



INDEPENDENT

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Choose Starlink and ‘Sure wouldn’t make any profit at all’

Sure Chief Executive Tells Falklanders – St Helena Should Listen

Last week, Sure Falkland Islands held a public meeting in Stanley to give a presentation on the future of modern telecommunications and what Sure customers need to do if Sure Falkland Islands is to have a place in it.

Events over the past many months have seen hundreds of Falklanders turn away from Sure and choose Starlink because it is cheaper and more reliable. Unlike SHG, the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) didn’t make using Starlink illegal but they did charge £5,400 for the licence to use it. FIG excused itself from paying the licence fee and did not enter into an agreement with Starlink for its use in the Falklands. The licence fee and no agreement did not stop Falklanders using Starlink, they just don’t pay the licence fee.

More recently a massive petition was presented to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) demanding the licence fee is reduced and FIG formally approves the use of Starlink in the Falklands. The big crunch came when Starlink automatically cut off Falkland customers because Falklanders could not get a permanent connection without FIG and Starlink making an agreement. The MLAs had a meeting with the petitioners and supported their demands. Now, government officers and Sure are trying to find a way out of this mess. Sure International CEO Alistair Beak was in attendance at last week’s public meeting. Beak is responsible for Sure operations in St Helena, Ascension, the Falklands, Diego Garcia, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. Sure was owned by Batelco (Bahrain Telecom Co.) when they took over from Cable and Wireless. Batelco is now part of a larger Bahrain technology group called Beyon. They claim on the Beyon website, “We recognise that our customers around the world are living increasingly digital lives and our mission is to keep them connected through innovative communications and technology solutions. Whether it’s fixed landline and broadband services, or state-of-the-art mobile networks, we provide the latest technology to power human connections.”

At last week’s public meeting in the Falklands CEO Alistair Beak used a different script. Chris Gare, who has reported on telecoms in the Falkland for several years has a recording and transcript of the public meeting on his OpenFalklands website. Chris reports that a message repeated throughout the meeting was that Sure could not survive financially in the Falklands if FIG permits Starlink to operate there. After the presentation by the Sure CEO there was a question-and-answer session. Chris Gare includes extracts from the transcript in his report, here is an example: -

“...one of the problems is that if it’s a small marketplace, the Falkland Islands, it’s a relatively, you know, it’s 4,000 people who live here. And it isn’t big enough to sustain more than one telecoms operator.”

Q: “So are you saying you wouldn’t make enough profit if of the population shifted to Starlink? **A:** I’m saying that Sure wouldn’t make any profit at all.”

On his OpenFalklands website, Chris Gare sums up a difficult situation where dramatic and momentous consequences seem inevitable. Here are some examples – all have consequences for, and similarities with, St Helena.

Sure currently enjoys a fully protected monopoly, allowing it to maintain healthy profit margins without external pressure to innovate. Starlink undermines that protection, exposing them to competition for which they appear unprepared.

Drawing on my extensive experience in the telecommunications market, I believe these are the key challenges facing Sure Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, and St Helena – challenges they would do well to acknowledge openly.

Several years ago, Sure International entered into a formal purchasing agreement with Intelsat/OneWeb to deploy OneWeb’s LEO services across the South Atlantic territories. This decision predated Starlink’s rapid rise and dominance. Since then, millions of pounds have been sunk into attempting to deliver OneWeb services in St Helena and the Falklands.

It’s a classic catch-22: backing out of these OneWeb commitments would carry significant financial and reputational consequences, thus leaving Sure with no choice but to push forward with what it has. Notably, OneWeb services have yet to be announced in St Helena and was only officially announced in the Falklands last week.



It all started when three bits of disjointed news about the South Atlantic Plastics project floated around. Having written a few pieces about plastic waste being found everywhere from the highest mountain to the lowest ocean floor, inside all mammals and reducing food production I was interested in who is doing what about plastic pollution in the South Atlantic. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) appeared to be leading the project, so I emailed them. They eventually replied telling me ‘The South Atlantic Plastics Project are submitting our own comms to the newspapers to highlight key project information.’ That means, ‘we will tell who we choose what we want them to know when we want them to know it. I was then told, ‘The project still has a number of months remaining, so there will be further updates to come.’ The next update will be the first update luvvy. Apart from that, the St Helena part of the project finishes at the end of this month, my ZSL informant didn’t seem to know I was emailing from St Helena.

But I did get my hands on a report on what is probably a mini-project within the main project. It’s called ‘Feasibility Study for Single-Use Plastic Alternatives on St Helena’. The 57-page report performs all sorts of gymnastics with words to avoid giving one simple bit of information; there are no alternatives to plastic, if you want to use something only once.

The ZSL report clearly exhausted itself trying to fit the word ‘feasible’ into a situation where ‘impossible’ is the natural word to use. Dictionaries will remind ZSL that ‘feasible’ means that something is possible and likely to be achieved. It can also be used to describe the easiest and most convenient way to achieve something. In this report the word feasible is used 28 times. The first time it’s used is on page 2. The report tells us that a compostable carrier bag is a feasible alternative to the usual plastic bag. There’s one snag, a compostable bag costs 4683% more. In the summary, ZSL tell us ‘Feasible with industrial composting and cost management efforts.’ Nothing in St Helena is of industrial size, mainly because the island is not industrial size. ZSL didn’t seem to figure that one out. Imagine, you pay 4683% more for a bag and then look for a way to dispose of it that probably costs another 4683% more. C’mon! April 1st is next week.

Drawer liners, or tray liners made of waxed paper instead of plastic costs ‘only’ 28% more and is the smallest price difference between plastic and a non-plastic single-use alternative. But, there is a problem which most of us will admit makes it unfeasible – if the higher price is not enough to send you away. For some reason ZSL tells us the waxed paper has to be shipped from the United States. Think of the environmental cost of doing that! Why not get a roll of paper waterproofed through natural processing from South Africa. It only costs £8.02 before freight costs and import duty. Feasible? Oh, my giddy aunt it’s not.

ZSL don’t invoke the giddiness of any of their aunts in their analysis. Instead, we have ‘Low economic feasibility is a barrier to the successful adoption of alternative products, and research should continue to seek further potential alternatives.’ That one takes the feasibility biscuit. Not only is low feasibility the opposite of what is feasible, they also tell us they can find no alternatives and someone else should take over their job.

Nowhere in the report are there suggestions for safe disposal, re-use or don’t use. One thing there is in the report is a few laughs.



Public Consultation on New Communications Bill 2025

Aimed at modernising the Island’s telecommunications regulatory framework to support digital transformation and economic growth.

The Communications Bill 2025 will replace the outdated Telecommunications Ordinance 1989 and establish a modern regulatory framework essential for maximising the benefits of the Equiano fibre optic cable connection that was activated in October 2023.

See News Flash - <https://www.independent.sh/indy-news/> more – and Have Your Say

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



Careers Fair 2025 was held in Jamestown this year, compared to previous years being held at Prince Andrew School by the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio.

The Fair gave attendees a chance to meet employers and employees and gain an insight into the different careers within the Government Department and businesses on island and also allowed them to market themselves to prospective employers should a opportunity arise in future.

The day kicked off with opening speeches from Chief Minister and Minister for Education, Skills and Employment followed by Interim Director for ESEP Marie Horton who officially declared the Fair opened.



It attracted 32 stalls from Government Departments to Local Businesses which was spread across the New Horizons Leisure Park and the Mule Yard to include various SHG Portfolios and sections, Legislative Council, Judicial services, Solomon & Company, Connect St Helena, St Helena National Trust, Rose & Crown, PEAKS Enterprise, SURE, Bank of St Helena, SHAPE, St Helena Brewery, Smudge Dog and Audit St Helena.



Presentations were held throughout the day on the Graduate Scheme, Marine Conservation, St Helena National Trust, Fire and Rescue service, Emergency Care, Social Care and Police Service and demonstrations by the St Helena Fire and Rescue and Emergency Services.



Many of the stalls had the popular giveaways of their company's merchandise or a chance to win an item, Rose & Crown Limited had a tombola game and PEAKS Enterprise proved to be extra busy with Free Eyebrow Threading and Free Haircut which many took advantage of.



Colin Peters kept all present informed of the various presentations and happenings of the day, and New Horizons staff kept everybody feed with their Boerewors on roll and various liquid refreshments. It was reported to the Independent that the day was a great success with many, from school children to the elderly of our community popped by to browse the stalls.



Commonwealth Day is always the second Monday in March. This year it was 10th March. Except in St Helena, where it was commemorated the following day and in India it looks like 24th March was the Day, although little appeared in the news media of India about it.

In his Commonwealth Day message this year, King Charles spoke in connection with the theme for 2025, 'Together We Thrive'; he said, "belief in the value of the Commonwealth as a trusted forum where diverse voices of our member states, the large and the small, the young and the old, come together as one family."

The Commonwealth, on the face of it, is one of the last bastions of diversity, equality (or equity) and inclusion. From Nauru, the smallest Commonwealth nation with 10,000 people to India with the largest population of any country, 1,463 billion – about 10 million more than China, this family of nations is certainly diverse. This is not something the current President of the United States (POTUS) would support in any way, in fact, he can be expected to vigorously oppose it – if you go by what he says, which at best is only a guide. One of his many destructive onslaughts is to destroy any organisation which promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

POTUS is going for inclusion based on merit, excellence and intelligence. Stop laughing! Of course, where one person sees merit, another sees worthlessness. Some people with a particular kind of 'intelligence' can confuse mental capability with stupidity, selfishness and greed.

But, once again, Trump has turned everything of its head. Just last Friday Trump made a seemingly off-hand comment that "he loves King Charles" and he thought it a good idea that the United States should be given associate membership of the 'British Commonwealth'. The 'British' part of the name was dropped many years ago. Trump will catch up, sometime.

But why should he say such a thing. Only one conclusion comes to mind. There are 56 independent member countries of the Commonwealth. Trump has already said repeatedly he wants one member, Canada, as the 51st state of the United States. Trump can only think that being an associate member of the Commonwealth is a shortcut to securing the other 55 Commonwealth states as part of the United States.



Canada, Greenland, Gulf of Mexico, Panama – who's next?

US Football Team Not Following Trump Outbursts

USMNT definitely has not read the script. USMNT (United States Men's National Team) is what they're called. Why, is not known. They were competing in the North, Central America and Caribbean Nations League. This league is a knockout competition ending with a cup final. On the 25th March last year, the United States won the league cup final, they beat Mexico 2-0.

In this year's CONCACAF league USMNT kept coming up against neighbouring countries where Trump had expressed his great displeasure about something.

In the group stage USMNT played Jamaica four times and won four times. But they did not play any other country at that stage. In the semi-finals USMNT played Panama, and lost. Panama went on to lose against Mexico in the cup final. In the match to decide 3rd place, USMNT lost to Canada.

US Football Team Not Following Trump Outbursts

It's difficult not to see Trump's shadow falling across all these matches. Trump has upset all these countries. Some weeks back, Canada played the United States in an important ice hockey match. Canada won. The game started with the US national anthem being drowned out by Canadian boos, fights between players on the ice and presidents and prime ministers giving their own views off the ice about might being right.

The US sports writer reporting on the Panama and Canada games used words like lifeless, painful, frustrating and embarrassing. There were plenty of other similar words, but you get the picture. The sports writer squirmed at the thought that USMNT will open the World Cup in the next northern hemisphere summer at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California where they lost repeatedly in front of 60,000 empty seats in the 70,000-seater arena.

The US sports writer wrote not a word about the football being played, preferring to focus on the embarrassment of defeat and "all sorts of questions swirling about the talent, passion, ceiling and capabilities of these U.S. players."

Air Traffic Navigation a Serious Safety Risk says Airlink CEO

Roger Foster, the current Airlink CEO, told the Board of Airline Representatives of South Africa last week that South Africa's Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS) is a serious safety risk. Foster said this problem is not new and centres around 'administrative maintenance'. The continued lack of maintenance and updating of the computer systems seems to be the issue. Last year, the state-owned ATNS began administrative maintenance related to instrument flight procedures, including about 66 set to expire in three weeks.

Foster told the Board of Airline Representatives, "It's a shortcoming at the national level. This is about instrument flight procedures, and the maintenance of these procedures which has been brewing for three or more years. It's not about spanners or grease; this is about an administrative maintenance... It's the departure procedures, the arrival and the landing procedures that have been suspended historically and are about to be suspended again."



Cape Town International air traffic control

South Africa's Transport Minister weighed into yet another crisis where a state-owned entity is in serious trouble, due to in part to lack of maintenance. She reported to South African media that: -

1. the navigation systems are not reliable
2. poor infrastructure at some airports has left commuters frustrated by endless delays
3. disruptions to the air network have also had ripple effects on the country's economy, tourism is especially affected
4. last year, ATNS began maintenance related to instrument flight procedures, including about 66 set to expire in three weeks
5. 35 priority compliance procedures are expected to miss deadlines for completion, affecting main airports including OR Tambo and Cape Town International

Weekend Activities



On Saturday afternoon, Prince Andrew School PTA hosted their first sports filled afternoon at the school.

It was said to be an enjoyable afternoon which kicked off with a park run followed by many teams of various ages from students to adults taking part in the various team sports to include Volleyball, Basketball, Football and Badminton, for the not so sporty ones, there was the ever popular face painting, Helens Family Kitchen and the regular Tuck Shop.



Stockpile Food Now

A longstanding environmentalist and original thinker, George Monbiot, is persuading us all to stockpile food. Why? During some research he found there is an extraordinary reliance on the United States by food-importing nations. Almost 60% of the nutritional value of food grown by farmers takes the form of wheat, rice, maize and soya beans. As nations have polarised into super-exporters and super-importers, production for export has become highly concentrated in a handful of countries. The US is among the biggest exporters of all four commodities.

He argues, even a modest interruption in supply, which Donald Trump's antics render more likely, could trigger sudden global failure in the food system. Interruption risks include software outages, military attacks on the straits (Yemen or Dardanelles) and canals (Suez or Panama) through which huge volumes of food pass, and the collapse of one of the corporate food giants that have become too big to fail. There are also the previously stable weather patterns replaced by a cycle of droughts and floods that could cause synchronised crop failure in key growing regions.

Monbiot himself has started stocking rice, dried chickpeas, bread flour, chapati flour, oats, vegetable oil, tinned tomatoes nuts and dried fruit. He says, "I hope the chances of having to use our stockpile are small. But if we no longer need this insurance, we can eat it. Strange as it may sound, I see this hoarding as pro-social. Building a reserve while food is abundant reduces demand in a crisis. Community stockpiling and resilience planning would be better still. But I'm not waiting."



US Anti-Immigration Hits Tourism

US media reports several travellers have recently been rejected at the US border on increasingly flimsy grounds under Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, some of them shackled and held in detention centres in poor conditions for weeks.

Germany updated travel guidance for travelling to the US, warning that breaking entry rules could lead not just to a rejection as before, but arrest or even detention. Three German citizens have been held for prolonged periods despite apparently having committed no crime nor any obvious violation of US visa or immigration rules. The UK Foreign Office has bolstered its travel advice to warn of a risk of arrest after Becky Burke, a tourist from Wales who had been backpacking across America, was stopped at the border with Canada and held for three weeks in a detention facility.



Even before the most recent spate of detentions, forecast visits to the country this year had been revised downward from a projected 5% rise to a 9% decrease by Tourism Economics, an industry monitoring group, which cited "polarising Trump Administration policies and rhetoric", particularly around tariffs. The president of Tourism Economics, told the Washington Post. "You're looking at a much weaker economic engine than what otherwise would've been, not just because of tariffs, but the rhetoric and condescending tone around it." The number of Canadians returning by road from the US fell by 23% in February, year on year, while air traffic fell 13% on a year earlier, according to Canadian government statistics.

Beware Eutrophication

Eutrophication happens when water becomes overly enriched with nutrients, causing increased development of algae and other plant life. This leads to ocean acidification, slowing the growth of marine life and, in extreme cases, triggers death of marine life. It is caused by chemicals and effluent entering rivers, lakes and seas and in turn endangers our food supplies.

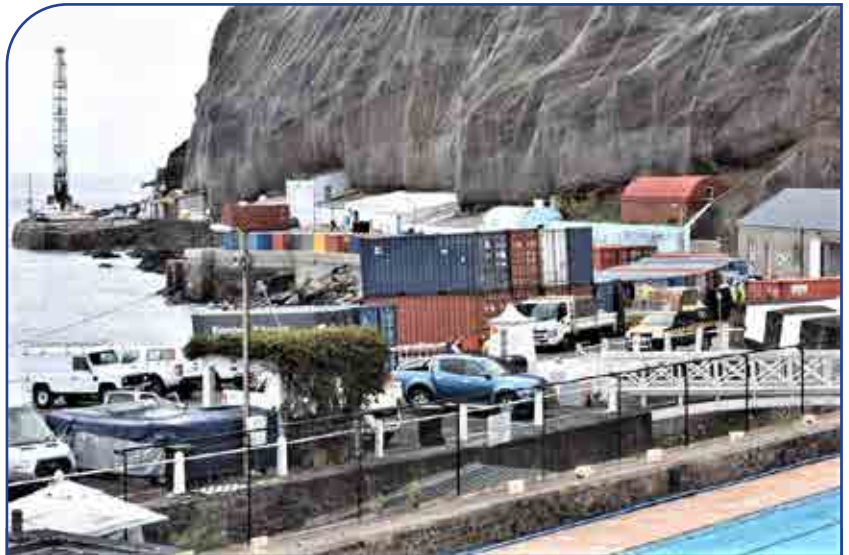
Canada is leading a Commonwealth project, providing eight other Commonwealth countries with the tools to test their waterways. The Global Eutrophication Monitoring kits, called GEM-in-a-box, have undergone extensive development and independent testing to ensure its effectiveness. The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, the Solomon Islands, and South Africa were selected for this pilot project. The Commonwealth Secretariat who helped co-ordinate the project points out, "over three billion people depend on the ocean for their lives and livelihood. In the Commonwealth, 49 of the 56 member states have an ocean border"

MINISTER ELLICK'S UK VISIT DELAYED

Please be advised that the previously announced visit of Minister Jeffrey Ellick to the UK has been delayed. This delay is due to a processing issue in South Africa, which is currently being addressed.

The Future of the Seafront and Wharf – All Options Open

Walking into the public consultation meeting at Jamestown Community Centre on Tuesday evening there were chairs set out in a horse-shoe shape with some of the wharf working group sitting on a few of them. Where is the screen and the projector? “We want your views, not give you our ideas” said Paul Scipio, leading the working group. He added the meeting held the previous evening with boat owners had come up with very good suggestions.



What a mess! Plenty of room for improvement, creating a public space that's a pleasure to go to.

The working group came away from the meeting with boat owners with the firm suggestion that the coal yard should be used for boat maintenance and repairs, when the stacked containers have gone. The people attending Tuesday's meeting were in full agreement with this; the consensus was that keeping activities on the wharf connected with the sea is something to be welcomed and it was not anticipated there would be an opposing view on this.

At Tuesday's meeting it was suggested, and supported, that fresh fish should still be landed at Jamestown wharf. Paul Scipio added that the same suggestion had been made at the boat owners meeting, with the added suggestion that a fresh fish restaurant on the wharf would be a good idea. While it was only the second consultation meeting, with two more to follow, there appeared to be a lot of common ground in what various people think the wharf should look like and how it should be used when the containers and cranes have gone.

At Tuesday's meeting some of the other points raised included keeping the steps clear for swimmers and divers, the importance of heritage and conserving/preserving the listed buildings, a place for teenagers and children (eventually the Mule Yard?), a stronger police presence and controlling the litter problem. The wharf area is seen as a local facility first which tourists would find attractive anyway.

Discussion on the use of the wharf buildings included Solomon's continuing to provide lighterage and supplies to yachts, various buildings associated with marine activities remaining together with an expected commercial interest in developing existing or newly constructed buildings. The considerable extra space available when the containers have gone can be used for various community related uses as well as maybe providing some parking spaces and stalls. Lighting and litter bins were mentioned. The wharf was seen as a pedestrianised area with limited vehicle access allowed when necessary for boat owners, divers or port control.

All suggestions made at the four consultation meetings are being recorded. Most, if not all suggestions will be included in options compiled by the Working Group and submitted to Minister Mark Brooks by the end of May. Tuesday's discussion included the necessity for regularly published updates on progress from ministers and SHG generally.

Government Education Department Has a Lot to Learn

This month the Education Department published a Report of the St Helena Education Review. Last week the Independent reported on some of the main points from it. This week we dig a little deeper. As we pointed out last week, the report is a hard-hitting assessment of the (lack of) education provision in St Helena.

The Education Review reveals shockingly bad situations in every direction. 'Currently in St Helena education is the engine of decline', 'Our students have far greater potential, but the current system is holding them back', 'There has not been a standards framework that all St Helena schools work towards', 'St Helena's schools are not currently meeting the needs of St Helena's children, or preparing children for work in the modern world', these are just some of what has crawled out from under the stones as the Review shines a light on massive problems that have not been faced for a number of years.

As previously reported in the Independent, St Helena Education is adopting the standards set out by the Council of British International Schools (COBIS). Implementing these standards where no standards existed previously and introducing other measures supported in the Review will require additional funding of an estimated £2.8m per year for the next 5 years. It will also require more adequately trained staff than have been available in the past.

Right now, we do not know what the funding for next month will be for all government services; being assured of an additional £2.8m each year for 5 years is a big ask. Commitment by FCDO to assuring St Helena's future and the future of the children is too often both vague and miserly.

Nevertheless, pressing forward, a sustained partnership with Hampshire County Council's Education Department is envisaged. This is to support St Helena schools and help meet the COBIS standards. The partnership will include staff training both remotely and directly.

Two Boats School on Ascension is already an accredited COBIS school and will provide St Helena with advice and support. The question arises, if Two Boats can do it, (60 children across all ages) why haven't the senior government officers already made it their job to ensure St Helena children get the same standard of education. Is it the ministerial system that has exposed this spiral of decline?

In another shocking statement the Review states 'the historical approach of making ad hoc arrangements' will be avoided, instead, the intention is to ensure that there is a consistent and responsive process to access expert support and guidance. There is a need to establish an agreed source of expert advice from specialists in disciplines such as Educational Psychology, Occupational Health, Speech & Language and Inclusion. It appears that drawing on advice in this way is something the Health Department has developed in recent years – and both improved services and saved money by doing so.

The Review makes several references to the community – 'This Report is a call to arms to the Island's community', 'Meeting these challenges will mean a long-term commitment - political, financial and from the whole community' and 'To achieve this vision, our schools will need to work closely with parents/guardians and will also need the support of the wider community'.

While the Review makes many strident assertions about the many shortcomings in the education system, the issue of involvement from ALL parents in their children's education is dealt with more tenderly. Pussy-footing is a description that comes to mind. Since schools first began, some parents, everywhere on earth, appear willing to handover parental responsibility to schools and school teachers. Others see schools a place their children go so parents can get some rest. The shockingly high rate of absenteeism must include a high degree of parental involvement to get the sky-high rate down to something that can be seen as reasonable. Many parents take a close interest in how their children are developing in school. It is clear some parents, frankly, don't give a damn. If any improvement is to be made in what is right now the direst situation imaginable for education in St Helena, the schoolteachers need and should expect full support from all parents. The Review describes the partnerships with Hampshire County Council and Two Boats School; for the sake of every child's future, the most important partnership is between the child's parents and the teacher.

Yesterday, Audit St Helena's Performance Audit on the Fishing Operations Agreement was presented to Legislative Council, or 'laid on the table' as it is known in the quaint custom of the Chamber. In accordance with well-established practice, any mention of an agreement in connection with fishing triggers often vigorous disagreement and any mention of a memorandum of understanding is the source of continued misunderstanding.

Unusually, as soon as the Performance Audit was laid on the table minister Jeffrey Ellick asked for an immediate debate on the Performance Audit. He was entitled to do this under Order 11 (g) of the Standing Orders for Legislative Council. Another custom of the legislative chamber is to quote an authority for everything its members do, or even propose doing. Such a proclivity is not encouraging for the electors who ideally seek initiative, innovation and determination from their elected representatives.

Anyway, after the motion to debate immediately the performance audit on the fishing operations agreement was written down by the clerk, read out and repeated about three times the debate eventually got underway. Minister Ellick displayed indignation, annoyance and even affront at many things in the performance audit. A few other councillors took turns to stand up to display similar reactions; apart from two, who stood up to say they could not say anything because they were members of the Public Accounts Committee and that committee will be giving their own official response to the performance audit in the fullness of time.

A Story of Bones of Contention

A big bone of contention is the fishing boats, one is now at last, in James Bay called St Albatross. Originally three fishing boats were promised, the performance audit points out that PQTSH 'overpromised' on that

one. The performance audit also points out that 'multiple attempts' were made by PQTSH to buy a fishing boat. Each attempt is covered in controversy, often based on obtaining a safety certificate for the vessel or registering it. Councillors stood to speak one after the other to give details on why a vessel did not have a safety certificate or the right procedures for registering vessels. Detached observers may think these kinds of details very boring but for councillors they have become big bones of contention.

In among the discussion other issues were raised (to the roof).

The fishing operations agreement is described as a joint venture; councillors called it a partnership, but it's been a very troubled marriage. The performance audit points out: -

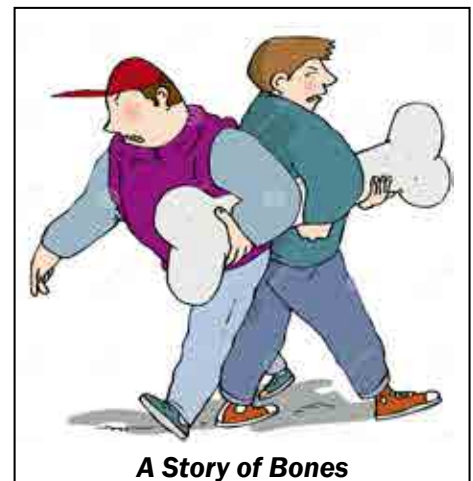
1. Fishing operations joint venture contribution

- (a) On behalf of the local fishermen SHG invested a total of £500k to refurbish the Fish Processing Plant for use by STC. SHG retains ownership of the plant and its capital equipment.
- (b) PQTSH has contributed total assets worth approximately £341k. This includes the recent purchase of a £216.5k fishing vessel that PQTSH brought to St Helena in February 2025. Prior to that PQTSH had attempted on multiple occasions to procure a vessel for the purposes of the venture through a charter arrangement

One Legco member accused PQTSH of not stepping up to the plate. Both SHG and PQTSH jointly agreed, it was stated, that in the joint venture both parties would invest (or spend) £500,000. SHG did that, PQTSH is still £159,000 short. The performance audit also mentions that.

Another big bone of contention is the frequent delays in getting things done. When are there no delays. You may ask. The performance audit states, "It is commendable that Executive Council issued its 31 March 2024 letter informing a director of PQTSH/STC that he had until the end of November 2024 to procure a vessel, as that may have provided the necessary impetus for PQTSH to decide that purchasing a ship was in its best interests." It seems in this SHG/PQTSH world of agreement and understanding a dire ultimatum has its place. It appears that if PQTSH had not bought the St Albatross the Fishing Operations Agreement would be ended.

Councillors did not forget to mention the 12-month delay in completing renovations to the old Argos Building. Ideally the building should have been knocked down and replaced by a properly designed fish processing



factory suitable for St Helena's needs – but that didn't happen.

The performance audit states, “nearly 4 years after signing and 2.5 years after the Fish Processing Plant was successfully refurbished the commercial fishing industry in St Helena remains underdeveloped.”

Audit St Helena list what should have happened and what has not: -

- > Exploratory licence – none have been issued to PQTSH or STC, as neither entity had applied for one by the end of February 2025.
- > (b) Access to fisheries – can be granted only after scientific studies have been performed by STC under an exploratory licence.
- > (c) Commercial fishing licence – fishing quota has been allocated for offshore fishing once STC has a licenced vessel.
- > (d) Foreign fishing vessels – no foreign fishing vessels have been given fishing licences due to STC's exclusive rights.
- > (e) Scientific data and evaluation – no scientific work has been undertaken.
- > Purchase of fish from non-members – opportunity offered to all fishermen through the STC Operational Policy issued in August 2022.
- > Sale of ice to non-members – sale of ice to all fishermen is occurring.

But that's not all. Other matters recorded in the performance audit include: -

ambiguity in the Fishing Operations Agreement and an incomplete termination clause. Further, key infrastructure in the form of a culvert near the Fish Processing Plant is currently not fit for purpose, which is preventing STC from exporting fish to foreign markets and thus threatening the viability of the joint venture between SHG and PQTSH. Despite the agreement's requirement for timely resolution via consultation followed by escalation to independent representatives, this has not occurred and the issue remains unresolved after 16 months.

In the conclusions

Audit St Helena point out: -

The Fishing Operations Agreement is not well-drafted: it contains obvious errors, exhibits ambiguity in key sections and leaves out content typically found in more robust contracts

The wording of the agreement required that the partners forming the STC co-operative (SHG and PQTSH) “invest of at least an equal monetary value in the establishment of a local legal entity”.

If there is a will for the Fishing Operations Agreement to succeed, PQTSH must continue to demonstrate financial commitment to STC and SHG must demonstrate that it is willing and able to fully back the endeavour.

As we stated in our recent report about SHG's failed attempt to connect fibre optic cable for broadband service to homes and businesses across the island:

More broadly, once SHG selects its preferred approach, it must do everything possible to ensure the project's success... When unexpected challenges occur, the bias should be towards finding a mutually acceptable solution rather than adhering to the original contract without amendment. Finally, SHG must commit to wielding its significant powers to clear obstacles in a manner befitting a national government engaged in building critical infrastructure

We conclude that the same is true for the future of the Fishing Operations Agreement.

At the conclusion of the debate the motion was put a second time, this time to vote on it. The motion was to discuss immediately the Audit St Helena Performance Audit. It was passed with what seemed from what was heard on the radio, unanimity.

Councillor Turner asked why they had just voted on a motion to do something they had just already done.

The reply from the Speaker was to the effect, ‘that is what we do’.

The Institution of Fr Rudi Marias as the new vicar of St James Parish

On Sunday evening at 6 pm at St James Church, Fr Rudi was instituted as the vicar of St James' Parish. Parishioners gathered for the service and Bishop Dale, Canon Mark Spyker, Fr Clarence Roberts and Fr Clarence Roberts were in attendance. Fr David Musgrave from the Roman Catholic Church was in attendance also. We were also joined by parishioners and Choirs of St Paul and St Matthew. Bishop Dale welcomed everyone to the service and a special welcome to Fr Rudi and his wife Delores Marais. As tradition Fr Rudi and his wife Delores was seated in the body of the Church as he waited for his institution.

Bishop Dale completed the institution of Fr Rudi, where Fr Rudi first made the oath followed by the declarations and to uphold the pastoral standards of Act XV of the Canons. These were signed by Fr Rudi and Bishop Dale and witnessed by Diocesan Registrar, Mrs Ivy Ellick. Churchwarden Mrs Olive Brown gave the key of the Church and the Parish Roll to Fr Rudi and welcomed him into the parish and pledging to work with him to further God's kingdom. Fr Rudi was then placed in the Vicar's stall where he recited the Lord Prayer. Bishop Dale then gave him God's blessing for the ministry and prayed for him and his wife Delores and family.

Fr Rudi responded by giving a short response about his journey to the Diocese which started in May 2024 and was pleased to be here to carry out God's mission through his ministry. He mentioned that in his life and ministry, he has found that he had to wait on God to act in God's good time even in times that was very challenging and difficult, but to don't give up but wait for God. After the service there was fellowship with refreshments where Fr Rudi and Delores met members of the parish of St James and St Pauls and St Matthews.

Delma Fowler

The sons, sisters, brother and family of Delma Irene Fowler, who passed away on 11th January 2025, express their thanks to the doctors and nurses of the General Hospital for caring for her while in hospital and at the time of her death. Thanks are also extended to friends who visited her in hospital.

Thanks to Bishop Dale for conducting the funeral service and envoy Carol Yon for reading the lesson and organist Mrs Gay George.

Thanks to Roy Williams and his team and to those who made wreaths and gave flowers.

Thanks to everyone who sent messages of sympathy by phone and cards, they have been a great comfort, God bless you all.

Delma has gone from our lives but remains in our hearts for ever,

May she rest in peace.



Father Rudi and Dolores Marais



Dear Editor,

St Helena's transition from a committee-based system to a ministerial form of government marked a pivotal shift in how our island is governed. This change is not merely about restructuring roles – it aims to improve accountability, transparency, and decision-making at the highest levels.

While the new system holds promise, such a significant transformation doesn't happen overnight. It requires careful planning, clear frameworks, and, most importantly, a commitment to continuous improvement. By looking at how other small Commonwealth territories navigated similar journeys, we can better understand the steps taken here and the work still needed to ensure St Helena's governance is fit for the future.

The Road to Ministerial Government

In 2021, St Helena transitioned from a committee-based system to a ministerial form of government. This shift represented a fundamental transformation in governance, requiring the implementation of key structures to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective decision-making.

Learning from the Commonwealth

Several small Commonwealth jurisdictions have undertaken similar transitions, providing valuable guidance for St Helena. Territories such as the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands implemented significant governance reforms to strengthen democracy and transparency.

Beyond these territories, other countries also made notable governance shifts. The Cayman Islands transitioned from a committee system to a ministerial government in 2003, enhancing executive accountability. Gibraltar moved to a ministerial system in 1969, reinforcing the role of elected officials in decision-making. Closer to home, the British Virgin Islands adopted a ministerial system in 1967, shifting towards more excellent local governance and autonomy.

Establishing a Ministerial Code of Conduct

One of the first steps in St Helena's transition was the introduction of a Ministerial Code of Conduct. In the previous committee-based system, collective decision-making distributed accountability among multiple councillors. Individual ministers assumed executive authority with the new system, making it vital to establish clear ethical guidelines to ensure integrity and prevent conflicts of interest.

The Role of Scrutiny Committees

A crucial feature of the ministerial government was the establishment of scrutiny committees to oversee ministerial decisions. Unlike the committee-based system, where decision-making was shared, the ministerial system required structured mechanisms to review policies and expenditures, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Implementing Ministerial Question Time

A significant democratic safeguard introduced was Ministerial Question Time, a practice common in most parliamentary democracies. In the UK and other Commonwealth nations, this allows elected representatives to directly question ministers on policy decisions, implementation, and public concerns, ensuring responsiveness to the electorate.

Updating Standing Orders to Reflect the Changes

A critical yet often overlooked aspect of the transition was revising Standing Orders—the rules governing legislative proceedings. The previous system's procedures were designed for a committee-based structure, where collective decision-making was the norm. With the shift to a ministerial system, these rules had to be updated to reflect the new roles and responsibilities of ministers, the scrutiny process, and the flow of legislative business.

Key changes included:

- Establishing clear guidelines for Ministerial Question Time to ensure ministers are held accountable.
- Defining the processes for additional scrutiny committees.
- Updating procedural rules to facilitate ministerial decision-making while maintaining checks and balances.

Aligning Standing Orders with the ministerial system was essential to ensuring smooth governance, avoiding

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procedural conflicts, and reinforcing democratic oversight.

The Need for a Prolonged Transition

Reforming St Helena’s governance model required a phased approach. Other Commonwealth territories that moved to a ministerial system took several years to implement the necessary structures fully. Montserrat’s restructuring process extended over five years. This work on St Helena remains ongoing as the system develops and adapts.

For St Helena, the transition required:

- Legislative Amendments – Updating the Constitution and other legal frameworks to enable ministerial governance.
- Training and Capacity Building – Preparing councillors for ministerial roles and ensuring civil servants understood the new system.
- Public Consultation and Engagement – Informing and involving the public in the transition to ensure transparency and legitimacy.
- Trial and Evaluation Phases – Piloting aspects of the system before full implementation to address potential challenges.

Conclusion

St Helena’s shift to a ministerial government is not just a structural change but a transformation in how decisions are made and accountability is ensured. By learning from other Commonwealth territories and implementing key reforms such as a Ministerial Code of Conduct, scrutiny committees, Ministerial Question Time, and updated Standing Orders, the island took steps to create a transparent and effective governance system.

However, the transition remains a learning process. As the system matures, further adjustments are needed to refine governance practices and strengthen democratic accountability. The progress made over the past three years demonstrates the island’s commitment to upholding the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that the ministerial system continues to serve the people of St Helena effectively.

Contributed

**Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week**



Date: Saturday, 29 March 2025

Start Time: 09:00

Meeting Point: Rosemary Plain

Duration: approx 2 hours



Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Lemon Valley is a popular walk for Locals, giving the opportunity for swim down in the Valley. This walk will also allow you to Learn about the rich history involved in the valley. Walk led by Museum Director Adam Sizeland

Please wear sensible footwear, wear sun protection and bring lots of water



Note: there will be a bus from Jamestown to Rosemary Plain and a boat from Lemon Valley back to Jamestown. This was required to be pre-booked. Meeting point will be 09:00 at the Tourist Office, to get the bus to Rosemary Plain

Date	Upcoming Walks
Saturday, 5 April 2025	Longwood Boundary

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

All Are Welcome To Join Our



 Saturday, 12th April @ 10am
 SDA Church, Jamestown

WE HOPE
 TO SEE YOU THERE!



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 30th March 2025– Mothering Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Mothering Sunday/Church Parade	Cathedral
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The Parish of St James

Sunday 30th March 2025 – Mothering Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Mothering Sunday/Church Parade	St James
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Thursday 3rd April

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

Sunday 30th March 2025 – Mothering Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Mothering Sunday/Church Parade	St Mark
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Tuesday 1st April

7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	St Mark
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Baha'i Faith

'I knew my love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty.'

Baha'u'llah

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



HARFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE SPIT PIG ROAST

FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025, FROM 9PM
IN AID OF ST MATTHEWS PARISH FUND

£15.00 PER PERSON
MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED
Open to the public at 9pm
Entrance fee - £2.00 at the door

Bookings to be made by Friday 18 April, 2025

Gwen : 24727

Jenny : 24596

Cavel : 25756

Or

Dulcie: 24341



CUSTOMER NOTICE

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
would like to advise customers
that the following businesses
will open at **9am on Tuesday 1 April 2025:**
**The DIY Store, Special Order Centre,
Half Tree Hollow Hardware and the
Jamestown & Half Tree Hollow Fuel Stations**

Normal business hours will resume
following this and all
other opening hours remain unchanged

Solomons would like to thank you in advance
for your patience during these closures



Lay Advocates Recruitment **Two Positions Open**

Judge Brian Barker KC during a 2023 review of legal services on St Helena praised the role of the lay advocate:

"The Lay Advocate System is a tradition in the islands where highly regarded members of the community have rights of advocacy and can be asked to advise and sometimes represent St Helenians in both criminal and civil matters Their community knowledge often allows them to resolve issues without the need to come to court"

If you think you could be a lay advocate or would like some more information please contact the Public Solicitor's Office on 23008 or the Public Solicitor on walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com and you will be supplied with more information.

As self-employed advisors, lay advocates are supported in their important role by the Public Solicitor's Office but are independent of the PSO and enjoy the freedom of setting their own hours and working at their own pace.

The role is challenging and can be very busy. Lay advocates need to be available to attend the police station (often out of hours) and court for criminal matters.

The role is financially rewarded through the Legal Assistance Fund depending on experience and hours worked per month. Full details can be made available on request.

If you are interested in the role please send a Letter of Interest outlining why you think you would make a good lay advocate to walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com by no later than the 14 April 2025.



St Helena
Government

HOW CYBER AWARE ARE YOU?



SCAN ME

LET'S FIND OUT.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:

[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SHGCYBER](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHGCYBER)

DO THE CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
FOLLOW-UP SURVEY. SURVEY CLOSES 31ST MARCH 2025.



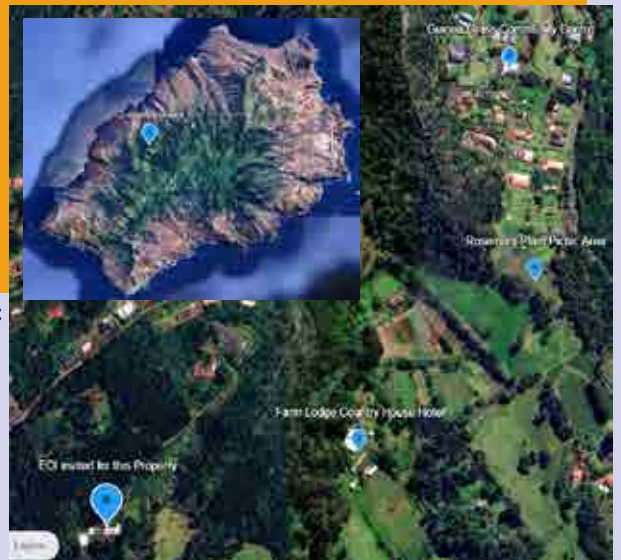
Nestled in the heart of St Helena, this property awaits a new chapter. Brimming with untapped potential, this is a unique opportunity to craft your dream family home. Featuring generous space and stunning views all in a peaceful setting, it's the perfect canvas to imagine family memories unfolding in this idyllic rural retreat-perfectly placed to blend country charm with modern comforts, all tailored to your vision.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SOLOMON & COMPANY (ST HELENA) PLC
INVITES 'EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST' (EOI)
FOR A PROPERTY AND LAND
ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF ST HELENA,
NAMELY THE BLUEMAN'S FIELD AREA
OF THOMPSON'S HILL

PROPERTY FEATURES:

- formerly used as a dwelling building footprint of approx. 300m²
- total landholding including property is approx. 9 acres, most of which is developable
- services in close proximity
- quiet and secluded, yet easily accessible
- spectacular 180° views of the Island
- surrounded by greenbelt, in an area of outstanding natural beauty



Interested persons should contact Ian Gough for further details or to arrange a site visit:

- Solomons Main Office, Jamestown
- +290 22380
- gm-services.properties@solomons.co.sh

Interested persons should submit their EOI in a sealed envelope, addressed to: Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties), Solomons Main Office, Jamestown. Envelopes should be marked 'EOI Blueman's Field' and submitted by 30 April 2025



St Helena
Government

BRITISH PASSPORT FEE INCREASES

Following notification from the Home Office in the UK, the following British passport fee increases will take effect from 10 April 2025.

	Current Fee	Increased Fee
Adult 34-page standard passport	£112.50	£120.50
Child 34-page standard passport (where the applicant is under 16 years of age).	£77.00	£82.50



ST HELENA
MARITIME AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Ref No. 02/25

Issued: 19/03/2025

The St Helena Maritime Authority hereby gives notice:

Papanui Wreck - ISO Danger Mark - W FL (2) 8s - Buoy missing

Isolated danger Mark missing from fixed location, all boat users to be on the lookout for the buoy as an obstruction on the water within the Jamestown harbour areas and further offshore.

The buoy is identified as follows:

- Cylinder-shaped
- Colour bands black, red, black
- Fitted with a white light that flashes twice every eight seconds (W,FL(2), 8s)

Additional caution to be observed around wreck area especially at high tide when visibility of the protruding Papanui wreck is reduced.



NAME:

Simon Lee – Harbour Master

SIGNATURE:

Simon Lee

House for Sale

Three Gables, West Lodge, Blue Hill



**Overlooking Barren Ground, High Hill & the Sea.
Land 0.3 acre. Access shared track.
House has attached garage with mechanics pit.**

Ground floor:

Large open plan living room, dining room with laminated flooring.

Bathroom : suite with separate shower, fully tiled.

Bedroom 1: fitted wardrobe, laminated floor.

Bedroom 2: fitted carpet.

Kitchen: fitted units with solid wood doors, fully tiled.

Long hallway with real wood parquet flooring, wooden stairs with banister & rail.

First floor:

Potential for self contained attic flat. Open plan centre with one dormer, & two gables, new wood/t&g floor, stage one electrics, new fuse box. Access for plumbing. Also suitable for an office, storage, extra bedrooms, etc.

Outside:

Streme v solar panel & tank. Concrete drive with gates, concrete paths, two concrete plinths for water tanks, three concrete outbuildings, food garden, fruit trees, flower beds, septic tank system. Services -mains, electricity, water, landline telephone.

House has had extensive upgrade, painted & decorated inside & outside. Some furniture, fittings white goods, rugs, curtains are also included.

Photographs to view:

Visit St Helena Bring & Buy, www.propertyfinder.sh or listings@propertyfinder.sh

Reduced to £120.000

Open to Offers

Phone Anne Roberts on 23352 - View by Appointment



Public invitation to a presentation of *'The conclusion of the South Atlantic Plastic Project'*

Location

Museum of St Helena

Date

Monday 31st March 2025

Time

18:00 – 19:00



BANK CLOSURE - 01 APRIL 2025

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers the St Helena Branch will be closed on Tuesday, 01 April 2025. This closure is necessary to enable the Bank to complete its end of financial year procedures.

Bank of St Helena would like to thank customers for their support and apologise for any inconvenience caused.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



@sainthelenabank



Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

Councillor Robert Midwinter will be hosting a drop in **Constituency Surgery** for all residents living within the **St Paul's electoral area**.

This will be held at **Kingshurst Community Centre** on **Thursday 3rd April**, starting at **3pm**, and 30 minute slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to meet with him on this occasion, please call 51500 to make an appointment, or send him an email via: cllr.midwinter@helanta.co.sh



Property Disposal and Purchase Policy 2024

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

THIS POLICY SUPPORTS THE SHG 10-YEAR PLAN BY:



Developing effective property infrastructure and generating revenue from government assets



Contributing to sustainability through environmentally responsible development



Simplifying processes to facilitate ease of doing business with SHG

THIS POLICY AIMS TO:



Establish clear criteria for identifying and declaring surplus property.



Ensure equitable, timely, and customer-focused processes in the disposal of Crown property



Provide transparency, governance and oversight



Align authority for decision-making with Ministerial governance reducing reliance on committees



Confirm the Head of Property's authority in property transactions



Ensure value for money in all transactions

The Property Disposal and Purchase Policy 2024 aligns with the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy 2023-2033 and related policies, including those concerning Immigration, Stamp Duties, Forestry Land Release, Investment, and Rents, Fees, and Charges.



PROPERTIES TO RENT

The Housing Division has the following property to rent:

Guest House, Sea View - £500.00 per month (1 Bedroom Property) – Furnished

Please note the rent also covers gardening services.

For further information please contact Melissa Fowler, Chief Housing Officer, on Melissa.fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh or alternatively call 22270.





CHANGES MADE TO ROUTE 3 OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE TIMETABLE

Please be advised that following requests from the public and to improve efficiency of the Public Transport Service (PTS), there will be changes made to the Route 3 timetable effective from Thursday, 27 March 2025.

Currently, the journeys departing from White Gate going into Jamestown are via Rosemary Plain, New Ground. As from Thursday, 27 March 2025 they will travel in the opposite direction, the bus will therefore pass through Red Hill at approximately 07:09 in the mornings, 13:46 for the mid-day run and again at 19:46 for the late shift, before going onto New Ground, Cleugh's Plain, Rosemary Plain, Scotland, White Gate and then into Jamestown as per the revised timetable.

Departure times leaving Jamestown, along with the Tuesday and Thursday routes to Thompson Hill will remain the same.

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/>.

Route 3 - HTH & St. Pauls - Jamestown and Return

Pickup Point	Everyday	Monday - Friday	Everyday	Monday - Saturday	Everyday	Monday - Friday	Everyday	Friday, Saturday evenings & early Saturday & Sunday Mornings
Grand Parade		0749						
Red Hill	0709				1346	1545	1946	
New Ground	0712				1349		1949	
Cleugh's Plain	0714				1351		1951	
Rosemary Plain	0719				1356		1956	
Scotland	0723				1400		2000	
White Gate	0725			0905	1402		2002	2145
Cape Villa (via Red Hill)	0730				1407	1548	2007	
New Ground	0733				1409	1549	2009	
White Wall	0736	0759		0908	1411		2011	2147
Salvation Army Hall	0737	0800		0909	1412		2012	2148
Cow Path	0738	0802		0910	1413		2013	2150
HTH Community Centre	0739	0804		0911	1414	1551	2014	2151
CCC	0741	0806		0914	1416	1553	2016	2153
Hospital	0746				1421	1557	2021	
Grand Parade	0748	0820		0922	1423	1600	2023	2158
Grand Parade			0825	1300	1501	1610	2058	0140
Hospital			0826	1305	1503		2100	
CCC			0830	1309	1507	1615	2104	0146
HTH Community Centre			0833	1311	1509	1618	2106	0148
Cow Path			0834	1313	1510	1619	2107	0150
Salvation Army Hall			0835	1315	1512	1621	2108	0151
White Wall			0837	1317	1513	1623	2109	0152
Ebony View			0838	1318	1514		2110	0153
Cape Vill/Sapper Way			0842		1516		2113	
New Ground			0845	1320	1520	1626	2116	0155
Cleugh's Plain			0848	1323	1522	1629	2119	0158
Rosemary Plain			0853	1328	1526	1634	2123	0202
Thompsons Hill			0856	1335				
Scotland			0858	1337	1531	1639	2127	0208
White Gate			0902	1340	1535	1642	2131	0211

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers



Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Security Officers 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 high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful 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 hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **10 April 2025**.

Vacancy

Shop Floor Assistant



Salary for the post will commence at £698.00 per month (£8,376 per annum)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Star for a Shop Floor Assistant.

As the Shop Floor Assistant you will help ensure that The Star is fully stocked at all times, undertake cleaning and up-keep of stockrooms and support the day-to-day running of the shop, ensuring a high standard of customer service.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess knowledge and experience of stock control
- Possess knowledge and skills of food safety
- Be customer focused and target driven
- Possess experience in working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Be competent in Maths, English and IT
- Be self-motivated and able to work well as part of a team
- Be able to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties
- Have the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment.
- Be able to work on weekends

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

Charlotte Williams (Grocery Manager (The star & Butchery) via 22683 charlotte.williams@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 03 April 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

Maintenance Technician / Trainee Operator



Salary for the post will be £15,036 per annum (£1,253 per month)

Job Outline:

To provide mechanical maintenance on aviation equipment and to support aircraft refuelling when required.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have previous experience in a mechanical and/or electrical maintenance role
- Have GCSE Grade c or above in English, Mathematics and Science
- Be able to work within a small team
- Be computer-literate
- Be able to work and remain calm under pressure
- Be able to work unsupervised
- Have previous experience in a potentially hazardous atmosphere and/or with hazardous substances
- Have knowledge of basic health and safety standards
- Be available to work on weekends and to attend emergency / unscheduled aircraft
- Be in possession of a valid driver's license (J4 desirable)

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

Mr Carlos Soto. Aviation Fuels Manager ☎ 25662 📧 aviationmanager.solomons@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 Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 03 April 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

Agencies Business Coordinator



Salary for the post will commence at £12,708 per annum (£1,059 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Agencies Department for an Agencies Business Coordinator.

As the Agencies Business Coordinator, you will assist the General Manager (Agencies) with the day-to-day administration of the Agencies Division to meet operational and strategic objectives within departmental budgeted targets and against the Company Strategic Plan.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English or equivalent and possess competency in IT
- Possess excellent organisation, interpersonal & communication skills with the ability to liaise with stakeholders on various levels
- Be highly analytical with a high degree of attention to detail
- Possess experience with performing general administrative duties
- Have the ability to multitask, organise workload and meet tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment
- Be target driven and committed to service excellence
- Be able to work independently and use own initiative to problem solve
- Be able to work outside of normal working hours as required.

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package 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 **Thursday, 03 April 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



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Risk and Compliance Officer

Commencing at £10,188 per annum

Bank of St Helena is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the new and exciting position of Risk and Compliance Officer.

Reporting to the Assistant Risk and Compliance Manager, the Risk and Compliance Officer will be required to assist with risk and compliance reviews. The Risk and Compliance Officer will also assess and evaluate internal policies and procedures, and identify risk areas across the Bank's portfolio.

In addition, the Risk and Compliance Officer will be required to assist with the organisation and delivery of workshops and training sessions that will educate and update employees on banking regulations, policies, and processes when required.

The successful candidate must have understanding of Anti-Money Laundering policies and practices, knowledge of fraud prevention and detection processes, and be able to provide assistance with the alignment of the Bank's operations to regulatory and statutory requirements.

Skills and experience the candidate should have:

- Relevant experience in Banking/Finance, Auditing and/or Risk Management
- GCSE's in Mathematics and English at Grade C or above
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Have good analytical and problem solving skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills

Interested persons can contact Miss Christy Joshua, Risk and Compliance Manager on + 290 22390 or email risk.compliancemanager@sainthelenabank.com for more information.

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

Closing date for applications is Friday, 04 April 2025.

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



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



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



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd

Join us!

We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Carpenter

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

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

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

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

Enquiries: Theron Henry on Tel No 25722 or Email
theron.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 28 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.

Care Assistants/Support Workers (Social Care)

Fixed-Term Contracts or Casuals

(£8,113 per annum – Care Assistants/Support Workers)

(£10,361 per annum–Support Workers (Children’s Residential Home))

(Available for local interest)

Are you interested in the well-being of clients within the Learning Disabilities units, working with young people, and providing high quality, holistic care directly to frail older people in full time residential and day care, enabling them to live as full and active life as possible?

If so, Social Care is seeking support in the following areas of care; Cape Villa, Children’s Residential Home and Piccolo Hill. Come join our team and help make a difference in the lives of our clients.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Hannah Herne or Latoya Thomas: Tel No’s 22920/23151

Email: hannah.herne@sainthelena.gov.sh

Email: dcdeputymanager@helanta.co.sh

Annabel Phillips, Tel no. 25936 or

Email: annabel.phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh

Nicole Hercules on Tel no. 25936

Email: piccolo.hill@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 28 March 2025

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, betting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

Join us!

We are recruiting...



St Helena
Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Teacher (St Paul's Primary) (£11,520 - £18,902 per annum)

Are you passionate about our young children's education and holistic life? If so, we are seeking to recruit a Teacher to share their expertise and passion in order to teach our pupils to achieve the best possible standard of education. This will mean the ability to cater for all abilities and needs in the classroom. This position requires you to be responsible for the planning, preparation and effective delivering of programmes of study to designated class(es). The individual needs to be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and have good, communication skills to be able to communicate effectively with students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Patricia Williams Tel No. 24737 or Email
patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh

Closing date: 02 April 2025

Fixed Term 1:1 Teaching Assistants/Support Assistants (St Paul's Primary) (£8,419 - £8,725 per annum)

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. The individual needs to be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and have good communication skills to be able to communicate between students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Patricia Williams Tel No. 24737 or Email
patricia.williams@sainthelena.edu.sh

Closing date: 03 April 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**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**GIS Topographical Surveyor
(£9,781 per annum)**

The GIS Topographical Surveyor will help the island thrive through the collection and organisation of topographic surveys for the development of geospatial data of physical infrastructure, utility services and topography. Support development of the St Helena Environmental Information System (SHEIS), including providing support to GIS Users and promoting the use of GIS throughout SHG.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquires: Devlin Yon on Tel No. 22270 or Email
Devlin.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 09 April 2024

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Closing date: 03 April 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**

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**Environmental Risk Officer
(£18,902 per annum)**

The Environment and Natural Resources Portfolio is currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual with broad experience in one or more areas of environmental risk management to join their team as Head of Section for environmental risk management. You will be an integral part of providing the strategic agenda and direction for the core functions of climate change, waste management and environmental pollution management in order to protect St Helena’s natural environments and you will play a key role in driving environmental sustainability initiatives. The role will require you to work collaboratively with a small group of Heads of Section in our core environmental protection and nature conservation subjects for effective environmental risk programme delivery.

Experienced in project management and staff management, you will also have excellent written, verbal communication and interpersonal skills to communicate with a range of audiences, including colleagues, senior managers, elected members, donor agencies and the public.

Contact us for more information and a discussion about the role.

Enquiries: Darren Duncan on Tel No 24724 or Email darren.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh

Closing date: 03 April 2025

**General Operative - Permanent
(£7,960 per annum)**

Working as part of the Roads Team, the **General Operative** will assist the Chargehand with general maintenance of machinery, assembly of site huts and assist with building, cleaning and general maintenance of all roads island-wide. If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player this is an opportunity for you to join the Roads team!

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Darin Francis on Tel No. 23765 or Email roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 03 April 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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VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT ANALYST

Salary range £9,185 to £11,327 per annum

Audit St Helena is seeking to recruit an Assistant Analyst to join its Performance Audit (Value for Money) Team. The person will assist with performance audits across the public sector and support other office initiatives. No prior experience in this field is required.

Prospective candidates should have good GCSE grades or Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Mathematics and be prepared to study for a relevant certification. On-the-job training will be provided.

Key attributes for those applying for this position include enthusiasm, good communication skills (oral and written), the ability to think critically and attention to detail. IT proficiency including Word, Outlook and Excel is also helpful.

Questions about day-to-day duties should be directed to the team: Performance Audit Manager David Brown (david.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh) and Principal Analyst Omence Murawu (omence.murawu@sainthelena.gov.sh).

For further information, Job Profiles and Application Forms please contact Helene Williams by telephoning 22111 or emailing helene.v.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to this email address or by hand to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown by no later than close of business on Friday 04 April 2025.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.



VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT AUDITOR

Salary range £9,185 to £11,327 per annum

Audit St Helena is seeking to recruit an Assistant Auditor to join its Audit Team.

The person will assist with financial and performance audits across the public sector and will support other business processes. No prior experience in this field is required.

Prospective candidates are required to have good GCSE grades or Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Mathematics and be prepared to study for the ACCA Foundations in Accountancy programme.

On-the-job training will be provided.

Key skills for this position include efficiency in business processes, good communication skills and an aptitude for figures. IT proficiency including Excel, Word and Outlook is also essential.

For further information, Job Profiles and Application Forms please contact Helene Williams by telephoning 22111 or emailing helene.v.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to this email address or by hand to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown, by no later than close of business on Friday 04 April 2025.

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VACANCY NOTICE



Electrician (C&G Level 3 or equivalent)

Deadline for Applications: Friday, 04th April 2025

Job Description

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for an Electrician in the Electrical Team at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island. The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Electrical Maintenance of the Power Station and wider Encompass site, including residential properties.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- Excellent timekeeping and ability to meet deadlines, willingness to work flexibly and at short notice, when required.
- Good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices, particularly regarding Electrical work
- Electrician qualified to City & Guilds Level 3 or equivalent, in a relevant subject.
- Consistent application of Electrical skills & developed experience in an Electrician's role.
- Must be capable of achieving HV Authorised Person status under Encompass Safety rules.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role
- Proven experience in fault-finding, rectification and repair of faults.
- Basic knowledge of instrumentation and good interpretation of Electrical diagrams.
- Knowledge of High voltage Power Generation Systems, using large diesel generators and wind-turbines.
- Experience of electrical installation and maintenance.

Salary & Remuneration

We are offering a two-year contract with either Single or Accompanied status.

Depending on qualifications and experience, starting salary is at £14,500 per annum (taxable in Ascension).

The package also includes:

- Accommodation
- A food allowance of £3,905.00 (or £7,329.00 if accompanied) per annum
- Relocation allowance for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- Utility Allowances (Water, Electricity and Phone)

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

For a **Job Application Form**, full **Job Description** and for any further information, please contact Administration Assistant, Jodi Joshua at JJoshua@encompass.tv

Applications should be submitted on the designated Encompass job application form, and must be received by **Friday, 04th April 2025**.

LOCAL SPORTS

Cricket Results & Fixtures

St Helena Cricket Association

Saturday 22/3/25

St Pauls 115/8 (20 overs)

Jordi Henry - 70*(46)
Cliff Richards - 17(19)
Delroy Leo - 3/9(4 overs)
Brendan Leo - 1/12(4 overs)

Levelwood 121/1(12.2 overs)

Delroy Leo - 47*(35)
Weston Clingham - 35(23)
Cliff Richards - 1/28(4 overs)

Player of the Match - Delroy Leo (Levelwood)

Cricket Fixtures for the Weekend:

Saturday 29/3/25

14:00

Levelwood Allstars v Levelwood Rebels
(Umpires: Trystan Thomas and Jordi Henry)

Sunday 30/3/25

09:30

Sandy Bay Pirates v Challengers
(Umpires: Dane Leo and Clayton Leo)

13:30

Jamestown Heat v Mustangs
(Umpires: Weston Clingham and Brendan Leo)



**St. Helena Cricket
Association**

Sunday 23/3/25

Jamestown 161/7 (20 overs)

Trystan Thomas - 54(34)
Makyle Fuller - 42(30)
Greg Coleman - 2/33(4 overs)
Ronan Legg - 1/24(4 overs)

Sandy Bay 149/10(20 overs)

Brooklyn Fowler - 57(32)
Brett Isaac - 30(28)
Trystan Thomas - 3/17(4 overs)
Lebron George - 3/21(3 overs)

Player of the Match - Trystan Thomas (Jamestown)

HTH 224/2(20 overs)

Andrew Yon - 132*(64)
Ellis Day - 37*(19)
Joey Thomas - 1/32(4 overs)
Sean-Lee Thomas - 1/43(4 overs)

Longwood 158/10(17.4 overs)

Sean-Lee Thomas - 52(26)
Dax Richards - 47(39)
Barry Stroud - 4/28(3.4 overs)
Chris Owen - 3/24(3 overs)

Player of the Match - Andrew Yon (HTH)



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, 3 APRIL 2025

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place in the Council Chamber at 9.30am on Thursday, 3rd April 2025.

The main programme of business will focus on the Performance Audit Report: Fibre Optic Cable Network Project.

Members of the public and interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcasted and streamed live via SAMS Radio 1.



You are my friend, my spirit,
my influence towards success
There is no replacement of you.
You are the best and will be best forever.

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



MOTHER'S
Mother's
DAY
Thank you for being such a
pillar to this family.
We all love you so much!



Premier League Fixtures

Tuesday 1st April

7:45pm

Arsenal v Fulham

Wolverhampton Wanderers v West Ham Utd

8pm

Nottingham Forest v Manchester Utd

Wednesday 2nd April

7:45pm

AFC Bournemouth v Ipswich Town
Brighton & Hove Abion v Aston Villa
Manchester City v Leicester City
Newcastle United v Brentford
Southampton v Crystal Palace

8pm

Liverpool v Everton

Thursday 3rd April

8pm

Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspurs

Wales Stay in the Hunt - World Cup Qualifier



The North Macedonian defender (circled) fails to clear a slow ball from Wales forward David Brooks in the dying seconds of Tuesday's World Cup Qualifier. Where was the goalkeeper?

Follow the arrow.

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



**WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO SHIP**

	BRIGHT SKY 251205	GREEN MOUNTAIN 251207	LILAC ROLLER 251209
Immingham	08-Feb	08-Mar	12-Apr
	KAROLINE 251703	KAROLINE 251704	KAROLINE 251705
Cape Town	16-Mar	16-Apr	18-May
Rupert's Bay	24-Mar	24-Apr	26-May
Ascension Island	29-Mar	-	-
	KAROLINE 251803	KAROLINE 251804	KAROLINE 251805
Cape Town	14-Apr	07-May	08-Jun

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



Moving your cargo globally with flexibility and care.

Get in touch with us: macship.com

CPT +27 21 405 3400 | sthelena.cpt@macship.com

