

# The St Helena Ambassador



... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



Issue 60 January 2018

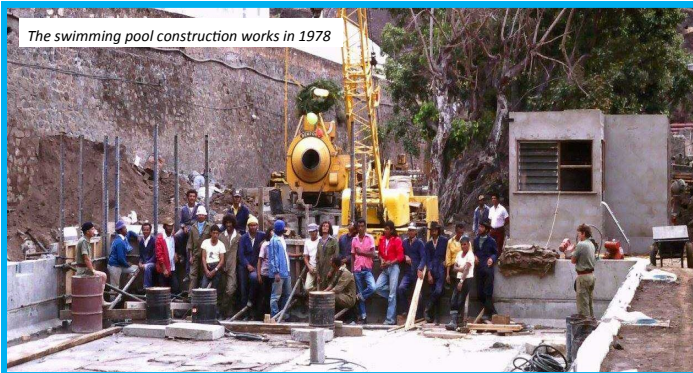
## 1970'S SWIMMING POOL GETS A MAKEOVER

In the 1970s, it was noticed that many people on St Helena could not swim. This led to a decision to build a Swimming Pool in Jamestown. A voluntary body was formed and raised money to build the pool.

A team of Royal Engineers, led by Major Glynn Berry, was invited to the Island to construct the pool. Work commenced in 1978, and with the help of local workforce, the pool was officially opened on 24 November 1979 by HE Governor Guy. The Swimming Pool would replace an



Present swimming pool and staff



The swimming pool construction works in 1978



Recently improved changing room



Recent construction works to the changing rooms



Recently improved changing room



Recent refurbishment works to the changing rooms

earlier Tennis Court. Since the official opening, the pool has undergone minor refurbishments. In 2016, an Island drought highlighted a leak within the pool, and a decision was taken to close the pool. This led to 'the Swimming Pool Project' which saw the filtration and pipework system replaced, appearance of the pool and changing rooms improved and the restoration of the heritage wall.

The Jamestown Swimming Pool was re-opened on Saturday, 13 January 2018.

## ST HELENA HOSTS FIRST EVER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

St Helena's first international conference - 'Diverse Island Environments' - was launched on Sunday, 28 January 2018, at Mantis St Helena.

In her opening speech, HE Governor Lisa Phillips gave a special welcome to those who had made the long journey from various parts of the world, expressed her excitement about the research that would develop from this conference, and encouraged the researchers to use St Helena as their 'little laboratory' while building future relationships.

This was followed with a speech delivered by Tara Pelembe, on behalf of the South Atlantic Research Institute. Tara said:

*"Although St Helena is small, its unique location makes it a perfect location for research, a perfect laboratory; why do whale sharks come here and what do they do while they're here? What does the model island look like? Do our forests store carbon? How is St Helena a laboratory of modernity? Who is our emerging Saint scientist? What are transnational villages? These along with other topics are all ideas that will be explored over the conference days."*

Dr Al Dove of the Georgia Aquarium also commented:

*"The reason we are here is because of the whale sharks. We began our collaboration when Elizabeth Clingham made the journey to Atlanta. During that visit she shared an extraordinary data set that Saints had been collecting about the whale sharks, not only was it excellent quality data, but it also contained two eye witness accounts of mating behaviour that has never been seen in a whale shark anywhere else in the world."*

The Conference, hosted at Ann's Place, runs from 28 January to 8 February 2018. The programme includes four days of field trips and five days of presentations delivered by both international and local anthropologists, sociologists, economists, ecologists, environmentalists, fisheries scientists, educational professionals and Island experts who will present topics entitled: *People & Economics, Marine & Fisheries, Renewables & Terrestrial Environment, Terrestrial Flora & Fauna and Marine Environment & Environmental Economics.*

Amongst the speakers are St Helenians: Professor Daniel Yon, Dr Cilla McDaniel, Elizabeth Clingham, Tara Pelembe, Kirsty Joshua, Julie Thomas, Natasha Timm, Dr Jason Yon and Shayla Ellick.



2018 Diverse Island Environments



## JAMES BAY WELCOMES THE WORLD ARC RALLY

From 16 January 2018, a fleet of Monohull and Catamaran yachts visited St Helena, as part of the World Arc Rally - an event that started in St Lucia, Caribbean.

Participants of the World Arc Rally circumnavigate the globe, covering approximately 26,000 nautical miles. There are two main legs of the journey where participants can either join in St Lucia or Australia. St Helena is included in the second leg of the journey.

This year's Rally saw 11 yachts - *Altair, Arabela, Aurora, Lexington, Owl, Sandvita, Skyelark, Solo, Take Off, Tulla Mhor and Zeeland* call at St Helena. The first yacht, the *Arabela*, arrived on Tuesday, 16 January, following a 10 night voyage from Cape Town.

Various on-Island activities were organised throughout the week to entertain participants.

The World Arc Rally fleet departed St Helena bound for Salvador, Brazil.



## NEWS ON THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Thirteen men and one lady will form Team St Helena for the XXI Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, Australia. This year, the games are to be held between 4 and 15 April 2018.

This will be the sixth time that St Helena has competed in the Commonwealth Games, following a debut in Brisbane, Australia, in 1982.

The athletes and coaches, along with family members will depart St Helena on Saturday, 17 March, to arrive in Brisbane on Tuesday, 20 March 2018, making this team the first international sports team to fly from St Helena. Other team members will arrive from the UK.

The team will travel to the Sunshine Coast for a nine-day training camp, before departing for the Commonwealth Games Village where the team will reside.

Team St Helena comprises of the following members: Athlete: Sean Crowie, Badminton: Vernon Smeed, Shooters: Carlos Yon and Simon Henry and Swimmers: Ben Dillon, Colby Thomas, Scott George, Duwaine Yon & Josh Yon. Team officials are: Chef de Mission, Nick Stevens, General Team Manager, Jeremy Roberts and team officials: Johnny Dillon, Anne Dillon and Andrew Lawrence.

The team will return to St Helena on 21 April 2018.

### Commonwealth Games 2022

The Commonwealth Games Federation has selected Birmingham, England, as host city partner of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This announcement was made at a special media conference in December 2017.

The Commonwealth Games 2022 is expected to take place between 27 July and 7 August 2022, and will mark 20 years since the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games (the last time England hosted the Commonwealth Games).

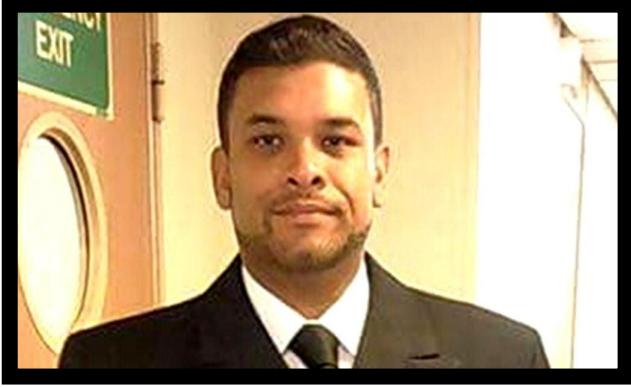
The official handover for the Games to Birmingham will take place at the closing ceremony in the Gold Coast in April 2018.



Team St Helena at the XX Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014



# 2017 | ST HELENA ISLAND IN REVIEW



## JANUARY

On 9 January, St Helena Line announced that St Helenian, Adam Williams, would be promoted from Chief Officer to Master of the RMS St Helena.



## FEBRUARY

It was discovered by the St Helena National Trust that one of our endemic invertebrates, the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse, could glow under ultra-violet light.



## MARCH

The Hospital Pharmacy re-opened to the public on 22 March, after relocating to its new user friendly location on the ground floor of the Hospital Administration building.



## APRIL

The St Helena Branch of the British Red Cross was re-launched on 25 April at a reception held at the Governor's residence, Plantation House.



## MAY

The St Helena Community College was officially launched on 17 May. St Helena Airport also saw the historic arrival of a charter flight on 3 May.



## JUNE

Team St Helena was named 'the most successful St Helenian team' at NatWest Island Games after achieving seven medals in shooting and a bronze certificate in golf.



**JULY**

17 candidates ran for the 2017 General Election. A total of 1106 constituents casted their vote. The counting of votes lasted for approximately seven hours.



**AUGUST**

Hutt's Gate Reservoir was officially opened on 24 August. In attendance was HE Governor Lisa Phillips, Connect Saint Helena Ltd staff and invited guests.



**SEPTEMBER**

On 27 September, St Helena Tourism held an information day to celebrate World Tourism Day. Helena Bennett was also promoted to Director of Tourism (Designate) for St Helena.



**OCTOBER**

St Helena's first commercial flight from South Africa, operated by SA Airlink, landed at St Helena Airport on 14 October, with 72 passengers.



**NOVEMBER**

The Public Library in Jamestown re-opened on 22 November following restoration works. This special occasion was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



**DECEMBER**

The St Helena Sea Rescue Service moved from their temporary location at the Jamestown Wharf to the purpose-built Sea Rescue Facility in Rupert's valley.