

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 19 May 2014

Farewell to Chief Secretary Owen O'Sullivan

HE Governor and Mrs Capes hosted a farewell reception at Plantation House on Wednesday 23 April 2014 for Chief Secretary Owen O'Sullivan and his wife Janine.

Owen has served as St Helena's Chief Secretary since September 2011 and departed the Island on 30 April 2014 on completion of his contract.

Governor Capes thanked Owen for his work on St Helena and three successful years as Chief Secretary.

Governor Capes said:

"It has been a demanding and busy few years since Owen arrived in 2011.

Introducing change is rarely easy but I think Owen would agree that it has been rewarding work and we have achieved much.

"I am grateful to Owen, an excellent colleague, for his hard work and commitment to improving the efficiency of the St Helena public service so that it can better cope with change and the demands ahead as we prepare for air access. I wish him and his family every success for the future."



L to R: Governor Capes, Mrs Capes, Janine O'Sullivan and Owen O'Sullivan

The new Chief Secretary, Roy Burke, will arrive on Wednesday 4 June 2014 accompanied by his wife Jill. During the period up until Roy's arrival, Assistant Chief Secretary (Performance) Paul McGinety will take on the duties of Acting Chief Secretary.

Last Cruise Liner for this Season - MV Astor

The last Cruise Liner visit for this season, the MV Astor, called at the Island on Friday 25 April 2014 on her way from Namibia to Ascension Island.

She arrived in James' Bay at 7am with 320 passengers on board. Dominant nationalities were Australian and British, with passengers also from South Africa, Germany and Ireland.

300 passengers came ashore and 122 went on pre-booked tours around the Island, visiting popular tourists spots, including Jacob's Ladder, Longwood House and the Tomb.

The MV Astor departed the Island at 2pm bound for Ascension Island.

The next cruise ship visit will also be the MV Astor on 21 November 2014, en-route from Ascension Island to Cape Town.



MV Astor in James' Bay

2014 Commonwealth Games - St Helena Team



The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. This year's Commonwealth Games will be held in

Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July-3 August 2014. The National Amateur Sports Association of St Helena (NASAS) has announced that the St Helena team will be competing in Badminton, Shooting and Swimming.

The St Helena Team comprises Ryan Benjamin, Lee Yon, Duane March and Vernon Smeed for Badminton, Madolyn Andrews, Chelsea Benjamin, Patrick Young, Simon Henry and Jordie Andrews for Shooting, and Ben Dillon for Swimming. Chef de Mission Pamela Young assisted by Nick Stevens are responsible for all team members attending the Games. We caught up with Nick and some participants to find out their feelings on representing St Helena at this year's Island Games.



Nick Stevens

Nick said:

"I'm looking forward to attending the Commonwealth Games, as it will be my first time. I am hoping to pick up some coaching tips which I can bring back to share with the kids here on St Helena."

"I have two roles whilst attending the Games - one as a team official and the other when I will have the opportunity to present a medal during the athletic events, which I'm really looking forward to."

The team will depart the Island in Friday 11 July 2014. They will be joined in Glasgow by remaining team members, Ryan, Duane, Vernon and Simon.

The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada, where 11 countries sent 400 athletes to take part in six sports and 59 events.

Since then the Games have been conducted every four years except for 1942 and 1946 (more details at: theCGF.com).

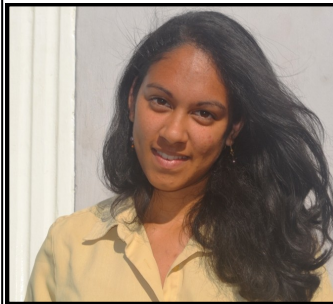


"I think it's really good that I get to represent the Island and make something of myself."

Chelsea Benjamin, Shooting

"I'm excited because I'm going somewhere different in the world and I can also represent my Island in the upcoming Games."

Jordie Andrews, Shooting



"I'm looking forward to seeing what the competition is like at the Commonwealth Games."

Madolyn Andrews, Shooting

"This is my first time participating in the Commonwealth games and it's nerve wrecking because we are going up against professionals. But it's also exciting and a good opportunity to evaluate where I am as an athlete."

Ben Dillon, Swimming



Dutton Glides to Glory in Swimming Gala

Prince Andrew School held its annual Swimming Gala on Friday 25 April 2014. There was an enthusiastic and exciting atmosphere at the pool with all students cheering on their house - Cavendish, Jenkins, Dutton and Mundens. There were a number of events, including backstroke, front crawl, underwater swim and relays - with records broken throughout the day. It was predicted by many that either Cavendish or Jenkins would win, but the results begged to differ. Dutton took the cup with 94 points, Cavendish came in second with 64 points, Jenkins was third with 62 points and Mundens ran in fourth with 56 points.



Arrival of the Extractor

St Helena's new offshore fishing vessel, the MFV Extractor, arrived to the Island on Saturday 19 April 2014.

Welcomed at the wharf by around 200 people, Skipper Trevor (Otto) Thomas, and crew members Waylon Thomas, Peter Benjamin, Errol Thomas and Terry Richards were met ashore by Councillor Lawson Henry, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, who presented them with a St Helena flag for the boat.

A welcome reception was held at the St Helena Yacht Club where Councillor Henry, Terry Richards, Trevor Thomas and Rob Midwinter from Enterprise St Helena all commented on the significance of the Extractor's arrival on St Helena and thanked all who supported the crew during their time away. Skipper Trevor Thomas said:

"The reason for bringing the boat to St Helena is to give our local fishing industry the opportunity to explore the wider waters of our fishing zone and help to increase the output of fish catches on a more consistent basis."

"The voyage to St Helena has proven she is capable of long distance operations and her delivery crew is extremely impressed with the vessel. The vessel is now to be prepared for her new role, which could take a few weeks or so before the first offshore shakedown fishing trip is undertaken. The current delivery crew makes up a part of the future fishing team and we expect to add a number of other fisherman who are interested in joining the Extractor."

The Extractor was built in 1998 in Australia as a purpose-built long line/pole and line tuna fishing platform for use by the Great Barrier Reef commercial fishermen. The vessel is 22 metres in length.

MFV Extractor Arriving in James' Bay



Councillor Lawson Henry presents St Helena Flag to Extractor crew



MFV Extractor Delivery Crew



Onboard MFV Extractor

'My Trip Onboard the MFV Extractor' by Eira Stevens

"On Monday 28 April 2014, I had the exciting experience of travelling around St Helena on the MFV Extractor accompanied by Councillors and other invited guests. Although we battled choppy waters at times, I can proudly say that I was one of those who didn't share my breakfast with the South Atlantic."

"We left the wharf in Jamestown at approximately 10am, and travelled from Northwest to Northeast of the Island. At first it was hard to get my sea legs, as it was for many others, but I eventually found my balance. The crew gave us a tour onboard showing us the engine room, bunkers and the helm where all the navigation comes into play. Most interesting were the four deep and huge holders on deck, which will soon contain St Helena's fresh fish!"

"A spot of fishing took place on deck, with the crew reeling in a Yellow Fin Tuna and Barracuda. There was much cheering from all of us, excited to see the first fish caught on the Extractor by

her new owners.

"It was a real eye-opener to see the Island from a different perspective. The crystal blue sea, stern, distinguished cliffs and hill tops known as 'Turks' Cap', 'Stone Top' and 'The Barn'. A variety of endemic seabirds flying above, such as the Red-Billed Tropicbird and Brown Booby, made me realise how unique St Helena really is. The diversity of views which changed throughout was spectacular, from different shades of cliffs and land, to barren, moon-like regions such as Prosperous Bay and then flourishing areas like Blue Hill and Thompson's Bay."

"The most memorable sights were seeing a giant Whale Shark for the first time, and the Dry Gut Fill which was incredible to view from the sea. We arrived back in the harbour at 2pm with familiar Jamestown greeting us. What an unforgettable experience!"

Each year on 22 April over a billion people in 190 countries worldwide take action

for Earth Day.

This year the theme was 'Green Cities'.

The Community Forests Team from the National Trust on St Helena took part by hosting a stall outside the Canister building in Jamestown - encouraging members of the public to bring their kitchen waste with the aim of filling a wheelie bin, to raise awareness of how important recycling waste is for a healthy, sustainable environment.

There were also various displays showing people how to make their own compost. Visitors to the stall were also able to pot endemic Ebony flower seedlings using home made compost to illustrate why composting is key to the success of restoring St Helena's endemic forests.

The team also reused all sorts of waste to make imaginative craft items.

Project Coordinator for the Community Forests, Jason Courtis, said:

"To celebrate Earth Day and raise awareness of recycling and reuse - we had a compost quest where we aimed to fill a big wheelie bin with Jamestown waste. We will compost this and use it at the Millennium Forest for our endemic trees. If in the future you want to help us with our compost we'll have a wheelie bin in the courtyard of the National Trust Offices on Main Street - so bring your kitchen waste in and you can help us make new Gumwoods for the Millennium Forest."

The first Earth Day on April 22 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other ground breaking environmental laws soon followed. Growing out of the first Earth Day, the Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify and mobilise the environmental movement. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

For more information on Earth Day visit www.earthday.org



Community Forests Team outside the Canister on Earth Day

St Helena Photo Gallery Courtesy of the French Navy

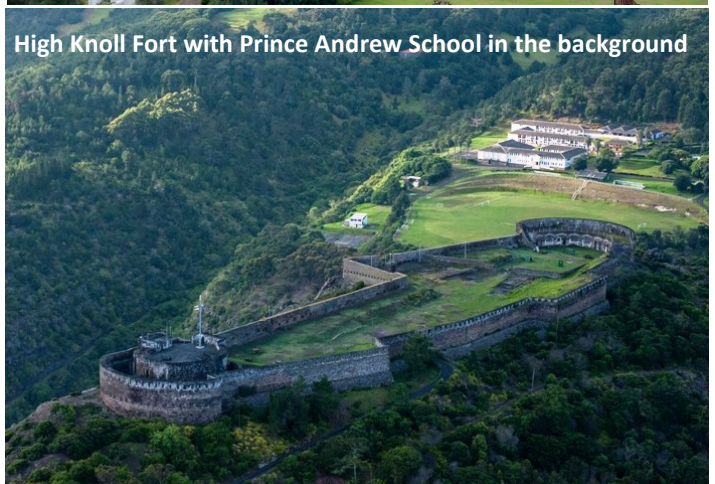
Half Tree Hollow



Longwood House



High Knoll Fort with Prince Andrew School in the background



St Paul's Cathedral



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