

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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RMS Celebrates 25th Anniversary



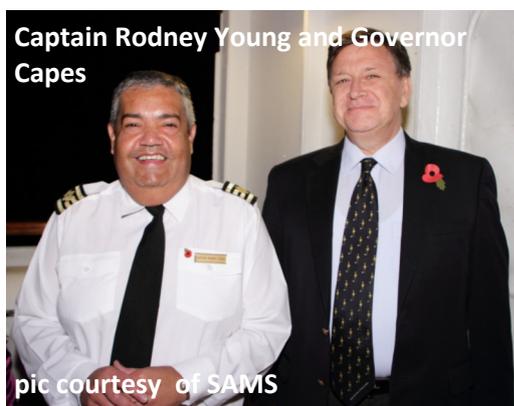
St Helena's beloved RMS, unique to the Island and one of the last on-going vessels in the world carrying the title Royal Mail Ship,

was built in 1989. The Duke of York Prince Andrew launched the Royal Mail Ship on 31 October that same year. Saints present that day were Mrs Gay Marr, Mrs Tara George, Mrs Marianne Musk and Captain Rodney Young. The RMS is the last known ship to be built in Aberdeen, Scotland by Hall Russell and Company. British registered, she has berths for a maximum of 156 passengers including 56 officers and crew. The RMS has been a passenger vessel for 25 years, and a labouring ship carrying goods and people to and from destinations such as Ascension and Cape Town. In previous years she has also carried out voyages to Tristan da Cunha and to the UK. Although voyages are long the majority of travelling passengers find the ship welcoming in which they become familiarised with a taste of St Helenian life and culture. Moored in Duncan Dock, Cape Town Harbour, Captain Rodney Young welcomed guests onboard the RMS on Wednesday evening 22 October 2014 to attend an evening celebrating 25 years

St Helena's Royal Mail Ship has been in service.

Rodney Young has been Captain of the RMS for 14 years, since 25 October 2000. Captain Rodney Young gave a proud speech

Captain Rodney Young and Governor Capes



pic courtesy of SAMS

that evening saying:

"The RMS is very much part of the Island; it's an extension of the Island. Whatever the plan following the completion of the Airport, the RMS St Helena crew is very well trained and service orientated, they will be an asset to St Helena as tourism develops." Anchored in familiar St Helenian waters on Thursday evening, 30 October 2014, the Captain and crew held another celebration marking the special milestone of the Royal Mail Ship. Governor Mark Capes gave a speech outlining the achievements of St Helena's Royal Mail Ship, its Captain and crew. He said: *"To celebrate 25 years of the RMS St Helena is to celebrate 25 years of outstanding success, 25 years of outstanding service to St Helena. That success flows directly from all those who have served with the RMS over the past 25 years, to create what is undoubtedly a unique brand, the RMS Brand..."*

"First impressions are so important, and all visitors who travel to St Helena on the RMS form a first impression of Saints and St Helena during their time on this ship. And when the RMS chapter comes to a close, so an exciting new chapter will begin with air access, bringing new opportunities and new experiences. But I believe that we should always cherish the RMS legacy. We should ensure that the iconic RMS brand lives on. But there is still much more work ahead for the RMS as it continues to play its vital multifaceted role. Indeed, the coming year will be hugely busy for St Helena and for the RMS."

RMS sea trial in Aberdeen, Scotland



New Horizons Halloween Event



New Horizons Youth Leader, Nicky Stevens said of the popular Haunted House, "We are always trying to make it bigger and better." At Jamestown Community Centre screams could be heard as New Horizons set the scene for their Haunted House on 31 October 2014. There were queues from the start as hundreds awaited to enter the hall (over 400 people entered). There were seven scenes created this year, which included graveyards, a vampires lair, and an asylum. There were also ominous lurking figures which included a gorilla, Chucky and leatherface (from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre). Although their

were a few tears not just from the younger entrants, many also had fun. Previous Haunted Houses have been at High Knoll and the Jamestown Community Centre Cellar. Nicky continued: "the night was dependent on the extras, kids, parents and volunteers they were the stars." Nicky commented on the effort of his team who put the scenes together. The Haunted House wasn't the only thing on offer, parents helped out on the bar, there was food on sale, stalls which sold cupcakes, toffee apples and popular light toys. Nicky thanked Colin Peters who once again turned up for playing music free of charge. Nicky explained that during the Halloween event not a lot of profit is made once costs have been deducted but the £200 which were raised from bar sales would go to the Family Support Trust. Nicky first envisaged the Halloween event to occur every two years but because of the demand it has become an annual tradition.



Island Games Adoption Scheme

The first Island Games was held in the Isle of Man in 1985 as part of the Manx people's Year of Sport, with approximately 700 competitors participating in 7 different sports. Athletes came from as far afield as Iceland and Scandinavia, the Mediterranean and St Helena. In total, fifteen Islands took part. The idea was to provide an opportunity for hundreds of young sportsmen and women from small Island communities to compete and enjoy international competition against other Islanders with similar standards of performance. Other benefits of such a unique festival of sport were the opportunities for cultural exchange and social interaction with visiting teams, and

the chance to establish new friendships with fellow Islanders. In 2015 the NatWest Island Games will be held in Jersey. As



part of the initiative to bring Islands together, Jersey facilitated by the Games Director Steve Bailey, has launched an adoption scheme involving junior Island schools. Harford Primary School has been joined with Janvrin Primary School. The project aims for Jersey schools to learn more about their adoptive Islands' culture and heritage, engaging through email and Skype.

Eventually the project will lead to a school sporting competition in Jersey where schools will compete wearing their adoptive colours (Janvrin will wear the colours of St Helena). When the Island team visits Jersey in 2015 to compete, it is envisaged that they will also visit Janvrin Primary. New Horizons Leader Nicky Stevens said: "It allows Jersey to learn a bit about our culture and our history. St Helena's team is often smaller than other competitors and in a previous Commonwealth Games competition we were adopted by an area. When we entered the stadium we felt and heard that support. This adoption scheme allows momentum for the Island to be built once again."



Simon Henry and Carlos Yon, Bermuda winning Silver [Pic. St Helena Team]

3rd Anniversary of St Helena Airport Project

On 3 November 2011, St Helena Government signed a Design, Build and Operate (DBO) contract in DFID's London Office with Basil Read (pty) Ltd. The contract was to design, build and operate St Helena's Airport and this was announced at the Grand Parade, St Helena on the same day. The project aims to provide air access to St Helena, fulfilling the UK Government's commitment to maintain access to the Island, and at the same time providing St Helena with a real opportunity for economic growth through tourism.



Airport Announcement at Grande Parade



Airport Open Day 27-28 September 2014 (100%)



Airport Open Day 23 November 2013 (50%-fill)

Both St Helena Government and the UK Government hope that this will lead to eventual financial self-sustainability for St Helena. Since the signing of the contract, the Airport project has achieved many milestones. These include the construction of the Haul Road, erection of the Airport Buildings and the filling of Dry Gut.

Carnival 2014 Photo Gallery



publicrelationsofficer1@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 22470



www.sainthelena.gov.sh