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Benefits of St Helena Airport UK Audit



Little Progress
Few Benefits

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Maestro

Muddle and
Contract Collapse
Explained

See Page 4...



'Come Find Me' Video Shortlisted for Award



The Digital Difference
in the South Atlantic



New Attorney
General for
St Helena

General Election Coming. . .

It was announced on Monday this week there will be a general election on Wednesday 3rd September. Chief Minister Julie Thomas called the election and Governor Phillips agreed. The dissolution of Legislative Council will be on Monday 30th June. This means the ministerial team will continue in office for a further nine weeks before the general election is due.

Anybody wanting to be on the voting register has until mid-May to hand in an application. There will be further advice about when applications need to be sent, and where to, as the weeks progress.

Register of Electors application forms are available at <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/elections/>

The Outgoing Legislative Council



This is the only group photo of councillors readily available. Rosie Bargo has since resigned and replaced by Betty Knipe in an uncontested by-election. The Deputy speaker is on the extreme left.



Left to right: Back: Warren Glass, Terence Green, Rodney Green, Chief Islander James Glass and Conrad Glass; Front: Beverley Swain, Vera Glass, President of the Council Administrator Philip Kendall, Anne Green and Carlene Glass-Green

Tristan Island Council Dissolution Was Yesterday

Last week Tristan Administrator Philip Kendall announced Governor Phillips had agreed the timetable for an election for the new Tristan Island Council. The dissolution of the Island Council was yesterday. The election for members of the new island Council will be on Wednesday 5th March 2025.

The outgoing Island Council was elected in March 2022 to serve for three years.

With thanks to Tristan News - <https://www.tristandc.com/index.php>

Falklands Legislative Assembly General Election

No announcement has yet be made, however, members of the Falklands Legislative Assembly are due to stand down this year with a general election due during or before November.

The Outgoing Falklands Legislative Assembly



UK Minister and ‘Friend of St Helena’ Sacked by Starmer

Andrew Gwynne MP was, until last weekend, a Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the UK Health and Social Care Department. In August 2023 he visited St Helena with the Friends of the British Overseas Territories, affectionately known as FOTBOT. In April 2024 he helped launch a FOTBOT fund-raiser to assist disabled people in St Helena continue to live in their own homes by providing the equipment they needed to do so.

Now he is suspended from the Labour Party for what Gwynne described as "badly misjudged" WhatsApp messages after he was sacked by his boss, the UK prime minister.

Joked About a Constituent Being “Mown Down” by a Truck

In a WhatsApp chat group he shared with political friends Gwynne said he hoped a 72-year-old woman who complained about her bin collection “would soon be dead”. In another response he joked about a constituent being “mown down” by a truck. Gwynne also reportedly posted sexist comments about Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, and racist remarks about Labour MP Diane Abbott.



At Anne's Place in August 2023. Andrew Gwynne, centre with Michael Binyon on the left. Michael was leader writer, columnist and foreign correspondent for The Times from 1972 to 2009 and still contributing to Times editorial at 80.

On the right is Oliver Wilderspin, who is now Head of Outreach and Fundraising for FOTBOT. At the moment, FOTBOT is trying to raise £8,000 to assist St Helena's disabled.

After getting a foot on the first rung of the promotional ladder for government appointments, Gwynne has discovered the ladder can suddenly transform to a greasy pole and he is now back at the bottom, on his backside. He now joins the hundreds of MPs who have been suspended by their party leaders for a range of misdemeanours; some of them imaginative and vivid. In addition, a publication in the House of Commons Library lists 146 MPs who have been expelled from the House of Commons chamber since 1949, mostly for disorderly conduct.

Here is an extract from the Performance Audit by Audit St Helena – published yesterday. The auditors have blown apart the secrecy SHG uses to protect itself from criticism. For the first time, the reasons why the Maestro contract collapsed is explained.

SHG ultimately signed a £3.27 million contract with a local subsidiary of Maestro in November 2022. SHG's aspirations for its network, as specified in its tender documents, was for at least 95% full fibre coverage, allowing 5% wireless access to cover particularly hard-to-reach locations. SHG was clear that the network should be capable of providing speeds of at least 300 Mbps download and 50 Mbps upload per residential premise, and 500 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload per business premise.

Network construction encountered trouble from the start. First, 11 days after the contract signing, a bidder raised concerns with SHG about a potential conflict of interest in the DBT tender process. In response, SHG sought legal advice and commissioned an investigation into the alleged conflict of interest and its potential impact. While awaiting the outcome of this procurement challenge, SHG was unable to fully commit to the DBT project. Certain officers were advised not to have conversations with Maestro nor to share information with the public.

Next, in its tender SHG had offered to coordinate with local contractors on the winning bidder's behalf, but when Maestro arrived in St Helena it was told to deal directly with them. Both the tender and contract stipulated that the contractor shall support SHG in obtaining all necessary planning permissions, suggesting a supporting role for Maestro, but once the contractor was on island SHG said this was Maestro's responsibility. Further, the contract's scope of work states that SHG as the employer will take the lead in agreeing access to utility poles for Maestro's cables, but SHG did not convene discussions between Maestro and Connect St Helena (Connect) until after the contract was awarded. Thus Maestro, who had not visited the island prior to bidding on the project, was underprepared for a permission process that required technical documentation of how the contractor would work safely around Connect's high-voltage wires and other hazards. While SHG tried to facilitate this process as Connect's sole shareholder, it had less influence with local telecommunications provider Sure St Helena (Sure) who was unwilling to allow Maestro to string its cables on or through Sure's poles or ducts, respectively, noting that it was under no obligation to share its privately-owned network. Project facilitation across all dimensions limped along as SHG did not settle on a dedicated project manager until several months after the first signs of trouble, while the project-specific governance board began meeting about 5 months into the project's 12-month term and almost a year after the project tender. SHG indicated that the bidder's procurement challenge was a key reason a governance board was unable to be formed during the initial months of the contract.

Financial security requirements within the contract also stalled Maestro's progress. The type of construction contract SHG chose for the work – one which seemed familiar to neither SHG nor Maestro – is known to be fairly rigid and prescriptive in practice. Because Maestro (after consulting with SHG) formed a locally registered company to execute the project after contract award, it was required by the contract to provide an ultimate holding company guarantee that would hold the parent company liable if its subsidiary failed to perform. An even bigger obstacle was the performance bond, which is an insurance policy wherein a third party agrees to compensate the employer a percentage of the contract price if the contractor fails to perform. In this case the chosen performance bond was 30% of the contract price and would not decline as the project progressed, which gave SHG extra assurance given its history of troubled capital projects but also put financial pressure on its contractor. Despite the clear requirement in the contract for both the holding company guarantee and the performance bond (with the latter to be provided within 4 weeks of the 17 November 2022 contract signing), neither had been delivered to SHG by the middle of 2023. From Maestro's perspective, it was being asked to provide a bond against non-performance while also not being allowed to perform (i.e. to begin construction). Ultimately SHG cited the lack of a performance bond as the reason for its October 2023 notice of termination to Maestro. At present SHG is deciding on its way forward and prioritising the development of a more robust legal and regulatory framework for telecommunications with no further procurement underway. Meanwhile, Sure's licence has been extended until December 2025 subject to a 6-month notice period for further extensions or other changes.

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

More next week on the Performance Audit of the Fibre-Optic Cable Project

Realising the Benefits of St Helena Airport: a progress update

Little Progress – Too Few Benefits – And a Report with No Clear Purpose

Published on Wednesday this week by the UK National Audit Office is a 'progress report' on the airport which tells us there has not been much. The benefits the report mentions because of the airport are the quicker, sometimes life-saving, medical referrals and evacuations, also the better opportunities it provides for overseas Saints to visit family and friends and for residents of the island to travel from it – often permanently.



The team of auditors who wrote the report write, “We undertook this work following concerns raised by Parliament about the functionality of St Helena Airport and associated infrastructure.” They also state, “The focus of this report is on FCDO and what it is doing to support the St Helena Government to realise the benefits of the airport and become more economically self-sufficient.”

Development of tourism remains a benefit still to be realised, obviously. The statistical prophets forecast 8,000 tourists arriving in 2023. They can be excused not factoring in the COVID 19 pandemic but it was conceded as early as 2016 the projections made to justify the building of the airport were ‘over-optimistic’ and forecasts will be revised. Following the 2016 Parliamentary Accounts Committee report, FCDO accepted a recommendation that it would re-calculate its projected tourism figures to provide an updated assessment of progress towards economic self-sufficiency and the consequent reduction in financial aid to St Helena. The report later states “FCDO is working with the St Helena Government to reassess tourist projections for 2025”. That’s now – and nine years later.

While healthcare and travel opportunities have improved for Saints, other social and economic benefits are still awaited, the report lists -

- Improved employment prospects and higher income for the citizens of St Helena.
- More private sector investment and greater public revenue to finance public services such as education and health.
- A reversal in the decline of the population.

Other benefits are not just awaited, situations have got worse.

- The real-terms median wage has declined, from £10,270 in 2013-14 to £9,970 in 2022-23 (in 2022-23 prices).
- The resident population experienced a brief uplift during the building of the airport but has subsequently begun to fall by around 10%, from 4,504 in January 2016 to 4,023 in September 2024, close to the level when plans to build the airport were agreed (it was 3,961 in January 2010).
- In the year to October 2024 there were 13 births and 47 deaths on the island. The average age of the population is increasing. In August 2024, 29% of the population were older than 65, up from 21% in January 2016.
- The number of serviced rooms on the island has decreased since the COVID-19 pandemic, from 83 in 2019 to 71 in March 2024.
- The Economic Development Investment Programme is intended to provide investment for projects which follow on from the construction of the airport, for example, relocating industry (?) from Jamestown waterfront to make it available for development as a tourism area.

The audit report does give information which no-one in St Helena who is in a position to know is willing to give: “Between 2017 and 2024, 11% of all inbound flights to St Helena were delayed or cancelled and rescheduled. During 2023 and 2024, the proportion of weather-delayed flights increased to around 25%.” And, “The average occupancy of flights from Johannesburg between June 2023 and May 2024 was 53% and varied from 48% to 63% during this period.”

In the Introduction the reader is told, “While we comment on other initiatives on St Helena that are relevant to FCDO’s objectives, our report examines the role of FCDO, and we are not auditing the St Helena Government. Our report is factual, and we have not sought to conclude on value for money.” The authors of the report “undertook a short, yet intensive, visit to St Helena in December 2024. During our time there, we visited the airport; the capital, Jamestown; the Mantis Hotel; Rupert’s Wharf; and the bulk fuel installation site; as well as various tourist attractions and amenities. We also interviewed several stakeholders on the island.”

This report from the UK National Audit Office is limited to giving factual information. There are no recommendations and only superficial investigation. The report does not mention any attempts to find out why “There are no indications that inward investment to the island has increased as expected as a result of the airport”. The FCDO view that, “it is too early into St Helena’s recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic to determine whether the airport has increased or will increase inward investment” is not tested in anyway. The report appears to have no clear purpose and is of little value to us in St Helena.

New Attorney General Sworn In Last Week

It is reported Andrew Dawson was sworn in as the new attorney general last Thursday, 6th February. This is two months after the former Attorney General, David Ballentyne, resigned - four months before the end of his contract. There has been no official announcement yet from SHG on this new appointment.

Andrew Dawson was formerly Head of Legal Services for the Falkland Islands Government. Appointed towards the end of 2020, he reported to the Falklands Attorney General, leading the Falklands Government Legal Services team in prosecution, child protection, legal advice and matters relating to land, contract and commercial law.



Mr Dawson undertook legal work for local government after obtaining a degree at Liverpool University in 1985. He was also a councillor with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Frodsham Town Council. In his role as councillor, he represented the UK on the Council of Europe's Congress of Regional and Local Authorities. He also served on Cheshire's Police Authority and the Police and Crime Panel. In his farewell to the people of Frodsham he told them "I am leaving Frodsham later this month to take up the position of Head of Legal Services to the Falkland Islands Government. My eligibility and suitability for that role are due in no short measure to the experiences I have gained being a Frodsham Councillor. I have always said I became a better lawyer because I was a councillor and vice versa."

During December and January there were three appointments of acting attorney generals involving two people. It is anticipated the Attorney General's Chambers can now look forward to a period of stability.

As well as being Head of Legal Services for the Falklands Government, Andrew Dawson was also General Counsel for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The SGSSI website tells us:- "Andrew is the Government's General Counsel and something of a geek when it comes to the laws of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. He put together the www.laws.gov.gs website having hunted down and identified all our local laws from 1775 onwards. He described the exercise as "legal archaeology".

"Andrew likes to tell the world how marvellous our laws are, and why everyone should look to contract pursuant to them and use our courts. Nothing gives him greater pleasure than researching and applying the Territory's domestic legislation."

Andrew has a not-so-secret love of trains and was delighted to discover that outside the museum in Grytviken is a tramway wagon similar to those used by Zorin Industries in the James Bond film *A View to a Kill*. Andrew's other James Bond claim to fame is that he got married in the church opposite the pub where Daniel Craig grew up.

Reverse the Red – do what to what?

46,300 Identified Species Are Threatened with Extinction

So little is known about all the world's species the number of Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered species could really be more like a million

One hundred and thirty-one on this list exist in St Helena, Tristan and Ascension – most of them in St Helena. The provider of this information is careful to point out there are probably more. One reason is because new species are discovered regularly. The chances are their existence is threatened to some extent.

The information is gathered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which is universally recognised as having the best information on the survival of the world's species. The list of threatened species is called The Red List. Reverse the Red is a campaign to bring as many species as possible off the Red List.



The St Helena, Tristan and Ascension Red List has fifty-eight species categorised as Critically Endangered, which means either there are fewer than 250 mature individuals or the number of mature individuals has declined by at least 25 percent within three years or in

one generation. There are more species categorised as Vulnerable (34 species) or Endangered (39 species). The Wirebird is vulnerable, which means the environment it lives in needs to improve if it is to survive. Endangered species suffer mainly from a loss of habitat or insufficient genetic variation due to low numbers of the species. Lack of genetic variation causes weakness in reproduction or propagation.



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is one of many international organisations actively supporting the Reverse the Red campaign. Really, it's more than a campaign, it's what they do. In a recent feature the RSPB explained, "Saving species can be a long and varied journey, but our approach is consistent. It all starts with understanding why a species' population is declining. When we know why, we can test ways to tackle the problem(s) and when we find a solution that works, we can put that into practice." Simple logic but a complicated job.

Last Friday was Reverse the Red Day. The RSPB used last Friday to "shine a light on just a few of the many species that we are working together to save – and specifically some of the birds that are considered Globally Threatened or Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There are of course many more and this is just a snapshot of our efforts."

Included was Tristan's Wilkins Bunting which is **Critically Endangered**

It's no surprise if you haven't heard of this bird, say the RSPB, because it's one of the rarest on Earth and is only found on one small remote island called Nightingale, way down in the South Atlantic Ocean. It's part of the UK Overseas Territory of Tristan da Cunha, so the Wilkins' Bunting is one of our very own amazing species.

It's a very fussy eater – in fact, its bill has evolved to eat the fruit of one plant, *Phylica arborea*, which is the only native tree on the island. Sound familiar? It's just like what happened with the finches on the Galapagos

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Reverse the Red – do what to what?

46,300 Identified Species Are Threatened with Extinction

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Islands, with their different bill shapes, which famously contributed to Charles Darwin's ideas on evolution.

Relying on just one food source is risky, though. These Critically Endangered birds reached the brink of extinction after an invasive scale insect found its way to Nightingale, devastating the Phylica trees. When two severe storms hit the island in 2019, they destroyed around 80% of the weakened forest. It was thought Wilkins' Bunting numbers had plummeted to fewer than 50 birds.

The RSPB and partners responded urgently, identifying a tiny wasp that preys on the scale insect. The wasps were flown from the UK to South Africa, followed by a week-long boat journey to Tristan da Cunha, where they were nurtured by the island's Conservation Department and then released on Nightingale. The wasps got established over time, and the Phylica trees began to recover. A survey in February 2024 revealed numbers of Wilkins' Bunting to be between 60 and 90 breeding pairs, now supported by their recovering forest.

Also featured in the RSPB feature for Reverse the Red Day is the **Wirebird**



The RSPB told its readers, You'll have to travel a very long way to see this little bird, as it's only found on one island, St Helena, in the South Atlantic, one of the UK Overseas Territories. It might remind you of the Ringed Plovers you'd see on a beach in the UK, the ones with the highway robber eye mask! It's locally known as the 'Wirebird', because of its long, thin legs.

It's St Helena's only surviving land bird – found nowhere else on Earth. Like some other plovers, it has a clever way of luring predators away from its eggs and chicks, by pretending to be an injured easy meal, flapping on the ground with its 'broken' wing.

In the last population count, in January 2024, there were just 721 St Helena Plovers. Although that's a small number, it's a big increase from the 208 birds counted in 2006. The rise is thanks to efforts to restore habitat for them and reduce predation by invasive species like feral cats, rodents and Indian Myna birds. The RSPB supported the St Helena National Trust to work out why the plover numbers had crashed and then to put in place solutions.

The RSPB continues to work closely with the St Helena National Trust and is now a partner on a project funded by Darwin Plus, to improve St Helena's grasslands for both people and wildlife, with the Wirebird at the heart of this. The RSPB is also helping to revise the action plan for this rare bird into the future, ranging from habitat improvement and controlling predators through to reducing the numbers of birds killed by traffic.

Also featured is the Grey-headed Albatross which inhabits South Georgia. Over the past century, numbers of Grey-headed Albatross have plummeted dramatically. At South Georgia, they've fallen by more than half since 1977 and have been declining by 5% a year in the last decade, which is far faster than any other albatross species. There are now only an estimated 250,000 adults of these birds left in the world. The main reason for their decline is bycatch: attracted to the bait and fish around fishing boats, they are unintentionally killed by getting caught on longline hooks and colliding with trawl gear.

Reverse the Red – do what to what?

46,300 Identified Species Are Threatened with Extinction

St. Helena holds over a third of the total unique biodiversity of the UK and the Overseas Territories: a substantial biological legacy and responsibility. Most of that biodiversity is the island's invertebrate fauna.

Helena Bennett, National Trust Director, spoke at an event organised by the Environmental Funders Network (EFN). EFN reported: Helena described the incredible fauna and flora found on and around the island. St Helena is an extremely remote island in the middle of the South Atlantic, and has only been accessible once a week by plane since 2017 (and prior to this, only by ship). New species are continually being discovered when studies are possible, but this is limited due to the scarcity of funding for research. Far more could be done to understand the nature there, including its incredible 420 (and counting) endemic invertebrate species.

St Helena Island makes the Finals at the Japan World's Tourism Film Festival 2025



Just days ago, Film producer and director, Daren Peens of Digby and the Lullaby received the excellent news that his film 'Come Find Me' had been shortlisted at the Japan World's Tourism film festival 2025, taking one of the coveted 80 spots out of 1,132 international films and instantly catapulting St Helena Island to a new found prominence and audience. Of the finalist films the JWTFF said "These films received exceptionally high scores, and we wish to share them with a Japanese audience" <https://jwtf.world/> An announcement of the winners at the film festival takes place in Okayama, Japan between the 17-19 March 2025

The cinematic, emotionally provocative feature commissioned by St Helena tourism was released on world tourism day 2024 and is the fastest grossing film made about St Helena so far with 132k views on facebook alone, it is likely the number will exceed over the coming weeks as a result of growing interest from a new audience.

Competition is stiff as St Helena competes in the finals with other destinations such as Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Portugal, Japan, China, Peru, Croatia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Norway. The good news is that St Helena has already made the finals, what happens after is icing on the cake.

Japan World's Tourism Film Festival (JWTF) believe that by showcasing tourism films that highlight the unique appeal of different regions and sharing them with audiences worldwide creates a platform for passionate discussions on the future of tourism storytelling, 'Come Find Me' is one of those stories.

Satellites and South Atlantic Islands

Each South Atlantic Island has a different global communications set up. Different in many ways; from cost and accessibility to what is legal and what is not. It seems the smallest island has the best communications and the most satisfied users. While on the largest island transitioning to 21st century communications have gone so badly wrong there is a call for national emergency measures to sort it out.

Tristan da Cunha

To the outside observer it seems Tristan had the slowest and most unreliable communications with the rest of the world, anywhere in the world. This changed overnight when the Island plugged into Starlink. Overnight, Tristan switched to the fastest and reliable communication link anybody would want. All of this improvement, relief and joy comes from one Starlink antenna which sits on top of a converted container and now called the 'IT Container' or in grander moments 'Communications HQ'. Job done and finished.



Starlink antenna on the container roof (ringed)

Ascension Island

Ascension is also switching to Starlink. The user licence fee was £10, payable to the government and anyone can be ready to go with a Starlink installation package. There is an issue with paying the higher price for a Starlink roaming package rather than the resident package but AIG is trying to sort that out.

Licence Agreement with Starlink

The AIG is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached with SpaceX to license Starlink and their services for use in Ascension. This new licensing arrangement will enable the provision and operation of telecommunications services by Starlink in Ascension.

In addition to this, the licencing of Starlink to operate in Ascension also authorises use of all Starlink terminals. Consequently, there will be no need for those with Starlink terminals to obtain end user licences going forward.

Even the £10 licence fee is no longer required

Satellites and South Atlantic Islands



St Helena

In St Helena the communication set up is completely different, of course. No Starlink, that's illegal. The Starlink distribution map shows St Helena as 'available' for receiving the signal from Starlink satellites but it is against the law to connect to it. Instead, there is the connection to Google's super-fast fibre-optic cable. The fibre-optic cable landed at Rupert's beach on Sunday 29th

August 2021 but connections bringing the fibre cable to the house or business, as promised, is still to be completed. And no-one in authority has enough respect for the community to explain why the internet speeds are now slower, with buffering being a big problem.

Falkland Islands

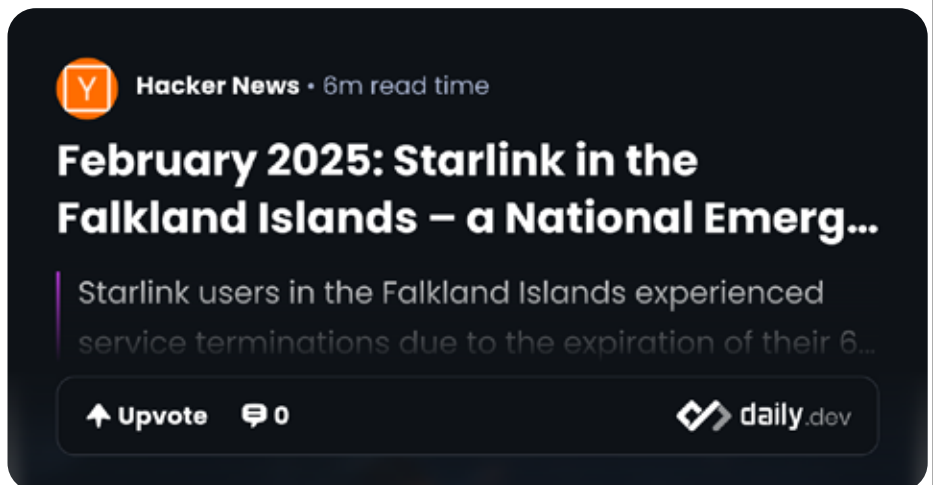
The Falkland Islands are the biggest of the South Atlantic Islands and they have the biggest communications problems. The situation is very complicated. In recent days the muddle has escalated to calls for a national emergency to be declared so normal procedures can be by-passed and the immediate crisis averted.

The Falklands, like St Helena, has a law which makes Sure the monopoly provider of telecom services. The Falklands, like St Helena, have made the use of Starlink illegal. This is where the problem starts. Hundreds of households in the Falklands continue to use Starlink, despite their government's efforts to roll back advances in technology to give Sure South Atlantic an

easier, slower, more unreliable and more expensive ride. But, taking hundreds of people to court because they use Starlink and not Sure is just not realistic, it could lead to a different kind of national emergency situation. Never make laws which cannot be enforced is a wise saying which has been forgotten.

The Falklands Government has not prosecuted any 'illegal' Starlink users but a national emergency happened anyway. The 60-day roaming package available to Falkland Starlink users came to an end and the signal was cut off (that's in Starlink's terms and conditions). An increasing number of people were affected as the days passed. What was clearly becoming an uncontrollable situation led to a petition. Chris Gare wrote on the Open Falklands website:-

"The high level of Starlink usage sparked a successful petition backed by 70% of the island's population. This petition demanded both a reduction of the £5,400 FIG VSAT licence fee and formal approval for Starlink's operation in the Falkland Islands.



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Satellites and South Atlantic Islands

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In response, a Starlink Select Committee – comprising all of the island’s MLAs – convened from July to October 2024. The committee formally endorsed the petition’s demands, and the proposal was subsequently forwarded to the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) for implementation. However, the effective date for this approval has now been delayed until April (2025).”

The £5,400 telecom licence fee is stunningly high. If you have got over the shock of this – there is more.

Chris Gare explains on Open Falklands: “Starlink’s low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites are classified as very small aperture terminal (VSAT), a contentious categorisation. This definition was partly adopted to prevent islanders from self-provisioning internet services, thereby protecting Sure International’s telecommunications monopoly. Notably, the original legislation included an exemption for Falkland Islands government entities, allowing them to use Starlink without requiring a VSAT licence.”

Chris Gare explains further – “Because Sure International holds an exclusive monopoly telecommunications licence, Starlink’s use in the islands is currently illegal. Nonetheless, this restriction has not prevented the widespread installation of hundreds of Starlink terminals, which remain unlicensed.”

It also means Falkland government departments and state-owned businesses are officially allowed to connect to Starlink without paying the £5,400 required from everyone else. The Falkland government has not negotiated with Starlink for formal permission to provide a service in the Falkland Islands. How can it be this bad?

It could be that things got so bad the Falklands Government decided they had better do something. On Monday this week another update on the Open Falklands website announced, “Monday morning brought good news. It started to be reported early on Monday morning that many Starlink accounts that had been discontinued had spontaneously popped back into life.

I hope I’m not too presumptive, as it’s difficult to pinpoint the exact number of reactivated users for obvious reasons. However, it seems to include both those with the £5,400 FIG VSAT licence (as discussed in my previous posts) and ‘illegal’ consumer users – which is precisely what I had hoped to see.”

Looking ahead, Chris Gare asks, “we can now anticipate the resolution of this situation with official government support for Starlink in April 2025. The Executive Council (EXCO) expects to receive a report shortly, which will outline the recommended path forward for permitting Starlink to offer legal service in the Falklands.”

That may happen Chris, but there seems to be a lot to unravel before this mess is sorted.



ROMANCE SCAMS

DON'T LET THEM BREAK YOUR HEART OR YOUR BANK ACCOUNT!

A romance scam involves a cyber criminal creating fake profiles on dating sites and apps, or use popular social media sites like Instagram or Facebook to make contact.



Once contact is made they use the pretence of pursuing and being in a romantic relationship to manipulate you into sending them money.

HOW TO SPOT A ROMANCE SCAMMER



1. THEY AVOID MEETING IN PERSON

You meet on a dating app or social media site, but they only want to communicate inside the app or site. They make plans to meet you in person, but always cancel due to some emergency or other excuse. They also claim to travel a lot or currently live in another country.

2. THEY PROFESS THEIR LOVE QUICKLY

Your online conversations turn intimate very quickly. They will also lavish you with attention and compliments, to the extent that they might claim that you're the 'one' and may even propose marriage.



3. THEY ASK FOR MONEY

After gaining your affection and trust, suddenly they need money for various reasons e.g. travel expenses, medical emergency, or legal issues. They will ask for money via wire transfer or gift cards, or they may ask you to invest in cryptocurrency or other money-making ventures.



QUICK TIP:

If you think you've been targeted by a romance scammer, don't send money in any form and cut off contact immediately! Also report their profile(s) to the relevant dating website/app or social media platform to prevent others from falling victim to their scams.



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 16th February 2025– 6th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter

The Parish of St James

Sunday 16th February 2025 – 6th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 20th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 16th February 2025 – 6th Sunday of the Year

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 18th February	
7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	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



FEBRUARY OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30
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Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Monday, 24 February	09:30 - 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Wednesday, 26 February	09:30 - 14:00



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@sainthelenabank



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

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.**

Introducing the St Helena Pension Plan

The long-awaited St Helena Pension Plan is finally here! Approved by St Helena Government (SHG) and the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), this plan provides a simple, transparent, and investor-friendly solution to help residents secure their financial future.

Why Join the St Helena Pension Plan?

Pensions are the foundation of financial security, and our plan offers numerous benefits, including:

- Online Access & Flexibility – View real-time valuations, switch investments, and update beneficiaries with ease.
- World-Class Investment Management – Your funds will be managed by leading global firms such as BlackRock and Vanguard, as well as ETFs at competitive rates.
- Life Stage Investing – Not sure how to invest? Our Life Stage Investing portfolios are tailored to your retirement timeline, offering a structured and professional approach to growing your savings.
- Comprehensive Financial Tools & Education – Members gain access to a Financial Wellness Portal & Knowledge Hub, featuring tools and courses on budgeting, debt management, and an interactive pension calculator.
- Competitive pricing – Finally, the pricing of the total offering is very appealing that compares favourably which can be accessed via much larger markets.

This initiative has been years in the making, with Maxlife, SHG, and the FSRA working tirelessly to develop an all-encompassing solution designed to support residents in saving for retirement and for financial milestones such as buying your first home.

Meet the Team & Learn More

Graeme Kaplan and Etienne Bosch will be on St Helena during the week of 17 February. Employers are invited to book an appointment with Maxlife St Helena via Cherie Dillon to learn more about how the plan can benefit their employees.

Join from as low as £25 per month and take the first step toward a brighter financial future.

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- 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

Learn about the history of the fortifications from Adam Sizeland (Museum Director).

A woodland to coastal walk with fantastic views across the island, linking Post Box walks along the way. From Flagstaff, heading towards the coast via Sugar Loaf, Banks & Buttermilk Point (new Post Box Walk), Ruperts and ending at Jamestown.

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
Sunday, 2 March 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



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



PRESS RELEASE

CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF UTILITY BILLS

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is excited to announce an important update regarding utility bills. Effective January 2025, all customers will notice changes on the back of utility bills aimed at enhancing transparency.

As shown in the image below, the information provided will include a detailed breakdown showing the cost per kilowatt-hour for electricity and per cubic metre for water. The new layout is designed to help customers better understand how their charges are calculated and provide greater clarity on usage costs.

Breakdown of the cost of a unit of Electricity and Water

Electricity Cost per Billed Unit		Water Cost Per Cubic Meter Billed	
Power Station Diesel	£0.33	Depreciation Charges	£2.21
Administrative Cost	£0.08	Employee Cost	£2.13
Employee Cost	£0.07	Maintenance	£1.77
Maintenance	£0.07	Administrative Cost	£1.00
Depreciation Charges	£0.05	Premises Cost	£0.87
Premises Cost	£0.02		
Total Cost per kWh	£0.62	Total cost per Unit	£7.98
Subsidy	£0.10	Subsidy	£2.86
Average cost after Subsidy	£0.52	Average cost after Subsidy	£5.12
Average Tariff	£0.48	Average Tariff	£3.88

What each cost means:

- Power Station Diesel relates to the fuel and related costs for the diesel generators for electricity generation.
- Employee costs include salaries, pensions, training and other employee-related expenses (e.g. uniforms).
- Administrative costs include insurance, stationery, telephone and internet charges.
- Depreciation charges cover wear and tear of current infrastructure to ensure funds are available for future replacements.
- Maintenance costs relate to repairs and servicing of current infrastructure.
- Premises include rentals, repairs to properties and other property-related charges.

What's changing?

- **Cost per Unit Displayed:** Each bill will now show the specific cost per billed unit of electricity and water.
- **Other Information:** In addition to unit costs, the bills will include:
 - The subsidy per billed unit of electricity and water.
 - The average tariff per billed unit of electricity and water.
 - Explanation of each cost head in simple terms
- **Customer-friendly format:** The information will be presented in a user-friendly format to help you easily understand your consumption and costs.



Why Are We Making This Change?

We understand the importance of keeping our customers informed and the need to provide greater visibility into how your charges are determined. Going forward, the release of this information will become standard so that over time it will be possible to see how we arrive at our costs and how the Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) arrives at the tariff.

What Do Customers Need to Do?

There is no action required from customers. These changes will be reflected automatically on your bill starting from the January 2025 billing cycle. Should you have any questions about the new format or wish to learn more about understanding your bill, our customer service team is available to assist.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact us on tel. 22255 or email: enquiries@connect.co.sh or visit our website at www.connect.co.sh.

We thank you for your continued support as we work to improve our services and provide greater transparency to all our customers.

06 February 2025



St Helena
Government

MULE YARD



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

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

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

CONTACT:

Gina Henry - Crown Estates Officer

Essex House, Jamestown

+290 22270

gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

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

Vacancy

General Assistant (Bread Production)



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

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

Basic Applicable Skills include:

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

Further details contained in job description

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

Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via ☎ 22380 📧 gm-productions@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **24 February 2025**.

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

- 🏠 Pension Contributions
- 🏠 Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Watchkeeper



Salary for the post will commence at £10,816 per annum (£208 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Watchkeeper.

As the Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for undertaking regular checks of the Bulk Fuel Installation complex and equipment, and perform maintenance work when necessary.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Ideally be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Preferably have a clean, valid drivers' license

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

Mr Paul Ellick, BFI Manager via ☎ 22332 📧 bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **27 February 2025**.

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

- 🏠 Pension Contributions
- 🏠 Staff Discounts



General Election 2025

Following discussions with Chief Minister Julie Thomas, HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE has agreed, at the Chief Minister's request, that the St Helena Legislative Council be dissolved on Monday 30 June, with a General Election scheduled to take place on Wednesday 03 September 2025.

Section 76 (b) of The St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order, 2009, as amended in 2021, requires the Governor to dissolve Council "at the expiration of four years from the date when Council first meets after any dissolution, unless it has been sooner dissolved." 25 October this year will denote four years since the Inaugural Meeting of the current St Helena Legislative Council took place following the October 2021 General Election; this means that 25 October 2025 is the last day that Council may be dissolved to enable a General Election to go ahead.

Publicity regarding the General Election and information about how the ministerial system of Government operates will follow in the weeks leading up to the dissolution of Council.

In the meantime, it is important to remember that if you wish to participate in this year's General Election, either by sponsoring a candidate, nominating a candidate, casting a vote or standing for election, your name must be included in the Register of Electors (Register).

Amendments can be made to the Register, effective from 1 July 2024, at any time. However, the cut-off date by which to make any amendments prior to the publication of the 2025 Register will be mid-May. There will be no further opportunities beyond this date to have names included in the Register before the General Election takes place.

If you wish to add your name to the Register, you can do so between now and mid-May by completing the necessary Form A.

Eligible persons who are ordinarily resident on St Helena but absent in connection with employment, education or training (for themselves/their spouse/their life partner) or for the purposes of medical treatment (for themselves/their spouse/ their life partner/a dependant) and have not been absent from St Helena for a continuous period of 30 months or for periods exceeding in aggregate 625 days in the preceding months may also apply to have their name included in the Register by completing Form B.

Both Forms A and B are accessible on the SHG website at <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/elections/> and can also be obtained from the Public Library, the Castle Reception or the Customer Services Centre.

Further information on how to complete these forms can be obtained from the Registration Officer, Carol Henry, and Assistant Registration Officers, Anita Legg, Connie Johnson and Gillian Francis at the Castle, Jamestown.



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT
~ TWO BOATS SCHOOL ~
VACANCY NOTICE



Secondary Mathematics Teacher & Secondary English Teacher

Total package value up to £37,715 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £23,488 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

Two Boats School is a delightful primary and secondary school on the beautiful and tiny island of Ascension in the South Atlantic who has recently achieved COBIS Accredited member status (July 2024). We have approximately 75 students between the ages of 3-16 (Primary 50, Secondary 25) and we offer a range of subjects up to IGCSE level.

What you'll do

Due to current post holders reaching the end of their contracts, we have two separate vacancies for secondary teachers, both required for an August 2025 start;

- A mathematics Teacher to teach Maths up to IGCSE level
- An English Teacher to teach English up to IGCSE level

The ability to teach French and Art to IGCSE level would be desirable. As we are a small all-through school the willingness to teach across the key stages and outside of your specialism would be advantageous.

What you'll bring

With ideally 2-3 years' of experience teaching your subject (Mathematics or English) up to IGCSE level, you'll hold qualified teacher status. You'll have strong interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written) and you'll be excited and passionate about working as part of a small team of professionals making a big difference to the education and development of children on Ascension Island.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of **between £21,853 and £23,488**, dependent on qualifications and experience (taxable on Ascension), both roles attract accompanied status contracts and the following benefits:

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

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check and Teacher Status checks
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

Closing date: Monday 03 March 2025.

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

Required start date: August 2025.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

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



VACANCY NOTICE

Power Station Shift Operator

Job Description

Encompass has a vacancy for a full-time Shift Operator on Ascension Island. The post holder will form a key part of the Ops Team of the Power Station that controls and monitors the Power Station's outputs whilst ensuring cost-efficiency, safety and appropriate standards.

Requirements

- A good standard of numeracy and literacy, and basic computer skills.
- Excellent timekeeping
- Comprehensive knowledge of current safe working practices and safety procedures.
- Experience in producing and maintaining accurate technical and administrative records.
- Ability to communicate well, verbally and in writing, with internal and external customers.
- Proven knowledge of all aspects of Power Station Operation, including Diesel Generating Plant, Reverse Osmosis Plant, Wind Turbines and HV distribution network.
- Willingness to work shifts and flexible hours, at short notice, when required.
- Strong self-motivation and the ability to work with a degree of autonomy.
- Full driving licence.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

- Experience of working in a Power Station or similar environment.
- Electrical or Mechanical Work Experience
- High Voltage authorisation.
- GCSE English and Mathematics or equivalent.

Remuneration and Package

We are offering a two year contract with either Single or Accompanied status. The salary, dependant on experience, starts at £13,000 (taxable on Ascension). You will also be entitled to:

- Rent-free accommodation
- A food allowance of £3,905 (or £7,329 if joined by eligible dependants)
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- One paid return journey to country of residence during your contract period
- Utilities (Water, Electricity and Phone) Allowance

Please note that any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal and professional vetting, valid travel documents as well as satisfactory medical clearance.

For a **Job Application Form**, full **Job Description** and for any further information, please contact Administration Officer, Krystal Phillips at KPhillips@encompass.tv

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, no later than **Friday 28th February 2025**

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers



Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via  22523  gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **27 February 2025**.



CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS – MARCH 2025

Constituents are invited to attend the district meetings to be hosted by Councillors next month. These will have a largely open agenda to enable constituents to make their priorities known, put forward suggestions and ask questions. Feedback will be provided on matters raised in previous meetings, if this has not already been given.

The constituency meetings will start at 7:30pm, and be held at the following dates and locations:

Date	Venue	Chairperson
Wednesday 5th	Guinea Grass Community Centre	Councillor Midwinter
Wednesday 5th	Blue Hill Community Centre	Councillor Turner
Monday 10th	Jamestown Community Centre	Councillor Brooks
Tuesday 11th	Sandy Bay Community Centre	Councillor Turner
Tuesday 11th	St Mary's Church, Briars	Councillor Essex
Wednesday 12th	St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Councillor Brooks
Wednesday 12th	Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	Councillor Coleman
Thursday 13th	Harford Community Centre	Councillor Knipe
Wednesday 19th	Levelwood Community Centre	Councillor Thrower

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 Tel No 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.

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

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

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.

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

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Join us! We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

Marine & Fisheries Conservation Officer (£15,033 per annum)

The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section are seeking to recruit an organised, passionate and highly effective marine and fisheries manager with experience in leading high level projects and teams. The post holder 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 assisting with setting the strategic direction 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 and reporting, 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

Kitchen Assistant (CCC) (£7,280 per annum)

Responsible to the Head Cook and Cooks for the provision of high quality domestic and catering services at the Community Care Centre, to include all cleaning, kitchen duties, assisting the Cooks with food preparation and delivery of meals, and responsible for ensuring the kitchen unit areas in the Community Care Centre are maintained in line with the cleaning schedules

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Diana Chambers on Tel No 23090
Closing date: 27 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

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 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**

**Tourism Officer (1- year Fixed Term)
(£14,378 per annum)**

Tourism is one of St Helena’s key economic drivers. Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress your career? Do you have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop productive relationships with tourism stakeholders? If so, the Economic Development Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their team. You will be primarily involved in providing island information to visitors, but also involved in promotions, marketing and product development, raising awareness about the island whilst ensuring its attractions and services are improved to help ensure a quality visitor experience.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Matthew Joshua on 22158 or
Email: matthew.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 February 2024

**Emergency Care Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)**

The Health Services, Emergency Services team are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to undertake an exciting development post as an Emergency Care Assistant, to join the team in providing an Emergency Ambulance and Emergency Department service under the direction of the Paramedics. The role will see the successful applicant undertake the Level 3 and Level 4 QA First Response Emergency Care qualifications (A UK recognised and regulated course), receive training in emergency driving, and on-the job mentorship and training. The role will require participation in an on-call rota to provide an efficient, responsive, and reliable emergency service. Contact us for more information.

Enquiries: Michael Gaga Hale on Tel No 22500 or Email
michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 26 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.

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Cricket Results & Fixtures

St Helena Cricket Association

Saturday 8/2/25

Jamestown Heat 258/4 (35 overs)

Jamie Essex - 86(76)
 Dax Richards - 56(63)
 Scott Crowie - 3/33 (7 overs)
 Gareth Johnson - 1/48 (7 overs)

Western A Mustangs 144/10 (22.3 overs)

Gareth Johnson - 43(35)
 Jamie Ellick - 27 (20)
 Jason Thomas - 5/44 (6.3 overs)
 Lebron George - 2/50 (7 overs)

Player of the Match:

Jason Thomas (Jamestown Heat)



Sunday 9/2/25

Sandy Bay Pirates 301/7 (35 overs)

Ronan Legg - 113*(91)
 Kieran Williams - 51(36)
 Ryan Samuel - 3/23 (7 overs)
 Lucio George - 1/33 (4 overs)

Levelwood Rebels 36/10 (11.5 overs)

Andrew Clingham - 8(6)
 Delroy Leo - 7(14)
 Rhys Francis - 3/8 (3 overs)
 Kyle Williams - 2/1 (0.5 overs)

Player of the Match

Ronan Legg (Sandy Bay Pirates)

Challengers 264/8 (35 overs)

Andrew Yon - 69(60)
 Joey Thomas - 41(37)
 Clayton Leo - 2/28 (7 overs)
 Brendan Leo - 1/27 (7 overs)

Levelwood Allstars 123/9 (26.4 overs)

Kristian Leo - 37(46)
 Stefan Leo - 19(34)
 Joey Thomas - 4/27 (7 overs)
 Sean-Lee Thomas - 3/31 (7 overs)

Player of the Match:

Joey Thomas (Challengers)

Cricket Fixtures:

Saturday 15/2/25

13:30

- Levelwood Rebels v Cobras

(Umpires: Jamie Essex and Damian Burns)

Sunday 16/2/25

8:45

Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Allstars

(Umpires: David Price and Gavin Ellick)

13:30

Sandy Bay Pirates v Western A Mustangs

(Umpires: Ralph Knipe and Weston Clingham)



I wish to express my deep-felt appreciation to my cousin, Dawn O'Dean, for the wonderful birthday party she and her husband, Pie, hosted for our special milestone birthdays (**my 60th!**) at Marble Hall. I would like to thank everyone who attended and made the party so special, including of course, my uncle Brian Fowler, as well as my cousin, Peter Fowler, and his partner, Jane both of whom travelled from the UK. Many thanks to everyone for the lovely cards and generous thoughtful gifts. The evening was unforgettable for both me and my sister, Jillian. Saint Helena is always in our hearts.

Until next time,
Susie Brigham, PhD.
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Premier League Fixtures

Friday 14th February

8pm

Brighton & Hove Albion v Chelsea

Saturday 15th February

12:30pm

Leicester City v Arsenal

3pm

Aston Villa v Ipswich Town

Fulham v Nottingham Forest

Manchester City v Newcastle United

Southampton v AFC

Bournemouth

West Ham United v Brentford

5:30pm

Crystal Palace v Everton

Sunday 16th February

2pm

Liverpool v Wolverhampton

Wanderers

4:30pm

Tottenham Hotspur v

Manchester United

Sad City Crumble to Cryer

All the tears belonged to Manchester City and their supporters at the final whistle after a trademark smash-and-grab late surge gave Real Madrid a potentially decisive 3-2 advantage after the first leg of this play-off to reach the last 16 of the Champions League.

Real's relentless, concrete-clad confidence in themselves and street wisdom honed over years of experience and triumphs, saw them turn a 2-1 deficit after 86 minutes into a victory, Carlo Ancelotti's side preying on City's own painful lack of self-belief.



Manchester City's fans started the night by unfurling a huge flag taunting Real Madrid and Vinicius Junior for their angry reaction to Rodri beating the Brazilian to last year's Ballon d'Or.

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP

	LILAC ROLLER 251203	BRIGHT SKY 251205
Immingham	11-Jan	08-Feb
	KAROLINE 251702	KAROLINE 251703
Cape Town	18-Feb	15-Mar
Rupert's Bay	26-Feb	23-Mar
Rupert's Bay	-	28-Mar
	KAROLINE 251802	KAROLINE 251803
Cape Town	11-Mar	14-Apr

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



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Golf Report: Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge Trophy

Report by the St Helena Golf Club

Last Sunday, February 9th, 2025, the “Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge Trophy” took place as a three-club stroke play competition. This event was well-attended, featuring a total of 30 players who participated in what turned out to be a highly competitive day on the course.

The format of the tournament required each player to select only three clubs to use throughout their rounds. This unique challenge often tests players’ skills and adaptability, as they must strategically choose which clubs will serve them best for various shots over the course of 18 holes.

Performance Highlights

The competition yielded impressive scores from many participants, with three players managing to finish their rounds with scores in the 60s. The standout performer was Gerald George, who claimed the outright victory with an exceptional net score of 66. Following closely behind were Martin Buckley and Jeff Stevens, who finished in second and third places with net scores of 67 and 69 respectively. Larry Legg rounded out the top four with a solid performance, finishing with a net score of 70.

In addition to these remarkable scores, there were two notable “2’s” recorded during the event. Peter Bagley achieved this on the 2nd hole, while Gerald George also scored a “2” on the 7th hole. Both players shared in the rewards from the two-ball pool due to their achievements.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you is extended to the Crowie Family (Annette, Natalie and Bradley) for sponsoring this event and providing wonderful prizes for the winners. Not forgetting a scrumptious meal laid on for all to enjoy. Their support not only enhances the experience for all participants but also honors the memory associated with this trophy.

Upcoming Events

16th February: The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy Stableford competition

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

23rd February: Monthly Medal stroke play competition

Happy swinging.....!!!!

