

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 33 July 2015

Safeguarding St Helena's Community

The Safeguarding Children Board - committed to enhancing the safety and wellbeing of children and young people on St Helena - has awarded funding to no less than 35 initiatives on the Island which have an impact on safeguarding. Assistant Chief Secretary Paul McGinnety said: *"These schemes cover a range of diverse activities spanning all age groups, and it is very encouraging to see so much community interest, participation and enthusiasm."*

The St Helena Junior Football League is just one initiative (in existence since 2007) that has been awarded funds under this scheme. The League caters for children from the age of five through to sixteen years, allowing beginners to enjoy the sport as well as older and more skilled footballers - with a mixture of boys and girls. The League has grown in popularity, with an initial signup of 70 children progressing to 90 children in 2015. One of the organisers, Nick Stevens, said: *"We have felt tremendous support from the community with the Junior League. At times we have over one hundred spectators supporting the kids, no matter the weather."* Previously the Junior Football League has sought sponsorship from Sure and Solomon's for medals - with organisers Colin Owen, Johnny Issac and Nick Stevens sourcing the remaining funds required. The new funding will allow the purchase of football kits and protective gear which is provided to some children unable



to buy kits themselves. Funds will also go towards the maintenance of nets, which suffer wear and tear during games.

The Salvation Army was also one of the successful applicants - wishing to re-launch the Mums and Toddlers Group, purchasing chairs and tables, plus safety gates to reduce the risk of children running outside. Lieutenant Carol Yon said: *"Our Toddler Group is a chance for mums and toddlers to interact with each other in a social setting. The children get a chance to play, sing, dance and enjoy craft activities. Mums get the added bonus of chatting to each other."*

The Salvation Army is also planning to start a Youth Club, where younger members of the community can visit the centre to simply 'hang out', in a comfortable and safe environment, with snacks and drinks available. New Horizons was also successful for a bid to fund the next New Horizons Ascension Island visit. Nick Stevens spoke about the benefits of the trip, with those selected to travel often growing in confidence through being exposed to a different environment away from parents. It allows bonding with peers and participating in school and conservation activities on Ascension.

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Public Library Hosts Reading Day

A Reading Awareness Day was once again held at the Public Library in Jamestown on 25 June 2015. Organised annually, the day is used to spark an interest, particularly amongst younger children, in enjoying the imaginative world books offer.



Librarian, Jill Young said: "We often plan activity days around the school holidays. We do this every year and our reading awareness days, as you can see today, are

very popular - with a high attendance from children and parents alike." Throughout the day, with many taking on a pirate theme, children enjoyed reading live on SAMS Radio 1 and were read stories by volunteers Jean Corker, Doreen Bagley, and Debbie Parkinson. With activities running until 3 O'clock, Jill noted that on activity days more new, young members sign up.

Through proactive outreach to parents and carers, Jill

hopes that they will then encourage their children to enjoy books and see the importance of reading to their child's development.

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.”

Jacqueline Kennedy



Tapping Out

Creative St Helena has recently concluded its current ten-week run of Tap Dancing classes, which commenced in early March. Creative Saint Helena aims to offer a range of activities on Island, particularly utilising skills currently available on St Helena.

Teeny Lucy, a former dancer and singer in the UK, has been able to apply her skills to teach tap dance to beginners. Director of Creative St Helena, Pamela Murray commented: "We exist to create opportunities for people in St Helena to engage and participate in a range of arts, and to support St Helenian artists and St Helenian culture. This can only happen with the involvement of the whole community." During the ten weeks' of tap dancing classes, Pamela said: "We had an encouraging turnout for the classes and many mothers and daughters did the course together - which I thought was great. We are now interested in running the courses again at the end of July, and have purchased footwear in smaller sizes for 'little feet'!"



Design House



The Design House is a training concept that emerged between Head of Enterprise

St Helena, Niall O'Keeffe, and Creative St Helena Director Pamela Murray.

Pamela said: "We wanted to focus on the role of women in business on the Island. The sales margins on clothing tend to be high on St Helena, so there should be a market for locally made clothing."

The project will begin at the end of July, and training will focus on the practical aspects of making clothes, creativity in business and marketing and book-keeping. At the end of the course a fashion show will be held for designers to showcase and sell their work. Pamela wishes to extend thanks to WISH, Abiwans, G-Unique and Burgh House, as without their support and practical training, the Design House project would not be possible. Pamela also wishes to thank the Governor's Office, ESH, Sure and the Chamber of Commerce for providing funding for the scheme.



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Reception To Welcome New Staff

Acting Governor Sean Burns hosted a reception at Plantation House on Thursday 25 June to welcome three new recruits to St Helena Government. These are Gavin Barlow, new Senior Audit Manager, Lesley Giles, new Prison Manager, and Darren Clarke, new Director of Health. The three are all contracted on Island for two years.

L to R: Gavin Barlow, Lesley Giles, Acting Governor Sean Burns, Darren Clarke and his daughter Isabella



St Helena Island Games Team

The St Helena 2015 Island Games Team will return home with a Silver and a Bronze medal from this year's Natwest Island Games XVI, held in Jersey from 27 June to 3 July 2015. The team, led by Chef de Mission Gavin George and managers Pat Henry and Barbara Osborne, has now departed Jersey en-route to St Helena. The 2015 team comprised Madolyn Andrews, Jodie Scipio-Constantine, Kayleigh Harris, Chelsea Benjamin, Simon Henry, Jordie Andrews, Ben Dillon, Martin (Jackson) Buckley, Patrick Sim, Malcolm Williams and Alexia Reynolds.



Madolyn Andrews and Chelsea Benjamin won Bronze medals in the ISSF 50m Prone Smallbore Rifle Women's Team event and Madolyn and Kayleigh Harris were awarded a Silver medal in the 50m 3 Position Smallbore Rifle Women's Team event.

New Horizons Clean-up Seafront

On Wednesday 24 June, New Horizons led a litter pick-up to clear the Seafront. The team were surprised at the amount of litter just thrown on the beach - mostly consisting of glass bottles, beer cans and cigarette boxes. All young youth workers took part in the clean-up, including Tanisha, Benjamin, Cody Thomas and Ronan Legg. Tanisha, a newly recruited youth worker, said:

"We chose this day, as it was designated for team building, and we encouraged primary children to join us for our team day. We all came together to make the seafront a cleaner and a safer place."

"We wanted to do something both for our own group and for the wider community. Many children, including myself, regularly go swimming at the seafront and we wanted to make it a safer place to be. Those who throw litter forget their own environment and safety."

After the clean-up, the team took part in brain-teasers and puzzles, followed by a volleyball tournament in the afternoon - with some members opting to listen to music and play the guitar.



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Gravity Rush, June 2015



MOD Engages with Island Community

A team led by the UK's Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently on St Helena to remove remaining fuel oil from the wreck of the RFA Darkdale in James Bay. Whilst waiting on various equipment to arrive, the Royal Navy divers made themselves useful to the Island's community. On 24 June



2015 they offered their services to Pilling Primary School, cleaning and repainting the playground. Head Teacher, Elaine Benjamin said:

"They all got really busy and by lunchtime had managed to repaint our basketball court, paint hop-scotch and outline a large activity circuit. Pilling Primary School would like to say a huge thank you to all of the divers who helped on the day. The children derived great enjoyment from the playground games on their first day back at school."

