

THE ST HELENA AMBASSADOR



October 2021



Editorial

Hi, welcome to the St Helena Ambassador! In this edition you can find out about the special service that was held for health workers, and community events that personnel from the HMS *Protector* participated in. We also recognise World Post Day and shine the spotlight on the Post & Customer Services Centre.

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.

Jodie Scipio-Constantine (SHG Press Officer)

Special Service Held for Health Workers

A special service for health workers, to coincide with St Luke's Day, was held at St Johns Church on Thursday, 21 October 2021.

In attendance were staff from the Health & Social Care Portfolio, including current nurses and dentist, other retired health care workers, and members of the public.

The service, led by Bishop Dale Bowers and Deacon Clarence Roberts, included hymns, prayers, scripture readings and a speech by Portfolio Director of Health & Social Care, Michele Wheeler. In her speech Michele spoke of the history of medicine and health care dating back to the ancient Greek and Egyptian times, through to the pioneering nurse, Florence Nightingale, and finally shared some experience of the current and future of health care. She discussed the role of social care and the importance of integrating health and social care. The main focus of her address was to give thanks to all of the Health and Social Care staff and also to the community for coming to support the staff at this service.

Chief Nursing Officer, Sophia Abrahams, commented:

"St Luke's Day is celebrated annually on 18 October, and is very much a tradition on the Island. St Luke is the patron

saint of artists, as well as of doctors and surgeons. We give hearty thanks to all doctors, nurses, medical support workers, care workers, social workers, and those who comfort the sick. We remember with special gratitude all who work in the hospital and clinics, those who support the elderly and needy members of our community at the CCC, Sheltered Accommodation, Ebony View and Family Centre.

"I enjoyed the service very much and I am sure I am speaking for the other healthcare staff too."



HMS Protector Visit

HMS *Protector*, the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol ship returned to St Helena waters in early October to continue survey works following her trip to Ascension Island. She remained at the anchorage from Thursday, 14, to Wednesday, 20 October, to conduct the second crew change that coincided with the arrival of the flight from the UK on Monday, 18 October. Whilst here HMS *Protector* landed small groups of people to come ashore and take part in various community projects.

Tiling at Pilling Primary School Playground

Six personnel from HMS *Protector* voluntarily covered the tarmac surface at Pilling Primary School by placing rubber interlocking playground tiles and repainting equipment at the School's 'adventure' playground on Saturday, 9 October 2021. The equipment within the playground includes balance beams, a climbing frame, and other frames made from recycled tyres, and is painted a mixture of red, blue, yellow and green.

Head Teacher of Pilling Primary School, Elaine Benjamin, commented:

"We would like to extend a sincere word of thanks to the team of six - Katie, Dave, CJ, Paul, Stu and Steve - who worked enthusiastically for some eight to nine hours on the project. The adventure playground is now much safer

and looks a lot tidier. The repainting of the furniture has given it a fresh look and we are very delighted with the makeover. The children were so excited to see the end results when they arrived at school this morning. The icing on the cake was to see a memento painted on the stepping blocks, which read 'HMS Protector 2021'. We will indeed remember them and their voluntary service to our school and community."



Naval Commemorative Ceremony at the Castle Gardens

A ceremony to commemorate and honour those of the West Africa Squadron in 1839-1843 who were key players in enforcing the abolition of slavery on the west coast of Africa, other members, past and present, of naval operations of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy took place at the Waterwitch Monument in the Castle Gardens, Jamestown, on Saturday, 16 October 2021.

In attendance was a five-man Naval Guard of Honour from HMS *Protector*, invited guests, members of the St Helena Veterans Association (SHVA), and the public.

The Ceremony was conducted by the Right Reverend Lord Bishop of St Helena, Dale Bowers MBE, and included various readings by HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook, HMS *Protector* Commanding Officer, Commander Tom Boeckx, and Chairman of the SHVA, Mike Durnford.

Wreaths were laid by Governor Rushbrook, Commander Tom Boeckx, and Mr Hensil Beard from the St Helena Veterans Association.

At the end of the Ceremony there was a 'march off' by the five-man Naval Guard of Honour.



Clearing the pathway with the 1st Jamestown Scout Group

Personnel from HMS *Protector* helped the 1st Jamestown Scout Group to clear a path from 'Long Turning' (Ladder Hill Road) to the bottom end, opposite Barracks Square on Tuesday, 12 October 2021.

Scout Leader, Gavin George, explained:

"The clearing of this path is a Community Project the Scout Unit is currently undertaking as part of a Community Service Activity Badge.

"The history of the path is that it was originally the only

way to gain access from Ladder Hill to Upper Jamestown, whilst the horse and carriage track continued along the Shy Road into lower town. The second half of Ladder Hill Road was completed later by the Chinese. The path was built by the military to connect the Garrison at Ladder Hill with the military buildings that stretched from Seales Corner to the top of the Botanical Gardens, including Barracks Square, where one of the buildings on the far (east) side of the Square became the first Scout Hall (later burnt down) and hence a connection with Scouting on the Island." Continue to page 3 ...

HMS Protector Visit continued ...

This Project started three months ago and the Scouts participate in one hour sessions (5-6pm) on Tuesday afternoons which involve picking up rubbish, clearing vegetation and removing stone/rubble from the path.

Gavin concluded:

"We would like to extend thanks to the generous offer of assistance from Commander Tom Boeckx, who is also a Scout Leader in the UK and who came to visit the Unit during the ship's call last month, and to HMS Protector personnel who assisted with the path clearing."



Radar Training with Sea Rescue

The St Helena Sea Rescue team participated in a RADAR (Radio, Detection and Ranging) training class on-board HMS Protector on Saturday, 16 October 2021.

The training was led by Lt Paul Harsent RN and covered the components of different radar systems, the basic operation of radar systems, the limitations of radar, how other systems complement the Radar to build the mariner's awareness picture, and how to tune a radar for different ranges, weather states, and target sizes.

The Team was then able to visit the Bridge where they were given a demonstration and the opportunity to use a more powerful radar system to track some of the local vessels using Jamestown Harbour. The morning concluded with a full tour of the ship which was enjoyed by all.

The Sea Rescue Service commented:

"We would like to say a huge thank you to HMS Protector's Officers and Crew, to Lt Paul Harsent who delivered the training and tour of the ship, and to the Governor's Office for assisting in arranging the training."



Presentation to Prince Andrew School students

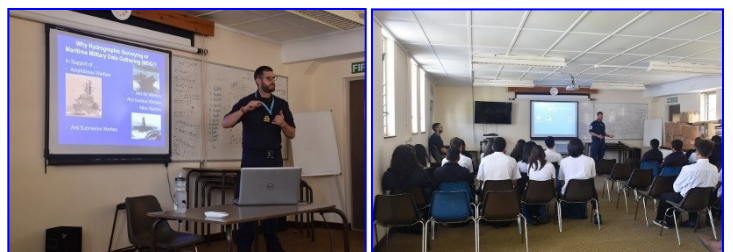
Personnel from HMS Protector visited Prince Andrew School (PAS) on Wednesday, 13 October, to give two presentations to students. The first presentation was about 'Meteorology and Hydrography' and was delivered to the Marine Science students of years 10 and 11. The presentation including the findings of HMS Protector's recent survey works, and included information on tides, seabed mapping and an updated map of the Island.

Marine Science Teacher, William Knipe, commented:

"It was great that the Navy could spend some time with the Prince Andrew School students. It's important that students can apply their Marine Science knowledge to the context of St Helena. By having the Navy come in and talk about their studies around the Island, students had a great

opportunity to make this link. Students were particularly surprised to discover that many of the experiments we do in Marine Science are done by the Navy too. I would like to thank HM Navy for taking the time to come chat with students and share their experience."

Later that day, HMS Protector personnel delivered a presentation to all PAS students where they gave a general talk about the Navy.



HMS Protector sails south

HMS Protector gave tours on board to the public, Primary schools and Prince Andrew including a group of Marine Science students. They also gave tours to other organised groups such as the Scouts, Girl Guides, the St Helena Veterans Association and the SHG Conservation Team.

HMS Protector departed St Helena on 20 October for her southbound journey. She will stop at the Falkland Islands for another crew change before continuing en-route to the Antarctic Peninsula where she will conduct her National tasking operation known as Op AUSTRAL.



SPOTLIGHT on SHG Services

World Post Day 2021 was celebrated on Saturday, 9 October 2021 – the day is used to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.

To recognise World Post Day, we've decided to shine the spotlight on the services offered by the St Helena Post & Customer Services Centre:

The ex-Post Office and Customer Services Centre was amalgamated in 2013 to form the current Post & Customer Services Centre (P&CSC) which is part of the Treasury Directorate within the Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Portfolio. It is a frontline customer facing centre providing various postal and customer services internally (within the St Helena Government (SHG)) and externally (public and businesses).

The P&CSC is located at the Post Office Building, Main Street, Jamestown. The opening times are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 8.45am – 3.45pm, Wednesdays: 8.45am – 2.30pm and Saturdays: 8.45am – 12 noon.

The team at the P&CSC comprises Customer Services Manager, Assistant Customer Services Manager, Senior Customer Services Officer, Postal Officer, Postwoman, Postman and five Customer Services Officers.

Services offered by the Post Office include:

Processing international mail for collection and despatch via airmail and surface - airmail is temporarily dispatched on a monthly basis via Stansted, UK, and is dispatched/received on a monthly basis via Ascension Island. International surface mail is despatched/received on a regular basis via Cape Town, and on a quarterly basis via Ascension Island. All international mail received are logged and sorted ready for collection within two working days. The Post Office also offers a registered mail service, allowing customers to track the items they have posted

Postal and Philatelic services – sale of stamps, first day covers, souvenir sheets, sheetlets, mint sheets and other postal products - Commemorative stamp issues are produced on an annual basis depicting various themes i.e. animals, fish, historic or national/international events and, as an Overseas Territory, we can produce up to four

issues annually. Definitive stamp issues are produced every five years. A stamp issue can consist of a number of stamps of various denominations, a first day cover with either stamps and/or souvenir, a souvenir sheet or miniature sheet. These are sold locally and internationally.

Local Recorded Delivery service - allows mail senders to receive confirmation that mail has been delivered and received by the mail recipient with delivery within one day or up to three days

A local mail service for delivery to sub-Post Offices around the Island - Local mail can be collected and posted at our Main Post Office or any of the Sub-Post Offices around the Island. Sub-Post offices are located at the Half Tree Hollow Supermarket, New Ground Shop, Red Hill Shop, Solomons Supermarket, Levelwood, Allsorts Shop, Sandy Bay, Mrs Audrey Yon's Shop, Blue Hill, and Longwood Supermarket.

If you would like to contact the St Helena Post Office for any of the above services, please call 22008 or email Postal Officer, Naomi Young, via: naomi.young@sainthelena.gov.sh.

In addition, below are the services offered by the P&CSC:

SHG Cash Office – frontline counter service for government services, including postal and postal operations

Social Benefit weekly payments – responsible for making payments only to recipients in receipt of Income Related Benefits (IRB), Basic Island Pension (BIP) and allowances in Jamestown or in the country outlets around the Island

Dungeon Burial Ground processes – responsibility for maintenance, registration and allocation of grave plots

Marriage Administration – responsibility for the administration and registration of all Marriages carried out on St Helena, including issuing of copies of Marriage certificates

Birth and Deaths Administration – responsibility for the administration of all Births and Deaths that occur on St Helena. The service includes registration, issuing copies of Birth and Death certificates, change and correction of names and re-registration in accordance with the Welfare of Children Ordinance

Spotlight on SHG Services continued ...

Telecommunications/Radio Frequencies i.e. Amateur radio, Earth Stations, Ship radio, frequencies for hand-held radios – The service involves registration, allocation and licensing of earth stations and radios; allocating and issuing MMSI and Call Signs to registered vessels both national and international; and issuing of local HAM amateur radio licences

Currency Sales – responsibility for processing and sale of St Helena uncirculated currency to collectors, national and international

Passport processes – assisting customers with completing documentation and countersigning applications for submission to the Immigration Section

Shipping Registry – responsibility for a Cat II Shipping Registry processing registrations and licensing for Ships, Fishing Vessels and Small Boats

Licensing (road traffic, driving, gun, radio, cats and dogs) – responsibility for the licensing and maintenance of data for the aforementioned licensing functions. The service includes acceptance and accountancy of licensing fees and upkeep of respective service databases

Registration of Charities – responsibility for maintaining a register of all organisations with current charitable status, including upkeep of information files for each charity and receipt of yearly organisational accounts

The P&CSC can be contacted via tel: 22008 or via:

Customer Services Manager, Karen Yon – karen.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Assistant Customer Services Manager, Alan Bennett – alan.bennett@sainthelena.gov.sh

Senior Customer Services Officer, Shelley Cranfield – shelley.cranfield@sainthelena.gov.sh

