

SEPTEMBER 2025

ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



Editorial

Katelyn Benjamin

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the St Helena Ambassador!

This month, Governor Nigel Phillips and Mrs Phillips hosted a reception at Plantation House to recognise the vital work of Charities and Community Centres. The event was a heartfelt thank you to those who dedicate their time to improving lives, while also sharing news of extra funding support.

World Tourism Day was celebrated with an evening in the Castle Courtyard, where speeches highlighted the importance of rebuilding the sector. A photo competition showcased our island's unique landscapes, culture and community spirit.

The Titans cricket team brought energy and excitement to the island during their visit, taking on Jacob's Ladder, playing friendly matches with our local team, and inspiring young people through New Horizons. Their presence reminded us of the power of sport to connect and inspire.

St Helena's Emergency Services held an engaging Open Day at Rupert's, with demonstrations, activities, and stalls giving the public insight into their vital work. The event was both educational and fun, strengthening bonds with the community.

For children and families, Captain Thrive was launched to support the Primary Schools Reorganisation. Through colourful comics, the story of Jono the tortoise helps children see change as a positive new adventure.

Finally, the Roads section completed improvements at Ladder Hill, marking an important step in ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure across the island. Work has now moved into Half Tree Hollow as part of the wider EDIP.

If you'd like to contribute a story to the St Helena Ambassador or have suggestions for future editions, please contact katelyn.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh or call 22470.

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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

On Tuesday, 09 September, His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips and Mrs Phillips hosted a reception at Plantation House to recognise the work of Charities and Community Centres across the Island. The event brought together representatives from various organisations who contribute to the wellbeing of the community.

Governor Phillips opened the evening with a short speech, expressing his appreciation for the dedication and hard work of those involved in local charitable efforts. He acknowledged the positive impact these groups have on people's lives and the importance of their continued support.

During the reception, Mia Henry from the Community Development Organisation shared that extra funding is available for any charity in need of financial assistance. Her message was well received and offered reassurance to groups facing challenges.

The evening provided a chance for attendees to connect, share ideas, and reflect on the value of community collaboration. It was a simple but meaningful gesture of thanks to those who help make the island a better place.



ATTENDEES OF RECEPTION



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**MIA HENRY (CDO) SHARING
HER MESSAGE**

CELEBRATING WORLD TOURISM DAY AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

World Tourism Day was celebrated on Saturday, 27 September with an evening event held in the Castle Courtyard, organised by the Tourism team. The gathering brought together representatives from across the tourism sector, along with winners of the recent photo competition. Johnathan Passaportis, Head of Tourism, opened the event with a welcome and words of thanks. He spoke about the importance of NGOs in supporting tourism and emphasised the need for collaboration to help reestablish and strengthen the sector.

Minister for Economic Development, Karl Thrower also addressed attendees, expressing his appreciation for the people who work in tourism and the effort they put into promoting and sustaining the industry. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the tourism sector in recent years and thanked those who continue to contribute to its recovery and growth. The winners of the photo competition were announced during the event, with their entries now on display at the Museum. The photos reflect a range of perspectives on local culture, landscapes, and community life. The evening was well attended and provided a chance for people to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the role tourism plays in the Island's development.



ATTENDEES OF EVENT



**RYAN BENJAMIN RECEIVING HIS
AWARD FOR THE HIKING CATEGORY**



**JONATHAN PASSAPORTIS - HEAD OF
TOURISM - GIVING HIS SPEECH**

EMERGENCY SERVICES OPEN DAY

On Friday, 22 August 2025, St Helena's Emergency Services held an Open Day at the Sea Rescue Base in Rupert's, inviting members of the public to learn more about the work of the island's emergency teams.

Staff from the Ambulance Service, Sea Rescue, Royal St Helena Police, Fire and Rescue, HM Prison, the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESCC), GIS, and the Medical Laboratory Team attended. Each service contributed to the day by offering demonstrations, sharing information, and engaging with visitors of all ages.

Live displays from the Police, Ambulance, Fire, and Sea Rescue teams gave insight into how different services respond to emergencies.

Interactive stalls allowed people to explore equipment and ask questions, while activities such as the obstacle course and fire truck pull added a light-hearted element. A joint demonstration later in the day showed how teams coordinate during multi-agency incidents

The Medical Laboratory Team provided information on blood donation and welcomed contributions from those who wished to take part.

Deputy Emergency Planning Manager, Anel O'Bey, thanked everyone who attended and supported the event. She noted the value of connecting the community with the services that support it and appreciated the interest shown throughout the day.

The event was well received and offered a practical look at the roles and responsibilities of St Helena's emergency services.



MULTI AGENCY DEMONSTRATION



**LAB TEAM GIVING INFORMATION ON
BLOOD DONATIONS**



FIRETRUCK PULL

TITANS VISIT ST HELENA

In the week beginning 23 August, St Helena had the privilege of welcoming the Titans team for a week-long visit that left a lasting impression on the island and its people.

Throughout their stay, the Titans immersed themselves fully in the culture and activities of St Helena. They took part in a wide range of events, including a lively fishing competition that brought together locals and visitors alike, as well as the famous Jacob's Ladder challenge

A highlight of their visit was hosting several friendly games against St Helena's own local cricket team. These matches not only provided exciting sporting entertainment but also created opportunities for sharing skills, teamwork, and sporting values. The atmosphere was one of team spirit and mutual respect, with the Titans inspiring local players through their professionalism and passion for the game.

The Titans also took time to explore the island, joining tours that showcased St Helena's unique history, breathtaking landscapes, and welcoming community spirit. Beyond sports, they generously shared their expertise by working with the New Horizons youth programme. Their sessions introduced young people to new skills, techniques, and approaches, giving them valuable insights and encouragement to continue developing their talents both on and off the field.



TITANS AND NSASH ASSOCIATION



TITANS AND ST HELENA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

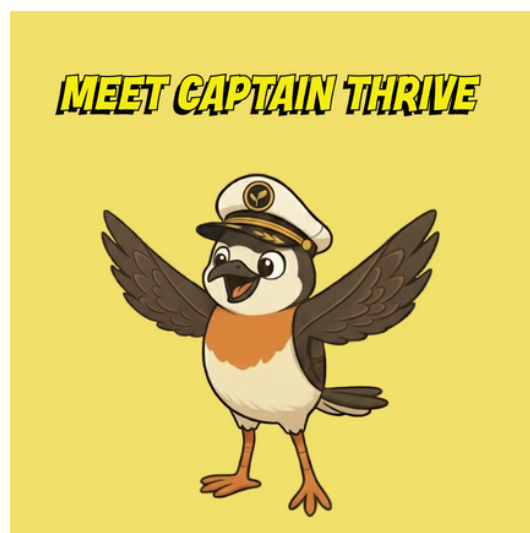
CAPTAIN THRIVE AND THE PRIMARY REORGANISATION

Captain Thrive began as an idea to help young children understand and adjust to the upcoming Primary Schools Reorganisation . Through the story of Jono, a Year 2 tortoise, children are introduced to the feelings and challenges that can come with change.

In the story, Jono has to move to a new school in a place he isn't familiar with. At first, he's unsure and a little nervous, but soon discovers that many of his friends and even teachers he already knows, will be there too. With time, Jono realises that the new school is not something to fear, but an exciting opportunity filled with familiar faces and new experiences. To make the message more engaging, Captain Thrive has been brought to life through colourful comic strips, which are available online for families and children to explore together. These comics help explain the reorganisation in a fun and relatable way, encouraging children to see themselves in Jono's journey.

This initiative aims to make the transition smoother for everyone, ensuring that both children and families feel informed, supported, and ready to embrace the changes.

For parents, carers and the wider community, further details, including times and dates for the Primary Rerorganisation – can be found on the SHG Website.



“MEET CAPTAIN THRIVE”

CAPTAIN THRIVE AND THE NEW SCHOOL ADVENTURE



“CAPTAIN THRIVE AND THE NEW SCHOOL ADVENTURE”

ROADWORKS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Roads Section successfully completed the Ladder Hill roadworks in August 2025, marking a key milestone in ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure across the island. This work is part of a wider initiative funded by UK FCDO apart of the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), which supports long-term development projects that benefit the community.

Following the completion at Ladder Hill, roadworks have now progressed into Half Tree Hollow, with plans to continue improvements around the island. These upgrades are aimed at making travel safer, smoother, and more reliable for all road users.

This is a positive development for St Helena, showing visible signs of progress and investment in public infrastructure. It reflects a commitment to improving the island's connectivity and supporting everyday needs—from commuting to emergency access and tourism.

St Helena Government (SHG) will continue to keep the public informed as further roadwork plans are developed and rolled out. The Roads Section appreciates the community's patience and cooperation as work continues, and remains committed to delivering quality improvements that benefit everyone.



SHG ROADS SECTION



LAYING OF BITUMEN ON LADDER HILL ROAD

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