

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



May 2021



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador! In this edition you can find out how we celebrated St Helena's Day and how we commemorated the bicentenary of Napoleon's death. In recognition of International Nurses Day, we also feature an article on the Health Service on St Helena through the years, including an interview with former nurse, Mrs May Young.

If you'd like to contribute a story to the St Helena Ambassador or have any suggestions on what you'd like to see included, please feel free to contact me on tel: 22470 or via email: jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Jodie Scipio-Constantine (SHG Press Officer)

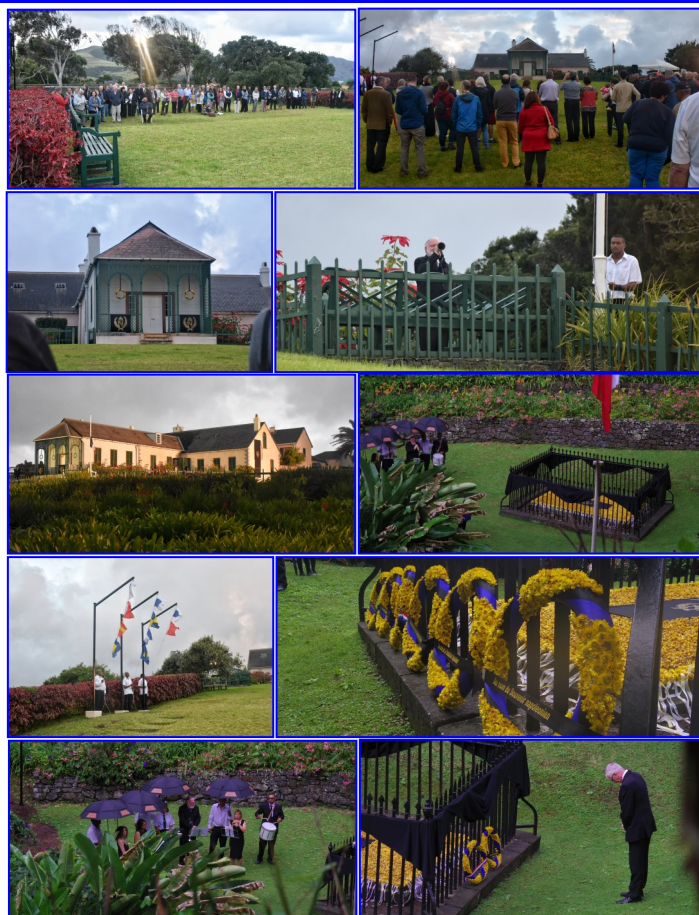
Bicentenary of Napoleon's death

A number of events to commemorate the bicentenary of Napoleon's death took place between 5 and 9 May 2021.

On Wednesday, 5 May, mini wreaths/flower bouquets of Everlasting flowers were laid on the Tomb's slab on behalf of overseas organisations and members of the public. Later that afternoon the gardens at Longwood House were opened and a ceremony took place which included a two-minute silence, the playing of the Last Post and various readings and pieces of music, half-masting of the flag and the Telegraph signals announcing Napoleon's death.

A Mass of Remembrance was held at Longwood House on Thursday, 6 May, for invited guests. The Eucharist, led by Catholic Priest Father David Musgrave, was conducted in mostly Latin and French and followed the same format as services in the Napoleonic era.

On Sunday, 9 May, a ceremony, marking the bicentenary of the Emperor's burial took place at The Tomb and included readings, various pieces of music and songs from Island musicians and singers, a two-minute silence and laying of the wreaths.



St Helena's Day Celebrations



The traditional St Helena's Day celebrations, this year themed 'celebrating cultural diversity', was held on the Grand Parade in Jamestown on Friday, 21 May. The day began with the traditional uniformed contingents parade and service held outside of the Court House, on the Grand Parade, which included speeches from HE Governor, Dr Philip Rushbrook, and Miss St Helena 2020, Latisha Fowler. Shortly after, stalls, selling local crafts and refreshments, were opened and activities, such as Mini Golf and Ring Toss commenced. The float parade [see photo collage] departed the Hospital around 2pm and made their way to the Grand Parade. Floats included a Chinese dragon, a rotating globe and a sailing ship. In the evening there was live music entertainment and a fireworks display. A video of the St Helena's Day celebrations can be viewed online here:

<https://fb.watch/61XKtXvxT0/>



International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated on 12 May (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) each year, to mark the contributions that nurses make to society.

In recognition of IND, we introduce you to Mrs May Young, a retired Community Nursing Officer, and take a look at the Health Service on St Helena through the years.

Mrs May Young

Mrs May Young (aged 90) of Romans, Jamestown, is a retired Community Nursing Officer having served 42 and a half years as a midwife and nurse within the St Helena Health Service.

Mrs Young started her nursing career in June 1948 at the age of 17 as Probationary Nurse where she undertook studies and training, alongside of Matron Sim, and a number of theory and practical exams to gain her qualified nursing status.

In 1954, Mrs Young became a midwife where she delivered babies and led antenatal and child welfare classes. Mrs Young stayed in the midwifery profession for a number of years before transferring to the Community Nursing team.

As a Community Nurse, Mrs Young, along with her team - Beatie Stroud, Faith Nicholls and Brenda Bizarre - provided care and

services for the whole Island which included inoculations, managing the outpatients clinics, caring for people with diabetes and school inspections.

"At one time we cared for approximately 1200 children, across the Island from babies to school leavers" Mrs Young recalls.

Mrs Young was on-call for midwifery duties in the Hospital and also assisted with home birth deliveries. Mrs Young also helped out in the Hospital dispensary when required.

The Civil Hospital (as it was known) was situated where the Health Services Directorate Admin building is currently located, and housed 32 beds, spread across the children's, maternity, nursery, male, female, private and side (ICU) wards.

Mrs Young explained:

"When I started work in 1948, there was no electricity in the Hospital until 10pm when the generator would kick in at the back of the Hospital. Otherwise lighting was provided by lanterns or torches. Electricity was only used for emergencies. There were no electric stoves and we used a geyser to heat the bath water."

At the Hospital there were four female nurses and two male nurses, one staff nurse, one matron, one doctor and one senior medical officer (SMO) and

only two nurses worked at the Hospital during the nights.

Mrs Young remarked:

"I started with a wage of five Guinea per month [worth approx. £5 per month today]. I enjoyed nursing, especially midwifery as it was my speciality. You could never get fed up being a Nurse as there was something different every time. As a District Nurse, I looked after people from the cradle to the grave."

"Whoever is considering becoming a nurse, must be dedicated, prepared to work hard and must treat other people as they would like to be treated themselves."

We'd like to thank Mrs Young for sharing her story with us.

Current Nursing System

Nurses currently employed within the St Helena Health Service comprise of a Hospital Nursing Officer, Theatre Sister, Practice Development Nurse, Community Nursing Officer, Community Nursing Sister, six Community Nurses, three Community Health Care Assistants, two Midwives, four Charge/Sister Nurses, three local Senior Staff Nurses, seven Staff Nurses, five Senior Health Care Assistants, three Health Care Assistants, seven Community Nurses /

Assistants, two School Nurses and three Psychiatric Nurses (within the Mental Health Section). These positions are held by local and Technical Cooperation Officers.

We also take this time to thank and commemorate Nurses who have since retired, moved onto another career path, or who have passed away. Special mention to retired Nursing Staff - Mrs Beatie Stroud, Mrs Gertrude Corker, Mrs May Young, Mrs Brenda Bizaare, Mrs Faith Nicholls, Miss Jean Peters, Mr Rodney Benjamin, Mrs Mavis Benjamin, and Mrs Ruth Young [we apologise if we have missed anyone].

Nurse Recruitment

An open-door Healthcare recruitment event was held at the General Hospital on Wednesday, 2 June 2021, between 10am and 3pm. This event allowed persons interested in becoming Staff Nurses or Health Care Assistants to talk with nursing staff and to learn more about working in healthcare. Interviews for Health Care Assistants also took place on the day.



Thank you to all the Nurses past and present for your hard work and dedication!

Nursing on St Helena



Mrs May Young



Mrs Young in her nursing uniform



Mrs Young on her last day of work



Mrs Young and her work colleagues

Below are a few photos of Hospital staff, supplied by the Museum of St Helena. Can you recognise anyone?

