

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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Reggae Cowboy Showdown

On Friday, 23 June 2017, New Horizons hosted a 'Reggae Cowboy Showdown' in the main hall of Prince Andrew School (PAS) where many local artists performed an array of both reggae and country songs for the crowd to enjoy.

Donna Crowie, whose son is a member of New Horizons, took forward the idea of the mixed genre showdown to raise funds for the organisation's biennial inter-island sports and educational trip to Ascension Island.

Donna then worked tirelessly finding a range of singers for both the country and reggae musical genres. She booked PAS hall and the bands and rehearsals then began. "During the rehearsal there were a lot of



Photos courtesy of Saint FM/The Independent



hicups" said Donna, "so on the night, I had butterflies in my stomach and a headache just hoping everything would be okay."

The show started at 7pm and soon after a 450-strong crowd of people from all over the Island, young and old, piled into the hall to enjoy the performances.

Many singers and performers took to the stage from first timers like Gavin "Eddie Duff" Ellick and Jeremy Johns to seasoned veterans such as the Francis sisters, Maria and Megan, and Ralph and Hazel Peters. "The performers did really well and I think the crowd really enjoyed the mixture of both country and reggae tunes played on the night" said Donna.

The show went on all the way up to 11pm and even included a battle of the genres where the country folk were challenged to perform a reggae track and vice versa. This seemed to have gone down very well, with the crowd cheering on both sides.

"I must say I am very happy to know I helped to raise a good amount of money for New Horizons" said Donna. "I personally would like to thank Nicky and Tina for helping me with the show but also for all they do for our kids at New Horizons."

Following Team St Helena’s recent Island Games successes, “*St Helena has gone from being known as the Island that took the longest to get to the Games, to the Island that has sharpshooters and made the epic journey to win medals,*” Chef De Mission, Damien O’Bey, told the Ambassador, when asked to sum up the games.

Team St Helena began their epic journey to the Games on 6 June 2017 and, at the time of writing this piece, have won two gold and two bronze medals – making it the most successful medal haul ever for St Helena. Simon Henry has been on top form and collected Golds in 100 yard prone individuals and 50m 3p individuals. Simon and his shooting partner, Carlos Yon, finished second in the 50m 3p pairs but weren't awarded a medal following withdrawals from three other islands, which resulted in the number of medals awarded for the competition being reduced. Madolyn Andrews and Jodie Scipio Constantine have won bronze in both the 100 yard and 50m prone team events with Jodie also becoming the first Saint female to participate in the air rifle discipline.

The games have proven to be a valuable experience for young sprinter Sunna-Jan Thomas who was able to make friends with up and coming sprinter from the Cayman Islands, Jamal Walton, who has already broken Usain Bolt’s under-23 400m record.

Swimmer, 14 year old Colby Thomas, has embraced the spirit of the Games more than most and has built relationships that will last a lifetime. He was also able to shave nearly five seconds off his personal best in the 50m freestyle.

Our golfers have fared well and have been afforded the opportunity to play on one of the top ranked courses in Europe. *Photos courtesy of Damien O’Bey*



Flash Floods



On Monday, 26 June 2017, a sunny day turned sour when St Helena received one of the heaviest downfalls of rain in recent times. Just before noon, heavy showers of rain poured down constantly and its effects were apparent almost immediately with streams of muddy water and

debris running through the streets of Jamestown, culminating in large pools in the lower Jamestown area. The flooding impacted places such as the Bank and Wharf which both had to be closed for the remainder of the day

People with learning disabilities are all different, but they often find it harder to learn and remember new things and new skills. This affects people for their whole life. Different people need different types of support, like we all do. Some people might not need much support at all, whereas other people might need a lot. Other than that, people with a learning disability are just like any other member of the community – with likes, dislikes, hopes, dreams, fears, strengths and weaknesses. A Learning Disability Awareness Festival is held every year, and this is to help highlight the challenges that people often face. Most people with a learning disability are unemployed, even though the majority of them are keen and able to work. This was the focus this year. I've worked in learning disabilities for quite a while, and I'm often amazed at how capable, caring and dedicated people are.



These are the kinds of skills that employers need.

That's why we held a Learning Disability Awareness Festival at Ann's Place this month— to challenge the belief that people with a disability aren't able to work. We also wanted to help create more opportunities and partnerships that will help change lives and benefit businesses and their customers too.

It was great to see how many people turned out for the event to celebrate the cause, and

to celebrate the importance of diversity. This included people with disabilities, their friends and family, as well as the Governor, Lisa Phillips, Head of Human Rights, Catherine Turner and staff from services that support people into employment, including SHAPE and the Occupational Therapy scheme. It was also very important that we had people with disabilities working at the event and getting paid for it, as this was the central purpose. A huge thank-you is owed to Jane Sim and Ann's Place for kindly hosting the event.

Commonwealth Youth Games Team off to Bahamas

On Monday, 26 June 2017, the St Helena Commonwealth Youth Games team— Athletes Georgia Bedwell and Charlotte Hubbard and Swimmer Duwaine Yon— along with Team Leaders, Jerry Roberts and Nicole Richards, began their long journey to the Bahamas. They will be joined in Cape Town by swimmer Colby Thomas.

The team will spend ten days in Cape Town before flying to the UK where they will spend a further four days before flying off to the Bahamas.

Georgia and Charlotte will compete in the 100m and 200m and Colby and Duwaine will compete in the 50m breaststroke, 50m and 100m freestyle.

The Youth Games will run from 18 - 23 July.



Fantasy Day at the Public Library



The Public Library hosted a fantasy-themed activity day on Tuesday, 20 June 2017, whilst the Island's schoolchildren were on their one-week school holidays.

The theme 'Fantasy' was chosen for the day as it was something all children could relate to.

Activities were designed to appeal to both boys and girls and included making fairies and dragons in a jar, making bubble wrap dragon masks and decorating princess dresses with a range of materials.

The children seemed to enjoy taking part in the activities which encouraged them to have fun and be creative.

