

# THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



July 2021



## Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador! In this edition you can find out how Waste Management Services produce their compost, a new handrail that's been installed at the Castle, view artwork created by five year olds, and the launch of the Veterans Association. We also feature a spotlight on Biosecurity St Helena.

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](mailto:jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh).

*Jodie Scipio-Constantine (SHG Press Officer)*

## St Helena Veterans Association Launched

**T**he newly formed St Helena Veterans Association was launched at Plantation House on Wednesday, 21 July 2021.

The evening was opened by HE Governor Rushbrook followed by a short speech from the Association Chairperson, Mike Durnford, and then Committee Members, Jason Sparks and Rawena Delaney. Mike (who served 23 years in the Royal Air Force (RAF)) explained to guests that the Association had been formed from an idea developed by Rawena.

Rawena was one of the young people recruited on-Island by the Armed Forces in 2001 when recruitment teams would visit the Overseas Territories. She also served in the RAF. Other Association members include Jason Sparks (Army – 10 years) and Paul Gasteen (RAF – six years), invited guests were a combination of other ex-service personnel and persons who served in the Merchant Navy.

The Veterans Association on-Island will comprise of former Armed Forces personnel as well as former Merchant Navy personnel and aims to foster and promote camaraderie amongst St Helena's veteran community through social events, fundraising and remembrance.

As well as ensure the wellbeing of the Island's veteran community by recognising and building a network that will look out for each other. Through this they will learn of any veterans that may have fallen on hard times and be able to offer any assistance that can be given. It is also aimed to offer the resources or assistance to young people on-Island to reach their goals when aspiring to join the Armed Forces.



## Waste Management Services produce locally made compost

**W**aste Management Services have recently produced and sold compost, made locally by blending fish waste, piggery effluent and chipped forestry waste.

In this article, we take a look at how the compost is made and how it can be purchased:

### Production

Fish waste from the Fisheries, piggery effluent from Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc Piggery, and chipped forestry waste from the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division is delivered to Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS).

The three components are then combined at the designated organic waste processing area. Once the components are combined, they are sprayed with water\*, separated into windrows and left to aerate for one week. This process is repeated each week until the compost amounts to a 20-yard windrow.

Depending on the texture, extra components may be added to ensure an equal balance of components. For example; if the compost contains a larger amount of green waste, more piggery effluent may be added.

The compost is then taken to the Horse Point Land Fill Site (HPLS) Operations Building to dry, be sieved and bagged, ready for sale.

\* Rainwater is harvested from the roof of the large building on-site into a reused 54000ltr container, to reduce the use of mains water. Waste Management Services have also engineered an overflow into a second reused container with 18000ltr capacity nearer to the composting area. The rainwater tanks would have otherwise been landfilled.

### Purchasing compost

The compost is sold at £5.00 per 80-litre bag (restricted to four bags per customer in order to maximise its availability). Customers interested in purchasing compost should first reserve their compost with the Landfill Manager, Patrick Crowie, on tel: 23655 or via email: [landfill.manager@helanta.co.sh](mailto:landfill.manager@helanta.co.sh). Subject to compost availability, customers should then make payment at the Post & Customer Services Centre, Jamestown, and produce their receipt to the Landfill Manager at HPLS when collecting their compost. The compost is pre-bagged. Returning customers are requested to recycle their bags and bring them back for refilling when more compost is required.

A short video of the composting process can be viewed here: <http://ow.ly/j4yz50FQiwP>.



## New handrail installed at the Castle

**A** new handrail was recently installed on the main steps of the Castle Courtyard in Jamestown.

The handrail was designed by the SHG Technical Section and made locally from material sourced on-Island by SHG Carpenters and Plumbers with the assistance of Storekeeper, Ashley Leo.

The bottom of the handrail is made from mild steel and reinforcement, treated with metal preservative, which was welded and bent together by the Plumbers - Leroy Plato, Colin Thomas and Melvin O'Dean. The top half of the handrail is made from Walnut wood which was handcrafted and stained with varnish by Carpenters -

Wilson Peters, Atley O'Bey, Petro Young, Rex Young and Gibby Young and Decorator, Patrick Peters.

Thanks are extended to the SHG works team for a job well done!





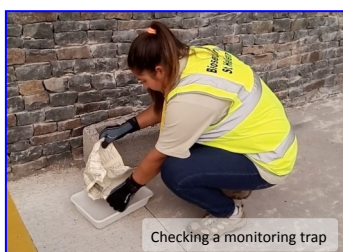
# SPOTLIGHT on SHG Services

**B**iosecurity St Helena forms part of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division, located at Scotland Offices, St Pauls.

The first Biosecurity Policy was endorsed in 2014. The reason for this Policy was to minimise the risk of extra pests and diseases being brought to the Island. Prior to 2014, there were no full-time Biosecurity staff, but instead there were Pest Control and Agriculture staff who carried out fruit and vegetable inspections on imports.



Members of the Biosecurity team



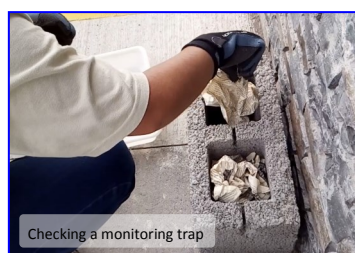
Checking a monitoring trap

Currently there are two full time members of staff – Biosecurity Officer, Julie Balchin, and Biosecurity Assistant, Nicky Stevens, and five part-time staff.

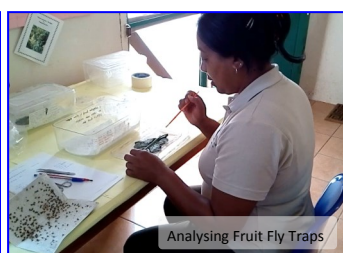
Biosecurity is broken down into three different areas - 'pre-border', 'border' and 'post-border' biosecurity. Of those three areas, there are two different types of biosecurity – phytosanitary (plants) and zoosanitary (animals).

## Some of the services carried out Pre-border:

**Pest risk assessments for high risk new importations** - if someone wants to import certain goods, Biosecurity



Checking a monitoring trap



Analysing Fruit Fly Traps

would need to carry out a risk assessment to determine whether this could cause problems in the long term and whether permission should be granted for the importation.

## **Licences for importation of fresh produce/plant materials**

- if a person wishes to import fruit and vegetables or plant material, for growing purposes, or pets, a licence would need to be issued by Biosecurity. The Veterinary Section deals with the importation of animals and animal products e.g. bee equipment.



Checking the Fruit Fly Trap



Fruit Flies viewed under the microscope

**Issue guidelines** – advising what is required before importation e.g. thorough cleaning of vehicles etc.

## Some of the services carried out at the Border:

**Inspection of imported plant material** - if someone imports plants or bulbs etc, Biosecurity will check the import documentation to ensure it is correct. Physical checks are also carried out to ensure nothing has 'hitched a ride'. If anything is present on the bulb or plant, Biosecurity will take the necessary action such as capturing, prorating and/or destroying, paying special attention if there is an invasive species present.



Fruit/vegetable inspection



Caterpillar found during inspections

**Checking of fresh produce or other imports** - fruit inspections are carried out when the MV Helena arrives. In addition, Biosecurity works alongside HM Customs, to inspect container, vehicle, personal luggage, tyres, and any other goods that have been imported which carry the risk of importing something which isn't on-Island already, such as an invasive species.

## Services carried out Post-border:

**Monitoring traps** - Biosecurity has set up traps, such as sticky traps for crawling insects, and 'Insect Hotels' which are located at Jamestown and Rupert's Wharf, and at St Helena Airport to monitor for any potential new species

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Wood Wasp



Soil samples taken from imported vehicles

## Biosecurity St Helena continued ...

arriving. Biosecurity monitors for creatures identified as being new, invasive or different or for creatures that haven't been seen recently. Fortunately, no new species have been found, and this is testament to the Disinsection Policy covering arriving aircraft which is currently in place. Fruit fly pheromone traps are also located around St Helena to monitor for any new type of fruit fly which may arrive.

**Create public awareness** - through 'Stop the Spread' and 'Alert' campaign posters which encourage anyone seeing anything different or what they perceive to be strange or new on-Island to contact Biosecurity.

Biosecurity Officer, Julie Balchin, commented:

*"Biosecurity measures are aimed at preventing and managing further introductions and the spread of harmful organisms that negatively affect Agriculture, Animal Health, Human Health and the Economy for future*

*generations, it is therefore an extremely important and necessary function for the continued future of our Island."*

Please check what you can import into St Helena before you order goods and if you see something new or unusual in your garden, at work or out hiking, report what you have seen or found to the Biosecurity Section. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility!

The Biosecurity team can be contacted on tel: 24724 or via email: [julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:julie.balchin@sainthelena.gov.sh) or visit the Biosecurity page on the SHG website via: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/public-services/biosecurity/>.



## St Pauls Primary Reception Class hosts Art Exhibition

**S**t Paul's Primary Reception class hosted their first ever art exhibition at the School Hall on the evening of Thursday, 22 July 2021. The children, only five years of age, were invited along with their families to celebrate the amazing accomplishments they had made.

Reception Teacher, Robyn Sim, explained:

*"The idea to host an Art Exhibition came about after the children's passion for art grew and children were producing outstanding pieces of art work which deserved to be shared and displayed."*

Robyn taught them various techniques and different styles of art. They were also influenced by Teacher, Anne Clarke, who had been teaching them art over the half term. Children were first taught the basic colour mixing and drawing techniques but then this progressed on to learning about the background of different artists and the styles that reflected them. Although the art sessions were primarily teacher-led, every single piece of art work was done by the children individually with their own touches added. Pieces ranged from charcoal portraits, to oil pastel blending and water colours.

Robyn concluded:

*"The night was a huge success and the room was buzzing with positive comments from the parents who were*

*astounded by the professionalism in their work. The class put on a fantastic show and dressed up in their fancy gear for the evening to show off their star moment. They have so much to be proud of, to achieve such standards at such a young age. A special thanks goes out to all those involved and who helped to make such an amazing show come to life."*

