

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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Dusty Gets Certified

Her Excellency Governor Lisa Phillips was like a proud mum on Wednesday, 17 May 2017, as her beloved dog Dusty received her certification as a trained sniffer dog.

Dusty, who turned four years old as St Helena turned 515 on 21 May 2017, is a black Labrador who was born and bred in Kenya, Eastern Africa.

Upon her arrival to the Island in 2016, Governor Lisa was approached by Dog Trainer, Paul Laban, asking if she would allow Dusty to be trained as a sniffer dog.

At the time, Customs only boasted one sniffer dog, who was closing in on retirement.

Governor Lisa said:

"I have to confess, at first I was a little reluctant to let her undergo the training. I was worried that she might be a different dog at the end of it. I had taken her on some field trials and done some obedience training with her when I was in Kenya, so I knew she could have potential."

Despite her initial reluctance, the Governor agreed and could soon see that Dusty relished the training.

After about a year, during which she carried and gave birth to twelve puppies, Dusty became fully trained by Paul to sniff out both drugs and firearms.

Governor Lisa concluded:

"Dusty enjoys working and I am hoping that some of her puppies will also become operational search dogs. I am very proud that Dusty is able to contribute to St Helena."





On Sunday, 21 May 2017, St Helena celebrated its 515th birthday with traditional St Helena Day celebrations in Jamestown, organised for the eleventh consecutive year by New Horizons.

A change from previous years saw the venue of the celebrations move from the Mule Yard to the Grand Parade. This was something that had been considered many times previously but was opted against due to the difficulty of tracking entrance numbers. Despite this, the move to the Grand Parade went ahead this year.

Director of New Horizons, Nick Stevens, said: *"We felt it went well. I thought it was a much better atmosphere having everybody together in the Grand Parade. It was probably the best atmosphere we've had on a St Helena's Day."*

The day's events stuck to tradition with the morning parade and service.

Governor Lisa Phillips said in her speech on the day: *"My message today, as St Helena moves forward into the future, is that we should celebrate everyone's difference, and include them no matter who they are. Everyone has something to contribute. And if we all work together everyone will be a winner."*

Throughout the day people wandered through the variety of stalls set up while partaking in events like the mini marathon and novelty sports, all while listening to live

music from the Island's local bands which played right up until 11pm.

One of the highlights of the day was the traditional float parade through town. The theme this year was *'Places and People of the Commonwealth'* and Island districts and organisations reflected this in their choice of floats. There was a large spinning globe, an elephant, traditional dances from India and Samoa, and a Saint Queen even made an appearance.

The day was rounded off with a fireworks display at 8pm thanks to funding from Enterprise St Helena.

Nick concluded:

"It's hard to make things different year after year, but thanks to a dedicated team of staff, members and their parents, we made the day a success."





Photos courtesy of Wise Monkeys Media Productions



Island Games Team Gotland Bound

Team St Helena will leave the Island on 6 June 2017 to head to Gotland, just outside of Sweden, for the 2017 NatWest Island Games. The Games will run from 24-30 June with the team travelling via Cape Town, Dubai, and Stockholm, to arrive on 21 June, in time for the opening ceremony. This year, our team will be competing in athletics, swimming, shooting and golf. The team consists of Chef de Mission, Damien O’Bey, team coaches, Pat Henry, Andrew Lawrence and Barbara Osborne, Sunna Thomas (athletics), Colby Thomas (swimming), Carlos Yon, Simon Henry, Madolyn Andrews, Jodie Scipio-Constantine (shooting), Darren Henry and Malcolm Williams (golf). Over the past year, the athletes have been training hard to

ensure they are in their best shape and form heading into the Games. Sunna has been training six days a week, Colby has been training both in the water and in the gym, the shooters train regularly at the club and Simon and the golfers continue to train in the UK. Chairman of the National Amateur Sports Association St Helena, Nick Stevens, said: *“They [the athletes] need to be the best that they can be by the time their event starts. After their events finish, if they know they were on top form, that they gave it their all and their best, then they will be satisfied with that. If they get a medal along the way, then that’ll be the icing on the cake.”* The team will return to St Helena on 9 July 2017.



Last Boat To St Helena

Meulenhoff Boekerij, a publishing company in Amsterdam, Netherlands, recently published a book written by Dutch author, Ron Moerenhout, entitled ‘Last Boat to Saint Helena’. The book is written in Dutch and is an account of Moerenhout’s visit yet also looks into the history of the Island, its connection to the Dutch and takes an in-depth look into the imprisonment of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. An English description of the book reads as follows: *“In Last Boat to Saint Helena, Ron Moerenhout accounts of his boat journey from Cape Town to one of the most remote islands in the world. After the British took St Helena from the Dutch, they used it as a prison island, with Napoleon as the most famous prisoner. Moerenhout found a map, showing the escape routes the emperor wrote on it, discovered a conspiracy to liberate him and found that Napoleon was supposedly poisoned by the husband of his mistress. Additionally, Moerenhout tells stories of other prisoners, including the Dutch drug*

smuggler who was the only one who ever managed to escape from the Island. Last Boat to Saint Helena is an entertaining travel book, full of historic fun facts and exciting anecdotes.” The author, Ron Moerenhout, was born in Utrecht in the Netherlands in 1959 and has a wide range of interests from border posts to deceased celebrities. He wrote several non-fiction books and several articles for magazines on marketing and communication before writing about his trip to St Helena.

