

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador!

In this edition you can read about a reception that was held at Plantation House to reward and recognise Police Officers; Environmental Accreditation Certificate Training that was facilitated by the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section; and about the Health Services Directorate Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.

If you'd like to contribute a story to the St Helena Ambassador, please feel free to contact me on tel: 22470 or via email:

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Governor Phillips hosts reception to recognise Police Officers



HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE held at reception at Plantation House on Thursday, 7 September 2023, to reward and recognise officers of the Royal Saint Helena Police Service.

Certificates were awarded to Contact/Control Centre Operators - Samantha Soto (for professionalism and dedication to duty), Amanda Peters (for dedication, commitment and professionalism), and Joyce Greentree (for professionalism and communication skills); Police Inspector, Julianne Stevens (for professionalism, negotiating and teamwork skills); Police Inspector, Jonathan Thomas (for professionalism and commitment to policing); Sergeant, Michelle Thomas-Lawrence (for professionalism and commitment to policing); Police Constable, James Venning (for dedication and commitment to policing); Detective Sergeant, André Bak (for dedication, leadership and teamwork); Detective Constable, Richard Crowther (for professionalism and commitment to CID work); and Sergeant from Ascension Island, Lucinda Corney (for professionalism and commitment to policing).

Chief of Police, David Price, commented:

"Every day, the officers and staff of the Royal St Helena Police Service on both St Helena and Ascension demonstrate their skills and commitment to making both Islands safer. However, there are always individuals who go far beyond what is normally expected of them and this event provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise and thank them for their achievements. It also gave us an opportunity to thank their families for the support that all officers and staff require in order to allow them to fulfil their duties."

In addition to congratulating the officers, the Governor gave a special thanks to the Chief of Police. The Governor said: *"We have today recognised the achievements of the Police Service. Such achievement does not occur without good leadership and so this evening, I wanted also to specifically acknowledge the efforts of the Chief of Police. It is a pleasure to know that in so doing, I have the full support of the entire Police team. Well done and thank you."*



SHG's Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section hosts Environmental Accreditation Certification Scheme training



St Helena Government's (SHG) Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section recently held Environmental Accreditation Certification Scheme training for Marine Tour Operators in order to obtain a licence to undertake regulated marine activities within St Helena's Marine Protected Area (MPA).

This requirement came into force after Executive Council approved the Marine Regulations (Tourism and Interaction with Marine Life), 2023.

These new Regulations aim to minimise the negative impact on the marine environment within St Helena's MPA. As a result, all persons who conduct or facilitate marine activities for payment or reward must obtain a licence and must hold a valid accreditation certificate.

In order to gain the accreditation certificate, Marine Tour Operators were required to complete the Marine Tour Operator Environmental Accreditation Certification Scheme training sessions which were held between 19 and 28 September 2023 at the Marine Centre in Jamestown.

The sessions were aimed at Marine Tour Operators along with their staff (e.g. dive leader and tour leader) as well as anyone interested in becoming a Marine Tour Operator.

Topics covered were wildlife interaction, wildlife viewing and diving. There was also a 'Best Practice' information session for recreational users.

Although currently recreational users do not need to hold a licence, they were encouraged to attend the information session which outlined the rules for interaction with wildlife.

Head of Marine and Fisheries Conservation, Kirsty Jones, commented:

"We're thrilled with the turn out we have had from Marine Tour Operators as well as recreational users, and in turn, their support for protecting St Helena's marine environment."

"During the sessions, we received a lot of constructive feedback which will go into evolving the training and regulations as needed."



Health Directorate offers free Bowel Cancer test for persons aged 50+ years



The Health Services Directorate offered free testing for bowel cancer for anyone aged 50+ during September 2023.

Bowel cancer is common on St Helena, affecting both men and women, and in most cases is caused by polyps in the bowel. Bowel polyps are small growths on the inner lining of the large intestine (colon) or rectum. Bowel polyps are very common and affect around 1 in 4 people aged 50 or over.

The campaign was aimed at persons aged 50+ years as the risk of bowel cancer increases from the age of 50.

To participate in the campaign persons were encouraged to contact the General Hospital to obtain a home test kit.

The test kit required persons to collect a small sample of their poo.

Persons then had to return their kit to the General Hospital who tested the poo sample for traces of blood.

Results from the tests were provided to the persons within four weeks and if positive results were received, persons were called in to speak with the GP.

Director of Health, Dr Derek Burke, explained:

"This test looks for traces of blood in poo which are not visible to the eye and could be a sign of bowel cancer. A positive test result does not mean you have cancer. It means that blood has been detected and further tests are needed. If cancer is detected with further testing, there's a higher chance of it being treated successfully because this test helps find it early."

457 persons took the test during the campaign in September and 118 persons undertook the test in the months prior. That means that 32% of St Helena's eligible population have undertaken a test to date.

If you are experiencing symptoms of Bowel Cancer, or you would like any further information, please contact your GP or the Health Service Directorate on tele: 25818.

The current round of testing is now closed. We will be running further rounds of testing in the new year and will announce dates for requesting test kits nearer that time.

