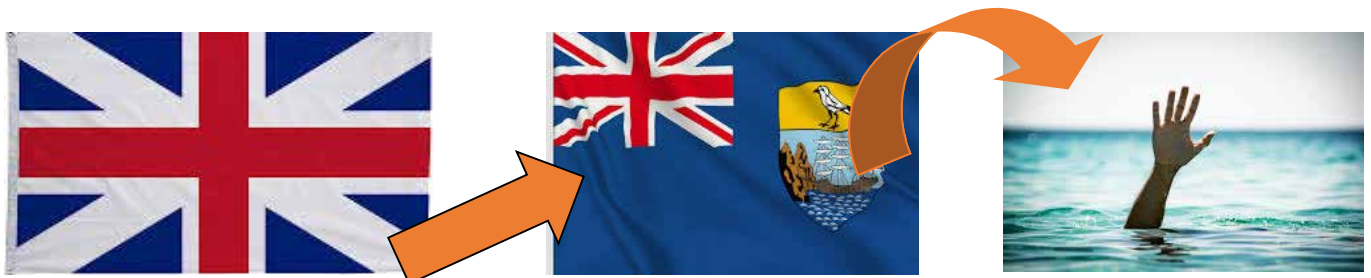
Deaths projected to outnumber births in UK every year from 2026

Since then, the measure has fallen a little, but has remained broadly at about 5%, with the latest figures showing 5.1% of adults felt very unsatisfied with life.

UK faces £35bn hit and risk of recession this year over impact of Iran war

Britain is facing a £35bn economic hit and the risk of a recession this year as the fallout from the Iran war adds to the pressure. Even under a best-case scenario, projections show the UK economy would grow at a much slower pace this year and next because of the Middle East conflict.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Britain's oldest independent economic research institute said the government faced a multibillion-pound hole in the public finances amid a worsening inflation shock. It also warned under an adverse scenario, involving the global oil price hitting \$140 a barrel, that Britain would face a much bigger inflation shock than currently anticipated, which would risk plunging the economy into a recession in the second half of this year. A barrel of Brent crude oil was trading at \$111 on Tuesday.



Sea Turtle nesting season is underway. Here's how you can help!

As part of the Darwin Plus 223 Project the St Helena National Trust is looking to monitor any signs of turtle activity on Sandy Bay Beach.

If you are visiting Sandy Bay Beach, keep an eye out for the following signs of sea turtles:

- Symmetrical flipper tracks in the sand, often marked by a straight line down the centre
 - Tracks measuring approximately 100–130 cm wide, typical of green turtles
- A large, shallow depression in the sand, created when a turtle attempts to dig a nest to lay her eggs

If you see any of these signs, or suspect turtle activity, please contact the St Helena National Trust immediately on 22190 or email emma.holborn@trust.org.sh

Please follow these guidelines when you are observing sea turtles:

Do not approach the turtle or make sudden movements.

Do not approach a turtle if she is laying her eggs.

Do not touch the turtles.

Do not take any flash photography at any time.

Please keep noise to a minimum.

If a turtle is on the beach, please keep pets away.



UK says Position on Falklands Will Not Change, after leaked US War Memo

UK Prime Minister's Office has been forced to insist that Britain will not yield sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, after a leaked US Department of War email proposed the US should reassess its support for the UK's claim on the islands because of a lack of British support over Iran.

The memo considered ways the Trump administration could punish Britain for failing to follow the US lead in bombing Iran, and comes just a few days before a four-day state visit to the US by King Charles.

The memo reportedly argued the US could review a policy of endorsing European claims to longstanding "imperial possessions", and highlighted the Falklands. The report immediately prompted pushback from the UK government, opposition leaders, veterans and the Falklands, adding to a rapid decline in Anglo-American relations in past weeks.

"We could not be clearer about the UK's position on the Falkland Islands," the prime minister's spokesperson said when asked about the email. "It's longstanding. It's unchanged. Sovereignty rests with the UK, and the islands' right to self-determination is paramount."

Media reports on the leaked memo from the US Department of War became public last Friday.

A US State Department (Foreign Office) spokesman stated immediately afterwards the US remained neutral in the face of repeated Argentine claims. Argentina is currently led by a Trump-like president, Javier Milei. In October last year, Trump agreed a \$20 billion financial deal with Milei in an effort to halt Argentina's deeper descent into economic recession. The US also agreed a tariff and trade deal favourable to Argentina but of little advantage to the US. Just days before King Charles and Queen Camilla were due to fly to Washington there were demands the visit should be cancelled - it went ahead, with a crowded four day schedule. A big item on the schedule was King Charles speech to the US Congress on Tuesday. A US website headlined their report on this speech with 'King Charles: The hidden messages in his speech to Congress'.

POLITICO

The British monarch delivered a jovial address to Washington's leaders that was laced with plenty of shade

POLITICO decodes some of the key passages of the biggest public speech of the British monarch's four-day U.S. state visit.

What he said: "In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, when NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time, and the United Nations Security Council was united in the face of terror, we answered the call together as our people have done so for more than a century, shoulder to shoulder, through two world wars, the Cold War, Afghanistan and moments that have defined our shared security."

What he meant: Don't renege on Article 5 (NATO) because the Brits were there for you when it really counted.

What he said: "I served with immense pride in the Royal Navy, following in the naval footsteps of my father, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; my grandfather, King George VI; my great-uncle, Lord Mountbatten; and my great-grandfather, King George V."

What he meant: Stop dunking on the Royal Navy.

What he said: "America's words carry weight and meaning, as they have since independence. The actions of this great nation matter even more. President Lincoln understood this so well, with his reflection in the magisterial Gettysburg Address that the world may little note what we say, but will never forget what we do."

What he meant: Trigger-happy Truth Social posts aren't great but if you just go back to being

The British monarch delivered a jovial address to Washington's leaders that was laced with plenty of shade

our friends, we'll ignore the all-caps commentary.

What he said: "The U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society has calculated that Magna Carta is cited in at least 160 Supreme Court cases since 1789, not least as the foundation of the principle that executive power is subject to checks and balances."

What he meant: We gave you the tools to hold this guy (Trump) to account, chaps.



The White House Twitter account shows a photo of King Charles and Trump with a headline, 'TWO KINGS'. Trump cannot resist being so obviously stupid and the US Congress cannot get rid of their presidents as well as the UK Parliament can get rid of unwise Brit prime ministers.

What he said: "In both of our countries, it is the very fact of our vibrant, diverse and free societies that gives us our collective strength, including to support victims of some of the ills that so tragically exist in both our societies today."

What he meant:

I might not be meeting Jeffrey Epstein's victims while I'm in town — but I am now showing that I'm not totally tone deaf.

What he said: "From the depths of the Atlantic to the disastrously melting ice-caps of the Arctic, the commitment and expertise of the United States Armed Forces and its allies lie at the heart of NATO, pledged to each other's defence, protecting our citizens and interests, keeping North Americans and Europeans safe from our common adversaries."

What he meant: I don't want to hear any more about Greenland.

What he said: "We meet in times of

great uncertainty; in times of conflict from Europe to the Middle East which pose immense challenges for the international community and whose impact is felt in communities the length and breadth of our own countries."

What he meant: The Iran war is hurting the Brits (and you guys too) ... and it's going to cost a bloody fortune to heat Buckingham Palace this winter.

What he said: "I pray with all my heart that our Alliance will continue to defend our shared values, with our partners in Europe and the Commonwealth, and across the world, and that we ignore the clarion calls to become ever more inward-looking."

What he meant: Are you guys really sure about this whole America First vibe?

The US state visit finished on 30th April. Afterwards, the King will continue to Bermuda to undertake his first royal visit as monarch to a British Overseas Territory.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE

THE PEOPLE

The month of May on St Helena is a vibrant celebration of our island spirit.

Throughout the month, St. Helena Island celebrates its unique cultural heritage by celebrating what makes St Helena so special with a variety of cultural events, with a key focus on Culture Month in May 2026, which highlights local food and traditions, and St Helena's Day on 21st May.

St Helena's Day was one of the highlights when the tight-knit community come together for a street party in the capital, Jamestown focusing on the island's unique blend of African, European, and Asian heritage, offering a mix of parades, traditional food, and historical celebrations.

We hope you can experience the magic of St Helena for yourself someday.

So throughout Culture Month, we will be bringing you a photo collage each week showcasing St Helena's culture. Today, we'll be sharing with you the people we call "Saints".



CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE

THE PEOPLE



The Invasion of the River Plate (and St Helena's Involvement)

Contributed by Aubrey George

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Two hundred and twenty years ago to the present day, the British invasions of the River Plate were two unsuccessful attempts to seize control of the Spanish colony of the viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata, located around the Rio de la Plata in South America in present day Argentina and Uruguay. It was part of the Napoleonic Wars, war of the third coalition at a time when Spain was an ally of Napoleonic France. From the start of the European conquest of the Americas, Britain had ambitions and interest in the riches of the region, considering the estuary of the Rio de la Plata as a suitable location for a British colony.

A BRIEF BACKGROUND

In 1711, John Pullen stated that the Rio de la Plata were the favorable location for a British colonial trading base. During the time of Queen Anne's reign, the Treaty of Utrecht 1713, signed by Spain and Great Britain granted the British South Sea Company which was formed in 1711, trading concessions in South America.

A SUMMARY OF BRITISH INTEREST IN THE REGION

Britain had long interest of a foothold in the South American region in past conflicts before the invasions. During the 1739-1748 War of Jenkins Ear between Spain and Great Britain, Vice Admiral Edward Vernon made a successful capture of the city of Portobelo in Panama in 1739. The Battle of Cartagena de indias (sitio de Cartagena de indias). In 1741, Vice Admiral Edward Vernon led a British Fleet to attempt the capture of the city of Cartagena de Indias in present day Columbia, but his amphibious operation was a disastrous defeat for the British expedition. Vice Admiral Edward Vernon also served as a Member of Parliament (MP) on three occasions, and was outspoken on naval matters, again declared the benefit of new trading markets in South America for the British economy in 1781. In 1789, during the Nootka Crisis between Great Britain and Spain, the Venezuelan revolutionary Sebastian Francisco de Miranda met with British Prime Minister William Pitt, with his proposal to emancipate (free from restraints) the New World territories under Portuguese and Spanish rule. In early 1805, Prime Minister William Pitt commissioned Admiral Home Riggs Popham to review the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda's proposed military plans to the British Government. Admiral Popham knowing that the Spanish colonies were discontented then persuaded the authorities to promote a rising in Buenos Aires.

THE TREATY OF AMIENS IN 1802

Previously, the British successfully captured the Dutch colony at the Cape of Good Hope on 16 September 1795, with an amphibious expedition under Rear-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone during the war of the first coalition. Following the 1802 Treaty of Amiens (French: la paix d' Amiens, lit 'the Peace of Amiens') signed on 25 March 1802, which ended hostilities between France, Spain and Britain in the war of the second coalition, and the end of the French Revolutionary wars, Britain gave up recent conquests, including returning the Cape of Good Hope colony back to the Dutch, and the newly established Batavian Republic - a French sister Republic which replaced the Dutch Republic.

PRECEDENT TO THE INVASION

The 1802 Peace of Amiens was a short period, before the outbreak of the Napoleonic War and the Third Coalition on 18 May 1803. To ensure their trade route to India were secure, a second British invasion of the Dutch Cape colony was mounted midst the ongoing conflict with Napoleonic France. In August 1805, Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham received orders from the British Admiralty to escort Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird's led expedition of the Dutch colony at the Cape of Good Hope. Known as the Battle of Blaauwberg, or the Battle of Capetown, South Africa from 8 – 18 January 1806, it was a successful British amphibious operation which captured the Dutch Cape colony. Following the congress of Vienna in 1814 which marked the end of the Napoleonic War, it remain part of the British Empire until the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

ADMIRAL SIR HOME RIGGS POPHAM – ACTING BEYOND HIS NEW ORDERS

Following Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird's led expedition in the recapture of the Dutch colony, the Admiralty dispatched new orders to Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham to patrol the east coast of South America, in order to detect any attempt to counter-attack the Cape colony. At this time, Admiral Popham had the idea of taking the Rio de la Plata (Buenos Aires) similarly to the Cape colony. Been informed by his agent William White of the local politics, and the discontented groups to the Spanish restrictive regulations to international commerce. Acting beyond his new orders, Admiral Popham convinced and concurred with

The Invasion of the River Plate (and St Helena's Involvement)

Contributed by Aubrey George

Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird his will to attempt an invasion of the River Plate's Rio de la Plata (Buenos Aires) with or without his involvement. Lt. General Baird authorize Admiral Popham the 71st Regiment of Infantry, artillery and 1,000 men, and promoted colonel William Carr Beresford to a general, who was also designated vice-governor if the invasion was successful.

THE DEPARTURE FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham expedition squadron with General William Carr Beresford and his troops, sailed from Table Bay – Capetown on 14 April 1806.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPEDITION FROM ST. HELENA ISLAND (Deserving of a dedicated Memorial Plaque)

After several days outbound, on the 20 April, Admiral Popham's squadron headed north-west for the island of St. Helena, arriving there on 2 May. His expedition took onboard a battalion of infantry, a company of artillery corps, and a number of St. Helenian men from the locally raised St. Helena Regiment, in all a contingent of 300 reinforcements from the island for the onward expedition to the River Plate, and the Rio de la Plata in South America.

A SUMMARY OF THE BRITISH UNSUCCESSFUL INVASION OF THE RIVER PLATE – BUENOS AIRES 1806

Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham's squadron with General William Carr Beresford and his 1500+ troops, arrived and assembled in the Rio de la Plata in mid – 8 and 13 June 1806. Admiral Popham's ships bombarded the city's citadel fortress . After the first landing, the British troops took control of Quilmes near Buenos Aires on 25 June, their forces then advance and occupied Buenos Aires on 27 June. Rafael de Sobremonte - the city's Spanish Viceroy had absconded, he had fled to the northwest city of Cordoba with the city's treasury, which left Buenos Aires poorly defended, and Sobremonte lost the treasury to the pursuing British troops during the escape. Soon after, Admiral Popham sailed for England in his ship HMS Narcissus with the captured treasury, this left General Beresford in a difficult position. Local residents met the British with a lukewarm welcome, while several political groups were annoyed, and many merchants were displeased to the opening to British trade. One of their leaders was Martin de Alzaga. Juan Martin de Puegrrredon organized a militia group near Buenos Aires, it was defeated before in readiness. Santiago de Liners commanding a coastal defence, were able to infiltrate the city and observe the ongoing situation. Liniers instructed merchant Alzaga to hold his plans, and move to Montevideo. The Governor Pascual Ruiz Huidobro, assigned Alzaga command of 550 veterans and 400 soldiers to return to Buenos Aires to attempt a re-conquest. Sobremonte were attempting likewise in Cordoba, however, Liniers reached Buenos Aires first. Liniers landed at Las Conchas north of Buenos Aires with a combined force of Buenos Aires line soldiers and Montevideo Militia, thereafter advance to the city on 4 August, taking control of Miserere and El Retiro – the major points to the north and west entries to Buenos Aires. On 10 August, British General Beresford and his forces faced fierce onslaught in a series of relentless battles between 10 – 12 August with Liniers troops and the militias. The British were defeated and forced to capitulate. General William Carr Beresford finally surrendered to Santiago de Liniers on 14 August 1806.

CONCLUSION

The captured treasury arrived in Britain in September 1806. It was a shipment of silver amounting to 27 tons, 17 hundredweight and 4 lbs, at a value of \$1,088,208.00 – equal to £570.000.00. During the combat and fighting, the 71st Regiment of Foot (RoF) lost both of their Regimental Colours, they are currently held in the Santo Domingo convent in Argentina today. The British casualties and losses of the invasion were 157 dead and wounded, with 1300 taken as prisoners. The two successive British invasion campaigns of the River Plate and the Spanish Rio de la Plata in South America in 1806 and 1807 as a whole was unsuccessful, and is known as the, "Reconquista and the Defencesa". According to a Uruguayan journalist Juan Jose' de Soiza Reilly, hundreds of British troops who lost their lives during the campaigns, are buried in a mass grave under passage way – Cinco de Julio, near Avenida Belgrano in downtown Buenos Aires. In Argentina, with the 1806 victory and the two campaigns as a whole, 12 August is commemorated and celebrated as the day of the "RECONQUISTA DE BUENOS AIRES".



Autism Acceptance Month Finale Sensory Walks

*Contributed by St Helena
Autism Awareness & Support
Group*

The St Helena Autism Awareness and Support charity (SHAAS) welcomed walkers on Sunday, 26 April, for a day of mindful moments, hands-on nature activities and community connection.



Families came together for two forest walks, marking the final celebration of Autism Acceptance Month. The first, an early, quieter, mindful walk led by Tegan Turner, drew around 25 participants, offering a chance to slow down, notice the natural surroundings and enjoy the route at a gentle pace.

Later, over 50 people joined the second walk, which featured a range of sensory-friendly activities designed to encourage exploration, creativity and play outdoors.

Along the way, walkers took part in a lucky dip, rock painting and sensory nature play, mini-beast house building, wooden crafts, a scavenger hunt and a much-loved mud kitchen, giving children and adults plenty of opportunities to get involved (and messy) at their own pace.

The day rounded off with lunch and treats at Kingshurst Community Centre, where everyone was able to chat, recharge and reflect on the activities together.

SHAAS would like to thank all the organisers, helpers, donators, volunteers and everyone who took part for making the day a wonderful sensory, fun experience.

The walks were the charity's final event of Autism Acceptance Month, celebrating understanding, inclusion and support across the community.



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 3rd May 2026 - 4th Sunday after Easter

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 3rd May 2026 – 4th Sunday after Easter

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Service to commemorate the birth of the community of St Helena and the island's community involvement in the abolition of the Slave Trade.	St Michael Ruperts

Monday 4th May

7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
-----------	-----------	---------

Thursday 7th May

7.00 p.m.	Patronal Festival	St John
-----------	-------------------	---------

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 3rd May 2026 – 4th Sunday after Easter

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
------------	-----------	---------

Tuesday 5th May

7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark
-----------	------------------------	---------



MARVELOUS MERULA MOMENTS

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.



UNCLAIMED DORMANT ACCOUNTS



If you've forgotten a bank account you have with us, we can help reunite you with your money.

If you've held a Bank of St Helena account in the past and think you may still have accounts and funds within these accounts, please get in touch.

To begin the process, please give us a call or contact us at www.sainthelenabank.com



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



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



@sainthelenabank



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



Tender Notice

The Ascension Island Government invites tenders for the following items, marked as Lots 1 - 10 as listed below. These items will be sold on an 'as is' basis, and whilst some of the vehicles are currently not operational, they can be brought to a running order.

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	YEAR	REGISTRATION
1	TRACTOR UNIT – Year 2005. Iveco Stralis 430 4 x 2 articulate lorry, diesel. Currently not running	1998	A728
2	TRACTOR UNIT – Year 2005. Iveco Stralis 430 4 x 2 articulate lorry, diesel. Currently not running	2009	A963
3	FIRE ENGINE – Volvo FL6 14. Currently not running, good engine and could be repurposed.	2000	A770
4	FIRE ENGINE – Volvo. Currently not running, good engine and could be repurposed.	1994	A1273
5	FORD TRANSIT TIPPER – 2.2L puma diesel. Currently not running, but can be made road worthy or used for spare parts	2012	A1323
6	FORD TRANSIT TIPPER – 2.2L puma diesel	2012	A1324
7	FORD TRANSIT TIPPER – 2.2L puma diesel	2012	A1325
8	FORD TRANSIT MINI BUS, 16 SEATER – 2.2L puma diesel	2012	A1331
9	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY- 3.0L V6 petrol. Mileage 35044 (formerly Administrator's official vehicle). Well maintained and regularly serviced, this vehicle is in a very good condition, and bids should reflect consideration of these facts.	2019	A1261
10	PASSENGER LAUNCH – Queen Atlantis 2 x 6 Cylinder Perkins Engines, Petrol - Port Engine 3711K05A-5 Starboard Engine 3712L02A-4 Carrying capacity of 50 passengers and 3 crew. Primarily used as a passenger transfer, the vessel has had minimal use since the withdrawal of the RMS St Helena. It has now been out of the water for approximately two years.	2006	NA

LOT 1



LOT 2



LOT 3



LOT 4



LOT 5



LOT 6



LOT 7



LOT 8



LOT 9



LOT 10



Any questions regarding the lots 1-9 or viewing requests may be directed to the Motor Transport Team Leader, Mr Mark Thomas by telephone on 45900 or by email through mark.thomas@ascension.gov.ac. For lot 10, please direct your questions or viewing request to David Beard, telephone 40273 David.beard@ascension.gov.ac. All tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked 'Tender: Lot No. x' to the Secretary of the Tender Board, Administrator's Office, Georgetown, no later than 16:00 on Friday 08 May 2026. Bids may also be emailed with the subject line 'Tender: Lot No. x', and sent to aig.enquiries@ascension.gov.ac. Any tender received after the specified time and date will not be considered.

Please be advised that each lot is marked with a reserved price and the Board does not bind itself to accept any tender, nor will it assign any reason for the rejection of a tender.

A Festival for Saint Helena

The St Helena Diocesan Association

are pleased to announce

A Festival Mass

concelebrated by

Bishop Richard Fenwick

& Canon Stephen Gallagher

followed by informative talk - Bishop Dale

as speaker and afternoon tea.



Please join us. Scan the QR Code for free registration at Eventbrite

13:00 - 9th May 2026

**St Chad's, Haggerston,
London E2 8JR**



The National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH) would like to thank everyone who volunteered, supported, and contributed to making the St Helena leg of the King's Baton Relay (KBR) a success.

Reimagined for a new era, the KBR saw each nation and territory receive its own baton for the first time, with batons decorated locally ahead of the relay. A central part of the KBR activities focused on tackling plastic pollution, bringing athletes and communities together to prevent one million pieces of plastic from entering Commonwealth waterways before the Glasgow Games commence in 2026.

Over the four-day programme on St Helena, 118.305 kg of plastic was collected from Sandy Bay Beach, James's Bay, and the Jamestown waterfront.

Pictures of the event can be viewed at <https://www.nsash.org.sh/photo-gallery/>

Thank you all for your support.



CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS TO SERVE ON THE ST HELENA HOTEL DEVELOPMENT LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS CHAIRPERSON

St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. is seeking Expressions of Interests from suitably qualified persons interested in serving as the Chairperson of the Board.

The Chairperson & the Board of Directors have a collective responsibility for the strategic direction of the business and for monitoring the performance of the Hotel, in line with the Hotel Management Agreement in place with the Operator, Mantis.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Board, and a form to register an interest may be requested from the Company Secretary, Miss Nicole Plato via email nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh or collected from the Castle, Jamestown.

Expressions of Interest should be made using the form and should be submitted, along with a current Curriculum Vitae to the Company Secretary, Miss Nicole Plato via email, or in hardcopy addressed to the Secretary at the Castle, by **Friday, 22 May 2026**.

Please note that registering an interest does not guarantee an appointment to the board as this is subject to applicant's having the required knowledge, skills and experience. This position attracts a monthly fee.

PLEASE JOIN SHSS FOR AN

AGRICULTURE DAY

HARPERS AGRICULTURE CENTRE
FRIDAY THE 8TH MAY
STARTING AT 10 AM TO 12PM

A SHUTTLE BUS
 WILL BE PROVIDED FROM
 ST HELENA SECONDARY
 SCHOOL STARTING AT 10AM.

AS THIS IS A SCHOOL EVENT

NO ALCOHOL

NO SMOKING
 IS PERMITTED ON
 THE PREMISES.

FAMILY MEMBERS
 WANTING TO TAKE
 PICTURES **MUST**
 ONLY TAKE PHOTOS OF
 THEIR OWN CHILDREN
 AND NOT OF OTHER
 CHILDREN.

Pot Plants for Sale!
 THERE WILL ALSO BE A SELECTION
 OF POT PLANTS FOR SALE.

FARMING ON ST HELENA TODAY IS VERY
 MUCH CARRIED OUT BY OUR OLDER GENERATION,
*so please come along to support
 our young farmers of tomorrow.*

All are welcome
 TO COME ALONG!

Support Our Farms
 Support Our Future!

SKYLINE FREIGHT SERVICE

TRUST OUR **FAST** AND **RELIABLE** DELIVERY SERVICE
 FOR ALL YOUR **UK** AND **SA** AIRFREIGHT NEEDS!

- SAFE & SECURE**
Your goods, our priority
- FAST & RELIABLE**
On time, every time
- AFFORDABLE RATES**
Great service, best value
- GLOBAL REACH**
Connecting UK & SA

DELIVERY TIMES

UK → 2-3 WEEKS | SOUTH AFRICA → 1 WEEK

Safe, Secure and *Affordable* Air Freight Services

+290-61397

info@skyline-sh.com | Skyline SH

SKYLINE FREIGHT SERVICE - DELIVERING TRUST. CONNECTING WORLDS

TIP OF THE WEEK

Unplug any electrical device that is not being used.

Many appliances, especially computers and televisions draw power even when turned off.



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.

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

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, and 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.



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.

Teacher (Early Years)

(£14,725 - £19,061 per annum depending on qualifications & experience)

Are you passionate about shaping young minds and making a lasting impact in early education? We are looking for an inspiring and dedicated Early Years Teacher to join our vibrant school community and nurture the next generation of learners. In this rewarding role, you will deliver engaging, high-quality teaching within Key Stage 1, creating a positive and stimulating learning environment where every child can thrive. You will plan and deliver well-structured, creative, and differentiated lessons that meet the diverse needs of all learners, ensuring each child is supported and challenged appropriately. You will also set purposeful home learning tasks that reinforce classroom learning and encourage continued progress. A key part of this role is fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive school environment, promoting positive behaviour, supporting student wellbeing, and maintaining high standards of discipline both inside and outside the classroom. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Education Skills and Employment is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of identity and qualifications, and will be subject to reference checks, an enhanced police background check, and any other safeguarding checks relevant to the role. We promote equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Enquiries: Carlean Crowie on Tel No. 24737 or Email: carlean.crowie@sainthelena.edu.sh
Closing date: 8 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 13 May 2026
Interview date: 22 May 2026

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

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.

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: 13 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 15 May 2026
Interview date: 28 May 2026

Harbour Master & Port Manager (£26,000 per annum including market enhancement)

The Harbour Master/Port Manager role is focused on enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by overseeing the management of St Helena's Port, ensuring safety, efficiency and international compliance. The port and cargo management facility is part of the Islands critical national infrastructure handling over 95% of all food, fuel, equipment and general supplies to St Helena. The Harbour Master/Port Manager serves as the authoritative figure for coordinating the daily operations, management, and development of the port of Jamestown, along with any other designated harbours and landing sites, and will undertake any additional responsibilities necessary for the effective management of the position.

You know if you have succeeded if the Port continues to meet its international security obligations, is maintained to a high-standard, and continues to operate efficiently, safely and securely.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mia Henry on Tel No. 25970 or Email@ mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh or Derek Henry on derek.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: Wk. commencing 13 May 2026
Shortlisting date: Wk. commencing 18 May 2026
Interview date: Wk. commencing 25 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.



EARLY CLOSURE AT MAIN BRANCH

WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY 2026

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers the Main Branch will close from 2pm on **Wednesday 6 May 2026** to facilitate staff training.. Normal opening hours will resume on **Thursday, 7 may 2026**.

The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause and thank customers for their support.



Bank of St.Helena Ltd.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



@sainthelenabank



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



Have Your Say

Water Resourcing Management Plan Consultation

The final draft of St Helena's Water Resource Management Plan has now been completed, shaped by the feedback provided during the engagements sessions in November

To access the plan:

- Use the QR Code below
- Obtain hard copies from Essex House, the Public Library, and ENRP Scotland
- Visit: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/st-helena/government/public-consultation/>

Your help is needed once again, to ensure this plan works for you, our farms, our businesses and our environment.



Help us shape St Helena's Water Future!
Send comments on the WRMP by 8 May 2026
to Lesa Davidson at:
lesa.davidson@sainthelena.gov.sh

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.

ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

Captain Edges Foxy in Weather-Tested Monthly Medal

Seventeen golfers braved the elements on **Sunday 26 April** to contest the club's **Monthly Medal stroke play competition**. The event got underway in a light shower, setting the tone for a testing but thoroughly enjoyable round. whilst a significant portion of play was completed in dry conditions, players were kept on their toes by occasional cold showers that, fortunately, did little to dampen spirits.

Early confidence belonged to Jeffrey Stevens, better known as Foxy, who teed off in the second group and returned an impressive net 65. With that score in the clubhouse, Foxy was convinced he had done enough for victory but however, his celebrations were shortlived and drama unfolded when the fourth group arrived, led by **Club Captain Bramwell Bushuru**, who produced a superb net 64 to claim **first prize** by a single shot, so **Foxy** had to settle for a well-earned **second place**, despite his strong finish was not entirely content with. The remainder of the field returned scores in the 70s.

Adding to his haul, **Jeffrey Stevens** also scored two in the **TwoBall Pool**, sweeping up all the balls on offer for the day.

The club was delighted to welcome Roeland Van Der Hoeven, who participated in his very first round of golf on the island. Roeland was presented with a Certificate of Participation, formally handed over by the Club Captain, Bramwell Bushuru, marking a memorable introduction to island golf.

Prize presentations were conducted by Handicaps Manager Laura Buckley, and the club extends its congratulations to all the winners.



**Sunday, 3 May 2026,
Featuring a Tombstone Competition**

Tee off: 12:00

Registration closes: Saturday 2nd May .



Happy Swinging
SHGC



Longwood, Saint Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ



+290 24421



shgc@sthelenagolf.com



www.sthelenagolf.com



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





CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by Cricheroes in conjunction with St Helena Cricket Association

RMS T20



Challengers 118/9 (17.5 overs)

beat

Western A Mustangs 88/10 (20 overs)

Sean Lee Thomas - 43 (30)

Andrew Yon - 18 (7)

Jamie Ellick - 3/21 (3 overs)

Kyle Bennett - 2/4 (1.5 overs)

Kurt Jonas - 22 (15)

Jamie Ellick - 21 (26)

Ashton Benjamin - 3/6 (3 overs)

Trystan Thomas - 2/12 (3 overs)

Player of the Match - Sean Lee Thomas (Challengers)

RMS T20



Levelwood Allstars 150/5 (20 overs)

beat

Jamestown Heat 62/10 (15 overs)

Clayton Leo - 46 (41)

Dane Leo - 41* (22)

Lebron George - 1/11 (2 overs)

Hugo Richards - 1/13 (4 overs)

Jamie Essex - 15 (12)

Zach Francis - 11 (12)

David Francis - 3/6 (4 overs)

Weston Clingham - 2/1 (1 overs)

Player of the Match - Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars)

RMS T20



Sandy Bay Pirates 351/5 (20 overs)

beat

Cobras 60/10 (17.1 overs)

Brooklyn Fowler - 169 (51)

Rhys Francis - 91* (40)

Brian Faas - 2/96 (4 overs)

Patrick Crowie - 1/14 (1 overs)

Kirk Lawrence - 15 (27)

Jamie Peters - 9 (7)

Ronan Legg - 3/9 (4 overs)

Kyle Williams - 2/7 (2 overs)

Player of the Match - Brooklyn Fowler (Sandy Bay Pirates)

UPCOMING FIXTURES



Saturday 2nd May @ 1:30pm Sandy Bay Pirates vs Jamestown Heat

Umpires - Damien O'Bey & Aiden Leo

Sunday 3rd May @ 9:30am Cobras vs Challengers

Umpires - Scott Crowie & Dax Richards

Sunday 3rd May @ 1:30pm Western A Mustangs vs Levelwood Allstars

Umpires - Jamie Essex & David George



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 send us a message via facebook.

@sthelenacricketassociation



Tweet us

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

@StHelenaCricket



Instagram

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

@cricketsthelena

FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Tuesday 21st	Brighton	3	0	Chelsea
Wednesday 22nd	Bournemouth	2	2	Leeds
Wednesday 22nd	Burnley	0	1	Man City
Friday 24th	Sunderland	0	5	Nott'm Forest
Saturday 25th	Fulham	1	0	Aston Villa
Saturday 25th	Liverpool	3	1	Crystal Palace
Saturday 25th	West Ham	2	1	Everton
Saturday 25th	Wolves	0	1	Tottenham
Saturday 25th	Arsenal	1	0	Newcastle
Monday 27th	Man United	2	1	Brentford



Match Report

Manchester United edged closer to sealing a return to the UEFA Champions League after a 2-1 victory over Brentford at Old Trafford.

A frantic first half saw plenty of chances at both ends, but the hosts should have gone ahead when Kobbie Mainoo brilliantly teed up Amad Diallo after a slaloming run, but Sepp van den Berg was on hand to deflect the shot off target and Michael Carrick's side found the breakthrough thanks to Casemiro's 11th-minute header and his ninth Premier League goal of the season.

Brentford had their chances to equalise, with top scorer Igor Thiago squandering three great chances, and the Bees were made to pay when Fernandes – who is now just one shy of matching the single-season record for Premier League assists – picked out Sesko. The striker sat down Nathan Collins before rifling home to cap a brilliant counter-attack to double the Red Devils' lead in the 43rd minute.

A tactical change from Carrick stalled Brentford after the break, but the visitors went close when Dango Ouattara headed against the woodwork from point-blank range.

After spurning several glorious chances, Brentford got themselves on the scoresheet late on when Mathias Jensen lashed a wonderful strike in off the post, with Mikkel Damsgaard then seeing a header saved by Senne Lammens.

United are now 11 points clear of sixth-placed Brighton and Hove Albion with four Premier League games remaining, and their Champions League qualification could be rubber-stamped this coming weekend when they host fourth-placed Liverpool at Old Trafford.



Man of the Match



Premier League Fixtures

Friday 1st	19:00	Leeds	vs	Burnley
Saturday 2nd	14:00	Brentford	vs	West Ham
Saturday 2nd	14:00	Newcastle	vs	Brighton
Saturday 2nd	14:00	Wolves	vs	Sunderland
Saturday 2nd	16:30	Arsenal	Vs	Fulham
Sunday 3rd	13:00	Bournemouth	vs	Crystal Palace
Sunday 3rd	14:30	Man United	vs	Liverpool
Sunday 3rd	18:00	Aston Villa	vs	Tottenham
Monday 4th	14:00	Chelsea	vs	Nott'm Forest
Monday 4th	19:00	Everton	vs	Man City

BIG Numbers in Sport



- Brazil's Laura Cardoso has become the first player ever to take nine wickets in a T20 international, recording figures of 9-4 against Lesotho this month. Lesotho were bowled out for 13 in 6.2 overs, chasing 203. Laura Cardoso took 5 wickets with 5 consecutive deliveries during her 9 wicket haul.
- The highest ICC innings total in test cricket is Sri Lanka's 952 for 6 declared against India in 1997. This was in response to India's 537 for 8 declared. Match drawn.
- England scored 903 for 7 declared in the first innings of a 1938 test match against Australia. Australia replied with 201 all out and followed on with 123 all out. England won by an innings and 579 runs.

- Len Hutton scored 364 in the 1938 test against Australia but the highest individual score of all time (so far) is West Indies batsman Brian Lara's 400 not out against England in 2004.
- In April 2001, the small island nation of American Samoa took on Australia in the World Cup qualifiers. You could only play for American Samoa if you held an American passport. This automatically ruled out the majority of the American Samoans, leaving them resorting to picking schoolboys to play for them. What followed was the biggest defeat in international football – 31-0.
- The highest-scoring match in FIFA World Cup history is Austria 7–5 Switzerland, played on June 26, 1954, in the quarter-finals.
- The highest-scoring Rugby Union World Cup match ever is New Zealand's 145–17 victory over Japan in 1995, played on June 4 in South Africa. The match produced a record aggregate of 162 points, with the All Blacks running in 21 tries and 20 conversions.

St Helena

- Based on available records regarding Saint Helena national cricket team matches, a high-scoring T20 match occurred in November 2024, when Eswatini scored 173 in the first innings, and St Helena fell 48 runs short in a high-scoring run chase in the T20 World Cup sub-regional qualifiers.
- Andrew Yon scored 230 runs in a single cricket match on December 8, 2019.
- St Helena's best ever ICC international ranking is 70th, in May 2021. 102 countries are currently listed.
- Highest Scoring St. Helena International Football Matches
 - 7-2 (Loss) vs. Ynys Môn (2019)
 - 6-1 (Loss) vs. Shetland (2019)
 - 5-0 (Loss) vs. Jersey (2023)
 - 5-0 (Loss) vs. Menorca (2023)
 - 4-2 (Loss) vs. Frøya (2023)

Savings Solutions for Every Stage



For Maximum Growth

Premier Fixed Savers
(£1,000 to £70,000)

Rates: Earn **1.75% p.a** *increased rate
2% p.a (2 Year Term)
2.5% p.a (3 Year Term)

One time deposit at opening, no
additional deposits or early withdrawals.

For short-term goals

Fixed Saver

Earn **1.25% *increased rate**
Interest Per Annum

Allows unlimited deposits to grow
your balance and the flexibility of
one withdrawal per year.

NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH

Easy Saver

Rates: Variable interest from 1% to 1.1% per annum, paid monthly

Open an account with £1

Savings Account with instant access to cash

For the Little Ones (Child Bond)

Rate: **5.5% Interest Per Annum**
Funds are locked until the child's
18th birthday.

Exempt from withholding tax.
Unlimited deposits allowed.

For Your Golden Years (New Life)

Rate: **5% Interest Per Annum**
Funds are locked until age 60 or 65.
Flexible deposits - save any amount
at any time.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

www.sainthelenabank.com



The National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH) are inviting athletes to submit their expressions of interest (EOI) to compete at the following games:

- International Island Games in Faroe Island from 3 to 9 July 2027
- 8th Commonwealth Youth Games in Malta from 29 October to 4 November 2027 (Athletes must be between 14 and 18 years old at the time of the Games)

Closing date for the EOI is 4pm UTC on Tuesday 26 May 2026 and the selection process and trials will be undertaken towards the end of 2026.

Please email nsash@helanta.co.sh

- Your full name
- Your current address
- Date of Birth
- Which competition you interested in or both
- The sport you would like to compete in

Commonwealth Youth Games

Athletics – Netball –Sailing –Squash – Swimming – Triathlon – Water polo – Weightlifting

International Island Games

Archery – Athletics – Badminton – Basketball – Cycling – Football – Gymnastics – Judo – Shooting – Swimming – Table Tennis – Tennis – Triathlon - Volleyball

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.



Moving your cargo globally with flexibility and care.

Get in touch with us: macship.com

CPT +27 21 405 3400 | sthelena.cpt@macship.com

