

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 81 October 2019

CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity held a number of fundraising and awareness events during October.

Events included the traditional Coffee Morning and Family Bingo at the Jamestown Community Centre, Healing Service at St John's Church, Pink Party and Health & Wellbeing Presentation at Rosie's Bar & Restaurant, Pink Ladies Night, Pink Cocktail Party and Pink Sunday at V2 Paradise, a Pink Tea at the Mantis Hotel, a fundraising & awareness stall at the Canister and the ever popular Pink Walk. The final event was the Neon Party held at Donny's on Saturday, 2 November. In addition, schools, offices, shops and other organisations organised Mufti Days and other fundraising events - including a sponsored walk by the Happy Tots Crèche.

The Pink Walk took place on Sunday, 27 October 2019.



There were two routes for participants to choose from:

The long route took participants from the Mule Yard – Shy Road – Ladder Hill – New Bridge – Constitution Road – Side Path Road – Mule Yard. The winning lady was Nicole Richards, the winning girl Taylor Bennett, the winning man Colin Bargo and the winning boy Blaine Bennett.

The short route took participants from the Mule Yard – Shy Road – Ladder Hill – Jamestown – Mule Yard. The winning lady was Merle Peters, the winning girl Elizabeth Piek, the winning man Leeroy Caswell and the winning boy Joel Peters.

The Pink Walk organisers confirmed that a total of 180 people took part in the walk which raised over £2000 for Cancer Awareness.



VESSELS VISITING ST HELENA IN OCTOBER

During October, St Helena welcomed a number of visiting vessels:

MV Arctic Sunrise

The ice-strengthened vessel operated by Greenpeace - Arctic Sunrise - arrived at St Helena on Wednesday, 2 October 2019. The vessel called at the Island en-route from Dakar.

Prior to arrival at St Helena, the Captain of the Arctic Sunrise said:

"We are currently involved in a global campaign to secure large scale marine protection, via the United Nations, and as part of this we are undertaking some ambitious and lengthy ship tours."

"At present, our ship, the Arctic Sunrise, is in the South Atlantic en-route to the next campaign leg in South Africa. Since our transit is taking us past St Helena, and since we have been actively involved in the coalition of groups working together for several years as 'Great British Oceans' for large scale marine protection in the UK's Overseas Territories, we are keen to stop en-route at St Helena."

During her time here, the Acting Governor, Elected Members, staff from SHG and FCO, the Saint Helena National Trust and Human Rights Commission, work experience students and the media were invited on-board for a tour of the vessel.

The Arctic Sunrise departed the Island for Cape Town on Friday, 4 October 2019.

MS Albatros

The cruise ship MS Albatros visited St Helena on Monday, 14 October 2019, with approximately 374 passengers on-board, the majority of whom were of German nationality.

Once ashore, passengers and crew enjoyed various Island tours and many climbed Jacobs Ladder. There were no pre-booked Island tours on this occasion.

The Captain of the MS Albatros kindly gave permission for a group of Special Educational Needs pupils from Pilling Primary School, along with their teachers, to have a short tour of the ship, which included lunch on-board with the Captain. Port Control was also able to visit the bridge of the ship to analyse the anchorage position, provided to the cruise ship prior to arrival, against the actual position used on the day.

The MS Albatros departed at 7pm the same day bound for Walvis Bay, Namibia.

The MS Albatros was one of two vessels - MV Helena and Stolt Ebony - anchored at St Helena on the Monday.

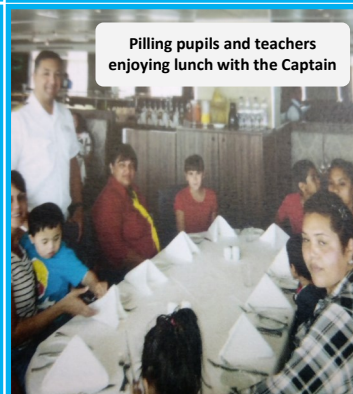
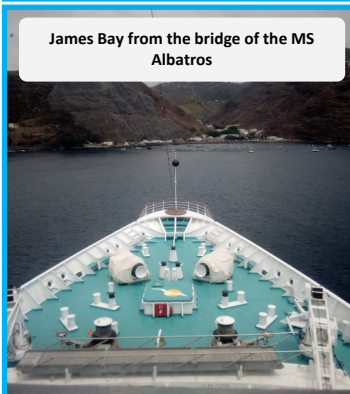
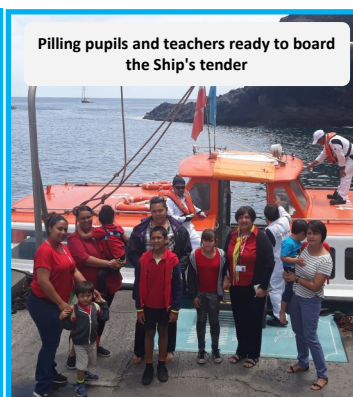
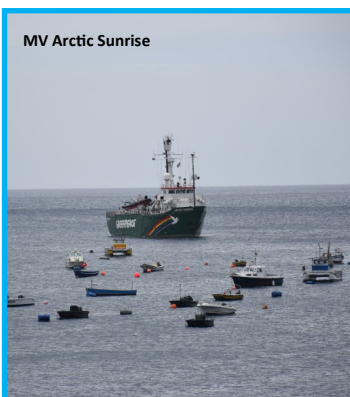
MV Boudicca

The cruise ship MV Boudicca visited St Helena on Wednesday, 23 October 2019, with approximately 552 passengers on-board, the majority of whom were of British nationality.

382 passengers were pre-booked on Island tours, and visited key attractions such as Longwood House, Plantation House and Jonathan the Tortoise.

The MV Boudicca departed at 6.30pm the same day bound for Walvis Bay, Namibia.

The next cruise ship due to visit St Helena is the MV Artania on 8 January 2020.



2019 WORLD TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

World Teachers Day is celebrated annually on 5 October. In 2019, World Teachers Day celebrated teachers with the theme, 'Young Teachers: The future of the Profession'. The day provides an occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, to take stock of achievements, and to address some of the issues central for attracting and keeping the brightest minds and young talents in the profession.



On St Helena, World Teachers Day was celebrated in a number of ways, including a reception at Plantation House for Island School Teachers, hosted by Acting Governor, Greg Gibson.



Pilling Primary School held an assembly at their school which was led by Deputy Head, Steve Plato. The assembly included poems read and dances performed by pupils. A recorded 'thank you' message from pupils to their teachers and from the Head Teacher, Elaine Benjamin, to her staff was also played. Pupils also presented cards to their teachers. The hall was decorated for the occasion with bunting and lights.



Harford Primary School held an assembly that was led by Teacher, Jamie Drabble, which brought to the fore why teachers should be appreciated. At the end of the assembly, all staff were presented with a pen and chocolate set, from GK Crafts, courtesy of the School's PTA.

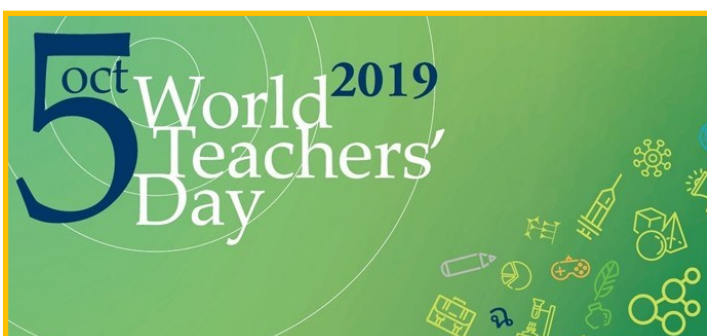


St Paul's Primary School held an assembly organised by the Student Council and Choir who presented the teachers with songs, poems, gifts, quotes, and ending with the Head Teacher addressing the staff with words of appreciation followed by a PTA Representative giving all staff a token of thank you. Throughout the day children appreciated their teachers with cards and gifts.



Prince Andrew School also recognised World Teachers Day, with celebrations that included a school assembly.

On the day, all schools were visited by the Director of Education and the Assistant Director for Schools who presented all teaching staff with a small gift and an iced cake as a gesture of appreciation and thanks.



Sunday, 27 October, was World Day for Audio-Visual Heritage.

Around the world we estimate that countless sound and audio-visual items have been lost over the past few decades as a result of the fragility and deterioration of these documents, tapes of all kinds degrade much more rapidly than paper documents. This, coupled with the fact that many of these older forms of recording have become obsolete in more recent years, means the preservation of sound and audio-visual archives is at a critical point. Often, the only way to preserve these materials is by the transfer of analogue content to digital platforms.

St Helena Island is no different in terms of these challenges posed in the preservation of such materials. Having a fairly long and rich history of radio in particular, we can learn a lot about many aspects of the Island through this period by preservation of existing recordings from the former radio stations. Radio St Helena is one such example, the Island's first proper dedicated radio station established in 1967 which operated until 2012. On the radio station's closure the tape archive as well as equipment was given to the Museum of St Helena.

Preservation and digitisation of the audio tapes is not an easy task. They are stored within a climate-controlled storage room, kept at low temperature and humidity on aluminium shelving. This should help the tapes to last as long as they can in order to get them all digitised before they do eventually degrade to the point at which they are unusable. Digitisation requires an authentic working reel-to-reel tape player in order to play the tapes which is then connected to a computer which creates the digital recording. This process has to be done in real time and so is quite time consuming. The Museum is very lucky to have John Turner voluntarily undertaking this task. The aim in the future is to have a fully digitised and accessible

database of the Radio St Helena tapes available for people to select and listen to.

There has also been a good amount of visual media created on St Helena from as far back as 1947 up to the present day. Audio-visual media is incredibly important in capturing elements of society and ways of life on St Helena that have now been lost or soon will be, stories of the Island that were not recorded another way or historic events that are unlikely to ever occur again. Examples like Charles Frater's 1962 film 'Island of St Helena' which shows the processes involved in the Island flax industry as well as giving an insight into life on the Island in the 1960s, Dan Yon's '100 Men' which records the history of the 100 men who moved to England for work, and the 2004 film 'A South Atlantic Voyage', by Gunther Kraus and Gisela Benz, which films a trip on the RMS St Helena from the UK to Cape Town, including all of its destinations along the way.

Digitisation of audio-visual media is a similar process to that of recorded audio. While still a long and tedious task much of the equipment is much newer and more accessible than that of audio tapes meaning much of what we know of has been digitised. The Museum keeps a small collection of original VHS tapes and DVDs and has created a digital video archive from these.



PUBLIC LIBRARY HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

The Public Library Services hosted Halloween Children's Activities on Tuesday, 22 October 2019, from 10am to 12noon with 44 children in attendance.

The morning began with themed crafts such as Accordion Fold Paper Bats, Paper stripped pumpkins, Frankenstein Treat Bags with a surprise and Hanging Jack-o'-Lantern pumpkins. The event was a great success with everyone showing creative flare in the Halloween spirit and later treated themselves to an ice cream from Uncle Bob's Ice Cream Van.

