

THE ST HELENA



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Much Ado about Yachting



Attorney Generals “Musical Chairs”



Should our Government Shape Up?

*St Helena Governance Review
analysis & recommendations*

All Black & White Only Again This Week

'Love Bite' Recorded in Bone Shark Mating Behaviour

Scientists in Australia have witnessed whale shark mating behaviour at Ningaloo Reef, in what is believed to be the first documented recording of 'pre-copulatory' biting.

In a recent video post on YouTube by the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems in Western Australia a mature male whale shark is seen following a smaller female before lunging forward and biting her tail fin. The female shark, seemingly uninterested in his advances, pivots around the male before swimming into the depths. The male is seen following her before the researchers lose sight of the two sharks.



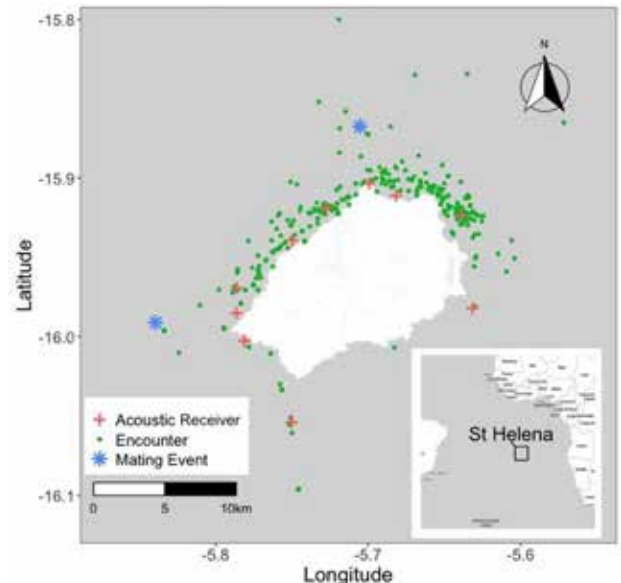
Choppy Water - as a male bone shark (left) checks out a smaller female

Ningaloo Reef, on the north-western tip of Australia, is as famous as St Helena for bone shark sightings and occasional glimpses of mating behaviour. Dive magazine reported this week, 'Very little is known about the mating behaviour of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) which has, to date, only been observed in the wild in two places in the world – at Ningaloo Reef and the South Atlantic Island of St Helena, where adult male and female whale sharks gather in almost equal numbers between December and March each year.'

Dive added in their report, 'In 2005 and 2007 fishermen from St Helena reported incidents in which whale sharks 'came belly to belly' near the water's surface – presumably in the act of mating. Although there is no photographic record of the two encounters, in 2019 a male whale shark was photographed behaving similarly to the new Ningaloo video, following the female and positioning his snout against her tail fin in what is thought to be 'pre-copulatory' behaviour.'



**Similar behaviour was spotted in St Helena in 2019
(Photo: Cameron Perry et al/Frontiers in Marine Science**



St. Helena study site, showing whale shark sightings from 1999 to 2019 inclusive as green dots. Asterisks show sites of eyewitness accounts of mating behaviour. Crosses show the sites of receivers in the acoustic array deployed since 2016.

Two Acting Attorney Generals and Three Appointments Since David Ballantyne's Resignation

Former Attorney General, David Ballantyne, announced his resignation at Legislative Council on 6th December. This came as an obvious surprise to many. However, arrangements were made to replace him. In the most recent issue of the St Helena Government Gazette, it is announced Matthew James, the crown counsel on Ascension, took over in an acting capacity the following day – 7th December.

David Ballantyne promptly departed on a flight the following week, probably never to be seen again. Matthew James also left the post of acting attorney general just 13 days after being appointed 'with effect from 7 December 2024 and until further notice', as announced in the Gazette. As this tale tells you, we do see him again.

Mr James was replaced by Sara McIlroy (a crown counsel for St Helena) on 20th December at 8:30am precisely. The Government Gazette announced Ms McIlroy will act as Acting Attorney General until 4pm (precisely) on 6th January.

Sara McIlroy was in office for 17 days while most of the rest of the government offices were firmly closed for the Christmas/New Year holiday. A big hand here for the rubbish collectors, police, doctors, nurses and emergency responders of all kinds who worked during the break.

At 4pm on 6th January, up stepped Matthew James once more to take up the reins of the Attorney General's Chambers. Mr James will be in place until 7th February (actual time of departure not specified) after which, who knows what will happen? Watch this space for more.



Matthew James



Introducing Judge Malcolm Simmons

Judge Simmons has been appointed as acting Judge of the Supreme Court of St Helena. The appointment by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Chief Justice Rupert Jones, was made on 20th December and is for 2 years.

Judge Simmons has been resident judge in the Falkands since February 2022.

Quick Bits

OOOH LUVIE - St Helena Poetry

This poem is published on Sophie Gresswell's website - <http://www.sophiegresswell.co.uk/>
Sophie is an Overseas Saint; she visited St Helena a year or so ago, and made a big impression with many people.

OOOH LUVIE,
Us is sure and certain
o' dayt.
Sure and certain as flax
took da ground,
Sure and certain as spikes
up Tungi town.
Sure and certain we is
Saint,
Sure and certain us be
British...
Apart from when dem say
we ain't!
EEEIRCE SEE?
O' dayt us is sure and
certain.



Sophie has held several art exhibitions and continues to make a name for herself

Bougainvillea Tree Update

A initial article was published in local newspapers on 14/15 November 2024.

Since the Surgery works to the Bougainvillea Tree near the Castle entrance, the dry tree trunk appears to be re-generating with new branches and fresh leaves considerably. I can now say the appropriate authorities intend to honor the request in regards to future maintenance of the tree. And is also recommended by Minister Ellick (SS & HA) in the interest of Historical and Tourism Attractions.

Aubrey George
St. Helena Heritage Society, and St. Helena National Trust Membership

Weather Warning

St Helena is currently experiencing a north-westerly swell, resulting in heavy sea conditions in both James and Rupert's Bay. These conditions are expected to persist throughout the coming week and into the following week.

The Emergency Planning Department urges boat owners to ensure their vessels are securely moored. Additionally, please take extreme caution if swimming in James Bay or Rupert's Bay.

Individuals are cautioned to avoid parking vehicles near the rail on the seafront due to the potential risk of wave overspray and associated hazards.

The Emergency Planning Department will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.

SHG
13 January 2025

The St Helena Independent
April Cottage
Putty Hill
Alarm Forest
Tel: 00 290 23836
Email:
independent@helanta.co.sh

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

UK's Chagos deal on hold to allow Trump review

The UK prime minister's office announced on Wednesday the US president-elect, Donald Trump will now 'consider' the UK – Mauritius deal on the Chagos Islands. President Biden had already given the go-ahead for the deal. However, Trump has turned his inauguration as the 60th president of the United States into a 4-day festival. It starts tomorrow with a firework display at one of the Trump golf courses, followed by receptions, dinners and rallies. The swearing in as president takes place on Monday, 20th January.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said it was "perfectly reasonable for the US administration to consider the detail" of any agreement. But shadow foreign secretary Priti Patel said the latest development was "complete humiliation" for the prime minister because Labour had been "desperate to sign off the surrender of the Chagos Islands before President Trump returns to office".

In October, outgoing President Biden had previously praised the "historic agreement"

which he said secured the future of a base which "plays a vital role in national, regional, and global security." The US accepted the deal as it put the legal status of the Diego Garcia on a more stable footing.

It is unclear if Trump's administration would have an objection. The incoming president has not publicly commented on the deal. But the incoming US Secretary of State (Foreign Secretary) has said it poses a "serious threat", arguing it gives the islands to a country aligned with China. Mauritius has a trade agreement with China.

It is said to be unknown how incoming president Trump will act, what advice he might get in office and whether he would have time to consider an issue seen as second-order compared to the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Reports had suggested Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam would sign off an agreement on Wednesday this week as he attended a cabinet meeting, but it was later announced his attorney general was travelling to London to continue talks.

How does this affect St Helena?

For St Helena, this means the opportunity to complete the deal before Trump took office has been missed. The deal we have with the UK government would have finished this month if the UK and Mauritius had finalised their agreement.

Now, there are a range of possibilities for how that agreement develops, or not. For St Helena, the agreement over Chagos migrants runs for a maximum of 18 months or when either the UK or St Helena gives notice of wishing to withdraw from the agreement. It is not expected any change in the UK - St Helena migrant deal will happen before the Trump-led US administration has announced their opinion on the matter.



It seems that the articles in this series are now becoming the subject of discussion and debate, in Saint Helena and elsewhere. A letter from Mr Ken Westmoreland is printed in this issue of the Independent. He is clearly supportive of the idea of a changed constitutional relationship between Saint Helena and the United Kingdom, although he differs as to nomenclature and some points of detail.

The description of Saint Helena and the other Overseas Territories as United Kingdom Overseas Territories is the one most commonly used by the United Kingdom Government and its Departments, as in the 2022 paper in the House of Commons Library headed: 'The UK Overseas Territories and their Governors.' I give this simply as one example among many. We will not do ourselves any favours in an approach to the United Kingdom Government concerning constitutional change if we criticise how they choose to describe the Overseas Territories. It is the principle of self-determination that we must concentrate our efforts on.

Self-determination is an internationally recognised human right, enshrined in the United Nations Charter. As the wording of the preamble to Saint Helena's Constitution states: 'all peoples have the right of self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.' Which begs the question of what political status the people of Saint Helena aspire to. The present arrangements cause C24, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, to regard Saint Helena as 'non-self-governing' and, therefore, a colony. To be regarded as self-governing, the options are those of independence, a free association with the United Kingdom or full integration into it. As Mr Westmoreland states in his letter, the last of these does bring with it the issue of how Saint Helenians would have the right to vote in United Kingdom Elections in the event of full integration, which would be a requirement of it. There is no obvious practical answer to this, which is why I suggested a seat in the House of Lords, which could be filled by an election here in Saint Helena. As with Bishops sitting in the House of Lords, he or she would vacate the seat when retiring or otherwise ending their time in the role which gives them the seat. Unlike other Members of the House of Lords, Bishops are elected, albeit by a process within the Anglican Church. We do not have enough critical mass to warrant a seat in the House of Commons. Constituencies in the United Kingdom generally have 60/70,000 voters. Being linked with a single constituency or multiple ones in the United Kingdom would not give the island much of a voice, although I appreciate that Mr Westmoreland has suggested how this could be done. It may be that not having representation within the House of Commons would leave us short of full integration, but something close to it could be devised in the form of free association. What we need at the moment is for Saint Helena to develop its own voice in order to put proposals to the United Kingdom for constructive constitutional change. It is the principle that must first be established in order to be able to carry this forward. Saint Helena did not muster much of a voice when it came to the question of introducing Ministerial Government. Only 17% of the electorate took part in the consultative vote and the majority in favour of Ministerial Government was 134, not much of a mandate for constitutional change. It was introduced in 2021 because the United Kingdom Government was in favour of it. Pressing for a closer constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom is not likely to make much progress without a considerable expression of the Island's wish for it.

In theory, at least, the door is open to a new approach. The White Paper, 'BRITAIN AND THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES – A MODERN PARTNERSHIP', published in 1999, contained the following:

'2.6 Consultation with the territories showed a clear expression of their wish to retain the connection with Britain. We concluded that neither integration into the UK, nor Crown Dependency status, offer more appropriate alternatives to the present arrangements. *But these arrangements need to be revisited, reviewed and where necessary revised.*'

The italics are mine. Twenty-five years have now passed since that was written and the time has come to revisit, review and revise in order to arrive at a more appropriate alternative to what we have at present.



In April of last year, Synod approved the following resolution unanimously:

‘That this Synod passes this resolution to exhort those in positions of leadership to recognise the gradual depopulation and social harm in the present passports-alone circumstance, and to work for a new constitutional arrangement for the Island of Saint Helena.

Saint Helenians need and deserve to find their rights as British citizens on their own Island without being forced to seek them on the mainland. That such a constitutional arrangement is possible is shown in the French model for Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon. We urge a clear commitment to the long-term future of our Island.’

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon is what the French call a collectivité, which translates into English as a community or group of people. In English, the word collective is frequently used, for example, to describe a community or group, such as one of artists, and is a proper rendering in English of collectivité. As explained in my last article, the collectivité of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, a small group of islands situated off the coast of Newfoundland, is regarded for all purposes as part of France.

The more voices in support of the Synod Resolution that those in positions of leadership hear, the more likely it is that some progress will be made. Without urgent attention to this, the day is not far off when the Island will cease to have a viable community left on it.

Half Tonne of Metal Falls from Space – No-One Killed



Earlier this month a half-tonne metal ring fell from space, landing a safe distance from a village in Kenya. The Kenya Space Authority are analysing the space junk, trying to identify who owned the space vehicle that jettisoned it.

Large objects falling from space is a surprisingly regular occurrence. A small but heavy lump of metal landed on a Florida home in April last year, almost killing one of the family inside. A Japanese satellite company located one of its own bits of space junk which

had been orbiting 370 miles above the earth for 15 years. Weighing 3 tonnes, 36 feet long and 15 wide it is clearly a risk to life should it fall to earth. Astroscale, the Japanese satellite company involved, is developing a business to safely take space junk out of earth orbit.

Most space junk burns up as it descends through earth’s atmosphere; however several heavy and high density pieces have survived. The recent Kenya metal ring made a sound like a bomb exploding as it hit earth. People nearby found the ring glowing red hot and could not get near it as it took a long time to cool.

The California sky was lit up at night by the remains of a rocket falling to earth after launching a satellite into space. On another occasion India owned up to owning a giant metal dome that was washed up on to a beach in Western Australia. There are too many examples of space junk surviving intense temperatures as they fall from space to earth. Astroscale is just one of many techno-companies developing ways to safely pull space junk back to earth. While some say they are on the verge of a breakthrough, a fully functional, proven system cannot come quick enough.

Our Ministerial System and the Constitution

Many Changes Proposed to the Way We Are Governed

Assessment Published This Week

Legislative Council commissioned a review of “the governance structures of St Helena” three years after ministerial government was in place. The review is to assess the effectiveness of constitutional changes introduced in 2021 along with the move to ministerial government. Do the changes deliver efficient, effective, transparent and accountable governance for St Helena?

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy was commissioned for the review. This led to the St Helena Governance Review Team visiting St Helena for the first two weeks of December. Their review is wide ranging and includes extensive consultation with individuals, organisations, elected members and public service officials. The Interim Report was published this week and is intended to be widely available for further feedback. The Review Team pointed out, “This is an interim report, and all findings and recommendations are tentative. We will produce our final report once we have fully engaged with St Helenians and taken on board all their feedback.”

Later in the interim report they add. “The Governance Review Team will return to St Helena to follow up on this interim report. We seek your feedback in many ways. When we return to St Helena we will seek feedback through presentations to various groups of stakeholders; in public meetings; via the media; and through one-to-one follow-up interviews. You can email us at any time at sthelenagovernancereview@gmail.com”.

And for further emphasis:-

Interim nature of report – feedback is necessary

To conclude this section of the report, the writers point out -

This is only an interim report. We need feedback to make it something that will work, and something that will be welcomed in St Helena.

- What have we got correct, and where have we erred?
- Have we made erroneous assumptions?
- Which recommendations do you support, and which do you reject?

It is hoped SHG will be using their resources to distribute the interim report to everyone interested.

St Helena Governance Review Interim Report

Dr Ronan Cormacain, Steven Tweedie, Lord Lisvane

January 2025

The Main Points from the Report

Saints Making Decisions for St Helena

The Interim Report starts by stating “St Helenians are the people best placed to make decisions about what happens on St Helena. This is our view and the view of the clear majority of those to whom we spoke.” Shortly after, the report states, “St Helenians making decisions for St Helena is therefore the principle underlying our analysis.”

There are important considerations to be taken into account in line with this principle. The considerations listed in the report are:-

- The appetite of St Helenians to make decisions.
- The ability, experience, or competence of St Helenians to make decisions.
- The UK’s constitutional responsibility for St Helena.
- St Helena’s status as a donor-aid-dependent territory combined with the UK’s need to ensure that aid money (ultimately coming from UK taxpayers) is properly spent.

The interim report then goes into great detail on the many factors that come into play, in addition to considerations listed. Here, it is only possible to quote the most important or interesting points from it.

Other governance issues connected to Saints making decisions for ourselves includes, “it is unrealistic to expect that St Helena has the personnel to staff all levels of the executive, legislature, judiciary, and public service.” And “in a small jurisdiction, conflicts of interest will be inevitable”. Another aspect of governance on a small remote island is, “There is not the detachment between decision-maker and citizen that is present in a large jurisdiction. Decision-makers do not have the benefit of anonymity: they will bump into those affected by their decisions every day, and

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those affected will know who made the decision affecting them. In some ways this personal relationship provides a level of accountability not seen in larger jurisdictions.”

Speed of implementation of the ministerial system of government

The report states:-

There was widespread agreement that the implementation of the ministerial system in 2021 had been rushed. This meant that:

- Systems were not properly in place in advance of the election.
- Roles and responsibilities were not clear at the outset.
- First years of ministerial government were spent working out roles and responsibilities, developing codes of conduct and so on, reducing the time available for governing.

Having said all this, we are not convinced that delaying implementation to complete these things would have necessarily been the right thing to do. And some matters (such as a Ministerial Code of Conduct) could not have been developed until after the election.

Diversity

The report states:-

Although diversity in government structures was not an explicit part of the terms of reference, the report states it is an important component of good governance. On this issue the report includes, “we were impressed by gender, race, age, and disability diversity within governance structures. In particular two of five Ministers (including the Chief Minister, and Deputy Chief Minister) are female, as is the top public servant, the head of the Governor’s office, the Deputy Speaker, and three of seven Councillors.” However lack of disabled access to the Council Chamber is seen as an ‘urgent issue’. The report comments “This needs fixing right away. If the Speaker believes that this is “a huge problem” then the Speaker should take the lead in dealing with it.”

Recommendations in the Interim Report

The number of recommendations runs to 66, however, several recommendations are numbered 2A and 2B or 20A and 20B so the actual total is more than 70. This reflects the depth of detail and extensive scope of the interim report. A considered response to all recommendations, suggestions and views contained in the interim report will certainly require sustained effort.

Here, the Independent highlights some of the first recommendations made. It is not possible to cover all of them at one time. Further information on other recommendations will follow next week.

Recommendations

Retain the Ministerial System

“Government run by Ministers drawn from locally elected politicians is the best way to achieve the goal of St Helenians making decisions for St Helena. Whilst acknowledging that there are many challenges with implementation, we still think it is the most effective form of government for St Helena.” The report also observes, “we see no good reason (and no appetite by St Helenians) to return to the committee system.”

Allocation of functions between Governor and ExCo

The report opens this section with, “One of the most basic questions in any state is – “who is in charge?” The answer to this question is not readily apparent from reading the Constitution.” The report quotes the constitution “the executive authority of St Helena is vested in Her Majesty” and then comments, “This is a constitutional sleight of hand that is a standard technique of the UK constitution: His Majesty doesn’t have any actual power; that power is exercised, in the name of the Crown, by the UK Government. Under s. 34(2), (of the constitution) the executive authority of the Crown is to be exercised, on behalf of the Crown, by the Governor. So, the answer seems quite clear at the outset. The Governor is in charge, because the Governor is the executive authority.” Passing on to the constitutional position of Executive Council, the report states, “Even though it has the word “Executive” in the title, there is no statement of its function, nor anything to indicate that it actually has executive functions” and adds, “despite its name, under the strict terms of the Constitution, the Executive Council has no executive functions. All it does is to offer advice to the Governor, who then takes executive action. It would be more accurate to term it an Advisory Council.”

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(Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...)

Despite the lack of definition in the section of the constitution referred to, the report states reality is different. “In substance though, the position is somewhat different. The obligation of the Governor to “act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council” is clear from s. 43(1). The power of ExCo to offer binding advice brings them closer to exercising actual executive power”.

However, questions remain, “Does the Governor need to be persuaded of something, or just instructed? Ought the Governor to challenge, question or scrutinise advice, or simply meekly accept it? Should the Governor request advice in a series of structured steps to reach a particular conclusion which has been pre-determined by the Governor? Or should the agenda for offering advice be done at the instigation of ExCo itself?”

One comment on this subject states:-

“We cannot reach a definitive finding on the precise power dynamic at play between Governor and ExCo. One perception put to us is that the Governor acts in a colonial manner, informing St Helenians of what needs to be done. Another perception is that the Governor is not an activist, and he does not dictate to ExCo. Some stakeholders thought that the Governor performed a valuable function of acting as a bulwark against bad decision making by ExCo.

We found that the general practice is that, although the Governor may question or probe the advice given by Ministers, he will invariably accept a decision they have made. This a healthy sign of a maturing, and evolving system, and of roles and responsibilities reflecting contemporary approaches.”

Foot Note

This description of the Interim Report covers the first 14 pages. The final recommendation, number 66, is on page 60. Beyond that there are 5 annexes. Annex 3 lists the 20 recommendations made by Liam Laurence Smyth, the House of Commons Senior Clerk who visited St Helena in October last year.

Other subjects covered in the interim report, such as the selection of the chief minister, the role of Legco and the legislative programme will be covered next week.

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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



- 1. Application 2025/01:** FULL Planning Application for **Retention of Electrical Box Installation**, Former PWSD Store, Jamestown on Parcel JT030030. Applicant: Property Division, St Helena Government
- 2. Application 2025/02:** FULL Planning Application for **Retention of Electric Vehicle Charger**, Museum Car Park, Jamestown on Parcel JT020015. Applicant: Derek Pedley
- 3. Application 2020/87/DoC5:** Discharge of Condition request for R2 Side Path and Field Road Project pertaining to condition 5 of the decision notice requiring a Traffic Management Plan for Napoleon Street and Nose Gay Lane.

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

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 31st January 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

St Helena and Railway Journeys in India

Bob Wyatt, who is with us now, once avoided the damp, dark winter months in the UK by taking a journey to India to take the very popular India railways journeys. On one railway journey he got into conversation with a fellow passenger, Pam Yardley. They found they both knew the last Stedson George. Pam Yardley wrote:-

"I met Bob Wyatt recently on Holiday and he mentioned that he very sensibly left the cold miserable English winters to live on St Helena for three months every year. I said that I remembered a fellow student who came from St Helena when we both trained as teachers at Cheltenham – one Stedson George. He was in the year before me (1959 – 61) and I remember him as a friendly, likeable young man, and popular with the other students. Remarkably, Robert knew of him and was able to update me on Stedson's career. He chose to go back to his beloved Island and become very much involved with education and local government. So two fellow travellers in India find they both knew a young man from a tiny island in the South Atlantic – it's a small world indeed."



**Stedson and fellow students
St Paul's College, Cheltenham 1959-61**



Press Release

2024/25 MICRO PROJECTS – JAMESTOWN RUN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Programme Management Office (PMO) is pleased to advise that following an open procurement exercise conducted in November 2024, SHG has entered into a contract with S.Doy Construction to install approximately 85 metre railing system at the Jamestown Run, which is directly below the Duke of Edinburgh Playground.

Works are due to commence on site from Wednesday 15 January 2025 and completion of these works are programme for the beginning of March 2025.

This area of the run will be closed for the duration of these works.

Members of the public will be kept informed of progress and are thanked for their understanding during this time.

This project has been approved for funding under the UK funded Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) – Micro Project Budget 2024/25, in partnership with the FCDO.

Cape to St Helena Trophies Presented at Plantation House

The trophies for line honours and the winner on handicap were presented last Friday at Plantation House. Line Honours, to the first yacht over the finish line, went to the crew of Atalanta. The crew of Flica won the race on handicap. Flica crossed the finish line less than 2 hours after Atalanta.

There was also a cup for the 'best family crew'. The Halling family crewed Magic Dragon. Rod and Jane Halling with Dorothy, age 12, and twins Peter and Vera age 7, won. The Halling family was probably the only family crew; it didn't matter, they did well, the award was deserved and fully supported by rousing cheers from the other crews.

The atmosphere among the crews was strong and cheerful; the mutual respect between people who had raced across the wide ocean was obvious.

Plaques were presented to all crews as a memento of the 2024 race. Also receiving mementos were the St Helena Yacht Club official timekeeper, the SHYC commodore and the governor.



Even the governor got an award even though he didn't get his feet wet. Dave Garrard, vice-commodore of the Royal Cape Yacht Club presents the plaque.



As Dave Garrard makes a speech of thanks on behalf of the organisers of the event, the Royal Cape Yacht Club, Worsley, the Plantation House dog, is only interested in someone playing tug o' war with the rope he has in his mouth.



Dear Editor,

I would like to thank 'Contributed', whoever he or she may be, for 'Loyal And Unshakeable: How British Is St Helena?' though it is disappointing that the Synod did not submit evidence to either the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's inquiry into the Overseas Territories, or the Procedure Committee's one. In any event, both inquiries expired with the

dissolution of the last Parliament before either could publish a report for the Government to respond to.

A couple of small corrections: there are no such things as 'United Kingdom Overseas Territories', only British Overseas Territories, as per the 2002 Act, while St Pierre et Miquelon is an overseas collectivity, not an overseas collective. Using 'UK' as an adjective is an ugly, un-British, pseudo-American internationalism, like 'US' or 'UN', and while the Bishop of St Helena's Citizenship Commission did use the term 'Autonomous United Kingdom Overseas Territory', inspired by the French 'outre-mer' model, it later adopted the less clunky 'British Island', inspired by the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The author writes: 'It is doubtful that Saint Helena could expect, or would even want, representation in the House of Commons', but what evidence is there that this is wanted or unwanted either way? The last time it was considered by councillors was back in 1999, which prompted an aggressive response from the Foreign Office; it sent them an Information Paper telling them that neither integration with the UK nor Crown Dependency status was on offer, the irony being that it had canvassed views on both options from all the Overseas Territories, a bit like vegans asking you if you'd like ham or cheese sandwiches, only for them to attack you for it!

Writing in 2002, Alison Quentin-Baxter, who served as an independent constitutional advisor to the Legislative Council, remarked 'it is not clear what the voters of St Helena would get out of being an insignificant part of a British constituency', but one could say much the same of Gibraltar being combined with the South West England electoral region in the European Parliament before Brexit, even though it had the advantage of being a multi-member constituency.

However, instead of combining St Helena with a single Westminster constituency, each of its 27 enumeration areas could be twinned with one of 27 constituencies, Upper Jamestown with Swindon South, Lower Sandy Bay with Cheltenham, and so on, with each MP becoming a member of a St Helena Joint Standing Committee, along with a selection of peers; the All-Party Parliamentary Group system, a grubby anachronism, would be scrapped.

In addition, if Kelly Yon could speak from those iconic green benches when they hosted the UK Youth Parliament, why shouldn't Julie Thomas be able to do the same were they to host a Joint Parliamentary Assembly, a logical extension of the Joint Ministerial Council? To the best of my knowledge, the Chief Minister has never lived in the UK, so would not even be eligible to vote in its general elections as an overseas elector, unlike her counterpart in Gibraltar, who regained the right to do so despite not having lived in the UK since he was studying at Oxford in the 1990s.

As for the St Helena Government's UK Representative, this should be filled by election, with all holders of St Helenian Status, be they on island or in the diaspora, eligible to vote - in fact, in the nineteenth century, there were suggestions that colonial agents, the equivalent of UK Representatives back then, should have speaking rights in the House of Commons.

If the UK adopted a proportional voting system with multi-member constituencies, as the Liberal Democrats have long advocated, then perhaps St Helena's 2000 plus voters might fit into one, with a choice of MPs from different parties, better than they would into a single member constituency



represented by an MP from a party they didn't like, but I don't see such a system being introduced anytime soon.

And nor do I see the party's more recent proposal, dedicated constituencies for British citizens abroad, being adopted either - hypothetically, St Helena would end up part of a 'Brits in Africa' constituency, with its voters far outnumbered by those in South Africa, though having corresponded with some of their

members of the House of Lords, they seemed snooty even about allowing Saints to vote in that - 'I cannot see a way forward', one told me.

But in fairness to him, if the St Helena Government doesn't express an opinion on the issue either way, how can he be blamed for thinking it doesn't want it?

I have often felt that Napoleon had the last laugh, and that St Helena would have been much better off as the overseas collectivity of Sainte-Hélène, with a deputy in the National Assembly in Paris, and possibly even an outermost region of the EU; indeed, in its report on banking services in the Falklands, the Islands' Chamber of Commerce commented that 'as a rule of thumb the more integrated a territory is to its "metropolis country" the greater breadth and plurality of banking services there is'.

To quote the St Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission: 'If Britain treated its Overseas Territories as British, not foreign, most of the relationship issues would resolve themselves.'

Yours,

Ken Westmoreland



Diocese of St Helena

Services for Sunday 19th January

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 19th January 2025 – 2nd Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Patronal Festival	St Peter
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 19th January 2025 – 2nd Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
Thursday 23rd January		
5.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 19th January 2025 – 2nd Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
Tuesday 21st January		
6.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	St Mark

Venues for Growing the Church Mission

Monday 20th January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Youth & Children's Ministry The Rewards & Challenges of Ministry	Cathedral
Tuesday 21st January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Knowing God's Love	St Mark's Hall
Wednesday 22nd January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Leading a Small Group	Cathedral
Thursday 23rd January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Pastoral Care	Cathedral
Friday 24th January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Prayer	St James
Monday 27th January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Growing the Church Ministry Toolbox	Cathedral
Tuesday 28th January		
18.30-20.30 p.m.	Growing the Church Ministry Toolbox	St Mark's Hall

Baha'i Faith

7pm on Thursdays
at the St. Helena Gumwoods
Baha'i Centre.

You are invited to consider the
Revelation of Baha'u'llah
in the 19th Century
and its application today.

Light Refreshment



Come visit our
Health Expo

26th January 3-6pm

SDA Church Hall

We look forward to seeing you there!

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project



Welcome to the first 'news bite' of 2025 from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Happy New Year to you from all of us at the St Helena Cloud Forest Project, we hope this year brings you plenty of joys and success along with lots of new learning—and you can start by checking out the project's Y3 Annual Report.

The Annual Report for the year 2023/24 is now available on our website:

<https://www.sthelenatourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/St-Helena-Cloud-Forest-Annual-Report-2023-24.pdf>



This document includes, along with detailed information, both images and charts, covering the St Helena Cloud Forest Project through Year 3 (23/24), sharing some of the key achievements made and challenges faced. We also cover other key topics such as our financial accounts, training and capacity building, advocacy and communications, and project promotion.

Thanks to all of the teams across each pillar of the project for your continued dedication and hard work as we work together to save and future-proof St Helena's precious and globally significant cloud forest habitat!

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:



Festival of Walking Walk of the Week - Prosperous Bay



Date: 18 January 2025

Start Time: 08:00

Meeting Point: Haul Road, Prosperous Bay Parking Bay

Duration: approx 3 hrs

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7-8

Prosperous Bay is another stunning Coastal Walk that will lead through valley straight to the sea. Passing beautiful rock formations and towering cliff faces.

Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, bring some water and sunscreen.

Led by Tom Wortley of Rockmount Walking Tours

Date	Upcoming Walks
26 Jan	Jamestown/Mundens/Sampsons Battery
01 Feb	Longwood Boundary
02 Feb	Macintosh

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

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

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

Increase your online visibility



St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air



Are you a St Helena tourism and or hospitality business looking to increase your online visibility? Our new support package offers you the opportunity to **receive up to £150** towards your social media advertising costs.

How it works:

- **Financial support:** We'll provide funding to help you boost your existing social media posts or create targeted ads.
- **Branding toolkit:** We'll also assist you with best practices.
- **Targeted marketing:** Reach your ideal audience and drive more bookings.

To qualify, you must:

- Have a consistent social media presence on at least one platform.
- Have an international credit/debit card for boosting functionality
- Clearly outline your objectives for boosting your posts (e.g., increasing website traffic, generating bookings).
- Identify your target audience.

www.sthelenatourism.com

Contact: kimberley.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh or call 22470 if interested



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
or phone 22893

VACANCY

PEAKS Enterprises have a Vacancy for a Fully Qualified Nail Technician/Beauty Therapist to join their dynamic team. The successful applicant should be qualified for the below services: Manicure & Pedicures, Nails - Gel & Acrylic, Eyebrow Threading, Waxing, Facials.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS - Please call Shanna 24555 or shanna.john@helanta.co.sh



St Helena Baby Box Scheme

The Equality & Human Rights Commission in Partnership with Saint Helena Association in the UK.

A baby box scheme is a program designed to provide newborns and mums with essential items. Originating from Finland, the scheme distributes a cardboard box filled with baby products like gender neutral clothes, nappies, and other necessities. Many countries have adopted this idea to support new parents and ensure that every baby gets a good start in life.

The Equality & Human Rights Commission wanted to extend the scheme to St Helena and the Saint Helena Association in the UK (SHA) were keen to assist.

They have funded 12 baby boxes, containing various items for newborn babies.



The SHA felt this was a good idea, believing that a box of goodies would help in giving a baby a good start in life. Just before Christmas boxes were presented to new mum, Michelle Francis and baby Wyatt and Annie Fagan and baby Julianne by the staff from the EHRC. Both mothers were delighted to receive the gifts.

Last week, more baby boxes were presented to new mothers by Mrs. Vilma Clingham-Toms, the Secretary of the St Helena Association.



Vilma is currently having a family holiday on island and was delighted to be invited to present the baby boxes.

On 10th January, she presented a baby box to Miss Karla Williams and her baby daughter, Alana.

On 11th January, a presentation was made to Natasha Stevens and Bradley Crowie for their baby daughter, Kasia Maylyn. All parents were thrilled to receive the baby box and expressed their thanks and gratitude.



Vilma said:

“On behalf of the St Helena Association UK, we are very happy to supply the baby boxes for new mothers; it was a great pleasure to meet the parents and a joy to see the beautiful babies.”

The EHRC would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the St Helena Association and to Richard James International who kindly shipped the boxes freight-free.

Anyone who is expecting a baby can contact Coral at the EHRC on 22133 and request a box – while stocks last!!

GUINEA GRASS COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2025 at 7:30pm

AGENDA:

- * Welcome
- * Chairman's Report
- * Confirmation of Minutes of the last AGM
- * Treasurer's Report
- * Dissolve current Committee
- * Elect new Committee
- * Any other business
- * Close meeting

To enable the Centre to continue functioning, a Committee must be formed and therefore residents of the St Paul's district are encouraged to attend.

SAINT FM Bulletin Board Information COMMUNITY RADIO

*During the current Soft Launch Phase of Saint FM
Bulletin Board Broadcasts are scheduled to air
on weekdays only at*

1300, 1600, 1900, 2200, 0100, 0400, & 0700 hrs.

*All announcements are being aired during
breakfast shows and when live presenters are on air*

All times are subject to change

*If you have an item to include in the Bulletin Board please
ensure that you submit it to toair@saint.fm by 1100 hrs.*



St Helena
Government

CHANGES TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUS ROUTES

The St Helena Government (SHG) is advising changes to the public transport bus routes and times, effective immediately. These updates aim to enhance service efficiency and better meet public transportation needs.

Key Changes:

Route 1:

- The 16:10 Monday-Friday journey from **Jamestown to Bottom Woods** will now be operated by **Route 2**.
- The 16:10 Monday-Friday journey from Jamestown to White Gate will now travel via **New Ground, Rosemary Plain, and Scotland** before continuing to White Gate.
- The 22:00 Friday and Saturday journey from **Bottom Woods to Jamestown** will now depart **Bottom Woods at 21:35**.
- The 11:00 Saturday and Sunday (when the Ascension flight operates) journeys from **Jamestown to the Airport** will now depart the **Grand Parade at 10:45**.

Route 3:

- The 07:20 daily journey from **White Gate to Jamestown** will now depart at **07:10**. All pickup points along the route to Jamestown **will be 10 minutes earlier**.
- The 07:54 journey from **Jamestown to White Wall** and return on Mon – Fri will also depart **10 minutes earlier**.

The updated timetables can be found on the SHG website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/publictransportservice/>.

We appreciate your understanding as we implement these adjustments to improve the public transport system.

Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Deputy Manager (Deasons & Cape Villa) (£13,861 per annum)

This is an opportunity for a caring and passionate individual who can think creatively, has a positive attitude towards challenge, is flexible, enjoys developing skills and practice within others, and is able to think and develop ideas. The Deputy Manager will support the provision of a high quality health and social care service to all service users. This involves assistance with overseeing and managing the day-to-day operations of Deasons and Cape Villa and any maintenance and/or emergency situations that may arise.

Enquiries: **Hannah Herne on 23230 or 23151 or Email**
hannah.herne@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **31 January 2025**

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

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

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 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

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

Closing date: 23 January 2025

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

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

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

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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** (Pilling) **Elaine Benjamin on Tel No 22540 or Email elaine.benjamin@primary.edu.sh**

Closing date: 23 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**

Closing date: 22 January 2025

**Human Resources Assistant
(£7,960 per annum)**

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to undertake a range of HR transactional processes and deliver a high quality HR service. You will be required to provide administration duties in connection with recruitment and selection, processing of leavers and contractual changes in accordance with employment related policies and procedures. This is a great opportunity to start your career in HR if you are a motivated, self-starter who has a passion for delivering great customer service and administration. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Sharina Williams on 22470 or Email sharina.williams@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

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Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

**Care Assistant/Support Workers (Social Care)
Fixed - Term Contracts or Casuals
(£8,113 per annum)
(Available for local interest)**

Are you interested in providing care and well-being of clients within the Learning Disabilities units, providing high quality, holistic care directly to frail older people in full time residential and day care, or enabling them to live as full and active life as possible? If so, Social Care is seeking support in all of the areas of care; Ebony View, Cape Villa, Deasons or Piccolo Hill. Why not join our team and help make a difference to the lives of our clients.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Kelly Hopkins on Tel no. 23343 or
Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
Hannah Herne on Tel nos. Cape Villa- 23230
Deasons Centre-23151
Email: Hannah.herne@sainthelena.gov.sh
Nicole Hercules on Tel no. 25936
Email: piccolo.hill@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 31 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

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ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Healthcare Assistant

Total package value up to £18,798 pa

(comprising salary of £11,520.00 per annum plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We're offering a unique opportunity for an experienced and motivated Healthcare professional to join our nursing and medical team at Georgetown Hospital.

Georgetown Hospital operates with a small team of motivated and dedicated healthcare professionals, providing primary and secondary healthcare, and dental services, for the island's circa 800 people working on the island, and their dependents.

What you'll do

As Healthcare Assistant, you'll be working as part of a small, professional team to provide exceptional standards of care to your patients. Because of the unique nature of the island, as well as regular healthcare assistant responsibilities you'll also be willing to carry out other duties; particularly desirable would be X-ray techniques, or the willingness to be trained. You'll also be a member of the first responder team, driving the ambulance to medical emergencies and supporting senior medical staff on emergency call-outs.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of £11,520 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a single status contract and these benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £1,200 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance of £3,780 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £938 per year
- A single status water allowance worth £1,360 pa
- 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 annual travel insurance

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory Employment References.
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check.
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance.

Closing Date: 07 February 2025 Interviews: Week commencing 10 February 2025 (by Skype if off island).

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



From the office of the Bishop of St Helena

At the Diocesan Synod held from 5th to 7th of April 2024, Synod passed Mission and Evangelism Resolutions to meet the spiritual needs of God's people in our Diocese. To enable the Diocese to implement these Resolutions, at the request of the Bishop of St Helena, the Diocese of St Helena will have a Growing the Church Mission Team arriving on 14th January 2025. The Mission Team consists of Fr Bruce Wooley (Director of Growing the Church), Dean Buli Wooley and Fr Mark Spyker. The Mission will be launched from 14th January 2025 to 28th January 2025, covering training for clergy, to enable us to have evangelist priests in our parishes, and the laity in all parishes in the following ministries: Making Disciples, Forgiveness, Royal Lessons of Leadership – 70 x 7, Survey of the Bible (Link to Anglicanism), The Work of the Holy Spirit - 70 x 7, Youth & Children's Ministry, The Rewards & Challenges of Ministry, Knowing God's Love, Leading a Small Group, Pastoral Ministry Training and Pastoral Care, Prayer Ministry, Repentance & Renewal, Equipping Leaders – 70x7, Growing the Church Ministry Toolbox and Local Planning.

Fr Bruce Wooley and Dean Buli will leave on the 28th January 2025, after launching the mission and Fr Mark Spyker will continue the mission with Growing the Church Ministry Tool Box Training until 29th March 2025.

It is planned that another Evangelist from Growing the Church will arrive on the 5th April 2025 to 29th June 2025 to continue the Mission and Training.

Venues will be announced and all Parishioners are invited to attend and to hold the Mission in prayer.

Tamworth Give Spurs a Fright

Tamworth football club are in the bottom half of the National League; the 5th tier in the Football Association National League System. There are a total of 10 tiers. Tamworth made local history by taking Spurs to extra time in their FA Cup 3rd round tie last Sunday. The match will be a subject of conversation in the Tamworth pubs for a few years.

Tamworth is already famous for having a special breed of pig with the same name. An old and much prized breed, The Tamworth pig is rare and has been bred for around 200 years. It is a priority breed for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust which exists to secure the continued existence of native UK animal breeds.



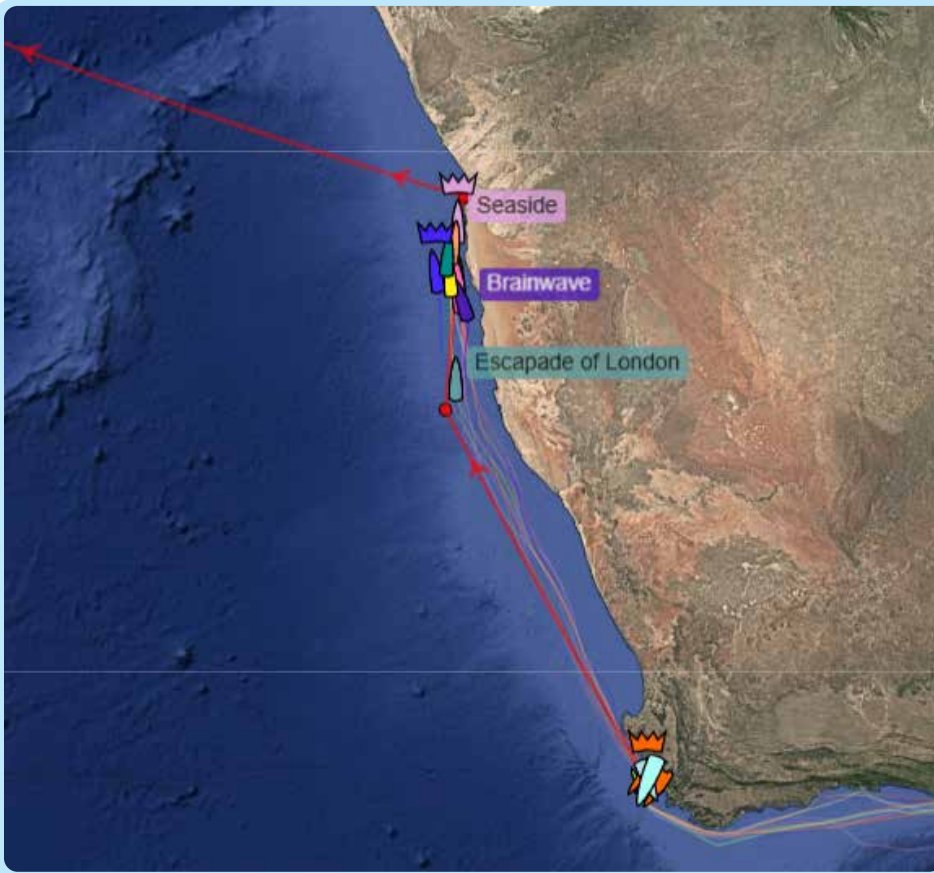
These Tamworth pigs seem to be looking over the shoulder of the pig farmer as he watches the Tamworth – Spurs match on his mobile device.



Another Yacht Race Coming

As the crews who entered the Cape to St Helena race leave the island, there's more yachts coming. The World Arc Rally 2024-25 started in the Caribbean Island of St Lucia one year ago this week. The route took them westwards, through the Panama Canal, across the Pacific Ocean to Australia and on, and on.

Right now, the leading yachts are at or approaching Walvis Bay while other yachts have not left Cape Town yet. A Rally is not a Race, The World Arc yacht crews are due to start arriving on 24th January and can stay to rest and stretch their legs for 3 or 4 days. The last yachts are scheduled to leave here on 1st February. The Rally seems to be keeping to schedule, so far.



World Arc Rally yachts – some are still deciding when to leave Cape Town. The leading yachts will turn left and head in our direction in a day or two – or so.

The World Arc Rally, usually sends its own representative to act as the local co-ordinator. While their yacht crews are on island the co-ordinator will arrange most tours and events. St Helena Tourism will assist as required.

— And There's Another Rally on Its Way —

≈O≈
OYSTER

Yachts Charter Brokerage Ownership



SAILING ST HELENA



This tiny, volcanic island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean is the last resting place of Napoleon and home to the world's oldest tortoise. Not your average island then!

(Continues on BACK PAGE...)


Premier League Fixtures



Saturday 18th January

Newcastle United  12:30  AFC Bournemouth

Brentford  15:00  Liverpool



Leicester City  15:00  Fulham

West Ham United  15:00  Crystal Palace



Arsenal  17:30  Aston Villa

Sunday 19th January

Everton  14:00  Tottenham Hotspur

Manchester United  14:00  Brighton & Hove Albion

Nottingham Forest  14:00  Southampton

Ipswich Town  16:30  Manchester City

Monday 20th January

Chelsea  20:00  Wolverhampton Wanderers

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO SHIP

GREEN MOUNTAIN 251201	
Immingham	07-Dec
Cape Town	13-Jan
Stack Dates	FIRM
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	FIRM
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.

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OYSTER

Another Yacht Race Coming

(Continued from PAGE 26...)

The Oyster Rally is right on the heels of the World Arc Rally. This rally is only for yacht owners who have bought an Oyster yacht. Oyster is headquartered at Saxon Wharf,

Southampton. Oyster yacht owners feel they have bought something special for crossing the wide oceans. Oyster yachts are built for comfort as well as cruising.

Like the World Arc Rally, the Oyster Rally started last January in the Caribbean – at Nelson’s Dockyard, Antigua on the 14th.



To buy an Oyster 565 you will need to part with around £2 million. For an Oyster 595 you will need to dig a little deeper – with all costs totted up, say goodbye to £2.5 million.



Two Oyster Rally yachts might get here before the leading World Arc Rally yachts. *Ahlem*, an Oyster 575, is leading the field. The crew have clearly decided to give Walvis Bay a miss and sail straight across the South Atlantic.

We will find out later if the crew are heading straight for Brazil or stopping at St Helena. As with the World Arc crews, most of the yachts are still at Cape Town. Whatever happens, let’s hope the crews that are coming contribute a noticeable amount to the island economy.