

FEBRUARY 2023

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this edition you can read all about the final departure of the MV *Helena*; a St Helenian currently living in the UK who donated an evac chair and other equipment to the Health & Social Care Portfolio; and the children from Nursery and Reception classes who took part in novelty sports at Francis Plain.

If you'd like to contribute a story to the St Helena Ambassador or have any suggestions on what you'd like to see included, please feel free to contact me on tel: 22470 or via email: jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Jodie Scipio-Constantine
SHG Press Officer

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MV Helena departs on final voyage after five years of service to St Helena and Ascension Island

The MV *Helena* departed St Helena on Friday, 3 February 2023, for the final time.

The MV *Helena* provided a vital cargo service to St Helena and our sister Island Ascension for the last five years. However, the contract for services between the operator of the MV *Helena* and SHG recently came to an end, and this was the last voyage to St Helena for the vessel and her crew.

Prior to the vessel's departure a thank you ceremony took place at Rupert's Jetty. In attendance were the Captains and crew of the MV *Helena*, personnel from St Helena Government,



Solomon's & Company (St Helena) Plc, and members of the public.

During the ceremony, CEO of Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc, Mandy Peters, expressed her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Captains Rudolph and Adam and to the entire MV *Helena* Ships Company, both serving and on shore leave, for their outstanding service to St Helena during the last five years.

A Thank You cake and other savoury goodies made by Solomon's Bakery together with other gifts were presented to the crew of the MV *Helena* as a small token of appreciation.

The MV *Helena* departed Rupert's Jetty bound for Cape Town, South Africa, and was escorted out of the bay by the Sea Rescue Services' vessel.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to AW Shipping, the Captains and the crew of the MV *Helena* for their service to St Helena and Ascension Island over the last five years.

Health & Social Care Portfolio receives generous donations from Chris Thomas



L-R: Senior Paramedic, Michael Gaga-Hale; Chris Thomas; and Emergency Care Assistant, Martin Andrews, standing behind the evac chair

In February 2022, the Health & Social Care Portfolio announced the generous donation of an evacuation (evac) chair from Mr Christopher (Chris) Thomas in London, UK.

An evac chair provides mobility impaired people with a safe and comfortable way to evacuate a building in the event of an emergency, such as a fire.

The evac chair is now located at the General Hospital and will be an asset to safely exit the building in the event of an emergency.

Over the last year, Chris has continued to donate further items such as walking frames, PPE, and incontinence aids for use at the Community Care Centre (CCC), Ladder Hill.

Chris grew up in Woodyridge, Levelwood, before going off shore in 1990 to work on the Falkland Islands. In 2003, Chris moved to the UK. Chris is the Registered Manager of a domiciliary care service.

In addition he is a trainer and NVQ Assessor for health & social care.

Head of Service for Social Care, Gavin (Jack) Thomas, said:

"We extend our sincere thanks to Chris for his generosity. The evac chair is a welcomed piece of equipment. In addition, we are extremely grateful for the additional items we received from Chris over the last year."

"This is also an opportunity to recognise and congratulate Chris on what he has accomplished in his longstanding career in the social care sector."

"After being away from St Helena for 30 years, we welcome Chris along with his husband Sanjiv back to the Island for a well-deserved break."



L-R: Sanjiv (Chris' husband); Portfolio Director of the Health & Social Care Portfolio, Tracy Poole-Nandy; and Chris Thomas



L-R: Chris Thomas; Acting Manager of the CCC/Residential Devolvement Manager, Michelle Clingham; and Administrative Assistant, Delia Carter photographed at the CCC in Ladder Hill

Primary Schools hosts successful Early Years Sports Fun Day

The Early Years Sports Fun Day, an annual event where the Nursery and Reception classes from all three Island Primary Schools come together to take part in novelty sports, was held at Francis Plain on Friday, 24 February 2023.

This year's fun day was organised by Pilling Primary School, who put together a number of races such as the popular egg and spoon race, shopping basket race, and bean bag race.

Parents and family members cheered on as children from all schools ran together to the finish line.

Parents also took part in the sack races which caused much laughter throughout the crowd as competitive parents fought for the finishing line.

Friday, 24 February, also marked one year since Ukraine began its resistance against Russian aggression and the wholesale invasion of its territorial borders. The races were stopped at 11am and attendees observed a minute silence.

Head Teacher of Pilling Primary School, Miss Elaine Benjamin, commented:

"This was another successful and enjoyable fun day for children, teachers, parents, family and friends. It was great to hear the laughter and cheers that encouraged the little ones along, reminding us yet again of how fortunate we are to be living on St Helena."

"Thank you to all EYFS staff for working together to make it another memorable day."

