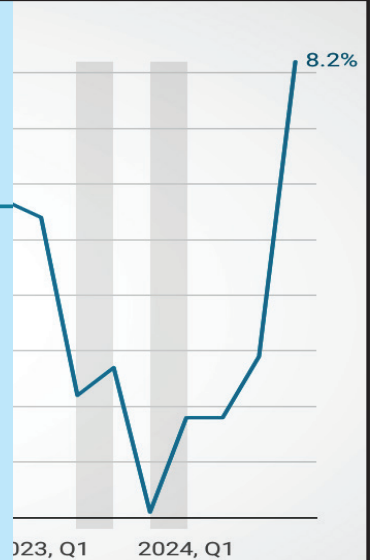


PRICE: £1

VOLUME XX, ISSUE 7, 31st JANUARY 2025

On the Rise ▶▶
Inflation Driven Up by Local Production

Reasons for increase are electricity, phone and internet, bread, local meat and public transport



November Arrivals
Back to
Pre-Pandemic
Levels

Visiting Saints the main reason



St Helena's Unique
Pirates

"Ero lizae" and "Ero natashae" - two spider species discovered in 2024

Braw Night at Anne's Place

Burns Night at Anne's Place

Burns Night is the 25th January, every year. It is a joyous celebration of Robbie Burns, Scotland's national Bard; his poems, songs and the stories in them are famous from North America to Australia, China, Japan and South Korea. There are Burns Nights in Russia - and St Helena. The Robbie Burns song most people across the world know is Auld Lang Syne, sung by millions on New Year's Eve. At a Burns Night, the main thing is for guests to enjoy it and have fun. Burns died 229 years ago but the legacy he left lives on.

Last Saturday the memory of Robbie Burns and his skill as a wordsmith was celebrated at Anne's Place, complete with kilts, bagpipes and the haggis. Why the haggis? Because one of Burns' famous poems is 'Address to a Haggis' and the those attending a Burns Night duly celebrate the haggis with Robbie Burns.

It is a main feature of every Burns Night. Part of the homage to the haggis is a reading of Burns' Address to the Haggis', Dr David Hume did that, as well as welcome the 70 guests at the start of the evenings' events.

Eating and entertainment intermingled. The haggis was piped out after due ceremony to the tune of Scotland the Brave. It was a buffet service, starting with Scotch broth vegetable soup, but not before Ann Muir said the Selkirk Grace - "Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it; But we hae meat, and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be thankit." A wee bit different from the usual grace before meals.

The main course included haggis of course, two of them. One made by Roy the Chef, the other by Dave Chambers. As food was served music was provided by Andy the Vet on fiddle and Gay Marr on keyboard.

There were or songs after the main course with Dr Dave on vocals and Gay Marr on keyboard. Andy the Vet proposed a toast to Robbie Burns followed by a song called Rattling Roaring Willie with fiddle accompaniment.

Pudding followed and a raffle was drawn, the £200 proceeds going to 'Making Ends Meet', Robbie Burns would have approved. Not done yet, Andy the Vet recited 'Willie Wastles Wife' a poem by Robbie Burns. What was Willie Wastles wife like, Burns tell us - He had a wife was dour and din, O Tinkler Maidgie was her mither; Sic a wife as Willie had, I wad na gie a button for her! Gay Marr was there to translate.

The evening ended with a everyone singing Auld Lang Syne - or 'For Old Times' Sake'.



The haggis is served with great ceremony. In the photograph, the haggis is being brought to the table by headmaster Phil (see left) and is 'piped in' by two kilted bagpipe players - Andy the Vet and John Reid.



The Haggis has been laid on the small table at the centre, in pride of place. The Address to the Haggis is being recited by Dr Dave

SHG Responds to 8% Inflation Increase

Reported elsewhere, the Statistics Office published the latest inflation figures this week. A staggering 8% increase appeared almost out of nowhere.

Will the Tax Threshold be Raised at Last?

SHG commented; “Ministers are aware of the impact this will continue to have on the community at large and wish to reassure the public that options are being considered to lessen the impact on the most vulnerable such as, raising the minimum wage substantially and **looking at raising the personal tax allowance from April 2025**. Furthermore, Ministers have stressed to the UK the financial pressures on the island and have requested additional funding as part of the zero-based budget submitted during this year’s Financial Aid discussions.”

Treasury Minister Mark Brooks pointed out, “St Helena is dependent on financial aid from the UK and therefore normal policy tools are limited.” He added, “In addition to continuing the reduced customs duty on essential food items, subsidising the cost of utilities, public transport service and providing a subsidy to transport freight from Rupert’s into Jamestown, policy options are being considered to increase the minimum wage and to look at increasing the personal tax allowance which will lessen the impact of the higher inflation rate.”

SHG reduced the subsidy to Connect St Helena this year by £250,000; this will have had an effect on Connect’s charges to customers. Connect still receive a £1.5 million subsidy from SHG and are able to receive further government money through the Fuel Risk Share Arrangement if increases in the price of oil exceed an undisclosed price.

Minimum Wage Consultation

Options put forward by SHG for an increase in the minimum wage continue into January with sessions planned for employees and the general public. SHG want to get everyone’s view on which of the three options, or none at all, should be chosen. The problem is, it’s impossible to decide on one bit of government spending without taking into account what effect that decision will have elsewhere. An example, reduce subsidy and contribute to price inflation – keep subsidies and encourage inefficiencies.



Dear Editor

This week’s announcement that inflation is at 8.2% (its highest for 15 years) came as no surprise. It has long been apparent that published inflation figures were being held down by the large decrease in internet costs in 2023, which has now worked its way out of the system.

The poorest members of our society did not benefit from reduced internet costs because they could not afford internet in the first place. So, these people have been suffering these higher amounts of inflation for more than a year, without the benefit of any saving.

While the review of minimum wage and a long overdue review of tax thresholds is very welcome and will assist those in low paid work, the EHRC was disappointed that the press release did not include provision for a significant increase in benefits, basic island pension and the carers allowance that many must subsist on, to compensate for this higher inflation.

What does our government propose to do for this significant number of people?

The Equality & Human Rights Commission

Family Flies in Just in Time to Commemorate Wilberforce JJ Arnold Centenary

St Helena's greatest friend died on 25th January 1925. One Hundred years later his great niece, Regina Arnold, eventually landed at St Helena airport with less than two years to spare before the centenary celebration at her famous great uncle's monument in the Grand Parade.

Another relative of Wilberforce Arnold, a 2nd cousin, twice removed, John Arnold, had also been a victim of the continual flow of low cloud across Prosperous Bay Plain. Despite great concern they would miss the event both had travelled thousand of miles for, they made it by the skin of their teeth. Regina lives in San Fransisco and John started his journey from London.

They were guests of honour as they joined others gathered at the Wilberforce Arnold monument to honour a selfless man who devoted most of his adult life to improving the welfare of Saints. As John Arnold pointed out in his speech of appreciation, improvements to public health Wilberforce Arnold instigated in St Helena were noted and copied in several other countries.

Regina Arnold also paid homage and expressed her pride in having a great uncle who is remembered and revered by the descendants of the many Saints he helped - on the basis of little money and perpetual hard work.



John Arnold, looking relaxed after his 4-day ordeal getting to St Helena, speaks to the gathering at the Wilberforce Arnold monument.



Regina Arnold took her turn to speak. Her reminiscences included her grandmother's love of AA Milne's work and particularly Winnie the Pooh. Regina recited AA Milne's poem Wind on the Hill; it seemed appropriate after 4-days encountering weather problems which delayed her travel.

Wind On The Hill

By A. A. Milne

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn't keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

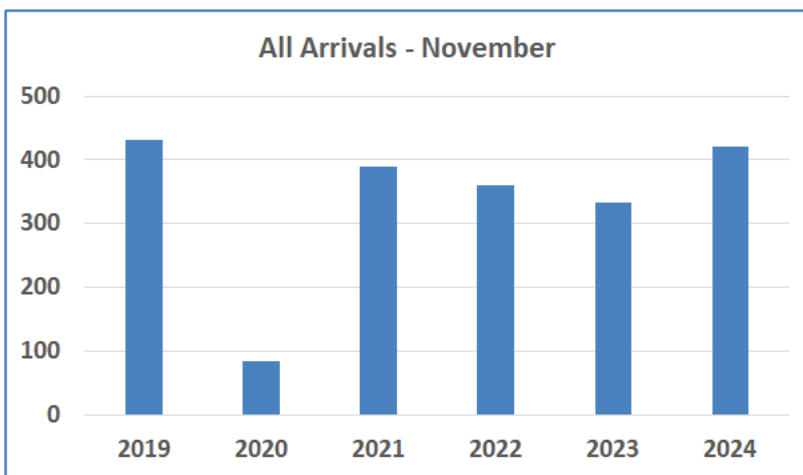
And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes...
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.



November Arrivals Back to Pre-Pandemic Levels

Figures issued by SHG last Friday from the Statistics Office show the total number of arrivals for November last year was back to the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.



November 2024 is just nine short of the November 2019 total. At first sight, the figures are encouraging, but dig a little deeper and we can see there is more work to do encouraging more tourist to come here.

The chart and the figures below give the types of passengers on planes arriving in November. The biggest increase is in Saints visiting family and friends. At 141 in 2024 it is a 26% increase on pre-pandemic 2019.

All Arrivals	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
November	430	84	389	360	332	421

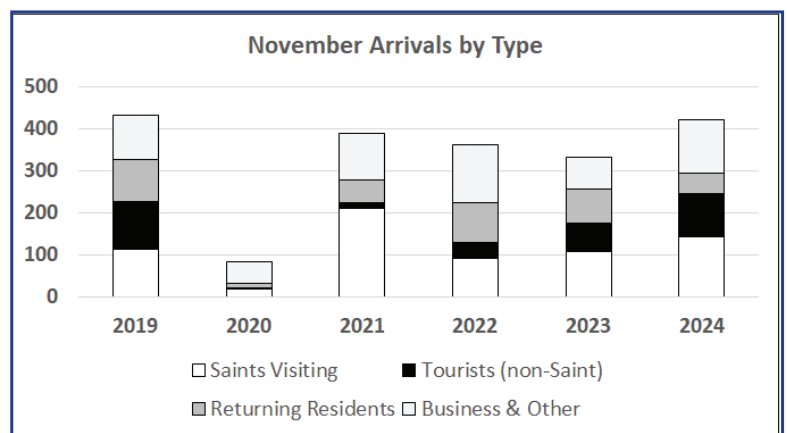
The other category of passenger which showed an increase in 2024 is business travel and passengers in

transit. There is a 21% increase, all of it in business travel.

While the tourist (non-Saint) category is on an upward trend, the November 2024 total is still a little short of 2019. The last category, returning residents, is shows a total for 2024 which is less than half the number arriving in 2019.

The totals for Saints visiting family and friends is the highest across the three years since the pandemic.

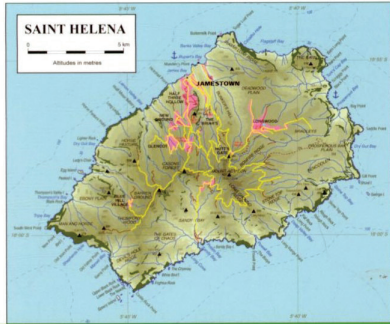
Not a lot of information can be got from one month's data: its will be interesting to see the figures for December and January as the St Helena tourist season gathers pace.



Arrivals November	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Saints Visiting	112	17	211	90	106	141
Tourists (non-Saint)	113	4	12	39	70	104
Returning Residents	100	11	53	95	79	49
Business & Other	105	52	113	136	77	127
TOTAL	430	84	389	360	332	421

Quincentenary

A Story of St Helena, 1502 - 2002



By David L. Smallman

**Governor Smallman Remembers - Published
by Hypatia**

Back in the Day – Or Could It Be Today?

Chapter Six - **The Twentieth Century: The Politics of
Economic Stagnation**

Money Matters – page 73

Although individually the politicians gave the impression publicly that the ‘Vision’ was imposed upon them, it is evident from the fact that both Executive and Legislative Council endorsed it, that the truth is somewhat different. Naturally, had the need for such a social and economic policy and plan not been forced upon them by the British Government, they would have been most unlikely to consider the matter. The ‘Vision’, announced on 9th November 1995 following its adoption by Government, was stated to be: “A prosperous, peaceful and democratic society for all, achieved through sustainable economic, environmental and social development leading to a healthy and eventually financially independent island” It provided a benchmark against which it became possible to test each measure that the Government proposed and the legislation that the Council introduced.

The statement is a most laudable aim for an island, virtually without natural resources and economically unviable, especially as not all of the requisite elements necessary for success yet exist. Banking legislation failed to emerge from scrutiny in London causing the one international retail bank willing to set up shop (Bank of Nova Scotia) to change its mind and withdraw its licence application in late November 1995.

Company law has been deferred year-on-year as complexities of implementation in the small commercial environment of St Helena throws up more and more potential problems. The largest private sector business enterprises on the island, Cable & Wireless and Solomon & Co, together with newcomer Argos Helena, found incorporation in London and Jersey respectively to meet their needs. The lack of a ‘high street’ bank also proved no barrier to their entry into commercial operation.

That is not to say, however, that the Government of St Helena has not tried to establish its own High Street retail bank. The Government had long believed that a domestic commercial bank offering retail services and loan facilities to business was the fundamental requirement to develop a healthy private sector on the island. In 1993 talks began between the Bank of Nova Scotia and Government officials with that purpose in mind. The Bank was willing to incorporate elsewhere so that the complicated rules relating to scrutiny of the bank and its financial probity could be guaranteed – the expertise certainly did not, and still does not, exist on the island. After lengthy discussion with the Bank, and with advice from London, Legislative Council passed the necessary legislation to allow a commercial bank to be established to operate in St Helena. It was envisaged by all concerned that the Bank would be in business by early 1996. No offshore banking or financial services were envisaged, either by the St Helena Government or the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Negotiations then moved onto the form of the Licence that the Bank would require in order to conduct its business. The final issues were identified and their solution apparently agreed early in June 1995, Thereafter, much to the surprise and embarrassment of those involved back in St Helena, the process became entangled in the bureaucratic machine. The real reason may have been the concern with which the Bank of England viewed the difficulties into which some West Indian dependencies found themselves drawn in the financial services sector and over money laundering. In any case the Bank finally withdrew its application at the end of November 1995 on the grounds that it could wait no longer to put that particular investment decision into effect.

Our Ministerial System and the Constitution

Many Changes Proposed to the Way We Are Governed – episode 3

Previous coverage of the Governance Review (Interim Report) has focused on the role of the Governor, the relationship between the Governor and the Chief Minister and with Executive Council. The Review then turns attention to Legislative Council and the Attorney General's Chambers; both subjects are covered here – in part. The Review covers a multitude of governance issues which they suggest could be improved.

Legislative Council

The review states the only function of LegCo, according to the Constitution, is to make legislation, however, the general practice in democracies around the world is that legislatures should:

- Scrutinise, and hold to account, the executive,
- Make legislation,
- Authorise / pass the budget, and oversee its implementation,
- Represent citizens.

Another point made is there were strongly divergent views on the proper function of LegCo, or to be more specific, the proper function of the Elected Members who were not Ministers. The only area where these views converged was that there needed to be clarity over their roles and responsibilities. There was not even agreement on what Councillors who were not Ministers should be called. The authors of the Review suggest 'Councillors' should be the official tag, to differentiate them from Ministers.

The reviewers were told job training and development was said to be inadequate and specialist support in critical areas needed improvement. Councillors can introduce their own legislation, known as Private Members' Bills. Support with the complexities of legal drafting is lacking as the Attorney General is the source of that support and the Attorney General provides support to Legco, the Governor and Ministers. A situation where conflict of interest could arise. It is not seen by the Reviewers that the Councillors should oppose all policies and Bills presented to Legislative Council. Shortcomings were found with the production in a timely manner for the Order Paper for Legco and for the production after of Hansard after the debate. Hansard is the official record of what everyone said: the reviewers found the latest Hansard was for a session of Legco on 18th July 2023.

The Independent asked a councillor for a record of what that person said during a recent Legco debate. The response was to wait for the official record of the speech in Hansard. The Independent aims to publish news, not history.

The reviewers look to the Speaker as the person responsible for ensuring the Order Paper is published well in advance and Hansard is published soon after every Legislative Council session. In the recommendations, the reviewers state:-

Councillors should see their function as being to challenge the Ministers, but in a constructive way. If Ministers are doing the right thing, then they should support them, and if Ministers are doing the wrong thing, they should oppose them. This can be seen as akin to constructive opposition, or Councillors being critical friends.

The review reports that some people thought the Councillors should be part of the decision-making process undertaken by the executive. This view was not supported by the reviewers.

An important aspect of accountability is the separation of powers. The executive introduces policy and legislation, the legislature scrutinises policy and legislation, amending where thought necessary and the judiciary apply the law. So it always was and so it shall be. Otherwise, a drift to dictatorship is a possibility.

Continues on NEXT PAGE...

Our Ministerial System and the Constitution

Many Changes Proposed to the Way We Are Governed – episode 3

Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...

The review recommends the roles of Councillors are formalised in the constitution. The roles recognised should be:-

1. To represent voters and citizens
2. To scrutinise legislation introduced by Ministers, and to initiate legislation
3. To provide executive oversight, including of Cabinet, Ministers, and public servants
4. To determine the Budget and oversee its implementation.

The Review also recommends that Councillors have capacity building, specifically in the role and function of being a Councillor. This could take the form of a manual. It could also take the form of bespoke training sessions either from members of other legislatures, or experts in parliamentary roles. The programme should include:

1. Roles and responsibilities – protection from defamation, privilege, office space and resources,
2. Roles of Governor, Chief Secretary, Financial Secretary, AG, Auditor General,
3. PDs – who they are, what they do, strategic plans and annual workplans,
4. Key legislation – how to get legislation drafted as private Member,
5. LegCo – meeting dates and times, seating order, deference,
6. Standing Orders,
7. Code of Conduct – declarations, offences, gifts,
8. Entitlements – remuneration, allowances, pensions, travel entitlements,
9. Protocol matters,
10. Making, and overseeing the implementation of the Budget,
11. LegCo Committees - what they do, how often they meet.

No mention is made of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the support they have provided through workshops, seminars and conferences on some of these subjects.

The Review also states that Informal Legco should not happen in its current form and should be open to the public. ‘The essence of a legislature is a forum for public debate. We do not see the merit of private LegCo meetings.’

The Attorney General and the Legislative Programme

In connection with the Attorney General giving legal advice to all parties within government the Review states, there is no general problem with the AG providing legal advice to LegCo. It is also stated, on rare occasions, there may arise a conflict of interest, in which case independent legal advice may be necessary. Normally, the Speaker will have dedicated independent legal advice but the Review states, that is not feasible in St Helena.

The Review states;

According to the information we have been provided with, and excluding appropriation Bills, 15 Bills have been enacted by LegCo since the start of the Ministerial system in October 2021. Seven of those Bills have been brought into force. It is not easy to find an up-to-date list of legislation online. Those we interviewed suggested that between two and five Bills had been passed since the start of the Ministerial system, so there is clearly a great deal of confusion about the actual legislative output.

There was a variety of views on the reasons for the low level of Bills passed. These included:

1. AG Chambers was a “black hole” where “Bills went to die”
2. AG Chambers had insufficient legislative drafting resources
3. There was no prioritisation of Bills (either by Ministers or AG Chambers)

Our Ministerial System and the Constitution

Many Changes Proposed to the Way We Are Governed – episode 3

4. Political paralysis – policy decisions not being made, meaning that no, or inadequate, instructions sent to AG Chambers
5. Reluctance to pass “partial” Bills dealing with parts of the problem, with a desire to wait for a comprehensive Bill dealing with all of the problem
6. Policy decision making didn’t start straight away after the election, with Ministers instead consulting with the public on their vision before starting to develop policies
7. No political parties endorsing candidates with mandates set out in advance of election – this means that, necessarily, the incoming Government has to develop its vision and priorities (legislative and financial)

The Review sums up; We cannot make a finding on the reasons for the lack of legislative output, other than to say that there may be an element of truth in all of them.

The Review brings up another issue with law-making;

There is also a problem with Bills that have been passed, have been assented to by the Governor, but which have not been brought into force. This makes them laws in limbo – on the statute book, but they don’t actually apply in real life. The most glaring example of this is the Road Traffic Ordinance 2016. It has been a law now for 8 years, but it is still not in force. One reason advanced for this was the Ordinance, even though passed, was still deficient.

On the importance of a Legislative Programme the Review states:-

One very important element of effective lawmaking is adequate prospective legislative planning. Rather than reacting hurriedly to specific problems, and thereby unnecessarily accelerating the legislative process (leading to uneven results in terms of quality of legislation), more long-term planning of key legislative initiatives results in qualitatively better, more sustainable legislation. It is customary for states to have legislative plans that are usually drafted and published by both the government and the parliament. These plans, when properly prepared and implemented, adequately organize and space out legislative projects or annulments of existing legislation. In principle, they allow governments and parliaments and other bodies and stakeholders participating in the lawmaking process to look ahead and coordinate and organize their workloads accordingly.

The Review continues, ‘We saw two documents which could be described as draft legislative programmes for government (see Annex 5). These are internal documents, not for publication and so we only reveal the headings here. They are both drafts as they haven’t been approved by all the necessary parties.’

Annex 5 tells us nothing

Next week will be the Role of the Public Service and Decision Making



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20 of the Most Spectacular Species Discoveries in 2024

Two of them discovered in St Helena

Naming these species after two friends and colleagues who did so much to help me during my visit to Saint Helena in 2022, and who have spent years dedicated to saving Saint Helenian invertebrates, was a great pleasure

The 'Earth' website is a place where conservationists of all kinds share their stories. One contributor listed her choice for the most remarkable and spectacular discoveries of (confirmed and proven) new species in 2024. Two of them are spiders that have hidden in the cloud forest for who knows how long. Both are named after Saints. Here is the full story, published by the Natural History Museum

How were the new pirate spiders discovered?

A close examination of the spiders provided the first hints that they were different species. *Ero lizae* has two spike-like structures at the back of its body, while *Ero natashae* is significantly smaller. DNA evidence also played a role in proving these spiders were their own species.

Based on this information, the researchers were confident enough to formally describe two new species from specimens kept in the Natural History Museum, London, and the Royal Museum of Central Africa in Belgium.

The species were named in honour of Liza Fowler and Natasha Stevens, two dedicated conservationists working at the St Helena National Trust.

Danni Sherwood, the lead author of a new study of these spiders, says, 'Our work showed that two species new to science existed in the cloud forest, but for over four decades they were thought to be a single, common, species which can be found in many parts of the world including the UK.'

'These spiders don't just have interesting morphology (a particular form, shape, or structure). Their type localities are in one of the most unique and threatened habitats in the world: the Saint Helenian cloud forest. Knowing what species are there and which are found nowhere else helps with efforts to conserve the cloud forest as a whole.' The findings were published in the European Journal of Taxonomy.

Island of invertebrates

St Helena is one of the most isolated places on Earth. With environments ranging from tropical forests to desert-like coasts, it has developed a biodiversity unlike anywhere else. The cloud forest found around the island's peaks are particularly important. The trees capture water from the clouds, which then drains to the lower parts of the island and accounts for around 60% of the water falling on St Helena every year.

This supports a variety of unique plants, such as the he cabbage-tree and black scale fern, which in turn play host to at least 120 invertebrate species found nowhere else in the world.



Named *Ero lizae* and *Ero natashae*, the discoveries are species of pirate spiders named after Liza Fowler and Natasha Stevens, conservationists at the St Helena National Trust

20 of the Most Spectacular Species Discoveries in 2024

Two of them discovered in St Helena



A St Helena pirate spider looking for its next meal

Unfortunately, very little of this original forest now remains. The historic clearance of the forest for cattle and crops, as well as the introduction of invasive species, has left only small, fragmented patches remaining.

The UK government, supported by the Saint Helena National Trust, RSPB and Species Recovery Trust are working to reverse

these declines through the St Helena Cloud Forest Project. But this means it is now more important than ever to work out what exactly is living in the cloud forest.

One species thought to have made the forest its home was *Ero aphana*, a pirate spider normally found in western Europe. It was thought it had been inadvertently introduced during the last 500 years, but when the research team went back to examine specimens of the spider, they realised something was amiss.

Dr Ben Price, who is the Natural History Museum's Senior Curator in Charge of Small Orders, was a co-author of the research.

'We were carrying out a project to improve the DNA reference library for St Helena, so that the people of the island can monitor their biodiversity more easily,' Ben explains. 'This has been using a mix of museum specimens and freshly collected ones to help fill gaps in our knowledge.'

'Danni already suspected that *Ero aphana* (a hunting spider that feeds on other spiders) might not be all that it appears, so we added it into the mix. It turns out that there's not just one pirate spider on the island, but two entirely different species.'

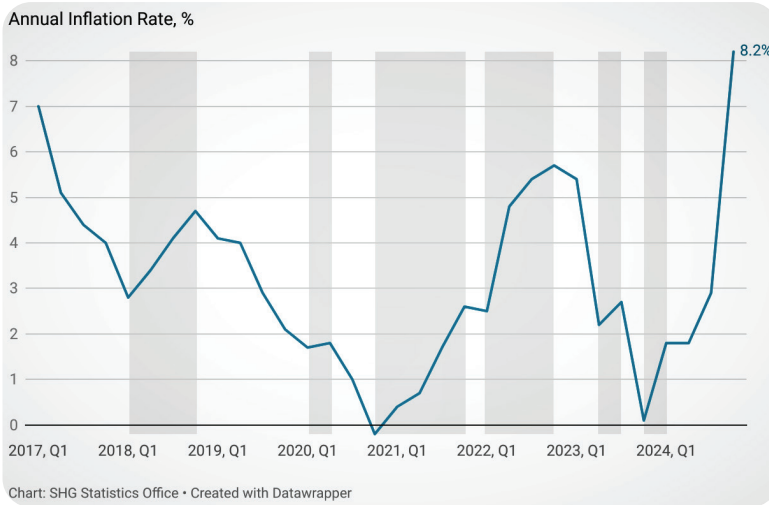
While they lack eyepatches and cutlasses, the two new species of pirate spider certainly live up to their nautical name, which refers to their habit of violently taking over the webs of other spiders and killing the occupants.

'Naming these species after two friends and colleagues who did so much to help me during my visit to Saint Helena in 2022, and who have spent years dedicated to saving Saint Helenian invertebrates, was a great pleasure,' Danni says.

While little is currently known about these spiders, it's hoped that further research will help to work out how they live, and how they can be allowed to thrive.

Annual Inflation Driven Up High by Local Production

Prices were an alarming 8.2% higher at the end of last year compared with 12 months before. The main reasons for the increase are price hikes in electricity last January and July together with increases in phone and internet charges last July. Also pushing prices higher were increases in December on bread, local meat and public transport.



Often, we can look to price inflation in the UK and South Africa pushing prices of imported goods ever higher. Not this time. South Africa's inflation rate increased marginally to 3% in December 2024, up from 2.9% in November but below the 3.2% forecast. This remains significantly below the South African Reserve Bank's preferred midpoint target of 4.5%. In the UK the inflation rate is at 2.50%, compared to 2.60% last month and 4.00% last year.

This is lower than the long-term average of 2.82%.

Back in St Helena, the year-on-year price inflation increase at the end of December last year is the highest for 15 years.

When the overall inflation rate is broken down into categories it is clear energy price increases are way out in front.

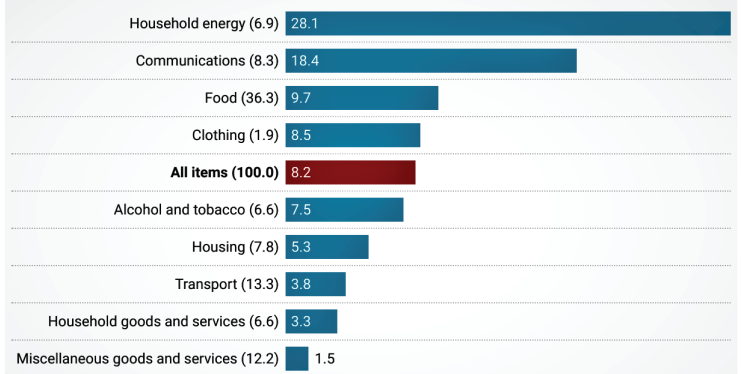
Communications is next and increases in that category are around twice as much as increases in food price. But there is more unwelcome news.

The yearly comparisons do not show recent movement in prices. If prices in December last year are compared with the previous September the biggest upward movement in prices was for food. During the last three months of last year, food prices jumped 6.4%.

Even worse, increases in food prices hits us harder in the pocket because we spend more than a third of our weekly budget on food.

The only price category to reduce over the last three months of 2024 was clothing. Since we spend much less on clothing than we do on food, we probably will not feel any benefit from the 6% overall fall in the price of clothes.

Annual percentage change, Q4 2024 compared to Q4 2023

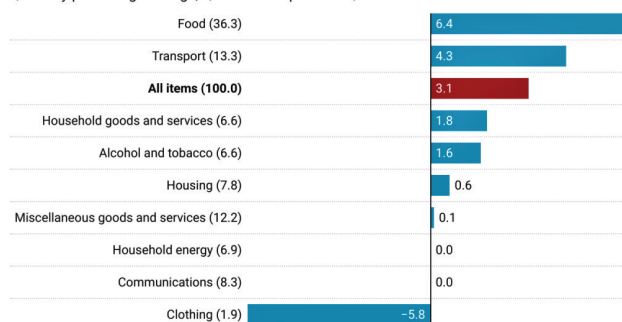


The share of average household expenditure spent on each category of goods and services in the base year (2024) is given in parenthesis.

Source: SHG Statistics Office - Created with Datawrapper

Price Movements Over the Final Three Months of 2024

Quarterly percentage change, Q4 2024 compared to Q3 2024



The share of average household expenditure spent on each category of goods and services in the base year (2024) is given in parenthesis.

Source: SHG Statistics Office - Created with Datawrapper

When Storm Éowyn Hit the West Coast of Ireland

Vince Thompson

You may recall Storm Éowyn which got a lot of coverage when hitting the British Isles last Friday and Saturday. On the other hand, if you did hear of it, you may have forgotten it – Storm Herminia breezed in on Sunday and Monday to grab attention. This is about Éowyn, not Herminia.

Éowyn is the name given to a noblewoman of Rohan by JRR Tolkien in his Lord of the Rings trilogy (available as a box set). Tolkien made the name up. Pronounced 'A-yo-win' - 'eoh', means horse and 'wyn', means joy. It must have seemed appropriate to Tolkien to combine the two into one; in his books the Rohan were skilled horse riders. In November 2021 Storm Arwen was named after another Tolkien character, an elvish princess. Never mind that, back to Storm Éowyn. It so happens elder brother lives right on the west coast of Ireland – Westport County Mayo. One day last week he emailed to say an officially classified 'violent' storm was coming in with winds estimated at speeds up to 29 metres per second. That's Irish to me. Translated it's 65 mph. So, at the break of dawn last Friday morning, elder brother and his wife were ready with their hard hats as the storm arrived. None of the family heard anything the following morning, so a search was mounted – on Google. Lots of power cuts reported in that part of Ireland affecting thousands. Only cold showers, no cups of tea and early to bed for big bro'?

On Sunday he got an internet connection to tell us he was safe and comfortable in an old, well-established hotel where the electricity flowed. There were plenty of armchairs to sink into, wooden beams across the ceilings and large fireplaces.

I told him it was the type of hotel that catches fire from time to time. The wood is at least 100 years old, dry as a bone and just waiting for a single flame to catch fire. I told him not to worry. Everything comes in threes, they say, and a hotel fire would only be number two. If a fire happened, he and his wife would come out unscathed – to await major disruption number three.

I also told him before Storm Éowyn came to his door that winds of 65 mph are nothing to write home about. We've done better than that in St Helena I told him. On Saturday 28th August 2021 in I'll old St Helena it was the high point in windy weather during a windy month. At 3am on that day the highest windspeed was recorded since records began. 103.57 mph I told him, and no-one batted an eyelid here, we can take it. After the storm the power cut was expected to last two days. Big bro' and wife would go home when the power cuts had been sorted out. I bet I get more power cuts than you do, I told him.

On social media someone took a photo and had a joke -

Actual photo of humanitarian aid heading to Ireland



Storm Eowyn

Big Bro' got his share



Act your age big bro' you're over eighty now!

'Name Withheld' Congratulates 'Contributor' and Ken Westmoreland

A letter received at the *Independent* this week comments on several things connected with how St Helena is governed. Much of it in response to what 'Contributed' wrote in the "Loyal and Unshakeable" contribution for the 10th January edition. The writer of the letter asked that his (or her) name should not be mentioned but that any comments made could be published. Also, a further request was to pass on the comments from 'Name Withheld' to 'Contributed'. I hope you followed that 'cos I got myself lost.

Anyway, the point is, 'Name Withheld' praised 'Contributor' and Ken Westmoreland (do we know if that is a real name?) for informative and interesting contributions to the *Independent*. 'Name Withheld' added that both 'Contributor' and Ken Westmoreland had clearly thought deeply about the subject and expressed themselves well.

The name of the next name withheld contributor will probably be called 'Anonymous':-

The Last Night at Paul Gasteen's Mule Yard

The Mule Yard under Mr Paul Gasteen hosted their last event 'The Farewell Party' last Saturday. Before the final event, various regular DJs and Bands entertained the public with the Big Easy putting on a fantastic performance to a large crowd who came to appreciate Paul and his staff past and present for the many good nights.

Words of appreciation could be heard from those present on the evening and seen via social media, which has been nothing but positive.

Paul thanks all customers for their support, the staff past and present, all entertainers and artists and the media. It's been an amazing 4 and a half years.



The Mule Yard Staff, with their Mural in the background...

"One for the Road"...



Huge Improvement in Digital Communications on Tristan

The February edition of the Tristan da Cunha Newsletter (a 44-page glossy magazine) includes an account by Simon Butters on his work enhancing internet connectivity for the Settlement. A former RAF airman turned Technical Specialist; Simon Butters has visited over 120 countries. He has made previous visits to Tristan in 2019, 2022 and 2023 to work on improving Tristan's international communications. The aim of his 2024 visit was "to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity to as much of Edinburgh of the Seven Seas as possible."

Simon started work to achieve his aim the moment he stepped ashore at Tristan. He recalls, "With a mountain of work ahead, I collaborated with Simon Glass, Head of Tristan da Cunha's Communications Department, to test SpaceX's Starlink system on the afternoon of our first day. After a year-long effort involving countless meetings with Philip Kendall, Simon Glass, the FCDO in London, and Vodafone UK, it was a marvellous celebration to witness the deployment of blisteringly high internet speeds, achieving an impressive bandwidth increase of up to 2870% compared to the existing system."

Working with Tristan's Communications Department, "days turned into weeks as we commissioned a fibre optic underground cable to connect the IT container to the Prince Philip Hall in the heart of the village. This development allowed us to distribute internet connectivity to all properties, achieving 100% coverage. For the first time, the people of Tristan da Cunha could roam outdoors with connectivity, using apps like WhatsApp to make calls from their mobile phones—a luxury previously available only inside when connected to a Wi-Fi hub. We even managed to get online from the golf course, the 1961 volcano, and the end of Calshot Harbour!"

The new high speed internet service has been well received by the islanders and will make a real difference to education, the hospital, government departments and everyday life. Simon Butters recalled, "A highlight was being stopped in the street a few days ago by a somewhat emotional islander, who had been able to see her friends for the first time in years live on a video call."

The incoming internet link from the Starlink system achieves a bandwidth of up to 300Mbps, this can fluctuate depending on the network use at any given time. Initial testing has resulted in speeds up to 290Mbps.



Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, more usually called 'the Settlement'. Initially hoping to connect most of the Settlement to the Starlink system, coverage proved to extend much further – as indicated.

Continues on NEXT PAGE...

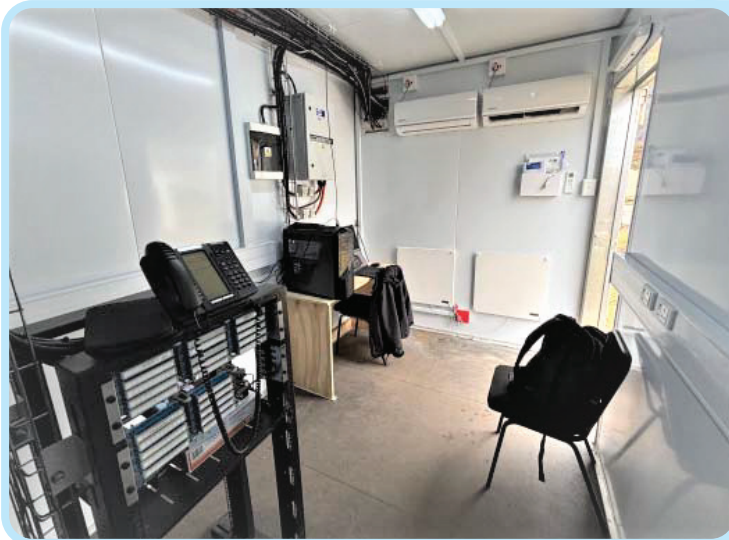
Huge Improvement in Digital Communications on Tristan:

Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...



The Starlink system is situated on the roof of the IT Container (Communications HQ which was commissioned in May 2022) located next to the Administration building.

Inside the container which is Tristan's global communications hub



Looking one way. . .



And the other

► **Kelly Green reports**

The introduction of the new Starlink system has been a game-changer. Not only has it improved life with faster internet speeds, but also extended connectivity all the way to the harbour. This has made coordinating ships much easier, as staying in contact is now seamless, even when I'm working down there.

Thanks to the upgrade, we're now able to offer internet access at Café da Cunha. We've also established a dedicated visitor Wi-Fi hotspot, which operates on a secure voucher system. Unlike the previous setup, where we had to share the tourism Wi-Fi password, this new system prevents unauthorised sharing, ensuring a better and more secure experience for everyone. Islanders pay £5 a month for internet access at home.

Memorial Service for Sean Burns

Report and pictures from Sean's daughter Kelly Green

On Sunday 12th January 2025, the ashes of the late Administrator Sean Burns were laid to rest on Tristan da Cunha. Sean served as the island's Administrator during three separate postings, and also served on St Helena and Ascension Island. He dedicated around 13 years to the South Atlantic islands.



Sean Burns' ashes in St Mary's church during the memorial service

In March 2023, Sean tragically suffered a stroke while on Tristan. Despite being medically evacuated, he sadly passed away at sea on 16th March 2023.

The memorial service, beautifully led by Carlene Glass-Green, was integrated into the Sunday service. His ashes were then interred in the island cemetery. Sean's family was deeply moved by the overwhelming turnout and the heartfelt kindness shown by the community.



Church server Savanna Green is Sean's granddaughter

From the Tristan da Cunha website

Sean Burns served in several senior positions on all three South Atlantic islands – St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. He is remembered with affection.



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Baptism	Cathedral
9.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael

Monday 3rd February 2025

7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
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Thursday 6th February 2025

7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
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The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
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Tuesday 4th February 2025

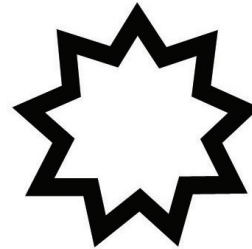
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark
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Baha'i Faith

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



Community Development Organisation

Appeal to form a Committee

The Community Development Organisation (CDO) was established in 2013 to support St Helena's civil society through a Community Grant Scheme.

SHG funding for the Grant Scheme was suspended in 2020. Nonetheless, the organisation continued to operate, offering match funding grants up to £1,000 from reserves. These grants acted as a vital source of support for local organisations, many of which are solely reliant on volunteers.

At the last AGM, held Tue 14th January 2025, there was failure in forming a committee.

The outgoing Chairperson is taking forward another attempt to form a committee and is appealing to all of the community for support.

Outgoing Committee

Chairperson: Mia Henry
Vice Chairperson: Bramwell Bushuru
Treasurer: Danielle Anthony
Secretary: Tara Wortley
Committee Members: Cynthia Bennett
Shayla Ellick

The Bank Balance at 31 March 2024 was £22,818.44.

If you are passionate about and believe in the value of St Helena's voluntary organisations, charities, Community Centres, clubs and Non-Government Organisations, please do come along and meet as follows:

Date: Tuesday 11 Feb | **Time:** 7:30pm | **Where:** Jamestown Community Centre

For more information please contact Mia Henry on 22699 / mia@helanta.co.sh

Vacancy

Senior Baker - Operations



Salary for the post will commence at £14,508 per annum (£1,209 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Bakery for a Senior Baker (Operations).

As the Senior Baker (Operations) you will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of commercial bread production, ensuring that all products are produced to the highest quality standards while maintaining a safe and efficient work environment. You will also be responsible for supervising staff, managing production schedules, ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations and you will deputise in the absence of the Bakery Manager.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be accredited and / or have 5 years proven experience in Bakery Management, with strong interpersonal, organisational, communication and leadership skills
- Have at least 5 years proven experience as a Baker in the preparation & production of Artisan Bread and Bread Products
- Proficiency in baking techniques, including knowledge of various bread products, pastry, and dessert recipes.
- Possess Grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Have certification in RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering or equivalent. In-depth knowledge of food safety regulations and best practices, including proper handling, storage, and sanitation procedures
- Have strong attention to detail with the ability to maintain high standards of quality control throughout the baking process.
- Have the ability to create and develop new recipes that align with current trends while maintaining quality and consistency.
- Be able to manage the delivery of commercial scale production plans, familiarity with commercial baking equipment and production of artisan breads.
- Have experience in managing inventory levels for ingredients and supplies, including ordering and stock rotation practices.
- Proven experience in leading a team including training, mentoring, and performance management.
- Be able to work unsocial hours and undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Productions) 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 hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by 06 February 2025.

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

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Baker



Salary for the post will commence at £13,500 per annum (£1,125 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Bakery for a Baker.

As the Baker you will be required to carry out duties related to the production and packaging of high-quality Artisan and Bread products and to ensure the agreed production is met in adherence to agreed quality standards, along with deputising in the absence of the Senior Baker (Operations).

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess 3-5 years proven experience as a Baker in the preparation & production of Artisan Bread and Bread Products
- Proficiency in baking techniques, including knowledge of various bread, pastry, and dessert recipes.
- Have knowledge and be proficient in the use of baking equipment.
- Be self-motivated, organised, innovative and able to motivate and lead the team.
- Have capacity to develop new recipes and innovate existing ones to enhance the bakery's offerings.
- Have certification in RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Hygiene in Catering or equivalent
- Possess Grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent and possess a qualification or professional competence in Baking
- Be able to achieve the delivery of commercial scale production plans
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Be able to work unsocial hours and undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Productions) 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 hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by 06 February 2025.

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- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

Feel connected to your future.



We're looking for an IP/Networks Technician

Join our team in supporting the operation and maintenance of our network infrastructure used to deliver a range of services to our customers, including fixed line, broadband, mobile and television rebroadcast services.

An ideal candidate should possess:

- a high standard of written and oral communication
- a high degree of computer literacy
- have a good knowledge and understanding of computer networking and experience and understanding of a variety of different systems
- experience in the operation and maintenance of electrical systems
- a good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices
- Cisco or CCNA or other network equivalent certification is desirable

Due to the nature of this position, the post holder must hold a satisfactory police disclosure and a valid class C drivers licence.

Join us and you will enjoy some of the many benefits that Sure provides, including but not limited to: Incentive Bonus Scheme, Staff Discount, entitlement to join the Retirement Benefits Plan and opportunities for continued professional development.

The starting salary for the new post-holder is dependent on qualifications and experience.

Further information regarding the responsibilities of the post may be discussed with Deon Yon, Senior Networks Technician on Tel no: +290 22440 or E: Deon.Yon@sure.com

Application forms may be obtained from Bishops Rooms or contact Keirah Wade, HR & Finance Administrator on T: +290 22800 or E: Keirah.Wade@sure.com

Applications to be submitted to the HR & Finance Administrator, Sure South Atlantic Limited, Bishops Rooms, Jamestown by 4pm on Monday, 3 February 2025.



Has an exciting opportunity for a Part Time Technical Trainer Assistant - Recycling/Craft (3 days per week)

Purpose of Role:

- To assist the Co-ordinator in the planning and preparations of work tasks to inspire, enthuse, and train disabled and vulnerable adults in the field of recycling processes of paper and card, and providing them with knowledge, skills and experience in the world of work, with a view to some eventually obtaining full time employment.
- Assist with the making of products from recycled paper and card as well as undertake upcycling projects for sale to the public as directed by the Co-ordinator in an effort to increase revenue to assist in covering operating costs of the Recycling Centre.
- To maintain all machinery and tools used within the Recycling Centre for sustainability.

Responsible to SHAPE Manager (Work tasks set by Recycling Co-ordinator)

Permanent - Part-time (3 days per week)



For a full job description and requirements of the role please contact Mrs Marianne Young-Crowie (Manager) on 24690 or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Application forms can be requested from SHAPE Sandy Bay Main Office by phone 24690 or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Please submit your application form no later than 4pm on Friday 7th February 2025

We look forward to hearing from you!



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Storekeeper (Accommodation)

Total package value up to £18,798.00 pa

(comprising salary up to £11,520 pa, plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We're looking for a new member of staff to join our Stores team to assist the Team Leader with the daily operations in AIG's Stores and Accommodation.

What you'll do

You will carry out some functions associated with Stores including stock control, processing of stock issues and dealing with customer sales and queries on a daily basis, receiving and safekeeping of goods received into the stores. Duties will also include assembling and delivery of furnishings to AIG accommodation, preparation of accommodation including general cleaning of gardens and patios and carrying out minor DIY tasks in the Central Stores and Accommodation. You will be required to unload freight and cargo as well as pack goods for onward shipment. For more information please take a look at the Job Description available via the link given below.

What you'll bring

You will need customer service skills and some basic computer skills including use of Microsoft Word and Excel, knowledge of Sage accounting would be an advantage. You will need to have drivers licence classes A, B & J and recent forklift operating experience.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £11,520 (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

The appointment will be subject to:

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

Closing date: **07 February 2025**

Interviews: **from w/c 10 February 2025 (via video call if off island)**

Start date: **As soon as possible.**

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit:

www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

VACANCY



METER READER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) is seeking the services of a self-employed contractor for the provision of Meter Reading services for a period of one year. The suitable contractor will form part of a team of Meter Readers who will be expected to provide readings for both water and electricity usage from customer premises in accordance with issued routes lists, and submit the readings to the Connect Billing Office by a specified deadline.

Reading of Meters will need to take place from the 1st – 12th of each month between Monday and Sunday within specified time frames as set out by Connect, hours of work may vary to suit own contractors/customers schedules. The successful candidate must provide their own transportation.



EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- The ability to organise their own schedule, meet deadlines and record accurate readings is essential.
- The Meter reader will interact regularly with Connect's customers and will be expected to act professionally and with integrity and in accordance with Connect's Code of Practice.
- Effective communicator with good time management skills.

For further information contact Phanual Shangwa on +290 22255 or email Phanual.Shangwa@connect.co.sh. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Lisa.Bailey@connect.co.sh by **9:00am Wednesday, 05 February 2025**. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.



www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html



[connectsainthelena](https://www.facebook.com/connectsainthelena)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/>



St Helena
Government

MULE YARD



For Lease by the Property Division is the Mule Yard. This is a great business opportunity in a popular recreational area, located near James Bay and with a prominent view of the ocean.

Registered as JT020006 and measured at 0.31 acres. The lease term is 1 year in the first instance with an option for a further 2 years pending the performance of the business.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 21st February 2025**

CONTACT:

Gina Henry - Crown Estates Officer

Essex House, Jamestown

+290 22270

gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/>

Minimum Wage Consultation: What It Means For You

The St Helena Government is currently consulting on a new minimum wage trajectory for the next three year period. This started in December with employers and continues into January 2025 with sessions planned for employees and the general public.

Your Role in the Consultation

This consultation is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Your participation ensures the best possible evidence is provided to Ministers when taking a decision on the forward trajectory for the minimum wage.

Clearing Up Misconceptions about Tax

A common misunderstanding emerging is that once you have earned above the personal allowance threshold of £7,000 you then pay tax on all of your income. This is not true. Tax is applied only to earnings above the threshold so most of your income remains yours to keep.

Here are some facts about paying tax in St Helena:

Do you know that for every £1 over the tax threshold of £7,000 (up to £25,000) you keep 74p? The same principle applies to earnings over £25,000, that you keep 69p for every pound above the £25,000.

Examples.

- For a person on the minimum wage of £150/week or £7,800/year for a 37.5 hour week this means only £800/year is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £150, is £146/week after tax or £7,592/year.
- For someone on a wage of £192/week or £10,000/year this means £3,000 is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £192, is £177/week after tax, or £9,220/year.
- For someone on a wage of £384/week or £20,000/year this means £13,000 is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £384, is £320/week after tax, or £16,620/year.

Why Paying Tax Matters

Paying tax, if you are eligible, is a social responsibility. The government, any government anywhere, needs to raise revenue to pay for the delivery of public services which we all use and includes education, health and refuse collection to name but a few.

A Note on Penalties

Not declaring income that is liable to tax is an offence carrying a fine. In a worst case scenario, for example by a person knowingly giving false or misleading information to the tax office and not paying the correct tax, the fine could be as high as up to 75% of the tax shortfall in addition to the amount that should have been paid. In less serious scenarios, this could result in a penalty equal to 20% of the tax shortfall.

Strengthening Tax Compliance

SHG is working to strengthen its tax compliance function and the team will be focussing on ensuring that those businesses and individuals who should be paying tax are doing so, creating a fairer, more robust system, which will go some way in helping improve public services for the benefit of all.

SHG looks forward to your continued participation in the consultation process. Contact Head of Strategic Policy, Ann Muir, at the Castle on 22470 for a one to one session. The closing date is Friday 31 January 2025.

VACANCY ADVERT



The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit person for the following post: **Security Training Lead** effective 1 April 2025.

We are seeking a keen individual to take over the to coordinate lesson plans and other training materials that respond to the training needs of security staff and non-security staff, to ensure they are appropriate to the learning needs and prepared accordingly.

The individual will maintain and review our training program to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable policies and procedures.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- ICAO Aviation Security Training qualification or demonstrated relevant aviation experience or willingness to work towards it
- Experience of providing quality customer service
- Proficiency in using Microsoft applications (essential) and security systems and software (desired)
- Strong communication skills and able to communicate effectively with staff, visitors, and external stakeholders.

Applicants must be of a professional manner and also be able to provide the following:

- A full medical assessment
- A 5-year verifiable employment history check and be able to show proof for periods of unemployment in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.
- Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- A Criminal Background Check.
- A clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence categories A and C

For more information, please contact Suelaine Crowie, Security Manager, on email Suelaine.crowie@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 127.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, and would like to receive the job description and application form please contact Tavonga Chikwenhere at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext128 or email address recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero

The closing date for this position is **07 February 2025**.

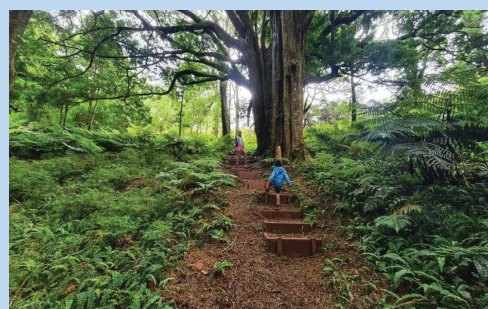
'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest' News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project



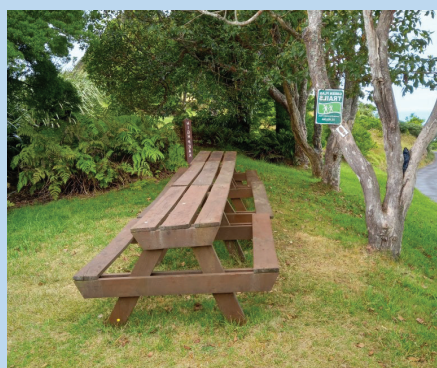
Welcome to another 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Today we remind you about the re-opening of two previously closed areas of St Helena's Peaks National Park that are now once again accessible to the public following the receipt of soil testing results by St Helena Government.

As part of work to better understand the plant pathogens affecting tree health within the Peaks National Park - and to inform management going forward - soil testing in sites across the Peaks National Park was carried out to determine whether or not the plant pathogen *Phytophthora kelmanii* was present.



In December, it was confirmed that two popular walks where soil testing was found to be negative for *Phytophthora kelmanii* were being re-opened. These were the High Peak Post-box walk, now open along a shorter route than the previous circular one, and the Hardings & Casons Forest nature trail, also now open.



It is important that care is still taken to protect our precious endemics and therefore all signage and biosecurity measures for footwear cleaning must be adhered to when visiting these sites. Please note that the High Peak walk is now via a shorter route and that access to the George Benjamin Arboretum and Diana's Peak remains prohibited!

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:



STAR PRIZES!

- Daycation @ Rockmount
- Boat trip with wicked wahoo
- Dan's bakery vouchers

HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA
PRESENTS

Valentine's

QUIZ NIGHT
FEBRUARY 8TH
Doors Open 1830hrs

Hot food on sale
cash bar &
Great prizes to be won!

Join us for a valentine's themed evening of entertainment at
Jamestown Community Centre.

Tickets are £2 per person - Teams of 6

Register your team NLT 7th Feb with Harford Primary school

Tel: 24719 or deborah.augustus@sainthelena.edu.sh

DRAW YOUR WASTE MANAGEMENT SUPERHERO!

CAN YOU CREATE ST HELENA'S NEWEST
SUPERHERO?









RULES

YOUR HERO MUST BE INSPIRED BY RECYCLING
COMPETITION OPENED TO 4 - 11 YEAR OLDS

CLOSING DATE 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

TOP THREE DESIGNS TO RECEIVE ART AND SUSTAINABILITY
PRIZE BUNDLES VALUING BETWEEN £50 - £80

-  Designs must be done on A4 paper in any medium, with your name, year group & school written on the back.
-  Please submit your design to a teacher or drop it off at the St Helena National Trust building in Jamestown.
-  **Waiver:** On entering this competition we automatically reserve the right to use the picture for promotional materials, purchased profitable merchandise, online and print publication.
-  **Disclaimer:** Your entry might not be used in its entirety, but elements may be used to complement a design.
-  Any further questions please contact: info@trust.org.sh or call +290 22569
-  Winners announced on 18th March 2025 for World Recycling Day



Delivered in partnership with the South Atlantic Plastics Project

Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Senior Human Resources Assistant (£9,781 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high quality HR service. Keys areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing date: **12 February 2025**

School Support Officer – Prince Andrew School (£9,781 per annum)

This diverse role will give you the opportunity to be a part of a small, but busy team providing administrative support to ensure the smooth running of Prince Andrew School and to deliver a high quality, customer focused service.

We are seeking to recruit an individual who is confident in using ICT systems including Management Information Systems and MS Office, has experience of working with budget and finance, demonstrates attention to detail and works methodically, and have excellent organisational skills to meet the busy demands of the service.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Phil Toal on Tel No. 24290 or Email**
phil.toal@sainthelena.edu.sh

Closing date: **12 February 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 25/30 days leave per annum, according to grade, 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 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, betting / 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

Programme & Project Coordinator (£12,049 per annum)

A Market Enhancement of £3,500 per annum will apply and be reviewed after a 2 year period

Do you have an understanding of project and programme management aspects – e.g. lifecycle, project proposals, procurement and stakeholder management? If so, this could be an opportunity for you! In this role, you will be required to collaborate with all functions of the Programme Management Office, including elements of project planning and delivery, as well as work to improve overall project and programme capacity.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Paul Cherrett on Tel No 22270 or
Email: Paul.Cherrett@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 7 February 2025

Support Workers - Children's Residential Home (Available for local interest) (£10,361 per annum)

3 Month Fixed-Term Contracts or Casuals

Children's Residential Home is seeking suitable persons with experience of working with young people with the ability to communicate and interact fully showing commitment and dedication to safeguarding to join their team. You will also be required to maintain a high quality of care and support which meets the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and cultural needs of young people within the care setting.

Why not contact us for further information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Annabel Phillips on Tel No. 24386 or
Email: Annabel.phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 6 February 2025

Benefits

Leave – 25/30 days leave per annum, according to grade, 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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A Saint FM Community Radio update.

Saint FM has successfully navigated through the festive season, delivering on our commitment and promise to keep Saint FM alive through Christmas and New Year, with only a few minor hiccups and challenges along the way. Thank you to our dedicated voluntary presenters, we've been able to maintain service and are now looking forward to 2025 with renewed determination. However, we continue to rely on **your** support and feedback to shape the station's future and ensure its sustainability.



Our achievements Since November 29th, 2024.

- **Donations and Revenue:** Generous supporters have contributed sufficient funds both online and through local donations to keep the station running for a while longer, our current revenue stream is from Adverts and Announcements and supporters' donations only.
- **Operational Costs:** While we await final utility bills and other expenses, we've prepared preliminary cash flow estimates that should sustain us into the foreseeable future. Our focus has been on maintaining daily operations and improving facilities while exploring new revenue streams.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Through donations and upcycling, we've made significant upgrades to the station at minimal cost. Efforts to streamline expenses are ongoing.
- **Staffing Changes:** The workload required to run Saint FM is not sustainable with volunteers alone. To address this, we've begun looking into introducing part-time roles for operational and administrative tasks, as outlined in our long-term plan.

Although we have change some of traditional programming output of Saint FM, this remains a key area where we need improvement. While we deeply appreciate the efforts of our voluntary presenters, we recognise the need to enhance our broadcast schedule and content, to address this, we'll soon hold a presenter meeting to review what works, what doesn't, and gather ideas for improvement.

This is where you come in and we would like **YOUR FEEDBACK!**

Can you tell us what is working and what isn't?

What you'd like to hear, what entertainment do you enjoy, and what isn't working for you as a listener.

Feedback can be shared directly or confidentially via ops@saint.fm or directly to Johnny@saint.fm

Online feedback can be left by **completing this form** or here <https://www.saint.fm/feedback/>

YOUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT ARE IMPORTANT TO US, and all feedback will be reviewed carefully for consideration, we all know this will be a challenge for us but we will do what we can within our gift and with our limited resources to deliver an enjoyable Saint FM.

We've identified gaps in our programming from midday to the afternoon, largely due to most volunteers being unavailable during work hours.

This is where **we need your help!**

- Are you an organisation with an idea to promote and share your work?
- Do you have some free time during the day?
- Have you ever thought about presenting but weren't sure where to start?

If you have an idea for a themed or feature radio program that could engage listeners during these hours, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to us and share your thoughts together, we can create something amazing for our community.

A reminder of the Saint FM contact Information.

Please use the following emails for specific inquiries:

ops@saint.fm – For operational matters. | toair@saint.fm – For advertisements and announcements. | studio@saint.fm – For live presenter interactions, requests, or dedications.

Death Announcements: ideally, we would like this information (via email please) to be submitted by family members or if a point of contact is used to manage this difficult time for you, then a notification to let us know avoids confusion.

If you are unsure about anything relating to Saint FM the first point of contact is ops@saint.fm we normally answer really quickly. **Please respect voluntary presenters who are enjoying time at home.**

Looking ahead, we'll provide regular updates via our website as we give it our best shot to attempt to build a future for Saint FM and community entertainment. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far, your contributions, feedback and encouragement are what keep us going as the heartbeat of St Helena.

Warm regards, Johnny & Paul - Saint FM Community Radio | www.saint.fm | <https://www.facebook.com/SaintFMCommunityRadio>



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Crown Counsel

Total package value up to £65,742.00 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £51,515 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

We're looking for a Solicitor or Barrister to take a full and active role in ensuring the good governance of Ascension Island.

What you'll do

You'll provide a full range of legal services to the Ascension Island Government (AIG) and be an active participant in the government's Senior Management Team. Through the provision of strategic legal advice, you'll support the AIG's Directorates to achieve their objectives, and contribute to the good governance of the island by taking a proactive approach to the identification, mitigation and management of legal risks.

You'll be responsible for managing any litigation brought against or by the Government, including civil and employment litigation, as well as acting as the prosecuting authority in respect of criminal matters. You'll also provide legal support for the government's legislative agenda, in particular providing legal advice on policy development, liaising with external lawyers on legislative drafting, and supporting post-legislative implementation.

What you'll bring

As a Solicitor or Barrister with at least three, years' post-qualification experience, including both litigation and advisory work, you'll be someone who is knowledgeable, adaptable and resilient with a high level of person integrity. You'll bring experience of managing the competing demands of a busy practice, the ability to prioritise effectively and work under minimal supervision, with responsibility for delivering to deadlines on key and often complex legal issues.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £51,515 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and the following benefits:

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

The appointment will be subject to:

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

Closing date: 18 February 2025

Interviews: Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews [by MS Teams or Skype] may be scheduled before the application deadline. Early applications are encouraged.

Required start date: 01 April 2025, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/vacancies>

If you have any queries about the role, email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

Weekend Cricket Results & Fixtures

Submitted by SHCA

Saturday 25/1/25

Sandy Bay Pirates - 130/10 (30.2 overs)

Ian Williams - 41(49)
David Young - 23(14)
Jordi Henry - 2-16(7 overs)
Jordan Yon - 2-34(7 overs)

Challengers 132/4 (17.2overs)

Andrew Yon - 58*(49)
Jordi Henry - 32(31)
Brett Isaac - 2-23(4.2overs)
Greg Coleman - 1-29(3overs)
Player of the Match- Jordi Henry (Challengers)



St. Helena Cricket Association

Sunday 26/1/25

Cobras - 93/10 (22overs)

Michael Bedwell - 43(53)
Clayton Leo - 3-14(7 overs)
Brendan Leo - 3-23(7 overs)

Levelwood Allstars - (94/2 (9.3overs)

Kristian Leo - 49*(29)
Dane Leo - 25(21)
Blaze Baldwin - 2-16(1over)
Player of the Match - Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars)

Levelwood Rebels - 295/3 (35overs)

Delroy Leo - 154(110)
Weston Clingham - 107*(85)
Jamie Ellick - 2-35(3overs)
Gareth Johnson - 1-35(7overs)

Mustangs - 296/0 (31overs)

Gareth Johnson - 153*(101)
Scott Crowie - 104*(91)
Player of the Match - Gareth Johnson (Mustangs)

Fixtures for this weekend

Saturday 1/2/25

1:15pm - Western A Mustangs v Levelwood Allstars (Umpires - Ralph Knipe and Delroy Leo)

Sunday 2/2/25

8:45am - Challengers v Cobras (Umpires - Dane Leo and Brendan Leo)

1:15pm - Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Rebels (Umpires - David Price and Gavin Ellick)

Premier League Fixtures

Saturday 1st February

12:30

Nottingham Forest v Brighton
& Hove Albion

15:00

AFC Bournemouth v Liverpool
Everton v Leicester City
Ipswich Town v Southampton
Newcastle United v Fulham

17:30

Wolverhampton Wanderers v
Aston Villa

Sunday 2nd February

14:00

Brentford v Tottenham Hotspurs
Manchester United v Crystal
Palace

16:30

Arsenal v Manchester City

Monday 3rd February

20:00

Chelsea v West Ham United



Premier
League

Golf Report:

Charlie Ruddy Sponsored 18 Hole Stableford Competition

Report by SHGC

Last Sunday 26th January 2024, 16 enthusiastic golfers gathered for the Charlie Ruddy sponsored 18 Hole Stableford competition. The round began under cloudy skies, but as the last two groups approached the 10th tee, fog rolled in accompanied by showers. With no sign of the weather improving, the competition was called off. Players retreated to the warmth of the clubhouse before heading home in a huff.



Upcoming Events

- **2nd February:** The 2 Team Texas Scramble sponsored by Wilson Yon.
- **9th February:** A Three Club Strokeplay competition to celebrate the life of Leon Crowie. Sponsored by Leon Crowie's family. Plenty of prizes to be won.
- **16th February:** The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy Stableford competition.

Stay tuned for more updates and happy golfing!

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP

	GREEN MOUNTAIN 251201	LILAC ROLLER 251203
Immingham	07-Dec	11-Jan
	KAROLINE 251701	KAROLINE 251702
Cape Town	17-Jan	18-Feb
Rupert's Bay	28-Jan	26-Feb
	KAROLINE 251801	KAROLINE 251802
Cape Town	10-Feb	11-Mar

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



Moving your cargo globally with flexibility and care.

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