

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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'St Helena is Certainly Getting Busier...'- GOVERNOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

St Helena is certainly getting busier ... that is a phrase that I often hear these days and I have to agree with it. The past year has flashed by, with so much happening and so much still to do. At times, our sister Islands of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha have also kept me busy during 2013. Through it all I have enjoyed working with my colleagues to achieve the best outcomes for all three Islands. For me a highlight of 2013 was my first visit to Tristan da Cunha, an extraordinary place and the most remote inhabited Island in the world. Its community of less than 300 people extend such a warm welcome to visitors and I do hope that I may visit again one day.

I also greatly enjoyed a short working visit to Cape Town, en-route to Tristan. What made an intense and quite gruelling programme enjoyable, was the strong sense of being part of a united team, working hard for St Helena. All concerned were pulling together, working well with good humour and commitment, to achieve our common objectives. It was quite a buzz. As always it is attitude that counts. Sir Winston Churchill once said, *'Attitude is a small thing that makes a big difference'*. How true that is. With a positive attitude so much can be achieved. I'm much looking forward to the challenges ahead in 2014 and to working with 'Team St Helena' to meet those challenges.

As each year comes to a close, and especially at Christmas, we pause to think of family or friends who may be with us no longer. So while Christmas is for sharing and celebrating with our friends and families, let us also remember those that are mourning the recent loss of a loved one, as well as those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Let's offer them a helping hand, even just a few kind words or a hug can make a big difference to someone.



This year my Christmas Day will be spent at sea! I will be on the good ship RMS St Helena, heading for Cape Town for a quick visit to London to see my family and then on to Ascension for my first visit following the recent general election there. I know that I and my fellow passengers will be very well looked after by the superb crew on the RMS - it should be an experience to remember.

As we approach Christmas the familiar preparations are underway. At Plantation House Wendy and Melissa are busy making Christmas cakes and so a rich and warm aroma of baking cakes fills the house. The cakes are for me to deliver to the Community Care Complex, Barn View, and those in sheltered homes. The Christmas tree lights are already on in the paddock at Plantation House and, no doubt after much hard work and many rehearsals, the primary schools are presenting their Advent plays.

On that happy note, Tamara and I send our very best wishes to everyone on St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha for a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Artist's Corner Exhibition

Hosted by the St Helena Arts and Crafts Association, an Artists' Corner Exhibition was held between 25-30 November showcasing artworks locally produced on St Helena.

Chairperson of the Arts and Crafts Association, Cathy Hopkins explained that the idea of having an Art Exhibition had been on members' minds for a while. She said:

"We felt it would be opportune to host the Artists' Corner Exhibition for one week while the RMS was here with a good number of tourists - but interestingly it was Saints and people working here who bought most of the paintings we sold. We had a range of techniques on show including

watercolours, oils, pastels and batik work. We also welcomed the opportunity to show work by the IGCSE Art students at Prince Andrew School which attracted a lot of interest – limited edition prints of these works are available at the Centre."

There was everything from very large to very small

on show and the Art and Crafts Centre was buzzing all week. Among visitors were several school groups and the students showed a lot of interest and asked lots of questions about the various techniques used. The Arts and Crafts Association will now look ahead to hosting other Art exhibitions in the future.

Cathy added:

"We've had very positive feedback about the exhibition and would like to publicly say a huge

thank you to all the artists, to Tourism and ESH for their advice and assistance, and to all the visitors to the Exhibition.

Arts and Crafts are an important part of St Helena's cultural heritage and the Association works to support all artists and crafters with a revolving fund to bring in materials - and

through operating the Centre where their works can be displayed and sold. We also have worked closely with Tourism, Enterprise St Helena and AVES to bring out Trainers and are pleased that by working in partnership with Prince Andrew School, two craft projects have taken off at the School."

Prince Andrew IGCSE Students' Art Work



Message from Ken Baddon



I announced, last [July], my intention to step down from office as Attorney General, and I did so on 30 November. Frank Wastell has been appointed to succeed me, and Morag Stevenson is stepping up to Solicitor General. I wish them both every happiness and success.

I look forward to being back in St Helena, for a while, early in 2014, renewing friendships and bidding my final farewells. In the meantime, I wish everyone a most enjoyable festive season.



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Governor Returns from Overseas Visit

Governor Capes returned to the Island on 25 November after making his first official visit to Tristan da Cunha - and promoting St Helena in Cape Town, along with Councillor Lawson Henry and Julian Morris. Governor Capes spoke about his visit to both Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha:

"Almost exactly a year ago, I visited Cape Town with Julian Morris, CEO of Enterprise St Helena (ESH), to promote St Helena as a destination for investment. There was much interest in what was happening here, including from the Mantis Hotel Group and the Protea Hotel Group, both companies making exploratory visits to St Helena just a few months later. "This year our team was considerably strengthened with the inclusion of Councillor Lawson Henry who was on his way to the UK to represent St Helena at the

annual Joint Ministerial Council in London. Rob Midwinter and Cathy Alberts from ESH were also part of 'Team St Helena', as were two new colleagues visiting from DfID in the UK.

"We went to renew contacts and to update on progress with the airport and other matters. The overarching objective was to further raise awareness of St Helena as a destination to visit and in which to invest.

"Specifically in support of that objective I gave several live media interviews on major radio stations, reaching a huge audience. The essence of my message was that St Helena is a gem of an Island, sitting (relatively) close to South Africa, presenting many attractive opportunities for the right partners who would like to do business with us. It was rewarding to hear the positive and interested response from the listeners who called in to the radios stations, or e-mailed or 'tweeted' comments. Had we sought to purchase that level of publicity it was estimated that it would have cost over £50,000 - we got it for free.

"At the centre of our busy schedule was a presentation to invited guests - business people and the media.

After a warm welcome by a senior representative from WESGRO, the Western Cape Investment and Trade and Promotion Agency, Lawson, Julian and I spoke about different aspects of St Helena and the opportunities to be made possible by the introduction of air access. We also screened a video highlighting the attractions of St Helena. The event was well attended and generated plenty of interest to be followed up by ESH, our excellent Commercial Representative in South Africa, Adam Kossowski and our ever helpful SHG representative, John Scipio. The programme also included a number of pre-arranged individual meetings with various

businesses.

A highlight of our programme was a dinner hosted by my Diplomatic Service colleague Chris Trott, our hugely supportive Consul-General in Cape Town. Guests at the dinner, held at Chris' impressive residence, included the Western Cape



Governor Capes in Cape Town with WESGRO'S Howard Gabriels and Judy Lain.

Minister for Economic Development, the Deputy Mayor of Cape Town and potential investors. With Basil Read's Director Jimmy Johnston present at the dinner, we took the opportunity to sign a Supplementary Agreement (worth £17 million in total) for Basil Read to construct a Wharf at Rupert's Bay.

It was a hectic but productive two days in Cape Town. There was a true team spirit among those representing and supporting St Helena which made it a positive, hugely enjoyable and rewarding experience. I am grateful to so many who helped pull it all together.

"After the adrenaline rush of the Cape Town schedule, it was ideal to then have four days on the RMS St Helena as we cruised towards my next stop, Tristan da Cunha. Then time to recharge and prepare for approaching Gough Island in stormy seas - I began to worry that we might not be able to get ashore on Tristan, then only about two hundred miles away. As we passed close to Gough Island, Captain Young invited me to the bridge to chat on the VHF radio with staff at the weather research station on the Island, where up to about eight people are stationed for a year at a time.

Continued over page →

They mentioned that the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables was one of the less attractive points of life on Gough Island. The following morning, 19 November, we arrived off Tristan with the sun shining in clear blue skies and with the sea probably as calm as it ever could be in that part of the South Atlantic. Feeling blessed on account of the fine conditions, I was able to go ashore with little difficulty. I was greeted warmly on arrival and then launched into a full programme that would run until noon on 21 November.

"The Administrator, Alex Mitham and his colleagues on Tristan had carefully designed my programme to ensure that I met as many Tristanians as possible and saw all of the important points on the Island. There was much interest in my visit and I was made to feel most welcome wherever I went. I visited the school, the two churches, the famous potato patches, an authentic Tristan cottage built by pensioners using traditional building methods and materials, the lobster processing factory, the hospital and much more.

A high point was a large reception held at Prince Phillip Hall on the evening of Wednesday 20 November, which gave me the opportunity to address most of the community with a speech covering various topical issues. I also had the honour, on behalf of Her Majesty, to present four individuals with honours. This included a British

Empire Medal to former Tristan midwife, Gladys Lavarello. Some years ago Gladys, a charming lady, spent time as a midwife on St Helena where she delivered many babies and I'm sure many people on St Helena will remember her fondly.

"I found that by far the main concern on the minds of Tristanians was the poor state of the harbour, which I saw for myself, and the need for better medical services and facilities. On the latter point, I think DfID is close to making a decision on whether to build a new hospital. As to the harbour, I believe more work is needed before a recommendation on possible options can be submitted for decision by DfID. It is clear however that to provide a permanent fix for the harbour would be a very expensive undertaking.

"When I boarded the RMS St Helena to leave on Thursday 21 November, I felt that I was leaving too soon. But I could not really complain given that I, and the 100 plus tourists travelling with me, had enjoyed such favourable weather, allowing us to go ashore with little difficulty. I am told that shortly after we sailed the weather broke and there was torrential rain! Tristan, an extraordinary island, is home to a happy and welcoming people. I would very much like to visit again.

Photos of Governor Capes' visit to Tristan can be found at:

<http://www.tristandc.com/rms2013cruise.php>

Signing of Supplemental Agreement

In November 2011, on the signing of the DBO Contract, there was a commitment made between SHG and Basil Read to construct a Wharf in Rupert's, pending detailed design and costing.

In September 2013, during the visit of Nigel Kirby of DfID and Jimmy Johnson of Basil Read and following months of detailed design work, it was confirmed that we would move ahead with the next stage of the Wharf. Variation No 11 was signed at that time to commit funding from the Airport Project to the Rupert's Wharf.

During his recent visit to Basil Read's Offices in South Africa, and on the advice of DfID, HE Governor Capes signed (pictured) a Supplemental Agreement (SA) for the Wharf. Supplemental Agreements are operational and relate to detailed changes in contract - this particular SA reflects design and build requirements for the Wharf and provides a payment schedule. This simply supplements and provides more detail to the earlier Variation No 11, signed in September 2013.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

The Bi-Monthly Recycling Forum was held at the Horse Point Land Fill Site on Wednesday 27 November 2013.

Kicking off at 11am the forum was opened by Environmental Risk Manager, Mike Durnford, who emphasised the importance of recycling to safeguard our environment.

This was followed by a talk from Project Manager (Construction Phase) Bill Scanes, who gave a comprehensive overview of the redevelopment that has started at Horse Point Landfill Site by contractor Basil Read.

Mike informed all participants that the Environmental Management Division (EMD) now has baseline data for the 'Waste Wheel' and that this has been communicated to all interested stakeholders. The Waste Wheel highlights opportunities for business recycling initiatives and enterprise through identification of waste volumes, the top three groups continue to be Organic Waste, Cans/Tins and Glass. Mike also informed participants that the differentiated bin loan scheme has been very successful with up to 40 bins loaned at any one time. Enterprise St Helena (ESH) has kindly supported a proposal to procure a further 60 to support the loan scheme and these should arrive next month, thus providing more opportunity for businesses and individuals to conscientiously dispose of their wastes.

The 'Free-Cycle' initiative, also soon to be started by the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), where items no longer required by owners can be advertised free of charge by placement of an advert outside Broadway House - for up to 2 weeks - enabling someone else to benefit from the item no longer required. The item advertised ideally should be offered free to another person, but if a charge is made then a contribution will be made to SHNT Funds for the Free-Cycle advertising. As one of the three highest percentages of waste being disposed of, there are also opportunities for glass recycling - the reuses of this waste material being many - including for construction purposes.

ESH is working with businesses towards re-establishing glass recycling. Meanwhile EMD are ready to provide glass recycling bins to the community to support any glass recycling initiatives.

On the subject of recycling, Mike gave an update on the Schools' recycling of plastic bottles. Previously, plastic bottle recycling had been set up to support the SHNT's work at the Millennium Forest. Although this worked very well, SHNT became overwhelmed with bottles. However, once the Community Forests project gathers pace, it is envisaged that, once again, plastic bottles will be required for plant preservation work. The Education and Employment Directorate has agreed to support this initiative by encouraging plastic bottle recycling in schools. Bins for this purpose will be provided by EMD/ESH under the bin loan scheme.



The ink cartridge recycling, set up by EMD, has been working well and to date an estimated four cubic metres of ink cartridges (and packaging) have been collected at the Environmental Risk Management Office in Essex House and have been recycled through a partnership with Basil Read. EMD welcomes spent cartridges which

should be delivered to Essex House (upstairs) and encourages all businesses and families to take advantage of this opportunity. EMD would like to thank Basil Read for their continued support with ink cartridge recycling.

Also discussed at the Forum was the Roads Sweepings Waste Proposal - an initiative between SHAPE, EMD and the Roads Section for roads sweepings waste to be stockpiled at Donkey Plain (opposite SHAPE) and then sold to the public for a small charge, as a fundraising initiative for SHAPE. EMD has applied for planning permission to create bunds at Donkey Plain, using life expired tyres to house the road sweepings.

Mike said:

"It was pleasing to see media interest from both SAMS and Saint FM at the Recycling Forum and we hope that this will continue. The Forum has grown since 2012 and EMD welcomes any individual or businesses with an interest in developing and supporting recycling, to attend our bi-monthly Forums."

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Mike Durnford, Environmental Risk Manager, EMD, on 22270 or e-mail mike-durnford@enrd.gov.sh



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Festival of Arts and Culture

The Festival of Arts and Culture is held to showcase St Helena's talent and to highlight the Island's culture and traditions.

The Festival is celebrated internationally, on different dates in different countries, with country-specific activities.

It has been celebrated (since 2006) on St Helena from 2-26 December. The initial concept was Put together by former Director of Tourism, Pam Young.

Co-ordinator of events for the Festival of Arts and Culture, Christina Stroud of Tourism, explained:

"This occasion offers various events and is very much centred on family activities. Some of the events are organised by the Tourism Office, but others are traditional that we hold every year, such as Primary School events, Christmas Carolling, and the Ivyletts Pantomime."

Organising these events involves collaboration with individual organisations such as the National Trust and then pulling together a programme for the public. Christina mentioned some of the activities on offer:

"On offer, we have Wirebird tours and various walks with the National Trust, where booking is essential. There are Donkey Walks, Arts and Crafts Demonstrations - for example flax and lace making - and much more. Anyone can participate."

Every year the Festival of Arts and Culture has been positively supported and well attended, particularly the Pantomime and the Festival of Lights.

Christina concluded:

"We hope that the younger generation will embrace St Helena's creativity and culture- it is so important to keep St Helena's traditions alive."

As part of her culture, St Helena has always been passionate about sports, bringing our community together through football, cricket and golf - the main sporting events which are greatly supported as part of the annual Festival.

On Friday 6 December the Primary Schools gathered at the Jamestown swimming pool in Jamestown to celebrate their annual Gala Day. The atmosphere was very noisy, almost overwhelming, and there was nothing but a blur of red, yellow and green shirts, with everyone cheering for their school. Children were buzzing with enthusiasm, with the swimmers all wearing faces of determination as they were cheered along. Team spirit was the order of the day!

The end result saw Pilling Primary School emerge as overall winners, with St Paul's and Harford Primary in joint second.



Pilling Primary Advent Service



Christmas Bazaar at the Leisure Park



Primary Schools' Gala Day



St Paul's Primary Advent Service