

JULY 2022

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this month's edition you can find out about a reception that was held to say 'thank you' to Prince Andrew School students and teachers involved in the making of caskets for the reburial of the Liberated Africans; a multi-award-winning publisher that donated a number of books and resources to St Helena's ambulance service; and how Waste Management Services produced their first bale of compacted waste plastic.

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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Students create caskets for reburial of Liberated Africans

Prince Andrew School students have recently created caskets for the reburial of the skeletal remains of the Liberated Africans in Rupert's Valley.

In January 2022, 10 (four current Year 10 and six former Year 11) students took on the challenge of creating 337 caskets, which they did during their building and construction lessons.

PAS Teacher, Geoffrey George, who taught the building and construction students for six hours per week commented: *"The Design & Technology Technician cut the wood and the students used mitre saws and routers to prepare the strips, and assembled the caskets, ready for sanding and spraying. I am extremely pleased and proud of how hard the students worked as, along with making the caskets, they had to carry on working towards their normal building and construction syllabus and qualifications, so the caskets could only be worked on once the students had each completed their given modules."*

The KS3 (Year 8 cohort and three Year 7) students also helped with sanding the caskets. It was fitting to involve the KS3 students as they were studying slavery during their history lessons. The students learnt about world slavery and about slavery on St Helena.



As part of their lessons students visited the Museum in Jamestown and visited sites in Ruperts Valley connected with slavery, guided by Curator of the Museum, Adam Sizeland.

Dionne, a Year 8 student who helped with sanding the caskets, commented: *"We are honoured to have partaken in this liberating experience by sanding the caskets for the Liberated Africans. We have high hopes that our hard work has made the caskets presentable, pleasing to the eye, and the rough edges have been smoothed enough so the Liberated Africans may have a comfortable place to rest as they're reburied to finally rest in peace."*

The caskets are 700mm x 337mm x 400mm and are made of ply wood with a varnish finish.

PAS Teacher, Geoffrey George, concluded: *"All students worked really well together as a team to get this project completed. A big 'thank you' as well to the Year 8 history students for giving up their history lessons to help with sanding. Also to Mr Craig Henry and the automotive students for both sanding and spraying the caskets. Your input was very much appreciated and helped with getting the job done."*

To say 'thank you' to Prince Andrew School (PAS) students and teachers involved in making the caskets for the reburial of the Liberated Africans, Acting Governor, Greg Gibson, hosted a reception at Plantation House on Tuesday, 19 July 2022.

In attendance were SHG officials, members of the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT), Liberated Africans Advisory Committee (LAAC), and Museum of Saint Helena.

During the ceremony, the Acting Governor extended thanks and recognised the excellent work of the PAS teachers and students and the work of the SHNT and the LAAC.

Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, also delivered a speech and said: *"This is a wonderful event to showcase the students, the LAAC, the SHNT, and everyone who has been involved in this project. It's great to see so many people involved in this historic moment. Thanks also to the teachers of PAS for allowing this to take place in school. Well done to you all for this milestone that has been reached."*



Attendees at the reception held at Plantation House

Class Professional Publishing donates books to St Helena's paramedic service

Class Professional Publishing, a multi-award-winning publisher that provides customised books and resources for ambulance staff and NHS ambulance services, donated a number of books and resources to St Helena's ambulance service.

Michael Gaga-Hale, Senior Paramedic at Health Services Directorate, explained: *"I contacted them [Class Professional Publishing] before leaving the UK and they donated numerous books (over £500 in value) as well as giving us access to their online system which will allow ambulance staff to access clinical updates and JRCALC (a clinical manual for drugs and pre-hospital assessments) for free."*

The donated books included pre-hospital medical books, ambulance skill books, first aid, urgent care books, clinical decision making and JRCALC pocket books which are used by all UK ambulance services.

The books and online access will be used to help develop the on-Island ambulance service and to aid training.

Developing the ambulance service currently involves the new role of Emergency Care Assistants (ECAs). These members of staff will work directly with the paramedics and will be taught pre-hospital emergency skills to assess and treat patients within the community. The ECAs will be taught to assess both adults and children, administer lifesaving medications, and will also assist with the Outpatients Clinic when they're not on an ambulance call.

The books will also be used to teach first aid and emergency care to other staff members within the SHG sections such as the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service, Sea Rescue, and Police.



Waste Management Services produce their first bale of compacted waste plastic

Waste Management Services (WMS) have produced their first bale of compacted waste plastic in the newly developed Materials Recycling Facility at Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS). Astonishingly, it took 42 (forty two) wheelie bins full of mixed plastic, that was recovered from the Public Recycling Facility within HPLS, to create the bale.

Plastic is automatically loaded into the baler and compacted multiple times until there is sufficient material to create a bale, after which it is automatically ejected and ready for reuse. The whole process requires minimal manual handling and is not labour intensive.

Whilst WMS intend to use the plastic waste bales like 'Lego' within the site to support landscaping, initially as a bund for the next layer of the bulky waste cell, which will reduce the need for the high volume of excavated soil ordinarily required (soil is a precious resource within the landfill operation), WMS are keen to support private sector use of the bales in line with Goal 3 of the Waste Management Implementation Plan 'Support existing reduce, reuse and recycle activities and encourage / promote the development of new initiatives'.

Landfill Manager, Patrick Crowie, commented:

"When asked what my job is at HPLS I used to say I bury money, because all waste is a potential resource with value. Now I am proud to say that I

manage landfill reduction through operation of a Materials Recycling Facility. I encourage the public to dispose of their recyclable waste in the bins provided in order to maximise the remaining useful life of HPLS."

The development of the Materials Recycling Facility was generously funded by the UK Government, through the Climate Change strand of the FCDO's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Overseas Territories Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Programme.

Environmental Risk Manager, Mike Durnford, commented:

"The Materials Recycling Facility (known as a MRF) has been developed to process waste aluminium drink cans, plastics, cardboard and textiles for recycling, with a public / private partnership already established for aluminium drink cans. To support the MRF's output WMS intend to introduce a recyclable waste collection service from homes and businesses in addition to the existing weekly waste collection service (subject to availability of a specialist recyclable waste collection vehicle within an external funding deadline). Once established the collection and recycling of high volume / value wastes like those aforementioned will significantly contribute to a reduction in landfill. We are grateful for the continuous support from the CSSF Program to enable this."



Landfill Manager and Operators in the MRF at HPLS