

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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'The Race Will Go On'



Another successful Governor's Cup Yacht Race concluded in early 2015. This is a biennial event which takes place between, Simonstown, South Africa and Jamestown, St Helena, a distance of approximately 1700 miles of open ocean. This year's race took place between 27 December 2014 and 13 January 2015 with 17 yachts participating.

Entries ranged from specialist racing boats with experienced crews to cruising yachts managed by family members. The race saw the yacht 'Banjo', skippered by Kevin Webb smash its own record and for the second successive time claim Line Honours (first to pass the finishing line) as well as being the fastest yacht in the multi-hull class. The overall winner of the race was 'Black Cat', skippered by Dave Immelman, with 'Avanti', skippered by Klaus Wiswedel, claiming first position for the Cruising Class.

The winning crews were presented with their awards at a special presentation held at the St Helena Yacht Club on Wednesday 14 January 2015. In his speech HE Governor Capes acknowledged the great performance of all who took part in the race and to the considerable courage shown by Saints Tommy Lee Young (of Vulcan 44) and Kerry Furniss (of Entheos) who took part in the race.

Governor Capes said:

"It does take courage to sail in a small yacht over 1700 miles of South Atlantic Ocean - especially without any open sea sailing experience. I expect when the race got off to an explosive start in strong winds and rough seas, Kerry and Tommy Lee wondered what they were in for. But they enjoyed the race and have developed an appetite for serious sailing. Well done to you both."

In conclusion Governor Capes remarked to applause that the Governor's Cup race would continue into the future. He then extended thanks to all those, on St Helena and in South Africa, who put in so much effort to make this great event a success.

Race competitors enjoyed a packed diary of events on reaching the Island's shores. Activities included a bingo night, a sailing day, water sports, tours, a Seaman's Service and a farewell BBQ. A special reception was also hosted for the crews at Plantation House by Governor Capes on Thursday 15 January 2015.

Some participants chose to sail on from St Helena, with others travelling back on the RMS to Cape Town with their yachts on board.



Overall Winners - Black Cat Crew with the Governor's Cup



Banjo Crew with Trophies



Avanti Skipper and HE Governor Capes

The Whale Sharks are Back!

Whale Sharks, or *Bone Sharks* as they are known on the Island, are

magnificent annual visitors to St Helena waters - this year in great numbers - and a delightful sight for Islanders and visitors alike.

Two special visitors were Dr Alistair Dove, Director of Research & Conservation at the Georgia Aquarium, USA, and Rafael de la Parra, Executive Director, Ch'ooj Ajauil AC (The Blue Realm Project) in Mexico - both experts in this species.

Alistair and Rafael were on St Helena for a fortnight - mostly spent in the water - studying how Whale Sharks use the pristine habitat around St Helena, and how St Helena fits into the Atlantic (and global) Whale Shark picture.

Their work is a collaboration between SHG's Environment Directorate, the Georgia Aquarium, the Mote Marine Laboratory, Ch'ooj Ajauil, and the Marine Megafauna Foundation. Their work was only possible with the help and active assistance of local stakeholders on St Helena, including fishermen, tour operators and naturalists.



The team worked off the 'Enchanted Isle' every day, scanning the leeward side of the Island for Whale Sharks, gathering identification photographs (their spot patterns are unique) and attaching satellite tags to help discover what the sharks do when they leave St Helena.

The Whale Shark photos in St Helena waters are courtesy of Rafael de la Parra.



"St Helena's marine life is stunning. As a marine biologist, the experience of putting your head underwater here and recognising almost NONE of the species, is an absolute pleasure. There are so many animals not found anywhere else - this really is the Galapagos of the Atlantic "- Rafael de la Parra speaking about St Helena

Jack and the Beanstalk on St Helena

A traditional family theatre show with plenty of singing, audience participation, and physical comedy, Pantomimes tell stories of well known Fairy Tales, often with a local flavour. On St Helena, pantomimes have become very popular annual events, driven by the 'Ivyletts, an amateur dramatic group set up on the Island around 40 years ago with the desire to bring theatre to as many people as possible.

This year was no exception, with a performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' taking place on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 January 2015. The number of tickets sold for both nights made this the most successful pantomime on the Island in recent years.

Auditions began in October 2014, and lots of people came forward wanting either to be on stage or behind the scenes. Rehearsals then began twice a week, for up to two hours at a time, and cast members spent many hours learning their lines at home.

Helen Owen of the Ivyletts commented:

"This was the best response ever in my experience on St Helena for a pantomime. The number of people who came forward meant that not only did we have a very strong cast, but a fantastic crew backstage as well."

All props for the performance were either made or sourced on Island by a wonderful team led by Josie Kleinjan and prop-makers Lindsay McGinnety, Morag Stevenson, Ceri Sansom, Paris Stevens and other cast members.

Members of the audience had lots of praise for the cast, sets, props, lighting, sound and music.

On behalf of the Ivyletts, Helen extended the following thanks:

"To all of the cast for their dedication to rehearsals, learning their lines, and bringing their characters to life and to the families behind the cast for their support. To the costume and props makers who were never short of inspiration and hard work when speedy fixes were needed."

"Thanks also to the backstage crew, who lifted and shifted all the scenery and props, grew the beanstalk and generally made sure that everything was in place for the actors. The music, lighting and SFX team were wonderful, making sure that the music and effects were perfectly timed, and that the stage was lit to add mood to the scenery and action. Thanks also to New Horizons for painting some of the scenery in record time, and to Aine O'Keeffe for adding to some of the existing scenery to create Fairyland and the Bean Family Farm."

"And to everyone else who helped with tickets, programmes, promotions, behind the scenes and front of house on the nights."

The Ivyletts have already started thinking about their next pantomime performance, planned for later this year.

Photos courtesy of Colin Owen.



Jamestown Crèche 'Tiddlers and Toddlers'

Dorita Fuller has been caring for children for thirty years from her family home and now she and her husband Patrick Fuller, have opened their very own Crèche, 'Tiddlers and Toddlers'.

In August 2014, Dorita bought Phillips Shop in Barracks Square, Jamestown, and opened her crèche in December 2014, equipped by herself and Patrick.

Dorita said:

"It has always been my dream to have my very own crèche as I've always loved looking after children."

With the aid of part-time helper, Gillian Fowler, and full-time helper, Sandra Peters, the crèche opens from 7.30am to 5.30pm on weekdays.

Sandra added:

"It's a great job that Dorita and Patrick have done and we work together as a team and get along really well with the children."

Early Years Advisor, Vivienne Ward, commented:

"It's just wonderful what Dorita has accomplished and it's great to have this crèche in Jamestown."



Patrick and Dorita Fuller

St Helena Coffee

In 1733 coffee seeds were brought to St Helena Island by The East Indian Company. This was not just a pure Arabica coffee, but a single type of bean known as the Dipped Bean Arabica. It is extremely rare and limited in availability - making St Helena coffee so unique.

In 2013, St Helena coffee, produced by Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc at the Bamboo Hedge Coffee Plantation and exported to a UK distributor, won two Gold Stars at the Great Taste Awards in the UK, organised by the Guild of Fine Food, and acknowledged as the benchmark for specialty food and drink (the Oscars of the food world). Winning the Award marks St Helena coffee as a distinguished product with a wonderful and unique flavor. The 'Spill the Beans' Blog said of St Helena coffee: "A refined and elegant after-taste ... the kind of coffee that makes you stop after the first sip, take a look at the cup and express its excellence out loud."

'Sea Island Coffee', A UK company which sells a variety of coffees worldwide commented:

"Overall this is a full and complex coffee with amazing blends of fruit, chocolate and spices. A rare, extraordinary and significant member of our Signature House coffees, this coffee has a unique and elegant taste that will leave a lasting impression."

Not only has St Helena coffee made an impression on coffee lovers in the UK but also in America. 'Blacksmith Coffee Roastery' a family owned and operated coffee roasting company (located in Lindsborg, Kansas, USA) said: "This coffee is among the Crown Jewels of exotic coffees worldwide!"

The Coffee Shop in Jamestown is the perfect spot for coffee lovers on St Helena, especially those who just can't get enough of the Island's own coffee.

