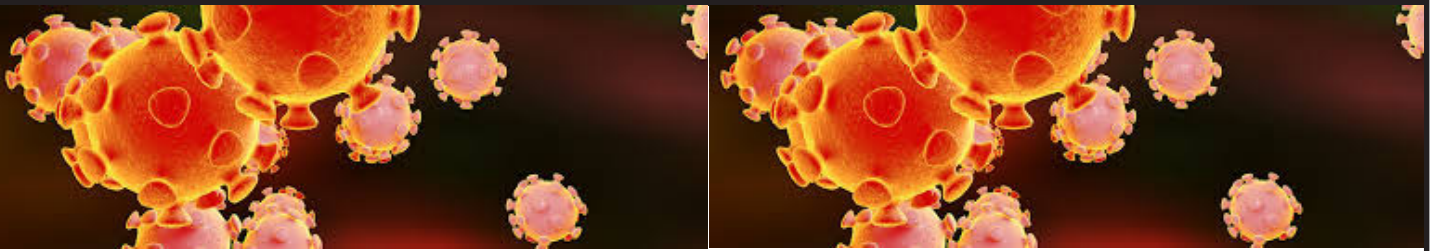


THE ST HELENA  Est. 2005
INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XV ISSUE 13, 6th MARCH 2020, PRICE £1

Coronavirus Confirmed in South Africa



B-A-A-A-A D COMPANY

***There is an 'exit strategy' to end subsidies for the Mantis Hotel
But where is the door?***



MV Helena Delayed Again



INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....

**Series 1 Blast From The Past
Picture 17...
Inside**

Coronavirus confirmed in South Africa

Yesterday a 38 year old man from KwaZulu-Natal tested positive for coronavirus Covid-19. It is the first coronavirus case to be confirmed in South Africa. The confirmed coronavirus victim was reported to be part of a group of ten, including his wife, who flew back from Italy on 1st March to OR Tambo airport in Johannesburg and then changed planes for KwaZulu-Natal. On Tuesday 3rd March the man went to see his doctor, complaining of fever, headache, malaise, a sore throat and a cough. The doctor took swabs and sent them to a laboratory for testing. Since the doctor's appointment the 38 year old man has been self-isolating, presumably at home. The doctor has also self-isolated. The result of the laboratory test was announced yesterday by South Africa's Health Minister. According to the Health Minister, the man did not show symptoms until days after his return, and is the reason why he was not identified when screened at the airport.

Just hours before the first South African coronavirus case was announced news websites were reporting that the National Institute for Communicable Diseases had stated that despite testing, no Covid-19 cases had been confirmed in South Africa. One news website quoted 118 tests being made while another said the number was 180. Just a few hours after these reports were published, the first coronavirus case was confirmed.

There is now the complicated task of tracing all contacts, not only of the man who has tested positive but all the others in the group of ten who travelled together from Italy. Contamination could also have occurred on the planes they travelled on and at OR Tambo airport. It has not been mentioned in re-

ports that other passengers on the same planes are being traced. Checking for any possible spreading of the coronavirus at OR Tambo airport is impossible. Also included in the tracer team's searches are all the contacts made by the 38 year old man from the time he arrived home on Sunday to the time he saw his doctor on Tuesday.

The Daily Maverick website drew attention to concerns among some over the effectiveness of screening processes for Covid-19, such as those being implemented at South Africa's airports. While screening at airports involves taking people's temperature, it does not involve taking samples from all travellers and testing those samples for Covid-19 – something that would be time-consuming, expensive and would probably make international travel untenable.

The Daily Maverick reported that according to Tim Tucker, adjunct associate professor at the University of Cape Town School of Public Health and Family Medicine, there will never be a "foolproof screening technique". "However, we do know that many or most people with active Covid-19 have a fever. So, detecting those with a raised temperature is a good start but will have inherent problems," he said. Tucker listed among these problems cases where people may have a fever because of another infection and these people will be flagged but not Covid-19 infected. There may be cases where people are Covid-19 infected but do not yet have a fever, or they may be infected "sub-clinically" with no symptoms and the fever may only develop later.

"Taking a person's temperature is a screening tool, not a per-

MANAGEMENT OF THE JAMESTOWN SWIMMING POOL & LEASE OF THE MULE YARD EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

St Helena Government (SHG) is seeking Expressions of Interest from individuals/ organisations interested in the following:

Lot 1: Management of the daily running of the Jamestown Swimming Pool



Lot 2: Lease of the Mule Yard

Successful individuals/organisations will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the swimming pool on a commercial basis, whilst being compliant with all laws, regulations and rules and procedures in relation to the operation of the Pool.

and/or

Successful individuals/organisations will be responsible for the management of the Mule Yard on a commercial basis, whilst being compliant within the Lease Agreement.

Expressions of Interest should be registered on the St Helena Government e-procurement system 'in-tend' which can be accessed via: <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/sainthelena> following registration on the system.

User guides are available via the 'Supplier Information' tab to assist prospective suppliers registering on the e-Procurement system.

Any assistance required in registering should be addressed to the SHG Procurement Office for the attention of Nicola Young, via e-mail: nicola.young@sainthelena.gov.sh or on telephone number: (00 290) 22470.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 12:00 GMT on Wednesday, 18 March 2020.

(NB: This EOI does not restrict any parties interested in the next stage of procurement).

SHG

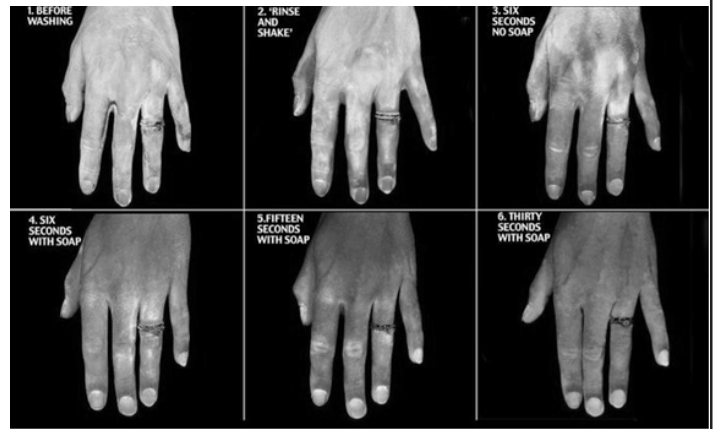
5 March 2020

Coronavirus confirmed in South Africa

fect diagnostic test,” he said. “We cannot test every person who comes through our border posts for Covid-19 nor should we. Thus, more simple screening processes are required.”

South Africa’s politicians are now getting very much involved with many issues related to the Covid-19 epidemic which some now say has become a pandemic. Government politicians are claiming to have effective processes in place while at the same time conceding there is a big and difficult job ahead. Opposition MPs are criticising what they say is inadequate screening at borders. “The majority of our people use alternative modes of transport and our country’s borders don’t start at and end at OR Tambo International Airport” was one comment. On the other hand critical-care physician Professor Guy Richards believes South Africa is ready. He is an expert at the quarantine treatment of highly infectious patients. Richards supervised treatment of an Ebola case at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, a designated Covid-19 quarantine hospital, and no health worker was infected. But the South African Emergency Medical Services personnel union are reported to be demanding the medical equipment needed to fight the coronavirus.

Meanwhile a widespread spate of panic buying cleared the shelves in many pharmacies across South Africa. Hand sanitisers and washes, gloves and masks have been scooped up while social media is saturated with updates on the coronavirus and advice on how to take precautions against it. In Nigeria, social media posts have included some stupid and dangerous advice on how to prevent contamination from Covid-19. “Here is what you should do to protect yourself from the disease. The disease will not affect you. Your body will fight the disease. You should use garlic in your drinking water and in your food, add it while cooking, chew it all the time and use



One such piece of advice is wash your hands thoroughly for at least 30 seconds with soap.

One hand washing advisor included photos to illustrate how ineffective just rinsing hands or a quick six second wash with soap really is. The white or lighter areas on the hands in the photos indicate contaminated areas. The bottom row shows the result after washing hands for 6, 15 and 30 seconds with soap. The low definition in the photos may not show it clearly but the message is a 30 second hand wash with plenty of soapy lather leaves hands just about germ free – for a while.

it all the time.” It is suspected this advice came from a garlic grower eager to make money from a potentially disastrous situation.

South Africa is the seventh African country to have Covid-19 within its borders. Algeria is the worst affected with 17 cases as of yesterday. Senegal has 4 cases and Egypt 2 while Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia and South Africa all have their first case, at the moment.

ST HELENA WATER LEVELS

Water levels around the Island are continuing to steadily rise following a few spells of downpour amidst another week of mostly sunshine on St Helena.

Contributing to the steady increase in stored water, average consumption rates for the past week have met the target level of 1000 cubic metres – a credit to us all. This type of water saving awareness and preservation must continue for stored water levels to reach desired capacities.

Remember, we are still currently under an Island-wide hosepipe ban.

While some recent bouts of rain can certainly be described as heavy, there is an issue that these showers are not being experienced Island-wide - especially over higher ground. More consistent heavy rain, over higher ground, is needed for surface flows to increase and stocks to replenish. Until then, we must continue to keep consumption to essential needs only.

We all must spread the word to continue to preserve as much water as possible to ensure that the situation continues to improve.

Despite stored water level increasing as a whole, Red Hill is

still a problem area. Whereas Hutt’s Gate reservoir is at 95% capacity, Red Hill remains dangerously low at just 22%. This is further aggravated by Red Hill being the largest supplier, contributing to around 45% of daily consumption.

Connect St Helena (CSH) is continuing to efficiently pump water to Red Hill until stocks begin to replenish.

If you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, then please inform CSH immediately. Every drop counts, every action counts - Everyone must save every drop of water possible.

St Helena Resilience Forum 5 March 2020





Tel: [+290] 22327
 Email: independent@helanta.co.sh
 http: www.saint.fm

Editorial

The information released last Friday telling us what our fishing industry might look like a couple of years from now is limited and confusing. Where a little sense can be made of it – or guessed – there is a strong indication the best opportunities for making fishing a thriving money-maker for St Helena are being given away to overseas interests. The South African company will be bringing its own fishing vessels with freezer facilities. Nothing wrong with that, thank you very much. But the fish when landed are packed immediately into reefers ready for export. This means freshly caught raw fish will leave Rupert's either from the adjacent wharf by ship or maybe some of it will go along the Haul Road to the airport to be flown out.

Raw fish has the lowest possible value. Adding value to the raw product will happen in South Africa and that is where the real profits will be made. If the fish is processed in Rupert's Valley the export value of the fish increases significantly. People here gain employment from the processing work and the more money from the sale of fish with added value stays on the Island. Surely that is one of the main aims of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan; a document which is often referred to in official publications to justify a range of proposals and actions. On this occasion, with the change of direction with the fisheries, it is being ignored.

A similar situation prevails with coffee. The green beans are

picked here and then immediately sold to customers overseas in their raw state. Once again this is for the lowest possible value. St Helena coffee commands premium prices across the world but we hand the profits to companies overseas instead of processing, packaging and marketing the final saleable product here and selling at the highest achievable price instead the lowest possible price. Once again the profits are given away to overseas businesses.

While all this is employment and profit is being given away we are assailed with pipe dreams about selling the Mantis Hotel at a commercial price when the tourist trade picks up. Meaningful suggestions about how to trigger a pick up in the tourist numbers are few and those that there are, seem likely to have minimal effect. As reported elsewhere in this edition of the *Independent* there was a 1% increase in 'genuine' tourist numbers in 2019 compared with the previous year. The tourist numbers are so low this means that if the 1% increase year on year continues through to 2040 we will see an additional 500 tourists getting off the planes compared with 2018. The situation will not change itself. A change of direction of some sort is definitely needed. A good manager knows where to look to find the person or people who know how to make a change of direction happen. A good manager knows he or she cannot do it all alone but does know where to find the right kind of help at the right time. Do we have any managers or decision-makers like that?

Which brings me to the Sarkin Report. Professor Jeremy Sarkin's second report was expected this week. He stated clearly and confidently he would have it completed by the end of February and it was suggested by a government source that it would be released this week. We can still hope it will be released today. Or are SHG sitting on this report about openness, transparency, accountability and responsibility for some reason best known to themselves?

INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....Series 1 Blast From The Past

Picture 17...

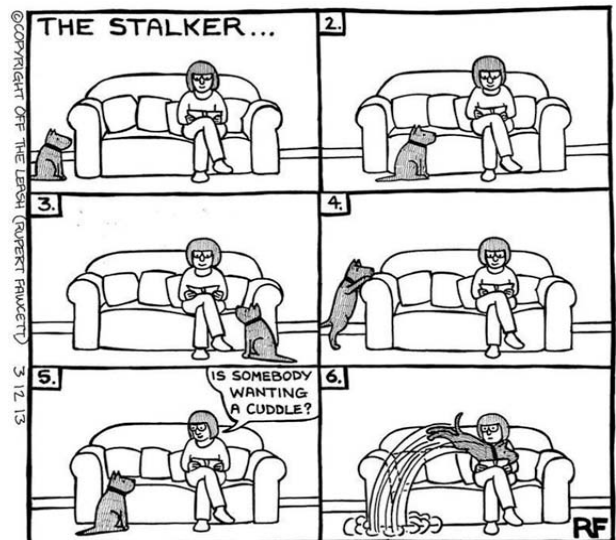


WHOSE CAR WAS THIS IN 1962?

Tune in to the next Shine Show with Sharon Wade to find out how to answer. There will be a prize for the first person with the correct answer. (Entries are only valid by submitting to the Shine Show)

ANSWER TO PICTURE 16....

Mr W.R. Stevens (aka Billy) (Winner: Teri Francis, Nr High Knoll)



Why come to St Helena?

St Helena Tourism plans to change the slogan, catch phrase, strap line, call it what you will, from *Secret of the South Atlantic* to something else. They have asked for your help in choosing the something else. It is true that many who live here do not know what all the fuss is about. There are no decent beaches is an observation often made. Others will look at the crumbling road surfaces instead of across the gut to the ridges beyond. Anyway, the view across the gut is so familiar there is nothing unusual about it. A frequently raised question is where would tourists go? Another is what can they do at night? The better question is what can they do between 4pm and 6pm on a weekday afternoon after the daily dash starts from the town to hills? And as for Sundays; if the weekly flights were on Sundays it would give tourists something to do – either pack or unpack their suitcases.

What makes it difficult to think up a new slogan is everyone is so used to the world around them it is seen as normal. This leaves people free to curse because the MV Helena is late again, SHG decide to hand out another £500,000 for tourists we have not got and wonder what the price of fresh fish will be next week and next month. The best slogan can probably be based on what the best travel writers have written about St Helena. They have looked at St Helena with fresh eyes and are well positioned to compare this island with the many other places they have visited.

If you want to help St Helena Tourism in their quest for a few short, simple, snappy words which will catch the eye of thousands of people across the world who are looking for somewhere different to go for their next holiday, help is at hand.

Here are some quotes from the descriptions of St Helena written by three people who write on travel and are skilled wordsmiths. Maybe one of the quotes will trigger the thought that comes before the brainwave that produces the slogan St Helena Tourism is looking for.

Mike MacEacheran

St Helena's shores make it a Shangri-La for nature lovers

The dark blue sea is so empty – so vast and infinite – you sense it is cloaked in something almost magical.

Living this far from anywhere makes the inhabitants – or "Saints" – friendly and familiar.

There are pastel-toned houses, sweltering palm trees and colonial relics – stark reminders of imperialist ideals and slavery. All are echoes of the East India Company

Every so often, there is a sense of the familiar, but also fleeting volcanic panoramas that could make it the Congo
The food is a triumphant if curious blend of British, Creole and African . . . sweet black pudding . . . exquisite homegrown coffee.

The island's cuisine is a fusion of trends and recipes from Britain, South East Asia and Africa

This wildly remote gem at the end of the world
The island's spectacular natural flora and fauna has seen it dubbed the Great British Galapagos and climb the list of must-see destinations

The lush island is home to everything from black-sand beaches and Jurassic-era cloud forests to rolling plantations and twisty roads.

There is also as much of the unfamiliar as there is of fish and chips and cheap beer.

All of its attributes – tropical, volcanic, mountainous and moonlike – can be found in equal measure.

With zero light pollution, the skies are a feast of huge, twinkling stars.

The Saints, as locals call themselves, are a happy crowd, they are genuinely pleased you've made the effort to come. They'll bend over backwards to help.

The fortified walls, cannons and moat of Jamestown make it look like an impregnable, ends-of-the-earth castle.

Will Appleyard

The ocean is a richer blue than I have seen anywhere else in the world.

Every visitor I meet has an interesting story to tell

Grey triggerfish swim back and forth along sheer rock faces. The water clarity is insane.

I walk the island's trails; trails that either finish on high vibrant green peaks covered with endemic and invasive plant species or stop abruptly at cliff edges and pinnacles overlooking the ocean.

At the beach, black volcanic sand meets with a tumultuous Atlantic ocean, red crumbling cliffs and steep, deep valleys
Saint Helena is special and unlike any other place I've visited
There is something deeply magnetic about this tiny piece of south Atlantic rock and I've still more of it to explore, both on land and at sea.

Tim Wonnacot

The lovely, lonely volcanic outpost of empire that is the island of St Helena.

I found the place bewitching and that is why I have been back and forth

The fluffy clouds part to reveal a tropical jewel

There is no chance of the island ever being spoiled or over-developed.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Why come to St Helena?

To Diana's Peak, and was rewarded by the finest panoramic views and the opportunity to look at vegetation and wildlife found nowhere else on Earth.

Whatever you may have read or heard about the intriguing island of St Helena. Nothing will prepare you for the real, unvarnished truth.

Get on a plane and fly there and be amazed.

The usual view from most peoples' homes in the UK is a lot different to St Helena

The usual UK back garden is like this one, almost; narrow, with high fences. Tall bushes and shrubs are added to get a little privacy. In this particular garden the lady in the house almost choked on her cup of tea when she looked out to see a dozen cows enter her small back garden and start grazing on the apple trees and then the cows put away a dozen cab-



bage, half a dozen cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans. A local farmer herded the cows back to their nearby field after a few hours. As a thank you present the cows left plenty of manure to enrich the soil for more cabbages, cauliflowers, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans.

The "Infamous King of Spam" targets St Helena again

A series of very weird emails have been received by several people in St Helena from someone calling himself JP Monfort. His messages are confused, unclear and pointless; but he does keep sending them. Often they have attachments which put a drain on the meagre megabyte allowances we pay for. Strangely, Monfort appears to know something about his targets. One of his spam emails aimed at St Helena included the image below. It features a number of notable people but it includes Cathy Alberts who was a Director of Tourism before Helena Bennett. Monfort's information is always not up to date and his email addresses are sometimes out of date.



To avoid receiving spam emails starting a new email address and closing down the one used by Monfort is one way; but it is very inconvenient and will cause many complications.

A website run by Computer Facilities Technical Services (CFTS) was also targeted by Monfort. Subsequently they issued information of what can be done, if anything, to stop Monfort's spam emails. The information is not encouraging. CFTS say, "If you use a public email address such as Gmail, Yahoo or AOL (and Helanta) then there is absolutely nothing you can do except tighten up on blacklisting and filtering provided by your online software"

Then CFTS adds, "If you have your own email, through a host, and your own domain, the you can begin using expression filters for emails and blocking domains as well as the normal spam filters and services." CFTS said they finally managed to block "Mr Spam King" but it seems to be an expensive thing to do.

On spammers in general CFTS commented, "One thing most people don't realise is that 99% of what we call spam is really is a crime or at the very least attempted crime. Many of the spams are setting up the victim for a planned future crime. There are 80 criteria that can classify it as criminal activity. The question is still out there, if this guy (Monfort) really is a scammer or just massively unbalanced."

The last known Monfort spam assault on St Helena was in May 2016. His email was headed "A Special Warning For Saint Helena Governor Mark Andrew Capes" and in the text appeared –

SPECIAL WARNING FOR

Saint Helena Governor Mark Andrew Capes
Beneath this headline was written,

"J.P.Monfort is uniquely trained and highly motivated. Specialist without equal, immune to any counter measures. There is no secret he cannot extract no security he cannot breach no person he cannot become. He has most likely anticipated this very conversation and is ready to strike in whatever direction we move. J.P.Monfort is the living manifestation of destiny and has made you, Saint Helena Governor Mark Andrew Capes, his lifetime mission to persuade and conquer. Desperate times require desperate measures. This message has been typed from Year 2210."

Please deliver this e-telegram to SEAN.BURNS@SAINTHELENA.GOV.SH at the earliest possible convenience. Mission Impossible Rogue Nation has inspired this communication. This message will self-destruct on 1-January-2051. Over and out.

—
JPMONFORT

The Office of J.P.Monfort now contacting 343.825 Experts In The United Kingdom and 9.468.711 Experts Worldwide The Carlton Hotel. Rue Pierre Stibbe Anosy, Antananarivo 101 (Madagascar) Tel +261 20 22 260 60

GIRL GUIDING ST HELENA CELEBRATE WORLD THINKING DAY 2020

Betty Joshua

Saturday, 22nd February was a very special day in the International Girlguiding calendar - a day when all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, 10 million in number, came together in friendship to be of one voice, and to speak in various ways of the issues affecting girls and women in their daily lives, all over the world.

Here on St Helena, the majority of our Girlguiding (GG) members gathered at Kingshurst Community Centre (KCC) in celebration of World Thinking Day (WTD), which this year was organised and hosted by the St Pauls and Sandy Bay combined Girlguiding Units.

So, how did all of this come together on the Day to make it such a successful event, and allow all participants to achieve this WTD's special badge? Well, a flurry of buses and other vehicles signalled the arrival of Girls and Leaders at KCC around 9.30 am. Regardless of time or day, our young people are always full of chatter and smiles – undoubtedly, on this occasion, in anticipation of what the Day would hold for them! This is how it all unfolded:

After a brief welcome to everyone by Ms Joyce Williams, Sandy Bay GG Leader, we crossed the road in brilliant sunshine, to a short service taken by Lay Minister Ernest at The Cathedral, which got us all thinking about ourselves as individuals, and how we are all part of one family with our different abilities to do our best, wherever we are and whatever we commit to doing. Enthusiastic happy-clappy singing by all and appropriate prayers read by members of the Brownie and Guide sections, made for a lively celebration. Following this, we stopped by to lay flowers on Colonel and Mrs Walcott's graves to remember them as Founders of our Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements on St Helena.



Back at the Kingshurst Community Centre, the event was officially opened by GG President, Mrs Ivy Ellick, who welcomed everyone and praised the Hosts for their commitment to organising the Day in appropriateness to the WT Day's Theme – attractive displays of posters, pictures and information spelt this out very clearly, eg. in these quotes:

"Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance" (Verna Myers)

"Equality is giving everyone a shoe. Equity is giving everyone a shoe that fits" (Naheed Dosani)

So, with the theme for WTD 2020, and the rest of the guiding year, being **Diversity, Inclusion and Equity**, such powerful words might not have meant much to everyone at the start of the Day, but for all members, whose ages ranged from five years to 'over-twenty-one' years of age, they were certainly aware of the connection between them, at the end. Why?... because the activities and games which the host units engaged and involved members in, had challenged them to '**feel the threads**' and better understand the concepts of them to whatever level they were capable of going to. This World Thinking Day, and every day, has and will continue to give all of us opportunities to recognise the importance of working to build a world where this is true for everyone, wherever they live.

For each activity that was played and enjoyed in great spirit and togetherness, the girls were able to collect a different coloured thread; these threads were pinned on them until the end of activities and they were then able to use them to plait/braid, twist or whatever, into a friendship bracelet.



Of course, in between all the activities, everyone had to be fed and watered!, so during the early break girls feasted on their home snacks; enjoyed a cooked meal for lunch provided by their individual Units, and finished with a delicious mouth-watering tea, sandwiches and cakes. What a day! WOW - what a treat!

The Day's activities closed with Promise-making, Moving-on ceremonies and Award presentations, and the award winners were as follows:

'Guide of the Year' awards were presented to: Jamestown Rainbow Guide Daisy Andrews; Jamestown Brownie Guide Gineal George;

Longwood Girl Guide Bianca Thomas-Johnson and Jamestown Ranger Guide Danni Thomas.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

GIRLGUIDING ST HELENA CELEBRATE WORLD THINKING DAY 2020

Betty Joshua



'Guide of the Year' awardees L-R: Daisy Andrews, Gineal George, Bianca Thomas-Johnson, Danni Thomas (who was not present during the event).

These young people are to be congratulated on their tremendous efforts to present interesting journals that reflected 'the living out of their Promise' on their journey as a member of Girlguiding throughout the past year – February 2019 to January 2020. For all of the other members who also submitted interesting journals, but didn't achieve one of the trophies, were all presented with very nice certificates. These were proud moments for all of the girls, and we extend a huge **WELL DONE** to each of them.

Following the Presentation of awards, Mrs Ellick announced the appointment of Miss Rosemarie Mittens, Longwood Guide Leader, as our new Deputy Commissioner and Mrs Pamela Ward-Pearce as Member of Guide Council. The giving of 'the traditional shiny pennies' by every member of St Helena

Girlguiding, closing songs by each section and a thankyou for joining in on this very special Day by the host units, brought the Day's events to a finish.

Girlguiding St Helena congratulate and thank the St Pauls and Sandy Bay Units, particularly the Leaders, Ms Joyce Williams, Mrs Veronica Augustus and Mrs Eileen Hudson, as well as all others who had an input, for their hard work and effort put in to give us a Day that was special and enjoyable, and where the delights of fun, **food and friendship** were mere, but important, factors intertwined with the threads of **diversity, inclusion and equity** – skills of which we all need to develop to greater lengths, and to work hard to apply to our everyday life.

MV Helena - Voyage 26 Delay Notice

AW Ship Management regret to inform that owing to weather issues and port congestions in both Europe and Cape Town the transshipment containers on Voyage 26 have been delayed. The vessel carrying these containers discharged at Coega Port, located north of Port Elizabeth and unfortunately due to other vessels trying to maintain their schedules these containers have been rolled to a later feeder vessel not due into Cape Town until the 12th March.

In addition to these transshipment containers another shipment was due to arrive into Cape Town for Voyage 26 and this vessel also omitted their first Cape Town call, these containers are due to be discharged on the 15th March.

AW has been following the movements of these vessels closely and working with the shipping lines to try to mitigate these delays. St Helena Government have been informed and a joint decision has been made by both St Helena and Ascension Island Government. It has been agreed that the MV Helena will delay her departure for this cargo and to assist with maintaining schedules the Ascension call has been moved to Voyage 27.

An updated schedule will be placed on the website, but please find the below for your planning requirements.

Any Ascension breakbulk cargo already loaded onto the MV Helena will remain onboard unless the shipper request for it to be discharged.

AW Ship Management

REVISED MV HELENA SCHEDULE

Voyage 26			
DESTINATION	ARRIVE	DEPART	TYPE
Cape Town	START	18/03/2020	Departure
St Helena	25/03/2020	27/03/2020	Call
Cape Town	05/04/2020	END	
Voyage 27			
DESTINATION	ARRIVE	DEPART	TYPE
Cape Town	START	08/04/2020	Departure
St Helena	15/04/2020	17/04/2020	Call
Ascension	21/04/2020	21/04/2020	Call
St Helena	25/04/2020	26/04/2020	Call
Cape Town	04/05/2020	END	
Voyage 28			
DESTINATION	ARRIVE	DEPART	TYPE
Cape Town	START	09/05/2020	Departure
St Helena	16/05/2020	21/05/2020	Call
Cape Town	29/05/2020	END	



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Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter on pages 10 & 11 of the St. Helena Independent dated 14th February 2020 from a gentleman back home who has worked on Falklands, who has 2 boys and who is going through 'financial stress'.

My name is Anthony Peters (well known as Tony Foot from Longwood) who is once again away from home working on Falkland Islands. After reading the article, I sympathize with this gentleman as I care about other people and their well being. I have walked many miles/hours for charity for people who have been sick etc.. I would describe my personality as quiet, kind, helpful, sensible & easy going. I been having this strong wish to 'open up and let it all out from within me' about my experience of ANXIETY (unnecessary worrying) triggered by financial worries & my child's future because of her learning disability and not able to work because of her Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). However, I got no need to worry as she has a very caring mummy and step-daddy and I know she is in good hands, and I know she is loved and well cared for but it's just the nature of me – sometimes worry when not necessary. With me it has been a combination of anxiety, but also a bit of depression originating from missing my daughter from my life, as she didn't used to live with me anymore. Our lovely island home of St. Helena is going through a very difficult economic situation at present, and I am pretty sure there is a few more of my fellow saints back home who are going through stress/anxiety/depression due to the financial difficulties being faced/bleak future of our island home.

I have been back on Falklands now for almost 6 months, after being home for past 5 years, having previously worked on Falklands for many years before this, for which I am so glad I managed to achieve something by getting my own house built. I'm so glad that I am not just starting to do house now with today's

cost of land/materials/labour. I was not bright at school and I did not have the talent/skills that many other men have today, so I was just a 'pen pusher'. Salaries on St. Helena are just way too low for the 21st century and life can become stressful and then this causes you to worry about the future, and you can become feeling insecure and you can then eventually end up with ANXIETY which is triggered by this continuous worrying which sometimes can be uncontrollable. Because I didn't have any tradesman skills I decided to leave my private sector 'pen pusher' job to have a go at a little shop in the market upstairs called 'Tonys Bits & Bobs' as at the time I thought I could make more money. I wanted to make more money somehow as I had a lovely child Regan growing up whom I absolutely love, and who by the way is 'autistic', and who don't live with me anymore which was hard to get used to. I couldn't afford to buy as much for her as I wished because the pays back home are in most cases just about enough to live on and now it's getting worse.

Anyway as for the shop I didn't have much idea about retail business but it was just a panic decision to try something out. I eventually discovered this was a bad decision, and a big mistake, and it caused my anxiety to get worst, as I got myself into bit of financial difficulty as the business was very slow going and I depended on this, and I lost some money as I had to give it up and sell off.

From this time on, I used to worry more and more about the future and I could feel it was affecting my mental health with these symptoms:-

- Continuous worrying and waking up feeling nervous – living in fear – heavy sweating in bed at night.
- Having fear of going out and being around people – didn't feel like talking to anybody.
- Deep in thought - not noticing people saying hello to me on the street.
- Couldn't get out bed and just not motivated to do anything – just wanted to lay in bed and cover my head up.
- Having negative thoughts and being tempted to harm myself
- Mind thinking too far ahead of me - not taking one day at a time
- Could not feel happy or enjoy my life (depression ??)
- Lost interest in my family/relatives/

friends

- Degrading myself and kept thinking I was a failure/useless
- Very low confidence in myself
- Didn't care about myself - started to hate myself.
- Body felt drained/fatigue/kept yawning all through day - just sleeping too much on Sundays.
- Low sex drive

I could tell things were going wrong with me so I got in touch with the mental health team to tell them how I was feeling. I then had therapy sessions with the Clinical Psychologist, Dr Tara Murphy who I met on Wednesday afternoons at St. Johns Villa for an hour or so, who explained in detail how the human mind works and the things a person can do to help themselves when in these situations. After these sessions I used to then walk home to Longwood. It used to make me feel a bit better after talking to Tara, and I found her very professional, helpful and caring.

There was a few times that I went walking up to the top of Flagstaff and I felt the temptation to do something to myself, but I did not know which way to do it. I also stopped for a minute and thought about what the Psychologist taught me, and I thought about my partner and my daughter. I had a picture of them in my mind. Some mornings I woke up feeling terrible and I used to go up to Longwood Gate to ask my mum Barbara to please pray for me, as those negative thoughts were overpowering me, and I was having some dark days where I didn't know what to do with myself. I used to keep saying to myself 'God please help me'. I couldn't stand these feelings and it was making me feel fed up to myself which led to me having these very dark thoughts. One Friday evening in July 2018, I went up to Maisies shop at Longwood and I bought 2 flasks of vodka and a box of paracetamols and I went home got in bed and poured some vodka down my throat and swallowed some paracetamols behind it. Later on that evening, my mum and some of my longwood friends were outside shouting 'Tony Tony you in there'. My phone was constantly ringing. I did not answer them, then eventually I heard somebody breaking the glass in my house door to try unlock it to get in. It was police to check on me if I was ok. I then heard the ambulance outside and

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the police/nurses lifted me out of my bed and lied me down in back of ambulance. They then took me to hospital where i was for about 3 -4 days for rest/review/recovery. It never had to happen to me so i am still here today thanks to god. This has been the darkest day of my life so far. I have had few disappointments in my life (dear Johns etc) but i have not experienced anything like this.

Since i have been back on Falklands this time (arrived 12th Sept 2019) i was really struggling with these negative thoughts for the first couple months and it was very hard just to simply get out of bed. I did not make it to work some days so i explained my situation to Sodexo management here, and they were very helpful and supportive of me. One morning in mid September 2019 not long after arriving back on Falklands, i woke up feeling terrible and my mind was just all over the place and once again i was tempted to do something to myself. I felt miserable and so wished to be out of this misery. I have never told anybody this part but i put a black bin bag down over my head, layed in bed and i strapped some packing tape around my throat to try suffocate myself. Once again i had to stop and think about my daughter Regan and my partner who would have been left behind. Lester and Tina put me on to this SSAFA Social Worker lady over at WVRS (Rockhoppers) where people can go if they have any mental health issues here at MPA. They were all very supportive and helpful. I have been having reviews at the Medical Centre here at MPA, and i must say the support has been very good. I feel much more relaxed and stress free. I feel much more brighter and more positive nowadays, and those bad thoughts seemed to have gone away. My mind has calmed down quite a bit to what it used to be. I work at Top Naafi doing general cleaning, i now feel settled and i did'nt know that i would enjoy cleaning (i can deep clean your house when i come home ha! ha!). There is nothing wrong with cleaning - aint we do it in our own home ?) Some days i

wake up though and i have this little bit of worry in the back of my mind about the future but this is what ANXIETY is all about. It tends to be first thing mornings when i wake up, but it gradually fades away when i start to do things at work. In these situations i have to distract my mind from these thoughts by thinking about something positive, or do something to keep myself occupied. If i sit around doing nothing this is when i start to go back in to 'thinking mode'. I know how to deal with this now. I have now learned to stay positive as i am not alone, and there is still lot more to live for at the moment.

I feel that i have made much progress over past 3-4 months, and now seem to have recovered as i have now got myself motivated again and i feel energetic and a bit more happier. I wake up between 03.45 – 4.00 am every morning to start work at 5.00 am, so i got this routine going now. I seemed to have got through it. I dont have anymore thoughts of harming myself. I felt trapped in this dark place where i was lost, and now seem to have found my way back. The Senior Medical Officer here at MPA has since done some health screening (blood tests) on me to check my heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, thyroids, cholesterol, blood cells, diabetes etc and the results have all been positive. She has told me that i am very fit and healthy, and to keep doing what i been doing. I would therefore like to end by saying 'Thank you Lord'as my prayers have been answered and i just wanted to put the message out there to anybody back home who are experiencing these sort of feelings , to please go forward to speak to someone in the mental health team. You need to get it off your chest, dont bottle it up. I have found that when i tell somebody about it, it makes me feel better. I am feeling better already just by typing this article on my laptop. There is help out there. Please tell your problem to a close friend, family member or Ian Rummery and the team there at St.John's Villa over behind the hospital. Some people are too afraid to come forward with mental health issues as they are worried about what other people will think of them. People will probably think you are weak, you are a 'softie', or you cant handle pressure but dont take no notice to those kind of people. They can be ignorant as they dont understand about the the human mind (psychology)and how every human being is different. The human mind is very pow-

erful. Not everybody is the same. We all think/feel/behave differently to different situations. Some people are more sensitive than others. Its just like my daughter who is 'Autistic' and there is a few more back there on island with this disorder. I know people who have said these children are rude and ill mannered because they dont understand what AUTISM is and what's going on in these peoples brains. Some people need to be educated a bit more about these various mental health issues. They assume too much and jump to conclusions as they just dont understand and they have 'narrow minds'. If you're on internet anytime google search 'GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER' which is constantly worrying, sometimes over silly little things. Its a disorder. We are not alone as millions of people in world experience this some time in their lives. So now you know why i'm going grey (ha! ha!), and why i always look so serious and bit 'far out' sometimes. Dont judge people – you just dont know whats going on in their head.

Thanks very much for your understanding and please dont be afraid to go forward and speak up, as there is nothing to be ashamed of. I have told alot of people what happened to me and they have said that it is really good that you have talked about it. Please dont suffer in silence – mental health problems are common. It doesnt make you a bad person so dont bother what other people think of you. If we going to worry about what other people think of us we wont get anywhere. And yes, i do agree with the gentlemans letter in the independent where he says people are 'nosey'. Unfortunatley it is the 'Saint' culture where we tend to worry more about what other people are doing rather than concentrate on ourselves and whats going on in 'our own back yard'.

I hope and pray that sometime soon, something will change on St.Helena and that the future will get a bit brighter because most of us like to be home – there is no place like it – i dont care where you have been!. Just take a look at the beautiful scenery photos/videos that 'Saint Cooks', Tourism & Darrin and Sharon Henry have on internet. Take noticeof the greenery when you drive around island (but dont take notice to untidy road sides which need

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Your Opinion Counts

some care and attention).

Its beautiful – you don't appreciate it until you leave it. Its nothing wrong with the place....it's the people who run it. The Falklands is economically better than St. Helena but is nowhere as beautiful. You drive to town (Stanley) 35 miles away and you don't even see a tree. The government here have got it made financially due to tourism, fishing licenses, 4 flights per week, and I would say that the councillors here (MLA's) are more qualified and know what they are talking about. We hear a lot about our councillors back home don't know what they are talking about. One weekend few weeks ago there was 4 cruise ships in. Maybe in future there will be oil. If we all could make a decent salary back home and save a bit of money and could afford to go on a little holiday once in a while I'm sure most of us Saints would come home tomorrow. Unfortunately not all of us are bright/talented, so we don't have much choice but have to keep leaving our home/family/children.

Thank you for taking time to read my article – keep positive – feel free to contact me at anytime. Don't be afraid to ask me anything about my experience. Hope to be home on leave around 11th July 2020 God willing! Bye for now!

Yours sincerely

Tony

**C/o Sodexo
JE Block
FALKLANDS**

Dear Editor

I wrote to this paper 2 weeks ago and whilst there has been some response from Government on what is being done in terms of Covid 19 the response hasn't been satisfactory and I feel that more can be done to protect the island. Our processes seem to be geared toward the best case scenario rather than the worst and toward it being picked up at

the airport as opposed to it being detected and found on the island among our locals after the carrier might have come and gone.

We have been informed that people arriving from China will be isolated? How effective is that going to be, we allow them to our shores only to then direct them to the isolation unit in Bradleys. We hope that as they read this advice that they will decide not to come but how fool proof is that? **What's stopping us from banning them?** Its not discriminative or victimisation it is strong measures to contain the virus. WHO has given us the tool to do this in declaring this a global emergency.

The information in this week's press release is already out-dated with a growing number of cases in other countries in Europe. **Has our Government stepped up to this, will the screening be extended to these countries for tomorrow's flight?**

It was interesting to hear on the BBC this evening when Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus head of WHO said "It would be a fatal mistake for Government's not to take this serious"

Another also said that the costs to take preventative measures will far outweigh the costs to any country if they become infected, the costs to their economy but most importantly the cost of life would be much more devastating than taking any measures to prevent the virus. Meaning it would be wiser to lose money in the process of prevention than it would be to spend a lot more of it trying to save lives once people already have the virus.

If we took such advice we can stop this from happening to St Helena. We can close the borders:

How difficult it is to stop 1 flight per week to the island until we reach some stability with the virus. The loss of life would be a greater loss than this.

How difficult is it to stop the 3 cruise ships from coming here? We have turned them away in rough sea conditions, what difference would it make to us now?

NHS and medical staff throughout the world are reporting on how draining the virus has been with them having to do long hours of work and the lack of resources human and physical resources

(masks and respirators etc). **Under Normal conditions our hospital struggles so how would we cope in an outbreak?**

Many countries are saying we are ready but these words are not being echoed by St Helena Government, there is no strong message saying we are ready... kits only becoming available in 3-4 months is a sign that we are not ready? No dedicated phone line to deal with these enquiries is another sign. The contact details given to the passengers on entry are the usual contact for the hospital, without being disrespectful to our receptionists currently at the hospital, these calls should not be taken by our everyday receptionists. There should be someone trained who can effectively communicate to senior staff but at the same time provide useful information to the caller.

I do not see Government leading by example or being wise about their travel.. The Tourism team heading to Berlin would be a prime example of irresponsible thinking, they are exposing themselves at a mass gathering with contacts from many different countries. **Will they be isolated on their return?**

It is important that we remember that the whole world is already suffering from financial losses due to the impact of the virus on the travel industry so St Helena will not be alone and our attempt to continue business has usual will by no means help the global economy when it is not even enough to sustain ourselves.

Concerned Islander



**Formal Legislative Council Meeting
– 28 February 2020 – Statement to
the Adjournment Debate – Cllr
Cyril Leo**

Mr Speaker and fellow elected representatives,

Let us go back in time and focus our minds on one day in the life of St Helena

Your Opinion Counts

when all Saint Helenians at home and throughout the world looked to the future with unprecedented excitement and optimism. On that special April day in 2016, the St Helena Airport, a £285 million project funded by the British Government, was about to accommodate the very first Comair 737 commercial flight; it was intended to be the first of many regular Comair 737 commercial flights to St Helena. There were numerous Saint Helenians standing on the hills near the new airport. We were witnessing a momentous start of something that would bring unparalleled opportunities for social and economic development to the people of St Helena. Standing on the hill near to me were two small boys and I capture the special moment in time for them on camera giving their thumbs-up. St Helena would now be able to offer all of her children a future full of opportunities and options. However, here we are four years on and air access is still to deliver on the expectation and promise; the economic benefits for the people of St Helena have yet to materialise.

We have seen how major game changing development has failed to deliver on expectation and promise for the people of St Helena in the past.

Let us now focus our attention on the present.

Once again Saint Helenians have been gifted with another unprecedented opportunity to positively transform the social and economic fabric of our community. The European Commission has provided the people of St Helena with funding for a fibre optic cable that will link St Helena to the wider world. The fibre-optic cable is expected to also bring unparalleled opportunities for social and economic development to the people of St Helena.

The European Development funding of the cable for St Helena equates to some £14.3 million. The St Helena Government has an obligation to ensure that

the people of St Helena will be the recipients of maximum benefits from the sub-sea cable. Corporate monopoly in St Helena cannot have the freedom to extract unregulated profits, from the fibre-optic cable enterprise, at the expense of the people of St Helena.

St Helena is heavily dependent on financial aid from the United Kingdom. Some four years ago DFID stopped providing capital programme funding for the island and this gradually undermined progress, largely contributed to the current serious social and economic decline and eroded confidence in the future.

We have now secured a financial aid commitment of £30 million from the United Kingdom for capital project funding. The commitment will bring some consolation to the community during these current social and economic difficulties. However, more momentum is now urgently required from SHG in the delivery of the actual project work.

Technical work is ongoing to activate construction work within the Comprehensive Development Areas at Half Tree Hollow, Bottom Woods and Bunkers Hill in particular. The Forestry section has released some 200 plots of land for Government Landlord Housing, first time housebuilders and market value plots. All of these various options for construction work will have a positive impact on the private sector. But here again, momentum is now urgently required to progress the projects and thereby energise economic activity within the community.

Capital funding has now been set aside for new sewage systems to serve Half Tree Hollow, Jamestown and Bottom Woods; ultimately, this also will mean even more construction opportunities for the private sector and economic activity within the wider community. Collectively,

the development will create wide ranging employment opportunities.

Other positives include the renewable energy development that will see the installation of three powerful wind turbines at Deadwood Plain.

To inject additional financial energy into St Helena's economy we must also find ways of increasing the customer base and the tax base. Constituents who invest and risk their hard earned resources in local business ventures often complain about the limited customer base on the island. An Independent Economic Review is being carried out and its 'SH2050' progressive approach will inform Saint Helenians on the vision for the next thirty years. It is suggested that the population of St Helena should be gradually increased to double by 2050. More details on the 2050 vision will be forthcoming for public information and consultation.

Mr Speaker – there are still many obstacles to be addressed and overcome by this Council and there are many constraints that elected members have no control over. The cost of fuel within the world markets and the knock-on negative impact it has on local freight charges is one example. The high cost of living on St Helena, mainly due to the ever increasing freight costs, remains a very serious concern. SHG is currently seeking financial assistance from DFID to provide some measure of freight subsidy. The matter must be addressed by SHG and DFID with greater purpose and urgency.

As we persistently work to address the social and economic negatives impacting St Helena, let us also, as a community, be inspired and spurred on by the positives.



Your Opinion Counts

To Public Health Committee and other elected members of Legislative Council

New tobacco control legislation

The Public Health Committee (PHC) are currently carrying out public consultation meetings on new Tobacco Control legislation the aim of which “*is to help protect the public from the harm tobacco causes and to ensure the wellbeing of our people now and into the future.*”

There are two parts to the PHC’s aim and I’ll refer to them as 1 – *to help protect the public from the harm tobacco causes*, and 2 – *to ensure the wellbeing of our people now and into the future.*

1 – **‘to help protect the public from the harm tobacco causes’**. The NHS and Macmillan websites provide a wealth of information and it points out **that everyone has a certain risk of developing cancer. A combination of genes, lifestyle and environment can affect this risk.** For most people increasing age is the biggest risk factor for developing cancer. Doctors do not know the exact causes of cancer but there are risk factors that can increase ones chance of developing it.

The PHC are addressing smoking which is to do with people’s *lifestyle* but there are a number of parts to lifestyle.

The Health directorate are again employing a dietician but that along with the Tobacco Control legislation will **NOT ensure the wellbeing of our people now and into the future** unless other direct factors are addressed collectively.

Main issues affecting our people are:

Income – the money we make has an effect on our health and people with higher incomes tend to be healthier than people with low incomes. People with low incomes are more likely to live in poverty, something which is very

evident on St Helena at the moment; and they face situations that can lead to poor health. If those who can only afford to buy a few cigarettes at a time and will no longer be able to do that after the new legislation comes into being it will not stop them from smoking. They will buy a packet and go without something else which can further lead to poor health. The price of healthy foods on St Helena prevents our people with low incomes from eating healthy, they have no choice and together with trying to make ends meet is extremely hard work for them.

Moreover people are being laid off work because there is no work. It is expected some parents go without proper meals so that they can feed their children. The minimum income level for determining the poverty line is just £71.50 a week but if one gets £72 a week they’re above the poverty line! How can one lead healthy lifestyle on £72 a week out of which has to come food, rent, medication, spectacles (it’s absolutely ridiculous that 20% customs duty is charged on spectacles which is not a luxury but a necessity for people), school uniforms for the kids to name a few. It is suggested that people buy local but local produce is expensive. One week local potatoes were £4 a gallon, the next time it went up to £5 a gallon, people tend to take advantage when things are in short supply. Our Councillors should try living on £72 a week with the expenses that low income people have to contend with and experience what it’s like. The personal tax allowance of £7000 is not helpful for families with children. Since doing away with allowances for children it does not help families with two or more children. With a couple one may earn more than £7000 and is therefore taxed, whilst the spouse may not earn £7000 but the one who is taxed is not able to use the partners remaining personal allowance allowing them to have more disposal income to have a better quality of life.

This is ridiculous in these difficult times. The personal allowance has not been increased since it was introduced despite the cost of groceries continuously increasing each time the ship arrives! People are experiencing these difficulties and wondering when or if they’ll ever get out of these dark times which all contribute to health issues.

Housing – people with poor living conditions have a higher risk of developing

health problems. Conditions such as pests, mould, structural problems and toxins can affect our health. Social housing should be in good condition. The stress of living in poorly maintained accommodation causes health issues.

Before legislating just for tobacco a whole host of issues need to be considered collectively to achieve the aim *ensure the wellbeing of our people now and into the future* and not dealing with the complexity of the matter by piecemeal.

Contributed

Dear Editor

I refer to Connect’s proposed increase in tariffs from 1 April 2020.

As a domestic user the quarterly standing charge will increase by £1.03. Secondly, the treated water per cubic meter will be increased by categorised units. Connect says *‘The combined effect for most people will be less than the inflationary increase on their bill’*. They also said the Minimum Income Standard will be adjusted to take into account this? The majority of people are not in receipt of benefits because they’re slightly above the poverty line. Being on the poverty line and over can be just £1 and means one doesn’t get the benefit, but people are trying to make ends meet and keep their heads above water. To the excessively paid management employees of Connect how you can sleep at night?

The domestic drainage charges – For those connected to a communal system its increasing by £1.80 and for emptying septic tanks a **mega** £7.14! Yet when they do come to empty the septic tank they use the customer’s water for which the customer will pay for as well! The sewage smell when approaching the Ball Alley at Ladder Hill is at times disgusting and embarrassing (unless you’re familiar with the smell near Heathrow UK). No doubt this is because it’s not working properly and to top it all there are homes and restaurants nearby. It is suggested there should be a process in place for reporting complaints like this to an independent body who would monitor the number of complaints annually and impose a **fine** accordingly. They should not be allowed to pass the fine onto customers when tariff increases are proposed.

Your Opinion Counts

From experience when lodging complaints about the water - taste, smell, colour, samples are taken but no further follow up with the customer. What kind of customer service is that! Never heard of Connect carrying out customer surveys and is that not something they ought to be doing as an essential service provider? Wonder why they don't – is it because they don't want to see the reality in black and white or is it their self-worth falsely telling them otherwise.

If there is no need to increase the electricity tariff, then income they're getting must be over and above, so why can't they take some of that to offset the cost of the water rather than requesting the full subsidy required for the water. We all know that subsidy is after all tax payer's money (whether that be St Helena or the UK!) so in effect the tax payer is

contributing twice.

During Exco's radio discussion at Saint FM recently, Councillor Lawson Henry said that Directors of subsidised organisations will no longer be able to pay themselves bonuses without permission from SHG – so right! That is why the Directors are so comfortable in their cushy jobs! If SHG can make that decision why can't they go a bit further and ring-fence the salaries of the Directors so that they're not increasing year on year.

Are customers getting value for money since the privatisation of these essential services? It certainly doesn't feel like it. Again it's down to the monopoly. It would be good to know from SHG if Connect has been contracted to provide the services for life or a specific number of years and if so how much long they have got. It's time SHG advertise the business for offshore investor interest to identify if it could be operated in a more cost effective way since it'll only be a matter of time before SHG will not be subsidising Connect anymore....after all they did so with the Fisheries!!

Customer of Connect SA Ltd

Dear Editor

Just to say I was listening to your news on Monday about the Mantis hotel, I agree with what you said and I would like to add that putting another £500,000 to the hotel affects us all I am a single mother who cannot work because of personal reasons, I receive a social benefit and I believe the money should go into this department

Maybe we should all be like the fishermen, they went forward and never gave up, I believe that things turn out well for them, I can now buy fish whenever I want and one fisherman told me he makes more money now than he ever did, the government fix everything for them again.

Can they please do something for us on benefits? What I am saying is if the island speak up for us who can't then we might be able to treat ourselves now and again

A single mother



St Helena
Government

Jamestown Streetlight Project – Solar Streetlights

The following is a Public Announcement from the Infrastructure & Transport Directorate:

The contract for the first phase of the Jamestown streetlight project has been signed. The first phase will see 45 existing streetlights in Upper Jamestown and some streetlights identified in Lower Jamestown, replaced with full solar energy efficient streetlights. The contract will commence in the first week of March and is expected to be completed by mid-March.

The solar streetlights has the same light intensity as the existing streetlights. They will dim to 60% of full brightness if no movement is detected, if any movement is detected, the streetlight will switch to 100% brightness. These streetlights are similar to the other solar streetlights installed around the island. The new lights will be installed on the existing poles.

RESCHEDULED SITE VISIT

Invitation to Tender – Refurbishment of Ex Police Headquarters for the Relocation of Judicial Services

The Saint Helena Government would like to advise the site visit for **Refurbishment of Ex Police Headquarters for the Relocation of Judicial Services** has been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday, 10 March 2020, at 10am, meeting near the Public Library, Jamestown.

If you are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact the Procurement Officer to arrange another date & time.

Full tender documentation can be obtained from

Miss Tiffany Lawrence
Procurement Officer
Essex House
Jamestown

Telephone No: 22270
tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh



St Helena
Government

or email

Should you require any further details, please contact the Civil Engineer, Mr Christopher Peters, on telephone number 22270 or email christopher.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh .

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Thursday, 19 March 2020.

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



Would you like to be a part of the team at St Helena Airport?
St Helena Airport has part time vacancies for:

Security Officers

Working hours will be according to flight operations and applicants should have good interpersonal & communication skills, and be willing to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks.

Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

For further information, please contact
Miss Tegan Knott, Agencies Administrator, on telephone number: 22523
or via email address: agencies.admin@solomons.co.sh

Application forms & Job Profiles may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via email address: agencies.admin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, by 17 March 2020.



St Helena
Government

POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION BURGLARY AT HUTT'S GATE

The following is a Public Announcement from the Police Directorate:
St Helena Police are appealing to the public for information relating to a house burglary that took place in the Hutt's Gate area between Wednesday, 26, and Thursday, 27 February 2020.

This is a serious offence and if anyone has any information with regards to any suspicious activity in the Hutt's Gate area, near to the Hutt's Gate Store, please do not hesitate to contact St Helena Police.

Any information, regardless of how minor it may seem, can be provided in the strictest of confidence to St Helena Police via telephone: 22626 or email: sebastian.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh. Alternatively, you can speak with a Police Officer of your choice.

**SHG
28 February 2020**



Sure 24/7 FREE Fault Reporting Line

Please call our **FREE Fault Reporting Line 121** if you're experiencing a fault with your service. This line is available 24/7.

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS

Elected Members are currently holding a round of constituency meetings during March.

These meetings are an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their Councillors and raise any issues they might have.

Constituency meetings will take place at 7pm on the following dates and times:

Venue	Date
Blue Hill Community Centre	Thursday, 5 March
St Mary's Church, The Briars	Friday, 6 March
St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Monday, 9 March
Jamestown Community Centre	Tuesday, 10 March
Silver Hill Bar	Wednesday, 11 March
Sandy Bay Community Centre	Thursday, 12 March
Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	Friday, 13 March

As a result of feedback received from previous constituency meetings, a minimum of six Elected Members will attend each of the above meetings. All 12 Elected Members will attend the meeting at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre on Friday, 13 March, as requested.

You are encouraged to attend the meeting in your district.



Vacancy - Customer Service Assistant - NAAFI Ascension Island

We have a vacancy for 2 CSA's to work within our retail and leisure establishments at Traveller's Hill.

Hours of work are 48 per week and shift timings will include split shifts, unsociable hours & weekends.

The successful candidate should have excellent customer service skills, be reliable and trustworthy, able to use their own initiative, be flexible and willing to learn, and of sober habits. Full on-job training will be given

Free passage will be provided from and to the Country of origin.

The successful person will need to undergo medical, dental and security checks prior to start of employment.

For further information, terms & conditions, and an application form please contact Jessica Sian Pittuck NAAFI Manager at jpittuck@naafi.co.uk or on Telephone number +247 63270



Fluor's Main Subcontractor - 77 İnşaat ve Taahhut A.S. (77 Construction) has been awarded Runway Repair Project Site Activities on Ascension Island.

As a result, 77 Construction is seeking expressions of interest from the following Experienced Personnel/Operators and Drivers:

- 1 HSE Site Officer: (Applicant must have 30 hours OSHA certificate)
- 1 Ground Guide (Spotter) for Trucks and Operators
- 1 Operator for Crawler Excavator
- 1 Operator for 70 Ton Crane
- 2 Operators for Back-Hoe Loader's (JCB)
- 2 Operators for Vibrating Roller
- 1 Driver for Fuel Truck
- 2 Drivers for Water Truck
- 1 Driver for Septic (Effluent) Truck
- 6 Drivers for Hot Mix Asphalt Dump Trucks
- 12 Drivers for Earth Works Dump Trucks
- 3 Housekeepers

Ideally, candidates will have a minimum of 5 years or more Operating Experience (similar airfield project experience is preferred). Interested Persons are asked to submit their expressions of interest along with copies of their CVs, relevant Certificates, Driver's License, Vaccination Certificates, Vetting Certificates and Passport to:

Kevin Hudson, Environmental HSE Manager kevinhudson@77construction.com or alternatively,

Tel: (00247) 64612 Mob: (00247) 45888

Successful candidates will be expected to arrive at Ascension Island on or around the 13th June 2020 and will be provided free accommodation, food (3 meals per day) and 30 days round trip tickets to their home upon completion of each year of the contract. Laundry and MWR facilities will be free of charge. Proposed contract duration is 18 months, working days are 6 per week (with Sundays off) Gross salaries will be offered to candidates which are taxable in Ascension. All positions will be offered on an unaccompanied status only.

All candidates must have a valid visa/passport for at least 18 months and will be subject to Security Clearances.

Serifali Mah. Yükselis Sk. No: 10 Umraniye, İstanbul / Türkiye

Tel: +90 216 9991000

www.77insaat.com

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. This year's official International Women's Day theme #EachforEqual asks how can we each help to forge an equal world?

Will you celebrate women's achievements, stop gendered bias and discrimination, and act for equality?

'HALF THE SKY'

AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING WOMEN
ON ST HELENA

7-14 MARCH 2020

DURING NORMAL OPENING HOURS
THE MUSEUM



International Women's Day

#EachforEqual



St Helena Island

Secret of the South Atlantic

Do you have an idea for St Helena's new strapline?

St Helena Tourism is currently undergoing a rebranding exercise. As part of this exercise it has been decided that the Tourism strapline which forms part of the Tourism logo (pictured above) needs to be updated to provide an improved representation of St Helena as a Tourism destination.

The current strapline is **"Secret of the South Atlantic"** with the previous strapline being **"The most extraordinary place on earth"**.

St Helena Tourism is seeking ideas from the local community to help develop a new strapline for the island.

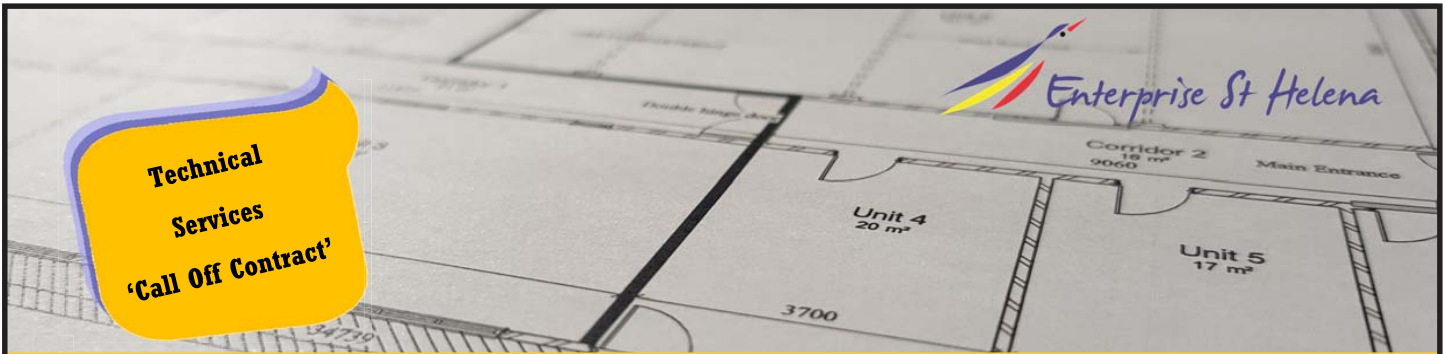
Strapline ideas should be submitted to Justine Green, Marketing and Communications Manager via email on Justine.green@esh.co.sh by 4pm on Friday, 20 March 2020 or can be handed into the Tourism Office, The Canister or the ESH office, Ladder Hill.



Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: info@esh.co.sh
Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com



**Technical Services
'Call Off Contract'**



Enterprise St Helena invites proposals from any suitably qualified persons or businesses who would be willing to enter into a multi-activity 'Call Off' contract to offer technical services in the following fields:

- Technical Design
- Procurement of Contractors and Equipment
- Project Management
- Surveying

Interested parties should note that this requirement is only being advertised on St Helena.

For a copy of the Terms Of Reference or if you require further information please contact Robyn Franconi, Finance Manager, on tel 22920 or email robyn.franconi@esh.co.sh.

Proposals should be emailed to the above address or delivered by sealed envelope marked "Technical services" to Enterprise St Helena office by no later than 12 Noon GMT **Monday, 09th March 2020** providing full details of the services your business can offer with your rates.



St Helena Island
Secret of the South Atlantic

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Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelenas.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com



Expressions of Interest for Preferred Contractors List



Enterprise St Helena invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced contractors who wish to be included on the Preferred Contractors List for general maintenance and construction related projects. The Preferred Contractors List will be used as a reference point by Enterprise St Helena when seeking quotations from contractors for general maintenance works and construction related projects, as and when the need arises.

Contractors that should apply include (but is not limited to): General Building; Concreting; Electrical; Fencing; General Engineering; Painting; Plumbing; Construction; Carpentry; Path & Site clearance.

Interested parties should note that this requirement is only being advertised on St Helena.

Interested persons are requested to submit an expression via e-mail to Robyn Franconi, Finance Manager robyn.franconi@esh.co.sh or by sealed envelope to Enterprise St Helena office by no later than 12 Noon GMT **Monday 09th March 2020** providing details of full list of what facilities your business can provide.



St Helena Island
Secret of the South Atlantic

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Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelenas.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com

SOLOMON & COMPANY (ST HELENA) PLC



JOB VACANCY SHIP WORKERS

We are looking to recruit, Ship-Side and Shore-Side Labourers, on a part-time basis, as part of the Stevedore Operation, from Voyage 26, 11 March 2020.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be able to undertake physically demanding duties
- Have a general understanding of safe manual handling practices
- Be able to work in a fast-paced environment while remaining safety-conscious
- Be prepared to work out of hours

Hours of Work

Hours of Work whilst the MV Helena is in Port are usually
06:00 - 18:00

Rate of Pay

Wages will be paid by the hour at the rate of
£3.83
Premium Time & Overtime is paid when applicable

Contact Us

For further information or to register your interest, please contact:
- Kerry Yon, Telephone: 22523 Email: shipping-travelmanager@solomons.co.sh or
- Anthea Joshua, Telephone: 22523 Email: asstshipping-travelmanager@solomons.co.sh
BY WEDNESDAY, 04 MARCH 2020

Sale Now On



Saints Summer Airfreight Offer

Was £15 per kg, Now £13.50 per kg
(plus standard service charge)
Until 15/03/2020



Book now with **M S Atlantic Logistics** and save money!
Get in touch via our website, email or Facebook

Or call us on
+44 (0) 7846 602 918
+44 (0) 7789 813 439
www.msatlantic.com

VACANCY FOR OFFICE MANAGER

Corporate Support is seeking to recruit a highly motivated and experienced individual to join their team to undertake the role of Office Manager. The post holder will be responsible for managing the day to day operations of the admin and accounts office within the Corporate Support, Policy and Planning section of Corporate Services; ensuring efficient and effective accounting and administration management.

Some of the main duties of the post will include:

- The processing of financial transactions (e.g. payroll, payments and journals).
- Perform the duties of sub Accounting Officer to include monitoring of expenditure and revenue, providing financial forecasts, deciding when budget lines have to be adjusted by the application of virement warrants. In the absence of the Accounting Officer, make decisions regarding unplanned expenditure/calls on the budget.
- Member of the Corporate Support, Policy and Planning Management Team to set the strategic direction.
- Arrange Annual Remembrance Day Service, Swearing in Ceremonies and other special events.
- Responsible for the security, fire safety and maintenance of the Castle premises.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE in English, Maths and Accounting at Grade C or above, or an equivalent qualification
- Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) qualification, or equivalent
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in an accounts environment
- Experience in applying accounting best practice



St Helena
Government

The post holder should ideally have:

- experience in drafting and preparing budgets
- Intermediate IT skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Databases and advanced skills in Access Dimensions or equivalent.
- the ability to work under pressure and prioritise workloads to meet tight deadlines, with good organisational skills and attention to detail

Salary for this post is at £11,034 per annum.

For further details about the post, interested persons should contact Mrs Carol George, Head of Corporate Support on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: carol.george@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Friday, 13 March 2020.

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.



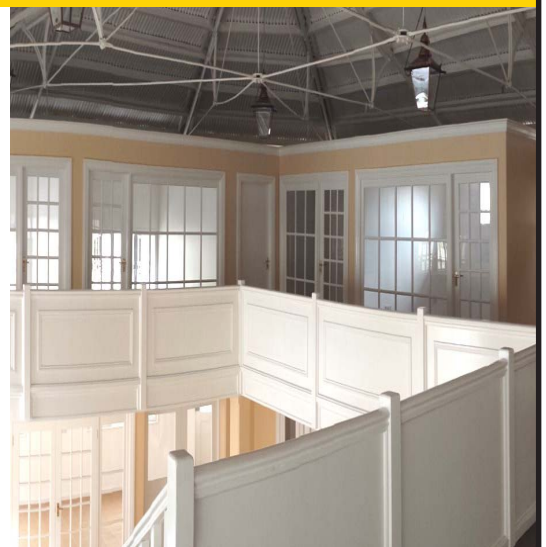
Units available at the Jamestown Market and Longwood Enterprise Park

Enterprise St Helena (ESH) have units available for rent to local entrepreneurs for non-industrial / clean business at the Jamestown Market and Longwood Enterprise Park.

Applications should be submitted to Robyn Franconi, Finance Manager, in the form of a business brief detailing your planned business and intended opening hours with a 3 year cash flow via email robyn.franconi@esh.co.sh or in hard copy to the Enterprise St Helena Office, ESH Business Park by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Monday 16th March 2020.

Terms and Conditions apply.

For further information, please contact Michielle Yon on 22920, or alternatively via email at: michielle.yon@esh.co.sh



Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: info@esh.co.sh
Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com



Vacancy - Water Treatment Team Leader

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking a suitably experienced person to fill the position of Water Treatment Team Leader in their Water Division.

The successful candidate will work as part of a team responsible for the day to day management and maintenance of the Island's water treatment plants, processes and systems. Other tasks include being responsible for the collection of water samples for laboratory testing, this is critical duty and must be carried out with diligence and accuracy through following the correct procedures.

Interested persons should have a minimum of 2 years supervisory skills, excellent communication skills, be computer literate, have a sound knowledge of Health and Safety in the workplace, have a 'can do' approach to problem solving and possess a valid drivers' licence. Experience with water treatment plant operating systems is desirable.

Salary for the post will depend on skills and experience. For further information, a full job description and further details on the Company's benefits package please contact Annalisa Young on 22255 or email annalisa.young@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms should be emailed to Annalisa Young at the above email address or handed in to the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown by 12:00 noon, Monday, 16 March 2020.



Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract-

Refurbishment of Ex Police Headquarters for the Relocation of Judicial Services

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Tiffany Lawrence

Procurement Officer

Essex House

Jamestown

Telephone No: 22270 or email tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 05 March 2020, at 10am, meeting at near the Public Library, Jamestown.

If you are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact the Procurement Officer to arrange another date & time.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Civil Engineer, Mr Christopher Peters, on telephone number 22270 or email christopher.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Monday, 16 March 2020.

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

Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract-

Mechanical and/or Manual Felling of a section of Pine at Diana's Peak near Black Gate

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Tiffany Lawrence

Procurement Officer

Essex House

Jamestown

Telephone No: 22270 or email tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 04 March 2020, at 1pm, meeting at the entrance to Diana's Peak, Black Gate, Teutonic.

If you are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact the Procurement Officer to arrange another date & time

Should you require any further details, please contact the Terrestrial Conservation Officer, Miss Sasha Bargo, on telephone number 24724 or email sasha.bargo@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Monday, 09 March 2020.

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



commonwealth

Digital Economy Forum '20

23 - 27 MARCH 2020, ROSIE'S, LADDER HILL, ST HELENA

Shifting Landscapes & Trends

Key Topics

- Broadband Infrastructure
- Digital Transformation Framework
- Trade & Investment
- Local Content & Innovation
- Universal Access
- Spectrum Management
- Internet Governance
- Data Protection & Privacy

- ✓ Do you work in ICT?
- ✓ Are you considering a career in this field?
- ✓ Maybe you just have a keen interest in technology?

If your answer to any of the above is **YES**, then you should attend the **Commonwealth Digital Economy Forum 2020 (CDEF)**, happening right here on St Helena!

The CDEF is a globally recognised event offering presentations and workshops from high calibre local and international speakers, giving you the chance to:

- ✓ Listen to insights from ICT specialists
- ✓ Gather information
- ✓ Learn 'best practice'
- ✓ Discover new technologies
- ✓ Gain practical advice from experts
- ✓ Build relationships
- ✓ Talk to policy makers, officials and experts
- ✓ Develop ways to improve your business
- ✓ Inspire and engage with St Helena's youth

Organised by



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION



St Helena
Government

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



#DigitalStHelena

For information and to view the full programme: www.cto.int/events/upcoming-events/



**ASCENSION ISLAND
GOVERNMENT**

We are looking for a

Cleaner

We're looking for an experienced cleaner, with a passion for cleaning and an eye for detail, to join our busy cleaning team at AIG.

This is a really important role, providing a first-class cleaning service across AIG's estate, which includes residential accommodation and offices. You'll also be responsible for operating launderette services to AIG and island small businesses. The nature of the role requires some flexibility around working hours.

We are offering a two year, single status, contract with a salary of £6,829 per year (taxable in Ascension). You will also receive the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation (with electricity and water allowances)
- A food allowance of £3,089 per year
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2 year contract
- 30 days' annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care

**Interviews will be carried out at the AIG Administration Building or via Skype or teleconference
For more information (including detailed job description) and to apply visit:**

www.ascension.gov.ac/working-here/ or email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac



Chairperson: Colin P Yon
 Market Street, Jamestown
 St Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ
 Tel No (Work) 00 290 23030, (Mobile) 00 290 61114
 E-mail: colin.marlene.yon@helanta.co.sh
 Secretary – Joy George, Treasurer – Sandra Sim
 Members: Olive Williams, Marlene Yon, Nicholas Yon
 Bank of St Helena Account No 22165002

The Charity Committee extends their grateful thanks to all who supported them during the period September 2019 to end of February 2020. Your continued help is very much appreciated. Special thanks to the Working Committee, their helpers and supporters and anyone else who helped the charity in any way during the October/November fundraising events.

Below are details of bank transactions for donations/ contributions received and expenditure for the same period.

Moonshines Bar	£170.00	Corporate Services /Staff	£170.50
BOSH Pink Walk Donation	£100.00	Various Private Donations	£235.00
Connect St Helena	£25.00	Colins Bar Raffle	£51.00
Ascension Is Breast Cancer Runway Dash	£576.00	Richard James International	£250.00
Coffee Morning Stalls/Bingo/Donations	£625.50	Happy Hearts Club Donation	£50.00
Happy Tots Creche Sponsored Walk	£261.00	Donation - Corporate Service Staff/Councillors	£105.00
Rosie's Pink Party	£201.00	Halford Primary – Muffi	£80.00
Family Bingo	£566.00	Donation – Penspen	£50.00
Connect Staff	£57.00	Tea Stall Sales	£45.40
Misc Stall Sales	£57.00	Cake Stall Sales	£208.00
Sale of Cancer Items	£210.20	Pink Walk Entrance Fees & Donations	£2211.49
Donations – Audit St Helena	£114.37	Muffi Day – ENRP/I&T	£77.30
Health/Wellbeing – Raffle	£28.00	PAS Staff & Student Donations	£165.50
ESH Muffi Day	£44.62	Solomon & Co Muffi Day Donations	£126.20
Donny's – Donation	£100.00	Kings Hurst Com Cen – Donation Curry Night	£200.00
Bank Of St Helena	£124.00	Donny's Neon Party	£528.63
Sure SA Muffi Day	£11.95	BOSH Awareness Week Donation	£124.00
Interserve Ascension Island Fundraising	£3516.96	Sea Rescue – Sponsored Swim	£1158.90
Ascension Island Govt – Cake Bake	£525.77	Muffi Day	£20.00
Solomon's Muffi Day Contribution Oct 19	£30.50	Donation - Peaks Enterprises	£100.00
Solomon & Co November	£300.00	Coffee Morning -Ticket Sales/Donations	£501.00
Coffee Morning – Raffle Sales	£302.00	Donation Management/Admin,Education Dir	£36.50
Mantis St Helena Hotel Pink Tea	£733.00	Charity Committee Multi Raffle	£493.00
Donation – Dubbs Family & Friends	£100.00	St Helena Association, UK	£500.00
Dance Raffle	£176.38	Dance – Ticket Sales	£613.00
Donation – Pilling Primary School	£58.13	Interserve – Falkland Islands	£800.00
Donation – Volcano Club, Ascension Is	£293.00	Elsie Hughes – Stall & Card Sales	£405.57
Solomon's Sisters with Blisters	£1000.00		
TOTAL INCOME PERIOD SEP '19 to 'FEB 20	£19,613.37	TOTAL EXPENDITURE-PERIOD SEP '19 TO FEB '20	£12,294.60



**St Helena
Government**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2020

The following is a public announcement from the St Helena Public Accounts Committee:

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place at 9.30am in the Council Chamber on Monday, 16 March 2020.

The programme of business includes the following Performance Audit Reports:

- Procurement of the Sea Freight Service Contractor
- Procurement of the Fuel Management Contractor
- Jamestown Hospital Refurbishment Project

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

The meeting will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1.

Interserve
Ascension Island
South Atlantic Ocean
Tel +(247) 66339



www.interserve.com

Looking for Employment?

Interserve on Ascension has vacancies

- **Customer Service Assistants**
- **General Operatives**
- **Painter**
- **Stewards**

We provide

- work clothing
- single living accommodation
- meals at the mess
- transport home to St Helena or UK approximately every 6 months
- competitive salary, site allowance and bonus

Job details and online application forms available at

www.careers.interserve.com/jobs

Further information contact Theresa

Telephone 00 247 63400

Email Theresa.Corker-Coleman@interserve.mod.uk

Closing date Wednesday 11 March 2020



**St Helena
Government**

COMMERCIAL SALE OF FISH FROM UNLICENSED BOATS IS AN OFFENCE

Following the closure of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation on 31 January 2020, commercially licensed boats licensed under the Fish and Fish Products Ordinance are able to sell whole unprocessed fish directly from the boat or from the designated landing site to consumers for their own use.

Boats currently licensed to sell fish directly to the public are:

Boat No	Boat name	Boat Owner
44	Catfish	Waylon Thomas
23	Helena-Dorothy	Peter Benjamin
45	John Melliss	Dorian Caswell
2	Norma	Fernando Henry
68	Ocean Gypsy	Julian Thomas
11	Ocean Queen	Adrian Duncan
36	Ocean Wave	Jeremy Clingham
4	Sailfish	Jeffrey Beard
46	Sea Rider	Roy Beard
57	Yellowfin	Ronald Caswell
85	Swordfish	Richard & Michael Sim
47	Kristina	Wayne Yon

The commercial sale of fish from boats that do not have the appropriate licences is not permitted and is liable to prosecution. In the interest of Health & Safety, the public is reminded that fish should only be bought from the above licensed boats.

Members of the public are encouraged to report any incidents of fish being sold from unlicensed boats to the Competent Authority via the Environmental Health Office on tel: 22500.

Environmental Health will be making periodic spot checks on vessels/catches during offloads to ensure that Health & Safety standards are being maintained.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Don't run the tap when washing vegetables.

Fill the sink or a bowl instead and save water.

A running tap uses around 10 litres per minute.



St Helena
Government

PARKING AT THE JAMESTOWN WHARF

The following is a Public Announcement from Port Control:

Port Control would like to remind the public that the area from Thompson's Crane to the Landing Steps at the Jamestown Wharf must be kept clear at all times.

Parking in this area poses a potential Health & Safety risk to the efficient operation of the Port especially during crane and reach stacker operations. Wharf users and the public are asked to ensure that they do not park their vehicles illegally or within the demarcated areas at any time, even when there are no cargo operations being undertaken.

In accordance with the Harbourmaster's powers under the Ports Ordinance 2016, the Harbourmaster may remove any goods, including vehicles that cause or are likely to become an obstruction or impediment to the proper use of any landing place.

As normal, Emergency Services will be granted access to the area at all times.

The public is thanked for their cooperation.

**Available for
Fixed Term
Rental**

Bertrands Cottage – Available for fixed term rental

Enterprise St Helena (ESH) has Bertrands Cottage available for fixed term rental to the private sector or individuals interested in this Historical Building. The Cottage comes fully furnished and equipped with a Commercial Kitchen.

If interested parties would like to view the premises, they can contact Michielle Yon, Director of Resources, via email Michielle.yon@esh.co.sh or on telephone (00290) 22920.

Expression of interest together with a short overview of the plans for operating should be submitted to Robyn Franconi, Finance Manager, via email Robyn.Franconi@esh.co.sh by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Monday 23th March 2020.

Terms and Conditions will apply.



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Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelenas.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com



The Sure Customer Satisfaction Survey

2-31 March 2020



Sure will be launching its 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey on Monday 2 March, which will continue through to 31 March.

The aim of our survey is to gain our customer's views of our products and services, and where possible to improve your overall customer experience with us. Our survey is designed to take no more than 5 minutes of your time. To support our national goal of 'Altogether Greener' and the use of digital platforms, we will be launching our survey via our website only. For those customers who do not have access to the Internet and our website; facilities will be available at our Customer Care Centre in Jamestown during normal working hours, and staff will also be present throughout Jamestown during the period with facilities on-the-go to allow all customers to complete the survey.

All Broadband Customers will receive an additional 100 Mb with their inclusive allowances for the month of March to ensure they are able to access the survey without having to utilise their monthly allowance to do so. We also have a Prize Draw at the end of the survey for anyone wishing to enter.

Sure will be sharing the results of the customer satisfaction survey as well as its plans to address the outcomes of the survey with our Customers and the Community throughout the month of May 2020.

We thank you for participating in our online survey and for your valuable feedback which will be used to inform our Customer Experience Programme.

Please visit our website to complete the survey:

www.sure.co.sh

Sure Customer Satisfaction Survey

2 – 31 March 2020

We want to hear from YOU!

Please take 5 minutes to let us know what you think about our products and services.

www.sure.co.sh



Additional 100MB for all Broadband customers to complete the survey!



**ASCENSION ISLAND
GOVERNMENT**

We are looking for a

Facilities Operative

We're looking for a new member of staff to join our busy Waste Management and Facilities Support team at Ascension Island Government.

Our Waste and Facilities team provides a vital support service to the island. This is a varied role covering aspects such as: collection and disposal of refuse and other hazardous waste; maintaining accurate records of fuel levels and completing inspections; maintenance, health and safety checks at the fuel station, and preparing vehicles for, and crushing them in, the car baler. Further details can be found in the job description via the link below.

We are offering a two year, single status, contract with a salary of £7,321 (pending review April 2020) per year (taxable in Ascension). You will also receive the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation (with electricity and water allowances)
- A food allowance of £3,089 per year
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2 year contract
- 30 days' annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care

This appointment will be subject to satisfactory:

- DBS Check
- Employment References
- Medical Clearance

We are looking for the successful applicant to start in April/May 2020

Closing Date: Monday 16 March 2020, 12 midday

Interviews: Later in the week commencing Monday 16 March 2020 – exact date tbc

**Interviews will be carried out at the AIG Operations Building or via Skype or teleconference
For more information (including detailed job description) and to apply visit:**

www.ascension.gov.ac/working-here/ or email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

Golf Report for Sunday 1st March 2020

The Charles Duncan Challenge cup which is one of the biggest annual events on our competition calendar attracted 27 golfers. This 36-hole event which is being played in the stableford format will be completed on Sunday 8th March 2020.

This is how the leaderboard looks like for the top ten following round one:

Name	Points
Tony Green	42
Lawson Henry	38
George Thomas	36
John Colclough	36
Donald Bower	36
Bramwell Lumukwana	35
Jeffrey Stevens	34
Jeff Ellick	34
Leon Crowie	33
Pat Henry	33

Mr. Pat Henry scored the only birdie on par three to claim all the balls in the two-ball pool.

The Duncan family has arranged a curry meal after the final round for those who have made reservations.

The final round will tee off at 12:00 noon on Sunday 8th March 2020. Those with the lowest points will tee off first and those with the highest scores will tee off last. Full details on tee times can be found on our Facebook page @sghc.org.sh.

We wish you all a great weekend...!

SHGC



East Coast Update - Canada

Addie Thomas

As the Canadian Maple Leaf train curved like a worm around New York's upstate lakes, my twelve hour journey to Toronto was well underway. The crisp morning shadows sat aimlessly on the 'blanket of glass'. The only disturbance being the the odd boat seen steaming along with dark pine forestry and mountains in the background.

With New York City behind me and Canada ahead of me, I felt like I was a cowgirl, riding into parts of the Wild-West. I considered the landscape in perhaps the late 1700s and how Mohawks would have roamed. The battle to preserve what was their heritage and mystical beliefs pursuing.

Thirty years ago there was an uprising between the Mohawk Community and Canadian officials over the proposals to bulldoze an ancient forest with ancient burial grounds. Bulldoze without any repatriation or governance. This ended in blood being shed. It was called the Oka Crisis.

Today, there is another uprising due to a gas pipeline initiative through the Mohawk's community. Blockades have rendered the train lines between Toronto, Montreal and Quebec redundant and rail staff are being laid off until such time the dispute is resolved. The difference this time is that everyone wants to avoid bloodshed at all costs.



Canadians are in uproar. Their economy being 'sabotaged' by such acts. I have no opinions on who is right, I do not know enough to cast my vote.

On my journey to Montreal from Toronto, I was fortunate to sit next to a Mohawk film director called Tracey Deer originally from a place called Kahnawake. I am sure Tracey wasn't her native name. Until that point, I had been hearing views from Canadians in Toronto, it was inspiring to hear views from her people. One thing is certain, there are Mohawks who will give their lives (literally) for a cause they believe in.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

East Coast Update - Canada

Addie Thomas

Whilst I have visited Toronto on a number of occasions, this was the first time that I meandered the many neighbourhoods. Toronto has everything that New York has (not the constant fast forward and smelly subways) and so much more for less of the price. Their wide open spaces allow for breath to be taken. I like that Canadians are polite (for the most part) and speak calmly and quietly (for the most part). I don't frequent pubs as much as I did but when I do, I do not feel intimidated like I sometimes felt in New York. I've swapped alcohol now for Chai Tea and Cranberry Juice.

Toronto has many transport systems from the Subway, to the tram to the GO Train which runs efficiently throughout the suburbs. What made me giggle one morning was seeing a chap riding his bicycle in the snow (thicker tyres) and I thought ... "if we had this much snow in Britain, riding a bicycle would be the last thing we attempt". Life doesn't stop with adverse weather here and I understand why as opposed to Britain which doesn't yearly have these weather conditions.

Having not grown up with snow, it is always a novelty to see it. So I was ecstatic (no one would play with me so I went out on my own and sang songs from Frozen whilst I messed about) when I arrived and there was so much snow the next morning. To walk along the lakes and see the icicles hanging like frozen daggers from trees, or clothed around rocks reminded me that nature is more powerful and beautiful than anything we humans could conjure up.

The temperatures on occasions have dumped the battery from my phone within minutes and taking a photo without my gloves has sometimes been challenging, but in general, the collective temperatures have not been anywhere near where they should be. Some days have been like a spring day.

I've seen ice sculptures so brilliantly shaped, I've seen Prince's home on the Bridle Path in Forest Hills (elite) where he designed his own gate. I've seen Drake's new home in the



same area. I've picked up Rush Memorabilia and enjoyed a Rush Tribute band. I haven't seen Harry or Meghan yet and don't think I will since they are on the West Coast. I was also very fortunate to attend a Dog Rescue event with some friends. The dog meat market continues to exist in places like South Korea. Over the years, I have learnt to see animals and especially pets as all part of the universal family who have feelings just like humans. If you have a dog or cat (not a big fan of cats - bit surly), please remember to love them as unconditionally as they want to love you.

As I meandered along Queen's Quay in Downtown Toronto, I spoke with a Pike fisherman who had swapped his warm weather salmon lake fishing. I was reminded of how vast the lakes are in Canada and how 'choppy' it can get. We consider the sea to be perhaps the only band of water that can be battered by nature's great forces, but these sized lakes also can be quite unpredictable at times.

In 2001 post the 911 disaster, planes were instructed to land in a small place called Gander in Newfoundland, Canada. It has a population of ten thousand people. An airport which welcomed thirty eight planes, and six thousand, seven hundred people. There is a play called Come from Away, I had to see this play in solidarity to small communities who become giants in the world when those in need come to their shores. It was said "kindness is woven into their nature". As I sat and watched, I thought of my little home far away and how it resonated with this place called Gander. On so many occasions the island of St Helena has been a haven to the troubled / weary traveller? Called upon, I have no doubt that on a grander scale, we too would take in large numbers in their dire need. God Bless St Helena, Gander and places like such.

The Canadian Opera Company hosts free performances on a number of days every week. This ranges from all genres within the 'classical / theatrical' band. One afternoon, I stood and watched the traffic and people bustle about outside as a string quartet played (3 violins and a cello - or it might have been a double bass). Not a lot in life is free, yet, here we all were, being treated to a first class performance with not a penny spent. The music drained through my soul like a hot shower on a winter's night. I wish I had learnt to play an instrument so eloquently, there is still time.

My good friend works in the Marriage Chambers in City Hall. One Tuesday I was doing some research on my laptop when a couple came in to be married that afternoon without the second witness. I was so pleased to be that second witness. There is something truly uplifting about the union of two people. I was honoured. I was dressed in my South London sweater and jeans, that's the most casual I have ever been at a wedding.

I do however question the marriage license system in Canada and Toronto specifically. People who don't speak any English, who don't even know their spouse's surname seem to get a licence so easily. I am glad that Britain is starting to manage the immigration points system a little better. Whilst I believe the world belongs to all of us, all of the world does

East Coast Update - Canada

Addie Thomas

not owe us a living. There are far too many people who use Britain and other countries as a cash cow. I understand how this has frustrated the various societies. In the time I have been in the UK, I have been fortunate not to have to call upon the Welfare system and I hope I never have to.

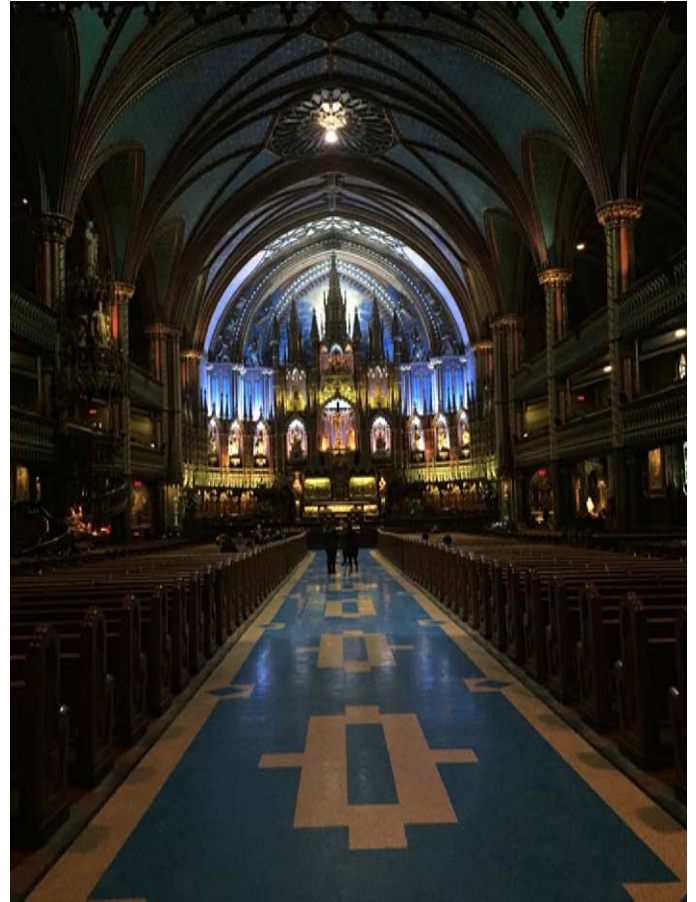
Finally, my steps take me to Montreal and Quebec City. I have lengthened my stay in Montreal as it's such a beautiful vibrant city where modern meets old French culture. I could be in France. The main language spoken here is French. I have been to the Basilica where Celine Dion was married. Stunning. Old Town Montreal is like being in Europe. Residue from Old World influence. As I spoke to Terrance, a businessman travelling to Quebec, he suggested that a lot of French people who once slated the Quebec French accent are coming to work in this part of the world as business initiatives are good. Thank goodness I have polished my "Bonjour" (hello) and 'Merci' (thank you).

Quebec City is meant to be even more charming and beautiful, albeit very very French and so this will be a challenge for me to navigate. Apparently, the people here are less forgiving of Canadians who don't speak French, I hope this isn't the same for a St Helenian who speaks zilch French.

Yesterday, as there were pink hues in the sky and the sun slipped away, I stood by the water's edge and I admired the beauty of my surroundings. The thick layers of white snow, a clock resembling the old Jamestown Clock reflecting off the icy lake, the quiet. I was so grateful at that moment for my journey. At times, I have felt sad, vulnerable, disappointment, angry etc. However, as I have gone along, I have righted my emotions with gratefulness. I have accepted my path, otherwise, I would not be standing here enjoying this beautiful scenery feeling a sense of peace that can only come through true acceptance of where we are in life.

I'm coming to the end of my book, Long Walk to Freedom, by Nelson Mandela. It's difficult to balance reading and writing and not missing the beauty of my surroundings. It's been so much food for thought as I ponder the changes on St Helena. Post Mandela's release and his subsequent negotiations with F W de Klerk, he was failed on further occasions in the pursuit for peace. So many times, fear of the majority continued to stall the process. Yet, there is a line that I love, "to make peace with an enemy, one must work with that enemy and that enemy becomes your partner". Who would have thought that on 10th May 1994, Nelson Mandela would stand as the country's first black President with the same 'enemy' as his deputy. What a statement of inclusion for all. I can only imagine what courage and trust it must have taken to provide a united front with memories of the past still in its infancy.

Like many Leaders, Nelson Mandela gave his life to a cause. Martin Luther King died for Freedom. Gandhi gave all he had to lead for change. Activists on a daily basis go to the extreme to get their point across. It's so sad that all of this must happen to change minds and hearts, to be heard and to receive compassion from our leaders.



On our little island, we continue to work together for change. My views have shifted over the last eight months. My eyes have been opened by much exposure to the world's collective need for change. Whilst I have experienced many wonderful things, I have also seen many situations which are very sad. The bigger the landscape at times, the more restrictive the governance, the less chance of voices being heard and help being received.

I don't believe in giving all with nothing left for myself. I don't believe in leaders without lieutenants and people who are just as capable of taking the reins at times so that our designated leaders may rest and recuperate.

With so little Human Resources available to us at times, the job always seems to fall to one or two people. I pray that St Helenians world-wide will find time to support change in the most positive way and that our island Government use precedence to ensure the islanders have the chance to be heard.

I want to help all I can. I want to be part of the movement for change on the island, yet I must also open my heart to the insecurities which lay within. The fears in me that I have allowed to increase over time. I must open my heart to having a periphery view, not always being right. I must know when I do not understand fully and be educated. I stand corrected. I must open my heart to change within me first before I can be the change in other things.

Have a lovely weekend

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Liverpool's hopes of going the season unbeaten came to an end last Saturday as they suffered a shock 3-0 defeat away at relegation threaten Watford. Ismaila Sarr scored twice while captain Troy Deeney added a third in a brilliant second-half display.

Although Liverpool looked off the pace against West Ham, none of us thought for a second that Liverpool would have come unstuck against a struggling Watford side.

This is the joy of the Premier League where on any given day any team can be beaten no matter how big the gap is between them in the table.

Arsenal fans are over the moon as they remain as the only team to have gone unbeaten in an entire season.

Arsenal's top goalscorer for the third year running was Thierry Henry, who scored 39 goals in 51 games. The Frenchman was given the accolade of PFA Players' Player of the Year by his fellow peers and the FWA Footballer of the Year by football writers. Although the Arsenal team were unsuccessful in cup competitions, their dominance in the league was regarded by many commentators as a standalone achievement. They acquired the nickname "The Invincibles", much like the Preston North End team that went unbeaten in the inaugural Football League season. The club was awarded a golden replica trophy by the Premier League once the season concluded and they remained unbeaten for 49 games, setting a new record. In 2012, the Arsenal team of 2003–04 won the "Best Team" category in the Premier League 20 Seasons Awards, even though they ended with 6 losses overall and only the one trophy to their name at the end of the season.

Amazingly this team didn't kick on to dominate both domestically or in Europe; in fact Arsenal has failed to lift the Premier League title since.



Man of the Match Ismaila Sarr



Arsene Wenger with the Golden Premier League Trophy

The Invincibles

The 2003–04 seasons were the 106th in the history of Arsenal Football Club. It began on 1 July 2003 and concluded on 30 June 2004, with competitive matches played between August and May. The club ended the Premier League campaign as champions without a single defeat – a record of 26 wins and 12 draws. Arsenal pretty much bottled it in cup competitions, whereas they were eliminated in the FA Cup and League Cup semi-finals to Manchester United and Middlesbrough respectively, and at the quarter-final stage of the UEFA Champions League to Chelsea. They ended up with 6 losses overall and only the one trophy to their name at the end of the season.

The main addition to the first team was goalkeeper Jens Lehmann for £1.5 million; striker José Antonio Reyes was later purchased in the winter transfer window. Arsenal retained their best players and successfully negotiated new contracts for captain Patrick Vieira and midfielder Robert Pires. The stability of the squad meant Arsenal were considered front-runners for the Premier League title, along with Manchester United, and Chelsea who were taken over by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

In November, Arsenal beat Dynamo Kyiv by a single goal and more impressively scored five against Inter Milan at the San Siro – two results which kick-started their Champions League campaign. At the turn of the year, the team won nine league matches in a row to consolidate first position. In the first week of April, they were eliminated from the FA Cup and Champions League, but by the end of the month had secured their status as league champions, with a 2–2 draw against local rivals Tottenham Hotspur.

As for Liverpool they fail to bounce back from that defeat by Watford as they suffered a 2-0 loss to Chelsea in the FA Cup.

As a Manchester United fan I wish Liverpool to lose every time they play as their fans would wish the same for us and it was a relief to see Liverpool finally lose a league game.

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

What Liverpool have done since last season when they lost just one match and fail to pick up the title is amazing as they manage to keep up the intensity for a further 27 matches, something Man City failed to do. They will win the title with probably a record number of points and by a record margin and they will totally deserve it as they have been by far the best team in the Premier League this season.

Manchester City picked up the first piece of domestic silverware as they secured their third League Cup win in succession - and their fourth in five years - with victory over Aston Villa at Wembley.



Manchester City winners of the 2020 League Cup

Manchester City looked like they would stroll to a win when Aguero's strike and Rodri's header from a corner that was hotly contested by Villa put them in complete control inside 30 minutes.

Villa, while strictly second best, offered themselves a lifeline when Mbwana Samatta headed in from Anwar El Ghazi's cross four minutes before the interval.

City continued to dominate as they sought a third goal and Villa were agonisingly close to forcing extra time when Bjorn Engels saw his header from a corner turned on to the woodwork superbly by keeper Claudio Bravo.

In the midweek FA Cup 5th round matches Arsenal defeat Portsmouth 2-0; Sheffield United beat Reading 2-1 after extra time, Chelsea defeated Liverpool 2-0, Leicester City beat Birmingham 1-0, Man City beat Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 and Newcastle beat West Brom 3-2. Spurs went out on penalties after drawing 1-1 with Norwich

FA Cup quarter-final draw
Sheffield United v Arsenal
Newcastle v Manchester City
Norwich v Derby/Manchester United
Leicester City v Chelsea

Premier League fixtures for this weekend will see the leaders Liverpool play Bournemouth at 12.30 on Saturday. 3pm matches will see Arsenal play West Ham, Crystal Palace face Watford, Sheffield United play Norwich, Southampton host Newcastle and Wolves play Brighton.

The late match will see Burnley host Spurs at 5.30pm
On Sunday Chelsea will play Everton at 2pm and Manches-

ter United will play Manchester City at 4.30pm.

On Monday Leicester City will play Aston Villa at 8pm.

Man City will play Arsenal on Wednesday at 7.30pm.

What's happening at New Horizons?

On Saturday we had our first Fun run which saw 33 people take part in the 6.5km course.

Everyone managed to complete the course in less than 90 minutes. Blaine Bennett and Riley Yon managed to run it in under 45 minutes.

The next run is scheduled for Saturday 14th March starting and finishing at White Gate at 8am.

Our holiday programme is in full swing with a good number of members attending each day.

On Monday Athletics and Sports training at Francis Plain from 3.15pm – 4.45pm; parents are asked to promptly pick up their children at 4.45pm as Football Training for the SHFA starts at 5pm.

The centre will open on Wednesdays' from 3.30pm- 5.30pm for indoor activities. Friday club night starts at 5.30pm and finishes at 8.30pm.

Boot Camp sessions remain on Wednesdays' from 4.30pm and alternate Saturdays from 8am. To celebrate International Women's day which is on Sunday 8th March we are asking Boot Campers to bring a female along on Saturday 7th March.



Good turnout for New Horizons Fun Run





ST HELENA HEADING TO STELLENBOSCH



Since the SHCA's invitation to the ICC T20 World Cup - Africa Sub Regional Qualifier due to be held from 27 April - 04 May 2020 in Stellenbosch, South Africa, preparations for the tournament are in full swing.

20 cricketers have registered to be a part of the squad of players to be considered for selection. Team St Helena for Stellenbosch 2020 will be made up of 14 players, a coach, team manager and a physiotherapist.

Squad Training began on Tuesday 18 February, following the official invitation that was only received on 13 February. The team is currently training three times per week and playing a competitive game of cricket for their respective local teams on weekends. Sessions have been intense with emphasis being placed on cardio, strength and conditioning as well as cricket skills. The SHCA would like to thank Bradley Peterson, Martin Henry and Kyle Morta for volunteering and giving up time to train Team St Helena.

A team captain will be announced shortly and team selection will follow. The current squad will be whittled down to 14.

The tournament in Stellenbosch will be played under 20 over format on a round robin basis. The thirteen participating nations were drawn into two groups, a group of seven and a group of six.

The winners of each group will join Kenya and Nigeria in the Africa Final, provisionally scheduled for June 2020.

St Helena has been drawn alongside Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mozambique, Cameroon and Botswana in group B. Uganda, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Seychelles and Swaziland form Group A.

Local Cricket

All matches were either abandoned or cancelled over the weekend after heavy rain showers had made the pitch unplayable. The postponed matches will be moved to a later date.

FIXTURES

Saturday 7 Mar
1.30pm
Woodpeckers V Challengers
Umpires: Pirates

Sunday 8 Mar
9.30am
Heat V Mustangs
Umpires: Lions

Sunday 8 Mar
1.30pm
Allstarz V Pirates
Umpires: Challengers

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Preferred bidder for fisheries announced

“Glorified exploratory fishing exercise” or “Upfront investment, collaborative approach with local commercial fishermen, breadth of experience and no requirement for ongoing annual government subsidy”

SHG announced last Friday that a South African trading company is the preferred bidder to take over from St Helena Fisheries Corporation. Operating as a co-operative it will include commercial fishermen and selected local businesses as business partners in what is intended to be known as the St Helena Fisheries Co-operative. A little confusingly SHFC will remain the short version of the name for the new organisation which will be involved with commercial fishing, marketing and supply chain activities.

The traditional local supply of fish will not involve the new SHFC as local deliveries of fish by van around the Island will only continue if a local enterprise takes on this operation as a separate and independent commercial activity. It appears the “supply chain activities” the South African trading company will be involved with is the export of fish.

Called PQ Trading STH (PQTSH) it is assumed ‘PQ’ stands for Participation Quota which is a commonly used abbreviation for the term in South Africa and it fits with the co-operative concept. The STH indicates St Helena and the announcement indicated the company will be registered in St Helena but will no doubt have strong links to the parent company in South Africa.

The official announcement from SHG also says the proposal from the preferred bidder is to concentrate fishing activity on the sea mounts and to put resources into exploratory fishing on Cardno seamount to get a better understanding of what fish are present there and in what numbers. This work will be done in conjunction with the SHG marine team. How this emphasis on off-shore fishing will affect the livelihoods of the majority of local on-shore fishermen is not made clear in the announcement.

The value placed by SHG in their choice of preferred bidder included what they described as the “collective involvement spanning several decades of extensive experience in the industry” which PQSTH shared with its South African business partners, international buyers and other professionals in the fishing industry. Other considerations SHG said which affected their choice was that PQSTH’s proposal included upfront investment, a collaborative approach with other stakeholders in the fishing industry and that there was no requirement for an ongoing government subsidy to support PQSTH’s proposed operation.

It is likely to be 3 or 4 months before a date is announced for the start of the PQSTH operation. The new regime will include “catch directives” to local fishermen. This means the types of fish required to be caught and the amounts for each type will be specified to fishermen based on customer preference. It is assumed customer preference will include the premium quality fish required to serve the export market which consisted mainly of South African restaurants and premium quality fish suppliers when the old SHFC attempted to de-

velop this market. It is also pointed out the majority of staff in the new fish processing operation will be employed locally although it is indicated it will be lead by imported South African staff. The announcement mentions that Saints will be phased in to replace ex-pat staff whenever this is possible.

The proposal from PQSTH includes replacing the life expired freezer in the fish processing factory with one that can blast freeze to -45°C. In addition they intend to bring in two medium size freezer vessels and one ice vessel. This, it is said, will reduce the pressure on the processing factory to freeze AND process. It is also said the freezer vessels will deliver their catches to Rupert’s and they will be transferred to reefers; effectively bypassing the fish processing factory which presumably is waiting with a newly equipped blast freeze facility. The role of the blast freezing facility within the fish processing factory in this arrangement is unclear.

The SHG announcement points out the volume of mature tuna at the Cardno and Bonaparte seamounts remain undefined and “cannot be regarded as guaranteed to deliver the required volume to a potential investor or vessel owner.” For this reason PQSTH will be monitoring the tuna and bait resources at the two seamounts over a two year period. It will only be after the results of this monitoring have been assessed that a decision will be made on what type and size of fish processing factory should be built. In view of the fact that the volume of fish available cannot yet be guaranteed as viable for a potential investor or vessel owner the future of fish processing in St Helena is called into question and opens up the possibility that no new factory will be built and the present life-expired factory will be permanently closed or its operations significantly reduced. Despite these unknowns the SHG announcement maintains that PQSTH is “investing to build a profitable and sustainable fishing industry on St Helena”. It also raises the question; will the blast freezer ever be built in the current or new fish processing factory?

The St Helena Commercial Fishermen’s Association (SHCFA) issued a statement after the SHG announcement was published which included, “The proposal which Executive Council has endorsed is high risk for St Helena and by far and large is initially going to be a glorified exploratory fishing exercise. The press release clearly states that the company PQSTH “will undertake a 2 year due diligence exercise in order to verify tuna and bait resources over the seamounts because these resources are undefined and unknown and cannot be guaranteed to deliver the required volume to a potential investor or vessel owner”. In other words, these investors are not yet sure as to whether their proposal will even be viable, and therefore there can be no guarantee that they will remain past the 2 year due diligence exercise.”

After pointing out that last Friday’s SHG announcement was the first official information published on what will take over from the old SHFC the SHCFA statement included, “It is therefore the first time that we could also confirm that in order for this proposal to be a genuine success for the island from our perspective, it will of course require buy-in from local fishers. Yet so far, we have been given no date or plan for when consultation with fishermen, as *key stakeholders*, will take place.

Preferred bidder for fisheries announced

If no or few local fishermen join this co-operative, it will quite frankly be nothing more than a foreign fishing operation, backed by SHG, competing with the private sector.”

The lengthy SHCFA statement adds, “The press release provides very little other information beyond what the SHCFA already knows and as a consequence, we will be submitting a list of questions to SHG during this coming week. These questions will need to be answered with some urgency because if this proposal does come to fruition; it will bring major changes to the local fishing sector whether we choose to join the co-op or not, therefore we will need to prepare with some urgency for every eventuality.”



There is an ‘exit strategy’ to end subsidies for the Mantis Hotel But where is the door?

Councillors Derek Thomas and Lawson Henry, along with Financial Secretary Dax Richards volunteered to go to the Saint FM studio to face questions about the additional £500,000 taken from SHG reserves to keep the Mantis Hotel open. Dax Richards pointed out the money was used to pay for unscheduled extra costs at the time the former government offices were converted into the hotel with the extension built at the back. Two years after the bill for the extra costs was presented the payment became due and since no other financial institution was willing to step forward the only option was to raid the government coffers.

The two councillors, to cut what they said to just a few words, told Saint FM listeners to look on the bright side. The hotel was being managed at less cost now after further cost-cutting measures were put in place and, come next April, the operating subsidy for the next financial year will only be £200,000. They also claimed there is now an exit strategy for unburdening both the state and the taxpayers from the current shortfall between costs and revenue. The exit strategy relies on more people using the hotel. What else could it be? In fact, enough additional hotel guests are required to make the hotel a going concern and a reasonable prospect for a commercial investor. Hanging on until this happens was described as ‘protecting the investment’ but how long the investment (or white elephant) will need ‘protecting’ was not discussed in too much depth. In the meantime the protected investment is propped up with hundreds of thousands more pounds sterling from public funds and gap widens between what the whole project costs and the money the hotel can eventually be sold for.

Back in November SHG issued a press release which made it very clear, enough is enough; propping up state owned entities which always make big losses had to stop. The press release said, “The SHFC’s business model has been broken for some time but masked by SHG paying out ever growing levels of subsidy to the fishing sector on an annual basis. This is money SHG can no longer afford. The fish factory has not made any profit for several years; it continues to build up ever-increasing losses, in the forlorn hope that it just might earn some cash from overseas sales to pay back the hundreds of thousands of pounds that have been sunk into the venture.”

The radio discussion on the continuing cost of keeping the Mantis Hotel open did not include what business model is being employed to get the exit strategy actually moving towards the exit. It is however certainly true that a different approach is being taken with the hotel compared to the fisheries despite it not being known for how long six figure sums will need to be paid out every year because of what Paul O’Sullivan describes as the footfall is not falling at the entrance to the Mantis Hotel.

SHG will very likely find the exit door about the same time Paul O’Sullivan decides to make his entrance into the St Helena luxury holiday home market. At the moment O’Sullivan is getting the preparatory work completed. He too has spent a few hundred thousand pounds on the preparation but subject to his plans succeeding in getting development permission nothing else will happen until there are clear signs the first phase of his holiday home development at Horse Pasture will be a commercial success. He will attempt to help make this happen with his proposal for a direct air service between Europe and St Helena. But for O’Sullivan too, none of this is going to happen this year and maybe not next year either.

At the moment there are no clear signs that any tourism related development will be a commercial success. The number of arrivals which are classified as non-Saint tourist / leisure increased by just 1% in 2019 compared with 2018. It appears some of these arrivals stayed longer in 2019 because the number of bed nights for the busier part of the year shows a bigger increase. But still, the numbers fall far short of supporting a significant investment in St Helena tourism. The strategy is going to be a long drawn out affair and the exit door is a long way off.



'B-A-A-A-A D COMPANY, I CAN'T DENY'!!

'DJ Catwoman'

Last Friday afternoon, Jamestown was honoured to have a visit from one of the island's rather uncommon but much-loved house pets....loved to the point that it is well trained enough to follow its master to the ends of the earth!

A sheep was heard bleating loudly in the area of Main Street and on following the sound, bystanders were amused to see a very healthy, good-looking, clean white animal happily trotting along with its companions who are man's other best friends. Amusement quickly turned to horror as on-lookers pieced the puzzling picture together when they realised that the sheep's bleating had taken on a tone of distress. This was because its master was being frog-marched from the Castle Gardens gates over to Church Lane in the direction of HM Prison, by men easily recognised as two Police Officers from the local constabulary, who were dressed in civvies at the time.

Poor Baby (which we believe is the sheep's name) had to witness its carer, the man who treats it with respect and affection, being manhandled in such a manner that the words 'police brutality' was heard floating up from the crowd. Quite a few members of the community had loosely gathered, watch-



ing and photographing the unfortunate incident. As for Baby's canine companions – one was seen straining against a chokehold by someone it didn't know or recognise, so more distress came forth in grunts and short-winded barks, which only added to this seemingly sorry scene from a badly-directed movie!

What was so wrong with this 'happy family' picture that it had to be torn asunder in such a manner? Young members of the community were heard expressing their dismay at how the sheep was caused unnecessary distress, and that they do not believe people need to be treated so rough here on St Helena where life travels at a different pace, and community love includes the four-legged furry and woolly kind as well..... Animal lovers would be amazed if they knew the degree to which some pets are loved and lushed by their owners here on St Helena....even more amazed if they knew the vast variety of animals that are chosen to be pets....and probably completely understanding of the fact that sometimes a meow or a woof or in this case a baaa was all that was needed to provide the answers being sought that day!!!!



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