



INDEPENDENT

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Tourism Promo Video a Big Hit

Britain's Disgraced Rule Over Chagos Islands Starts to End



The Former RMS is Up For Sale Again

CANCER AWARENESS

MONTH OF OCTOBER



Alejandro Agag with the newly developed hydrogen racer, Pioneer 25, on the Sun Deck of the former RMS in the River Thames

Property For Sale



Property Alarm Forest £160,000.00

- ▶ This is a very well finished house inside and out
- ▶ 2 Bedroom House with garage and off-road car parking
- ▶ Good size kitchen and lounge as well as a shower and bath
- ▶ The property is not overlooked and offers a mature garden with ocean views



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



Tourism Promo Video a Big Hit



Three seconds in and you get a strong feeling this is something different. After three minutes and forty seconds you are sure it is. The new tourism video which appeared last Friday on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube has received wide approval from Saints and has broken records for the number of hits.

By midday on Sunday, it had been viewed 96,000 on Facebook, 8,644 times on Instagram and 300 views on YouTube. It was a big blast to mark World Tourism Day. The number of views on the different social media platforms rose rapidly during the following days.

The theme for this year's World Tourism Day is tourism and peace. Called 'Come and Find Me', featuring Katie Williams, the written introduction to the video on YouTube encourages viewers to click the play button with, "On St Helena, immerse yourself in nature and history where seclusion can provide clarity. Leave your world behind, make memories, find peace and discover who you are." That's the pitch to the tourists.

For Saints living overseas, the video tugs at the heartstrings with the up-close and personal theme that the Island itself is life-long friend. Social media comments praise the new approach to presenting the Island with 'an angle that has never been used' and similar comments. It is a new approach which is proving very popular and obviously making a big impact. The video can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATenzRrnCJc>

Travel St Helena also compiled a St Helena tourism and peace video for World Tourism Day. It is on social media platforms. The video produced by Darrin and Shron Henry also uses St Helena's amazing rural landscapes to show that St Helena and peace go hand-in-hand.



The Come and Find Me video shows even our monster sharks are peace loving

Brighton Surgeon Operated with a Swiss Army Knife

An unnamed surgeon at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton used a Swiss Army penknife to open up the chest of a patient because he claimed he could not find a sterile scalpel. The official line from the hospital is the operation was an emergency, but the surgeon's actions were "outside normal procedures and should not have been necessary".

Police are separately looking into at least 105 cases of alleged medical negligence at the University Hospitals Sussex Trust and considering manslaughter charges. An expert witness on clinical negligence and a former consultant surgeon, said: "It surprises me and appals me. Firstly, a penknife is not sterile. Secondly it is not an operating instrument. And thirdly all the kit required must have been there." Instead, the surgeon used a Swiss Army knife which he normally used to cut fruit for his lunch. The same surgeon carried out three supposedly low-risk operations in two months where all three patients died soon after.



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Editorial

The hours before print deadline turned out to be quite hectic yesterday. I thought it appropriate to write a piece based on a report published on the BBC News website about Diego Garcia and the 60 Sri Lankan Tamils who have been detained on Diego Garcia, by the US military, for three years. In fact, the third anniversary of their detention was yesterday. As I was working out how I was going to write the second half of the story, news popped up on my computer screen about the UK government agreeing to handover the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. That was indeed a coincidence and I immediately wondered how I could include that in what I was writing. I couldn't, the best thing was two stories on the Chagos Islands. When the agreement finally becomes a signed treaty, we will be one British Overseas Territory less.

Ten hours later, Falkland Islands Governor Alison Blake finds it necessary to resort to social media to assure Falklanders that the UK government is not thinking of coming to a similar kind of agreement with Argentina and hand the Falkland Islands over to them. The governor explained the legal and historical context of the two territories is very different. The UK commitment to the South Atlantic territory's sovereignty is "unwavering" and "remains undiminished", she said in her statement posted to social media.

And, the Argentine president offered the opinion as recently as last May that gaining the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands could take decades. He is only interested in using diplomatic means. His vice-president is a different kettle of fish. She comes from a military family and is extremely nationalistic. More about her inside this week's edition of the Independent.

It is, how can I say? Depressing, how far and wide the Independent has to look for news at the moment. There is definitely not the regular drumbeat of action and excitement, or even news of general interest, in this neck of the woods. The best I can come up with is – and this certainly is not written disrespectfully to St Helena Cricket - Saturday 5th October, tomorrow! is a big decision day for the cricket squad. Fourteen of the 17 now in the squad will be chosen to go to Nigeria. Coach Nadeem is back again. On Saturday he will have been here working out with the cricket squad for two weeks, less the number of days the plane was late, and is ready to advise on squad selection. We wish the cricket team the very best of luck, and that includes with the weather. Don't forget to buy raffle tickets. First prize, a return ticket to Cape Town.

I don't feel like moaning but I suppose duty calls. Another little whisper that floated to my ear today reminds me I have heard too many stories over the years about an employee who has not been paid. Nothing sensible is said about the situation by the employer. This leaves the employee with the decision when to leave. This no doubt based on a bal-

ance of probabilities. Am I likely to get paid this week or will I get deeper in debt if I stay another week. In many of these situations the employer either says nothing or lies a lot. There is no reliable advice given that the business is on its last legs. There is no notification that this week is the last week there will be enough money to pay wages. It seems in some cases the employee is strung along for as long as possible, working for no pay. Is this another area where there is a need for updated legislation?

How easy is it to take an employer to court because wages have not been paid and nothing said about the financial state of the business? In a small community recourse to law is best avoided. Access to law can also be problematic. Should there be another form of informal arbitration available to help sort out these local difficulties. It sounds like I have come around to a familiar old question. Is there a system available which fits the St Helena situation, or are we having to struggle with ways of doing things that have been imported from somewhere else and are not always appropriate for St Helena. Who's gonna sort that one out then? And when?

Let's finish with a good news story. Well, it will be good news to those who know blue fin tuna has been fished almost literally to death in the North Atlantic. One keen observer on the south coast of England says, I've been watching one of the greatest natural spectacles on Earth, here in south Devon. At a certain station of the tide, within a few metres of the coast, the sea erupts with monsters. They can travel at 45mph. They grow to 2.5 metres (8ft 2in) in length and 600kg in weight. They herd smaller fish – saury and garfish in this case – against the surface, then accelerate into the shoal so fast that they overshoot sometimes 2 or 3 metres into the air. Bluefin tuna. They are here, on our southern coasts, right now. After that, the keen observer reminisced romantically with the turbo flat on the floor. We have forgotten that our coastal waters (that's the English Channel, remember) were once among the richest on Earth. Bluefin and longfin tuna were common here. So were several species of whale, including sperm, fin, humpback and Atlantic grey, and a wide range of large sharks. Halibut the size of barn doors hunted the coastal shallows. Cod reached almost 2 metres in length, haddock nearly a metre, turbot were the size of tabletops, oysters as big as dinner plates, shoals of herring and mackerel were miles long.

Are these fisherman's tales? No. There's a wealth of evidence, historical and archaeological, of marine ecosystems built on an entirely different scale to our poor scraps, much of it beautifully documented.

Isn't that great? Since it's a good news story I will not add the bit about big British fishing fleets wanting to pull all the blue fin out of the water immediately they start to re-establish themselves. **Vince**

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

We respond to time in all sorts of different ways. We are all affected by time. It controls our lives. Some like to be on time. Some like to forget about time. Some feel they have too much time on their hands. Some just like to mark time. Some find they do not have enough time. Some feel time just slips away. We have watches or clocks to keep track of time.

There are some clocks that we can't put on walls. Some people sneeze when there is pollen in the breeze. Some have winter blues, others don't. Some get up early, some get up late. Could it be that we live in "energies of time"?

The Circle

*We draw our own circle
with the clock of our hands
make our own space
face our own time*

*We move and work
in the circle we draw
each day tracing
a line in the sand*

*Each day the line
in the circle we trace
covers a space
in our energy of time*

*There are other circles
drawn in energies of time
different circles of space
held in different hands*

*People draw circles
fill different spaces
live each day
in energies of time*

*Time has its own
energy and space
in the circle we trace
the mood of our mind*

*Some invade our space
distort the time of our mind
some we invite and trust
sharing our space and time*

Basil George

ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WELCOMES SENIOR CLERK FROM HOUSE OF COMMONS

The St Helena Legislative Council, in collaboration with the House of Commons Speaker's Office, is pleased to announce the visit of Liam Laurence Smyth CB, a distinguished Senior Clerk from the House of Commons. Mr Smyth will be providing invaluable technical advice to the Legislative Council during his stay on the island.

Representing the Rt. Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr Smyth is a highly experienced parliamentary official with over four decades of service. He has held various key roles within the Clerk's Department, including Clerk of Legislation from 2014 to 2024. His extensive knowledge and expertise will be instrumental in supporting the Legislative Council's ongoing development and operations.

Mr Smyth is scheduled to arrive in St Helena on Saturday 05 October 2024, and will depart on Sunday 13 October 2024. During his visit, he will engage with members of the Legislative Council, SHG, and relevant stakeholders to discuss a range of parliamentary matters and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The Hon Cyril Gunnell, Speaker of the Legislative Council said:

"Liam's visit is the latest support to establish a Parliamentary Services Commission to ensure the LegCo is financially and administratively independent of the executive, to regulate its own finances; and to ensure its efficient and effective operation. The Legislative Council appreciates the support and partnership of the House of Commons Speaker's Office."

#StHelena #LegislativeCouncil #HouseofCommons #Speaker'sOffice

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

www.twitter.com/StHelenaGovt

SHG

02 October 2024



The Solihull Project – Worth a Closer Look

SHG issued a press release on 3rd October about the Solihull Project. On Monday this week they emailed an advert - nothing else - about the project, probably to the same email addresses as the earlier press release. The Solihull Project is an on-line DIY tool designed to help people understand demanding and stressful situations. Why these situations occur and how to deal with them and how to avoid them in the first place. It looks very good. It is easy to follow, supported by healthcare professionals there is plenty of information on a wide range of issues where extra demands and stress can affect emotional and mental health. It's worth taking a look on-line to find out more.

The Solihull Project describes itself on the opening page, "Across the UK and internationally, the Solihull Approach supports mental health and wellbeing in parents, children, schools, older adults and high stress workplaces through an evidence-based model in trainings, online courses and resources."

There is information and advice on situations which many of us, and sometimes all of us have to deal with. Dealing with the changes before and after giving birth, with a child who is turning into an adult or the loss of a loved one and worries about money. That is just in the section dealing with the family; there are many more. All of it helps to make difficult times run a bit more smoothly; and helps to make the right decisions during times of stress.

There are courses that can be followed, of varying length and time. Even courses where qualifications are available to run courses. Some courses have to be paid for, but that is not a problem. SHG has made arrangements with the Solihull Project so free access is available. Just use the code STHELENA when it is asked for.

What SHG Wants Us to Know About

What SHG Tells Us Most About

Between 1st January this year and the end of September, 381 press releases have been received from SHG. The year started as it intended to carry on with the closure of the yacht moorings at West Rocks. The chain-links had worn away due to lack of maintenance. Press releases about closures are a regular information stream from SHG. Road closures, parking spaces temporarily blocked off, government offices closing for the day and Port Control closing James Bay and / or Rupert's Bay (and beach) because a ship has arrived. There was also one clinic closure which, from memory, is less than usual. In all, closures for some reason or other make up almost 20% of the press releases received.

All press releases were slotted into a category. All except for 57 of them, or 15%, which did not fit a recurring category. If categories were made for all 57, there would be another 55 categories. Top of the list of categories is Tourism. Many of the tourism press releases contained an advert, and only an advert, nothing else. There is no hint that SHG will pay if the advert is published; perhaps media is expected to publish and live off fresh air. Listed separately was the Tourism Showcase. Some may remember a well organised event when overseas tour operators visited St Helena to meet hospitality providers to discuss face-to-face what they offered and gain other useful information. The tour operators were also shown around the island; obtaining valuable first-hand knowledge for use when selling a tour package to St Helena. For the Tourism Showcase package there is just one press release. There was no follow-up received to indicate whether this mammoth effort of organisation which seemed to go so well had resulted in gaining benefits for St Helena's tourism development. Not providing follow-up information is a common thing. We therefore have to wonder if SHG do measure the effectiveness of their efforts in the many areas they are active and find ways to improve and refine what they do.

What Else Do They Tell Us?

The next most frequent press release was Port Control. Most of these press releases announced the closure of James-town wharf and Rupert's wharf and were bundled up in the closures category. It's fair to say there were few more road/parking space closures than port closures.

Next on the list is Statistics, which totalled 23 press releases, or 6%, and were mainly about the population going down or prices going up. After that, announcements about another Exco, Legco or Scrutiny committee and constituency meetings totalled 22 press releases. All were announcements that there will be a meeting but no reports on what decisions were made or the feedback there may have been from the constituency meetings. In recent memory, only Ronald Coleman has supplied that information for the Independent to publish.

Reports are available when Exco is tasked to make the final decision on certain development applications. Exco meetings are now private discussions among ministers with the governor; more like the usual cabinet meetings ministers have

elsewhere. That does not have to prevent a public version of most of the main issues of what was discussed being made available but it's in the DNA of SHG to keep as much as possible about the day-to-day government of this Island safely tucked away in the 'private' category.

Health and Education at the Bottom of the List

Next on the list of categories are Health Related information and Education Related information. Education information was often about open days, award ceremonies and similar events, with one or two referring to a review of the school provision for primary education. There were some about the closure of education portfolio offices. Health related press releases are more informative overall; including new equipment now in use and information on frontline services. Other categories with roughly the same number of press releases were Invitations to Tender and Police Related announcements. These were closely followed by Weather Warnings (12) and EDIP Funded Projects (11). Also with the same number of press releases were Public Consultations and Overseas Visits.

At the lower end of the list were announcements on Public Transport, the Postal Service, Cruise Ships and Airport Related announcements. The non-by-election had five announcements and a new issue of SHG's own printed news, 'The Ambassador', was announced four times.

What Does This Tell Us?

First and foremost, either SHG thinks the information in their press releases is what we all want to know, or they are telling us only what they think we ought to know. Most of it concerns the most basic nuts and bolts, day-to-day stuff of government administration – very rarely is it more than that. Yes, we need to know when a road is closed but there is so much more than that kind of information which SHG can share out of simple public interest.

The St Helena Government does not make information about what is happening in government easily accessible; in fact, it is incredibly hard to get access to information on the most important things going on (or not) in government. We get to know when Legco meets, we can forget about Exco now it seems. We can download the Order Paper from the SHG website. But how many can sit all day listening to what is too often a bad quality radio broadcast of Legco Live. Much of a live Legco broadcast is 'down time'. Little or no information of relevance is broadcast for extended periods. Why has no-one thought of editing the hours of broadcast down to 40 minutes of real information which is relevant or interesting to the public. The alternative is to wait months, at least, for the Proceedings of a Legislative Council meeting, download it from the SHG website and then do a word search to find what is wanted. Information from SHG on what they are doing in government, on our behalf, is inaccessible. Even the search engine on the government website is very poor. Often emails enquiring about current issues receive no response, other than the press office saying they will try again to get the information from someone.

What SHG Wants Us to Know About What SHG Tells Us Most About

Much is made of the so-called Communications Hub that SHG have set up. When it was introduced, it showed connectivity between all the various communication platforms. Searching now on the SHG website for information to the Communications Hub brings up nothing. The recollection is the emailed press release messages were merely repeated on other communication platforms. Repetition does not make them better.

SHG's Facebook and Twitter pages repeat some press release content. Also included is the lightweight and inconsequential style of all social media platforms. This is what social media is designed to do. It is no place to get a meaningful message across about important and often complicated issues that touch all our lives.

The best reach is through radio. Why do not some ministers have a session on radio after an Exco or Legco meeting to discuss the main points from their meetings? It would be a giant step forward if they did that. But verbal communication is momentary, and that is a weakness. It's in one ear and often out the other. This results in different recollections of what was said. Like social media the wrong end of the stick is often gripped. For proper consideration of major and often complex issues, the printed media is the best we have. The printed word does not disappear until it is thrown away. Important points can be referred back to; when reading for the first time different bits can be re-read if necessary. Can TV be used more effectively to communicate what SHG is doing?

Public consultation has to move with the times. It is reasonable to estimate that no more than 2% of the population bother to download a new government policy document AND read it carefully from cover to cover. Less people than that go to public consultations and constituency meetings. This is the age when people expect to get all the information they want while sitting in their own armchair. SHG communication management should be to make sure the armchair sitter (and those leaning against the bar) get the correct

information first. An SHG press release will try to get across a few of the major points in a new policy proposal and follow this up with a series of public consultation meetings. By the time the meetings take place, SHG are on the back foot because the little bit of simplified information given has been misinterpreted and travelled through the grapevine spawning a number of versions.

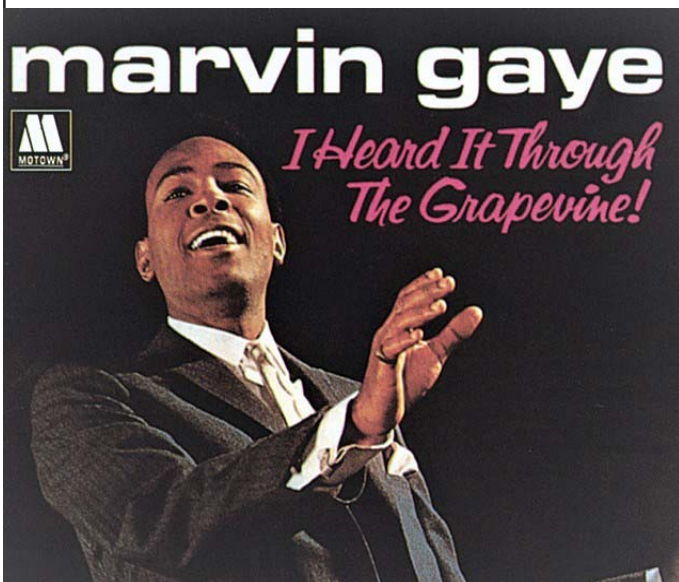
Pressing the send button for an emailed press release is not the end of the job, it is just the start. Follow ups with a radio discussion with councillors used to be more regular than now. Social media is no place to explain new policies. The launch of new policies or important initiatives should include detailed conversations with people from print media. The infrequent press conferences only get half way to getting any message across satisfactorily.

There's another general election next year. There will be exhortations about all of us voting. This is your chance to get involved – you decide, is what they will say. If we are not involved now, why should we get involved then?



**WE DESERVE
BETTER**

Success is not the
absence of failure,
it's persistence
through failure.





CANCER AWARENESS - MONTH OF OCTOBER.

SATURDAY 6TH OCT - COFFEE MORNING @ JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tickets available from Committee Members of call 23030. Tickets will also be available at the door

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER –

a. MUFTI DAY – wear something in YELLOW to show your support,
Or wear something in a cancer colour of your choice.

b. MISCELLANEOUS STALL @ 10AM – in front of the Cannister
Donations of cakes/cup cakes/plants/fruit/vegetable/other gifts., most welcome

THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER –HEALING SERVICE, 7PM @ St John's Church, Upper Jamestown
Cancer patients/Survivors, Family & Friends and others – All are welcome to attend

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER – CARNIVAL DAY

Starting at 3Pm from Upper Jamestown and ending at the Grand Parade

THEME –

1. 'BE A WARIOR' – Wear a costume in a cancer colour of your choice
2. Or other costume/outfit in bright colours

As in previous years, anyone wishing to organise a fundraising event DURING THE OCTOBER MONTH OR RUN A FOOD OR OTHER STALL ON CARNIVAL DAY or make a donation can register their interest by contacting any of the Charity Members for permission, as soon as possible.

Dear Editor,

Message to the St Helena Community,

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, extend heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who generously donated breakfast packs or monetary donations to purchase packs for the elderly in our community. Your contributions were received with immense appreciation following our campaign in celebration of International Older Persons Day on October 1st and International World Food Day on October 16th.

The response to our campaign was overwhelmingly positive, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Your generosity has made a significant difference in the lives of many elderly individuals. Packs were delivered to over 70 residents over the last few days.

While we acknowledge that our efforts can never fully reach every older person in need, your caring actions have provided much-needed relief and comfort to many.

We are truly inspired by the compassion and community spirit demonstrated by those who recognize the challenges faced by our older residents. Your donations not only provided nourishment but also a sense of belonging and care that is invaluable.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact and ensure that our elderly community members feel valued and supported.

**With sincere gratitude,
Equality and Human Rights Commission**



CHECK OUT DONNY'S PLACE ON FRIDAY NIGHT,

4TH OCTOBER STARTING AT 7PM. ENTRANCE FEE £1.

IT'S A SPONSORED KAROKE NIGHT – 'SINGING FOR THE CANCER CHARITY'

SPONSOR SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE AT DONNY'S PLACE.

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN, AND MAKE IT A FUN NIGHT OUT!



DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 6 th October 2024 – Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 6 th October 2024 – Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Monday 7 th October		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
Thursday 10 th October		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 6 th October 2024 – Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
Tuesday 8 th October		
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark

Vacancy

Part Time Cleaner

Salary for the post will be £7,224 per annum (£602 per month)



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Cleaner within the Bakery. Hours of work will be 30 hours per week.

As the Cleaner you will be responsible for carrying out an effective day to day cleaning program of the Bakery production equipment and facilities in order to meet the required health and hygiene standards and production targets.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be physically fit with the ability to undertake regular manual handling duties
- Have knowledge of Health & Safety, as well as Food Safety & Hygiene
- Be able to work independently and manage time effectively, with minimum supervision
- Be reliable, trustworthy and punctual with a flexible approach to work
- Demonstrate vigilance and excellent attention to detail, and take pride in their work
- Maintain total confidentiality within the Company
- Be able to meet deadlines in a fast paced environment

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via [22380](tel:22380) or gm-productions@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 10 October 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

DRAFT DATA PROTECTION POLICY – REMINDER OF CLOSING DATE FOR FEEDBACK

In September, St Helena Government invited the public to participate in the Draft Data Protection Policy consultation process. Opportunities for feedback were provided through public meetings, stakeholder engagement sessions, and by written submission.

The public are reminded that the closing date for written feedback is Friday 04 October 2024. Your input is essential in developing a comprehensive and effective policy.

Members of the public are invited to review the draft data protection policy available online at https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/DataProtectionPolicyv3.2.0_CONSULTATION-DRAFT-AUG24.pdf and in hard copies at the Public Library and Post and Customer Services Centre.

Any questions or views on the draft policy may be submitted to Alex Adams via email through alex@jjudigital.com. #StHelena #DataProtection #AwarenessCampaign

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/
www.twitter.com/StHelenaGovt
SHG
27 September 2024



NEW STAMP ISSUE- 'THE BLUE BELT PROGRAMME'

The Post and Customer Services Centre is pleased to announce the release of a new stamp issue entitled "The Blue Belt Programme", released today, Monday 30 September 2024.

The issue features images of sea creatures found in St Helena waters during the 2019-2020 marine survey, and consists of:

- Four valued stamps (50p, 60p, £1.60 and £1.85)
- Souvenir sheet (£5.00)
- First Day Cover with stamps (£6.00)

The stamps and souvenir sheet will be available for purchase from today. First Day Covers will be released at a later date.

All new St Helena Stamp issues can be found on the St Helena Government website at the following link: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/coins-and-stamps/>

Local customers can purchase merchandise from the Post and Customer Services Centre in Jamestown. Overseas customers can contact the UK agent via e-mail through GShaw@cascophilatelic.com to place an order. #StHelena #NewStampIssue #BlueBeltProgramme <https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/> <https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG
30 September 2024



PRESS RELEASE

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION MANAGER RETIREMENT

Connect Saint Helena Ltd would like to extend congratulations to Trevor (Titch) Fowler on his retirement. Trevor has been employed within Connect since 2021 as the Electricity Distribution Manager.

Trevor has a long history in the electrical field, spanning over 40 years. During his time with Connect, Trevor has led the ongoing maintenance programme for the distribution network and he has also led on works to expand the network, for example, to the OneWeb site and to the port development in Rupert's. He has championed health and safety and has led on practical training and knowledge transfer for staff within the Electricity Distribution Section.

Connect would like to extend thanks to Trevor for his hard work, his support, and his willingness to share his knowledge and experience with us. We wish him a very happy retirement.

Johnny Green, Electrical Technician, will serve as responsible officer for the Electricity Distribution Section until the substantive Electricity Distribution Manager arrives on-island. Any emails to Johnny can be sent via email enquiries@connect.co.sh or tel. 22255. Electricity fault reports can be reported via tel. 22255 during normal working hours or to the Power Station on tel. 22602 outside of normal working hours.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd
27 September 2024



INVITATION TO TENDER

INSTALLATION OF RAILING SYSTEM ALONG THE HIGH RISK AREA OF THE JAMESTOWN RUN

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

CS-1884-SHG – Installation of Railing System along the High Risk Area of the Jamestown Run

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence at the Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown, by telephone on 25932 or via email through tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday 30 September 2024 at 09:00, meeting at the Duke of Edinburgh Playground, Jamestown.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Procurement Officer.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Monday, 07 October 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG
24 September 2024



CHEVENING

Apply for a Chevening Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2025 Chevening scholarships intake and will close on 5th November 2024.

Chevening offers a period of one year's study in the UK for a Master's degree.

The programme is fully funded by the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and is aimed at those with leadership qualities and those wishing to have an influential role and make a positive change within their community/country. Candidates are able to study any course of their choice at any UK university but must demonstrate how their course choice fits in with their career aspirations and goals.

Chevening offers individuals a chance to grow both academically, personally and professionally. It exposes individuals to the UK's historical and cultural aspects through a vast programme of networking events. Individuals are able to build relationships and make valuable connections with fellow scholars, the FCDO and other UK institutions and organisations, developing skills and knowledge useful for their future career.

To be eligible for a Chevening Scholarship you must:

- Be a citizen of a Chevening eligible country
- 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 with funding from a UK Government funded scholarship
- Must return to your home country at the end of your study for a minimum period of two years.

For further information on the programme and how to apply, please visit www.chevening.org or contact Chevening Officer, Kerry Lane on 22308, email Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
3 October 2024



**St Helena
Government**

INVITATION TO TENDER

DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

The Sea Rescue Service and Port Control wishes to dispose of the following items of equipment by public tender:

ITEM NO.	EQUIPMENT
1	Ex RMS Gangway Barge
2	Port Boat
3	Tractor Fenders

These assets will be sold on an 'as-is' basis. Viewing can be arranged by contacting Emergency Planning, Sea Rescue Manager and Acting Harbour Master, Simon Wade via email at simon.wade@sainthelena.gov.sh or by telephone on 22750.

All tenders must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope marked Tender Reference and placed in the Tender Box, located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by no later than 12:00 on Friday 18 October 2024.

**SHG
01 October 2024**



**DRAFT DATA
PROTECTION POLICY**

Objectives

1. To increase the public's trust and confidence in how data is used and processed on St Helena
2. To strengthen transparency and accountability and promote good information governance
3. To protect the residents of St Helena in a digital world
4. To stay relevant, become an attractive country for digital commerce, provide an excellent public service and keep abreast of evolving technology

To do this, this policy will ensure the following:

Protection of the rights and freedoms of those data subjects whose data is collected and/or processed on the Island of St Helena.

Collection, processing and storage of personal data where there is a well-founded lawful basis for doing so.

Demonstration of accountability for processing activities by maintaining records of processing activities.



Contact

Alex Adams

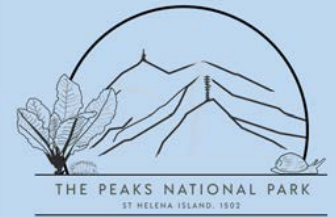
23452 / 64445

alex@jujudigital.com

St Helena Cloud Forest Project Public Talk

The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is an exciting, highly collaborative project working to up-scale cloud forest restoration within the Peaks National Park for biodiversity, water security and socio-economic benefits on the Island.

We are thrilled to host a talk by Meteorologist, Steve Palmer, to share his extensive knowledge and discuss the evolution of weather observations on St Helena.



Weather Observations on St Helena: Past, present and future

Stephen Palmer MSc Open (Dev Mgmt) BSc Reading (Phys/Met) FRMetS is a highly qualified and experienced Meteorologist, whose interest in the field goes all the way back to when he was 12yrs old. Since then, he has worked in varying roles for the UK Met Office, helping to develop weather forecasting and climate data collection, including upgrading Met departments in a number of developing countries.

Since his retirement from the UK Met Office in 2020, Steve has continued to work with the Met Office at Bottom Woods on St Helena and has provided invaluable support and expertise to the St Helena Cloud Forest Project. In his upcoming talk, Steve will share how and when weather observations started on the island and how it has evolved over the years. He will also delve into future plans for weather observations on St Helena as well as for the Bottom Woods Met Office. Save the date and don't miss out on this exciting public talk!

Date: Thursday 10th October

Venue: Museum of St Helena

Time: 18:30



'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest' News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project



Welcome to another 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Today we remind you to check out 'live' weather and climate data for St Helena thanks to advancements in the weather monitoring network on the Island

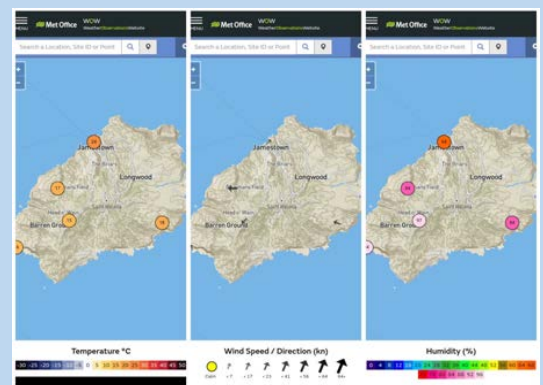
Funding from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project and Darwin Plus (DPLUS103) enabled the installation of the island's first automatic weather station network, utilising mobile data to telemeter information to Bottom Woods Met Station in real-time.

This allows anyone to check out 'live' weather and climate readings for different locations around the island at any time, including information on temperature, wind speed & direction, rainfall, & humidity. Simply check out <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/> and pan to St Helena.

Additionally, thanks to an incredible piece of work by Steve Palmer - an expert Meteorologist supporting the St Helena Cloud Forest Project - historical meteorological data for St Helena has been archived here: https://data.ceda.ac.uk/badc/corra/images/metobs/atlantic/ST_HELENA. These readings date back to the late 1800's and were all meticulously compiled using UK colonial registers and Royal Navy logbook images.

Brilliant job by our partners in the Bottom Woods Met Station, our Water Resources Monitoring Technician, and of course to Steve Palmer - who will be giving an exciting public talk on the evolution of weather observations on St Helena at the Museum on 10 October, starting 6.30pm!

Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project



Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:

Website Facebook Twitter/X



ST HELENA



NATIONAL TRUST



Requirements

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

Contact

For further information or application forms

sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh | 22307

Closing date: 1st November 2024

You will receive

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



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION





EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EXTENDED DEADLINE

Member of the Panel of Investigators

To ensure availability the St Helena Legislative Council is once again seeking Expressions of Interest from members of the community who are interested in serving as a Member of the Panel of Investigators (POI). This is an opportunity to assist with investigations regarding the conduct of Members of the Legislative Council and be a part of ensuring the accountability of the Legislative Council.

Members of the public who are interested in this key role should be non-partisan and possess the knowledge, investigative skills, experience, personal qualities and standing within the community suitable to perform this role.

Remuneration is provided when members are appointed to conduct an investigation after being selected from the panel to serve on an Investigative Commission.

The deadline has been extended for interested persons to submit a résumé to the Legislative Council Office, The Castle, or via email to anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh by 4pm on Wednesday 9 October 2024.

**Legislative Council
1 October 2024**



Appraisal of Recycling Options in St Helena

Invitation to Quote

The South Atlantic Plastic Project team, at the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) and the Zoological Society of London, are seeking a consultant with small island waste and resource management expertise to provide an updated appraisal of recycling options for waste materials in St Helena. The report will focus on assessing the feasibility of sustainable practices, whether through increased capacity and innovation on the island or by exporting waste to commercial partners. This appraisal is to be used as a tool to advise local waste management practitioners, providing feasible up-to-date options for a variety of waste streams that aligns with St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

If you would like further information please contact Tobias Capel, tobias.capel@trust.org.sh or telephone 22569. A full brief will also be available for collection from the SHNT Office Manager at Broadway House, email amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh or telephone 22190.

The deadline for receiving bid submissions is the **17th October 2024**.

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
 Government**

**Fixed Term General Teaching Assistant (St Paul’s Primary)
 (£8,419 - £8,725 per annum)**

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. The individual needs to be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and have good communication skills to be able to communicate between students, parents and colleagues. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Patricia Williams on Tel No 24737 or Email Patricia.Williams@primary.edu.sh
Closing date: 08 October 2024

**Head of Economic Development Policy
 (£30,256 - £36,244 per annum based on experience)**

The Economic Development Portfolio is seeking to recruit a Head of Economic Development Policy to be responsible for drafting and implementing policies that ensure the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS), Digital Strategy, Tourism Recovery Strategy, and Investment Strategy are delivered. The post holder will be key in delivering the vision of the SEDS: creating an enabling environment that allows people and businesses to thrive, preserving what makes St Helena unique, and improving how SHG delivers as a government. Heads of Service are integral to supporting the overall financial resilience of the Public Service and have a responsibility to ensure value for money and return in investment within their Service and across the Public Service as a whole. You will be required to have experience in working within an economic development field and experience in writing and implementing policy and strategy. Strong leadership is essential as well as experience in managing and leading a high performing team. Contact us for further information and a copy of the full job profile.

Enquiries: Damian Burns on Email Damian.burns@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 14 October 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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Independent Living Support Worker (Piccolo Hill) (6 month Fixed Term - £7,960 per annum pro rata)

Are you able to provide one-to-one support to enable an individual with learning difficulties to live independently in their own home in the Longwood area? Would you be able to assist the individual in developing their skills so that they can live a full, active and independent life whilst being safe? If so, this important role could be for you. You will be required to develop a supportive relationship, rather than providing a caring role, with the individual; supporting them to engage in their preferred interests and activities, decision making and independence over their own life. Contact us for further information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Nicole Hercules on Tel No: 25936 or Email piccolo.hill@helanta.co.sh

Closing Date: 07 October 2024

Customer Service Officer-Post & Customer Services Centre (£9,197 per annum)

Do you have good customer service skills and IT skills? Here is an opportunity for you to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by being responsible for the provision of a customer service frontline which is well-versed in all of the products or services in Postal and Customer Services delivery. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Karen Yon on Email: karen.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: 18 October 2024

Social Care Officer (Adults Services) (£13,344 per annum)

The Health & Social Care Portfolio is seeking an individual to join the Adult Service team. As the Social Care Officer you will need to be able to recognise and respond to issues of mental capacity and safeguarding, as well as to promote the independence, provide meaningful support and to safeguard vulnerable people within our community. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Angela Bevan on 22920 or Email angela.bevan@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: 14 October 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.

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Join us!

We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Casual Workers – Social Care (Rate of Pay: £4.37 per hour)

Social Care is seeking to recruit Casual Workers to provide quality care and support to those in care. You will be required to communicate and interact fully with both adults and children to ensure their protection and promote their welfare. Please note that as Casual Workers you will only be entitled to receive payment for the hours worked. Annual leave etc. will not apply. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Rosalie Brown (Head of Social Care – (SD) Tel: 23312
 Martin Greenhalgh (at CCC) Tel: 23090
 Nicole Hercules (at Piccolo Hill) Tel: 25936
 Hannah Herne (at Sheltered Housing) Tel: 25798
 Kelly Hopkins (at Ebony View) Tel: 23343
 Annabel Phillips (Children Residential Home) Tel: 24386

Healthcare Assistant (£7,960 per annum)

The Health and Social Care Portfolio is looking to recruit an individual who are highly motivated with a caring and empathetic nature to support our Nursing team in providing direct patient care in a highly pressured working environment. It is essential that individuals have good verbal and written communication and have excellent attention to detail and accuracy. The role involves assisting nursing staff with out of hour's nurse-led emergency care (evenings, nights and weekends) for patients attending hospital or contacting via telephone, as well as assisting nurses as part of the ambulance team when called out of the hospital for emergencies. This role involve unsocial hours e.g. shift work – weekends, night duty and public holidays. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Marilyn Essex on 22500 or Email marilyn.essex@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing Date: 09 October 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.

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Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

**Marine & Fisheries Conservation Data
Apprentice
(£7,280 per annum) (Fixed term until 31 March 2025)**

The Marine & Fisheries Conservation Data Apprentice will help to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by allowing the apprentice to gain experience and workplace awareness. This in turn will support their career and educational progression allowing them to contribute to the future development of St Helena. The role will specifically focus around supporting ENRPs Marine and Fisheries Conservation activities, specifically data management as well as communications, public awareness raising and fieldwork. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Kirsty Jones on Tel No. 25966 or Email kirsty.jones@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 09 October 2024

**PA to Law Officers
(£9,781 per annum)**

The Attorney General Chambers is seeking a highly motivated individual who will be responsible for the provision of comprehensive, co-ordinated administrative, secretarial and clerical support to the Law Officers. This role is highly sensitive and the post holder will be responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of classified documents with regular access to Restricted and Confidential material and occasional access to material with higher markings. A high degree of confidentiality is essential together with excellent attention to detail. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Simon Dykes on Tel No. 25526 or Email Simon.dykes@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 16 October 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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Sea Rescue Crew (Auxiliary)

(£5.37 per hour) 18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test.

The successful applicant will receive a monthly retainer of £70 on completion of basic training.

Trainee Helmsmen (Sea Rescue)

(£7,700 per annum)

Applications will be considered from 16 years +

Are you keen to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by protecting and saving lives at sea? If you are a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with the ability to remain calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, then the St Helena Sea Rescue Service has the above opportunities for you to join their team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion on the above posts.

Enquiries: Leeroy Caswell (leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh) or Mark Caswell (mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh) on 25215

Closing date: 15 October 2024

Bus Driver

(£7,960 per annum)

The bus driver will help the island thrive by being responsible for helping to provide the Public Transport services for the community. The Public Transport Service is well utilized by shift workers for home to work purposes as well as many other members of the community for social purposes; it is highly valued by all users. The Bus driver will also be responsible for carrying out daily water, oil and other checks as required by the Senior Transport Manager. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Nicholas George on Tel No 23208 or Email Vehicle.Fleet@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 16 October 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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Senior Care Assistant (Ebony View) (£10,167 per annum)

Social Care is seeking to recruit a Senior Care Assistant to work under the direction of the Learning Disability & Residential Manager, to deliver care and well-being to service users in accordance with the individuals Care Plan and Unit procedures and guidelines. We are looking for an individual with good interpersonal skills and experience in working with challenging behaviour in a care setting. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing Date: **18 October 2024**

Senior Human Resources Assistant (£9,781 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. Keys 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: **Sharina Williams on Tel No 22470 or Email**
sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **16 October 2024**

Assistant Gardner (£7,280 per annum)

Central Support Services has an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to fill the role of Assistant Gardner. The Assistant Gardener will assist the Head Gardener with the day to day upkeep of Plantation kitchen gardens and the production of a variety of vegetables to supply Plantation House with fresh vegetables all year round. Contact us for more information a discussion.

Enquiries: **Debbie Yon on Tel No. 24453 or Email**
ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: **09 October 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.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Leasehold Manager (£18,902 per annum)

The Economic Development Portfolio is looking to strengthen the Property team to deliver the requirements of the new Property Disposal and Purchase Policy 2024 (PDPP 2024), by proactively identifying commercial property before lease expiry for the Property Disposal Register, and enabling economic growth by monitoring leasehold covenants so that property is better maintained and readily let at a competitive rent.

The Leasehold Manager will also be responsible for delivering effective day to day leasehold management services to commercial tenants, and implementing policies and procedures that support a professional, leasehold management service to residential and commercial Crown property tenants.

Contact us for further information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Nikita Crowie on Tel No 22270 or Email
nikita.crowie@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: 18 October 2024

Crown Estates Manager (£18,902 per annum)

As part of the strengthening of the Property team the Economic Development Portfolio is seeking to recruit a Crown Estates Manager to be responsible for the day to day operations and service delivery of the Crown Estates Team. You will also be required to deliver the requirements of the new Property Disposal and Purchase Policy 2024 (PDPP 2024), so that property is accessible for residential and investment opportunities, ensuring economic growth.

The post holder will be required to have a good understanding of the fiduciary duty to be exercised when disposing of Crown property and previous experience in a Managerial role.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Nikita Crowie on Tel No 22270 or Email
nikita.crowie@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing Date: 18 October 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

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WREATHS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Central Support Services Portfolio is seeking a suitable florist to create 11 fresh floral wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service, which will take place on Sunday 10 November 2024.

Payment will be offered for wreaths, the value of which will reflect the materials used and the time committed to making them.

If you have experience in making wreaths, please contact Crystal Maggott at the Castle by telephone on 22740 or email crystal.maggott@sainthelena.gov.sh for further information by no later than Friday 18 October 2024.

SHG

01 October 2024

<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh>



Just pay up says Post Office scandal victim

Sir Alan leads the Justice for Sub-postmasters Alliance, campaigning for financial redress for the 555 victims who took part in the landmark group legal action against the Post Office that culminated in 2019.

Their compensation was, however, swallowed up by the huge legal costs involved in bringing their case.

The government went on to set up a specific compensation fund to give these sub-postmasters the redress like others affected, but Sir Alan has said the deadline is needed as three years have passed since.

Last month, Sir Alan questioned whether the government was dragging the "issue out to exhaust victims until their deaths" and if the scheme has become a "grave train" for its lawyers.

A total of £265m has been spent on lawyers relating to the Post Office scandal from 2014 to 2024.

INVITATION TO TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF A WHEELCHAIR ACCESS RAMP AND SAFETY RAILS AT THE EDUCATION LEARNING CENTRE

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

CS-1885-SHG – Construction of a Wheelchair Access Ramp and Safety Rails at the Education Learning Centre

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown by telephone on 25932 or via email through

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 07 October 2024 at 09:00, meeting at the Education Learning Centre, Jamestown.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Procurement Officer.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Monday, 14 October 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG

30 September 2024





OCTOBER NIGHT SKY



SHARON WADE (assisted by the WorldWideWeb)

October finds Mercury and Venus in the evening sky. Mercury is shy and takes some effort to see, but brilliant Venus is not hard to find. Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, and Jupiter rise in that order before midnight. Mars becomes a fine bright object in the predawn sky, standing high in the east. Plus a comet known as C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) may be on show as it passes closest to Earth and springs into the evening sky.

Mercury comes out of superior conjunction early in the month and stays very low above the western horizon due to the shallow angle of the ecliptic. By the 24th it remains difficult to spot, since it sets just about 10 minutes after the Sun.

Dominating the evening sky is **Venus**, shining brightly to the West after sunset. Tomorrow night, look for the thin crescent Moon which will be very close to Venus in the Western sky (providing we have clear skies). Venus sets around 8.30 pm now and by month end, after 9 pm - offering a lovely view in deepening twilight. A telescope will reveal Venus being less lit than 91% last month to 77% by the end of October when it has moved a bit closer to Earth.

Already high in the Southeastern sky as twilight falls, **Saturn** is ready for focused attention. By 8 pm this weekend, it stands high among the stars of Aquarius. By the 31st, although it remains visible well into the morning hours, you will notice that it sets over an hour & a half earlier than it does now and by then, the planet will be 842 million miles from Earth.

Neptune rises well before sunset and is well placed in the Southeastern sky by full dark, gaining altitude with best views around 9.30 pm. During October, Neptune wanders westwards and by the 14th can be located just below the waxing gibbous Moon if you look in an ENE direction

Uranus rises around 9.15 pm this weekend and almost two hours earlier by the 31st. It can be viewed quite close to the Seven Sisters star cluster all month and for most of the night with the best time to spot it between 1 and 3 am.....but you will need binoculars. With Uranus high in the sky in the pre-dawn hours, it will be a great time to view the planet through a telescope. It reveals little to us earthbound observers, but it is a nice challenge to spot it, maybe for video/photo capture?

Jupiter rises just after 11 pm this weekend and an hour and a half earlier by the 31st. Early morning hours sees the planet in the constellation Taurus and a waning gibbous Moon joins them on 20th and 21st October. Even small telescopes can view detail in Jupiter's turbulent atmosphere and on some nights you might notice the Great Red Spot appearing.

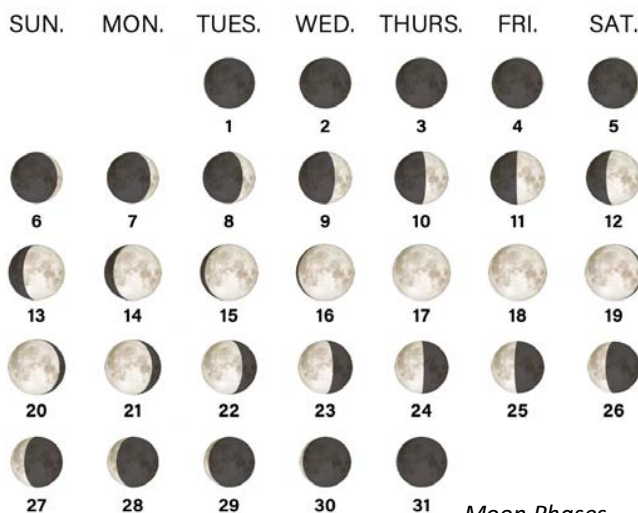
Mars rises around 1 am this weekend and almost an hour earlier by the 31st. The Red Planet tracks eastward across Gemini and then moves into Cancer, brightening as the month wears on. The planet will be 89% lit by the end of October. The Red Planet now reveals some of its surface secrets, hidden from Earth for more than a year.

Extras: Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS (if it is bright enough) can be seen crossing into the evening sky in the second week of October and quickly increasing its elongation from the Sun. It can be located setting in the West just after 7 pm on the 12th and then about 15-20 minutes later each evening afterwards. From 18th October you should be able to spot the comet to the Northwest of Venus. The comet comes closest to Earth on 12th October at a distance of 43.7 million miles.

The International Space Station (ISS) will fly over St Helena next on Monday 7th – look NNW at 1943 hrs and it should be visible in that direction for 2 minutes. On Tuesday 8th it will fly over three times in that day, which does not happen too often....the first time will be at 0536 hrs from the SSW, then again at 1855 hrs from the North and lastly at 2033 hrs in the direction of WSW. Astronauts on the ISS do a full circle of Earth every 90 minutes and experience 16 sunsets and sunrises every day.

In the Southern hemisphere the October full moon is known as the Pink Moon. Why? Because the name signifies the arrival of the first spring flowers. The next full moon is due on Thursday 17th October at 1126 hrs. Other names for the October full moon include Egg, Fish, Seed or Waking Moon. Enjoy the view.....

OCTOBER 2024



Moon Phases



As the global community prepares to celebrate World Teachers Day on October 5, 2024, the island of St Helena is poised to honor its own heroes - the dedicated and hardworking teachers who shape the future of its young residents. This year's theme, "Valuing teachers' voices: towards a new social contract for education," is particularly relevant to St Helena, highlighting the importance of integrating teachers' perspectives into educational policies and decision-making processes.

Historical Context and Celebration

World Teachers Day, established in 1994, celebrates the signing of international standards for teacher treatment in 1966. It honors educators who inspire young minds and contribute to societal development. The day originated from a conference in 1966 and has been celebrated on October 5th annually since 1994.

The Theme for 2024: Valuing Teachers' Voices

The theme for World Teachers Day 2024, "*Valuing teachers' voices: towards a new social contract for education*," is a call to action to empower teachers and ensure their voices are heard in the formulation of educational policies. This theme is especially pertinent given the challenges faced by teachers globally, including those on St Helena.

Applicability to St Helena

St. Helena's unique education system faces challenges such as teacher shortages and limited resources. Valuing teachers' voices is crucial for addressing systemic issues, improving educational policies, and enhancing community engagement. By involving teachers in decision-making processes, the island can tailor educational programs to students' specific needs, retain teachers, and create a more supportive and inclusive educational environment. Teachers can provide valuable insights, suggest innovative teaching methods, and help identify areas where additional resources are needed, leading to more effective and sustainable educational reforms. Overall, valuing teachers' voices is essential for strengthening St. Helena's education system and fostering community engagement.

Celebrating and Supporting Teachers on St Helena

To commemorate World Teachers Day 2024, the community on St Helena can engage in various activities that highlight the importance of teachers and express gratitude for their dedication.

1. Expressing Gratitude

Students, parents, and the community can write thank-you notes or create handmade gifts to show appreciation for their teachers' hard work and guidance. This personal touch can go a long way in boosting teacher morale and reinforcing the value placed on their contributions.

2. Professional Development

Organizing workshops or seminars that provide teachers with opportunities for professional growth and development is crucial. These events can address the unique challenges faced by teachers on the island and equip them with the skills and resources needed to excel in their profession.

3. Advocacy

Launching campaigns to advocate for policies that support teachers is essential. This includes advocating for better working conditions, adequate resources, and competitive salaries. By prioritizing these issues, the community can ensure that teachers are valued and supported, leading to a more robust and effective education system.

World Teachers Day 2024 is a poignant reminder of the critical role teachers play in shaping the future of education on St Helena and globally. The theme "Valuing teachers' voices: towards a new social contract for education" is a timely call to action, emphasizing the need to empower and support our educators. As we celebrate this day, let us recognize the tireless efforts of our teachers and commit to creating an educational environment where their voices are heard and valued. This is not just a celebration but a step towards a new social contract for education, one that places teachers at the forefront of educational reform. On St Helena, we honor our teachers not just as educators but as pillars of our community. Their dedication, resilience, and commitment to their students are the foundation upon which our future is built. As we express our gratitude and value their voices, we are investing in the future of our island and the success of its people. Let us come together to celebrate our heroes - the teachers of St Helena - and reaffirm our commitment to valuing their voices and supporting their vital work.

Till Next Time, keep Well!

'STOPTOBER' ST HELENA 2024

Stoptober, the annual campaign to help people quit smoking, is back. This year, the campaign is urging smokers in St Helena to join millions of others worldwide who have successfully quit smoking. Because smoking is a major public health concern, causing 7 million deaths annually, quitting smoking is one of the most effective ways to improve your health and reduce the risk of serious illnesses.

Stoptober encourages smokers to commit to quitting for the month of October. By quitting for 28 days, participants are five times more likely to quit for good. The benefits of quitting smoking are numerous, including improved physical health, better breathing, and increased financial savings.

Stoptober offers a variety of free resources to support smokers on their quitting journey, including:

- Behaviour change support
- Information about the quitting process

To access these free resources contact SmokeFree St Helena by telephone on 25863 or via email through smokefree@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Minister Martin Henry commented:

"Let's be honest; stopping smoking is tough, especially if it's now a part of your daily routine, your way of stress relief, and forms part of your social circles – I know this personally. We understand this and that's why we have a service and team dedicated to supporting you. The first step on your journey is to make that call."

#StHelena #Stoptober #QuitSmoking

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG

30 September 2024



INVITATION TO TENDER ***Lobster Potting And Biological Sampling***

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract:

ENRP14-2024/25 - Lobster Potting Surveys within St Helena's Inshore Waters

ENRP15-2024/25 – Collect Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna for Age and Growth Biological Sampling

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown by telephone on 25932 or via email through tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Fisheries Science Programme Co-ordinator, Jake Letori, by telephone on 25966 or email

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Thursday 10 October 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG

25 September 2024



Britain's Disgraced Rule Over Chagos Islands Starts to End

Yesterday, The Mauritian and British governments agreed a deal for the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to be handed over from Britain to Mauritius.

The opening paragraph of the official statement, published on the UK government website states, "Following two years of negotiation, this is a seminal moment in our relationship and a demonstration of our enduring commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes and the rule of law. Negotiations have been conducted in a constructive and respectful manner, as equal sovereign States, on the basis of international law, and with the intention of resolving all outstanding issues between the United Kingdom and Mauritius concerning the Chagos Archipelago, including those relating to its former inhabitants."

Chagos Islanders Complain of Being Excluded and Ignored

Chagossian Voices, a community organisation for Chagossians based in the UK and in several other countries, condemned the UK government's lack of consultation with them before Thursday's announcement. In a statement on Twitter, also yesterday, they said, "Chagossian Voices deplore the exclusion of the Chagossian community from the negotiations which have produced this statement of intent concerning the sovereignty of our homeland. Chagossians have learned this outcome from the media and remain powerless and voiceless in determining our own future and the future of our homeland. The views of Chagossians, the Indigenous inhabitants of the islands, have been consistently and deliberately ignored and we demand full inclusion in the drafting of the treaty."

What Has Been Agreed?

The agreement published yesterday sets out the main points in a treaty which is still to be finally drafted and confirmed through the legislative process. Both sides stated the treaty will be finalised as soon as possible.

The agreement hands over all sixty or so islands in the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius; this includes the largest island, Diego Garcia, which accommodates a US military base and has been the source of constant and bitter contention over the last 56 years. However, while Mauritius will officially have the sovereign power, the UK will exercise this power on behalf of Mauritius over a 99-year period. The UK exercising this power is questionable as it is clear the United States have the last say on what happens in Diego Garcia as it is their military base on the island. Chagossians will be allowed to return to any of the Chagos islands except for Diego Garcia, where the existing level of exclusion and complete secrecy is expected to continue.

A resettlement programme for Chagossians wanting to return to their homeland will be organised by Mauritius, helped by funding from Britain. Further funding from the UK is promised; "the UK and Mauritius will cooperate on environmental protection, maritime security, combating illegal fishing, irregular migration and drug and people trafficking within the Chagos Archipelago, with the shared objective of securing and protecting one of the world's most important marine environments. This will include the establishment of a Mauritian Marine Protected Area."

The agreement ends, noting the United States and India are also in agreement.

A Dishonourable Period of History for Britain

The French were the first to claim the Chagos Islands. Britain contested their claim in 1786. After the fall of Napoleon, the French claim to the Chagos Islands also fell. The islands were administered as part of Mauritius. When Mauritius gained independence in 1968, the Brits split off the Chago Islands and retained control. Mauritius has always maintained the Chago islands rightfully belong to them.

In 1966 Britain and the United States agreed that a US military base would be established on Diego Garcia. It was also agreed the Chagos Islands would be depopulated. The ongoing independence negotiations with Mauritius continued with Britain, no doubt secretly, having the agreement with the US as part of those negotiations.

In 1967, the eviction of all residents from the Chagos Islands began. Dogs, including pets, were rounded up and killed. Chagossians have described being herded onto cargo ships and taken to Mauritius or the Seychelles. The uprooting of the 1,000 population of Diego Garcia continued after Mauritius won its independence in March 1968. Some Chagossians were taken to Mauritius, others to the Seychelles. Some were taken temporarily from Diego Garcia to other Chagos islands, including the Peros Banhos atoll. The last Chagossians were taken off the Chagos Islands before the Peros Banhos plantation was closed on 26th May 1973.

There have been almost continuous legal battles ever since between Chagossian community organisations in Britain and the British government. During an arduous legal process, the Chagossians have won some landmark rulings in British courts.



In February 2022 a group of Chagossians sailed to Peros Banhos, one of the Chagos islands, to reclaim it. Chagossians born on Peros Banhos together with the Mauritian ambassador to the United Nations, a legal representative from Britain and a journalist from the UK Guardian newspaper gained wide publicity for the Chagossian cause. In the group was Louis Olivier Bancoult, a longstanding leader for the right to return to the islands of their birth.

In a moving video, the group visited the ruins of what used to be their church. Bancoult turned to camera as he explained he had been baptised in that church. His mother was married there and his grandfather's funeral was held there. Why, he asked, did they uproot us from our beautiful island when they have done nothing here except let everything go to ruin. That question is one which historians will attempt to answer for some years yet.

Brits ‘Take Us for Fools’ Says Argentine Vice President

At the recent United Nations General Assembly, British foreign secretary, David Lammy, discussed the Falklands with the Argentine foreign minister during a break in the speeches. Some measures were agreed to “improve the bilateral relationship”.

The agreement reached meant monthly flights from the Falklands to São Paulo in Brazil stopping at Córdoba, Argentina will go ahead. Co-operation on the conservation of fisheries was also agreed. Also included is a trip to the Falklands for relatives of Argentine soldiers who died in the 1982 war and are buried in the Falklands.

But the Argentine vice president later criticised the agreements because they were “contrary to the interests of our nation.” She continued, “Do they take us for fools? They are getting material, concrete and immediate benefits, while they are offering us crumbs as emotional consolation and weakening our ability to negotiate.” Victoria Villarruel is a fiercely conservative politician who comes from a military family.

Just Pay Up Says Post Office Scandal Victim

A Post Office scandal victim, Jo Hamilton, has hit out at delays to compensation for sub-postmasters, saying the government should “just pay” adding “the whole process is just nonsense”. The scandal involves the several hundred sub-postmasters being charged with fraud due to errors in the computer system they were required to use.

Hamilton’s criticism comes after Post Office minister Gareth Thomas said not all payments would be made by March next



Victoria Villarruel, Argentine vice-president

year. Former sub-postmaster Sir Alan Bates had called for a March 2025 deadline to compensate all involved in the initial legal action against the Post Office. Thomas agreed with Sir Alan that faster progress was needed, but said it would be “difficult” to achieve that deadline. Sub-postmasters have



VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT AUDITOR Salary range £8,626 to £10,831 per annum

Audit St Helena is seeking to recruit an Assistant Auditor to join their audit team.

The person will assist with financial and performance audits across the public sector and will support other business processes.

Prospective candidates are required to have good GCSE grades **or** Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Mathematics and be prepared to study for the ACCA Foundations in Accountancy programme.

Key skills for this position include efficiency in business processes, good communication skills, and an aptitude for figures. IT proficiency including Excel, Word and Outlook is also essential.

For further information, Job Profiles and Application Forms please contact Helene Williams by telephoning 22111 or emailing helene.v.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted by email or by hand to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown, by no later than **Friday 18 October 2024**.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. St Helena Government reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

already submitted claims on previous occasions - some as early as 2013 - and are having to re-submit them. Hamilton said, "It's almost like we're being treated like criminals all over again."

Between 1999 and 2015, more than 900 sub-postmasters were wrongly prosecuted after the faulty Horizon IT accounting system made it look like money was missing from branch accounts. It has been described as the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history. Some sub-postmasters ended up going to prison, while many more were financially ruined and lost their livelihoods. Some died while waiting for justice.

Sir Alan Bates leads the Justice for Sub-postmasters Alliance, campaigning for financial redress for the 555 victims who took part in the landmark group legal action against the Post Office that culminated in 2019. Their compensation was, however, swallowed up by the huge legal costs involved in bringing their case.

The government went on to set up a specific compensation fund to give these sub-postmasters the redress like others affected, but Sir Alan has said the deadline is needed as three years have passed since. Last month, Sir Alan questioned whether the government was dragging the "issue out to exhaust victims until their deaths" and if the scheme has become a "gravy train" for its lawyers. A total of £265m has been spent on lawyers relating to the Post Office scandal from 2014 to 2024.

Two Years in Prison for Throwing Soup

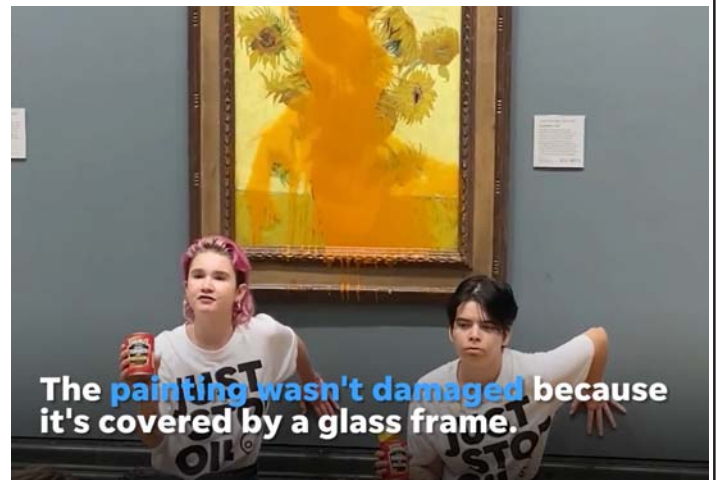
"Phoebe Plummer and Anna Holland, were sentenced to two years and 20 months, respectively, for throwing tomato soup at the glass protecting Van Gogh's Sunflowers. No prison terms have been handed to the people whose companies deliver climate breakdown, causing the deaths of many thousands and destruction valued not at the £10,000 estimated by the court in damage to the painting's frame but trillions." This week a discontented UK reporter wrote this, and more, about the injustice of the sentencing in this case.

Two 'Just Stop Oil' protesters caused temperaments to rise when they threw soup (tomato soup) at Van Gogh's Sunflowers painting. The painting is protected by glass and was not damaged. It was a gesture without serious consequences in protest at the increasing damage and disruption caused by climate change through the continued emission of greenhouse gases.

The judge, Christopher Hehir, presiding over the Just Stop Oil / Sunflower case was also criticised. "Everywhere we see a farcical disproportion. The same judge, Christopher Hehir, presided over the trial of the two sons of one of the richest men in Britain, George and Costas Panayiotou. On a night out, they viciously beat up two off-duty police officers, apparently for the hell of it. One of the officers required major surgery, including the insertion of titanium plates in his cheek and eye socket. One of the brothers, Costas, already had three similar assault convictions. But Hehir gave them both suspended sentences. He also decided that a police officer

who had sex in his car with a drunk woman he had "offered to take home" should receive only a suspended sentence. Hehir said he wanted "to bring this sad and sorry tale to its end with a final act of mercy". The solicitor general referred the case to the court of appeal for being unduly lenient, and the sentence was raised to 11 months in jail." The journalist added, "Hehir also handed a suspended sentence to a man who rammed his car into the gates of Downing Street and was then found by police to have extreme child abuse images on his phone. By contrast, in July Hehir – the Judge Jeffreys of our time – gave five climate protesters who blocked the M25 jail terms of four and five years. It looks to me as if justice itself is suspended in Southwark crown court."

The journalist does have grounds to complain bitterly. The previous UK government introduced new laws which makes non-violent protest a more serious crime than many forms of violent crime. The new UK government has decided to defend the imbalance created by the previous government.



Last May, two High Court Judges ruled the Home Secretary acted unlawfully when she made it easier for police to criminalise peaceful protest. The judges ruled she acted outside her powers. The previous government appealed the High Court decision and the new government has decided to continue the appeal. It is reported the previous government tried to criminalise peaceful protest by presenting the Public Order Bill to parliament. The House of Lords objected to the criminalisation of protest and struck out the offending clauses from the Bill, which eventually became law without the contentious clauses.

The Home Secretary at the time, used an ancient and rarely used statutory instrument to make the clauses struck out by the House of Lords active again. This action did not require the usual democratic scrutiny and agreement. It can more accurately be described as dictatorial.

Is it any wonder the UK prisons are full to overflowing when protesters who chains themselves to railings can expect a two-year prison sentence. Peaceful protesters are herded into prisons and convicts who have served less than half their sentence are given early release to make way for them. At the moment, there are too many signs the new government will be as crazy as the previous one.

English Football

Arsenal and Manchester City are among the clubs competing to sign Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen, Eddie Howe and Graham Potter are the leading candidates to replace Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag and Southampton boss Russell Martin coming under increasing pressure.

Arsenal, Bayern Munich, Manchester City and Real Madrid are in the running to sign Germany midfielder Florian Wirtz from **Bayer Leverkusen** next summer, with the Bundesliga club wanting €50m (£125m) for the 21-year-old.

Barcelona are hoping to strike a deal with Brazil forward Neymar, 32, in January when he is free to talk with clubs before his contract with **Al-Hilal** expires in June 2025.

Newcastle United boss Eddie Howe and ex-Chelsea manager Graham Potter are two of the leading candidates to replace Erik ten Hag if he leaves **Manchester United**, while former England manager Gareth Southgate and **Inter Milan** boss Simone Inzaghi are also in the frame.

But, reports from Italy suggests that former Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri is favoured by Sir Alex Ferguson to become the next **Manchester United** manager.

Southampton manager Russell Martin is at increasing risk of losing his job following his side's poor start to the season.

Former **Chelsea** manager Frank Lampard has hinted his interest in the England manager role, which is currently held by interim manager Lee Carsley.

Real Sociedad's Spain midfielder Martin Zubimendi, 25, says he has no regrets after turning down a move to **Liverpool** in the summer transfer window.

Arsenal are set to face competition from **AC Milan, Inter Milan** and **Juventus** for 24 year-old Lille and Canada forward Jonathan David.

Borussia Dortmund's 22-year-old winger Karim Adeyemi is a target for

Liverpool. The Merseyside club want the Germany forward to replace Mohamed Salah in the summer.

Everton are not concerned about a January transfer window approach from rivals **Liverpool** for 22-year-old English centre-back Jarrad Branthwaite.

Everton could reignite their interest in Paraguay forward Miguel Almiron, 30, who is likely to leave **Newcastle United** in January.

Manchester United could opt to trigger a one-year extension to 31-year-old England defender Harry Maguire's deal, which comes to an end at the end of the 2024-25 campaign, as they want to avoid him leaving for free.



Premier League

FOOTBALL FIXTURES:

Saturday 5th October....

English Premier League			
Crystal Palace	12:30	Liverpool	
Arsenal	15:00	Southampton	
Brentford	15:00	Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Leicester City	15:00	AFC Bournemouth	
Manchester City	15:00	Fulham	
West Ham United	15:00	Ipswich Town	
Everton	17:30	Newcastle United	

All times are BST, which means kick-off times shown are one hour ahead of local time (GMT)

Sunday 6th October....

English Premier League			
Aston Villa	14:00	Manchester United	
Chelsea	14:00	Nottingham Forest	
Brighton & Hove Albion	16:30	Tottenham Hotspur	

The Former RMS is Up For Sale Again

The specialist shipping and maritime news website, TradeWinds, reported recently the former RMS St Helena is for sale once more. Leading UK shipbroker Paul Willcox, told TradeWinds his firm is exclusively handling a deal for the 3,100-dwt passenger and cargo vessel. Willcox also handled the sale of the RMS when she retired from serving St Helena.

RMS on Voyage to Glamour and Attention

In October 2018 the former RMS was bought by Extreme E, the motor racing organisation promoting the environmentally sustainable electric powered SUV racing series. After major refits and upgrades, the former RMS became the “floating hotel, hospitality and cargo centrepiece” for Extreme E’s worldwide racing series. Instead of flying the racing vehicles and all the equipment to racing venues around the world, Extreme E chose to use the former RMS as the form of transport for just about everything. The racing series moved between extreme racing locations in Saudi Arabia, Greenland, Sardinia and South America. “We float not fly” became an Extreme E catchphrase. Despite using 24 tonnes of fuel per day when on the high seas, the former RMS is less environmentally damaging than using cargo planes.

From Electric to Green Hydrogen

The Extreme E racing series is now moving on to Extreme H. The series will help promote, test and develop hydrogen powered road vehicles. Even as the former RMS is in the disposal process, she is still the centre of attention as the stage for launching the new Extreme H series and the Pioneer 25 hydrogen powered racer. Alejandro Agag, the driving force behind Extreme E and Extreme H said, “The launch event aboard the St. Helena along the River Thames (on 5th September) was spectacular as we welcomed a new era for motorsport and the world’s first hydrogen racing series. It was a truly special moment.”

The former RMS has become a regular sight in Central London, moored on the River Thames alongside HMS Belfast on three or four occasions in recent years.

The Extreme H series starts in April 2025. There will be ten races at five locations. Starting in Saudi Arabia, as Extreme E always did, before races in the UK, Germany and Italy. The final races will be in the United States. Travelling the globe will not be as big an issue when Extreme H gets underway next year. There will only be two long distances between races; Saudi Arabia and Europe and then Europe and United States. This logistical change caused a review of the St Helena as the ‘centrepiece’ for transportation between races.

Why the St Helena is being Sold

The Independent contacted Julia Wall-Clarke, Director of Impact at Extreme E to confirm the report of the sale of the former RMS and to give the reason for it. Julia informed the Independent, “I can confirm this report is factual. The St Helena has provided Extreme E with a vital freight and hospitality solution to access some of the series’ most remote locations

since its launch in 2021, including Greenland, Saudi Arabia, Chile and Uruguay. She has enabled our cars and paddock infrastructure to reach our race destinations in a more environmentally efficient way, whilst providing world-class hospitality facilities for our team, guests and partners in places where options were often limited or not available.

As the series transitions to become Extreme H, the world’s first hydrogen series, race locations are expected to have more accessible ports and hospitality options, so our own facilities are no longer critical to the smooth running of the series.

St Helena was the perfect vessel to support Extreme E’s requirements and will not be replaced but will be forever fondly cherished. We are incredibly proud to have given St Helena a vibrant new lease of life and will be forever proud of the memories she created with us over our past six years of stewardship. We now look forward to seeing the next chapter of her adventure unfold.”

The next chapter for the former RMS is likely to be a better experience than the ship’s first encounter with a new owner. In April 2018, the TradeWinds website reported, “The RMS St Helena (built 1989), the ship that operated the UK’s last deep-sea passenger and cargo liner service, is reported as having been sold to London-based maritime security provider MNG Maritime. According to the St Helena Independent, a newspaper on the remote island for which the St. Helena served as a lifeline for 27 years, it is due to be handed over to MNG shortly and renamed MNG Tahiti.” It was anticipated ‘our ship’ would endure a second life in the Middle East transporting arms and armoury in support of a war effort. To add insult to injury, the ship would also bear the very inappropriate name of ‘Tahiti’. Later the same year, the former RMS was sold again. This time to Extreme E. Our ship then only had to tolerate champagne being spilt on its deck. Thankfully, Extreme E changed the name, back once more to St Helena. September proved for all concerned with the former RMS to be a memorable month. As luck will have it, the London Gazette announced on 10th September that MNG Maritime was being wound up and liquidators were appointed. Maybe the directors had decided to retire to Tahiti?

Extreme E have significantly upgraded the former RMS in many ways. From the hull, the engine room and all facets of catering to the accommodation being mainly VIP standard. In January this year connectivity was upgraded further in partnership with Eutelsat/OneWeb. Typically, Extreme E put the St Helena at the forefront of communications technology. They reported, “The St. Helena is one of the first to have installed a Kymeta Peregrine maritime user terminal and installation and connectivity services are being managed by OmniAccess.” Kymeta Peregrine is proclaimed to be a sleek, easy-to-install terminal and ensures hassle-free connection anywhere on water.

Hopefully the former RMS will proceed gracefully to another life as a high-end explorer/cruise ship or something similar.

From the St Helena Golf Club

Report by SHGC

29th September twelve players participated in the monthly medal competition held under favourable weather conditions. The event saw good scores being returned, indicating a competitive atmosphere among the participants.

The standout performer of the day was Tony Green, who emerged as the outright winner with an impressive net score of 68. This score reflects his current form. Following him in second place was George "Dover" Thomas, who finished with a net score of 71, three shots behind Tony. Jeff "Foxy" Stevens rounded out the top three with a net score of 74. All winners received medals as prizes for their achievements during this competition.

No player achieved a "Two," which typically refers to scoring two on a par-3 hole, often resulting in additional rewards or recognition. Consequently, the balls in the pool were returned to participants without any pay-outs related to this achievement.

Upcoming Events

looking ahead, the next competition is highly anticipated: a Texas Scramble scheduled for October 6th. In this format, players will have the opportunity to choose their partners. The tee-off time is set for 11:30 AM with a "shotgun" start format, where all teams begin play simultaneously from different holes.

Following this exciting event will be the Saint Helena Golf Club's half-year Annual General Meeting (AGM), where club members can gather to discuss club matters and future events. Participation in both events is encouraged as they foster community spirit within the club.

Happy swinging.....!



ST. HELENA



GOLF CLUB

