

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 76 May 2019

GOVERNOR'S BLOG ON BECOMING A GOVERNOR

It was a Wednesday when I first received the news. One of those hot days in August when the sticky noon day heat in London makes everyone feel uncomfortable and long for rain. My small office near to Victoria Station was no exception. Bright sunlight streamed in through a window obscuring most of the words and pictures on my computer monitor.

Gone are the days when life-changing messages came by post. Each individually typed on good quality paper tucked into an envelope and a sender would refer to your name by ending with 'esq.' for esquire. In 21st century Britain most messages are now sent in the more anodyne way as an unsophisticated email. The layout no doubt designed by a computer whizz kid in Silicon Valley to be functionally simple and clinically efficient in usage of computer memory.

On the fateful day of 30th August one such unassuming email popped up on my screen from the FCO. I simply read 'Dear Philip (addressing fellow civil servants by their first name is the trend at present in the UK), It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your selection. (My curiosity was certainly raised). Please indicate if it is your intention to accept the post of Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. (After re-reading it I think it said I was being offered the post). I await your reply soonest. Yours... etc'.

It took a little while to sink in that I was being offered to take on the one role I have always wanted to do. After two previous tours in other overseas territories to have the opportunity to take on the senior role of Governor had been on my wish list for a long time. During the last 18 years in the civil service I had taken on jobs and roles across many areas of public policy from policing to institutional reform, social issues to economic development, IT to procurement but it was only when I was working in the overseas territories with the territorial governments did it all seem to become more coherent. In

spite, or because of, their smaller size overseas territories have the real chance of making decisions quicker, being faster at adapting to the future and collectively delivering services better tailored to local needs, compared to bigger, more complex societies.

There seems from my past observations two aspects of island life that may conspire to prevent this from happening - enough money and enough confidence. The first means we have to respect the need for fiscal prudence and take every opportunity to promote businesses and investment. The latter is something I believe a Governor's Office should have at the heart of its work. To support and facilitate elected representatives and leaders in a territory's administration to look beyond the daily wave of tactical and operational issues to have time address and take the tough decisions. Politics is both the 'art of the possible' and the commitment to 'doing what is right', even though for some decisions it may not be the easiest or popular path to take.

Governors are no longer made on the playing fields of Eton or Harrow. They are no longer the preserve of people from a particular background or social group. They are quite simply a broad range of talents, each different in their backgrounds and career experiences, but together have the determination to bring to their posts a burning desire to support the building of the best futures possible for the peoples of the overseas territories.

HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook



COUNTRY FAIR AT FRANCIS PLAIN

The 2018/19 Agriculture Programme Working Group held a Country Fair at Francis Plain on Saturday, 4 May 2019.

The event began at 11am with an opening speech by Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor Lawson Henry. In his speech Councillor Henry said:

"Today's grand finale of the 2018/19 Agriculture Programme in the form of a Country Fair promotes the theme 'Supply Local, Buy Local'. This theme links heavily to the Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP) which sets out SHG's intention to support our local industries and reduce imports. Thus keeping more of our hard earned cash on St Helena."

Throughout the day, there were various stalls and displays from Stevens' Family Butchery, St Helena Red Cross, the Saint Helena National Trust, the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD), St Helena Growers, Abiwans and Enterprise St Helena (ESH). Music and a bar facility were available and ice cream, food and other refreshments were on sale.

On the field, there were district stalls displaying locally grown and crafted items, from vegetables to craftwork. Following the judging of the stalls, the results were announced: the Longwood stall came 3rd place, St Paul's came 2nd and the Blue Hill stall came 1st, winning the title

of 'Best District Stall'. The produce from the district stalls then went on sale.

There were also animals - piglets, goats, ducks and chickens - which proved popular with the children who attended the day.

The 2018/19 Agriculture Programme was held in partnership with ANRD, the Economic Development Committee, Education & Employment Directorate, ESH, the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, Beekeepers Association, St Helena Chamber of Commerce and The St Helena Growers.



THE 'ARAFURA'S' BRIEF VISIT TO ST HELENA

The crude oil tanker 'Arafura' anchored one nautical mile of James Bay on the morning of Thursday, 9 May 2019. The purpose of her short visit was for a crew change.

The tanker had travelled from Nigeria where she loaded two million barrels of crude oil from the offshore oil platform, 20 miles of the West African coast. The tanker departed St Helena the same day and was bound for California, USA, via the Cape Horn, Chile.

The tanker is approximately 333 metres long and has a breadth of 60 metres. This meant that the tanker could not travel through the Panama Canal and hence had to travel via the Cape Horn – a voyage (from Nigeria to California) that would take 45 days.



The crude oil tanker 'Arafura' anchored one nautical mile of James Bay

HARFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY FAIR EXPLOSION

Harford Primary School's (HPS) Parent Teacher Association (PTA) held a community event - 'May Fair Explosion' - at the school's grounds on Saturday, 25 May 2019.

The gates opened at 12.30pm and the event kicked-off with a dance performance by the HPS cheerleaders.

Throughout the day, there were various stalls, car boot sales, face painting, side shows, raffles, donkey rides, bouncy castle, tea, cake, cultural and hot food available. Entertainment included cultural dances (African and Scottish) and a May Queen Contest. The Contest comprised three categories - Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 - with one 'May Queen' winner from each. The 'May Queen' winners were: Early Years - Irie Ellick, Key Stage 1 - Shakira Hercules and Key Stage 2 - Erin Thomas.

Harford Primary Head Teacher, Carlean Crowie, said:

"It was a great day which was enjoyed by everyone. The turnout was fantastic and the weather gods were kind to us. Harford Primary would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the day a success. Although not the final count, figures show that over £1000 was raised for the PTA funds."



ST HELENA'S FIRST EVER FOOTBALL TEAM DEPARTS FOR YNYS MON

St Helena's first ever International Football Team departed the Island on Saturday, 1 June 2019.

The team will be competing in the Inter-Games Football Tournament to be held between 15 and 22 June 2019 in Anglesey (Ynys Mon), Wales.

The Tournament is being held in Anglesey due to the hosts of the 2019 NatWest Island Games, Gibraltar, being unable to run a tournament due to lack of pitches.

The St Helena team comprises of Goalkeeper: Deon Yon and Jia Peters, Goalkeeping Coach: Keith Yon, Defenders: Kyle Yon, Julian Henry, Brandon Harris, Dane Wade, Michael (Mike-e) Williams, Ross O'Dean and Lee Yon, Midfielders: Liam Yon, Clayton Benjamin, Ryan Benjamin, Jacob Duncan, Matthais Young, Brett Isaac and Jordan Yon, Forwards: Rico Benjamin, Cody Thomas, Ronan Legg and Jace Williams and Manager, Nick Stevens, Assistant Coaches, Johnny Isaac and Wayne Crowie.

Fixtures: Sunday, 16 June 2019, St Helena vs Shetland Islands and Tuesday, 18 June, Guernsey vs St Helena.

The team members of St Helena's International Football team were each presented with a St Helena Football Association rucksack, containing two kits, at the Leisure Park in Jamestown on Monday, 29 April.



St Helena International Football Team with HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook at St Helena Airport



St Helena International Football Team with family, friends and supporters at St Helena Airport



St Helena International Football Team in their 'away' kit at the Leisure Park



St Helena International Football Team in their 'home' kit at the Leisure Park

ST HELENA'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 2019

The traditional St Helena's Day celebrations, this year themed 'Connecting the Commonwealth, Connecting Our Community', was held on the Grand Parade in Jamestown on Tuesday, 21 May.

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

In HE's speech, Dr Philip Rushbrook, said:

"People, governments and organisations across the Commonwealth connect through youth events, cultural networks and educational exchanges. We connect and work together to protect our natural environment and the oceans we share. We connect and cooperate amongst our businesses to encourage economic development. We connect and share in friendly rivalry on track and pitch and encourage our young people to participate in sport to develop achievement and generosity of spirit. This year at St Helena Day we honour the friendship of the Commonwealth to help us in being better citizens."

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 commenced at 1.30pm. Three floats - 'the Standard Bar on tour', 'Africa' and the 'St Helena International Football team' – paraded from the General Hospital to the Grand Parade.

Due to the wet weather conditions, the traditional novelty sports were unfortunately cancelled.

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

New Horizons Youth Centre estimates that around 1100-1200 people attended this year's celebrations.



PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Public Library Services hosted their popular children's holiday activities, around the theme of St Helena's Day on Tuesday, 7 May 2019.

A total of 33 children attended the day and took part in tissue paper creation crafts producing Arum Lilies, Whale Sharks and St Helena Flags. The colouring pages consisting of tortoises and underwater scenes featuring Whale Sharks, were also very popular.

