

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



June 2021



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador! In this edition you can find out about two events which took place at Plantation House recently, what the Saint Helena National Trust did to celebrate World Oceans Day, and how we celebrated Pride Month. We also feature a spotlight on the St Helena Archives Service.

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)

Governor Hosts Garden Party to Mark HM Queen Elizabeth's 95th Birthday



A Garden Party to mark the 95th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was hosted by HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook at Plantation House on Saturday, 12 June. This year's focus was on respecting our environment and improving it for the future. Four hundred invited guests attended. During the Garden Party, Governor Rushbrook delivered a speech and announced the recipients of the Badge of Honour and the British Empire Medals. Five stalls were set up by SHG Sections, the Saint Helena National Trust, and the Museum of St Helena to highlight their contributions to St Helena's environment, cultural protection and conservation. Musical entertainment was provided by the Salvation Army Band, the Get Togethers Orchestra and Creative Saint Helena.



World Oceans Day

To celebrate World Oceans Day 2021, the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) Marine Team visited the residents at the Princess Royal Community Care Complex (CCC) to 'take the ocean to them!'

The Team talked about St Helena's amazing sustainable-use Marine Protected Area and the charismatic marine species that call it home. Residents then went on a virtual underwater excursion, using the Team's 360 virtual reality headsets, funded by the Blue Marine Foundation; followed by the opportunity to get up close to the life-sized inflatable Bone Shark, courtesy of Enterprise St Helena.

The morning ended by asking residents to recall their time on the ocean, what the ocean means to them and how things have changed over the years. Stories, which sent rolls of laughter throughout the room, were told, as memories were said out loud, secret recipes of fish dishes were whispered and local ocean legends were discussed. These wonderful anecdotes of life and livelihoods linked to the ocean and 'nuggets' of Traditional Ecological Knowledge were happily shared by residents:

Bone sharks were always seen from the 80s via the old RMS

Large Tuna were always caught with one pole, one line

Groundfish tastes the best

Gurnard (Scorpionfish) makes excellent curry

We must ensure bone sharks do not ingest plastics



Marine Research Coordinator, Kenickie Andrews, said:

"The morning was just amazing, we could not have asked for a better way to celebrate this international day and our ocean. The residents were all amazed by the inflatable, life-sized Bone Shark – many never seeing a 'shark' up close before, swam with them, and/or imagined the size of one. The VR Headsets were also a highlight, hearing the shouts of joy and laughter from the residents was just incredible. We definitely will be visiting again soon."

The SHNT Marine Team would like to thank the carers of the CCC for allowing the Team to visit and huge thanks must also go to the residents, for taking the time to talk to the Team and share their Traditional Ecological Knowledge on such a 'Fin-tastic' day. The Team would also like to thank the general public, both on the Island and abroad for their kind words of continued support and engagement in their ongoing education and outreach programmes.



SPOTLIGHT on SHG Services

The St Helena Archives, currently located in the Castle Court Yard, Jamestown, was established in 1962 by Honourable Archivist, Mr William Tatham.

The establishment of the Archives came after a recommendation by Ms Daphne Gifford from the Public Records Office in the UK and she suggested that one of the vaults in the Castle should be used. Mr Cecil Maggott was the first appointed Custodian of Records in 1966.

Today the Archives is operated by Custodian of Records, Karen Henry, and Assistant Custodian of Records, Tracy Buckley, who have been working in their roles for over 12 years. Together, Karen and Tracy, manage historical documents which date back to 1678 when the East India Company ruled the Island. Collections include St Helena Records, Letters to and from England and newspapers, detailing events in the history of the Island.

Karen explained:

"Services provided by the Archives include dealing with requests for research, which can be undertaken for residents and non-residents for a fee. Research requests can vary from a customer enquiring about a copy of a birth certificate, preparation of a family tree or general research about the Island's history."

To carry out research at the Archives would incur a fee; residents of St Helena: £20.25 for up to seven hours of work +£3.45 per hour for additional time. Non-residents:

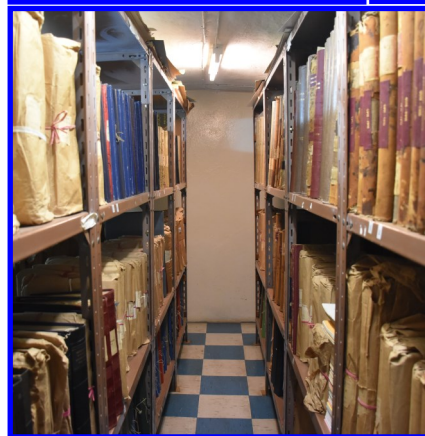
£44.75 for the first two hours of work +£22.30 per hour for additional time.

The Archives is open weekdays from 8.30am to 3.30pm, and staff can be contacted through the Castle switchboard on tel: +290 22470 or by email:

karen.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh.



L-R: Karen and Tracy



International Pride Month



International Pride Month – dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Plus) communities around the world – is celebrated during the month of June.

Pride Month is about acceptance, equality, celebrating the work of LGBTQ+ people, education in LGBTQ+ history and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community. In recognition of the month and to show St Helena's commitment to providing a supportive and welcoming society, the Pride Flag was flown at Plantation House on Tuesday, 29 June, and outside of the Court House, Jamestown, on Wednesday, 30 June 2021.

HE Governor hosts afternoon tea for Girl Guides

HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook hosted an afternoon tea on Saturday, 5 June 2021, to celebrate 100 Years of Girl Guiding on St Helena at Plantation House.

Around 80 people attended, including members of the St Helena Girlguiding Association, Commissioners, Leaders, Rangers, Guides, members of the Ladies Trefoil Guild, and previous Leaders.

The event began with a welcome address from HE the Governor. HE said:

"For any organisation to reach the milestone of 100 years of continuous service to St Helena is an amazing achievement; one that deserves to be recognised by all on-Island but especially its Guides and Leaders, past and present."

Speeches were also given by President of the Girl Guiding Association, Sylvia (Ivy) Ellick, and County Commissioner, Rosemary Mittens.

In her speech, Rosemary reflected on how incredible it is to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding, how the Girl Guide Movement was founded on the Island, how essential it is to keep the Guiding tradition alive and encourage more girls to join, and how important Girl Guiding is for learning life skills and making lifelong friendships. Rosemary concluded by thanking past Guiding sisters and leaders who kept the Movement going, and recognised outgoing Commissioner, Heather Cowdry, for her support and dedication to the Girl Guiding Movement over the past three years.

Following the speeches, tea and snacks, provided by Plantation House, were served and camp fire songs, such as 'On top of spaghetti', 'Can a woman?', and 'Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree' were sung.

Later, Jamestown Brownie Leader, Deborah Knipe, cut a cake which depicted the promise badges of the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Trefoil Guild. Three large cakes in the shape of '100', donated by the Trefoil Guild, were also displayed.

The afternoon concluded with a mini scavenger hunt around the grounds of Plantation. The scavenger hunt was based on important places to Girl Guiding over the years which including Guide Halls and historical monuments on St Helena, the five World Centres and Brownsea Island where scouting was founded.

Rosemary concluded:

"I would like to thank His Excellency and Mrs Rushbrook for allowing this to happen and together with their team and the Girl Guides and Leaders who have kindly assisted with the preparation to make this possible. Also thanks to the Trefoil Guild for kindly donating the Cakes. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Heather, who so kindly stepped in as a Commissioner and did an excellent job. She will be missed by all of us."

