

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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Marine Awareness Week 2015

Marine Awareness Week took place between 7 & 14 February 2015. Celebrated annually on St Helena, the week aimed to raise awareness of both St Helena's marine environment and global marine issues. A packed itinerary of events took place centred around the theme of 'Love the Ocean'. Everyone uses and enjoys the ocean and activities aimed to demonstrate how economy and science can work together to protect our oceans for the future.

Marine Conservation Officer, Elizabeth Clingham, commented on this year's Marine Awareness Week activities:

"The activities for Marine Awareness Week were well attended. We had to cancel one activity due to unfavourable sea conditions but overall we received a good response from the public. Saturday's finale - the Ocean Festival - showed just how many people are interested in our ocean and marine life and, with fun activities, people were able to appreciate the message of the week - Love the Ocean."



'Speaking Saint'

Last year, Creative Saint Helena held a writing event inviting people from the community to submit stories, poems, songs and scripts relating to the Island's culture and heritage. The submissions were then compiled and edited to produce a book. The book *Speaking Saint* was launched at the Museum of St Helena on 5 February 2015 and is a dynamic and vibrant collection of stories involving Island life - the monkat, RMS St Helena, history, love, growing old and the Island's natural landscape.

Speaking Saint is written by 23 contributors and many stories and poems are written in local dialect.

The title *Speaking Saint* was originally suggested by Janet Lawrence and unanimously agreed upon as it gave a local feel and captured what the book was about, also being instantly recognisable to St Helenians.

Funds for the book were supported by Creative Saint Helena through a grant from the Community Development Scheme. Editing of the book took four to five months and 600 copies were printed in Cape Town. 50% of the sale will be distributed among the contributors and the other 50% will be put towards retailer's commission, publicity and reprinting costs. Copies of *Speaking Saint* are available for sale in the Arts and Crafts, Moonbeams, Warrens and on the Amazon Kindle Store for the price of £5.

Director of Creative Saint Helena, Pamela Murray said: *"I am proud of Speaking Saint because as a group we have developed our creativity and writing skills while drawing*

on the essence of local culture. I was also moved by how willingly people who were not involved in the writing group shared their stories and poems. We had over 60 contributions submitted in total, and the 35 selected give a glimpse of the Island's way of life. Some stories are true and others are entirely fictional.

"In terms of success here, it is not necessarily about selling hundreds of copies (which I'm sure we will). It is that we have been able to tell a story in a St Helenian way."

SPEAKING SAINT



Yarns from the island

Edited by the Creative Saint Helena Writing Group

'Speaking Saint' Book Cover

Farewell to Colin and Judith Moore

A farewell reception for Director of Education, Colin Moore and his wife Judith, was hosted by HE Governor Capes on Monday 2 February 2015.

In his speech on the night, Governor Capes said:

"Colin has brought much valuable experience to his work here, and under his leadership we have seen a steady improvement in results at our schools, including last year which saw the best GCSE results ever. We will miss Colin and Judith who adjusted well to life on St Helena and played an active part in the community. They leave with our thanks and we wish them well for whatever comes next."

Acting Director of Education, Kerry Yon, added:

"Colin's time on the Island has flown by, but yet a lot has happened to further develop education, at what has been a crucial time in our Island's development. We must also thank Judith for starting the delivery of our new French language programme, along with Monsieur Michel Martineau.

"On behalf of everyone in the Education Directorate I would like to say a very big thank you for the

L to R: Governor Capes, Kerry Yon, Judith Moore and Colin Moore



contributions you both have made. All that you have done for Education has been greatly appreciated and we wish you well for the future."

Colin also thanked everyone for being so welcoming during their three year stay on the Island and remarked on how honoured he was to have worked with the Education team on St Helena.

The new Director of Education, Shirley Wahler, will take up her position in March this year.

The Jersey Inter-Island Artist Lock-In

The NatWest Island Games was created in 1985 to provide an opportunity for hundreds of sportsmen and women to compete and enjoy international competition against other smaller Island communities with similar standards of performance. This year Jersey will be hosting the 16th NatWest Island Games which comprises 24 competing Islands. The Games will take place between 27 June & 3 July 2015. Alongside the NatWest Island Games there will also be a collaborative residency project where an artist from each competing Island takes part in the 'Inter-Island Artist Lock-In', taking place between 22 June & 2 July 2015. The Artist Lock-In, sponsored by the Jersey Arts Trust, is a project that brings all artists of a variety of disciplines, ages and backgrounds and experiences together to learn from each other and respond to their surroundings. The project aims to provide artists with time and space to consider new ways of working and collaborate with people of different practices.

Participants spend a fixed period of time (previously it has been a week) in an unusual location, which this year will take place at Elizabeth Castle, and are taken through a series of tasks that encourages teamwork and creative thinking. As the week progresses the tasks become more open, until the participants are left to work together to make shared work and that will be showcased to an audience after the eight days at Elizabeth Castle. St Helena has been invited by the Jersey Arts Trust to select an artist from the Island to join this workshop. The St Helena Art & Crafts Association will coordinate

applications from three artists who develop work within art disciplines, visual arts, performing arts, painting, crafting, writing, photography, graphic design and music. Potential applicants are required to get in touch with Chairperson of the Arts and Crafts Association, Mrs Cathy Hopkins, and will be expected to prepare a portfolio and profile established in their own field of art. Each potential applicant will need to provide three examples of their work.

If you're interested, please email:

uniquesaint@outlook.com or pick up a brochure from the Public Library or the Art & Crafts Centre.

Cathy said:

"It's a wonderful opportunity for a 'Saint' to develop their skills and work with other artists from Islands around the world on a creative project."

All expenses for the residential course will be met by the Jersey Arts Trust, however travel and other expenses will need to be met by the successful applicant. The Arts & Crafts has already approached various funding organisations on Island to assist with the travel and other expenses for the successful applicant.



Preparing for Napoleon's Bicentenary

In the run up to this year's bicentenary of the arrival of Emperor Napoleon on St Helena in October 1815, St Helena Tourism, with the support of Michel Dancoisne-Martineau and Pascal Laparriere arranged for an exact replica of Napoleon's uniform and ceremonial sword to be made especially as part of the events to commemorate the occasion.

Tourism Officer, Merrill Joshua, will be impersonating Napoleon, wearing the uniform made by the Company Antikcostume in Brittany.

Pascal Laparriere liaised with the costumiers on behalf of St Helena tourism and together with Frederic Barbut,

kindly transported the finished costume to the Island. Accompanying them were two French journalists from the TFI News France, Michal

Izard and Bertrand Lachat. The Journalists came to the Island to film St Helenian life and the Island's connection to Napoleon.

Napoleon was exiled to St Helena in October 1815 where he spent the last of his days. He died at the age of 51 on 5 May 1821. Although Napoleon Bonaparte was small in stature he left behind a grand legacy of which St Helena is a part of.

Merrill Joshua impersonating Napoleon Bonaparte



French Film Crew



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh's (DoE) Awards, a youth awards programme founded in the UK in 1956

by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, is a great programme for young people between the ages of 14 & 24 years who wish to develop their personal skills.

The DoE programme consists of three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - and participants achieve an award by completing a personal programme of activities within four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential.

The programme helps young people to become more active and develop attributes and skills such as Self-Management, Problem solving, Team Working and Communication.

The DoE Awards has also been taken on by young people on St Helena and a special reception was hosted by HE Governor Capes on 20 January 2015 for two young people, Kayleigh Harris and Hannah Durnford, for completing their Bronze level award.

Governor Capes remarked:

"This is one of those happy occasions where we recognise achievements made by our younger citizens.

Participation in the DoE scheme is a useful addition to any CV when applying for a job and in an increasingly competitive world gives you an edge over someone who has not engaged with the DoE programme. So well done to you Hannah and Kayleigh and keep up the good work, and also well done to parents for their support and many thanks to our Chairperson, Noleen Stevens, and all those who gave their time to support the DoE Awards programme."

Hannah began the DoE programme in February 2013 and completed the scheme in May 2014. Hannah had multiple activity coaches who helped her through the programme, including teachers and people from the community. Hannah covered three activities, one of which was a service carried out with the Environmental Management Division, a physical recreation - Scuba Diving - where she achieved a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver qualification, and finally a skill where she chose to learn Ancient Greek Mythology and Language. She also did an expedition that lasted for two days and with one night of camping. Hannah explained the difficulties she overcame while doing the DoE programme:

"The difficulty which I came across was the expedition,



L to R: Governor Capes, Kayleigh Harris, Hannah Durnford and Noleen Stevens

and the length in which I had to walk. Also, during the night, while I was camping, my tent collapsed on me. But I overcame them by motivating myself to complete the challenge and knowing the reward that I would receive after completing it all."

Kayleigh Harris began the scheme in October 2013 and completed the programme in May 2014. Kayleigh said:

"I completed three modules, a service - conservation, a skill - shooting, and a physical recreation - volleyball. Shooting was a bit of a challenge at first, but Mr Pat Henry really helped me by teaching me how to control my breathing and how to relax into my position.

"The Duke of Edinburgh Awards is a great opportunity to develop your skills or even to try something new. You will learn a variety of skills that will come in handy, and it will be very useful in enhancing your CV when applying for a job."

Kayleigh will be going on to complete the Silver Award.

The DoE Awards Authority on St Helena is run by a small committee all offering their voluntary services. With the completion of the 25th round of activities and the presentation which was held on 20 January 2015, the committee is now in the process of organising the next round of activities which is hoped to start in March 2015. A presentation will be held at Prince Andrew School on 20 February 2015 for year 9, 10 and 11 pupils. This presentation will hopefully get the young people interested and encourage them to sign up for the new round.



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