

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

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PILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL CLAIMS VICTORY AT PRIMARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY

The three Primary Schools - Harford, St Paul's and Pilling - held their annual Athletics Day at Francis Plain on Wednesday, 30 May.

The day began with an inspiring speech from Gold Coast Commonwealth Games athlete, Colby Thomas, who said:

"I believe sports will teach you so much about yourself and the world around you. It will help you develop good character, values and habits early on in life. Sports will help you on your journey to become the best on and off the playing field. You too can be the best that you can be at whatever you choose and today I encourage you to give 100% effort. Remember that it's not just about winning but knowing that you have given it your best."

Following this, the schools' cheerleaders did their dance presentations. A full programme of events followed with athletes from both Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2).



At the end of the day the points were totalled and the winners announced. Harford Primary School came 3rd place with 124 points, St Paul's Primary School came 2nd with 186 points and the overall winner was Pilling Primary School with 192 Points. Pilling also won the KS1 trophy with a score of 85 points.

Individual trophies and medals were awarded to children for their outstanding talent in different sports, they were: Female Athlete of the day KS1 – Kendra Bedwell, Male Athlete of the day KS1 – Lebron George, Female Athlete of the day lower KS2 – Aimee Joshua, Male Athlete of the day lower KS2 – Marsharne Crowley, Female Athlete of the day upper KS2 – Leah Bedwell, Male Athlete of the day upper KS2 and the Roco Henry Cup for overall Athlete of the day - Micadean Crowley.

The closing speech was delivered by Director of Education & Employment, Shirley Wahler.

THE NEW '7 WONDERS OF ST HELENA' ANNOUNCED

Back in May 2008, St Helena Tourism suggested that the Island should identify '7 Wonders of St Helena'. The aim was to showcase seven iconic or historic places on the Island and the public was invited to submit suggestions of what these wonders might be.

A formal voting procedure took place and by September 2008 the results had been collated. The selected seven were: Jacobs Ladder, Diana's Peak, High Knoll Fort, St James' Church, Napoleon's Tomb, Longwood House and Heart Shaped Waterfall.

10 years on, St Helena Tourism welcomed nominations for the new list of attractions that would be shortlisted for the new '7 Wonders of St Helena'.

On Monday, 21 May 2018, during the St Helena Day celebrations' morning ceremony, a formal announcement was made by Director of Tourism, Helena Bennett.

St Helena's new 7 Wonders are: Heart Shaped Waterfall, Jonathan the Tortoise, High Knoll Fort, Diana's Peak National Park, Longwood House, Jacob's Ladder and Swimming with Whale Sharks.



PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

On Tuesday, 1 May 2018, the Public Library held a themed day around Books and Rhymes.

The day's activities started with a story and the reading of the familiar rhymes, such as Humpty Dumpty, Incy Wincy Spider and Baa Baa Black Sheep. The children participated in making crafts and completing speed word searches, all in keeping with the theme.

Assistant Librarian, Ivy Williams-Newman, said:

"The day was a great start to the holidays, it was so nice to see children visiting the library for books and taking part in the activities which they thoroughly enjoyed."



MISS ST HELENA 2018

The Miss St Helena contest 2018 took place at Prince Andrew School Hall on Saturday, 12 May. Twelve contestants entered, they were: Ayla Phillips, Martina Peters, Nicole Peters, Sunna-Jan Thomas, Nicole Paulsen, Gemma Lawrence, Paris Stevens, Kerisha Francis, Sasha Benjamin, Niza Yon, Tanisha Benjamin and Kimberly Yon. The St Helena Ambassador extends congratulations to all contestants and to Miss St Helena 2018, Gemma Lawrence, 1st runner up, Nicole Peters, and 2nd runner up, Niza Yon.



St Helenian Author, Shona Moyce (nee Clingham), has recently published two books entitled *Blood's Veil* and *Immisceo: Taken*.

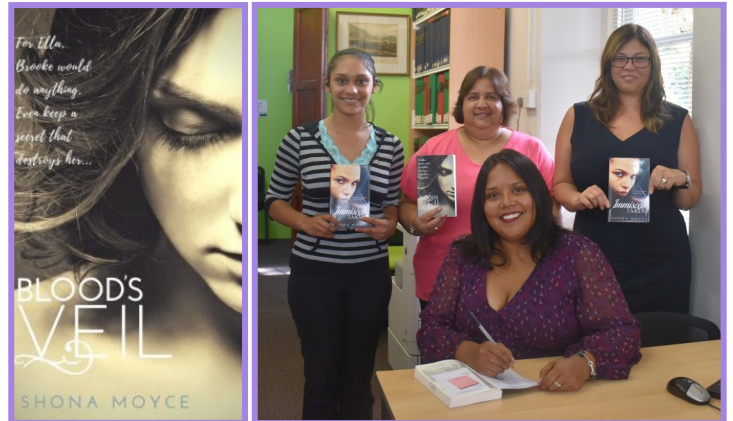
Shona, who is the daughter of Vilma Clingham, undertook her studies here on St Helena and Ascension before leaving for the UK at the age of 19 where she has spent the last 14 years.

Since the age of seven, Shona discovered that she had a passion for writing. She said:

"Writing is a part of who I am. I've been in love with books and the power of words since childhood, and it's this which drives me to create worlds and characters and stories of my own. Characters are often the starting point in everything I write. I become fascinated with who they are, what makes them tick, their goals and dreams and fears and regrets. Once my characters are fleshed out, their story unfolds a piece at a time, influenced in part by the

great stories written by authors before me and in part by my own experiences and personal interests. Mostly though, it's the infinite possibilities of the imagination. For me, writing and reading is escapism at its best."

Signed copies of both *Blood's Veil* (romantic suspense) and *Immisceo: Taken* (fantasy romance) are now available to borrow at the Public Library in Jamestown and both books are available to purchase online at Amazon.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST MARINE TEAM

Kenickie Andrews, Jamie Ellick and Luke Bennett have recently joined the St Helena National Trust Marine Team. Jamie and Luke are working three days per week while Kenickie is working on a full-time basis.

In other news, the St Helena National Trust Marine Team recently visited Sandy Bay Beach and was disappointed to discover that a small quantity of nurdles (small plastic pellets) had washed up on the Beach.

It was suspected that these nurdles had drifted from Durban, South Africa, following a spillage, of around 50 tonnes, from a shipping container that entered the water during a freak storm in October 2017.

These nurdles are round, translucent white and 5mm in diameter.

Marine Project Consultant, Leigh Morris, commented:

"The full impact of nurdles (all micro-plastics) in the ocean, including around St Helena, is not fully understood, but undoubtedly they impact negatively on aquatic life and the whole marine eco-system. For example, the whale sharks are filter feeders and will be taking these nurdles into their mouths along with plankton and fish eggs as they feed. The build-up of plastics and their toxins within their bodies could have a major impact on this species in years to come and the 5mm translucent white pellets being found on our beach at Sandy Bay look very similar to the fish eggs that

whale sharks love to eat. Other species of fish, sea birds and other life will also mistakenly eat the nurdles, or eat smaller species that have previously eaten them. Over time the nurdles (like other micro-plastics) will become smaller as the sea breaks them down, and as they become smaller, other smaller marine life will consume them. Once they have been ingested, they will stay in the animal's stomach and cause damage by making the animals become malnourished, and through the toxins they carry."

Should people on St Helena come across nurdles in any other location on the Island, please report these to Leigh at the National Trust via email: leigh.morris@trust.org.sh



ST HELENA'S 516TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The traditional St Helena's Day celebrations, this year themed 'the good ole days', was held on the Grand Parade in Jamestown on Monday, 21 May.

The day began with the traditional parade and service which included speeches from the Acting Governor, Louise Macmorran, Youth Leader, Nick Stevens, and Miss St Helena 2018, Gemma Lawrence.

In HE's speech, Acting Governor Louise, said:

"This St Helena Day, I'd encourage everyone to think of two good things that you'd like to see in the future, and to spend the next year working to make sure those things happen. For my part, I'd like to see the air service expand in the coming years, bring an increased number of visitors to help the Island's economy develop and grow. I also look forward to the arrival of St Helena's first Under Sea Fibre Optic Internet Cable, and all the opportunities that will bring, from better education to instant access to overseas doctors from the comfort of your home on St Helena."

Following the service, Councillor Derek Thomas and Chief Secretary, Susan O'Bey, launched 'Saints Together' and Director of Tourism, Helena Bennett, revealed the new '7 wonders of St Helena'.

During the morning, the 3km Fun Run and Jacobs Ladder Challenge took place. A number of participants took part and were all awarded medals.

This year's float parade was brought forward to 1pm. Five floats, departed the General Hospital and made its way to the Grand Parade. Prizes were given for the best float which saw the St Paul's District float - Bringing Back The Home Spirit - named the winner.

The traditional novelty sports took place in the afternoon and were enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

Other entertainment including sideshows, stalls, musical performances, hot food and more were available throughout the day and into the evening.

Around 2000 people attended this year's celebrations.



MOMENT DE MÉMOIRE - COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF NAPOLEON

A wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the 197th anniversary of the death of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was held at Napoleons Tomb, Sane's Valley, on Saturday, 5 May 2018. HE Governor Lisa Honan, dignitaries, the French Consul, Prince Andrew School students and members of the public attended the ceremony.

