

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 23 September 2014

Saint Stories

Creative Saint Helena (CSH), a multi-disciplinary arts organisation on the Island, is inviting all Saints - both here and overseas - to take part in a writing event which encourages anyone of any age to submit their very own stories, poetry, letters, original songs and playscripts. The idea of holding this event originated from CSH member Pamela Murray, who approached the Creative Writing Group about the idea - and it soon became a realistic goal to produce written pieces for publication. CSH hopes to attract submissions from a wide variety of people and share these pieces from a Saint's perspective. The event is open to all residents on Island. Pamela commented:

"I think the contrast of a Saint to an Ex-pats' perspective will be very interesting, particularly at this point when there are many different cultures working and living on the Island. Saints overseas will also offer a slightly different perspective. Saint identity is an important and intrinsic part of Island life which should be celebrated and explored."

Arts and culture is a crucial element in any society, and for St Helena's sector to truly develop artists and writers will need opportunities to make a living from their work. This is a chance to publish some of the work created by Islanders giving others the joy of reading their pieces in years to come. Those who contribute will receive income from the sales.

All entries submitted will be reviewed and considered, and pieces will be selected by members of the Creative Writing Group - and then be compiled into books. The goal is to produce these books in three formats: an E-book, audio book and printed book.

In the first instance the printed copies will be limited, as this is an unfunded project, but it is hoped that some of the income from sales will support printing of additional copies.

Creative Saint Helena encourages everyone to submit their unique and inventive pieces as St Helena is an Island of poets, musicians, storytellers and artists. Pamela conveys her advice to everyone thinking of submitting a piece of writing:

"If you have a story, poem or a piece that you would like to write but haven't got around to doing so, now is your



opportunity to write it! If you have a piece which you are not quite happy with, send it in, let us know your concerns and we can have a constructive conversation and help to edit it. If you have a story you want to share but you do not like writing, get in touch and we can arrange to do a voice recording and work with you in creating a written piece."

All written pieces or drafts can be sent by email to creativesainthelena@gmail.com or in hard copy to the Tourist Office in Jamestown in an envelope marked Saint Stories.

All entries must be submitted before Friday 26 September 2014.



Marine Management



Over the past two years, a national Marine Management Plan - part of the Darwin Marine Biodiversity and Mapping Project - has been assembled. Work under the plan has been granted aid by the Darwin Initiative through UK Government funding. This plan has been a priority of the Environmental Management Division (EMD) as it is hoped that the document can be used to provide regulations for marine protection. In putting together the plan EMD has used information gained from marine surveys of the habitats of St Helena's waters, as well as historical and current reports, records and data on marine uses.

The plan outlines background information on the marine environment and how we as the public can sustainably use these waters. Topics included are Topography (surveying and mapping the area), Oceanography (marine science), Marine Flora and Fauna (plants and animals), Marine Archaeology, how the marine environment is used traditionally, as well as Tourism and Fishing. The document details potential impacts that these activities could have on our marine environment and what ways we can mitigate these problems, for example by having restrictions in place.

At this stage the Marine Management Plan is in draft status, and will be published once the Environmental Protection Ordinance has been enacted.

Dr Judith Brown from EMD commented:

"I think it is important to have a Marine Management Plan in place at this crucial time of change for St Helena. Protecting our marine environment now and ensuring that we use marine resources sustainably, will help safeguard the current pristine seas around St Helena for future generations to utilise and enjoy."

The Marine Management Plan has been drafted by the EMD Marine Section with input from Senior Fishing License Officer, Gerald Benjamin, Head of ANRD, Darren Duncan, stakeholders and members of the public that use St Helena's waters for recreational purposes. Over the past two years, input has also been received from tour operators and the fishing industry. The Marine Management Plan will also be taken to Councillors to gather their views.



A Shoal of Stonebrass Scad in Rupert's Bay



Coral scallop in Rupert's Bay



St Helena Butterfly Fish over the wreck of the Bedgellet near Long Ledge

St Helena Team Returns from Commonwealth Games

Arriving back on Island after a memorable experience at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, part of the St Helena Team - Pamela Young, Patrick Young, Madylon Andrews, Chelsea Benjamin, Jordie Andrews and Ben Dillon - were greeted ashore on Wednesday 27 August 2014 by a large crowd of residents and schoolchildren.

Proudly waving the St Helena flag and sporting big smiles the team were happy to be home.

Primary schoolchildren from Harford, St Paul's and Pilling sang a song especially for the team.

Dax Richards, member of the National Amateur Sports Association St Helena, gave a welcoming speech and conveyed how proud the team has made the Island. Dax also said that the team has encouraged and inspired others to follow in their footsteps.

Team Manager, Pamela Young and Sports Champion, Councillor Gavin Ellick, echoed Dax's words and highlighted that out of the participating countries of the Commonwealth, the St Helena team drew a disproportionate amount of publicity and created much positive exposure for the Island.

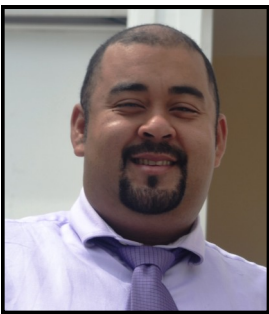


St Helena Chevening Scholars

Talented professionals from St Helena are currently urged to apply for the UK's Chevening Scholarship Programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Established in 1983, the Chevening Scholarships are the UK Government's global scholarship programme enabling those with leadership potential from around the world to study postgraduate courses at UK universities. The programme provides full or part funding for full-time courses at postgraduate level, normally a one year Master's degree in any subject.

On St Helena there is a small alumni of students who have studied via the Chevening programme and successfully graduated in different subject areas to the benefit of St Helena. Acting Financial Secretary, Dax Richards applied for a Chevening Scholarship at the University of Wales Aberystwyth in 2000. His three year course was supported by the Chevening scholarship fund.



Now a Chartered Accountant, Dax commented:

"The Scholarship really set the building blocks in my career as an accountant. I would definitely encourage people who have the chance to go away on a Chevening Scholarship, as it will only be for the better of the individual and for St Helena. Through the Chevening Scholarship, people will become

qualified to take up positions not only in SHG but anywhere on the Island."

Chevening Scholar Tracey Williams left St Helena in 2002 to complete her HND in Business Management at Bridgewater College in Somerset.

Tracey commented:

"I would certainly recommend the Chevening Scholarship as the support I



received was excellent and it has created countless opportunities for me. Having left school early to work, I had never envisaged that I would be able to go to university to further my education, but this scholarship enabled me to do just that."

Most recent Chevening Scholar, Tara Thomas, was awarded a Chevening Scholarship in 2012 and chose to study a Masters in Business Administration at the London School of Business and Finance. Tara graduated with an MBA (with Distinction) and is currently running the family business at the Rose & Crown. As a local business, they are upgrading their services to ensure they are prepared for the Airport.

Tara commented:

"I'm glad I have my MBA experience to support this phase of the business. I am very grateful to the Chevening Programme as without their support I would never have been able to enrol in the MBA programme and develop my skills as I have."

Other St Helena Scholars who have

benefited from the Chevening Programme include Dr Priscilla

McDaniel, Pamela Constantine and

Patrina Williams - we will be catching up with these scholars over the coming weeks to find out more about their Chevening experiences.



The next round of Scholarship studies will commence in September 2015. Interested persons have until 15 November 2014 to submit applications for 2015. For more information visit: www.chevening.org/apply



Dry Gut Fill - A Massive Achievement

After 22 months of hard work, the impressive filling of Dry Gut, a massive and critical element of the Airport project, was completed on Saturday 30 August 2014 with the placing of the last production load.

The total volume of the Dry Gut fill is 7,612,255m³ and the highest point is 119.8m.

Some interesting landmarks to compare the height of the Dry Gut Fill include Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris - 96m high, Big Ben, London - 96m high and Salisbury Cathedral, UK - 123m high.

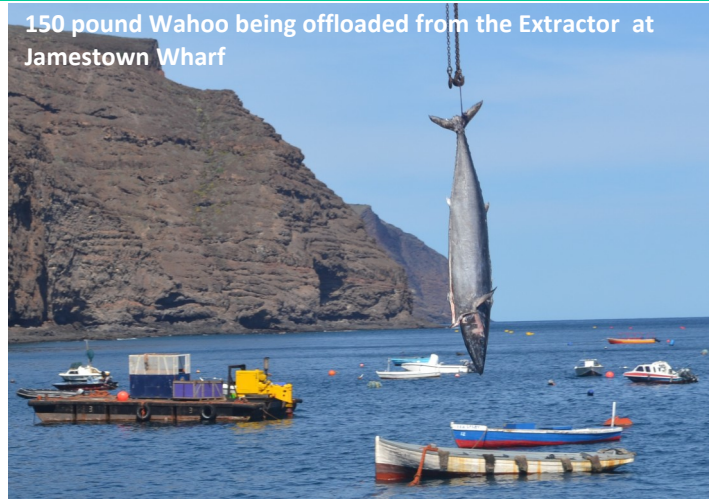
Dry Gut Fill in the background © David Pryce



150 pound Wahoo for MFV Extractor

During a fishing trip to Cardno Seamount in August the MFV Extractor has caught and landed an Island record Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*). The fish was taken on a rod and reel on 102 pound monofilament, using a small hook and a live Mackerel. The captor was fortunate in that there was no wire trace - only a short monofilament (plastic) leader. Most Wahoo bite through plastic leaders with ease, but in this case the fish was snagged just outside of the range of its razor sharp teeth. The fish was caught by the Skipper, Trevor Thomas, who surprisingly only played the fish for about 12-15 minutes before bringing it to the gaff. It took three of the crew to lift the fish over the side of the Extractor, which in itself is pretty unheard of when handling normal size Wahoo. The fish was hoisted on the vessel's gantry and, using a salter, it weighed in at 150 pounds with gut and gill intact. Most Wahoos taken by local fishermen rarely weigh more than 50 pounds. The previous largest Wahoo was taken by 'Duffy' Caswell, weighing in at 120 pounds. After 45 years of commercial fishing, the Extractor Skipper reported that he had never seen a Wahoo of this size before, and neither had any other crew member. The current world record for a Wahoo stands at 186 pounds. During this trip, the Extractor landed over 300 other mixed fish including Yellow Fin/Big Eye tunas and some 37 Wahoo. The total catch weighed 8094 kilograms (just over 8 metric tonnes). This was the first trip to the Cardno Seamount by the Extractor, which Enterprise St Helena agreed to underwrite as an initial exploratory fishing exercise. Cardno lies 184 miles to the north of the Island with its highest point being 77 metres. Some exploratory work was carried out over the position (last fished by the Southern Cross) and the crew reported large concentrations of Mackerel, especially evident at night.

150 pound Wahoo being offloaded from the Extractor at Jamestown Wharf



Bugs on the Brink

In a corner of the Public Library in Jamestown on Thursday 28 August 2014 there were many hands being raised, eager to ask and answer questions at the 'Bugs on the Brink' Show and Tell presented by the St Helena National Trust and led by invertebrate expert Liza Fowler.

'Bugs on the Brink' was an opportunity for the young and not so young to learn more about invertebrates on the Island and to be able to bring in insects or bugs to be examined and discussed.

The younger children were the most captivated audience and were intrigued by bottled samples of bees, spiders and mosquito larvae. Children were able to observe and interact with the presentation - bugs were placed under a microscope and shown on a computer screen to allow for a more detailed examination.

Liza said:

"Everyone knows about the bigger animals, but we at the National Trust try to educate everyone about all St Helena life, including the bugs. Some are endemic, totally unique invertebrates found only on this Island."

"Whenever we make these presentations there is always a lot of interest from the public and we try to make them as interesting as possible by having a slideshow, examining samples and providing handouts."

