

THE ST HELENA Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XV ISSUE 16, 27th MARCH 2020, PRICE £1

Flights Cancelled - St Helena Isolated

COVID-19

(Novel Coronavirus)

INFORMATION & UPDATES:

Back to School on Monday

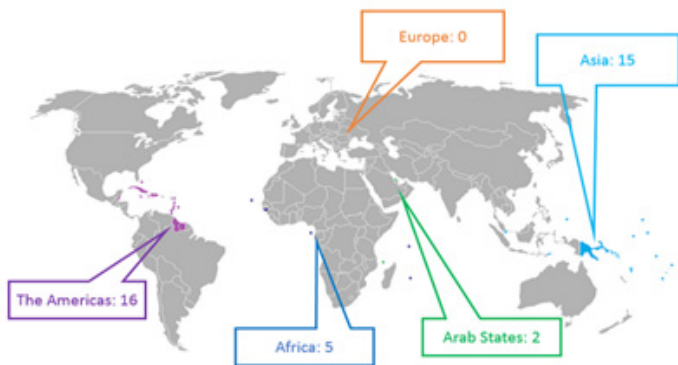
Problems for Satellite Company

OneWeb  Satellites

Covid - 19 and Animals



St Helena to be a SIDS



Source: ITU based on UN-CHILDES

Plagues to Pandemics





ALL ACTIVITIES AT THE ARMY HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS ALSO INCLUDES THE FRIDAY THRIFT SHOP.

Some words of encouragement

**BE NOT DISMAYED WHATEVER BETIDE,
GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BENEATH HIS WINGS OF LOVE ABIDE,
GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!**

**GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU,
THROUGH EVERYDAY O'ER ALL THE WAY;
HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU;
GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!**

**I'M IN HIS HANDS, I'M IN HIS HANDS
WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOLDS
I'M IN HIS HANDS,
THE DAYS I CANNOT SEE
HAVE ALL BEEN PLANNED FOR ME;
HIS WAY IS BEST YOU SEE;
I'M IN HIS HANDS.**

STAY SAFE EVERYONE AND GOD BLESS

If you would like to know more about The Salvation Army's activities, contact Majors Nhlanhla and Priscilla Ziqubu on telephone Nos 22543/22703.



Thank You

The Family of the Late Eileen Rose Constantine would like to thank the Doctors and Staff at the General hospital for their care and attention given to Eileen during her short time in hospital and caring for her at home, before she passed away peacefully on Saturday 7th March 2020.

Thanks are extended to Canon Clive for Services at her pasting, The Bishop and Canon Clive for the burial services, Mrs Joy George for Playing the Organ, Coral Yon for the reading of the Eulogy, Davina & Colin Lawrence for the making of wreaths, Dale and Tammy Constantine for the support given to the family and Roy and his team for the Burial,

Thank you to everyone for your messages of kindness, sympathy and floral tributes.

Eileen is gone from our lives but will remain in our hearts forever.



Dear Constituents,

On behalf of all your elected representatives, I would like to thank those of you who made the special effort to attend the constituency meetings that were held in the various districts. Understandably, the final constituency meeting, to be held at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre, had to be cancelled. My input into the constituency meetings included a presentation of photos and film clips relating to the raw water storage on St Helena. If it is possible, I will endeavour to compile the presentation for viewing on the local TV channel.

Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Lawrence Muranganwa of Connect for taking me on the October 2019 site visit to Sharks Valley and Fishers Valley.

Cyril Leo (LegCo)



Serena's Gift Shop
St. Helena Island

Serena's Gift Shop will be closing for the month of April 2020, because we are concern for our staff and our customers we will close for that period to self isolate, we are sorry for any inconvenience this might be to our valued customers.

Quick Bits

Back to School on Monday

The school bus routine starts again on Monday morning, except for any children who are showing flu-like symptoms. The Education Directorate say suspected flu sufferers must not be sent to school. Arrangements will be made immediately for sending home any child who does show flu symptoms while at school. As a further precaution against another school flu epidemic children with underlying health conditions which make them susceptible to flu and colds have the option of keeping them at home for an additional week with written permission from the relevant school's Head Teacher - additional homework will be provided.

It is conceded that social distancing is not possible in the school environment but the numbers of non-essential school visitors will be minimised. Apart from that, the Education Directorate say the only other precaution that can be used to safeguard the health of children and teachers is for everyone to practice high standards of hygiene.

Business Survey Results published

The business survey carried out between September and November last year was published this week. The survey covered all private enterprises in St Helena with employees and, for the first time, a sample of self-employed businesses on an experimental basis. Previous surveys were carried out in 2004, 2010 and 2018. The 2019 survey makes comparisons with the 2018 survey which was conducted on the same basis. Not for profit were included in the two most recent surveys. Participation in the survey is compulsory and enforceable under the Statistics Ordinance 2000. Despite this, receiving completed survey forms proved more difficult in 2019 than it did in 2018. It is thought a contributory factor was 'survey fatigue' and plans have been made to reduce the current annual survey to one which is organised every other year. The survey identified a private sector workforce of 1,327 people which is down from 1,444 in 2018. Unemployment has risen and the population of St Helena has fallen but a further consideration is the weaker response to the 2019 survey compared to 2018. Most businesses employing workers are small and have less than ten employees. Twenty-three St Helena businesses employ 66% of the Island's private sector workforce.

Most businesses reported that costs had increased or increased dramatically. Less than 20% of all responses declared that costs had remained unchanged or had decreased. The report highlights that 82% of businesses said costs had increased or increased dramatically. Cost increases are usually passed on to the customers, unless the business is able to absorb some of the increases through improved productivity. The exception to this was the construction sector where one third of businesses responding to the survey reported that costs had either remained unchanged or reduced. In the businesses in the accommodation and food services sector 84% reported costs increasing or increasing dramatically and in other service sectors there was even more awareness of increasing costs. No private business in the agriculture, forestry or fishing sector reported that costs remained unchanged or had reduced.

Maybe surprisingly, private enterprise has identified opportunities for growth. In six of the nine sectors 50% or more of businesses saw growth opportunities. Not so many businesses are experiencing growth right now. In construction no business saw itself as expanding. Accommodation and food services was the next lowest with 8% stating they were not expanding. At the other end of the scale, in the Finance, insurance, information, communication and real estate sector, 44% of businesses said their business was expanding. In response to questions about which costs were the most crippling, the biggest costs came from utilities, freight and telecoms. 'General high costs' also featured as a main cause. Questions on market conditions revealed that low demand and low tourist numbers were the leading reasons for unfavourable market conditions. Unfair competition from government entities came in at just 2%. In finance, 15% of businesses stated there was a lack of finance, investment, subsidy and/or international banking. Staff recruitment and retention is a problem for 8% of businesses and 9% complain of government bureaucracy and similar reasons. For 7% of businesses the non-availability of land is a limitation and 2% find the poor postal service a constraint on the success of their business.

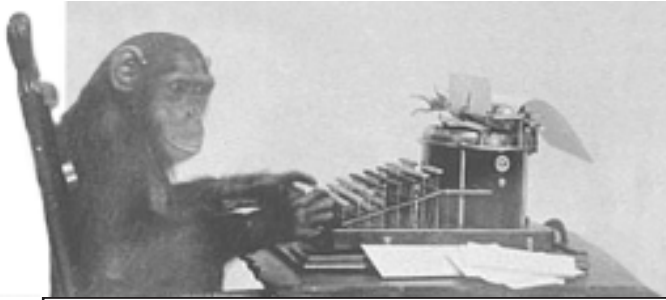
Minimum wage to increase from 3rd April

The press release explained that the minimum wage is reviewed every year by the Employment Rights Committee to try to ensure low income workers are protected from poverty. This year's review has been completed and the committee recommended a 5p increase in the minimum wage should keep the low paid above the poverty line. This follows a 10p increase last year. The minimum wage is now £3.18 per hour and £2.23 for people under the age of 18. Based on an 8 hour day and a five day week, a worker on the minimum wage stands to be paid around £600 a month.

Basic Island Pensions and Income Related Benefits to Increase from 3rd April

Recipients of BIP and IRB received an increase amounting to six times more than minimum wage earners. The Basic Island Pension now stands at £74.30 a week while Income Related Benefit is £71.80 per week. The total extra cost of this increase is estimated to be £13,000 for the next financial year. It was reported Exco 'requested' that the current policy for the Minimum Income Standard be reviewed as a matter of priority. The administrative cost of that review has not been reported and may not even have been estimated.





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Email: independent@helanta.co.sh
http: www.saint.fm

Editorial

Have you heard enough yet about the coronavirus pandemic? It has been reported, analysed, described and discussed from every imaginable angle but still radio, television, internet, plus any and every other conceivable form of media find yet more to say. Perhaps there is one aspect to it that has not received much air-time or print space. What organisational structure has been put in place to manage this unprecedented response to a pandemic? With our own government there is a reference now and again to the Incident Emergency Group, or IEG. Interestingly, perhaps, IEG is the code for Zielona Gora airport. That's in Poland since you are asking. IEG is also a short description for Initial Entertainment Group, Internet Entertainment Group, Independent Evaluation Group and the Liebnitz Institute of European History (in Germany). The SHG's Incident Emergency Group has not made it onto that list yet.

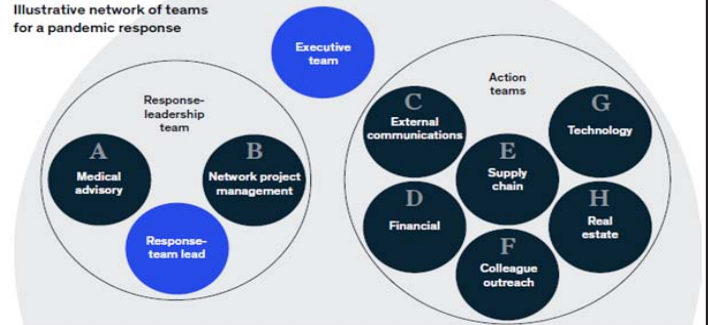
I doubt SHG's IEG is the only group formed to focus on the St Helena coronavirus threat. While it has not been made clear to us, surely Health, Education, Safeguarding, Police, Governor's Office, Attorney General's Chambers, Human Resources, Airport and the central Corporate Services each have at least a designated individual or task group working on the ever changing circumstances and continual assessing, managing and mitigating against the perceived risks? Assuming this is what is happening, all the various 'ground floor activists' will need to feed their information, thoughts, plans and proposals through to the Incident Emergency Response Group which presumably is the top level executive team and ultimate coronavirus decision making group. All of that needs an organisational structure not just to hold everything together but to ensure everyone knows who to communicate with and make it possible to have swift, effective and well considered decisions. For some of us at least it would be interesting to know what organisational structure is in place to combat the anticipated coronavirus invasion. As one business paper on crisis management in the context of the pandemic points out, "Leaders should foster collaboration and transparency across the network of teams. One way they do this is by distributing authority and sharing information: in other words, demonstrating how the teams themselves should operate."

My thought is that the transparency and sharing information advocated in the business paper could, to some extent, be extended further; to the rest of us. Letting the rest of us know what organisation has been put in place and how it works, in general terms, will "in other words" help us understand what is best for us to do and how it should be done. Admittedly, this extra effort at promoting understanding is definitely more important in the UK and other places where some groups of people are openly flouting the social distancing advice. In fact, obstinate disregard of social distancing in the UK now has the full force of the law to enforce compliance. In St Helena I think there is more commonsense and consideration among people and voluntary compliance with the social distancing advice will probably be enough. Let's hope so.

Anyway, the model organisation for crises management at times such as these is demonstrated in diagrammatic form in the business paper and its copied here.

During a crisis, a network of teams carries out responses outside of normal operations, as well as adjustments to routine business activities.

Illustrative network of teams for a pandemic response



Like most things it's not rocket science and it is highly likely SHG have an organisation in place already which is very similar to the organisation shown here. It's just that it would be nice, even reassuring, if SHG could let us know how they do it.

I had an email from a passenger on the last plane from St Helena before the coronavirus made the schedules look very sick indeed. I was interested to know what happened at OR Tambo between planes and, indeed, whether the person I contacted had survived the experience or is now lifeless in some corner of that airport which has bad memories for too many people.

The person I contacted was Libby Weir-Green who featured on the front page of last week's Independent. Many will know Libby was the first tour operator to bring groups of people to St Helena and her recent visit, after about 16 years, was her last. After meeting me for a chat and a photo Libby returned to her hotel and was promptly "locked up" in her room. It appears the enforced isolation was enforced.

The journey from St Helena to Edinburgh or thereabouts took 60 hours all told and was "horrible". I had visions of Libby and her tour party stretched out on the floor tiles trying to get some sleep but getting back-ache instead. Luckily her ground-handler in South Africa booked rooms at the Protea transit hotel for them. The group were grateful for this but I do know the price of the rooms is absolute daylight robbery. Anyway, they managed about 5 hours sleep before heading off once more for Dubai. Dubai offered Libby and her party 16 hours of "real discomfort". Different planes were used by different people in the group and both planes were delayed but somehow they all met up for a flight either to Edinburgh or London. But, four people arrived at their destination but their luggage did not. As Dubai airport was due to close no-one was sure if they would see their luggage ever again. Dubai airport is now closed and there is a group of passengers still stranded in the transit area; they have been there since 18th March.

FLIGHT STATUS UPDATE

The three-week lockdown in South Africa starting tonight has resulted in Airlink flights being suspended for at least three weeks.

Airlink has advised that the **earliest** date the next scheduled flight will arrive on St Helena and travel onwards to Ascension is Saturday, 18 April 2020. This date is **not** guaranteed and could change if the South African restrictions are extended. We recommend you regularly review the Airlink website for updates and booking and refund arrangements.

The reality, at this present time, is there are no confirmed scheduled commercial flights to/from South Africa with Airlink. We are dependent on the lockdown measures being taken in South Africa coming to an end. If anybody is concerned about departing or returning to St Helena please contact Jane Roberts in the Tourist Office on tel: 22158 or email: jane.roberts@tourism.co.sh and register your details.

The Tourist Office is identifying people who need to travel to/from St Helena so that they can be contacted once flight arrangements are confirmed. The Governor's Office will inform the Tourist Office when any flight options become available. The Tourist Office will send out email updates to registered people as new information becomes available.

The Tourist Office is not able to engage with your airline, insurance company or booking agent on your behalf. You should go direct to these organisations to make bookings or get refunds.

SHG
26 March 2020



ISLAND SCHOOLS TO REOPEN ON MONDAY

Parents and guardians of school-aged children are advised that all schools on St Helena will reopen on Monday, 30 March 2020.

This follows a short period of closure to reduce the spread and effect of a current influenza virus being experienced on-Island.

Given the difficulty of practicing 'social distancing' in any school environment, parents and guardians are asked to note the following precautionary measures to continue to minimise the spread of influenza:

- Children who are displaying flu-like symptoms **must not** be sent to school
- If a child comes to school displaying flu-like symptoms, parents/guardians will be contacted to take them home immediately
- Parents/guardians of children with underlying health conditions which make them susceptible to flus and colds have the option of keeping them at home for an additional week with written permission from the relevant school's Head Teacher - additional homework will be provided
- Children who are at home must be properly supervised during school hours
- Schools will continue to minimise the numbers of non-essential visitors
- Schools will continue to practice high standards of hygiene
- Children must be made aware of good hygiene practice and the importance of continuing this when in school.

Parents and guardians are thanked for their support in helping to minimise the spread of influenza on-Island. This is not to be confused with the Coronavirus (Covid-19), of which there are no suspected cases on-Island to date.

SHG
26 March 2020



Seven more days of not having coronavirus

It has been another week of press releases, press conferences, radio interviews and reacting to the changing and deteriorating situation in South Africa and the decisions made by the South African government as a consequence of that situation.

Last Friday SHG issued a press release emphasising how important it is to keep the airport open. Friday's press release claimed the airport is needed for when rapid, dynamic responses are needed to counter the coronavirus threat. The tourists who flew in the following day spent their entire time wondering if, when and how they would get away from St Helena; knowing the South African travel restrictions will start three days before they can leave. This they did from the safety of their hotel rooms as enforced self-isolation gave them plenty of time to consider the details of every aspect of their predicament.

The same press release pointed to the need for planes to be available for medivacs and the weekly flight was the only fast, effective way to get medical supplies, equipment and personnel to St Helena. That was on Friday last week. The South African travel restriction had started on Wednesday of last week and, as usual, the devil is in the detail. Much time and effort was spent by people in the Castle on the phone and with emails trying to get some sense from South African Immigration about how the travel restrictions specifically and precisely affect plane passengers flying in from St Helena. One story is that a singularly helpful bit of South African advice was that you do not have to pass through Immigration if you start your journey from St Helena Bay.

On Monday the St Helena Mental Health Team issued a press release. The basic message was don't worry, be happy. The advice was not to let the uncertainties arising from the coronavirus threat become an obsessive worry. While keeping a safe distance from all but close family, find something to do. Dig the garden, do the knitting, something. The press release also suggested reading a good book. This is the first time this suggestion has been included among all the other

ideas pouring forth from news channels about virtual crèches, virtual church services and even virtual pubs. Choose a good book and you can take your mind to places where you body is never likely to follow in a million years. A good book is the best and most effective way to get out and about when physical movement is restricted.

On Tuesday there was another press conference when it was announced the three people on Ascension who went into self-isolation after arriving on the Airlink flight had been cleared of any suspicions about contracting the coronavirus and had been released from confinement. This was not a surprise; an update from the Ascension Island Government described their ailment as "very mild cold-like symptoms".



The decision was taken to make the Airlink flights a fortnightly service. But it was immediately recognised the South African Government's move from travel restrictions to a three week lock down put any plans about travel straight back in the mixer. It was later thought likely that the next incoming flight will be on 18th April – four weeks away. The advantages of having an operational air service, as described in a press release the previous Friday became woefully out-of-date after just five days in the fast-changing whirligig of coronavirus prevention. Apart from all arrivals at the airport being obliged to self isolate for 14 days it was also announced that yachts and particularly their crews are not welcome at the moment. The various coronavirus restrictions were also not helping the efforts to get cargo here aboard the MV Helena. The ETA was put back for the 3rd time to 2nd April. On past performance Richard James containers will not be ready for opening until a week later. To end on a high note the point was made in the press release that future flights cannot be guaranteed.

Another press release on Wednesday pointed out there are several medical referrals and carers in Pretoria waiting to get back to St Helena and special arrangements are needed to be put in place for their accommodation and welfare.

It's the Corona Van 👍



It's the Corona Van!

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

What **IDIOTIC GOVERNMENT** - amidst a global crisis such as this pandemic - would house an isolating family in Jamestown between a crèche and a home of five consisting of two HIGH RISK individuals (a diabetic and an over 80 year old)?

Who is protecting US from the spread of COVID-19?
Only our beloved ST HELENA GOVERNMENT!

Thanks!



Dear Constituents,

As promised I will continue to provide some answers to a few of the questions raised by members of the public during the recent Unified Saints meeting. This week I will provide a response with regards to the question below.

Concern was raised about wastage of SHG funds, e.g. (1) four personnel travelled to Johannesburg to purchase a fire truck; this consisted of two managers from the Fire Department and two senior staff from the Transport Division. How is this value for money? Will the correct fire truck be procured bearing in mind that the previous trucks purchased remains in the Government Garage as it didn't have the capabilities to travel on the roads?

As part of the contract with the supplier of the fire appliance, provision was made by the supplier for two visits by two personnel during the procurement phase, only additional staff sent were funded by SHG. The Transport Manager of the I&T Directorate commented that it was necessary for Transport staff who participated in the visits to support

with inspections, testing and gain first-hand mechanical knowledge of the equipment fitted/operation of the vehicle.

The purpose of visits during the last 18 months was to explore and test options available that would be suitable for the Island bearing in mind the road network and terrain.

The latest on the vehicle since its arrival here is that two engineers arrived on-Island on 14 January where they performed inspections/testing and realignment. During the various tests the fault was narrowed down to a problem with gears in the centre axle. Replacement parts have been acquired which arrived on the February voyage of the MV Helena and a technician returned to the Island on Saturday, 22 February, to replace the necessary parts and perform further tests to ensure the vehicle is ready for commissioning. The Transport Division can now use the vehicle but only to observe and inspect developments with the drive-train issue. The manufacturer's technicians will be back on-Island, once travel restrictions are lifted, when further inspections will be performed. During this upcoming visit it is envisaged that authorisation will be given for the vehicle to be commissioned into service.

The vehicle is under a five-year warranty therefore these additional costs are being borne by the manufacturer. Apart from the current warranty on the vehicle an additional warranty has been encompassed within the agreement on the drive-train and any relating issue should it be required.

The Chief of Police added that the inclusion of the two officers from the Fire Service to attend the visit to Johannesburg was necessary as it is best practice to complete User Acceptance Testing when completing projects. The appliance was a bespoke vehicle that needed to be assessed in terms of operational effectiveness and mechanical effectiveness. The officers attended to review and contractually accept that the appliance met the set firefighting specification. In Johannesburg they found several problems that needed to be re-designed and then re-tested. Had they not undertaken this visit the vehicle may have been moved to St Helena with sub-optimal firefighting systems. An example of the importance of this was shown when the fire officers examined the design concept of the en-

tire pumping and delivery fire system. They quickly identified that the system installed created problems and would not work efficiently and effectively. The design was not correct and would not have been effective on St Helena.

They immediately voiced their concerns and a meeting was held with all parties including the CEO of the manufacturer and the design team. As a result, the entire pumping system was decommissioned and removed from the vehicle and a complete new system was manufactured and installed at no extra cost to SHG. Within days the new system was completed to the agreed specification.

The attendance of two fire officers also permitted a comprehensive inspection of the firefighting equipment and a full testing programme of the equipment on a bespoke vehicle. The staff received specific training delivered by the manufacturer in relation to the vehicle and the specialist equipment contained in the vehicle such as thermal imaging camera, Edraulic tools and lifting gear, nine metre ladder, portable lighting, rescue tools and a monitor turret. The attendance of the two staff ensured that they could cascade the training effectively on their return to the Island and prevented the Island's Fire Service from having a single point of failure should one of the staff leave.

This was a highly technical project that needed close scrutiny and all aspects needed to be tested thoroughly to ensure the Island had an effective firefighting appliance that would reach the most isolated parts of the Island and protect everyone. The project was designed to provide a vehicle that would be effective. In terms of value for money, the Fire Service will state that the attendance of a second officer removed the risk of the vehicle not being effective, delivered an enhanced inspection process, reduced and corrected design issues and permitted the delivery of a firefighting vehicle that will protect all residents of the Island wherever they live for a period of 20 years.

Stay safe and have a great week,

**Russell Yon,
Chairman,
Environment and Natural Resources
Committee.**

THANKS

The family of the late Olive Patricia Constantine, better known as Patty, would like to thank everybody who attended her funeral on 13 March 2020; to all who sent messages and cards of condolence and gave floral tributes.

Thanks are also extended to all who contributed to the service and funeral arrangements; to Bishop Dale, Father Clive, Lay Minister Ernest Fritz, Mrs Joy George, Mrs Patsy Flagg; to Roy Williams and team, Solomon & Co PLC and Davina and Colin for making the wreaths.

Special thanks are extended to the management and staff of the CCC, both past and present, who provided care for Patty over 9 ½ years.

Thanks are also extended to the doctors and nurses of the General Hospital.

May she now Rest In Peace.

OBITUARY

Olive Patricia Constantine known for most of her life as Patty, born on 17 March 1928 to Owen and Beatrice George, passed away on the 10 March 2020.

She grew up with brothers Owen, Bert, Donald & Eric and sisters Mabel and May.

As with most families at the time, life was a challenge and hard work was the order of the day. Her commitment to family was always outstanding. She left school in her early teens to take care of her mum who was terminally ill with cancer and in addition to this, took on domestic work to help the family household and cared for her younger siblings.

In 1947 at the age of 19, she married her husband Lionel and they enjoyed many happy years of marriage until Lionel's passing 27 years ago. They raised three children: Walter, Ivy and Eric.

With family and friends over the years, she enjoyed Fancy Dress, Darts, Whist, Euchre, Dominoes and other social events.

Patty was a staunch supporter of her community. As a Brownie Leader, she was proud to have met the Royal Family during the Royal Visit to the Island in 1947.

She was dedicated to her work with voluntary groups such as the St Paul's Women's Guild, Ladies' Craft Group and Women's Corona Society. She was actively involved with the Corona Society for over 20 years and following her illness, was an honorary member for over 10 years.

Patty is well known for her cooking and baking skills and passed these on to many who were willing to learn. She enjoyed the challenge of cooking and arranging the supper for many weddings during the years of her prime. Her door was open to friends, family and strangers alike. There was always a "cup of tea and something to eat," sharing her hospitality and generosity.

Patty also won many prizes at shows and fairs for her work which included crochet products from recycled plastic carriers, sewing and indoor plants. Her skills and talents were all used in supporting fundraising in the community.



Unfortunately, around ten years ago, Patty developed a form of dementia which steadily progressed up to the day of her passing.

Many referred to her as 'Auntie Patty' and she will be remembered as a person who was dedicated to her church; loved her indoor plants, was skilled at crafts, cooking and baking. She was always willing to help others, never shying away from giving to those less fortunate than herself.

Those who have been fortunate to know Patty can take comfort from knowing that she is now resting in peace.





NEWS RELEASE

26 March 2020

Sure supports local community with connectivity measures

In response to the global coronavirus outbreak Sure is introducing a series of measures to keep islanders connected. These are designed to facilitate working from home if necessary and to allow islanders to keep in touch.

All measures are valid for April and May 2020.

- 20% increase to inclusive allowances for all residential broadband packages. This is free and will be applied for all residential customers
- 50% reduction in local-landline-to-local-landline calling charges from 4p per minute to 2p per minute. This is automatic and applied to billing

In addition to these consumer measures, we are working closely with the St Helena Government to assist with its additional broadband capacity requirements and those of the Health Directorate. We have also in recent days provided additional broadband capacity to other local businesses who support critical operations on the island.

Christine Thomas, Sure's CEO in St Helena, said: "Sure is committed to supporting our local community in whatever circumstances we may face. We have recently provided additional support to our local Government and businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications during times such as these.

"As a provider of critical network infrastructure we realise that we have a key role to play in supporting the community so I am very pleased that we have also been able to identify ways in which we can support our residential customers during this period to ensure they are able to keep in touch.

"I would like to extend special thanks and appreciation to our small Sure team on island who have been working tirelessly to provide the additional support needed and have been meeting the increased demand seen during this very worrying time for our community."

As part of social distancing, we are currently asking that customers call or email us rather than visit our shop if they can. Customers can reach our team on tele 22900 or service@sure.co.sh



St Helena
Government

CHILDREN & ADULT SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT SERVICES - FIXED-TERM CONTRACT VACANCIES

The Children & Adult Social Care Directorate has vacancies for an Administration Support/Receptionist and a Finance Assistant to work at Brick House. Both these posts will be for a fixed-term period of three months.

Both these posts are key in supporting the directorate in providing effective and efficient reception and administrative services; and finance functions with the assistance of the Assistant Director and Management Accountant.

Administration Support/Receptionist

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- . GCSE in English Language and Mathematic at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- . Experience working in an administrative and customer focused environment would be an advantage

Applicants should have good communication and customer care skills and able to deal with customers from diverse backgrounds. They should also have proficient IT skills.

Salary for this post is at £6,631 per annum.

Finance Assistant

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- . GCSE in English, Maths or Accounting at Grade C or above or equivalent (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- . Driver's License Class A;
- . Proficient in IT skills including Microsoft Applications and Access Dimensions;
- . Experience working in a finance and customer focused environment

Applicants should have good organisational skills and the ability to prioritise workload to meet deadlines. They should have good communication and customer care skills, with the ability to deal with customers from diverse backgrounds.

Salary for this post is Grade B commencing at £6,722 per annum.

For further information and a copy of the job profiles for either of these two posts, interested persons should contact Mrs Victoria Kellett, Assistant Director on telephone number 22713 or e-mail: victoria.kellett@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and the Children & Adult Social Care Directorate and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 07 April 2020.

CHILDREN & ADULT SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE VACANCIES CARE ASSISTANTS COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE & EBONY VIEW

A great care assistant is kind, patient and respectful. Could this be you?

Come and join our team if you looking for a job where no two days are the same, you want to come into work knowing you're able to make people feel respected and living their best lives. Does this sound like a career you'd be interested in?

If you have:

- . Functional Skills Literacy and Numeracy at entry level 1,
- . Willingness to engage in appropriate training to enhance skills and knowledge in caring for adults/children with disabilities and the elderly
- . An ability to be flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of our residents
- . The ability to work well as part of a team
- . A positive, friendly and proactive attitude



Then, this could be the job for you!

For further information about the duties of the posts and a copy of the job profile, you should contact:

Mrs Nicole Hercules, Manager (Ebony View & Piccolo Hill) on telephone number 25119 or e-mail: Nicole.hercules@sainthelena.gov.sh or Mrs Rosalie Brown, Manager (Community Care Complex) on telephone number 23039 or e-mail: rosalie.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh Application forms, which are available from Corporate Human Resources and Children & Adult Social Care Directorate, should be submitted through Directors where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 07 April 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.

ST HELENA WATER LEVELS

Over the last week, St Helena's water consumption levels have fluctuated. There were three days where water consumption was below 1000 cubic metres and four days where consumption rates were above the target level.

Stored water volume Island-wide is currently at 47.8% (55,240 cubic metres) while in Red Hill it is 26%(16, 884 cubic metres). However, if water consumption levels remain above 1000 cubic metres, our stored water volume will quickly decline. It is therefore very important that we keep our water use to essential needs only.

Please use water responsibly, including when washing hands.

Remember, we are currently under an Island-wide hosepipe ban. If you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, then please inform Connect Saint Helena immediately.

Every drop counts, every action counts - Everyone must save every drop of water possible.



RELOCATING: From The Market to THE MOON On the 06th April 2020

ATLANTIC OUTPOST

Mobile: 61304

Facebook page Atlantic Outpost

Email: simon.henry@helanta.co.sh

IT Computer & Network services

Building, fixing, troubleshooting computers. virus removal, software installs, Wifi and cable network setups and troubleshoot. Mobile phone App setups.

Engraving services

Engraving on Wood, Plastics, Glass, Leather etc.. Engraving Photos, images, text shapes. Grave Cross plaques. Grave headstone covers. Safety signs. Trophy plaques, Awards, Information plates, and much more.

Printing services

Photo printing, Document printing. T-Shirt printing, printing on any colour shirt or fabric. High-Vis Jacket printing in full colour. Mug printing, any colour mug. Printing images or photos on hard surface including wood glass ceramic, card and metal.

Personalised Gifts / Souvenirs / Awards / Trophies

T-Shirts, Led engraved lights, Mugs, Wall & Desk Clocks, Engraved wooden plaques, Chopping Boards, Memory sticks, Coasters, Key-rings, Trophies, Awards, Etc..

St Helena's 'Artists for the earth' competitions

Earth Day, this year on the 22nd April 2020, is celebrated globally, with 2020 being its 50th year. It aims to build the world's largest environmental movement to drive change for people and planet.

There are 3 different competitions to choose from as follows:

1. Create an art project (paint, sculpture etc.) which best represents how climate change is affecting the world or more locally, our island. Open to Nursery, Reception and KS1 students as a class project, and KS2 (7 -11yrs) and KS3 (11 - 14yrs) as an individual project.
2. Write a poem about climate change - This will be open to KS2 (7 - 11yrs) and KS3 (11 - 14yrs) as individual projects.
3. Photography' competition. 'Conservation photography' is where the photograph is focussed on the changes that are occurring to the environment (ecosystems), animal and plant life and indigenous peoples. Telling a story about those that have no voice and exposing people to the reality to create a reaction'. Open to the wider public aged 16yrs+. Note: when submitting please include a short description of what issue is being brought to attention.

All submission's must be sent to Martina Peters at the National Trust Office by Friday, 17th April or e-mail: martina.peters@trust.org.sh. Please ensure your name, age and contact details are all included.

Judging will take place on the 20th April and all entries will be exhibited at the Museum from the 22nd April.

"Art takes nature as it's model" - Aristotle



Why We Must Remember / How Did We Forget?



Matt Joshua

Each year on the 25th March the United Nations observes an International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It's on this day we reflect on the transatlantic slave trade's shameful history and legacies, and honour and remember those who suffered and died as part of this barbaric system. For over 400 years, more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims of the transatlantic slave trade, one of the darkest chapters in human history. The day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today, a product of enslavement.

As we reflect on slavery, and St Helena's role in the slave trade, we might conjure up images of Africans in shackles crammed into the holds of sailing ships. These images and the horrific statistics of the time might be reinforced by recent talks led by archeologists or the current work of the "Liberated" African Advisory Committee (LAAC). Perhaps we contemplate the plight of those kept at Lemon Valley, or those 8000+ buried in mass graves in Ruperts Valley. Perhaps we feel an uneasy twinge when we pass the Pipe Store by the Prison where the remains of 325 exhumed bodies are stored.

Of the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual outlined in St Helena's Constitution, only two are absolute rights: Clause 7, the right to live without fear of inhuman treatment; and Clause 8, the right to live free from slavery and forced labour.

So, would it shock you to know that today over 40 million people - more than three times the figure during the transatlantic slave trade - are living in some form of modern slavery, according to figures published by the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation. More than half are in forced labour, working against their will, under threat, intimidation or coercion. An additional 15 million people are estimated to be living in forced marriages. Women and girls comprise 71% of all modern slavery victims. Children make up 25% and account for 10 million of all the slaves worldwide.

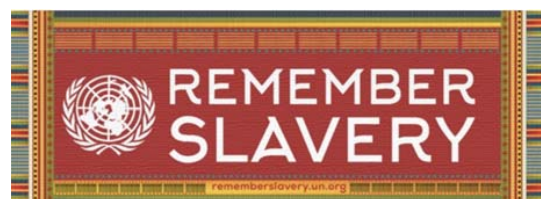
Globally, slavery generates as much as £116 Billion in profits every year, more than one third of which is generated in developed countries, including the EU. Modern migration routes mean a vast supply of vulnerable, exploitable people become part of global supply chains in the agriculture, fishing, beauty, fashion and sex industries. Today, the one-off cost of a slave is around £350.

Over the past two decades, governments (including our own), institutions, and cultural and heritage professionals are focusing their attention and inquiries (many for the first time) on slavery, the slave trade and its legacies. Commercially, 'dark tourism' is an established term in the travel industry.

Previously long neglected or avoided by historians and curators, these legacies have remained in the realm of historical memory, preserved, commemorated and remembered through art, written and spoken word, ceremonies, sites and memorialisation - but most often through the eyes and acts of the emancipators, not those who were actually enslaved. Many aspects of these past legacies have been overlooked, deliberately omitted or silenced: whole chapters erased from school curriculums; the unspoken shame of having a black African branch on the family tree.

Ironically, many of the world's architectural marvels, long-standing institutions, and governing bodies exist because of profitable relationships with slavery. Stunning cities, majestic places of worship and cornerstones of law and liberty are among the many legacies left by an age of atrocities - an 'ugly beauty', as coined by African American poet Robert Earl Price. We admire the beauty, but the foundation of ugliness begs acknowledgement and demands understanding.

As we examine, memorialise and commemorate St Helena's slave legacy - largely through work spear-headed by the LAAC - we have an opportunity to create new narratives, monuments and representations of slavery that can help us remember and break the historical silence on this forgotten past, and teach us all important lessons for the future.



.....
Regrettably, due to social distancing measures to minimise the spread of Covid 19, the ROOTS:ROUTES Slave Walk Challenge, planned for Sunday 29th March, has been postponed until further notice.



St Helena
Government

- No suspected cases of COVID-19 on St Helena
- All new arrivals subject to compulsory quarantine
- Self-isolation

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

ST HELENA PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

St Helena is still in the Prevent Stage and keeping St Helena safe is our priority. There are no suspected cases of COVID-19 on the Island.

Yesterday, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Derek Thomas, announced the following further measures to try and prevent the virus from reaching St Helena:

- Airlink flights will now be fortnightly, although this decision has been affected by the South Africa three-week lockdown
- All new arrivals (by air and sea) to St Helena will be subject to compulsory quarantine for 14 days. This will be at a location approved by a Proper Officer (designated by Law).

The three-week lockdown in South Africa from Thursday, 26 March, has implications for St Helena and will affect the weekly scheduled flight to the Island. Current indications are that the earliest the next scheduled flight will arrive at St Helena is on Saturday, 18 April 2020, however this is subject to change.

We understand that this is a difficult time for travellers especially those in South Africa needing to get back to the Island. We have several medical referrals and carers currently in Pretoria who will be affected by the travel ban and we are in the process of putting in place arrangements for both our patients and carers to ensure that they are looked after.

We cannot guarantee the schedule of future commercial flights to and from St Helena. If anybody is concerned (Saints /tourists/ contractors) about getting back to their home country or if there are people wanting to return to St Helena please contact Jane Roberts on tel: 22158 or email:

jane.roberts@tourism.co.sh

We are pleased to advise that the MV Helena is now berthed in Cape Town and is currently undergoing cargo operations. The vessel will depart Cape Town tomorrow, Thursday 26 March, and is estimated to arrive at St Helena on Thursday, 2 April.

Self-Isolation - why is it so important?

Following Saturday's flight (21 March), 37 passengers have been asked to self-isolate for 14 days as per the new directives of SHG which were agreed on 16 March by the Incident Executive Group (IEG).

All passengers have been informed and issued with a letter explaining the conditions of self-isolation.

SHG Press Office | 1st Floor, The Castle | Jamestown | Tel: +290 22470

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Visit us: www.sainthelena.gov.sh



Self-isolation is a legal requirement and means - the separation of a person from any other person in such a manner as to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the following locations:

- At the person's home
- At a hospital; or
- At another suitable place as directed by a Proper Officer

If you fail to comply with the requirements of the regulations then you may be detained and placed in isolation.

We would like to stress that this social responsibility should be taken seriously – to keep the virus off the Island we all need to work together. Members of the public who have been instructed to self-isolate should therefore comply. Anyone aware of someone who is breaking their self-isolation should inform the Hospital or Police Headquarters immediately.

What is the difference between self-isolation and quarantine?

Quarantine is different from self-isolation as it provides a higher level of monitoring where those quarantined are not only physically separated from the community, but closely monitored to ensure they do not have contact with others. Quarantine means a higher level of control.

Information about COVID-19

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through contact with an infected person, normally generated through coughs or sneezes or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. Infection with COVID-19 can cause mild symptoms similar to other flu-like viruses, for example a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever.

If you become ill with any of these symptoms do not go to the Hospital. Instead call the hospital for advice on the dedicated phone number: 25707

Self-isolate at home and await advice from Hospital staff.

Prevention

- Please practice good hygiene and wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty
- Hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with a virus. If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer a virus from the surface to yourself
- Develop a practice of social distancing as it has been proven to slow the spread of the virus. Avoid shaking hands and hugging – wave instead.

Keeping up-to-date

We wish to reassure you that at this time there are no suspected cases of COVID-19 on the Island.

Please tune into the radio on a daily basis, look out for our regular news releases and Social Media updates, watch the promo TV channel and visit our 'live' Question and Answer page on the SHG website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/coronavirus-COVID-19-live-qa/>.

Anyone with concerns on a particular issue relating to COVID-19 that is not already covered in the Q&A should contact COVID-19 Communications Officer, Kimberley Peters, via email: kimberley.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh or tel: 22470.

#StHelena #Coronavirus #COVID-19 #AltogetherHealthier

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>

SHG

25 March 2020

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St Helena
Government



• St Helena Mental Health Team issues advice on how to stay mental healthy and what to do if you feel overwhelmed during Coronavirus concerns

• The Mental Health Team can be contacted on tel: 22593

KEEPING WELL IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

There is a lot of information available in the media about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes washing hands, not touching your face, avoiding hugs etc. This is all very sensible and needed. However, it's really important that we think about our emotional wellbeing too. At the moment, there is uncertainty for everyone. The important thing is that we try hard to keep ourselves mental healthy for our own wellbeing, that of our families, colleagues and our community here on St Helena.

We have put together the following advice for everyone here on-Island:

- Feel connected to the people around you. Make sure that you don't worry alone. Chat with your neighbour, partner or parent
- Try to keep going as usual. If you find that your mind keeps drifting back to thoughts about COVID-19 and worries about it, try to do something. Try to distract yourself by working through a to-do list for tasks around the house, read a book, play cards, a board game or do a puzzle. Watch a DVD or a favorite television programme. If you have a hobby such as woodwork or painting then spend time doing this. Going for a walk or taking some exercise is a great stress buster
- Limit your time on social media. If you want information about COVID-19 and St Helena's preparedness then make sure you look at the Government website:
<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/coronavirus-covid-19-live-qa/>
- Make sure that you are informed but not spending your time learning every single detail about the Virus. There are lots of opinions on the internet and not all of them are helpful or even accurate
- Being flexible is key. At the moment, guidelines for everyone are changing as we learn more about the Virus and how we can manage it. Scientists are working hard to give advice but their understanding changes day-to-day too. Try to be patient as we interpret their advice and use it to keep us safe. If you are uncertain or don't understand something, ask.

What you can do if you feel overwhelmed:

- If you do feel overwhelmed, then focus on your breathing. Notice the uncertainty as it comes to mind. Try not to react. Pause and breathe. Breathe again

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- Name the worry. Allow yourself to feel it and notice how it can reduce as you breathe through it. Tell yourself this is just the worry talking. It is only a thought or feeling. Not a fact. It's understandable but not helpful now
- Try to let go of the thought or feeling. It will pass. You don't have to respond to it. You might imagine the worry floating away, shrivelling up or disappearing. If it lingers, give yourself time. Be kind to yourself
- Start to look around while you breathe slowly. What can you see where you are. What colours? What shapes? Touch something. Taste the air. Keep breathing
- If this is happening often to you and impacting you please ask for help.

People who have a tendency to worry a lot in general, are most likely to be most vulnerable to feeling very anxious or sad right now. It's important that these people look for help or if you see someone struggling in the community that you ask them if support from the Mental Health Team could help them, or even you can contact us to discuss. Our phone number is 22593.

Mental Health Team, St Helena
23 March 2020

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SUSPECTED CASES ON ASCENSION ISLAND NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19

The verification tests for the suspected COVID-19 cases reported on Ascension Island last week are negative and all remaining passengers both on St Helena and Ascension Island have been cleared to go about their normal activities.

As reported last week all passengers arriving on St Helena on 14 March were advised to stay home, all but five were later cleared from self-isolation after the Health Directorate undertook a considerable amount of research into the matter, which included contact tracing back to the UK.

Director of Health, Ted Rayment, explains:



“World Health Organization guidelines advise that 12 passengers on a plane near a suspected case be monitored. Other passengers on the plane are considered not at risk. St Helena went beyond these guidelines which were also above Public Health England advice and isolated all passengers while the Ascension passengers with a cough were monitored. Following a complete risk assessment we were able to release the majority of passengers from having to self-isolate. Now that the tests for Ascension have come back negative, we have also released the five passengers who were asked to remain at home as an extra precaution.”

Self-Isolation

All passengers arriving at St Helena from 21 March are now required to self-isolate for 14 days. The 37 passengers who arrived on Saturday's flight all went through rigorous screening at the Airport and are now self-isolating. As per legal requirements if an individual fails to comply they may be detained and placed in isolation.

The Director of Health has the discretion to increase or decrease the period of isolation following a medical and risk assessment.



St Helena
Government



ST HELENA AIRPORT – LIFELINE FOR ST HELENA

As the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves worldwide, many people have asked St Helena Government (SHG) and St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL) why, as part of our preventive measures in keeping the virus out of the Island, have we not closed the Airport or stopped the weekly flight. In this article we would like to outline the reasons why St Helena Airport remains open.

The COVID-19 virus pandemic is a significant world event that requires collaborative working to reduce its impact on every community in every part of the world. We have a small population with access to finite health resources and are therefore very reliant on external health and physical resources to support residents and visitors alike. At a time of increasing pressure on the Island's health services due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that a swift link to the rest of the world is available in order that the Island can be readily supported in its efforts to repel and manage the threat of COVID-19.

Although St Helena has sea access to South Africa, not only is this link subject to unforeseen delays, it does not support the rapid and dynamic response required to counter a threat. It is known at present the MV Helena is going to be around three weeks late, similar delays to its schedule in the coming months are to be expected. As such, the Airport is the only means to get medical supplies, test kits, equipment and people to the Island in an expeditious manner, and therefore it is essential that the Airport remains open to permit this. Closing the Airport would close off this link and could therefore make a difficult and challenging situation even worse by not getting medical care to the population in sufficient time or quantities. It would also end all medevacs from the Island.

As such, it is the intention of SHG and SHAL to keep the Airport ready for operations. This will allow Airport operations, as at present, to be 'stood up' for the one incoming commercial flight available to the Island.

Keeping the Airport open also allows for the necessary maintenance and calibration regime to remain in place. Vital airport navigation equipment needs to be regularly monitored and maintained, the training of staff is required to maintain their certification and accreditation, and the Airport itself needs to remain open to remain certificated. Accordingly, it is important that even in the face of reduced passenger traffic to and from the Island, that this vital link remains available. Without the option of air access, the Island will not be able to respond to the threat of COVID-19 in an efficient or effective manner.

St Helena Airport is the conduit through which support for the Island's residents can be maintained during this very challenging period in the Island's history. As such it will remain open and ready to support the Island's community.

#StHelena #Coronavirus #COVID-19 #AltogetherHealthier

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>

SHG/SHAL, 20 March 2020

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St Helena
Government

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

- 1. Application 2020/28:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Demolition of Existing Kitchen and Extension to Existing House to form a Bedroom, Bathroom, Kitchen and Laundry**, Church Ground Point, St Paul's on Parcel 0138 Francis Plain, adjacent to the property of Keith Williams. Applicant: Raymond Williams.
- 2. Application 2020/29:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling**, near Solomon's Bakery on Parcel 0515 Half Tree Hollow, adjacent to the property of Jacqueline Ellick. Applicant: Jessie Duncan.
- 3. Application 2020/30:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Siting of Replica Water Fountain**, paved area in the vicinity of the Canister, Main Street on Parcel JT070015 Jamestown. Applicant: Enterprise St Helena

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Secretary on Telephone 22270 or email Karen.Isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on the above Application should make them in writing within 14 days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email karen.isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 10th April 2020

VACANCY FOR ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

Are you looking for an employment opportunity in Finance and Accountancy?

Corporate Finance is seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual to join their Accounting Services team as an Accounts Executive.

The Accounts Executive will have the opportunity to contribute to the effective operations of the financial accounting system and is responsible for the accurate and efficient entry of data. This is a diverse role which involves the monitoring of transactions for all directorates within the St Helena Government.

Applicants should ideally possess the following qualifications and experience:

- . GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- . GCSE Accounts at Grade C or above, or ACCA Diploma in Financial and Management Accounting (RQF Level 2) or equivalent;
- . Possess intermediate IT skills in Access Dimensions or similar package;
- . At least 1 years' experience in an accounting role.



St Helena
Government

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £6,722 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details regarding the duties of the post and for a copy of the job profile, interested persons can contact Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on email: sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh or on telephone no: 22470.

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 07 April 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.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – SOCIAL DISTANCING

In line with the St Helena Government's Social Distancing advice Connect Saint Helena Ltd kindly asks members of the public to wherever possible, avoid coming into the Connect properties if you are reporting a fault or have a query. Please can customers call instead on the following telephone numbers.

22255 during normal office hours: 08:30am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday,

or email enquiries@connect.co.sh

All faults on our Water and Electricity networks outside of these hours can be reported to the Power Station on 22602 who will pass on details to our out of hours contractors.

If you do need to see a member of Connect staff, please make an appointment beforehand.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd appreciates your cooperation under the current circumstances.

23 March 2020



TIP OF THE WEEK

Wash only when
the washing
machine is full –
or adjust the
water volume
setting.



A & D's MiniMart would like to advise their customers that the shop will close on Monday 30th March for the purpose of Stock take from 9am through to 3pm.

The shop will reopen at 3 pm through to 7pm.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
has a vacancy for a

Trainee Underwriter

Within the St Helena Insurance Cell Captive

Job Outline

To assist in the day-to-day operations of the department and to provide an efficient service to both external customers and the St Helena Insurance Agency

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English
 - Be computer literate
 - Possess excellent Customer Service skills
- Have knowledge and experience in administration
- Ideally possess a clean, valid drivers' licence in classes A & C

Salary will start at **£659.83** per month, £7,917.96 per annum

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Mervyn Henry, Underwriter

on telephone number: 22682 or via email address: mervynh@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address:

hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, By 07 April 2020

VACANCY COMMUNITY CARE OFFICER (ADULTS & COMMUNITY)

The Children & Adult Social Care Directorate is seeking to recruit a highly motivated person to fill their vacant post of Community Care Officer (Adults & Community).

The Community Care Officer will assist in the provision of one-to-one support to enable vulnerable adults to remain living independently in their own homes. The individual's vulnerability could be due to mental or physical disability, frailty or illness. Support will include assessment of needs and provision of personal care relating to client's needs, where appropriate, and as may be require. To provide respite sessions including time in the community and supporting access to day services.

An important part of this role will be developing supportive relationships with those you are supporting in their own homes and in the community so that they can continue to live an independent life whilst being safe.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

. GCSE in Maths and English or equivalent at Grade C or above, or willing to work towards (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);

. Valid Driving Licence;

. Experience in working with people diagnosed with Mental Illness or those with various disabilities is a preference and/or a commitment to ongoing training to gain experience in working with vulnerable adults.



Salary for this post is Grade C commencing at £9,259 per annum.

For further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact Mr Philbert Howell, Team Manager (Adults & Community) on telephone number 22078 or e-mail: Philbert.howell@sainthelena.gov.sh Application forms, which are available from Corporate Human Resources and Children & Adult Social Care Directorate, should be submitted through Directors where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 07 April 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.

Dear customer

It's business as usual at RJ, however, as you will be aware the world is currently in the grips of the Coronavirus pandemic. Paramount to us at this difficult time is the safety and well-being of our staff, customers and suppliers. As with any responsible business we are continually monitoring the effects of the coronavirus outbreak in the UK and any impact it might have on our business. We are following government guidelines closely and taking any necessary action to keep our workforce and customers safe.

Richard James International has been supplying the islands of the South Atlantic for over 30 years and we know only too well that the islander's wellbeing, in part, relies on our ability to fulfil any orders submitted. We would like to reassure you that we are working extra hard at this difficult time to keep our operation running, safely and responsibly. Everyone here is very passionate about the work we do and we will ensure that we do everything we can to help our friends and customers on St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha and the Falkland Islands.

Working with our suppliers

At this moment in time, we are not experiencing any significant issues with stock availability, although we do expect this to be impacted as the outbreak takes hold.

We have been working with government departments on all islands in the South Atlantic to help provide medical supplies for the hospitals to combat the virus and will ensure that we remain in a position to provide this vital service to the islands.

At our Bristol warehouse & RJ website and Facebook page

Here at our warehouse in Bristol we have taken several precautionary measures to minimise the risk of infection from suppliers delivering goods, as well as when customers bring in their packages. This includes reinforcing best-practice guidelines on regular handwashing and providing antibacterial gels and wipes at various points throughout the warehouse.

Opening Hours

There are currently no changes in opening hours, however, as the days and weeks go on, things could change in which case we will keep you informed. Likewise, if there should be any alterations to the shipping lines sailing schedules this will also be highlighted on both our website and Facebook pages.

We are doing everything possible to ensure our service to the islands is not impacted by the current situation and also have agency staff on standby to help cover roles should it be necessary.

We are continuing to monitor the situation daily and are closely following the guidance of the UK government and its agencies in a continuous effort to minimise any interruption of our service.

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Programme Management Unit of Corporate Finance are seeking the services of individuals who are able to provide ad-hoc Technical Support to the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) Support Team.

Such Services will include, but not limited to, design drawings, costing designs, basic project management, preparation of progress reports, structural designs and assessments, surveying and project site supervision.

Individuals who are interested and want to find out more, can contact Mr Richard Wotton, EDIP Chartered Engineer on Tel 51617 or email richardcwotton@hotmail.com.

Copies of the tender documentation can be obtained from

**Miss Alfreda Yon,
Capital Programme Manager
Programme Management Unit
The Castle
Jamestown**



Telephone No: 22777 or email alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Completed Tenders should be submitted to the Capital Programme Manager by **12 noon on 30 March 2020** in a sealed envelope marked **EDIP Support Team**. Electronic copies will also be acceptable and must also be received by the deadline to the following email address alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh.

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



St Helena
Government

Important Information from the Infrastructure and Transport Directorate.

The Infrastructure & Transport Directorate (ITD) would like to advise all clients wishing to contact Property and Housing staff in Essex House should telephone 22270 in the first instance. This includes all matters regarding land issues, repairs for Government Landlord Housing (GLH) and Chief Secretary Housing, GL Housing requirements, GIS and Technical Services.

Any inquiries regarding roads should be made on telephone 23765 and matters related to the Government Garage on 23208.

All inquiries for the Planning and Marine sections located in Essex House, must also be done via telephone 22270 in the first instance.

If an appointment is required, this must be arranged beforehand directly with the Officer concerned.

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!

Isolation in Liverpool

Addie Thomas

Whilst I haven't been writing regularly, I thought I would write again this week whilst a pandemic sinks its nasty teeth into us.

I haven't seen any photos of the empty streets of St Helena, I mean there are days (*Wednesday afternoon*) when it looks like a pandemic has hit the island (*sorry, hope you don't mind the feeble joke, humour tends to keep me going these days*), but what's it like at the moment on a day by day basis?

My thoughts and prayers remain daily with you all.

I managed to catch that flight out. It was a relatively simple process at the airport. I didn't have to queue for check in, security was, well, very quiet for a major airport like JFK and I had a choice of fifteen seats when I boarded.

At the airport (with our two metre distance) I got chatting to an Italian lady who was being summoned back by her parents from her two month travel around the States. In fact, where she was going was Central Italy, where she suggested the pandemic was bad too.

It gave me hope that I was travelling back to the UK at precisely the right time. I had heard from a friend a few days before, who lives next to a Surgeon. The Surgeon of many years had said to my friend, "in two to three weeks time, this is going to get bad in the UK".

Italy and China having been a precedent, has our Government moved quickly enough to ensure that the crisis in these countries was learnt from?

On my journey (and I didn't elaborate on Montreal and Quebec City too much in my last article as Covid-19 seems to have us all chained to the radio and social media) I was shown such kindness from Americans and Canadians alike. Strangers were so kind to me, even when tips were not required.

The Ice Hotel in Quebec City (QC) was one of the highlights of my trip. As I sat on the ice throne with a blanket atop it, I thought about my favourite books growing up by C S Lewis - The Chronicles of Narnia. I still remember Mrs Yon in the PAS Library reminding me that there were many books in the library and I needed to stop borrowing the same ones. Apparently, the rooms in this hotel, are rented for \$400 a night. Spending a night on those beds would require seriously warm blankets.

Everything was made of ice. Magnifique! The colours, the detail and the cocktail at the end (yes I fell off the wagon for a bit) in an ice glass was an experience I will never forget. What's so special as well is that this hotel is one of a kind, in April, it will be torn down, with all of its features, themes and designs, never to be seen in this collaboration again.

There was an exquisite chapel even. The little chapel had seats and blankets and at the time of my visit an artist was sculpturing a "Marry Me" sign in preparation for a marriage in this frozen shrine.

Standing on the Quay and watching the ice shift and slowly float back down the St Lawrence River at dusk, was another first for me. I really liked QC, more so than Montreal. The little cobbled stone streets and sixteenth century buildings personified 'charm'. The history around Quebec City being that it was originally a French territory and then taken over by the British (especially to stem off pending attacks from America) and as a Province of Canada, still remains fiercely protective of its French heritage.

I had never seen snow like this. Head height in some places. I would traipse across blanketed snow fields at knee height depths. I had not experienced temperatures like this, where my entire ears felt like they were going through a full piercing operation. Thank goodness my friend in Toronto had lent me her snow boots. Walking into a cafe or restaurant and getting my mouth to work in a decipherable manner made me seem as if I had spent the last day in a dentist chair. It certainly 'broke the ice' as I laughed with other customers and staff.

On Monday 9th March I left QC and made my way back to Toronto via Montreal and I choose an early morning journey as there is something truly magical about early mornings. As the train navigated its way along dazzling 'ivory' fields where the first rays of morning broke through the horizon, I felt peace that I hadn't felt for a long time. The colours amalgamated into a glorious peachy sheen and the promise of a new day. I understood why mornings offered such prospects of gratitude.

I had always planned to spend a little bit of time in Liverpool as the football season concluded. Whether this conclusion is by default and Liverpool do, or do not get their mitts on the PL trophy, I knew one thing, I did not want to be in London. Like many who have absconded to second homes (much to the disgust of locals), I wanted to avoid London at all cost.

Whilst the Liverpoolians get called out for all sorts, I have always found, in my time here that they have been very friendly, kind and welcoming. The city is lovely. It's got some lovely architecture. So my decision, an hour before boarding was not to stay with friends in London but to rent a little flat on the Mersey on my own and that was just me simply, "living in the moment". Just being able to live a transient lifestyle at this time has been such a blessing.

As I landed in Gatwick with a body that had long since given up functioning as a well rested shell, I Just wanted to get 'home' as quickly as possible. Due to someone being hit by a train at East Croydon, trains to London Victoria were delayed. Thankfully, I caught the tail end of this, so within ten minutes, the first train arrived to transport us to the capital. Having been shown so much kindness the other side of the river, even under the current circumstances, I was shocked to see London Underground staff shouting at small groups of people coming through the barriers as if they were animals, herding us along as if we had stayed grazing for well over our allotted time. I was so embarrassed. I appreciate that everyone may have been on tenterhooks but so were they on the

Isolation in Liverpool

Addie Thomas

planes, trains and streets in Canada and America. Yet, they never behaved like this.

At that moment I detested London. It's arrogance, it's transiency, it's gluttony, it's unwelcoming London Underground staff (some not all). Just for a moment I vowed never to live in London again.

After twenty four plus hours of being awake, I made a final heave of my bags into a black cab at Liverpool Lime Street and made my way to The Strand, my home for the next few months. The young lady who was renting me the apartment met me with a huge smile and a wonderful welcome and the flat was just perfect for what I needed in the short-term. Right behind the Liver Building and just one road away from the Mersey, I couldn't have been happier.

It was concerning to see weddings taking place on my first weekend in Liverpool, it was concerning to see ladies (particularly) having their nails, tans, hair done (don't tell a Liverpoolian gal she can't look her finest if she has go into hospital).

I have had little problem getting the food I need to see me over the coming weeks and actually, smaller express stores have most household goods including toilet roll. Whenever I go shopping, I always think about the folks back on St Helena who will have to make do for the moment. Thank God for the fish in our oceans and the bit of vegetable that can be shared around. Thank goodness for all those eggs!

We are now on lockdown and it's so sad that some of the British public have not adhered to the warnings and listened to the factual stories coming in from other countries. A taxi driver insisted that "it is just a flu and the lockdown is excessive". Try telling that to people lying in beds with the virus. Trying telling that to people who need the NHS for other significant illnesses. Children even.

People continue to flout the guidelines here and abroad. In Florida, I am told, with Spring Break, it's business as normal with the youngsters on beaches. I hang my head and wonder..."what kind of future does countries have in the hands of such callous individuals?" Just today, Police have had to break up an organised BBQ in the West Midlands. "Argghhhh!"

People out socialising have had to be moved on with threats of fines, with no thought to the people they may infect. With no thought for the NHS teams. Staff have been brought to tears as they try to get food on their way home from stripped supermarkets. The Central Line from East London has been rammed with people especially labourers / contractors travelling into the City. Mike Ashley (Sports Direct) and Tim Martin (Wetherspoons) have been leaders in this idiotic (albeit desperate) approach. I will never support their organisations again (if they survive). Many business owners of non-essential works are insisting staff come in to call centres, manufacturing plants and the like.

Construction work needs to carry on (dangerous structures, gas leaks, water leaks etc) but it doesn't help with Boris Johnson and Sadiq Khan conflicting in Cobra meetings about what constitutes as essential works. Yet, I feel for the British Government as they try to plug the gaps as and when they occur and respond to the social selfishness of members of the public. I have a few self-employed friends and the word 'desperation' keeps coming up more often. With no significant package on the table for self-employed workers, the Government certainly have a situation on their hands. This is one disaster recovery package that is not going to come from 'a genie in a bottle'.

Friends who have been laid off from the entertainment industry (Lion King) are hearing 'through the grapevine' about people they have come into contact with being confirmed positive with Covid-19. Disney have not carried out any checks and balances on their staff's health. It's "on your bike". Therapist friends have reverted to 'phone consultations', yet these calls are also starting to slip away as people want to be able to make physical contact for these forms of therapy. What happens to these vulnerable people at this time without this vital link? I am gravely concerned about mental health.

It's important to keep occupied at this time. I am thoroughly enjoying this time of reflection. I have learnt to enjoy large amounts of time alone, this has certainly prepared me for what is happening now in isolation. I also try to reach out on a daily basis to people who may need a kind word and since my travels, I'm sending messages all over the world with varied replies.

A text message came out from the Government to all mobile phone users who have a UK number referring us to their updated guidelines on their website. Yet, there still seems to be a lot of confusion. People are in fear of employers who demand that they come into work under conditions which spurn the guidelines. It's a real eye opener seeing what kind of conditions / leaders people have to work under. Employment rights seems to be on the verge of decapitation.

I wondered The Albert Dock, Liverpool One and around Old Town Liverpool whilst I bought supplies for the next week. Everyone is doing as they are told (as far as I could see) after last weekend. Liverpool.....home of the Beatles, Scouse (beef stew), The Searchers, LFC, women out shopping in curlers. Yet, like every other City across many parts of the world, the pavements are empty, the bars are shut, the restaurants have stopped emitting beautiful smells, the hustle and bustle is over.....for now. To see a little white haired old lady shopping alone in Boots today with her little handbag slung over her arm took me aback. Oh how normal life has changed for us.

In amongst all of this, our NHS have been truly astounding. People have returned to work after years of being away from the system. People have sacrificed their own health and that of their families' to join forces against this great evil. The peo-

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Isolation in Liverpool **Addie Thomas**

ple who continue to serve us in food shops, the emergency services and members of the community who continue to do for others who cannot do for themselves, glowing acts of humanity. Yet, there remains very evil acts of humanity where opportunists prey on a vulnerable world. Scam insurance companies. Scam shopping assistance where money is taken and groceries never arrive. Shops selling toilet rolls (single rolls) at £4 a pop. Theft. Burglaries. It's unfathomable, unjustifiable.

Trump, motivated by political and financial standing continues to weave a web of confusion with our Stateside 'cousins'. Many Americans told me he is dangerous, I can't help but feel that they have understated his menace. Are Americans really going to put back into office for a second time? If he does send people back to work prematurely, I suspect any major health fallout will be his ultimate undoing. Here is a man who would sell his Granny for a bit extra in the pocket perhaps? Or is the American political system so corrupt that perhaps 'interference' may see him win anyhow?

The NHS Nightingale Temporary Hospital at the Excel Centre where the St Helena Group visited for their promotion days last year emphasises the seriousness of what is to come. The group will know the size of the Excel Centre. You will know the number of patients that this centre can hold. I believe there will be beds for four thousand patients. I pray our hospital on the island does not have to contend with one case.

My parting thoughts are, "what will desperate people do?" The Government I am sure are aware that people are becoming increasingly incensed and desperate about the situation. The more draconian the measures, the more incensed and desperate people will get? What could be the fallout? People continue to go into work because they cannot see an alternative. They would rather risk their health and the health of others than to be at home with no work, no income and the consequences of these two life-changing scenarios.

As I sat in St Nicholas' Church gardens overlooking the Mersey, I felt very much alone. No one could talk to me, no one could sit next to me and the gravity of this situation for those who can feel this and so much more began to descend upon me. Being a St Helenian without conversation is like asking a dog not to bark. Yet, with the warm sun on my skin and the birds chirping, I felt incredibly blessed, but what to the people who carry the weight of this crisis upon their shoulders with every waking minute?

It is the small things in life that we now need to remain grateful for, celebrate and cling to with all our might. Let us offer a smile where we can. Let us speak kindly to and of others where we can. Let us wave kindly as we go about our business. Let us believe that through this extremely difficult time, we as humans will grow and become far more grateful.

Be safe, be sensible and good luck folks.

Armchair Supporters View with Nick Stevens

There is no indication of when football will re-commence. There are so many uncertainties. Personally I can't see any football taking place in April. The other worry the Premier League chiefs will have is that contracts will come to an end in June. This is not only players' contracts but sponsor contracts as well. Players who could miss out on the conclusion of the 2019/2020 Premier League season are: David Silva (Man City) Jan Vertonghen (Spurs), Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth) Joe Hart (Burnley) Olivier Giroud (Chelsea), Leighton Baines (Everton) Willian (Chelsea) Adam Lallana (Liverpool) Matty Longstaff (Newcastle) and Shane Long (Southampton).

Life without Premier League football is certainly painful as English top flight football is the continuation of the greatest story ever told.

In the opening season of 1992/93, 22 clubs competed in the competition, with Brian Deane of Sheffield United scoring the first goal in what was known at the time as the FA Premier League.

The inaugural members of the Premier League were: Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea, Coventry City, Crystal Palace, Everton, Ipswich Town, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Norwich City, Nottingham Forest, Oldham Athletic, Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Utd, Sheffield Wednesday, South-

ampton, Tottenham Hotspur, and Wimbledon.

A total of 49 clubs have played in the Premier League since its inception, with Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Man Utd, and Spurs participating in every campaign to date.

Brighton & Hove Albion and Huddersfield Town is the most recent clubs to have played in the league.

At the end of each season, the bottom three clubs are relegated, with three promoted clubs from the Football League's Championship replacing them.

The only exception to this was in the 1994/95 season when the League decided to reduce the number of clubs to 20. As a result, Crystal Palace joined Norwich, Leicester City and Ipswich in being relegated from the Premier League at the end of the 1994/95 season, with only two clubs replacing them from Division One, as the Championship was known then.

Between 1993 and 2016, each season of the Premier League had a title sponsor. From the 1993/94 season, it was known as the FA Carling Premiership, before the sponsorship changed in 2001 to Barclaycard until 2004.

The title of the competition then changed to the FA Barclays

Armchair Supporters View with Nick Stevens

Premiership. It became the Barclays Premier League from the 2007/08 campaign.

The 2015/16 season was the final one having a title sponsor, with the competition becoming the Premier League from 2016/17.

Manchester United were the first winners of the competition, finishing 10 points clear of Aston Villa, and have been PL champions on 13 occasions in total. Blackburn won the title once, in 1994/95, while Arsenal triumphed in 1997/98, 2001/02 and 2003/04.

Chelsea became the fourth club to win the PL, in 2004/05, and have since gone on to claim the title four more times: 2005/06, 2009/10, 2014/15 and 2016/17.

Man City has won the title four times, securing the trophy in dramatic fashion in 2011/12 with a goal in stoppage time of the final day, and again in 2013/14.

Leicester became the sixth club to win the Premier League, completing a remarkable title triumph a year after a late but successful battle against relegation.

The most successful manager in the competition is Sir Alex Ferguson, who has guided Manchester United to all their Premier League successes. He also holds the record for being the longest-serving manager in the Premier League, spending 21 years at Old Trafford since its inception in 1992 before retiring at the end of the 2012/13 season.

Ryan Giggs participated in every title-winning year for Manchester United and the Welshman amassed 632 appearances, behind only Gareth Barry's 653 for Premier League appearances.

Former Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and Southampton forward Alan Shearer is the Premier League top scorer with 260 goals. He is one of only two players to surpass the 200 mark - along with Wayne Rooney.

From the 2001/02 season, clubs who finish in the top four places qualify for the UEFA Champions League, while the



Manchester United the Inaugural winners of the Premier League in 1993

See if you can name everyone in the photo, will print names next week

team ending the campaign in fifth get to play in the UEFA Europa League. Further places can become available to teams in sixth and seventh depending on whether teams in the top five win the EFL Cup or FA Cup.

There has been an increase in English representation in Europe since the start of the Premier League, when, in the opening season, only the champions qualified for the UEFA Champions League, with the second and third-placed clubs entering the UEFA Cup, as the UEFA Europa League was then known.

What's happening at New Horizons?

As a result of precautionary measures due to the fear of Covid -19 the New Horizons closed all activities. We will continue to monitor the situation and liaise with our Chairman and Committee in regards when we will re-open for activities.

With many uncertainties in regards to this deadly virus we at New Horizons are exercising extreme caution and wish to encourage Social Distancing.

In the meantime we the New Horizons staff have taken advantage of the closure to renovate and repair. Currently we have painted the games room and replace the flooring. We managed to repair the Air Hockey table and one pool table we also install some Xbox equipment in the games room.

THE ANCHOR CLOTHING SHOP

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH MUCH DELIBERATION, WE HAVE DECIDED TO CLOSE THE ANCHOR SHOPS IN JAMESTOWN AND KUNJIE FIELD WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, AS A PRECAUTION TO THE COVID-19.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CUSTOM OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS AND SINCERELY HOPE WE WILL BE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

STAY SAFE.

PETER & JEAN FOWLER, KUNJIE FIELD. TEL: 24044



ALLSTARZ SCOOP T20



Levelwood Allstarz picked up their second title of the season after a relatively comfortable win against Jamestown Heat on Saturday afternoon. The win took them level on points with Royal Challengers, however, a superior net run rate meant they earned the title of RMS T20 Cup Champions.

Heat batted first and posted a competitive total of 154 thanks to a stunning innings of 88 from Scott Crowie.

Allstarz batted comfortably during the run chase. Despite Damien O'Bey returning bowling figures of 2/29, Ross Henry

batted beautifully and made 77 to break the back of the chase. Allstarz crossed the line in the 17th over.

In other matches Woodpeckers comfortably defeated Lions on Saturday morning and put in a repeat performance to defeat Mustangs on Sunday morning. Lions played their second match of the weekend on Sunday afternoon. They came up against David Young and the Pirates. Young struck an unbeaten 103 to lead Pirates to a convincing victory.

RESULTS

RMS T20 Cup 2020

Sat 21 Mar 2020

Lions 34 **Woodpeckers 36/3**

Frazer Stone 9 Mark Anthony 17
Wayne Crowie 5 Chris Thomas 7
Martin Cranfield 2/7 Ralph Knipe 3/12
Rhys Crowie 1/9 Ashton Benjamin 3/12

Performance Points

A Benjamin 3, R Knipe 2, M Anthony 1

Heat 154/6 **Allstarz 156/6**

Scott Crowie 88 Ross Henry 76
Dax Richards 21 Sanjay Clingham 21
Damien O'Bey 2/28 Ross Henry 1/23
Scott Crowie 1/29 David Francis 1/24

Performance Points

R Henry 3, S Crowie 2, D O'Bey 1

Sun 22 Mar 2020

Woodpeckers 170/3 **Mustangs 107/6**

Gary Benjamin 55 Luke Bennett 35*
Ashton Benjamin 41* Callum Ellick 27
Ashton Benjamin 2/13 Andy Williams 2/13
Ralph Knipe 1/14 Luke Bennett 1/31

Performance Points

G Benjamin 3, A Benjamin 2, C Ellick 1

Pirates 253/2 **Lions 92**

David Young 103* Martin Cranfield 22
Matthew Benjamin 61 Philip Yon 14
Rhys Francis 3/16 Dan Marlow 1/38
Aaron Legg 2/12 Philip Yon 1/47

Performance Points

D Young 3, M Benjamin 2, I Williams 1

FIXTURES

Sat 28 Mar 2020

T20 District

1.30 pm

Jamestown **V** **Lelvelwood**

Umpires: St Pauls

Sun 29 Mar 2020

9.30 am

Half Tree Hollow **V** **St Pauls**

Umpires: Levelwood

1.30 pm

Longwood **V** **Sandy Bay**

Umpires: Jamestown

RMS T20 Table

	Games Played	Games Won	Games Lost	Points	Runs Scored	Overs Batted	Runs Conceded	Overs Bowled	Net RunRate
Levelwood Allstars	6	5	1	15	788	75.00	780	120.00	4.007
Royal Challengers	6	5	1	15	890	95.00	665	120.00	3.827
Jamestown Heat	6	4	2	12	1093	110.17	752	116.33	3.457
Sandy Bay Pirates	6	4	2	12	1099	115.67	836	113.67	2.147
Woodpeckers	6	2	4	6	683	102.17	753	94.83	-1.255
Mustangs	6	1	5	3	639	114.17	857	87.00	-4.253
Lions	6	0	6	0	578	100.00	1127	90.33	-6.696

Covid-19 and animals

Joe Hollins



and travel are now incredibly interconnected, whereas most species of animals stay relatively local – birds excepted. Two centuries and more ago this would have remained a minor local disease outbreak in the backcountry of China, and we'd be none the wiser.

What perhaps distinguishes the previous 2 outbreaks of coronavirus – that is, MERS and SARS – from Covid-19 is their very high death rate but much less effective spread. MERS especially was and is lethal to 1 in 3 patients (Source: WHO & CDC). But there have been just 2,500 cases of MERS and 8,000 cases of SARS in all of history. Yet we now have a true pandemic – Covid-19 at the time of writing is pushing 400,000 known tested cases, and almost certainly a lot more untested. How come? Because Covid-19's relatively lower death rate and large number of spreaders with mild symptoms gives it the power to survive.

The sensible question arose only this week, can pets transmit the virus? It has, after all, come from animals in the first place. Are animals helping the spread of Covid-19? Animal reservoirs, that is animals acting as a store and source of infection, are a major problem with some diseases such as ebola, which is why the World Health Organisation is trying to identify the true source of this outbreak so that it can, perhaps, be eliminated or at least controlled.

In fact, there have been two other coronavirus epidemics in the past: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012. Both viruses still exist, but in sporadic outbreaks. Covid-19 is most closely related to the older of the two, SARS, sharing very similar sequences of genetic material, and both starting in China. And yes – they came from animals too. In fact 75% of all newly emerging diseases come from the animal world. This is not to say that animals are the source of all our illnesses, but more that the animal world with all its diverse species is vast – much vaster than humanity – and all the different species have their own viruses, bacteria and parasites. Man is just one species in this great web of life – something we all too often forget. All 3 coronaviruses are believed to have originated in bats, and then probably via bat droppings into and through other species such as the camel (MERS) and possibly the pangolin (Covid-19). And then to humans.

It's no surprise to vets that a virus has made a leap from one species to another. Anyone who has had a pet in the UK will know that we vaccinate dogs against parvovirus, a vicious vomiting and diarrhoea virus. It started as an epidemic in dogs in about 1982. It's source? Cats. It's an old disease in cats only we call it feline infectious enteritis, and we've always vaccinated against it. Cats and dogs live in close proximity, so a virus mutation – something viruses do a lot of – allowed it to make the leap.

Such leaps happen frequently, but usually not to such a devastating degree as causing a pandemic. However, humans

To explain... A virus is an incomplete organism, barely a life form at all, and is utterly dependent on having a host – in this case us. I remember at university our lecturer saying a virus is like a pirate. It enters the body, but can do no real damage until it has multiplied itself up to disease-causing numbers. This is the incubation period, only unlike for chicken eggs we're the incubator! To do this it penetrates our mammalian cells and literally hijacks their mechanisms to replicate its genetic material – very much like breaking into a factory and using your own mould to make numerous copies. These plentiful copies then burst out and do their business, provoking inflammation and then escaping in our coughs and sneezes (for respiratory viruses) to find new hosts to carry on and multiply the process. For the virus, it's simply a survival strategy – and pretty clever it is too.

But no host, and the virus cannot reproduce. It starves. Sooner or later it has to die. Hence the 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' we've all been asked to do. It follows though that a virus which seriously harms its host has less time to spread and infect other new hosts. Covid-19 is spreading so well partly because it is actually less harmful than MERS or SARS, but of course it means, as the figures already tell you, that in terms of real numbers it can infect many more people and cause many more deaths. And so we have a pandemic.

Logically then the question arises, can our pets and live-stock act as hosts? Do they add to the outbreak and worsen the situation by helping to multiply up the virus? Happily the answer, at least at the moment, is no. All the evidence so far is that the virus has made its transition to a new host species – the human – and does not particularly like our domesticated species of dogs, cats, cattle, goats and so on. What has muddied the waters was that early on in the outbreak it was much reported that a 17 year old dog in Hong Kong twice tested weakly positive to Covid-19 after its owner contracted the disease. These were swabs from the nose and throat picking up tiny sequences of viral genetic material –

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Covid-19 and animals

Joe Hollins

not whole virus - and in fact subsequent tests were negative. The dog was a Pomeranian, one of those small cuddly 'handbag' breeds, and was probably constantly smothered with kisses and cuddles by its virus-secreting owner, a 60 year old lady. On top of that it is likely the dog licked her face which would have been teaming with Covid-19. So they think this is an example of straight physical contamination, although the virus was probably very happy to live for a good few hours in the dog's warm, moist and comfy respiratory tract. Sadly, the dog has since died, but without any symptoms of Covid-19. Simply old age and stress - being quarantined away from its caring owner and subjected to a confusing and terrifying ordeal of endless tests by strange people in strange masks and strange outfits.

Nonetheless, the leading authorities do make a couple of recommendations regarding pets and livestock. It is general good practice to maintain high standards of hygiene after handling animals: washing hands and avoiding contamination of the household with dirty clothes and boots. After all it is almost certainly poor hygiene in Chinese animal markets

that has set off this terrible and costly chain of events. Specifically though if someone has symptoms of Covid-19, they should not touch livestock or pets for the infective period of 7 days – a very difficult thing to resist, as pets often both expect it and demand it. This is just a precaution.

What about the other way around – are we a threat to animals? The surprising answer is – yes. In the face of this pandemic and the deaths Covid-19 is causing, it sounds trivial to worry about other animals, but the gorillas and chimpanzees of central Africa have always been endangered by our diseases such as measles and the common cold, so closely are they related to us. I've seen the Mountain and Lowland Gorillas in the Congo when their numbers were on the brink of extinction – quite magnificent animals. Since then, poaching patrols and conservation efforts have allowed their numbers to recover, but something like Covid-19 could actually lead to their extinction. For that reason the gorilla parks of Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo are closed. Humankind will go on, Covid-19 will pass, but we also have to keep a watchful eye on our hairy cousins.



Foreign travellers turned around and sent home from SA airports

By Peter Fabricius and Carien du Plessis • 21 March 2020

Citizens from high-risk countries arriving at South African airports were left in the lurch on Friday as travel ban regulations kicked into force while they were in mid-air.

Embassies in Pretoria of countries on South Africa's 10-country travel ban list are scrambling to get their nationals — and some staff members — home after SAA cancelled all international flights and foreign airlines announced plans to cancel or cut back.

There was confusion and disappointment at airports on Friday as the travel ban kicked in, with only South African citizens and those with permanent residence being allowed to disembark. Hundreds of nationals from high-risk countries, including Iran, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, China and the US were turned back without leaving their planes.

Twenty flights — from SAA, British Airways, Air China, Virgin Atlantic, Lufthansa, Air France and Kulula — were affected. Transport minister Fikile Mbalula, flanked by airport officials, held another face-to-face media conference at OR Tambo International Airport on Friday night about the matter — with Covid-19 social distancing seemingly not applicable to politi-

cians.

"I want to dismiss the false information going around that the airports are closed or closing. No airport is closing, all operations are normal," he said, while confirming that hundreds of people were turned away from South Africa's international airports.

"Those aircraft arrived here today (on Friday) because by the time the regulations and the Notam was issued, they were already leaving or ready for take-off in their countries of origin," he said by way of explaining the confusion that ensued.

A notam, or notice to airmen, is filed with an aviation authority to alert pilots of hazards along the way or at airports where they are scheduled to land. Since the travel ban, a number of airlines have cancelled their scheduled flights and more are expected to follow suit, said Mbalula.

OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, Cape Town International Airport and King Shaka International Airport in Durban are the only airports where passengers from high-risk countries will be processed under the regulations issued. South Africans returning from high-risk countries will,

Foreign travellers turned around and sent home from SA airports

By Peter Fabricius and Carien du Plessis • 21 March 2020

however, still be allowed to return, "because constitutionally we have no right to stop South Africans from coming home", Mbalula said.

These passengers will be screened by port health authorities after being transported to the provincial centres for disease control to be examined and informed about the applicable quarantine measures, he said.

CEO of Airports Company South Africa, Mpumi Mpofu, said ACSA, state agencies and the Home Affairs and Health departments were co-ordinating activities to manage the passage of passengers from high-risk countries.

"Port health and the Department of Home Affairs go on the flight and screen those people on the flight and determine if they are South African citizens," she said. "Once there is a determination that they are South African citizens, we have allowed for buses to be taken to the airport site where South Africans will be screened."

Mbalula mentioned the example of an Air China flight which landed on Friday morning and from which 80 South African citizens disembarked, while the 68 Chinese citizens on board were forced to return to China.

"Passengers are asked to contact their airlines for further details," Mbalula said. He said a number of flights had already been cancelled and more would be cancelled in the coming days.

Delta and United Airlines, the only airlines other than SAA to fly directly between South Africa and the US, are rumoured to be among the operators affected.

American nationals, including diplomats posted in South Africa, have been especially frantic. Diplomats have been told by the US State Department that they may leave their posts and return home if they fear being exposed to the virus in host countries.

Meanwhile, the British High Commission has been fully occupied in helping British nationals get home. "We're not doing much else right now," British High Commissioner to South Africa Nigel Casey said.

BA and Virgin Atlantic will be working hard in the next week or so to repatriate British nationals.

Casey said he was doing everything possible to keep air travel open between South Africa and the UK, despite the South African ban on incoming British nationals.

"Our understanding is that British Airways will continue flying here," he told *Daily Maverick*, though adding that all airlines would have to reassess their positions daily as the crisis unfolded.

Casey said all airlines made their money from business-class seats and cargo. "For the rest, at the back, they just break even."

Cargo was not affected by South Africa's ban on travel and cargo holds were likely to remain full. Together with South

Africans returning from the UK, this should provide enough business for BA, he said, even if economy class is not always full.

The people heading back to the UK include many who have been on holiday or business in Southern Africa, or in places like St Helena in the Atlantic Ocean, or on cruise ships.

He praised South African authorities for interpreting the ban on incoming British nationals flexibly, allowing transit passengers to pass through OR Tambo Airport en route. Two such passengers included a couple from Northern Ireland who found themselves stranded on the tarmac of Lanseria Airport for 36 hours after returning from a birthday trip to Zimbabwe by private charter. They were eventually allowed to transit to Cape Town to catch their flight home.

Casey said the High Commission was helping to move British nationals to OR Tambo from cruise ships such as the German-operated Aida Mira, which is now docked in Cape Town.

Casey told eNCA TV news channel, when asked about how travel restrictions would affect trade, that "overwhelming focus has to be on saving lives and defeating Covid-19. Everyone else is secondary. That's our priority in South Africa. We're working flat-out to help our nationals." He added that the UK was ready to share its experiences in dealing with the coronavirus with African countries, as the virus had hit Britain earlier and advanced further.

The German Embassy was also trying to negotiate its way around travel restrictions and get German citizens out of South Africa while they can, using social media and a hotline to inform Germans about how to leave. German national carrier Lufthansa, along with the Dutch KLM and others, were still flying to Europe on Friday.

US ambassador Lana Marks said the safety and security of US citizens abroad was her highest priority.

"We are continuously assessing travel conditions and will continue to update our travel advisories and safety information for US travelers as situations evolve," she said.

"US citizens should monitor the relevant embassy or consulate website and enroll in step.state.gov for the most up-to-date information," said Marks. She urged US citizens in countries where there were still flights to immediately return to the US, unless they were prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period.

"US citizens who live abroad should avoid all international travel," she added.

On Thursday the US Department of State issued a travel advisory urging such US citizens to avoid the global impact of Covid-19.

Plagues to Pandemics

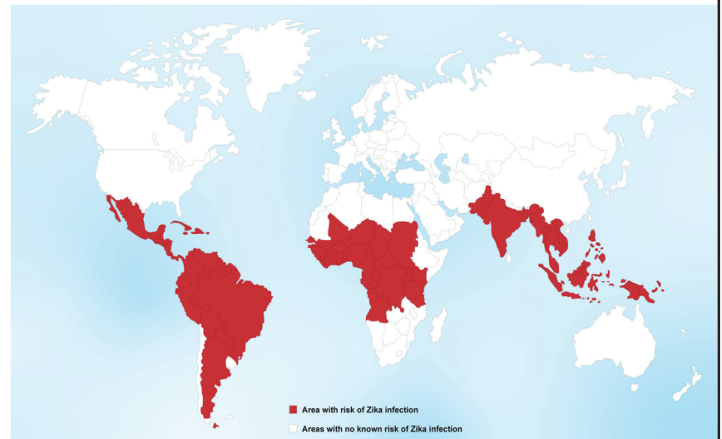
The first plague recorded in history was over 400 years before the birth of Christ. Up to 100,000 people were thought to have died from the **Plague of Athens**, which in turn was thought to have been typhoid fever or a similar disease. The **Antonine Plague**, 165 years after the birth of Christ was certainly not the next plague, there were several between, but it was the biggest known plague up to that time. Brought back to Europe by troops of the Roman Empire after military campaigns in what is now Iraq and Syria it wiped out maybe 10 million people from around the Mediterranean and was probably smallpox. Some historians say the Antonine Plague paved the way for the decline of the Roman Empire.

The **Plague of Justinian** about three centuries later claimed the lives of almost half the population of Europe. Brought in by rats carrying infected fleas the Plague of Justinian took up to 100 million lives, the infection (*Yersinia pestis*) has been traced to the high peaks of Central Asia which borders on to China. Some estimate the death rate in Istanbul alone may have been 5,000 per day at the height of the plague. The same bug erupted once more in a very major way in the 14th century and spread across Europe, Asia and North Africa. Called the Black Death, up to 200 million Europeans are thought to have died from it. *Yersinia pestis* surfaced once more in 1855 and first ravaged China (where it originated) and Asia where about 12 million died before the flea infestation borne by rats aboard ships carried the 3rd bubonic plague across the world. The World Health Organisation considered this plague active until 1960 when infections dropped to 200 per year.

In 1889-90, 1 million people in the northern hemisphere died from a particularly nasty strain of influenza. Originating in St Petersburg, it spread across to North America a month later. Improvements in modern transport systems were seen as the reason the virus spread so quickly. Around 30 years later another flu virus ravaged the world and took up to 100 million lives. Starting in January 1918 it continued until December 1920. It infected about a quarter of the world population of that time – 500 million people. The same strain of influenza returned in 2009, this time under the name of swine flu. Between 700 million and 1.4 billion are thought to have contracted swine flu but the number of deaths, worldwide, due to this train of flu virus was about 500 to 600,000; the usual number of deaths every year from seasonal flu according to the World Health Organisation.

This century there have been six pandemics, that is infectious disease outbreaks that have spread to most parts of the world. First there was SARS in 2002-04, Swine flu in 2009, MERS from 2012 to the present day, Ebola from 2013 and continuing, Zika virus 2015-16, and Covid-19. Mumps also continues to erupt every year in various parts of the world, joining Dengue fever, Measles, Cholera, Yellow fever, Hepatitis, Chikungunya, Hand, foot and mouth, Meningitis, Bubonic plague, Poliomyelitis, Malaria and Leishmaniasis which have erupted in various parts of the world with varying regularity and scale during the first two decades of this century.

The Zika virus was first detected in monkeys in 1947. In 1952



it was detected in humans. The infection is transmitted mainly by mosquitoes; the first large outbreak in humans was in 2007 in Micronesia, by 2015 it had crossed the Pacific and was in Brazil. The infection moved across Latin America and the Caribbean with the mosquito and crossed to Cape Verde in 2016. Beyond the area where the *Aedes* mosquito is active, international travel is expected to carry the disease further afield.

POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION THEFT AT PENSPEN'S TEMPORARY AIRPORT FUEL SITE

St Helena Police are currently investigating a theft which occurred at Penspen's Temporary Airport Fuel Site (formerly known as Tank 6), situated on Wainwright Way on the Access (Haul) Road, which occurred between Tuesday, 21 January, and Monday, 24 February 2020.



This photo shows a Hydraulic Bench Press, similar to the one that was stolen

As a result of this theft, a 10-tonne Hydraulic Bench Press was removed from a container at this location along with two bags of terry towel rags and one and a half boxes of blue paper hand towels.

Any information on this incident, regardless of how minor it may seem, can be provided in the strictest of confidence to St Helena Police via telephone: 22626 or email the investigating officer Police Constable, T-Jay Coleman, via email:

t-jay.coleman@sainthelena.gov.sh or
mark.morrison@sainthelena.gov.sh. Alternatively you can speak to a Police Officer of your choice.

SHG
26 March 2020

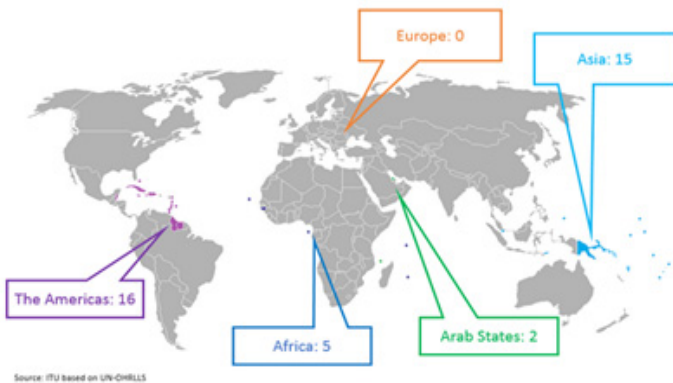
St Helena to be a SIDS

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is called SIDS to save time but the initials also stand for Small Island Developing States. This week Exco confirmed that St Helena should adopt the status of Small Island Developing State. A government deciding to call itself a SIDS is the easy part; you just do it. Making practical use of SIDS status requires some extra work.

Small Island Developing States were recognised as a distinct group of developing countries facing specific social, economic and environmental problems at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Earth Summit was organised by the United Nations and the official recognition of SIDS as a representative group was confirmed in the UN report of the Earth Summit. The 1992 conference report confirmed UN recognition and described the aims of SIDS as assisting and supporting global environmental actions to protect the world's oceans. The main aim, as cited in the UN conference report is the, "Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones."

In 2012 at a further UN conference on sustainable development it was noted, "that SIDS have "unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters." It is evident representations to the United Nations from Small Island Developing States has widened to include additional environmental considerations and the disadvantages of restricted economic choices and opportunities available to SIDS.

Where are the SIDS



In order for SIDS status to be meaningful, St Helena needs to join a UN Regional Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) is recommended by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who are fully supportive of this move subject to certain conditions. The main proviso being that membership fees for joining an international organisation are not prohibitively expensive with no practical advantages being achieved from membership. Another possibility, a little further down the road could be applying to be a borrowing member of the Caribbean Development Bank. This membership does cost money and any decision should be held back until after membership of UNECLAC has been resolved.

Because St Helena is not a sovereign state only associate membership can be applied for. However Montserrat has already joined SIDS as an associate member and been successful in obtaining finance from the Caribbean Development Bank for the development of its port. Other British Overseas Territories are also associate members of UNECLAC, they are, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks & Caicos. Despite the name of this UN Regional Commission specifying Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no geographical limitation on full membership or associate membership.

At this stage SHG are moving forward with caution towards becoming involved with developing relations with United Nations organisations and other organisations sponsored by the UN. However it is accepted that SIDS status is more useful if St Helena is a members of a UN Regional Commission. The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Commission is favoured for two reasons; first, it is the largest of the three regional commissions and secondly, all the other British Overseas Territories with SIDS status are associate members of that regional commission.

In addition to possible financing opportunities via the Caribbean Development Bank there are other international groups which St Helena could be affiliated to, through membership of SIDS, which can help in getting recognition, co-operation and assistance in the development of this Island's economic and environmental aims.

Jyri Jantti, an International Consultant with the United Nations Development Programme for the islands of Sao Tome and Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, off the coast of West Africa told the Independent, "In a global system where a handful of big actors have most of the power to affect world affairs, its important for the small ones to form groups to make their voices heard. SIDS face very unique problems and it's important for them to present their voices united when discussing on the global stage. From the perspective of an individual country, it also functions as a platform to amplify one's voice, to bring attention and create change that might otherwise be overheard."

Sao Tome and Principe is a sovereign state and therefore one of the nine SIDS who are full members of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea UN Regional Commission (AIMS) region.



OneWeb has expressed a strong interest in setting up ground stations in St Helena to link data from their satellite constellations to the Equiano Cable.



OneWeb increases mega-constellation to 74 satellites

By Jonathan Amos BBC Science correspondent

The London-based start-up OneWeb launched another big batch of satellites on Saturday.

A Soyuz rocket lifted off from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, carrying 34 more spacecraft into orbit to continue the build-up of the firm's broadband internet constellation.

The mission took place despite the coronavirus pandemic, which has limited much space activity elsewhere.

It also comes amid rumours the firm may consider seeking bankruptcy protection.

A report by Bloomberg on Thursday said OneWeb was examining different options it could use to stave off the difficulties of a cash crunch.

A spokesperson wouldn't comment on those rumours, telling BBC News only that OneWeb was "focused 100% on launch". The Soyuz rocket left the Kazakh spaceport right on schedule at 22:06 local time (17:06 GMT) on Saturday.

Its payload took the current size of the start-up's constellation to 74 satellites. Forty spacecraft were lofted in two previous launches.

The completed network aims to achieve an orbital configuration of approximately 650 satellites, with internet access becoming available first for some customers at northern latitudes, before eventually being offered globally.

OneWeb is in a race with a number of other companies that want to provide the same kind of service.

California entrepreneur Elon Musk is developing his Starlink constellation which envisages thousands of connected satellites. Likewise, Jeff Bezos, the boss of Amazon and the world's wealthiest individual, has proposed a system he calls Kuiper. What they all are trying to do is very expensive. OneWeb has raised so far £2.6bn to fund its activities, but will need much more than this to fulfil all its plans.

It has a huge contracted launch campaign with European rocket operator Arianespace. Most of its Soyuz flights are supposed to be carried out from Baikonur, but a number are also expected to be conducted from the new Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's far east.

The stated OneWeb plan is to have its completed constellation in place by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021.

How achievable that is given the disruption created by the coronavirus pandemic remains to be seen. The aerospace industry, like much of the global economy, is having to implement contingency measures, including putting restrictions on the movement of equipment and personnel.

Arianespace, for example, has already suspended all launches from the European spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

After Saturday's launch, OneWeb accentuated the positives. In a statement issued by the start-up, CEO Adrian Steckel said: "In these unprecedented times following the global outbreak of Covid-19, people around the world find themselves trying to continue their lives and work online. We see the need for OneWeb, greater now more than ever before.

"High-quality connectivity is the lifeline to enabling people to work, continue their education, stay up to date on important healthcare information and stay meaningfully connected to one another. The crisis has demonstrated the imperative need for connectivity everywhere and has exposed urgent shortcomings in many organizations' connectivity capabilities. Our satellite network is poised to fill in many of these critical gaps in the global communications infrastructure."

SoftBank's OneWeb to Consider Bankruptcy as Cash Dwindles

By

Eliza Ronalds-Hannon, Gillian Tan, Lauren Coleman-Lochner, and Giles Turner

Business faces high-profile competition, uncertain regulation OneWeb, the satellite operator backed by SoftBank Group Corp., is mulling a possible bankruptcy filing to address a cash crunch as it grapples with high costs and stiff competition, according to people with knowledge of the preparations. The company is considering seeking court protection even as it continues to review possible out-of-court alternatives, said the people, who asked not to be named discussing private company plans.

OneWeb would be among the first SoftBank-backed companies to file for bankruptcy. A spokeswoman for SoftBank, which is OneWeb's largest investor, declined to comment. A spokesperson for OneWeb declined to comment. London-based OneWeb makes so-called low-Earth orbit satellites that provide high-speed communications, and it has raised approximately \$3.3 billion in debt and equity financing from shareholders including SoftBank, Airbus SE and Qualcomm Inc. since its inception, according to filings.

It faces high-profile competition, including from Elon Musk's SpaceX Starlink project and Jeff Bezos's Amazon-linked Project Kuiper effort, while incumbents in the space include Inmarsat, Intelsat SA and Eutelsat Communications SA. And while the technology is in its early stages, the business is subject not only to high startup costs but an uncertain regulatory environment.

On that front, SoftBank has ramped up lobbying efforts in Washington, Bloomberg has reported, including in support of measures that would allow OneWeb to provide Internet access from more of its satellites.

Sure South Atlantic slammed for service failures

Sure South Atlantic was heavily criticised for the three-and-a-half hour long breakdown in internet and email connections on Wednesday. A comment on Face Book stated:-

“Just at the time when St Helena has lost its only air link until at least April 20th due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the island’s telecoms monopolist, Sure South Atlantic, has once again suffered an Internet blackout lasting for 3.5 hours during which islanders were left in total isolation. It began today, March 25th, at 16:02 GMT coinciding with a sun outage predicted already weeks ago but instead of the anticipated 4 minutes it cut St Helena off for 3.5 long hours.”

The Face Book comment went on to accuse Sure South Atlantic of not complying with international standards for the operation of their telecom systems in St Helena and implied this is a contributory factor for the unreliability of their service.



Can Sure move into the modern era?

This criticism follows a report last week which claimed the advantages for St Helena from the Equiano Cable link are threatened by a dispute between SHG and Sure South Atlantic over its telecom monopoly. Among the several points of disagreement the report last week on the Spectrum website pointed out that Sure simply cannot handle the extra data rates the Equiano connection will deliver and there is little incentive for Sure to upgrade or repair their telecom infrastructure except in the direst circumstances.

Despite this Sure has a contractual right of compensation for all telecom infrastructure assets and this may mean SHG having to pay £4 to £5 million in compensation if the contract with Sure is not renewed in December 2022. It is uncertain whether the £millions quoted takes into account the depreciation of the assets.

The report also quotes Councillor Cyril Leo in a speech made to Legislative Council when he said, “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 Saint Helena.”

Other problems with retaining Sure’s telecom monopoly in St Helena include the arrival of unlimited broadband which will put the traditional telecom services Sure provide at risk. The report quotes Christian von der Ropp who describes a situation where Saints will move away from traditional phone and television services in favour of messaging and streaming services such as Skype, WhatsApp and Netflix. If fewer people stay with phones and TV it means people will be turning their backs on Sure’s telecom packages leaving Sure with less revenue. To make back this revenue von der Ropp points to one option which is for Sure to raise the price of internet access to St Helena for Skype, Netflix and the rest.

The Netflix logo, consisting of the word "NETFLIX" in white capital letters on a red background.

Netflix or DVD rental?



WhatsApp messaging not £1 a min phone calls

Another problem is that Sure South Atlantic’s telecom infrastructure is incapable of meeting the demand for high speed data which is now normal in most parts of the world. Von der Ropp maintains Sure have little incentive to upgrade their telecom infrastructure and this could mean satellite operators lose interest in using St Helena as a hub for global data transmission. If this happens, the whole financial structure planned to keep the Equiano Cable operational and Saints well connected with the rest of the world at reasonable rates is in severe danger.

The report ends by observing, “What remains to be seen is if the island can actually find a way to remove that corporate monopoly.” BBC World Service has been off the air for an extended period and the television service also suffers from regular breaks in the signal reception.

TO HECK WITH TOILET PAPER! I JUST BOUGHT DRYER SHEETS AND MY BUTT SMELLS LIKE LAVENDER AND ROSES AND THERE IS NO STATIC ELECTRICITY



AND BY THE WAY MY OLD ASS IS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS NOW WRINKLE FREE!

OPENING HOURS



We're changing our Customer Care opening hours. There will be no more Saturday opening until further notice.

MONDAY	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
TUESDAY	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
WEDNESDAY	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
THURSDAY	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
FRIDAY	9am to 1pm 1.30am to 3pm
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Directory Enquiries 22222 and Customer Service Enquiries 22900 will be available from 8am to 4pm from Mon-Fri.
121 Free Fault Line available 24/7