

# THE ST HELENA **2025** Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT



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## Cape to St Helena Yacht Race

Horn sounds as another yacht crosses the finish line

*Timekeeper Neil George's Official Timings*

Yacht	Date of arrival	G.M.T SAT	
		Time of arrival	
Atalanta - Heye Daun & Gerry Hegie	07/01/2025	13:14 20 SECS	15:14 # 20 SECS
Magic Dragon - Rod Halling			
Fryd - Jarl Spandow			
Flica - Rijk Cuttel	07/01/2025	16:05 15 SECS	16:08 15 SECS

## Financial Aid Mission - Press Conference Today



**Will 2025 be the year of 'Trade & Investment'?**



**Old Year's Night from our Sister Island**

# Christmas & New Year Photo Album

We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas break and now ready to continue your journey in 2025. We hope we are.

We at the Independent have put together a collage of pictures of the various events held over the Christmas break



**CHRISTMAS EVE ROUND THE ISLAND & TRADITIONAL STREET PARADE**



**BOXING DAY SPORTS & BIKE RIDE AROUND THE ISLAND**



**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY ON THE BRIDGE & NEW YEARS DAY AT FRANCIS PLAIN**



**See back page for more...**

## Trade and Investment St Helena Style

Michael Ormrod is the SHG Trade & Investment Manager who leads a team responsible for managing the Approved Investor Scheme (AIS). Michael's team consists of one assistant, they get involved with investment proposals which currently range from tracking vehicles travelling through space to an indoor organic mushroom farm. Investment proposals can be local initiatives or plans put forward by international companies. Leaf Space, who plan to track satellites and rocket launchers from Horse Point, OneWeb's ground station, already have 27 tracking locations across the world with six more planned, including St Helena.



***From 'working in the dark'  
to 'the sky's the limit'  
– St Helena business  
opportunities***

Michael Ormrod says his small team has handled eight AIS applications during 2024 and there will probably be more than that this year. The amount of investment committed this year totals £770,00. Of this, £495,000 is imported capital expenditure and the rest from local initiatives. Indoor mushroom growing, new printing machinery at Printech and an expansion of a guest house are local investments. A US family is funding a rental business for adventure sports equipment. They are starting with mountain bikes and kayaks. The business will be managed locally on a day-to-day basis.

The small SHG Trade and Investment team deal with a wide range of business proposals from potential investors of all kinds. They will also assist people who want to develop an idea into a business venture. General advice can be given as well as information on who can be contacted for details on the many aspects of running a business.

***For further details contact Michael Ormrod, Export, Trade & Investment Manager.  
Phone 22470 or email: [invest@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:invest@sainthelena.gov.sh).***



# EDITORIAL

Here we are again! A new year and a new start? I'm writing this on 1st January. In response to an email from my daughter-in-law I sent her a list of headlines from newspapers published on the first day of this year. She's a shrewd girl my daughter-in-law, never carried away with new fads, trendy ideas or tidal waves of ecstatic emotion that overcome the general populace from time to time. My son's family had gone to Abu Dhabi for a few days over the new year. A short escape from the dark, damp, cold English winter, where at this time of year you go to work in the dark and return home in the dark. Daughter-in-law had emailed me early on New Year's Day to say she woke up at midnight to watch the Abu Dhabi firework display attended by thousands of gleeful, cheering crowds happily welcoming the new year. She told me she was asleep again at 12:09am. I replied – "can't understand why so many people are celebrating the start of 2025" and listed some of the newspaper headlines for that very day. The news on the 1st January 2025 was not encouraging; all the main news was a million miles away from triggering tidal waves of ecstatic emotion that overcomes the general populace from time to time. Here they are: -

- 1. Millions of households in Great Britain face higher energy bills as price cap rises**
- 2. Hospital admissions for lack of vitamins soaring in England, NHS figures show**
- 3. UK patients unable to get dental care after 'eye-watering' rise in private fees**
- 4. Former EU environment chief warns against backsliding on climate crisis**
- 5. World endures 'decade of deadly heat' as 2024 caps hottest years on record**
- 6. Virginia man accused of amassing largest homemade explosives cache ever found by FBI**
- 7. Kate Beckinsale says she has been 'assaulted' and 'felt up' on film sets**
- 8. One dead after driver allegedly runs down two New Zealand police officers**
- 9. 'Hopefully, I'll pay off my Covid debt': what Britons want for their finances in 2025**
- 10. US Capitol attack fugitive seeks asylum in Canada and hopes for Trump pardon**

The airplane crash in South Korea on 28th December killing 179 people on board is a tragedy widely reported across the world. Also in December, in South Korea, representatives from 175 countries gathered for the fifth round of negotiations on a global plastics treaty. The talks failed to produce an agreement and will resume next year, according to the UN. The most hotly contested issue is whether or not the treaty will include binding targets on reducing plastic production. While the scientific consensus is that cutting production is essential to solving the environmental and health threats that it poses, some countries are concerned about potential negative impacts on their economies. Is that negative impacts on the economy or negative impacts on the big and on doubt powerful plastics production industry? It's estimated that plastic pollution could cost up to £225 trillion in damage to our already creaking planet. Plastic pollution only gets worse and the true cost of damage it causes cannot be calculated. The talks will continue later this year. Will 2025 see a miraculous breakthrough? I can't see one reason why this year should be different from past years.

Jo'burg water supplies are in chaos. In mid-December two large pumping stations needed urgent maintenance at the same time. The result is that water supplies to two thirds of Jo-burg remain unreliable or non-existent. Rand Water, the utility company supplying Jo-burg and many other areas describes itself as the largest business of its kind in Africa and one of the largest in the world. My daughter-in-law will be mightily unimpressed. The maintenance was due to last for a few days and then normal service brought back in stages. No such thing has happened. As Jo'burgers drift into the brave new world of 2025, Rand Water supplies are like Eskom power supplies. Water outages occur frequently due to aging infrastructure and city councils are not paying their water supply bills to the utility company. Rand Water recently wrote off £16 million in bad debt. As ever, corruption is rife in the South African water supply services. Recent reports cite 46% of drinking water systems fail to meet basic health standards, 67% of wastewater treatment facilities are dysfunctional, and nearly half of all water is lost before it reaches the tap.

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*To ensure inclusion, please submit adverts and copy by 1pm on Wednesdays. Later requests subject to available space.*

# Old Year's Night on Tristan

Old Year's Night on Tristan da Cunha was marked by a blend of sorrow and celebration. On the day before, the island lost a beloved elder, Aunt Trina Lavarello, whose passing left the community mourning.

Her funeral took place on New Year's Eve morning at 10 o'clock, with family and friends coming together to honour her life. Despite their grief, Aunt Trina's family expressed a heartfelt wish for the island's celebrations to continue, as she would have wanted.

The afternoon saw the Okalolies roaming the village in their colourful costumes, delighting residents with their traditional antics and playful "weddings". Although they started their rounds later than usual, their presence brought smiles and laughter to the community.



**Okalolies pictured with Lynette Green and baby Oscar**



**People gathering at the Residency for the Administrator's reception**



## Administrator Philip Kendall delivered a poignant speech

I cannot believe that 2024 is over already! It seems like only yesterday that the Okalolies first kidnapped Louise and took her to Prince Philip Hall. I am relieved that she wasn't kidnapped today as it's costing me a fortune in ransom payments! Time certainly does move quickly on Tristan, but it's probably also a reflection of the amount of work that we have all achieved this year. I have been fortunate enough to visit Nightingale twice, and Gough for a week in March. Louise and I also visited St Helena in April, but so far, Inaccessible has remained inaccessible to me! We started the year with a bumper cruise ship season – the best yet! Kelly, Iris and their teams together with Connie and the immigration team ensured that the cruise ship passengers had memorable and safe visits, and above all, spent loads of money! Thanks to you all. The Council has been working extremely hard behind the scenes this year. Their work has involved seeking a better deal for islanders, including assessing applications to run the next lobster concession whilst representing the views of the community. More of that later.

James and I both spent some time off island, representing Tristan at various meetings and events, putting forward the views of the Council and islanders. During our respective visits to the UK James met His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. I met Trevor in Lowestoft!

Trevor was in Lowestoft with our Young Ocean Champions where they learnt new skills which will enable them to continue the good work of the Conservation Team, protecting and preserving our pristine ocean and fishery well into the future. Thank you, Trevor, for this great initiative.

The work of the Conservation team, the Fisheries Department and Janine as our Atlantic Guardian, is crucial in keeping the fisheries healthy and profitable.

One area where we have been able to achieve a better deal for islanders, with the help of Lorraine and the

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# Old Year's Night on Tristan

## Administrator Philip Kendall delivered a poignant speech (Continued...)

Finance Team, is a substantial increase to the weekly pension to £45! Thank you, Lorraine.

As the population of Tristan ages, the pensioners are an increasingly large part of the community and the economy. Many pensioners are still very active, working in roles in the factory and across Government. When Chief Finance Officer Paul returns to the island in February, I will be working with him to improve salaries to ensure that those who work hard are well rewarded. It is important to me that everyone's hard work is recognised.

Talking of hard work, the staff at the hospital have had a tough year. The excellent doctors and nurses see people when they are at their most vulnerable. They do their best to heal those who can be healed, and support those when they need it most. The quality of our hospital and healthcare is also recognised by passing vessels, as we saw recently. To the doctors and nurses, I say thank you!

This year has seen big changes in Telecommunications too. Andy retired and was replaced by Starlink! The result has been a game changer for the island. We are now able to have uninterrupted video calls, access to better education resources at the school and telehealth opportunities at the hospital. Not to mention Netflix, YouTube and gaming! This was an amazing effort by Simon and his team. Thanks to everyone for making it happen, and helping me achieve my target of getting better internet on Tristan. Thanks too to Andy for your years of service. I am very pleased that he has agreed to stay on to man Tristan Radio.

The school has benefitted enormously from the improved connectivity with the outside world. The internet is now beamed through projectors into each classroom, where lessons can be streamed from educational sources which complement the teaching from the excellent teachers, and is proving to be a big hit with students. This also opens up lessons on subjects which have not been available until now, such as languages. Thank you to the teachers for embracing the new technology and everything you do for our young islanders.

So What Next? A lot of the infrastructure needs upgrading, so I will be working with the UK Government to find solutions, and money. First of all, in January, a team will be arriving from South Africa to upgrade the electrical infrastructure, rewire some critical buildings and begin to install solar panels.

This will begin to provide the island with enough electricity to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We will still need some gas and diesel, but if we can reduce the amount we ship onto the island it will save money, make us more self-reliant and be environmentally friendly.

## Extract from the Chief Islander's Speech

Our small community is faced with an ongoing challenge of chronic ailments with a large number of our Islanders on chronic medications. The burden may become unbearable on the part of the individuals, their families, our community and the Government, hence the need to address and harness the challenge now.



**Philip Kendall, the Administrator, rings the Fishing Dong three times to signal the start of the new year.**

The cost of living has always been a concern of mine and the council, especially with the latest increase in freight rates, and I am happy that the pension this year was doubled. However, we should be careful not to increase the pension too much, because if the pensioners stop working especially at the factory then the island is F... I will leave the last word for your own imagination.

There is also scope to increase Government wages by at least 20% from the endowment fund, but I will leave that up to the new Council. I would also urge young people to take responsibility and become Chief Islander or councillors, in this year's election, because it's important that you shape your own future.

**The Tristan da Cunha Association will be holding its popular Annual Gathering on Saturday 5th April 2025 at the Eastleigh (Southampton North) Holiday Inn.**

**For full details follow**

**<https://www.tristandc.com/assoc/gatheringnext.php>**

# **'LOYAL AND UNSHAKEABLE': HOW BRITISH IS SAINT HELENA?**

*Contributed*

***The time has come for Saint Helena to be recognised as a special case, which it self-evidently is, for an entirely new constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom.***

During times of crisis for Britain, Saint Helena has always lived up to its motto of 'Loyal and Unshakeable'. In 1982, during the Falklands Conflict, the old RMS was fitted with a helicopter pad and sailed as a support vessel to the Falkland Islands to assist in minesweeping operations, manned by volunteer crew members from Saint Helena. From an earlier conflict, the memorial to Corporal George Scipio in Saint Matthew's Church, Hutt's Gate, speaks volumes. George was killed in action in 1917, during the First World War. His memorial states, 'He Fought and Died for King and Country'. George is not the only Saint Helenian to have done so.

As the Chief Minister stated in her recent Christmas Message, the arrangement for Saint Helena to take in displaced persons from British Indian Ocean Territory provided an 'opportunity whereby a British Overseas Territory was able to lean forward to assist the UK in their time of need', as it always has done.

Different areas of the United Kingdom, such as Scotland, Wales and Cornwall, each have their own unique identity, but this does not prevent them all being part of the United Kingdom. Saint Helena has its own unique identity but it is, in many ways, as British as Scotland, Wales or Cornwall.

The people of Saint Helena are British Citizens, although they were denied this basic right for a long time following the enactment of the British Nationality Act, 1981. After the conflict in the Falkland Islands, British Citizenship was restored to Falkland Islanders in 1983, but not to Saint Helenians. Saint Helenians playing their part in assisting the British armed forces in the Falkland Islands in 1982 did not, it seems, warrant the same treatment for Saint Helenians.

The Bishop's Commission, which was set up to argue the case for British Citizenship for Saint Helenians, did not restrict its scope to that issue alone. To quote from its submission to the United Kingdom Government: 'It favoured St Helena becoming a British Island under terms similar to those of the Crown Dependencies [the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man]'. Additionally, 'It recommended that specific constitutional change would need to account for St Helena's unique situation and that some aspects of the French Republic's arrangement with its territorial collectives could be a model.' This was not carried forward for further consideration, either here or in the United Kingdom at the time, but Synod passed a resolution in April of last year bringing it to the fore again. The Constitutional Review would appear to present an opportunity for this to be raised afresh in the United Kingdom.

The Crown Dependencies are not part of the United Kingdom. However, the French Territorial Collectives (the smaller overseas territories of France) are regarded as part of France, as are its larger territories, although these are designated as Departments of France rather than Collectives. The French Overseas Departments are not comparable with Saint Helena; Martinique and Guadeloupe, for example, each has a population running to over three hundred thousand, which is more than the total population (two hundred and seventy thousand) of all the United Kingdom Overseas Territories put together. The Collectives, because of their size, provide a better model for Saint Helena.

The French arrangements result in all but two of its overseas territories (French Polynesia and New Caledonia) not being regarded by the Committee of 24 (C24), the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation, as 'non-self-governing', although C24 applies this description to 10 United Kingdom Overseas Territories, including Saint Helena. In short, for C24 purposes, a colony ceases to be a colony if it is absorbed into and treated as a part of its administering power.

Becoming a part of France brings significant advantages for its Collectives, including that financial assistance is given as a matter of internal policy rather than as 'aid'. A similar arrangement exists within the United Kingdom. Under what is known as the Barnett Formula, for example, Scotland receives from Westminster a significant sum per person each year for public services above and beyond the amount per person spent on public services in England. As 'Delivering For Scotland', a United Kingdom Government statement on public

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# 'LOYAL AND UNSHAKEABLE': HOW BRITISH IS SAINT HELENA?

Contributed

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spending, puts it: 'The collective economic strength of the UK means higher public spending on public services in Scotland, with £2,417 more per head of additional spending to the UK average, as a result of the redistribution of wealth throughout the UK.' This reflects the additional costs incurred in Scotland by reason of factors such as Scotland having a large number of relatively remote islands to serve. Nobody regards it as 'aid' to Scotland, even though English taxpayers are in a considerable majority in the United Kingdom.

When looking at a French model, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon provides an apt one to compare to Saint Helena. It is a small French Collective situated off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Its residents are French Citizens, vote in French Presidential elections, are represented in the French Parliament and pay French income tax. The financial assistance provided to Sainte-Pierre and Miquelon by France considerably exceeds the amount of income tax collected from it.

Saint-Pierre and Miquelon has a total land area of 93 square miles, but 90% of its population of around 5,600 people live on the 10 square miles of the island of Saint-Pierre. The resources of the Collective are meagre, but as part of France it is provided with what it needs.

The United Kingdom has a responsibility to provide for Saint Helena's 'reasonable needs', but this has been interpreted by the United Kingdom as providing the island with a standard of living that compares favourably with other places receiving United Kingdom aid, not the standard of living that prevails in the United Kingdom. This is to compare Saint Helena with a foreign country in need of aid rather than as a British Island largely populated by British Citizens.

***The Saint Helena Statistical Bulletin No. 2, 2024, shows that the median annual wage for full-time employment in Saint Helena was £9,970 in 2022/23. In the United Kingdom it was £34,963. Prices of goods in the shops on the island considerably exceed those in the United Kingdom, as do petrol prices.***

When looking at a French model as one that might be suitable for Saint Helena, there are a number of differences between France and the United Kingdom that need be taken into account. The United Kingdom does not have Presidential Elections and its Prime Minister comes from within Parliament. It is doubtful that Saint Helena could expect, or would even want, representation in the House of Commons, but what of the House of Lords? The composition of the House of Lords is reviewed from time to time anyway. Currently, 26 Bishops have seats in the House of Lords. They sit on an 'ex officio' basis, meaning that they only remain in the House while they hold the office of Bishop. A similar arrangement could apply to a person representing Saint Helena in the House.

This leaves the question of income tax. Those of the Overseas Territories that are financial services centres would not wish to be integrated into the United Kingdom and lose their low tax status, which is crucial to their competitiveness as such centres. The same applies to the Crown Dependencies, which are not part of the United Kingdom and would not wish to be so, as they are also financial services centres. This leaves Saint Helena as a special case for a model that most of the other Overseas Territories would not want anyway.

***There is little to fear in Saint Helena from paying United Kingdom income tax. The current personal allowance in the United Kingdom, before any income tax is payable, is £12, 570 a year. Many Saint Helenians do not earn that much but still pay income tax here on the island. A person earning £12,570 a year in Saint Helena pays income tax of £1,448. If he or she was liable to pay United Kingdom income tax the figure would be nil.***

In the United Kingdom, income tax is 20% on chargeable income between £12,571 and £50,270. In Saint Helena, income between £7,000 and £25,000 a year is taxed at a rate of 26% (or 21% in respect of income derived from the provision of certain goods and services). Most people in the United Kingdom are aware that a number of United Kingdom Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies have much lower income tax rates than the United Kingdom, but would probably be surprised to learn that there is one United Kingdom Overseas Territory, Saint Helena, that taxes incomes at a higher rate and on lower incomes than is the case in the United Kingdom. In the Falkland Islands, the personal allowance before any income tax is payable is £16,860.



# **‘LOYAL AND UNSHAKEABLE’: HOW BRITISH IS SAINT HELENA?**

*Contributed*

A major reason for Saint Helenians with qualifications acquired overseas not returning to use those qualifications here on the island is the lack of proper financial recognition of those qualifications if they do so. This is not a problem in the Falkland Islands, for example, where they can expect United Kingdom levels of pay if they return home, as most do. They can then work their way up into the sorts of positions that are currently occupied by TCOs in Saint Helena and be paid accordingly. But the factor that prevents this here on the island is the island’s need for United Kingdom financial support. So long as this remains the case, it is out of our hands how much money is available to offer competitive rates of pay, at least to Saint Helenians. It is the biggest reason for qualified Saint Helenians, and those with valuable work experience gained elsewhere, not returning to live and work on the island.

Most of the Overseas Territories are financially independent, which Saint Helena is clearly not, nor has any prospect of becoming so in the foreseeable future.

***But it needs to be pointed out that there are various ways in which other Overseas Territories may well be more expensive to the United Kingdom than Saint Helena is. An obvious case is the Falkland Islands, which is considered to be financially independent but does not have to pay for its defence, which costs the United Kingdom in excess of £60 million a year.***

It is not, of course, the fault of Falkland Islanders that this is necessary, but, equally, it is not the fault of Saint Helenians that they need financial assistance for purposes other than defence.

***As stated above, a number of Overseas Territories operate as financial services centres, as do the Crown Dependencies. A huge amount of revenue is lost to the United Kingdom and other countries each year by reason of tax avoidance schemes or the opportunities for tax evasion offered by these centres. By definition, it is difficult to put a figure on what is largely hidden from HMRC (‘His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs’) in the United Kingdom, but it is thought to run into billions, which puts into perspective the amount of financial assistance provided to Saint Helena by the United Kingdom.***

Would the United Kingdom wish Saint Helena to become a financial services centre? Clearly not, banking legislation proposed for Saint Helena some years ago, modelled on that of a United Kingdom Overseas Territory financial services centre in the West Indies, was rejected by the United Kingdom, using ‘Royal Instructions’ in order to do so. The last thing that the United Kingdom wanted was another Overseas Territory reducing the United Kingdom’s tax revenues and bringing reputational damage internationally to the United Kingdom (because of the tax revenues lost to other countries as well). It makes sense for the United Kingdom to provide financial assistance to Saint Helena rather than allow it to reduce the United Kingdom’s tax income and harm its reputation.

***This leaves us with the question of whether the assistance received at present is enough to provide for the island’s reasonable needs and to maintain the island’s population at a healthy and sustainable level, both in numbers and age range. There is an old saying that it takes money to make money. If the United Kingdom genuinely wishes Saint Helena to develop a self-sustaining economy, then, in the shorter term, the island quite simply needs the sort of financial support that encourages Saint Helenians to stay on the island and to attract back at least some of those who have left. Income tax no higher than in the United Kingdom would be a good start.***

Only last year, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, stated: ‘Today 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories [including Saint Helena] remain under the purview of the Special Committee [C24]. Our shared goal is to give greater priority to the decolonization agenda and spur accelerated action. This process must be guided by the aspirations and needs of the Territories on a case-by-case basis.’ The time has come for Saint Helena to be recognised as a special case, which it self-evidently is, for an entirely new constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom.

# Conversation at Funeral in South Africa Saves the Yacht Race

This time last year West Rocks moorings were put out of use. The chains had worn so much the moorings were not safe. The moorings have so far been unused for one year and five days. This caused concern for the Cape to St Helena race organisers. After 10 days of intense ocean racing, they did not want yacht crews looking for a safe mooring spot in the early hours when over the finish line. This was considered unacceptable and there were fears the Cape to St Helena Race would have to be cancelled.

After a funeral in Malmesbury, 50 minutes' drive north of Cape Town, two friends who were closely involved with yachts, ocean racing and St Helena discussed the risk the absence of moorings in James Bay had for the future of the Cape to St Helena Race. It was unthinkable the race should have to be cancelled; something had to be done, and done now. Twenty-four hours afterwards, a plan was formed to save the race. It involved several South Africans and their organisations.

The plan involved Felix Scheder, managing director of MACS Shipping in Cape Town. Felix is a member of the Royal Cape Yacht Club and a keen sailor. After being approached, he immediately committed to supporting the plan and contributing towards it. MACS Shipping would waive charges and get the mooring equipment to St Helena in time for new moorings to be set up at West Rocks before the racing yachts arrived. The cargo arrived on 5th December.

Dave Garrard is a vice-commodore at the Royal Cape Yacht Club. Dave started the conversation at the Malmesbury funeral and committed the yacht club to be responsible for the installation of the moorings. Dave was not able to start the job until after the Christmas/New Year break on 6th January. He had seven moorings ready when the leading yachts started to arrive the following day.

Anchors, chains, buoys and warps were supplied and brought over by Zedcore. Managing director, Dave Hindle, found space in one of his containers free of charge. Zedcore also did the crating, documentation and delivery to the MV Karoline.

Also involved was Southern Ropes, a South African business manufacturing a range of heavy-duty ropes and hawsers. They donated rope for the pick-up buoy. Matt Joshua's and his tourist team were also involved; doing whatever was required at the St Helena end.



**Felix Scheder, Managing Director of MACS Shipping**

This combined effort has made available eight moorings for the eight yachts in the Cape to St Helena race. It is reported that when the race is over the new moorings will be taken up and stored as they may be needed for the next Cape to St Helena race. Meanwhile, work continues planning the design and installation of the next full set of permanent moorings for West Rocks.



**Dave Garrard with Kerry Pryde, sailing manager at the Royal Cape Yacht Club**



**Dave Hindle with St Helena cricket captain Cliff Richards at the final meal Dave Hindle hosted for the cricket team at the end of their recent T20 sub-qualifier in Africa.**

## Chagos Deal Stuck Over Money

On 3rd October the UK government announced the deal with Mauritius on the Chagos Islands. On 16th October it was announced St Helena had a deal with the UK on any future migrants who wash up on the shores of the Chagos islands. On 20th December a further UK government statement saying, "Mauritius and the UK have held a series of productive, ongoing conversations and exchanges on finalising a historic Treaty on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago" and "Both countries reiterated their commitment to finalising a treaty as quickly as possible". What was point of saying that? What was the point of saying what amounted to nothing?

It seems there is a sticking point – money. As part of the deal, the UK said it would provide a package of financial support to Mauritius, including annual payments and infrastructure investment, but neither side has said how much is involved. The new government in Mauritius, elected since the agreement was first made, has said it wants to see some changes. So, all involved had to get back around the table again. Despite claiming "ongoing conversations" being productive, there is a delay over something.



**Deputy Prime Minister Paul Berenger (left) with the Mauritian Prime Minister, Navin Ramgoolam**

The Mauritian Deputy Prime Minister is reported to have told some of his constituents it's about the amount of money paid to the Mauritius government for the continued use of Diego Garcia as a military base when that island becomes part of Mauritius. The Deputy Prime Minister is reported to have said "This base existed on our land, on our territory... but not only it is [about] our sovereignty. There are some things you can't accept if you're a true patriot. They are trying to make us sign and they are quibbling on a small amount". The Mauritians are keen to get the deal signed before Donald Trump is sworn in as US president in 10 days' time.

As far as the St Helena deal is concerned, it will last for 18 months or until a UK agreement with Mauritius concerning the Chagos Archipelago comes into force. With Donny Trump threatening to wreck the deal as soon as he gets a chance, it could be an agreement between Mauritius and the UK is completed in nine days' time. More on this next week, maybe.

# Trump Upsetting the Neighbours Already

For reasons best known to himself, Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, accepted an invitation to lunch from Donald Trump recently. Displaying his usual tact and diplomacy, Trump suggested during the meal that Canada should become the 51st state of the (Dis)United States. Since then, the Canadian media has been providing excellent reasons why the US, or parts of it, should become the 11th Canadian province. The Vancouver Sun published an article giving 16 reasons why the US should become Canada's 11th province. Here are a few of them: -

- Because Canada isn't led by a convicted felon.
- Because as of 2022, life expectancy in Canada was 81.3 years, while life expectancy in the U.S. was 77.43 years.
- According to the U.S. non-profit Prison Policy Initiative, the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate of any democracy in the world.
- Because while thousands of Canadians were dying on the battlefields of Europe and Asia during the Second World War, the U.S. remained neutral for the next two years, unable or unwilling to recognize the threat that fascists posed to the world.
- Because, as of mid-December, according to CNN, there have been at least 83 school shootings in the U.S. in 2024, which left 38 people dead and at least 115 people physically injured.
- Because the scandal-ridden U.S. Supreme Court has members on it who appear to be uniquely unqualified to judge conflicts-of-interest, women's rights or ethical conduct.

Another Canadian journalist offered this suggestion - How about the West Coast states of Washington, Oregon, and California becoming the 11th province of Canada? After all, the politics of these blue states (Democrat) would fit much better with Canada's than with Trump's America. Meanwhile, the New England states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) and New York could become the 12th Canadian province, for much the same reason. While Trump is toying with the idea of annexing Canada, these blue American states should bid him goodbye and be annexed by Canada.



**The new look Canada - with the mass migration of die-hard Democrat US states**



The giant '*Baby Trump*' balloon was flown in Parliament Square during the US president's official visit to Britain. It also followed him to Scotland where it filled the Edinburgh sky. It was loaned to eager people in the US and was bought by the Museum of London as part of their 'protest art' collection.



## The Financial Aid Mission Leaves Tomorrow

### *Did They Spark a New Start or Was it the Same Old Thing?*

The Financial Aid Mission is a visit to St Helena by a few people from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office whose purpose is to gather evidence to build a case to UK Ministers on the amount of money the UK government will give to St Helena for the next financial year. There are usually three people in the team. For this visit the three people are Adam Pile, the Deputy Director of FCDO's Overseas Territories; Hugh Thomas, Economic Advisor, and Ben Stern, Head of St Helena and Tristan da Cunha Team. Adam Pile has been here before, as has Ben Stern. For Hugh Thomas it is his first visit.

It normally happens that various issues need to be explained to new members of the team. Most of it is about how things are different on a small remote island. What might apply in the UK is not necessarily a good fit here. It is never certain whether the explanations are fully understood nor whether the newcomer remains unconvinced by the explanations. This is just one part of a process which is repeated every year.

The spending budget for St Helena has been discussed in the Castle since last August. The process for setting next year's government budget normally starts around that time. Setting the government budget is a long process, taking up a lot of senior officer's time for seven months of the year – sometimes more. Other staff in every government department are heavily involved too.

First, heads of directorates are asked to submit their first 'bid'. If they are lucky, they will have a general idea how much money the UK government is thinking of funding St Helena for the next financial year. Often, they will not.

Often, different budgets have to be submitted to fit different options. This year three budget scenarios had to be submitted by Portfolio Directors to the Treasury which fitted one of three options. Option 1 was a budget where the bottom line increased by no more than 3 per cent. This does not cover inflation and other increased costs. Option 2 was a 'flatline' budget. This means spending the same amount of money as last year and does not account for inflation. Option 3 was setting a budget which allows for a 3% decrease in spending. However, as inflation for 2024/25 is expected to be around 3%, there is no increase after inflation is taken into account.

Measuring inflation is a rough and ready tool. The most recent overall inflation figure came out at a 2.9% increase. It would have been much higher if internet charges were not reduced by 34% year on year. Energy prices increased by 28%, which is bad news for government departments using a lot of electricity. The overall 3% inflation rate is miles away from reality. Five of the nine price inflation categories increased by more than 3%. Budget setting is not a precise science.

SHG has put forward a fourth scenario for discussion its own 'zero-based' option. This option starts with a blank sheet of paper. Every line in the spend budget for each department is individually discussed. Do we need to spend this money? Can we do it differently, so it costs less? If more money is needed, why? And what way is the least cost for providing the service to the agreed standard? When all spend items have been given this treatment, the result is a zero-based budget.

**The Financial Aid Mission may discuss many things but the 3% increase or 3% reduction rules everything. In the end, it is almost endless juggling with figures to fit whatever the UK government decides.**

It is often pointed out, the way public expenditure is managed is a world away from how private businesses spend or USE their money. Private businesses can react to changing circumstances and situations. Changes may mean that the future benefits gained from spending some money in a certain way are likely to be more beneficial now than in recent years. Or, urgency may be a deciding factor. If money is not spent now on some improvement or advancement the losses experienced now will only be greater in future years. It may be that the benefits gained from an investment justifies obtaining a loan if that is necessary. In private business there is more flexibility, decisions are made faster and adapting, or reacting, to change can be quicker and more efficient.

**Continues on NEXT PAGE...**



## The Financial Aid Mission Leaves Tomorrow

*Did They Spark a New Start or Was it the Same Old Thing?*

### **Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...**

Public spending cannot adapt so readily to change. The processes and regulations in place restrict attempts to adapt quickly, making it impossible to divert spending to projects which become important and urgent. The longstanding culture on government spending is based on what is seen as the utmost propriety. The culture is that all will be done to ensure public money is spent wisely and responsibly. Sometimes this means that opportunities to bring in improvements and advancement are lost because it has taken years to get the spending approved. It is not always wise to check and re-check a spending proposal will be money spent wisely and responsibly.

Public spending regulations also mean there is little incentive for any directorate, department or section to continually look for cost savings. If money is saved through new found efficiencies, the department that saved the money can lose it. Any unspent money in a budget at the end of the financial year goes back to the central fund and there is no guarantee it will be seen again by the department that saved it. At the end of every financial year some items in the spending programme are brought forward so that any unspent money is spent or at least committed before the financial year ends. The end of year spend is not necessarily on priority items; it will be spent on things which can be quickly committed – not necessarily on what is important.

The Independent has criticised the St Helena Government more than once for lack of maintenance of property and other assets. Maintenance is neglected to such an extent the neglected asset is run into the ground. Instead of maintenance, replacement and renewal are the only options left.

It seems we have to admit our criticism has been misplaced. For next year's budget SHG have included a 6% allowance for maintenance based on the cost of the asset to be maintained. 6% of original asset value is at the lower end of the generally accepted range for the cost of maintaining an asset. In the past, it has been the UK government that has ducked the issue for ensuring that enough money is allocated for the maintenance of assets. If this issue is avoided, accusations of being unwise and irresponsible are justifiable.

All small remote islands suffer the same disadvantages. Freight costs are higher, so are energy costs. Internet and telecommunications are slow and expensive. All of these, and more, inhibit economic development. They keep living costs high and standards of living low. St Helena has projects at various stages of development which are aimed at reducing the high costs just mentioned.

Will the Financial Aid Mission recommend to their UK ministers that extra funds are made available to help accelerate development in these areas. It has never happened before, why should it happen now? Will the Economic Development Investment Programme focus only on economic development instead of spending money on projects such as building a prison. Clarity of thought and purpose on what economic development really is seems to be noticeable by its absence.

St Helena urgently needs new thinking, new ways to be released from the straitjacket of the public spending procedures and regulations that bind us. We need a new approach, a new culture for public spending. We need to have a financial environment so the up-and-coming generations want to stay and live in St Helena – not be given leaving the island as the only option to get a life.

**If the UK want St Helena to become financially self-sustaining and to stem the flow of our brightest and best leaving the island there is a need for continued investment in the short term to change the longer-term trajectory of the island**



**Dear Editor,**

When elected and government officials talk, it is capital expenditure they speak about, as the driving force for the island's economy.

It was pleasing to see the Treasury and Economic Development Minister, in his Q&A, featured in the Independent on the 20th of Dec 24 - entitled 'St Helena Eyes Strong Economic Growth', talked about our marine environment, and how it can boost our economy.

Minister Brooks boasted about our pristine ocean, the variety of sea life that inhabits it, and the enjoyments that can derive from our seas. And why not, St Helena has so much to offer visitors – it is a shame we are still to acknowledge how best to market the island to a global audience.

But what no official will talk about, is how we are polluting the same so called pristine marine environment we are promoting, by continuing to discharge raw sewage into James Bay.

SHG has acknowledged it is a problem – the St Helena Marine Management Plan Summary, dated Sep 22, managed to devote a whole sentence to the issue. There seems to be no appetite within SHG, in finding a solution, one could say, they have adapted the attitude, 'out of sight out of mind.'

Nor should the justification of, 'other islands and countries do it,' becomes an excuse by SHG for the lack of desire in tackling the issue.

In the same article, the Minister talks about the regeneration of the sea front, SHG has even advertised for a consultant. So, monies have been earmarked for this. We cannot spend hundreds of thousands of pounds in regenerating this area and continue to use James Bay as a cesspool.

Glossy posters, photos and videos will lure us to explore the pleasures of James Bay, whilst visitors and locals alike, will continue to swim and play in our own excrement, until SHG finds the determination to do something about it.

**- Michael Stevens**

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD  
ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025  
At 8 PM.**

**AGENDA:**

- Welcome.
- Chairperson's report.
- To read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, and if approved, confirm.
- To receive the audited Accounts of the past year.
  - To dissolve the Committee.
- To elect Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Members to serve on the Committee for the ensuing year.
  - Any other business.
  - To close the meeting.

To enable the Centre to continue functioning, a Committee must be formed.

The residents of Jamestown, Ruperts and the Briars are encouraged to attend.



**Diocese of St Helena**

**The Parish of St Paul's**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year**

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral

**The Parish of St James**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year**

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

**The Parish of St Matthew**

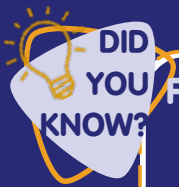
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year**

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist / Church Parade	St Mark
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	Barnabas, Levelwood
	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark



The Seven Seas Splendor is expected to arrive at St Helena on Sunday 12 January at 10am and depart at 7pm  
SHE IS CARRYING:

**662** PASSENGERS **AND** **541** 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)*







Thorpe's

## JOB VACANCY

### Thorpe's Jamestown Shops

#### TILL/SHOP ASSISTANT PART TIME / FULL TIME

This role involves shelf stocking, using an epos till and dealing with customers.

- Free home to duty transport
- Attractive leave and sick leave package
- Salary to increase considerably with proficiency in the job role and further increases with time spent in the company.

Contact: Henry Thorpe or Carol Yon Tel: 22781, email: [admin@thorpes.sh](mailto:admin@thorpes.sh) or come and see us in our office above Thorpe's grocery shop



Thorpe's

## JOB VACANCY AT THORPE'S January 2025

#### STOREMAN-DELIVERY DRIVER

TO WORK IN THE WHOLESALE STORE

- Free home to duty transport
- Opportunity to progress and also to gain forklift license
- C license (small truck) is helpful

Contact Carol Yon on 22781, [admin@thorpes.sh](mailto:admin@thorpes.sh), Thorpe's Office, Market Street



St Helena  
Government

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### FISHING NOTICE

A reminder to all fishers of the current upcoming fishing restrictions:

#### **01 January-17 March 2025 - Closed season for use of Droppers:**

Section 19 (1) (d) of the Fisheries Ordinance prohibits the use of droppers for all inshore species of ground fish during the period 01 January to 17 March annually.

#### **01 January-31 March 2025- Closed season for Spear Fishing:**

Section 7 of the Fisheries Ordinance 2021 regulates that a closed season for Spear Fishing will take place during the period 01 January to 31 March annually.

#### **01 January- 31 March 2025- Prohibition of fishing methods when fishing for Lobsters**

Section 19 (1) (d) of the Fisheries Ordinance 2021 regulates prohibitions on any specified method of fishing. The landing or retention of the following species caught by any method other than by potting during the period beginning 01 January and ending 31 March 2025, inclusive, in any year is prohibited – **Brown Spiny Lobster** (*Panulirus Echinatus*) and **Stump Lobster** (*Scyllarides Obtusus*)

If you have any further queries regarding the information above please visit or contact the Marine Enforcement Section on Tel: 25947, Email: [kelly.jonas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:kelly.jonas@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
Office Location: Port Control Office, the Wharf, Jamestown



**ASCENSION ISLAND  
GOVERNMENT**

## **National Park Warden and Biosecurity Officer**

**Total Package value up to £21,904.00 per annum**

**(comprising salary of up to £14,626.00 pa plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)**

### **About the role**

Do you have a passion for conservation and the outdoors? We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to work with us to implement the Green Mountain National Park Management Plan by conserving and enhancing the recreational and conservation value of the National Park.

### **What you'll do**

You'll work with colleagues within the Conservation Team to implement the management plans for Ascension's six other terrestrial protected areas covering seabird and turtle breeding areas, and lead on implementing the Ascension Biosecurity Strategy. This includes enforcement of pre-border control measures, conducting border inspections and post-border monitoring, coordination of responses to any new species detected and public awareness-raising.

### **What you'll bring**

You must be resilient and adaptable in order to thrive in what can be a challenging environment, with a good level of physical fitness. You'll have prior experience of protected area management, conducting biological surveys and will hold valid chainsaw and brushcutter qualifications, with extensive experience of using these tools. With excellent written and verbal communication and public engagement skills, you will work with colleagues to promote the work of the team. A BSc in Environmental Management or similar subject is desirable.

### **What we offer**

In addition to an annual salary of up to £14,626 pa (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two-year single status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free accommodation valued at up to £1,200 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance £3,780 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance paid in kind worth £938 pa
- A single status water allowance paid in kind worth £1,360 pa
- Relocation costs for your personal effects from your home country and assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of the 2-year contract
- 30 days paid annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

### **Appointment will be subject to satisfactory:**

- Enhanced Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory employment References
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

**Closing Date: 12pm Monday, 20 January 2025. Interviews: Week commencing 27 January 2025 (by Skype if off island).**

**For more information, job description, and to apply visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/>**



**ASCENSION ISLAND  
GOVERNMENT**

## **Policy, Projects and Communications Officer**

**Total Package value up to £39,227 per annum**

**(comprising a salary range of £18,000 - £25,000 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) + food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits – details below)**

### **About the role**

This is a great opportunity for a talented and experienced policy and communications expert, to support the office of the Administrator, the Senior Management Team and Island Council with the development and delivery of high quality, well evidenced and robust policy and communications advice to AIG. The contract is for two years.

### **What you'll do**

You'll develop, shape and influence government policy across all government directorates to deliver AIG strategic objectives and ensure consistency of approach, delivery and enforcement. Working across all areas of the senior team, you will lead on the development of government policy and delivery of special projects and business cases. Working closely with directors and legal colleagues, you will ensure good governance of the territory through the implementation of sound policy, developing strategic cross-governmental approaches to ensure the delivery of excellent public services. More information is in the job description.

### **What you'll bring**

You'll have at least two years' experience in leading, or four years supporting, the delivery of policy development, strategic planning and / or operational delivery gained from central, regional or local government. With excellent oral and written skills, the ability to write effect reports and presentations, you will be able to adapt your communication approach to a variety of audiences. The role requires you to work collaboratively across a variety of people, forming strong, positive, professional trusting relationships with colleagues and island-wide stakeholders. A degree in a related subject would be beneficial, as would an awareness of legal frameworks.

### **What we offer**

In addition to a salary range of £18,000 - £25,000 per annum - dependent on qualifications and experience (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and these benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- A food allowance of £7,560 a year accompanied or £3,780 single status per year (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £938 per year
- A water allowance worth £2,729 accompanied or £1,360 single status per year
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment for you and your family
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free schooling for children from 4 up to 16 years
- Free annual travel insurance

### **The appointment will be subject to:**

- Satisfactory employment references
- Standard Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

**For more information, job descriptions, and to apply visit:** <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/>  
**If you have any queries about the role, email** [recruitment@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:recruitment@ascension.gov.ac)

**Closing Date: 24 January 2025 Interviews: Week commencing 27 January 2025 (by Skype if off island).**

# RESIDENTIAL LAND

Bottom Woods, Longwood



Build Ready & Fully Serviced

Electricity | Water | Drainage | Telecommunications | House Plans

Guide Price

**£15,000**

Lease and Freehold Options

## Contact:

Crown Estates Officer,  
Essex House Jamestown

+290 22270 |

[gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) |

Web

[https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/  
portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-  
sustainable-development/property/](https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/)

Closing date for  
applications:

Friday 17th

January 2025

12 noon.



St Helena  
Government

# PROPERTY FOR LEASE

## RESIDENTIAL LAND

Registered as TH010143, measures 0.276  
acres.

Located at Burnt Rock, Blue Hill.

This plot is within the tranquil area of Blue Hill;  
reasonable gradient, close proximity to  
existing services and has lease rate of  
£400.00 per year.

Closing date: **Friday 17 January 2025**

## CONTACT:

Crown Estates Officer, Essex House  
Jamestown

+290 22270 |

[gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) |

Web

[https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-  
infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/  
property/](https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/)



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### CHANGE TO SCHOOL TERM-TIMES

It has become necessary to make changes to the published term times for the current academic year (2024-25)

The public will be aware of a recent visit by a team from Hampshire, conducting an Education Standards Review on the primary schools provision. This has led to a partnership with Hampshire and has generated access to substantial support, with training and upskilling opportunities for all teaching staff. Rearranging the current Staff Development Days (SDDs) will enable staff to access and implement relevant strategies from this training within this academic year.

To support these training opportunities the Minister for Education Skills and Employment Portfolio has approved the following changes for Term 2A:

- Additional school holidays in January 2025:  
**13, 14 & 15 January 2025 – these are now SDDs to support staff training.**
- First Teaching Day:  
**Thursday, 16 January 2025.**

The updated Term times 2024-25 with the above changes is available on the St Helena Government website [www.sainthelena.gov.sh](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh) or directly from the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio.

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio appreciates your support and understanding regarding these changes and apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

# Vacancy

## General Assistants (Bread Production)



Salary for the post will be £10,248 per annum (£854 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a General Assistant within the Bakery.

The General Assistant will become a vital part of the day-to-day bread production and help ensure quality standards are achieved.

#### Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic numeracy and literacy ability
- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in this field, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness with the ability to carry out manual handling duties
- Have the ability to take on physically demanding duties and stand for extended periods
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment and follow instructions
- Be able to manage time effectively to ensure production deadlines are met
- Be available to work unsocial hours

#### Basic Applicable Skills include:

- Be able to carry out and understand basic measurements and follow written recipes
- Operating production equipment as required
- Packaging and delivering products
- General cleaning

*Further details contained in job description*

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

Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via ☎ 22380 📧 [gm-productions@solomons.co.sh](mailto: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](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **23 January 2025**.

#### 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

# Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena  
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

## Teacher (St Paul's Primary) (£11,520 - £18,902 per annum)

Are you passionate about our young children's education and holistic life? If so, we are seeking to recruit a Teacher to share their expertise and passion in order to teach our pupils to achieve the best possible standard of education. This will mean the ability to cater for all abilities and needs in the classroom. This position requires you to be responsible for the planning, preparation and effective delivering of programmes of study to designated class(es). 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 effectively with students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Patricia Williams Tel No. 24737 or Email**  
[patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh](mailto:patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh)

Closing date: **17 January 2025**

## 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@sainthelena.edu.sh](mailto:patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh)

Closing date: **23 January 2025**

## 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](http://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](mailto: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

## Fixed Term 1:1 Teaching Assistants (St Paul's and Pilling Primary Schools) (£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: (St Pauls) Patricia Williams on Tel No 24737 or Email [patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh](mailto:patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh)

(Pilling) Elaine Benjamin on Tel No 22540 or Email [elaine.benjamin@primary.edu.sh](mailto:elaine.benjamin@primary.edu.sh)

Closing date: 23 January 2025

## Science Laboratory Technician (£9,197 per annum)

Are you interested in working with young people and want to be a part of shaping their future? Then join the team and become a Science Laboratory Technician in PAS. The post holder is required to service the science laboratories, prep rooms and chemical store at Prince Andrew School including the laboratory at the Harpers Agricultural Centre and make available equipment and related materials required for science lessons. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Dion Yon on Tel No. 24290 or Email: [dion.yon@sainthelena.edu.sh](mailto:dion.yon@sainthelena.edu.sh)

Closing date: 23 January 2025

### 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](http://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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*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

## Dental Receptionist (Fixed term until 09 December 2025) (£7,960 per annum)

The Dental Department is seeking to recruit a personable Dental Receptionist who cares about providing excellent care to patients in the practice or by telephone. You will have all the attributes required to provide a high-quality service to patients and understand the support the team needs, including good telephone etiquette, organizational skills and customer service skills. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Charmaine Buckley-Thomas on Tel No. 25387 or  
Email: [charmaine.buckley@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:charmaine.buckley@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Closing date:** 22 January 2025

## Emergency Medical Technician (£14,585 per annum)

The Emergency Medical Technician is responsible for the provision of an effective emergency service under the direction of the paramedic team or other senior qualified practitioner, working unsocial hours and supporting on-call duties to provide a 24/7 response. Working independently when not under direct supervision and managing the Emergency department as the lead clinician until relieved by a Senior/Sister. Ensuring that every patient contact counts by providing a high standard of care, promoting well-being, providing lifestyle advice, and making referrals to other health and social care professionals, when appropriate. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Michael Gaga Hale on Tel no. 22500 or  
Email: [michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Closing date:** 22 January 2025

## Receptionist (Casual) (£4.00 per hour)

The Receptionist will be based at the Jamestown General Hospital and will be the first point of contact for all visitors to the Hospital providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Helen Lawrence on Tel No 22500 or Email  
[helen.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:helen.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Closing date:** 22 January 2025

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.





## PROPERTY FOR SALE

2 BEDROOM REFURBISHED  
Semi detached BUNGALOW  
Barrack sq, Jamestown  
WITH VACANT PROCESSION  
£130,000 open to sensible offers.

For details /photos  
e-mail [keithellick@gmail.com](mailto:keithellick@gmail.com)  
or phone 22893

**The St Helena Cricket Association's AGM will take place on Monday the 6th January at Richards Travel Lodge at 7pm.**

**All teams wishing to enter must have a representative present to enter their team and discuss the upcoming season, which is planned to start on Saturday the 11th January.**



St. Helena Cricket Association

## Festival of Walking Walk of the Week - Plantation Forest



**Date:** 11 January 2025

**Start Time:** 08:00

**Meeting Point:** Scotland (parking near the Sawmill)

**Duration:** approx 1 hr

Walk grade: Easy | 1-2

*Join Dr Cilla McDaniel on a gentle therapeutic stroll through Plantation Forest, absorbing the goodness of nature. Learn about the benefits of forest walks and immersing in nature.*

*Remember to wear sensible walking shoes and bring water. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult.*

Date	Upcoming Walks
18 Jan	Prosperous Bay
26 Jan	Jamestown - Mundens - Sampsons Battery
01 Feb	Longwood Boundary

*Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Louis Youde [louis.youde@shg.gov.sh](mailto:louis.youde@shg.gov.sh) or the Tourist Office T: 22158*



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES REQUIRED FOR PILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced contractors or persons to provide a grounds maintenance service for Pilling Primary School.

Interested parties must have some experience in maintaining grounds including hedges, lawns, gardens, etc, be able to handle general maintenance tasks, and have their own equipment to carry out the work.

For further details, contact Business Support Officer, Christine George, on tel: 22607 or via email: [christine.george@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:christine.george@sainthelena.gov.sh).

Submission of proposals along with a clean vetting certificate should be sent to Business Support Officer, Christine George, at the Education Learning Centre, Jamestown, by no later than 16:00 on Monday, 20 January 2025.



## Versions of Security Cameras

### BURNS SUPPER



**Saturday 25th  
January  
6.30 for 7.00pm**

**Ann's Place**

**Three Course  
Meal**

**Traditional Scottish Entertainment to  
celebrate the life, poems and songs of  
the Scottish Bard, Robbie Burns**

**£25 per head**

**Please book direct with Ann's Place  
tel. 22797**

## Cape to St Helena Line Honours go to a Performance Cruiser

Atalanta, captained by Gerry Hegie and crewed by the owner Heye Daun crossed the finish line in James Bay 10 days, 1 hour and 20 seconds after the starting gun was fired in Cape Town on 28th December. Tuesday's arrival confirmed the reputation of the JPK 10:30 yacht; it is built for performance and speed – and not so much for cruising. Since its release in 2019, the JPK 10.30

Pos	Name Handicap	Start time Last pos received	(Est) Finish time (Est) Elapsed time	Corrected elapsed
1	Atalanta 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:04	07 Jan 15:14 10d 1h 14m 20s	10d 1h 14m 20s
2	Flica 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	07 Jan 18:08 10d 4h 8m 45s	10d 4h 8m 45s
3	TinTin 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	08 Jan 02:39 10d 12h 39m 9s	10d 12h 39m 9s
4	Fryd 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	08 Jan 03:30 10d 13h 30m 23s	10d 13h 30m 23s
5	One Eighty Magnus 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	08 Jan 10:38 10d 20h 38m 30s	10d 20h 38m 30s
6	Umoya 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 11:15	09 Jan 03:03 11d 13h 3m 57s	11d 13h 3m 57s
7	Magic Dragon of Dart 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	09 Jan 03:38 11d 13h 38m 23s	11d 13h 38m 23s
8	Mwera 1.000	28 Dec 14:00 09 Jan 12:00	10 Jan 02:55 12d 12h 55m 15s	12d 12h 55m 15s



**Atalanta - first across the line.**

has been regularly winning races. Now, the Cape to St Helena is added to the list.

Flica crossed the line in 2nd place, just under three hours later. Built in France, like Atalanta, the crew have sailed together many times, including three Cape to Rio races.

Tin Tin, winner of the last Cape to St Helena on handicap, is 3rd in line honours this year, arriving about 11 and a half hours behind Atalanta. Like Atalanta, Tin Tin is also a JPK yacht but a different design. Owned and captained by Di Hutton-Squire with Nick Leggatt as Navigator. Nick has sailed to St Helena many times.

## Premier League Fixtures

*There won't be any matches played this weekend, however they will return on Tuesday 14th January with the following:*

### Tuesday 14th Jan

Brentford 19:30 Manchester City

Chelsea 19:30 AFC Bournemouth

West Ham United 19:30 Fulham

Nottingham Forest 20:00 Liverpool

### Wednesday 15th Jan

Everton 19:30 Aston Villa

Leicester City 19:30 Crystal Palace

Newcastle United 19:30 Wolverhampton Wanderers

Arsenal 20:00 Tottenham Hotspur

### Thursday 16th Jan

Ipswich Town 19:30 Brighton & Hove Albion

Manchester United 20:00 Southampton

# Christmas & New Year Photo Album



ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION 2024



ANNUAL MOTOCROSS COMPETITION 2024



## MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER  
YOU NEED  
TO SHIP

GREEN MOUNTAIN 251201	
Immingham	07-Dec
Cape Town	13-Jan
Stack Dates	<b>FIRM</b>
Immingham FCL	02.12.-04.12.
Manchester LCL cut off	27-Nov
KAROLINE 251701	
Cape Town	17-Jan
Rupert's Bay	29-Jan
KAROLINE 251801	
Cape Town	11-Feb
Stack Dates	<b>FIRM</b>
Cape Town LCL	09.01. - 10.01.
Cape Town FCL & BB	13.01. - 15.01.

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

Moving your cargo globally with flexibility and care.

Get in touch with us: [macship.com](http://macship.com)

CPT +27 21 405 3400 | [sthelena.cpt@macship.com](mailto:sthelena.cpt@macship.com)

