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Buffering Fibre Optic Cable Project

“Does SHG have the capacity, ability and mindset to react and adapt to what are complex changes?”



Land Going Cheap for First Time Buyers



LegCo Debate - What Was Said

Drink-Drive Limit Tightened



St Helena in Miami for Search and Rescue

The 10th Annual Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop for the UK Overseas Territories took place in Miami, Florida, USA, earlier this month. Collaboration for mass rescue operations was the key focus and the workshop ran two tabletop exercises: one involving a cruise ship and the other an aviation incident. The workshop is funded by the UK Government through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

The Overseas Territories SAR (OTSAR) Capability Project has been running since 2016 and began with reviews of SAR capabilities within the UK Overseas Territories. Since then, the project has provided equipment and training for SAR operations, operators and frontline responders.

Attendees included SAR specialists, airport and aviation authorities and disaster managers from Anguilla, Ascension Island, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, St Helena, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Additional attendees included the Dutch Caribbean, French and US Coast Guard covering the regional response mechanisms and a number of Caribbean neighbouring states: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Presentations were given by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Lost & Missing Person Search International, and the Global SAR Hub. Updates on SAR matters were provided by the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Regional Office, and the Joint SAR Working Group of ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The 11th SAR Workshop is planned again for February next year and returns to Miami.



MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SHIP

	LILAC ROLLER 251203	BRIGHT SKY 251205	GREEN MOUNTAIN 251207
Immingham	11-Jan	08-Feb	08-Mar
	KAROLINE 251702	KAROLINE 251703	KAROLINE 251704
Cape Town	17-Feb	18-Mar	17-Apr
Rupert's Bay	24-Feb	26-Mar	25-Apr
Ascension Island	-	30-Mar	-
	KAROLINE 251802	KAROLINE 251803	KAROLINE 251804
Cape Town	10-Mar	15-Apr	08-May

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



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Drink-Drive Limits Toughened Up

Legislative Council met last week and passed a Bill which reduces the permissible levels of alcohol in the blood when in charge of a car or attempting to drive.

The amended legislation refers to section 43 of the 1985 Road Traffic Ordinance where:

Sample	Was	Will Be
Breath	50 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath	35 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath
Blood	115 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood	80 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood
Urine	153 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine	107 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine

The amendments to the 1985 Road Traffic Ordinance also include the regulation of public service vehicles and the delegation of authority to issue a licence.

At Last – Government Selling Affordable Housing Plots to First-Time Buyers

Earlier this month SHG announced changes to the sale, letting and buying of government property. For first-time home buyers, housing plots are now offered at a further 60% discount. At Bottom Woods this means housing plots with water, electricity and sewage disposal already laid and available for connection at each plot can be bought for £6,000. Another boost to first-time home buyers is that housing plots can also be leased from £300 per year. Not only does the leasing option make having land for housing possible sooner, it means people wanting a house of their own can choose to use the money they have saved to make a start on building.

The proposal for 40 housing plots at Bottom Woods was given development approval in 2019. In February 2020 it was announced work had started laying out the access roads and the utility services. At present, only two houses can be seen on the Bottom Woods site.

Discounts on the market value of the plots have always been available but restrictions, such as amount of income earned and the discount offered has not attracted buyers. It is hoped the new discount packages will change that. There are reports the recent changes have attracted enquiries but only time will tell if the enquiries become signed agreements.



The falling cost of housing plots at Bottoms Woods





EDITORIAL

Parking in Jamestown has become an issue in previous weeks and here it comes again. It is about one particular parking space – just outside the entrance to the Bank. There are three parks along that bit of space. The one outside the Bank is not to be recommended in certain circumstances. The certain circumstances are the circumstances I found when I tried to park there recently on a busy Friday afternoon. While searching for somewhere to park, as usual, I found the aforementioned space empty as I left Main Street and approached the Bridge. “Ah good”, I said to myself, always the optimist. The space outside the Bank’s front door is close, very close to Market Street. And, of course, there is that sharp bend from the Bridge into Market Street right by the parking space. On a busy Friday afternoon getting into that space can be more difficult than an eternal optimist might think.

When I made the first manoeuvre into the space, the car behind me attempted to overtake. Me, not wishing to make contact with any car entering Market Street made a reverse manoeuvre sooner than the car attempting to come alongside on my right probably anticipated. Apart from keeping clear of traffic in Market Street during this delicate operation, a cautious driver also has to bear in mind there is a very large ‘pothole’ just in front of the parking space. This hole has been there for years. There is ironwork at the bottom of the hole, probably an inspection cover. This ironwork has sunk well below road surface level, taking adjacent bits of road surface down with it. It is all very neatly done – no breaks in the road surface.

Any cautious driver is keen not get the nearside front wheel into the pothole; it would make a difficult situation very much worse. Avoiding the pothole means the required backwards and forwards manoeuvres are even shorter and therefore more plentiful. The car that was behind me and now almost alongside me must have had a driver inside it who was perplexed.

Anyway, eventually I was inside the line and legally parked. Traffic started to move once more. As one car from Market Street passed another heading for Market Street one driver called to the other and I caught the word ‘dangerous’. That’s just what I was thinking I thought to myself, what a place to allocate as a parking space – and when will they raise the ironwork and fill the pothole? Then I thought again, the driver was probably directing the word ‘dangerous’ at me. That seems more likely, blame me, I can take it! There have been some comments coming in over recent weeks. One of them referred to Starlink services on Tristan and Ascension. This particular comment told me I had overlooked a bit of information. This is that Tristanians pay £5 a month for internet access using Starlink. How do they do it when in St Helena we are still trying after 5 or 6 years to get the communications intended?

Remembering Dr Arnold. Recently the Independent marked the centenary of Dr Wilberforce Arnold’s death. This too has led to some correspondence (not letters to the editor). One piece was a personal memory from Richard Grainger – here goes: “the 100-year anniversary of the death of Doctor Arnold brought back a memory from 1966 when I first came to St Helena as a medical officer.

I was asked to make a home visit to an elderly man in Half Tree Hollow. I found him in an ancient traditional house in bed on an old lumpy flax filled mattress. He complained that he had a pain in his back. I asked if he had had the trouble before and had been treated. He told me that he had had very effective treatment from Dr Arnold.

I had not heard of Doctor Arnold so I told the patient that I would look for his medical record and repeat the previously effective treatment. I was unable to find any record so I spoke to Matron Grace Simm and explained my problem. She laughed and told me about the statue to Dr Arnold down in the Parade Square. I was able to prescribe what had been the original prescription of Lin. Meth. Sal. which was a mainstay for the treatment of aches and pains in St Helena for many years.

The fact that Dr Arnold had been dead for over forty years but was still clearly remembered by one of his patients is a significant reminder of a great doctor and servant of St Helena.

Yes, indeed a great figure in the Island’s history.

- Vince

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Later requests subject to
available space.**

Last week the Independent published a lengthy extract of what Audit St Helena reported on the failed attempt to provide nearly every property in St Helena with a fibre-optic internet connection to the main cable at Rupert's beach. As a brief reminder, another part of the Performance Audit lists shortcomings which contributed to the failure of the fibre-to-home project:

SHG overpromised bidders during the Design, Build and Transfer (DBT) procurement and did not fulfil important obligations.

1. The threat of procurement-related litigation limited communication with Maestro in the project's early months.
2. SHG would not allow access to ducts in Jamestown for assessment to inform potential use.
3. SHG drafted enabling telecommunications policies that were never operationalised.
4. SHG did not require a pre-tender site visit.
5. SHG did not have much experience with the form of contract it chose.
6. The contract required a project manager and supervisor to be assigned but neither role was filled permanently in a timely manner.
7. SHG did not give Maestro a finalised list of properties requiring fibre connection.
8. Maestro never produced a final project design.
9. Maestro struggled to deliver two instruments of assurance required by SHG.
10. The governance arrangements and practices for the DBT did not provide adequate scope for controlling, directing and monitoring the project effectively.
11. SHG anticipated and communicated project risks but failed to effectively mitigate them.
12. Other challenges encountered during the DBT project include incomplete planning information and the nature of St Helena's telecommunications market.

DBT – Design, Build and Transfer (to SHG)

SHG payment to Maestro as the project headed towards collapse and termination

Description	Amount
Material costs	£508,733
Cables	403,496
Tool and installation equipment	70,437
Poles	34,800
Staff costs	£170,000
Project management	81,600
Design (fibre and wireless)	78,600
On island support	9,800
Total	£678,733

This amount was funded out of a £1 million contribution from SHG's Economic Development Investment Programme.

The Performance Audit judges the first parts of the £multi-million project to have been delivered successfully. That is from the main Portugal to South Africa Equiano cable to the cable landing station at Rupert's beach. It is the last stage of this massive project which fell short.

The Performance Audit states, "Some benefits of the fibre cable have already been delivered, such as business and residential broadband customers paying less for greater access at faster speeds relative to last year; significant improvements for SHG, including the hospital, community care centre and the schools; and one satellite ground station under construction with a second being negotiated. But the full realisation of the subsea cable's benefits requires upgrading the island's telecommunications network."

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This section of the report may have been accurate when the report was written, but one part of it is no longer correct. We pay less than before, yes – but faster speeds, no. After immediately getting faster speeds at the time of changeover, everyone now is noticing not just a big reduction in speed but buffering and being timed out when attempting to make a network connection. At times, it seems worse than before the changeover to fibre-optic cable.

Was it all worth it? Can SHG save the situation and provide the promised 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?

The Performance Audit points out, “Some of the Digital Strategy’s objectives have been met but it has not been reviewed and updated to reflect the changing needs, developments and opportunities in the digital world.” The Digital Strategy was published eight years ago. The final few lines in the Strategy’s final section tell us, “However, 2017 is the year when St Helena will embark on digital connectivity. Moving from the slowest and most expensive internet which disables the Island to a position where connectivity improves the lives of every member of the community.”

Bold type is used to emphasise the main statement in the Strategy -

“This will only be achieved by securing access to a marine cable that will allow the Island affordable, reliable and quicker Broadband”

Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island will tell us this is no longer true. The Falkland Islands government seem finally to be comprehending they cannot stop technological advances and will realise it soon. Starlink does not need subsea cables, nor does it need earth stations of the kind we now have at Horse Point. Starlink is what is used on Tristan and increasingly on Ascension. In the Falklands, hundreds of households use it ‘illegally’.

Soon all other British Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic will have Starlink’s satellite communication direct to customers, end users – call us what you will. St Helena remains struggling to gain the benefits of the fibre-optic cable connection – and not making a good job of it. Will it be the case that the full benefits are never provided?

It is not just that the Starlink technology is more popular, flexible and leading the field in satellite communication; OneWeb has fallen behind on its own development programme and is now in financial distress. After being taken over by Eutelsat, the combined operation has failed to achieve what it claimed at the time of the takeover and reports about investors and business partners deserting Eutelsat/OneWeb can be found everywhere on your not-so-superfast internet.

One such report ends with “Two major shareholders (the UK government and India’s Bharti) have now seen their €500 million (each) investments in Eutelsat via its OneWeb division reduced to small change, and a division that was once valued at €3.4 billion, now in the combined Eutelsat + OneWeb business has a market capitalisation of just €820 million.”

The Digital Strategy referred to in the Performance Audit is now an antique. How long will OneWeb last at Horse Point is a fair question to ask. Does SHG have the capacity, ability and mindset to react and adapt to what are complex changes? Will we ever get the best out of the fibre-optic cable or will we find ourselves left behind again?

The Performance Audit makes us painfully aware we could lose again. “At the end of 2022,

SHG had a clear vision for a fibre optic cable network, a contractor that was eager to build it and sufficient grant funding for a contract worth more than 3 million pounds. Less than 1 year later the contract was terminated, and as we are now 2 years past contract signing the funding to procure a replacement is uncertain. While the public has seen faster speeds and more access to data at lower prices because of the subsea cable, it is enjoying only a fraction of the cable’s potential benefits.” “Currently, SHG is paying for a traffic capacity of 100 Gbps in each direction but utilising only 10% of this total because of the limitations of the incumbent’s existing copper infrastructure. Moreover, the majority of residential users are experiencing download speeds below 10 Mbps and upload speeds below 1 Mbps, which fall short of EU milestones specifying at least 17 Mbps for residential properties. Meanwhile, the growth of the digital economy has generated demand for high-speed internet beyond what was envisioned in the EU milestones and SHG’s 2017 Digital Strategy. The majority of countries keen to participate in this multibillion-dollar economy are upgrading their telecommunications infrastructure to gigabit-capable networks.”

Will SHG be able to keep up with all this? Probably not. The Performance Audit tells us, “With the Maestro contract terminated, SHG’s next move remains unclear. SHG has engaged consultants and is currently developing needed regulations for the telecommunications sector. In doing so it should take a proactive role in rationalising its regulatory regime, eliminating barriers to development while empowering a regulator for a sector whose small customer base may require exclusivity within an economy that otherwise prefers competition.”

A massive overhaul of telecommunications and other regulatory regimes should have started long ago. Putting focus on this aspect of the work at this late stage does not encourage confidence in the two governments we have – UKG and SHG.

Figures Provided after Cllr Robert Midwinter Asked For Them in a Written Question at Last Week’s Legco

1. The total number of businesses registered with the Income Tax Office over the last 10 tax years

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
62	67	74	79	81	93	94	105	111	119

2. The total number of individuals registered as Self Employed with the Tax Office over the last 10 tax years

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
401	416	442	463	474	494	496	484	473	478

3. The total number of individuals employed by the St Helena Public Service on local contracts and on TC contracts, for each of the last 10 tax years.

Years	Local	TC
2014/15	741	57
2015/16	810	90
2016/17	753	95
2017/18	770	101
2018/19	785	105
2019/20	830	110
2020/21	834	112
2021/22	775	98
2022/23	703	94
2023/24	686	69

Remembering Dad’s Army (Not Much has Changed)





APPRENTICESHIP WEEK CELEBRATED ON ST HELENA: 10 – 16 FEBRUARY

This week, 10 to 16 February, marks Apprenticeship Week, a time to celebrate the invaluable contributions of apprenticeships to both individuals and the community. Career Access St Helena (CAS) is proud to highlight the numerous benefits of apprenticeship programmes and encourage individuals to explore this exciting pathway to career success.

The value of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship training programmes are designed to equip individuals with the specific skills employers demand. This translates to better long-term salary prospects and career progression opportunities, whether an apprentice chooses to pursue further education or advance within their workplace.

Eligibility for an Apprenticeship

To embark on an apprenticeship journey, individuals must be:

- Currently unemployed
- Driven to pursue this path as part of their career preparation
- Eager to gain the necessary skills, experience, and qualifications
- Committed to actively participating in the local economy

Benefits of Apprenticeship programmes?

Apprenticeship programmes provide numerous benefits, including the opportunity to cultivate a skilled local workforce through a combination of practical work experience, structured training, and academic study. These programmes also offer improved career development and progression opportunities for individuals, while simultaneously raising the profile of participating organisations and employers. Additionally, apprenticeships empower the island workforce to adapt and respond effectively to the community's evolving needs. Participants gain nationally recognised qualifications, develop valuable new skills and knowledge, and acquire essential work-based experience to support their future career aspirations.

Apprenticeships for Prince Andrew School (PAS) students

For PAS students interested in apprenticeships, CAS provides guidance through a series of consultations. These consultations lead to final confirmations in August, with the apprenticeship programme beginning with an Induction Day in September.

Apprenticeships for Individuals outside of PAS

Individuals outside of PAS who are interested in apprenticeships should first register their area of interest with CAS. CAS will then explore potential apprenticeship opportunities with relevant stakeholders. Available positions are advertised, and interested individuals are invited to participate in interviews and consultations. Conditional admission offers are made, followed by confirmation of the apprenticeship and work placement. Finally, an Induction Day will mark the beginning of the apprenticeship programme.

Support and guidance from CAS

CAS, in collaboration with stakeholders, provides comprehensive careers information, advice, and guidance to help individuals determine their progression pathway through the Apprenticeship Programme.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact CAS by telephone on 25832, via email through Sherrilee.Phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh or glen.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh, or by visiting their offices in person at New Porteous House, Jamestown.





WATCH LIST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED BETWEEN ST HELENA AND UKG - 12 FEBRUARY 2025

On Wednesday, 12 February 2025, Jeffrey Ellick, Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs (SSHA), and The Rt. Hon Lord David Hanson, Minister of State for the Home Office, signed a Watch List MoU.

This is a major step forward in addressing a key BIOT component between St Helena and UKG, ensuring St Helena can safeguard our borders.

The MoU ensures individuals intending to travel to St Helena can be checked against UK watch list information. This means that St Helena's Customs and Immigration Department can share passenger data (either from flights or cruise ships) with the UK for watch listing, prior to those passengers arriving in St Helena. This is the first time St Helena has been able to draw upon UK watch list checks.

By sharing data, the island can improve border security, and allow SHG Customs and Immigration to make informed decisions on permitting entry into St Helena.

The Minister for SSHA, Jeffrey Ellick stated:

"Well done and thank you to the UK Government, Lord Hanson and his office (Home Office) for facilitating the agreement along with my team here on island.

This significant agreement demonstrates a clear and visible development of the work that is ongoing to build and strengthen the relationship between the UK, and St Helena Governments, which has resulted in St Helena achieving a high level of Border Security for our island now and into the foreseeable future".

Airlink and Embraer 'joined at the hip' Improving Service and Performance

Airlink have recently teamed up with Brazilian plane manufacturer Embraer and agreed a comprehensive spare parts supply arrangement for servicing all 68 planes in Airlink's 'Embraer only' fleet.

The supply system is designed to supply the required spare as quickly and cheaply as possible. Airlink will benefit from reduced upfront costs, fixed annual pricing and use Embraer's global logistics network and materials management expertise to ensure efficient spare parts availability at less cost.

Rodger Foster, Airlink chief executive and managing director, said: "Today Airlink is proudly the largest operator of Embraer Regional Jet airliners on the continent, and we have clear objectives of expanding and densifying our footprint, which will require additional capacity and more aircraft.

He added, "Impeccable product support is an imperative to continuously deliver safe and reliable service excellence, which is an Airlink mantra. We are 'joined at the hip' with Embraer, and this agreement speaks volumes to mutual commitment to optimising the operational and economic performance of our fleet."



Hottest January on record mystifies climate scientists

EU monitor says global temperatures were 1.75C above preindustrial levels, extending run of unprecedented highs

A run of record-breaking global temperatures has continued, even with a La Niña weather pattern cooling the tropical Pacific.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said last month was the warmest January on record, with surface – air temperatures 1.75C above preindustrial levels.

The EU-funded Earth observation programme highlighted wetter-than-average conditions in eastern Australia and drier-than-average conditions in other parts of the country.

Samantha Burgess, the strategic lead for climate at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, said: “January 2025 is another surprising month, continuing the record temperatures observed throughout the last two years ... Copernicus will continue to closely monitor ocean temperatures and their influence on our evolving climate throughout 2025.” Sea-surface temperatures remained unusually high in many ocean basins and seas.

January marked the 18th month of the past 19 to record global-average surface temperatures above the 1.5C preindustrial level. Under the Paris climate agreement, world leaders said they would try to prevent global temperatures rising by more than 1.5C.

Climate scientists had expected this exceptional spell to subside after a warming El Niño event peaked in January 2024 and conditions shifted to an opposing, cooling La Niña phase.

But the heat has lingered at record or near-record levels, prompting debate about what other factors could be driving it to the top end of expectations.

Julien Nicolas, a climate scientist at Copernicus, said: “This is what makes it a bit of a surprise: you’re not seeing this cooling effect, or temporary brake at least, on the global temperature that we were expecting to see.”

La Niña is expected to be weak, and Copernicus said prevailing temperatures in parts of the equatorial Pacific Ocean suggested a slowing or stalling of the move towards the cooling phenomenon. Nicolas said it could disappear by March.

Last month, Copernicus said global temperatures averaged across 2023 and 2024 had exceeded 1.5C for the first time. This did not represent a permanent breach of the long-term 1.5C target under the Paris climate accord but it was a clear sign the limit was being tested.

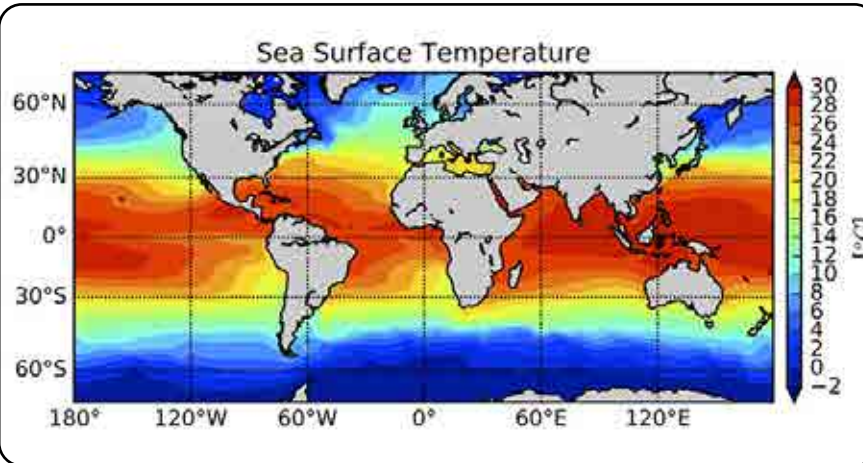


Scientists say every fraction of a degree of warming above 1.5C increases the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, heavy rainfall and droughts.

Copernicus said Arctic sea ice in January hit a monthly record low. Analysis from the US this week showed it was the second-lowest in that dataset. Overall, 2025 is not expected to follow 2023 and 2024 into the history books: scientists predict it will rank the third-hottest year yet.

Hottest January on record mystifies climate scientists

Copernicus said it would closely monitor ocean temperatures for hints about how the climate might behave. Oceans are an important climate regulator and carbon sink, and cooler waters can absorb greater amounts of heat from the atmosphere, helping to lower air temperatures. They also store 90% of the excess heat trapped by humanity's release of greenhouse gases.



Nicolas said: “This heat is bound to resurface periodically. I think that’s also one of the questions: is this what has been happening over the past couple of years?”

Sea-surface temperatures were exceptionally warm in 2023 and 2024, and Copernicus said readings in January were the second highest on record. “That is the thing that is a little puzzling – why they remain so warm,” Nicolas said.

Scientists are unanimous that burning fossil fuels has driven long-term global heating, and that natural climate variability can also influence temperatures from one year to the next.

But natural warming cycles such as El Niño could not alone explain what had taken place in the atmosphere and seas, and answers were being sought elsewhere.

One theory is that a global shift to cleaner shipping fuels in 2020 accelerated warming by reducing sulphur emissions that make clouds more mirror-like and reflective of sunlight.

In December, another peer-reviewed paper looked at whether a reduction in low-lying clouds had let more heat reach the Earth’s surface. “It’s really still a matter of debate,” Nicolas said.

The EU monitor uses billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations to aid its calculations. Its records go back to 1940, but other sources of climate data – such as ice cores, tree

rings and coral skeletons – enable scientists to expand their conclusions using evidence from much further in the past.

Scientists say the current period is likely to be the warmest the planet has been in 125,000 years.



New Railings at the Run

New railings in place at the Run near the Duke of Edinburgh ‘playground’.

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

What Cllr Midwinter said – Legco Adjournment Debate



The announcement has now been made regarding this year's General Election. I wish to reflect on where we have come from over the past three and a half years, what progress has been made, and where I believe we still need to progress.

In October 2021 this House witnessed two sweeping changes, firstly the transition to a Ministerial form of Government, and secondly the fact that only three members of the previous Council were returned to office.

At that time, we were of course still in lockdown as a result of the COVID pandemic, with limited air and sea access, economic decline, particularly amongst the Tourism Sector, and a mounting waiting list for medical referrals. Projects had pretty well ground to a halt, and businesses were closing down.

As a collective Council, over our first two years in office, we put in place the building blocks of the new Ministerial system, such as the revised Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, and Ministerial Code of Conduct, and we set up the two Scrutiny Committees, but most importantly, in August 2022, we re-opened the island. Whilst progress in some areas has been slow, laborious, frustratingly so at times, there have been successes achieved along the way. For example, whilst we have yet to benefit fully from the fibre optic cable, there have been significant initial strides in terms of increased speeds alongside decreased costs of packages available. We have also seen, following the recent festive period, noting that this was only our second proper visitor season since reopening the island, not only a return to pre-COVID visitor numbers, but an increase to visitor numbers that exceeds pre-COVID levels.

Projects are underway again, we have two newly re-developed roads with an increased life expectancy connecting our two main hubs of activity, and an anticipation that port operations will relocate round to Rupert's in the near future, freeing up Jamestown Wharf for redevelopment as a Tourism and Hospitality hub. I do believe that there is still much to be done. The need to complete the Education Review and start implementing recommendations to improve standards; to update further areas of our Legislation, particularly those that relate to protecting vulnerable people; and another of my favourite topics, we need to get on and do something to sort out our fishing sector before there is nobody left to actually go fishing!

This year has started off as a busy one for Select Committee 1. As we prepare to hold two live hearings before the end of March, so that we can complete our report and then hopefully lay this in the House prior to dissolution at the end of June, and I would like to acknowledge the work that has been undertaken behind the scenes by all who have been helping to move forward with this.

It was truly wonderful to see so many visiting yachts in our harbour again, although such a shame that the Seven Seas Splendour was unable to land her passengers ashore due to the very severe sea conditions, we experienced on the day she arrived.

The poor weather conditions we have been experiencing to date, and the knock-on effect that this has had, particularly in respect of our air access, is a concern. However, it is good to read in the National Audit Office Report that has just been released into the public domain, that the FCDO acknowledges the impact that COVID had on our developing the Tourism Sector and thereby realising the full benefits of the airport, and is, I quote "committed to support St Helena to become self-sufficient, and it still regards increasing tourism as the main way to achieve this."

It was also good to meet with our FCDO colleagues during the FAM Team visit last month, and we now look forward to hearing to what extent financially the UK Government is willing to assist us in the next financial year, and ideally beyond. We are always truly grateful for the support that the UK provides to the island, however, it would be particularly helpful if it wasn't a single year settlement, or a roll-over budget again this year.

I mentioned in the House the last time we met formally that it was positive to hear that HMG is going to unfreeze increases to UK pensions that are paid in St Helena, however, constituents are still waiting to hear what this will actually mean to them in real terms, so it would be good if the Chief Minister were able to provide an update in this respect.

Before closing, I wish to again place on record, that we still await visibility of the draft policy and legislative programme, despite the numerous commitments made.

Cllr Ronald Coleman's Issue for the Adjournment Debate: Legco 13th February



So, Mr. Speaker it has been announced that this Council will be dissolved on the 30th June this year.

Where has the four years gone? But more importantly what has happened or not happened in those four years. Very soon the people will speak

When we came in to Council, the Government was working on a few issues:

Fisheries – Where is our fishing industry? St Helena is surrounded by sea which I thought was a big advantage and we would have fresh fish all the time. But what has gone wrong, an outside contractor was chosen to run our fish factory but where is the fish? What has happened to our fishermen who has worked their souls for years. Are they still out there? How much longer are we – St Helena is going to have a Fishing Industry and it bothers me and the people of St Helena- is very concern that they cannot get a piece of fresh fish and the industry is about to disappear soon if nothing is done to revive it. Can we afford to lose our fishing industry? It is one of the industries that we could with help, grow our economy. So, who is responsible for growing or saving our fishing industry? Who decides if it is worth saving? Or do we need more consultants to come and tell us? What is government doing about saving our fishing industry?

Communications –When we were first connected to the cable, the internet was working faster than me – now I am faster than the internet. Who is working on the promise of larger, faster and cheaper service? Who is to blame? As prices are now moving up and services slowing down. When are we going to choose a long-term provider and do away with the monopoly?

Minimum Wages – The consultation on the minimum wage was launched recently. So, both the minimum wage and the Increase in the Tax Threshold need to be considered hand in hand.

And finally, Mr. Speaker – I cannot end without mentioning the High Cost of Living now that we know that inflation is at or was at 8.2 % which was attributed to local products.

I hope that the FCDO will honor their commitment of supplying St Helena with their reasonable assistance needs which is the UK's Long-Standing policy and provide St Helena with their submission of the zero-base budget for 2025/26 and hope we can assist all the people of St Helena and improve their quality of life.

**Thank you, Mr. Speaker,
Submitted by:
Councillor Ronald Coleman**



Salmon Fishing in the Falklands

summary findings from salmon-farming scoping exercise

FIG ran a scoping exercise from 04 November to 01 December 2024, to establish what additional information and evidence the public and stakeholder groups want to see

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) is in the process of considering the potential for the future development of large-scale, commercial salmon-farming activities in Falkland Islands waters. An in-depth public consultation on a set of development proposals, including a proposal that large-scale salmon-farming is not permitted, is planned for mid-2025.

In advance of that consultation process, FIG ran a scoping exercise from 04 November to 01 December 2024, to establish what additional information and evidence the public and stakeholder groups want to see included within the range of materials and aspects to be considered.

The main objectives of the scoping process were to identify any:

- environmental, social or economic aspects or effects not already identified for evaluation in the socio-economic impact assessment;
- additional data sources or evidence to be included for consideration as part of the public consultation;
- additional concerns about large-scale salmon-farming development not already identified for consideration;
- comments about the proposed public consultation methodology.

A total of 55 digital and paper responses were returned, and further opinion and comments were received via written submissions and reports from members of the public and stakeholder groups.

A summary of the responses received is published on the FIG website www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/consultations

The comments and considerations raised by stakeholders and the public will be used to inform the materials and information presented for consideration during the public consultation later this year.



According to the book and the film of the book, almost anything is possible with salmon



Dear Editor,

Doesn't time fly on this little rock? It hardly seems a year since we were expecting to see a new, 21st century, Tuna canning factory rise up on the old Wallace cannery site and now it actually seems to be happening. After looking at a blank canvas for so long in the last week Johnny Isaac and his men have broke ground and poured

extensive concrete foundations for the new build. Lets hope that building work can now proceed uninterrupted and make one enterprising Saint's dream a reality. It takes a rare kind of courage to retire early from a highly paid profession and invest your life savings into any business venture on this island.

Driving on past the cannery site one passes the islands built for purpose and fully refurbished fish factory which looks more like the Marie Celeste every day. Once the bustling centre of processed fish production for the island and its export markets it stands forlornly as a reminder of how a few misguided politicians and inept government personnel can screw things up. We are left today with a seemingly unsolvable situation where the tenants are still paying a token rent, producing little or no fish for the island and whose Tuna export plans have been at a standstill for years. In the words of their principal director when writing to all local commercial fishermen concerning frozen Tuna exports – “Current international price indicators show very low prices without realistic margins”. Granted that was in August 2022, however in recent weeks that well known skipper of “The Tunny Boat” approached the local island director of STC on the subject of buying his Tuna and processing them for the local market. After an initial positive reception Darker was then informed, sorry, but no deal as “STC is preparing for exports”. Could it be that there has been a sharp upturn in world prices for frozen Tuna and the arrival of the MFV Albatross is imminent to rescue the future prosperity of this failed venture. On the other hand is it more likely that the magpie will still be sitting in the nest in another year's time while hard earned private investor cash is poured into an enterprise that actually has some hope of succeeding.



Alan Nicolls

Dear Editor

During last week's Adjournment Debate, Elected Members spoke passionately about the state of our ailing commercial fishery. It would appear that for some, enough is enough and soon, “drastic action” might have to be taken. After five long years of watching the fishery being dragged backwards, it could easily be argued that the time for drastic action is long overdue.

It is heartening however to know, that whilst resolving the issues that are currently inhibiting fishing sector progress, are high on politicians' agendas, there are some who appear equally resolute in seeking accountability. This is vitally important and I sincerely hope that Councillors will not be deterred.

Why the fishery is in such a crippled state is clear – an ill-advised investment process sanctioned by the previous government. The question which needs answering is – who is protecting this failed investment process and keeps trying to breathe life back into it?

**Regards,
Waylon Thomas**



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of the Year

8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	S Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral

The Parish of St James

Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of the Year

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 27th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of the Year

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 25th 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



NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, 6th March 2025, at 10 am in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown.

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted version of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Website. Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting



St Helena
Government

ROAD CLOSURE - THE ARCH, JAMESTOWN (SEA FRONT ACCESS)

The Highways Authority has approved the road going through The Arch in Jamestown (leading to the sea front) to be closed to all vehicular traffic and pedestrians on Wednesday 5 March and also on 12 March from 13:00 to 15:30.

This closure is necessary for essential repairs to the arch structure by the Building Works Section. Pedestrian access to the wharf and lower Jamestown will be via the Terrace and Harbour View steps.

Emergency services will have access as needed. The Roads Section apologises for any inconvenience caused and thanks the public for their understanding and co-operation.

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

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**.

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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



St Helena
Government

1. **Application 2025/09:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of a 3 Metre High Gabion Wall**, Nr Young's Valley, St Pauls on Parcel SCOT0444. Applicant: Delray McDaniel
2. **Application 2025/10:** FULL Planning Application for **Partial Demolition & Re-Construction of Dwelling House & Patio Extension**, Nr Kingdom Hall, Longwood on Parcel LWS0077. Applicant: Kerry Thomas

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 – 7th March 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control



Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension
and Tristan da Cunha

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CHAIR OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The position of Chair of the Land Development Control Authority will become available from 10 March 2025.

The Governor's Office invites all persons interested in this position to complete the relevant form for return to Mrs Kerry Lane in the Governor's Office by **Friday, 28 February 2025**.

The duties of the Land Development Control Authority are set out in the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013.

In summary, these include the following:

- Determining applications for Development Permission in accordance with the Ordinance relevant Development Plan, policy directions and any policies or guidance
- Reviewing the policies contained in any Development Plan, and making recommendations to the Governor in Council as to possible amendments
- Formulating, publishing, monitoring and reviewing and revising planning policies and planning guidance, to help ensure consistency of practice and transparency of process.

The remuneration for this position is £1,200 per annum, paid quarterly in arrears. In addition, a mileage allowance of 77p per mile will also be paid when using personal vehicles to travel to meetings or when carrying out any other duties on behalf of the Land Development Control Authority. A monthly payment equivalent to 50% of cost of the Lite Broadband Package provided by Sure South Atlantic Limited, will also be paid as a contribution towards the cost of internet usage in connection with the role as Chair of the Land Development Control Authority.

If interested, the relevant form may be obtained from Information and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, by telephone on 22470, via email through linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh or on the SHG website at:

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EOI-Form-Chair-LDCA.pdf>

Shortlisted persons will then be invited to a discussion with the Governor and the successful applicant will be appointed subject to a satisfactory vetting certificate.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

17 February 2025

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week - Lot/ Peak Dale/ Blue Point



Date: Saturday, 22 March 2025
Start Time: 08:00
Meeting Point: Cason's Car Park, Blue Hill
Duration: approx 4 hrs

Walk grade: Moderate | 7 - 8

Join leading guides Aaron Legg from Aaron's Adventure Tours and Tom Wortley from Rock Mount Walking tours on this countryside walk offering stunning views of Blue Hill and Sandy Bay. This walk is suitable for experienced walkers.

A great opportunity to stamp your way through 3 Post Box walks!

Path can be slippery underfoot, please wear sensible footwear, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 02 March 2025	Sharks Valley
Sunday, 09 March 2025	The Barn
Saturday, 15 March 2025	Manati Bay

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

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project



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

Today we encourage you to check out the incredible findings detailed in the St Helena Cloud Forest Project Year 3 Climate and Water Resource Report, put together by our expert Water Team! (<https://ow.ly/v0gg50US37h>)

The project's water pillar aims to safeguard the Island's water security and inform and improve St Helena's climate change adaptation efforts. A critical focus area for this is water and climate monitoring, data collection, and research through innovative techniques, many of which have been utilised on St Helena for the very first time through our project.



Our Water Team have compiled their key findings during Year 3, building on data collected over a number of years. They have developed our understanding of St Helena's complex geology and hydrogeology and combined this with climate data to model the island's water balance. Along with the findings, the team gives recommendations to improve the Island's water security and resilience to climate change, including through cloud forest restoration.

In addition to the full 172-page detailed report (<https://ow.ly/v0gg50US37h>), the team has also created a non-technical summary report (<https://ow.ly/rkuF50US37k>).

A special thanks and well done to our Water Team for their work in compiling this insightful and informative Water Report and summary!

Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project



Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:



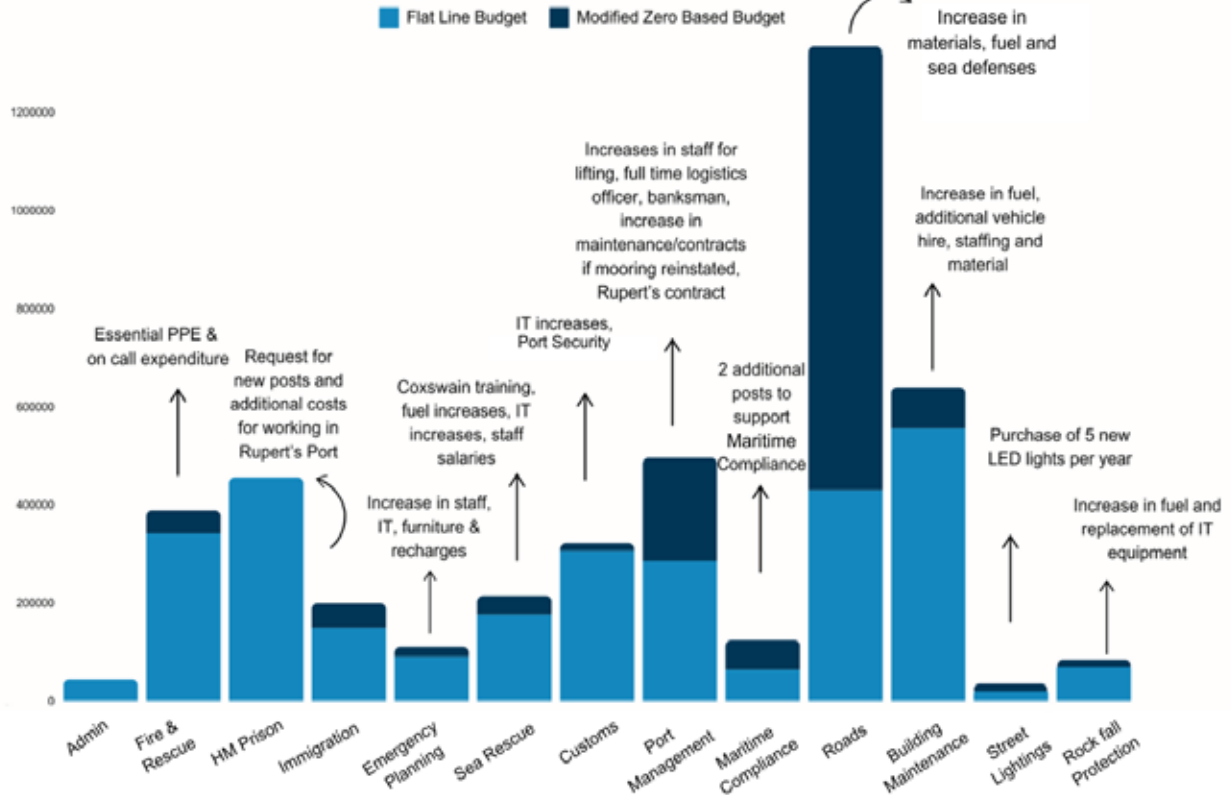
Safety, Security & Home Affairs

PROPOSED 2025/26 BUDGETS

The Portfolio is focused on creating a safe environment to achieve the strategic goal of making St Helena 'Altogether Safer', ensuring we have the capabilities to safeguard the community, facilitating St Helena's long-term goal as a viable and thriving community.

Flat-Line budget allocation for 2024/25, and the Modified Zero-Based Budget which is an aspirational budget submitted to UK Government for 2025/26 that SHG believes would help to meet current financial needs.

Budget allocation for 2025/26



Proposed Capital expenditure for FY 2025/26 as follows:



Building Maintenance (£46,000)

Installation of fencing at Harford and St Paul's primary schools, roofing, new doors and windows at the CCC and installation of roof at Levelwood and Longwood Clinics.



Fire & Rescue (£20, 000)

For a portable pump



Sea Rescue (£161, 000)

For part payment of a new 60NM Sea Rescue vessel to replace Lima and £5K for mooring buoys for Sea Rescue vessels



Port Management (£230, 000)

Funding for repairing road on Jamestown Wharf, repairs to concrete to jetty, pointing up of sea wall. Purchase of emergency power generator, increase for purchase of lifting kit for up to 100 ton vessel

Supplementary funding is the additional funds withdrawn from the General Reserves throughout the financial year 2024/25 for unforeseen expenditure. This includes:

Capital expenditure:

96K

has been requested and not yet approved for modular lifting equipment for port operations

Recurrent expenditure:

12K

Rupert's cargo handling

2K

Employee costs from cadre increments

16K

Immigration costs associated for border security

18K

Vessel maintenance and cost for new contract for the ferry service

40K

Contribution towards Argos Georgia incident investigation from St Helena Registry

32K

Reclassify capital expenditure to recurrent costs for Rupert's operations for equipment and works that cannot be capitalised

INVITATION TO TENDER

RUPERT'S CARGO HANDLING FACILITY – STAFF CAR PARK

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

CS-1922-SHG – Rupert's Cargo Handling Facility – Staff Car Park

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 27 February 2025, at 09:00, meeting at the Car Park, Sea Rescue Building, Rupert's.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this 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 Friday, 07 March 2025, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

THORPE'S EMPORIUM

Calling all farmers



Thorpe's Emporium will shortly be placing their order for hazardous products

If you require any agrochemicals please contact Henry Thorpe on henry@thorpes.sh, 22781



We can supply Insecticides, herbicides and fungicides



Thorpes

Notice

Thorpes Wholesale store will be closed for stock take on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th February and Tinkers shop will be closed on Tuesday 25th February.

Any inconvenience caused is very much regretted.

FROM MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY

LONGWOOD HARDWARE



Rose & Crown
A Third Generation Family Business

REVISED OPENING HOURS

MON	8.00 - 4.00 PM
TUE	8.00 - 4.00 PM
WED	8.00 - 4.00 PM
THU	8.00 - 4.00 PM
FRI	8.00 - 4.00 PM
SAT	8.00 - 4.00 PM
SUN	8.00 - 11.00 AM

FROM MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025,
LONGWOOD HARDWARE WILL
CLOSE AT 4.00PM FROM
MONDAY TO SATURDAY.
SUNDAY OPENING TIMES
REMAIN THE SAME.

THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR CUSTOMERS FOR
YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND
CONTINUED SUPPORT.

+290 24462 www.roseandcrown.sh sales@roseandcrown.sh

STOP BY & CHECK OUT OUR PRODUCT RANGE

- **CEMENT MIXERS** ● **CERAMIC TILES** ●
(PETROL & ELECTRIC) WALL & FLOOR
- **BOX IRON** ● **HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES**
38MM - 50MM WASHING MACHINES, DRYERS, FRIDGE FREEZERS
- **GALVANISED PIPE** ● **PLASTERBOARD**
25/ 32 / 40 / 50MM FIREBOARD & MOISTURECHECK
- **GALVANISED SHEETS** ● **GARAGE DOORS**
- **DIAMOND MESH** ● **BATHROOM SINKS**
- **SEWAGE PIPE & FITTINGS** ● **CEMENT** ●
- **CRETESTONE PLASTER** ● **POWERTOOLS**

Join us!
We are recruiting...



**St Helena
Government**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

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: 26 February 2025

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.

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**

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.

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

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

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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: Dianne Venning on 22158 or Email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 27 February 2024

Claims Officer (£12,049 per annum)

Do you have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to apply objective judgement? Here is an opportunity for you to join the team at the Claims Office. In this role you will carry out the duties of the Adjudication Officer, as provided for in the Social Security Ordinance, through the interview and assessment of Income Related Benefit and Basic Island Pension applicants.

Contact us for more information.

Enquiries: Gail Beard on Tel No 22605 or Email gail.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 7 March 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.

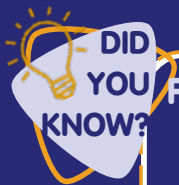
To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

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The MV Azamara Quest is expected to arrive at St Helena on Saturday 1 March at 8am and depart at 6pm
SHE IS CARRYING:

690 PASSENGERS **AND** **408** CREW



For as little as* £11 a month you can purchase Hire & Reward Insurance – the 'Taxi Cover'.

*Premiums calculated on Engine Size and range from <1400cc at £11 to 6000cc at £26

A Fee of £26.50 will also be payable to SHG, to upgrade your current Private Road License to a Public Service License and will run the length of your current license until your next MOT

SCHEDULED
STOPS FOR
PRE-ARRANGED
ISLAND SCENIC
TOURS ARE:

- Two Gun Saddle
- Stitches Ridge
- Napoleon's Tomb
- Plantation House
- Napoleon's House (Longwood Green)
- Ladder Hill Viewing Platform

These scheduled stops, along with prime spots in Jamestown (for those walking around), provide open opportunities for sales and promotions

Set up a Refreshment Stand...Bring along your Locally Made Souvenirs...

Contribute to the Visitor Experience!



Be Friendly



Be Prepared (show off your Local Knowledge)



Be Organised



Be Flexible (changes may be required due to sea conditions)





JOB VACANCIES

Yang Enterprises, Inc. invites interested candidates to apply for the following positions on Ascension Island:

Plant/Mechanic Monitor – Power House: Operate utility plant equipment in automatic or manual (off normal) operations. Record and analyze operating parameters making changes and repairs as needed and notifying the Supervisor of abnormal conditions. Assist mechanic with the repair and rebuild of equipment. Provide for servicing of engines, change oil, filters, repair leaks and other minor repairs and perform required testing and adjustment of equipment to meet required standards.

Master Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator: Operate hand and power tools of all types: air hammers, earth tampers, cement mixers. Clean and prepare work sites, dig trenches, clean up rubble and debris. Support ship offload/backload operations. Use and operate heavy equipment such as trucks and tractors.

Storekeeper: Responsible for daily inventory of items being issued to the kitchen. Issue product to departments. Daily reporting. Conduct inventory and regular spot checks. Lift heavy boxes when off loading. Ensure items are in date compliance and rotate inventory through the FIFO system. Effectively communicate with personnel for food requirements. Forklift operator preferred.

Inventory & Supply Technician: High level of customer service interaction. Required to receive, inspect and distribute material to warehouse location. Conduct inventory, update supply data base. Stock room duties of stocking and issue of material. Complying with shelf life report/codes. Property Custodian and Inventory Accountability.

Carpenter: Constructs, erects, installs and repairs structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms, building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding and rafters. Build doors, windows, door frames and install cabinets, siding and drywall. Maintain in good repair building woodwork and equipment such as counters, benches, doors, floors, casings and trim made of wood.

Electrician: Performs a variety of electrical trade functions such as respond to emergencies or critical work, installation, maintenance, or repair of equipment for the generation, distribution, or utilization of electric energy. Installing or repairing any of a variety of electrical equipment such as generators, transformers, switchboards, controllers, circuit breakers, motors, heating units, conduit systems, or other transmission equipment; working from blueprints, drawings, layouts, or other specifications.

Painter: Paint all U.S. Base Facilities interior and exterior and assist with coating applications including chemical removal corrosion control. Use abrasive blasting equipment to remove paint, grease, tar, rust, and dirt and other imperfections from the surface so that it can be painted and refinished.

Plumber: Assembles, installs and repairs pipes, fittings and fixtures of heating, water, and drainage systems, according to specifications and plumbing codes. Installs and repairs plumbing fixtures, such as sinks, commodes, water heaters, hot water tanks, garbage disposal units, dishwashers, and water softeners. Repairs and maintains leaky faucets, mending burst pipes, and opening clogged drains.

Welder: Welds metal components together to fabricate or repair products, such as machine parts and plant equipment, using both gas welding or brazing and any combination of arc welding processes. Performs related tasks such as thermal cutting and grinding. Repair cracks in industrial engine cylinder heads, using inspection equipment and gas torch.

Fire Dispatcher: Receives incoming telephone or alarm system calls regarding emergencies and non-emergencies. Dispatch emergency responders, medical and security personnel. Relays information to law enforcement and emergency response personnel. Record details of calls, dispatches, and messages. (Certified as a Public Safety Telecommunicator I, II, Hazmat awareness.)

YEI provides its employees meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) and accommodations. Upon completion of a one-year contract, YEI will provide a round trip passage to the home of record. Laundry and MWR facilities are available free of charge. A valid Passport/Visa with a minimum of 18 months is required for an offer letter to be extended. To be considered, there should not be any major offences recorded with law enforcement.

Any interested person **currently residing on Saint Helena** can send their CV to AscensionIslandJobs@gmail.com and call 25971 for an appointment to complete the application.

Any interested person currently not residing on Saint Helena may apply online at <https://www.yangenterprises.com/getapplication.aspx> and attach their CV.



EDUCATION REVIEW PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio will hold a public meeting on 25 February at 19:00 in the Main Hall at Prince Andrew School. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the community with an update on the Education Review's interim findings and potential next steps.

The Education Review will evaluate St Helena's education and skills provision, from early years to post-16, exploring:

- How St Helena's education services can be future-proofed to support the economic and human capital development of the island
- How to enhance educational attainment and learning outcomes for all

To date, we have had visits and input from our colleagues at the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in October 2024 who undertook an independent appraisal of possible future primary provision. Additionally, Hampshire Local Authority (HLA) visited in November 2024 to review our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) offer and our broader school provision. This led to Hampshire Local Authority providing staff with much needed Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in January 2025. Currently on island is Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, who will be instrumental in producing the final Education Review Report.

We would like to offer our community the opportunity to meet and provide feedback on the Education Review. We look forward to engaging with you on this important topic of change.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and guardians that a meeting will also be held on 24 February at 19:00 in the Main Hall at Prince Andrew School to engage with you all on the same topic.

The public are kindly asked not to wear pin heels/stilettos to these meetings due to the recent re-flooring of the Main Hall.

Cricket Results & Fixtures

St Helena Cricket Association

Saturday 15/2/25

Levelwood Rebels 253/10 (34.3 overs)

Delroy Leo - 54(63)
 Weston Clingham - 51(37)
 Harry Winfield - 4/40(6 overs)
 Michael Bedwell - 2/20(3 overs)

Cobras 201/10 (24.3 overs)

Scott O'Bey - 50 (37)
 Blaze Baldwin - 50(37)
 Ryan Samuel - 3/33 (4 overs)
 Delroy Leo - 3/51(7 overs)

Player of the Match:

Delroy Leo (Levelwood rebels)



St. Helena Cricket Association

Sunday 16/2/25

Levelwood Allstars 343/4 (35 overs)

Kristian Leo - 119*(115)
 Clayton Leo - 75(30)
 Hugo Richards - 2/61(7 overs)
 Damian Burns - 1/36(7 overs)

Jamestown Heat 184/7(35 overs)

Jamie Essex - 56(65)
 Dax Richards - 32(42)
 Cormac Crowie - 2/26(4 overs)
 Stefan Leo - 1/7 (3 overs)

Player of the Match

Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars)

Sandy Bay Pirates 299/5 (35 overs)

Ajay Bennett - 111(69)
 Rhys Francis - 63(63)
 Gareth Johnson - 2/25 (7 overs)
 Scott Crowie - 1/41 (7 overs)

Western A Mustangs 163/10 (32 overs)

Scott Crowie - 104*(91)
 Jamie Ellick - 10(10)
 Rhys Francis - 5/23(7overs)
 Ajay Bennett - 2/39 (6 overs)

Player of the Match:

Rhys Francis (Sandy Bay Pirates)



Property for Sale at Hutt's Gate

375 metre's from Napoleon's Tomb.
 Approved Plan's.

Or Storage .

A six metre container with building materials included.

Contact 23163.

Cricket Fixtures:

Saturday 22/2/25

13:30

Sandy Bay Pirates v Jamestown Heat
 (Umpires: Delroy Leo and Jordi Henry)

Sunday 23/2/25

8:45

Challengers v Levelwood Rebels
 (Umpires: Dax Richards and William Knipe)

13:30

Western A Mustangs v Cobras
 (Umpires: Gavin George and David George)

Premier League Fixtures

Friday 21st February

8pm

Leicester City v Brentford

Saturday 22nd February

12:30pm

Everton v Man Utd

3pm

AFC Bournemouth v Wolverhampton Wanderers

Arsenal v West Ham United

Fulham v Crystal Palace

Ipswich Town v Tottenham Hotspurs

Southampton v Brighton & Hove Albion

5:30pm

Aston Villa v Chelsea

Sunday 23rd February

2pm

Newcastle United v Nottingham Forest

4:30pm

Man City v Liverpool

Bayern v Celtic – Defender Alphonso Davies Sinks Celtic with Last Gasp Goal

With 90 minutes of normal time played in the second leg of Celtic's Champions League play-off tie against Bayern Munich, the Scottish champions were on course to take the Bundesliga leaders to extra time in their own backyard.

Brendan Rodgers' side led 1-0 on the night thanks to Nicolas Kuhn's second-half strike, and it could have been more.

Several first-half chances came and went as Celtic pressed and pestered Bayern all over the pitch. Bayern looked rattled, unable to find the answers against a team they were heavy favourites to beat.

But, in the final minute of four added on, Alphonso Davies scrambled home from close range after Kasper Schmeichel had clawed away Leon Goretzka's header to send the German side through.



This Can't Be Happening
Celtic's captain, midfielder Callum McGregor, after the final whistle

Everton's New Stadium 'Out of This World' Say Fans



Everton's magnificent new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock opened its doors for the first time on Monday to 10,000 lucky Toffees fans successful in a ballot for an under-18s friendly against Wigan.

Four years in the making and at an estimated cost of more than £750m, the club will move in fully over the summer in time for the start of the 2025-26 season.

Golf Report: Charlie Ruddy Sponsored Stableford Competition 16th February

Report by the St Helena Golf Club

The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy sponsored Stableford Competition was held with 16 participants eager to compete for the winnings. The format of the competition, Stableford, rewards players based on their performance relative to par on each hole, allowing for a more dynamic scoring system.

As the early groups finished their rounds, Larry Legg emerged with a strong score of 37 points, establishing a commanding lead at that moment. However, the excitement built as we awaited the final group to complete their rounds, which would ultimately determine the winner of this competitive event.

When the last group came in, Peter Bagley surprised everyone by finishing with an impressive score of 39 points. This score not only secured him first place but also highlighted his skill and consistency throughout the round. Following closely behind was Paddo Johnson, who finished with 38 points, earning him second place in this tightly contested competition. Larry Legg's earlier performance with 37 points earned him third place.



In addition to the main prizes awarded for overall scores, there was also a special mention regarding “2s” scored during the round. Only one player managed to achieve this feat: Peter Bagley himself. He scored his “2” on the 7th hole and consequently claimed all the balls in the 2 Ball Pool, adding another layer of success to his day.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Charlie Ruddy for sponsoring both the competition and its prizes. His support contributed significantly to making this event enjoyable for all participants. Overall, it was a great day filled with good spirits among the golfers.

Upcoming Event

23rd Monthly Medal Stroke Play, sign up list on the club house notice board

Happy Swinging