

**Governor's Address**

**Dedication of the new Island Flag Pole at Signal House**

**Ladder Hill**

**2 June 2022**

On St Helena a flagpole at Signal House has long been an iconic landmark. The very name of this *place, Signal House*, symbolises its importance.

A place of prominence high on a cliff. A place of communication. And, a place of identity.

For at least 165 years, may be longer, a Union Flag has flown here to announce the island of St Helena to every arrival by sea.

To be sure, it is one of the very first images of our community a ship's crew will see as they head towards land.

It is, therefore, a misfortune for us all that for the last four years, since early 2019, Signal House has been silent. Unable to perform its role as the sentinel of the island.

Many will remember the sad day when the old mast had to be removed.

It had given good service but age and decay had done their worst.

An act of amputation that left only the original stump from 1853. And so, it remained, solitary and without function, until today.

At this unique instance, June 2022, in the history of the United Kingdom and St Helena, we are about to begin the first ever Platinum Jubilee of a reigning monarch.

Therefore, it too is a fitting moment to present a lasting legacy to St Helena. The restoration of this national flagpole with a new mast.

The iconic symbol of the service this flagpole provides to our island corresponds to the iconic symbol of seventy years of public duty given by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office funded the manufacturing of the new flagpole, which included the new wooden mast and yardarm. SHG funded the specialist fittings, shipping and erection of the pole.

Due to the size of the masthead and the windy conditions here at Signal House, the SHG workforce team are commended for their efforts in getting this new flagpole in place for today's ceremony.

A marvellous collective effort by everyone.

Long may this new flagpole continue its important role at Signal House: to exemplify of the distinctiveness and constancy of our island community.

**Dr Philip Rushbrook**  
**Governor**