



*Rest in Peace
Mike Olsson*

1963 - 2024 ...tributes inside



**Local Footie Results +
Premier League Fixtures**



**In Pictures:
King's Birthday
Celebrations &
Cricket team's journey**



**We Have a
New Record!**



King's Birthday Celebrations at Plantation

King Charles' celebrated his 76th birthday by opening two food distribution hubs, as part of his Coronation Food Project which he launched a year ago in the hopes of bridging the gap between food poverty and food waste. In St Helena, His Majesty's birthday was officially celebrated last Friday in the grounds of Plantation House. Many people attended this enjoyable event.



Joint Ministerial Council Set for Same Old Main Discussion

The Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) brings together chief ministers and senior figures from all the Overseas Territories to meet with several UK ministers to discuss the hot topics and burning issues of the day. Last Thursday it was announced chief minister Julie Thomas would be flying out last Saturday to attend the JMC. On Monday this week another announcement told us Governor Philips will be joining her on the same plane.

Julie Thomas will be leading a discussion on issues faced by grant aided territories like St Helena. This will include Montserrat and Pitcairn. Other topics lined up for discussion are Security and Irregular Migration; Economic Diversification and Resilience; Climate and the Environment; and Human Development. But it seems like 'Illicit Finance and Sanctions' will be the hottest topic and the issue which will burn the brightest – as it often is at this annual gathering.

Illicit finance means criminals who make £billions from drug trafficking and a wide variety of corrupt activities are able to conceal their profits by secretly feeding their ill-gotten gains into the 'respectable' international finance markets. In some places they can do this because finance regulations in some countries and territories allows mega-rich criminals to conceal their true identities. Other countries insist on knowing who it is who is really investing the money - who it is who will really benefit financially from money invested. These other countries have what is known as beneficial ownership regulations.

In the days leading up to the JMC, which started on Wednesday and finished yesterday, the 'serious' UK national newspapers were all featuring beneficial ownership. The media in the Caribbean Overseas Territories gave the issue even more prominence. Here in little ol' St Helena, the government announced last week that a Bill will be presented to Legislative Council which, if enacted into law by the Legislative Council, would form the basis for the creation of a Publicly Accessible Register of Beneficial Ownership (PARBO) for companies registered on St Helena. The announcement explains, a PARBO is a public record that reveals the identities of the individuals who



A group photo from the 2023 Joint Ministerial Council

ultimately own and control a company, even if they are not the legal owners on paper.

SHG explain, "The objectives of the Bill are the prevention of money laundering, tax evasion, and terrorist financing. In the absence (in St Helena) of a modern framework for regulating and developing financial services, the Bill serves as a preventive measure to discourage or prevent illegal financial activity through the Company Registry." Sadly, apart from the usual budget-based legislation, this Companies (Amendment) Bill 2024 is the only legislation on the list for presentation to Legislative Council. It is likely the motivation for this legislation came from the UK, not SHG. The need for this legislation is highly debatable, especially when far more urgently needed legislation should be in the non-existent queue for Legislative Council.

This draft legislation does show that 'beneficial ownership' and 'open registers' is an issue which has climbed up the priorities list. It is undoubtedly being discussed with vigour this week at JMC, and at the meetings running alongside.

It is not often JMC meetings provide the focus for what appears in UK national newspapers; last Sunday's London Times reported, "Keir Starmer will not order the islands to publish lists of true ownership of companies amid fears it would be seen as colonial". This was followed by, "Ministers are pushing overseas territories such as the British Virgin Islands to publish lists of the true ownership of companies, many of which have been connected with money laundering and organised crime." And "The 14 territories were expected to create this register of beneficial owners by 2023 but only Gibraltar and Montserrat have made one that is fully operational and open to the public. Britain has had its own such register since 2016." The previous UK government did not push this issue, obviously the present government

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St Helena's 2021 Constitutional Reforms and Implementation of Ministerial Government to be Reviewed

The Legislative Council have commissioned an independent review of the governance structures of St Helena three years after the implementation of the ministerial form of government. The objective of this review is to assess the effectiveness of constitutional changes introduced in 2021 in delivering efficient, effective, transparent and accountable governance for St Helena. With the support of the Governor's Office, in August, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) were engaged to carry out the review with funding from the FCDO.

WFD were asked to recruit a team of three experts bringing together:

- a) Expertise in the general principles and practice of governance, including the operation of the public service in relation to elected representatives/ Ministers;
- b) A deep understanding and experience of legal and constitutional theory and practice in the overseas territories;
- c) The operation of government within small island or local government contexts especially in aid-dependent contexts;
- d) Knowledge of St Helena or wider Overseas Territories is desirable, especially ODA-dependent territories.

They have now secured a highly experienced and respected team to undertake the review consisting of Dr Ronan Cormacain, Steven Tweedie and Lord Robert Lisvane. Lord Lisvane visited St Helena in May as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands Mediterranean Region Conference. The team will also have access to WFD's wider register of experts should they need further peer review or expertise. Their CVs are available to the public upon request. The team is expected to visit St Helena at the start of December for two weeks.

Following a desktop review, primary research, virtual engagements, two visits to the island to include public and key stakeholder consultation and feedback on draft reports, the team will produce a final assessment report which they will present to local stakeholders. The assessment is provisionally due by the end of March although there is some flexibility built into timelines to ensure the team are able to fully consult, research and consider context and implementation. The assessment will provide the team's view of:

- the evolution of the governance arrangements and the experience since 2021 – what was the system pre-2021 and what changes have been realised since
- the clarity of the current respective roles and responsibilities of all governance actors and the extent to which these are understood, both by the actors themselves and more widely;
- where responsibility and accountability lies for government business, management of the public service, management of funding and the efficacy of the structures that support each of these;
- the effectiveness of the 2021 changes in delivering on the objectives – what were the objectives for change; were they sound; were they met;
- the appropriateness of the 2021 objectives in today's context – do they remain fit for purpose and comprehensive including in consideration of programme governance and effectively meeting UKG governance requirements for aid;
- the suitability of the changes in practice in ensuring the most effective and constructive relationships between different governance actors including the legislature, Ministers, public service, public bodies and Governor/Governor's Office as well as the relationship between governance actors, the public, governance actors and UKG;

The funeral of the late Mikel Olsson of Livery Stables, Jamestown will be held Friday 22nd November. His tribute and interment will commence at 1.30pm at St. Pauls Cemetery.

Mike is survived by sons Mattias and Marcus, daughter Elisabeth and granddaughter, brothers in Sweden, stepchildren Lee and Joanne and their families in the UK and many friends both here and overseas.

A bus will be laid on from on the Bridge for family and friends. If you would like a seat, please contact Elizabeth on 61909 or 23538 or Joey on 24035.

St Helena's 2021 Constitutional Reforms and Implementation of Ministerial Government to be Reviewed

- primary factors leading to this level of effectiveness, including any capacity, drafting, organisational or other issues such as clarity of roles and responsibilities and process across all parts of the system;
- the effectiveness of the change management in place to implement 2021 changes – was the change clear, reasoned and understood by all;
- gaps, redundancies or deficiencies in the design of the 2021 changes in delivering effective, inclusive and accountable governance for St Helena including issues of legislative coverage and quality;
- Constitutional alignment to the new system and objectives of Ministerial government including any apparent tensions or inconsistencies either within the Constitution itself or with laws made under its legislative powers;
- legal authorities within the amended Constitution and where these have or could be delegated;

- feasible options for addressing any issues.

These deliverables will be within the parameters of those constitutional areas appointed through electoral competition, as part of the public service or those bodies reporting to the Governor or legislature. The team will ensure that the assessment is appropriately evidenced and is informed by a consultative and inclusive process.

The review will be informed by all stakeholders on the island and will be fully consultative in nature. To this end and ahead of their first planned visit from 30 November to 15 December, the team are keen to be contacted by anyone interested in engaging with them at any stage in the process. They can be reached confidentially on StHelenaGovernanceReview@gmail.com

It is planned that the review will then be followed by a second phase considering implementation of recommendations.

SHG - 18 November 2024

Why are So Many People Crowded into a Quiet Suburban Road?

All these people are called 'twitchers'. They gather together in large numbers when any rare bird has been sighted at any location.

They are immediately recognisable by the binoculars they carry, extremely long lens cameras and woolly hats.

Last week, a small town called Shelf in Yorkshire hosted more people than ever in its history because a scarlet tanager, an American songbird has been sighted.

Not that different from our own Madagascar Fody or Cardinal.



Joint Ministerial Council Set for Same Old Main Discussion

wants to get things moving – and it is the reason why our legislative councillors will soon be bending their minds to this ponderous subject.

For our chief minister, the London Times reports, “The issue is expected to be a major talking point at the annual summit of the overseas territories in London on Wednesday.”

In the Caribbean media, a different story is told. Cayman Compass reports, “Industry group Cayman Finance points out that beneficial ownership information has long been available to law enforcement authorities. And since 2017, the islands have implemented a system of making such information accessible to UK tax and law enforcement officers within 24 hours.”

The Compass also reports the Cayman Islands government has committed to making beneficial ownership information available to members of the public, such as journalists, academics and representatives of civil society organisations, who can demonstrate a ‘legitimate interest’, by the end of this year. Such ‘legitimate interest’ filters have been dismissed by advocates of open registers as watering down their impact and creating delays and barriers that could frustrate those seeking information.

And so it goes on. . . unfortunately, the usual communiqué issued at the end of the JMC will not give a blow-by-blow account of what was said by those around the table.

TO ALL SAINT FM VOLUNTARY PRESENTERS..... LAST POST IN 'OLD' SAINT FM STYLE.....

Words alone cannot describe the many thanks we would like to extend to the voluntary presenters, here and overseas, of Saint FM Community Radio—several that comes to mind are ‘tireless efforts’, ‘compassionate care’, ‘dedication’ and ‘passion’. Your love for life and radio has enhanced many lives and we are proud to have been part of a team at a small point in time, that will now find its place in the history books of St Helena’s radio outputs.

To even try to mention those that have been on the Saint FM airwaves over the last 5–7 years would be just scratching the surface, but since you all have your own fan clubs (past and present), we know you are known to many... far and wide and for many years gone, and hopefully more to come. Thank you again.

For those no longer with us... thank you to the families who supported the time given up by your loved ones to bring St Helena into everyday life.

For Mike Olsson...may he now rest in peace with his beloved Bernice, but it should be said that his unique style of ‘ruling the roost’ affected all of us in some way – big or small. May the good memories be handed down for generations...

To the ongoing team – we wish you the best with all that you do, and thank you for keeping the spirit of radio alive. Video will never kill the radio star... not yet anyway!!

To all of the loyal listeners... we could never have done without your participation, communication and community spirit. Love you all...

The outgoing Saint FM team xxx



Every year on 23 November, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) celebrates Nursing Support Workers' Day, a day dedicated to recognising the invaluable contributions nursing support workers make to patient care in health and social care settings.

This year, the St Helena Government, Health & Social Care Portfolio are taking the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the hard work and dedication of our Health Care Assistants (HCAs) and Emergency Care Assistants (ECAs).

HCAs and ECAs work alongside qualified nurses. They play a crucial role in providing excellent care to patients, demonstrating compassion, and going above and beyond their call of duty.

Theatre Sister, Donna Clingham said:

"We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of our HCAs and ECAs. Their contributions are essential to ensuring a positive experience for all patients."

#NursingSupportWorkersDay

Field Road Reopening Next Thursday

SHG is pleased to announce that Field Road is scheduled to reopen to vehicular traffic and pedestrians from 15:30 on Thursday 28 November 2024. The Rehabilitation of Side Path and Field Road Project is part of the £30m Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP funded by the UK Government).

Whilst the road will be open to the public, it's important to note that some construction work, including the installation of gabions, will continue beyond this date. This will necessitate a 300-metre section of the road to be restricted to a single-lane carriageway. To ensure the safety of all road users, the contractor will implement appropriate traffic management measures, including signage and traffic control. Road users are advised to adhere to these measures and exercise caution when travelling on this section of the road.

Additional works, such as sealing expansion joints, will be carried out in the new year. These works will require some traffic restrictions, however, it is anticipated that the road can remain open to traffic.

Important reminders for road users:

- The speed limit on Field Road remains at 15mph.
- Cycling is prohibited on Field Road.
- Larger vehicles should exercise caution especially when passing other vehicles and navigating bends.
- Please familiarise yourself with the new road layout and adhere to lane markings.

Minister Mark Brooks welcomed the news of the imminent road opening, and commented:

"I would like to thank the public for their patience during the construction of Field Road. We now have a new road network that links the new port facilities in Rupert's to Jamestown that should give us 40 years before needing any further substantial investment."

"A small amount of work will continue once the road is open, but this will not disrupt public access to the road. This will prevent further inconvenience for residents and businesses in Rupert's, and the public wanting to visit this popular area in the summer months."

"I would like to thank everyone involved with this project, especially the EDIP team and Isaac's Contractors." Further details will be provided in due course.

- SHG, 20th November



Sean Burns Daughter Tells Her Story to

BUSINESS INSIDER

I moved to a remote island with only 236 inhabitants. I love raising my kids here. Kelly Green moved to Tristan Da Cunha in 2014



- **Kelly Green, 34, visited her parents in Tristan Da Cunha and fell in love.**
- **The only way to travel to the island, a British overseas territory with 236 inhabitants, is by ship.**
- **Green got married and is happily raising her two kids on the island.**

This as-told-to essay is based on a conversation with Kelly Green, the head of tourism at Tristan Da Cunha. Green moved from England to the island in 2013. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

My dad was a diplomat, and, as a kid, my family moved a lot. I grew up in several countries around the world, including Antigua, Bangladesh, Mozambique, and Kenya.

In 2010, when I was 20 and working as a flight attendant for easyJet in England, my dad received a new posting at the Edinburgh of the Seven Seas.

I initially thought he was moving to Scotland. But I misunderstood – Edinburgh of the Seven Seas is a settlement in Tristan Da Cunha, one of the world's most isolated settlements with only about 236 inhabitants.

To get to the island, you have to fly to Cape Town, South Africa, then travel seven to 10 days and over 1,700 miles west across the South Atlantic Ocean. Three different ships operate about 10 scheduled trips a year. Two of the ships carry up to 12 passengers, and one ship can carry 40.

In 2012, I decided to take a six-week holiday to visit my family. When I arrived, a man on the island came to help with my luggage. His name was Shane, and I ended up meeting him again later in the island's only pub.

After I left the island, Shane and I continued to talk on the phone every night. Two years into the relationship, I knew the next step was to move in together.

I wanted to live in Tristan Da Cunha. It helped that it wasn't completely abnormal to just pick up and move somewhere because I've been doing it all my life.

So, in late 2013, I packed my belongings and moved there. Shane built a two-bedroom house with an outhouse, and we started a family.



The island's only school has about 20 students, Green said.

Tristan Da Cunha has only one school, a post office, a tourism centre, a hospital, a bank, a café, and a pub. There are no restaurants. Everyone knows everyone, and with that comes a lot of love. I've found that people always look out for you.

The island is self-sufficient, thanks to its farming and fishing community. Lobster is exported world-

Sean Burns Daughter Tells Her Story to **BUSINESS INSIDER**

wide and provides the island's biggest source of income. The islanders also grow their own produce and raise cows, sheep, chickens, and ducks.

I love the freedom

I walk 3 to 4 miles every afternoon and don't bump into anyone. It's so peaceful and quiet — completely different from my life in England.

Back in England, I used to get up at 2 a.m., commute over an hour to Gatwick Airport, and work 16-hour shifts. I'm the head of tourism for the island, and it takes me two minutes to walk to my office. We don't get many tourists, but the population can quadruple during the cruise season. There are about 900 tourists a year — though this can vary substantially.

Though it didn't bother me that I would leave city life behind, I miss some aspects of England. There, you can just go to the shop and get a pre-made meal. You can't do that here. If you want a burger, you have to grind the meat up and make

the rolls. It's just a completely different lifestyle.

Imported goods are also more expensive. Goods from South Africa are marked up about 75%, and items from the UK are marked up about 95%. I just ordered a fridge, which normally costs about \$650, but I had to pay \$1,100 for it because of freight charges.

Still, I feel more at home here than I ever did in England. But then again, it might be because I've been brought up all over the world.

I'm raising 2 kids on the island

I have a 10-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son, and I feel safe raising them here. I would never dream of letting a young kid walk alone in England. But here, I don't have to worry. There's always someone looking out for them or telling them off if they're being naughty. My son can just be out in the garden while I'm in the house.

In the future, I'll encourage my kids to study abroad and experience life in other countries. Just because I decided to live on Tristan Da Cunha doesn't mean they have to live here forever.

There's a lot of world out there for them to see. I've been lucky to explore it, and I want them to have that experience, too.



Older Brother's Memories of Mike's Childhood

We have been in contact with Mike's family in Sweden, through Lars Olsson, Mike older brother by eight years. Lars shared some of his memories of Mike with us; memories of Mike as a child.

Lars told us, my little brother Mikael was born in 1963 in a small farming town in the countryside, called Vara. Eight years after me. He was very welcome, though our father wanted a daughter.

As a little brother, he was spoiled and had to do much more than I ever got to do. Also, I probably spoiled him as a child too. Mikael was a very precocious little man. He loved to go with a hat and briefcase, just like father.

One day when he was 5 years old, he decided that he was going to "work". He just disappeared from the home, without saying anything. We found him eventually, 2 km from home with briefcase and hat. He was going to work. Which meant he would go to father's office.

A little later in life, Mikael took an interest in geography and history. He knew all the main countries and capitals, etc, etc. He began reading about the adventures of Hornblower, an English Naval captain during the Napoleonic War. Hence his great interest in the South Atlantic and its islands.

In the autumn of 1981, he decided to go to the Falklands indefinitely. He had arranged everything to go in the summer of 1982. However, he was prevented when the war broke out. It was the only war our mother liked. She was the kindest person ever and hated war. With the war, she was now allowed to keep her little son at home in Sweden.

Throughout his upbringing, he followed me no matter what I did. If I played ball, he sat in his cart and



Street Scene in Vara - town of Mike's birth



Mikael (Mike) Olsson fishing

watched. If I went out fishing, he was with me. When he was young, he was always out fishing, three times a day. Even when I went to the Alps with my university friends, he came along. Throughout his childhood, until he left for St Helena, we were often together.

Later in life he studied science at a private high school (one of the few private schools in Sweden at the time). He then followed in our father's footsteps, working in the wholesale industry. There he got a place at his father's work as a trainee and then got the opportunity for theoretical studies and practice. There he saw the possibilities of making money in the fruit and vegetable trade, so he opened his own movement within this. It went well for a few years, but ended less well.

After that, Mikael and I bought a boat yard for smaller sailboats, 33 feet. During this time, he got ideas about St. Helena.

Mikael and I have never disagreed or raised our voices against each other. He really was my little brother. Missing him will be a great sadness, despite the great geographical distance we have had for many years.

2024 is a very bad year for my little brother and also for me. First, our father died in January (he would have turned 100 in April). Mikael then realised that he would never see his parents again. After that, our older brother started arguing about burial and inheritance. This would have been Mikael's financial freedom for the rest of his life (the argument continues). And last but not least, the passing of his wife, Bernice. A very sad year.

Lars Olsson

Personal Tribute to Mike Olsson

By Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC



It was with a heavy heart that I learned of the death of Mike Olsson, a man whose commitment to St Helena was matched only by his commitment to journalism.

I had my first dealings with Mike 15 years ago and since then he gradually switched from being an occasional contact to becoming a dear friend. In 2009, while campaigning for a new airport for the island, I took a detour when flying to South America from South Africa in order to fly over St Helena.

While conducting an interview with Mike for Saint FM, I “buzzed” St Helena, twice flying low around the island and above Jamestown. I was later told by Mike that this gesture of support was much appreciated by local “Saints”.

I only met Mike for the first time in January 2017, shortly after the opening of the airport. That was my first visit to the island in 68 years: my only previous one being, aged two, when I was accompanied by my parents en route to my father’s posting as a colonial officer in Africa.

Mike greeted me like an old friend on my arrival and from that day onwards he was always helpful towards me as I wrote publicly about some of the troubles that St Helena and its islanders were facing.

I, in turn, later helped Mike, first by sponsoring

Saint FM for several years and, later, by helping him to purchase a printing press so that he could cut costs as he brought out The St Helena Independent with his small but hard-working team. My sole reason for this financial backing was to support an independent press – I never sought to interfere editorially at any stage.

For year after year, Mike was kind enough every week, without fail, to send me a digital copy of his newspaper every Friday morning so that I could keep up on what was happening on the island. I was aware, however, of a sad decline in his health especially since his beloved wife, Bernice, died earlier this year.

Mike was a principled and big-hearted individual and it was impossible not to admire his passion for his adopted homeland and for his chosen profession.

I offer my sincere condolences to all Mike’s many friends on St Helena. His death has, without doubt, left a hole on the island that will be hard to fill.

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. For more information on his work, visit lordashcroft.com. Follow him on X/Facebook @LordAshcroft.

TARGET DATE FOR SAINT FM TO COME ALIVE!

Saint FM is gearing up for its highly anticipated '*Saint FM come alive*' initiative, with a target launch date of **Friday 29th November**.

This timeline is contingent on continued public support, and we're keen to share the progress we've made.

In response to community feedback, Saint FM is launching a **GoFundMe page today**.

The GoFundMe link is <https://gofund.me/1ac782f6> (Thank you for your support)

This initiative was the most popular suggestion from our audience, and we will also explore other creative ideas shared from on Island in the coming days.



Why This Timeline?

We understand the eagerness to hear Saint FM back on the airwaves, but several key factors have influenced our planned schedule:

- We aim to deliver a fresh start with updated media and polished processes.
- Enhanced the IT Infrastructure: Ensuring reliability and a smoother user experience.
- Starting on a Friday allows us the weekend to address any initial issues.
- The days leading up to launch will be used to rigorously test the system, including the announcement submissions and advertisement operations.

What to Expect:

Starting **Monday, 25th November**, Saint FM will begin accepting announcements to be aired from Monday to Friday.

Emergency announcements only will also be accommodated over the weekend.

- **Submission Process:**
 - Email announcements and advertisements to toair@saint.fm to ensure accurate and reliable processing.
 - For on-air requests to presenters, email studio@saint.fm (Anonymous name request to will be ignored and not aired)
 - For operational queries or suggestions, contact ops@saint.fm

Important Notes and audience expectations:

- The station office will not be continuously staffed. Our operations team, working both locally and remotely, will take action as needed to ensure smooth service delivery.
- **Programming Schedule:**
 - From 29th November, we will start with breakfast shows at 8 AM, followed by available voluntary presenters.
 - Local hourly news will not be included at launch due to resource limitations, but we're exploring options and welcome community ideas and input.
- Some initial adjustments may be needed as we fine-tune operations, but we are committed to success.

Looking Ahead:

The Saint FM team appreciates your patience and support as we prepare to relaunch with a focus on quality, innovation, and community engagement.

We are on-air to listen to your feedback this is a community project contact us ops@saint.fm

Saint FM Stand Up Team

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor

A government select committee is due to report on their investigation into social housing. More recently, Legislative Council have commissioned an independent review of the governance structures of St Helena three years after the implementation of the ministerial form of government. I hope social housing will form part of the independent review.

Social housing was never provided for the people of St Helena for hundreds of years. For almost two centuries, Islanders built family homes using materials that were available - the main items being mud and stone.

St Helena never had its own economy. It cost the East India Company about £100,000 a year (a lot of money these days) to run the island. When the Crown took over, it put in only a fraction of that amount to run the island, resulting in a pattern of emigration and poverty.

The low level of financial support also created a severe housing problem. In 1931, 40 percent of the 4,000 population lived in one room or less. The following year a report showed that the "housing situation was shocking. Island reduced to extreme poverty." I was born in 1936 in Jamestown during this period.

In order to address the housing situation, SHG had an ongoing programme of building social houses. Even with PWD complet-

ing one dwelling every month, it was unable to meet the demand. As a consequence, SHG came up with a scheme for Islanders to build their own family homes. It was a model for social housing specifically designed to meet Island needs and circumstances. SHG, as the major landowner, worked directly with the people, as islanders had the required trade skills. In addition, Islanders providing their own family homes released considerable SHG funding for other developments. This allowed SHG to offer a housing plot at an affordable price to all islanders (£500 an acre), especially for young people. This offer, and who qualified for the offer, was regulated and monitored.

This St Helena model for social housing also had other benefits including the extended family helping young people to build, which strengthened family and social cohesion. It also made an important contribution to the private sector for tradesmen and merchants. It also made a major contribution to the economy over the years. A recent population statistic showed that about 75% of Islanders are home owners, most of which would have been through this scheme. It also showed there were just over 1300 homes with a collective capital investment of £150 million - the largest private capital investment since the EIC left in the 1830's.

Most of the money for this type of housing has come from Islanders working offshore. It is a regular source of inward investment, currently about £10million a year (I don't have the exact figure). Young people working offshore is not necessarily a bad thing, in fact it has advantages in providing a different life experience and gaining additional skills. Most young people leaving to work offshore

after starting to build a house are more likely to return.

For many years the two main sources of income for SHG have been remittances from Islanders working offshore and British Aid. Unlike income from Tourism, offshore remittances have remained constant, continuing over the two-year lockdown restrictions during Covid.

Recently the scheme for first time house buyers has followed the UK example. Land for social housing is entwined with land for private sector development. Land prices have risen from £500 an acre to a massively increased sum that makes it unaffordable to the majority of islanders, especially young people. The previous successful social housing scheme has been totally undermined. The change also undermined family and social cohesion and is one of the major reasons for young people leaving the island.

SHG should revert to the successful model for social housing for the reasons given. Housing plots under the scheme can be increased from £500 an acre to £1000 an acre. Social housing should be identified by SHG to facilitate people who qualify - especially young people, to secure a housing plot. Also give advice and support about building costs, materials and design.

Social housing has such wide implications, this open letter raises aspects for discussion that can be used in other forums.

Yours sincerely

Basil George



The Royal Ballet
The Nutcracker



The Museum
Jamestown

Tuesday 26th November
18:30

Admission free by ticket

Tickets available at the museum
reception



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 24 th November 2024 – Christ the King		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
Friday 29 th November 2024		
7.00 p.m.	Patronal Festival	St Andrew

The Parish of St James

Sunday 24 th November 2024 – Christ the King		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Thursday 28 th November 2024		
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 24 th November 2024 – Christ the King		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
Tuesday 26 th November 2024		
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark

District Cleanup



District Cleanup/Beautification Competition

St Helena Tourism is organising a district cleanup competition.

This initiative aims to help improve our community by enhancing and maintaining areas of the Island.

The competition is open to district groups and organisations. Groups will notify which area they are cleaning up and beautifying and will be judged on that area.

The winning district/organisation will be awarded a £500 cash prize plus reimbursement of expenses occurred during the cleanups. With the condition that the prize money be used to further benefit the community.

For more information and to register interest please contact the Tourist Office on telephone 22158 or email louis.youde@shg.gov.sh.

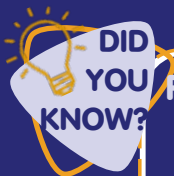
Judging will take place on the 1st December 2024.





The MV Azamara Quest is expected to arrive at St Helena on Saturday 30 November at 8am and depart at 6pm
SHE IS CARRYING:

690 PASSENGERS **AND** **408** CREW



For as little as* £11 a month you can purchase Hire & Reward Insurance – the 'Taxi Cover'.

*Premiums calculated on Engine Size and range from <1400cc at £11 to 6000cc at £26

A Fee of £26.50 will also be payable to SHG, to upgrade your current Private Road License to a Public Service License and will run the length of your current license until your next MOT

SCHEDULED
STOPS FOR
PRE-ARRANGED
ISLAND SCENIC
TOURS ARE:

- Two Gun Saddle
- Stitches Ridge
- Napoleon's Tomb
- Plantation House
- Napoleon's House (Longwood Green)
- Ladder Hill Viewing Platform

These scheduled stops, along with prime spots in Jamestown (for those walking around), provide open opportunities for sales and promotions

Set up a Refreshment Stand...Bring along your Locally Made Souvenirs...

Contribute to the Visitor Experience!



Be Friendly

Be Prepared *(show off your Local Knowledge)*

Be Organised

Be Flexible *(changes may be required due to sea conditions)*

Note: The Bank of St Helena will not be operating their Wharf Kiosk however the Main Branch will remain open until 4pm



INVITATION TO TENDER

The St Helena National Trust would like to invite suitably experienced boat operators to submit tenders for the following contract:

Conducting Bone shark research and data collection in St Helena's Marine Protected Area, during the 2025/26 Bone shark season (Jan-March).

Only tenders from Accredited Marine Tour Operators will be considered, as per St Helena Research Institute Licence conditions.

Tenders should consider the following:

- Boat trips from Jamestown Wharf to Bone shark aggregation sites around the Island, within coastal waters. These sites include (but are not limited to): Barn Cap, Barn Ledge, Flagstaff Bay, Egg Island, Speery Island Cap, George Island and certain windward sites;
- Anticipated start date: **January 2025** (*depending on sightings*);
- Anticipated end date: **31 March 2025** (*contract may be extended depending on continued sightings*);
- Anticipated frequency of 3 to 5 trips per week (sightings dependent);
- Quotes required for both **half-day** (3 to 4 hours) and **full-day** trips (6 to 7 hours);
- Provide a current copy of their Health and Safety/Risk Assessments and valid Insurance as part of the tender application.

For further details please get in touch with the Trust Marine Team on 22190/22569 or email the Marine Conservation Project Manager,

kenickie.andrews@trust.org.sh

Interested persons should submit tenders in a sealed envelope to the Office Manager, Amanda Constantine, by no later than 16:00hrs on Friday, 6th December 2024.

Programme of Events



ST HELENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
CONFERENCE

27
NOV
2024
28

St Helena: A Unique
Environment, A Rich Tapestry

Panel One - Round Table: Philosophy, Culture, and Civil Society

- Protecting an Earthly Paradise: St Helena's 1993 Sustainable Environment and Development Strategy, Isobel Akerman, University of Cambridge
- Saint Music, James Fantom & Louis Youde
- Sainly Names: People through the centuries, Jesse Hillman
- Creative and Community Collaboration with Colonial Archives: Beyond the Text of the Official St Helena Archive, Professor Ruth Simbao, National Research Foundation Chair in Geopolitics and the Arts of Africa, Rhodes University, South Africa
- Connecting the hidden gems of the Overseas Territories, Caroline Moss-Gibbons, Parasol Librarian, University of Gibraltar

Panel Two: Social Science, Culture & Economy

- State of the Nation, Neil Fantom, Statistical Commissioner, St Helena Government (TBC)
- Voices from St Helena: Understanding Children's Perspectives Through Creative Methods to Increase Participation in Research and Practise, Dr Sam Phippard, University of Cambridge
- Equiano: A bridge for St Helena's Digital Divide, or a bypass?, Dr Drew Whitworth, University of Manchester & Gareth Drabble, St Helena Government
- Economic development in small Pacific Islands: Implications for the South Atlantic, Dr Mike Pretes, University of North Alabama
- Navigating Risk Communication Challenges on St Helena, and other British Overseas Territories, Cain Oliphant, Kings College London

Panel Three: Medical, Health and Telemedicine

- Mental Health and resilience in young people on Saint Helena Island, Dr Tara Murphy, University of Nottingham
- Developing a diabetes registry for Saint Helena, Dr Selvi Jeyaseelan, Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research
- It all started with a phone call, Ian Rummary, Health and Social Care Portfolio, St Helena Government
- Health behaviour change in isolated communities, Wendy Maltinsky & Vivien Swanson, University of Stirling, et al

Panel Four: Invertebrate Fauna

- Protecting and monitoring the native invertebrates of St Helena's Peak National Park, Natasha Stevens & Liza Fowler, St Helena National Trust
- The progress and impact of St Helena's invertebrate strategies and the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse Action Plan, Vicky Wilkins, Species Recovery Trust
- Transforming Saint Helena's spider fauna from one of the most perplexing to the most well-understood invertebrate groups in just two years, with hope for the future, Danni Sherwood & Daryl Joshua, St Helena National Trust
- Invertebrates and their Habitats on St Helena – prioritising research, survey & monitoring, Dr Roger Key

Panel Five: Flora and Fauna

- iRecord St Helena, Selene Gough, St Helena Research Institute
- Oceanic island museomics: diversity, evolution and human impact on *Trochetiopsis*, (Malvaceae) from Saint Helena, Dr Annabelle de Vries, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre
- A study of tree disease on St Helena - What's killing endemic trees?, Amy Webster, University of Birmingham Institute of Forest Research
- AtlantAves: Reviving ancient island wildlife on Saint Helena, Dr Antoine Louchart, et al., University of Lyon
- Endemic lichens of St Helena: estimating population size for the IUCN Global Red List, Dr Laurens Sparrius, Bryologische & Lichenologische Werkgroup, Netherlands

Panel Six: Land Use, Influences and Mapping

- Land use influences on bryophyte and soil microbiota on the South Atlantic island of St Helena, Tsvetoslav Georgiev, Natural History Museum, London/Imperial College London
- Seabed mapping supporting International Maritime Obligations, Mia Henry, Devlin Yon, St Helena Government & Kerrie Howard, UKHO
- Mapping St Helena's Soils and Vegetation project 2018; key findings and how tech advances could help plug data gaps and provide valuable monitoring insights. Samuel Pike & Dr Katie Medcalf, Environment Systems
- Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife, James Fantom, St Helena National Trust

Panel Seven: Ecosystem Management

- Biocontrol in Action: Chalcid Wasps vs. Wild Mango, Chloe Wainright
- The Critical Role of Soil in Island Ecosystems, Dr Gareth Clay, University of Manchester
- The Importance of Cloud Forest Habitat for Water Supply, Robert George, Connect St Helena Ltd, et al.,
- How can St Helena develop sustainable systems for food security that also support the preservation of its biodiversity and natural landscapes? Ayat-Allah Bouramdane, International University of Rabat (IUR)

Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Head of Tourism (£23,895 per annum)

An exciting opportunity will become available in **March 2025** for a Head of Tourism within Economic Development Portfolio. This is a key role in delivering SHG overarching vision of making St Helena a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest.

Do you have:

- Extensive proven experience in tourism marketing, hospitality and tourism management;
- A deep understanding of St Helena as a tourism destination;
- Experience working with travel trade partners: tour operators, travel agents and travel media;
- Strong project and campaign management experience;
- Sound financial budget development and management experience in relation to budgets?

If so, then this could be an opportunity for you to grow tourism-related revenues through the effective use of strategic planning, leadership skills, community assets, industry knowledge and relationships, along with evolving tourism practices.

In so doing, as the Head of Tourism you will facilitate a quality and value-for-money visitor experience and ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all visitors, delivering improved visitor numbers, improved satisfaction and increased export income, stimulating economic development.

Interested? Why not contact us for further information and a copy of the Job Profile.

Enquiries: Damian Burns Tel No: 22470 or Email:
damian.burns@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 6 December 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. Key areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sharina Williams on Tel No. 22470 or Email
sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 06 December 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

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

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
 Government**

**Senior Marketing Manager
 (£23,895 per annum)**

The Senior Marketing Manager will help to improve the lives of all within our community by raising awareness of St Helena as a place to live, learn, work and invest and help the island thrive by leading and coordinating all St Helena Government (SHG) marketing activities. A key focus of the role will be on improving visitor numbers and expenditure by delivering destination marketing initiatives that develop the island’s tourism sector.

The Senior Marketing Manager will report to the Head of Communications and will be part of the Communications Hub, overseeing the marketing function. The role will serve as a firm link strengthening working relationships, systems and structures between St Helena and the UK, and will support a wide range of PR, product/service development, marketing issues and initiatives, and provide strategic marketing leadership for projects and partnerships.

Interested? Why not contact us for further information and a copy of the Job Profile.

**Enquiries: Anne Dillon on Tel No: 22470 or Email:
 anne.dillon@sainthelena.gov.sh**

Closing date: 6 December 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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JOB VACANCIES

Yang Enterprises, Inc. invites interested candidates to apply for the following positions on Ascension Island:

Senior Operator/Repairer Communication: The incumbent installs, removes, tests, troubleshoots, programs, maintains, and repairs overhead cabling consisting of copper wiring and single mode fiber optic cabling underground fiber and copper cables. Actions includes replacing sections of cable, splicing fiber and copper cables, replacing suspension strands and assisting in pole replacement.

Plant/Mechanic Monitor – Power House: Operate utility plant equipment in automatic or manual (off normal) operations. Record and analyze operating parameters making changes and repairs as needed and notifying the Supervisor of abnormal conditions. Assist mechanic with the repair and rebuild of equipment. Provide for servicing of engines, change oil, filters, repair leaks and other minor repairs and perform required testing and adjustment of equipment to meet required standards.

Tower/Antenna Maintenance Operator: Responsible for performing corrective maintenance and corrosion control on, but not limited to, infrastructure, towers, fixed and semi-fixed antenna structures (i.e. communication, bore sight, lightning protection system, guyed or self-supporting, ground planes, mounting hardware, etc.). Replacement of tower lights (beacon/strobe), tower grounding, plumb and tensioning, troubleshoot and resolve tower maintenance/emergency issues.

Snackbar Attendant: Operate large-volume cooking equipment such as grills, deep-fat fryers, and griddles and assist in food preparation in all areas with tasks such as; cutting, sorting, and washing vegetables. Maintains work area in a clean and orderly manner, adhering to federal regulations and all local policies and procedures. Stock and inventory product.

Mechanic: Troubleshoots and repairs diesel, gasoline, and/or multi-fuel engines; gearing and governing components for controlling, changing or transferring speed and power; hydraulic and pneumatic systems and controls; conditioning (cooling, heating,) systems; turbine engines; combustion powered generators and compressors, or other comparably complex components, including completely disassembling, reassembling, overhauling, and adjusting to specifications.

Inventory & Supply Technician: High level of customer service interaction. Required to receive, inspect and distribute material to warehouse location. Conduct inventory, update supply data base. Stock room duties of stocking and issue of material. Complying with shelf life report/codes. Property Custodian and Inventory Accountability.

Assistant Administrator: Perform a variety of clerical duties including: typing correspondence and form letters; updating and distributing forms Assist in preparation of various required reports, and plans. Cross-trained in other departmental areas (Accounting and Transportation/Housing) to assist in covering for absences.

Carpenter: Constructs, erects, installs and repairs structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms, building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding and rafters. Build doors, windows, door frames and install cabinets, siding and drywall. Maintain in good repair building woodwork and equipment such as counters, benches, doors, floors, casings and trim made of wood.

Electrician: Performs a variety of electrical trade functions such as respond to emergencies or critical work, installation, maintenance, or repair of equipment for the generation, distribution, or utilization of electric energy. Installing or repairing any of a variety of electrical equipment such as generators, transformers, switchboards, controllers, circuit breakers, motors, heating units, conduit systems, or other transmission equipment; working from blueprints, drawings, layouts, or other specifications.

Painter: Paint all U.S. Base Facilities interior and exterior and assist with coating applications including chemical removal corrosion control. Use abrasive blasting equipment to remove paint, grease, tar, rust, and dirt and other imperfections from the surface so that it can be painted and refinished.

Plumber: Assembles, installs and repairs pipes, fittings and fixtures of heating, water, and drainage systems, according to specifications and plumbing codes. Installs and repairs plumbing fixtures, such as sinks, commodes, water heaters, hot water tanks, garbage disposal units, dishwashers, and water softeners. Repairs and maintains leaky faucets, mending burst pipes, and opening clogged drains.

Fire Dispatcher: Receives incoming telephone or alarm system calls regarding emergencies and non-emergencies. Dispatch emergency responders, medical and security personnel. Relays information to law enforcement and emergency response personnel. Record details of calls, dispatches, and messages. (Certified as a Public Safety Telecommunicator I, II, Hazmat awareness.)

YEI provides its employees meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) and accommodations. Upon completion of a one-year contract, YEI will provide a round trip passage to the home of record. Laundry and MWR facilities are available free of charge. A valid Passport/Visa with a minimum of 18 months is required for an offer letter to be extended. To be considered, there should not be any major offences recorded with law enforcement.

Any interested person **currently residing on Saint Helena** can send their CV to AscensionIslandJobs@gmail.com and call 25971 for an appointment to complete the application.

Any interested person currently **not residing on Saint Helena** may apply online at <https://www.yangenterprises.com/getapplication.aspx> and attach their CV.



AUDIT ST HELENA
External Auditors

VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT AUDITOR
Salary range £9,185 to £11,327 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 Monday 09 December 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.



GO HIGHER
with Sure

Sure delivers mobile, broadband, fixed line and television rebroadcasting services to the St Helena community and forms part of the South Atlantic Region with Sure Ascension and Falkland Islands.

Sure Academy schemes are part of our long term commitment to offer local people a channel into the workplace. It is a 1 year paid opportunity for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to join our business and gain practical training and a high quality experience that can lead to an exciting and challenging career.

If you are interested in the telecommunications industry, the Sure Academy is open to anyone from the age of 16 years (post compulsory schooling). We offer placements in roles ranging from Engineering to Marketing, Finance and Administration.

Ideally candidates should possess a minimum of grade C/5 and above, or equivalent, in GCSE Maths, English and Science. For further information, please contact Keirah Wade on telephone: 22800 or email: Keirah.Wade@sure.com

If you are interested in the Sure Academy Scheme, please forward your expression of interest and CV to the above email address by Friday, 6 December 2024. Candidates should outline in a covering letter what their area of interest is within our St Helena Business Unit and how this experience will benefit their future career aspiration.

Due to the nature of this position, the post holder must hold a satisfactory Police disclosure.





Press Release

We are pleased to announce that Offshore Exploratory Fishing will start soon.

Just yesterday a member of the public commented that STC is closing at the end of November. Sounds familiar but rest assured that as in every other instance where such yarns were spread, this one is also unfounded, totally inaccurate or simply false. We are not closing but in fact have now bought an Offshore Fishing vessel the MFV Albatros, that is in the process of being prepared for departure to St. Helena.

It's no secret that we too have a strained relationship with SHG. We were only granted one meeting during the course of this year which was held on the 17th of September. During this meeting ministers position were clarified in that we as PQT were not allowed to charter vessel/s any more but had to 1st buy and supply one before we could continue. This is contrary to our discussions and attempts to charter vessels for over 2 years. It was also made clear that the culvert issue would not be addressed until such time that PQT supplied a vessel for Offshore Exploratory fishing.

Even though we differ in opinion we at PQT and STC have now honoured the request of ministers to 1st buy and supply our vessel. The MFV Albatros is a purpose build Tuna Pole & Line vessel that has been active and successful employed in the South African Tuna P&L sector. It furthermore provides the desired platform from which the research activities and data gathering can be conducted that ENRP require.

At STC we have endeavoured to ensure continued supply of quality Tuna for the local market. Thanks to the John Mellis and the efforts of our exceptional and loyal staff, the shops are again filled with fresh tuna from the Bonaparte seamount. We will continue to ensure delivery of top quality tuna and can now guarantee a more regular supply throughout the year with the much needed capacity now provided by the MFV Albatros.

Good news for the island but great news for the fishermen is that with the supply of the MFV Albatros we believe that we can now actively engage with ministers about a suitable solution to the culvert issue. This is especially relevant as it will enable fishermen to deliver their catch to STC for processing for the frozen export market.

Keep your eyes peeled on the horizon as the MFV Albatros will soon arrive at our beautiful Island.



**Big Read Story 3: Fathers, promise your daughters- by Angélique Kidjo**

Grammy winner Angélique Kidjo is not only one of the spunkiest, most electrifying performers in the pop world today, but she's also an artist whose mission has been to explore the relationships of diverse musical cultures. Her striking voice, stage presence and her fluency in multiple cultures and languages have won respect from her peers and expanded her following across national borders. Kidjo has cross-pollinated the West African traditions of her childhood in Benin with elements of American R&B, funk and jazz, as well as influences from Europe and Latin America. Angélique also travels the world advocating on behalf of the children in her capacity as a UNICEF goodwill Ambassador. She created her own charitable foundation, Batonga, dedicated to support the education of young girls in Africa. **Here is her story-**

**Title- "Fathers, promise your daughters"**

I was 6 years old and nothing was more thrilling to me than to watch my mother, who had sewn their great colorful costumes herself, rehearse with her theatre troupe. I could see the dancers sweating as they practiced their moves, backed up by singers shouting old tales from my West African country, Benin. Even though I could not understand the complex stories of Kings, Queens and battles, I knew every line and every dance.

Then one day the unthinkable happened. One of the singers was sick and didn't show up for the performance. Suddenly, Mom looked at me with strange eyes and said: *"I have listened to you and I've noticed you know her part well. Tonight, you will go on stage and replace her."* I knew I could sing - my family used to say I sung before I talked - but

I could not picture myself in front of an audience. But I had no choice. At the last moment, I had to be pushed on stage, like someone jumping from a plane with a parachute. There was silence - a big silence; everyone was so surprised to see such a little girl. Then people started to laugh and cheer and that made me feel more relaxed and so I started to sing. I felt so good when I heard the clapping. I knew at that moment I would spend my whole life on stage! I was more and more famous in Benin and I was able to make a living. It was sometimes tough because there is a big prejudice in my country against entertainers, who many people thought live a wild life, which was really not my case at all! But I did start to think: *"Why do I have to go to school, sit for hours*

in the classroom and work hard on my homework when I already have a job?"

My grades started to fall until one day, my dad called me, and said *"So you want to stop school and be a singer?" "Yes Dad! This is exactly what I want to do. I need to practice my music, to learn new songs, to play with my band. I don't have time for school!"*

Although I didn't think so at the time, I was really a very lucky teenager to have a father like I did, who told me in no uncertain terms. *"This is not going to happen in my house. If you want to be a singer, I mean a great singer, you have to be educated. You have to be able to express all the beauty of the world in your music and your lyrics. You need to learn. I will make a deal with you; I am going to support your singing career but you have to go to school and get a good education."* I have to admit I was mad at my Dad and couldn't understand him at the time but he left me no choice. I kept going to school and he kept his promises. He produced my first big show in Togo when the original promoter quit saying I was too petite and no one could see me on stage! After all these years, I am so grateful to my father. I now know he was right. The education I received has allowed me to travel the whole world, to be confident enough to sing and to speak in front of all kinds of people, **even Kings and Queens!**

I just want all the children of my continent to be lucky like me and to have an education so they can fulfil their dreams like I fulfilled mine!

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

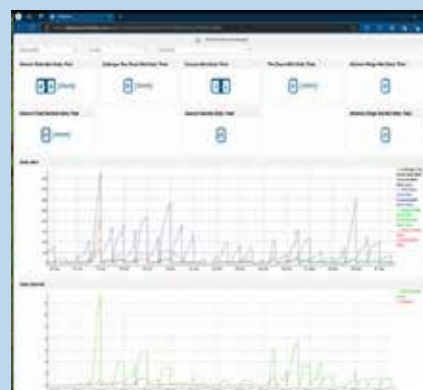


Welcome to another 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

This week, we're excited to share with you the live link for the mist and rainfall monitoring network dashboard: <https://dashboard.hobolink.com/public/33326/Dashboard%20SHCFP%20Mist%20and%20Rainfall>

This dashboard provides a real-time look at conditions around key areas of the Peaks National Park where users can scroll along the data line to see the amount of mist and rainfall recorded for that day. Additionally, we are working with HOBOLINK to refine the display further, allowing for other graphs to be available in future.

This new telemetry system also alerts us to equipment malfunctions sooner, and contributes to the reduction in footfall for pathogen mitigation. The surface water monitoring network will also be upgraded to telemetry over this quarter.



Don't forget that you can also check out the real-time data collected by the existing Automatic Weather Station network around the island via <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/> (pan/zoom to St Helena)

A massive shout out to Water Resources Monitoring Technician, Robert George (Connect Saint Helena), and our water pillar team for all their hard work on this! Along with partners at the UK MET Office and Bottom Woods Met Station, these teams have ensured that a variety of environmental data on St Helena is now accessible to all through the St Helena Cloud Forest Project.

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:



NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold a special meeting on Monday, 25th November 2024, at 9 am at the Museum of St Helena, Jamestown to discuss the deferred item of Barn View.

The Agenda will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Web Site.

Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

BLUE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 23rd November 2024
Public Dance
@ 8.30pm
Music by KJ your DJ

Sunday, 1st December 2024
Christmas Sing-A -Long
@ 3pm

Saturday, 28th December 2024
Social Evening @ 8.30pm
Music by the lovely
Double D's and Johnny Carter

So save the date
Don't be late
Try your best
Head out West

Local Football Results

Sunday 17th November

Fugees 6 - Wanderers 2

Scorers:

Fugees – Sean-Lee Thomas (4), Samuel K, Scott O’Bey

Wanderers – Alex Hudson, Korben Minto

MoM: Sean-Lee Thomas



La Verde 17 - Inter Galactic 0

Scorers:

La Verde - Toure Osbourne (6), Harry Wingfield (3) Jake Letori (2), Blake Benjamin (2), Lars Williams (2), Louis Barnikel, Tyrell



MoM: Louis Barnikel

YMOM: Toure Osbourne



Premier League Fixtures



Saturday 23rd November

Leicester City  12:30  Chelsea



AFC Bournemouth  15:00  Brighton & Hove Albion

Arsenal  15:00  Nottingham Forest

Aston Villa  15:00  Crystal Palace

Everton  15:00  Brentford

Fulham  15:00  Wolverhampton Wanderers

Manchester City  17:30  Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday 24th November

Southampton  14:00  Liverpool

Ipswich Town  16:30  Manchester United

36 Days to Go!

The Cape to St Helena Yacht Race is very close now. The deadline for race entries is next Tuesday. The Cape Town starting gun will be fired around 9:30am on 28th December, with race leaders crossing the James Bay finishing line around 7th January.



As of yesterday, there were eight race entries.

1. **Tintin** – current holder of the Governor’s Cup as overall winner on handicap in the 2002 race. It was Di Hutton-Squire’s first Ocean Race and first as skipper. Skipper Hutton-Squire said, “We had a fully dedicated crew who put their all into getting us there as fast as possible. Nick Leggatt, our Navigator, took us on exactly the right course because he has been to St. Helena so many times.”
2. **Umoya** – two father and son partnerships in the crew plus two friends.
3. **Atalanta** – Skipper Gerry Hegie has a long history with the island and has stopped over at the Island often with numerous South Atlantic crossings. He has a deep-rooted passion for offshore yacht racing, describing the exhilaration of surfing downwind in the open ocean in 25-35 knots of wind for days on end. As he said “I definitely have some unfinished business with the St Helena race.”
4. **Flica** – This is the first Ocean race for Flica but some of the crew have competed in Cape to Rio races.
5. **Magnus** – has had a total refit, skipper Evert Groenewald said “It has been an exciting and passion-driven journey with Magnus, from the complete refit to preparing for the St Helena Race! The blend of sailing expertise and engineering innovation, along with the commitment from the team, makes this campaign truly



extraordinary and special.

6. **Fryd** - will be skippered by Jarl Spandow from Sweden. Jarl has cruised extensively with Fryd in Northern Europe (Scandinavia, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Spain and North Africa), Caribbean, Cuba, Eastern USA, Canada, Greenland and Iceland and has participated in many offshore races during these travels including in the North Sea and the double handed AZAB from Falmouth to Azores and back. Jarl is currently sailing double handed with his son from Salvador to Cape Town, due mid-November, in time to prepare for the race.
7. **Magic Dragon** - When the Halling family realised that they would be leaving Cape Town for St Helena around the same time that the race starts, they thought it would be a great way to begin their South Atlantic crossing, as they make their way home to the UK. They are currently 27,000 nautical miles into a 4¼ year circumnavigation on board their boat, Magic Dragon. For the race, Magic Dragon will be fully stocked with fuel (1 tonne), water (1 tonne), food (for at least 3 months), beer (not enough for the fleet unfortunately), ground tackle (0.5 tonne), books (0.3 tonne) and toys (endless)
8. **Mwera** - Double handed duo Lieutenant Bowie, Corporal Ziggy Stardust, recently ordained as a minister in the Church of the Flying Spagetti Monster, team up with long standing inspiration, Bill Withers, and take their turn at finding their place in competing for the timeless Governors Cup. Taking control of the Dutch Rudder, they plan on parting the seas with refurbished Mwera, on a magnitude that would make Moses proud.



Lieutenant Bowie, Corporal Ziggy Stardust and two splashes on the camera lens

The Jacob's Ladder Challenge – Record Smashed



Credit: St Helena Tourism

Yesterday, James Appleton, a world-renowned runner in extreme sports, ran up Jacob's Ladder 23 seconds faster than the previous record time reported in a recent Tourist Office press release. If Wikipedia is to be believed, James Appleton chopped 35 seconds of the previous fastest time set in 2016 during the Festival of Running. Which ever way you look at it, the 4 minutes, 40.75 seconds record time set by James looks set to stand for a long time.

National Sports Association of St Helena officials were the official timekeepers for the successful record attempt. James, NSASH officials, supporters and spectators assembled at the foot of Jacob's ladder at 7:30 am yesterday; one person doing it and everyone else witnessing this historic moment.

James has been running literally all his life – from cross-country through school and university, and then onto obstacle course racing, and now having moved to Keswick in the Lake District, fell running and longer ultras.

Competitive achievements include four wins at the legendary Tough Guy race, several top-10 finishes in Obstacle Course Racing (OCR) world-championships in individual events, and two world-champion titles as one of the three-man Great Britain team in the relay event. James is now hoping to focus more on pure trail and fell running events, and try and convert some of the success from OCR into these.

Alongside his running, James is also an award-winning travel, landscape and adventure photographer, who is best known for his dramatic close-up photographs of the 2010 Eyjafjall-jokull eruption in Iceland. It certainly helps his strength and endurance when long runs in the fells are accompanied by a pack full of camera gear, and the Lakes provide an amazing backdrop in many of James' recent images.

James Appleton is visiting St Helena as a representative of Rat Race Adventures, a tour operator specialising in extreme running events for aficionados of the sport. James is looking at the St Helena landscape with a view to staging an extreme running event here, possible an ultra marathon.



Fell Running – the Fells are in the Cumbrian Mountains, Lake District, UK



St Helena Cricket - Leave, Fly and Arrive



Precious luggage on parade and ready to go

Cricket – It's a family thing



Nigeria, Here we come!



In Nigeria, it's 36 degrees in the shade. The long shadows show that training sessions started when the sun was going down

Derek Richards (far right) records the team sweating in the heat



Restoring energy levels after training session in the heat

