

The St Helena Ambassador

... An Extraordinary Place on a Path to Prosperity

Issue 32. June 2015

Donna Harris's Exposure Visit

SHG's Safeguarding Directorate is committed to training and supporting the development of staff involved in services for children and families on St Helena, working closely with the Police Directorate, the Education Directorate, New Horizons, the Community Psychiatric Nurse, Ian Rummy and others.

In March of this year, Donna Harris, Social Care Worker, departed the Island to undergo an exposure visit in the UK for a month. The purpose of Donna's training was to enhance the services provided by Social Care Officers on St Helena and was funded by the FCO Diamond Jubilee programme.

Donna spent time at Birmingham Children's Services, at a centre which works closely with local families and children under the age of five, providing a wide range of support services. During her time there, Donna shadowed an experienced Social Worker and also visited the Lucy Faithfull Foundation in Alvechurch in Worcestershire, England.

Donna commented:

"Meeting the Lucy Faithfull Team was fascinating and, overall, the training illustrated that despite obvious differences, the work here on St Helena follows similar principles. In the UK there are specialists in certain areas of social work and specific roles for specific officers - whereas here on Island we are, by virtue of resources, generalists in all fields of social work, as a variety of cases can be referred to you."

In London, alongside her training, Donna also completed the 'Incredible Years Parenting Programme' and is

currently working on how this scheme can be implemented here on St Helena.

Donna commented: "The 'Incredible Years Parenting Programme' is an American system, based around working closely



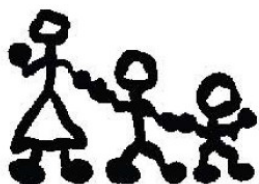
Donna Harris

"I am looking to adapt this programme, in terms of a social worker or carer working specifically with a family or individual on Island. Some of this is about people not worrying about sharing concerns with a group."

Samantha Dunn, Acting Service Manager in the Safeguarding Directorate, commented:

"We hope now to start running parenting courses for those families in greatest need, once training materials arrive. We want to offer programs that are internationally recognised, with workers supported by professional training."

Donna explained how she felt the UK exposure has benefited her: *"It has given me a specialism in the 'Incredible Years Parenting Programme' as I am the first member of staff to attend and complete this programme on St Helena. It will be my project and responsibility and I am looking forward to developing it and, I trust, that this will be of benefit to families here on St Helena."*



Run Somewhere Different

The Festival of Running, a tourism event supported by NASAS (the National Amateur Sports Association of St Helena), will run from 8 - 15 July 2015 - attracting interest from local participants and international athletes alike. This must surely be one of the most far-flung and unique running event anywhere in the world.

The event includes a half marathon, a 3km race, a 10km fun-run, the Jacob's Ladder challenge, a 15km trail run and this year the first ever St Helena Triathlon.

Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the fastest participants but all runners will receive certificates to mark their completion of these most unusual running events. There is no restriction on entrants who wish to walk, jog or bring their pets along!

The minimum age for unaccompanied participants is 9 years, but those who are younger can take part so long as they are accompanied at all times by an adult.

Tourism Officer, Christine Stroud, Co-ordinator of the event, reports that the Triathlon in particular (organised by New Horizons) has sparked major interest. Ten teams have come forward to enter, plus a number of individual athletes. The Tourism Office hopes that this year will be even more successful than the last and anticipates continuing to hold this annual event.



Photo courtesy of St Helena Tourism



Christine commented:

"I encourage all to take part - races are open to all ages, and the variety of events ensures that different abilities are all catered for. There are also challenging routes for those who are more experienced runners. It is a way to keep fit, but also something that can bring people together in a team spirit." Entrance fees for races are £2 per person and interested individuals can collect entrance forms from the Tourist Office at the Canister. St Helena Tourism would also like to thank sponsors SURE, Basil Read, Bank of St Helena and Solomon & Company.

'ST.ART' Programme

Creative St Helena has teamed up with the Arts & Crafts Association to initiate a new project called 'ST.ART' - to actively support young Saint Artists in the creation of new work at the beginning of their careers - often leading up to an exhibition. The programme includes specialist workshops, one-on-one mentorship, group sessions, exposure to different types of art and online training. Art resources will be provided to all artists, including studio space. They also will receive support in selling their artwork.

Director of Creative St Helena, Pamela Murray, said: *"We chose to set this up as an incubation space for artists at the beginning or early stages of their practice, aiming at 16-30 year olds, to encourage different types of art practice and offer practical support with art materials - which can be expensive and hard to obtain. We will also be looking to move away from art as only 'a pretty picture' and try to be experimental and bold with what*



we are trying to achieve, and to say, through art." Participation is free, but spaces are limited.

Chairperson of the Art & Crafts Association, Cathy Hopkins, commented:

"I am very excited about the ST.ART project as I'm sure there are quite a few young artists on St Helena who do not realise their own potential."

Application forms can be collected from the Art & Crafts Centre at the Canister or from Pamela Murray at the Human Rights Office in Jamestown. Artists who wish to apply are required to write a short paragraph explaining the type of art they like to do and the reason why they would like to be involved in this new programme. An example of artwork must also be included, which can be dropped off at the Human Rights Office or e-mailed to Pamela at creativesainthelena@gmail.com.



Art & Crafts
Uniquely Saint

NatWest Jersey Games

The NatWest Jersey Games 2015 will be held between Saturday 27 June to Friday 3 July this year in Jersey. Ten athletes have been selected to represent St Helena: *Simon Henry, Malcolm Williams, Patrick Sim, Martin Buckley, Madolyn Andrews, Jordie Andrews, Ben Dillon, Kaylee Harris, Chelsea Young and Jodie Constantine*. This group will participate in Shooting, Swimming and Golf. Martin Buckley (pictured) has previously represented his Island at Golf in the 2013 Bermuda Games. He explained: *"It was amazing to participate in Bermuda and great to experience a different culture."* Martin became interested in golf around ten years ago when he was influenced by friends to try the sport, and has been playing golf three to four times a week as part of his preparation this year's games.



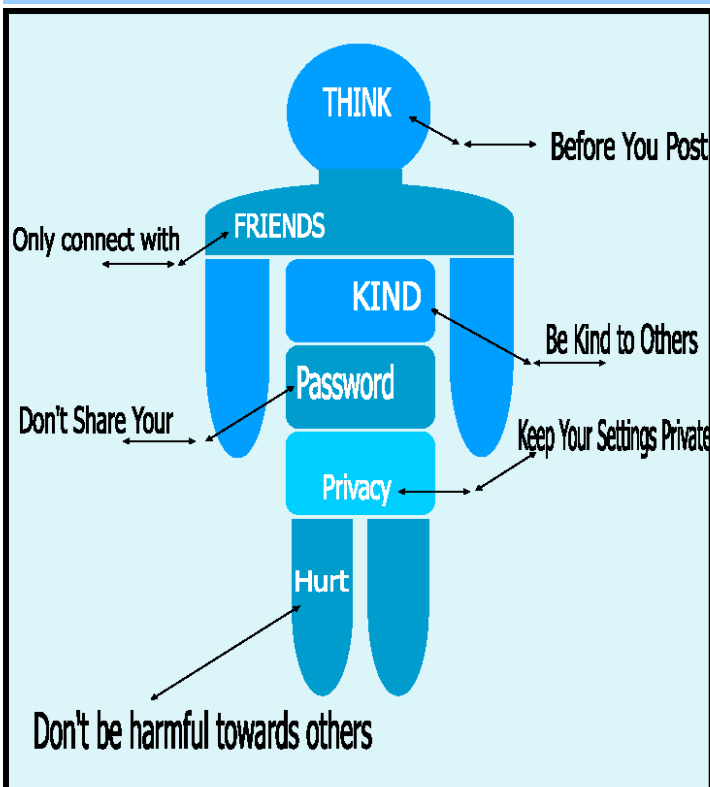
Commonwealth Team in Glasgow 2014

Madolyn Andrews, who represented St Helena in Shooting at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow said: *"I am excited and proud to again be chosen to represent St Helena in these Island Games."*

Madolyn has been training constantly hard in the disciplines in which she will compete since returning from the Commonwealth Games last year, practising three to four times a week. Her training alternates between High Knoll and the Jamestown Range. She gave her advice for future hopefuls in Island games: *"The training is never easy and you have to constantly work hard to achieve good results. If you display dedication and responsibility, you won't go far wrong."*

The 2015 Island Games are organised by the International Island Games Association.

'SAFEBOOK' - Using Social Media Wisely



The St Helena Safeguarding Children's Board has launched a series of informational poster campaigns to raise awareness among parents, guardians, children and young people on St Helena. The campaigns target common safeguarding problems both on the Island and throughout the world.

The campaigns will run at different times, starting first with *'Safebook'*, which provides advice to young people about using Facebook and other social media wisely. Posters will be on display in various retail outlets and in newspapers throughout the Island. Assistant Chief Secretary, Paul McGinnety, said:

"These campaigns are designed to provide people with information so that they can make informed decisions. As well as raising awareness of certain issues, the Safebook campaign is timely as more and more people access social media which, as well as having great benefits, can also have negative consequences."

St Helena's Day 2015 Photo-gallery



Photos courtesy of New Horizons



Rupert's Wharf Update

A film displaying the progress on construction of the permanent Wharf at Rupert's Valley - due for completion later this year - has recently been screened on local television on St Helena. The film includes interviews with Production Manager (Concrete) for Basil Read, Gideon Niemand, and pupils from Pilling Primary School.

All SHG videos are available online on the St Helena Government Website or SHG Vimeo and Youtube channels. Subjects include St Helena Airport milestones, the commemoration of Napoleon's death, celebrations on St Helena's Day and the Island's first mountain bike competition.



Kimberley.yonroberts@sainthelena.gov.sh



+ 290 22470



www.sainthelena.gov.sh

