

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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Derek Henry Returns from Successful Overseas Work Placements

Deputy Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD), Derek Henry, departed St Helena on 31 January 2015 to undertake a six-week placement with the Government of Jersey in the Channel Islands, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Diamond Jubilee Fund.

Jersey is similar to St Helena and is financially independent with a population of around one hundred thousand people. Derek's placement gave him the opportunity to widen his experience and understanding of the workings of Government in a different Island state and in relation to his current job role.

While in Jersey, Derek worked closely with the Environment and Planning Department. He was given an insight into the workings of the department and attended various meetings and took part in discussions with Ministers, senior management and their teams and external organisations. Derek also had the opportunity to partake in a number of practical visits.

Derek told us more about his practical experiences: *"I spent a day in the English Channel on the Government Fisheries Patrol Boat, monitoring fish catches made by French fishing vessels. This involved boarding the fishing vessels and checking their catches to ensure compliance with fishing agreements. I also visited Oyster and Mussel Aqua Farms, situated half a mile or so of the coast of Jersey, collecting samples at low tide for laboratory testing in the UK."*

Through his placement Derek was able to understand Jersey's waste management system and how traffic management is carried out on the Island. He visited farm



Oyster and Mussel Aqua Farm

sites which produced the famous 'Jersey Royal potato'. Other visits included trips to conservation sites and coastal paths, and the historic environment of St Helier to understand how these sites are managed.

As part of his visit Derek travelled to Paris where he attended the 'Salon de l'

agriculture', the annual French International Agriculture Show, held between 27 February and 6 March 2015. Derek noted that the issues dealt with by Jersey's Environment and Planning Department were very similar to the issues that are dealt with here on St Helena - budget reductions, efficiency savings, traffic management, waste management, renewable energy generation and pollution.

Derek described how this placement would help him in his current role:

"I will be able to draw upon my experience and knowledge from the placement to help contribute to dealing with issues that we are working with now and those that may arise in the future. It was also very useful to build links and network with various Organisations."

Derek also spent a week based in London, organised by the SHG UK Representative's Office. While in London Derek attended a Darwin Initiative Project Management Workshop and meetings at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). He also visited the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Headquarters in Sandy, Bedfordshire, and the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) in Peterborough.

This placement has been an extremely useful experience for Derek and he would like to thank all of those involved in making it possible.



Monitoring fish catches



Kimberley.yon-roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 22470



www.sainthelena.gov.sh

High Knoll Fort Reopens

High Knoll Fort, a special historic site and a main attraction for tourists was reopened on Saturday evening, 25 April 2015, organised by the St Helena National Trust, Enterprise St Helena (ESH) and St Helena Government (SHG). From 5pm onwards, on a windy but cool evening, the public were invited to view the repairs that had been carried out to the collapsed wall at the Fort which was rebuilt by local contractors, as well as view a display showing future plans for High Knoll Fort. Attendees were able to view the breathtaking scenery from the fort and explore the well-lit rooms on the east-side of the historic site.

A marquee was set up for the public to relax under whilst socialising with friends and family and enjoying refreshments from the available food and drink stalls. Music was also played which created a relaxing atmosphere for everyone in attendance.

At 6.30pm Governor Capes gave an opening speech highlighting that High Knoll Fort was one of his favourite spots on the Island. He also commended the excellent workmanship in restoring sections of the falling wall and emphasised to everyone that the rebuilt section looked exactly like the original.

Councillor Lawson Henry gave a speech shortly after, reflecting on past uses of High Knoll Fort, from executions taking place in the 1800's, to recreational events. Councillor Henry mentioned that High Knoll Fort - *"respected but also enjoyed by the public"* and that the site is an important piece of St



Entrance of High Knoll Fort

Helena's history.

President of the St Helena National Trust, Mrs Ethel Yon OBE, concluded the speeches by thanking everyone who made the reopening of High Knoll Fort possible. She gave a special thank you to the National Trust, ESH, SHG, food kiosks - 'Mikes Munchies' and 'Amphibians' - and the music providers. She also explained that High Knoll Fort, along with Mundens House, Lemon Valley and other significant historic sites on the Island are key developments for the future.

High Knoll Fort was originally built as a circular tower in 1799 acting as a lookout over Ladder Hill until 1874 when the fort was rebuilt by the Royal Engineers of the British Army into the structure seen today, where Boer prisoners were incarcerated from the Second Boer War.

'Speaking Saint' - Second Edition

Speaking Saint was launched at the Museum of St Helena on 5 February 2015 by Creative St Helena. The book is a collection of lively stories involving Island life on St Helena. Stories and poems about the mysterious Monkak, the RMS, love and people's memoirs were the typical written literature, contributed by 23 people on the Island, including members of the St Helena Creative Writing Group. All stories and poems were written in local Saint dialect and over 400 copies were distributed between Ascension Island, the UK and on St Helena.

Creative Director of Creative St Helena, Pamela Murray spoke of the book's success:

"It has been popular among English speaking tourists, but even more so among the Saints on the Island and overseas. For me the best part is when people stop me in the street to talk about the stories and tell me stories that they remember from growing up."

Pamela also mentioned that the contributors should be very proud of their work. Stories and poems that were written in Saint dialect were among the most popular and Pamela believed this resonated with people who were familiar with the Island. Because the book was such a popular favourite Creative St Helena has decided to

publish a second edition. Poems, stories, songs, memoirs, nature and historical writings are invited and welcomed from the public to create a second edition.

The deadline for all submissions is July 2015 and

contributions can either be dropped off at the Human

Rights Office or emailed to Pamela at creativesainthelena@gmail.com.

It is hoped that 'Speaking Saint: Volume Two' will be published in October this year.

Pamela gives her advice to those thinking of submitting:

"There are no boundaries on creativity in writing. Be brave, plan, and don't worry about spelling and grammar in the first instance - that can all be fixed later. Just get your ideas on the page."



Pamela Murray

Celebrating HM Queen's Birthday

In honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's birthday, it is customary for the Governor of St Helena to host a Garden Party at Plantation House. This year, on Saturday 18 April 2015, Governor and Mrs Capes, along with invited guests, gathered in the surroundings of Plantation to enjoy light refreshments in celebration of this occasion.

In HE's speech made on the day, Governor Capes remarked on the opening of St Helena's Airport and the new opportunities the Airport will bring to the Island. Following his speech Governor Capes invited guests to join him in a toast to HM The Queen. The National Anthem, courtesy of the 'Gettogethers' Orchestra and the Salvation Army Band, was then played.

Queen Elizabeth II's actual birthday is on 21 April. HM was born in 1926 making her eighty nine years old. Queen Elizabeth Alexandra Mary II has been reigning since 1952 and is currently the second-longest British Monarch, the longest being Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years.



Cruise Ship MV Costa Deliziosa Visits

The last luxurious cruise ship to visit St Helena during the cruise ship season was the MV Costa Deliziosa visiting on Friday 17 April 2015. The vessel arrived in James' Bay at 9am with 2,871 people onboard - of which 1,963 were passengers and 908 crew. On a beautiful sunny day tourists were able to go on taxi and bus tours to view the Island countryside. Many tourists were scheduled for pre-booked tours while others wandered around Jamestown taking photos and enjoying the sunshine. Jamestown was buzzing with visitors, attracted to the various stalls set up on The Grand Parade. St Helena's population was increased by nearly half on the day due to the number of tourists who came ashore.

Temporary Administration Officer of SHAPE, Sarah Dalton, commented on the success of the SHAPE stalls in Jamestown, Ladder Hill and at Longwood Green:

"We did extremely well in raising money for SHAPE as we received £111.70 in donations and raised £881 from all of our stalls.

Italian registered and launched in 2010 the MV Costa Deliziosa has a tonnage of 92,600 with 17 decks and has the capacity to hold 2,260 passengers including 1,050 crew on board.



MV Costa Deliziosa

Primary Schools Athletics Day

The Primary Schools held their annual Athletics Day at Francis Plain on Friday 24 April 2015. All three Primary schools - Harford, St Paul's and Pilling - gathered on the field in the morning with much anticipation and eagerness. Cheerleaders wore outfits representing the colour of their school with Harford wearing green, Pilling wearing red and St Paul's wearing yellow.

Headteacher of St Paul's Primary, Pat Williams commented:

"The cheerleaders from all three schools performed great and it was wonderful to see the excellent turnout of parents who came to support their children and the schools."

Key Stage 1 pupils kicked off the sports by competing in the first-half of the day, followed by Key Stage 2 pupils in the afternoon.

Headteacher of Harford Primary, Carlene Crowie said:

"There was much talent displayed and the races' particularly in KS2 were very closely contested. Many athletes demonstrated the wealth and depth of talent we have in all three schools."

Throughout the day pupils broke many records in various sports such as the 80m race, shot putt and javelin. At the end of the day the points were totalled and the winners were announced.

St Paul's Primary emerged overall winners with 166 points, in second place was Harford Primary with 160 points and

Winners of the Day - St Paul's Primary School



in third place Pilling Primary school with 131 points. Individual trophies and medals were also awarded to children for their outstanding talent in different sports. Headteacher, Pat Williams, commented on St Paul's triumph:

"I am more than proud of our pupils again this year as they participated so well. I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff, including Mr Nick Stevens, for their dedication and help in preparing our children for Athletics Day, and a big well done to all three Primary schools."

Athletics Day is an event that allow pupils to show off their athletic skills in various sports.

St Paul's Primary Science Fair

On Saturday, 25 April 2015, between 12 & 4pm, a Science Fair was open to the public at St Paul's Primary School.

The Science Fair was held on the School's playing field allowing plenty of space for various stalls to be set up. Along with pupils' Science projects on display there were also food stalls, a face painting stall and donkey rides.

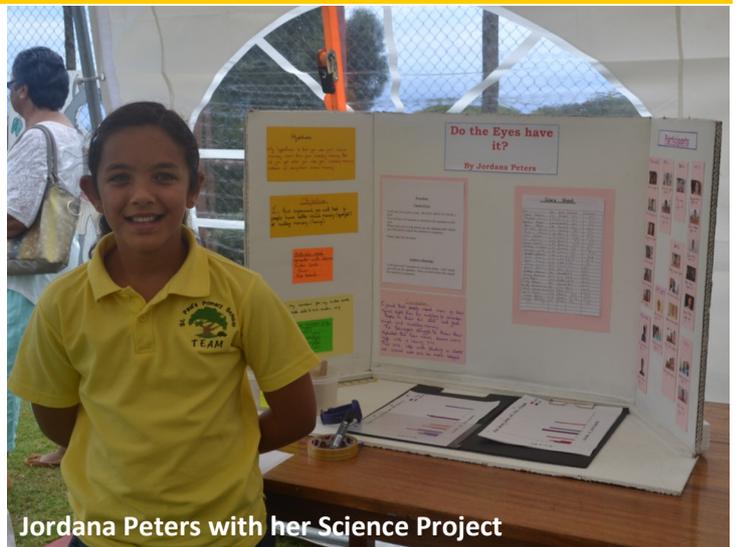
Speaking to Headteacher, Pat Williams, on the day, she said:

"The idea for a Science Fair came from Steve Plato, our Science lead within the school. Along with the staff and the PTA we were able to organise a number of stalls Today, such as candy and car boot stalls. There is a lovely atmosphere today and it's great to see parents and members of the public supporting the children."

Prizes were awarded to Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils for their interesting and amazing Science projects. Speaking to pupils who participated in the Fair it was clear that they had spent a lot of time and effort on their projects and were able to explain their findings.

Key Stage 2 pupil, Jordana Peters, explained her Science Project:

"My experiment is entitled 'Do The Eyes Have It'. I decided to do this project as my teachers are always getting us to learn and remember, and I wanted to test how good people could remember. The experiment focuses on an



Jordana Peters with her Science Project

individual's visual memory (eyesight) and auditory (hearing). Picking a card and looking at the numbers you must memorise them, recite the alphabet and then tell me the numbers.

"I carried out the experiment on participants of all ages and found that people use more visual memory than auditory to remember. I did find that teenagers struggled to recite their alphabet but their visual scores were high."

The day was a success as many parents and members of public attended the event and the money raised on the day will contribute to St Paul's PTA funds.