

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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TEAM ST HELENA DEPARTS FOR NATWEST ISLAND GAMES IN GIBRALTAR

Members of the St Helena team competing in the 2019 NatWest Island Games in Gibraltar departed the Island on Saturday, 22 June 2019.

Team St Helena competitors - Duwayne Yon, Colby Thomas and Brooke Yon - were accompanied from St Helena by Larry Thomas of the National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH).

The team joined remaining team member Aiden Yon-Stevens and Team Managers, Nick Stevens and Tina Yon-Stevens, in the UK for a week's training before departing for Gibraltar on 3 July, in time for the opening of the Games on Saturday, 6 July.

The swimming events will see Colby compete in the 100m and 50m breaststroke and 100m and 50m freestyle, Brooke competing in the 50m, 200m and 100m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 100m

individual medley and Duwayne competing in the 50m breaststroke, 20m freestyle and 100m and 50m freestyle. Aiden will compete in the 800m, 400m and 200m Athletics events.

Photo: L-R: Team St Helena competitors - Colby Thomas and Brooke Yon - HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook, competitor, Duwayne Yon and Larry Thomas of NSASH at St Helena Airport.



PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE HOSTED CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Public Library Service hosted their children's holiday activities on Tuesday, 25 June 2019.

The activities were focused around the theme of Eric Carle, who is an American designer, illustrator, and writer of children's books. He is most noted for 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', a picture book that has been translated into more than 65 languages.

The very Hungry Caterpillar was the main feature of the day, where the children created caterpillars from coloured cardboard rings. Matching colouring pages, newspaper polar bears and the busy spider, made from coloured circles also featured in the activities.

Assistant Librarian, Ivy Williams-Newman, said:

"The morning was well attended with 29 children all demonstrating creative flare with enthusiasm."



SAINT HELENA NATIONAL TRUST PRESENTS THE ISLAND'S SCHOOLS WITH INVERTEBRATE PACKS

The Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) presented the Island's schools with 'Invertebrate Packs' in May/June 2019.

SHNT Outreach & Education Officer, Sheena Isaac, explained:

"The 'Invertebrate Pack' was the product of the Darwin Project 'Bugs on the Brink' produced by Project Education Officer, Liza Fowler. The contents is based on the national curriculum supporting what is currently being taught, but localised to give a more comprehensive understanding of our Island's habitats from endemics to invasive bugs."

"Teachers can now use the files to find out and share the fascinating facts about creepy crawlies on St Helena. The Invertebrate team can currently support teaching staff and help build confidence and knowledge about the mini-beast we have. Our children can name five or more endemic plants, it would be excellent if they are able to name five or more endemic mini-beasts."

The file include stories such as that of the larva of the endemic Lace Wing (which looks nothing like the adult!). From the time the larva hatches, it collects its poop on its back, like a backpack. If attacked, the larva throws its poopy backpack at its attacker.

A file has been given to each school and the Girl Guide Association along with a digital copy. There is also a loan box at the SHNT containing equipment and specimen samples that schools may borrow.

Sheena added:

"Over the years, the SHNT have developed educational activities and resources that have benefitted the Island's school children. Our teams are always accommodating of visits by schools or organisations. We want to continue building our education programmes, extending to other areas of environmental conservation, marine and terrestrial."

"Anyone interested can pop into the Trust and meet the team who are willing to answer questions, ID strange bugs, see the reference collection or get an electric copy of the report or ID guide. The public in turn could help with citizen science."

In 2018 there was a two-year Darwin Plus funded invertebrate project called 'Securing the future for St Helena's endemic invertebrates' DPLUS040. It was run by the SHNT with the aim of exploring invertebrate diversity and abundance in difference habitat types such as natural, restored and non-native habitats, and when are invertebrates most active (seasonality), along with

conservation efforts in habitats that have been restored having a positive effect on invertebrates. A very interesting fact from the survey showed that the second most abundant invertebrate was our endemic moth the 'Dark Grey' *Helenoscoparia nigritalis*. If you take a careful look around an outside light, you may see a dark moth about 5mm with a thin caramel strip horizontally across the upper wings this may be the dark grey.



THE 'WINNING CONFIDENCE' VISITS ST HELENA

The bulk carrier 'Winning Confidence' anchored in James Bay at 4am on Thursday, 6 June 2019. The purpose of her short visit was to disembark a sick crew member.

The bulk carrier had travelled from Singapore and headed for north-west Africa near Gambia when she departed St Helena at 9.45am.

The MV Helena also arrived the same morning and can be seen on the far right.



MUSEUM OF SAINT HELENA CONTRIBUTES CHAIR TO IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM PROJECT

Recently the Museum of Saint Helena was contacted by Annick Vandenbilcke from the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' in Ypres, Belgium.

In Flanders Fields Museum is running a project sponsored by DHL Express to collect an 'empty' chair from every nation and state that had people fighting during WWI.

The brief sent by In Flanders Fields Museum read 'by the end of the war, in countless houses in each of those countries, there were empty chairs of family members who would never come home. The museum collects one chair from each country as a symbol of loss and mourning in an endless number of families'.

Curator of the Museum of Saint Helena, Adam Sizeland, said:

"The Museum of Saint Helena decided to send a chair that represented an ordinary home on St Helena, a home from which many people left and some never returned to."

"DHL very kindly absorbed the costs of transporting the chair from St Helena."

Over 100 countries have already sent chairs to Belgium. To find out more, please email Annick Vandenbilcke via: annick.vandenbilcke@ieper.be.



GOVERNOR RUSHBROOK HOSTS GARDEN PARTY TO MARK THE BIRTHDAY OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

His Excellency, Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook and Mrs Rushbrook hosted the annual Garden Party at Plantation House on Saturday, 8 June 2019, to mark the 93rd birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

During the celebrations, Governor Rushbrook presented Certificates and Badges of Honour to Mrs Barbara Ann George, Mrs Marlene Mary Yon and Ms Tina Lynette Lucy who, in their respective roles, have made significant contribution to society and public service on St Helena.

Saturday, 8 June was also World Oceans Day. Through demonstrations from SHG's Marine Conservation team, guests at the Garden Party were able to view the wide range of work that St Helena Government and others are doing to protect our waters.

