

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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Environmental Exposure Visit and Conference Attendance

In June 2015, Isabel Peters, Environmental Assessment and Advocacy Division Manager for the Environment & Natural Resources Directorate, set off to attend exposure placements in Jersey and the UK. Alongside these placements Isabel also attended the International Conservation and Sustainability Conference, held in Gibraltar from 11-15 July 2015, which focused on 'Sustaining Partnerships'.

Before the conference, Isabel submitted discussion ideas that were included in the final programme and she was also invited to present a paper on St Helena's Airport - focusing on the environmental impacts of the project and the environmental lessons learnt. Other sessions covered biodiversity, conservation, renewable energy, environmental impact assessments and multilateral environmental agreements.

Isabel said of the conference: *"It was really interesting to see how different Islands approached issues, even though*



we were of different populations, sizes and had different species. But environmental departments and organisations tackled their issues similarly - so approaches they take can directly apply on St Helena."

After the conference, Isabel opted to attend a workshop around Environmental Impact Assessment, directly relating to her role on St Helena. She

remarked: *"I was pleasantly surprised that St Helena compared well with other Overseas Territories. We are ahead in terms of our planning and environmental impact assessments, our policies and our procedures. Although there is still more work to be done, this is very positive."* During her time away, Isabel also undertook various exposure visits, the first in Jersey's Environmental & Planning Department - where she looked at managing protected areas and the impact of ecologies in planning and waste management. In doing this, she saw much of Jersey's landscape.



Continued overleaf



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Isabel spoke of the benefits of her visit:

"I was interested in the close working relationship with Ministers and the policy Department. They support each other and Ministers are very aware of the section's issues, successes and progress. Senior Management held weekly meetings with their Minister and this is something replicated here with our Island's Councillors."

Isabel travelled throughout the UK to attend her various placements with consultancy firm WYG. She visited Leeds Bradford Airport, meeting with its environmental manager and discussing similarities between Leeds Airport's environmental risks, translocation and air pollution issues - compared with St Helena Airport.

WYG is located around the UK, so Isabel spent time in Cumbria's Lake District meeting with its Ecologist, in the Leicester Office working with its Environmental Impact Assessment Team, ending her placement in Southampton.



Isabel would like to thank all those who took the time to make her placements so worthwhile. She would also like to thank the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Jubilee Fund - for making her trip possible.

Internal Audit Up To Full Strength

A reception for St Helena Government staff, Councillors and stakeholders, was held on 1 September 2015, to introduce and welcome St Helena Government's newly formed Internal Audit team. Head of Internal Audit, John Kanes, arrived on St Helena in May with one of his main priorities being to recruit a full team. Those invited officially welcomed Angela Francis (Internal Auditor), Robyn Yon-Bowers (Junior Internal Auditor) and Tara Plato (Junior Internal Auditor). Angela began working for Internal Audit in a temporary capacity on 2 June and was quickly promoted to a permanent position.

She spoke about her time within the office:

"So far I have been mainly reading around the processes of Internal Audit and studying best practice of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards - getting ready for taking my exam in December."

"It is really nice to finally have a full team, as we will not only learn on the job but learn from each other. With John's guidance I know we can provide the best service possible."

The newest member of the Internal Audit Team is Tara Plato. Tara spoke of her interest in applying for the job: *"I have some previous work experience in accounts, and it was a field that I enjoyed, but couldn't continue as it was on a short term basis. Internal Audit was the perfect opportunity for me to pursue these interests in this important field."*

All three new members of the team are now student members of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors, and are working towards achieving international Internal Audit qualifications. John said: *"I am delighted with the new Internal Audit team that we have assembled and am greatly looking forward to working with them and the rest of our SHG colleagues. Our job is to effectively serve SHG and in doing so, support the people of St Helena."*



L to R: Tara Plato, Angela Francis, Robyn Yon-Bowers



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Cancer Month In October

During October 2015, St Helena's Cancer Support & Awareness Committee will be organising various events to raise the profile of cancer issues in the community. Several events throughout the month will raise funds to help those affected by cancer. The Committee currently consists of chairperson Colin Yon, Joyce George, Sandra Sim, Marlene Yon, Olive Williams, Tracey Williams and Nicholas Yon. Events during the month will include a coffee morning, Pink Panther and Friends walkabout in Lower Jamestown, a Firetruck Pull team challenge - which will be followed by entertainment at the Mule Yard and an Information Stall in front of the Canister.



There will also be a Regency Ball and the Bi-annual Pink Walk - which will form part of the Napoleon Bicentenary celebrations. The Tourist Office has joined with the Cancer Committee to host these two events, the latter which will commence from Longwood House this year. Other events running throughout the month includes a Mufti-Day, a

Healing Service at St Johns Church, which focuses on those

who are continuing to battle the disease, survivors and those who have lost their lives.

Sandra commented: *"As in previous years we are hoping that the public and various organisations will help us to raise funds."*

"This year we will be focusing on the colour white, to represent Lung Cancer, which is a very real concern in our community. We want to raise awareness of this specific disease, allowing a better understanding of diagnosis and treatments. Of course those who are participating in Mufti-Day and other events can opt to wear colours which are significant to them, whether that be pink for Breast Cancer, grey for Brain Cancer or orange for Kidney Cancer etc."

Funds raised over the years have gone directly to those who have suffered or are currently suffering from cancer. Sandra added: *"Money raised will continue to directly help patients with their expenses, such as having to travel overseas for medical treatment and various other medical bills. We have also helped with funding for specialist equipment for the Health Directorate."*

"We also provide financial support to families on St Helena to enable them to stay connected with loved ones who are undergoing treatment overseas."

"The committee would like to thank those on St Helena and overseas for their donations - which have helped us to provide so much for patients over the years."

Applications Invited for Chevening Scholarships

Chevening is the UK Government's international scholarship awards scheme aimed at developing global leaders, funded by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and partnership organisations.

The Chevening Secretariat is now accepting applications for 2016/17 Chevening Scholarships via www.chevening.org/apply until 3 November 2015.

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals with strong academic backgrounds who also have demonstrable leadership potential. The scholarship offers financial support to study for a Master's degree at any of the UK's leading universities and the opportunity to become part of an influential global network of 44,000 alumni.

St Helena has seen success with Chevening Scholarships over the years, with several students returning to the Island who are now in key positions. Tara Thomas, who completed her MBA at the London School of Business & Finance, was the last student from St Helena to complete her scholarship. To be eligible for a Chevening Scholarship, individuals with strong academic backgrounds must be able to demonstrate leadership potential. His Excellency Governor Capes commented:



"Being a Chevening Scholar marks you out as someone with ambition, drive and ability. It offers students a unique opportunity to gain academic experience and at the same time to broaden their global and social outlooks. The Chevening Scholarship enables a student to acquire the tools to make a great contribution to St Helena's development."

For further information contact Sandra Sim in the Governor's Office on tel: 22308 or email: sandra.sim@sainthelena.gov.sh



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Napoleon Bicentenary Celebrations Approaching

From 8 to 18 October 2015, St Helena will become immersed in Bicentenary activities commemorating the Island's connection to the exile of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Over a period of ten days, St Helena will mark the Bicentenary of Napoleon's arrival on the Island through window displays, French articles in local newspapers, the broadcasting of a French documentary on local TV, classical musical recitals, exhibitions and the issue of a special First Day Cover set of stamps. As the Cancer Committee normally holds its awareness activities in October, the Tourist Office have joined with several of their events to maximise coverage and participation.

Tourism Manager, Helena Bennett, said: *"The Tourist Office provides a platform for the Bicentenary, which will allow businesses to showcase their products and services. This year we have teamed up with the Cancer Awareness group to help them maximise their fundraising, helping those in need on the Island."*

The Bicentenary programme will begin on Thursday 8 October, with a projection of the 'Man On The Rock' documentary at Prince Andrew School. 'Man On The Rock' follows Napoleon's Journey from Corsica to St Helena, where famously Kenneth Griffith re-enacted Napoleon's arrival on the Streets of Jamestown - something which the Tourist Office hopes to recreate on 17 October 2015.

One of the larger events of the Bicentenary is the Regency Ball on Saturday 10 October. Helena commented: *"The reason behind our choice of location - the Council Chamber at the Castle - is Napoleon himself. He often visited what is now the Council Chamber to attend*



L to R: Merle Peters, Helena Bennett, Kelly Jonas

balls. The Castle itself is steeped in history, so we want people to dress for the part - from empire line gowns, to gloves and feathers, all honouring the era."

On Sunday 11 October, Longwood Green will host a Food Festival, where Paul Hickling will showcase his Napoleonic Brandy.

A ceremony of wreath laying will be held at Napoleon's Tomb, where visitors who have travelled specially for the ceremony will participate. Longwood House and the Generals' Quarters will be open to the public on Sunday 18 October. This will be the first time that the General's Quarters will be open to the public.

Helena concluded:

"St Helena herself has a remarkable history and we cannot deny the fact that Napoleon, a man who tried to conquer the world, helped to make a name for St Helena. Many people will have opinions on Napoleon, but the day he was exiled to St Helena was a moment which helped define our history."

"We have a range of visitors coming for the Bicentenary - ranging from French diplomats, to members of the Fondation Napoleon, to historians, journalists, academics and tourists - all of whom will experience our traditions and the range of activities arranged to commemorate the Bicentenary."

Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815, after which the British imprisoned him on the remote Island of St Helena. He arrived at St Helena on 15 October 1815 aboard the Frigate HMS Northumberland. Napoleon died in 1821 at the age of 51.

