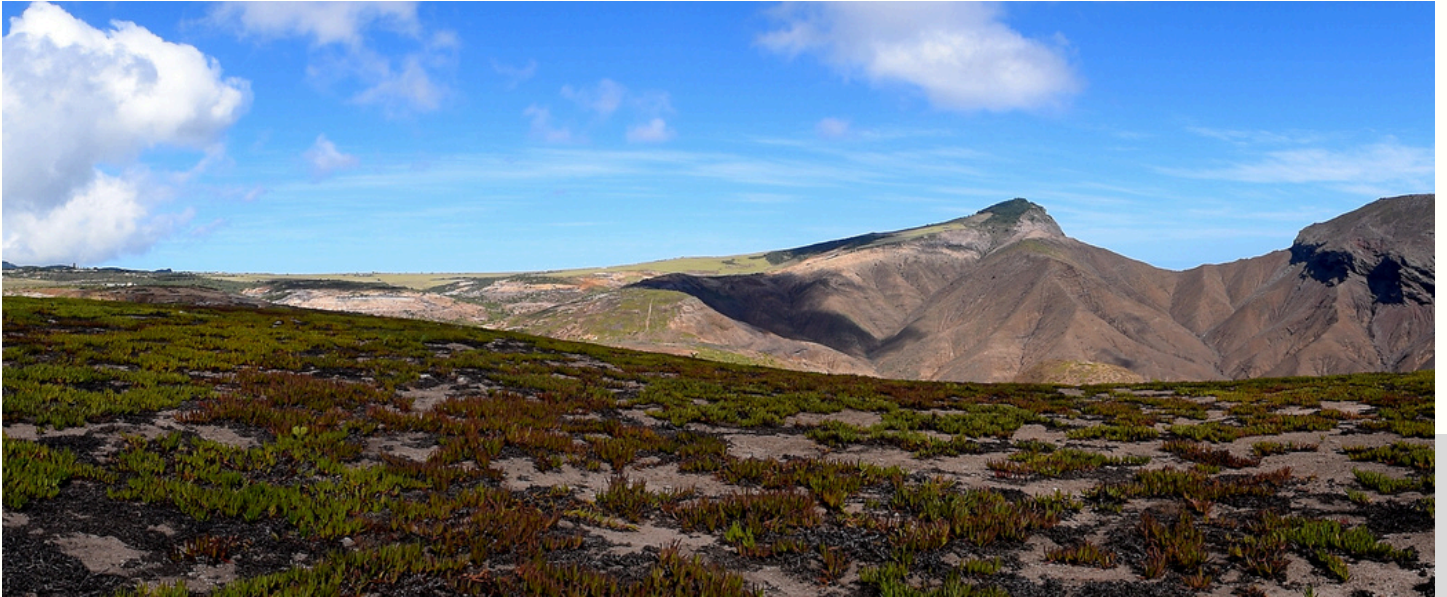


JUNE 2024

ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Jamie DRABBLE (SHG Press Media Officer)

Welcome to the June 2024 edition of the St Helena Ambassador!

In this issue, we dive into the fiery world of the SHG Fire Service with their brand new Facebook page launch. We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to the recent recipient of the prestigious British Empire Medal. Finally, join us as we celebrate the graduates of the Tour Guide Training Certificate Ceremony!

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 us by telephone on 22470 or via email through jamie.drabble@sainthelena.gov.sh.

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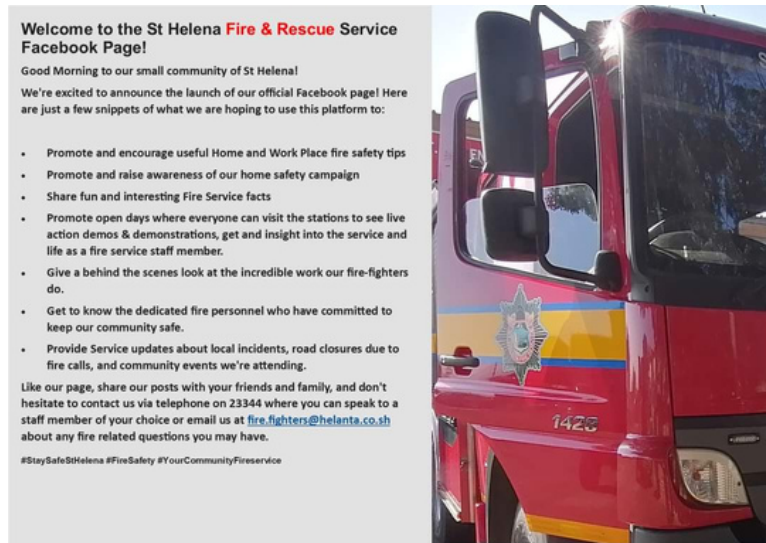
Fire and Rescue Service Facebook Page Launched

The St Helena Fire and Rescue Service is ablaze with excitement to announce the launch of their official Facebook page. The page aims to:

- Promote valuable fire safety measures to keep your home and workplace safe.
- Keep the public informed about the Fire and Rescue Service's home safety initiatives.
- Publish interesting facts about firefighting and fun ways to stay fire-safe.
- Inform the public of open days where you can witness live demonstrations, explore the fire station, and gain insights into the world of firefighting.
- Create profiles where the public can get to know the dedicated firefighters who tirelessly safeguard our community.
- Provide updates on local fire incidents, road closures due to emergencies, and community events involving the Fire and Rescue Service.

This Facebook page promises to be a hot source of information and a chance to connect with the incredible team keeping St Helena safe. Be sure to like and follow them today via the link

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/2MbHgpXz4gtbHiPz/?mibextid=oFDknk>.



St Helena Fire and Rescue Service



Jonathan Hollins receives BEM Medal

On Tuesday 4 June, 2024, the esteemed British Empire Medal was awarded to retired Senior Veterinary Officer, Jonathan Hollins (also known as Joe), at Plantation House in the presence of his close family and friends.

His Excellency the Governor Nigel Phillips, representing His Majesty The King, presented the British Empire Medal to honour Joe's exceptional civil service as the Senior Veterinary Officer on the island of St Helena. Joe's significant contributions to animal welfare and his dedication to nursing Jonathan, the 192-year-old tortoise, back to health have truly earned him this prestigious award.

Joe has written a book called "Vet at the End of the Earth: Adventures with Animals in the South Atlantic". In his book he shares engaging and heartwarming stories of his experiences as an island vet, showcasing his resourcefulness and encounters with remarkable wildlife.

Commenting on his prestigious award, Joe said:

"It is of course a great honour to receive this award. I have dedicated my life to animals because the world would be a poorer place without them, and they constantly remind us of our better virtues such as loyalty and compassion."

"Also, that we are but one species and must share the environment not ransack it. It has been an extraordinary privilege to care for the Jonathan, the oldest known living land animal, but also to work with and be supported by an absolutely superb team up at Scotland. From the depths of my heart – thank you!"



St Helena Celebrates New Certified Tour Guides and Festival of Walking

St Helena Tourism proudly recognised a new generation of certified tour guides and celebrated the Festival of Walking 2023/2024 at a special ceremony on 14 June 2024.

The ceremony acknowledged individuals who successfully completed specially tailored training programs, funded through the first year of the Tourism Development Programme (TDP1) for 2023/24. These programs aim to enhance the skills and knowledge of tour guides, ensuring a high-quality experience for visitors exploring St Helena's unique landscapes.

The comprehensive training initiative, delivered from February 2023 to March 2024, equipped participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in various tourism sectors.

Highlights of the Tour Guide Training Programs include:

- General Cruise Ship Guide Training: 30 participants received tailored training from Aaron's Adventure Tours, ensuring they can deliver exceptional experiences for cruise ship passengers.
- French Language Training: 16 individuals honed their French language skills under the guidance of Katinka Mijnheer, catering to the French-speaking tourist market.
- Unveiling St Helena's History: Renowned experts Adam Sizeland (Museum Director) and Michel Martineau (French Consul) led captivating sessions on "Slavery on St Helena" and "Napoleon on St Helena" for 17 and 12 participants respectively.



- Internationally Accredited Walking Guides: Eco Trails/Green Flag Trails provided internationally accredited walking guide training to 14 participants, elevating the island's guided hiking experiences.
- Essential First Aid Skills: Senior Paramedic Michael Gaga-Hale equipped 12 participants with crucial first aid knowledge for any situation.
- Marine Tour Operator Accreditation Renewal: St Helena's Marine Division, supported by the Tourism Office, offered various courses to update the accreditation credentials of marine tour operators, ensuring continued safety and sustainable practices.

The event also honoured passionate individuals who participated in walking 22 trails, including several registered Post Box Walks. Certificates were awarded for various achievements, such as 'Successfully completed all 21 Post Box Walks' and 'Family who completed most Post Box Walks'.

The presentation highlighted a successful event whereby there was a good following of 245 attendees.

The Festival of Walking was an opportunity for walkers to participate in guided walks with guest speakers so they could learn about the history and conservation whilst enjoying St Helena's breath-taking scenery.

Some walkers accomplished completing all of the Post Box Walks and completing walks they might not have done on their own.

Recognition was also given to Martin 'Kunya' Buckley and his team for their hard work in maintaining the Post Box Walk paths and trails, ensuring they are clear and safe for hikers.



This investment in the tourism industry workforce signifies St Helena's commitment to providing visitors with unforgettable experiences. The newly certified guides are now well-equipped to showcase the island's rich history, unique culture, and stunning natural beauty.

