

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity



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PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF THE HERNE FAMILY'S CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE

A special plaque revealing ceremony, in honour of St Helenian James Herne, his wife Hannah and their three children - Joshua (14), Sadie (10) and Jacob (9) - who in 2017 completed a circumnavigation of the world on their yacht *Carpe Diem*, took place at the Museum of Saint Helena on Saturday, 30 November 2019.

The Ceremony was organised by Basil and Barbara George. Mr George said:

"Barbara and I felt this was a huge achievement by an Islander and felt there should be something permanent in place to recognise this achievement so we liaised with the Museum to have this plaque placed in the maritime section."

During the ceremony, speeches were given by Mr Basil George, James Herne and Dr Cilla McDaniel (James' former Teacher Trainer). Prayers and the Blessing were given by Father David Musgrave. The Plaque, revealed by Joshua Herne, depicted the words 'James Herne, his wife Hannah and their three children, the first St Helenian family to circumnavigate the globe on their yacht *Carpe Diem*'. It was funded by Mr and Mrs George and Edward Baldwin of the St Helena Heritage Society arranged for the



L-R: Joshua, Sadie, Jacob, Hannah, baby Halle and James Herne

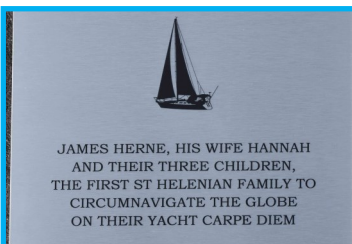
plaque to be made with the graphics designed by Islander Robin Richards in the UK.

In his speech, Mr George said:

"We are here to commemorate a special event for St Helena. Firstly it is a special event and a personal achievement for James as an Islander. The second reason why this event is special is that James represents an Island culture of skills handed down over generations, and of having to be resourceful. The third reason why their voyage around the world is special is that James and Hannah did it as a family and the fourth reason why we need to mark the event with a plaque is that it commemorates St Helena's important maritime history."

James concluded:

"We want to inspire people to have a goal and do it. Life is beautiful, life is amazing, life doesn't wait for anyone."



In October 2013, the Herne family departed St Helena on their yacht for their circumnavigation adventure, returning to the Island in December 2017. During their adventure, the Hernes had sailed through the Panama Canal, crossed the Pacific and Indian Ocean, spent a year in New Zealand helping to build schools, and visited French Polynesia.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS ON ST HELENA



SOPHIA JOSHUA'S ART EXHIBITION

An Art Exhibition, featuring work from local artist, Sophia Joshua, launched at the Museum in Jamestown on Wednesday, 18 December 2019.

The artwork on display includes a number of acrylic pieces depicting a cartoon portrait, fishing scene and humpback whale, watercolour of St James' Church, a contemporary 3D wooden block work, charcoal drawing of Jonathan the Tortoise, oil and acrylic St Helena seascape and a nail and string piece of Norma Jean.

Sophia said:

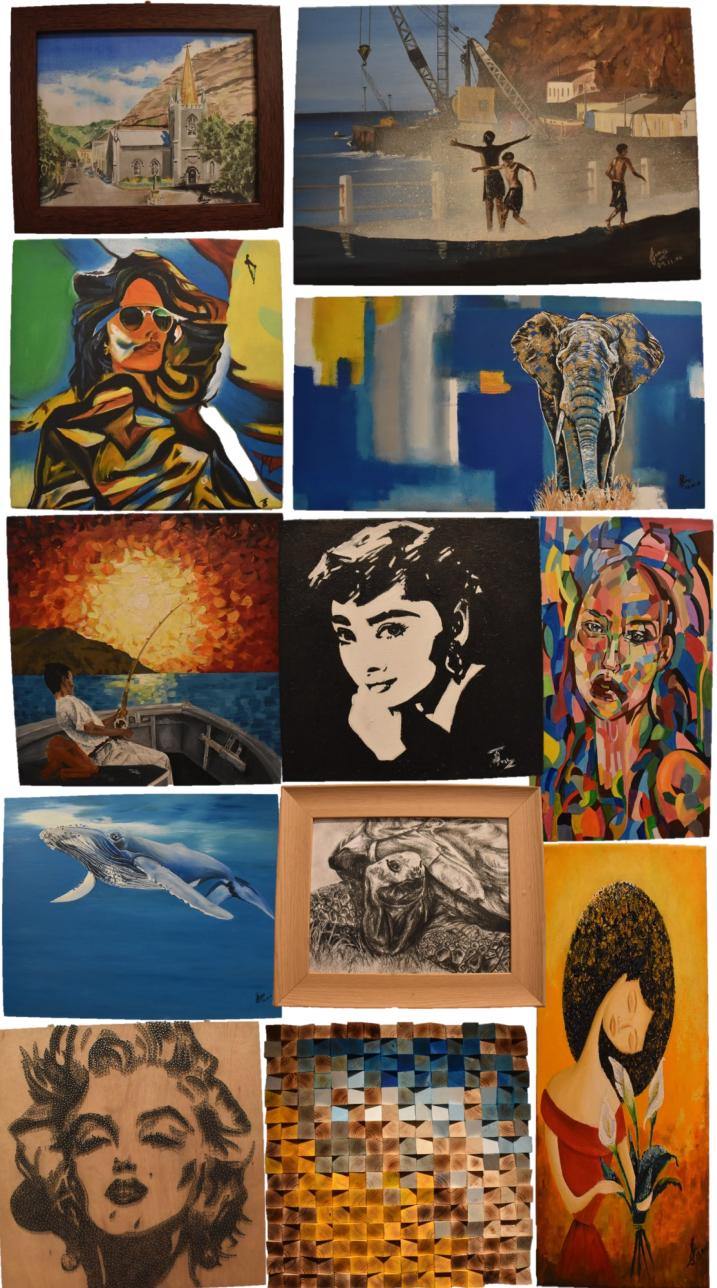
"I have created pieces over years (very few pieces actually), most of which are in the exhibition. I decided when I left the UK to make a bucket list and having my own exhibition was quite high on my list."

"The individual pieces were inspired by various artists, and ideas I saw that I wanted to experiment with, and of course several of the pieces have a St Helena theme. Being in the UK and being exposed to a broader range of art and artists has also influenced my style and motivation."

Creating art is something that Sophia has enjoyed from a young age. Sophia commented:

"It started with copying the Disney characters and progressed to a love for visuals and design and actually crafting is what I have more fun with now. The more abstract and unusual the better. The oldest piece in the exhibition is about 13 years old, and I'd say that's when I actually started experimenting a lot more with my work."

The Exhibition is open to the public until mid-January 2019.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library Service along with Pilling, St Paul's and Harford Primary Schools hosted the Children's Christmas Holiday Activities on Tuesday, 17 December 2019.

42 children attended this event and took part in the planned activities, which consisted of making hanging snowmen, Christmas hats, Christmas 3D cards and popsicle snowflakes.

At 11.30am the siren sounded and Santa graced us with his presence and the children sang a popular carol - Jingle Bells - on his arrival. He presented the children later with gift bags.

Assistant Librarian, Ivy Williams-Newman, commented:

"The morning as usual was a great success which ended with lots of happy, smiling faces."

