

MAY 2022

# THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



## Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this month's edition you can find out about the scientific research that is currently being conducted on the skeletal remains of the Liberated Africans, view a few photos and find out how we celebrated St Helena's Day, see some cool photos of the recent restoration works undertaken on the mast at Signal House, and did you see the oversized cigarette butts that were placed around the Island? Find out what Waste Management Services' campaign was all about on page 5.

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](mailto:jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh).

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# Scientific research conducted on skeletal remains of Liberated Africans in Ruperts

PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Florida, Andreeana (Andree) Cunningham is currently on-Island to conduct research on the skeletal remains of the 'Liberated Africans' in Rupert's Valley, prior to their reburial.

So far Andree has been using a 3D scanner to measure the cranial skeletal shape patterns of the Liberated Africans at No. 1 building in Rupert's. The 3D scanner uses lasers to create a 3D object. Andree uses this scan data to digitally record 3D coordinate data, which she analyzes with statistical software to identify patterns of diversity and relatedness among the Liberated Africans. In cases where bones are broken, the 3D scanner is used to scan each piece for Andree to reconstruct digitally.

In addition, Andree has been working on several community engagement initiatives, including visiting and delivering presentations about her research to Primary school pupils and students of Prince Andrew School. Andree has also held a 'facial approximation workshop' at the Museum of Saint Helena - where artists specialising in portraits and persons interested in Rupert's valley, its history and art, were invited to attend.



Andree positioning an artefact on the 3D scanner turntable prior to scanning

The overall purpose of the workshop was to encourage the community of St Helena to review historic documents and collectively choose features to include in 2D artistic facial approximations/interpretations of three of the Liberated Africans' craniums - an adult male, adult woman, and a child (approx. aged between 13 and 16 years).

The facial approximation is part science and part artist impression. Andree will use anatomical markers and software to build up the basic features of the face, and will provide historical reference images or historical descriptions that is likely representing the Liberated Africans at Ruperts Valley at that time period. Andree will also use prior research done on Ruperts Valley (archaeological and genetic research indicating where roughly where the Liberated Africans may have come from) to aid members of the community to collectively choose features for the approximations. It is hoped that more than one approximation can be created.

Andree commented:

*"Since we are trying to be transparent about the fact that we don't know what the Liberated Africans looked like, I am hoping that we can embrace that and create more than one version of what these people could have looked like, giving room for everyone's ideas and interpretations to be represented in these approximations".*

If you would like to join the approximation project, please contact Helena Bennett via email: [Helena.Bennett@trust.org.sh](mailto:Helena.Bennett@trust.org.sh).



Andree explaining the process of facial approximation during the public working group meeting



# Another success day celebrating the discovery of St Helena

The traditional St Helena's Day celebrations, this year themed '*celebrating and protecting St Helena's environment*' took place on the Grand Parade on Saturday, 21 May 2022.

The day began with the traditional uniformed contingents' parade and service which included speeches from Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, Deputy Governor, Greg Gibson, and Youth Leader, Nick Stevens. In his speech Nick made a tribute to the late Mr Johnny Dillion for his contribution to the community and past St Helena Days. This was followed by a round of applause in honour of Johnny.

This year's float parade commenced at 2pm. Six floats paraded from the General Hospital to the Grand Parade. The floats and costumes were created in line with this year's theme '*celebrating and protecting St Helena's environment*' and were made mostly from recycled material. St Paul's district won the prize for the best float parade, followed by New Horizons, the Saint Helena National Trust, and the Freedom Bus.

During the day there were numerous stalls set up which sold miscellaneous goods, ranging from clothing to cakes. The children enjoyed the Bungee Rebound and bouncy castle, and the train rides proved popular with both the children and adults.

Musical entertainment was provided by DJ Colin Peters throughout the day and by local bands and musicians – 'Not so young Turks', Christian Castell & Marty Plato, and Alex Vanguard & Ray-C – in the evening.

A beautiful fireworks display took place from Ladder Hill at 7pm to round off the celebrations.

Despite the unfavourable weather conditions, New Horizons estimates that over 1500 people attended the St Helena's Day celebrations.





# Signal House Mast restored in time for Jubilee celebrations

The flagpole section and yard arm on the mast at Signal House, Ladder Hill, has recently been restored, just in time for the first of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The flagpole and yard arm were funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the fittings, shipping and installation was funded by the Building Maintenance Section of the Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development Portfolio (TI&SD). The flagpole and yard arm were manufactured by UK yacht company 'Freeland Yacht Spars LTD' to the required specification, and the importation was coordinated by Richard James International Ltd, who sourced alternative transshipment routes to ensure the arrival of the flagpole and yard arm before the planned Jubilee celebrations.

The Technical Section of the TI&SD undertook the project management duties along with engineering surveys of the existing flagpole and fixtures to enable the new flagpole to be accurately manufactured as per the existing mast. Accuracy was paramount - too large and the pole would need major modification, or too small would affect its stability.

Prior to the replacement works, the Building Maintenance Section undertook a major task of erecting a scaffolding tower around the mast to a tight deadline. This meant working in less than favourable weather and windy conditions and manually handing steel tube scaffolding at heights (compared to a four storey building which overlooked a near sheer cliff).

Once the scaffolding had been erected, works to lift and reinstate the flagpole section and yard arm commenced. During the first day, the Rock Guards, the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service (SHF&RS) and Building Maintenance team, lifted

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Workers constructing the scaffolding



Positioning the flagpole section through scaffolding



Positioning the flagpole section in place



# Signal House Mast restored in time for Jubilee celebrations

and positioned the top flagpole section, utilising the Transport Section's 35 ton mobile crane. This operation required precise craning skills, excellent signalling and guys handing heavy loads at unnerving heights.

On the second day, the top flagpole section was hoisted into position manually using excellent ridging skills, similar to that of historical sail ship days. This was coordinated by the SHF&RS with assistance from the Rock Guards and Building Maintenance team. The flagpole section was raised using an incremental lifting technique with guys fitting stays at the highest possible working locations. This process was manually intensive but easily achievable with excellent coordination and communication during a challenging windy day.

On the third day, the SHF&RS, Rock Guards and Building Maintenance team, with the precise skill of the Transport Sections' crane operator, lifted and installed the yard arm. This went seamlessly well as a result of the individual skills and the ability to work in uncomfortable conditions for long hours until the yard arm was secured.

The remaining works were completed by the Building Maintenance team and involved a huge task to dismantle the scaffolding along with the maintenance activities in the lower section of the mast.

The mast now has new cable stays, a new flagpole section and yard arm, and is expected to stand proud for many years to come.

A ceremony will take place at Signal House, Ladder Hill, on Thursday, 2 June, where the Union flag will be unfurled for the first time on the newly reinstated mast in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 70 year reign.



Initial lifting of the flagpole section



Incrementally raising the yard arm



Crane lifting the yard arm

# Waste Management Services delivers Cigarette butt litter prevention Campaign

Waste Management Services delivered a Waste Prevention Campaign on 18 and 19 May 2022 to target cigarette butt litter and raise awareness of the issue.

Posters designed by Environmental Risk Management accompanied a visually impacting and thought provoking display of oversized cigarette butts (created by SHAPE using recycled materials) at Ladder Hill and outside the Post Office and Canister in Jamestown.

Environmental Risk Manager, Mike Durnford, commented:

*"The battle against cigarette litter on St Helena can only be won if smokers join the fight on the right side. There are plenty of smokers who don't litter their cigarettes but unfortunately, there is still a minority that does. If you are a smoker who does litter, we hope that you will learn about the impact of your actions and break the habit."*

Before littering your cigarette butts, please remember that there are many ways to dispose of cigarettes without littering them on the ground. Personal ashtrays are one option – you can improvise with metal mint containers, regular tin foil, or anything else that's handy. Simply store your butt in one of these temporary ashtrays until you can dispose of it properly.

You can dispose of it in the nearest Olympic bin (that facilitates cigarette disposal), located throughout Jamestown, Ladder Hill and Longwood Avenue. There is significantly less risk of fire using this method than there is from throwing your smoldering cigarette in the street or around the countryside, where it can easily blow into flammable material. A note to motorists – please use your car ashtray! If it is OK to put in your mouth, it is OK to put in your ashtray.

Oversized cigarette butts displayed at Ladder Hill



Oversized cigarette butts displayed at the Post Office

