

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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CREATIVE ST HELENA ART EXHIBITION

Creative St Helena is currently holding an Art Exhibition at the Museum of St Helena to showcase the work of local artists.

The exhibition, which opened on Monday, 18 June, and closes this Saturday, 7 July, sees a number of acrylic canvas, photographic art and mix media art pieces on display, including paintings depicting freedom and Mother Nature. Some of the Creative St Helena writers group are also exhibiting short pieces of written work.

Representing Creative St Helena, Teeny Lucy, said:

"This exhibition follows one in November last year, and we are very pleased to be able to commission these local artists, most of whom are young and just starting to gain their confidence and establish their own style. We had a few young artists that were not able to submit work this time as A-level revision and exams were their priority."

"Following this exhibition, we are planning to support and mentor talented young artists with further solo and shared exhibitions in the future."

Local artist, Nicole Peters, who painted an acrylic of Speery Island, said:

"Like most Saints, I am proud to call the Island of St Helena my home. In my spare time, I enjoy exploring the hidden parts of the Island through completing Post Box Walks and taking drives off-road and off the beaten tracks. I was inspired to complete this piece to capture part of St Helena's natural beauty, and in doing so, promoted one of the Island's 21 Post Box Walks – Manati Bay."

The artwork on display is also available to purchase.



Sharks Valley Litter Pick

On Tuesday, 26 June, the St Helena National Trust Marine Team, joined by the SHG Marine Section and four Prince Andrew School students, walked to Sharks Valley to conduct a beach clean-up.

Together the team collected 1002 plastic bottles, 1540 pieces of polystyrene, 50 fishing buoys/floats and 124 flip-flops and shoes.

Back in May, Marine Project Consultant, Leigh Morris, conducted a survey of Sharks Valley beach and found a large metal object amongst the rubbish, which was believed to be a piece of marine related equipment. This object was removed along with the rubbish during the beach clean-up. Upon opening the object, it was discovered to be a New Star Radio Buoy, which is used by commercial fishermen to locate long-lines and drift nets.

The team was aided by 'Into the Blue' who transported the collected rubbish via boat back to Jamestown, where some of the plastic was then used the following day by children to make marine themed art work.

The beach at Sharks Valley is now completely clean. 90% of the rubbish was removed, leaving only 10% piled neatly for the next time.



St Helena National Trust Activity Day

The St Helena National Trust hosted an activity day at the Millennium Forest on Wednesday, 27 June 2018.

A total of 24 children attended including a group of Brownies and Rainbows.

The children took part in many activities planned by the various projects in the Trust. The Bug team, led by Sheena Isaac, made 'buggy book markers' and looked at real life invertebrates that were on display.

The Millennium Forest team offered footprint painting which will be displayed inside the Millennium Forest visitor centre. They also made an Octopus out of recycled toilet paper holders.

The Marine team got the children to contribute to making a collage of 'Peaches' the endemic St Helena Damsel fish (Chromis sanctaehelenae) out of bottle tops collected from the beach clean-up at Sharks Valley.

Conservation Projects Officer, Martina Peters, said:

"The activities were designed to educate the children and public of our unique environment and native species as well as the issues that are threatening our environment both locally and worldwide such as plastic pollution."



PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - CELEBRATING THE FOUR SEASONS

The Public Library Services hosted the ever popular Children's Holiday Activities on Tuesday, 26 June 2018, under the theme 'Celebrating the Four Seasons'.

35 children were in attendance, all showing enthusiasm and creative flair as they took part in the activities, which included designing spring flowers, creating polar bear masks, Autumn leaf prints, happy sun face designs, paper plate creations and glass bottle painting.

Assistant Librarian, Ivy Williams-Newman, said:

"The Public Library Service has been hosting Children's Holiday Activities since the early nineties. These days are designed to engage and encourage young children to enjoy reading and to discover the magic of books! Upcoming holiday activities are planned for August."



MAKING ENDS MEET - INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Making Ends Meet, a local charity dedicated to providing short-term assistance to people that are struggling to make ends meet, held a fundraiser called 'International Night' at the Mule Yard, Jamestown, on Saturday, 30 June 2018.

Director & Secretary of Making Ends Meet, Gift Sibanda, said:

"Whilst our initial mandate as a charity organisation was never meant to involve fundraising but simply to pass on the donations we received from people, the ever increasing number of requests for assistance have necessitated that we carry out fundraising in order to be able to meet these requests and assist people. The idea of the International Night came about in a meeting whilst we were all brainstorming on fundraising ideas and we suddenly realised that St Helena now has so many different nationalities that we could approach for assistance with such an event."

The event saw many people of different nationalities who are now living on the Island showcase the food from their home countries and in some cases their national dress.

People were also able to sample the food from countries including: Ukraine, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Cote D'voire, Kenya, Libya, Thailand, Phillipines and St Helena for a small fee.

Music from these countries also played in the background.

Making Ends Meet have future fundraising events lined up which will be published closer to the date.



FISH SPECIMENS PLACED IN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum in London exhibits a range of specimens from various segments of natural history, including specimens collected by Charles Darwin.

Specimens from St Helena and Tristan da Cunha, obtained during the recent visit of the RRS James Clarke Ross, now join the Natural History Museum's collection. Included in the specimens are deep-sea anglerfish, 11,000 crustacean specimens, 81 cephalopods including a jewelled squid, vampire squid and piglet squid.

Curators at the Museum have been examining the specimens to gain further insights.

Senior Curator of Fish at the Museum, James Maclaine, explained:

"The first step is to go through everything and identify it, catalogue it and then curate it. Everything that has been catalogued on our database will then be available via our online Data Portal, so scientists who are working on any of the species we've received will then be able to get in touch about examining the specimens."

The Museum has already received interest from a researcher in Seattle about the deep-sea Anglerfish specimens and plans are in place to send them on loan for further investigation.

Before this donation, the Natural History Museum only had about 450 lots of fish specimens from around St Helena and Tristan da Cunha, and these are all from the shallower water close to shore or from further out but relatively near the surface.

James concluded:

"These new specimens are very exciting because they come from hundreds of metres down, from a zone not often sampled, so there is much more chance of us finding something rare, or even new to science. Volcanic mid-ocean Islands like St Helena and Tristan da Cunha are of particular interest as they tend to be real hotspots of diversity, with fish and other animals congregating around them."

The RRS Discovery is scheduled to visit St Helena in April 2019 to undertake another survey and is said to be using much larger nets.

Photo credit: Martin Collins - Cefas.



The RRS James Clark Ross



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A Viper Fish



A Hatchetfish



Various Squid