



South Africa MPOX Outbreak

Monkeypox Declared a Public Emergency by United Nations

Mental Health Is a Big Issue



Is Council Sleepy?



Letter -

What is the State of the Fuel We Import?



Property to Rent



Property Jamestown £500.00 per calendar month

- ▶ 300 metres from the Hospital and a few minute walk to central Jamestown
- ▶ 4 Bedroom House with off road car parking
- ▶ Good size kitchen and lounge



Residential Property to Rent in Longwood £550 per calendar month

Exceptionally well finished and well-presented 2 Bedroom Property with new bathroom and kitchen. The property provides a large parking area and out-door space.

Further details available at DPS, The Market, Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290 67022/25836



Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

There is a problem with the fuel, specifically petrol, on island at the moment. I have personal experience of this problem as immediately following refuelling at Solomon's pumps in Jamestown this week, my vehicle which had been functioning fine, suddenly started to splutter and stall for no accountable reason and this was accompanied by a bad, sulphur-like smell akin to bad eggs. I struggled up Ladder Hill Road and fulfilled my errands then on to my home. My husband used the vehicle later that afternoon to drive into Jamestown and he battled to drive up Side Path Road. This fuel has rendered my vehicle unable to be driven and will have to be sorted out at a garage by a mechanic, which I understand will involve draining the fuel, flushing through and then refuelling and also checking to see if the fuel has seeped into the oil which could affect the lubrication of the engine and worst-case scenario could

seize up the engine.

I am given to understand this is not an isolated incident.

I spoke to two very experienced and independent mechanics following this and was alarmed to discover what a significant impact this could have on our local community, which is already struggling with extremely high fuel costs, to rectify this problem.

I spoke to Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) Solomon's and discovered he was already aware of the problem but not of the scale of it. He revealed that there are no facilities to test the quality of the fuel on island, what testing is done is very basic and simplistic; that personal car insurance does not provide cover for incidents like this; however, Solomon's has some insurance which may cover local claims.

I also spoke to Mark Brooks the minister who, too, was aware of the problem but he understood this had been going on for a much longer period of time and not just recently when we changed suppliers. On further questioning he admits there is no short-term contingency plan to deal with this but he is working on having the Bulk Fuel Installation up and running. This does not address the immediate problem, and given the reality

for a lot of our local community already having to battle to survive within the current economic state, could make a difficult situation impossible.

This has the potential to impact not just on individuals but also on services provided – like emergency services, transportation, schools, taxis and other businesses too.

This problem needs to be investigated and resolved jointly by Solomon's and St Helena Government, with a lot more urgency than it is currently being given. Solomon's could do free testing of oil to check if it has been infiltrated by petrol, at their establishments like garage, MOT station and petrol stations to enable them to have a grasp of the size of the problem rather than waiting for people to contact them. St Helena Government could order test kits and or fly in independent experts to check on the quality of island fuel supplies.

These measures and remedies should not be costed in the future price of fuel as we have already paid and hand-somely throughout this fiasco.

**Yours sincerely,
Pamela Ward Pearce**

Also See Page 11



Wanda Isaac and Friends would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who came out to Sandy Bay Community Centre on Sunday 28th July 2024 to their Mid-Winters Family Entertainment. Heartfelt thanks are extended to those who made donations and helped in any way towards making the day a success considering the weather. An amount of £403.75 was raised on the day and donated to the St Helena Cancer Awareness Charity.





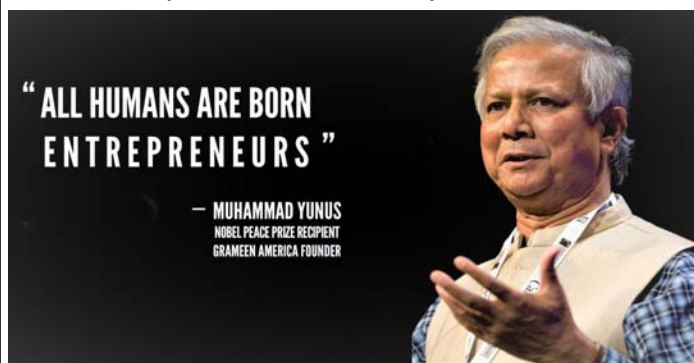
Tel: [+290] 22327
 Email: independent@helanta.co.sh
<http://www.independent.sh>

Editorial

We all know that St Helena bees are free from the diseases which decimate bee colonies across the world. But that is not so widely known in the rest of the big wide world. Australians are keen to tell everyone that Australia has one of the healthiest honey bee populations in the world. This is due to Australia being free of some major pests and diseases, in particular the invasive varroa destructor mite, which has devastated bee colonies internationally. It's the same in St Helena of course, but, after all, we are the Secret of the South Atlantic, so no-one knows.

This leads me to mention Mohamed Yunis. Since this time last week, he has been the Chief Advisor to the new Bangladesh government. The old Bangladesh government was toppled because its leader had become careless, complacent and unresponsive – sure signs that someone has been in the job too long. Mohamed Yunis has received many of the highest awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize. His main claim to fame is establishing a system of microfinance and microcredit to give small business start-ups and the poor Bangladeshis a chance to improve their chances of lifting themselves out of poverty. The microfinance could be to buy seed for next year's crop or buy equipment to water the crop. Something for which impoverished Bangladeshis did not have the money. His innovation was very successful and other countries copied his method.

Maybe St Helena should look at microfinance and not just EDIP microprojects. The money Mohamed Yunis distributed as microfinance through the Bank established especially for this purpose, did several things at the same time. The scheme improved the standard of living for people who were ready to work for results, increased economic activity across the country, and provided extra business for the people supplying or buying from the microfinance funded businesses. It was a simple idea, well administered and brought excellent results. We could do with some of that. The EDIP microprojects provide work and income, mainly for small and medium size construction businesses but the result only helps existing businesses to tick along. The Mohamed Yunis microfinance scheme extended business opportunity to those who could not obtain financial assistance anywhere else. The Bangladesh economy benefitted enormously.



Returning to bees, other businesses are suffering from possible collapse due to the spread of disease. Banana growing is one of them. Rampant disease in banana plantations is not new. In the 1950s disease put paid to the Gros Michel bananas. The Gros Michel banana was the main export to North America and Europe. It was tasty and juicy. It was replaced on plantations by the Cavendish banana which became the main export to the non-banana growing western world. Its main drawback is it tastes how you might expect chalk to taste. Now, the Cavendish banana is severely threatened with disease - a new strain of the disease which saw off the Gros Michel banana.

Moving on, citrus fruit is now being devastated by Huanglongbing. Yes, that's right, Huanglongbing. It's a disease that is spreading through orchards in Asia, the Americas and now Africa. In Brazil production has fallen by 20% plus, by 60% in Guadeloupe and by a massive 90% in Florida. Don't take your carton of orange juice for granted. Without doubt it will increase in price and may even disappear from the shelves entirely. So, what does Huanglongbing do to an orange? Well, it makes an orange look like a large lime that is rotten inside. Yes, limes are green and that's what happens. Huanglongbing makes orange oranges a thing of the past. They look like if you ate one, you would be a thing of the past too.



This man is wondering where his oranges have gone and what to do with a rotten lime

There are plenty of sayings about turning disasters into successes or problems into opportunities. Will microfinance bring success to St Helena as has done in other countries? Can beekeeping be developed so at least we have constant supply for ourselves? Can someone find a way to develop St Helena banana growing for export? Oranges can wait until banana plantations replace all the flax plantations which have devastated the peaks. If they could plant acres of flax not so long ago, why not bananas now?

Vince

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the following proposals:



Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email jane.roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

- 1. Application 2024/22:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Double Garage and Store Room**, The Boot, Piccolo Hill, Longwood on Parcel LWN0468. Applicant: Simon Henry
- 2. Application 2024/23:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Three Bedroom, Split Level Dwelling**, Clay Gut on Parcel NG0486. Applicant: Rawena Delaney.
- 3. Application 2024/24:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Extension to Existing Garage to form a Utility & Storeroom**, Nr General Hospital, Jamestown on Parcel JT160063. Applicant: Christina Williams
- 4. Application 2024/31:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Change of Use of Barn View into Houses of Multiple Occupations (HMO)**, Barn View, Longwood on Parcel LWN0344, Applicant: Property Division, St Helena Government.
- 5. Application 2024/32:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Two Bedroom Extension**, Longwood Hangings on Parcel LWS0426. Applicant: Neil Henry
- 6. Application 2024/33:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Unit for a period of Four Months**, Museum Car Park, Jamestown on Parcel JT020015. Applicant Jeremy Hart Limited (JHL)
- 7. Application 2024/34:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Unit for a period of Fourth Months**, Car Park in front of the Arch Shop, Grand Parade, Jamestown on Parcel JT030012. Applicant: Jeremy Hart Limited (JHL)
- 8. Application 2024/35:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Two Bedroom Extension**, Rupert's Valley on Parcel RV0011. Applicant: Children & Adult Social Care Portfolio
- 9. Application 2024/36:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Three Bedroom Split Level Dwelling, Sandy Bay on Parcel DPRR0045**. Applicant: Ian Stevens
- 10. Application 2024/37:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Shelter Extension, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Jamestown on Parcel JT100031**. Applicant: Seventh Day Adventist

Any person who wishes to make Representations on any of the above Applications should make them in writing within 14days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email jane.roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 23 August 2024

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

OOOPS!!

Our Blue Hill Antenna Broke due to hevvy winds but is now under repair

Saint FM



Mental Health:

Who Doesn't Have This Kind of Ill-Health at Some Point in Life?

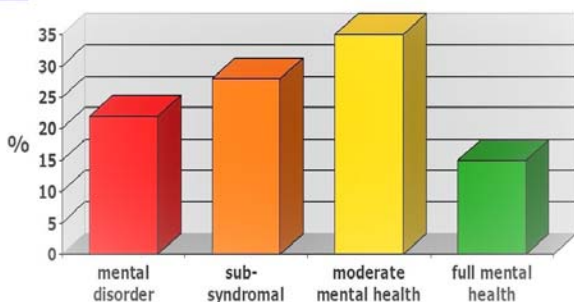
The Difficulties Diagnosing Mental Health

We all realise that mental health is very different from physical health. If we get 'flu or break a leg, we all know when the setback started and exactly when we have recovered. Making an accurate assessment of the state of our own, or anyone else's, mental health is not so simple.

A five-year-old in Gaza today is likely to have noticeable scars from physical wounds for life. The emotional and mental scars from the terror and deprivation experienced by a child, who has no chance of understanding what is happening, cannot be seen and is less understood as the years go by. It is similar for most of us in life's more usual situations. Situations which are, unfortunately, too common. From those on the receiving end of violent or sexual abuse or the inevitable grief we feel from personal loss or the anxiety which is part of always having insufficient money. And there is always loneliness, maybe emotional vacuum a child experiences when a parent is away for a considerable time. In these situations, there are no physical scars but, for some, the mental wounds may never really heal. The causes of mental scars are almost limitless and some people are affected more than others. All of this can cause varying degrees of mental ill-health. While we cannot see the mental scars, the visible effect of them can be seen but the cause may be known only to a few very close family and friends.

The visible effect often decides the name, or label, given to the mental condition. Anxiety disorder, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and eating disorder are examples. Other mental conditions such as bipolar and schizophrenia can be more deep-seated and involve lack of contact with reality. Giving a name, category or label to anything can often be an obstacle to understanding the individual and the personal situation; the story, experience, reasons and causes that apply to, and affect, just one person in one particular way. While categories and labels are unavoidable, they need to be treated with care.

mental health in the last year



A spread of mental health from a UK example. 15% have full mental health while 22% have a mental disorder. Sub-syndromal (28%) means a person has signs of mental ill-

health but not enough to be diagnosed as such. 35% have moderate mental health.

The St Helena Situation

In St Helena, as in many other places, we have a Community Mental Health Team offering a service where people with mental health conditions are supported while, as often as possible, the people concerned continue to live according to their usual lifestyle within the community. The bad old days of mental asylums or hospitals have gone, thankfully. Despite this welcome change, there is still more to do. As with physical or biological ill-health, treatment for mental ill-health is given, in the most part, to people who make an appointment for treatment. There is not much that can be done about this, but gaining additional knowledge on the general situation around mental health is very helpful.

Can improvements be made to the way the service is offered by the Community Mental Health Team? The money and resources available for any public service is never enough, in St Helena or anywhere else. But can resources for the mental health service be better targeted? To start getting some answers to these important questions our Community Mental Health Team is about to start a survey. It can be called an 'attitude' survey. The people taking part are picked from a random sample and will be asked if they want to participate. The purpose of the survey is to get a clearer indication of how important we all think the treatments for mental health conditions really are. The survey will also help by giving a good indication of the general attitude, across the Island, of people who can be helped with treatment to improve their mental health. Should treatment for mental health conditions be more accessible? Is it really true that most of us want to keep our mental health condition a closely guarded secret? On the other hand, how ready are we to talk openly about what advantages our Community Mental Health Team can offer us – as an individual, as a person with a story to tell?

Can Saints Do It Better?

It is likely that people who live in a small community, as we certainly do, are more likely to look at anybody and take them for what they are. The labels don't apply. This person or that has a name, has family and a life story. A lot of anybody's story is known here anyway. People are usually taken as a 'whole package'; we all have our own little peculiarities. Our oddities are accepted because that's the way we are. Do we really accept everyone with this same attitude? Including people with mental health conditions? It is possible we do, because most of us suffer some kind of pressure at least once in our lives which affects the way our mind works.

For more information about the survey or the Community Mental Health Team please contact Mental Health Team Lead Ian Rummery, by telephone on 22593 or via email through Ian.Rummery@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Legislative Council Sits Today

At 10 am this morning Legislative Council will kick off with another non-event. First, some Sessional Papers will be 'laid on the table'. This is a quant phrase used by several country's legislatures. It's usually a way of saying that will be done and we will talk about it. In St Helena the meaning is more like 'this is for filing' and we will make it public now – but don't tell anyone. Estimates of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure and Revenue appear in place on the SHG website but show only the front cover. When asked to approve these momentous actions, councillors usually grunt in response, forget about it and move on.

In today's nail-biting session, councillors will watch with intense interest as the Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session of the Public Accounts Committee held on Thursday, 14 December 2023 is laid on the table. When they have calmed down, the Report to Legislative Council on the Formal Session of the Public Accounts Committee held on Thursday, 13 June 2024 and Addendum Report will also get filed in the same way.

Also 'getting laid' is A Bill for an Ordinance – Supplementary Appropriation (2024/25) Bill, 2024 and St Helena Government – Supplementary Estimates 2024/25. Councillors are sure to sound their approving grunts to these as well.

As far as government business is concerned, that's about it. What is left is nine written questions to ministers from councillors who are not ministers.

1. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Health and Social Care:

Will the minister provide this Council with an update on what medical equipment is currently out of commission at the hospital, along with what action is being taken to rectify any deficiencies in this respect?

2. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the minister tell this House what remains to be done before Fixed Penalty Notices can be introduced, and when it is envisaged that the necessary actions will be completed?

3. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury and Economic Development:

Will the minister inform this House, is it the intention of Government to increase the tax threshold so that low income earners remain outside the tax bracket?

4. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs:

Will the minister tell this Council, further to the response given in this House on the 28th June 2023, what progress has been made towards bringing amended Road Traffic legislation and associated regulations to this House, and when such amendments may now be expected?

5. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury and Economic Development:

Will the minister tell this House what is the current situation pertaining to the business case, submitted for EDIP funding, relating to improvements to the gutter adjacent to the street in Upper Jamestown in order to enhance pedestrian safety and storm water drainage?

6. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury and Economic Development:

Will the minister inform this Council if there are any current plans to divest non-core functions of SHG to the private sector and if so, when would work likely start and when would the anticipated completion be?

7. The Hon Robert Midwinter to ask the Hon Minister for Treasury and Economic Development:

Will the minister tell this Council, what conditions or restrictions are placed on State Owned Entities by the St Helena Government in respect of their operational policies and procedures, particularly in areas relevant to public finance such as the setting of pay scales and the procurement of goods and services?

8. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Will the minister tell this House what measures are in place for the cleaning of streets throughout Jamestown?

9. The Hon Ronald Coleman to ask the Hon Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning:

Will the minister tell this House whether throughput from the offshore fishing into the factory at Rupert's, is of the quantity to significantly contribute to boosting the Island's economy, as was envisaged when the decision was taken by SHG to lease the factory in 2021?

After that, each councillor raises and discusses a subject of choice. If you are not able to sit by the radio all day to hear the answers to the nine questions or what hot topic councillors choose to raise during the last item of the session, it is likely you will have to wait until a written record of today's meeting is published. That wait could be for many months. Maybe one day, someone with the interest and energy to change and improve the way things are done will give us the answers to the questions earlier, via the government press office.



These Japanese councillors will catch up when the minutes are published

Monkey Pox Virus Epidemic in Africa

World Health Organisation Upgrades it to Global Emergency

Monkey Pox, now called M-pox, has been declared a public health emergency by the African Union's Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC). On Tuesday the director general of Africa CDC declared the emergency saying, "Mpox has now crossed borders, affecting thousands across our continent, families have been torn apart and the pain and suffering have touched every corner of our continent." M-pox was first discovered in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has mostly been contained within the DRC.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organisation (WHO) upgraded the epidemic to a global emergency. The WHO director-general said the potential for further spread within Africa and beyond "is very worrying". "A co-ordinated international response is essential to stop this outbreak and save lives,"

A more contagious strain of the virus has now been identified in 10 countries. Cases of M-pox have risen 160%, year on year. Deaths from the virus have risen 19%. Africa CDC officials said nearly 70 per cent of the cases and 85 per cent of the deaths in the DRC are in children under 15.



Jean Kakuru Biyambo, from the Muja internally displaced persons camp, is seen at the Goma General Hospital where he has been receiving treatment against mpox

M-pox has recently been reported in Burundi and Rwanda for the first time, other countries, including Kenya and the Central African Republic also identified cases. The Africa CDC warned last week that the viral infection's rate of spread was alarming. It said that more than 15,000 mpox cases and 461 deaths were reported on the continent this year so far, representing a 160% increase from the same period last year.

Earlier this year, scientists reported the emergence of a new form of the deadlier version of m-pox in a Congolese mining town. The new strain can kill up to 10 per cent of people. It was feared then that it might spread more easily. M-pox is transmitted through close contact with infected people.

The director general of WHO also held a press briefing this earlier week to announce he had decided to ask independent

experts to advise the WHO "as soon as possible." The WHO have released £788,000 from its emergency fund to support the response to M-pox.

An African CDC official told the BBC World Service that 10 million vaccines are needed in Africa to be confident of getting the M-pox virus under control. So far, 225,000 have been supplied. The centre of the virus outbreak, the DRC, do not have vaccines nor anti-viral drugs. This is developing into a repeat of the unpreparedness for the spread of the COVID 19 virus when Africa was unable to obtain vaccines until very late and then received inadequate supplies.



This week, South Africa reported two additional confirmed cases of M-pox, one in Gauteng province and another in KwaZulu-Natal, bringing the total number of cases reported since 8 May 2024 to 24 cases (12 cases in Gauteng, 11 cases in KwaZulu-Natal, and one case in the Western Cape).

Thank You

The family both here and overseas of the late Margaret Ann Henry, would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses of the General Hospital for the care and attention given to her during her short illness, also other family and friends for their kindness,

Solomon's for the service Sheets, Colin and Davina for the making of the beautiful wreaths, also Roy and his team and many others who gave flowers, sent messages of condolences and sympathy also phone calls.

**Gone from Our Lives but not forgotten
May she rest in Peace**



House For Sale £175000.00

Hutt's Gate, Longwood.



The house is a three bedroom 198m² house with 2 acre grounds.

The grounds are made up of three plots (plot 101, 102 and 152).



The house inside was recently redone and upgraded to be an open plan kitchen, lounge and dining room space. The bathroom was redone and upgraded. All the floors are newly tiled.



Outside the house are two 6m shipping containers placed under a roof that can be used as storage space or workshop. Two water tanks for Rainwater 8000l and 500L and both are connected to the roof gutter system. For more info, please contact me on the below.

Contact: Marten Fourie

Email : martenfourie@gmail.com

Cell no: 00290 64070

After Hours: 00290 24128



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 18 th August 2024 – Twentieth Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 18 th August 2024 – Twentieth Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Monday 19th August		
7.00 p.m.	Patronal Festival	St Mary
Thursday 22nd August		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 18 th August 2024 – Twentieth Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	Barnabas, Levelwood
Tuesday 20th August		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist/Cell Group	St Mark

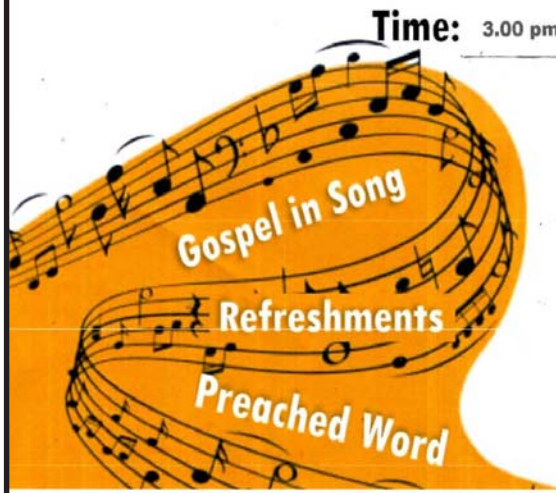
**Baptist Church
Gospel Outreach**



When: Sunday: 18th August 2024

Where: Kingshurst Community Centre

Time: 3.00 pm



APPLY FOR A CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP

Are you interested in pursuing a master's degree in the UK for a period of one year? If so, a Chevening Scholarship could be for you!

Chevening offers a period of one year's study at any UK university, along with a bespoke programme of events that gives access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional and cultural experiences. It allows scholars to build professional networks that will benefit them throughout their career.

The scholarship is fully funded by the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office. This means your return flights, tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses are all paid for. At the end of your study, you'll be equipped with knowledge and networks to bring your ideas to life and excel in your career.

To be eligible for a scholarship, you must:

- Be a citizen of St Helena
- Have completed an undergraduate degree that will allow entry into postgraduate study at a UK university.
- Have at least two year's work experience.
- Must not have previously studied in the UK through a UK Government funded scholarship.
- Must return home at the end of your study for a minimum period of two years
- Apply to three different and eligible UK university courses.

More information can be found at www.chevening.org or by contacting the St Helena Chevening Officer, Kerry Lane at Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk, tel +290 22308.

Applications must be made via the Chevening website above and will close on 5th November 2024.

www.chevening.org
Contact: Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk



Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in UK Education for 2024: Implications for St. Helena Island- Written By *Ed Oyewo*

The UK education sector is facing significant challenges and undergoing transformative changes in 2024. These trends, from teacher shortages to the integration of technology, will have far-reaching impacts on the sector and its stakeholders. This article will explore the key issues and opportunities in UK education for 2024 and discuss how these trends might apply to St. Helena Island.

Teacher Shortages and Recruitment

One of the most pressing issues in UK education is the shortage of teachers, particularly in subjects like science, design and technology, modern foreign languages, and computing. This shortage is exacerbated by difficulties in retaining teachers, with many leaving the profession due to high workload and stress levels. St. Helena Island is also grappling with staff shortages, which is a key driver of the ongoing review of its education system.

Funding Gaps and Deficits

Schools in the UK face inadequate funding levels, which affect their ability to employ enough teachers and provide necessary resources for students. This issue is particularly significant in the context of rising costs and inflation. St. Helena Island is also dealing with funding challenges, which are being addressed through public consultations and a working group analysing options for the future of the island's education system.

The Role of Technology

The integration of technology into classrooms is crucial, with AI and digital tools offering opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. However, ensuring teacher proficiency in using these tools is essential. AI can be used to create lesson plans, provide resources, and support student learning, potentially easing teacher workload and improving student outcomes.



Teacher Workload and Wellbeing

The UK government is working to reduce teacher workload through initiatives like AI-powered tools and flexible working arrangements. This is critical, as teachers are working long hours, with primary teachers averaging 52.1 hours per week and lower-secondary teachers averaging 49.3 hours per week. A significant percentage of teachers feel their workload is unmanageable, leading to high levels of stress and burnout.

Student Absenteeism and Mental Health

Chronic absenteeism remains a significant concern, with links to mental health and wellbeing. Schools are seeking effective strategies to improve attendance and provide mental health support for students. This is particularly important in the context of the pandemic, which has had a lasting impact on student attainment, particularly in core subjects like Maths and English.

Inclusive Education and SEND

The number of students with special educational needs is increasing, and schools are seeking ways to provide tailored support and adapt their teaching approaches. This includes reviewing the curriculum and improving teaching and learning standards to better cater to diverse learners.

Teacher Professional Development

Teachers are adapting their teaching approaches to cater for diverse learners, using flexible learning spaces and activities to engage students. This shift towards more inclusive and adaptive learning environments is critical for enhancing educational attainment and addressing the needs of all students. Improvements to teacher training are underway, with a focus on quality standards and continued professional development opportunities.

Implications for St. Helena Island

The trends and challenges in UK education have significant implications for St. Helena Island, which is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of its education system. The island aims to "future-proof" its education system by enhancing educational attainment, reviewing the curriculum, and improving teaching and learning standards. This includes addressing staff shortages, improving teacher training, and integrating technology into classrooms to enhance teaching and learning. By addressing these challenges and seizing the opportunities, both the UK and St. Helena Island can work towards enhancing educational attainment, improving teacher wellbeing, and providing high-quality education for all students.

Till Next Time, keep Well!

St Helena Cloud Forest Project update: April - June 2024

The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is a highly collaborative multi year project working to implement the Peaks Management Plan for St Helena's 'Peaks National Park'; a globally significant area for biodiversity which is also vital for St Helena's long term water security. Key actions across the first four years of the project include monitoring and research to inform and secure the island's water security and climate change adaptation efforts; improving, restoring and creating cloud forest habitat to increase areas for mist capture and ensure the conservation of associated species; and supporting the sustainable development of St Helena by developing opportunities through ecotourism, education, sustainable land use and conservation training.



What happened under each pillar?

Biodiversity

- The teams based at the Peaks continued to be busy with the restoration of sites and paths at Taylors, Diana's Peak and Wells. Tracking and recording tree health and pathogen spread also continued. In addition:
 - ◊ Refurbishment of the Peaks nursery continued with works to upgrade the facility in line with new phytosanitary protocols
 - ◊ A standardised rodent baiting programme is in place as part of ongoing rodent control methods
- At Scotland's endemic nursery:
 - ◊ Seed collection, banking and sowing continued
 - ◊ Planting and maintenance of cloud forest species in living gene banks around the island took place, including the commencement of planting within the new gene bank at Girlings
 - ◊ Limited propagation continued, in addition to micro propagation of ferns in the lab
 - ◊ Soil sterilising for sterile growing medium continued, and the larger capacity steriliser has now arrived on island
 - ◊ Upgrades to the No.2 Shade House and standing out area were completed to new phytosanitary standards for pathogen free propagation.
- At the St Helena National Trust, important invertebrate monitoring, control, and assessment work continued, including:
 - ◊ Completion of the year 3 annual invertebrate survey (delayed to this quarter due to access limitations)
 - ◊ Monitoring of the rare endemic Golden Sail Spider
 - ◊ Day and night surveys for the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse
 - ◊ Invasive control efforts including further deployment of control for the Common Wasp, and scoping for the wasp commenced within restricted areas
 - ◊ 106 Red List Assessments completed and uploaded to the IUCN's portal for final review before publishing later this year
 - ◊ Y2 Annual Invertebrate Report drafted and circulated for review
 - ◊ Methods agreed for a study on pollinators within the cloud forest, to be trialled over this year



Refurbishing the shade house at the Peaks Nursery



Spiky Yellow Woodlice
© Liza Fowler

Water security and climate change

- Regular water and climate monitoring by Connect Saint Helena and the Bottom Woods Met Office continued throughout this period. Monthly climate data from automatic weather stations and mist and rain gauges were collected, and maintenance carried out on equipment. Water level and flow monitoring continued.
 - ◊ Real time data from the automatic weather stations can be accessed via: <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/> (pan to St Helena).
- Connect's Water Resource Monitoring Technician completed a capacity building trip to the Netherlands and the UK for further training on geophysics surveys, use of the equipment, data processing and interpretation.



Telemetry upgrades to rain and mist monitoring network site

Continued on page 2



St Helena Cloud Forest Project update: April - June 2024

- Equipment procured by Connect Saint Helena and the Met Station at Bottom Woods has begun arriving on island, and telemetry equipment to upgrade the mist & rainfall monitoring network is being installed, as well as a new Land Cloud Base Recorder is in operation.

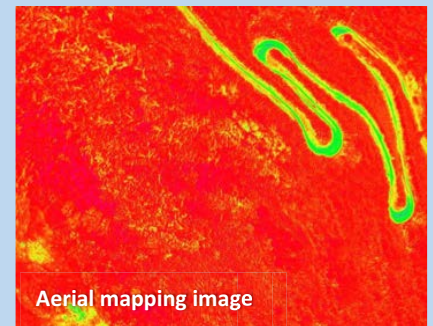
Socio-economic

- Filming with Capricorn Studios and primary school students who produced their versions of the project films, which will be available later in the year
- Material continued to be drafted for the St Helena Cloud Forest Secondary Education Pack and will be further refined following a meeting between the Trust's Education Officer and the Head of Prince Andrew School
- Work continued on aerial surveying of priority cloud forest compartments, a vital tool in assessing cloud forest habitat whereby multispectral data on the land surface is collected and collated in order to analyse factors such as tree health, the spread of pathogens, and track habitat expansion. Surveys are approximately 60% complete
- A knowledge sharing call on various workstreams researching the genetics of Peaks plant species was held



What's coming up July to September 2024?

- Propagation of cloud forest species for living gene banks and restoration work, and germination trials of cloud forest species to commence
- Maintenance of restored habitat, invasive clearance works, and infrastructure repairs will continue on the Peaks, at living gene banks and the Scotland nursery
- Ongoing water and climate monitoring. Finalisation of reports on island's water resources and water balance, using data collected over a number of years
- Preparation and planning for a water pillar focused webinar later in the quarter
- Completion of invertebrate survey reports, and further work on the secondary education pack
- Completion of aerial mapping of cloud forest habitat to assess tree health, pathogen spread and habitat expansion



Project Outreach

- A film with a series of comments from project partners and team members 'Restoration Notes' was finalised by Capricorn Studios – <https://youtu.be/70v2Hs2Dbg8>
- The Y3 Q4 update was published on the project's webpage (https://www.sthelenatourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/23_24_SHCFP_Q4.pdf) and in the local papers
- Two articles (focused on water and pathogen work) were drafted for the St Helena Connection (Friends of St Helena publication), which is expected to be published early Q2
- The St Helena National Trust hosted a radio show on Saint FM on 28 June focused on the invertebrate team and their work
- Project represented at 'St Helena Showcase' event hosted by St Helena Tourism
- Briefing and site visits to unrestricted sites for FCDO and Green Overseas

• Watch the Cloud Forest project films on YouTube:

- ◊ [Biodiversity](#)
- ◊ [Water Security](#)
- ◊ [Socio Economic](#)
- ◊ [Partners Involved](#)
- ◊ [Capacity Building](#)
- ◊ [Biosecurity](#)

For more information please contact: shayla.ellick@rspb.org.uk



• Follow us online:



Celebrating St Helena competition

The Celebrating St Helena Competition has successfully concluded with the announcement of the winners. The competition aimed to preserve the rich culture, stories, and memories of the St Helena community.

Open to island residents aged 18 and over, participants were encouraged to explore topics relevant to St Helena's living memories and culture as they exist in 2024. Entries ranged from capturing personal anecdotes to showcasing the day-to-day experiences of living on the island.

A total of 11 entries were received and meticulously judged by a panel comprising representatives from the Museum of St Helena and the St Helena National Trust. Criteria for evaluation included relevance to the competition theme, originality, storytelling quality, and overall impact.

Prizes were awarded in two categories: Audio-Video and Written, with the former category receiving higher-value prizes due to the skills and time involved in these formats.

The winners of the Celebrating St Helena Competition are:

Audio-Video category

1st Prize - Nicole Peters

2nd Prize - James Fantom

3rd Prize - Louis Youde

Written category

1st Prize - Deborah Knipe

2nd Prize - Connie Johnson

3rd & 4th Prize - Stedson Stroud

Congratulations to all the winners! The competition organisers extend their gratitude to all participants for their contributions in building and preserving the cultural knowledge of St Helena. We plan to showcase the entries on our social media channels and on display at the Museum.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to the judges from the Museum of St Helena and the St Helena National Trust for their dedicated efforts in evaluating the entries and selecting the deserving winners.



St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air



St Helena
Government

13 August 2024

The competition goes alongside the release of the Celebrating St Helena booklet.



The booklet creates a snapshot of the common language that those who know St Helena best (400+ adult stakeholders were interviewed), have used to describe the island and their own connections to the landscape and community.



<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Celebrating-St-Helena-Brand-Booklet-2024-downsized.pdf>



Join us!

We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Harbour Master & Port Manager (Designate) (£15,033 per annum)

The post of Harbour Master & Port Manager is a combined role of Harbour Master and Health and Safety Officer. You will be required to work in conjunction with the Strategic Harbour Master & Port Manager (SHM/PM), controlling the harbours/ports in St Helena. The postholder works to co-ordinate the operational day to day running, control, and development of the Jamestown Wharf and Rupert's Jetty, and any other designated landing place, and shall perform any other duties as may be required for the good management of the port. You will also be a Health and Safety Officer implementing and ensuring compliance with SHG occupational health and safety (OHS) guidelines. Your primary role will be advising on measures to minimize hazards and maintain a safe working environment in the Port, cultivating a culture of prioritizing health and safety. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Derek Henry on Tel No. 22287 or
Email: Derek.Henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 30 August 2024

General Operative - Permanent (£7,960 per annum)

Working as part of the Roads Team, the **General Operative** will assist the Chargehand with general maintenance of machinery, assembly of site huts and assist with building, cleaning and general maintenance of all roads island-wide. If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player this is an opportunity for you to join the Roads team! Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Darin Francis on Tel No. 23765 or
Email: roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 30 August 2024

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.

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...



St Helena
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

(Roads) Semi-Skilled Worker - Permanent (£8,725 per annum)

Are you interested in working as part of the Roads Team? As a Semi-Skilled Worker you will work alongside of the General Operatives assisting with general maintenance of machinery, assembly of site huts and assisting with building, cleaning and general maintenance of all roads island-wide. You will also be responsible for operating specialised road equipment and will therefore be required to have a licence in classes H2, J2 and J4.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Darin Francis on Tel No. 23765 or
Email: roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 29 August 2024

Budget Officer (£12,049 per annum)

Do you have experience in accounting or budgeting roles? SHG has a vacancy for a Budget Officer to work within Treasury to provide advice and support to budget holders in preparing and managing their budgets. You will be required to review and scrutinise all budget documentation and forecasting departmental Budget Executive Reports. Could this be a job for you?

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mercy Chiseya on Tel No 22470 or
Email mercy.chiseya@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 26 August 2024

Biosecurity Assistant (£9,197 per annum)

The Biosecurity Assistant is responsible for the effective implementation of the division's biosecurity programme and assisting with border operations in collaboration with the Pest Control Services team. If you have a keen interest in border security and would like to be a part of the Biosecurity team then this could be a rewarding opportunity for you. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Julie Balchin on Tel No. 24724 or
Email: julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 20 August 2024

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.

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...



St Helena
Government

Waste Management Services Operator (£7,341 per annum) (Fixed Term)

Waste Management Services is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual to join their dedicated team. Successful candidates will be responsible for delivering high standards of cleaning in public areas and toilets, waste collection from homes and businesses and other waste management tasks in line with Standard Operating Procedures. Normal working hours are 0600 hrs to 1330 hrs Monday to Friday, with weekends and Public Holiday working on a rota system. If you are physically fit and an effective team player then we would be interested in hearing from you. Waste Management Services, working towards a cleaner and greener St Helena. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Mike Durnford on Tel No. 24724 or**
Email mike.durnford@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **21 August 2024**

Meteorological & Scientific Observations Officer (Fixed term – 1 year) (£7,341 per annum)

The Meteorological & Scientific Observations Officer will help to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by assisting in a shared capacity with staff in completing routine meteorological scientific observational monitoring activities, to ensure production and delivery of observational data from the St Helena Meteorological Station at Bottom Woods in line with the UK Meteorological (Met) Office requirements. This role is being offered on a shift basis with occasional Sunday work & public holidays paid as overtime. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Lori Bennett on Tel No. 24785 or**
Email metoffice.901@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: **21 August 2024**

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/governm ent/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.

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.



VACANCY – BUSINESS SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR (ADMIN & HR)

Connect Saint Helena Ltd has a vacancy for a Business Support Administrator (Admin & HR) to provide quality administration services to the organisation but primarily to the Project and HR sections.

Duties of the post include drafting correspondence, issuing local purchase orders, minute taking, checking invoices and assisting with purchasing, provide reception cover as when required, maintaining and ensuring HR records are accurate and up to date. Provide administrative and clerical support as required to other sections.

Ideally the candidate will have experience in a customer focussed environment, background in administration, have excellent communication skills, and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word and Excel. GCSE English and Maths at grade C or above is also a requirement for the role.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include 15% pension contribution of the base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For a full job description and/or further details on this position please contact Clare Harris on (+290) 22255 or email Clare.Harris@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh by 9am on Monday, 2 September 2024

To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted



Vacancy

Senior Assistant Underwriter



Salary for the post will commence at £11,964 per annum (£997 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Underwriting Department for a Senior Assistant Underwriter.

As the Senior Assistant Underwriter within the St Helena Insurance Cell Captive you will assist in the day-to-day operations of the department, provide an efficient service to both external customers and St Helena Insurance Agency; and to deputise in the absence of the Underwriter.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths, English & IT or equivalent
- Possess a minimum of 3 years' administrative experience
- Possess previous experience working in an insurance or underwriting related role
- Possess a qualification relating to Insurance Underwriting
- Be willing to undertake any professional training relating to the role
- Possess the ability to understudy the Underwriter role with the aim of developing to the level of this position
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer facing skills
- Be analytical with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Be highly organised with excellent interpersonal and communication skills and able to use own initiative
- Be able to conduct risk surveys and be competent in report writing
- Be available to work outside of normal working hours as and when required
- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers' licence in Class A and desirably Class C

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

Mervyn Henry, Underwriter via ☎ 22860 ✉ mervynh@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 **29 August 2024**.

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

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Attractive Leave Packages including annual leave, sickness absence leave, maternity/parental leave
- ◆ Staff Discounts

INVITATION TO TENDER

MANAGEMENT OF CARGO HANDLING AND LIFTING AT THE NEW RUPERT'S CARGO FACILITY

St Helena Government (SHG) would like to invite suitably qualified companies to submit tenders for the following contract:

SSHA-1752-SHG – MANAGEMENT OF CARGO HANDLING AND LIFTING AT THE NEW RUPERT'S CARGO FACILITY (RFC), 2024

SHG is looking to engage the services of a suitably qualified Service Provider to undertake management operations of cargo handling at the RCF, from the point where cargo is unloaded onto the jetty to delivery to the cargo handling facility / laydown area, and the back loading of containers onto the resupply vessel.

The provider will be expected to manage all crane and stacker movements in RCF and assist with the mooring of any vessel not included in the MACS shipping arrangement. A contract to manage operations is expected to start in January 2025.

Copies of the tender document or further details can be obtained from the Deputy Head of Procurement, Nicola Young, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown by telephone on 25931 or via email through nicola.young@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by a newly extended closing date of 12:00 on Monday 19 August 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

Interested parties should note that this opportunity is **not** being advertised overseas.

SHG

13 August 2024



INVITATION TO TENDER CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DESIGN AND SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PRISON

Reference: CS-1844-SHG

St Helena Government (SHG) would like to invite suitably qualified organisations to submit a tender for the consultancy services required to design and supervise the construction of a new prison on St Helena Island.

The proposed prison will be located within the Longwood Area (Bottom Woods).

Please note that organisations must be able to demonstrate prior or equivalent experience of designing and supervising the construction of UK Ministry of Justice (MoJ) facilities to be considered for this opportunity.

Full documentation and the specifications can be found on the SHG e-procurement system which can be accessed through <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/sainthelena/asp/Home> following registration on the system.

User guides are available via the 'Supplier Information' tab to assist prospective suppliers registering on the e-procurement system.

Any questions in the interim should be sent via the SHG e-procurement system.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 13:00 GMT.

SHG

01 August 2024

www.sainthelena.gov.sh



LOCAL IROKO WOOD FURNITURE FOR SALE

St Helena Government is hosting a sale of beautiful locally-made Iroko wood furniture at Barn View. Items for sale will include wardrobes, coffee tables, and bedside cabinets.

Items will also include a commercial freezer and settee suites. The sale runs on Monday 19 August 2024 and Tuesday 20 August 2024.

Viewing and sale of furniture will be conducted from 10:00 to 14:00.

Sale will be conducted on a tender basis and forms will be available on the days of the viewing at Barn View, alternatively forms can also be collected at Essex House.

Tenders should be submitted by Friday 23 August 2024 and placed in the tender box at Essex House.

For further information please contact Chief Housing Officer Melissa Fowler on Melissa.fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh or alternatively call 22270.

SHG

15 August 2024



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MEMBER AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are being sought for the position of Member of the Audit and Risk Committee. Two positions are available.

The Audit and Risk Committee is appointed in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter which can be found at <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/>.

The Committee plays an important role in providing oversight of government's governance, risk management and internal control practices. Skills and experience in areas such as accounting/finance, governance, risk management, compliance, legal, human resources and knowledge of the public sector are desirable.

The appointment term is for a period of five years and members are eligible for re-appointment for a further term of five years subject to the agreement of the Committee and ratification by the Governor.

Although an important responsibility, this is not a significant time commitment; normally four meetings a year. As a member of the ARC a remuneration of £350 per annum will be paid, quarterly in arrears, together with a mileage allowance of 77p per mile for use of personal vehicles in connection with attendance at the meetings.

For further information about the duties of a member, interested persons can contact Committee Secretary Pearl Pilson via email through pearl.pilson@sainthelena.gov.sh or by telephone on 25862/22692.

The relevant form to register an interest may be obtained from Information and Research Support Officer Linda Benjamin by telephone on 22470, via email through linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh or on the SHG website at <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/EOI-Form-Member-Audit-Risk-Committee.doc>.

Completed forms should be returned to the Information and Research Support Officer by Friday 23 August 2024.

SHG

5 August 2024

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/>.



The World Around Us

Elon Musk – Far Right Agitator



Musk tells Twitter users Britain will send racist rioters to Falkland detention camps and civil war is inevitable in UK

Elon Musk is said to be worth about £200 billion. He has the magic touch. Developing start-up companies to global monster businesses. From electric cars with Tesla to space exploration with SpaceX, via research and development on brain implants with Neuralink, his eye for added-value has no limits.

Musk is South African; he is on the autism spectrum and was described as being a scrawny kid with no friends who was beaten up at school. One beating put him in hospital for four days. It is reported his father, who had two children with his own step-daughter, yelled at him for two hours when he came out of hospital, telling him he is a loser. As with other extraordinary achievers such as Isaac Newton who also had autism or Abraham Lincoln who was depressive, Elon Musk seems to have harnessed his situation and become exceptional.

With Musk, there is a dark side. After buying Twitter he was more in the public eye and soon gained a wide reputation for saying and doing strange things. Now, it is worse. Musk is using his vast wealth and extensive resources to support the Far-Right agenda which aims to disrupt the stability of western governments they do not favour.

In a three-pronged attack he is giving massive support to Trump's presidential campaign. Musk staged a two-hour interview with Trump this week, after 40 minutes when the Twitter streaming was wracked by technical problems. He has also promised \$millions of his own money to fund Trump's presidential campaign. Musk has also attacked the European Union. When an EU commissioner reminded him about laws about spreading "content that promotes hatred, disorder, incitement to violence, or certain instances of disinformation". Musk's response to this was, "Take a big step back and literally fuck your own face." In United States TV interviews, Musk uses an equally basic level of reasoning.

Finally, Musk has a hate campaign aimed at the new UK government. He has started a row with UK prime minister Keir Starmer and British enforcement authorities claiming that the anti-immigration protests in England and Northern Ireland meant "civil war is inevitable" and that the police response had been "one-sided". Musk calls the UK prime minister "two-tier Keir" in a campaign aimed at convincing people the Far-Right is 'victimised' when convicted of arson and a range of criminal damage. He complains because peaceful protesters against the Far-Right are not also locked up.

Following an established pattern used by Trump and Nigel Farage - Trump's UK side-kick, Musk rolls out stories that have no basis in fact or truth. In truth, Trump, Farage and Musk use lies to gain attention and incite people in order to try and achieve their own misbegotten aims.

Last week Musk tried a bit of scaremongering by making up a story that Keir Starmer 'is considering' sending Far-Right rioters to detention camps in the Falklands.

Political opponents of Far-Right leaders must know it is impossible to have a sensible, reasoned discussion with Trump and his crazy gang. The Democratic Vice-President designate, Tim Walz, has it about right when he just discounts all them as 'weird'.

When the European Union commissioner reminded Musk about EU law on promoting hatred, disorder, incitement to violence and disinformation, the response from Trump was, to blast the EU as an "enemy of free speech". Adding "The European Union should mind their own business instead of trying to meddle in the US presidential election." Musk's meddling in British affairs with "civil war is inevitable" and rioters being detained in the Falklands is conveniently ignored.

Musk is firmly allied with the Far-Right. The financial fortunes of Twitter have continued to decline since he bought it. Public figures, embarrassed to use it, are moving to Thread and Blue Sky. It is now at the point where the divisiveness incited by the Far-Right means any reasonable person or organisation does not want their reputations tainted by association with Musk's Twitter mouthpiece.

Finally, we have to consider whether the hugely rich who gather in support of Trump's presidential campaign have a half-hidden agenda. They do not respect the basic rules of democratic public debate. Trump and others have openly admired dictatorial leaders, notably Russia and North Korea. Trump in his increasingly rambling public repetitions, described by the kind-hearted as speeches, has given worrying clues about what he will do with power, if he is given it for a second time in the November US election.

Trump caused alarm among his critics after telling a crowd of supporters that they won't "have to vote again" if they return him to the presidency in November. He said, "Christians, get out and vote! Just this time – you won't have to do it anymore," at a rally hosted by the far-right Christian advocacy group Turning Point Action at the end of July. Nothing good can come of that.



The sticker below the number plate of this Tesla says "I bought this before we knew Elon Musk was crazy"

Gibraltar Pushing for Their Own MP in the House of Commons

In Gibraltar there is a lobby group called the Representation in Westminster Movement. They consider that, now, more than ever Gibraltar needs to become part of the UK. As well as an MP they want an appointed person to be a member of the House of Lords.

Direct, elected representation in the House of Commons has been an issue in Gibraltar over recent years. The proposals for UK MP representation for Gibraltar include a 'half in-half out' arrangement where Gibraltar keeps its own government, parliament and court system.

A research briefing published by the House of Commons Library suggests Gibraltar is on its own among British Overseas Territories in wanting to elect an MP to the UK Parliament. In a summary of public statements made by Overseas Territory ministers, the briefing lists the Falklands, St Helena, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Anguilla, Montserrat and Tristan preferring to look for some other way to strengthen representation.

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee held an inquiry in 2018 on the Future of the Overseas Territories. During discussion between committee members and Cllr Derek Thomas it was suggested that the Overseas Territories could have a dedicated Select Committee whereby UK MPs can invite witnesses and have discussions on individual issues. It would also be where Overseas Territory Chief Ministers and Premiers could request to appear before it to state an issue about something that is going wrong and they need help with, or where they are not being treated correctly by a Government Department. It would be a two-way process.

Derek Thomas replied, "I would fully support that. I would like for that to be taken forward. As far as St Helena is concerned, it would be a real positive move."

In November last year the Foreign Affairs Committee formed an Overseas Territories Sub-Committee. This sub-committee has held three inquiries since its formation; the first con-

cerned the British Indian Ocean Territory, followed by UK Government's support of education for OT students and, third, UK government support for security in the Caribbean. The last inquiry was cancelled because it was overtaken by the UK general election. New Select Committees have not yet been appointed in the new parliament which first sat on 9th July.

The Overseas Territories Sub-Committee does not appear to operate as envisaged in the 2018 discussion with Derek Thomas but it is a move forward. There are several other ways Overseas Territory ministers can raise issues with UK MPs and government. As is often the case, whether communication is satisfactory depends on whether the overseas minister puts the case effectively enough and whether the UK minister is willing to listen.

The outcome of the Overseas Territories Sub-Committee inquiry into UK Government's support of education for OT students was a letter to the then Foreign Secretary, David Cameron. The section addressing the difficulties facing St Helena's overseas students was: -

Evidence received suggests that the funding for education in St Helena, and the support offered to students from the island wishing to continue to tertiary education, is insufficient given local salaries and high transport costs. There were calls for the Government to step up its support for teaching staff on the island as well as extending more financial support to students wishing to study in the UK.

The letter ended with, "I hope this summary is helpful as you work across Whitehall to provide continued support to students in Overseas Territories seeking to study in the UK." Not the kind of stuff to make the ground move beneath your feet but its about as much as can be expected.

With all the ways elected representatives in Overseas Territories can put their case to the UK parliament and government, Gibraltar's long-standing campaign to have its own elected MP in the House of Commons looks very much to be a lost cause.

Simone Biles' Secret Gold Medal Winner

Simone Biles won four medals at the Paris Olympics – three of them gold and one silver. Could she have done it without Beacon, the 4 year-old golden retriever who was an important member of the gymnast's support team? Taken to the Olympics as an 'emotional support dog', Beacon is reported to have been a valuable behind-the-scenes member of the squad for the past year, helping the competitors keep their stress and serotonin levels in check.

Serotonin? Here's what it is. Serotonin is a chemical that carries messages between nerve cells in the brain and throughout your body. Serotonin plays a key role in such body functions as mood, sleep, digestion, nausea, wound healing, bone health, blood clotting and sexual desire. Serotonin levels that are too low or too high can cause physical and psychological health problems. Beacon had serious responsibilities.



Beacon, the golden retriever helped Simone Biles win Gold

The five gymnasts in the USA women's Olympic team won a total of nine medals. While unsung hero Beacon was never on the podium, team member Sunisa Lee said, "Thank god for Beacon". Sunisa won bronze medals in two events.

From the St Helena Golf Club

By SHGC

Golf Report: Sunday, August 11

Sunday, August 11, marked a significant day for our golf community as we witnessed our best turnout since the Open, with **26 golfers** participating in the much-anticipated "Under 60's vs. Over 60's" competition. This event not only showcased the competitive spirit of our members but also highlighted the camaraderie that exists within our club.

Match Overview

The competition was structured to pit younger players against their more seasoned counterparts, creating an exciting dynamic on the course. The day began with enthusiasm as golfers from both age groups took to the greens, eager to represent their teams and secure bragging rights.

Group Performance

The first three groups of players were evenly matched, resulting in a tie with each side earning **three points**. This initial balance set the stage for what would become a thrilling contest. However, it was in Groups 4 and 5 where the Over 60's truly shone. Their experience and strategic play allowed them to dominate these groups, ultimately leading to a decisive shift in momentum.

As Group 6 concluded their matches, they too contributed to the overall score but could not overcome the lead established by their older counterparts. The final tally reflected this outcome clearly.

Under 60's

Neil Joshua	1
Martin Cranfield	0
Jeremy Clingham	1
Donald Bowers	0
Martin Joshua	1
Phillip Francis	0
Martin Buckley	0
Asa Bushuru	0
Leeroy Caswell	0
Anthony Thomas (Nails)	0
Dax Richards	1
Bramwell Bushuru	0
Hensel Beard	0.5
Total	4.5

Over 60's

Eddy Bowers	0
Gavin George	1
George Thomas (Dover)	0
Douglas Augustus	1
Peter Bagley	0
Gerald George	1
Anthony Green	1
Peter Johnson	1
Patrick Henry	1
Patrick Johnson (Paddo)	1
Jeff Stevens (Foxy)	0
Keith Joshua (KJ)	1
Helena Stevens	0.5
Total	8.5

In summary, Sunday's event was not only a testament to the talent present within our club but also an enjoyable day filled with friendly competition and sportsmanship. The Under 60's vs. Over 60's competition will surely be remembered as one of our highlights this season.

Keith Joshua KJ scored the only two on the day and pocket all the balls in the Two Ball pool.

Next Week's competition is the **Cross Country**. Sign up your names in the normal way, phone in and Notice board ***Happy swinging.....!***



Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

HOSPITAL STAY

I would like to thank the nursing staff for their care in looking after me so well considering the difficult times they are having at present..

I am going to highlight some of these problems.

The hours of work and type of shift they have to adhere to are totally out of order. They get no on-call allowance, which is a total disgrace considering other sections such as Police, Search and Rescue, Customs and Prison Service all receive this allowance. Yet nurses who are responsible for people's lives get nothing. This has to be a big black mark for those who are in charge.

Other problems I noticed were not enough trained staff. The need for these is very high on the list, auxiliary staff can

help, as of this present time, but if an urgent matter occurs they have to chase for qualified staff. This causes more tension and stress on the qualified staff. I was helped by two experienced nurses that had recently arrived from abroad, they were both very competent in their duties. More like these are required. It does not matter where they come from, they must have the proper qualifications. My last piece about nurses concerns pay. Again all qualified nurses should be on the same wage scale whether coming from abroad or Saints. The two tier system that thrives on the Island has to be abolished.

I think the Para-Medics do a great job. Hats off to you all. This is one bright light within the Hospital Directorate that is going in the right direction. They have very experienced personnel leading the way, helping those that are in various stages of training.

Talking of trainers, perhaps this would be a good idea regarding nursing. Why not have two trainers sent over here to help the nurses with all means of ward care ? Again trainers arrive all the time for other directorates, but none for nursing, do you think this makes sense? I for one do not.

Doctors: Those that I met regarding my

health were excellent, I owe them all a lot. Many, many thanks.

Food: If you want 5* food, go to the hospital, it will be the best food your dog or cat has ever eaten.

That was what I was thinking during my first week on solid food. I have to say things got slightly better after that time, but the food was still small, and no matter what you ate it was always cold, or slightly warm at best.

I still cannot fathom out why the kitchen in the hospital is not used. Surely if this was reopened it would make life a lot easier for all. You could use the kitchen area as a cafeteria, where staff and visitors could get drinks and snacks. This surely would help towards the cost of kitchen staff.

If this is not on the agenda, then take a look at CUPBOARD OVENS, they use these abroad for distributing HOT food for the sick and elderly. At least then the food would be hot.

I know a qualified chef has started at the CCC, let's now hope the food get's a lot better and hotter.

BEST

Paul Laban

Land For Sale by Auction 22 August 2023 at 7pm, The Market Jamestown

Land Listed for Entry unless sold prior to auction:

- 0.25 acres Land at Sandy Bay (Land Registry Title Number Sandy Bay East 228) Guide Price £6000 to £9000
- 0.10 acres Land at Sandy Bay (Land Registry Title Sandy Bay East 230) Guide Price £3000 to £4500
- 2.60 Bare Land in Sandy Bay (Land Registry Title Diane's Peak Ring Road 56) £5000 to £8000

New Property Entries Are being accepted until 05 August 2024.

All enquiries please contact us:

By email: derek@dps.co.sh

or Telephone: 00 290 25836

or WhatsApp: 00 290 67022

or visit us at The Market, Jamestown, St. Helena,
STHL 1ZZ



St Helena Football

Saturday 10th August

Fugees 7 Inter Galactic 3

Scorers:

Fugees – Sean-Lee Thomas (4), Christin Yon (2), Dodi Peters

Inter Galactic – Jordan Yon (2), Stefan Thomas

MoM: Alistair Buckley

YMOM: Jacob Williams

Sunday 11th August

Bellboys 5 La Verde 2

Scorers:

Bellboys – Joey Thomas (3), Sidonio Benjamin, Taylon Phillips

La Verde – Mikee Williams, Jordan Yon

MoM: Dane Wade

YMOM: Blane

Rovers 8 Wanderers 1

Scorers:

Rovers – Blaze Baldwin(4), Rico Benjamin (3), S Benjamin

Wanderers – Eures Peters

MoM: Blaze Baldwin

YMOM: Shaquille Benjamin



Junior Football Results Sunday 11th August

5 A-Side Futsal Knockouts

Lower age

Semi-Final 1

Young Gunners 15 v 0 Little Dynamites

Goal Scorers: Kian Stroud 6, Lamar Peters 5, Louis Joshua 1, Fergus Stead 1, Hari Stead 1, Own Goal 1

POM – Kian Stroud

Semi-Final 2

Falcons 13 v 1 Rumlbers

Goal Scores:

Falcons – Joel Peters 6, Hugo Richards 3, Rio Henry 2, John Espinosa 1, Own Goal 1

Rumlbers – Ozel Stevens 1

POM – Joel Peters

Upper age

Semi-Final 2

Golden Gladiators 7 v 2 Bloopers

Goal Scorers:

Golden Gladiators – Kayden Scott 3, Levi Williams 1, Om Sawangwong 1, Tyler Anthony 1, Mohamad 1

Bloopers – Robson Fabian 1, Own Goal 1

POM – Kayden Scott

Sun 18/08/2024

Little Dynamaites v Rumlbers 9am 3rd Place

Upper age

Bloopers v Raptors 9am 3rd Place

Falcons v Young Gunners 10am Final





ST. HELENA DIVE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Date: Tuesday 27th August 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Where: The Dive Club, The Wharf

Join us at the dive club for our 2024 AGM.

Members and non-members welcome.

Refreshments and curry will be provided.

Membership is due on the night or can be paid in advance at the
BoSH.

If you have any matters you wish to discuss, please let us know.

If you need to get in touch, email us on

shdiveclub@gmail.com

The St. Helena Dive Club

or



For Sale By Auctions 22 August 2024 7pm The Market, Jamestown



Commercial Property Ladder Hill Guide Price £295,000 to £325,000

- ▶ Currently used as a bar and restaurant
- ▶ Internal area 258m²
- ▶ Great location with large parking area and facilities which benefits with ocean views
- ▶ Property could be converted into a retail outlet or residential apartments subject to planning permission
- ▶ An investment property which will provide good Return on Investment



Residential Property Half Tree Hollow Guide Price £145,000 to £160,000

Modern 4 Bedroom detached house
2 Bathrooms
Swimming Pool

Further details available at DPS, The Market,
Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email
derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290
67022/25836



Come and Have a Good time!



1st Jamestown Scout Group

Napoleon St, Jamestown, St Helena Island
STHL 1ZZ, Tel: (290) 22119

be prepared . . .

Scouts
Fun Day

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2024

AT THE MULE YARD

Sponsored walk Starts at 12 Noon

Gates Open at 2pm

Novelty Games, Raffles, Electric Buzzer, Lucky Dip, Football Tombola, Throw The Wet Sponge, Wheel Of Fortune, Spin a Prize

Food | Entertainment | Bar | Stalls | Lots of Family Fun