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“I could fill this place”

Raf of African Oriental Travel says “I have groups lined up, but I’m not sure I should bring them”

see page 2...



Farhat (Raf) and Francisca Jah out in a wilderness, somewhere

Royal Cape Yacht Club Celebrates 120 Years



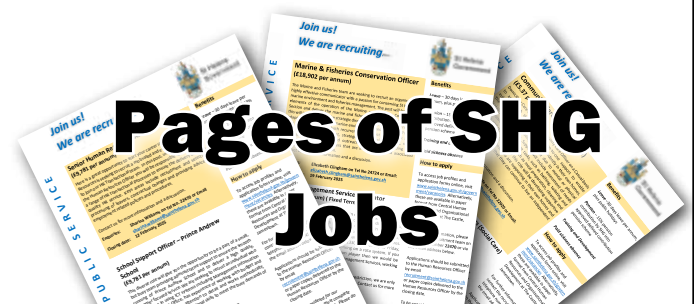
Parking is free, but finding an empty space can often be a challenge.

SHG YouTube Video Admits Parking is “Challenging”

And Other Quick Bits...



SHG Thinks About Selling Shares... Again



Tour Operator: “I could fill this place”

Vince Thompson

Raf rushed up to meet me. He was a bit late and you didn't need to be Einstein to work out he was nowhere near the end of his working day. It was Monday afternoon, some stories for Friday's Independent were starting to emerge and I hoped Raf would have one of them. I expected to burn some midnight oil too. “Let's multi-task”, I said. “We can do this interview while we walk and the dogs have their daily run.” Plantation Forest was too far and there was too little time. The dogs would be deeply aggrieved if skipping around and sniffing their favourite things was curtailed to 15 minutes. So, we got straight into the interview.



Farhat (Raf) and Francisca Jah out in a wilderness, somewhere

Raf and Francisca are the driving force behind African Oriental Travel. The holidays they organise are safaris, expeditions and diving. They offer ten diving destinations, one of them is St Helena. If you want to keep dry, they offer seven safari destinations and five expeditions.

“Have your St Helena diving holidays recovered from the pandemic. Why choose St Helena? Does St Helena have what you want for the diving holiday package you want to offer your customers?”

Raf jumped straight in, “I love this Island, I want to keep coming back. It's beautiful, it has so much to offer on land and sea.” He said more about loving this Island. “I have been marketing this magical

Island for 9 years. I have been travelling the world giving lectures and talks telling people about how amazing St Helena is.” Raf has been here five times since 2018 and other group leaders in his travel company have brought divers here. Diving is the most successful attraction in St Helena for travellers from overseas. “I could fill this place bringing more diving groups here,” said Raf. Right now, there are two groups lined up from the United States but I'm not sure I should bring them”.

Flight Delays Could Kill the Business

Raf and his group of divers were on the receiving end of the Saturday flight from Cape Town not arriving until Wednesday. Chopping eleven days of diving down to six is not something that persuades first time visitors to return here again. Their stories told back home about 'what they did on their holidays' will not persuade others to come to St Helena. The big concern for Raf is, will the weather at the airport runway mean the ten diving destinations offered by Africa Oriental Travel could become nine – if St Helena is crossed off the list? This is the first time the weather is the reason for a flight cancellation in January. Is this a one-off or the start of a trend? Flights were also cancelled in December and November, as well as in the usual mid-winter months. Has climate change caused St Helena to have a peak tourist season which will be increasingly damp, misty and generally useless for tourists? We don't know. Nobody knows, but uncertainty is not good for a travel operator who risks lots of money up front, hoping tourists will book the packages offered. It is no good for tourists either. The prospect of spending four nights in an airport hotel, doing nothing, will make them run a mile – in the wrong direction.

As we discussed airport weather, Craig Yon of Dive St Helena happened to pass by – well almost, Raf stopped him. Raf knew Craig and has done business with him. “Has the weather affected your business?”, Raf asks Craig. The message that resulted from a fast-paced conversation that darted over several topics is that the diving season has slipped back on the calendar. Craig has tours running through to and including May but the season now starts in February, not January as before. Craig appeared more relaxed about low cloud in January obscuring the pilot's view of the runway; he seems to go for 'blip' rather than the start of a trend. Craig also mentioned that diving sessions can be booked in Cape Town if plane delays mean plans have to be changed. No chance of that if you land in Jo'burg.

Tour Operator: “I could fill this place”

Vince Thompson



With that, Craig said he must go – things to do. But he didn't go before arranging to return to show Raf the accommodation at the Blue Lantern. Raf was interested in checking it out; it could be another option he could put in his back pocket if and when he puts together another St Helena diving package – weather permitting.

With time running out and the dogs patiently waiting too long in the back of the car for their run (and sniff) Raf mentioned the £800plus that divers pay to get to St Helena from South Africa does not put them off if they really want to travel here for “some of the most remarkable scuba diving on earth”. The people Raf brings here pay the “enormous amount of money to come here” because he says “he persuades them that it's worth it”.

A hotel like the Mantis is a must as well as good local diving guides and tour organisers. But Raf has noticed over his five visits that “hospitality facilities on the island are now less than they were when I arrived in February 2018 when the RMS was still running”. Raf warmed to his theme. “Restaurants are closed. Restaurants that remain open are intermittent on weekends only, clearly geared for the Saints. There is no capacity built into the catering system to take care of groups. The only exception to this is Anne's restaurant.”

I asked him if St Helena had any other drawbacks. I lit a fuse. I should probably do a little scene-setting. On the Africa Oriental website the 'About Us' page describes how Raf got started at a tour operator. “I had no idea what I was doing, I simply had total confidence that if I kept trying, I'd get there” Raf recalls. He did get there. There is more to it than confidence, of course. Inexhaustible energy, conviction, knowing how to avoid problems and being a born salesman are just some of them. Not everybody has all these features in their make-up so people with confidence and conviction are happy to give others the benefit of their knowledge and experience. More often than not, the advice they are willing to give is straight and to the point. There are people who do not like receiving advice from people who don't waste their breath.

Raf replied, “I gave feedback on the shortcomings of St. Helena, 8 years ago on my first arrival. I fed this back to the Foreign Office in London, the Governor on the island and the Chief of Police and the Chief of Immigration. Every year that I come here I speak to Councillors, Ministers and the Governor. No one does anything. Everything that I have requested has either been ignored or got worse. The problem here is not the Saints. The Saints are free thinking, welcoming, and some of them extremely dynamic. In spite of all of these issues, I can still bring people here. I just need an airport that takes an Embraer twice a week. Either the airport needs to become an all-weather airport where the pilots can land using Instrument Landing System (ILS) category 3B. Or a new runway needs to be built that is 3000m long with day and night ILS.”

To explain, a category 3B system allows visibility conditions to be usually no less than 50 feet (15m) and a visual range of less than 200 meters, but not below 50 meters.

Raf continued. He mentioned the immigration official he saw when entering St Helena on Wednesday. The official insisted on issuing a visa which ended on the same date as his return ticket, despite arriving 4 days late. A short stay visa can be issued for 183 days so what was all that about? asked Raf. He was thinking of extending the stay for his group but officialdom had slapped that one down.

At one time Raf had made detailed plans and costs for a diving centre here. It would operate for three months during the diving season. The reason this was necessary is because Anthony Nails had to make plans to move to the UK. Raf had investors lined up. The plan was knocked on the head through lack of assistance from government, the costs and the risk. The main risk being the impact the weather has on flights.

Raf, paused for a moment, probably for the first time, and then said, “I would love to come back and bring more people to this stunning Island, but can I?” At that point, Raf went down Narrabacks to the Blue Lantern and I jumped in the car and took the dogs to Plantation.



How Much Does British Virgin Islands Cost UK?

A Thousand Times More Than St Helena

Proposals from the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to clean up the deals made by their financial centre have been heavily criticised by anti-corruption campaigners in the UK. BVI's latest measures block access to vital beneficial ownership data for journalists, civil society organisations and businesses. This means the real owners of money pouring into the BVI is concealed, making their financial centre the number one choice for the profits from drug-trafficking, other criminal activities and corrupt practices.

In 2005, the Russian government paid Roman Abramovich more than £10 billion for Sibneft, to buy back, at huge profit to him, the oil company he'd paid them just \$250m for 10 years earlier. He used that windfall to expand his luxury property portfolio and art collection and poured money into Chelsea FC. But it was the less high-profile investments that absorbed the majority of the cash, including about 200 hedge funds with complex corporate structures almost always involving the British Virgin Islands (BVI).

Abramovich is suspected of exploiting exploited Britain's offshore havens to funnel wealth through Cyprus to the BVI and dodge up to £1bn in UK tax. That sum exceeds even Bernie Ecclestone's historic tax settlement. Former Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone pleaded guilty to a tax fraud charge and agreed to pay a record-breaking £652mn civil settlement. At a hearing at Southwark Crown Court in London, the 92-year-old billionaire businessman admitted to a single charge of fraud. This charge was connected with Ecclestone's failure to declare £400mn of overseas assets to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

The BVI has for years been the global destination of choice for those seeking maximum secrecy for their money, often tax dodgers and dictators who steal £billions from government funds. The territory has featured prominently in global money-laundering investigations.

Criminals Get Comfortable – St Helena Suffers

This long-running BVI tax dodge saga is said to have helped push back St Helena's attempts to get full international banking facilities operational on-island. The required licences and registrations for international banking are difficult to get. In his book, former Governor Smallman suggests the perceived attitude is that another British Overseas Territory which might operate a financial centre in the same way as BVI, is definitely not wanted.

If You Cannot Go – Phone Up and Cancel

Missed hospital appointments cause considerable disruptions for other patients waiting to be seen by either a doctor or another health professional.

Cancelling in advance means appointments can be offered to someone waiting.

In December alone, an entire three days of appointments were missed with the physiotherapy service.

Amongst GP appointments as much as one week a month of appointments can be missed by people not cancelling. This contributes to longer waiting times for those waiting for an appointment.

Patients who miss two or more scheduled appointments without providing advance notice may be placed back on the waiting list. This measure is necessary to ensure timely access to services for all patients.

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.



Peaks National Park is Closed - Reminder

The Peaks National Park (PNP) is closed and will remain so for at least the next few months. The continued closure is necessary to minimise the spread of the plant pathogens that are present within the PNP and the potential for these to spread via foot traffic and destroy our endemic biodiversity.

Please observe the Environmental Protection Notices (EPNs) that are located at a number of entrances across the PNP.

This is needed to preserve St Helena's unique environment.



An EPN posted at the Cabbage Tree Road entrance

Education Consultant Visiting St Helena

Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, is on-island until Tuesday 18 February 2025 to support the Education Review. Mr Jeffrey's contribution will be instrumental in producing the final Education Review Report.

During his visit, Mr Jeffrey will be visiting Career Access St Helena, the Public Library, the St Helena Research Institute, the St Helena Community College, all four schools, and the Inclusion Section. These visits will provide him with a good understanding of the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, how each sector functions, and how they contribute to the decision-making process.

Fixed Penalty Parking Fines – What SHG Has to Say



Parking is free, but finding an empty space can often be a challenge.

This is a screenshot from a government promotional video for St Helena. Yes, it is admitted – parking in Jamestown is 'challenging'.



St Helena Governance Review – Interim Report

The Role of the Public Service – What the Review Team Say

- 1.** Constitution provides that the Governor has the authority to appoint, remove, or discipline all public servants. The Governor may delegate this power to a public servant. In practice, we presume that this power has been delegated to the Chief Secretary. Although an “independent authority” over all public servants has been mooted, and legislative provision exists in the Constitution, this has not been done.
- 2.** We were informed that most portfolios lacked generalist senior policy staff – this was particularly noted at Education, where a wide range of areas would usually have many specialist policy advisors. Such knowledge gaps are not easily filled, certainly with on island expertise.
- 3.** As with general population trends on St Helena, regard must be had for an ageing Public Service, and plans made to address this. The other problem, shared with other small jurisdictions is that an able person at a lower rank cannot advance up the career ladder until the person above them leaves their job.
- 4.** Despite being the head of the Public Service, the office of Chief Secretary is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution. Oddly, the office of Financial Secretary is mentioned, even though this office is lower than the Chief Secretary in the hierarchy of the Public Service. The Chief Secretary is appointed by the Governor and in practice runs the Public Service. This can cause a problem as Ministers are not able to hire, fire, or even redeploy PDs in whom they have lost confidence. They have no legal routes to do this, nor to influence this to be done. Instead, they must convince the Chief Secretary, or Governor, who may or may not agree.
- 5.** Several stakeholders expressed the view that the Chief Secretary was the real wielder of power within Government and was more important than the Chief Minister and Ministers. This is accentuated by the Central Support Service which reports to the Chief Secretary, and which comprises, Policy, Planning, Central Administration Support Service, Human Resources, Organisational Development, Press Office, IT and Transport. This gives support to the perception that most of the bread-and-butter functions of the Government are controlled by the Chief Secretary, who is neither responsible to, nor appointed by the Chief Minister, or another Minister.
- 6.** There is no doubt that this is in part, a consequence of the legislative framework governing the Chief Secretary, and, commendably, a willingness for the Chief Secretary to make decisions which would otherwise not be made.
- 7.** The Chief Secretary has many reporting public servants, starting with the five PDs (Portfolio Directors), who have both individual, and collective meetings with her. The same PDs have individual meetings with their relevant Minister.
- 8.** Interestingly, only 1 PD is female – compared with the number of female Cabinet Members, and within LegCo.
- 9.** There are a range of models for employing Departmental heads, ranging from permanency, but with Ministers able to “request” a change, which must be accommodated, to fixed term appointments, essentially at the Minister’s pleasure, or “politicised” heads of department, whose tenure is tied to that of the Minister, and which expires at each election.
- 10.** Where positions in the public service cannot be filled with local candidates, Technical Cooperation provisions may be invoked, an international job search takes place, and the appointment occurs at a remuneration much higher than a successful local candidate might receive. This creates some resentment at the local level, but in the near term there is no other solution, because the talent pool is not always available on St Helena. Engaging TCs often means little continuity running a Directorate, plus the loss of momentum when a TC leaves a position, and it is first advertised locally, then if not filled, advertised as a TC.
- 11.** As with most public servants, in most jurisdictions, there was evidence of a general desire to deliver upon priorities and objectives, to improve the lots and lifestyles of St Helenians. That said, we were advised on many occasions that the Public Service continued to operate as if there was still a committee system rather than the ministerial system. One consequence of this was public servants continuing to make the decisions they used to make under the committee system. There was clearly some ambivalence about the “new” supremacy of LegCo, via the Chief Minister, and Ministers, and often no acknowledgement of the Government’s agenda and priorities, as though the public service had its own momentum, goals and objectives.
- 12.** We note and commend the appointment of a Saint, as the current Chief Secretary, for the first time, and encourage every effort to continue. With the impending retirement of the Chief Secretary in 2025 the opportunity presents for the Cabinet (and LegCo) to have a significant role in the determination of the job description, KPIs, appointment, discipline and any termination of the new person.

St Helena Governance Review – Interim Report

The Role of the Public Service – What the Review Team Say

13. The Central Support Service, PDs, and their executive staff need to be more proactive in ensuring public servants understand and acknowledge the ministerial system. This starts with the induction of new public servants.

Recommendations

- 1.** There needs to be much greater input by the Chief Minister and Ministers into the management of the Public Service. Ministers are meant to be running their Portfolios, but there is no mechanism for them to manage their PD or public servants within their Portfolio. There needs to be a normalisation of recruitment and disciplining of PDs to ensure that when a Minister loses confidence in the PD, that action is taken. In the same vein, the appointment of a PD should involve the relevant Minister. Greater input could come via an informal agreement, a formal protocol, or a legislative change to the Constitution.
- 2.** The appointment and management of the Chief Secretary, as head of the Public Service, should also involve the Cabinet.
- 3.** These offices are there to serve the Government, not to be the Government in its own right.
- 4.** There still needs to be protection for the employment status of all public servants. They need to be insulated from arbitrary or political decisions and their independence and impartiality needs to be protected. No public servant, and particularly not the Chief Secretary or the Financial Secretary, should be seen as the personal servant of a Minister.
- 5.** Rather than PDs meeting individually, and collectively, with the Chief Secretary (as their employer), and individually with the relevant Minister, a shared agenda should be agreed for a joint meeting between each PD, the relevant Minister, and the Chief Secretary.
- 6.** Consideration should be given to the creation of an “independent authority” as envisaged by the Constitution, which would be akin to a Public Service Commission, or similar, in other jurisdictions. This would allow for much greater ministerial input into the Public Service, whilst at the same time protecting the independence and impartiality of the Public Service.

Also. . . The Equality and Human Rights Commission

- 1.** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is established under the Equality and Human Rights Ordinance, 2015 and has a wide range of responsibilities relating to overseeing and ensuring that rights established under the Constitution are preserved and protected. It reports to the Minister for Education and Employment, and to LegCo through the Social & Community Development Committee (SCDC) and through the Chief Secretary and has a comprehensive strategic plan – though in need of update, and priorities to be addressed (including, interestingly, the issue of self-determination). It has a key defined role in providing advice to ExCo, the Social & Community Development Committee (SCDC), and Public Accounts Committee of LegCo.
- 2.** The Commission is sufficiently arm’s length from government influence and direction (as evidenced by the requirement that it secure its own public liability insurance), even though its funding, and the appointment of the Commission, and CEO, are by the Governor. In our view, it is in compliance with the Paris Principles on national human rights institutions.
- 3.** The EHRC is well resourced, has clear objectives and work plans, and is initiative-taking in identifying “opportunities and challenges” consistent with its objectives and remit. It has exercised its powers to intervene in judicial review cases and has sent letters before action to the AG in respect of potential legislation.
- 4.** However, there are opportunities for the Commission to be more proactive, under its existing mandate. The EHRC have the power to monitor laws, including the power to give an opinion to ExCo on the likely effect of a proposed change of law. To facilitate this, the Commission needs to have a formalised role in assessing proposed legislation, and commenting on same, including, and ideally when proposals for legislation are under consideration.
- 5.** We found that the EHRC performs a valuable and necessary role in helping the ministerial system comply with human rights and the rule of law.

Not all the recommendations from the review are included here. If any readers would like to have the complete Governance Review - Interim Report, please email independent@helanta.co.sh and ask for a copy. We will email it by return whenever possible.

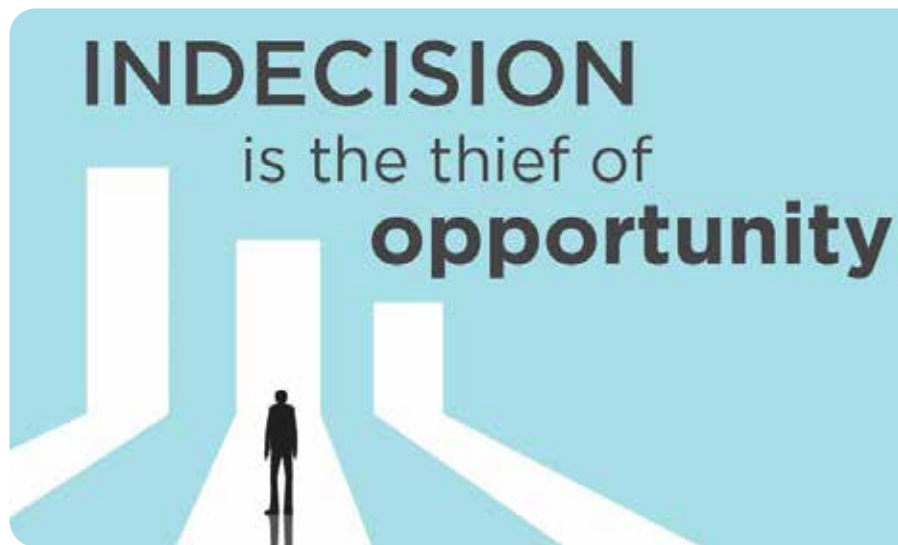
Selling Government Shares

- Going Through the Process Again

The government has recently announced it wants to ‘explore options’ for the possible sale of its shares in Solomon’s. This is not the first time, and will not be the last, when SHG have has a gentle jog around this proposal. In December 2020, the government of that time decided to ‘test the market’ (a decision made after an unknown period of debate) by inviting expressions of interest in SHG’s shareholdings in Solomon’s. The 2020 dip into ‘will we, won’t we’ sell shares faded away. It was decided to go no further after whatever response was received; but surely some useful information was gained from it.

More recently the Executive Council asked officials to “undertake a full options analysis, with specialist support”. This was in August 2023 - according to the date on the SHG announcement. Time rolls by to January 2025 and the August 2023 ‘decision’ is pulled out from the pile of files. Still nothing seems to have happened – except our government has decided to start again at the beginning and it’s 18 months further down the line since Executive Council asked officials to “undertake a full options analysis, with specialist support”.

Last week’s announcement is at pains to tell anyone who might be interested, “SHG has made no decision at this point”. This is despite considering the sale of Solomon’s shares since well before the decision taken in December 2020. Why is there repeated assessments of the same thing spanning several years with no decision taken? Time is money; there are plenty of examples to show this is true.



Last week’s announcement explains; “The purpose of the consultancy advice is to inform the future decision making in this regard.” On past SHG performance this will involve more years of indecision and more expensive consultants’ reports.

Going a bit further back in history, SHG pulled in a consultant (BDO LLP) in 2019 to report on whether Connect

St Helena was improving in various ways and to recommend future improvements. One of the key findings of the consultant’s report was, “CSH is making substantive progress in providing much improved utility services to consumers and a firm foundation to becoming financially self-sustaining with the elimination of the SHG subsidy and the potential for privatisation.”

What happened? Connect is now in the biggest mess of its entire existence, not least, a financial mess. It can be argued that lack of progress with extending renewable energy generation is a significant part of the Connect crisis.

Last week’s announcement on share sales states that selling St Helena Hotel Development Ltd, which owns the Mantis Hotel and the Bank of St Helena is also in the frame. St Helena Hotel Development Ltd (SHHD) own the building, called The Mantis Hotel. Accor Hotels manage the hotel services provided under a contract agreed with SHHD. It follows, presumably, that SHG will be selling the building because that is what this state-owned company owns. If a sale goes ahead will the contract of sale include a watertight legal agreement with the buyer that the contract with Accor

Selling Government Shares

- Going Through the Process Again

will be honoured? Will the buyer agree to a permanent limitation that the building is only used as a hotel? That seems unlikely. What is there to stop a buyer of the building using it for any purpose they wish? The lawyers could be the winners in any transaction that results from 'any future decision' to sell. The consultant appointed to advise on this will probably tell SHG that selling the building has complications. Will the consultant be BDO LLP again? – they have already picked up the fee for a previous consultant's report on the Mantis and they did the 2019 report on Connect St Helena.

A possible sale of the Bank of St Helena is also a question the consultants will report on. After years of senior SHG officials telling us how difficult it is trying to find a fully-fledged international Bank who is interested in buying the Bank of St Helena, what are the chances of a consultant coming up with a different answer? In the early 1990s Governor Smallman describes in his book the efforts made to get the Bank of Nova Scotia established here. An agreement appeared to have been reached in June 1995 but, "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".

The money laundering issues are bigger now than ever, as are the issues of beneficial ownership connected with offering financial services. Will the consultants come back with a recommendation that the most realistic option is to strengthen links established with overseas Banks such as the Gibraltar International Bank and Lloyds TSB in London?

Chief Minister Julie Thomas responded to an enquiry from the Independent saying, "This consultancy advice that you have referred to will provide Ministers with options for consideration and will determine if it is indeed in the best interest of St Helena to release some of these assets from public ownership and if this in the best interest, how do we achieve value for money from any such disposal."



Déjà vu? Or, put another way, the same thing repeats endlessly



A Government Notice appeared in both the Independent and the Sentinel last week, under the title: 'Minimum Wage Consultation: What It Means To You'. In fact, the notice was almost entirely about income tax. It stated:

'A common misunderstanding emerging is that once you have earned above the personal allowance 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.'

I am sure all readers will be grateful for the fact that 'most of your income remains yours to keep'. What good news! In fact, what has been emerging as a result of this series of articles in the Independent is an understanding arising on the island that more income tax is paid, on lower incomes in Saint Helena, than is the case in the United Kingdom. The 'spin' in the Government Notice is an effort to divert attention from this.

The Government Notice asks:

'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.'

More good news!

I will put this a different way. Do you know that for every £1 over £7,000 (up to £12,570) a United Kingdom taxpayer keeps £1? Do you know that for every £1 above the threshold of £12,570 (up to £50,270) a United Kingdom taxpayer keeps 80p?

The Notice then gives a number of examples of the effect of the tax rates in Saint Helena at different income levels. In the first of these, a person on the minimum wage in Saint Helena (in the example, £7,800 a year) 'only' pays tax on £800 of it. A United Kingdom taxpayer earning £7,800 a year would not pay any tax at all. In the second example, a person earning £10,000 a year is liable to pay tax on £3,000 of it (the word 'only' is omitted in this example!). A United Kingdom taxpayer earning £10,000 would not pay income tax on any of it. In the third example, a person earning £20,000 is liable to pay tax on £13,000 of it. A United Kingdom taxpayer earning £20,000 is liable to pay tax on £7,430 of it, meaning the tax actually paid is £1,486. In Saint Helena, the tax actually paid by a person earning £20,000 is £2,600.

The Notice goes on to explain 'Why Paying Tax Matters' and that 'any government anywhere, needs to raise revenue to pay for the delivery of public services which we all use'. It is, of course, not possible to raise sufficient revenue through local taxation in Saint Helena to do this, which is why the Island receives financial assistance from the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom has a duty under international law to provide for the 'reasonable needs' of the island. It is a British Island largely populated by British Citizens. The question is this: can the United Kingdom possibly be said to be providing for the reasonable needs of Saint Helena if it remains necessary, after the current level of financial assistance is taken into account, to levy higher rates of income tax on lower incomes here than is the case in the United Kingdom?

The argument, no doubt, is that there are taxes levied in the United Kingdom that are not levied in Saint Helena, such as National Insurance Contributions and Council Tax, which should be taken into account. But the reality is that most goods in the shops are considerably more expensive here than in the United Kingdom and that median incomes here are considerably lower than in the United Kingdom.

In the United Kingdom, median incomes for full time employment in 2024 were £37,430, compared with £34,963 in 2023, an increase of £2,467 (considerably more than the United Kingdom rate of inflation, so it was an increase in real terms). A person working a 37.5-hour week for the United Kingdom minimum wage earns £22,308 a year, which makes the £7,800 a year here look pretty inadequate. Inflation in the United Kingdom is currently running at around 2.5%. In Saint Helena it is at a 15 year high of 8.2%.

The reality is that young people, together with their children, are leaving Saint Helena in order to take advantage of their right as British Citizens to live and work in the United Kingdom.

As last year's Synod resolution expressed it: 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. This is where the need to meet the island's 'reasonable needs' comes into play, to halt and hopefully reverse the depopulation of the island.

The Interim Report of the Constitutional Review Team has addressed the question of how the Government of Saint Helena deals with public consultation and engagement. The recent Government Notice, which is patronising in its tone and content, provides a clear example of how not to do it.

Tristan Sheep Shearing Day - January 2025

Tristan celebrated its beloved Annual Sheep Shearing Day - a much-anticipated event filled with fun, laughter, and community spirit. Families gathered at the sheep pen to shear their flocks, marking the day with hard work and plenty of joy.



Children with crooks running to catch the lambs, although we're not sure on the bottom if it was the sheep or the children that were caught.



The children had a blast running around the pen, chasing and catching lambs, adding to the lively atmosphere. Once the shearing was complete, the Agricultural Department stepped in to treat the sheep, ensuring they were protected against flies.



Philip Kendall takes up a sheep by the lambing shed



Joyce Hagan and Miranda Repetto sorting fleeces

[From the Tristan da Cunha Website](#)



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 9th February 2025 – 5th Sunday of the Year

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

The Parish of St James

Sunday 9th February 2025 – 5th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	Thursday 13th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 9th February 2025 – 5th Sunday of the Year

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	St Mark
	Tuesday 11th February	
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark

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



FOR SALE

NEW AUTOMATIC ICE CREAM MAKER
Also makes milk shakes and sorbets

£180.00

Or any reasonable offer
DETAILS FROM
BRIAN FELL – TEL 22623
SEALES CORNER

Further details available upon enquiry



New Horizons Youth Club

AGM

Mon 17th Feb 7pm @ NHYC

Parents and members are
encouraged to attend

**If we cannot form a new
committee,
New Horizons will be dissolved.**



SPRINGDALE PROPERTY TO LET

AVAILABLE NOW

Situated in Guinea Grass, St Pauls
Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
has this property available
to let as accommodation



HOME FEATURES

The property consists of the following fully furnished rooms:

- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Toilet
- Kitchen
- Open-Plan Dining Room and Lounge
- Store Room
- Sizeable front Lawn (*grounds maintenance included*)

Less than 5-Minute Drive to
the Nearest Store

TV and Internet Facilities
Available; Tenant to
arrange connection with
Local Service Provider

CONTACT US

Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties)
Telephone: 22380
Email: GM-Services.Properties@solomons.co.sh

Save the date...

CAREERS FAIR



Thursday, 20 March 2025



11.00am to 7.00pm



New Horizons, The
Leisure Park & Mule Yard

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



25832 or 22607



glen.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

sherrilee.phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh





CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS



Do you have an exciting Career Opportunity and would like to showcase it to the Islands Community On Careers Fair Day?

Get in touch now to book a stall!

The Career Access St Helena Team can be contacted on **25832** or

Glen.Yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Sherrilee.Phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh

Careers Fair



DATE:

Thursday, 20 March 2025



TIME:

11.00AM - 7.00PM



LOCATION:

New Horizons, Leisure Park & Mule Yard



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



INVITATION TO TENDER

Re-roof and decorate externally – Dental Building, Jamestown

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

SSHA11-2024/25 – Re-roof and decorate externally - Dental Building, Jamestown

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 10 February 2025 at 10:00, meeting within the Car Park, outside the Dental Clinic, Jamestown.

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

Copies of the tender document and further details can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown on telephone no: 25932 or via email through tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Tuesday, 18 February 2025, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG
03 February 2025

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



REVIEW OF BUSINESS

During the year, the Bank continued to work towards the agreed strategic objectives outlined in the Bank's Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. As in previous years, Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) were set in line with these objectives to monitor and review the Bank's performance throughout the year, and whilst most of these were achieved during this reporting period, the economic climate in St Helena and the effect of global issues has played a significant role in creating variances to targets set at the outset of 2023/24.

One of the biggest achievements for the Bank continues to be the ability to remain profitable, whilst maintaining current interest rates and being able to assist customers with an ever-changing economic and financial climate. The Bank, once again, was able to expand upon its product offerings during the year, with innovation being at the heart of the Bank's operations. This included the introduction of the Tourist Card app which will benefit those wishing to visit the Island by alleviating the need to carry physical cash in the absence of international debit and credit cards being readily accepted across the island. Continued networking with other banks and financial institutions outside of St Helena enhances the Bank's ability to tap into support for current services and the introduction of new products and services as well as providing training and development for staff.

The performance of the Bank continues to be influenced by the current economic climate which includes customer deposits, revenue generated and the Lending Portfolio.

The Bank made an operating profit of £631,033 for the year 2023/24 which was an increase of £290,159 from 2022/23; a 23.3% net profit margin and a cost to income ratio of 69%, with the most significant variance to the prior year being the reduction of £392,642 in provisions as a result of the release in provision for a large commercial loan. Ordinary dividends, representing a distribution of prior-year earnings, were paid amounting to £85,219 (2023: £118,086).

The Bank's total income, net of interest payable, increased by £11,136 (0.4%). Interest received increased by £39,542 (1.5%) from £2,595,580 to £2,635,122, with increases in the interest received from the Bank's investment portfolio, housing loans, personal loans, and commercial lending; whilst interest payable increased by £50,614 (15.1%) and is the result of the increase in interest rates on deposit accounts during the year. Fees and commissions increased by £4,669 (1.4%), with the most significant increases being in commissions for Local Debit Card and remittance services, increasing by £16,946 and £12,244 respectively; and the most significant reduction being in fees for online banking packages which decreased by £15,038 with online banking being offered free of charge. Other income increased by £17,539 (15.9%) from 2022/23; and was largely due to the fluctuation in the amount of foreign currency during the year. The Bank is aware of its exposure to foreign exchange risk and whilst payments will always need to be made, the Bank tries to minimise this exposure by reducing foreign cash holdings whilst still maintaining sufficient funds to service customer requests.

Total expenditures decreased by £375,742 (16.7%) and is mainly due to the Bank experiencing investment amortization gains rather than losses during the period with a decrease of £197,918 compared to the prior year with the majority of investments being bought below nominal value; and the release of £286,463 in respect of lending provisions, which is largely due to the sale of collateral related to a large business loan which had previously been provided for. Increases in expenditure was experienced in most of the Bank's other costs, with the most significant increases seen in other expenses and employee costs, which increased by £62,262 (9.7%) and £138,386 (15.5%) respectively, the latter of which included increases in training, Cash Roll Up contributions, director's remuneration and staff salaries.



The Capital Value of the Bank's investments has decreased by £7,847,907 (11.5%) for 2023/24. All funds are invested in fixed income instruments with yields ranging from 0.99% to 5.1%. Investments are initially recorded at cost and subsequently measured at amortised cost with changes recognised in the income statement. The interest income from investments for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £1,607,337. The Bank monitors its cash holdings and operational requirements closely and additional funds will be invested when it is deemed appropriate. During the year the Bank liquidated £6m from the investment portfolio to assist with the Bank's operational cash flow, however an additional £1.52m was also invested during 2023/24. At year end, treasury bills to the value of £3m was included in cash and cash equivalents due to the maturity dates being less than three months from acquisition.

The Lending Portfolio increased by £220,425 (1.5%) and is largely due to the release in provisions for a large commercial loan that was previously fully provided for; with lending balances having otherwise decreased by £167,165, as the current economic climate, like the previous year continues to be heavily influenced by global issues. Whilst housing and personal loans collectively increased by £199,792 (1.8%), the minimal increase of £11,425 (3.3%) for overdraft facilities and the reduction of £378,383 (8.3%) in commercial loans indicates that the economy continues to have a negative impact on business customers and their appetite to borrow.

Customer monies held by the Bank showed a decrease of £6,266,901 (7.5%) at the end of 2023/24. This was largely due to a significant withdrawal from one of the Bank's business customers; however, the Bank's higher earning interest accounts, Child Bond and New Life continue to be popular with a collective growth of £184,885 (4.2%). The largest increases were in the accounts of St Helena Individuals and Corporations, which increased by £1,534,263 (4%) and £731,521 (6.2%) respectively, compared to 2022/23.

The Bank has commenced the development of the Strategic Plan for 2024-29 which will guide its activities for the next year and will build upon the previous plan. The plan encapsulates the expectations articulated through various engagements and includes a comprehensive approach, encompassing various aspects of operations, technology, growth, risk management and customer services.

The Bank is optimistic that over this period much will be achieved with the support of our customers, St Helena Government as shareholder, Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) and various other stakeholders. With the onset of enhanced internet connectivity for the island, customer needs, economic outlook and regulatory requirements, the Bank has devised a transformative strategy to modernise banking operations. This includes prioritising adaptability and agility to respond to market changes, technology advancement and customer preference whilst fostering a culture of innovation, embracing change and continuously improving processes and offerings.

The Bank's priority areas remain securing a continuous service for all who rely on the Bank, providing financial assistance for personal and business customers, safety and security of customer deposits and ensuring that it retains the strength to be able to assist customers in the years to come. Security and compliance are a fundamental priority, with the protection of customer data and compliance with regulatory requirements being paramount.

Automation remains essential to reducing risk, streamlining operations, improving efficiencies and innovating new products and services to reflect modern banking operations whilst supporting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) which measures our impact on our society. It is also hoped that the Bank's investment portfolio will continue to grow and new revenue streams can be identified which will allow the Bank to continue to invest in new products and services which will benefit customers, the stakeholders, shareholder, the Bank and the Island's economy.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



@sainthelenabank



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



DIRECTORS' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023 - 24



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Interest Receivable	2,635,122	2,595,580
Interest Payable	(385,322)	(334,708)
Net Interest Income	2,249,800	2,260,872
Fees & Commissions	335,685	331,016
Other Income	127,932	110,393
Total Income	2,713,417	2,702,281
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	1,028,884	890,498
Premises Costs	79,035	65,258
Investment Management Fees	130,098	155,474
Investment Amortisation	(44,426)	153,492
Depreciation Tangible Fixed Assets	133,465	136,545
Depreciation Intangible Fixed Assets	29,953	41,885
Bad Debt Provision	(286,463)	106,179
Audit Fees	60,705	32,000
Financial Services Authority Fees	35,076	23,000
Other Expenditure	705,713	643,451
Total Expenditure	1,872,040	2,247,782
Profit on ordinary activities, before taxation	841,377	454,499
Taxation	(139,892)	(126,589)
Deferred Taxation	(70,452)	12,964
Profit on ordinary activities, after tax	631,033	340,874

The income statement has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	503,496	485,933
Intangible Fixed Assets	91,505	40,206
	595,001	526,139
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,952,128	1,158,711
Bank Balances	4,140,641	3,794,163
Investments	21,374,367	22,081,416
Other Assets	2,627,447	3,911,332
Lending	1,454,657	724,902
	33,549,240	31,670,524
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	38,839,074	45,979,932
Lending	13,020,697	13,530,027
	51,859,771	59,509,959
Total Assets	86,004,012	91,706,622
Liabilities		
Customer Current & Deposit Accounts	77,403,574	83,670,475
Other Liabilities	499,266	480,789
Total Liabilities	77,902,840	84,151,264
TOTAL NET ASSETS	8,101,172	7,555,358

REPRESENTED BY:

Share Capital	3,219,285	3,219,285
Retained Earnings	4,881,887	4,336,073
Total Equity	8,101,172	7,555,358

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on January 30th 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Michael Bird - Chairman

31st January 2025

Date



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



@sainthelenabank



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd

VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Bank Teller

Commencing at £8,796 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person on a full-time basis to fill the vacant position of Bank Teller.

This position will incur significant contact with the public and other Bank staff. The successful candidate must be flexible, demonstrate courtesy and provide excellent customer service at all times. They must have a keen eye for detail, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

The main duties of the post include:

- Undertaking counter transactions for customers and posting these to the Bank's computer system;
- Cash handling and assisting customers in meeting their banking needs and queries;
- Providing assistance in the delivery of Remote Banking services;
- Any other duties.

Interested persons can contact Miss Danielle Anthony, Teller Services Manager on email tellerservicesmanager@sainthelenabank.com or Mrs Karen Buckley, Customer Service Manager on email csmanager@sainthelenabank.com, or contact them on (+290) 22390 for more information.

An Application form and job profile is available upon request from the Bank and can be viewed on our official website. Completed application forms should be addressed to Miss Merle Peters, Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 21 February 2025.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



[@sainthelenabank](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelenabank)



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week



Sandy Bay Barn

Date: Saturday, 8 February 2025

Start Time: 08:00

Meeting Point: Green Hill Picnic Area, Levelwood

Duration: approx 4 hrs

Walk grade: Moderate | 5 - 6

This walk will be led by the Tourist Office, starting within a woodland and leading into dry desert-like scenery. It provides views of Sandy Bay including the iconic Lot and Lot's wife features, with the Post Box overlooking the ocean below.

There are some narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Pathway can become muddy and slippery when wet.

Flagstaff/Sugar Loaf/Banks/Ruperts/Jamestown

Date: Saturday, 15 February 2025

Start Time: 09:00

Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain or Jamestown (for bus pick-up 8.30am)

Duration: approx 4hrs

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

A woodland to coastal walk with fantastic views across the island, linking Post Box walks along the way, led by Adam Sizeland (Museum Director).

*Transport will be provided from The Canister, Jamestown at 8.30am to the start of the walk at Deadwood. Park your vehicle in Jamestown, be transported to the start of the walk and collect your vehicle when you arrive back in Jamestown. **Booking is essential, please book by noon on Thursday, 13 February.** Contact the Tourist Office T:22158 or louis.youde@shg.gov.sh.*

This walk is suitable for experienced walkers. There are some narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water.

Date	Upcoming Walks
Saturday, 22 Feb 2025	Lot - Peak Dale - Blue Point
Saturday, 1 Mar 2025	Sharks Valley
Sunday, 8 Mar 2025	The Barn

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



OUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A CHARITY



In 2017 a small group of parents/carers of children and young people living with Autism was brought together through a workshop on ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) awareness delivered by Education/Health/Social Care professionals. The group enjoyed learning together, what Autism is, strategies in managing behaviours, identifying support in the community and were ultimately comforted by the fact they were no longer on their own with regards to living with Autism.

To this end, with realisation of the possible benefits that a group could have, those present mutually agreed that they would like to meet on a monthly basis to share their experiences and offer support to each other if necessary and consider how to reach the community in raising awareness.

The Au-some Parent Group was formed, with a vision:

- To bring together families and professionals to foster understanding and support amongst the community of St Helena on living with Autism.

- To promote awareness of what Autism is and to help provide opportunities for members of our community to seek support when needed.

The group has had many successful events raising awareness here on St Helena ranging from dancing, runway dash, walks, sharing their stories through various media platforms, information leaflet/cards and general chats with the public etc. However, with the hope to enhance the lives of those living with Autism, in 2024 the group became a charity named, **St Helena Autism Awareness & Support Group (SHAAS)** continuing their vision but with the additional aims to;

- Assist those living with Autism during transitional times in their lives e.g. school to workplace with the financial aid or career pathway guidance etc.

- Support those living with Autism with opportunities in social, physical and extracurricular activities that will enhance their quality of life.

- Provide further assistance to family members of those living with Autism.

"ST HELENA AUTISM AWARENESS & SUPPORT GROUP"

would love to offer their support to you as well. If you would like to become a member or need further information, please contact Tara or Sara by emailing autismsthelena@gmail.com or 25276/64694

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, under the direction of the Human Resources Officer you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high quality HR service. Key areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing date: 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 – 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 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: 17 February 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 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

Community Care Officer (Casual) (£5.37 per hour)

Domiciliary Care is seeking a Community Care Officer on a Casual basis to assist with the provision of one-to-one support to enable vulnerable adults to remain living independently in their own homes. The individual's vulnerability could be due to mental or physical disability, frailty or illness. Support will include assessment of needs and provision of personal-care tasks, such as bathing, toileting and dressing and domestic tasks such as meal preparation, cleaning and laundry. An important part of this role will be developing supportive relationships with those you are supporting in their own homes and in the community so that they can continue to live an independent life whilst being safe.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Frederica Youde on Tel No 22920 or Email:**
frederica.youde@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **21 February 2025**

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

Are you interested in the 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, 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: **21 February 2025**

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.

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 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.

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Carpenter

(£8,266 to £8,725 per annum, based on ability and experience)

If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, the Building Maintenance Section has an opportunity for you to join their team.

Working as part of the Building Maintenance Team, you will assist with delivering daily operations and maintenance services within the building maintenance section.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Decorator

(£8,266 to £8,725 per annum, based on ability and experience)

Would you like to become a Decorator? If so the Building Maintenance Team have an opportunity for you to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by delivering painting and decorating related tasks and maintenance services within the building maintenance section.

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

Enquiries: Rex Young on Tel No 22054 or Email: rex.young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 24 February 2025

Joint Emergency Services Control Centre

(JESCC) Operator

(£10,747 per annum)

Do you want to make a difference to your community and be of service when it is needed the most? The St Helena JESCC is looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual to form part of their small, but busy team. This role will require you to have excellent communication skills with the ability to deal with vulnerable and distressed members of the public.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mark Coombe on Tel No 22626 or Email: mark.coombe@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 18 February 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**

Forestry Services Officer
(£12,049 per annum)

The Forestry Services Officer will help to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive through leadership of the Forestry and Facilities Section’s forestry services for the SHG National Forest Estate and building maintenance programme for the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio’s properties. The Forestry Services Officer will Manage the Forestry and Facilities Management Section’s (F&FM Section) tree harvesting and extraction programme to meet public demand for raw material, including firewood, saw logs, fencing material and miscellaneous forest products.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Myra Young on Tel No 24724 or Email myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 19 February 2025

Marine & Fisheries Conservation Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

This interesting role is important to enable ENRP to deliver the work programmes (some seasonally) in order to provide the evidence base used to conserve and protect St. Helena’s marine environment. The duties are generally split between marine related field work, administration, data and laboratory based work. Some out of hours working is necessary.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Elizabeth Clingham on 24724 or Email elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 19 February 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 to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Marine & Fisheries Conservation Officer (£18,902 per annum)

The Marine and Fisheries team are seeking to recruit an organised and highly effective communicator with a passion for conserving St Helena’s marine environment and fisheries management. The post will lead on all elements of the operation of the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section and deliver the marine and fisheries conservation programme, this will include setting the strategic direction but also ensuring it remains adaptable to the changing marine environment needs and uses. You will also be responsible for both recurrent and project based work areas, including team management, strategic and financial planning, report writing, communications and outreach activities, and building links between relevant stakeholders that are important to, and associated with, the work of the Section.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Elizabeth Clingham on Tel No 24724 or Email: elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 19 February 2025

Waste Management Services Operator (£7,960 per annum) (Fixed Term)

Waste Management Services is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual to join their dedicated team. Successful candidates will be responsible for delivering high standards of cleaning in public areas and toilets, waste collection from homes and businesses and other waste management tasks in line with Standard Operating Procedures. Normal working hours are 0600 hrs to 1330 hrs Monday to Friday, with weekends and Public Holiday working on a rota system. If you are physically fit and an effective team player then we would be interested in hearing from you. Waste Management Services, working towards a cleaner and greener St Helena.

As this is a fixed term role and due to the time restriction, we are only accepting applications from on island candidates. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Karl Martin on Tel No. 24724 or Email karl.martin@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 19 February 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

Veterinary & Livestock Assistant (£9,781 per annum)

The Veterinary & Livestock Assistant will be responsible for the implementation of the routine veterinary programme across the Island, including treating and deworming of farm animals, diagnosis and treatment of both farm and domestic and to ensure that client cards and data records are kept up to date. The Veterinary & Livestock Assistant will also need to be prepared to undertake certain basic surgical operations for domestic and farm animals as specified by the Senior Veterinary Officer and other miscellaneous surgical operations to include castrations of pigs, goats and sheep.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Andrea Timm on Tel No 24724 or Email:**
andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: **19 February 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.

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St Helena Cloud Forest Project update: July - December 2024



The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is a highly collaborative multi-year project working to implement the Peaks Management Plan for St Helena's 'Peaks National Park'; a globally significant area for biodiversity which is also vital for St Helena's long-term water security. Key actions across the first four years of the project include monitoring and research to inform and secure the island's water security and climate change adaptation efforts; improving, restoring and creating cloud forest habitat to increase areas for mist capture and ensure the conservation of associated species; and supporting the sustainable development of St Helena by developing opportunities through ecotourism, education, sustainable land use and conservation training.

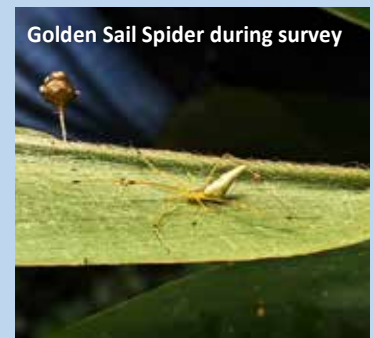
What happened under each pillar?

Biodiversity

- The teams based at the Peaks continued to be busy with maintenance of restoration sites and paths, in addition to re-starting propagation in the recently refurbished Peaks nursery. The nursery has been upgraded in line with refined phytosanitary protocols;
 - ◊ Al Coffey, Clifton Yon, and Finn Ormrod also joined the team
- At Scotland's endemic nursery:
 - ◊ Seed collection & banking continued;
 - ◊ The larger capacity soil steriliser is now in operation which has allowed larger scale plant propagation of cloud forest species to re-commence;
 - ◊ Planting and maintenance of cloud forest species in living gene banks around the island;
 - ◊ Propagation of cloud forest species, including micro-propagation of ferns in the lab;
 - ◊ Refurbishment of the no.1 shade house was completed to new phytosanitary standards.
- Kew horticulturalist, Marcella Corcoran, also made a visit to the island, supporting the nursery teams with upscaling propagation; completing germination trials and viability testing on seed; and providing capacity-building for newer team members.
- At the St Helena National Trust, important endemic invertebrate monitoring, invasive invertebrate surveys and control, and assessment work continued for the Golden Sail Spider, common wasp & termites. In addition:
 - ◊ Shaun Osborne joined the invertebrate team.
 - ◊ The Y2 Annual Invertebrate Survey Report was finalised, and other survey reports drafted.
 - ◊ Wasp and Big-headed ant larvae were sent to Fera Science for analysis



Clifton Yon clearing invasive New Zealand flax



Golden Sail Spider during survey

Water security and climate change

• Regular water and climate monitoring by Connect Saint Helena and the Bottom Woods Met Office continued throughout this period. Monthly climate data from automatic weather stations and mist and rain gauges was collected, and maintenance carried out on equipment. Water level and flow monitoring continued. Further geophysics surveys were completed.



Meteorologist Steve Palmer and Met Officer Murray Henry

◊ Real-time data from the automatic weather stations can be accessed via: <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/> (pan to St Helena).

- The mist and rainfall monitoring network was upgraded to a telemetry system, allowing for remote monitoring of the network, and live access to the data. This can be accessed via: <https://dashboard.hobolink.com/public/33326/Dashboard%20SHCFP%20Mist%20and%20Rainfall#/>
- The Y3 water balance report was circulated for final review before publishing.
- Meteorologist Steve Palmer was on island to facilitate import of met data into relevant databases, and provide capacity-building for Met Station staff.
- Preparation and planning for upgrade of surface water monitoring network, to include telemetry systems.



Mist and rainfall monitoring network with telemetry upgrades (left) Dashboard with live data

St Helena Cloud Forest Project update: July - December 2024

Socio-economic

- The St Helena Cloud Forest Secondary Education Pack draft was refined and formatted following feedback from teachers.
- A 3D model of St Helena was procured to support cloud forest education and outreach activities.
- Various outreach events including Bug Club and the launch of 5 short films on the project presented by primary school students.
- Training and capacity building included: bryophyte ID training; data analysis workshop with RSPB via DPL00090 project; drone pilot course (GVC) completed by four project pilots.

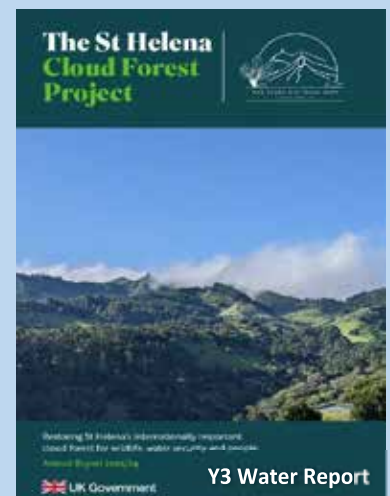


- Work continued on aerial surveying of priority cloud forest compartments, a vital tool in assessing cloud forest habitat whereby multispectral data on the land surface is collected and collated in order to analyse factors such as tree health, the spread of pathogens, and track habitat expansion.



What's coming up January to March 2025?

- Propagation of cloud forest species for living gene banks and restoration work.
- Maintenance of restored habitat, invasive clearance works, and infrastructure repairs will continue on the Peaks, at living gene banks and the Scotland nursery.
- Ongoing water and climate monitoring. Finalisation of reports on island's water resources and water balance, using data collected over a number of years.
- Completion of invertebrate survey reports, and the secondary education pack.
- Completion of aerial mapping of cloud forest habitat to assess tree health, pathogen spread and habitat expansion.
- Completion of Phase 1 (FCDO-funded phase) funding of the cloud forest project, and associated celebrations.



Project Outreach

- The Y4 Q1 update was published on the project's webpage and in local papers; fortnightly short local updates also started in local papers. The Year 3 annual report was published on the project's webpage.
- Two articles (focused on water and pathogen work) were published in the St Helena Connection (Friends of St Helena publication).
- The project was represented at two international conferences: the St Helena Research Institute conference (online), and the CIEEM autumn conference in the UK.
- Five short films to support the Primary Education pack, presented by primary school students and produced by Capricorn Studios, were launched:
 - ◊ Geography: <https://youtu.be/lcB-sLzlfM>
 - ◊ History: <https://youtu.be/2Y-TLBOe6Zg>
 - ◊ Micro Habitats: <https://youtu.be/cWOLL6PuiaC>
 - ◊ Water Cycle: <https://youtu.be/6P8QEmIR2Lg>
 - ◊ About The Peaks: <https://youtu.be/LCOAlgB511w>



- A short film: 'A Day in the Life of a Water Resources Monitoring Technician' was also launched: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8glmfDUHt4>
- The water pillar team presented a webinar on their work in September, and presentations were also made to the Connect St Helena team.
- A public talk on Weather Observation on St Helena was held in October, presented by Steve Palmer and Murray Henry.

- Watch the Cloud Forest project films on YouTube:
 - ◊ Biodiversity, Water Security, Socio-Economic, Partners Involved, Capacity-Building, Biosecurity,

- Follow us online:



For more information please contact: shayla.ellick@rspb.org.uk

FA Cup - Fourth Round

It's the FA Cup fourth round this weekend, and the stakes are high for clubs, players, managers and owners desperate to keep alive their hopes of success this season – such as Manchester United, Tottenham, Marcus Rashford, Ruud van Nistelrooy and, of course, Tom Brady.



Marcus Rashford - a new beginning. . .

The fourth round is about heavyweight clashes and the remaining minnows aiming to cause an upset against a Premier League giant. Can Ruben Amorim and Man United avoid an embarrassing Old Trafford exit against Van Nistelrooy's struggling Leicester City? Who will be left standing after Aston Villa and Spurs meet on Sunday? Can Plymouth Argyle end Liverpool's hopes of a quadruple in Arne Slot's first season in charge? And will Brady, Birmingham City minority owner, get Super Bowl weekend off to a winning start by seeing his EFL League One team shock Newcastle United?



. . .and for Van Nistelrooy too

FA Cup Fixtures

Friday 7th February

8pm

Manchester United v
Leicester City

Saturday 8th February

12:15pm

Leeds United v Millwall
Leyton Orient v
Manchester City

3pm

Coventry City v Ipswich
Town

Everton v AFC
Bournemouth

Preston North End v
Wycombe Wanderers

Southampton v Burnley

Stoke City v Cardiff City

Wigan Athletic v Fulham

5:45pm

Birmingham City v
Newcastle United

8pm

Brighton & Hove Albion v
Chelsea

Sunday 9th February

12:30pm

Blackburn Rovers v
Wolverhampton Wanderers

3pm

Plymouth Argyle v
Liverpool

5:35pm

Aston Villa v
Tottenham Hotspurs

Monday 10th February

7:45pm

Doncaster Rovers v
Crystal Palace

Cricket Scores and Fixtures*St Helena Cricket Association***Saturday 1/2/25****Levelwood Allstars 279/7 (35 overs)**

Clayton Leo - 92*(51)

Dane Leo - 68(57)

Gareth Johnson - 3/39 (7 overs)

Richard Joshua - 2/57 (7 overs)

Western A Mustangs 207/9 (35 overs)

Scott Crowie - 46(67)

Gareth Johnson - 41(37)

David Francis - 2/29(7overs)

Perry Leo - 1/3(1 over)

Player of the Match:

Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars)

**Sunday 2/2/25****Cobras 80/10 (22overs)**

Kirk Lawrence - 16(26)

Harry Winfield - 8*(16)

Jordan Yon - 6/15(6 overs)

Jordi Henry - 2/25(7 overs)

Challengers 81/3 (6.3 overs)

Trystan Thomas - 31*(18)

Joey Thomas - 14(8)

Kirk Lawrence - 2/36 (3 overs)

Mark Anthony - 1/18 (1.3 overs)

Player of the Match

Jordan Yon (Challengers)

Levelwood Rebels 194/10 (28.2 overs)

Weston Clingham - 97(64)

Delroy Leo - 29(37)

Lebron George - 4/39 (7 overs)

Dax Richards - 3/7 (2.2 overs)

Jamestown Heat 195/5 (30 overs)

Makyle Fuller - 72(62)

Dax Richards - 35(46)

Ryan Samuel - 2/33 (6 overs)

James Andrews - 1/27 (3 overs)

Player of the Match:

Lebron George (Jamestown Heat)

LAND FOR SALE

Prime Land located in the peaceful and desirable district of Alarm Forest on St Helena.

The land has an open aspect towards Sane Valley and is close to the historic Alarm House which is a private residence.

The land comes complete with access to utilities (water and electricity) and with an access road.

The land plot is ideally situated for ease of access to Jamestown.

There are two parcels of land which can be sold separately or as a complete plot.

For more information please contact: Lisa Starkie by email: lisastarkie7@gmail.com

Fixtures:**Saturday 8/2/25****12:00**

Jamestown Heat v Western A Mustangs
(Umpires: Andrew Yon and Cliff Richards)

Sunday 9/2/25**8:45**

Sandy Bay Pirates v Levelwood Rebels
(Umpires: David George and Jamie Essex)

13:15

Levelwood Allstars v Challengers
(Umpires: David Price and Scott Crowie)

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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



1. **Application 2025/07:** FULL Planning Application for **Creation of Garden Grounds**, to the South of Woodcot Cottage, Woodcot, Alarm Forest on Parcel FP0237. Applicant: W.A. Thorpe & Sons Ltd
2. **Application 2025/08:** FULL Planning Application for **Replacement / Replica of Fountain**, The Castle Gardens, Jamestown on Parcel JT04007. Applicant: Property Service, St. Helena Government

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 – 21st February 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control



Climate Change 2C Target is Dead says Renowned Climate Scientist

Could cause collapse of the critical Atlantic Ocean currents

The pace of global heating has been significantly underestimated, according to renowned climate scientist Prof James Hansen, who said the international 2C target is “dead”.

A new analysis by Hansen and colleagues concludes that both the impact of recent cuts in sun-blocking shipping pollution, which has raised temperatures, and the sensitivity of the climate to increasing fossil fuels emissions are greater than thought.

The group’s results are at the high end of estimates from mainstream climate science but cannot be ruled out, independent experts said. If correct, they mean even worse extreme weather will come sooner and there is a greater risk of passing global tipping points, such as the collapse of the critical Atlantic Ocean currents.

The new analysis said global heating is likely to reach 2C by 2045, unless solar geoengineering is deployed.

The world’s nations pledged in Paris in 2015 to keep global temperature rise below 2C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5C. The climate crisis has already supercharged extreme weather across the world with just 1.3C of heating on average in recent years destroying lives and livelihoods. A 2C increase would be far worse.

Golf Report: BillyHead Texas Scramble

Report by the St Helena Golf Club

On Sunday, February 2nd, a total of 13 teams participated in the “BillyHead Texas Scramble.” The event showed a competitive spirit and camaraderie among the golfers. Here’s a detailed breakdown of the results:

Team Performance: Out of the 13 teams that competed, an impressive 9 teams scored 40 points or more. The scoring format used was likely based on a Stableford system, which awards points based on the number of strokes taken relative to par.

Winners: The winners of the tournament were Annette Dllacourt and Pat Henry, who achieved a score of 43 points. Their performance was strong enough to secure victory after a count back against another team with the same score.

Following closely in second place were Helen Stevens and Jeff Stevens, who also scored 43 points but lost out on the count back criteria. This indicates that their performance in specific holes did not match that of Dllacourt and Henry.

Third Place: The third prize was awarded to Martin and Richard Joshua, who scored 42 points. They were part of a group of four teams that achieved this score. The other teams with scores of 42 points included Tony Winfield & Peter Johnson and Auggie Augustus & Eddy Bowers

Booby Prize: In contrast to the top performers, Paddo Johnson and Henzie Beard received the Booby Prize, which is typically awarded to the team with the lowest score. This adds an element of fun to the competition by recognizing all participants.

Special Achievements: Two notable achievements during this scramble were recorded as “2’s,” which are typically birdies made on par-3 holes. Auggie & Eddy along with Neil Joshua & Glen both scored these birdies and shared in the two-ball pool prize for their efforts.

Acknowledgments: A special thank you was extended to Mr. Yon, affectionately known as “Billyhead,” for sponsoring all the prizes and contributing to making this event enjoyable for all participants.

Upcoming Events

9th February: A Three Club Strokeplay Competition to celebrate the life of Leon Crowie. Sponsored by the Leon Crowie Family

16th February: The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy Stableford competition. Save this date in your calendar

21st February: Annual Dinner Dance, see Notice board for details

