

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



Issue 73 February 2019

MEET SHAPE CLIENTS COBAN AND KRISTIAN

St Helena Active Participation in Enterprise (SHAPE) aims to promote the rights and wellbeing of people with disabilities in all spheres of society and also to increase awareness. Their training programmes offer opportunities for structured work or supported employment. The focus of their service is to enhance employability and to support people with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential. Read the interesting stories of two SHAPE Clients, Coban and Kristian.



Coban
Scott-John

My name is Coban Scott-John and I was born in Stanley on the Falkland Islands in 2001. At the age of two I was diagnosed in Guy's Hospital in London, UK, as being autistic. I moved to St Helena at the age of 12 and attended Prince Andrew School. I have been on holidays to St Helena before and always enjoy my time here.

I attend SHAPE twice a week under the Carraresi programme. I am transitioning to SHAPE for when I leave school in September this year. At SHAPE, I engage in a variety of activities including learning life skills and inputting stock control data onto a computer-based programme for the SHAPE shop. I enjoy spelling, swimming, and other lessons in school, but my favourite lesson is ICT which has helped me at SHAPE, both with the shop duties and to format a calendar using MS Word.

After my transition period, I will have the opportunity to advance to a work programme at SHAPE, which I think will be great.



Kristian
Green

My name is Kristian Green and I was born on Ascension Island on 16 February 2001. At two weeks old I was flown to the UK and was diagnosed in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, as having Down syndrome. I attended Two Boats School on Ascension until I was 16 years old. I returned to St Helena for good in January 2017.

I now attend Prince Andrew School which I really enjoy. I like reading, writing, Art, Maths, English, ICT and I love swimming. I look forward to attending SHAPE every Monday and Tuesday where I am able to take part in art activities, life skills, and some gardening. On Wednesdays, I go to the Millennium Forest where I also enjoy working with plants.

Outside of school, I enjoy scouting, walking, watching TV, music, going to church, and of course, swimming. When I leave school next year I am hoping that I can continue my time with SHAPE.

JONATHAN FEATURES ON GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS WEBSITE

Jonathan - the world's oldest animal on land



St Helena's local celebrity and world record-holder, Jonathan the Giant Tortoise, has recently been in the spotlight featuring in an online article on the official Guinness World Records website.

Jonathan holds the title of 'the world's oldest animal on land' with an estimated age of 187 years.

Senior Editor at Guinness World Records and Author of the article, Adam Millward, said:

"As the Guinness World Records editor that oversees our Natural World categories, I'm constantly blown away by amazing animals and their extraordinary abilities. While all record-breaking creatures deserve our admiration, some can't help but stand out from the crowd. One of those undoubtedly has to be Jonathan. His longevity – even among his long-lived kind – is nothing short of

astonishing. Indeed, as of 2019, he's only one year away from equalling the oldest-known reliably documented tortoise of all time. It could be all too easy to breeze over his age as 'just a number', but when you start listing the major world events that he has lived through, including the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, two world wars, and the invention of the incandescent light bulb – it really does throw his phenomenal age into sharp relief."

The article, which was also posted on the Guinness World Records social media accounts, introduces Jonathan as the oldest-known land animal alive today. While giving information on the Plantation House resident, the author mentions some of the big events that Jonathan has lived through including the first postage stamp (1840), the building of the first skyscraper (1885) and the completion of the Eiffel Tower (1887) – the tallest iron structure.

An interview between the Guinness World Records and Senior Veterinary Officer, Joe Hollins, has also been transcribed in the article. Joe speaks about his close relationship with the world's oldest animal on land and Jonathan's current state, including diet and hobbies. Joe said:

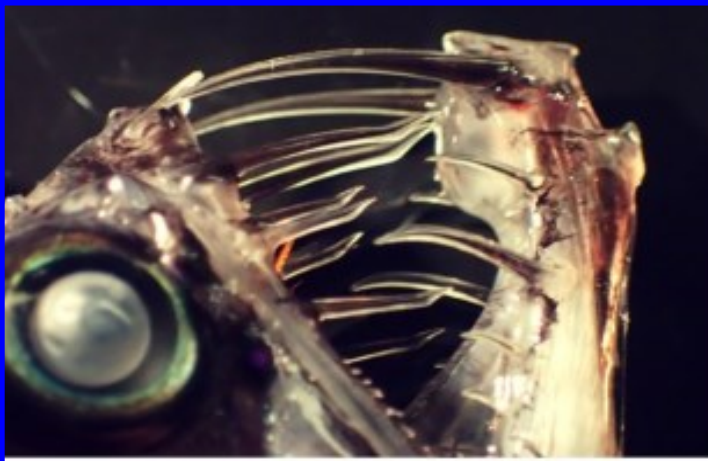
"He is a local icon, symbolic of persistence in the face of change, and much loved by the Islanders, who see him very much as their Jonathan."

The article can be viewed on the Guinness World Records website at: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2019/2/introducing-jonathan-the-worlds-oldest-animal-on-land-561882>.

This photo of Saint Maxina Yon with Jonathan was used by the Guinness World Records, utilising a local newspaper to time stamp the date



BLUE BELT DISCOVERY EXPEDITION TO ST HELENA AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA



Some of the unusual animals found around St Helena during the last Blue Belt marine survey around the Island



The Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery will set out on two expeditions between February and April 2019. The first expedition will see the vessel travel to South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (Expedition 99). The second expedition will comprise gathering research around both Tristan da Cunha and St Helena (Expedition 100).

The expeditions are being done as part of the Blue Belt Programme, delivered by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in support of the UK Government's commitment to enhance marine protection of over four million square kilometres of marine environment across UK Overseas Territories.

The Discovery Expedition 100, a collaboration between the Blue Belt Programme and the British Antarctic Survey, follows on from a previous expedition to the Island aboard the RRS James Clarke Ross in 2018.

RRS Discovery researchers will utilise a wealth of equipment from deep water camera systems to microplastics nets to better understand the biodiverse marine environments around St Helena and Tristan. During the St Helena leg of the expedition, research will concentrate upon the ecosystems that live in the water column (from surface to seabed) with the aim to improve

understanding of the food webs that underpin tuna fisheries around the Island.

Joining the crew of the RRS Discovery during the expedition here, will be local resident and Marine Assistant for the St Helena National Trust, Jamie Ellick. Jamie hopes the Discovery Expedition 100 will improve his knowledge of the ocean around St Helena and expose him to new areas of ocean research. Jamie is also keen to share his experience with the local community on-Island and hopes to inspire the next generation to take greater care of the ocean.

Lead Blue Belt Programme Scientist, Martin Collins, said:

"The visit of RRS Discovery will add greatly to our knowledge of the biodiversity of St Helena waters and help ensure it is protected for future generations."



Marine Assistant, Jamie Ellick

The National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH) has announced the four competitors that will compete and represent St Helena at the 2019 NatWest Island Games to be held in Gibraltar in July.

Duwaine Yon, Colby Thomas, Brooke Yon, and Aiden Yon-Stevens, will depart the Island on 22 June, accompanied by NSASH Member, Jeremy Roberts. They will join Team Managers, Nick Stevens and Tina Yon-Stevens, in the UK for a week's training before departing for Gibraltar on 3 July, ready for the opening of the games on Saturday, 6 July.

Due to financial constraints, NSASH could only afford to send four athletes to these games as opposed to recent years' participation numbers. Therefore the St Helena sports clubs were asked to conduct trials with athletes having to achieve qualifying standards set by NSASH using times from non-St Helenian athletes competing in the 2017 NatWest Island Games in Gotland and the Bahamas Commonwealth Youth Games.

Duwaine and Colby qualified for the 50m and 100m Freestyle swimming events with Brooke qualifying for the 50m and 100m Breaststroke and Aiden for the 800m and 400m Athletics events. Both trials for Athletics and Swimming were conducted in October 2018 and were timed by independent members of NSASH.

This will be the fourth international competition for both Duwaine and Colby. Duwaine took part in the 2015 Commonwealth Youth games in Samoa as a 14-year-old, the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas, and the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast. Colby also started competing as a 14-year-old when he represented St Helena in the NatWest Island Games in Gotland in 2017. The same year he went on to compete in the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas. Colby also competed in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast.

In contrast, this will be the very first international Games



Aiden (left) and Brooke, pictured here during a previous Primary School's Athletics Day, have both shown great promise from a young age



Colby



Duwaine

for 14-year-olds Brooke Yon and Aiden Yon-Stevens. The pair have shown great promise from a young age in local sports competitions and will look to take this to the international stage. These games will hopefully be good preparation for both Brooke and Aiden, who are also in training for the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games.

Unfortunately, St Helena's most successful athlete, Shooter, Simon Henry, will not compete in Gibraltar.