

RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 36 | Autumn 2021

Special theme:
**Jersey's built
environment**

Space for housing and
space for farming

**When the landfill
has to stop**

Recycling Jersey's
construction waste

**The secret
garden**

Exploring the gardens
of Trinity Manor

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Welcome

‘RURAL is as rural does.’
In slightly more intelligible form, RURAL magazine’s fundamental concern is the preservation of the Island’s rural character.

‘Preservation’ does not mean scattering aspic all over the Island - Jersey is a home to its inhabitants, not a museum. All countryside evolves and in Jersey there is very little in the landscape that has not been modified by Islanders throughout the long course of history.

But there should be a balance between the natural environment and the built environment. At the moment, hardly a day seems to pass when the local media does not report action and reaction: the possible action of allowing fields to disappear under concrete development, and the reaction of those who do not want a patch of natural Jersey or its farmland irredeemably spoilt.

How can a proper balance be maintained? What can be done to maintain something of the traditional rural and agricultural Island that, to the vast majority of Islanders, is one of its principal charms?

In the very first issue of the magazine in the spring of 2013, we asked: ‘How can Jersey’s countryside, community, culture and heritage remain intact in today’s modern and globalised world?’ Today, we might add to that question: ‘How can it remain intact in the face of so much building development, given that development is undeniably necessary to house our much expanded population?’

Our selection of a special theme for this issue has been ‘the built environment’.



That is intentionally broad and encompasses everything from home ownership to our building heritage, quarrying and recycling. There could not be a more appropriate moment to consider the impact of construction and development on the Island and on our daily lives.

This is a theme that will always find much space devoted to it within the pages of RURAL magazine. If, through our efforts, it brings the problems of maintaining this balance and tension between town and country more noticeably to the attention of readers, then we will have done our bit in making sure that *RURAL is as rural does*.

.....
Alasdair Crosby | Editor
www.ruraljersey.co.uk



Front cover image:
David Room, the head gardener at Trinity Manor, and his team
Photo by Gary Grimshaw
See page 11

Published by
Crosby Media and Publishing Ltd
La Caûmiéthe, 2 Mon Plaisir Cottages
Rue de Bel Air
St Mary JE3 3ED
T 01534 865334
M 07797 773880
BACS 40-25-34 | 43835928

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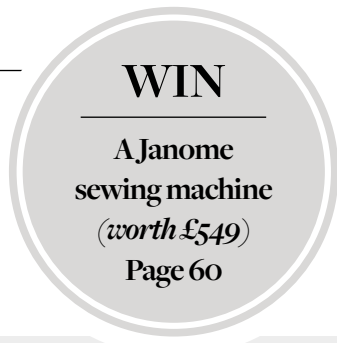
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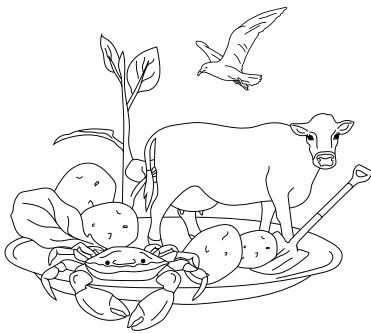
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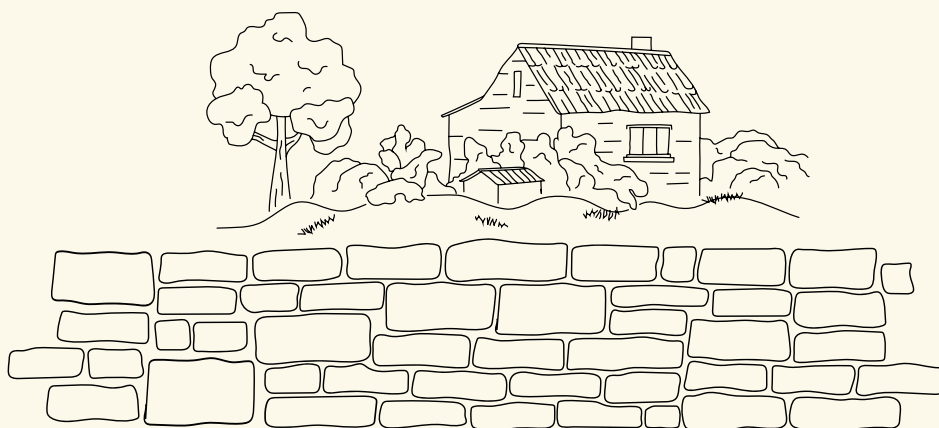
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Over the wall

A RURAL view



Building and the rural environment... what should be constructed where? How do we plan for an expanding population? What about the balance between countryside and town? Fields vs affordable housing? Young families being driven away from the Island because of a lack of somewhere to live?

These subjects have always been a hornet's nest in Jersey, always contentious, often vituperative; they are ripe sources for allegations of 'corruption in high places', since any planning decision over a contentious issue inevitably means a loser, as well as a winner, leaving room for disappointment and bitterness, despite the transparent fairness of the modern Planning appeals process.

Little wonder that so many States Members steer clear of Planning issues with a barge-pole.

The fundamental question is: how can we balance housing needs against the preservation of farming land and the rural environment? It is the Island's green backdrop that makes Jersey a familiar, beloved and recognisable home for its population.

Fundamentally, it is probably an unsolvable question, but all credit to the Housing Minister, Deputy Russell Labey, who is interviewed in this issue of RURAL, for squaring up to the problem. As he says in the interview on page 18, he comes from farming stock on both sides of his family and 'every time a field goes for development, it hurts.'

The development of agricultural land is of two sorts, of course: fields being rezoned for what its advocates say would be much-needed affordable housing, and fields being transformed effectively into extended gardens for the inhabitants of adjacent large houses.

Typically, a traditional Jersey farmhouse may have retained some of its home fields and pasture, even though the house and land may have been sold in recent decades to a family with no farming interest and who converted it into a very pleasant and valuable - perhaps even a luxurious - private property. The adjacent farmland will have been rented out, but perhaps new owners do not want cows and potatoes as their close neighbours. When the lease comes up for renewal, the tenant farming business is unable to continue its tenancy.

Agricultural control laws prevent the land from becoming simply a blatant extension to a garden. But there are too many loopholes, such as converting the land to equine use... the sight of horses peacefully grazing is undeniably charming, but it has been years since a horse in Jersey last pulled a plough as part of mainstream farming. The land has ceased to have any agricultural use and is now used for pleasure or hobby instead.

The planting of orchards is often commendable - a reversion on a small-scale to Jersey's historic rural landscape. But when the trees are used simply as a screen to thwart the intrusive gaze of passers-by, the planting of trees on agricultural land seems rather less commendable.

This loss of productive agricultural land is a worrying trend in itself, especially at a time when there are so many snakes in the grass: the effects of Brexit, Covid, and climate change to name some of the principal ones. The negative effects on the Island's imported food supplies potentially have both political and environmental causes. 'Local food for local people' has become a mantra of our times.

But we will hardly provide that if we smother the Island in concrete and building development. If we want farmers and growers not to use pesticides for eelworm etc, then fields need to be left fallow for a few years. For that we need all the fields available. Farmers would like to rotate, but there is hardly enough space to do that as it is, let alone if there is further pressure on the agricultural land bank.

It is evidently a sign of the times that Jersey farmers are no longer celebrated or appreciated as food producers and stewards of the countryside as once they were.

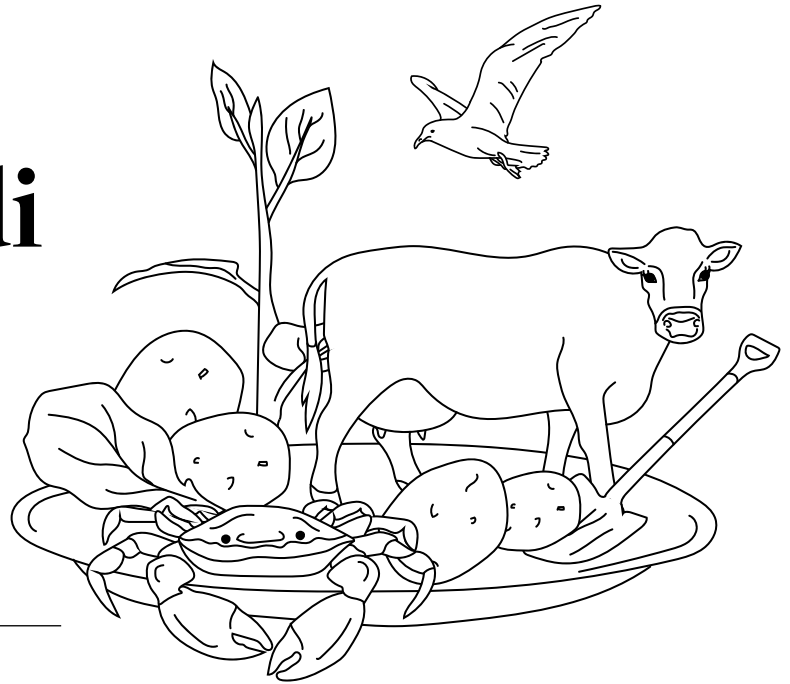
Ironic, really, that this has happened at the same time as local farmers and local farming are needed now, more than ever.

All this leads to the more general and underlying theme of the future of farming in Jersey and to what extent there should be quite such emphasis on supplying food for export rather than for local consumption... but that, as a wise man once wrote, is another story.

In the meantime, land controls need to be tightened up so as to ensure they are doing the job they need to do - to ensure that agricultural land stays in agriculture.

The Jersey Salmagundi

A mixed salad of events and news, with a bit of this, that and the other thrown in



Jersey hand dived



A 'JerSea campaign' will also raise awareness of supporting local fishermen and choosing seasonal fish, with recommendations on how to prepare it and some recipe ideas.

'It's about diversifying the market and reducing the pressure on key species,' said BLUE's project manager in Jersey, Appin Williamson. 'Eating locally and seasonally also reduces its carbon footprint. We want to get people thinking a bit more about the impact of their choices.'

The charity's aim is to protect Jersey's marine life by creating a marine park in inshore waters, allowing sea life to flourish and the local low-impact fleet to thrive.

'Jersey has an extraordinary marine estate,' she said. 'With its kelp forests, seagrass and maerl beds, Jersey showcases some of the best shallow marine habitats in the British Isles.'

'One of the ways that the foundation wants to ensure that fishing communities can continue to thrive and co-exist alongside marine conservation is to apply its model of fishery co-management developed in Lyme Bay. This model proves that by using low impact methods, fishermen's livelihoods can improve while marine biodiversity thrives.'

'In Jersey, we want to support local fishermen to lead the management of their fisheries in line with conservation goals. It's all about working together, by proving that marine protection in Jersey supports both the recovery of marine life and local fishing communities,' said Appin.

'The seagrass, kelp forests and maerl beds all play a role in storing blue carbon and therefore their protection could help Jersey meet its net zero carbon goals. BLUE will make the case for the creation of additional protected areas.'

BLUE are asking that the creation of a marine park is included in the Island Plan, something they describe as a 'once in a generation opportunity'.

** An interview with Appin will be carried in the next issue of RURAL in November.*

This autumn the Blue Marine Foundation ('BLUE') is launching a scheme called Jersey Hand Dived: its aim is to promote awareness of why it's important to choose hand-dived scallops rather than dredged ones.

Stickers will be produced for packaging, and restaurants will be asked to get on board.

What does Jersey mean to you?

Carolyn Labey, Deputy of Grouville, Minister for International Development and Assistant Chief Minister, writes on on Jersey's 'national identity'

A piece of work I have been working on for Government is on Jersey's national identity. It explores how we project ourselves to the outside world and how we create a sense of belonging to all Island residents.

I would like the opinion of RURAL's readers on how this could best be achieved.

As readers are likely to be aware, Jersey is a 'Small Island Nation' - autonomous and self-governing, one of only three Crown Dependencies in the world, not part of the UK but British with a strong French heritage.

The work of the Policy Development Board, with whom I have been working, is the consideration of how these distinctive qualities could be more systematically celebrated and deployed for the benefit of the Island and its inhabitants. The work so far is to be seen as part of the ongoing consultation process rather than the final word, and you are invited to consider - and share - your thoughts on this topic and practical ideas on how to take it forward. Our national identity matters in two main ways:

How we see ourselves and how others see us

In Jersey, our ability to work together, care for each other, grow our economy and look after our environment, depends on us being bound to each other by more than a shared geography and set of rules. Whatever our backgrounds or occupations, we can benefit from a shared sense of belonging and a shared understanding of what it means to be Jersey.

Internationally, our long-term future relies on projecting a positive image of the Island; a richer international profile than just that of our world-class finance industry.

Our unique history and constitutional status, and our extraordinary endeavours in other fields (culture, heritage, philanthropy, international development, sport, business, art, digital, agriculture, tourism and conservation, for example) should also be recognised as part of our overall personality. Coordinating and projecting these facets of our Island identity will help us build the reputation and relationships we will depend on to thrive in a globalised world.

Why is now the right moment to investigate these matters?

First, there is a profound and almost universally-shared sense that what we have in Jersey is special and worth protecting, yet also a widespread feeling that something is being lost. How can Jersey change with the times, embrace diversity, remain a welcoming place for immigrants, and play its part in an increasingly interconnected (and homogenous) world, yet preserve and nurture its uniqueness?

Second, there are some very practical reasons to examine our identity at this particular moment. Big global issues such as the changing relationship between the UK and Europe post-Brexit, rapid technological advances, the global Covid pandemic, and the increasingly urgent need to avert or mitigate the impact of climate change will all likely result in changes to the way we associate, work and prioritise things.

The way Jersey positions itself now will affect the way we respond to these challenges and opportunities. The Government has recognised the importance and urgency of this work, and its commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive sense of Island identity.

The work was split into six focus areas, which ranged from Constitution, to Communities, to Connectivity and we settled on 3 primary objectives, which were:

- People in Jersey are civically engaged and proud of their Island;
- Jersey has a recognisable and positive international personality; and
- Public policies coherently support and develop Jersey's distinct identity.

Please do try to visit our website: www.islandidentity.je

There are also hard copies of the Consultation document available from the States Greffe Bookshop and from Parish Halls.

We are all part of the 'Defining and Celebrating Jersey' conversation.



Fuel company fights carbon dioxide emissions

As from 1 September, ATF Fuels will become the first fuel retailer in Jersey to supply E10 petrol as standard at their forecourts. The aim is to help reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions

E10 petrol contains up to 10% renewable ethanol, which will help to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associated with petrol vehicles and tackle climate change. During summer 2021, the standard petrol grade in the United Kingdom became E10. In Northern Ireland, this will happen in early 2022.

E10 petrol is already widely used around the world, including across Europe, the USA and Australia. It has also been the reference fuel against which new cars are tested for emissions and performance since 2016.

Jonathan Best, Director of ATF Fuels, said: 'We are the only Channel Islands fuel distributor which has complied with UK legislation that required petrol to have a bio-fuel content of at least 5%. Now this is increasing to 10%, we will continue to support the UK government's policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from road transport.'

Most cars, as well as motorcycles and scooters built after 2000 are compatible with E10.

Since E10 became the European test fuel in 2016, new cars are not only compatible with E10, they are optimised to run on it. Cars that are incompatible with E10 are mostly classic, hobbyist vehicles or are older cars.

Mr Best continued: 'Although the supply of petrol with an ethanol content has not yet been mandated by the Government of Jersey, as a responsible fuel supplier we are taking the lead by driving fuel standards up, which can only be good news for Jersey's climate change policy.'

The change in fuel only applies to petrol. Diesel fuel will not be changing. Road users can check if their vehicle is compatible with E10 petrol by visiting www.atf.je/forecourt.



How do we meet our future water needs?

Jersey Water has made 11 recommendations for meeting the water supply needs for Jersey until 2045 and beyond.

Its *Water Resources and Drought Management Plan* aims to address an expected deficit in water supplies over a 25-year period caused by climate change and a rising population. Jersey Water hopes Islanders will engage in the process of finding the right solutions.

As part of the preferred plan, Jersey Water had previously identified the potential to repurpose part of La Gigoulande Quarry in St Peter's Valley to create a new reservoir once minerals extraction had ceased. They believed that, along with other measures, this could have helped provide future water supply resilience for the Island. But following the determination in the Island Plan that La Gigoulande will not be set aside for water storage needs, Jersey Water has adapted its strategy to cover the predicted deficit in other ways.



The full plan includes:

- Water efficiency measures
- Reduction in leakage
- Temporary customer restrictions during droughts
- Catchment protection
- Extension of La Rosière Desalination Plant

- Addressing PFAS pollution in St Ouen's boreholes
- Delivering additional reservoir storage

Jersey Water's asset manager, Mark Bowden, said: 'Fundamentally, the Island suffers from a lack of adequate water storage relative to the demand, so we will be looking to provide increased reservoir storage to provide the future resilience that we need.'

Qualified to showcase the Island

The most recently qualified Blue Badge Tour Guides are now available to help visitors to learn about and to enjoy all things local.

When visitors come to the Island, sometimes the best part is the guided tour with a local guide. Their expert knowledge and how they engage and interact with the group can help make a holiday one of a visitor's fondest memories; people tend to remember the guide who entertained them most and made them feel safe and at ease.

A good guide will really enhance the holiday experience and help visitors discover all the Island's hidden treasures - Jersey has an abundance of these, including high quality attractions, scenic walks and beauty spots all readily available to appreciate - now there are eleven newly qualified Bronze Badge Guides ready to showcase the Island.

The course brought together people from very different backgrounds, but all sharing the same interest - a passion for the Island and its history.

It was run by the Jersey Tour Guides Association and began with 17 students, finishing with 11 taking the written and practical exams. Experienced Blue Badge Guides gave presentations and tips on guiding techniques and managing and manoeuvring large groups around the busy town centre (easier said than done). This was in contrast to the discussions and lectures held in the classroom that, with the outbreak of Covid, became even more challenging.

For anyone who has taken the Blue Badge course, the information they acquire means that walking through St Helier will never be quite the same again.



Front Row : Vanessa Vanlinden, Kieranne Grimshaw, Aynslie Le Brun, Melanie Cavey.

Back Row: Andrew Begg, Kevin Kerrigan, Sue Gorin, Geoffrey Reakes.

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Secret gardens

Trinity Manor - the best Jersey 'secret garden' was opened to RURAL magazine's gardening correspondent, Gill Maccabe



Most people think they know Trinity Manor. It is arguably one of the finest manor houses in Jersey, with sections dating back to the 16th Century, and was rebuilt in the French style by the Riley family in the early 20th Century before being sold on in the 1990s.

The gardens, however, are a closely kept secret.

The head gardener and the man who owners Paul and Pam Bell entrust to maintain the 29.5 vergées, David Room, is an inspirational visionary and clearly loves every square inch of his workplace.

“ **When I first came here the garden was full of laurel. It was stuffed with them. We have removed masses and in doing so have revealed some amazing species** ”

He punctuates his speech with Latin, most of the time reeling off the names of every tree and plant in his care with stunning familiarity and love. When speaking his native tongue he invariably adds a gardening literary reference such as (when talking about a standard rose in the walled garden) ‘Oh, that deep pink rose is called Gabriel Oak, named after the character in Hardy’s *Far from The Madding Crowd*,’ as he theatrically snapped off a bloom and invited me to inhale the deep fruity fragrance.

Originally a prep school teacher, he re-trained and studied under the renowned garden designer, John Brookes, in the UK.



The gardens illustrate perfectly the symbiotic relationship between the different forms of plants and shapes; where umbels (think of plants like upturned bowls such as sedum or *achillea*), stand side by side with spires (exactly as they sound, reaching skyward and packed with flowers such as foxgloves or delphiniums), buttons (such as *echinops* or *allium* seed-heads) and screens (or see-through plants such as *verbena bonariensis*) are all put together to realise their differences.

'It makes each one stand out. Just think, if you put someone fat against someone thin, then the fat person will look fatter and the thin person will look thinner. Putting different shaped plants against each other is exactly the same,' said David.

He encourages his team to see the garden as full of mass and form rather than as individual plants. He invites me to stand in one position and then another, observing the depth of field, rather like a photographer. It feels as if the plants are gently calling me: 'Look over here, I am here,' so hypnotic is the effect when it is fully explained.

He creates colour boards by hand, like decoupage with images of every plant and tree stuck down on paper and visualised before planting.

'When I first came here the garden was full of laurel. It was stuffed with them. We have removed masses and in doing so have revealed some amazing species.'

'For example, there's a magnolia which I call a brontosaurus which is probably the largest in the Island. There's an ancient pieris, all curved and contorted and stretching high above many trees, there's a crepe myrtle with no bark which looks stunning in low winter sunlight, there are fantastic *Quercus* oaks and of course there is the famous Locombe oak dominating the front lawn.'

The vast area is split into a variety of rooms all boasting their own individual character. And so we have the Folly Garden - like a jungle, deep, dark and strangely inviting with lovely textures and warm pops of strong colour such as red and pink flowered *clerodendru*, orangey maroon *melianthus major* mixing with the rice paper plant *tetrapanax*, hostas, big banana palms, tree ferns and calla lilies. There's even an orange lily called Captain Trinity being trialled. Nothing, it seems, is left to chance.

He joined Trinity Manor a little over three years ago and together with his deputy, Olivia 'Ollie' Keylock, three gardeners and the first apprentice in the new scheme run in conjunction with RJA&HS, they have proudly enhanced the garden, which in David's words were previously being 'maintained rather than developed.'

David talks, and apologises for repeating himself, about rhythm, rhythm, rhythm, repetition, form and texture, masses and voids.

It seems to have rubbed off on Ollie who, when asked what she was doing that day, said paths, paths, and paths.



“ It makes each one stand out. Just think, if you put someone fat against someone thin, then the fat person will look fatter and the thin person will look thinner. Putting different shaped plants against each other is exactly the same

We walk through the Zip Garden, dominated by a stunning water feature in the shape of a zip, which Mrs Bell brought back from Chelsea Flower Show. Then on to The Stumpery, so called because it is full of stumps, plus some amazing James Doran Webb driftwood sculptures.

We walk through the butterflies and bees in the New Meadow in which La Société Jersiaise recently reported up to 60 species of wildflower and grasses including a marsh stitchwort not seen since 2005.

And then, some three hours since the beginning of my tour, we take a seat in the walled Mediterranean Garden. It is David's pride and joy and two years in the making, all blue and white, cooling and calm and worthy of an article all on its own.

Who needs Chelsea with this on our doorstep, I thought, as I drove home thinking of rhythm and repetition, masses and voids, balance and texture, all the while wondering how to transcribe a three-hour gardening tutorial which one would have paid thousands for at a charity auction into a small magazine piece.

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Never buy seeds again

Let your plants give them to you. By Gill Maccabe, **RURAL** magazine's gardening correspondent



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If what I saw at La Collette green waste site recently was representative, then hundreds of pounds worth of flower and vegetable seed are inadvertently being dumped daily, and that is despite last year's Covid seed shortages.

How many of you pull out and throw away spent annuals full of seed in the autumn, then go and buy a packet of the same seed the next year?

Gardening contractors tend to be the worst offenders: the minute flowers have stopped blooming they rip them out of the soil, sometimes roots and all, to get everything 'tidied up' for the next season, whilst charging the client for the pleasure.

Gardens and the wildlife that depend on them like to grow old and fade gracefully into winter with seed heads, rose hips and even grasses providing food for wildlife - and ultimately nutrition for the soil.

Last year's lockdown and consequent lack of help in the garden, meant we weeded less and plants self seeded without interference, which in turn provided lots of ground cover, preventing weeds becoming established. Win win.

Encouraged and emboldened by listening to hours of gardening podcasts and reading copious gardening articles, I started to really focus on saving seeds, learning exactly when they were at their best, what time of day to do it, and how to separate the seed from the chaff.

Lupins were easy, their big brittle seedpods were easy to collect and germinate. Where once there was one small plant in a southwest corner of our garden, they are now on the march, successfully declaring UDI over the well-established heather in the rockery, scrambling and searching out every crevice in their bid for supremacy.

In addition, plants such as hydrangeas, which I didn't get round to pruning, have never been so big and colourful; our various *verbena bonariensis* have reached unheard of heights and salvia cuttings have flourished. Even the delphiniums seem more robust as they have plants around them to hang onto in the wind.

There are nasturtiums in the rhubarb patch, cornflowers in the sweet peas and *erigeron karvinskianum* daisies everywhere, all flourishing happily together; plants enjoy each other's company, a gardener once told me.

It seems as if the English country garden of my dreams is getting closer. The birds have never been so vociferous in their gratitude, the garden is full of pollinators, and we are not spending a penny on seeds.



Tried and tested tips for saving seeds

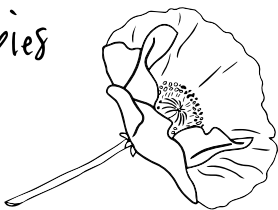
By the time you read this, your garden will hopefully have gone to seed. So give yourself a few hours off your normal chores and get out and start collecting. You'll get best results in the afternoon once the morning dew has worn off, and choose a calm day with no wind.

All you will need are a few little brown envelopes (the sort you used to get your pay in when cash in hand was a thing), and some plastic containers with lids.

Lupins

All I did was collect the closed seed heads from the plant the minute they were brown and beginning to look as if they were going to drop. I put them in my potting shed, then spent a delightful afternoon one September day with the radio on, splitting them and storing them. A few weeks later I started potting the seeds and had so many lupin plants this spring, that I had to give them away.

Poppies

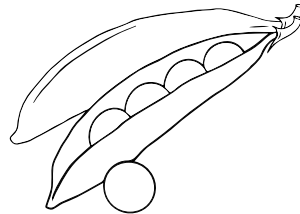


I usually just split the heads and scatter them nearby, no planting required. The birds actually do all the work for me as they take some, drop some, defecate some and generally rearrange them so we get lovely opium poppies appearing all over the garden. I love them, they bloom and die the same day, then pop up somewhere else.

Echinacea

I love these little coneflowers, which make me smile as they look as if they are inside out. The easiest way to get seeds out is to cut the heads right off and lay them somewhere dry for about a week. Then, put the whole heads into a plastic container with a lid, such as an old plastic detergent tab box or similar, and shake vigorously. Take the lid off and remove the heads, you will see hundreds of what look like wood chips left behind. They are Echinacea seeds.

Runner Beans, Peas and Sweet Pea Pods

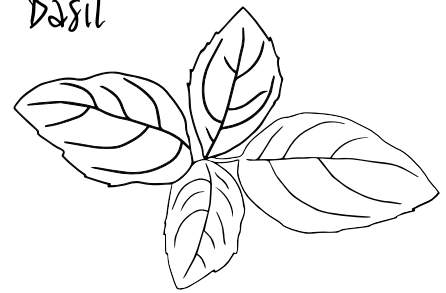


You simply leave a few on the stems until they go brown, open them up, dry them and marvel at how they look the same as those you usually spend two or three pounds buying in the spring.

Herbs

Chives are probably the easiest. The little flower heads are full of black seeds. Pick them off and crush them in your hand; the seeds will separate from the chaff easily.

Basil



Slightly tricky but worth the effort. Let the seeds go to flower. Get a plastic basin and pick the flower heads once they are dry and brittle (green fronds are too damp, they must be brown). Throw them into a basin and start crushing them with your hands rather like making a dough. You can't damage the seed, as they are too small. Keep crushing until all the seeds have fallen off the stems. Then get a sieve and shake the seeds into it, you'll be left with seeds and perhaps a few flowers which have slipped through. Gently blow on them; they will fly away leaving the heavier seed below.

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Maintaining a balance

How can we balance the needs of an expanding population, of first-time buyers and low- to middle- earners with the preservation of the rural environment? Alasdair Crosby talked to the Housing Minister, Deputy Russell Labey



‘As somebody whose ancestors on both sides of my family have all been farmers, maternally in St Ouen, paternally in Grouville, every time a field goes for building development, it hurts.’

The Housing Minister, Deputy Russell Labey, was discussing how the housing needs of Jersey’s ever-expanding population could be balanced with any meaningful preservation of Jersey’s farmland areas.

‘If we want farmers and growers not to use pesticides for things like eelworm, we need fields to lie fallow for two or three years - for that we need all the fields available.’

There has always been a housing shortage; homes are built and fields re-zoned to address the shortage; the population grows further, and the shortage is merely perpetuated. What’s the answer? Perhaps there isn’t one?

As he said, government can but strive to maintain a balance, something that is incredibly difficult to achieve. ‘What I have found in this job is that we are about 1,800 homes short in the last decade.’

The sort of preferred potential development sites are ‘brown-field’ ones, such as government-owned sites in town, or, for example, the old Les Quennevais School, which is going to be used as the Health Department while the new Hospital is being built, but will be available by 2026.

And will fields have to be re-zoned?

‘I worry that productive agricultural land is being taken out of use. Some green-field sites have been identified in the Island Plan, but that’s not my responsibility - that’s the responsibility for the Minister for Planning and Environment.

But we have to be careful and we should be planning now so that we can avoid using green-field sites as much as possible. One or two are probably OK to be developed - if they have an awkward shape, for example, and back on to existing development.’

There have been some high-profile development cases: fields near Mont-à-l’Abbé, Seaside Café (formerly Café Romany) at Grève de Lecq, Midway Café at St Brelade’s Bay, the field opposite St John’s Church, the field at St Peter’s Village, Water’s Edge Hotel at Bouley Bay... the list seems endless. But: ‘There is a Planning process now,’ he said, ‘which is the opportunity for people to support or oppose the development of sites. They are heard in public, before an independent UK Planning inspector, and at the end of that mix it will go to the States Assembly for approval or not, and historically those have been very long and detailed debates; not everything has gone through.

‘But we have to wake up and realise that there is a long waiting list of people wanting homes. Once again, it’s about striking the right balance.’

He continued: ‘If we talk in general terms, I confess that I am troubled when I see planning permission for a six-bed super-home in a rural parish when six family units is what we are crying out for.

I think it is inappropriate in a lot of circumstances.’

So - too many super-homes and not enough affordable houses for the not so well-off?

‘What I am also trying to do to help address that is to make the use of modern methods of construction (MMC) a reality in Jersey. I have set up a working party to work over the next few months, looking at the viability and feasibility of effectively buying homes in kit form, so they are constructed elsewhere, and only assembled in the Island.

‘It’s cleaner, it’s greener, it’s far less labour intensive for the Island, because you need far fewer people to assemble these houses than to actually construct them from scratch, and they are potentially cheaper, or we can buy sufficient quantities to take advantage of economies of scale. One of the biggest problems with MMC is getting enough people to believe in it. These aren’t flat-pack; these aren’t IKEA homes, they are sophisticated, fantastically insulated homes made in component form, put together. They can be made into 20- or 30- story towers, or you can have single units or anything between the two.

‘So, if we can get a three-bed unit to Portsmouth Docks for under £100,000 - can we do the rest for under £100,000? Thus potentially we could have a three-bedroom house for under £200,000. Is that going to be possible? That’s what I am working out now.’

“ Empty property is a luxury the Island can’t afford, because so many people want a home

There is a perception that some owners are allowing their homes to fall into dilapidation so that when redevelopment plans are submitted, the feeling is that ‘anything is better than what’s there now’!

He replied: ‘It is a fact that Jersey is way behind other jurisdictions, in terms both of empty properties and in avoiding them. Empty property is a luxury the Island can’t afford, because so many people want a home. In the UK, for example, were I to leave my flat empty for two years, the Council Tax would go up 50% and that figure would be likely to rise year-on-year if it remained empty. There are also initiatives that go under the title of “No Use Empty”.

No Use Empty agencies have considerable powers to enter a property, refurbish it, let it out, and once they have recouped the capital they spent on it, hand it back to the landlord. Legally, that can be done.

‘In reality, they try to work with the owner in bringing that property back into use. So I would like to bring in a “no-use-empty Jersey” initiative.’

Unfortunately, there are plenty of houses in Jersey that are not sold as ‘homes’ but as investment opportunities in terms of ‘buying to let’. Did this worry him?

‘In terms of foreign investors, I’ve already stopped the conveyancing of properties by share transfer. That means that those buying properties in Jersey should be qualified to live in a property in Jersey. That won’t stop the local buy-to-let market, which anecdotally is very prevalent. So, I am undertaking work to quantify what the scale of it is, and what levers government can use to ensure that somebody’s “nice-to-have” isn’t depriving someone else of their necessity to get on to the housing ladder—a situation that is unethical.’

The Minister was asked if he shared the concern that there was a diverging gap between the ‘Haves’ and the ‘Have-nots’?

‘That is indeed a massive worry, as is also the fact of Jersey families having to uproot and go to live elsewhere because of the high cost of housing in the Island.. From talking to my own constituents, I think what weighs most heavily on their minds is the cost of living in Jersey, and also housing - and the two are linked.

‘In terms of the super-wealthy, I am on record as saying that I am concerned how many of them are arriving annually. The last lot of legislation was for five to come to live in Jersey annually. Over the past three years, we are averaging around 20. There is no cap. And I think it is time that we had one, otherwise the situation is unsustainable.

‘Simply, that’s why I took the job of Housing Minister: to see what I could do to make a difference.’

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Neither town nor country

We all know what urban architectural design should look like, and equally what it should look like for buildings in rural areas. But Antony Gibb poses the question: what about the suburbs, where town meets country?



What should a house in the country look like? Ask an architect or planner and they'll tell you it's about 'context'. Something suitable for the country is not going to be the same as something that fits a town. A terrace of houses wouldn't look right in the middle of a field for instance, while a traditional farm group sits happily in its countryside context. What's right for town isn't right for country.

But what about the suburbs?

A number of agricultural fields have been identified as suitable sites for housing in the Bridging Island Plan (BIP), our guide for development over the next three years. Despite plans to increase the density in urban centres, pressure on the countryside is likely to continue.

The BIP gives us Primary Centres (town), Green Zone and Coastal National Park (country), and Local Centres (everything else) but hardly mentions suburbs. The inter-war coastal strip development on the south coast - First Tower, St Clement and parts of St Saviour - are given the same designation as the parish villages, such as St Ouen, St Mary or St Martin, when they're obviously very different.

And Les Quennevais, identified in the BIP as our second town, is essentially a suburban development.

Given that suburbs are mainly where change is likely to happen, it seems odd that so much time has been spent analysing, assessing and describing how to protect the countryside and coast, and how to develop town, and so little has been spent looking at the spaces between, where one becomes the other.

What does this mean for the design of our suburbs?

What is the 'local character and distinctiveness' to which the BIP would like new developments to contribute?

What is the 'existing character' that should be respected? After all, the suburbs are full of individual expressions of identity in styles that range from inter-war housing inspired by the Arts & Crafts movement, through modernist flat roofed houses, 1960s bungalows, Spanish style villas, New England weatherboard clad houses and, more recently, apartment blocks of painted render and glass balconies. Contextually it's difficult to pin down.

The eclectic approach to design seen in the suburbs has in the past depended largely on the vision of a developer, whether public or private. A good example of this is the flats at Les Marais in St Clement. At 14 stories, they very obviously don't 'fit in' with anything at all. They're an urban form built on the edge of St Helier's eastern suburbs, with agricultural fields beyond. They wouldn't be contemplated now, but were a response to the provision of housing typical of the mid-20th Century.

The majority of current suburban housing developments in England, by contrast, are low rise, and inspired by the local vernacular, rather than system building and modernism. They use traditional forms, colours and details: brick and pantile in East Anglia, stone in the Cotswolds, and so on.

Here in Jersey there's much discussion about what 'local' means. The BIP even ventures into new territory for an Island Plan in discussing the role buildings play in protecting and promoting the Island's identity. This largely means looking at our traditional buildings and creating something that responds to these, without defining what.

Clearly what we need is good suburbs, but exploration of what 'good' looks like is needed, starting with acceptance of the word in our Island Plan. The BIP has concluded that Les Quennevais should be our second urban centre, so presumably 'town' rules would apply.

Development around the parish centres is proposed, and designs here would most likely fit in by utilising traditional or modern vernacular forms.

But where fields give way to housing around the edge of town, it's difficult to define a suitable stylistic form and tensions consequently arise. We are concerned about the change from rural to suburban, and in designing new buildings we are forced to confront questions of whether we should retain rural roots, or move towards a denser, high rise and more urban future.

This is complicated, but rather than leave it to individual developers, perhaps town and country can talk to each other about how the change can be managed. The result might be suburbs that stop being unsatisfactory liminal spaces – just somewhere on the way to somewhere else - and become places we've thought about and where we'd like to live.



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Root and branch



Continuing her series emphasising the ‘arboreal’ qualities of Islanders, Philippa Evans-Bevan interviewed Mike Osborne, managing director of Ronez Quarry

Ronez Quarry celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. This important business, which has been pivotal to the creation of Jersey’s infrastructure and foundations, as seen in the construction of roads, hospitals, homes, leisure and education facilities, continues to grow and innovate sustainably under the stewardship of managing director Mike Osborne.

His story is a fascinating focus for this issue of the Root and Branch profile page; his ‘roots’ have penetrated many bedrocks and mines across the world.

Mike was born in Liverpool and from the age of 14 travelled extensively and moved readily as opportunities arose along his career path.

You quickly realize that this is a man with a strong work ethic, passionate about the well-being and fulfillment of his team, and a pioneering spirit, which has driven his ability and inspiration to take on new challenges in tough and varied environments.

Mike’s father worked in the Far East, in the sporting industry for Dunlop, so from an early age Mike learnt to adapt to working and living in different cultures.

Aged 16, Mike was playing golf one day in the Philippines with his father and a friend. The guest was a Canadian mining engineer and their conversation about his work inspired Mike to pursue a career in mining.

Determined study gained him a place at The Royal School of Mines (at Imperial College, London) where he earned a degree in mining engineering.

Next stop Cornwall, where he cut his teeth in the tin mines, and then came a move to Australia, a vast spectrum in comparison, where his skills were further developed in open-cast coal mining.

This led to a position in South Africa where the task was to extract underground coal. Mike stayed in South Africa until the late 1980s when a job in the quarrying and building materials industry in the Home Counties and latterly in Wales beckoned him back to the UK.

It was only a matter of time before his leadership and knowledge of the mining industry created a new opportunity and he was off to eastern Europe to run quarrying businesses in the Czech Republic and Poland, before making another move to Berlin.

All the while he was taking his wife and two daughters with him and so the family, although uprooted on a regular basis, became ever entwined with their shared experiences in the many places they lived.

Taking the helm at Ronez Quarry has been a consolidation of all Mike's skills and experience and after 14 happy years in Jersey this is where Mike tells me he will put down his roots for good.

Mike explains with great pride and affection the longevity of service within the Ronez Quarry family, half of whom have long service records, and the generations that follow each other into the fold, developing skills handed down from their forebears.

'There is a real sense of shared ownership; we work as a strong team and we have great engagement with the community too,' Mike said.

Ronez offers placements and hosts regular school and professional visits.

In conjunction with Durrell, Ronez received a conservation award for their work with the red billed chuffs since 2015.

'Throughout lockdown we managed to operate safely and keep the Island's construction sector supplied. Our laboratory team continued to work on products that are transitioning to low carbon alternatives, which is very exciting.'

Having lived much of his life moving so frequently, renovating an 18th Century farmhouse within the parish, close to the quarry, is proving most rewarding and shows that this family feel thoroughly at home in rural St John.

When he is not leading the exciting progression of Ronez into the low carbon future, Mike can be found branching out into sporting pursuits - open water swimming, cycling, and running - all at the highest level required, achieving success in the rather fitting Iron Man triathlons.



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Defining the modern smart house

What role does digital technology play in defining the modern smart home? We are at the point where smart house technology is becoming the norm in new builds and retrofit projects. By Oliver Rehm, chief executive officer of Baufritz in the UK

Let's try to break down a smart house into its constituent elements and understand the role of technology and the services it can deliver.

It has evolved from analogue home automation where labour-saving machines and building services such as heating and washing, could be scheduled. Today, computers and digitalisation have become part of our household devices; they have integrated with communication protocols and they fundamentally change the way we manage our houses.

I would like to investigate smart digital technology and climate change mitigation. Greenhouse gas emissions for homes arise primarily from the fossil fuels burned for heating, followed by electricity used to power devices. Going forwards, houses must be much more energy-efficient.

A super energy-efficient house creates its own set of challenges, which can only be addressed by using Smart buildings technology. All houses need to breathe. Once all the drafts and thermal bridges have been removed, different approaches are needed to manage ventilation.

Clearly, opening a window results in heat loss so the inclusion of a Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery System manages air-flow while minimising heat loss. By including sensors within the house, ventilation is efficiently managed. An energy-efficient house is designed to optimise solar gain by using the sun as a heat source.

In summer, when the sun is strongest, there is a risk of overheating. By including a smart shading system, which can be programmed to reduce the effect of the sun within the users' defined tolerances, an ideal building ambience can be maintained.



During the colder months when solar gain is at its lowest, all but the most energy efficient houses require additional heat sources.

At this point in time the most popular choice that does not involve burning hydrocarbons, is a ground or air source heat pump, which works like a refrigerator in reverse. The caveat is that it would struggle to deliver enough heat to warm a house that had not undergone energy efficiency improvements. In the future we may have gas boilers powered by zero carbon emitting Hydrogen, which would be able to deliver the energy needed to heat some of our legacy building stock.

By including Solar and PV we have an alternative approach to reduce the buildings KWh/m²/year. A normal domestic PV should deliver around 3.5 KWh of electricity over the year, which is roughly 50% of the average household energy consumption. Providing your house is energy efficient, PV can generate more than enough electricity to deliver the required energy.

The obvious caveat is that energy usage is higher in winter when PV is at its least efficient. Additional battery storage can mitigate spikes in consumption patterns, but it is most likely that energy will be fed into the grid over the summer and any shortfall will have to be made up from additional supplies.

Smart connect devices can deliver data in a digital format, which in turn is processed either by human interaction, or via software to deliver a positive outcome. In its simplest form, the house owner can use information to make informed decisions on how to reduce energy consumption.

Applications such as GIRA and HIVE can integrate with smart phones, allowing the owner to better control heating and lighting. The next stage involves automating these processes.



The algorithms within applications can understand your behaviour patterns and automatically optimise lighting and heating. Currently, renewable energy suppliers are using artificial intelligence to predict weather patterns and future energy supply. By providing this data directly to the smart home, the availability of (cheap) electricity could be predicted and consumption patterns matched to supply.

In this scenario, demand patterns are allowed to increase to match supply. The obvious opportunity relates to electric vehicle charging. With 60 to 80 kWh batteries becoming the norm, there is going to be a huge amount of storage capacity connected to the grid ready to consume any excess supply as it becomes available. Similarly understanding supply from domestic PV will reduce the imbalance between supply and consumption.

As our houses have become digitalised, these devices are able to work together as systems. As a home-owner it is very important that you bear this point in mind when designing your smart home. Think of it as a single integrated ecosystem and include a services layer, built into the fabric of the build when you define your new house design.

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Buyer beware!

Do not let the excitement of buying your new home fade too quickly as you discover - too late - problems and defects that the seller never mentioned.

By Michelle Leverington, Partner at BCR Law LLP



Obligations of the seller

To streamline the process, law firms now use a Law Society of Jersey standard 'Questionnaire' for freehold purchases. This then forms part of the seller's contract of sale, binding them to their answers. The Questionnaire asks a limited number of questions. Any additional queries should be raised through the estate agent rather than a lawyer. The Questionnaire sets out in clear terms the obligation on the seller to be truthful and the ability of a buyer to rely upon the answers.

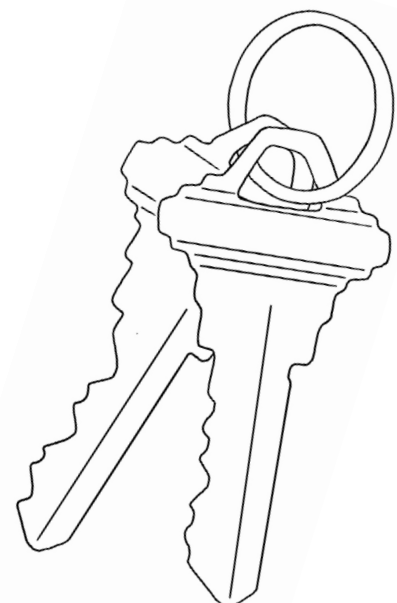
A seller is not expected to carry out surveys or inspections in order to answer the questions. However, giving a false answer may lead to a claim being made against the seller. Such claims can be made up to three years after completion.

What should buyers be aware of?

Although the Questionnaire is helpful, it is still largely a case of 'buyer beware'. The Questionnaire is not a substitute for a buyer carrying out their own enquiry by way of a survey. It may be that a problem with a property is not actually known to the seller but could have been discovered if a survey had been carried out.

Banks lending a mortgage will invariably have a valuation carried out. This is not a survey. A valuation is an assessment which a bank carries out to make sure a property meets its criteria for advancing the loan. It is really to assess the risk faced by the bank in relation to the value of the property in the case of default on the mortgage repayments. The valuation report may only be a couple of pages. It will list all the main details about the property, the recommended valuation and comparable evidence to support that valuation. It is a 'tick box' valuation, nothing more.

Although a buyer will probably have paid for the bank's valuation it may not be of any use to the buyer because it is addressed to (and prepared for) the bank. A buyer is unlikely to be able to use the report to bring a claim against a seller.



It is an exciting moment when you are handed the keys to your new home. However, that excitement can quickly fade if you later discover that there was a defect with the property about which the seller was aware, but failed to tell you about.

The Royal Court has previously ruled that where a seller has given misleading information, a buyer may have some recourse against the seller. This decision has led to buyers asking many more questions of sellers - sometimes running to over 70 queries.



In order to have certainty over the condition of a property, a buyer should consider having one of the reports offered by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) carried out for their benefit, such as the Condition report, Homebuyer report or Building survey. The detail and cost of each report varies depending upon the work involved.

How does this benefit buyers?

RICS Surveys are for property buyers who wish to understand their property and the costs associated with the repair, maintenance, and upkeep, in addition to how the property is likely to perform in a future market resale. It is possible to use these reports as a tool to renegotiate the purchase price or agree that a seller will make good on any repairs as part of the sale contract. All of these reports will give a buyer information needed to make informed decisions about a purchase.

“ **Anyone buying a new house wants to be able to enjoy it and spend their money making it into a home they love**

The surveyor is acting for the buyer and not the lender and so is available to discuss their findings and offer advice if necessary.

The Questionnaire is currently only available for freehold property contracts. The Law Society is currently working on similar questionnaires for share transfer and flying freehold properties. Pending the new questionnaires being launched, buyers continue to rely upon enquiries made by their lawyer of the seller.

A share transfer buyer has protection for three years in the terms of their purchase agreement which covers pre-contract responses to enquiries. A flying freehold buyer would need to rely upon the case referred to above in bringing a complaint against a seller for failure to disclose.

Anyone buying a new house wants to be able to enjoy it and spend their money making it into a home they love. A buyer does not want to have to spend money on expensive repairs which they could have found out about before they bought and made a decision whether to buy with the information they needed.

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The Vertical Forest

Philippa Evans-Bevan visited a building that its architect calls 'a home for trees that also houses humans and birds' - the 'Bosco Verticale' in Milan

Created by Italian architect Stefano Boeri, *Bosco Verticale* (Vertical Forest) is the prototype building for a new format of architectural biodiversity that focuses on the relationship between humans and other living species.

The Vertical Forest is also designed to reduce urban sprawl and at the same time de-mineralise the surroundings, handing over to nature the task of absorbing the dust in the air as well as creating a micro-climate which filters sunlight and reduces CO₂.

Situated in the Porta Nuova quarter of Milan, the project was completed in 2015 and consists of two towers, 262ft and 367ft high.

A total of 800 trees, 15,000 perennials, ground cover and 5,000 shrubs form vegetation equivalent to 2½ acres of forest, concentrated in over 32,000 sq ft of urban surface.

The trees range in size from 9ft to 30ft and provide a green curtain that regulates humidity, keeps temperatures cool indoors, as well as filtering fine dust particles and noise pollution. *Bosco Verticale*, home of the world's first 'Vertical Forest', also delivers 18.5 tons of oxygen and absorbs 18.7 tons of CO₂ a year.

This 'home for trees that also houses humans and birds' (20 different species) is characterised by large, staggered and overhanging balconies.

Each one, almost 10ft wide, accommodates large tubs of shrubs and allows the growth of larger trees.

The compact architectural structure of the towers is contrasted and amplified by the density of the botanical element. Selecting the right species was steered by a group of botanists and ecologists, who acclimatised the plants in a special nursery, taking into account the aspect and the heights of the facades. The result is a layering of three-dimensional spaces due to the changes in the size and form of the plants.

The variations in colour and shapes of the plants produce a colourful landmark in every season and it is highly recognisable from a distance.

Forestry management at *Bosco Verticale* is unique. 'Flying Gardeners' are a team of arborists and climbers. They descend from the roofs to carry out pruning while checking the state of the plants. Irrigation is centralised and draws filtered effluent from the towers; the needs of the plants are monitored by a remotely controlled installation.



Five years on, *Bosco Verticale* has been colonised by numerous species (including about 1,600 specimens of birds and butterflies). This has also resulted in spontaneous flora and fauna spreading to other parts of the city of Milan.

The human inhabitants are a diverse mix - a community with design, sporting and commercial interests and occupations, who enjoy the added advantage of the adjoining 25 acre public park.

The park is a horizontal reflection of the vertical *Bosco Verticale*, with intricate and extensive beds of perennials and aromatic herbs. The park is also home to the *Biblioteca degli Alberi* (Library of Trees).

Bosco Verticale has become a new symbol of Milan. It is one that the Milanese are very proud of as they fast-forward one of the most determined and enlightened greening agendas of European cities.

Among a raft of targets is their goal to plant three million trees in Milan by 2030.

“ Cities have the potential to become protagonists of radical change

Milan's population numbers just over 3.1 million people so that's almost a tree per person. London has pledged to plant 7,000 trees for a population of 9,450,000 which is a somewhat lower ratio of 0.0007 trees per person.

To quote the architect, Stefano Boeri: 'Cities have the potential to become protagonists of radical change.' His creation of *Bosco Verticale* has certainly demonstrated these possibilities.



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Competition in the mortgage market is good for borrowers

Noel McLaughlin, managing director, Butterfield Bank (Jersey) Limited



Buying a home is one of the most significant financial decisions that we can make. So for those in the market, it's important to choose the right mortgage provider.

In the past, options have been limited for Jersey residents. Many of the recognisable names are offshoots of big UK banks, with decisions frequently made far away from the Island. This landscape limits the options for buyers looking to obtain a mortgage with a local provider who understands the Island market.

At Butterfield, we believe that a competitive mortgage market is beneficial to the borrower. Choice is great in an open market such as Jersey. It means that it is in the lender's interest to not only provide attractive rates but also a greater range of products. Competition drives up the quality of service, as providers know that customers have other options if they don't hit high standards.

A report by Deloitte in 2018 found that people who obtained offers from five different mortgage providers saved, on average, more than £6,000 over the life of the mortgage. In a competitive market, consumers have the advantage of choosing from whom to borrow, the type of mortgage that appeals to their lifestyle, and a repayment schedule that suits them.

Competition also creates the opportunity for innovative product options and features. When it comes to calculating the lending amount, each mortgage provider has its own criteria for affordability, typically based on salary multiples. This method of assessment means if the buyer doesn't meet the criteria, often decided by a computer, they will find themselves priced out of properties they thought they could afford. Through our Group-wide experience in banking, we know that people's lives and circumstances are often more complex than this, so a more sophisticated, innovative approach is required.

Butterfield's lending criteria is based on affordability rather than salary, meaning other monetary factors, such as work-related bonuses and committed monthly expenses, are taken into account. This type of bespoke assessment enables homebuyers to often borrow more than the standard 4 to 5.25 times salary multiples offered by most lenders.

And of course, we know that the best way for any service provider to gain a holistic view of a client is to meet them and get to know more about their lifestyle and requirements. At Butterfield, we hope that by providing flexible affordability criteria, coupled with our client-centric approach, more people could fulfil their dream-home ambitions.

Source: Deloitte Access Economics - The Value of Mortgage Broking, July 2018.

For more information about our range of mortgages, visit www.butterfieldgroup.com or get in touch with the team directly on 843 300 or CIMortgages@butterfieldgroup.com

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When the landfill has to stop



AAL Recycling is literally ‘cleaning up’ Jersey’s construction waste. Alasdair Crosby visited the managing director, Alan Langlois, at the company’s operational base at La Collette, where a new aggregate washing plant can clean waste and recycle it on a grand scale

Remember the days - not so very long ago, really - when the coastline was at La Collette power station? When all the areas now beyond there and on the southern side of the Esplanade was all foreshore, and when at high tide on stormy days waves would crash over the seawall? All these reclaimed areas were created from landfill - the waste products of the construction industry.

But now the landfill has to stop. There are no plans to extend the Island any further into the sea. Yet the waste keeps on coming and there is only a relatively small area that can still be filled.

What will happen then when the available area is chock full?

The answer can be expressed simply and briefly: ‘recycle’. And Alan Langlois’ company, AAL Recycling Ltd, is at the forefront of the drive to clean up waste and give it a new life by recycling it, rather than extracting or importing fresh supplies to further clog up the Island.

AAL Recycling operates from an area at the far end of the La Collette reclamation area: a mountainous kingdom of clay, rubble, old glass, soil... waste coming in from the construction industry and recycled material awaiting delivery and reuse in the next stage of its existence.

‘In 2006 when I first got the recycling contract,’ Alan said, ‘the recycling rate was approximately 17,000 tons of building waste a year. We are now recycling 100,000 tons a year. It has been hugely successful, but the same quantity again - another 100,000 tons - is still going to landfill. Now, it’s almost full.

‘In essence, we are trying to recycle waste so it can be used again. But although recycling is rightly seen as “green”, there is still in many quarters a prejudice against recycled material, in that the perception is that it is of inferior quality to fresh material.’

So his company is on a mission to convince Islanders - be they construction companies, engineers, or landscape gardeners looking for topsoil - of the merits of recycled material.

This mission is helped by the acquisition last year of a giant ‘aggregate washing and grading machine’ imported from an Italian manufacturing company, Matec. They design and manufacture complete plants for many sectors, including aggregates, gravel, sand, stone, concrete, ceramic and glass.

After some inevitable delays due, as usual, to Brexit and Covid, the equipment is getting assembled and will be in commercial production this autumn. The La Collette energy recovery plant will supply the electricity, i.e. waste will power the process to deal with waste. The washing plant reuses 97% of the water within the closed system.

Alan said: 'You throw everything into it. It's like making a stew, then deconstructing it: it takes mud, dirt - the lot. Not only does it give us clean, crushed stone (which is our core business), it gives us sand... which, with gravel and crushed stone, is a major component of the aggregate used in the production of concrete.'

'That is important because there is a query over the availability of future domestic supplies of sand. If that were to dry up, we would have to import it. This machine can give us supplies of sand from washed glass and rock, so we can supply sand for different applications, such as equitation arenas or trench fills for utility companies.'

'We will also be able to supply recycled small stone for landscaping projects rather than the Island having to extend existing quarries to extract fresh supplies.'

'At the moment we are recycling 30% of every 100 tons of waste received; the Matec washing plant will enable us to recycle 70%. And the remaining 30%? Our plan is to mix this with organic material and create a top soil mixture to make sure we avoid any material going to landfill.'

One of AAL's projects at the moment is the deconstruction of the Nightingale Hospital; once the building materials have been removed for recycling, the land beneath it can be returned with the help of soil mixture.

AAL also now creates large interlocking concrete blocks, a bit like Lego pieces, known as Kelly blocks. The multi-purpose blocks have a wide range of uses and are ideally suited for barriers and retaining walls. Buying a Kelly block from a quarry is expensive, so now AAL have bought moulds and are making them 'in-house' - utilising the Island's waste glass as a key ingredient for the concrete.

He continued: 'Everything that goes into landfill could be recycled. We now produce 250 tons of concrete a week from waste; we need to let people know that Jersey can produce its own; these products need not be imported. Landfill components are not hazardous: it can all be recycled, remade and reused. Even ceramics can be converted back into the sand that composes it. The advantage of that for the Island's construction industry and purchasers of concrete speaks for itself.'

'I want to stop landfill, or at least to slow it right down. Even if you just re-use recycled material once, it saves on something being extracted from the ground. You name it - we can recycle it.'

'This washing plant, powered by the energy derived from household waste, turns discarded building and demolition aggregates into viable, construction quality materials.'

It is a major step towards the Island's ambition of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

'I am proud to be at the forefront of this change. This is our Island, and we all need to make sure it remains as beautiful and unspoilt as possible for the next generation.'

“ Everything that goes into landfill could be recycled. We now produce 250 tons of concrete a week from waste; we need to let people know that Jersey can produce its own; these products need not be imported



An architect's practice

Some of the most recognisable buildings in the Island were designed by the architect Roy Blampied. The Occupation and his early death in 1946 have both contributed to a lack of modern recognition of his work



Main photo: The old West Park Pavilion. Photo in circle: Roy Blampied.

Remember the 'Pav', the West Park Pavilion? It was designed by Roy Blampied. Many of the Island's most familiar buildings were designed by him and his practice, as well as many private homes.

Nowadays, although memory of his life and work have faded, it could be said of Blampied, as in Wren's epitaph in St Paul's: 'If you would seek my monument, look around you.'

Unfortunately we cannot now look at the West Park Pavilion, since it was demolished in 1999 and replaced by a block of flats.

In its heyday in the 1950s it was a popular dancehall - later a discothèque - and one of the most familiar buildings and popular entertainment venues in Jersey. It was simply an integral part of Island life and the town landscape.

Roy Blampied's son, Jurat Peter Blampied, wrote in a booklet about his father: 'A biographical error attributed the design of the West Park Pavilion to Arthur Grayson and the Internet repeats this error.'

'Once made, the error has gathered momentum and I owe it to my father's memory to establish that West Park Pavilion was designed by my father.'

**Some other familiar landmarks designed
by Roy Blampied and his practice:**

De Gruchy's New Street entrance

Opened in 1925, when Roy was aged 30.
The plaudits gained by him contributed to
his success as an architect, with many
commissions ensuing as a result.



**The extension to the
States building**

The 'Western Façade',
designed in 1931 by Roy
Blampied's practice.



Trinity Parish Hall
Opened in 1936.



**The Jersey Electricity
Company's Power Station**

The original 1930s design was retained
by JE when the building was refurbished in
2001. He also designed the JEC showroom in
Broad Street, now occupied by a supermarket.



The Pomme d'Or Hotel

Original frontage, designed in 1938 for the hotel's centenary. The iconic pictures of Liberation Day in 1945 and the hosting of the Union Flag show this frontage.



Glanville

Designed by Roy Blampied for his uncle, Jurat Charles Stephen Renouf, who died shortly before the Second World War. His widow, Roy Blampied's aunt, lived there for many years after his death. It is now a residential home, with an attractive garden hidden behind it.



Roy Blampied was born in 1894 and died in 1946 when he was only 52 years old. A talented architect, he was only in practice for close on 20 years at 33 Halkett Place. The last building that he designed in Jersey was shortly before the Island was occupied; he died shortly after his return to Jersey after the war. His early death and the interruption to his work caused by the Occupation help to explain why his work has not achieved more recognition.

He went to the Architectural Association School in Tufton Street, London, in 1912. He joined the army in 1914, but returned to the school in 1919 when he was demobilised, completing his studies in 1920, when he became a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Nigel Biggar, who was also a member of RIBA, worked for Roy before the Second World War. He served with the Royal Engineers during the war and when the time came for him to be demobilised, he wrote to Roy to inquire about returning to Jersey. This was fortunate, because Nigel was able to take over the practice in the course of time. Nigel was joined by Michael Blampied (Roy's son and Peter's brother.)

Michael also qualified as an architect, when it became known as Blampied and Biggar. When Michael left Jersey to practice in London, the firm became Nigel Biggar and Partners, which it is still called today.

Photo credit: Andy Le Gresley and Seymour Group archive.



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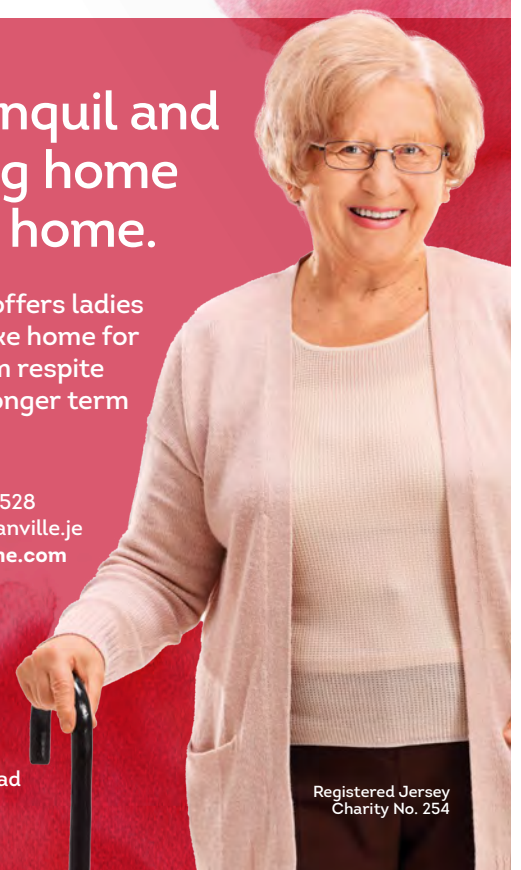
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I stay with
my little eye...

Jane Aubin has a bit of a porcine passion. You wouldn't have thought that a humble pigsty could hold so much interest but Jane is so fascinated that she is working on a comprehensive survey of them.

By Caroline Spencer

When it comes to telling the story of Jersey's farming scene, the Jersey cow has tended to steal all the glory. Pigs haven't really had a look-in.

Jane Aubin wants to remedy that. She is approximately halfway through a comprehensive survey of Jersey's pigsties, which one day she hopes will form part of a book about pig rearing.

“ They are not just of architectural interest but are also evocative of a way of life, largely lost, where smallholders lived side by side with their livestock

'I fell in love with Jersey pigsties several decades ago when out for walks,' she said. 'They are not just of architectural interest but are also evocative of a way of life, largely lost, where smallholders lived side by side with their livestock, in mutual dependence.'

'So far, I have visited more than 200 properties, of which some 80 have pigsties in good or excellent condition. I reckon I still have more than 300 properties to visit. I have been working on this project in earnest since 2015 when I initially tried to cover the whole of St Lawrence. I chose this parish as it is where I live, and I thought the numbers of sties would be limited. I could not have been more wrong! To date, I have records for around 80 properties just in my parish.'

“ **These quite significant buildings started really booming in mid to late Victorian times. It became almost a statement of the importance of someone’s farm**

‘The 1965 Ordnance Survey map is surprisingly accurate in its depiction of pigsties,’ she said. ‘But I also find them by just looking at buildings, estimating their age, and perhaps spotting a feature from the road. For example, this summer, whilst out for a cycle ride, I spotted a granite wall that raised my suspicions. The house was modern but there were these pintles, the hinge for a gate to sit on, and sure enough the person told me “I heard they used to call this the piggery”.

‘People have been so welcoming and surprisingly interested in what I am trying to do. Many are immensely proud of their pigsties.

‘I would dearly love to collect more anecdotes. The late Nick Blampied, whose father, Thomas Le Quesne Blampied, was the States Vet in the Occupation, told me some wonderful tales. And I know of a German-built sty which has bars on the windows.’

Permanent stone pigsties in Jersey go back as far as the 18th Century.

‘Dating pigsties is exceptionally difficult,’ Jane said. ‘Very few have dates on. Less than half a dozen of the ones I have recorded have a date and those are largely late 1800s, a very few may be 1700s, but it’s a bit of a guessing game.

‘People used granite and brick because it was cheap and easy to get, so they are solid and permanent, unlike in the UK where often pigs would have been housed in wooden structures or loose boxes that have since disappeared.

‘These quite significant buildings started really booming in mid to late Victorian times. It became almost a statement of the importance of someone’s farm.’

Asked if she has a favourite, Jane refers to corbelled sties, which effectively have a stone pyramid as a roof. ‘I have seen just a handful of these but they are beautiful. So much work has gone into them.’

Jane also likes to find out if a farm had a liquid manure system. ‘Quite often you will find massive granite cisterns underground, and at some of the properties, like at La Ronce, a National Trust property, the granite cappings are stunningly exposed.’

Jane has now set her sights on writing a book on the history of pig rearing in Jersey so that it all comes together as one story, alongside her comprehensive database. She says that writers such as Jean Poingdestre (1600s) and Thomas Quayle (1800s) are useful sources for understanding our agricultural history, but there’s not much written about pigs.

‘What I want is for it to create a picture for someone in 100 years’ time. I think it’s important to capture all the information in one place. It’s not been done before... It has always been cows!’

If you have a pigsty or stories to recall, you can e-mail janeaubinhr@gmail.com or call 726187 or 07797 834216.

“ **What I want is for it to create a picture for someone in 100 years’ time. I think it’s important to capture all the information in one place. It’s not been done before... It has always been cows!**



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Rewilding the wildness

Sustaining a green vision for St Ouen's Bay, by Mike Stentiford

It would be very difficult to deny the presence of environmental excellence when entering St Ouen's Bay, either from the north at L'Etacq or from the south at La Pulente.

The landscape has a certain wild and untamed charm about it that is never in evidence along other parts of our coastline.

In fact, logic tells us that, for scores of different reasons, this large informal expanse of sea, sand, dune and grassland holds an intrinsic value well beyond the realms of any monetary terms.

Yet, any feelings we might have today of social 'ownership' are comparatively new and certainly at odds with an astonishing lack of respect shown for the bay over half a century ago. Part of an official survey conducted in 1961 clearly recognised 'the unkempt appearance of St Ouen's Bay and of the many instances of disused sheds, broken fences, emplacements, derelict dwellings and the haphazard dumping of rubbish.'

To confront the issue, a proposition to deliver a desperately needed programme of restoration was boldly addressed in a report commissioned by the (then) Island Development Committee (IDC). Lodged au Greffe on March 7th 1978, the report quickly received the seal of approval from the IDC and the States Assembly.

As a direct response to these recommendations, the Committee was firmly of the opinion that St Ouen's Bay should be designated 'a special place' and, furthermore, be regarded as a modest yet important national park; 'Le Parc des Mielles'.

And so began what can genuinely be regarded as Jersey's most successful environmental accomplishment which, in 2011, culminated in the entire sweep of St Ouen's Bay gaining political recognition as a major part of the Jersey Coastal National Park.

However, one of today's biggest environmental challenges is how to sustain the bay as 'a special place' when so many areas are divided into a mosaic of private ownership and commercial outlets. Although much of the bay pays due respect to agriculture and leisure activities, large sections of the more sensitive open landscape are owned and managed either by the Environment Department or The National Trust for Jersey.

But, because manpower and financial resources are proving constantly difficult to secure, a recent coming-together of various voluntary bodies have formulated a visionary plan to restore a partially degraded area of scrubland back into bio-rich grassland.

The area in question is at La Mielle de Morville, a comparatively large tract of inland coastal national park close to the Frances Le Sueur Centre.

Although this publicly accessible expanse of tangled undergrowth already receives a limited regime of management from a small team of States rangers, a partnership is now helping to co-ordinate a more sustained programme of grassland restoration.

Assisting with this are a diversity of individual volunteers including those from the Rotary Club of Jersey and the Jersey National Park.

This determined commitment to 're-wild' a current barren area of the west coast landscape is being recognised as a long term challenge but one that is vital if the Island wishes to seriously address the steady decline in local biodiversity.

The stark reality is that any notion we might have that biodiversity is 'doing just fine' is a regrettable misconception. Hence this hands-on commitment to create a much improved grassland habitat 'fit for wildlife purpose'.

Such positivity will also rekindle the courage and visionary intent of those who, almost 50 years ago, foresaw the inclusive environmental benefits of a national park and of our collective obligation to respect and sustain St Ouen's Bay as 'a special place'.



Jersey: a UNESCO Geopark?

A Geopark Visitor Centre has opened on the ground floor of the Museum. Caroline Spencer went to meet Jersey's very own rock star

You've heard of biodiversity. Now get used to the term geodiversity. Geodiversity refers to the variety of the geological and physical elements of nature, such as rocks, soils and landforms, and moves are afoot to have Jersey designated as a UNESCO Geopark.

It's very much a collaborative project, so far involving Jersey Heritage, the Société Jersiaise, Jersey National Park, Young Archaeologists' Club, Jersey Biodiversity Centre and the Blue Marine Foundation.

Millie Butel is Jersey Heritage's Landscape Engagement & Geopark Development Curator. 'A Geopark is a celebration of the Earth and people,' she explained. 'It's a celebration of geology, natural heritage and built heritage.'

The new Geopark Visitor Centre has been created on the ground floor of the Jersey Museum.

'The aim of the centre is to introduce the Aspiring Geopark project and encourage people to explore Jersey and discover its stories along the way,' Millie said.

'The Island has been shaped by tide and time over millions of years. Each of the ten sites featured at the centre has its story to tell.'

'One of my favourites is L'Île Agois, tucked away on the north coast. It's mind-boggling that there used to be a settlement on it, and 27 huts on that tiny rock.'

The display at the centre says that it is believed that a Christian monastery was built on the tidal stack in the 7th or 8th century. Excavations in the 1950s and 70s uncovered traces of the monks' monastery which was made up of two rectangular buildings and 27 semi-circular huts.

Another featured geosite is South Hill, a largely ignored feature of St Helier, best known as the area that learner drivers practise their reversing.

Millie explained that it is actually the highest raised beach in the Island. 'It shows over time how the sea level has changed. It's quite daunting when you look up at South Hill and realise that the sea was once that high.'

A former JCG student with a BSc degree in physical geography, Millie has always been interested in Jersey's geoheritage.

'I've been volunteering for Jersey Heritage since I was 16,' she said. 'I interned with the Ice Age Island project and that really sparked my interest in the archaeology side of things.'

Now, as one of the Gardiens of the Geopark project, she wants Islanders to start looking at familiar places through different eyes.



Millie said: 'We have shared our favourite parts of Jersey to highlight some of the reasons why the Island is so special. We hope that people visiting the centre will be inspired to consider how they too are Jersey's Gardiens.'

'To have Geopark designation, you have to go through self-evaluation and there are criteria to meet, like exceptional geology as well as outstanding cultural heritage. Jersey ticks a lot of those boxes.'

Although a Geopark designation is non-statutory, and therefore would not carry restrictions that might come with that, it is hoped that it would help protect sites in future and be incorporated into the Island Plan.

'We'd love for people to come and learn more about our chosen geosites around the Island, and get a feel for what a Geopark is. And then we really want people to go out and get exploring.'

'The nice thing is that biodiversity and geodiversity go hand in hand. If you're protecting the biodiversity, you're going to protect the geodiversity in most instances,' Millie said. 'What a Geopark ultimately would be is a statement of commitment to protecting our heritage and the Island we all know and love.'

The Geopark Visitor Centre, on the ground floor of the Museum, will run indefinitely. Entry is free. You can find out more about Geoparks on the Jersey Heritage website.



Did you know that Jersey has its own Giant's Causeway?

At low tide, from the end of the slipway at Anne Port, look left to the outcrop known as La Crête Point. These rocks feature excellent examples of the volcanic activity that happened around 580 million years ago. Similar to the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, you can see hexagonal columnar jointing. Most are hexagonal but some columns are four, five or seven sided.

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If you go down to
the woods today...

Anna Robertson, who was acting chair of Jersey Trees for Life for two years, is now their project co-ordinator. Caroline Spencer took a stroll with her around Adelina Wood

Adelina Wood, tucked away just off a major artery into St Helier, is one of the sites managed by Jersey Trees for Life. One day, it will be a mature woodland. At the moment, it is relatively young, fresh and very green, not least because grasses and buttercups are flourishing thanks to No Mow May.

Anna Robertson, ambling along the footpath with her British bulldog Bosco, explained that she joined the committee of the charity six years ago and has been vice-chair for the last two. The charity likes to have an architect on the committee in order to help with planning matters.

Anna, a chartered architect who ran her own business for eight years, has specialised in environmental architecture, so she has found the perfect fit. 'I've always had an affinity for the environment and I've always loved trees,' she said. 'I was constantly climbing them as a child!'

She has been at the helm at a challenging time, thanks to Covid.

'For now, we are focusing on our sites at Val de la Mare and Adelina Wood and making them the best they can be, carrying out maintenance that we couldn't do last year and putting up new signage,' she said.

'Then we want to get more people interacting with them. For example, we have plans for more child-friendly routes through Val de la Mare.'

As mother to Evelyn (4) and Autumn (2), she knows how fun and magical a woodland walk can be for children.

'My children love the outdoors, getting muddy and getting in a tree,' said Anna, who is married to Charles. 'We love exploring the Australasian Zone at Val de la Mare. There are some big steps at the end, we call them the Giant Steps, and a really old oak tree they love climbing on, and then we go up to the Pine Zone and its little winding paths.'

The charity is also planning guided walks with Blue Badge guide Roger Noel who now sits on their committee.

And they have signed up to the 12 Parish Boundary Challenge, which invites Islanders to do a sponsored walk, run or cycle around each parish boundary. Each route has a different charity associated with it, and Jersey Trees for Life have chosen the St Peter border, which takes them through Val de la Mare.

One thing the charity is keen to do is campaign to get the Government of Jersey to change the tree protection laws.

‘We need new tree protection laws so we can make sure that no more healthy trees get cut down,’ Anna said. ‘We can use the UK tree protection law as a starting point, and then we need to make it more appropriate for Jersey.’

‘There are always reasons why you can cut down a tree, such as if it is dangerous or diseased, but it has to be considered and justified. The UK law is very good because it protects the older trees and it means that you can’t prune them severely and you can’t cut them down without permission. That should happen as a default here, that the tree should stay.’

“ We know that woodlands enhance our environment and make us feel calmer. Post-lockdown it’s all about getting outside and protecting these spaces

Anna, who also sits on the committee of the Association of Jersey Architects, has now been appointed as project co-ordinator for Jersey Trees for Life. This means she will be involved in projects like the hedge rejuvenation scheme in conjunction with Jersey Dairy and Sangan Conservation.

All the farms associated with Jersey Dairy have signed up to the LEAF [Linking Environment and Farming] scheme, to protect and enhance biodiversity on their land.

‘It’s so important to help people understand that sometimes it looks like we have cut a tree but we’re doing it to rejuvenate the hedge, to create a better habitat,’ Anna said. ‘Cutting hedgerows low to the ground might initially look shocking but within a year it will be sprouting again and within two years it creates a better habitat for our indigenous animals.’

Another project is the tiny forest scheme, using a piece of land the size of a tennis court. The first has gone in at Hautlieu and more are planned; they are particularly good for schools to get involved with.

‘I’ve never seen our sites so busy as during lockdown,’ Anna said. ‘We know that woodlands enhance our environment and make us feel calmer. Post-lockdown it’s all about getting outside and protecting these spaces. There’s a real opportunity to grasp people’s interest in the natural environment.’

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Life lessons for sustainability

Philippa Evans-Bevan visits Port Regis, a special place of learning that emphasises the natural environment and sustainability in its curriculum

Port Regis School in rural Dorset celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. It is not only a beautiful example of inspiration and excellence in education, but its unique rural location with stunning grounds of 154 acres is a wonderful natural environment in which children can grow and flourish.

It is the rural grace and potential of these surroundings, together with Port Regis' buildings and facilities, which are taking centre stage in a pioneering policy and a culture of conservation that is being taken to a new level.

The newly appointed headmaster, Titus Mills and his wife, Jemima, have embraced - and now contribute enthusiastically - to an ambitious sustainability policy initiated by science teacher James Hardy.

With their goal of becoming a 'carbon neutral' school by 2025, their target-driven initiatives are part of the school curriculum.

At the heart of this vision is responsibility and action. As James says 'Port Regis has a moral responsibility - it needs not only to act to make a difference to the climate crisis, but also to educate our pupils to learn how to make a difference for their futures.'

Specifically, Port Regis aims to -

- become as sustainable as possible by 2025;
- enthuse and educate the children to make sustainability a lifestyle choice;
- involve the children in the processes involved;

- investigate greener energy;
- make sensible material choices and to recycle and reuse as much as possible.

The journey is well underway, although James explains that in order to activate all their plans, there needs to be both careful business planning and considerable funding.

The whole school community from the youngest child to the longest serving member of staff seems to have been inspired and enthused by this passionate and professional team; already the key areas of change are transforming the school.

Like any successful organisation, Port Regis has set in place strong and embracing structures to achieve such a revolutionary shift. An 'Eco Code of Conduct' is in place and 'Eco Groups', which include staff, children and parents, report to an 'Eco Board' and communicate ideas and progress on the key policy areas: biodiversity, energy solutions, dealing with waste, water use, the school environment, and sustainable living.

There is much happening, from bees to bugs to wildflower meadows, rare breed sheep, tree planting, vegetable growing, invertebrates, rare bantams and rewilding.

Rory Pope, head of grounds, is deeply involved too. 'The breadth of species that call Port Regis home is incredible,' he said. 'From bats to deer, ducks to buzzards, snowdrops to mighty oaks, you'll find them all here.'

Energy solutions are leaping forwards too. Long-term, the aim is for 100% of electricity to be solar powered and the adoption of renewable solutions for heating. Traditional lighting is being replaced with LED and where possible, auto lighting is also being installed.

The state of the art teaching block 'Upward' uses a ground source heat pump and solar panels have been installed on two of the largest buildings.

Water solutions have been investigated in many different ways.

Recycling is paramount: composting and recycling food waste is carried out on site.



“ The breadth of species that call Port Regis home is incredible

The reduction of food packaging and replacing single-use plastics with viable, greener alternatives is making progress, as is the streamlining and reduction of paper and stationery supplies. A review of cleaning products is also on the agenda and every material aspect of this school is under the 'reuse' microscope to see if these areas can become more sustainable.

Sustainable living at Port Regis involves growing some of their own food in the herb and vegetable gardens, orchard and greenhouse, which are also the focus for biology and the gardening club. It goes without saying that sustainability is included in many areas of the curriculum.

Port Regis is aiming to achieve the highest ecological potential possible, creating dynamic environments for children to study and to engage with nature, to encounter wildlife, experience well-being and the countless other benefits of nature.

At Port Regis the life lessons for sustainability are well and truly in progress.



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Meet the farmer

Andrew Le Gallais, chairman of the Jersey Milk Marketing Board and the Jersey Dairy, was a recipient of an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. He talked to Alasdair Crosby



Andrew Le Gallais was speechless. He acknowledges that it is not often that 'speechless' can be said of him, but that was the case when he learnt that he was to receive this honour - speechless with astonishment.

'I felt very humbled, daunted and privileged,' he said, 'but it was recognition for our Jersey cow in her Island home and for everyone who is involved with her development! But I follow in a long line of recipients - I am not the first person connected with our industry to receive this honour and I certainly will not be the last.'

Not only did this honour make 2021 a special year, but this is also the centenary year of the Roseland Herd, founded by his grandfather, Carlyle Le Gallais, who bought Roselands Farm in St Saviour, which is still the family home.

Carlyle's son, John, built up the Roseland herd as well as diversifying into tomatoes, flowers under glass and cauliflower.

“ Generations of farmers in this Island have been looking after the environment for centuries. I hope we can get back to a day when farmers are recognised as the foremost environmentalists in this Island

'When I was a child the cows used to have to be herded across Bagatelle Road every day. In the late 1960s, because Bagatelle Road was being developed, my father moved the cows to Cowley Farm in the more rural area north of Maufant, where he built up the herd to 120 cows - a big herd in those days,' Andrew said.

When the Jersey Milk Marketing Board was established in 1954, there were exactly 1,000 herds. Nowadays there are only 13 milk producers, and 2,225 milking cows, the lowest ever level owned by the least number of producers, with perhaps around 150 people in total in all the branches of the industry - farm staff, Jersey Dairy workers and the RJA&HS.

Andrew continued: 'Our small band are entirely responsible for the future of the iconic Jersey breed, the project work from the industry in Rwanda, a huge amount of environmental work in the Island and selling products with a globally recognised brand name around the world and much more... we are hugely proud of what we do and the contribution to the Island that we make.'

Andrew returned to the Island after agricultural college and since then has continued to develop Cowley Farm. The herd has now increased to 225, making it the smallest of the 'top division' of the six largest herds in the Island.



In 1990 came a new milking parlour, and in 2009 there was a major expansion, involving the construction of two 'passive houses' - eco-houses that are energy efficient and which reduce the building's ecological footprint. Andrew said these were the first house of this type constructed in the Island. At the same time was the investment in creating a larger slurry store, a new cattle barn and a silage clamp. The finance to pay for all this was facilitated by his obvious long-term commitment to the future of dairy farming in the Island.

“ **The Island is a perfect test-bed for where experts' advice working with progressive-minded dairy farmers could make a massive difference. And if it can be done in Jersey, it can be done elsewhere**

For more than half his life (he is now 66) he has been a member of the Jersey Milk Marketing Board and its chairman since 1999: 'Very exciting,' he said, 'with never a dull moment. It has always been a challenge.'

Two contemporary challenges have been the increasing popularity of veganism and the production of methane - a major greenhouse gas caused by cattle via microbes in their stomachs as they digest their fibrous food.

He admitted that sales of liquid milk had been affected 'a little bit' by the rise of veganism - but the Jersey Dairy had done a huge amount of publicity on its website and through social media campaigns. He felt that the Dairy had arrived at a point that, year-on-year, they were holding their own.

As regards the levels of methane generated by cows, the industry had made contact with Professor Euan Nisbet of Royal Holloway University of London, who had visited the Island in May. Andrew said that Professor Nisbet was the foremost expert in the UK on measuring methane levels around the world and understanding how methane can be controlled. He wishes to return to the Island to take a series of exact measurements of methane levels on different farms and with herds with different diet formulations. The industry has been told that feeding cows a garlic and molasses lick can make a big difference to the level of bovine methane production. There is also interesting work being done in New Zealand in feeding cows a particular form of dried seaweed - it would be good, Andrew said, to experiment growing that in Jersey waters.

'The Island is a perfect test-bed for where experts' advice working with progressive-minded dairy farmers could make a massive difference. And if it can be done in Jersey, it can be done elsewhere. The Island has massive untapped potential.'

Andrew believes that farming and the protection of the environment can come together in a positive manner - but don't ask him his opinion of 'rewilding': 'People who think that all we should be doing is planting fertile fields with trees in order to offset our carbon emissions are utterly misguided.'

'Even if we planted trees in every field we'd never get there and we'd end up with 100% of our food being imported. And who's going to look after these fields and do the branchage and protect the biodiversity of the Island? We'd just have a multitude of trees everywhere! It is the worst thought-out concept to make any real difference to climate change.'

'But generations of farmers in this Island have been looking after the environment for centuries. I hope we can get back to a day when farmers are recognised as the foremost environmentalists in this Island.'

'And remember: we also produce food - we all need it, we all use it.'

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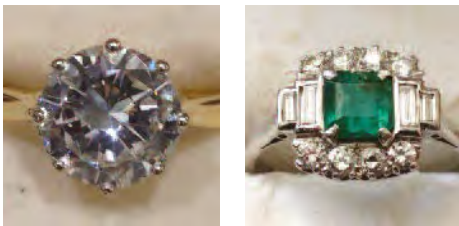
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R O M E R I L S

home interiors

A big 'thank-you' to Jersey's farmers, food producers and horticulturists...

...from Jess McGovern, head of Education and Development at the Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society

Why a 'thank-you'? Well, because the food, farming and horticulture sectors in the Island have shown continuous enthusiasm and eagerness to add value to our 'Cultivate Young Minds' initiative. Their help deserves acknowledgement, thanks and celebration.

In our current mad times, it would be understood - expected even - for the industry to turn down my requests when I ask them if they could give up their valuable time to speak to a group of young people about their particular focus of work within the local food and farming sectors. But not only do they agree enthusiastically, they carry out my request to the highest of standards and then ask what else they can do next to assist and help Cultivate Young Minds.

This positive response and proactiveness to inspire the next generation is typical of the sector's response and I feel passionately that this needs to be recognised and commemorated. On behalf of the RJA&HS and young people in the Island, we thank them for investing in Jersey's future in this way.

My most recent request to them was to ask a number of Cultivate supporters if they would like to participate in our pilot 'Cultivate Enrichment' initiative. Sixth-formers Island-wide choose from a variety of Enrichment Electives which all aim to ignite a passion for discovery, knowledge, and adventure alongside their academic experience.

This summer term, Cultivate had the opportunity to be an elective option for sixth-formers at Jersey College for Girls. For one hour each week, the Cultivate Enrichment session cultivated a connection to our Island's local, seasonal food and produce, as well as with the passionate community of local producers who grow, rear, catch and cook our local food and plants.

Thanks to Justin Le Gresley from Anneville Farm, the students learnt about organic farming and the process of getting certified organic by the Soil Association. The students learnt visually about the different methods used to increase the fertility of the soil more naturally through, for example, diverse cover crop. They learnt about the different methods that Anneville Farm are using to build both fertility and soil carbon, including multiple rotations which Justin hopes will build diversity in the ecosystems both below and above the ground.

The students' also learnt that Jersey exports 80% of what it produces and imports 90% of what it consumes, a phenomenal fact which understandably prompted much curiosity and questioning from the students'. In just an hour, Justin outlined the relevance that food and farming plays in the students' daily lives and with the natural world around them in such an effective way.

In a two-part enrichment experience, the gardening team at Trinity Manor kindly offered the students an opportunity to learn more about the complex and enchanting world of horticulture.

The students observed the variety of plants and flowers within the mesmerising gardens and toured the wildflower meadow, where the abundance of wildlife was a joy to behold for the students. They learnt the process of seed sowing and they put their learning into action to sow some cosmos seeds, which were taken back to school where they were planted in the science garden.



Top - bottom: Olivia Keylock from Trinity Manor deputy head gardener and JCG sixth form students and Justin Le Gresley.

Katherine Boucher from The Jersey Tea Company.



The visit was concluded with an offering of a cup of black and green home brewed tea! A truly memorable visit for the sixth-formers.

Thank you to Jersey Hemp who concluded our Cultivate Enrichment by offering the sixth-formers a comprehensive tour of the Jersey Hemp site showing the students every step of the growing, harvesting and extracting process of hemp. The students observed the care and attention given to the hemp plant in both the machinery used and the caring environment the plants grow in and the extraction process.

Cultivate would also like to thank Katherine from the The Jersey Tea Company. Within just an hour the students learnt about sustainable farming methods and water collection, carbon sequestration, pest control through water bowl distraction (for the rabbits), environmentally friendly packaging (no plastic whatsoever), supporting local, following your passion and enhancing wellbeing, all whilst walking through the tea fields.

Sustainability was a theme throughout each of the Cultivate Enrichment visits and Jersey Hemp demonstrated that they use organic methods and without the use of any artificial pesticides, fertilisers, or other chemical nasties.



David Ryan Jersey Hemp.

If you are a teacher or a sixth-form student curious to learn more about our Cultivate Enrichment, please email jess@royaljersey.co.uk



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All veterinary problems great and small

Brexit and Covid... they have not only affected humans, but our dogs and other animals, as well the Island's export trade. Kieranne Grimshaw spoke to the recently appointed Chief Veterinary Officer, Alistair Breed



The British are reputed to be a nation of dog lovers and Jersey is no exception. But Brexit has had an impact on our dogs' lives just as it has affected our own. The same might be said about Covid. The combination of the two has also been a major factor in the workload of the newly appointed States Vet, Alistair Breed.

'As has happened in the UK, there's been a significant increase in pet ownership, especially dogs,' Alistair said. 'Enquiries for importing dogs into Jersey have risen and the process has become more complicated since Brexit.'

With Covid restrictions lifting, transport providers to and from France have started taking Islanders on their holidays once again. Before Brexit, dog owners could take their dogs to the European Union following some relatively simple procedures. But times have changed.

“ **Enquiries for importing dogs into Jersey have risen and the process has become more complicated since Brexit**

Alistair explained: 'The main change in requirements is that Jersey pet passports, which used to allow dogs to go back and forwards, are no longer valid. Now you need to have an Animal Health Certificate, issued by your practice vet, obtained within ten days of your trip abroad. That document must also be in the language of the country of entry into the EU.'

'This gives your dog freedom of movement within the EU for another four months, although it's only valid for one journey. If you're going outside of the member state of entry into the EU, however, you'll need to get the document stamped by Customs at point of entry. People should check the States website, www.gov.je, for up-to-date information.'

Despite Covid making tasks more challenging, Alistair considers Brexit to be the cause of a significant amount of increased work. 'Transitions are still taking place with European rules changing and they aren't expected to be finalised until March next year.'

Following the Covid pandemic, veterinary practices have had to modify their ways of working in the best interests of colleagues and their customers.

As with many customer-facing jobs, Alistair and his veterinary team have faced recent difficulties in actually going out to meet clients: 'For my colleagues in practice, it's been even harder, especially with staff shortages following lockdowns. They've also had to go outside to the car park to collect the dogs and everything has taken longer, with wearing PPE and being busier with increased pet ownership.'



Having worked as a vet in the British Isles for over 30 years, Alistair had visited the Island on business a few times in the past, but took up his post in Jersey in July last year, working from the Howard Davis Farm with a small team.

Being responsible for the government's veterinary medicine is the main part of the role. He is concerned with the health and welfare of the animal population as a whole and on the commercial side he oversees the health status of the Island cattle herd.

“ I love the variety. Jersey is a separate country so we really have to do everything a big country does with a lot fewer people, there's always something new and different

Alistair must ensure it's of a suitable standard to allow trade in both cattle and dairy products. This applies to shellfish exports and also to the importation of animals.

A vet's work is no nine-to-five job and there's no typical day for Alistair. 'I love the variety. Jersey is a separate country so we really have to do everything a big country does with a lot fewer people, there's always something new and different. Yesterday I went out to inspect some oysters to export to France; they now require health certification which wasn't required pre Brexit.

'I'm going to be working on Jersey legislation to update in line with new European Union requirements so we can continue trading,' Alistair said. 'Since Brexit, dairy exports to the EU now need veterinary health certification. These were previously done on commercial documents, but now, as we're classified as a third country by the EU, it creates new work streams. I'll be working on the new health certification, particularly with regard to horses.'

Alistair admits he doesn't actually get time to put his hands on animals as much as he would like. Despite directly handling more paperwork than animals, Alistair's important work investigating and reviewing complaints is vital in dealing with animal welfare. He oversees the animal welfare legislation and liaises with the local animal charities.

A pleasant surprise has been the amount of non-EU international trade work. So far, he has dealt with the USA, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan. Alistair appreciates the friendliness of the locals, but not just the humans:

'I love the red squirrels here - I came across one recently and I don't know who was the more startled as we looked at one another!'





A-hunting we will go (we hope)

A variety of different problems, ranging from climate change to an ageing membership, are creating challenges for that historic institution, the Jersey Drag Hunt. Ruth Le Cocq spoke to its joint master, Nick Arthur

Exhilarating describes perfectly what it feels like to gallop a horse across Jersey's countryside while having the option to jump a few banks, hedges, walls or post-and-rail fences.

That adrenaline rush is what the Jersey Drag Hunt offers its riding members up to twice a week from September to February, or at least that is what Nick Arthur, the joint master of the hunt, is hoping will happen this year.

Wet weather resulted in an unprecedented number of meets being cancelled during 2019 and Covid hit in 2020, in direct contrast to 2018 when the hunt met every single Saturday for 25 weeks.

'Hunting in its current form faces a lot of modern-day challenges and a lot of issues that our predecessors didn't have to consider,' said Nick, 'On top of that there's climate change.'

'Now, when we get a period of wet weather, we can expect it to continue for up to seven or eight weeks. The year before last we didn't get an easterly wind (which dries the land) from August until about February which meant we struggled to hunt because of the effects on the land and the soil.'

This uncertainty makes planning difficult as the JDH wants to offer its members the opportunity to hunt as often as possible.

'We want to make it worthwhile for people to invest in a horse and in the time to go hunting. Sometimes we will put on some sort of other activity but the hounds, the core part of our hunt, need to be kept fit and their minds need to be kept active,' he explained.

'We have very few younger people coming through - we need more - and we need people to be passionate about hunting. It is a concern because the hunt committee is made up of people in their fifties and over.'

This, combined with an overall fall in membership, means Nick recognises that the club is facing the possibility of a finite future in its current format.

'We don't know how to encourage youngsters to get on a horse and get out there,' he said.

The Jersey Drag Hunt is one of the oldest in the British Isles and this will be its 137th season. As a farmers' hunt, originally set up by the military, working horses were unhitched from their ploughs to have saddles thrown on their backs to follow the hounds.

“ It's always been a farmers' hunt and we don't want it to become an elitist sport

'It's always been a farmers' hunt and we don't want it to become an elitist sport,' said Nick. 'People have different values now. Can we get hunting to reflect those values? That's the challenge. We perceive it as hounds following the scent of quarry but could young people see it as a source of fun, of social interaction, of experiencing the countryside and nature or a way of releasing themselves from the stresses and strains of working in St Helier and the office?'

He added that hunting requires a high level of dedication compared to the increasingly wide range of sporting activities available to Islanders, and keeping a horse hunting fit is expensive and time-consuming.

That said, the joint master emphasised that hunting in Jersey offers something rather different from the UK.

‘With drag hunting you know where you are going to start and finish and there’s not so much hanging around. You start at 11am and you can be back by half past 12 and in the pub by lunchtime,’ he laughed.

The joint master works alongside Mark Evans, the huntsman, to ensure the hounds are enjoying their work. In the past, the hunt would stop and start quite often depending on the size of the fields and the location of the roads.

‘A few years ago we introduced the hounds to larger loops so they run for ten to 12 minutes. They are more focused, they work harder and they make more sound,’ said Nick. ‘The spectacle is much better.’

That spectacle, the sight and sound of hounds, horses and riders turned out immaculately, is often what encourages farmers and landowners to support the hunt by allowing them to go over their land.

Fundraising plays a big part in boosting the JDH’s dwindling cash reserves with people of all ages attending the annual hunt ball and buying 100 club tickets.



Picnic and barbecue rides also encourage riders of all abilities to sample what it is like to ride across Jersey’s hidden countryside.

This year Nick hopes the weather will be kinder and that more horse riders will take advantage of a different membership structure which makes it easier to join the club.

‘Enjoy it while you can,’ he urged, ‘there are problems in that we know what is needed but we do not yet understand how to get there.’

To find out more about the Jersey Drag Hunt including its long history and future events visit www.jerseydraghunt.co.uk.



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Finni's Ark

A new double act that is small in stature but big in feel-good factor is sweeping through Jersey, providing welcome relief from the constraints of the Covid pandemic.
By Ruth Le Cocq

Two of the smallest horses you can imagine - Jethro and Sweep - have been visiting the Island's care homes and delighting both residents and staff with their antics.

Lara Manning runs a self-funded animal sanctuary in St Ouen called Finni's Ark.

Finni is the name of Lara's mother's horse. Lara said he had a very caring personality, he is now retired and living at the sanctuary.



She said: 'The horses enjoy human company and their laid-back attitude means they are not fazed about going into an assortment of buildings. They are really amenable and they'll go in the lift and in the bedrooms and they like people. Some of the residents are very excited and really love them.'

The visits started after a care worker, who owned a large horse, explained to Lara how one of the residents, who was unwell, wanted to meet a horse.

'Her horse was too big so we took Jethro and Sweep because they are so tiny. We started out in the garden and, as we got more and more involved, we started going into the communal lounge areas and now, in some homes, we do door-to-door visits!'

Jethro and Sweep's first 'gig' was at Maison St Brelade but now the duo have visited Ronceray in St Martin, St Ewold's in St Helier, Jersey Hospice and a number of the LV Care homes.

'It's really nice to hear how the horses are helping people,' said Lara. 'Some of the residents are non-verbal and you don't really know how much they are taking in or whether they like the horses but then the carers will say to you that it's the first time that person has smiled in a very long time.'

With over 100 animals at Finni's Ark Lara has become an expert in paying attention to the demeanour of animals to ensure they are in good health.

Finni's Ark is run by Lara assisted by her parents, Richard and Sioban, and some of her friends and volunteers. It rescues horses, ponies, poultry, goats, pigs, sheep and cows. Lara emphasised that it is not a petting zoo; visitors are by appointment only.

“ **First and foremost we are an animal sanctuary so the animals come first** ”

'First and foremost we are an animal sanctuary so the animals come first,' she continued. 'The animals are not in a pen for you to touch, they are free range so they will come up to you whether you like it or not and if they don't want to come up to you they won't - there's no real boundary between you.'

Lara is focusing on educating people to better understand the responsibilities of not only buying animals but keeping them too.

Finni's Ark has a Facebook page with regular updates about the animals and details about how to support the organisation.

'I'd like to improve the facilities here in the future,' said Lara. 'I run a livery stables elsewhere in the Island to pay for the animals at the sanctuary but donations really help and they don't have to be in the form of money - seed or vegetables are very welcome.'



Meet the Constable

Following his recent election, the new Constable of St Clement, Marcus Troy, spoke to Kieranne Grimshaw

Be-coming a Constable is a challenging and demanding task, but to replace such a long standing and popular politician as Len Norman is both a formidable and a privileged task.

‘I see the role as a natural extension to my previous job,’ said the new St Clement Constable, Marcus Troy. ‘I ran the Hotel Ambassadeur for 10 years and the Shakespeare for 19 years; not everyone has this experience. We deal with all types of people. I’m also still in tourism. Together with my wife, Diane, we run the Runnymede Court in town and La Frégate Café.’

“ We have just over 9,500 people in the parish and we’re the smallest parish in land mass. We need more green space and if there are not sufficient funds to obtain it, I’ll raise the money to buy empty fields

Having lived and worked in the parish for 29 years, Marcus’ main priorities will be dealing with the disruption caused by the pandemic and helping to get things back on track at the Parish Hall. ‘We’ve had nearly five months without a Constable and the Community Support Team needs a bit of beefing up.’ The first support team in Jersey, started by Len Norman, reaches out to the vulnerable in the community and arranges transport, food parcels and home visits - ‘all vital in these Covid times and beyond.’



During canvassing for the bi-election, the biggest question parishioners have asked about is roadside recycling. 'It's quite difficult as we have a lot of flats and estates to get on board - I'll be forming a small committee of residents and having some meetings to get a consensus,' he said.

Community participation and engaging young people in parish affairs is important to Marcus. 'I'd like to get more youngsters involved with the allotments. Youngsters are taught about nature at school but it needs to be followed through.'

A former member of the local charity, the Leo Club of Jersey, Marcus aims to form a similar youth group, run by young people with older members overseeing things. 'It would be run by the youth and include a mixture of charity, horticulture, agriculture and wellbeing,' Marcus said. 'We'll try and find them a base, which would be an addition to the Community Support Group, joining up young and old.'

Agriculture also has a role to play in helping the community, Marcus believes. 'I'd like to encourage hobby farms and farm stays as part of our tourism industry. It seems that 95% of arable and farming is potatoes - in my youth we used to pick tomatoes. We could promote a greater diversity of farming - there's an increase in fruit, such as figs, and we used to be a major apple producer, so why not micro farms if feasible and profitable?' Marcus sees this leading to a slowing down of life, benefiting people's wellness: 'After Covid, I regarded wellness as key to a successful lifestyle rather than just making money.'

The pandemic allowed Marcus more time to appreciate the importance of the environment. 'I'd love to have some beehives in the community for children to learn about and perhaps some retired carpenters teach them how to build a hive.'

The Island's increasing population and its effect on the environment is another big concern. 'We have just over 9,500 people in the parish and we're the smallest parish in land mass. We need more green space and if there are not sufficient funds to obtain it, I'll raise the money to buy empty fields.'

“ I'd like to get more youngsters involved with the allotments. Youngsters are taught about nature at school but it needs to be followed through

'These could be turned into woodland and wild flowers to help towards wellness and the community. Len Norman had already instigated the purchase of the field above the church to plant trees and wild flowers, although the concept was also on my agenda.'

Marcus recognises that the new Island Plan will play a big part in Jersey's environmental needs. 'I've already noticed a difference in the language regarding building on green fields - this used to be out, but now there's a new phrase, which doesn't actually say you can't build on these. It's a very dangerous tipping point and that's what I'm interested in.'

'The difficulty is you've nowhere else to go, either we reclaim more land or go higher, you can't go down, so what do we do?'

Marcus sees housing and building issues being closely linked with immigration.

'It must be possible to do work permits for staff, we used to do them years ago,' Marcus said. 'We're a creeping source of immigration as things aren't adhered to. We could outsource more work for finance workers to outside jurisdictions, intellectually and through the Internet, but the red tape can put people off.'

With a varied schedule, Marcus' favourite part of the job is meeting the people. 'Today I've already been to somebody whose business is in trouble, I'm going to St. Clement's Sports Club as they want to increase their facilities, then I'm seeing somebody about a hedge - it's so diverse, it's brilliant. The hospitality industry has fed me all my life to be able to do all this.'



DON'T IGNORE THE WARNING SIGNS

Type 2 Diabetes is a potentially killer disease. If you're experiencing frequent urination, increased thirst and fatigue you may have developed Type 2 Diabetes.

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diabetesjersey.com

Diabetes Jersey is a Jersey registered charity (no.) and a member of the Association of Jersey Charities.

Diabetes Jersey
Using 2018 diabetes data





Art, inspired by nature

In each issue of RURAL we profile works by contemporary Jersey artists who draw their inspiration from Jersey's landscapes or natural environment

The artist, Louise Ramsay, gained the first prize in the 2021 RURAL Jersey Landscape and Seascape Awards for her painting, *Expanding Peace, La Rocque*. The artist and the winning picture are shown in the following page of RURAL magazine in an article about the competition. This winning picture featured in the last issue of RURAL this spring.

Louise described the picture shown here: 'The ancient green lanes of St Lawrence, walked by many generations over centuries, afford a perfect way to connect with nature and the Island's history. In this painting I have tried to capture Jersey's interior rural landscape and the Island's vast, open sky.'

hello@louiseramsay.com | www.louiseramsay.com
Louise's work can also be seen on Instagram and Facebook.

Cloud Gathering, St Lawrence, by Louise Ramsay

Medium: Acrylic on primed board

Approximate size framed: 35 x 42 cm

Price: £475.00

(At present, unframed)



The landscapes of rural Jersey

The RURAL Jersey Landscape and Seascape Awards evening was held in July, as part of the Jersey Summer Exhibition at CCA Galleries International, Hill Street

The winning picture in the 2021 RURAL Jersey Landscape and Seascape Awards was Louise Ramsay's *Expanding Peace, La Rocque*. Runner-up was Hazel Wynn's *Artwork 3*. In third place was Celina Borfiga's *Fields*.



The judges with the winning artist, from L - R: Donna Le Marrec, David Benest, winning artist Louise Ramsay, Sasha Gibb and Alasdair Crosby.

“ An exhibition like this reminds us of the corners of the Island that are still ‘rural’ and so it is titled ‘a celebration’ of rural Jersey. But it could equally be titled a ‘recessional’

The competition was sponsored by BCR Law, which funded the first prize (£500) to the winning artist and the third prize (£150) to Celina Borfiga. The second prize was sponsored by the National Trust for Jersey, and consisted of a cost-free weekend at its self-catering Le Catel Fort, Grève de Lecq.

The prizes were presented by the managing partner of BCR Law, David Benest, and by the marketing and events manager of the National Trust for Jersey, Donna Le Marrec.



Runner-up Hazel Wynn with *Artwork 3*.

David Benest and Donna Le Marrec, together with Sasha Gibb of CCA Art Galleries International and Alasdair Crosby of RURAL magazine comprised the judging panel.

All art works representing traditional Jersey landscapes that have been selected for the Jersey Summer Exhibition are automatically entered.

RURAL magazine’s owner and editor, Alasdair Crosby, thanked the sponsors and also the artists who had contributed their works to the Exhibition. He said: ‘An exhibition like this reminds us of the corners of the Island that are still ‘rural’ and so it is titled ‘a celebration’ of rural Jersey. But it could equally be titled a ‘recessional’: a reminder of what Jersey has been in the past, the areas of the Island and its coastline that define Jersey as a place; a necessary remembrance of the Island’s essential characteristics, its history and traditional character as a place and as a community.

‘The artists have provided us with reflections of the true character and soul of Jersey; to quote from Kipling’s famous Recessional poem: *Lest we forget, lest we forget.*’

“ The artists have provided us with reflections of the true character and soul of Jersey; to quote from Kipling’s famous Recessional poem: *Lest we forget, lest we forget*

All three artists were at the Awards evening to receive their prizes. The RURAL Jersey Landscape Award is now in its third year.



Celina Borfiga, with third prize winner, *Fields*.

Out of the man cave & into the countryside

Gents, it's time we have a chat! Leave that man cave behind and start making some changes. Keep your mind and body healthy by getting out there and trying some new activities

By RURAL's fashion correspondent, Kasia Guzik from THE MANIA

THE MANIA

It's a man thing. Every woman has been on the receiving end of it. It's difficult for women to understand men and for men to understand women. We are completely different physically, mentally and emotionally. Men have created their own space to have some 'me time' and there's nothing wrong with it, but going from one extreme to another isn't healthy either. All that working from home and self-isolation hasn't made the situation any better. It's never too late to turn things around and make some changes. You can still have some quality time alone and try a regular physical activity which is important for staying healthy. Compared to just sitting in your man cave for most of the time, moderate-intensity physical activity will give you a better immune function and help your mental health as well. Regular physical activity can help you to reduce your stress and anxiety levels.

The countryside is a fantastic asset and we often forget to make the most of what's right on our doorstep. Make a change and get back to outdoor activities such as cycling, golfing, fishing, running, surfing, horse riding and more. Some of them can be incredibly simple, whilst others require an element of dedication, skill or bravery. Motivate yourself and get inspired! The countryside is there to be enjoyed, and you and your family can fall in love with nature all over again despite all that Covid madness.

Get your finest male country clothing out of the cupboard and head to the countryside to begin ticking activities off your list today. There're so many places waiting to be discovered and it's right on your doorstep.

So are you ready to take on your next challenge? What are you waiting for? Every minute counts!



Staying outdoors by keeping active



1. Anorak Men's, Hapi, £320
2. Backpack, Mountain Warehouse, £13.99
3. Revert Baseball Cap, Hapi, £16.99
4. Under Armour t-Shirt, Voisins, £32
5. Basso Venta Caliper Bike, Rouleurs, £1,395
6. Bottle, Animal, Mountain Warehouse, £25
7. Shoes, Graeme Le Maistre Sports, £116
8. Golf Balls, Graeme Le Maistre Sports, £12.95
9. Cricket Bat, Graeme Le Maistre Sports, £160
10. Under Armour Shorts, Voisins, £50

WWW.THE-MANIA.COM

Les Herbes de St Pierre

Why choose Herbes de Provence or a tisane from France when Les Herbes de St Pierre is a good deal closer? Cathy Le Feuvre visited John and Christine Mather's cottage industry

Near the top of Old Beaumont Hill you'll find Belmont Farm, a traditional granite house with a red roof and a beautiful garden.

It's been home to John and Christine Mather and their family for more than 25 years; their lovely surroundings have inspired them to create one of Jersey's newest cottage industries - Les Herbes de St Pierre.

Many will remember John as the Deputy States Vet in the 1980s and 1990s and subsequently a full-time veterinarian, but when he retired three years ago, his focus turned to a home project initially envisaged by French-born Christine.

Wanting to improve her health and fitness she had begun looking into taking 'tisanes' - herbal teas.

Christine said: 'Back home we drink tisanes for medicinal purposes, so it's not so much for the flavour, but more for what it will help you with, and I couldn't find anything here, so I started growing things in the garden. It grew from there really. We had too much for ourselves, so we started giving the teas to friends and family, and then we grew so much, we began to sell it.'

The herb drying process which began in the family's airing cupboard has progressed to a specially built production unit in the garden known as 'The Facility', where herbs are slowly and naturally dried, ground, mixed and packaged in recyclable containers and biodegradable compostable tea bags. Everything is done by hand, from the growing and propagation of herbs from seed to the harvesting and picking and the deliveries to the customer's door.

Les Herbes de St Pierre already offers more than 30 different flavours of herbal tea, all of which are branded 'Genuine Jersey', and skin care products using home-stilled distilled natural oils, like calendula from marigold flowers. There are culinary herb mixes, and herb-infused salts are a new speciality, combining Belmont Farm herbs with sea salt from the ancient salt pans of the Guérande district of Brittany.



John Mather.

'We've now got a new association with Jersey Fine Tea, which produce locally grown black, white and green tea, and they're soon to launch a mint green tea which uses our mint,' Christina added.

Why 'Les Herbes de St Pierre'? Well, that's a nod to a popular culinary herbal mix.

John explained: 'I was thinking... everyone knows what 'Herbes de Provence' is, and we have a very similar mixture - rosemary, thyme, winter savoury, oregano and basil.'

We step outside the fragrant atmosphere of The Facility and into the garden where we come upon 'The Circle', a plot where Christine, who teaches French at Hautlieu School, spends many hours, among other things harvesting camomile flowers.

We move through a picturesque granite arch in the old garden wall to an adjoining field and, on a small strip bordering the driveway, Christine and John proudly point out beds of herbs in abundance including varying types of mint, including spearmint, garden and Moroccan mint. They now grow or collect about 30 herbs and flowers, which are used in their growing range of products, including tisanes.

'Everything is natural, we don't use chemicals or pesticides and we stick to the traditional, true 'officinalis' species of plant, the original cottage garden strains, not hybrids,' John said.

On the banks, John points out nettles, plantain and other plants which may be classed as 'weeds', but which actually have medicinal properties.

'I'd always been interested in medicinal herbs, seeing the benefit in my work. I've had books on herbs for 20 years and I knew all the medicinal stuff because there was a demand for people not wanting to use, for example, eardrops with antibiotics for their dog,' John said.

Herbal remedies for animals? John has translated that extensive knowledge into products for human enjoyment, and although there are no claims that their tisanes can 'cure', helping others understand the benefits of herbs and plants is a passion for Christine and John.

John continued: 'We're probably proudest of our 'RelaxMax' a tisane which we've invented.'



Christine Mather.

“ Everything is natural, we don't use chemicals or pesticides and we stick to the traditional, true 'officinalis' species of plant, the original cottage garden strains, not hybrids

'It includes herbs which are nerve and adaptogens, which help you adapt to cope with worry - lavender, passionflower, camomile and lemon balm - you can't buy it anywhere else; it actually tastes rather lovely.'

For more information or for placing orders: www.herbesdestpierre.com or e-mail: lesherbesdestpierre@gmail.com. Their products are also available from Creative Cottage, St Peter.



Scrumptious diversification

Blanc Pignon Farm launches a new range of luxury dairy products. Cathy Le Feuvre went tasting

When David and Caroline Leng and their daughters returned to the family farm in Jersey seven years ago, little did they know that Gelato and squeaky cheese were destined to be in their future.

But at Blanc Pignon Farm at Beaumont, David and Caroline, a designer, along with their product developer, Indi Thompson, have this summer diversified their business to make the most of the milk produced on the farm and to create those and other scrumptious, truly local, products.

Launched in June 2021, the Blanc Pignon product range already boasts the gelato in several main flavours (vanilla, black butter, coffee, salted caramel, garden mint, and garden mint and choc chip) as well as Natural Greek yoghurt, a 'kefir' fermented probiotic milk drink, and something called 'moolloumi'.

'You can't call it "halloumi" unless it's made in Cyprus, so we've called ours "moolloumi"'. It's our own squeaky cheese and it's rolled in garden mint and Jersey sea salt,' David said.

Blanc Pignon also has a butchery business using pure bred Jersey steers, and bespoke butters are on the way. Nothing goes to waste. The custards from which the gelato is made require numerous eggs, meaning lots of left-over egg whites, which are transformed into tasty meringue-based treats - macarons!

The products are all lovingly hand-made in the kitchen and processing unit, which is currently based in temporary accommodation at Blanc Pignon. The team await the outcome of a planning application for the development of the old milking parlour and calf house, which will give them new production facilities plus storage.

Sustainability is a founding principle of the new Blanc Pignon enterprise. Wherever possible they use local produce - garden grown mint, Jersey Sea Salt and local black butter - and environmentally friendly processes and packaging is top of the agenda.

David continued: 'It's just 72 metres from where we milk the cows to where we make the products, and on the whole the packaging we're using is recyclable - compostable pots, glass jars for the yogurt and glass bottles for the kefir. Actually, we're trying to get as many of those jars back so we can re-use them... hopefully that will catch on!'

The decision to diversify the dairy offering at Blanc Pignon has been a long time coming.

Caroline's family settled at Blanc Pignon in the 1930s, and many in the rural community will remember Caroline's mother, Vera Le Cras, who developed the successful dairy farm and was for decades one of Jersey's leading cow breeders.

Caroline's sister Alice, who ran the farm for ten years until she emigrated to Australia, first had the idea to create milk-based products. Unfortunately, that didn't materialise but now, after years of research, planning and hard work, the dream is reality.

“ It’s just 72 metres from where we milk the cows to where we make the products, and on the whole the packaging we’re using is recyclable - compostable pots, glass jars for the yogurt and glass bottles for the kefir



Product developer Indi Thompson.



‘We are very proud members of Jersey Dairy, who have kindly allowed us to take a certain proportion of milk - up to 70,000 litres in a year - from the bulk tank for our own use, for this new enterprise. Jersey Dairy Lab also offered to test our products for nutritional and microbiological value, so we know our products are safe for human consumption.’

The team is very excited about the future, but when you spot the Blanc Pignon products on the shelf, take a close look at the logo. It has an inspiring link to the family’s farming history, as Caroline explains:

‘The cow on the logo is my mother’s drawing. It was her advert in the magazine for the 1979 World Jersey Cattle Bureau conference, which was held at Blanc Pignon. Mum was passionate about the farm, and this new business not only keeps it alive, but also puts a different energy back into the farm. It’s our heritage!’

Blanc Pignon products can be found at Lucas Brothers, Anneville Farm and Midland Stores. Get in touch via the Instagram page **Blanc Pignon Dairy Farm** or e-mail info@blancpignon.com; phone **07797 856313**

David, a former arboriculturist in the UK, had little farming knowledge when he and the family returned to Jersey. But he soon grew to love it and learnt quickly, which made him realise that to future-proof Blanc Pignon, changes would be required. Introducing imported bull semen to improve his herd was one step, with a corresponding increase in milk production - up 30% in the last few years.

Today Blanc Pignon has around 70 milkers, each producing an average of 21 litres of milk per day, in total between 1,200 and 1,300 litres, most of which still goes to Jersey Dairy.



Left - right: Indi Thompson, Caroline and David Leng.

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Ageing well without children

By Helen O'Meara of CI Home Care

The number of people over 65 without adult children is set to rise from over 1.2 million at the present time to 2 million by 2030. This compares to 850,000 living with dementia now, which is not set to rise to 2 million until 2051.

And yet, which do we hear most about in discussions about our ageing population?

The above is a UK statistic. In Jersey we need to add the impact of those ageing without children living in the Island.

This matters on an individual and a state level because, contrary to popular belief, most care for older people is provided by family members - and not by the state or private agencies. There is an 'unseen army' of people caring on some level for parents or parents-in-law. This ranges from popping in regularly and providing social contact, to hands-on day-to-day physical and emotional care.

It also includes curating care support. I will never forget how confused I felt when the first of my parents suddenly needed significant support (not in Jersey).

The frustration of being passed from pillar to post, needing to learn a bewildering array of new acronyms, not knowing what to ask for in terms of physical aids. Who knows anything about incontinence pads, hoists or that 'slidey sheets' even exist, before needing to support a parent who has suddenly lost the use of their legs and can't get in and out of bed, or make themselves comfortable, without help?

Then there's the financial side. There's a widely held view that people without children have more money than those with kids as they have saved the money that others spend on raising a family. However, this is not always the case - and money alone does not solve the challenges of ageing.

After the shock of Dad's sudden deterioration and hospitalisation, my normally capable mother was simply not able to make the myriad 'phone calls and arrangements required. My brother and I arranged everything.

We are fortunate in Jersey to have an excellent social worker service - which you can contact directly or via referral - and a number of well-regulated and informed private care agencies, who can help with overview information about the Long Term Care (LTC) financial support scheme and also which other bodies may need to become involved in your support, and how to access them.

But you need to know that these avenues exist. On their website awwoc.org, Ageing Well Without Children say: 'Paying for care is only half the issue, the real problem lies in lack of advocacy, someone to research, arrange and manage care and to deal with the administration issues that arise.'

If you do not live in the Island but have a parent resident in Jersey, it's worth a glance as it highlights some of the issues ageing parents face - some of which are as easily solved from Australia as St Aubin because so much can be achieved over the 'phone or on the Internet.

And if you know an older person ageing without children, or without children living in the Island, please consider offering (and re-offering!) help. Skills you take for granted, in terms of Internet research or making a few 'phone calls, may be complete lifesavers for them!

- Live-in care specialists
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*If you would like some more information or to arrange a no obligation visit, please call **01534 883 886** and one of our Care Managers will be pleased to assist.*



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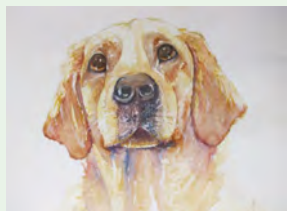
rubis-ci.co.uk

enquiries@rubis-ci.co.uk

Genuine Jersey Directory

Anita Eastwood Art

I am a watercolour, mixed media and acrylic painter who travelled extensively until settling in Jersey in 1991.



My pet and equestrian portraits are popular and I have my artwork on the walls of homes in the UK, Europe and USA. I am available for commissions and work directly from photographs – getting the eyes right is crucial! If you have a clear photo of the animals that you would like painted then you can happily leave the rest up to me.

Contact Anita Eastwood | Facebook: [anitaeastwoodart](#)
[www.anitaeastwood.com](#) | [www.madeinjersey.je](#)

Farm Fuels

Farmfuels recycles Jersey's timber packaging waste and collects waste material from government, commercial and domestic customers. The material is sorted for direct re-use or remanufactured into a range of own brand wood fuel, animal bedding and landscaping products under the FarmFuels, Timberbed and Colourbed brands.



FarmFuels supplies pallets to other Jersey exporters and manufacturing businesses, exports pallets for re-use and is a leading importer of quality hardwood logs and wood pellets.

FarmFuels also markets a leading seaweed product in Jersey for use within the farming sector. FarmFuels is currently growing Miscanthus for evaluation for future local uses.

Contact Doug | 01534 482929
 Mobile: 07797 711321 | Email: doug@farmfuels.com

Island's Choice Bakery

Since 2012 we have been supplying local supermarkets (also online), schools, caterers, and a wide range of other outlets.



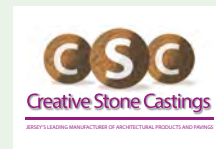
Every day we bake 3,500 to 5,000 Portuguese rolls - their light texture makes these rolls quite sublime! We ensure that the flour is imported from Portugal to create an authentic product.

We also bake sliced bread, soft rolls, wholemeal, seeded rolls, crusty baguettes, hot cross buns... as well as our famous doughnuts and cakes. Since March 2020 our products have also been on sale in Guernsey.

Contact Joe Pinzari | 01534 607019
 Email: orders@islandschoicebakery.com
 Facebook: [islandsChoiceBakery/](#)

Creative Stone Castings

We manufacture pre-cast concrete products using local sand and stone. Among our many designs of paving slabs, we specialise in Yorkstone for newer properties and Scarborough Mills for older or granite houses.



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Customers can view the full range of products between 8am and 4pm Monday to Thursday and 8am and 2pm on a Friday at our St Brelade premises.

01534 490052
 Email: info@creativestonecastings.je | www.creativestonecastings.je

Forge Farm Flowers

Elise Stubbs is a Genuine Jersey flower farmer and florist. Growing seasonal flowers and foliage at Forge Farm in St John between May and October. She specialises in country garden blooms, cultivated wild flowers and scented herbs.



Forge Farm the sustainable choice for flowers.

Elise's flowers are grown from seed, sustainably slow grown, free from chemical pesticides are cut straight into water resulting in fresh flowers brimming with vitality and fragrance, benefitting the wildlife as well as her customers. packaging is kept to a minimum is plastic free and fully compostable.

Mobile: 07797 799 419 | Email: forgefarmflowers@gmail.com
 Facebook: [/pages/Forge-Farm/577256438999273?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Forge-Farm/577256438999273?fref=ts)

Jersey Fine Tea

We are a sustainable producer of single-estate Jersey teas.



We hand pluck only the tender young leaves and buds, which are then prepared in small batches to elicit nuanced aromas and flavours that reflect the unique Island terroir.

The range changes depending on the season, and at its core are whole-leaf white, green and black teas. Sold loose and super fresh, they are available to buy from www.jerseyfinetea.com and a growing number of local suppliers, including Fetch.je, Cooper & Co, Dunell's and Seahorse Café in Gorey.

You can also find our tea on the menu at Bohemia and The Savoy.

Email: hello@jerseyfinetea.com | www.jerseyfinetea.com

Genuine Jersey Directory

MADD BEARD CO

MADD BEARD CO was formed in 2018 by friends Marc and Add. As bearded men, they often spoke about what products were available and what they liked from each of them. This sparked a conversation on how they could make their own beard products.

We decided that the products had to be natural and vegan friendly, also, where possible, local produce was to be used.

Now, MADD Beard Co has a range of beard oils, beard balms and moustache wax in several individual scents to suit every situation.

Contact Marc and Add
www.maddbeardco.je



Sheila Birch

Offering an ever changing view round each bend of the road, Jersey provides an infinite number of pictures/memories for so many people. I have recorded a large variety and can print them for you on quality archival paper or order canvas ready for hanging on your walls to make wonderful gifts home or away.



I'm an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and a Member of Genuine Jersey. www.sheilabirchimages.com; e-mail me at sheilabirchimages@gmail.com. Please contact me to let me know what you would like or see a large selection of items at The Harbour Gallery at St Aubin.

Contact Shelia Birch | 07797 736389
Email: sheilabirchimages@gmail.com | www.sheilabirchimages.com

Stephen Davies Art

Graphic artist / illustrator, specialising in highly detailed black and white pencil drawing in aviation or military themed work and in all subjects.



My speciality is aviation and I am also an Associate Member of the UK Guild of Aviation Artists. I can illustrate / draw anything a client / customer wishes or desires. My artwork can be seen and purchased from many outlets in Jersey as well as directly from me. Please contact me directly for any work not shown on the website.

Contact Stephen Davies | 07797 734 774
Email: stephenjedavies@yahoo.com | www.stevedaviesart.com

Master Farms

Master Farms and the Le Maistre family business has evolved since 1841 to consist of around 1,000 verges, growing a wide range of crops and organic vegetables including Potatoes, Courgettes, Broad Beans and Cauliflower. There is also a herd of Jersey cows which plays a fundamental role in the organic production cycle. Master Farms also owns Jersey Quality Produce, which markets the produce from our own farm and produce for other growers on the Island.

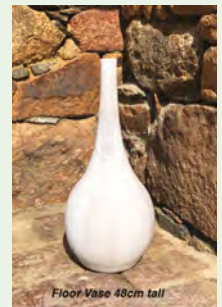


Le Maistre Family, Woodlands Shed, La Rue Malo, Grouville JE3 9AG.

Contact Master Farms | 01534 862 222
Email: jerseyqualityproduce@gmail.com | Instagram: masterfarms2019
Facebook: masterfarms92

Sinclair Ceramics

Andrew is the creator of beautiful tableware and individual sculptural ceramics, both thrown and hand built in his workshop, surrounded by the inspirational countryside of St Ouen. Specialist in large floor vases and lamp bases.



These bold vessels are created in smooth stoneware clay, decorated in soft white glazes with oxides often applied to enhance their clean elegant lines.

Drop in to see a potter at work. - commissions welcome -

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Valley Foods Ltd

Formed in 1981, we have grown steadily over the years with the aim of providing a fresh approach to the food and drink trade in Jersey. We supply the Island's premium hospitality and foodservice outlets and also offer Jersey's leading online supermarket for home deliveries.



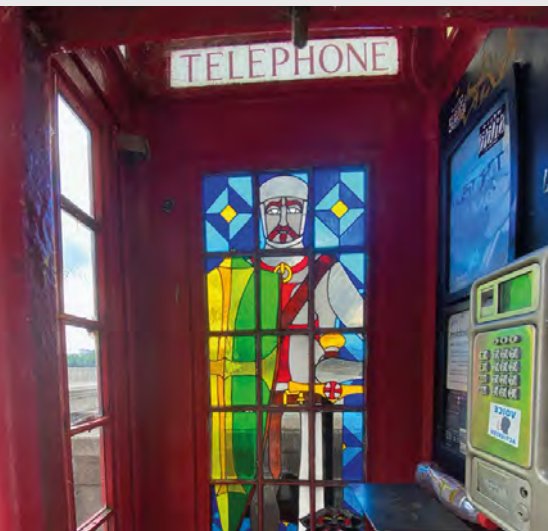
We have one of the largest state of the art butchery facilities in the Island. Working closely with our Genuine Jersey partners, Valley Foods' name has become synonymous with local supply.

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Contact Valley Foods | 01534 841000
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The streets of London

David Warr takes us by the hand - and of course, has the last word



I'd been promising myself a couple of days off the rock in August; like many Islanders, I'd not been anywhere since March 2020.

Booking tickets and arranging accommodation (which had all become second nature) now seemed quite foreign, especially now that the word Covid is writ large on every form completed.

Covid has been - and still is - overwhelming. It's particularly noticeable in London - a city that has survived so much death and destruction. The last spate of terror attacks had seen the construction of huge concrete and metal barriers being built on the walkway entrances to all the major bridges across the Thames, yet somehow we accept this in much the same way we happily pack away in luggage 100ml bottles of toiletries to beat the 'terrorists'.

Somehow, Covid has taken all this 'protection' to a new level. It's not just the masks and posters that are so wearying; it's the thick blue line on many London bridges that divides pedestrians as they walk to and fro, with its accompanying message of 'special arrangements'.

I don't think that George Orwell or Aldous Huxley in their wildest dreams could have come up such dystopian fiction, let alone this reality.

Rather than use the Tube I walked as much as possible, appreciating all the things that go to make the public spaces of London. As always, I try to picture how we in Jersey might improve our public spaces.

There's been much talk about the need for 'green' spaces. Personally, I don't believe that means creating a landscape of near indestructible, low maintenance plants combined with a square of grass and thinking 'job done!'. Too often 'green spaces' are seen as a cost - and not as an asset - to our community.

Walking along the Thames is special, but it's made more special by the Victorian light stands and public benches with their incredible attention to detail. It's so easy to install something that has lots of 'green' credentials but forget that great design brings enhanced enjoyment. What price public pleasure?

The quirkiest sight was a disused telephone box that had acquired a stained glass installation. It just shows what you can do with a bit of imagination and a willingness to accommodate public art.

Finally, I came across the Victoria Tower Gardens: a green haven in this vast metropolis. I have to say that our very own Millennium Park, despite being on a more modest scale, stood up well in comparison, with its considered planting and mixed use spaces. For those with no private outdoor space, these parks are an essential breath of fresh air in these troubled times.

The architecture of London is extraordinarily diverse. Unlike the homogeneity of Paris it seems no style is too outrageous.

One of the most spectacular 'set pieces' is the Barbican Centre: a combination of concrete, green space and water, interspersed with the ancient ruins of the walls of London. It manages to retain its freshness despite being built 50 years ago.

So why have I written this postcard from London? Well, it's really to remind us of just how important our public spaces are for those who don't have the privilege of being surrounded by green fields or have spectacular sea views. We're in danger of overwhelming St. Helier with super-efficient square boxes, plenty of hard landscaping and low maintenance greenery because it's relatively cheap to do - but that misses the point.

If we learnt anything from lockdown it's that the design of our public spaces and the buildings that surround them makes a massive difference to how we feel as a community. If we want to bring some degree of equity to our society, then we need to spend more time and money thinking about how St. Helier works as an entity. The current fragmented system of a state- and parish- administered St. Helier is long past its 'sell-by' date and is ultimately unhealthy for her citizens.

As Roger Whittaker sang: 'The streets of London - I'll show you something to make you change your mind.'





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