

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



Issue 75 April 2019

SIR HUDSON LOWE EXHIBITION

The Sir Hudson Lowe Exhibition launched at Plantation House on Sunday, 14 April.

The exhibition is designed to showcase Sir Hudson Lowe's appointment as Governor of St Helena during the time of Napoleon's exile and his overall impacts on the Island, including his influence in the abolition of slavery on St Helena.

Following the launch of the exhibition, HE Governor Lisa Honan, commented:

"Hudson Lowe was such an interesting Governor, much maligned, and misunderstood. And he met his captor only five times. My favourite fact from the afternoon - Hudson Lowe was paid a salary of £1000 per month, which in today's prices would have been £85,000 per month!"

The exhibition is now open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays.

A newspaper-style brochure is part of a self-guided tour through the exhibition which occupies six rooms of Plantation House.



ABIWANS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF OPERATION

A number of invited guests gathered at 'Abiwans' to celebrate 10 years of them being in operation on Saturday, 30 March.

During the event, Betty Joshua gave a speech where she remarked on Wanda's tailoring career, from the time she started at the age of 15 to the present day. Wanda also gave a presentation on her work and opened her craft shop so guests could view a collection of upholstery displays which her students had made as part of their coursework.

Invited guests also had the opportunity to purchase the craftwork.

Abiwans, owned and operated by Wanda Isaac, offers a tailoring, upholstery, sail repair and local craft shop, selling items such as lace, flax, paintings, wood arrangements, St Helena cushion covers and more. Abiwans also offers courses which consists of tailoring, upholstery, lace and flax weaving to residents as well as tourists.



SHAPE TRAINEE ASHLEY GEORGE'S STORY

St Helena Active Participation in Enterprise (SHAPE) continues to promote the rights and wellbeing of people with disabilities in all spheres of society and also to increase awareness. Their training programmes offer opportunities for structured work or supported employment. The focus of their service is to enhance employability and to support people with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

In this month's edition of the Ambassador we hear from SHAPE Trainee, Ashley George:

"I was born at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxfordshire, UK, on 15 May 1990. When I was a baby my parents noticed that I was not reaching my age-related milestones. I was quite a sick baby, always getting the flu, which led to me having glue ears. Glue ears is a condition where the middle ear fills with glue-like fluid instead of air. This causes dulled hearing. A health visitor recommended that my parents take me to see an E.N.T. (Ear, Nose & Throat) specialist in Oxford. Sadly, tests revealed that I was deaf and the specialist advised that I have an operation to put grommets in my ears and remove my adenoids and tonsils. At this time I was 18 months old. The operation was successful and within six-eight weeks I had recovered 70% of my hearing which was good.

"I enjoyed playing on my own, even at play group. My mother asked the group leader to observe me and, following her observations and advice, I was taken to see a specialist at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Tests revealed that I was borderline Autistic. The specialist came to our home to observe me in my own environment and was pleased to see how my family interacted with me. My parents, two brothers, and my sister put my needs first and always make me feel loved and special and they are very

proud of all I have achieved. I am very grateful for the love and support of my family which has made me develop into the person I am today. I would also like to thank Mrs Doris Peters who was the Speech & Language teacher who helped me on my journey.

"I left Prince Andrew School with qualifications in Single Science IGCSE and a 'D' Grade, and ELCs in Mathematics, English and Computing. My hobbies are drawing, shopping, walking, watching TV, computing, reading, doing word searches and making crafts. I can read and spell very well. I also love going on holiday.

"After leaving school, I started attending SHAPE. I've been with SHAPE for 10 years and I love it there. My duties at SHAPE include the following: extracting excess water from newly made paper pulp from the Hydropulper, at times I also assist with making fire bricks or pulp boards, making recycled newspaper bags, making paper from flax, denim, cotton and recycled paper, designing and creating SHAPE's recycled paper beads and learning various other crafts and life-skills.

"My self-confidence and self-esteem has grown over the years and I communicate well with the workers at SHAPE. I have a special relationship with Emma, the Creative Craft Trainer at SHAPE. Thank you Emma for always being there for me and thank you SHAPE for the opportunities and making me feel valued."



PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Public Library held their holiday activities on Tuesday, 30 April.

A total of 27 children attended, all taking part in spring themed craft activities.

The children made bumble bees and lady birds out of paper plates, tissue paper and pipe cleaners. The girls created butterfly bracelets with card and sequins, even a few boys took part in creating a gift for their mothers and sisters. 'Thank You' cards were designed from coloured circles and made into 3D flower arrangements, which the children took home to parents. Colouring by number pictures were very popular with all ages.

Assistant Librarian, Ivy Williams-Newman, commented:

"The day was a great success and the activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all."



VESSELS VISITING ST HELENA IN APRIL

April saw St Helena remain a busy marine hub with quite a few vessels visiting during the month. Despite two cruise ships cancelling their visits to the Island, we were still able to welcome the following vessels:

MV Pacific Princess

The cruise ship MV Pacific Princess visited St Helena on 11 April 2019 with approximately 688 passengers on-board. Once ashore, passengers and crew enjoyed various Island tours and many climbed Jacobs Ladder.

The Pacific Princess departed at 6pm the same day bound for Natal in Brazil.

The next cruise ship due to visit St Helena is the MV Albatros on 14 October 2019.



French Navy Ship

The French Navy offshore patrol ship 'Seine' arrived at St Helena on Friday, 19 April 2019. The vessel called at the Island en-route from Senegal in Africa.

During her stay, the Ship's company visited the French properties. Her Excellency Governor Lisa Honan also hosted the crew at Plantation House.

The 'Seine' departed the Island on Monday, 22 April 2019, with a fantastic water cannon salute.



Fuel Tanker

The Island's fuel stock was also replenished with the arrival of the MT Bochem Ghent over the Easter weekend. Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc confirmed that approximately 257,000 litres of Unleaded Petrol and 978,000 litres of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel was received by the Island on this call.



MV Helena

The MV Helena docked at Rupert's Jetty on Monday, 15 April 2019, having arrived from Cape Town.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc confirmed that the vessel had brought 63 x 20 foot containers and one 40 foot container of goods as well as some general break-bulk for the Island.

The MV Helena departed for Cape Town on Thursday, 18 April 2019.



Europa

The Norwegian Sail Training Vessel 'Europa' visited St Helena between 22 April and 24 April 2019. She carried a total of 47 crew on-board.

Following a two-day stay, the vessel departed the Island at approximately 5.30pm on the 24th and headed towards Ascension Island.

The Europa had set sail from Cape Town and is heading towards Horta in the Azores on a 53-day ocean voyage.

WMS PARTICIPATES IN THE #TRASHTAG CAMPAIGN

Waste Management Services (WMS) have joined the global ‘#TrashTag Challenge’ in line with their Mission Statement: ‘working in partnership with customers for a cleaner and greener St Helena’. WMS staff started litter picking in and around Plantation Forest in March and April.

“There is no excuse for littering as bins are located across the Island. This year, WMS will locate a further 30 Olympic Bins including in recreational areas like Plantation Forest, in an effort to reduce the visual appearance of litter. The Olympic Bins are multi-purpose and facilitate the disposal of general waste, recyclable wastes such as glass, cans and plastic bottles and cigarette butts.”

Several bags of litter were collected from along the edge of Plantation Forest below the road between Scotland and White Gate and the forest trails. Butchers Grave and the trail from Scotland to Big Rock were made litter free by the team. Litter in other areas of the Island will be targeted to visually improve our environment.

WMS wish to encourage the public to join the global #TrashTag Challenge. WMS can provide litter pickers and disposable gloves to individuals/groups to get you started. Please contact Mike Durnford on tel: 24724 or email: mike.durnford@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Environmental Risk Manager, Mike Durnford, commented:

“WMS are committed to their mission statement and as such are embarking on an effort to visually improve the Island. This not only meets objectives within the St Helena 10-Year Plan but also contributes towards improving Island life for both tourists and residents alike.



RRS DISCOVERY VISIT

The RRS Discovery arrived at St Helena on Friday, 5 April. In St Helena waters, the vessel spent four days surveying around the Island before heading out to Bonaparte and Cardno Seamounts.

“We had a really successful trip and were made to feel so welcome by the St Helena community. We hope there will be further opportunities to work together.”

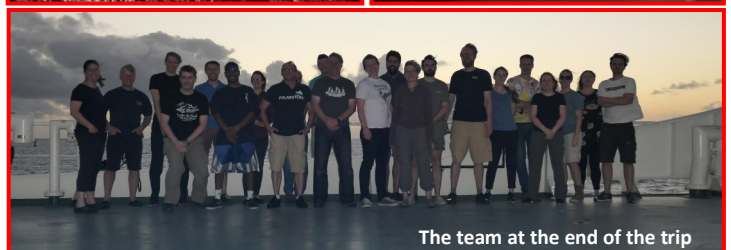
Three staff members from St Helena Government’s (SHG) Marine Section – Leeann Henry, Alison Small and Rhys Hobbs – along with St Helena Blue Belt Manager, Elizabeth Clingham, joined the trip. Competition winner and St Helena National Trust Marine team member, Jamie ‘Dubbs’ Ellick, also had the opportunity to join the team.

The RRS Discovery is a modern world class research vessel and is operated by the National Oceanography Centre part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) fleet of blue ocean research vessels. This trip was made possible as part of the Blue Belt Programme, funded by the UK FCO, the BAS funded by NERC, administered by Cefas, the Marine Management Organisation, and supported by the National History Museum, RSPB, the UK Hydrographic Office, SAERI, Plymouth University and SHG.

Amongst other work, the team were able to map the sea floor and categorise the habitats around the seamounts launching sea floor cameras, which took pictures of the creatures living on the sea floor, before towing a mini-trawl across the sea floor and many trawls in mid-water to collect a sample of the creatures living there. In addition, the team also deployed some acoustic monitoring devices that detect acoustic tags attached to tuna and whale sharks when they swim past.

As a result of the trip, several new fish, squid and octopus species were discovered. The ‘Moon Squid’ was recorded in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time and the ‘Inflated Whip Tail’ was found for the first time in the Atlantic. The team also found that Cardno Seamount was 10km further east and north than it was shown on the charts as well as areas of cold water coral reef around both St Helena and the seamounts.

Marine Biologist at the British Antarctic Survey, Dr Simon Morley, commented:



PRIMARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS DAY 2019

The three Primary Schools - Pilling, St Paul's and Harford - held their Athletics Day at Francis Plain on Wednesday, 24 April 2019.

The day began with an opening speech by NatWest Island Games Competitor, Aiden Yon-Stevens. The schools' cheerleaders then performed 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 resulted in the overall winner of the day being St Paul's with 183 points, followed in second position by Pilling with 173 points and in third place Harford with 134 points.

Individual trophies and medals were awarded to children for their outstanding talent in different sports, they were: Female athlete of the day KS1 - Shauntai Yon, Male athlete of the day KS1 - Kadin-Scott Clingham, Female athlete of the day lower KS2 - Kendara Bedwell, Male athlete of the day lower KS2 - Ryan Stevens, Female athlete of the day upper KS2 - Allie Fowler and male athlete of the day from upper KS2 - Blaze Baldwin. Blaze Baldwin was also the winner of the Rocco Henry Cup for the most outstanding athlete of the day.



ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

St Paul's Primary School (SPPS) hosted their biennial Science Fair on Saturday, 27 April.

The day began with a welcome speech by SPPS Head Teacher, Pat Williams. Senior Teacher in Curriculum, Carolyn Yon, then gave an overview of why Science is important.

The school's choir performed a song and the cheerleaders displayed their Athletics' Day dance routine. In the School Hall, young scientists were encouraged to explore and examine our weird and wonderful world in the 'Mad Science Lab'. Across the school, various games and activities were offered. Some of these included boat races using squirt bottles and dropping the penny on a pound at the bottom of a bucket filled with water.

On display in the Games Room were learners' science projects and experiments. The judges had a tough job choosing the winners as they were so impressed with the pupils' presentations. Prizes were awarded to: Keystage 1: 1st - James Lawrence, 2nd - Shreya Harris and 3rd - Ranae Stevens. Keystage 2: 1st - Maya Yon, 2nd - Kyle Williams and 3rd - Jayann and Allie Fowler. Taylor Duncan was awarded the 'WOW factor' prize by the judges, and Luca Yarrow and Sam Benjamin both received commended certificates for all of their efforts. The judging of the

Marine Poster Competition also took place where pupils had to produce a piece of marine themed art, using recycled materials, which depicted the harmful effects of pollution on the oceans and marine life. The winners were: 1st - Adrianna Osborne, 2nd - Brianna Henry and 3rd - Tyrone Peters.

Head Teacher, Pat Williams, concluded:

"Thanks go to our staff, team of parents, Public Health and ENRD Departments, judges and pupils who have organised or contributed in any way to make this day successful. It does take great team work, time and organisation to get something like this put together. The day went of really well and most of all the 'Mad Science Lab' in the Hall really captured everyone. I am very proud of you all! Well done! A big thank you of course to all those in the community who visited throughout the afternoon and had fun! We will now look forward to 2021!"

