

APRIL 2022

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this month's edition you can find out about a mysterious rope that was found floating off the coast of St Helena; who won and broke records at Prince Andrew School's Swimming Gala; and lastly we raise awareness of autism and introduce you to two Pilling Primary School pupils who have autism.

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.

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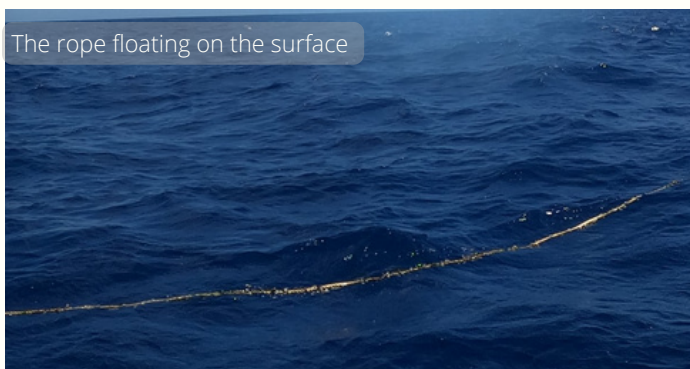
Rope found floating of the coast of St Helena

A large quantity of rope said to belong to the sunken crab-fishing vessel, *Oman Sea One*, was recently found floating of the coast of St Helena.

A local boat operator made a report to the Sea Rescue Service on Thursday, 21 April 2022, that a large length of rope (approx. 150 metres could be seen on the surface), approximately two nautical mile Northwest of Egg Island area.

The Sea Rescue Service went to investigate and confirmed the position, approximate length and type of rope, depth of water, and later attempted to retrieve the rope, but this was not possible as the rope was either caught on the seabed or weighted down. The Sea Rescue Service attached a buoy to the rope to make it visible to other vessels, and a safety message was broadcast from the Control Centre, which is St Helena's Maritime Coast Station, to warn mariners of the danger to navigation.

A local fisherman was then requested to retrieve the rope which was carried out on Saturday, 23 April, whilst they were out fishing.



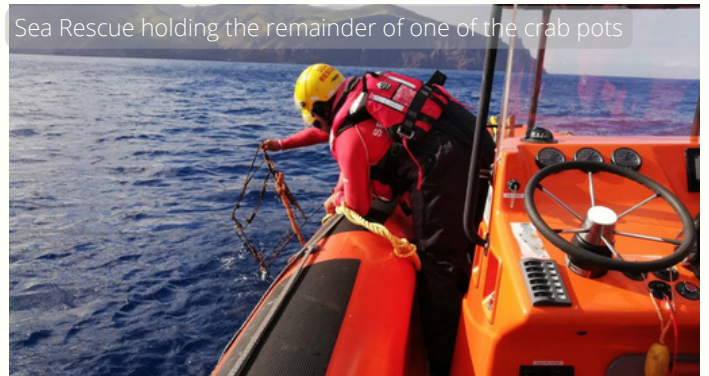
The rope floating on the surface



The distance of the rope from the shore line



The rope retrieved by the local fisherman



Sea Rescue holding the remainder of one of the crab pots

The fisherman managed to retrieve approximately 400 metres of the rope, but not all due to the rope being firmly caught or weighted down, so an additional buoy was attached for easier identification and warning.

On considering the options, the Maritime Authority made the decision to sink the remainder of the rope using a suitable weight. The Sea Rescue Service carried out this task on 28 April leaving the area safe for vessels to navigate freely without the risk of becoming fouled.

The rope was identified by a member of the Sea Rescue Service and a local fisherman as that from the sunken deep-sea crab-fishing vessel *Oman Sea One* as bits of the crab pots and the plastic figure eights which connect the pots to the main rope could be seen attached to the rope.

The MV *Oman Sea One* sank 160Km Northwest of St Helena on 31 August 1991 on the return journey from Cardno Sea Mount. It is thought that heavy seas caused the crab-fishing equipment, stored on the deck, to shift and a heavy wave caused the ship to roll and she never recovered. There was 17 crew on-board, including St Helenians, sadly four crew members did not survive. The survivors were rescued days later by the passing ship *Ruth M*, and one by the RMS *St Helena*.

Seven records broken at Prince Andrew School Swimming Gala

Prince Andrew School (PAS) held their annual Swimming Gala at the Jamestown Swimming Pool on Friday, 22 April 2022.

The event began with an opening speech delivered by Anne Dillon, in honour of the input into competitive swimming by her late husband, Johnny Dillon. In her speech Anne extended best wishes to the four swimmers who will be competing in the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Anne also encouraged aspiring swimmers to use the four students as examples of good role models. Anne said:

"For those of you aspiring swimmers, or indeed for whatever pastime you aspire to, use these four students as examples of good role models. These students have shown that their sacrifice, (it's no joke getting out of bed early on the weekends in the cold and rain to train), hard work (training for at least two hours for six days of the week, every week) perseverance, commitment, good behaviour and above all, love of what they do, pays off."

Shortly after Head of PAS Physical Education Department, Christine Caswell, call for a one minute silence tribute in remembrance of the late Johnny Dillon. Johnny was very passionate and dedicated about coaching swimmers who have represented St Helena internationally at both the Island and Commonwealth Games.



Photo: Jenkins students Brooke Yon and William Caswell accepting the trophy on behalf of their House

During the event, seven records were broken by four students.

William Caswell broke two of his own records for the 33m front crawl and the 33m backstroke for the lower school boys. William also broke the 33m record for breast stroke for the lower boys, previously held by Stefan Thomas.

Brooke Yon broke two of her previous records for the 33m backstroke for upper school girls and the 66m free style open girls event.

Stefan Thomas broke the 66m free style open boys record, previously held by Vincent Cavesmith. Stefan also equalled Ben Dillon's 33m backstroke record for upper school boys.

Vivienne Ponsford broke her own record for the girl's skills race.

Cavendish House came fourth with 58 points. Munden's House came third with 88 points. Dutton House was second with 90 points, and Jenkins House won the Swimming Gala with 110 points.

According to spectators and staff, the Gala was a success.

Reflecting on the Swimming Gala, Portfolio Director of the Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio, Wendy Benjamin, concluded:

"Today was a day of excellent participation. There were moments of greatness when records were broken and good sportsmanship shown by all. A great day for PAS."

World Autism Awareness Day

An introduction to two Pilling Primary School pupils with autism

World Autism Awareness Day 2022 was commemorated on Saturday, 2 April 2022.

Through this article we will be sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.

Autism is a lifelong disability and is not a condition that can be cured. People with autism learn to live with it and become the best that they can be.

"Hi, my name is Kai Bennett. I am 6 years old and I attend Pilling Primary School. I have autism. I have difficulties with my communication and change in routine. However I am able to use some words. I also use PECS (Pictures Exchange Cards) for communication, and social stories to help me throughout the day. I enjoy school and I am loved by all teachers and peers! I really enjoy singing, swimming and seeing and playing with animals. I am also good at playing alongside my peers, exploring the outdoors and using simple words and phrases. However most times throughout the day I struggle with changes in routine, unfamiliar people around me and loud noises!"



"Hello, my name is Mia O'bey. I am 6 years old and attend Pilling Primary School. I have autism. I have difficulty in speech, but I can say a few words. I also use visual aids to help me communicate with others. I also use a visual timetable to show me what is planned for my day ahead. I also have some difficulty socialising with others which I am trying really hard to do at the moment with the help of my class peers and my Teaching Assistant (TA), Miss O'bey. I have targets that I need to achieve. My TA helps me with my activities to help me achieve my goals. I like swimming, watching movies, animals, having fun, crafts, dressing up and singing. I don't like being in big crowds, messy play, certain loud noises, and change of routine."

Parent, Elaine Bennett, said:

"I am a parent of a beautiful son that has autism who makes me laugh every day. Yes it can be challenging at times understanding his needs and the way he thinks, but in the end it's very rewarding when he has made an achievement - just something simple as saying 'mummy' or 'daddy' or 'get you shoes'. Some things in life we take for granted, but we should embrace the ones we love and be thankful for their different abilities."