

SENTINEL

Vol. 9, Issue 36 - Price: £1

"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"

Thursday 03 December 2020



Governor calls elected members "disgrace" during protest



Bradley's has been over capacity?

Art exhibition raising money for charity



Xmas Card winners chosen



John is back



- Also inside...**
- Decorated soldier going to trial for threats to kill
 - Names of new status holders no longer published
 - Weekend events

OPINION SENTINEL COMMENT

Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS

It is fortunate we live in a society that allows peaceful protests where we can show publicly that we object to something.

This was showcased at the overwhelmingly attended public meeting at the HTH Community Centre last Wednesday evening, Nov. 25.

It was unfortunate that elected representatives, apart from the three meeting organisers, were not present to hear first-hand or even participate in the discussion.

The current public discontent stems from Executive Council (sitting as the IEG) making the unprecedented decision to approve home quarantine for all arrivals to St Helena from January, amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Home isolation, it has been said, should only be allowed if the government can provide 24-hour security and robust monitoring; apparently it can't. So, apart from instances where it is scientifically proven it is unsafe for an individual to isolate at Bradley's Camp (purposely set up for quarantine against the killer virus), it seems reasonable all quarantine should take place there.

IEG members, in support of home quarantine, said people in future will follow the rules simply because no one in St Helena has yet been proven to have broken home quarantine. The IEG should revisit its strategy because where is their actual evidence that arrivals will always obey the rules?

There is also misconception that home quarantine will police itself – because “everybody knows everybody” and “everybody knows each other's business.” That may have been the case 30 years ago, but today it is a myth.

121 people at the meeting felt so fearful that the current Executive Council would continue making decisions that could potentially put lives at risk, that they requested the current ExCo membership be revoked in accordance with the Constitution.

Since the meeting I have spoken with community members, seeking their stances on our government agreeing home quarantine. Looking towards his family, one of them said, “I do not have the right to agree with any arrangements that potentially will endanger the lives of others.” Who among us would not see this as a valid argument?

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YOUR LETTERS

Daughter Patricia, sons Martin, Anthony & Cody along with the rest of the family of the late **Anne Muriel Phillips**, who passed away peacefully on Sunday the 18th October would like to thank the following Doctors and nurses of the General Hospital for giving their care and attention she needed.

To Melvin Benjamin, Keith Yon & Wayne Crowie for kindly providing the buses.

To all of you who kindly donated flowers, Davina & Colin for making the wreaths & Roy's Enterprises.

Bishop Dale and Deacons for the service.

And last to all of you for the calls & messages of condolences.

*Death leaves a HEARTACHE no one can heal
But love leaves a MEMORY that no one can steal.*

Looking for a lady name Dorothy Thomas who went to work in the UK in 1961 and returned to St Helena in 1962. Contact Vicky on email: vajapz@yahoo.co.uk

**For Sale:
One black Yamaha PSR 770 in excellent condition. For further details please call 25623 after 4pm**

Dear Editor,

Examining St Helena's special circumstances should help determine the decisions we make about what is best in dealing with Covid19.

• The 2016 Population Census gives us information about the reality and the number of people who are at the highest risk. It shows that St Helena is “amongst the very highest aged dependency in the world”, The number of islanders then was 4122 with 21% over the age of 65. Using working figures of 4,000 and 20% we see that there are around 800 elderly at the highest risk of the pandemic.

• We also know that the island has a high incidence of diabetes, affecting about 400 of the population. Take say half this number who are

not in the elderly category. **That makes a total of 1,000 Islanders in the highest risk category.**

• We are fortunate that we do not have Covid19 on the Island. Bradleys was set up so that anyone arriving had to be quarantined there. Improvements were made on requests from people who were quarantined, e.g. to have a mobile phone, free local phone calls and a certain level of free internet service. There was 24 hour daily surveillance of the premises.

• Any person or persons who could not be accommodated at Bradley's spent the 14 days quarantine in an empty government house at Hunt's Bank, Gordon's Post. That applied to a couple of people arriving by yacht and two persons arriving by air,

YOUR LETTERS

with the same 24 hour daily surveillance as at Bradleys.

• People working on Ascension and coming from there were allowed to home isolate for 14 days quarantine having to adhere to the Covid19 restrictions and tests without 24 daily surveillance, when that island was free of the virus. This arrangement should continue. Ascension, with St Helena and Tristan form the British South Atlantic Territories sharing the same constitution.

• The medical service has been improved, there are hospital facilities at Bradleys but when Covid 19 does come and patients need to be in intensive care there are just 3? Ventilators.

What is important is that we ascertain when the virus comes, how it was brought so we can deal with it at an early stage and minimize the risk of it spreading.

It has not been easy, posing all sorts of difficulties and challenges, but these and other measures have ensured that St Helena has remained Covid free so far..

• In the UK' it has been shown, though many people obey the rules of home isolation, some people do not, including a top Advisor to the Prime Minister and a Health Minister/Official in Scotland.

• We now have three vaccines that could be introduced before the end of the year. The British government has said it will be making available enough of the Oxford vaccines for people in the UK, those in its Overseas Territories and in the Crown Dependencies.

Making decisions about Covid 19 is always going to be difficult with each place having to address its own particular circumstances. Addressing the special circumstances of St Helena is not a matter of choosing what is said to be a better option and “educating” the public. It is about the best way or ways in which we, collectively, as a community can safeguard the large number of

vulnerable people on the island, a quarter of the St Helenian population, and minimize the risk of infection. . That surely is the goal.

How will home isolation achieve this goal? The most important aspect of home isolation is that it is stated each approved vacant accommodation cannot have 24 hour daily surveillance. Making phone calls by land line will show that a person is in, but it will not determine whether anyone has visited either during the day or at night.

Without 24 hour daily surveillance home quarantine is of a much greater risk than the present Bradleys system. There only needs to be one person who breaks the rules who is not identified or traced under the home quarantine system and the virus spreads in the community. Say 5% of the 1,000 vulnerable, 50 people who need intensive care. Of this 50, take a low number like 10 who need to be on the 3? ventilators. What will be the criteria to choose the three – first come first serve or those who are the youngest?

In addition to putting medical staff in this very difficult situation, it is understood that in the UK patients with Covid 19 in intensive care on a ventilator require continuous 24 hour nursing support. On 8 hour shifts, 3 nurses are required for each such patient. On St Helena with three ventilators, 9 nurses are required. If there are 5 ventilators on the island then 15 nurses trained in intensive care are required. What about the other needy patients who cannot be put on a ventilator? Will the Island be able to cope?. This is not putting forward a scenario that might only happen here. It has happened in certain areas in developed countries in the European Union

Whatever criticisms have been made about Bradleys, we knew what was going on and could monitor anyone who might break the rules. . Home quarantine without the 24 hour daily surveillance cannot do that. In order to meet the goal

of minimizing the risk and protecting the large number of vulnerable people, Bradleys should continue to operate. Home quarantine in approved vacant accommodation should comply with the previous procedure applied to the empty dwelling at Hunts Bank in having 24 hour daily surveillance in addition to other proposed conditions.

The added risk of infection in the home quarantine proposal without this type of surveillance is too high a risk both for life and financial cost. The availability of the Oxford vaccine is just around the corner.

Basil George



THE CONSTITUENT

Dear Electorate,

I agreed to serve on the Progress Committee because I believe the current local governance system can be improved on and will therefore do what I can to inform constituents accordingly.

Let me take the opportunity to reflect and briefly provide you with a few reasons why I believe it is time we improve on the current governance system.

Soon after the general election in 2017, my more experienced elected colleagues made me aware of the gaps and weaknesses within the current local governance system and voiced their serious concerns. I immediately sensed that openness and transparency pertaining to government business was an issue when the Secretary to Elected Members was ordered by a SHG official to stop using the SHG emailing system to send my public information articles to constituents. On closer observation over a period of time, I was able to confirm that local democracy was indeed being manipulated and controlled by some non-political associates of the elected representatives. Councillors were struggling to have proper political involvement and oversight in decision-making that impacted the local

ST HELENA NEWS

The final plane and ship of 2020

Donna Crowie & Andrew Turner, SAMS

The island has seen its last flight of 2020.

The November charter flight – the last scheduled flight until January – landed at St Helena Airport at 11:25am Monday, Dec. 1.

The touchdown was the most difficult yet encountered by the Titan flights.

“The landing conditions were challenging, with the wind varying between 9 and 44 knots at the time of touchdown,” SHG said.

The Titan Airways Boeing 757-200 overnighted at St Helena

before conducting a shuttle run to Ascension on Tuesday. The plane then overnighted at St Helena again before returning on Wednesday to London Stansted.

Seventy passengers on Monday arrived from the UK, 13 of which stayed only overnight in transit to Ascension Island.

On Tuesday a total of 41 people departed for Ascension and 77 people arrived back from Ascension, 14 of which were transiting to the UK.

The flight departed St Helena on Wednesday morning with a total of 53 passengers.

In total, this should mean the

flight brought 120 actual arrivals to St Helena and took away 94 departures.

On Monday, soon after the charter flight touched down at St Helena, the MV Helena departed Cape Town.

The vessel is now making her way to St Helena, and is expected to arrive at 6:30am Monday, Dec. 7.

Upon completion of cargo operations at St Helena the MV Helena will undertake its final 2020 voyage to Ascension Island. This is the final voyage for St Helena also during 2020.

Lots of great Christmas cards, three winners picked

Donna Crowie, SAMS

SAMS together with local business GK Crafts this year launched a Kids' Christmas Card Competition.

The closing date was extended to noon on Wednesday, Dec. 2 and that afternoon, the SAMS conference room was decked out in colourful Christmas cards for the judges to choose from.

The competition was open to all primary age children. One winner was chosen from each of three categories – the categories and the amount of entries are listed below:

- Nursery - Year 1 (8 entries)

- Year 2-4 (36 entries)

- Year 5-6 (34 entries)

This made a total of 78 cards for judges Fiona Duncan, Juliette Williams and Kerry Yon to decide upon. The judges had a very hard task as we received some amazing entries.

Each winner will receive a £10 gift voucher for GK Crafts, a colouring book and pencils and a coupon for a free slushy at Sally's DVD Hire.

And of course, not to forget their very own Christmas card design will now be available from GK Crafts.



Winners are:

Nursery-Year 1: Grace Venning

Year 2-4: Nathan Thomas (Pilling Primary)

Year 5-6: Nolan George (Pilling Primary)

Thanks to everyone who helped make this competition a success, especially GK, judges and kids for their great creativity and designs.



Grace Venning



Nathan Thomas



Nolan George

YOUR LETTERS

community. The disjointed and isolated methods of working by stakeholders at the highest level of the local government could not, and cannot, be allowed to continue. As a result of the dissatisfactions with the system of governance, all elected members at the time made collective representations to the DFID Minister, DFID officials, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, Governor Honan and SHG officials. Such were the serious ongoing concerns and frustrations of your elected representatives.

The Charter of the United Nations places an obligation on the United Kingdom to promote to the utmost political, economic, social and educational advancement for the people of St Helena.

The United Kingdom's White Paper on the Overseas Territories states: 'Each Territory has a unique community and it is for the Territory to shape the future of its own community.'

We live in a democratic society. Therefore, democracy and democratic procedures and processes must have the primary role in local government. Respect for democracy and working for the common good, at Council level, for successful outcomes, will depend on the roles of elected representatives, the FCDO, the Governor and SHG officials being clearly defined.

The current system of local governance is not altogether based on democratic principles and working in the best interests of the people of St Helena.

One example: recently a working group, set up and tasked by a Committee to carry out specific work, was rapidly dissolved because SHG officials wanted their input to have precedence for inclusion. Surprised by this decision, made without the Committee's approval, elected members challenged the decision to dissolve the working group and consequently it was reinstated and allowed to continue its essential work on behalf of the Committee. It was a typical example of a governance system whereby "the tail has become

accustomed to wagging the dog" at will. Therefore, rearranging the political footprint of the local governance system will simply not bring about the desired outcomes if the roles of SHG officials are not properly defined.

The painfully slow progress of reaching objectives within the current governance system is another serious problem. The slow progress can hold up community development and even have prolonged negative impacts on our vulnerable people.

Let me give you an example: the Social Security Ordinance, implemented in 2010, and supposedly designed to provide financial assistance for our vulnerable people, has never been entirely fit for purpose. After a review was carried by an external consultant from the United Kingdom in 2013, the Sainsbury report with recommendations for improvements was presented to SHG. Here we are seven years on and the work is finally nearing completion.

The bottlenecks within the various sections of SHG are also a serious hindrance to elected members progressing legislation and priority objectives. Indeed, the work on updating and modernising legislation such as the Road Traffic Ordinance and the Immigration Ordinance and the Land Development Control Plan has been ongoing now for many years.

The United Kingdom's White Paper on the Overseas Territories states: "This Government is ambitious for our Territories as we are ambitious for the United Kingdom."

St Helena is just not in an economic position to enhance and develop the local community without support and financial assistance from the United Kingdom. Indeed the people of St Helena remain grateful to the UK Government.

The partnership between the United Kingdom and St Helena is firmly based on the nine partnership values enshrined in the Constitution. However, for functional reasons, the working partnership and the role of the

FCDO in the governance and development of St Helena must also be properly defined.

To justify the requirement to address the shortcomings of the working partnership, I will use a brief summary of the 2020 official Audit Investigation into the Bulk Fuel Installation project: In 2010, DFID officially committed the United Kingdom to funding the construction of St Helena's airport and related infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure funding was for the Bulk Fuel Installation or BFI. £78.3 million has been spent on the BFI and the wider fuel system through to May 2020; that is some £46.9 million more than the airport contract's estimate to complete the system. And after that substantial expense, it could result in additional costly works such as the Jet A-1 storage tanks at the BFI being dismantled without ever being used.

There was no inclusive local political involvement or oversight of the BFI project.

If we do not define the role of the FCDO in the future development of St Helena, respect the constitutional partnership values and work together in the best interests of the island, we will be setting up our future generations to inherit even more historical costly mistakes.

Local government has serious budgetary constraints to address for the financial year 2021/22. A financial uplift from the UK government to help reduce the island's budgetary difficulties looks very unlikely. Yet we see vast amounts of precious financial aid being squandered and wasted and we currently have a local governance system that can do nothing about it.

The current system of local governance is clearly not working in the best interests of the island and is therefore unacceptable.

Soon the people of St Helena will have the option of choosing an improved Committee system of governance or a Ministerial system of governance.

The Progress Committee will be providing the public with more information accordingly.

C Leo (LegCo)

ST HELENA NEWS

Internet speeds and allowances increased

Andrew Turner, SAMS

SURE has increased the island's data allowances and speeds as of Dec. 1.

This is the second increase this

year, including the temporary 20% data increase that was introduced from April as a response to the increased connectivity demands caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

(e.g. the need to work from home, etc).

This increase comes just in time for Christmas and will be a permanent change.

So what do the increases to our local internet packages look like?

<p>Gold +</p> <p>WAS: 24,000mb with a download speed of 2048kbps IS NOW: 31,000mb with a download speed of 2.5mbps</p>	<p>Silver</p> <p>WAS: 3,800mb with a download speed of 1536kbps IS NOW: 5,000mb with a download speed of 2mbps</p>
<p>Gold</p> <p>WAS: 11,000mb with a download speed of 2048kbps IS NOW: 14,250mb with a download speed of 2.5mbps</p>	<p>Bronze</p> <p>WAS: 1,600mb with a download speed of 1024kbps IS NOW: 2,250mb with a download speed of 1.5mbps</p>
<p>Silver +</p> <p>WAS: 5,500mb with a download speed of 1536kbps IS NOW: 7,100mb with a download speed of 2mbps</p>	<p>Lite</p> <p>WAS: 800mb with a download speed of 1024kbps IS NOW: 1,100mb with a download speed of 1.5mbps</p>

Governor calls elected members "disgrace" during anti-home-isolation protest

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook early Wednesday morning called three elected members a "disgrace" when he stopped his car while on the way to the airport in order to confront protestors.

About 20 people, including Legislative Council members Jeffrey Ellick, Christine Scipio and Gavin Ellick, had gathered on the road to the St Helena Airport wearing masks and carrying

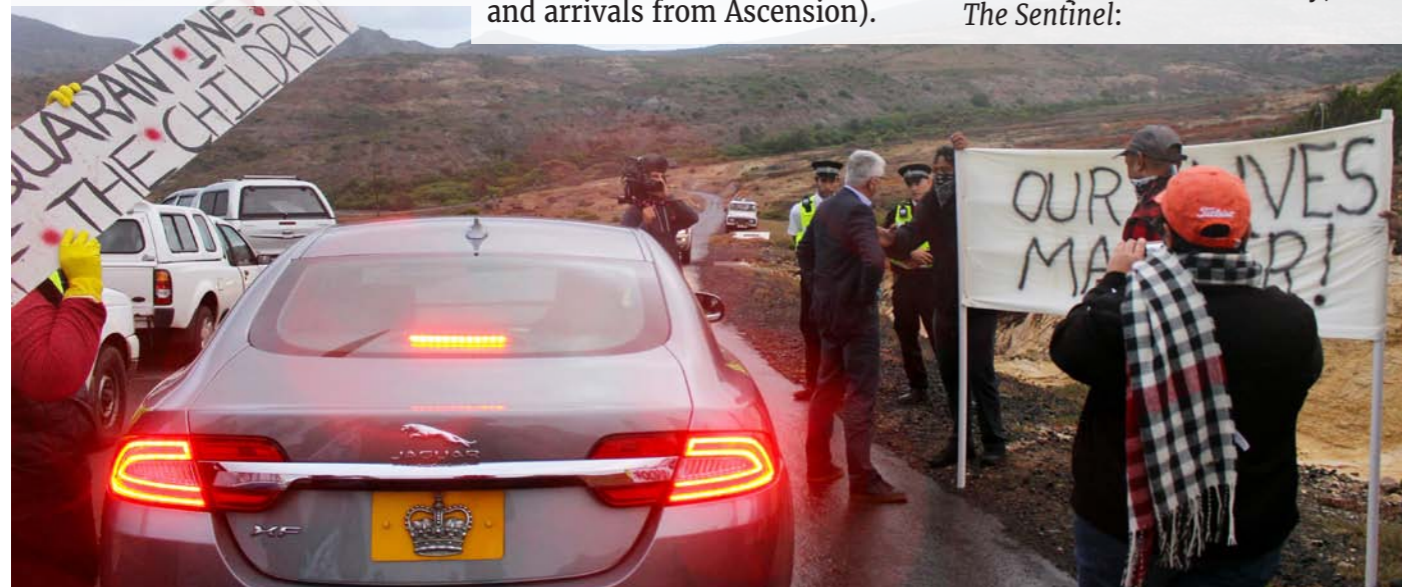
banners.

The group was demonstrating to the Governor – who was departing on Wednesday's flight – their dissatisfaction about changes in quarantine and a related lack of trust in decision-making.

St Helena is currently Covid-free. The remote island since March had required 14-day quarantine at the custom-renovated Bradley's Camp for all arrivals, with a few exceptions (physical health, age and arrivals from Ascension).

However, recent government decisions – first, a closed-doors decision to exempt FCDO officials and their families from Bradley's, then an announcement that from January home isolation (not Bradley's) would become the main method of quarantine – has resulted in significant, peaceful opposition from some LegCo and public members.

Cllr J Ellick, after the Governor had departed Wednesday, told *The Sentinel*:



A video of the confrontation can be found on the South Atlantic Media Services (@samssentinel) Facebook page.

ST HELENA NEWS

"This is about the mandate from the people. People have concerns; we are the elected members; we are there to stand up for our people."

The Governor, the Queen's

representative appointed to St Helena, also pointed his finger heatedly at elected members and accused them of lying to the public.

Cllr J Ellick responded to this by

saying:

"We don't have anything to lie about. We have the same facts that everybody else has[...]. I would have thought the Governor would have a neutral perspective."

60 people in a 40-person facility, and more

Andrew Turner, SAMS

With a protest near the airport and another SAMS Radio 1 interview, this week has seen the island-wide focus on Covid-19 preparedness continue.

Executive Council and Incident Executive Group (IEG) members Tony Green and Derek Thomas, alongside Acting Chief of Police David Price and Senior Environmental Health Officer Georgina Young, came into SAMS radio 1 Nov. 26 to conduct a follow-up to the Nov. 19 interview, when the IEG announced that all passengers would from January be allowed to home isolate rather than quarantine at Bradley's Camp.

This article outlines three key excerpts from the panel discussion:

- **Bradley's has been housing about 20 more people than SHG says is maximum capacity**
- **The island has a lack of PPE etc available to the public**
- **Full home isolation criteria is not yet public**

Next week, *The Sentinel* will look at again at the evidence behind decision-making; at the polarisation of council; and more.

Not enough PPE for public?

Cllr Thomas said St Helena did not currently have enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the general public to access.

This was after SAMS Radio 1 reminded the panel that a week earlier, Senior Medical Officer Dr Kamar Tanyan had told SAMS that St Helena must "be prepared" to practice Covid etiquette (such as mask-wearing, social distancing and use of hand sanitizer) alongside the change to home quarantine.

SAMS asked the panel if St Helena had enough kit to do this.

"We don't have Covid on the

island," Cllr Thomas responded. "Would you want general members of the public walking around with masks and gloves when there is no need to? I don't think we're going to have a situation where we don't have coronavirus, and have the general public walking around with masks and gloves."

Cllr Green however stepped in with a statement more aligned to Dr Kamar's.

"It's a good thing to be prepared, because I don't know if we will ever get [Covid] here," he said.

He added that the lack of PPE might be "an opportunity" for the private sector to supply the general public with PPE. One member of the public told SAMS that while this statement was fair enough, cargo for the final ship and plane of 2020 had closed long before the interview – meaning that no further PPE stocks could be imported until January anyway.

So how will home isolation work?

The panel gave an overview and answered questions about how SHG is ensuring home isolation measures will work come January.

Several criteria would need to be met before a house could be used for home isolation. The full criteria have not been made public, but the panel said one requirement will be having adequate space around a house in order to maintain social distance between the house and roads or public walkways (as approved/assessed by a Proper Officer).

SHG said people in isolation will "be separated from the community as much as possible."

A delivery drop-off point would be established 5 metres from each isolation house and signage would be clearly visible alerting

the public that the occupants of the house were isolating.

After the mandatory 14-day isolation period, the houses would not be required to be deep-cleaned in the way quarantine sites have been.

Cllr Thomas said the IEG were considering formation of a security team that would do "regular checks" on the properties over the 14 days.

Daily phone calls would also be made, at random times of the day, in order to ensure people are in the property and to check people are healthy.

Bradley's has been housing nearly 20 more people than SHG says is maximum capacity

SAMS Radio 1 questioned the panel about the capacity of Bradley's and the reason SHG is now saying people have been unable to adequately social distance within the custom-renovated complex.

When Bradley's was first repurposed, SHG said 20-40 people could be safely socially distanced and housed within Bradley's.

However, the numbers housed at Bradley's quickly rose to "just shy of 60."

SAMS asked the panel whether physical separation at Bradley's had become a struggle because the facility was being pushed past its capacity – and, as Bradley's is in use currently and will still be used as a backup quarantine facility from January, SAMS asked what the safely distanced capacity is for current and upcoming residents.

"The numbers of people that are put into Bradley's is assessed and the most you can keep there is about 40 in a comfortable and safe way," Cllr Thomas said.

ST HELENA NEWS

Acting Governor sworn in After the departure of Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook on Wednesday's flight to the UK, Head of the Governor's Office Greg Gibson was sworn in as Acting Governor. The Governor is expected back to St Helena "in the New Year." The Acting Governor was sworn in at 11am Wednesday in the Governor's Office, taking the prescribed oaths in the presence of Sheriff of St Helena Ethel Yon OBE.

Decorated soldier departs St Helena under impending trial for threats to kill

Andrew Turner, SAMS

A Supreme Court judge last Friday overturned the Chief Magistrate's decision to prevent Mr Alwen John Stevens, a soldier who wears the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (second only to the Victoria Cross), from returning to his regiment as planned.

Mr Stevens had earlier last week been charged in the St Helena Magistrates' Court with four counts of Making Threats to Kill.

The charges related to an incident in which Mr Stevens, while on a recent return visit to St Helena, is alleged to have threatened to kill four members of staff at Rosie's Taste 4 Life in Half Tree Hollow. According

to the four staff, Mr Stevens had lined them up against the wall and ordered them to open the bar. Mr Stevens is to soon be deployed back to Afghanistan and was needed back in the UK this month to complete training programmes prior to deployment.

Mr Stevens applied to transfer his case to the Supreme Court and asked to be allowed to return to his regiment. His defence argued that the case could be heard in the UK, under St Helena law. The defence also said that a trial should be completely unnecessary, as Mr Stevens was prepared to plead guilty to lesser charges.

Prosecutors insisted that the charges not be changed. The

prosecution further argued that Mr Stevens could not be allowed to leave St Helena and said that Mr Stevens could abscond and "continue to Afghanistan and simply not return."

The Chief Magistrate initially ruled to grant bail, but with the condition that Mr Stevens could not leave St Helena as there were "substantial grounds to believe the defendant would fail to surrender" to court custody.

The defence appealed that decision to the Supreme Court, and on Friday, Nov. 27 the decision was overturned.

A provisional trial date has been set for Jan. 4.

Names of new Saint Helenian status-holders no longer published

Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS

A *Sentinel* enquiry this week has found that the government is no longer publishing the names of people who newly achieve St Helenian status.

Prior to mid-2019, the St Helena Government (SHG) published the names of people newly granted St Helena Status. However, the SHG Press Office told *The Sentinel* Nov. 27:

"We used to publish via a press release, then the onus was put on the Immigration Service/Control Board to publish names (of those who have been granted

St Helenian Status) on the Immigration Section of the SHG website, on a quarterly basis."

So when was the last time SHG released the names of new status-holders to the public?

The Press Office has not released a 'Grant of St Helenian Status' press release since July 23, 2019 – and the Immigration Office has never since published them.

"In accordance with the Immigration Ordinance, there is no legal requirement to publish the Grant of St Helena Status," Senior Immigration Officer

Emerald Newman told *The Sentinel*. "Therefore I can confirm that the names of people who obtain St Helena Status are not published on a quarterly basis."

The Draft Immigration Policy 2020 is out for public consultation until Dec. 11. Upon approval, the draft policy would then be used to form the basis of new laws that will govern how the Immigration Ordinance would work, including whether names of those who obtain St Helena status is required to be published.

ST HELENA NEWS

Successful calibration flight took place Nov. 3-5, SHG confirmed Tuesday

Emma Weaver, SAMS

"Publicity [about the upcoming calibration flight], in an effort to allay any fear that might arise within the public domain, was considered important."

This line was from an SHG press release issued last Thursday, Nov. 26 and detailing the Nov. 4 Public Health Committee meeting.

As no information however had been released about the calibration flight mentioned, *The Sentinel* Nov. 27 checked with SHG about what was happening with the flight and its publicity.

"The calibration flight crew arrived Nov. 3 and departed Nov. 5," the SHG Press Office said.

"The Mantis Hotel was used to accommodate the flight crew. They had minimal contact with Airport staff as they came and went, and all Covid precautions

were in place (as they are for all flights) in terms of the Airport and transport from/to it. Crew had PCR tests [Polymerase chain reaction – one of the two current types of Covid tests] and thorough sanitisation took place during and after their visit."

Airport certification extended

SHG Tuesday also noted the importance of the calibration flight, and said vital certification for St Helena Airport has been extended in case the pandemic is still complicating calibration visits in six months' time.

"The calibration flight needed to take place prior to the end of the year to ensure the navigation aids [at the St Helena Airport] are still accurate to within acceptable limits. Had this flight not occurred prior to the end of the

year, the navigation aids would not have been recertified and the airport would not have been able to handle any further flights. As such, this was a vital flight to conduct because (essentially), the airport would have had to be shut if recertification was not possible.

"Furthermore, through the implementation of additional measures and robust checking, Air Safety Support International have agreed to extend the period of navigation aid certification from six months to twelve months, meaning that the next calibration flight does not have to be until October/November 2021 rather than May. This is a significant achievement for the airport and underlines the regulator's confidence in the safety, skills and professionalism of the [airport] staff."

GLH rent to increase from April

Andrew Turner, SAMS

The Housing Management Office last week advised that rent for all Government Landlord House (GLH) tenants will increase from April 1, 2021.

Significantly, the way GLH rent is charged will be altered.

Rent will no longer be applied at "a set rate based on the number of bedrooms," but rather as a tiered system linked to tenants' income.

"This new method of rent-setting will ensure that rent is fairly applied and that tenants in the lower income brackets are not adversely affected," SHG said.

The Housing Management Office is hosting drop-in sessions at Essex House for tenants to discuss the new rent policy, and further details can be found in the Notice Board section of this edition of *The Sentinel*.

New tobacco legislation pushed back three months

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Implementation of new tobacco legislation has been pushed back three months, to April 1, 2021.

LegCo approved updates to the island's tobacco legislation in June and implementation was originally set for Jan. 1, 2021.

But SHG's Health Promotion Lead at the Nov. 4 Public Health Committee said implementation should be pushed back, as significant progress still needed to be made regarding the Tobacco Control Legislation and its associated regulations:

"There [is] much to be done by way of engagement, to ensure merchants were aware of practical implications of the legislation once implemented."

The Health Promotion Lead also said additional work still



needed to be done to ensure "all supporting mechanisms" are in place.

The Public Health Committee agreed the delay, saying the legislation should be "progressed for submission to both Executive and Legislative councils in January 2021, with a view to implementation on April 1, 2021."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Saint couple finds new way to display art after cancelled Xmas markets

Donna Crowie, SAMS



Saint couple Robin and Emma-Jane Richards, currently living in Bedminster, UK, have made the local news after using the front window of their family home to sell their artwork in the absence of Christmas markets.

Robin and Emma usually sell prints, calendars, cards and mugs at markets across Bristol during the festive period.

But those markets – unlike the ones back home in Covid-free St Helena Island – will not be possible this year because of the pandemic.

This means the couple is missing out on important income at a time when they most need it.

Robin's work in the design industry was slashed due to the pandemic, while Emma-Jane was

hoping to return to employment this year after a few years off raising their daughter.

Robin said he hoped their window display would add some festive cheer to the area as well as bolstering the couple's financial situation.

"We're not in a desperate financial situation just yet, but we could well be in a few months time," he told a local newspaper. "We're aware many others are in the same boat as us too."

"When we realised markets would be cancelled this year we had a think about how we could sell our products. While we don't have any real marketing budget to promote our business, what we do have is a front window on a main road."

"Hopefully we'll be able to sell a few bits and bobs to support the family, as well as add some much-needed colour to the road in what has been a dark year for everyone."

The window display was crafted using recycled cardboard and Christmas lights.

"There has been some good interest so far," he said.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Social consequences of the St Helena Airport on the economy: Assessment underway

Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS

What are the intended and unintended social consequences of the way St Helena's economy is developing since the opening of St Helena Airport?

SHG Social Policy Planner Ann Muir is undertaking a Social Impact Assessment to find out just that.

"I am doing one comprehensive Social Impact Assessment," she said last week. "It will provide a collective review of anticipated social consequences/impacts, and assess what are in fact the consequences/impacts of policies, legislation and actions for the way the economy is developing."

Social & Community Development Committee Chairperson Cllr Tony Green last week said that the Social Impact Assessment is:

a) Using as a baseline the findings of various Social Impact Assessments and other reports undertaken between 2008 and 2010;

b) Tracking policies, legislation and actions between 2010 and 2020;

c) Doing field work with the public, private sector and SHG to identify impacts/consequences –

e.g. causes and effects of policies, legislation and actions between 2010 and 2020;

d) Involving groups of the public in participatory analyses of the implications of the findings.

Assessment follows "internal" SHG evaluation

Cllr Green said the Social Impact Assessment follows an internal evaluation that was carried out recently.

The reason for both the assessment and the evaluation is that back in 2010, SHG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UK Government.

Under the MOU, SHG agreed to certain conditions in return for UK Government funding for the St Helena Airport Project.

"Air access has the potential to enable economic growth in St Helena, leading to the elimination of St Helena's financial dependence on the UK," the beginning of the MOU says.

"DFID is willing to finance an airport for St Helena, subject to a number of specific conditions being met."

The conditions included relaxing immigration law (making it easier for people to enter St Helena to reside or work),

eliminating untargeted subsidies and establishing "simple, transparent and predictable" land use legislation/policies.

St Helena Airport was certified May 10, 2016 and opened in October 2017.

But in December 2020, it remains a mystery to the public what impact the reforms have made or even if all of the conditions have been met.

Councillors (notably Christine Scipio) and *The Sentinel* have made regular enquiries about social impacts of the Airport and the MOU, and about progress on the MOU conditions.

It is understood that a number of social impact assessments were carried out and one internal evaluation made. Chief Secretary Susan O'Bey said the evaluation was an "internal assessment" of the progress made by SHG and the impacts of the MOU reforms.

"The evaluation examines each area of the reform programme, highlights the progress made on the considerable body of work already completed and shows the targets achieved to date," she said. "It also provides data to show the impact these reforms have had in St Helena."

Consolidated Fund withdrawal to fund road sweeper for St Helena Airport

Andrew Turner, SAMS

The First Supplementary Appropriation (2020/21) Bill 2020 will be presented at the next formal meeting of Legislative Council (Dec. 11).

The Bill, as recently approved by ExCo, authorises SHG to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund to buy a road sweeper for the St Helena Airport runway.

The £230,000 required to buy the sweeper will be drawn from



funds left over from unspent financial aid granted in the 2019/20 financial year.

St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL)

presented a business case to SHG and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for the funding.

Just £8!



Miss St Helena 2020 DVDs on sale!

Two discs, totalling 2 hours and 40 minutes of Miss St Helena magic, including the new Attention Seeker round.

Place your order, and your copy will be ready within one working day:

Facebook (@samssentinel)
news@sams.sh
+(290) 22727

Media Centre, Castle Gardens

Contestants can each purchase one copy at just £5.

FREE CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

We're helping you share the love this Christmas:

Get your holiday greetings in The Sentinel and on SAMS Radio 1, all for free!

Submit your Christmas messages for your family and friends near and far by 4pm Thursday, Dec. 17.

Messages will be printed in the Dec. 23 edition of The Sentinel, and also read out on SAMS Radio 1 on Christmas Day.

And it's all free, just for you, this Christmas.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Art exhibition raises money for local charities

Donna Crowie & Emma Weaver, SAMS

Emma Sparks, an artist from the UK currently living in St Helena, last Friday opened an art exhibition at the Museum of St Helena entitled *The Beauty of the*

Natural World.

By the end of the evening, only two paintings had yet to be sold.

All proceeds from the exhibition are being donated to two local charities – Cancer Support &

Awareness and the Judo St Helena club.

“Friday went amazingly well, better than I ever imagined,” Emma told *The Sentinel*. “Thank you so much to everyone that came down and bought a painting.”

Emma’s exhibition “shows [her] love for wildlife and the ocean.” Painting subjects include yellowfin tuna, turtles and whale sharks.

It took Emma roughly five months to complete the exhibition pieces, which will be on display until Dec. 11. Each painting costs £20-£90.

When she was younger, Emma completed GCSE and A Level art. She still enjoys being creative, but after school Emma packed up the paintbrushes and went into working with animals. Emma arrived on the island in February with her husband Jason Sparks (SHG Marine Enforcement Officer) and their two children. Emma said she was inspired by the landscape and animals of St Helena, which got her back in to painting.



LIFESTYLE & CULTURE



Connect
SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Use two-way switching in rooms with two exits to ensure lights can be easily turned off when leaving the room.

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)
Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. Dec. 4

- 1-4pm: Luke Bennett
- 5-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Andrew Turner
- 8-8:30pm: Comedy (I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again)

SAT. Dec. 5

- 7am-noon: Saturday Show with Andrew Turner
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 8-9:30pm: Comedy repeats (I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again)

SUN. Dec. 6

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell
- 1pm: This Week in Interviews (Emma Sparks talks about her art exhibition at the Museum, with all proceeds from sales going to local charities; and Pilling Primary School headteacher Elaine Benjamin talks about December events including Festival of Lights.)
- 3-5pm: UK Chart Show with Donna Crowie
- 7pm: Salvation Army service

MON. Dec. 7

- 7-10am: Sunrise with Andrew Turner
- 1-4pm: Luke Bennett
- 8-8:30pm: Comedy show (Old Harry's Game)

TUE. Dec. 8

- 10:30am: This Week in Interviews (Emma Sparks talks about her art exhibition at the Museum, with all proceeds from sales going to local charities; and Pilling Primary School headteacher Elaine Benjamin talks about December events including Festival of Lights.)
- 12:30-2:30pm: 1548 with Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7-9pm: Eclectic Editions with Paul Gasteen

WED. Dec. 9

- 8-11am: Sunrise with Donna Crowie
- 12:30-2:30pm: 1548 with Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 8-8:30pm: Comedy show (Old Harry's Game)

THU. Dec. 10

- 7-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 10:30-1:30pm: Christmas music special for the St Paul's Primary Christmas Parade
- 5-7pm: UK Chart Show with Donna Crowie

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)
88.1 (High Knoll)
102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this week



The annual **St Paul's Primary Christmas Parade** is next Thursday, Dec. 10 - and from 10:30-1:30pm, SAMS Radio 1 will be broadcasting a special Christmas music show.

The parade will be picking up and rebroadcasting the music show as the floats and participants head through Jamestown spreading holiday cheer - but you can join in on the fun by tuning in to any of the SAMS Radio 1 frequencies.

Local news and notices:

7am, 10am, noon, 2pm, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm



Reach us on **22727** or at news@sams.sh

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

A jam-packed last weekend of November

— Emma Weaver, SAMS —



Above: The annual Rose & Crown wine tasting this year attracted nearly 300 people. The event was held both Friday and Saturday at Rosie's Taste 4 Life. Left: The Mule Yard on Saturday hosted a lively beer pong tournament. Top left, below: The Plantation Christmas Market on Sunday attracted a huge crowd despite the rain.

The last weekend of November was already showing signs of a jam-packed holiday season, with a variety of events packed into the final three days of the month.

At 7pm Friday was the first of the two-night wine tasting event run by the Rose & Crown and hosted at Rosie's Taste 4 Life. Due to the popularity of the annual event, the wine tasting was this year held over two nights - taking place from 7pm both Friday and Saturday. About 80 people attended Friday's tasting while around 200 attended on Saturday. More than 15 wines were available to taste and a complimentary glass of wine and festive canapés were available for each attendee.

On Saturday, despite the rather dreary and windy weather, a fun day was held from noon to 4pm at the Millennium Forest in honour of this year's 20th anniversary of the endemic conservation area. Tree-planting took place, various games and stalls were set up, the band Beverly Thrillz provided live music and food and drink was on offer.

Meanwhile, at 3pm Saturday at Unit 15 of the Ladder Hill Business Park, a new gym officially opened its doors to the public. TAD Fitness is managed by St Helenian Ben Dillon and offers personal training as well as a range of



equipment including treadmills, dumbbells, barbells and a rower. Monthly, six-monthly and yearly memberships are on offer.

On Saturday evening the Mule Yard hosted a beer pong tournament that saw 10 teams of two competing in an energetic series of games for either a bottle of wine or a six-pack.

And finally, to round off the weekend, the annual Christmas Market was held at Plantation House. The event lasted from 1pm to 5pm and all funds raised from the £1 entrance fee went

to local charities. More than two dozen stalls were set up selling Christmas gifts including chocolates and sweets, plants and handmade local products. Hundreds of people attended the event, packing under the tents and awnings when occasional bursts of rain poured down from the sky.

The past weekend's busy schedule was a sign of what's to come in December, with primary school advent services and New Horizons markets this week kicking off the month's events.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

How good is our access to justice?

— Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS —

Residents of St Helena should expect equal access to justice – meaning the ability to have their voices heard, exercise rights, challenge discrimination and hold decision-makers accountable – according to the UN and UK Government.

But where are we with equal justice in St Helena?

Lack of Ombudsman

An ombudsman to address public concerns about St Helena Government (SHG) is still being called for.

St Helena in the 1990s had the choice of ombudsman or public solicitor, but the exorbitant cost of having both – and limited work for an ombudsman at the time – resulted in a public solicitor. The first was appointed around 1997.

But times have moved on, island circumstances have changed, and many say the need for an ombudsman is growing.

An ombudsman is “an official who deals with the complaints made by the public against the government,” according to the Cambridge Dictionary. An ombudsman could investigate complaints about government actions and decisions to see if they are wrong, unjust, discriminatory or unfair; and seek remedies to right administrative deficiencies.

Cllr Dr Corinda Essex requested an ombudsman several years ago but was unsuccessful. In 2019 the call for an ombudsman to carry out independent investigations was raised at least twice at constituency meetings and was a main priority for Unified Saints.

Former Governor Lisa Honan confirmed in March 2019 that there is provision in the Constitution for appointing an ombudsman, but she said this would be low down on her list of priorities.

Currently, the public must channel any and all complaints against SHG through the government’s Complaints Procedure, dealt with internally within SHG. Appeals can

only be made to the government’s Chief Secretary.

The significant difference with an ombudsman is that its investigations would be handled independently, whereas currently the only independent option for submitting complaints against government, is via lay advocates or Public Solicitor.

Public Solicitor

Concerns are being voiced in the public domain about the fees charged for legal advice.

The current Public Solicitor fees took effect from March 1, and are set out within the Feb. 25 Government Gazette.

Clause 7 of the Gazette states “expatriate workers, businesses and individuals/businesses off-island will be charged up to a maximum of £150 per hour.”

It seems that often the charges have been £75 per hour – Acting Public Solicitor Helen Scott said this is the “historical rate.”

But with a struggling and remote economy – where minimum wage is just above £3 but the cost of living is significant – many small businesses have said £75 per hour is unaffordable.

Equality & Human Rights Commission

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) can help individuals and businesses with human rights concerns and certain other issues.

With no ombudsman in St Helena, and if a person/business is unable to afford the Public Solicitor, the EHRC or a lay advocate may be the only options for lodging concerns.

But the EHRC cannot itself provide full legal advice. In fact, often the EHRC would even need to seek legal advice itself or on behalf of clients in order to ensure human rights are maintained in St Helena.

But the EHRC is one of the groups that says it would and does struggle to afford Public Solicitor fees.

CEO Catherine Turner told *The Sentinel* she raised the issue with

the former Public Solicitor Duncan Cooke when the charges were introduced, but that his response was “the Public Solicitor Office does not get sufficient funding to not charge.”

“I believe the EHRC is in the public interest and should not have to pay,” the EHRC CEO said. “Or, that it is in the public interest that we are funded sufficiently to pay. But our elected members do not agree.”

Where does that leave us?

So where does that leave individuals and businesses in St Helena?

While they can lodge complaints against SHG with SHG’s own complaints procedure, and appeal to the Chief Secretary, this process does not include independence or transparency from government.

While some can afford Public Solicitor fees, many small businesses and lower-income individuals can only afford lay advocates.

The EHRC serves to protect the equality and human rights of those in St Helena, but says it cannot itself provide or afford the legal advice it needs to carry out its functions on behalf of the public.

Equal access to justice is enshrined by the United Nations (UN) as international law, which the UK recognises and expects itself and its Overseas Territories to uphold.

“Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law, the UN’s website says. “In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to have their voice heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination or hold decision-makers accountable.”

UN member states are committed to “taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all.”

So where does St Helena sit exactly with access to justice? Is increased access to justice via an ombudsman still “low down” on the priority of the St Helena Government?

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

John the pharmacist is back

Donna Crowie, SAMS



Since October, the friendly face of pharmacist John Woollacott could once again be seen issuing out medication to the islanders of St Helena.

John departed St Helena back in 2018 to take up employment on the Falkland Islands.

“I had not envisaged coming back to St Helena in 2020, although I was planning to hopefully come back one day in the future,” John told *The Sentinel*. “It so happened that SHG had to re-advertise the post of pharmacist after an unsuccessful recruitment at the same time that the National Trust was looking for a new director – my partner was successful in the obtaining the latter, so all the planets aligned.”

“I was very happy in my role in the Falklands, but opportunities for us both to move back will be few and far between, so here we are.”

John had prior to 2018 been the island’s pharmacist, with his partner having held environmental management roles (terrestrial conservation with SHG and invertebrate protection with the St Helena National Trust).

John is now enjoying all the familiar, friendly faces.

He also enjoys the variety of tasks and the regular need for problem-solving that his pharmaceutical duties present. He said his role though is definitely challenging.

“What people perhaps don’t appreciate is the extent to which the services being offered by the General Hospital have expanded; at the same time as the burden of chronic disease rising

relentlessly,” he said.

According to John, the number of prescriptions being issued has increased by 4% or 5% each year, as the population ages and the number of patients with chronic diseases (in particular diabetes) increases.

“At the same time, a number of additional services have been added over the years – CT scanner, orthopaedic service, chemotherapy service are the main ones that spring to mind,” he said. “The pharmacy department includes the medical stores function, so even something like the CT scanner, which wouldn’t have an immediate and obvious impact on the pharmacy in the minds of most people, does; as it cannot operate without the necessary contrast media and injection syringes which are provided by the pharmacy.”

John also said the orthopaedic and chemotherapy services have significant impact, as in order to function, they require large numbers of items from the pharmacy.

“The overall result is that we’ve just got busier and busier,” he said. “There will come a point at which working in the same way will no longer be sustainable, so we will need to find smarter ways to manage the workload and ensure the service is being operated as efficiently as possible to the greatest possible benefit of the general public and the healthcare system. The main challenge is trying to find ways of getting more and more done.”

Book of the Week

— Public Library Service —



With this wonderful collection of classic and contemporary paper crafting ideas you can celebrate the festive season in style. Discover over 40 fresh and inspiring designs for greetings, gifts and decorations, including colourful cards and tags and gorgeous garlands and wrapping. Experiment with versatile techniques, a lavish range of yuletide papers and an array of eye-catching embellishments, including beads, wire, ribbon, stitching and more. Combining bright and stylish photography with bold projects and gorgeous page design, this book will be as valuable to the Christmas preparations as the turkey itself!

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

TIME OUT

Mysterious monolith found in Romania - days after similar one vanishes in Utah



A mysterious monolith has reportedly appeared in Romania - after a similar structure disappeared from a desert in Utah.

The 4m (13ft) monolith has been spotted on Batca Doamnei Hill in the city of Piatra Neamt, according to reports from local media.

The appearance of the hollow structure, which has a triangular shape and is covered in a looping scrawl, has sparked speculation about its origin.

It bears a resemblance to the Utah monolith which was spotted in a remote cove two weeks ago, leading people to wonder if the monuments are linked.

In a bizarre twist, the Utah Bureau of Land Management said the structure had been removed without its knowledge on 27 November.

It had originally been spotted by state wildlife officials who were helping to count bighorn sheep from a helicopter earlier in the month.

It is unknown where these monuments have come from. Some have guessed it could be the work of a prankster inspired by science fiction novel 2001: A Space Odyssey.

In the book by Arthur C Clarke, a monolith appears on Earth and gives wisdom to a tribe of apes.

This week in St Helena's history

Dec. 4, 1749: Fifteen Slaves of the East India Company run away with a long boat.

Dec. 5, 1907: Government flax mill starts production at Longwood, funded by £4,070 from the UK Government.

Dec. 1, 1925: South African silver coins become legal tender in St Helena.

Dec. 3, 1960: Vehicles registered in St Helena comprise 87 cars, 126 commercial vehicles, 34 Government of St Helena vehicles and 35 motorcycles (totalling 282). The animal census for the previous year showed 999 donkeys.

Nov. 30, 1990: The second RMS St Helena arrives on her maiden voyage from the UK.

Riddle of the day

A bus driver was heading down a street in Colorado. He went right past a stop sign without stopping, he turned left where there was a "no left turn" sign, and he went the wrong way on a one-way street. Then he went on the left side of the road past a cop car. Still - he didn't break any traffic laws. Why not?

Answer: He was walking, not driving.

On this day

1967: First human heart transplant is performed in South Africa by Dr Christiaan Barnard, on Louis Washkansky.

Sudoku
www.sudokuoftheday.com

1				5			
	4			1			
7	3		8	9			2
3		9		8			
4				9			3
				7		9	8
2			3		7		4 5
							1
			9				
							7

FAMOUS BIRTHDAY

Julianne Moore



59 years old

FAITH MATTERS

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Cathedral Parish of St Paul

Sunday 6 December – 2nd Sunday in Advent

9.00am	Eucharist/Junior Church	Cathedral
9.30am	Eucharist	St Peter
9am	Eucharist	Arabia

The Parish of St James

Sunday 6 December – 2nd Sunday in Advent

9.30am	Eucharist/Junior Church	St James
3.30pm	Eucharist	St Michael
7.00pm	Reserved Sacrament	St Mary
7.00pm	Reserved Sacrament with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 6 December – 2nd Sunday in Advent

11.15am	Reserved Sacrament/Junior Church	St Mark
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Saturday 5th Dec

9:30 hrs -Sabbath School Programme
10:00 hrs -Bible Lesson Study
11:00 hrs - Divine Service
13:00 hrs - Pathfinders

Every Wednesday

1930 – 2030 Prayer Meeting
All are Welcome

For further information contact:
Pastor Paul Millin Tel No 22267

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Service

Sunday 6th Decmber
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00pm

Sunday school is available at all our chapel services, parents with children welcome.

Bible Studies

Tuesday 8th December
Baptist School Room 7.00 pm
Thursday 10th December
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm
Friday 11th December
Blue Hill (Vince & Vilma's)
5.30 pm

Kids Adventure Club:

Every Saturday Baptist School Room 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm (5 years old and above)

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 22388 or 24644



BAHA'I FAITH
www.sthelenabahai.org



"O Son of Being!
Make mention of Me on My earth,
that in My heaven I may remember thee,
thus shall Mine eyes and thine be solaced."
- Baha'i Scripture

DEVOTIONAL MEETING
BAHA'I CENTRE
Gumwoods
8pm
THURSDAY EVENINGS
ALL ARE WELCOME
Telephone 24342



Prayer Meeting on Saturday 5th December at 8:30am at the home of Anthony and Elaine Hopkins at Sapper Way.
Praise and Worship service on Sunday 6th December at Unit 3 Longwood Enterprise Park at 11am.
Kid Zone (Sunday School) at 11:30am in Unit 7.

Cell Meetings:
On Tuesday 8th December at Sandy Bay Community Centre at 6pm.
On Wednesday 9th December at Unit 3 Longwood Enterprise Park at 7:30pm and also at the home of Anthony and Elaine Hopkins at Sapperway at 7:30pm.

The Christian gift/bookshop and DVD rental (as well as second-hand goods shop) will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 2pm and on Saturday from 10am to 12 noon. We have new stock in! Get your Christmas gift shopping done early!

For further information phone 62552 or 23249.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME FOR 2020
TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER – CAROLS AT ST MARKS HALL @7.30PM.
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER - CAROLS WITH SINGALONG AT THE HALF TREE HOLLOW COM. CENTRE @ 6.00PM. THERE WILL BE GUEST SINGERS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED ON THIS OCCASION.
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER – CAROLS AT ST MICHAELS RUPERTS @ 7.30PM.
SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER – OPEN AIR ON THE BRIDGE IN JAMESTOWN@ 7PM. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BRING AND SHARE FELLOWSHIP EVENING AT THE JAMESTOWN HALL AT 8PM.
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER – OPEN AIR CAROL SERVICE AT ROSEMARY PLAIN AT 4PM.
TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER – CAROLS AT SANDY BAY COM. CENTRE @7.30PM.
SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER – ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE AT THE COURT HOUSE STEPS GRAND PARADE @ 7.30PM.
FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT THE HALF TREE HOLLOW HALL @10AM.
SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER – MORNING SERVICE AT THE HALF TREE HOLLOW HALL @10AM. EVERYONE IS WARMLY WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ALL OF THESE CAROL SERVICES. COME ON AND CELEBRATE THE REAL REASON FOR THIS SEASON. MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU ALL.

NOTICE BOARD



PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY Classroom Instructor (Agriculture)

Do you have a passion to develop our youth in the field of Agriculture?

We are looking for a **Classroom Instructor (Agriculture)** to join our team at Prince Andrew School, to develop knowledge and skills in vocational education, primarily agriculture in the primary and secondary sector.

The following are essential...

- GCSE in English & Maths at grade C or above or equivalent
- A minimum of 3 years relevant experience in **working with children within a school context**, demonstrating the ability to carry out teaching/instructing duties
- A minimum of 3 years **relevant experience in Agriculture** or a related field
- Excellent oral and written communication skills with an excellent command of the English Language
- Ability to relate effectively with a wide range of individuals
- Ability to work with others and be a team player

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

Please note that the successful applicant will need to be available for an immediate start.

Salary for this post is in Grade I1 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 **Penelope Bowers**, Head Teacher Prince Andrew School on telephone number **24290** or e-mail: Penelope.bowers@princeandrew.edu.sh

Application forms, which are available from Corporate Human Resources and the Education & Employment Directorate or on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies should be submitted through Directors where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by **no later than Tuesday, 8 December 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.



NOTICE BOARD

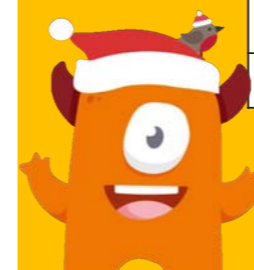
SURE SA LTD Festive Season Opening Hours



DATE	TIME
Thursday 24 th December	9am to 1pm
Friday 25 th December	CLOSED
Saturday 26 th December	CLOSED
Sunday 27 th December	CLOSED
Monday 28 th December	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 th December	9am to 3pm
Wednesday 30 th December	9am to 12pm
Thursday 31 st December	9am to 2pm
Friday 1 st January	CLOSED
Saturday 2 nd January	9am to 12pm

*Directory Enquiries will be available during opening hours and Faults can be logged 24/7 on tele 121

SURE SA LTD wish all our customers a Happy Festive Season!



Get ready for some late-night shopping!



We're open on:
Saturday 5th December
Saturday 12th December
6:30pm to 8:00pm



NOTICE BOARD



St Helena Government INVITATION TO TENDER

The Saint Helena Government (SHG) wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the construction of a Wheelchair Accessible Public Footpath at Lower Rupert's.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from:

Miss Shelley Thomas
Executive Assistant
Programme Management Unit
The Castle
Jamestown

Telephone No: 22470 or
Email: shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh

If you require any further details, please contact Project Engineer, Mr Kyle Shoesmith, on telephone number 25805 or email kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 12 noon on Friday 11th December 2020.

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

SHG
24 November 2020



St Helena Government Expression of Interest

The Saint Helena Government are seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the proposed Installation of a Prefabricated Metal Mezzanine Floor for proposed Marine Centre.

For further information, please contact the Civil Engineer, Mr Christopher Peters on telephone 22270 or email christopher.peters@enrd.gov.sh.

The closing date by which Expressions of Interest are to be submitted is 12noon on Friday, 4th December 2020 and should be addressed to Miss Tiffany Lawrence (Procurement Officer), at Essex House, Jamestown.

Application Cut-Off Date

Sure SA Ltd would like to advise that applications for new Telephone, Television and Broadband installations for service dates in December 2020 should be submitted to the Customer Care Centre at Bishops Rooms by no later than Friday 11th December 2020.

Provision of service for applications received after this date cannot be guaranteed until the New Year.

Please visit our Customer Care Centre in Jamestown, call 22900 or email service@sure.co.sh for further information



REGISTRY OF LANDS, ST HELENA

4th December 2020

NOTICE is hereby given of an application by Walter Joshua of Alarm Forest, for registration as proprietor of an area of Crown land namely part of Parcel 476 in the Registration Section for Alarm Forest. Such application is made by virtue of claimed peaceable, open and uninterrupted possession of said land for a period of at least 15 years. A copy of the application and a plan of the said land are available for inspection at The Land Registry, Essex House, Jamestown, during normal office hours. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Registrar of Lands as to why this application should not be allowed must do so within 3 calendar months of the date of publication of this notice.

DUNCAN COOKE, REGISTRAR OF LANDS

NOTICE BOARD



MOBILE VETERINARY CLINIC LAST CALL IN JAMESTOWN for 2020

The ANRD Mobile Veterinary Clinic will make a last call in Jamestown on Friday 18th December 2020.

You will be able to purchase flea and worm treatments for dogs and cats. Repeat prescriptions will be available by prior arrangement only.

The next call of the Mobile Clinic in Jamestown will be on Friday 29th January 2021.

As usual, out of hours emergencies should be directed to 26162 or 62039.

Please do **NOT** call staff randomly at home.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION, SCOTLAND, ST HELENA, SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, STHL 1ZZ November 2020



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY Senior Support Worker (on a permanent basis)

The Children & Adult Social Care Directorate is seeking to recruit a **Senior Support Worker** with a good sense of responsibility and commitment to providing assistance and direction to individuals at both Deasons and Cape Villa that encourages them to live relatively independent.

The post-holder must have the following qualifications and experience

- GCSE in English Grade C or above or equivalent
- NVQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care or equivalent qualification or currently working towards this qualification
- Good organisational skills and ability to work to a high standard; good interpersonal and people management skills to deal with clients from diverse backgrounds;
- Minimum of 2 years experience In working with older persons or people with special care needs

Salary for the post is **Grade C Level 1, £10,765 per annum**

For **further information** about the duties of the post, interested persons should contact **Gillian Brooks**, Sheltered Accommodation & Home Care Manager on telephone number 22713 or e-mail:

gillian.brooks@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources or the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to

Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than

4pm on Tuesday, 8 December 2020

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance.

SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

NOTICE BOARD



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

Stock Control Clerk

Within the Finance Department

Job Outline

To assist with providing and maintaining an efficient and accurate stock control system for Business Operating Units.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess Grade C or above in Maths & English
- Be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office
- Ideally possess Stock Control experience

Salary for the post will start at **£7,836.48** per annum, (£653.04 per month), depending on qualifications and experience.

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Kara Henry, Stock Controller on telephone number: 22313 or via email address: stockcontroller@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 15 December 2020

WHARF KIOSK AND REMOTE BANKING - DECEMBER 2020

Wharf Kiosk

Thursday and Friday <i>Excluding Public Holidays and 31 December</i>		09:00 - 14:30
Saturday	12 December	08:45 - 12:30
Saturday	19 December	08:45 - 12:30
Wednesday	23 December	09:00 - 14:30
Thursday	24 December	08:30 - 12:00

Remote Banking

ANRD, Scotland	Wednesday	16 December	09:30 - 13:00
HTH Supermarket	Friday	18 December	10:00 - 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Tuesday	22 December	09:30 - 14:00

Festive season opening information can be obtained from the Main Branch, Wharf Kiosk or the Bank's official website.

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STL 1ZZ
T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email: info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com

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

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

@sainthelenabank Bank of St Helena Ltd

NOTICE BOARD

SAERI (Falklands) Limited is seeking a spatial data analyst to deliver its MOVE ON project in St. Helena



The South Atlantic region has recently been undertaking a series of baseline mapping and assessment projects. This has included work funded through the Darwin Initiative and the EU Best Funding schemes. Significant effort has been put into bringing all of the data and stakeholders together to develop and understand these data, and tools have been created to make the data more readily available. A recently completed regional Natural Capital Assessment Project (funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee - JNCC) and delivered by SAERI provided a solid foundation for evidence-based decision-making.

What now needs to be bridged is the gap between evidence and decision-making. This post is based in St. Helena and embedded in the offices of St. Helena Government (SHG), our on-island partner, and will work closely with SHG to play a key role in providing technical input to bridge this gap.

Salary: £25,000 pa
Closing date: Friday 11th January 2021

For further information, about the role email: tpelembe@sfi.co.fk

To request an application pack email: abowers@sfi.co.fk

www.south-atlantic-research.org

SFI is a Falkland Islands registered Limited company wholly-owned by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). SAERI is a charity registered at the Charities Commission of England and Wales under charity number 1173105 and acknowledged on the Register of Charities in the Falkland Islands under number C47.

This post is part of the EU MOVE-ON project Grant Agreement N°: 07.027735/2019/SI2.808239/SUB/ENV/D2

Are you a spatial data analyst and a great communicator?

This role is part of an EU funded project called 'MOVE ON - from case studies to anchor project - setting the ground to advance MAES (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services) in Europe's Overseas, a core element of which is making environmental evidence available for decision makers. The role is based on St. Helena, and will be an interface between Science and Policy there. It will collate and analyse a wealth of existing environmental datasets (most of which are spatial) to be able to provide evidence for high level decision-makers in real time.

Main Essential criteria:

- A good degree (2:1 BSc or MSc) or equivalent with a scientific background, e.g. environmental science, geography or agriculture
- Experience with data manipulation tools, GIS, programming in a high-level language such as R, Python, or similar, and/or databases
- Experience of working with scientific Datasets
- Excellent communicator with the ability to convey complex concepts to a variety of audiences from international scientists to government officers to industry to the general public



St Helena Government

SHG'S SHAREHOLDING IN SOLOMON & COMPANY (ST HELENA) PLC

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

Are you interested in purchasing shares in Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc? St Helena Government (SHG) is pleased to invite Expression of Interests to purchase all or part of its shareholding in the company. 124,100 shares in Solomon and Company (St Helena) Plc are available to purchase. The minimum purchase being 100 shares and maximum purchase 124,100 shares. Expressions of Interest, including price, should be placed in the Tender Box at the Castle, Jamestown, by 12 noon on Thursday, 31 December 2020. Any questions or queries should be sent to Nicole Plato, Corporate Services, on tel: 22470 or via email: nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh.

SHG
24 November 2020

Glad Tidings

OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Glad Tidings magazine will help you understand the Bible and how God's plan for His future Kingdom on earth will affect you. If you would like it delivered FREE for 6 months - fill in these details and send them to the address below.

Your Name (BLOCK CAPITALS please) _____

Address _____

Country _____

Write for the offer to:
CBM, C/o Apartment 9, Scarlet Oak, 911-913
Warwick Rd, Solihull,
UK, B91 3EP

NOTICE BOARD



www.sainthelenabank.com

Festive Season Openings

Date	Wharf Kiosk	St Helena Branch	Ascension Branch	Accounts & Payments	Lending
Wednesday, 23rd December	09:00 - 14:30	08:45 - 15:00		08:30 - 16:00	
Thursday, 24th December	08:30 - 12:00				
Friday, 25th, Saturday, 26th & Monday, 28th December	Closed				
Tuesday, 29th December	Closed	09:00 - 14:00			
Wednesday, 30th December	Closed				
Thursday, 31st December	Closed	08:30 - 13:00			
Friday, 1st January	Closed				
Saturday, 2nd January	Closed	08:30 - 12:30	Closed		

Please Note: International Remittance Services will be accepted up to an hour before closing on 24th, 29th and 31st December 2020.

Normal Bank opening times will resume on Monday, 4th January 2021.

Bank of St Helena Ltd takes this opportunity to wish all our customers a Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year.

NOTICE BOARD



INVITATION TO TENDER

The Saint Helena Government (SHG) wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the Construction of a Wheelchair Accessible Public Sidewalk at Longwood.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from:

Miss Shelley Thomas
Executive Assistant
Programme Management Unit
The Castle
Jamestown

Telephone No: 22470 or

Email: shelly.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh

A site visit regarding the works will take place on Tuesday 08 December 2020, at 10am, meeting near the Harford Community Centre, Longwood.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after the 08 December will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

If you require any further details, please contact Project Engineer, Mr Kyle Shoesmith, on telephone number 25805 or email kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 12 noon on Wednesday 16th December 2020.

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

SHG
01 December 2020

The winners of the November scout jackpot draw were as follows:

1st Prize – Beverly Yon – Tel: 23778 – Ticket No474

2nd prize – Dorothy Lawrence – Tel: 24561 – Ticket No. 353

3rd prize – June Lawrence – – Tel: 22519+Ticket No. 531

4th prize – Chad Corker – Ticket No.102

The Xmas Bonanza draw will take place on 23 December 2020.

There are 11 prizes to be won – 1 x £100, 2 x £50 and 8 x £25.

Remember to have any chance of winning, you must participate!!!



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHANGE IN RENT FOR GOVERNMENT LANDLORD PROPERTIES

The Housing Management Office would like to advise all Government Landlord Housing (GLH) tenants that there will be an increase in rent for all Government Landlord properties with effect from 1 April 2021.

Rent will no longer be applied at a set rate based on the number of bedrooms but rather as a tiered system linked to tenants' income. This new method of rent setting will ensure that rent is fairly applied and that tenants in the lower income brackets are not adversely affected.

The Housing Management Team will host Drop-in Sessions at their offices in Essex House over the coming weeks for Tenants who wish to discuss the new Rent Policy. These sessions are scheduled as follows:

Date	Time
26 November 2020	9am – 12noon
27 November 2020	1.30pm – 4.30pm
3 December 2020	9am – 12noon
4 December 2020	1.30pm – 4.30pm
10 December 2020	9am – 12noon
11 December 2020	1.30pm – 4.30pm
17 December 2020	9am – 12noon
18 December 2020	1.30pm – 4.30pm

Please contact Housing Management Assistant, Sherilee Thomas, at Essex House on tel: 22270 or via email: sherilee.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh for further information.

SHG
24 November 2020

SPORTS ARENA



SHFA and Junior Football Presentation Day 2019



NGCPH



Cash Bar Available
Hot Food will be on Sale
Live Band performance after the Presentation

10am	Junior Futsal Knockout Cup Final, 11-15 yrs (Pitch 1) Fugees v Rastabouts
10am	(Futsal Knockout Cup Final Primary School (Pitch 2) Yellow Devils v Predators
11am	Friendly game: Blue Arrows 1 v Wranglers
11am	Friendly Game (Pitch 2) Blue Arrows 2 v Super Strikers
12noon	SHFA Friendly 11-a-side: New Horizons v SHFA XI
2pm	SHFA Knockout Cup Final Rovers v Bellboys
4pm	Presentation of Cups and Trophies



Saturday 5th December 2020
At Francis Plain

St Helena Golf Club Monthly Medal

SHGC, Contributed



Although there was an initial weather scare of rain and fog soon after tee-off, it didn't last long enough to deter the 20 players who turned up for the Monthly Medal from completing their round. The rain and fog passed fairly

quickly and allowed the golfers to peacefully get on with their games.

At the end of the 18 holes a pleasant surprise awaited the majority male members at the 19th hole. Contrary to popular belief that golf is a sport for men, after all the scores were in and verified, the women were in charge.

Returning an impressive net 65 was the ladies captain Helena Stevens, followed in second place by our newest female golfer, Terri Fasol, with net 66. As a result, they each had to give back one stroke off their handicap.

Four players scored twos to take five balls each in the two-ball pool: Terri Fasol and Gerald George on the 7th, Arthur Francis Eagle 2 on the 9th and George Thomas, who

birdied the 11th.

Congratulations to the ladies. I hope you maintain your winning streak and continue to be in charge.

Next Sunday, Dec. 6 the club will be hosting a Foursome Pick Your Partner 18-Hole Competition. Normal tee-off at 12:00. Registration closes on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 15:00.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that the club will be hosting a Pizza & Wine Night on Dec. 11 at 7pm. You can eat as much pizza as you want for just £6.50 per person, excluding the wine. There will be a variety of wines to buy from the bar. RSVP on 63698 or 25771.

For more information check out our Facebook page @shgc.org.sh. Happy swinging...!