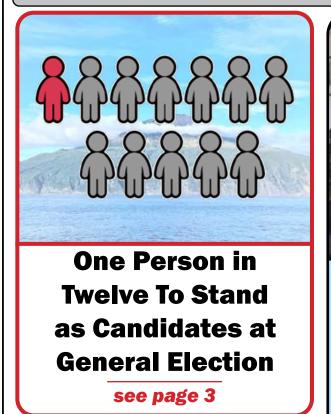
THE STHELENA Lst. 2005 **INDERCE 1** PRICE: £1 Proposed Traffic Management Plan

for Jamestown to be Reviewed



New Attorney General at First Legco in His First Speech Says "Let's Kill All The Lawyers"





Minister's Question Time on Tuesday What did the questioners think of the answers see page 12



Wirebird Census 2025



The Wirebird census for 2025 was conducted in the month of January by the St Helena National Trust Grasslands team and supported by volunteers. This annual census that has been led by the Trust since 2005/6 and takes place at 31 Wirebird sites across the island.

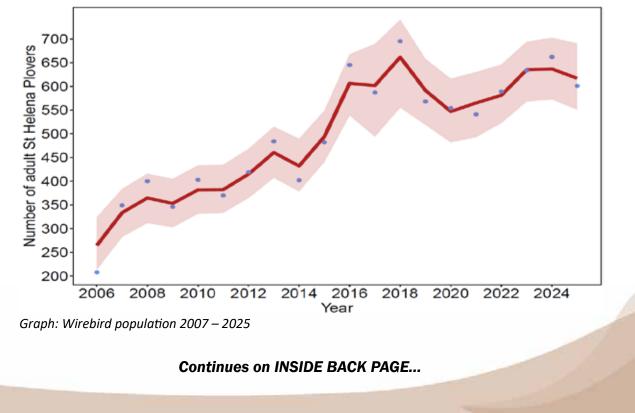
Photo1: Wirebird and chick

While the Wirebird population has fluctuated year to year, it has remained stable since 2016, between 550 and 660 adult bird as can be seen on the graph below that shows the population trend since 2006 to current.

The 2024 census saw the highest ever adult count. This year's census we have seen a drop in adult numbers, but an increase in juveniles, chicks and nesting which were up from last year.

The census takes place at the key sites established in 1988/9, which are indicators of the most probable population. The data below was analysed by the RSPB, and returned that the most likely population is 619 adults, with a 95% confidence interval.

Year	Adults	Juveniles	Nests	Chicks
2024	639	23	46	13
2025	569	32	56	20



One Person in Twelve To Stand as Candidates at General Election

Nominations were announced last week for the candidates standing at the forthcoming general election – in Tristan da Cunha. Seventeen nominations were received. Two days later, one of the regular population official updates put the Resident Islanders population at 233.

This means 7% of the population are standing for election to the Island Council on 5th March. Tristan's Administrator, Philip Kendall said this is the highest number of candidates at a general election in living memory. The Administrator was also pleased to announce the age range of the candidates was from the youngest at 22 years to the oldest at 64.

If 7% of resident Saints stood for election to Legislative Council on 3rd September this year, there would be about 665 candidates for the twelve Legco seats. This gives a measure of the enormous involvement there is in local affairs on Tristan.

Eight Tristan Islanders are elected to the Island Council which will include three members appointed by the Administrator who is also President of the Council. At least one member of Council has to be a woman. Seven women are standing for election on 5th March.

Tristan's Chief Islander is elected separately on general election day. For this election there are three nominations for Chief Islander, including James Glass, the out-going Chief Islander.

The out-going Island Council was elected in March 2022 to serve for three years. James has already served a record five three-year terms as Chief Islander, dating back to 1994. After serving three terms, James Glass stood down until 2019 when he was elected again. One of the other candidates for Chief Islander is lan Laverello who has previously been Chief Islander three times between 2010 and 2019. The third candidate for the job of Chief Islander is Lorraine Repetto.

Anne Green, James Glass's sister, was the first woman to be elected Chief Islander in 1988 and again in 2003. Anne was a member of the out-going Island Council but is not standing for re-election this time. The Island Council elect a Vice-President from among themselves and each councillor is appointed to Sub-Committees which oversee various Tristan Government activities and provide regular reports to the Island Council.

Tristan da Cunha Association Annual Gathering Attracting International Interest

The 2025 Tristan Annual Gathering at the Southampton North Holiday Inn is attracting bookings from people in South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Netherlands as well as those based in England, Scotland and Wales. The Tristan da Cunha Association in the UK organise the event; they hope that as well as Tristan Islanders now based overseas, some resident islanders now in the UK will also attend.

The Annual Gathering is on Saturday 5th April but there is a weekend of events. On Friday evening guests gather in the hotel for dinner. Saturday's events include a film, an illustrated presentation, sales of all things Tristan and an auction. This is



The four-star Southampton North Holiday Inn has recently been refurbished – there are several in-house facilities

followed by a dinner dance. Sunday usually consists of a late breakfast and fond farewells. As well as members of the Tristan da Cunha Association, non-members interested in finding out more about the world's most isolated community are also welcome.

Any of our readers in the UK who are interested in finding out more can find full details at <u>https://www.tristandc.com/assoc/news-2024-08-05-2025AG.php</u>

<u>Open Letter to Elon Musk</u>

Dear Elon,

Forgive me for not paying much attention to your efforts as the first (probably only) Head of the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I promise to give due consideration to any of them when and if they look as if they may be successful. Your initiatives I am aware of are likely to be (if not already) multi-billion dollar disasters. All of them involve widespread and intense human suffering, so I'm instantly repulsed. This is not personal. I switch off the radio when news of your president's latest cataclysmic antic is released into the earth's already (probably terminally) polluted atmosphere.



One massive disruption and deception you recently caused I did get to know of. It involved the storage of US government employee pension records inside a limestone mine in Pennsylvania. You said the total number of people employed by the US government who can retire every month is governed by the speed of the 1950s elevator (lift?) that lowers people and paper records down into the mine and brings them back up again. You said "if the lift breaks down, nobody can retire". Yes, I appreciate that your concern is not for the people who cannot wait to leave



the US government madhouse forever. It is because you want to get rid of them quicker. But that's just the start. C'mon Elon, you know your lift story is a big lie. The limestone mine exists but the lift, and its shaft, does not. It is a drive-in mine. A massive mine with a road network and countless massive storage rooms – for all that paper.

You also know the US Government want the pension records,

Inside Elon's limestone mine – it has a fire truck and a fuel truck as well a nuclear attack. The Pennsylvania mine is just one of many such

mines all over your country used as nuclear-proof storage for government paper records. Tell me, Elon, why do you spend billions protecting all this paper-work from a nuclear attack while the people named in those records will be fried to a small pile of ashes if there is a nuclear attack? What use are the paper records then?

More than that, why is there all this paper? A man like you, Elon, must have heard about digitising records. One room in one mine will hold a very big chunk of all your precious records if they were digitised. You have really missed a trick with this one. You, Elon, are the perfect person to take on the job of digitising all the US government records. You know how it goes. It's all happened before with just about every government there is. You charge £billions for planning and designing a national system for digitising records. Then you charge even more £billions to put the national system in place. You know what comes next Elon; the national computer system for which so much was promised does not work. It's happened so many times before, surely you can make it happen again. Next thing is you 'learn from the mistakes (not your mistakes) and start again from the beginning – designing, planning, building a prototype, running a pilot, revising just about everything until you get to version 52 and then proudly say you are ready to roll out the new improved national computer system for digitised government records (NCSfDGR). C'mon, admit it, that's better than DOGE – woof!

And, the £multi-millions you make from raiding US taxpayers' government funds can be stuffed in your pockets. The money you can get from this 'Carry on Computing' rip-off could pay for a fleet of your very own super yachts right through to the next century. Don't forget you have the burden of keeping your 13 off-spring in the life-style to which they have become accustomed; a big responsibility, expensive too!

Give me a call Elon, maybe we can do an interview? I think the international media has been too kind to you so far. We all know you don't really give a damn about anything or anyone, except yourself; I could write up a story that that includes you changing Twitter to X. And now becoming Ex? Also, the forecasts of doom during 2025 for your Tesla cars. Is Starlink due for a downward turn? Will SpaceX also become another Ex? Will I be able to believe a word you say?

Yours truly, Vince Thompson Editor The St Helena Independent 00 290 23836 The St Helena Independent April Cottage Putty Hill Alarm Forest Tel: 00 290 23836 Email: independent@helanta.co.sh To ensure inclusion, please submit adverts and copy by 1pm on Wednesdays. Later requests subject to available space.

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Notes on a Small Island: Impressions of a Visitor to St Helena

David Steer, visiting from London

A personal view on a wonderful 4 weeks holiday on St. Helena, which included some volunteering with the National Trust.

If anyone wants to comment on this article, please feel free to contact me on dsteer228@btinternet.com.

Travel and arrival

My journey to the island commenced from London on 11th January, after a very pleasant week in Cape Town I arrived at the airport on 18th January 2025 to move on to St. Helena. On arrival for the flight to Jamestown, like all tourists I had to go through the 'will it go/ won't it go' fear/ dread which all visitors have to endure. Then came the announcement, yes you can check in your luggage, we will be going as far as Walvis Bay at least. I'm sure Saints and regular travellers are used to the experience, but for a visitor it can be a little disconcerting to say the least - not for us the normal trepidation associated with flying, but the worry/ nervousness that we will actually NOT BE FLYING!

Thankfully all went well, and we passed through Namibia and on to St. Helena without mishap, with a nice smooth(ish!) landing.

On this occasion it was fine, but I have to say, stating the obvious, that unless the island can improve the reliability of flights, then it's hard to see how tourism will ever really take off. I have no idea if there is a technical solution with the airport, or if there will be a new range of planes which can land here, but somehow, someway I hope there will be a way to improve flight reliability.

Car hire

I had arranged to collect a hire car from the airport for the princely sum of a tenner a day!!!!! The car itself was a rather beaten up 3 series BMW. Being accustomed to car hire in Europe, I was expecting to have to check the vehicle for damage (of which there was lots) but all I was told was "if you knock it and make it worse, just let me know". That was the most St. Helenian introduction to life on the island I could have hoped for, and it made me chuckle.

The absence of a rear-view mirror and a loose gear lever didn't seem important, so I didn't bother to mention anything, I just engaged gear and off I went.

Driving on St. Helena

Driving on St. Helena is, for the uninitiated, an interesting experience. The road from the airport is excellent and I was happily pootling along until hitting the switchbacks after Longwood and Alarm Forest, we do not have anything like them in the UK.

Having watched a You Tube video prior to travelling I was aware of the most important basic rule – give way to vehicles coming up hill, and I was acutely aware of this when driving down to Jamestown. Thankfully the road is generally wide enough for two vehicles to pass safely, so I didn't have to panic and pull over.

Drivers on the island are very courteous, the 'hello there' St. Helena car driver wave quickly became second nature, and I think I cracked the code...... If stopped at a passing place to allow a vehicle to pass it is the FULL HAND WAVE, merely passing each other on a road it is the RAISED INDEX FINGER WAVE.

Part of the fun of driving is getting lost. How can you get lost on such a small island I hear you say – well it's very easy actually. Signposts are somewhat erratically placed, and not every junction is signposted. Many of the roads look identical so after whizzing around several switchbacks you realise that you've already done the same road twice (or more sometimes!). However, after a few weeks I at last sorted out the key areas and

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how to get around. It was such a pleasure to be able to get to Levelwood without a pointless excursion to Sandy Bay.

I will say though, that the person who placed the convex mirrors at key switchbacks deserves a medal, they are really helpful when approaching blind bends.

Jamestown

The first view of Jamestown from the top of the hill is unforgettable, a beautiful little town situated between steep valley sides. I was fortunate to secure a rental flat in the heart of Jamestown next to the St. Helena National Trust, it was spacious and well appointed.

Jamestown is an attractive small town with impressive historic Georgian buildings fronting the street, there are a reasonable number of shops, pubs and eateries given the size of the town.

I made the Standard my local pub, it's a nice little pub to pop into for a beer, there's always someone to talk to whether a local, ex-pat worker or retiree.

Anne's place is excellent, well priced food and drink and a quite varied menu with plenty of choice. Staff are great as well.

I wasn't sure about the Mantis, which advertises itself as the 'luxury' choice on the island but I felt the decoration and atmosphere was a bit cold and impersonal, albeit the staff were generally friendly. It's not cheap by local standards. One thing that was a bit disappointing was their attitude to helping out customers, on two occasions I heard them say that the restaurant was fully booked yet it was empty. There were seats in the bar area and outside and I felt more could have been done to squeeze in an extra customer. That's what Customer Service is!

The Yacht Club runs regular Fish Fry evenings, generally on a Wednesday (albeit sometimes cancelled – see below), be prepared to wait a long time for your order though! The coffee shop adjacent to the gate at the lower end of town is excellent for breakfast and lunch, note it doesn't open on Mondays or Tuesdays. The attractive indoor Market has locally grown produce and a nice café as well as a couple of other outlets.

For me the saddest sight on the high street is the Consulate Hotel. A beautiful building right in the heart of the town, in a prominent location yet after about 4.00 pm it looks closed and uncared for. It's a crying shame and an almost criminal waste of an opportunity to be the towns 'go-to' establishment. Who wouldn't want to sit on the amazing veranda with a beer/ coffee and watch the world go by?

The impression given is that no one cares for the place.

Tourist Sights

St. Helena has a number of tourist sights and places to visit, BUT I do find the opening times to be a tad bizarre at times, for example:

• Longwood House, former home of Napoleon opens 3 days a week for 2 hours, 11.00 am till 1.00 pm! Be careful though because if you google Longwood House, St. Helena you will get a result that says it's open 5 days a week for 2 hours. Try and get there on a Tuesday or Thursday and it'll be closed.

• The excellent St. Helena Museum opens 10.00 am till 2.00 pm 4 days a week and a magnificent 2 hours on a Saturday.

• Napoleon's (empty) tomb shuts the gate at 3.00 pm. Absolutely bizarre, the (empty) tomb itself is closed off to the public, you walk about half a mile down a grass track to a viewing platform to see the fenced off (empty) tomb. Why on earth is there a gate? Do they think some irate French person is going to dig it up to check if Napoleon was actually exhumed?

• Plantation House opens once a week for a few hours for a guided tour. Of course, I accept this is the Governor's residence, but come on – if you're really trying to encourage tourism then try a little harder.

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Now on the positive side, the ABSOLUTELY EXCELLENT Tourist office will give details of the other tours and trips available – for example fantastic fishing trips, whale shark watching, a couple of coffee tours and (hopefully re-opening soon after a bereavement) the island distillery. For water lovers, there are a few scuba/ snorkel companies operating with some (I'm told) really first-class dive venues. The swimming pool in town is first class.

There are a variety of island tours available, the Tourist Office will be happy to help to find the one for you. It is possible to leave a legacy on St. Helena by planting a tree at the Millenium Forest, only £10 at the National Trust, and there are various other sponsorship opportunities available for those wanting to help the islands environment. I did some volunteering with the National Trust and loved every minute of it, the professionalism and caring attitude of the staff was excellent, they are always looking for further volunteers.

For sports fans, there is regular cricket played at the (soon to be renamed) Prince Andrew School playing fields, I attended a couple of matches and the standard was good, hard fought entertaining games and worth a visit by any sports fans. There is a bar available as well as food all at very good prices.

Walking/ Hiking

One of the great things to do on St. Helena is walking/ hiking. I have completed 10 of the 21 available Post Box Walks, and they show the beauty and variety of the Island's nature and geography very well. However, I have to add a massive BUT.....

The grading of the walks and time allowances are questionable to say the least, the Post Box Walks book states "walking times indicated in this book are based on a fit person who knows the route". I would say that he/she must have been a VERY fit person, with excellent local knowledge.

The guide book does state that you should not do any of the walks graded above 5 alone, and that is correct. My experience as a reasonably fit late 60's male is that the times are very optimistic and don't allow for any breaks, and many of the walks graded above 5 are downright dangerous and MUST NOT be attempted alone.

Notwithstanding the above, there are around 9 or 10 excellent walks which, given the terrain of St. Helena where there is practically no flat ground, are doable for the 'normal' walker. In addition, there are organised guided walks during the Festival of Walking organised by the Tourist Office and there a few walking guides available on a day/half day basis.

In my opinion the book should be re-issued in 2 sections – 1. Safe and reasonable walks suitable to do alone and 2. Hikes only to be attempted in a group preferably with a guide. The book does highlight that everyone should tell someone which walk they're doing and when they expect to return. That's good advice. Whilst on the walks you will get a chance not only to see some stunning views, but also the endemic wildlife including on several of the walks the Island's emblem, the Wire Bird.

The people

It's fair to say that probably the best thing about a visit to St. Helena is the people. In my experience they are pretty well universally very friendly, engaging, helpful and kind. The teams at the National Trust and the Tourist Office have gone above and beyond expectations and helped to make my trip very special.

I have found the local accent interesting at times, if listening to several Saints talking together it can be really hard to understand what is being said, but on a one-to-one basis I have found that they will generally adapt the accent to make themselves clearer.

It seems that nothing is too much trouble for the Saints, they will go out of their way to help you if required.

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David Steer, visiting from London

Continues from PREVIOUS PAGE...

Interesting idiosyncrasies

Of course, everywhere in the world has its little foibles, and St. Helena is no exception, I found the following examples to be amusing, engaging, frustrating and/ or strange, speaking as an outsider with little knowledge of the reasons behind the item. None of these spoilt my enjoyment of the trip, in fact frequently they added to the charm of the place:

- » Rumours and the rapid spread thereof. I've been told that if I want some news spread around the island within 12 hours, all I have to do is tell someone in confidence...... the rumour mill will do the rest..... but with a small twist on each re-telling.
- » The renewable electricity wind turbines at Flagstaff and the non-operation thereof. I've been told 'on good authority' that the reason there is only one of them turning and about a dozen are sitting stationary is.....
- o They're too big
- o They're too small
- o They never worked in the first place
- o The electric grid is not robust enough to take the electricity generated
- o Someone took a 'bung' to get them installed

Whatever the facts are, there are a load of wind turbines sat stationary in an area with virtually non-stop wind due to (possibly) incompetence, bad luck, bad procurement, Napoleons Curse.... Pick one or more of the above!

» Seemingly over complicating simple issues.

I read with interest all the shenanigans over what appears to be a preposterously complex Traffic Management Plan to cope with the traffic in Jamestown when the cargo is unloaded. From outside I would say – just get on with it and sort it out, it's not that difficult!

Next was the multiple page diatribe over Fixed Penalty Notices, as if an island with such a small population needs to have yet more legislation over parking in Jamestown, which it seems to me is at worst a minor irritation.

- Electric Vehicle charging, when all the electricity is generated by DIESEL POWERED TURBINES! Apart for some free publicity, what on earth was this nonsense about? Sort out renewable energy first, then worry about electric vehicles.
- Events being cancelled for no apparent reason. For example, the excellent Fish Fry night at the Yacht Club was cancelled twice on the trot with no explanation.
- Half day Wednesday closing. This is presumably a throwback to days gone by, I recall as a child in the UK there being half day closing on a Wednesday but it's long gone from the UK by now. It is not universally followed on the island, but a significant proportion of shops in Jamestown close on Wednesday afternoon.

Overall impression

I hope I have put across in this brief article how much I have enjoyed my time here, I've met some wonderful people, seen beautiful scenery and will recommend to everyone at home in London that they add St. Helena to their bucket list.

I feel that a bit of tweaking to some of the tourist attractions opening times and some improvements to elements of the Jamestown experience (wake up Consulate!) will be beneficial. Furthermore, by whatever means, if a way can be found to improve the reliability of incoming flights, the future could be brighter. I hope that is possible.

People with an adventurous spirit who enjoy walking, history, nature, swimming, friendly people and a safe environment will absolutely love St. Helena. I have had a wonderful time and would like to thank all the people I have met who made it all possible – you know who you are.

Cruise Ship Visit Tomorrow

The cruise ship Azamara Quest is due to arrive in James Bay at 8am tomorrow, 1st March. It is more than likely she will join the Karoline and the Ardbeg at anchor in James Bay due to the prevailing seastate. However, the Captain – working with Port Control – will make a decision on whether it is safe to land passengers on Saturday morning.

The schedule is for tours to depart at 9am from the wharf. It is expected that the passengers will carry the following currencies: Euros, Dollars and GBP. The rate of exchange for these and other currencies is available from the Bank of St Helena and the Tourist Office.

Among a wide range of nationalities on board are Australians, Canadians, British and United States. The scheduled departure time is 6pm.

If passengers do come ashore the usual one-way system will operate from Gordon's Post to Hutt's Gate Store from 9am to 4pm. Traffic in the opposite direction is routed via the Dungeon.

New Attorney General at First Legco in His First Speech Says "Let's Kill All the Lawyers"

It's probably not as bad as it may look when you know the details. Andrew Dawson, our new Attorney General was quoting a line from one of Shakespeare's plays. Henry IV to be exact. Act IV Scene 2 to be painstakingly precise. The full quote is "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers". The words are spoken by a very unpleasant character called 'Dick the Butcher'. Why did the Attorney General quote Shakespeare? Well, here goes...

The last item on the order paper at a Legislative Council offers all councillors (who are not ministers) the opportunity to give their opinion on any topic they choose. The ministers then respond to the points made by non-ministers in the various speeches. The ministers take it in turn to respond, with the Chief Minister speaking last and wrapping the whole thing up.

Somewhere along the way, one of the councillors must have spoken about the absence of proposed legislation in legislative council order papers or made uncharitable remarks about the legislative programme. The chief minister picked up on this point and, to simplify Julia Thomas's comments to a single phrase, the finger was pointed, mainly, at the Attorney General's Chambers.

When The Chief Minister finished and sat down, the Speaker asked the Attorney General if he would like to say a few words. He did like.

When the Attorney General stood up and started to speak, nobody got killed straightaway. Andrew Dawson thanked everybody for the warm welcome he received from everybody since his arrival. He said, "It's an honour and privilege to be amongst you and it makes my life so much easier to receive such a warm and generous welcome." And then, "So thank you for that." It was a signal there was more coming, on a different, more serious subject.

Andrew Dawson started to turn the corner by saying, "I'm very much alive to the workloads within the Attorney General's Chambers and I'm also grateful for the words of support I received from my government colleagues, as well as from ministers to support that work going forward, we do recognise how important it is and how ambitious you are in trying to see these things done."

Then came the 'BUT'. He continued, "But can I just remind you of words from Shakespeare, Henry, the fourth, 'let's kill all the lawyers.' Well, that's all very well. And it's also, all very well to blame lawyers, and that's absolutely fine. That's part of our role and remit.

Then, as if speaking to a jury, the Attorney General came to the crunch – starting with another 'BUT'. "But I've just been glancing at the legislative programme of all the matters that are listed there on my spreadsheet. I've just been looking, there are 34 items, 28 of which were labelled as category 1, and about a third of them at least are indications that we couldn't progress them because there were other issues such as policy development or instructions that were required." Ouch!

Andrew Dawson then lightened up a bit. He mentioned having wonderful colleagues and, told the rest of the council chamber, "You'll get there, help me and I'll help you and thank you."



Jamestown parking on a good day

The proposed traffic management plan intended to deal with cargo traffic from Rupert's to warehouses in Jamestown has been deferred while responses to public consultation are taken into account.

Why Deferred?

A condition, (Condition 5) for the permission given by the Land Development Control Authority for the Side Path and Field Road improvements is that a Jamestown traffic management plan be finalised and presented to the Chief Planning Officer "within 12 months of construction". The Chief Planning Officer has to give approval before it is considered that the condition is complied with. The deadline for public responses invited on the traffic management plan was 31st January. The Chief Planning Officer asked the working group set up to propose the traffic management plan to consider the public responses received and amend the plan where appropriate. This review is now ongoing.

Derek Henry, Head of Infrastructure and Strategies, told the Independent when speaking on behalf of the working group that "the comments and suggestions made as responses to the public consultation are each being considered by the working group." Some of them are likely to be incorporated into the original plan. Others may be unviable for one of several reasons, including traffic regulations, legal or financial.

Timescales

The condition attached to the Side Path/ Field Road improvements states that a detailed traffic management plan will be submitted to the Chief Planning officer "Within twelve months of the construction". Assuming the re-opening of Field Road is the date of 'construction' the 12 months are up on 28th November.

As far as the Chief Planning officer is concerned the condition states the traffic management plan, "will be submitted and approved in writing by the Chief Planning Officer on behalf of the Land Development Control Authority." It is assumed, again, the Chief Planning Officer's 'approval' is that the process has been satisfactorily completed; not that the traffic management plan itself has been given approval. Final approval of the traffic management plan lies with the Highway Authority. The condition for the traffic management plan also states, "the Traffic Management Plan will be implemented within twelve months of the Port Operations commencing in Lower Rupert's Valley."

Proposed Traffic Management Plan for Jamestown to be Reviewed

Towards the end of last year, it was anticipated port operations would be transferred to Rupert's early this year. It is understood the transfer date has now shifted to June this year. Whatever date the transfer finally takes place, the traffic management plan does not have to be in place until June 2026, at the earliest.

What Happens Next

In addition to taking into account the responses to the public consultation last month, there is also additional contact being made with residents and businesses in Napoleon Street and Nosegay Lane. The Chamber of Commerce and possibly other organisations have also discussed the original traffic management plan and discussions are ongoing.

It seems the working group responsible for reviewing the traffic management plan hope to be able to submit a reviewed plan before June this year, when port operations are now expected to be transferred to Rupert's.

Whatever date the traffic management plan is introduced, there is already provision to give it an early review, once it is in operation. The plan published in January included, "The traffic management plan will be reviewed by the Police and Roads Section after 6 months of operation. Any recommended deviations to the plan will be proposed to the Highway Authority."

There is also the possibility that the cargo traffic from Rupert's will not be as noticeable, or as problematic, as is feared by some. In any event, the 6-month review gives the opportunity to react to unintended consequences due to cargo traffic entering Jamestown from the opposite end.

Parking in Jamestown

Central Jamestown is also part of the required traffic management plan. The working group are asked to provide a "detailed Traffic Management Plan for central Jamestown, including control and policing of car parking within Napoleon Street". This was originally covered by the introduction of fixed penalty notices for parking offences. Now, the scope has been widened considerably.

Jeffrey Ellick, Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, has asked the Safety, Security & Home Affairs portfolio to propose a Road Users Policy for St Helena.

It is anticipated the formulation of this policy will take into account provision of long-term parking areas, where possible and short-term parking provision closer to shops and offices frequently used by customers. Other considerations could include parking meters and, of course, fixed penalty notices.

The Condition 5 - the complete text

Within twelve months of the construction, detailed Traffic Management Plan for central Jamestown, including control and policing of car parking within Napoleon Street, will be submitted and approved in writing by the Chief Planning Officer on behalf of the Land Development Control Authority. Thereafter, the Traffic Management Plan will be implemented within twelve months of the Port Operations commencing in Lower Rupert's Valley.

Reason: to ensure that the access road into Jamestown is unobstructed during peak hours to enable safe movement of vehicular traffic and to ensure pedestrian safety.'

Minister's Question Time on Tuesday

What did the questioners think of the answers

Cllr Rob Midwinter

In my opinion, the questions were answered pretty extensively by Minister Henry, particularly noting that he would have only received sight of these an hour before being called to respond. What I do feel needs further action, as noted by the Minister during question time, is an increased level of promotional activity in relation to the various aspects of support that are available. In this respect, it is understood that Public Health has been awaiting the arrival of a new Health Promotion Coordinator, so hopefully this will be addressed very soon. I feel that it is also noteworthy to mention that, following my own question regarding the availability of screening services, a press release has already been issued reminding the public of the bowel cancer screening service. An area that I do still have serious concerns about, which I believe needs a collective approach, including within the community, is addressing the growing trend of young teenagers that I see vaping. Vaping is highly addictive and health professionals are only now starting to fully understand the long-term damage that this does to the body; I personally think that we need to get tough on this now, starting with single use / disposable vapes, in order to protect both the health of our youth and also the impact that disposable vapes will have on our environment.

Clir Andrew Turner

I do feel my question on tackling smoking rates was answered, although the position we are in is not good. It is disappointing to see yet another piece of legislation, that has been passed by LegCo, never get enforced.

I think we need to take a serious look at how so many pieces of law are getting passed through the democratic process and then never implemented.

Because the 2020 tobacco legislation will now not be enforced, there is urgent work needed to address the issues associated with disposable vapes and protections for children that should have come into effect in 2020. Other changes such as advertising restrictions may be less urgent but are also important in the long term.

What has struck me in the debate about smoking is the contrast between different areas of the government's attitude towards smoking. Some policies treat it as a valuable source of revenue, but this has a long-term heavy impact on the health service.

Following the minister's answers, I believe there is scope for the government to provide stronger direction about their intentions around smoking.

Are they going to keep increasing taxes year on year, or are they going to consider other restrictions or bans? It's important for people to know the direction we are heading.

It is crucial for the government to communicate their plans clearly to the public. By doing so, people will have a better understanding of the direction the government is taking and can make more informed decisions about their smoking habits.

I think a long-term plan to reduce smoking is necessary but that plan should be created with our community at the forefront. This is something that we have to do together as an island if we want it to work.

Happy to answer any questions you or your readers may have.

CIIr Gillian Brooks

I feel the Ministers Question Time on Preventative Health went well, knowing the session is one hour long and questions are sighted by the Minister just an hour prior to the live hearing.

Minister's Question Time on Tuesday

What did the questioners think of the answers

In my opinion, the Minister did endeavour to respond with as much detail as possible. The questions asked covered a range of areas that sit under this topic.

I tend to listen to the repeats, and if I feel there is scope for further questions, I will follow up with the relevant Directorate or, as a question for an upcoming sitting of Formal Legco. In regard to this, if there are any questions that the public would like followed up, I am more than happy to do so, on their behalf.

Clir Karl Thrower

I believe Minister Question Time (MQT) this month was a success, as health-related issues always resonate strongly with the public. During the nearly hour-long session, Minister Henry provided a wealth of information in response to councillors' questions. It would be impossible to cover everything discussed in a single letter, so I'll focus on the key points that stood out.

One area that deserves attention is health care for individuals aged 0-19, particularly in schools. The term 'School Nurse' oversimplifies the complexity of the services provided. The current and proposed improvements in healthcare for this age group are encouraging and should be applauded. However, it's essential to move beyond the term "school nurse," as it no longer accurately reflects the diverse and evolving healthcare needs being met within schools.

I was pleased to hear about the significant progress made in mental health services in a relatively short time. The work being done to expand capacity and diversify options is commendable. However, as several of my colleagues have pointed out, there's still a pressing need to raise public awareness about these services.

On a positive note, the development of visiting healthcare specialists is encouraging. Still, I was alarmed to learn that ongoing litigation cases are hindering the health service's ability to recruit specialists. Feedback from both the Minister and members of the public suggests that the recent visit by eye care specialists was a resounding success. When paired with the improvements in screening programs, it's clear that our preventative healthcare efforts are heading in the right direction.

However, there is one critical area where more urgent action is needed: tackling smoking and vaping on the Island. I believe we are lagging behind where we need to be on vaping, and the current approach of simply increasing cigarette prices may not be the most effective strategy for reducing smoking rates. It was troubling to hear about the significant challenges in the legislative process. As I mentioned in the meeting, I believe we must urgently prioritise legislation that establishes a rolling minimum age for both smoking and vaping. In simple terms, if you're not old enough to smoke today, you should never be allowed to smoke or vape. The evidence is clear: there are no benefits to either, and as more research emerges on the harmful effects of vaping, the need for this legislation becomes even more pressing. Given that vaping is a relatively new phenomenon, we still lack longterm data, which only adds to the urgency of this issue.

Overall, healthcare is moving in the right direction, and the Minister and his team should be commended for their work and the progress they have made over the last few years, especially considering the limited resources available. It's certainly much better than it used to be. However, that is not to say there isn't still much work to be done in areas such as recruitment and morale, weekend services, appointments, and detailed health provisions, to name a few.



Ships Passing in the Bay

The Karoline arrived on Monday but was still anchored in James Bay on Wednesday due to lively swells. This is unfortunate, some of the shops need the cargo still anchored in the Bay to fill empty shelves. The sea-state is forecast to continue unchanged until next Monday. That's not good news either. Add to that the Ardberg arrived on Wednesday afternoon on schedule with a supply of fuel. The tanker will spend time at anchor waiting for the Karoline to clear her cargo. The delay will cost money; especially delay to the Ardbeg.

Get a Check for Bowel Cancer in March

Early detection of some cancers improves the chances of successful treatment. Bowel cancer is one of these. People aged between 50 and 74 are the 'target' for free bowl cancer tests during March. According the Cancer Research UK, males are more likely than females to get bowel cancer from around the age of 50 until the mid-70s. Men should definitely arrange to get a test sample kit. If you are unsure for some reason, get a test sample kit anyway and read the information that comes with it.

While the incidence rate for bowel cancer in women is not so high, it is certainly possible for some women will suffer from it. Get checked too.

UK Members of Parliament Descend on the Falklands

Four UK MPs flew to the Falklands last week for a week-long visit. They were invited by Falklands Legislative Assembly Members to "strengthen ties, engage with the community, and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of Falklands' part in the British Family, and the right to the selfdetermination of our people." The MPs will meet Members of the Legislative Assembly, government officials, and key stakeholders from across the Islands. Their itinerary includes discussions on governance, economy, and infrastructure, as well as visits to local businesses, defence sites, and environmental projects.



The UK Parliamentary delegation at RAF Brize Norton, before departing for the Falkland Islands

In the group are: Richard Baker MP (Labour, Glenrothes and Mid Fife); Seamus Logan MP (SNP, Aberdeenshire North and Moray East); Jamie Stone MP (Liberal Democrat, Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross); and Andrew Mitchell MP (Conservative, Sutton Coldfield). All Scots apart from Andrew Mitchell.

In addition to the delegation invited by the Legislative Assembly, there was also a separate group of UK parliamentarians visiting the Falkland Islands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, supported by British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI).



Constituency Meetings in March

Meetings start at 7:30 pm

<u>Date</u>	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

The meetings will have a mostly open agenda for constituents to make their priorities known, put forward suggestions and ask questions. Feedback will be provided on outstanding matters raised in previous meetings.

The annual collective meeting with all 12 Elected Members will be held at a later date, once an outcome to the financial package of support for St Helena from FCDO is known.

THE SEAMOUNTS AROUND ASCENSION

Ascension's Underwater Mountains Are Teeming With 41 Times More Sharks Than the Open Ocean



There are way more top predators on seamounts than you would expect based on the amount of food available. - Image credit: Ascension Island Government Conservation & Fisheries Directorate© IFL Science "Our findings suggest that several factors combine to make seamounts so rich in sea life, especially predators," said Dr Sam Weber from the Centre for Ecology and Conservation at University of Exeter. The results reinforce the idea that seamounts are oases of life in the comparative deserts of the open ocean, with an effect on marine diversity that extends in a "halo" around 5 kilometres (3 miles) into the surrounding ocean. The seamounts studied sit within the Ascension Island Marine Protected Area – a 445,000-square-kilometer (171,815-square-mile) zone where no large-scale commercial fishing or seabed mining are allowed – a critical protection, clearly, given the degree of life here.

"Also, some predators appear to use seamounts as 'hubs' to gather, socialise, mate or rest, and as a base to return to after hunting in the open ocean. This may lead to more top predators on seamounts than you would expect based on the amount of food available. filter feeders may benefit from prey being 'blown over' the peak, and the peak may also stop prey species from retreating into deeper water to avoid predators. This effectively concentrates food in one predictable spot in the ocean."



Dear Editor,

Your articles on Maestro and the fibre fiasco saddened me, but did not surprise me, and I am grateful to Audit St Helena for their excellent work, not least as I thought Maestro would have been made to sign a gagging order, meaning this information would never have entered the public domain.

In addition, OneWeb's future does not look bright, and by extension, nor does that of the Earth Station. However, while Starlink is both jam today and jam directly for sale to the likes of you and me, it is not strictly true to say that it does not need either subsea cables or earth stations, even though those using it in remote places like the Falklands, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha could be forgiven for thinking it, seeing as they only need a dish.

On the contrary, all satellite internet services need to be connected to cable networks on the ground, and what are known as PoPs or Points of Presence, and the more PoPs they are connected to, the less latency or delay and congestion their users will face. That explains why Sure's attempt to use OneWeb to improve internet connectivity in the Falklands last year was a flop, as the nearest PoP was in northern Brazil, meaning that internet traffic had to take a detour through Chile, up to California, and then across the North Atlantic to the UK, deteriorating in quality in the process.

Earlier this year, Starlink launched a PoP in Nairobi to improve quality of service for customers in eastern and central Africa, only its second in Africa after Lagos, which is why subscribers in Nigeria, Togo and Ghana have much fewer problems with latency than those in Botswana or Zimbabwe. As demand for Starlink in Africa has been outstripping supply, many people have taken to importing equipment from Europe, despite the greater latency. Currently, Starlink has yet to be launched in Angola or Namibia, but if it ever wanted to improve quality for users there, perhaps it could establish a PoP somewhere to the west of them, ideally in a small, politically stable, English-speaking common law jurisdiction, one connected to a subsea cable, like Google's Equiano. Maybe Amazon might establish one there, if and when it ever launches its rival Kuipe service.

But does anyone in St Helena know of such a jurisdiction? Answers on a postcard, please. Oh wait, they live on one!

When Tristan was connected to Starlink, it took full advantage of this to take part in UK Parliament Week last November, with young people at St Mary's School using it the Speaker of the House of the Commons questions, all of which he thought very good, but some of which he confessed he didn't know the answer to. Was anything similar organised by schools in St Helena? If their counterparts on Tristan could use a laptop in the Post Office and Tourism Centre, maybe Sure could have organised something similar, taking full advantage of the cable to ensure a high quality video link.

Indeed, given that St Helena will not be represented at the British Overseas Territories debate at the UK Youth Parliament this coming Friday, owing to so few Saints studying in the UK to to represent it to begin with (Kelly Yon had to do so twice!) and none being free on this occasion, perhaps this would have been an ideal opportunity to put that improved connectivity to use by allowing a pupil from Prince Andrew's School to participate in the debate virtually. There is a precedent for this, namely during Covid, when a hybrid arrangement was introduced, under which some MPs sat in the chamber, albeit further apart than usual, while others participated virtually, by video link, with large video screens being installed for the occasion.

Additionally, when the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly carried out a Select Committee inquiry into Starlink, some of its members couldn't be there in person, being in the UK at the time, so instead they appeared via video link, fittingly thanks to Starlink, rather than to Sure!

Yours, **Ken Westmoreland**



Dear Editor,

Last week's Independent included text from Councillor Midwinter's Adjournment Debate in the Legislative Council meeting 13 February 2025. It said "over our first two years in office, we put in place the building blocks of a 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".

It reminded me that I'd heard similar comments over the past three years along the lines that the first part of this Council's term of office had to be taken up with working out roles and responsibilities and developing codes of conduct. Why was this necessary? Did it delay other productive work? During the last two years of the last Council (2020/21) as a member of Council, I was part of a Governance Reform Implementation Group specifically set up to prepare for the transition from a Committee System to a Ministerial form of Government. Membership included the Governor, other representatives from his office, the Attorney General and other support from his Chambers, the Deputy Speaker and a senior official from Central Administration. A lot of preparatory work was carried out including draft documentation for a code of conduct for LegCo members, the Roles of the Public Accounts Committee, the Scrutiny Committees, revised Standing Orders, Ministerial Code of Conduct, Roles and Responsibilities plus the allocation of all laws to new Portfolios, draft changes to the constitution which were discussed with London, guidance on the law making process, induction packs for new councillors and plans for training sessions by the Civil Service College for the new councillors when elected. It also included plans for the upcoming General Election.

The on-going impression to anyone not aware that this work had been done could be that the introduction and implementation of the new form of Ministerial Government had been rushed and nothing or very little had been prepared.

That's exactly what a contributed article said in the Independent of 20 December 2024. The article

headed CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW: MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT said in its fourth paragraph "Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the introduction of the Ministerial system here is the lack of preparation for it. There was for example, no Ministerial Code of Conduct in place for over a year after the Chief Minister and other Ministers came into office, even though it is a requirement of section 71 of the Constitution that there be one. The recommendation that a Ministerial system be introduced should have been accompanied by the preparation of all things necessary for its introduction, including a draft Code of Conduct. Some thought should also have been given to what assistance the new Ministers would need in their roles, which nobody on the Island has any experience of".

I'd be quite interested in a response and perhaps SHG can also clarify as they have the actual records. I'm also happy to chat with the author of that article published on 20 December 2024.

Tony Green Knollcombes



Thorpes Grocery Shop will be closed for stock take on Tuesday 4th March.

Any inconvenience caused is very much regretted.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Bank Closure

Bank of St Helena Limited would like to inform the public that the St Helena Branch will be closed on Wednesday, 3rd of March 2025. This closure will facilitate staff training and development. Normal opening hours will resume on Thursday, 4th March 2025.

Bank of St Helena Limited apologises for any inconvenience this may cause, and thank customers for their support and co-operation.





Diocese of St Helena

	The Parish of St Paul's	
Sund	ay 2 nd March 2025– 8 th Sunday of th	ne Year
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	5 th March – Ash Wednesday	
9.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service	PAS
10.30 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service SPPS	Cathedral
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Ashes	Cathedral
	The Parish of St James	
Sund	ay 2 nd March 2025 – 8 th Sunday of tl	ne Year
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	3 rd March -Monday	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	5 th March – Ash Wednesday	
10.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service PPS	St James
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Ashes	St James
	Thursday 6 th March	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
	The Parish of St Matthew	
Sund	ay 2 nd March 2025 – 8 th Sunday of t	he Year
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 4 th March	
7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	St Mark
	5 th March – Ash Wednesday	
10.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service HPS	St Mark
	Eucharist with Ashes	St Mark

Baha'i Faith

+290 22390

Market Street, Jamestown

Bank of St Helena Ltd

info@sainthelenabank.com

www.sainthelenabank.com

@sainthelenabank

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





VOLUME XX, ISSUE 11, 28th FEBRUARY 2025

Residential Land Bottom Woods, Longwood

Build Ready & Fully Serviced

Electricity | Water | Drainage | Telecommunications | House Plans Guide Price £15,000 (60% discount for eligible First Time Buyers, meaning land can be purchased at £6,000 or leased at £300.00 per annum)

Lease and Freehold Options

Contact: Crown Estates Officer, Essex House Jamestown +290 22270 gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

> 'Embark on your journey to homeownership with 60% discount for eligible First Time Buyers, designed to make your dream of owning a home a reality'.



CAREERS FAIR 2025

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio (ESE) will be hosting Careers Fair 2025 on Thursday, 20 March 2025 at New Horizons and the Leisure Park. The fair will open at 11:00 and close at 19:00. Emergency Services will be located in the Mule Yard.

The aim of the fair is to provide attendees with essential career advice, explore employment opportunities, and promote career development.

This event brings together employers, business owners and representatives from a wide range of organisations to showcase various career paths.

Whether you are looking for career advice to help guide your professional journey, seeking handson experience and potential employment opportunities with business representatives, or eager to explore a diverse career path, Careers Fair 2025 has something for you.

There are still stalls available for registration, however, spaces are limited. To secure a spot, please contact the Career Access Office by telephone on 25832 or email Career Access Manager, Glen Yon, at Glen.Yon@sainthelena.gov.sh or Support Officer and Placement Co-ordinator, Sherrilee Phillips, at Sherrilee.Phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh.

ESE encourages interested parties to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



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 <u>tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.</u>

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.



Orders for Seed Potatoes

Thorpes are taking orders for 25kg bags to arrive V15 (ETA: 25th May 2025)

Contact Melanie Williams in Thorpe's Wholesale store on 22393 or <u>wholesale@thorpes.sh</u>

Variety:	Sifra
Tubers per Bag:	400 tubers
Generation:	G3



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR UK STATE (2026 NEW YEAR HONOURS) AND ST HELENA NATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations are now being invited for the following awards:

- 2026 New Year Honours
- Certificate and Badge of Honour
- Acts of Bravery Award
- Badge of St Helena

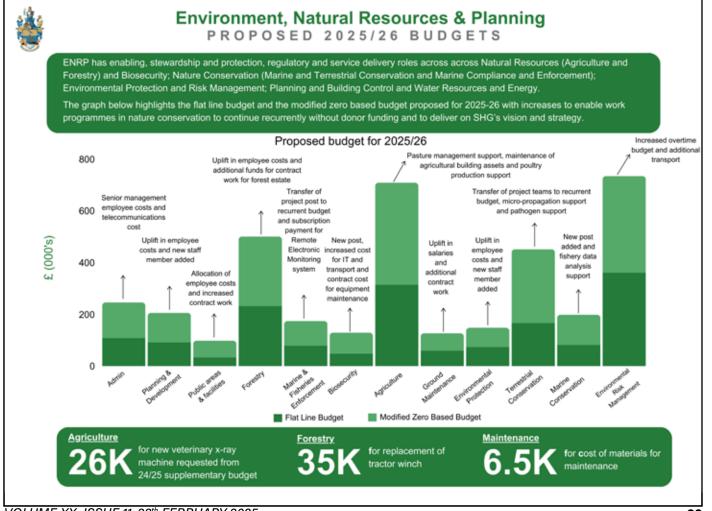


• Freedom of the City of Jamestown. Information on the above awards can be found on the SHG website at <u>https://www.sainthelena.gov.</u> <u>sh/category/press-releases/</u>.Alternatively, further information and nomination forms can be obtained from Central Support Service at the Castle, Jamestown, or by emailing Information and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, at:

linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' addressed to 'The Secretary, Honours and Awards Committee', by Thursday, 17 April 2025.

To find out more about the different types of Honours Awards please visit: www.gov.uk/honours.



FIREFIGHTER ADVERT



JOB VACANCY WITHIN THE ST HELENA AIRPORT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit an experienced professional in firefighting/aircraft ground handling.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Rescue and Fire Fighting Service and will be trained in the use of Aircraft Ground Service Equipment to support aircraft turnarounds at St Helena Airport. Applicants will be expected to work at height and achieve a rope rescue certification of Level 2 or higher within the first year of employment.

Other duties will include Environmental Officer support tasks such as:

- → Wildlife monitoring
- ✤ Maintenance of the Airport precinct gardens
- ✤ Inspections of Airport buildings and surrounding areas
- → Inspection and maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Other duties will include maintenance tasks such as:

✤ Corrosion control of various machinery and buildings

Applicants must be of a professional manner and achieve the following:

- → A full medical assessment
- → Pass a narcotic and Alcohol test
- → Pass a fitness assessment and agility test
- → A clean driving license (J4)
- Able to pass a Criminal Background Check and Employment verification Check in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.

All applicants will be viewed with preferred experiences and certifications in the following:

- → Experience within a firefighting service
- → Experience within an airport environment
- → Fire fighter 1 and 2 or equivalent
- Driver/pump operator.

The aviation environment is primarily driven by safety; as such, applicants must be:

- ✤ Safety conscious
- ✤ Willing to undergo and actively participate in continual training
- ✤ Able to work as part of a team and support their colleagues
- \rightarrow Have a professional and level-headed demeanour.

The starting salary for this post is between **£15,160,36** and **£15,726.48** per annum, depending on qualifications and experience plus a transport allowance of £1,020 per annum and a 12.5% company pension contribution.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, or you would like more information, you can contact Marc Fowler, RFFS Manager on email <u>marc.fowler@sthelenaairport.aero</u> or Telephone number 25180 Ext 135 or to receive the job description and application form please contact Wendy Roberts at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext 175 or email address <u>recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero</u>

The closing date for this position is Friday 21 March 2025.

VACANCY ADVERT



The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit person for the following post: **Human Resources Officer (6-months Fixed-Term)**.

We are seeking a detail-oriented, thorough, and organized individual to provide first line support to a range of HR activities at St Helena Airport Limited (SHAL), including recruitment, learning and development, and performance monitoring and management.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- → 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- → Relevant qualification in People Management (NVQ-3) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- \rightarrow At least two years previous experience in a similar role.
- → Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to lead difficult conversations.
- → Familiarity with HR and Payroll software.

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

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

The salary for this post is **£14,098.43** per annum (pro-rata), plus a transport allowance of **£1,020** per annum (pro-rata).

For more information and if you would like to receive an application form, please contact Wendy Roberts, on email <u>recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero</u> or on Telephone number 25180 ext 175.

The closing date for this position is Friday 21 March 2025.



Provision of IT Support

Equality & Human Rights Commission, Coles House, Jamestown

Overview:

The Equality & Human Rights Commission is seeking an experienced IT Support Specialist or an organization that can provide on-call IT support services during office hours. The successful candidate or organization will be responsible for addressing and resolving various technical issues efficiently and effectively, ensuring the smooth operation of our systems and technology infrastructure.

Key Support Required:

• **Technical Support:** Provide on-call IT support to staff by troubleshooting and resolving hardware, software, and network issues as they arise.

• **System Maintenance:** Conduct regular maintenance activities such as system cleaning, defragmentation, and software updates to ensure optimal performance.

• **Program Installation:** Install new software programs and ensure they are properly configured to meet the needs of the Commission.

• **Printer Management:** Address and resolve printer-related problems, including maintenance and troubleshooting.

• **IT Infrastructure:** Assist with the setup, maintenance, and monitoring of the Commission's IT infrastructure, including servers, networks, and security systems.

• **Documentation:** Maintain accurate records of IT support requests, resolutions, and maintenance activities.

- User Training: Provide basic training and support to staff on the use of IT systems and software.
- Compliance: Ensure that all IT activities comply with agreed policies, procedures, and standards.

Skills:

- Proven experience in IT support.
- Strong knowledge of hardware, software, and network troubleshooting.
- Proficiency in installing and configuring software programs.
- Familiarity with printer maintenance and troubleshooting.

For further details and a specification, interested persons may contact Catherine Turner on telephone 22133 or email <u>catherine@humanrightssthelena.org</u>

Bids, including a detailed proposal may be sent in a sealed envelope to Carol Thompson, Executive Manager, Equality and Human Rights Office, Coles House, Jamestown, or by email <u>carol@humanrightssthelena.org</u> by no later than Monday 17th March 2025.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission positively accepts bids from all members of the community, regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all proposals on the basis of merit and in accordance with the specification.



CHANGES TO ROUTE 1 PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE TIMETABLE

Please be advised that following requests from the public, there will be changes made to Route 1 of the Public Transport Service (PTS) timetable effective from Saturday, 01 March 2025.

Journeys from Bottom Woods into Jamestown will depart 5 minutes earlier. Instead of travelling via Longwood Avenue and Longwood Gate, these journeys will now travel to the lower Deadwood area, via the Colt Sheds Road. Please note that pick-up points into Jamestown from Longwood Gate will remain the same.

Journeys starting from Cape Villa to Bottom Woods will continue as per the published timetables. However, upon arriving at Longwood Gate, the bus will travel to lower Deadwood Haul Road, then on to Longwood Green, and finally to Bottom Woods via Colt Sheds. This will result in an arrival time approximately 5 minutes later than in the published timetables. The PTS timetables will be updated to reflect these changes and posted on the SHG website at

https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/ publictransportservice/.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Connect Saint Helena Ltd will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 14:00. Members of the public are welcome to observe the AGM. Following the meeting, there will be a brief Question and Answer session where attendees can actively engage with the Board of Directors.

To ensure that the venue can comfortably accommodate all guests, anyone wishing to attend are asked to please advise Callie Leo, Business Support Administration Leader on telephone 22255 or email: callie.leo@connect.co.sh by 18 March 2025.

St Helena Government

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

St Helena Government invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested persons to undertake the role of **Non-Executive Director** on the Boards of State-Owned Entities (SOEs) and entities in which the St Helena Government has an equity interest.

Representing the St Helena Government as a Non-Executive Director on the boards of its State-Owned Entities, you will strengthen links between entity strategy and government policy and provide financial leadership equivalent to that of Finance Director. You will be required to collaborate to facilitate an environment conducive to delivering growth, economic development and reform, maintaining effective lines of communication and monitoring arrangements. Helping to manage relationships with key stakeholders, you will work closely with Ministers and Senior Government Officials to articulate the direction of travel for the portfolio in delivering SHG policy.

In this role you will help drive improved performance and collaboration across the economic group, scrutinise and challenge spending and planning initiatives, manage externally commissioned consulting inputs, and implement recommendations designed to strengthen corporate governance and accountability between SHG and its SOEs.

As the SHG appointed Non-Executive Director, you would be expected to represent SHG on the following Boards: Bank of St Helena Ltd; Connect St Helena Ltd; St Helena Hotel Development Ltd; St Helena Airport Ltd and Solomon & Company (St Helena) PLC.

To provide the capacity required to help drive improvements in governance and performance across the SOEs this will be a full-time role although consideration may also be given to part-time and remote working options. However, the post holder will be required to be flexible and be able to respond to demand and work requirements. The role will include contribution to the SOE transformation agenda in addition to routine attendance at Board meetings, preparation time and reporting to Ministers and Officials.

You will have had to have held a similar role for a number of years and be a CIMA/ACCA or CCAB qualified accountant or equivalent with current membership and up to date CPD record. Experienced at board level in key industries such as utilities, banking, hospitality, insurance or retail would be an advantage. With a background in Public Sector organisations and being politically astute, your excellent interpersonal skills include listening and negotiating and an ability to present detailed information in an informative and influential manner.

Further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the terms of reference, interested persons should contact: Phil Sharman, SOE Non-Executive Director by email: <u>phil.sharman@shg.gov.sh</u> or by visiting the SHG website at: <u>www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies</u>. Applications by CV and covering letter should be submitted by e-mail to <u>recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh</u> by no later than **4pm on Friday**, **21**st **March 2025**



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

Team Leader – Minor Works and Projects

Total package value up to £31,427 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £17,200 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

We're recruiting an experienced construction projects team leader to join us as Minor Works and Projects Team Leader, to manage a multi-skilled workforce responsible for undertaking all building and civils, non-routine maintenance work.

What you'll do

You'll be planning, estimating, allocating resources, supervising and organising all works requests relating to Minor Works / Projects, maintaining high quality delivery and health & safety standard, in accordance with programme schedules, performance specification and budgets. You'll be managing and motivating a team of multi-skilled trades employees, ensuring high working standards are maintained.

What you'll bring

You'll have a qualification in the construction trade or be an experienced tradesperson with a sound practical knowledge of building works & equipment and within the construction industry generally. Strong leadership and management and communication skills are essential, and you'll also have minimum basic project management skills and / or knowledge and experience of working and leading projects in the construction sector.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,200 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract 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
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- 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
- Basic Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependants)

Closing date:	Friday 21 March 2025
Interviews:	Late March 2025 (via video call if off island)
Start date:	As soon as possible.

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

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



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Temporary Painters

Total Package value up to £17,711.00 per annum

(comprising salary up to £10,433.00 pa plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We're looking for 6 Painters to work on the exterior decoration of AIG properties in Two Boats. The maximum duration of employment is 6 months.

What you'll do

You'll carry out exterior decoration of bungalows and other buildings, including preparation works.

What you'll bring

You'll have previous experience of painting / decorating duties and may also have gained a qualification in this area. You'll have a good level of fitness, which will include the ability to lift reasonable weights, work at heights and in varying temperature and work conditions. You'll also have a high level of attention to detail and will be able to work both independently and as part of a team. You will need a clean and valid driver's license for Classes A & B in St Helena and Ascension.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £10,433 pa (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a sixmonth single status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free accommodation valued at up to £1,200 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance £3,780 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance paid in kind worth £938 pa
- A single status water allowance paid in kind worth £1,360 pa
- 30 days paid annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

Additional Information

- There are 6 posts available in total.
- It is anticipated that the 6 posts will be split into 2 teams of 3.
- AIG will nominate 1 person in each team of 3 to be a working Chargehand. The Chargehand will receive an additional £100 per month.

The appointment will be subject to:

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

Closing date:	16 March 2025
Interviews:	from w/c 17 March 2025
Start date:	As soon as possible.

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

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

Festival of Walking Walk of the Week

St Helona Island

Date: Sunday, 2 March 2025 Start Time: 08:00 Meeting Point: Silver Hill Bar and car share to the Flag Playground, Levelwood Duration: approx 4 hours

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Join the St Helena Research Institute on the Sharks Valley Post Box Walk. Explore the valley's natural history whilst learning about wildlife recording and how iRecord St Helena empowers conservation. Download the iRecord St Helena app before the walk, to record flora and fauna you spot along the way.

There are narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Pathway can become muddy and slippery when wet. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water.

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 9th March 2025	The Barn
Saturday, 15th March 2025	Manati Bay
Saturday, 22nd March 2025	Great Stone Top

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



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SECURITY SERVICES

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking expressions of interest for a professional dedicated Security Service Provider to join the Bank. You will be responsible for maintaining a safe and secured environment for our staff and our Remote Banking locations.

For further information on requirements, please contact Mrs Karen Buckley, Customer Services Manager on telephone number 22390 or email <u>csmanager@sainthelenabank.com</u>.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Friday, 07 March 2025 and should be submitted to Miss Merle Peters, Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.



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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





+290 22390

Market Street, Jamestown

Bank of St Helena Ltd

ST HELENA

NATIONAL TRUST

National Genealogy Day 2025 Saturday 8th March 10:00am – 2:00pm – Museum of St Helena

Genealogy is the study of your heritage; it is creating your family tree by researching important dates in your ancestor's histories. Genealogy Day started in 2013 by the Christ Church in Limerick Ireland. Tracing one's genealogy, can uncover fascinating stories and people get to learn more about their ancestors. It has become a passion project for many people worldwide and more so noticeable for Saints and their widespread families.

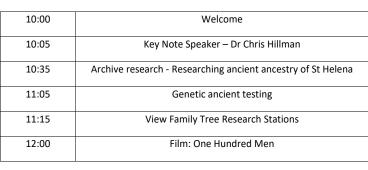
Join the St Helena National Trust and Guests to mark this day on St Helena!

Programme of Day



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Refreshments will be available.

Vacancy Special Orders Orders Clerk Salary for the post will be £10,184 per annum (£848 per month) Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Procurement Department for a Special Orders Clerk. As the Special Orders Clerk you provide primary support to the Special Orders and Procurement Department whilst ensuring a high level

As the Special Orders Clerk you provide primary support to the Special Orders and Procurement Department whilst ensuring a high level of customer service at all times.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Be computer literate namely in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word and able to undertake online research
- Possess experience in basic administration
- Possess experience in Cash Handling
- · Possess experience of working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Have excellent communication skills and ability to use own initiative
- Be well-organised with a keen eye for detail
- Have the ability to multi-task and work to deadlines whilst demonstrating a high degree of accuracy
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be available to work Saturdays

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

Julie Lawrence, Procurement Manager via 🧰 22207 🧧 procurementmanager@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via <u>hradmin@solomons.co.sh</u> and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **13 March 2025.**

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

Pension Contributions
 Staff Discounts

Join us! We are recruiting...

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: 07 March 2025

IT Development & Support Officer (£14,120 Per Annum)

An exciting and rewarding opportunity is available within Central Support Services for an IT Development Support Officer to provide day to day technical support to Portfolios across the Public Service. If you have an interest in designing, installing and maintaining IT Networks and systems and have the ability to analyse network related problems then our IT section has an opportunity for you to join their team. Successful candidates might be required to commence at the training grade if all prerequisites aren't met.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries:David George on Tel No 22819 or
Email david.george@sainthelena.gov.shClosing date:12 March 2025



St Helena Government

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 <u>www.sainthelena.gov.sh/govern</u> <u>ment/vacancies</u> 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.



VOLUME XX, ISSUE 11, 28th FEBRUARY 2025

LOCAL SPORTS

Cricket Results & Fixtures

St Helena Cricket Association

Saturday 22/2/25

Sandy Bay Pirates 201/10 (30.2 overs)

Rhys Francis - 62(67) Ronan Legg - 61(61) Ellis Day - 4/27 (4.2 overs) Damian Burns - 3/28(4 overs)

Jamestown Heat 184/10 (33.2 overs)

Gavin George - 77(66) William Knipe - 31(31) Ajay Bennett - 3/29 (7 overs) Greg Coleman - 3/34 (7 overs)

Player of the Match: Rhys Francis (Sandy Bay Pirates)

Sunday 23/2/25

Challengers 287/9 (35 overs) Andrew Yon - 102(79) Joey Thomas - 70(52) Delroy Leo - 3/47 (7 overs) Cruyff Buckley - 3/58(6 overs)

Levelwood Rebels 109/9 (35 overs) Ralph Knipe - 30(105)

James Andrews - 23(27) Jason George - 2/21(7 overs) Jordi Henry - 2/17 (6 overs)

Player of the Match Joey Thomas (Challengers)

Western A Mustangs 297/4 (35 overs) Scott Crowie - 155(111) Kyle Bennett - 52(49)

Kirk Lawrence - 1/36(7 overs) Mark Anthony - 1/50 (7 overs)

Cobras 181/9 (27.2 overs)

Jamie Peters - 62(63) Mark Anthony - 45(36) Tyler Anthony - 3/38 (6 overs) Shane Williams - 2/1 (0.2 overs)

Player of the Match: Scott Crowie (Western A Mustangs)

Cricket Fixtures:

Saturday 01/3/25

08:00

Longwood v Jamestown (Umpires: Cliff Richards and Jamie Essex)

11:00

HTH v St Pauls (Umpires: Scott Crowie and Damien O'Bey)

14:00 Levelwood v Sandy Bay

(Umpires: Andrew Yon and Gareth Johnson)

Sunday 02/3/25

08:00

HTH v Jamestown (Umpires: Rhys Francis and Brett Isaac)

11:00

St Pauls v Sandy Bay (Umpires: Derek Richards and Trystan Thomas)

14:00

Longwood v Levelwood (Umpires: TBC)

Sew N' Save

Is your wardrobe in need of a little TLC?

Come visit Sew N' Save for all your altering, hemming, and repair needs.

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location:

Napoleon Street, Jamestown (Cyril Gunnell's Residence, opposite the Community Centre)

> Mobile Number: 61360



LOCAL SPORTS

Golf Report: Monthly Medal

– Report by the St Helena Golf Club

On Sunday, February 23rd, the weather was perfect for a round of golf, with the sun shining and a slight breeze providing ideal conditions for play. A total of 12 players participated in the challenging Monty Medal Stroke Play competition.

Results:

Winner:

Peter Bagley emerged as the standout player of the day, finishing with an impressive net score of 67. His performance showcased his consistency throughout the round.

Second Place:

Bramwell secured second place with a net score of 70. His solid play kept him competitive in this closely contested event.

Third Place:

Paddo Johnson rounded out the top three with a net score of 72. His efforts were commendable, contributing to a strong showing in the tournament.

In this competition, there were no "2's" scored by any players, which led to a novelty "Chip Off" to determine who would claim the balls from the two-ball pool. The winner of this challenge was Keith Joshua (KJ).

The overall atmosphere during this event at the 19th hole was one of good sportsmanship, highlighting both competitive spirit and enjoyment among participants.

Upcoming Event:

Looking ahead, the next event on the calendar is scheduled for March 2nd, featuring the "Medalford" format. Players are encouraged to prepare for another exciting day on the course.





Various factors contribute negatively to the wirebird population, including habitat loss, predation and road mortality.

Predators continue to put Wirebirds under pressure. There is an ongoing predator control programme in the Trust, but nests and chicks still fail to survive.

Photo 2: Wirebird egg predation by myna bird seen during the census.





Work continues under the DPLUS190 project to find sustainable solutions to controlling invasive plants on pastureland. Through this project, we have also gathered more data on invertebrates in key Wirebird sites, which serve as an important food source for the species. This data will support habitat management plans.

Photo 3: Habitat management at Man and Horse

We still continue to work with our local and International partners in protecting and conserving our endemic bird.

The Trust would like to thank the following volunteers for their assistance with this year's surveys: Liz Harrison, David Steer, Clara Pysh, Alayah Pidgley, Jean-Claude George, Matthew Owen, Jolan Henry, Casey Henry, Isaac's Contractors Staff, Rico Yon and Carlos Fowler, Connect Saint Helena.

Photo: Grassland team member and volunteer







Modern players find criticism offensive - Ten Hag

Former Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag says modern players struggle to deal with criticism and that his generation had "much thicker skin".

The 55-year-old Dutchman was sacked by United in October, three months after he signed a new two-year contract.

His tenure included several issues and disputes with players. Speaking to a media outlet attached to his management

agency - Ten Hag said: "This generation usually find it difficult to deal with criticism. Criticism really gets to them.

"The generation that I grew up in had much thicker skin. You could be much more direct.

"I was approached much more directly. If I would do that with my current group of players I would demotivate them. If you do that to the current generation, they find it offensive."

Ten Hag won the FA Cup and League Cup during his two full seasons at United, but they finished eighth in the table last season, their worst Premier League finish.

These precious and delicate flowers will earn nothing if they cannot take criticism

