

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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St Helena Making More Headlines

Following extensive international media coverage, St Helena will again feature prominently in the UK with the visit last week of Richard Jones, ITV journalist and cameraman. Richard had a very busy programme, filming a wide range of subjects, ranging from various aspects of St Helena's environment to private sector businesses, to health and education, Enterprise St Helena and the St Helena National Trust. Filming many interviews, Richard intends to produce several short features for the ITV national network in the UK, to be shown in the first half of December 2015.

Richard said:

"I visited St Helena in 2009 and made five films for ITV, right in the middle of the debate on whether St Helena should go forward with an Airport. I have come back again now, just as the Island is going through the last stages of the Airport construction."

"It is fascinating to witness how far the Island has come - to talk to people about their feelings about the Airport, how it might affect them and how they see the Island striking the right balance between moving

forward, but keeping St Helena unique and the place that everyone loves and wishes to visit."

During his time on-Island, Richard also conducted a major interview with the Governor at Plantation House (pictured) during which he focused on the Island's future whilst protecting its unique heritage and culture.



Island Census 2016 to Involve Young People

With St Helena's Census to be carried out in February 2016, the SHG Statistics Office wanted to involve children and young people, so that these important voices for the future could be heard. The Census team has been working closely with the Education Directorate and has visited all of the Island's schools to conduct a tailored census - the first time this has happened. Paula McLeod, St Helena's Statistician, said:

"By conducting a questionnaire specially directed at the needs of young people, we have shown the children that we do care about their opinions. Working closely with the students, we also promoted the work of the Statistics Office and the use of mathematical skills in practical applications - hopefully inspiring the next generation of statisticians."

Three questionnaires were produced, targeted at Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Prince Andrew School students. Questions ranged from fantasy subjects to particular topics of interest, to Superpowers, future job roles, favourite foods and much more. Paula concluded:

"By identifying the children's interests, and feeding back the results - we hope that they will feel more empowered to speak up on issues that matter to them, and to tell their story to businesses and St Helena Government."



Cilla McDaniel, one of St Helena's Magistrates, recently attended a five-day conference in New Zealand on 'Independent Judiciaries and Diverse Societies' funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Jubilee Programme.

Cilla heard about subjects including the future role of the Lay Judiciary, Customs and the Law, Religious & Cultural Issues in the Courts, Issues on Gender-based Violence, Applying Concepts of Human Rights in National or Domestic Courts, Cross Examination of vulnerable Witnesses and Using Expert Evidence in Courts.

Cilla said:

"There were seminars and lectures, small group discussions and debates and discussions over dinner and even breakfast, including a lengthy discussion on the lack of resources provided to courts - and how to resolve this - which was interesting from the perspective of a Magistrate in a small Territory.

"I was also pleased to attend an additional and very informative session on the continuing influence of the Magna Carta."

Cilla found the trip to be extremely beneficial, giving her the opportunity to interact with Judges and Magistrates across the Commonwealth, exchanging views and debating solutions.

Cilla added:

"It was pleasing to realise that St Helena's Judiciary operates at a high level and is actually way ahead of some other countries.

"More particularly, I was reminded of how proud I am to live in a place where my rights as a citizen and as a woman are acknowledged and play an important part in our courts."

She continued:

"I strongly feel that St Helena's Judiciary Services should



make a presentation at the next Commonwealth Magistrates' & Judges' Association conference - because we should publish and celebrate the good practice of our courts."

Cilla became a magistrate in 2005, essentially as a way of contributing to her community.

She would like to thank Judicial Services and the Governor's Office for making attendance at this conference possible.



MFV Amalia Arrives to Boost Fishing Sector

On Thursday 5 November 2015, friends and family gathered on the water and at the Wharf to witness the arrival of the MFV Amalia to St Helena's shores, following an eight-day voyage from Saldanha Bay in South Africa.

The new owners, brothers Peter and Gavin Benjamin, will now fit key equipment, before they leave for the fishing banks.

Gavin and Peter commented:

"Overall it has been a long and cold journey, with the last leg becoming increasingly rough. But we are very happy to be home and have the boat almost ready to be doing some serious fishing."



The vessel, which can actually accommodate twenty individuals in the sleeping cabins, has already been freshly painted and fitted with a new sharft.

On stepping ashore, the crew were met by a large crowd of onlookers and wellwishers, including Governor Capes and Councillor Lawson Henry, with the St Helena Yacht Club opening its facilities for the occasion.

Gavin added:

"The Amalia behaved well and handled the sometimes heavy seas. She is well suited to take a leading role in St Helena's offshore fishing fleet."



4th Anniversary of St Helena's Airport Project

Tuesday 3 November 2015, marked the fourth anniversary of the signing of St Helena's Airport Contract and was celebrated with a reception at Jamestown Community Centre. Invited guests heard speeches, viewed a photo-exhibition of key milestones and watched a short film featuring those involved in the project past and present.

Janet Lawrence, Airport Director, said:

"I think for a small Island to have come so far in such a short period of time is something to be very proud of. There has been so much that has been achieved. Having said that, there is still a lot of work to do and my colleagues and all parties are striving to make this happen. This evening is a chance to thank to all those who have been instrumental to the project up to this point."



Milestones over the past four years illustrate the immense progress that has been made. The completion of the Runway, Apron and Taxiway, the official switching on of the Runway lights and the landing of the first ever aircraft at St Helena Airport on 15 September 2015 - to mention just three.

Work is now progressing from construction into the operational phase of the project, with certification the next target.



St Helena was recently awarded a place on Lonely Planet's Top Ten Travel List for 2016. Chief Executive of Economic Development, Dr Niall O'Keeffe, said: "We are delighted with this accolade from Lonely Planet, which will provide a global tourism profile for St Helena and our Airport, which will be officially opened on St Helena's Day on 21 May next

year. As a remote and small Island, much work remains to be done to develop our accommodation and tourism offer in the years ahead - and we are very grateful to Lonely Planet for its support."

Councillor Lawson Henry, Chairman for Economic Development, added:

"I am delighted that St Helena has been given this recognition by Lonely Planet, which will only add to our growing tourism profile. I would like to pay tribute to all those in the tourism sector and to those who strive to promote this Island."

BEST TRAVEL
2016



Pink Panther on the Prowl



On Monday 12 October 2015, Pink Panther, Inspector Clouseau and their pal Barney made an appearance at Corporate Services in the Castle - much to the surprise of staff.

This visit formed part of Cancer Awareness promotion in October, all about raising awareness and generating funds to support those on St Helena who suffer with this condition.

Corporate Services also raised funds on Friday 16 October, when staff opted to wear the colour white - representing lung cancer.

Enchanted Isle Adventures

Tuesday 20 October 2015 saw St Helena's second 'Persons with Disability Voyage' on the Enchanted Isle, organised by owners Johnny Herne and Gina Benjamin.

Gina spoke of the idea behind the trip:

"We met Paul Bridgewater, Social Work Manager, and his family at the Wharf last year when the Enchanted Isle was officially launched - and he mentioned his role working with individuals with disabilities.

"Paul remarked that many of his clients had never been off-Island, or even on a boat - so had never had the opportunity to see dolphins around St Helena's shores or to see their Island from the sea. We were extremely touched by this and offered there and then to organise a trip specifically for them."

This dolphin trip will now be held annually in October, free of charge. The response this year was

very positive, with those able to go thoroughly enjoying their trip.

Gina continued:

"Enchanted Isle Limited is about giving the St Helena experience, and it is important to us that as many Saints as possible, including those less fortunate than ourselves, or those with mobility problems, also experience what our unique marine environment has to offer."



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