

# The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 63 April 2018

## HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL HOSTS FUN FARM DAY

**B**ack in March 2018, Harford Primary School's Parent Teachers Association (PTA) decided to host a community engagement event around agriculture on St Helena to raise awareness of the industry and raise funds for the school. It was then decided to host a Fun Farm Day.

Despite a drizzle of rain on Saturday, 7 April 2018, the Fun Farm Day went ahead starting with a parade from Longwood Green to Harford Primary School. The parade consisted of around 80 people, including adults and children, a goat, tractor, and a Land Rover decorated with a Banana tree playing some good ole country music.

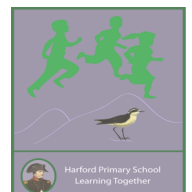
Meanwhile at Harford School grounds, various activities and stalls were set up. The Agriculture & Natural



Resources Directorate had an information stall displaying information about agriculture on St Helena. A wide range of local produce was also on display. Other activities and stalls available were car boot sales, sale of pupils' arts and crafts, bouncy castle, karaoke, dance mob, games, water fun, donkey rides, hot food, tea & cake and a tuck shop.

The most popular activity of the day was 'the farm'. Here, both adults and children had the opportunity to get close to the animals including hens, cockerels, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, piglets, calves, sheep, goats, kids, donkeys, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Harford Primary School would like to extend thanks to everyone who made the day a great success.





## SHIPS GALORE FOR ST HELENA

St Helena has been very busy during the month of April with various cruise ships visiting the Island.

The MV Ocean Adventurer was the first to visit, calling at the Island on the evening of 30 March, with 64 passengers and 63 crew on-board. Despite the Easter weekend, and limited amenities available, visitors managed to tour Plantation House and enjoy the Historical Town Walk. The MV Ocean Adventurer departed St Helena on Sunday, 1 April.

A day later, the MV Silver Cloud arrived in James Bay. She had 176 passengers and 218 crew on-board. Visitors underwent boat trips, the Fortifications Tours, Historical Town Walk and Plantation House Tours. Some booked taxis and went straight to the points of interest. The MV Silver Cloud departed St Helena the following day at around 5pm, bound for Ascension Island.

MV Ocean Adventurer



MV Silver Cloud



MV Astor



MV Plancius



On Thursday 5 April, the MV Astor arrived at St Helena. She carried 426 passengers and 279 crew. Island tours were provided for the visitors and many stayed in Jamestown to purchase souvenirs and make use of Wi-Fi services. The MV Astor departed St Helena at 3pm that afternoon for Las Palmas.

Finally, on Wednesday, 18 April, the MV Plancius arrived at St Helena. The MV Plancius, which had travelled from Tristan da Cunha, carried 105 passengers on-board. All visitors were booked on pre-arranged tours, with the majority of visitors doing their own hikes and walks around the Island. The vessel departed St Helena on Friday, 20 April, en-route to Ascension Island.

The next cruise ship due to visit St Helena is the MS Europa 2, scheduled to arrive on Sunday, 28 October 2018.

Photo credit: Saint Travel Ltd

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL OF WALKING

The Festival of Walking is an annual event aimed at showcasing the beautiful walks and scenery of St Helena, while promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

This year marks the eighth Festival of Walking, and took place between 7 and 29 April 2018.

Overall, 22 walks were on the programme, and included, Historical Town Walk, Blue Point, Donkey Walk, Sandy Bay Barn, Plantation Forest Walk, Great Stone Top and the ever popular Coast to Coast Sponsored Walk.

In total, 90 participants took part. The festival concluded with a walk from Mackintosh to Rosemary Plain followed by refreshments at Rosemary Gate Estate.





**E**arth Day, held annually on 22 April, is a day used to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year's theme was 'End Plastic Pollution'.

The Marine Team of the St Helena National Trust organised two events to celebrate Earth Day. The first was held on Thursday, 19 April. The entire National Trust Team were joined by scientists from the recent James Clark Ross voyage and the film crew from Green Renaissance for a beach clean at Sandy Bay. Over 40kg of rubbish was collected from the beach, including a large number of plastic bottles. During the day, Leigh and the Green Renaissance film crew (who were on the Island to make various films) took a boat around to Powell's Bay to survey and collect plastic marine rubbish from that beach as well.

On Earth Day itself (Sunday 22 April), the Trust organised a dive litter pick in James Bay. The dive was well attended, with 19 people helping out. Divers reported that there was a little swell and the visibility wasn't great, but full safety precautions were in place and the divers brought up a total of 190kg of rubbish, which included 203 glass bottles, some large pieces of metal and a previously lost torch and pair of pliers.

Marine Project Consultant, Leigh Morris, commented:

*"It is worth noting that compared to other harbours around the world, Jamestown is very clean, but it is still a useful task to take all rubbish out of our Bay and record what we find."*

*"As well as contributing to Earth Day, the data from the dive has been sent to the Project Aware 'Dive against Debris' programmes, so that the information from St Helena is added to the global database and we gain maximum positive exposure for the great work being done on our Island."*

*"Thanks go to all who helped out, especially Leeann from the EMD Marine Section who weighed, counted and sorted the rubbish as it came up from the divers, and Craig, Keith and Jamie from 'Into The Blue' who provided their time, dive equipment, support boat and lunch."*





## ROYAL RESEARCH SHIP SURVEYS ST HELENA WATERS

**T**he RRS James Clark Ross (JCR), a British Antarctic Survey (BAS) vessel, arrived at St Helena on Friday, 6 April 2018, to survey the waters around the Island.

The vessel had travelled north from Tristan da Cunha, where she had spent eight days carrying out science work before coming to St Helena.

During her visit here, the vessel spent four days surveying around the Island before heading out to Bonaparte Seamount. A member of the St Helena Marine Section also joined the survey.

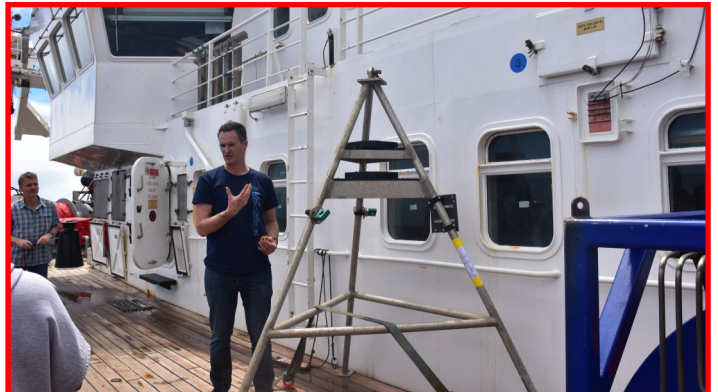
The team mapped the seafloor around St Helena and Bonaparte Seamount (200-2000m) in high resolution and provided information on a previously uncharted seamount. They collected detailed oceanographic data and sampled the benthic and pelagic animals. Initial analysis of the pelagic nets showed high biodiversity, with over 150 species identified, including possible new species of octopus and squid.

Following seven days of surveying work, members of the public were invited for a tour of the JCR. People were able to view various equipment, including the underwater camera system, the Agassiz trawl, detailed charts of the sea floor, the bridge and pictures of many of the animals that were caught during the cruise.

The JCR will not return to St Helena in the near future as she is ice strengthened and will be required for many days of science in the ice of the Antarctic and Arctic next year. However, next year the team will return to do similar work on another UK research vessel, the RRS Discovery. The Discovery will be in St Helena waters for around 12 days in April 2019.

Senior Marine Biologist (British Antarctic Survey), Simon Morley, said:

*"It has been a pleasure to work with local scientists, both teaching them new aspects of ocean going research whilst learning from their local expertise."*



Potentially new species of Octopus



## TALL SHIP TENACIOUS VISITS ST HELENA



**T**he three-masted Barque training vessel, SV Tenacious, arrived at St Helena on Sunday, 22 April 2018, at around 4pm. Owned by Jubilee Sailing Trust, the vessel carried 48 mixed-ability Officers and crew on-board, most of which were British, American and Australian. The vessel had sailed from Cape Town and departed St Helena on Tuesday, 24 April, bound for Antigua. Pictured: the SV Tenacious anchored in James Bay near the MV Helena.