

# The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue: 9 July 2013

## Airport Works - Then and Now

It has been 20 months since the Airport Design, Build and Operate Contract between St Helena Government and Basil Read was signed. Along with the remarkable Dry Gut Fill, works have also progressed well on other permanent works - the Haul Road, Bulk Fuel Installation and now,

laying the ground for the Airport and Terminal Buildings themselves.

In this issue we take a look at progress on each of these permanent works comparing photos before the work started and their current situation.

All photos © Basil Read and Access Office

### Airport and Terminal Buildings

Excavation for the terminal and combined building is 80% completed and construction will commence in August 2013. It is envisaged that

construction will be completed by December 2014.

Then - Site for Airport and Terminal Buildings



Now - Site for Airport and Terminal Buildings



### Bulk Fuel Installation (BFI)

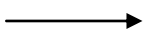
Contractually, Basil Read is required to construct a Bulk Fuel Installation at Rupert's Valley, consisting of 8 tanks with a total holding capacity of 8 million litres. There will be 4 Diesel, 2 Gasoline and 2 Aviation Fuel tanks. To date, the earth works incorporating 3 platforms and the concrete work including the casting of concrete plinths have been completed. The

erection of the tanks themselves is well underway.

Thereafter, the concrete bund walls, pipework, control building, fire fighting tank and access roads will be completed.

Basil Read is required to hand over the BFI six months before the Airport is completed.

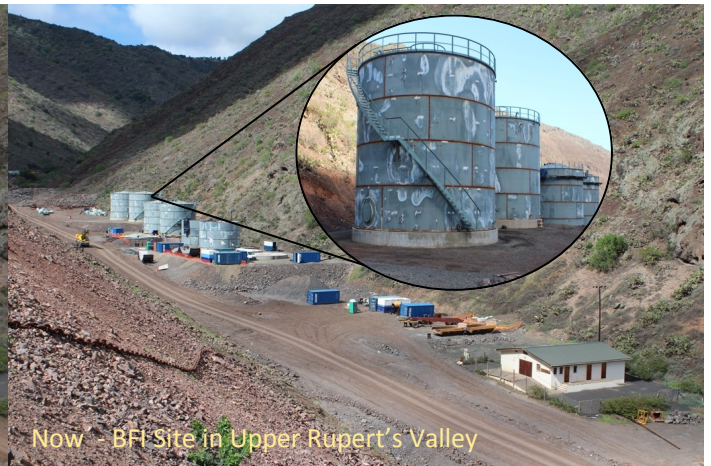
Please Turn Over for more 'Then and Now' photos







Then - BFI Site in Upper Rupert's Valley



Now - BFI Site in Upper Rupert's Valley

### Haul Road

In order to commence construction works on Prosperous Plain, a 14 km haul road was constructed from Rupert's Valley. Work is now in progress to convert the haul road to a permanent road to the Airport site. Excavations are being carried out to obtain final alignment and levels. The current emphasis is on the area between Deadwood to Bradleys and the Pipe Ridge area.

The construction of the road will comprise excavation to

formation level and surfacing with a Cape Seal layer, which consists of 19mm crushed stone dressed with a slurry. Slurry is a mixture of sand, cement and emulsion.

The Cape Seal layer will only be laid after the construction equipment for the Airport site has been withdrawn to Rupert's Valley on completion of the Airport.



Then - Pipe Ridge



Now - Pipe Ridge

### RMS St Helena In Dry Dock

**T**he RMS St Helena departed the Island on Sunday 7 July bound for Cape Town and her yearly maintenance. The next three weeks and five days will be spent in "Dry Dock"

during which time the ship will be thoroughly cleaned, including the Hull outside, and various repairs will be carried out.

Being a passenger ship these include required repairs, the replacement of carpets and showers, the storing of supplies for scheduled voyages and fuel replenishment. During the time in Dry Dock employees on board will continue with their daily routine, together with completing training in First Aid, Fire Fighting and Survival at Sea.



RMS Crew present for this month's Dry Dock.

## Change Manager for SHG

**N**ow present on Island is Helen Standen, Change Manager for St Helena Government. Helen will be on Island for the next two years and her role here will be to support and assist St Helena Government to manage and embed change effectively. She will provide focus and direction to the Government's aims of becoming a streamlined and modernised public service through efficient and effective core public services, facilitating the further development of St Helena.

At present, Helen is evaluating the current status and progress within SHG, made to date, which will inform future options. Helen has already identified communication and information sharing, particularly within SHG, as an area of priority. Next steps will include developing and agreeing a work plan.



Helen has 15 years experience working at senior level in this role, both in the public and private sectors. She most recently worked for a UK District Council introducing changes in working practice and local authority transformation.

Helen is accompanied on Island by husband Andy and 16 year old son, Henry, who will be starting at Prince Andrew School in September.

Helen said:

*"My time here so far has been amazing! The Island is stunning, the Saints are welcoming and friendly and I am looking forward to working with everyone, both inside and outside Government, to bring about changes that improve our working methods."*

## Work Experience Student Joins PR Team

**R**ecently Joining the Public Relations team was Prince Andrew School student, Kerisha Francis, who is with the office for a six week work experience programme before returning to school in September to embark on her A-level studies.

Below is a short article written by Kerisha, about why she chose to do work experience in public relations and her future aspirations.

"My name is Kerisha Francis and I am currently taking part in the Work Experience Programme offered by the Adult & Vocational Education Service. Having reached the end of my compulsory schooling and GCSE examinations, for the next six weeks I will be working in the Government Public Relations Office supporting its team in communicating Government related issues to the public.

My ambition is to become a journalist and I hope that by the end of my work experience programme I will have gained better knowledge of writing articles and conducting interviews, and with any luck will have more confidence in pursuing a career in journalism. The reason I would like to become a journalist is because I like to learn about different people, real life events and the changes that are happening around me. I am also deciding whether or not to continue my schooling as a Sixth Form student. If I do choose to

return to Prince Andrew School I have chosen a blended study pathway where I would study A- level English Language, Geography, ICT and a diploma in Photography – all of which I hope will provide me with the necessary qualifications to start a career in journalism .

Alongside journalism, I also have an ambition to travel, as I have never left the Island, and would like to learn about the cultures of different countries. After Sixth Form, I have thought about the possibility of attending University to study a BA honours degree in Creative Writing and Journalism. My hobbies include reading, creative writing, learning and playing the clarinet, photography and listening to music."

**(Kerisha also wrote the RMS article on page 2).**



publicrelationsofficer1@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 2368



www.sainthelena.gov.sh



## DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY RETURNS FROM UK

**G**illian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary, returned to the Island in June after completing a six-week work experience and exposure programme with various UK establishments. This is the fourth programme of its kind to be sponsored by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Fund.

The programme included a series of attachments and appointments with the SHG UK Office, the Local Government Association (LGA), the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office, Swindon Borough Council and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch in Westminster.

There were also visits to Tanridge District Council in Oxted and Hackney Borough Council in London. Whilst with the SHG UK Representative's Office, Gillian was able to attend a St Helena Line Board meeting, which included an informal session with Adrian and Paul Gardiner from the Mantis Hotel Collection. She was also able to

accompany the SHG UK Representative, Mrs Kedell Worboys MBE, on a visit to Brussels to meet officers from the Overseas Countries and Territories Association and the Overseas Countries and Territories Task Force.

The attachment to the LGA, which is a politically led cross-party organisation representing some 412 UK Local Authorities, provided Gillian with an introduction to the rather complex UK political system. The LGA has three main roles: Lobbying, Advising/Supporting and conducting Peer Reviews. In recent times, these services have extended internationally. Discussions with officials and Councillors from Tanridge District Council and Hackney Borough Council demonstrated the differences in the areas of responsibility at District and Borough Council levels.

The visit to the Department of Communities and Local Government enabled Gillian to meet Sue Westcott and colleagues from the Strategy and Performance (Localities) Team. She was able to discuss issues of common interest, which included housing, and how problems could be addressed.

The attachment to the Cabinet Office allowed Gillian to meet the Propriety and Ethics Team and the

Records Management Team. She was able to talk to staff about their respective roles and the overall remit of the Cabinet Office. She noted that: *"Whilst on a much larger scale, the remit is similar to that of SHG Corporate Services"*. Whilst with FCO Gillian met officials dealing with St Helena, including Hannah Chadwick, who visited St Helena during the latter part of 2012.

The one-week attachment with Swindon Borough Council was particularly useful as Gillian was able to have sessions with officers and Councillors to gain an overview of their respective roles and the issues and challenges they currently face. Gillian said: *"I was able*

*to learn first-hand how the recent austerity cuts in the UK had impacted on the work of the Borough Council, resulting in a headcount reduction, and with officers taking on additional responsibilities. In some cases activities were reduced or cut altogether."*

In commenting on her six week programme, Gillian said: *"The visit was a whole new learning experience for me. I was able to meet people with whom I have*

*been corresponding and have also established new contacts to liaise with when carrying out various aspects of my work in Corporate Services. I have gained an insight into the UK political system at both national and local government level, and will be better placed when communicating with colleagues in the UK. One of the actions arising from my visit is a proposal to forge a link with Swindon Borough Council, as there is great potential for information sharing and possible training/exchange programmes that would benefit both parties."*

When asked about the most memorable part of her programme Gillian said: *"I guess it was the opportunity to attend the State Opening of Parliament. Kedell was visiting the Island at the time, so I was able to represent St Helena - it was a great experience to be actually sitting in Westminster and not just watching the proceedings on television."*

In concluding Gillian said: *"I am particularly grateful to Kedell Worboys for arranging my programme and for the support and assistance that she and her team provided in setting up the various appointments."*



publicrelationsofficer1@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 2368



www.sainthelena.gov.sh