

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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St Helena Crafts Fair 2014

The St Helena Art & Crafts Association charity plays a great part in showcasing and supporting local skills, talents and traditions on St Helena.

On Saturday 22 November 2014, a Crafts Fair was held at the Jamestown Community Centre from 10am until 4pm, giving crafters, painters, weavers and others, a great opportunity to demonstrate their skills and to sell their products. The fair was opened by Miss St Helena, Sinead Green, who gave a speech on the importance of St Helena's cultural heritage in arts and crafts.

There were 16 stalls on the day occupied by a range of businesses. Items ranged from flax baskets and decorations, woodwork, jewellery, crochet Christmas decorations, lace items such as bookmarks and table piece centres, and handmade Christmas cards and tags made by the Longwood 'Brownies'.

Pamela Murray from Creative St Helena held a verbal exercise with young children asking questions about art, music, books and culture - with Acting Governor Sean Burns also taking part. Live performances were given by Creative St Helena, including drama pieces and readings of local stories.



Flax Creations' Josie Kleinjan explained her products: *"All my items are made from local flax, or recycled material such as in my baskets and Christmas decorations, including stars and reindeers."*

"A large basket will take eight hours to make, with smaller baskets taking two to four hours. The more flax leaves you use, and the smaller the leaves are, the more time it takes - especially when you add beads. I'm proud of my work overall."

The Art & Crafts Association also showcased their 'End of the Royal Mail Ship Era' souvenirs, whilst artist Andy Crowe signed limited edition copies of his painting of the Southampton Castle, the old RMS St Helena, seen with the current RMS St Helena in James' Bay. These activities commemorate what will be a dramatic change in travel modes on St Helena when the Airport becomes a reality.

Cathy Hopkins, Chairperson of the Art & Crafts Association, commented: *"Throughout the day there was a steady flow of customers who were impressed by the range of skills on show, and by the quality of the work. Showing local talent is always a good thing as it encourages interest from the public. Sometimes we see new people taking up a craft because of what they have already seen from current crafters."*

Additional pictures can be seen on the final page.

2015 Commonwealth Short Story Competition

The 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Competition is a great opportunity for those who are keen and talented writers and storytellers.

The competition is open to anyone over the age of 18, and every year five diverse Commonwealth regions have winning writers who each win a price of £2,500 - with the overall winner being awarded a sum of £5,000.



Alexia Furniss

St Helena will be represented in the 2015 competition, as several Islanders have entered their stories online submitting them by the deadline of November 15.

Alexia Furniss, who works in Internal Audit, submitted her story 'Reclaim' and explained that she always loves a challenge. She said: "My story is about a young girl who was

shipwrecked on a small Island called St Helena, in the middle of nowhere. One day, Dutchmen came to repossess the Island as their own, the young girl thought she was the only one who could save the Island. But with the help of another unfortunate refugee, the pair planted traps and snares to terrify the men away."

Another who submitted his story was David Higgins, who works in the Environment & Natural Resources Division.

David's story, entitled 'Where the Glass Cracks', is based on life in his home city of Hull, in northern England.

David explained: "My story isn't exactly cheery, as it follows a damaged young man raised in a dysfunctional family with a violent father. It flashes between his present day life and the years of abuse that led to his mother's death and his own mental health issues.



David Higgins

"My ending is a little ambiguous, hopefully leaving the reader unsure as to the motivation for my character's decision."

The inspiration behind David's story came from incidents on the estate where David was brought up. He added: "Issues in my story have been exaggerated and changed to become a work of fiction. I find it much easier to write from personal experience, but I always change the events so they don't resemble living characters."

Google Maps Focus on St Helena

Today many of the world's people revolve around the one thing that keeps everyone connected and informed - the internet.

Google Maps offer satellite imagery, street maps and street-view perspectives on the internet - as well as route planners for those travelling by any means. In its most recent round of updates, Google has for the first time included a 3D image of St Helena (pictured).

Google's Map images are never more than three years old, and Google adds to its primary database on a regular basis. A related product is Google Earth, a program which offers global viewing features, including the polar regions.



Satellite image of Airport site at Nov 2014

These interactive maps allows viewers to experience locations through 3D satellite imagery. The new images of St Helena have already received positive comments from people around the world.

As you can see, the image captures the Island's stunning topography and scenery - exposing its beauty to a worldwide audience. These maps allow people around the world to discover new countries and Islands, among them St Helena.

Those wishing to view the new Goggle Maps can click on the link: www.maps.google.com and search 'St Helena.' If you then go to the satellite image and zoom in, the Island's emerging Airport can clearly be seen.



Satellite Image of St Helena

Market Day for Cruise Ship Visitors

The Cruise Ship MV Astor arrived in St Helenian waters on Friday 21 November 2014, bringing with her 253 passengers and 284 crew. MV Astor, built in 1987, sails between Europe, South Africa and Australia.

In anticipation of her arrival, traders assembled in front of New Horizons Youth Centre, with numerous stalls displaying products of all kinds. The market was buzzing with interested tourists buying items and asking general questions about St Helena.

Traders included SHAPE, GK Crafts, Moira's Cup Cakes, G-Unique, St Helena Distillery, ABIWANS, SPCA and St Helena Hospitality Up-Skilling.



A variety of products ranged from Jewellery and greeting cards, to cupcakes, and flax Arum lilies.



Giselle Richards of G-Unique commented: "Our stall has been doing very well today and we have had a real flow of visitors. Tourists have also been asking a few questions about the Island, for example 'What's the emblem of St Helena' and about the Wirebird, which is featured on our jewellery."

Sharon George representing SHAPE added: "Tourists have been really interested in our recycled items, such as our bracelets - and they've been keen on our smaller items. Overall, people are interested in the work we do at SHAPE and what products we are able to create with recycled material on the Island."

Donated books

'Reading is the key to knowledge'

Reading is undoubtedly a central part of our lives, and the Jamestown Public Library plays an important part in reminding adults and children alike on the significance of books, for entertainment and education.

Besides funds provided to buy publications for the library, books have also been donated throughout the years from people both on and off-Island.

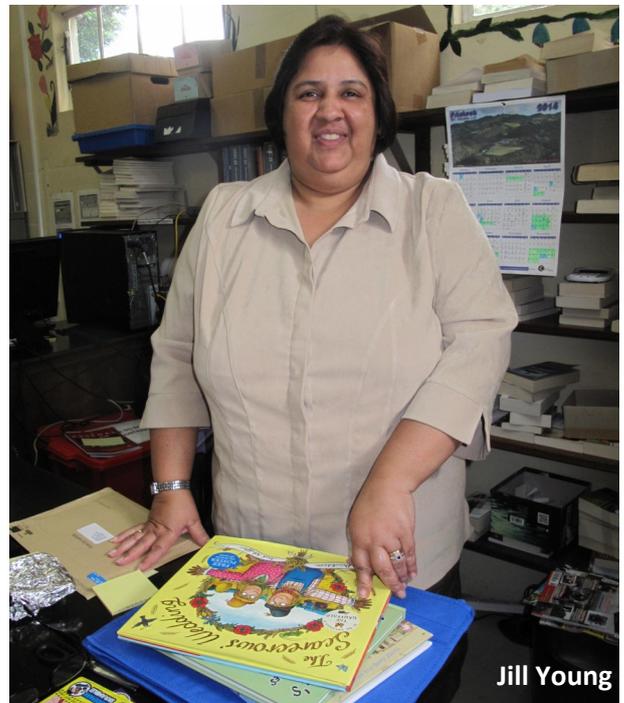
Helena Walsh, based in the US is one of the many people

who donates. She saw her Christian name as her inspiration and has been sending books to St Helena for many years.

Helena originally sent books which her son had grown out of, so that children on St Helena could enjoy them.



Helena Walsh



Jill Young

Jill Young, Head Librarian, corresponds with Helena, and said: "Helena has been sending books to our library, several times a year, and has been doing this for a long time. We greatly appreciate the books we have received, and her interest in a library many thousands of miles from where she lives."

Remembrance Day 2014



Crafts Fair and Market Day

