

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

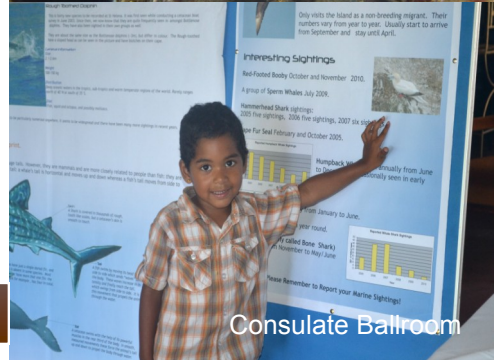
Issue: 5 March 2013

MARINE AWARENESS WEEK

Marine Awareness week 2013 on St Helena was based at the Consulate Ballroom from 23 February to 1 March. The event was organised by Elizabeth Clingham, Judith Brown, Leann Henry and Annalea Beard, all of the Environmental Management Directorate. Activity specials throughout the week included a litter pick up at the Run, beach clean up and scuba for beginners. Elizabeth commented that the most successful of all activities was the event held at the Consulate hotel, from the craft corner and the touch tank, to awareness of the Darwin Marine Biodiversity & Mapping Project, displays and other activities. Elizabeth added that “the general public also passed through to view the displays and hopefully by reaching a wide audience, the key message of protecting St Helena’s unique and vital marine environment will be put into action.”



© EMD



Consulate Ballroom

DEVELOPMENT AID PLANNING MISSION



HE Governor Capes & Suzanne Adcock

The Development Aid Planning team from the Department for International Development (DFID) was on-Island from 12 to 20 February 2013. After eight days of talks, DAPM along with the SHG team, signed the Aide Memoire. The Aide Memoire finalised the budget for the financial year 2013/2014.

Headlines included increased Capital Expenditure including funding for the Island’s infrastructure, and a continued high level of subsidy for the RMS St Helena. At the DAPM press conference on 20 February, HE Governor Capes said that this year’s talks were “more positive, a more joined up discussion with shared objectives and that’s given us a very good outcome this year. We are on a positive course.”

This DAPM represents an excellent result for St Helena, given a very difficult economic backdrop in the UK and much the rest of the world.

Public spending in St Helena will increase this year and will continue to be more tightly focused on our immediate priorities - channelling resources in ways that lay the foundations for sustainable growth, greater investment and social development, as air access approaches.

Ten students on St Helena have recently passed exams in their ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and FIA (Foundations in Accountancy) courses.

Diana Benjamin (Bank of St Helena) passed the Introductory, Recording Financial Transactions; whilst Lucy Cranfield (Physical Environment Directorate) passed the Intermediate level in Maintaining Financial Records.

Camilla Thomas from the Audit Service and Christy Joshua from Internal Audit completed the higher, Accountant in Business.

Tiffany Plato (Solomons & Co) who took Management Accounting, began Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) whilst working at the Bank of St Helena. Now working as the Finance Administrator for Solomons, the CAT qualification is vital for Tiffany's role, which includes capital expenditure, recording fixed assets, depreciation reports and budgeting. Tiffany said "I am also training to become an NVQ assessor, so I am focusing on that training and CAT - but once that's completed, then I will look at other development options."

Anita Legg (Corporate Services) also took Management Accounting and said she started CAT "because at the time, there was no International qualification for employees here. I worked part time in stores and accounts so this was the best option for me."

Julie-Marie Leo (Finance) took Foundations in Audit and is on her way to completing the CAT course with one more exam to go.

Nicholas Yon from Finance, passed two papers: Advanced Performance Management and Advanced Audit & Assurance - with one final paper to pass to complete the exam elements of the course. He is also working towards completing the three years practical experience required and the professional ethics module, before becoming a member of ACCA.



Julie-Marie Leo



Nicholas Yon

Congratulations are also extended to Connie Stevens and Sheridan Richards from the Saint Helena Audit Service. Connie took Advanced Performance Management, which completed her entire ACCA Professional Scheme, and Sheridan took Foundations in Financial Management, which enabled her to pass her entire Certified Accounting Technician course. The final exam, Connie commented, was at Masters Degree level and assessed her

ability as a professional adviser. Some financial audits must be certified by a qualified Accountant and this qualification will enable Connie to take on this role when deputising for the Chief Auditor. Sheridan summarised: "Those studying CAT should stay focused and motivated, as in the end it will be very worthwhile and become a part of your continuous professional development."

Sheridan summarised: "Those studying CAT should stay focused and motivated, as in the end it will be very worthwhile and become a part of your continuous professional development."



Tiffany Plato



Connie Stevens & Sheridan Richards



SHG RESTRUCTURE CONTINUES

As part of its drive to make better use of limited funds, SHG is modernising and restructuring to strengthen lines of accountability within Government, and more clearly link policy with political oversight, decision making, programme delivery and value for money. As part of this, the strengthening of the Corporate centre of Government (Corporate Services) allows for a more customer-focused, efficient and coordinated approach to providing services to Directorates, Government and the public as a whole.



Internal Audit (previously situated at the Post Office) has now relocated to the Castle, to physically join the rest of Corporate Services. Although not a frontline service provider, Internal Audit supports SHG in achieving its objectives, with direct reporting lines to the Chief Secretary.

Helena Bennett, Head of Internal Audit said: "The physical move will have no impact on the way Internal Audit carries out its job, maintaining confidentiality in the audits and the services provided to other Directorates."



Helena commented that efficiencies will be gained by the sharing of resources, such as IT and administrative services. New recruit Alexia Furniss, who joined Internal Audit in February, is working towards her A-level grades in Business Studies, Information Technology and Psychology. Alexia said she applied for the role of Internal Audit Assistant after gaining work experience in the Audit Service. She is currently undergoing training and will shortly begin her first audit.

Helena added: "We are changing the way we audit. Under the Sustainable Development Plan, one key target for Government is to provide a more transparent process. Internal audit will now produce an annual assurance statement to establish how effective the internal framework of SHG is. To provide that assurance we actually have to cover every single Internal audit process in SHG. So we establish a checklist of all the controls in place, then do detailed auditing on the key risk areas."



ART ATTACK AT PRINCE ANDREW SCHOOL

The Arts Open Day at Prince Andrew School saw a wide range of sketches, paintings and textured art on display. The open day allowed parents, as well as the public, to view GCSE Art course work which will contribute to the students' results. Practical storage creations from the students who attend GCSE Technology were also on display.

Jordon Thomas, who takes both Art and Technology commented that it took some time to do his artwork, which spanned over a period of three months. Jordon's more intricate designs focused on nature, an inspiration for his creations.

Art Open Day was a welcome occasion at PAS and Head Teacher Vanessa Tissington said: "We haven't done anything like this in a long time. There is so much talent behind the door that it was such a shame not to open it up for everyone in the community to see." Vanessa is a fan of art:

"I am always popping in and out of the art room because of the talent I have seen amongst the students. I asked the art teacher (Sharon Clingham) if we could put on an exhibition for more than



just the school community, so that members of the public who are interested could come along." Students in the Art class, are now busy preparing for their exams and also learning about



Jordon Thomas

the practical options that can be applied using their art skills.

Sharon Clingham said: "Art is going to play a big part in the development on St Helena, designing branding for companies, designing buildings and decorating." She added that broadening the idea of what art is, leads to more opportunities.

Vanessa said that the Protea hotel group visited students at PAS and expressed a keen interest in training young people to work in a wide variety of roles in the industry. Vanessa commented that there are many areas to which students can apply their art after leaving school – for example in marketing, PR and graphics. Keisha Peters, who will do her exam in 7 weeks, said that she has an interest in doing A level Art (a possibility that Vanessa is looking into). When asked why students should choose this subject, she replied "If you have the talent, why not use it?"

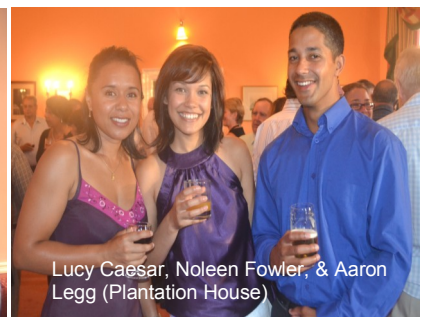


FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR VISITS ST HELENA

Dr Peter Hayes, Director for the Overseas Territories in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), arrived on Island, in early March. Peter's packed schedule included meetings with Councillors and officials, business and community



HE Governor Capes & Dr Peter Hayes



Lucy Caesar, Noleen Fowler, & Aaron Legg (Plantation House)

organisations—as well as social gatherings. Visits took place in Longwood House, the St Helena Distillery, the Hospital and the Airport site. Prominent in his schedule were schoolchildren and young people, as well as residents and the media. Peter extends his thanks to all who helped him learn more about St Helena.



publicrelationsofficer2@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 2470



www.sainthelena.gov.sh