

NOVEMBER 2022

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this edition you can find out about the Plantwise Training that was delivered by a team of scientist from CABI; the Safety, Security & Home Affairs recognition event; and a tea party that was hosted by HE the Governor to present Mrs Mildred John with Birthday Greetings from Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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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Team of CABI scientist deliver Plantwise training

On Saturday, 8 October 2022, a team of scientist from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) - Phil Taylor, Jayne Crozier and Norbert Maczey - arrived on the Island. This was the second visit for the team, and the purpose of their most recent visit was to deliver Plantwise training and increase capacity on-Island to diagnose plant diseases and pests. The visit involved training staff from the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD), local farmers, and further upgrading the lab facilities at ANRD.

The Plantwise training focussed on field diagnostics, learning which symptoms are caused by which problems. *"Once you can identify the symptoms of various plant pests and diseases you can make a diagnosis and it is possible to start controlling the problems,"* Dr Phil Taylor commented.

The training was picture based and comprised a series of PowerPoint presentations and workshop exercises for the participants. It began with describing plant symptoms and then moved onto extremely general diagnosis, determining if a



Training delivered to staff from ANRD



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problem is Abiotic (non-living problems such as temperature, wind, soil mineral deficiency, drought or waterlogging) or if it is Biotic (living problems such as fungi, bacteria, insects etc). The training then looked at the symptoms caused by the various pests and diseases in more depth. It covered all the microorganisms, the insects as well as mineral deficiencies.

In addition to the Plantwise training, the team looked for plant diseases on agricultural crops and documented as many of the plant diseases on agricultural crops. The team also investigated the health of the trees on Diana's Peak as some endemic trees are dying. Norbert Maczey, the third member of the team, investigated the endemic insect populations to assess the damage invasive pests and pathogens have done to the endemic insect populations.

Phil concluded:

"The training went well. We trained at SHAPE which was interesting, we modified the training slightly but I think the time was enjoyed by all. The training of the Forestry staff and a few farmers came next and was well attended and all the participants engaged fully with the training and enjoyed it."

The CABI team departed the Island on Saturday, 29 October 2022.



Training at SHAPE



Training at SHAPE

Safety, Security & Home Affairs hosts Recognition Event

On Friday, 11 November 2022, the Safety, Security & Home Affairs (SS&HA) Portfolio held their Annual Recognition Event to acknowledge those within the Portfolio for their length of service and hard work.

The Portfolio recognised 12 people with a combined service of almost 100 years and a further 30 people for their hard work above and beyond normal duties.

"Now that the SS&HA Portfolio is over a year old, we wanted to look at recognising individuals endeavours across 2022, whether that's a personal achievement, such as gaining a diploma in international trade, someone just starting out in a department, striving to do the best they can and wanting to make it a career, to a group effort or simply going above and beyond their everyday work schedule to support their team or wider community", Portfolio Director, Alex Mitham, explained.

The nominations came from work colleagues, Heads of Service or others in the Portfolio who noted their achievements. The nominations spanned the vast majority of the Portfolio, and this year also included the Rope Rescue Team who trained with the Fire & Rescue Service.

Alex concluded:

"We all know the problems St Helena faces, from the lack of funds to a lack of staff, so it becomes even more important to show our gratitude for peoples hard work in such difficult times. If it wasn't for the staff in SS&HA we wouldn't have any law enforcement, a large part of emergency services, or be able to have a functioning prison, port or airport. It's the people in this Portfolio (while not always seen) making sure the Island can function in safety. We need to value our staff, recognize our own, and appreciate who we have. Our recognition event may not mean pay rises, but hopefully in its own small way (and I know it is a very small way) it's a simple thank you to those in our Portfolio for their work/achievements across 2022."



Governor hosts Tea Party to present Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Greeting to Mrs Mildred John who celebrated her 100th Birthday



HE the Governor Nigel Phillips CBE and Mrs Phillips hosted a Tea Party at Plantation House on Tuesday, 15 November 2022, to present Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Greeting to Mrs Mildred John who celebrated her 100th Birthday on Saturday, 10 September 2022.

Unfortunately, due to the mail being delayed in transit, Her Majesty's greeting was received too late for the actual celebration and Her Majesty unfortunately passed away on 8 September, two days before Mrs John's 100th Birthday.

During the reception the Governor mentioned that this was the first time he had the honour of presenting a 100th birthday card and Mrs Mildred John expressed her thanks and gratitude to God for seeing her reach the age of 100.

