

# RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 39 | Summer 2022

## A royal visit to Jersey

The etchings of  
Jean Le Capelain 1846

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## The war in Ukraine


- and its effect on Jersey

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## Too big to be small – too small to be big

Charlie Gallichan of  
Woodside Farm and the  
end of its distribution of  
produce within the Island

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# Welcome

A couple of weeks ago as I walked my dog along a north coast footpath, I was entranced to see a clump of very late, wild daffodils growing close by a swathe of bluebells, both colours shining vividly amid the dull brown tangle of dead bracken.

Yellow and blue: the colours of Ukraine.

As one goes about the Island at the moment, there seem to be plenty of homes that are flying the Ukrainian flag as a gesture of solidarity. At that spot on the north coast, it seemed as if even nature was showing solidarity with Ukraine.

The effect of the Ukraine crisis has cast a huge shadow globally. In this issue, Simon Boas of Jersey Overseas Aid describes some of the effects of this shadow; as he says, Ukraine stands for food as well as freedom. Many Islanders have contributed to the Bailiff's Ukraine Appeal; the details for donating are in Simon's article on page 48. We examine some of the implications of the war, both globally and particularly on Jersey's farming sector in our leading article, 'Over the Wall'.

In Jersey, apart from flying the Ukrainian flag, why not show solidarity with Ukraine by growing sunflowers - the national flower and symbol of Ukraine? Sunflower seeds are readily available in Jersey's shops and garden centres and they are easy to grow.



There are other, more practical reasons to plant sunflowers, in respect of their many health and nutritional benefits, their culinary use and as a source of wild bird food. Nor is it difficult to produce sunflower oil for home use.

Apart from the symbolism of sunflowers, the export of sunflower oil represents a huge chunk of the Ukrainian economy. One aspect of the conflict there has been a rise in the cost of that popular kitchen item.

So, as well as growing a symbol of peace and support for Ukraine, it could equally be a small symbol of localism, of a more self-reliant domestic economy and way of life... but that is another story.

.....  
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**Front cover image:**  
Charles ('Charlie') Gallichan  
of Woodside Farm, Trinity  
Photo by Gary Grimshaw  
*See page 12*

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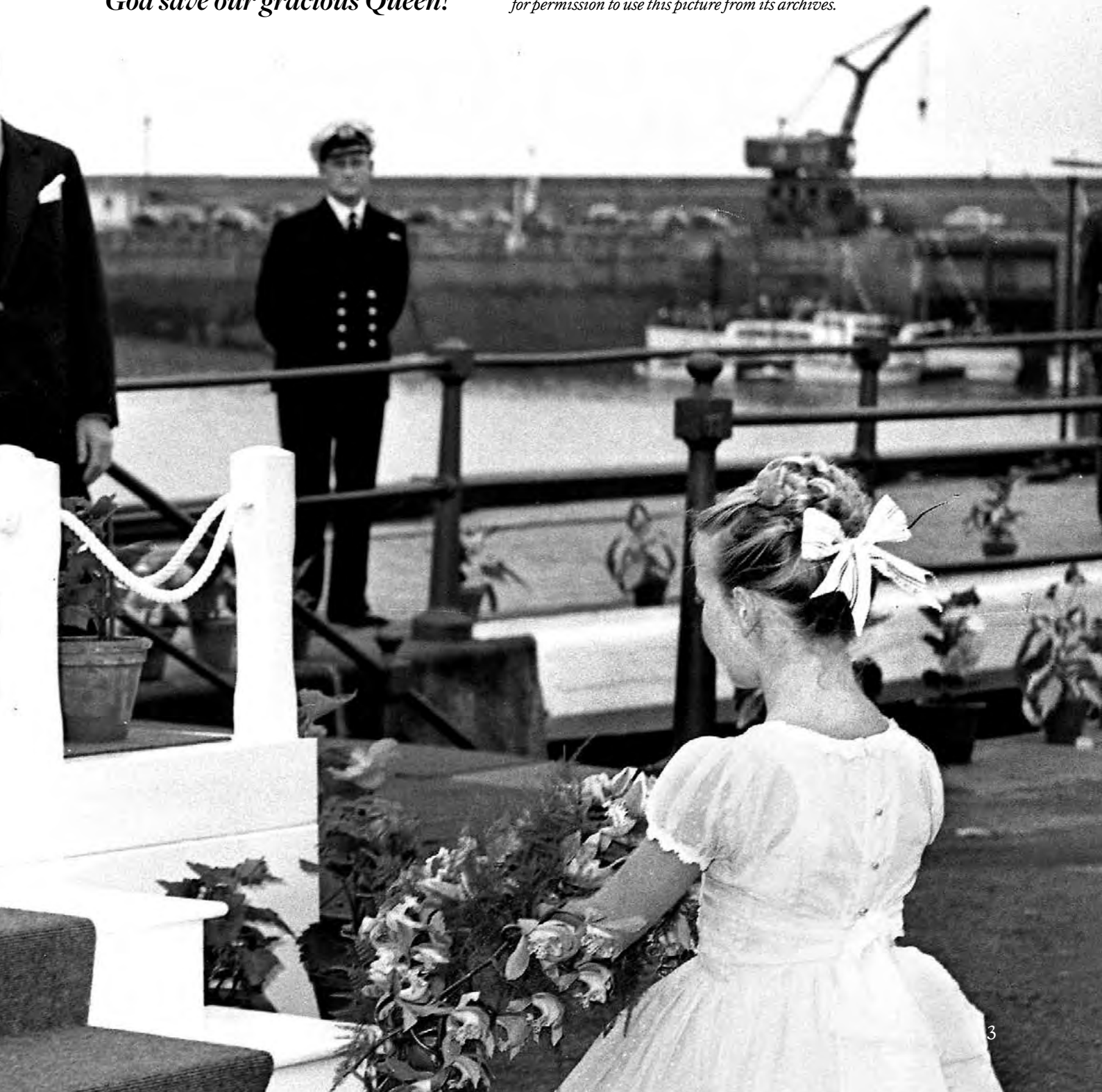
# La Reine, Notre Duc

**RURAL magazine salutes  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
on the occasion of her  
Platinum Jubilee**

*God save our gracious Queen!*

**T**he picture shows the Royal Visit to Jersey in July 1957. It was the first time for 98 years that a reigning British Monarch had stepped on these shores. A public holiday was enjoyed and thousands of Islanders gave her a warm and enthusiastic welcome. Melody Brown is pictured curtseying before presenting Her Majesty with a bouquet.

*RURAL magazine thanks the Jersey Evening Post for permission to use this picture from its archives.*



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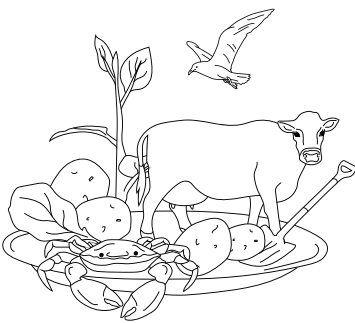
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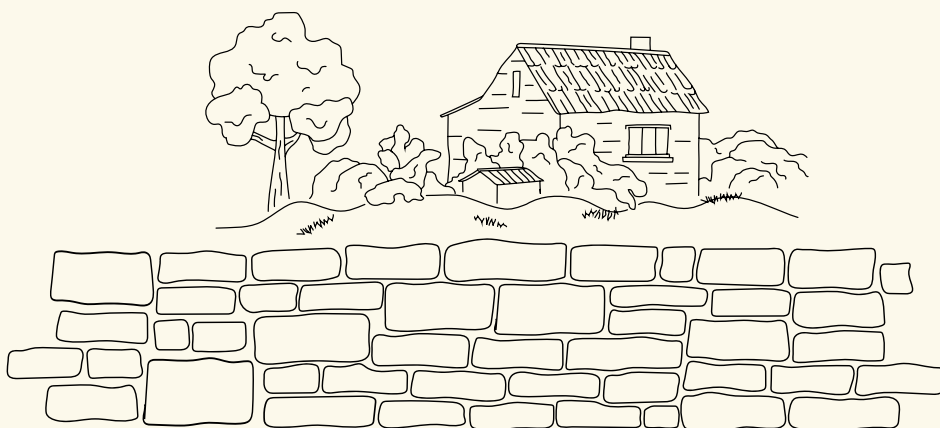
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# Over the wall

## A RURAL view



The daily catalogue of horrors in the Ukraine has the numbing effect of making domestic Island news, hopes and fears seem somewhat less relevant or important. Nevertheless, although we may have no worries about our physical safety (unless the unthinkable were to happen), the effect of the crisis there has cast a huge shadow globally – and that shadow affects Jersey, of course, in the farming sector as in many other sectors. The Ukraine crisis is a major contributor to the present feeling of insecurity and apprehensiveness that seems to pervade the world.

First, the global effect:

- The crisis has lowered projected global wheat trade by 3 million tons
- There are significant shortages of seeds, fertiliser, pesticides, and equipment required for crop cultivation and harvest
- Food price increases due to the war are jeopardising food security around the world. Our contributor, Simon Boas of Jersey Overseas Aid, comments on this in this issue of the magazine. Around 26 countries rely on Ukraine and Russia for at least 50 percent of their wheat imports
- Living conditions are being affected around the world: in Egypt, for example (the world's largest importer of wheat) over 80 percent of its wheat comes from the Ukraine and Russia. High food and fuel prices were an issue in the recent French presidential elections

- Ukraine has an internationally significant agriculture sector. It has been known as 'the breadbasket of Europe' and is a major exporter not only of wheat, but also of corn and sunflower oil. In world rankings, Ukraine comes first as a producer of sunflower seed oil (Russia comes 2nd); 6th in barley and maize production; 7th in wheat; 18th in fertiliser manufacture ... all this production has ground to a halt in many areas

Even in districts reclaimed by Ukrainian forces, the dangers of unexploded shells and abandoned ordnance continues to impede cultivation of fields and, of course, farm staff have been drafted into the armed services or become refugees.

Warehouses in the port of Odessa are actually full of potential export crops, but this is the port being especially targeted, at the time of writing, by Putin's Orcs. The crops cannot be taken by ship; they can be exported overland by rail, but that is slower and far more expensive.

A deepening of global food insecurity can be expected, as well as consequent social unrest, especially as the present crisis follows the economic downturn caused by Covid – and in Britain, by Brexit. Grain prices have skyrocketed.

This is not entirely the fault of the Ukraine War. Among the other culprits not yet mentioned are climate change: the droughts and the floods that made headlines last year. Not great weather conditions for harvesting crops. As a result, global stocks of wheat, barley, soya etc have been reduced before even the war began.

The other elements in this 'perfect storm' are the voracious buying power of China attempting to feed its population and also the machinations of commodity traders who bet on the market, buying and selling agricultural commodity futures to no one's benefit other than their own.

Today's global agriculture commodity price shocks join a cocktail of other problems, such as diseases, resource constraints, labour shortages, inflation, environmental degradation, crop shortages. The rising prices of food, fuel and fertiliser could become a source of further conflicts.

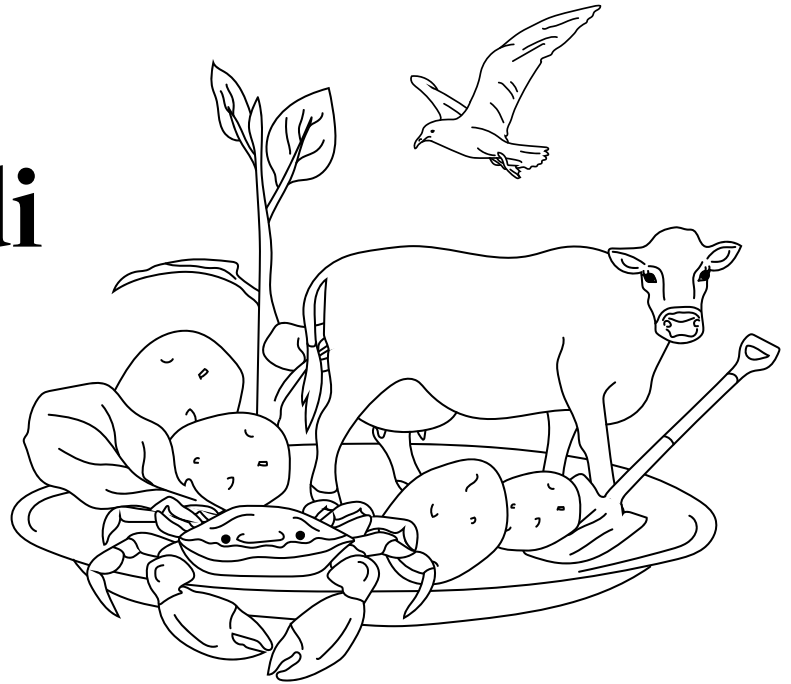
If '*no man is an island*', then also no island is immune from these global problems, let alone Jersey. The price of feed for livestock has increased by 30 percent. This will hit dairy farmers hardest in the autumn when they will need to re-order stocks, and by then it is expected that the price will have increased further. This is a massive challenge to our dairy industry. By far the most important requirement is extra help from government to allow farmers to meet these difficulties.

It can be expected that there will be far greater volume of cereal crops grown in the Island – which in fact used to be the case some generations ago – as well as lupins and lucerne to make Island dairy farmers less reliant on imported feed.

But, undoubtedly, '*There are bad times just around the corner*'. Noel Coward, thou shouldst be living at this hour; at least you could have cheered us up with an amusing song or two.

# The Jersey Salmagundi

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



## A cool stop for hot dogs

**H**umans have been walking with their dogs for thousands of years and in Jersey there's no shortage of dog owners - but where is there out west to enjoy a canine-friendly refreshment stop after a walk?

Julia Williams runs a dog welcoming business - Jersey Pearl in St Ouen - close to the beach and coastal heathland.

'Dogs have always been allowed in the cafe area, but it's never really been clarified; it's normally left to the discretion of the day,' she explained. 'We're a dog loving family and all our UK venues allow dogs. Now we've made it clear it's been really lovely to help people and it's also a positive talking point.'

Having always owned dogs, Julia recognises the benefits of them accompanying their owners as much as possible. A recent addition to her family, Rockie, an Irish Terrier, is quickly getting used to new dogs visiting the restaurant.

'We're very aware of non dog owners too and try to consider everyone's needs,' Julia said. 'So making sure our team know what to say and ensuring that if something goes wrong they understand what to do. We may have a customer who is allergic or very fearful, so the team can deal with this in a positive way and if needed, we may move people to a different table.'

“ It's lovely to see how many people always say hello to the dog - I can't resist it

There's no doubt this is the perfect gem of a location for a scenic dog walk in St Ouen, either on the beach or through the wooded footpaths below the dunes. Inside the restaurant is equally pleasing. There's plenty of space and natural light, with some outside area too. 'So after a long walk, why not pop in for lunch with your dog?' Julia said. 'The chef will always make a sausage (not for free!), but the dog will be delighted!'

'Should there be any problems, they can always go outside, we always try and make it work for everyone. It's perhaps best to walk first so the dog is pooped - in both senses of the word - then they can come in to sniff and have a sausage.'

'It's lovely to see how many people always say hello to the dog - I can't resist it. It's also helpful for children who may be scared, then Rockie has to learn about children too. It's good all round.'

'Dogs love to be social and the more social you make them, the better behaved they are.'

'It's perhaps a bit painful for the first couple of times, but be brave and go do it!'

[www.jerseypearl.com](http://www.jerseypearl.com)

- Kieranne Grimshaw



## Open gardens

### Two Jersey charities are having 'Open Garden' events this summer

**O**n Sunday 3 July the gardens at Trinity Manor will be open to the public, by kind permission of the owners, Paul and Pam Bell, in aid of St John Ambulance, Jersey.

Their magnificent gardens will be open between 2pm and 5pm. This is an opportunity to see the extensive range of plants and trees and admire the different garden themes within the walled garden and orchard, and around the lake.

Teas will be served by the Scouts in large yurts and the Band of the Island of Jersey will be playing and marching during the afternoon on the large south lawn, directly in front of the impressive manor facade.

**Tickets are £10.00, children under 10 free, tickets can be pre-purchased on Eventbrite or on the gate.**



**Sunday 3 July the gardens at Trinity Manor will be open to the public**

**O**n Sunday 17 July the gardens of La Maison des Près, St Peter, will be open between 2pm and 5pm by kind permission of Lady Brownlow, in aid of the RNLI Jersey, the charity that saves life at sea.

The house is situated next to the Greenhills Country Hotel. Lord and Lady Brownlow acquired the house in 1983, and in the spring of 1984 they started to create the garden that will be open for visitors to explore. Over the next few years, the small garden around the house was extended, hedges installed, and borders created. Trees were planted to supplement the existing stock and to replace trees lost in the storm of 1987.

In 1995 the Brownlows were able to take back the field in front of the house and plant several ornamental trees, some of which were grown from seed. The house has two walled kitchen gardens, and in 1999 one was converted into a formal box garden which now also contains two sculptures by Colin Miller. At the high point of the orchard area stands a Native American Indian Totem Pole carved from Canadian redwood.

Cream teas will be available on the day, a raffle held, and RNLI souvenirs from the town shop will be available to purchase.

**Entrance £5, children under 12 free; regret no dogs; limited disabled facilities.**

**Sunday 17 July the gardens of La Maison des Près, St Peter will be open to the public**





From left: Jonathan Best from ATF Fuels; Kevin Hart from LibertyBus and Infrastructure Minister Kevin Lewis, standing in front of a double-decker bus that is now running on HVO diesel, which is a 90 percent carbon-free fuel

## A greener way to travel with ATF Fuels

A supply of biodiesel for the local bus network will result from an agreement between ATF Fuels and Liberty Bus.

ATF's GREEND HVO is a fossil free diesel product made of 100 percent renewable raw materials, which does not release any new carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**“ The agreement means a reduction in new carbon emissions from public transport across the Island**

The 'GREEND' HVO fuel, more commonly known as renewable diesel, will be used on double-decker buses on a number of routes, including the number 15 route, which accounts for 29 percent of Liberty Bus journeys.

Jonathan Best, director of ATF Fuels, said: 'The agreement means a reduction in new carbon emissions from public transport across the Island. ATF is committed to doing everything we can to help reduce carbon emissions from transport, which is why we carbon offset all fuel sales at our forecourts.

'We also supply a range of renewable fuels, such as GREEND HVO, which have a proven track record and are endorsed for use by a large number of manufacturers, such as DAF, Volvo Penta, Caterpillar and IVECO for both roads, off-road and marine use.'

Kevin Hart, director of Liberty Bus, commented: 'We fully support the Government of Jersey's Sustainable Transport Policy and their ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. Since we found out that 39 of our 84 strong fleet has manufacturer approval for using HVO, we were keen to start using this fuel as soon as possible. One of the main advantages is that it is a "drop in" replacement, without the need to invest in more infrastructure.'

Renewable diesel means, generally, higher supply costs and the Government of Jersey will provide a subsidy to help allay some of these costs through its Sustainable Transport Policy.

Since their start up in 2018, ATF has been proactive with the provision of renewable fuels, such as E10 and B7. These are available at the forecourts at both Maufant and Augrès. Furthermore, this is available for bulk fuel purchases direct to commercial businesses.

E10 petrol contains up to 10 percent 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. 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. As from 1 September 2021, ATF Fuels became the first fuel retailer in Jersey to supply E10 petrol and B7 Diesel, as standard, at their forecourts.

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.

## The future is hydrogen

An environmental campaigner wants to see hydrogen fuel cell technology introduced to Jersey and Guernsey.

Andrew Le Quesne, who chairs Earth Project Jersey, says that he has been on a personal crusade for many years to get the technology accepted locally.

‘There aren’t enough of the right minerals known in the world, lithium, cobalt, selenium etc, to convert every vehicle in the UK to battery electric,’ Andrew said. ‘Battery electric is only an interim stage with the current technology. The best solution, long-term, is hydrogen fuel cells (HFC).’

“ 75 percent of emissions come from heavy transport so if we can convert them, then frankly we don’t need to make such an issue about private cars

‘They were actually invented by an Englishman in the 1870s and if it hadn’t been for them Apollo would never have got to the moon. So it’s a significant technology. And hydrogen is the most plentiful element in the universe.’

‘The question of hydrogen splits into two parts,’ Andrew explained. ‘The first is the production facility in the Island. We are looking at assembling a collective to fund and establish a commercial production unit at La Collette.’

‘We are looking to keep this in the private sector and then possibly gift a stake to the public in exchange for the site and in time to help to offset the reduced income from fuel tariffs.’

‘This facility will be open to everyone but initially the priority has to be the bus fleet and heavy commercial vehicles.’

‘The second part is the users, the target market here is to develop a process by which the bus fleet is migrated from road diesel to green biodiesel and then to hydrogen fuel. This will take a number of years and is to an extent dependent upon the States.’

‘As soon as we have a viable model for Jersey, the plan is to replicate it in Guernsey and then other small island jurisdictions. A second phase is to carry out a similar migration with skip and refuse vehicles and then the entire heavy goods fleet.’

Hyundai was one of the first manufacturers to make hydrogen fuel cell cars commercially available. Toyota have recently brought out another, the Mirai. ‘Private cars and light commercial vehicles will go hydrogen fuel cell but it’s possibly going to take 10-15 years,’ Andrew said. ‘Buses are already there. Aberdeen have done more than a million kilometres of trials with their fleet of hydrogen fuel cell buses.’

Andrew has been in talks with Liberty Bus, JE, Jersey Gas and a fuel supplier. ‘My idea would be to bring together the key players to form an energy consortium to supply the hydrogen fuel.’

‘Once we get the buses converted to HFC, then we can introduce a rolling programme of converting all of the heavy goods vehicles.’

‘In Jersey there is a tendency to go for easy wins. Painting cycle lanes on the roads doesn’t actually make a significant difference. 75 percent of emissions come from heavy transport so if we can convert them, then frankly we don’t need to make such an issue about private cars.’

“ Long term, the future is hydrogen or some hitherto undiscovered technology

‘Buses are on the road all day every day. They probably contribute 15-18 percent of the carbon footprint of our transport. So if you take that out of the equation, you make substantial gains.’

‘This is step change. Cars and light vehicles can continue to migrate to cleaner fuels, battery electric and hybrid; heavy goods vehicles can start the journey by going on to biodiesels, something that could be subsidised or encouraged by the Treasury, as they then prepare to migrate to the full HFC solution.’

‘Long term, the future is hydrogen or some hitherto undiscovered technology.’

- Caroline Spencer



Andrew Le Quesne

**Too big to be small**  
*and too small to be big*



## Life at Woodside Farm, Trinity, has changed dramatically this year. Some sectors of its diverse operation have stopped; others are continuing in a different format. Importantly, it signals the death knell for large scale Island production and distribution of local vegetable produce. Alasdair Crosby met the farmer and business owner, Charlie Gallichan

**T**he outlook for local vegetable produce being supplied to and stocked by the Island's food sector has become bleaker this spring. Woodside Farm in Trinity is giving up on that sector of its business. What will happen next?

The farm's owner, Charles ('Charlie') Gallichan, was candid: 'I don't know. I suppose the supermarkets will revert to their national supply chain.'

**But the concept of 'local food for local people' ... that just seems to be folding up?**

'It is a shame. It would be great if Jersey could be self-reliant in food production. But effectively, it is as if we are market gardening in the middle of London – and that doesn't work. I don't know what the next steps are for the Island. Government will have to make a decision about what they want to do in the future, but ensuring the Island's food security is not actually my own responsibility! We have to adapt and change; I've got a family to look after; I've got to do the right thing for them.'

The business overheads could be contained, he said, but the variable costs have been creeping up unremittingly – and there has been no way of diluting them any further.

'We can't sell to another island – there's not another Jersey with another 105,000 population that we can go and tackle, so there is only a finite market. The biggest cost to us is labour. Our business has been very labour intensive. Every other single cost you can think of has gone up – fuel, packaging, transport – I don't see any end to it.'

'The flip side of it is that generally we are still selling products at the same prices my father was in the 1970s. The business is simply no longer sustainable. Our supermarket customers have been really supportive, but at some point, one has to concede that the economies of scale no longer work. It's a shame, but it is what it is.'

Woodside was always one of the most diversified farms in the Island and was committed to growing local produce. It started supplying the local supermarket trade on 4 July 2015, when Amalgrow made their decision to stop farming.

'They announced it in the morning – the same day we received a number of phone calls from both customers and government asking us if we would be interested in carrying on where they had left off.'

They decided to have a go at taking on the business. 'We had been busy growing and exporting virtually everything - potatoes, leeks, cabbage and daffodils and inside-grown chillies. We were working with a number of packers, but not doing final packing ourselves. Apart from that we were doing local wholesale business, growing crops for Amalgrow.'

'The time since taking over Amalgrow's mantle was far more challenging than we expected. Business grew massively, but with that massive growth came all the headaches one might expect; it led, for example, to the immediate creation of 40 more jobs. The change from being a grower to a grower-packer was a big one.'

“ Woodside has been in the middle – and the middle is a very bad place for us to be, as it is for anybody in the farming industry: we are too big to be small and too small to be big

‘Effectively we have been a manufacturing business, with all the same constraints and problems and time deadlines from customers and suppliers that a normal factory has. The big difference is that our factory has had no roof.’

Woodside did not try to grow everything. A large pack house was built as a service to growers of particular vegetables and it took all the administration, packaging and business logistics off their hands so the growers could concentrate on producing their crops.

There was a big range of vegetables that Woodside distributed: carrots, potatoes, onions, a range of brassicas, leeks and more niche crops such as kale and beetroot grown in tunnels. The range has been slowly diminishing: salads were the first to be cut, as growing them was especially labour intensive and Jersey was too small a market to allow them to be grown viably.

They grew a lot of chillies for UK multiples, but they were unable to get the annual price increases needed to match the increased costs of labour. Their former customers now import their chillies from other parts of the world.

**So, no more growing or local distribution of vegetables. But what, Charlie was asked, was happening to the other various parts of the old business?**

Woodside was the major Island grower of daffodils, growing about 15 to 20 varieties and exporting to the USA as well as to the UK and also to European multiples (until Brexit). The daffodil stocks have been bought by the Jersey Royal Company. Charlie and a much smaller team will continue helping to manage the crop in future seasons on behalf of Jersey Royal.

An on-going activity will be Woodside Logistics, which provides a commercial and domestic freight distribution service between the UK and the Channel Islands. The company was started in 2015, primarily to support Channel Islands farming businesses exporting to the UK; this grew exponentially even despite the setbacks caused by the Covid pandemic.

‘It was getting to the point when everything was getting quite big and challenging, and not fitting in so well with the requirements of farming businesses. For Woodside Logistics to reach its ultimate potential, it needed to be part of something bigger and it was sold to Jersey Post 12 months ago. It is still experiencing significant month-on-month growth but is now a separately run business.’ Charlie is the managing director, but it is wholly owned by Jersey Post and is no longer dependent on shipping export crops for Jersey and Guernsey farmers.

**What will happen to Woodside Farm? Will the name disappear?**

‘It’s not being sold, it will continue. I don’t know quite what we are going to do, we’ve got a few ideas, but ultimately it will be very different business. We are certainly changing, and certainly giving up growing any food. But there are other things to look at and other things to do. Hopefully, Woodside Farm will continue in some shape or form but smaller than it was until recently.’

Woodside’s environmental aspect has always been significant: a reed bed and three ponds have recycled dirty water used in washing vegetables. They have worked closely with Trinity Manor Farm, sharing land and resources. They installed solar panels that produced enough power to run the whole business, which has been beneficial, both environmentally and in cost effectiveness.

The panels are still in place, still producing electricity. They belong to the JEC, installed on Woodside’s roof, an arrangement that has worked well for both parties. Woodside remains interested in carbon sequestration and regenerative farming and Charlie is seeing what can be done in this respect in the future, in conjunction with the Jersey Royal Company.

The farm shop will continue, unchanged. It is wholly owned by Charlie’s sister, Sarah, and her husband, Mike Greenwood, but is totally independent of Woodside Farm.

In short, it is a very difficult time for the Gallichan family and a time for hard decisions.







In Charlie's words: '... a time for looking at how the figures stack up and realising what you have to do, despite having an emotional commitment to the business. If you've got gangrene creeping into your foot, you've got to chop it off. It might not be pleasant, certainly not what you want to do, but it's what you've got to do. By doing that, hopefully there will be a business for the next generation.'

Charlie is the fifth generation to have lived and worked on the farm and to be called Charles; it is the also the name of his eldest son.

He said: 'I loved farming and persuaded my father to let me leave school at 16, on condition that I did a business studies course at Highlands. Unbelievably, I have been working on the farm for over 30 years.'

His late grandfather began his farming career using horse and plough and lived to see GPS control.

'It's all changed so much, so quickly. What changes will there be in future years? Technology and robotics will play an increasing part, although perhaps not quite so useful in Jersey's small agricultural space as in bigger landscapes elsewhere.'

“ **Our present situation is by no means what we wanted, but that's life, isn't it? There will be new chapters to which we can look forward, as a family, as a farm and as an industry**

'It will certainly be exceptionally challenging at the moment and will continue to be so. Farmers are hugely resilient and always find ways of cutting costs down and keeping going – but it is tough out there. Despite the continued automation of potato planting, there are not many more costs that can be stripped out. The big wins are already done. I'm sure there will be a future for farming, but it will have to be different and look different – and it will remain challenging.'

'The first thing we need is a level playing field with the rest of the world, in terms of aid levels to the industry. Generally speaking, aid to Island growers is about 10 percent of what it is in the UK or Europe. So that's a priority challenge.'

'After that, the challenge should be about automation and increasing levels of mechanisation wherever we can, since labour is a massive problem, both in terms of costs and availability.'

'At Woodside we found ourselves in a very difficult position. Like many other industries, farming is going to polarise: on the one hand, into being very niche and high value or, on the other hand, very big and low cost. Woodside has been in the middle – and the middle is a very bad place for us to be, as it is for anybody in the farming industry. We are too big to be small and too small to be big.'

Charlie feels small farms and smallholders will not be able to fill the gap left by the disappearance of the larger farms and distributors like Woodside: 'To manage a product in such a way that consumers want to buy it, you've got to have a minimum set of premises, equipment etc. We felt that our overheads were as low as they could be. To split what we were doing into smaller units would only add in extra costs.'

'Our present situation is by no means what we wanted, but that's life, isn't it? There will be new chapters to which we can look forward, as a family, as a farm and as an industry.'

# Time for one more adventure – in a different location

**The term of office of Jersey’s Lieutenant-Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, comes to end at the end of June. He talked to Alasdair Crosby**

**A**s this edition of RURAL goes to print, plans for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee are well under way and the main festivities will already have happened shortly before the publication date of the present issue. June will be the final month in office for the Lieutenant-Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton.

Together with Lady Dalton, they will be leaving the Island on 30 June after five and a quarter years.

Asked what their future plans were after their departure, he said: ‘I’m told I’m going to be retiring. I think that’s probably right. I’ve attempted to retire four times so far.

‘We decided to go somewhere completely different: we thought we had time and capacity for one more adventure, so we decided that Scotland was the place. A new adventure in a different location, another beautiful part of the British Isles. We shall be living near Stirling in Perthshire, an area of the country we think is beautiful, open and fresh.



‘There are lots of things that we want to do, and quite frankly, we are looking forward to having the opportunity and the time to enjoy living in that part of the world and to exploring the scenery and the countryside and making easy short trips to enjoy the Scottish countryside.’

Sir Stephen has always had an interest in what might be called ‘environmental’ subjects, so it is appropriate that the Queen’s Green Canopy tree planting project is taking place at the moment in Jersey, as it is across the Commonwealth. It is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which invites people to ‘plant a tree for the Jubilee’ to create a legacy in honour of The Queen’s leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

Sir Stephen continued: ‘Jersey has its own place in this pan-Commonwealth project. The key thing for me about this is that although trees are not the most efficient way of capturing carbon, they are a visible symbol, an important part of saying to people: everyone can contribute to making the environment better. That’s really important.’

Another project in which he has taken great interest and which remains on-going is the possible restoration of La Gigoulande Mill in St Mary.

‘We’ve made huge progress,’ Sir Stephen said. ‘It’s just disappointing that we have not got to the stage of finally getting planning permission to restore it. But we have cleared the ground, restored the millpond and established a formal survey by York University that says that there’s nothing there now to prevent us from going on to the next stage (if we get planning permission) to rebuild the mill and the cottages.’

‘It would be a project of which the Island could be very proud. It would be technologically very important for the whole of the British Isles, given the fact that there are only three double wheel overshot mills in the whole of Britain.’

‘But there is no point in doing that unless we can ensure that there is an income to maintain it in the future. Without that, there is no point in completing the restoration.’

Could there be some income generating application to a restored mill, perhaps by producing a commercial product?

‘Absolutely, and if the mill were to become a working mill in the future, it need not have to work all the time; the wheels could be turned on and off at regular intervals. So long as visitors could see them working, they needn’t be in use all the time. There could be periods in the summer when visitors could stay there and that would generate an income to look after it.’

**“ I’m told I’m going to be retiring. I think that’s probably right. I’ve attempted to retire four times so far**

Both Sir Stephen and Lady Dalton have always taken an interest in local art and artists.

‘We have been very impressed with the quality of some of the art,’ he said. ‘We were at the Eisteddfod in March to present the awards to this year’s winners. Some of the artwork there was just fantastic and some of the needlework was amazing, as was the outstanding ladies’ flower arranging.’

In the hallway of Government House are 20 paintings and three photographs, all by local artists and photographers and designed to show the prominent visiting guests the quality of Island art and artists.

‘We very strongly believe that it would be a great advantage if there were a bigger and better facility to exhibit local art. The Island is crying out for somewhere that would display it. There is so much available and people would certainly visit a gallery that exhibited it.’

He continued: ‘I would like to encourage more artists to do work inside the Island’s interior. So many of the paintings and drawings seem to be of the coastline, which, as we are an island, is not too surprising. But it would be nice if there were more on the Island’s interior countryside as well.’

‘The standard of music is also really good – we remember the productions we used to attend at the Opera House when we first came. So, there is a demand for it and also, musicians like coming to the Island - and it’s great to see them here.’

‘It is just important that we need to find a way of providing the facilities to enable them to play their concerts or for the Island to exhibit its art creations and treasures.’





# Aiming for perfection

**Not many gardeners have to contend with tanks, helicopters landing, marching bands or the presence of thousands of pairs of feet impacting on their lawn. For the Government House head gardener, Stuart Crossan, dealing with that type of problem is all in the day's work. He spoke to Alasdair Crosby**

**T**he thing about gardens is that you can choose what to do and what to change, as you are always trying to achieve perfection. You never get there, but you are always aiming for something that is quite spectacular, always trying to improve it.'

The head gardener at Government House, Stuart Crossan, was describing his working philosophy on a sunny day in late April. The area he cares for comprises one of the largest gardens in the Island - 12 acres that include lawns, woodland, valleys and two ponds, a walled kitchen garden and herbaceous and shrub borders... but it is no more than a 15-minute stroll from there into the middle of town.

In recent weeks the gardens have been made available for the public to enjoy. On 1 May there was an open garden event to benefit the Jersey Association for Youth and Friendship; and also, the Queen's Birthday Reception a month later. Over the years, helicopters have landed on the lawn, parachutists have jumped on to the lawn, tanks have been driven on the grass and there have been bands Beating Retreat... not exactly things with which the average gardener has to contend.

Stuart said: 'From late spring throughout the summer, the garden is used constantly, so you can't start taking the place apart and changing things in mid-season.'



Lady Dalton with gardener Stuart Crossan



“ Over the years, helicopters have landed on the lawn, parachutists have jumped on to the lawn, tanks have been driven on the grass and there have been bands Beating Retreat

He has worked at Government House for the past 25 years, currently with two assistants, Filipe de Freitas and Nick Hartas. ‘It’s a unique place to work,’ he said, ‘with VIPs coming here on a regular basis, summer and winter. It’s not just a summer job and not just a summer garden. It’s always got to look at its best, all year round.’

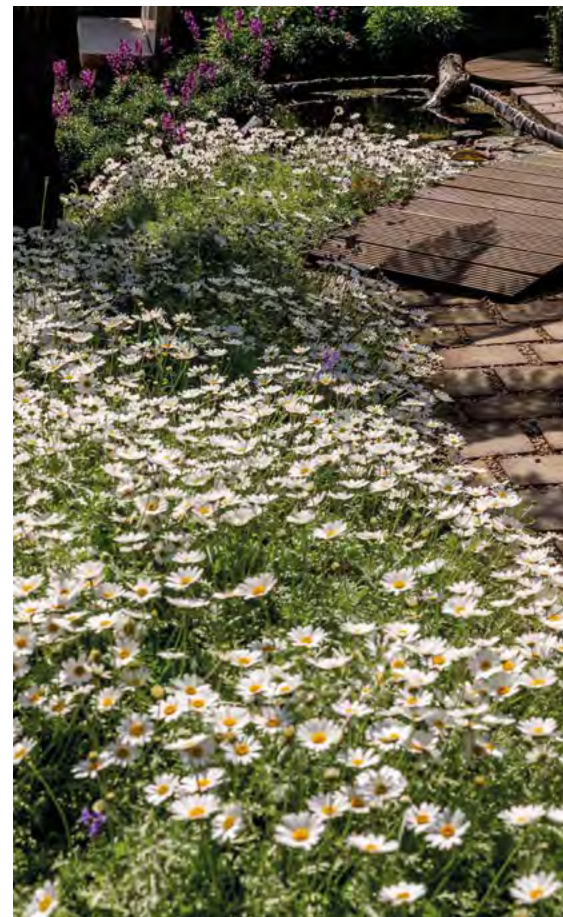
Another unique feature of his workplace is that his boss changes every five years. Both the Lieutenant-Governors and their wives have their own ideas about how the garden should look – naturally enough; it is their home, after all. Currently, Lady Dalton, wife of the present Lieutenant-Governor, is herself a keen gardener and she works closely with Stuart on gardening projects.

‘All the Lieutenant-Governors and their ladies are different and have different ideas about what is important to them,’ he said. ‘Lady Dalton and I both have a passion for gardens. I have worked very closely with her for five years now and developed areas of the garden from plans and drawings.’

There have been several changes in the past five years: the rose beds near the main lawn have gone (the rose bushes needed replacing, anyway) and in their place are knot gardens following designs inspired by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. New flower borders have been created.

Away from the more formal garden area near the house, steps lead downward to the woodland and pond – an area of the grounds in which the late General Sir Michael Wilkes, Lieutenant-Governor from 1995 to 2001, took a particular interest. A wide variety of birdlife take advantage of the pond: moorhens, ducks, barn owls, kingfishers and cormorants.

The waterway is well-channelled to prevent not only the garden area from flooding, but also the low ground at the foot of the hill. In windy weather branches from the trees and some of the trees in a dangerous condition need to be felled and replaced; 40 of them had to be felled after the snowy weather in the spring of 2013.





“ The garden is a lovely place to work – and it is my passion. It’s everything you might want. But it’s high maintenance. From the first function of the year to the very last, the standard has to remain high

In addition, there are the vegetable garden and the extensive flower beds that produce the cut flowers used to decorate the house’s interior ... ‘it does keep us busy,’ Stuart commented.

‘The garden is a lovely place to work – and it is my passion. It’s everything you might want. But it’s high maintenance. From the first function of the year to the very last, the standard has to remain high and should not drop by the end of the season. The very first function has got to be as good as the very last one.

‘Many charities receive permission to hold events in the garden. For every charity and every function, an event at Government House and the gardens is a special day for them, and ensuring the day is special is why I like my job so much: making the day special and making the gardens “sing” to all our visitors.’



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# The heartbeat of a home

Heinz-Jürgen Roosen specialises in the repair of grandfather clocks. Although based in Birmingham, he is a frequent visitor to Jersey. He spoke to Alasdair Crosby about his work

Jersey is 'stuffed' with grandfather clocks; many of them are not in working order and are just kept as pieces of wooden furniture to adorn an empty space.

This information comes from Heinz-Jürgen Roosen, who specialises in the repair of all antique clocks. Born in Krefeld near Düsseldorf in Germany and resident in England since his youth, he has family living in the Island and is a regular visitor, travelling to Jersey every few months to repair the very many clocks that need his expert attention.

'I first came to Jersey to see a friend and he had a clock that nobody in the Island seemed to be able to put right. I repaired it successfully; my friend told some other people about me and by word of mouth my reputation seems to have grown.

My work in Jersey has kept me busy for some 20 years, going to and fro between Jersey and the UK - and making many friends during that time.

'And the business is on-going. I enjoy it; I've managed to make a lot of people happy by making their clocks work again.'

He continued: 'There are some really wonderful clocks in Jersey, some of them very expensive. From what I hear, I gather it is very difficult to get these clocks repaired locally. Clock repair is a particular skill and my own engineering background is helpful. I am German (although I have lived most of my life in the UK) so of course everything has to be correct!'

Heinz-Jürgen arrived in England when he was aged 17 and took a five-year engineering apprenticeship degree at the British Motor Corporation's Longbridge plant, followed by a degree at Birmingham University. He worked under Alec Issigonis on the creation of the Mini car and took part in the celebrations as the first Mini came off the production line. Later, he joined Severn Lamb Ltd, the transportation manufacturer then based in Stratford-upon-Avon, renowned worldwide for various forms of transport systems and equipment that are principally aimed at the leisure market. He was invited to become managing director to oversee the global operations of the company, where he spent 16 years until retirement.

He said: 'Clocks have always been a passion of mine since I received my first grandfather clock as a birthday present, 50 years ago. When I retired, my son said: "Well Dad, you've been very active, you're not going to sit at home in your track suit and do nothing." He went on eBay and bought ten more clocks in need of repair, so that was the start of my clock repair business.'



The first grandfather clock was created in 1680; originally these clocks (more correctly called 'longcase clocks') were fairly simple in design; the wooden frame encasing the pendulum and weights was often a coffin obtained from an undertaker. But a clock's cost made it an expensive item and over the 18th Century the design became increasingly elegant and elaborate.

Heinz-Jürgen continued: 'I've worked on clocks that are 300 years old and got them working again to last another 100 years. I often think, as I work on a clock, that the last person to do so was probably an apprentice 200 years ago, who only had a needle file to cut the fine brass teeth and a candle to provide light and to give him some warmth. Now, I am working on the same clock and my work will keep it going for another century.'

Asked about the most common faults that cause grandfather clocks to stop working, he said that owners did not treat them in the same way as they would treat their car; they would never think of not servicing their car or just waiting to do so until it broke down, but a clock is just as much a machine as a car.

He added: 'What could be better than keeping a clock active so that it provides a living connection to the days when the same slow, steady, tick-tock noise would have been heard by those who are now long departed? For them, just as for today's owners, that clock provides the heartbeat that links the past with the present and turns a house into a home.'





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# The great outdoors for living and eating

**Eating outdoors throughout the year here in Jersey is no longer the preserve of the very rich (*or very crazy*), says Gill Maccabe**

**A**s many kitchens and spare rooms have been turned into home offices and indoor space is at a premium, Islanders are calling on architects and DIY manuals to squeeze value out of every square metre of their land.

A brief trawl of the current online Planning Application Register will reveal that pool houses and outdoor kitchens are topping the leader charts, from simple gazebo structures providing a bit of shelter from the elements to full blown garden rooms that can be used all year round.

How much it costs to put in an outdoor kitchen depends on your budget and how ambitious or how clever you are.

**“ The benefits are enormous, and you don’t need a huge garden. Choose a sheltered spot free from high winds (this is actually easier in a smaller garden surrounded by other properties) and treat it as a spare room**

You could buy a top-of-the-range B&Q barbecue and build your own cooking area outdoors with cabinets, worktops and shelving made from weatherproof materials which will stand the test of time against the elements such as concrete, bricks and reclaimed wood – or you could call in the experts and name your price.

The benefits are enormous, and you don’t need a huge garden. Choose a sheltered spot free from high winds (this is actually easier in a smaller garden surrounded by other properties) and treat it as a spare room.

In the cooler months pretend you are in a ski resort and bring out your padded jackets and hats, light a fire and stick a hot water bottle under a rug on your lap.



“ **The outdoor kitchen was completed just as lockdown struck and was such a blessing. As life has opened up, we all continue to use it in all but the worst of weathers. The children have their friends over and love it**

A local company has created a number of outdoor kitchens for their clients, many of whom don't go in their kitchens at all in the summer months. A recent project designed for Patrick and Yvette Jones in their St Peter home is a fusion of hardwood seating and table tops with concrete worktops and copper taps. A bamboo roof provides shelter from the rain and a 'Big Green Egg' cooker takes pride of place.

Yvette said: 'The outdoor kitchen was completed just as lockdown struck and was such a blessing. As life has opened up, we all continue to use it in all but the worst of weathers. The children have their friends over and love it. We have cooked roasts, pizzas and brunch in the Big Green Egg and the bar is a wonderful focal point. It's given our house and our social life a whole extra dimension.'

#### **Big Green Egg**

This completely charcoal fuelled cooking system is a versatile roaster, a smoker, a bread maker and pizza oven, and is loved by many top chefs such as Tom Kerridge and Angela Hartnett, as well as celebrities such as the Beckhams and Holly Willoughby. The Atlantic Hotel has two on the go in the summer.

If an outdoor kitchen is not your choice, then a barbecue hut may be a good alternative. A 10m version can seat up to 15 adults inside. Expect to pay around £10,000 for a hut of that dimension, but many other sizes are available.

In the summer, close the door on your housework and march friends and family straight out into the garden. From the minute the clock turns six you can enjoy our brilliant sunsets, listen to the sounds of the birds saying goodnight and just be at one in the outdoors, chatting, reading, listening to podcasts or music instead of sitting bunched up in front of the telly with the door open moaning about the heat and flies.

When designing your new room think of ways to make your life as easy as possible by creating cupboard space and drawers for storing outdoor crockery and glasses, and plant pots of culinary herbs such as basil, parsley, mint and chives next to your cooking area. You can narrow down the costs by fitting a sink on an external house wall below an existing outdoor tap and you could use cold water and ice for drinks instead of an outdoor fridge. However, if your budget stretches to it there are some super marine grade stainless steel outdoor fridges on the market, which can operate in temperatures from sub 0c to 40c. Prices start at around £900.





Molinia Daurerstrahl (purple moor grass) and verbeena bonachensis

# Grass-tastic!

## Ornamental grasses are one of the easiest groups of plants to design with in a coastal location. By our gardening correspondent, Gill Maccabe

**E**ast or west, which is best? I'm not talking about the beaches of our home Island, but the gardens and the difference a few miles can make.

As a relative newcomer to the west, from small sheltered gardens in the east where everything grew quickly and slugs were the biggest problem, I've had to adapt to the challenges thrown by our one acre of heavy clay soil in the exposed northwest of the Island, battered by harsh westerlies for much of the winter and drying winds in the summer.

It's a constant learning curve; at the same time as eastern dwellers are apologising to neighbours for their invasive clematis in late April, we are still waiting for our buds to burst into flower and get ridiculously excited when more than half of a fruit tree develops blossom - before it is invariably blown away prematurely.

Everything takes a little bit longer and requires more care and persuasion - apart, that is, for ornamental grasses, one of the easiest groups of plants to design with on (and above) the coast.

“ Many gardens that are quite close to the coast, while having to endure the occasional salt-laden gale, can in fact grow a range of plants that seem overall to tolerate these conditions

Almost every one of the common UK varieties tolerate salt-laden spray or harsh ocean winds – and they are enjoying huge popularity as more gardeners are persuaded to create more naturalistic gardens.

When close friends moved to the coastal park area of St Ouen a few years ago, they had to totally rethink their gardening strategy to cope with the unfamiliar soil and conditions.

They laid out their half acre plot in undulating curves of *miscanthus sinensis* *gnome*, which produces little compact mounds of narrow foliage topped by freely produced pink flowers; the compact *imperata cylindrical rubra*, sometimes known as Japanese blood grass, which bears brilliant red spikes that fade to bright green at the base and become translucent with age; and *calamagrostis karl foerster*, which some think is like a miniature pampas grass.

All agree it is a stunning and tranquil space and relatively low maintenance. Grasses allow you to create a sense of drama. You can plant them in waves and clumps, repeating the same plant say five or seven times and interspersing with taller, see-through plants such as *verbena bonariensis* (with its tall, narrow, sparsely-leaved stems and beautiful, long-lasting, purple, star-shaped flowers) or the tall, tender *sanguisorba pink elephant* (reliable, herbaceous perennial with dark green leaves and nodding spikes of red, bottlebrush-like flower).

As the wind moves up and over the grouped masses, it creates an unbeatable vision of motion and colour, graceful and ethereal, just like the chorus of ballerinas in Swan Lake's Dance of the Cygnets.

One of the UK's leading ornamental grass specialists - sometimes known colloquially as Mr Grass - is RHS Judge and ten times Chelsea gold winner Neil Lucas. He said that most grasses are pretty tolerant of windy situations as they come from fairly similar conditions in the natural landscape.

“ Using deciduous grasses can be a good technique as the worst of the gales tend to be during the winter months when the grasses are dormant with only the dried stems showing above ground



*Pampas Canadensis Pumila*  
All designs and pictures by Neil Lucas of RHS Knoll, Dorset

‘Most of the main groups, such as *pennisetum*, *panicum*, *miscanthus*, *calamagrostis* and *sesleria* are all pretty good in this respect.

‘Many gardens that are quite close to the coast, while having to endure the occasional salt-laden gale, can in fact grow a range of plants that seem overall to tolerate these conditions.

‘*Panicum sea mist*, for example, is a selection of amarum which is a US beach grass species and *pennisetum macroourum* might also be worth a mention (for Jersey gardens).’

He added: ‘Using deciduous grasses can be a good technique as the worst of the gales tend to be during the winter months when the grasses are dormant with only the dried stems showing above ground.’

Ornamental grasses are easy to care for. Deciduous ones should be cut right back before new growth begins in spring, whilst evergreens just need tidying to remove last year’s flower stems and any dead foliage.

The best way to clean your evergreens is to put on a pair of rubber gloves and comb your fingers through the grass and the dead pieces will stick to the gloves.

Neil offers free planting advice from his RHS Knoll nursery in Dorset. Just email [mrglass@knollgardens.co.uk](mailto:mrglass@knollgardens.co.uk) with images of your project and any relevant information and they will reply as soon as they can.

*You can also get more grass-tastic inspiration from the website of Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf, who has created naturalistic, mainly grass, gardens for clients all around the world.*

**Take a look at [www.oudolf.com](http://www.oudolf.com)**



Selection of *miscanthus*, including ‘Herman Mussel’  
All designs and pictures by Neil Luteas of RHS Knoll, Dorset



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# The rose - not just a pretty face

Philippa Evans-Bevan reflects  
on her favourite flower

**T**he rose is undoubtedly the world's best-loved flower and it is certainly my favourite.

The depth of heartfelt joy many people feel when they see a vase or a sprawling mass of roses is indeed powerful and from the perspective of sight and smell, is wholly understandable.

The intrinsic beauty of roses in their many different forms is breathtaking. So too are their fragrances, from delicate to exquisite powerful scents. The rose palette is a myriad of colours, from dreamy creams, through all the citrus colours of lemon, clementine and more, to robust rubies, crimson and garnet.



*Desdemona*

There are also the less visible dimensions to this favoured flower that captivate me. The rose is not just a pretty face.

As the American therapist and writer, Andrew Pacholyk, says: 'The gentle rose offers a powerful joy, known only to the heart.'

Roses have a long and colourful history and some believe, based on fossil evidence, that they existed 35 million years ago. Today there are over 30,000 varieties of roses and they have a quite complicated family tree.

In ancient times, wild roses were used in the production of rosewater, scented oils and other fragrances. Many uses can be traced back to Iraq in 2000 BC, and deliberate cultivation was well underway in China by 500 BC. The Romans and other early European civilisations also grew large quantities for commercial use.

There are references to roses by the Persians in the 12th Century BC where they viewed it as a symbol of love and commitment. In Greek mythology, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was regarded as the creator of the rose, which came about when her tears were mixed with the blood of her wounded lover, Adonis.

The rose became entwined with the Christian faith, for example the rosary, and to a large degree it was the church that was responsible for carrying the rose across Europe to many lands.

The fact that the rose could adapt and thrive in so many climatic and geological zones is a reflection on its resilience. It is always an inspiration to me how even in the harshest and challenging situations, a rose very often will bloom and grow.

“ In Greek mythology, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was regarded as the creator of the rose, which came about when her tears were mixed with the blood of her wounded lover, Adonis



*The Generous Gardener*



“ The fact that the rose could adapt and thrive in so many climatic and geological zones is a reflection on its resilience. It is always an inspiration to me how even in the harshest and challenging situations, a rose very often will bloom and grow

Early European roses were probably forms of the *Rosa Gallica*, native of Europe and found from France to the Caucasus. These compact roses with fragrant flowers that occur in a variety of shades from white to red in single and double flowered form epitomise the Old Roses. The beautiful old European varieties with their wonderful fragrances and some with their origins in the middle east, include the *Gallicas*, the *Damasks*, the *Albas*, the *Centifolias* and the *Moss Roses*.

With such a timeline, I wondered when these roses did in fact start being 'old'. The answer is 1867. This was the year that '*La France*' appeared, the first hybrid tea rose. This soft pink but highly perfumed rose took the world by storm and it is still available today.

Old Roses are genuine shrubs and not like the small upright bushes of these successors. The hybrid tea roses and floribundas became extremely popular but they did not have the flower form and perfume of the Old Roses.

In the 1940s David Austin decided to combine the beauty of the Old Roses with the practical virtues of the Modern Roses in one range of roses. Over 50 years David Austin devoted his time to the development of what he chose to call English Roses.

This now comprises a huge collection, which continues to grow, and among the many award winning roses he has bred are '*William and Catherine*' to celebrate the royal wedding and the '*Princess Anne*'.

It seems that the rose has a never-ending story, a remarkable and continuing journey. As Walter de la Mare wrote in the much quoted lines from his poem *All That's Past*: 'Through what wild centuries roves back the rose.'



Roald Dahl  
Photo Credits: Philippa Evans-Bevan



# Wild and wet

**Earlier this year, Grouville parishioners voted against including nine fields for housing in the Bridging Island Plan. Environmentalist Bob Tompkins wants to raise more awareness about the importance of Jersey's wetlands. By Caroline Spencer**

**A**ccording to international studies, wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests. The Ramsar Convention's Global Wetland Outlook 2018 warned that wetlands remain dangerously undervalued by policymakers worldwide.

Environmentalist Bob Tompkins is frustrated that there is no protection for wetlands except Grouville Marsh in that parish. Our walk, on a sunny spring day, centres on lanes around La Rue de la Marais à la Cocque. Marais, of course, means marsh.

'The habitats here are as unique as in St Ouen's Bay,' Bob explains. 'Any more development on these fields in Grouville would threaten the green corridors used by animals and migratory birds alike. For example, we get a big influx of wild geese, and waders during the winter.'



'When the Brent geese come off the intertidal area, they weave their way through the field systems. They don't like flying over high structures, and these wet fields effectively act as avian corridors, and they are also key grazing fields.'

The Fauvic coastal area is very much Bob's patch, and he has been fascinated by local wildlife ever since he can remember. As we walk, he talks of the bank vole, the lesser white-toothed shrew, newts, toads and dragonfly larvae. He points out cattle egrets and buzzards flying overhead, all of which thrive in these wetland habitats.

'The bird life here is astronomical,' he said. 'This is also prime real estate if you're a barn owl as the long-term pastures provide excellent hunting ground.'

We walk past a field where studies have started into the life cycle of the common eel.

'To my horror, I found out a few weeks ago that the common eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, is not protected locally at all,' he said. 'In Europe, the UK and America, it's classified as critically endangered. A small group of us is trying to do something about that. We will collect as much data as we can and put it forward next year for a change in the wildlife law.'

‘The eels arrive as what are known as Glass fish and as they enter the fresh water system, change to become Yellow eel. It can take 30 years, but something triggers them and they go into their breeding condition and they change shape, colour, size, and stop eating altogether and become known as Silver eels that then swim right across the Atlantic, breed and then die. How magical is that!’

Wetlands like those in Grouville are of vital importance. All wetlands sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon is held in the compost, living vegetation, soils and sediments.

We stop at a field, known as Marais à la Cocque, where Bob points out streams and the endemic plant life, as well as some invasive species like Hemlock water dropwort. Some of these fields were submitted for development, he explains.

‘The southern tip of one of the fields is marsh and they’re all prime agricultural land,’ he said. ‘Other fields that were identified were not classified as prime farmland but just because they’re not prime farmland doesn’t mean that they’re not important fields in their own right.’

This one, he says, is typical of the narrow field strips along the coast, the last stronghold of this type of habitat. ‘It’s only like this in Grouville,’ he said. ‘You won’t see it in St Clement any more, because it’s all been built on.’

“ **We need a similar protection inland as we have on the south-east coastal wetlands because otherwise you’re upsetting the whole eco balance**

The possible inclusion of up to nine fields in the parish for affordable homes were considered ahead of the States’ debate on the Bridging Island Plan. It led to a requête, an ancient legal device allowing parishioners to demand that a parish assembly be held. More than 200 parishioners voted against the fields being put forward.

Bob argued that not only would development increase the risk of flooding, but it would also damage the surrounding wildlife habitats.

The Island has got to start joining the dots and consider the impact of each decision, he said.

‘This terrain naturally links to Grouville School’s marsh field and then along to Grouville Marsh,’ he said. ‘These are green corridors, and we need more of them.’

Jersey’s southeast coast has Ramsar protected status, which means it is a wetland of international importance. Bob, who sits on the local management authority for Ramsar, wants to see the protection extended to terrestrial wetlands.

‘We need to do avian comparison studies in the intertidal area because it is directly connected to what is happening in the terrestrial area,’ he said. ‘We need a similar protection inland as we have on the southeast coastal wetlands because otherwise you’re upsetting the whole eco balance.’

‘And then if we can get protection for the common eel, then we should be able to get some form of protection for its habitat Island-wide. If someone then comes along in three or four years’ time and wants to build houses on this type of land, you can say there’s the data as to why you can’t. That’s what we need.’



# Eggs, chirps and magical birdsong

It's all a question of timing says  
Mike Stentiford



For those who keep a keen and extra special eye on nature's seasonal appearances, news of the current fast but subtle forwarding of springtime is likely to come as no surprise.

According to 'experts in the field', the nesting of certain bird species is now ahead of the game by at least three weeks, the mischievous and expected culprit being climate change.

Discarding all thoughts of such climatic shenanigans, these past few weeks have retained the record as being the most industrious time of year for certain species of terrestrial bird.

Despite having an entire twelve months in which to carry out nesting and parental duties, we surely have to be in awe knowing of the overload of frenetic avian energy being squeezed into a strict allowance of just four critical weeks of procreation.

This narrow allocation of time is entirely due to the seasonal distribution of food parcels, nature's way of offering parent birds a kind of supermarket dash, when as many edible goodies as possible are snapped up in double quick time.

The fact that garden birds, in particular, are at the head of the queue in this respect, offers a valid reason why most of them might appear to be turning their backs on our fully laden, but evidently 'must be avoided' bird feeders.

Any perception we might have that birds have permanently deserted us is, of course, unfounded. The simple fact is that whatever seedy delicacy we tip into our bird feeders has no chance whatsoever of exciting a bird's taste buds as much as a fat, juicy and highly nutritious grub or caterpillar.

However, this early summer calorie-rich bonus is short-lived and in no time at all, tits, finches and robins are likely to loyally renew membership of the 'garden bird feeder fan club'.

One natural phenomenon that will assuredly be missed as the merry month of May makes its departure is the glorious sound of music emanating from the annual dawn chorus.

My personal thoughts are that this annual musical marvel should be recognised as an everyman's privilege and, as such, should be officially endorsed as a public event.

Scant chance of this happening, of course, but as a truly remarkable natural aid to mental health and wellbeing, applying for a free ticket should be made a mandatory obligation.

Sadly, for the avid bird listener, the vast majority of those members of springtime's avian gospel choir will, by now, have all but disbanded and handed in their varied song sheets for another year. But that's not to say that a handful of garden tunesmiths would miss the chance of a sporadic warble or ten as or when the fancy takes them.

Blackbirds, in particular, appear to sing way beyond the territorial call of normal duty and are often heard chatting up the females long after the breeding season is over and done with.

Likewise, robins take up something of a marathon singing challenge by musically performing the light fantastic almost throughout the entire year.

Admittedly, their soft and wistful tunes of winter have far less vibrancy and urgency than their springtime song but one surely has to credit them with full marks for persistence.

Whether nest building, egg laying or tuneful bursts of territorial birdsong, the overriding factor in all of this frenetic energy is the necessity of precision timing.

With the current subtle changes to the climate clock, nature has little recourse but to adapt as best it can which, by all accounts, it appears to be doing rather well.





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# When carbon considerations conflict with conservation



Not so long ago, hooved herbivores used to roam Jersey's sand dunes. Now the only larger animals you are likely to see are dogs with their owners. Could you imagine flocks of semi-wild animals returning there? Caroline Spencer finds out why that is being proposed as part of a conservation study

Everyone is agreed that we need to protect the sand dunes, one of our Island's treasures. However, if you measured it only on what they brings to the party in terms of carbon capture, it wouldn't be top of the list.

The biodiversity of the dunes, on the other hand, is excellent. There are 400 plant species across the dunes, including early sandgrass (*mibora minima*), arguably the smallest grass species in the world. It's extremely rare across the British Isles.

This conflict, between conserving habitats for their carbon value or their biodiversity, is being studied by Josh Smith. Josh (26), who hails from Wolverhampton, is a PhD student with the Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) and the University of Exeter.

A key aspect of his three-year study, which is funded by the Jersey Community Foundation, is to consider what restorative practices can be adopted to increase carbon sequestration above and below the ground.

What Josh would like to see is the development of a grazing network across the Island. Conservation grazing is the use of semi-wild or domesticated grazing livestock to increase the biodiversity of a habitat. Jersey, he says, is in dire need of having hooved herbivores naturally moving around an area, to put pressure on over-dominant species such as bracken, gorse, burnet rose and holm oak.

'You need animals that will roll around, trample everything, score pathways. Reptiles can bask, marsh harriers can swoop in, everything comes alive.'

‘Implementing an ecologically balanced grazing regime in an open coastal habitat like the dunes will support species that rely on active disturbance processes,’ he said.

‘Livestock integration is one of five key principles to increasing soil health and carbon below the ground,’ Josh said. ‘Integrating an adaptive grazing strategy with restorative agricultural practices could lead to an estimated increase of 44 percent soil organic carbon in 20 years. A solution to the conflicting conservation goals could be found by incorporating natural (dune grassland and heathland) and agricultural habitats (wet meadow, pasture and cropland) into one unified grazing network.

‘Major soil carbon sequestration on the agricultural land could outweigh the carbon emission generated in the coastal habitats.’

“ I have faith that we are going in the right direction. The real question is: Are we going fast enough?

Mixed grazing flocks could include cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and even deer. ‘I’m not advocating deer,’ he explained. ‘What I’m advocating is an open discussion with as many different stakeholders as possible, including the Government of Jersey, dairy farmers, shepherds and dog walkers.’

Josh’s proposal would not mean that there would be severely restricted access to the dunes. He wants to keep them as accessible as possible to walkers and dogs.

In March this year, a flock of Manx Loaghtan sheep were introduced to a fenced area near La Moye Golf Club as part of a trial grazing plan to control the spread of dominant plant species. Josh, who studied zoology at the University of Birmingham, will be interested to see how the Environment Department’s project goes.

‘That escarpment, up by the golf course fence, is being taken over by bracken, privet and blackthorn, and that threatens the tiny grasses that stabilise the dune.

‘Does the little grass matter? It poses the question, what are our ethics, our principles, what is our impact, why are we conserving these habitats, and these species? You shouldn’t just protect something for the sake of it. You should protect it for a reason - backed by evidence and research.

‘Building this wider grazing network incorporates both carbon sequestration and biodiversity gains. It could outweigh and actually significantly sequester more carbon to the point where you’re doing Jersey’s part for climate change, and you’re offering an extra revenue for farmers through the increased nutrients in crops.

‘The other economic potential for farmers is by sequestering carbon into the soil, you could claim carbon credits.’

Josh has already spoken to many stakeholders, including the Government, the National Trust for Jersey, the Carbon Farm and the Dark Green Carbon trading platform.



‘I would really like my study to be a model for other agriculturally intensive continental islands,’ he said. ‘I’d also like it to be an opportunity for Jersey to transition to regenerative agriculture.

‘I feel there is a tipping point, a positive tipping point, whereby we can push some ecological change in the right direction.

‘I have faith that we are going in the right direction. The real question is: Are we going fast enough?’



# The circular building economy



## Alan Langlois of AAL Recycling talked to Alasdair Crosby about how, with the aid of a new giant aggregate washing plant, building waste can be recycled – 100 percent

**I**t is a bizarre, almost prehistoric landscape. There are bare mountains of sand and rubble. Machinery and dump trucks manoeuvre through the landscape like dinosaurs, some of them with long necks are nibbling at the tops of the mountains. There is a constant rumbling and grinding noise – perhaps an earthquake is coming?

Where are we? Welcome to Langlois Land! Not a blade of grass anywhere, yet one of Jersey's greenest workplaces. But yes, there is indeed an earthquake coming – an environmental earthquake that will see extraction and landfill replaced by reuse and recycling. So, welcome also to the circular economy at work.

Actually, the geographical location of this landscape is at the far extremity of La Collette reclamation area, at the AAL Recycling work site. If it hadn't been for landfilling over the past few decades, we would be some way offshore at this location.

Alan Langlois, the owner of AAL Recycling, said: 'Stopping landfill is essential, as we cannot continue indefinitely extending the Island's coastline outwards.

'Rubble from demolished buildings, from excavations and construction projects comes to us. We crush, clean and grade the material to enable reuse by the Island's construction industry as aggregate, sand or soil without the necessity of having to import sand or extend quarries.

'We want our operation to be as environmentally friendly as possible. The water used in the wash plant is recycled in the process; the power needed to run the plant is derived from the Energy Recovery Facility and even the excavator feeding the machine utilises biodiesel as its fuel.

'Everything which passes into the wash plant is recycled and all the products that would otherwise have ended up as landfill can be recycled and reused locally.

'Recycling material on a large scale protects the locally mined quarried aggregates and sand, which both extends the life of the quarries and also reduces the need for importation.'



“ **Rubble from demolished buildings, from excavations and construction projects comes to us. We crush, clean and grade the material to enable reuse by the Island’s construction industry as aggregate, sand or soil without the necessity of having to import sand or extend quarries** ”

The aggregate wash plant was manufactured in Italy and constructed on site last year. The plant has recently been commissioned and is in full daily use. In its first six weeks it has recycled approximately 10,000 tons of inert building waste.

The waste is loaded into one end of the giant wash plant. The largest clumps of building rubble are thrown out, but these can then be crushed into smaller sizes for reprocessing. The wash plant cleans, sorts and grades the material, to produce at the other end of the process ready-to-use chippings of various sizes, and of course, sand that can be a constituent of locally produced concrete.

At the other end of the Island in St Ouen, the Frances Le Sueur Centre has recently become the headquarters of the new Jersey National Park. The building itself is set back from the road and the driveway and car parking area in front has always been very pothole-y. Park president Jim Hopley said that AAL Recycling had produced and donated the aggregate chippings needed to transform this pothole-blighted drive into something more welcoming for visitors’ cars.



Alan said: ‘That is part of AAL Recycling’s environmental ethos to preserve and enhance the natural environment in whatever way we can. We put a grid down and filled it with recycled aggregate.’

‘The aggregate, along with the fine sand and the Kelly building blocks, are our three primary recycled products. We have had lots of interest from Guernsey for our bagged products and from France, there has been interest in our loose products: our potential market is by no means limited to the Island.’

The new washing plant, Alan said, was really just a big washing machine: it cleans rubble and produces, at the end of the process, everything from 40mm aggregate to very fine sand.

‘For the past 30 years, we have been receiving rubble and building materials - our job, in partnership with the government, has always been to recycle what we could.’

The farming industry can now benefit from a cake-like material, which has a lime and nutrient content that can be spread on the surface of fields, to help to keep moisture in the field and to replace soil that has been eroded away.

Even the trash – the pieces of wood and plastic that get thrown out of the machine (four tons a day of that is produced) - can be sent to the Energy Recovery Facility and in return provide electricity for running the wash plant.





“ The products we produce will hopefully change the mindset of specifiers, clients and policy makers to make sure that recycled products should be the first and preferred choice for all construction projects in the future

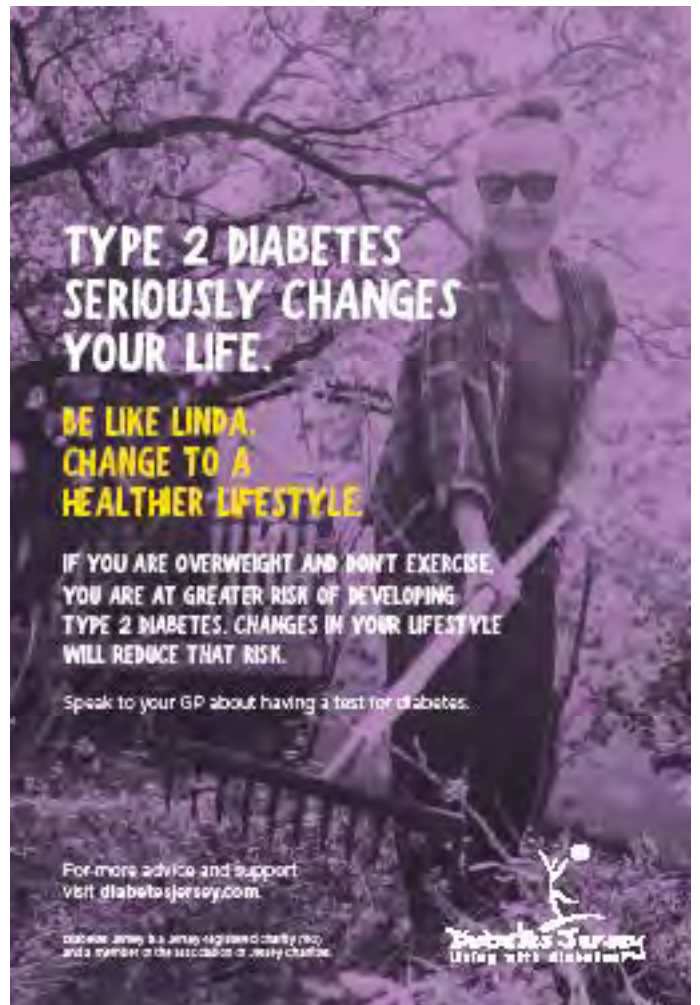


‘This is tomorrow’s world. At the risk of labouring the point, this is the circular economy at work. Everything that goes through this wash plant is 100 percent recyclable. The plant recycles up to 1,000 tons a day of clean, reusable material. We have sold 1.1million tons of recycled aggregate in the past 30 years; our target now is to double that.’

Recently, AAL Recycling have started production of concrete blocks and non-structural concrete made of 100 percent recycled products (except the cement), which has a lower carbon content than concrete from quarries. This has proved to be very successful and provides a flexible and low-cost alternative to the market. This product has proved to be successful and it is a challenge to keep up with the demand.

‘The benefit of what we do is to provide the Island with sustainable, high quality and value for money products minimising the need to import. The products we produce will hopefully change the mindset of specifiers, clients and policy makers to make sure that recycled products should be the first and preferred choice for all construction projects in the future. This is a key part of the mind change required for the Island to meet its ambitions of carbon neutrality.

‘It is a bargain on the Island’s doorstep, waiting to be picked up. It is a perfect example of the circular economy in action.’



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## A hunt without hounds and now without a huntsman. At the Jersey Drag Hunt, the hounds have gone back to England and, like John Peel, huntsman Mark Evans has now gone far, far away. By Ruth Le Cocq

**T**he stamping of hooves. The excited chatter of riders and then the sound of the hunting horn. There is a momentary pause before the deep voices of the foxhounds take hold as they pick up the scent. The hunt begins.

Except next season there will be silence. The Jersey Drag Hunt, one of the oldest in the British Isles, will be hunting without hounds for the first time since just after the Second World War.

Ill health has forced Mark Evans, the huntsman, to retire early after 28 years of caring for the hounds and he and his wife, Marilyn, have just left the Island. Their accommodation, located alongside the kennels, was no longer available so the hounds were moved to the UK after the last hunt in February.

‘I took them over,’ said Mark. ‘The next day when I came back, I woke up and I got out of bed and I went to put my work clothes on and I remembered – oh they’re not here.’

The last year has not been easy for Mark, whose passion for hunting began as a schoolboy. He had an adverse reaction to his first Covid vaccination and then fell and broke his back, so his riding days are over.

‘Last season, instead of going out on the horses Nick (the joint master) and I went out on the bikes every day to exercise the hounds.

‘I really miss riding. I’ve been in hunt service since I was 16 years old. I’ve always been involved right from when I was a little kid. I used to run after the local pack back home. They used to pick me up and I’d get in the horsebox – I couldn’t ride – and then one day the old master whip said: “We’ve got a pony in the back for you – get on that!”’

Mark and Marilyn moved into South Lodge at Trinity Manor, where the kennels were then based, in 1994. They both fell in love with Jersey and, although hunt staff tend to move on after a few years, they stayed and embraced the Island way of life.

‘We loved it. I loved how quiet and peaceful it was and the people were friendly. We both loved the countryside and the beaches,’ he said.

However, Mark remembers that it took him some time to get used to drag hunting.

‘The first year was terrible because we kept stopping for rain and it was a totally different way of hunting for me. We used Harriers but we sent them back and brought in Foxhounds. There were big fields in those days perhaps 40 or 50 people out with more ladies than men and some farmers.’

The couple’s love of the Island only increased when they moved to be alongside the hounds in their new kennels at St Mary in 1997.

‘You have to be fairly close to hear them,’ explained Mark. ‘They are a pack animal, and they can start singing or they can start fighting and it’s for you to know whether it’s okay or not.’

“ It’s good to give something back and it’s a totally new life and a new adventure



‘The hounds are very gentle and they’ve all got different natures, and you can go up there when you are having a bad day and just sit on the bed with them and just chat – I miss them like mad. I still hear them, you know, but they are not there.’

Mark was the only paid member of the hunt staff and to support the club’s finances, which were hit when they had to start importing biscuit feed instead of getting food from the local abattoir, he started working part-time at Les Landes Racecourse before becoming Clerk of the Course. Also, he became more involved with the parish, working as a Constable’s Officer, a Centenier and as Chef de Police.

‘I loved being in St Mary as it’s all about helping the parishioners and because it’s so small and quiet you were there to do that. You could get a phone call at any time of day, and it could be about anything like a missing person or a horse lying in a field and someone thinking it’s dead because it’s not moved!’

The couple now live in a small village near Carlisle and Mark is planning to get involved with the community there.

‘It’s good to give something back and it’s a totally new life and a new adventure. Whatever happens it will work,’ he said.

He thinks Marilyn, who has played a major part in fundraising for the JDH and has organised the annual Hunt Ball for many years, will miss walking the couple’s Golden Retrievers on the Island’s beaches, but they are both looking forward to exploring the nearby Lake District.

And, while settling into their new home, Mark is investigating whether he can go out with the Fell Hounds.

‘They don’t hunt with horses,’ he winked.



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# Kindergarten for puppies



**For most owners, their dog is an important part of the family, so once you've made the decision and bought a puppy - what next? Kieranne Grimshaw spoke to trainer, Margo Flaherty, to discuss the benefits of 'early-years' puppy training**

**M**argo Flaherty had been in the finance industry for 32 years before she decided to qualify as an IMDT (Institute of Modern Dog Trainers). This was in 2019, when she started her own business. She originally wanted to be a Police Dog Handler, but was only five feet tall.

Many things have changed since the days of Barbara Woodhouse, she said. 'Nowadays we call it learning as opposed to obedience. They learn if you get them to sit anywhere, whereas with obedience a puppy has to sit beside or in front.'

'I think it's really important for puppies to have manners as early as possible. So, when some puppies arrive in the Island, I'll go straight to the owner's home and start training there.'

The benefits of early home training seem evident.

'By doing this before the puppy's second inoculation, we've already got the manners before they go into a class.' As with nurseries for children, Puppy Kindergarten has similar benefits!

Margo continued: 'At home I teach the puppies mostly safety things, so touch or recall. I also show the humans the technique to learn to leave, especially if something is toxic on the floor.'

Practice makes perfect and Margo suggests that owners practice while out walking their puppy - perhaps along a street or in the country where there could be a dead animal or even a chicken bone.

A useful technique Margo teaches is the concept of 'swap'. 'So if you're doing the washing, your puppy may steal your socks and run away' - sounds familiar?

'If they run away with something you want and you chase them, it becomes a game. Instead, I get their attention by presenting a tasty treat, they need to open their mouth to get the treat and that's when I remove the object they shouldn't have. They learn by positive repetition - the more fun, the more they will want to repeat a task.'

Teaching both owner and puppy is key, especially for first time dog owners. 'I never train the puppy without the owner being there as they should always see how I'm doing it and the cues I use - we don't use commands any more - it's a softer approach. Everything is about being positive and reward-based in this training.'

“ Margo not only has a lovely way with dogs, but she’s just as focused on getting all of the family on board in a relaxed and fun way

One of Margo’s clients, Helen Myers, sitting alongside her two Labrador pups, said: ‘Margo not only has a lovely way with dogs, but she’s just as focused on getting all of the family on board in a relaxed and fun way. We started a four week one-on-one training programme as soon as we got them home. Although we’ve grown up with dogs throughout our lives, Margo gave us some really effective and updated methods on all of the basic dog training commands including recall. We know this early investment in training (alongside a lot of perseverance) will reap huge rewards for years to come.’



For Margo, puppies are nearly all the same to train. ‘However, some are more overly excited and stimulated than others. They don’t think about what they’re doing, they just want to get their reward,’ she said.

Early training, according to Margo, benefits the wellbeing of both owner and puppy. ‘I recently had a lady with a nine month old rescue pup, who had never been off the lead. We took her to the beach and let her off and the lady was nearly crying as she’d never seen her running. The owner just needed the backup confidence from herself; the little dog was amazing and it came back as it knew it was getting chicken as a treat!’

Top tips from Margo are to be consistent, use simple cues, reward good behaviour and allow puppies their own time to play and have fun.

Every Thursday evening at 6.45pm Margo volunteers at The Jersey Dog Training Association, where owners can learn from each other, share stories and meet up later for walks. ‘I show you the techniques and the way to get the best out of your dog, but you have to have the commitment from the owner. The time you put in in the beginning is beneficial for the rest of their lives.’

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Margo and pupil

# Dairy for development



## Cathy Le Feuvre discovers how RJA&HS-led projects in Africa are not only transforming the lives of smallholder farmers and their families but also empowering women

**B**eatrice Semua is a young mother who lives in the village of Kapeya in the Chiradzulu district in Southern Malawi.

Two years ago Beatrice, like many other women in rural Africa who rely on the land to get by, lived hand to mouth. With eight children, just feeding her family was a challenge. Then she was selected to receive a cow via a cow loan scheme called Mkakazi, which translates as 'Milk Women'.

Beatrice is just one of many hundreds of women whose lives are being transformed by programmes under the 'Dairy for Development' banner, a Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RJA&HS) initiative, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, which helps small holder farmers in Malawi, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Through cow loan schemes like Mkakazi, cross breeding of indigenous cattle with Jersey genetics which improves the quality of the milk produced by cows, training of Artificial Insemination (AI) personnel on the ground to deliver Jersey semen, and general education on dairy cattle management and business, lives and livelihoods are being changed, and in many cases working with the women in communities is an important focus.

The Rwanda and Malawi projects both have a strong focus on female farmers. The Malawi project has over 50 percent female beneficiaries and Dairy for Development programme officer Sam Thomson says investing in women in rural communities is often key to the success of a project.

'Women in the communities in which we work tend to do the bulk of domestic work but often have less influence when it comes to economic decisions in the home and may struggle to participate in activities that can earn them income. Focusing on women has a direct economic benefit for them (and for a country's economy at large) but also helps increase their social standing and social mobility. It can even have a knock-on effect of improving health, education and wellbeing for women, and the children they care for.'

'The core focus of our programmes is on improving incomes (and stability of that income) through increasing the quantities of milk and dairy products produced and sold. It's also about improving household nutrition by increasing availability of dairy for consumption. Increasing the quality and productivity of their animals, and improving their management, helps farmers become more resilient by reducing their vulnerability to external shocks, be they climatic or economic.'



There's no doubt that some of the communities in which Dairy for Development work are traditionally patriarchal, with many of the key roles being male-dominated, but Sam says women are often crucial to the success of a farm, family and community.

'It varies on a case-by-case basis, but in the areas where we work, women generally take on more of the day-to-day work involved in keeping dairy cattle, often on top of the bulk of domestic work and childcare. Women are often heavily involved in the supply chain aspects such as milk collection centres. Although there may be some initial hesitancy towards programmes focussed on improving women's participation in non-traditional roles, over time and by encouraging the buy-in of men, perceptions can change.'

AI technicians and animal health workers are generally male, but there have been efforts to increase female enrolment and women are also supported to take on leadership roles. For example, leading community 'self-help groups' in the Rwanda project, or serving on the committees of milk bulking groups in the Malawi project. And Sam says that despite some cultural challenges, the Dairy for Development projects and their partners are committed to empowering women through training and support.

'Working with trusted local agencies, who have the cultural awareness to approach issues in a way that will resonate with local people, is important. The charity Send a Cow, for example, have included 'Gender and Social Inclusion' (GESI) training in the Rwanda project, which focuses on encouraging joint participation in household work and decision making. The fact that women are often the most involved in daily dairying work means the focus on women makes sense.'

And Beatrice in Southern Malawi is a prime example of how investing in women works.

Since receiving her cow in 2020, she's raised two female calves and her herd is growing. Through increased sales of milk to the bulking centre, her family income has improved and thanks to local support from SHMPA - the Shire Highlands Milk Producers Association with whom she and the project are working – Beatrice is confident of a bright future for herself and her family.

**For more information about Dairy for Development go to [www.royaljersey.co.uk/new-dairy-for-development](http://www.royaljersey.co.uk/new-dairy-for-development)**



“ Working with trusted local agencies, who have the cultural awareness to approach issues in a way that will resonate with local people, is important



Beatrice

# The war in Ukraine



**By Simon Boas,  
executive director of  
Jersey Overseas Aid**

**W**e are all now familiar with the Ukrainian national flag, which can be seen over even the quietest hamlet and green lane in Jersey, but not everyone understands its symbolism. Ukraine is one of the largest grain producers in the world, and its flag's colours represent peaceful blue skies over vast golden wheat fields. As I discovered when I visited aid organisations and warehouses in Eastern Poland in April, Russia's murderous invasion means we all need to think about that yellow stripe.

At the civil-military coordination briefing in Rzeszow, the General from the US 82nd Airborne Division spelt it out clearly: farmers will struggle to bring in July's harvest. Diesel and other essential supplies are harder to obtain, and (although exempt from conscription) many agricultural workers have joined up to fight.



Furthermore, with the Black Sea ports blockaded, farmers will not be able to sell existing stocks, meaning they will lack the funds to pay workers, maintain equipment, and buy seed and fertiliser. This also means the country lacks silo space even to store the 2022 harvest.

This has grave consequences for all of us, but particularly for the hungriest and least stable countries in the world.

Ukraine produced about 40 million tonnes of wheat last year, and an additional 50 million tonnes of sunflower seeds, barley and maize. Grain exports are forecast to be down by at least a quarter, and in the first month of the war the global price of staple cereals rose by 20 percent to their highest levels on record.



This huge increase will have a massive impact on countries reliant on imports or food aid. Eighteen of the world's poorest countries – including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen - import more than half their grain from Ukraine and Russia. The World Food Programme also bought 50 percent of its grain last year from Ukraine, and is spending about 50 million more a month to buy the same amount of food as last year. It estimates an additional 47 million people could be pushed into chronic hunger. Meanwhile, higher wheat prices are already fomenting unrest in some countries, just as they did before the Arab Spring.

Jersey's Overseas Aid programme (JOA) will continue to help the people of Ukraine suffering under Russia's barbaric war. By May the Island had already given over 2 million in support, including 4,000 trauma kits and other vital supplies for medics, and essential items for some of the millions of refugees who have fled to Poland, Moldova and Slovakia.

Over £750,000 has been raised through the Bailiff's Ukraine Appeal, and JOA also helped ensure that the 14 lorryloads of items donated by the public at Parish Halls reached the right people. But we will also have to step up our efforts in places like Yemen and the Horn of Africa to ensure that those facing starvation – as some people reading this article were in 1945 – can feed their children. Ukraine's flag stands for food, as well as freedom, and both are under threat.

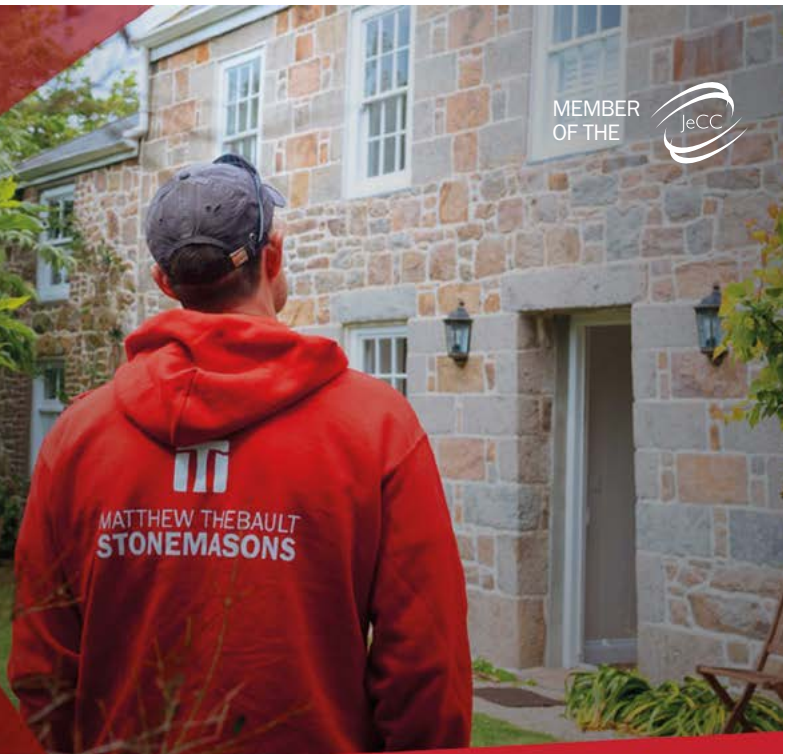
**If you would like to donate to the Bailiff's Ukraine Appeal, please visit [www.sidebyside.je](http://www.sidebyside.je)**

*Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA) is responsible for distributing the funding raised through the Bailiff's Ukraine Appeal. Jersey Side by Side is coordinating the fundraising efforts on the Island. You can read about the support given so far at [www.joa.je/bailiffs-ukraine-appeal/](http://www.joa.je/bailiffs-ukraine-appeal/)*

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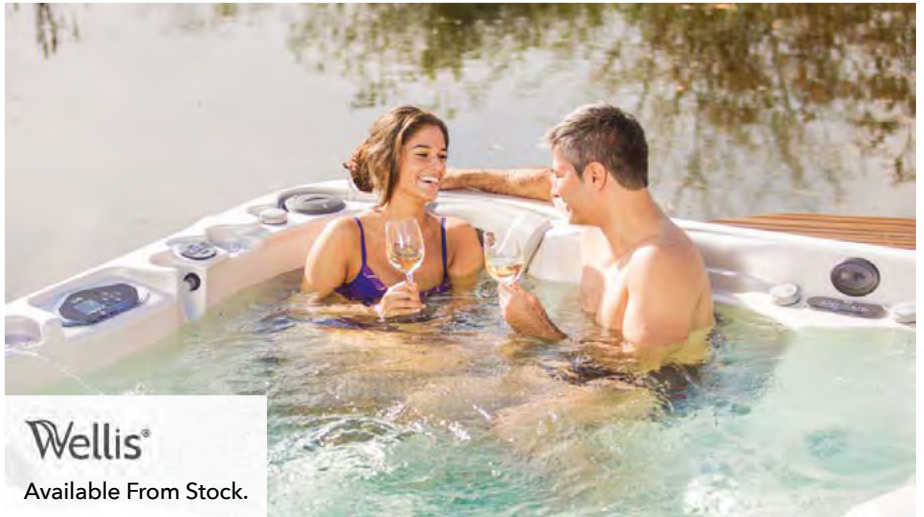
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# Something old, something new

## Cathy Le Feuvre visits a new business with links back to Jersey's heritage and history

Walking into the Jersey Skin shop is like strolling back into the past. In the corner there's an old barrel into which has been mounted a copper *bachin*, a traditional Jersey bowl, and on wooden shelving there are products bearing names in the Island's traditional language, Jèrriais. There's an old fireplace, which was discovered behind a wall, and tiles that give a hint of the shop's history.

Number 11 The Parade is a former leather shoe shop, and before that it was a butcher's shop ... which is ironic really, given that today it's home to a business that creates and sells vegan products.

Benjamin Martin, the founder of Jersey Skin, is passionate about his products – cosmetic and personal care items all made from local ingredients – as well as his Island home, its heritage and history.

Jersey Skin was born during the first Covid lockdown when Benjamin found himself in isolation. A trained actor, he was working in stage management in London and Europe when lockdown hit in March 2020. Not knowing when theatre would reopen and while isolating at the family home in Gorey, Benjamin began thinking about and then creating his own cosmetics.

'I've always had a passion for cosmetics. I've got incredibly difficult skin – I'm allergic to pretty much everything, anything chemical. I used to really struggle buying products for myself and I went vegan about five years ago, before it was as commercialised as it is now, and finding a cruelty-free vegan product was very difficult. So I had started making my own products.'

With some basic ingredients and distillery sets ordered online he began 'playing around' and created first pillow mists and moisturisers. His mother has a background in science so she got involved, they started researching elements to see what would work and what they could grow in the family garden, and then distil to make the products.

By September 2020 trading had begun online and today Jersey Skin personal care products can be found on shop shelves across the Island.

In May 2021 Benjamin opened the Jersey Skin shop in the Parade where he and business supervisor Suki Cartwright meet customers and sell an ever-expanding range of products. Behind the shop, there's a small modern workshop where many of the products are created.

Determined that Jersey Skin would reflect his ethical lifestyle, Benjamin's products are 100 percent vegan apart from a couple of items that use beeswax sourced from various beekeepers across the Island.

“ I wanted to come up with a name which locals could associate with and be proud of. But I always wanted it to be lovely for tourists... something a little bit different to take home

With the help of his parents, Jane and Fraser, the business grew rapidly – mostly using plants grown in the family garden like geranium, bay leaf, lemon verbena, rosemary, seven types of mint and some lavender. Benjamin also sources more lavender from the Jersey Lavender Farm and some products contain a specific species of seaweed, vrac collected at low tide in springtime just off Mont Orgueil Castle.

‘We’re developing more products with seaweed. At the moment it’s in our shower bar, our shampoo bars, the foot scrub and the foot cream.

Seaweed is technically a superfood, it’s got amazing properties in it, so it’s something that we’re going to expand on,’ Benjamin says.

Benjamin has many ambitions for his fledgling business and the name Jersey Skin is central to that.

‘I wanted to come up with a name which locals could associate with and be proud of. But I always wanted it to be lovely for tourists, something a little bit different to take home,’ he said.

Links with the Island’s history is important too, which is why many of the Jersey Skin products have Jërriais names.



‘We have *Brachi Bath Salts*, brachi means ‘to brew’ in Jërriais. We have *Moin Lave* – handwash. And *Matin Citrus* which is made from our lemon verbena. We also use local landmarks and locations. Our lavender range is called *Bonne Nuit* – good night!’

Benjamin is constantly developing new products – his bath bombs took nine months to perfect and he’s creating beautiful hamper boxes. He’s involved in every aspect of the business from the products to the packaging and the historic ambience of the shop, but he’s determined that Jersey Skin will have a wider impact.

Eventually, Benjamin would love to create a Jersey Skin ‘experience’ for locals and visitors, the sort of location that once existed at the former Jersey Pottery near his family home in Gorey, which he hopes might help reimagine Jersey’s reputation further afield.

‘It’s hugely important. We’ve lost some of our farming, we’ve lost a lot of our hotels and as a Jersey boy I would worry that Jersey would soon fall off the map. I’d love to be able to help put it back on the map for something that is very local, made locally, by local people. Something we can be really proud of. If people come to Jersey, and we have had a few come in already, and they tell people about us when they go home, then I’ve done my job.’

**To find out more about Jersey Skin and to buy online go to [www.jerseyskin.com](http://www.jerseyskin.com)**



Pictures by Becky Lee Brun

# An enjoyable investment

Investment in wine has a certain self-explanatory advantage over investing in stocks and shares. Alasdair Crosby met Pedro Bento, wine consultant



‘Wine flies when you’re having fun,’ as the old joke goes. And what better investment fun can there be than to invest in wine?

But, as in all investment advice: ‘Caveat emptor’ – let the buyer beware. That is the sober advice from Pedro Bento, wine consultant. ‘Ultimately it is much easier not to purchase dubious wine in the first place. Performing due diligence before purchase is one of the primary services that a competent wine adviser can offer.

‘A buyer should know both the vendor and the provenance of the wine. If there is any doubt about either, it is better to forego the purchase. Although it might seem like a lost opportunity, it is usually the case that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.’

Pedro may be better known as the recently retired general manager of the Longueville Manor Hotel. Wine has always been a lifelong interest and passion. As a child he would help local winegrowers in the vineyards near his parents’ holiday home on the west coast of Portugal. Although he trained initially as an architectural draughtsman (in Oporto, a not unknown centre of wine production), after university he quickly turned to hospitality, training at the luxury Four Seasons Hotel in Lisbon.

‘I loved it,’ he said, ‘because I love wine and I love people. A friend advised me that because I had a great interest in both English and wines, I should go to England, so I could work with wines from all over the world.



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‘But I didn’t go to England, I went to Jersey and came straight to Longueville Manor, where I was invited to work for the season. That was 34 years ago.’

He worked his way up, taking his wine and hotel management exams at Highlands, becoming successively a sommelier, restaurant manager, hotel general manager and finally, a member of the board of directors.

The years passed. It was after his 50th birthday that he was posed the question: ‘So, you are at the top of your profession. What are you going to do now?’ It stuck in his mind. Five years later he left the hotel. He had previously invested in ‘The Taste’ and ‘Tru’ chain of sandwich bars in town. Nowadays he makes and delivers sandwiches to offices in the mornings and advises on buying and selling fine wines in the afternoons... an interesting, if unusual, combination of working activities.

**“ A buyer should know both the vendor and the provenance of the wine. If there is any doubt about either, it is better to forego the purchase**

Asked what actually a wine consultant does, Pedro said: ‘He is someone who advises wine lovers about their passion. He advises them on what to buy, at what price and from whom. He advises them about selling and where to sell so as to realise the best return. It involves inspecting the wine and advising on its physical condition (bad storage conditions can kill a wine), provenance and especially its authenticity, which is a big problem at the moment – fraudsters passing off counterfeits as a wine that could cost £1,000 a bottle.

‘A consultant also advises on storing, shipping, insurance and eventually also on serving and enjoying the investment.’



**What sort of wines make the best investment?**

‘Claret and burgundy, obviously, and also fine Italian wines, Californian and, to a certain extent, top Spanish riojas. I would not advise buying vintage port as an investment. Times have changed and people really associate good quality port with Christmas, whereas other wines you can drink all year round!’

As there is no stock market for wine as such, could wine investment be more uncertain and chancier?

‘No, if anything happens, you still have the wine. And if the worst comes to the worst, you can drink it – which is more than can be said about stocks and shares.’

He continued: ‘2021 saw a booming market for fine wine with average returns of 37 percent to 40 percent. This year, despite the rise in the cost of living, fuel etc, wine is still doing very well.

Wine.je is the name of his company. He is in partnership with a friend who is expert at assessing spirits: old single malts and suchlike. Their client list is international.

They ship wine to the USA four times a year and they have discovered an excellent market for fine wine in the Far East.

Did he deal mainly with corporate institutions or buyers and sellers of large stocks of fine wine? What about people who just had a few bottles that they wanted to turn into cash?

‘Both types are potential clients. On the one hand, I have been invited, as a wine consultant, on to the board of a Trust company that has launched a wine fund and for which I buy and sell wine. On the other hand, I often travel across the Island just to investigate one bottle of wine.

‘On one occasion, the widow of a recently deceased husband told me about a bottle of champagne that they had bought in a duty-free shop on their honeymoon in 1979. Was it worth anything? I went to see it. It was a bottle of Krug 1979, still in its original paper wrapping, still in its duty-free bag. Incredibly valuable.

‘If it’s a bottle of interest, I’m always happy to go and see it.’



# A guide to Jersey Probate

By Kelsi Rendell of BCR Law LLP

**D**ealing with a bereavement – even one that may have been expected – can be devastating and overwhelming enough without the paperwork that awaits. You may not realise what is involved in administering a person's estate until you have to do it yourself.

## What is Probate?

When a person dies, the deceased's estate (comprising money, investments, possessions, property etc.) must be dealt with and distributed to those entitled to it. To do this, a Grant of Probate (where the deceased left a valid will) or a Grant of Letters of Administration (where no will has been found) must be applied for at the Probate Division of the Royal Court. Both are legal documents which prove your authority to administer the estate either in accordance with the terms of the will, or in accordance with Jersey law.

Prior to a Grant being obtained, it is sensible to make initial contact with the bank to register the death and to freeze accounts. This ensures pension payments and direct debits stop. It is also your responsibility to ensure that any items of value (e.g. jewellery) are properly safeguarded.

“ Dealing with a bereavement – even one that may have been expected – can be devastating and overwhelming enough without the paperwork that awaits

## Is a Grant of Probate required?

This will depend on what assets are held within the estate. If the deceased held assets jointly with you or another person, ownership may pass automatically to the survivor regardless of any will in place and probate may not be required. Where the deceased held assets in their sole name however, an asset holder is likely to request sight of a Grant before releasing the asset to you.

In the case of joint assets, sight of a death certificate will allow the bank to transfer the account into the survivor's sole name. However, it's important to be careful when handling the deceased's assets before a Grant has been issued, as this could be considered intermeddling.

## How do you obtain the Grant?

Apply directly with the Probate Registry. You will be required to submit a copy of the death certificate, the original will (if applicable), a schedule of assets and valuations as at the date of death for stamp duty purposes - but only on assets in their sole name, remember! This will involve you sorting through the deceased's papers.

The Registry will then arrange a further appointment with you to swear an oath in which you confirm that you will faithfully administer and/or carry out the contents of the will.

The Registry may appoint another person or law firm to obtain the Grant and thereafter administer the estate on your behalf. This is often the preferred approach where an executor is not resident in Jersey.

Stamp duty is payable when an application for a Grant is made. The duty payable is calculated on the net value of the estate as at the date of death.

#### What happens next?

Once the Grant has issued, you can now contact various asset holders (banks, pension providers etc.) to formally register the death and request that funds be sent to an account nominated by you.

Then you can begin to settle any outstanding liabilities such as doctors' bills and the funeral. If the deceased was a local taxpayer, the estate will be entitled to a Death Grant payment from Social Security. This payment can be offset against the funeral costs.

With all assets collected and liabilities paid, distribution can now take place in accordance with the terms of the Will or under the rules of intestacy.

Under Jersey law, the period under which challenges can be brought against a Will is either a year and a day from the date a Will is registered with the Court or from the date of death. For this reason, distribution should not occur before the later of the two dates.

#### Take action now

Knowing what is involved, we suggest that now would be a good time to consider who you would want and trust to administer your estate upon your death.

#### Contact:

**T: 01534 760860**

**E: [kelsi.rendell@bclrlawllp.com](mailto:kelsi.rendell@bclrlawllp.com)**



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# Housing Boom - and transaction bust

**In a booming property market, how can buyers and sellers of property in Jersey limit their risk of a transaction becoming abortive?**

**By Sarah Parish, senior associate, Ogier Property team**

**T**he post-Covid Jersey property market has been very active with demand for properties in all price brackets exceeding supply. In the current climate, properties are not on the market for long, that is if they even make it to the market. As a result, we have seen an increase of instructions for pre-sale agreements as parties attempt to minimise their exposure of the risk of a transaction not proceeding.

This nervousness is born out of the fact that in Jersey it is the norm to undertake property due diligence 'at risk'. The reason behind this is because there is no enforceable commitment between a seller and a purchaser to perform what has been agreed until a contract has been passed before the Royal Court. Each year there are a number of transactions that fall through, some becoming abortive as late as the day of completion.

In a booming property market this risk is increased as purchasers are often willing to 'gazump' others to secure a property. 2021 saw the Jersey House Price Index increase by 16 percent when compared with 2020 and the beginning of 2022 has seen this upward price trend continue.

**“ In the current climate, properties are not on the market for long, that is if they even make it to the market**

The pace of the property market has created an increased demand for pre-sale agreements as they provide the parties with an extra level of comfort that the transaction will complete.

While it has been commonplace for some time to have such agreements in respect of off plan/new build purchases, it has been less common to see them being used for purchases of existing stock.

A pre-sale agreement addresses the risk of a transaction becoming abortive by setting out the terms of the deal (including an agreed completion date). Pre-sale agreements can contain conditions to be satisfied prior to completion, for example receipt of a mortgage offer. They will also stipulate the consequences for non-performance. Having a contract agreeing the main terms of the deal gives peace of mind and allows the parties to plan their move, including practical aspects such as booking a removal company, with more certainty.

Unfortunately, pre-sale agreements do not guarantee that a transaction will complete. Unlike in other jurisdictions, purchasing freehold property in Jersey requires both the seller and purchaser to swear an oath before the Royal Court. As an individual cannot be forced to give an oath in such circumstances, they cannot therefore be compelled to specifically perform the contract (i.e., they cannot be forced to sell/buy). To address this, pre-sale agreements set out an agreed level of damages which becomes payable by either party should they fail to perform. The intention is to make it sufficiently financially detrimental for either party to walk away.

While pre-sale agreements do not guarantee completion of a property purchase, they do provide an extra level of comfort in such a fast-paced property market.



Sarah Parish

# Root and branch

## Philippa Evans-Bevan met Sarah Bartram-Lora Reina, gold medalist in the Professional Woman of the Year awards

**S**arah Bartram-Lora Reina is flying the flag high for Jersey and for the Jersey trust company, Ocorian.

In recognition of her special qualities, Sarah has been awarded Gold in the Woman of the Year - Professional Services, at the Citywealth Powerwomen Awards, 2022. The awards recognise individuals and companies who maximise the potential of women in wealth management.

Rural genes run in her family and Sarah has inherited a great interest and love of gardening and growing vegetables.

Her maternal grandmother, Philomène, was a Breton farmer's daughter. After dodging the Germans by hiding in trees during the Occupation of France, she arrived in Jersey. Here she helped harvest potatoes after the Second World War. She married a Jerseyman, and they raised a family.

Sarah's father, Richard Bartram, attained gardening qualifications and a natural ability and passion for plants and gardens. He was head of Parks and Gardens for the States of Jersey over a long and successful career.

Aged four, Sarah and her family moved into a house with her maternal grandparents. Sarah recalls her earliest memories of the bounty of a garden. 'Granny loved her herbs, and was a gifted gardener, growing flowers and fruits. My father would cultivate the vegetables and my sister and I would potter about and help. It was amazing how much they produced. Fresh rhubarb, all kinds of vegetables and apples galore. As I grew older, I was often asked: "Sarah - can you cook an apple pie?" There was always a glut of something fresh from the garden. We were so lucky.'



Being outside, exploring Jersey beaches, and developing her own garden are some of Sarah's favourite pastimes. Since she has an enduring enthusiasm for nature and the garden, she was asked what had taken her in the different direction of wealth management.

Sarah recalls that from around the age of 15/16 she became increasingly aware of Jersey's growing reputation as an international finance centre and the opportunities that this offered for a good career.

At the age of 22, Sarah was working at Midland Bank. By this time Sarah had become a single mother and when her son was four years old, Sarah started her banking qualifications in conjunction with a university degree in financial services. Sarah's career trajectory had started to take off.

New positions and moves to RBC, Zedra and Ocorian as a private client executive director, were paralleled with a growing list of qualifications. To date, Sarah has five significant and specialist finance qualifications and 30 years of experience.

Sarah is president of the Jersey Association of Trust Companies, and in her second term as chair of the Jersey Charity Tribunal.

'I'm very lucky I've had a good career and strategically, I want to help to navigate our industry, so that Jersey remains a top-quality finance centre for future generations.'

The Citywealth Powerwomen Awards evening shines a light on the advancement of women's careers in the private wealth industry.

'Credit must also go to the team I work with at Ocorian for all their dedicated hard work,' Sarah said. 'I will continue to encourage and champion women in the workplace. If you don't think you have all the skills, don't be afraid to ask for help. Many people have helped me on my way. But you also have to look and see what's out there and drive forward.'

Today Sarah also carefully cultivates and harvests prolific vegetable crops and fruit in her own garden (with a helping hand from Dad).

Sarah is good at growing - growing things with a strategic plan and purpose; growing opportunities, for herself, her clients, her industry, women in the workplace and Jersey's financial reputation.

# Jean Le Capelain and Queen Victoria's visit to Jersey



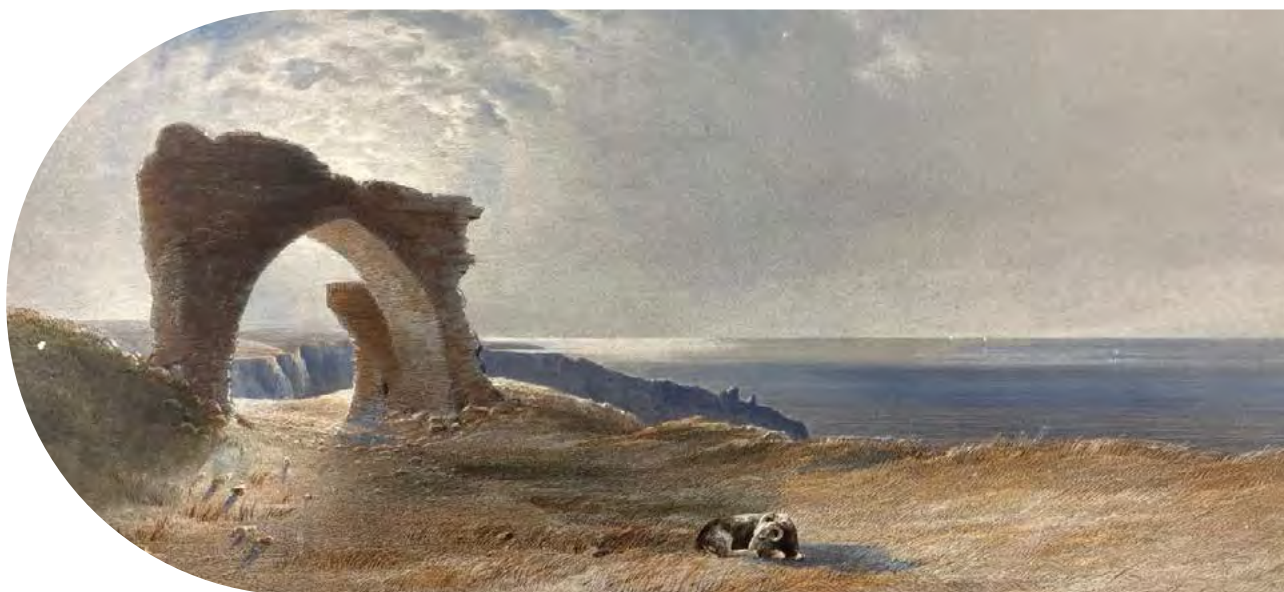
St Catherine's Bay

**As we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, Mark Brocklesby from the Jersey Library looks back at another royal occasion in 1846**

**T**he short visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to Jersey on 3 September 1846 was the first time that a reigning British monarch had visited the Island since the fugitive Charles II found sanctuary on these shores in 1646 and 1649. Possibly on no occasion before or since has Jersey witnessed such a display of pomp and pageantry as that which greeted the young Queen in 1846.

Despite the short notice of only ten days that the Island's authorities had been given of her arrival, the whole visit was meticulously stage managed from the moment when the Queen arrived at the newly christened Victoria Harbour.

As she made her way up the harbour steps the Queen was met by a choir of 140 women and girls dressed in white. Singing the national anthem, they parted before the Queen, scattering flowers along her path. A pavilion had been hastily assembled on the pier along with seating for thousands of ticket holders. The entire length of the pier was decked out in cloth of deep crimson and sky blue, offset by touches of gold which sparkled in the sunlight.



Grosnez

“ The short visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to Jersey on 3 September 1846 was the first time that a reigning British monarch had visited the Island since the fugitive Charles II found sanctuary on these shores in 1646 and 1649

To mark the royal route around St Helier, more than 20 large triumphal arches had been constructed at key locations. They were decorated with cartloads of flowers and evergreen foliage that had arrived from the countryside and embellished with royal iconography, such as crowns and the initials V&A. Some arches were even large enough to support balconies from which spectators could view the royal progress.

Instrumental in striking imagery of the royal visit was local artist Jean Le Capelain, who was part of the team commissioned to design and construct the temporary structures at the harbour and around town.

Le Capelain was mostly self-taught but had travelled widely in Britain and France, where he sought inspiration from painting landscapes of outstanding natural beauty. Like his more famous contemporary, J M W Turner, Le Capelain used colour to capture the atmospheric effect of light upon a landscape or seascape, painting how it made him feel, rather than a realistic depiction of the scene. His paintings of Jersey, in particular, show a fascination with the quality of the natural light and of the changes of mood it would bring to a scene from dawn to dusk.

It was partly due to the success of his designs for the royal visit that Le Capelain was commissioned by the States to paint a folio of 26 watercolours to be presented to the Queen as a souvenir of her visit. Lithographs were made of the paintings, which were then lavishly published with great success under the title of *The Queen's Visit to Jersey*.

The first six of the illustrations are depictions of the visit itself, but it is in the remaining 20 landscape paintings where the volume really comes to life.



“ Scenes with rugged coastlines, deep lush valleys, tempestuous skies and rustic locals are some of the most timeless images ever made of the Island



Valley of the Queen's Farm



Scenes with rugged coastlines, deep lush valleys, tempestuous skies and rustic locals are some of the most timeless images ever made of the Island. The relatively unindustrialised landscape and agricultural society of Jersey inspired perhaps somewhat naïve nostalgia for a past pastoral idyll. Local traditions such as vraising illustrated what contemporaries believed to be a purer, more honest lifestyle.

The watercolours were so well received by the Queen that she commissioned Le Capelain to paint a series of watercolours of the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, while working on this project, he developed tuberculosis of the lungs which was to prove fatal. He died on 17 October 1848, just a few days after his 36th birthday.



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# Stories from the past

**Cathy Le Feuvre continues to uncover interesting artefacts held in the Jersey Heritage collections which reveal stories from the Island's rural history**

Only 10 percent of artefacts held by Jersey Heritage can be displayed at any one time and although the Museum exhibitions do change from time to time, Jersey Heritage has several large collections – Social History, Art and Archaeology – where artefacts are held in safe and secure storage, but which are rarely seen by the public.

At the Jersey Heritage Augrès Object Store at the Sir Francis Cook Gallery in Trinity there are 19,000 social history objects which tell the story of Jersey's history including items that give us a glimpse into our rural past.



These days we're used to seeing tractors in Jersey's fields and while some jobs in the countryside will always rely on people, technology is becoming increasingly important including for the time consuming, heavy and challenging tasks like ploughing.

Although we do see dedicated workers planting potatoes by hand, especially on the steep còtills, hand sowing of crops is not that common. But farmers and growers have always sought ways to try to make their work a little easier.

The Aero Broadcast Hand Seed Sower is an early form of 'technology', which is thought to date from around the 1940s.

According to the instructions on the contraption, the farmer would tie themselves to the machine, which features a red wooden seed box to which is attached a canvas seed bag. Walking up and down the field, seed would be distributed across the soil by a metal star shaped wheel that spun when the farmer moved a long wooden cane with a handle at each end. That is attached to a wooden cog by a leather cord and there's a small wooden handle towards the back of the wooden box, which closes and opens a metal hatch that releases the seed flow onto the distributor.

Maybe some help with an arduous task, but still hard work!



From the early days of the Occupation in summer 1940 some essential food items quickly began to be in short supply and sugar was something that increasingly became difficult to find.

Islanders tried to live as 'normal' a life as possible, so they figured out ingenious ways to make up for the food shortages and even to create cakes and puddings... but making those delicious dishes sweet was a challenge.

In the Social History Collection at the Augrès Store there's a homemade contraption that was used to make a sugary syrup from a root vegetable called sugar beet.

The sugar beet press is made from what looks like the metal rim of a car tyre to which is attached a wooden barrel type structure fixed to the top, and a pressing mechanism.

After the sugar beet was peeled and boiled for hours until it became tender, archivists believe it was then put into a cloth where the liquid was squeezed out before the remaining 'mush' was transferred to the wooden barrel. In the same way a cider press extracts liquid from apples, the screw mechanism forced a heavy weight down onto the sugar beet mush and liquid came out. It's thought that liquid would have been boiled a second time to make it more concentrated and the result was a little like raw sugar rather than the refined sugar that we have now, but it was at least a little sweetener in dark times!

If you have questions or information about objects held in the Jersey Heritage collections you may contact.

**E** [archives@jerseyheritage.org](mailto:archives@jerseyheritage.org)  
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# Book review

## Fortifications of Jersey, past and present

By David Dorgan, Review by Alasdair Crosby

The author, David Dorgan, has a love of history – and of living history. The reader may well have seen him in period uniform as a member of the Muzzle Loaders and Antique Firearms Association or the 1781 Jersey Militia. To promote a previous book, *Give Me Shelter, Air Raid Precautions of the Channel Islands*, he and his wife could have been observed wearing fashions of the 1940s.

As the author's biographical information in the book states: 'Growing up in the 1950s and playing in a local park amongst the WW2 German fortifications was a backdrop to a love of history. This subsequent research of local fortifications was undertaken using research material that had not been sourced previously from the National Archives at Kew as well as locally and that research has formed the basis of this publication.'

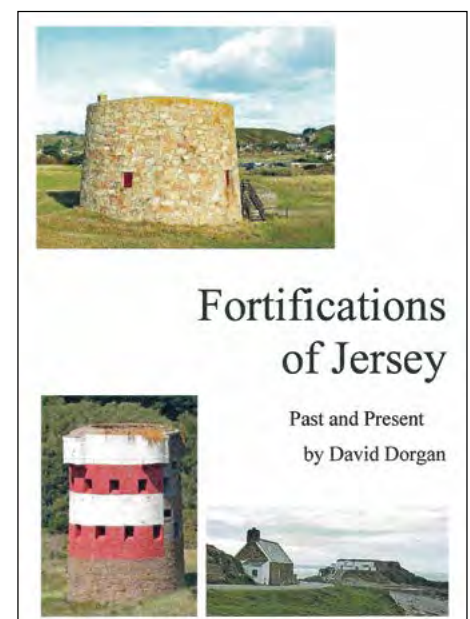
The history of Jersey's fortifications has been quite a well-trodden route for historians, but previous written descriptions have been more in the nature of substantial and detailed publications that are not too easy to put into a pocket or to carry around in the course of a walk that takes in some of the historic sites. This is the gap filled by Mr Dorgan's short, self-published book. It answers simple questions that perhaps a tourist or someone new to the Island might wish to have answered. What and where are these fortifications? When were they built? What was the nature of their ordnance?

Envious eyes have always looked on Jersey from afar, causing Islanders to create defensive areas or buildings for their own safety or for intruders to safeguard the continued success of their invasion and occupation. Iron Age forts existed above Grève de Lecq and on the defendable hill that would one day become the castle of Mont Orgueil and elsewhere. In mediaeval times Grosnez Castle formed a refuge for local inhabitants. With the invention of gunpowder, Elizabeth Castle took over from Mont Orgueil. Then, in the 18th and 19th Centuries, forts sprung up all around the coastline to protect the Island from French invasion. The German wartime Occupiers built a host of defensive structures, many of which are still very visible. Finally, in the 1960s, some of the German bunkers were repurposed as Cold War nuclear bomb shelters and administration centres, were the worst ever to happen.

The scheme of the book is to give thumbnail details of these structures, starting with the main historic fortifications and then starting in town, going anti-clockwise around the coast, describing all these structures in sequence of location. The main emphasis is on the Conway and Martello Towers built in the 18th and 19th Centuries; the German fortifications, of which descriptions are easily accessible in other quarters, are given only fleeting references.

Inevitably, in a self-published book, there are some criticisms; generally speaking, it could have benefited from a more thorough editing. But for a thumbnail guide to the wealth of fortified history around Jersey's coasts, David Dorgan's book certainly serves its purpose. At a time when we hope more visitors will return to enjoy what the Island has to offer, and for Islanders who want to know a little more about Jersey's history as they enjoy a walk along the coasts or the cliff paths, this book would be a useful companion.

Copies are available from Amazon or the Société Jersiaise; £10.



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# All downhill from here?

Accepting the need for care when elderly – is it the end of the road, or is there light at the end of the tunnel? By Helen O’Meara of CI Home Care

**M**any people resist care initially. It’s called ‘care reluctance’ in healthcare parlance. But why? After all it’s supposed to help!

Not every client knows exactly why. Yet many admit that it was true initially! Sometimes it’s resistance to change, or reluctance to allow someone into the home and to help with intimate tasks. But more often it is the fear, whether conscious or not, that accepting care is the beginning of the end.

## But is this true?

‘Far from it,’ asserts Nicola Heath, Care Manager at CI Home Care. ‘We often help people whose care needs diminish, or in some cases disappear completely over time. There are some real success stories, even with elderly clients.’

Obviously, nobody can offer an elixir of youth to reverse the ageing process! But good quality care can really make a difference – to both the client and their spouse or family.

Examples abound. There are the obvious ones like recovery after an operation, stroke or heart attack where the right medical help, physical therapies and care in the early stages of recovery can often see someone living independently again within weeks to months.

But there are also the less obvious success stories such as the octogenarian who was so stricken with grief after the loss of her husband that she became unable to walk. Several months of daily encouragement and support from a well-matched live-in Carer later, and she had invested in a step counter and was proudly sharing her statistics with all who would listen!

Live-in care can also be a huge success story for a client’s spouse. ‘Knowing that your husband or wife is being well and professionally cared for at home is a huge weight off many people’s shoulders,’ explained Nicola.

‘We have clients for whom live-in care has allowed the elderly spouse to resume hobbies and a social life, or in another case, keep the family business going. And especially, when it is the wife who needs the care, a live-in Carer solves other practical issues like cooking and shopping, for “husbands of a certain age” who’ve never had to do it before!’

Sometimes success may appear relatively smaller, but is no less notable. The client who was completely bed-bound for years after a stroke and yet now, after a change of care agency, is enjoying daily showers and accepting offers to go out for a wheelchair walk or to take lunch in the garden.

Imagine how that feels both for the client and their spouse. Success indeed!

The variety of success stories in elderly care is huge and is what motivates the best Carers. Results may range from joy at finding a way to help a client with dementia know what day of the week it is, to clients no longer needing us at all. But all success stories matter! With the right care there is light at the end of many tunnels!



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# Home is where the heart is

**L**iving in a place that is safe, familiar and comfortable is important to everyone, including people with dementia. A diagnosis of dementia does not automatically mean that a person is incapable of living alone.

Many people can live independently at home and enjoy life in the same way as before their diagnosis with the right aids or support in place. Strategies are available to help support a person with dementia who lives alone and as the disease progresses, these strategies can be modified to meet the person's abilities. There is a growing range of products and services to help those with dementia or other long term conditions.

People with dementia may want to stay in their own home for as long as possible, even if there are some safety concerns.

At home, people follow lifelong routines, are surrounded by a familiar neighbourhood and may have a circle of support that they would have a hard time leaving. Evidence shows that staying socially active may help slow down the progression of dementia, allowing people with dementia to live independently for a longer period of time.

Caring for someone with dementia can lead to feelings of guilt, sadness, confusion or anger. By accepting extra help with daily activities, such as housework, shopping, cooking meals or personal care support, it will help alleviate these fears and provide support for you and allow your loved one to live at home as safely as possible for as long as possible.

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# Art, inspired by nature

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

**I**n this issue, we feature a picture by Tim Le Breuille: **'Looking Back from L'Etacq'**, oil on canvas, size: 28 x 21 cm.

This painting has been submitted to the Jersey Summer Exhibition at CCA Galleries International, which opens 16 June and runs to 26 July.

Gallery director Tom Parker said: 'The uptake for the Jersey Summer Exhibition 2022 has been extremely high, another record number of artists have applied. The standard once again has been exceptional and varied, showing the full range of artistic ability on the Island. We look forward to opening the exhibition and welcoming the guest judges Nicole Farhi and The Wilson Sisters and their insights.'

*All art submitted to the exhibition that has a theme featuring the Island's natural environment is automatically entered to the RURAL magazine landscape and seascape competition, which is judged separately. Winners receive a £500 top prize.*



# Coming out in symphony

**It has been a tough two years for the arts in Britain and, as JSO musical director Hilary Davan Wetton explains to Terry Neale, it is not just the effects of the global pandemic that are proving a challenge to making orchestral music in the Island**

**A**sk Hilary Davan Wetton to define how life has been for musicians living under government-imposed restrictions during the pandemic and his answer is unequivocal, uncompromising – and unprintable.

‘It has been a nightmare,’ is the sanitised version of the eminent British conductor’s reaction to an unprecedented two years that has seen theatres and concert venues closed and many professional musicians forced to seek work in other fields, many of them, it is feared, never to return to the stage again.

‘A lot of musicians, I’m afraid, have fallen between the cracks,’ Mr Davan Wetton confirmed. ‘Events have gone down the pan. I should have conducted a Verdi Requiem and a Carmina Burana during 2020, and also had bookings for both the Royal Albert Hall and the Festival Hall. These should have been career highs but, sadly, they were all lost.’

It is not just in the great concert halls of the United Kingdom that Mr Davan Wetton has found himself barred from mounting the podium.

In January 2020, just two months before Covid-19 began wreaking havoc around the world, he was appointed musical director of the Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and he hasn’t seen them since.

‘The JSO is quite possibly unique among British orchestras,’ he pointed out. ‘Most orchestras are either professional or amateur but this one combines the two. It is made up of excellent musicians from the mainland, for whom only their costs are paid, and some very highly skilled local players.

‘In this way, the JSO is not pigeon-holed. It aims to attain the very highest standard and it achieves this because it has sufficient time in which to rehearse. With a professional orchestra, you may be lucky enough to hold five rehearsals before a performance spread over five weeks. But with the JSO you have the luxury of rehearsing for five consecutive days. It’s a little like making a soufflé; you can get it to rise at exactly the right moment.’ This rare blend of professional and amateur musicians working alongside each other is one that works really well in Mr Davan Wetton’s view.

There is a sense of friendship between them, and the UK players enjoy their jaunts to Jersey to make music in such a beautiful place.

Unfortunately, a few discordant bars are discernible in this otherwise harmonious score, and these revolve around the precise locations within this beautiful place for the JSO to perform. Fort Regent is currently a vaccination centre, with a very uncertain future, and the Jersey Opera House is closed while awaiting essential maintenance work.

‘The Opera House is the jewel in the Island’s crown, and I am horrified that it may not be properly funded,’ Mr Davan Wetton said. ‘We are going to use it; we will have to adapt, especially if the Fort closes.’

Adapting is the key word here. A symphony orchestra is typically made up of between 70 and 90 musicians; fine for Fort Regent but a reduction would be required for the Opera House. Even so, the music would remain in symphonic mode.

“ **There are health benefits – especially for the mental wellbeing of those who attend theatrical performances; that is the power of the arts** ”

‘It is a fantastic place and a wonderful venue in which to make music,’ Mr Davan Wetton enthused. ‘Towns and cities across the UK would give their eye teeth for it. I can’t wait to put my orchestra in there.’

‘A lack of maintenance on iconic buildings such as the Opera House is not wise; you need a proper budget. That theatre should always have some public support. The role of the government in the arts is to support things of quality which may not be viable for the shareholders of private enterprise to take on.’

Mr Davan Wetton’s persuasive argument is that failure to provide such public financial support for the arts is a false economy and the costs need to be balanced against the benefits.

‘There are health benefits – especially for the mental wellbeing of those who attend theatrical performances; that is the power of the arts,’ he reasoned. ‘And it’s not just about health. A theatre staging entertainment with a broad appeal will encourage tourism, which is good for the economy.’

In the meantime, in order to fulfil the proposed programme of summer and Christmas JSO concerts, other stages will have to be considered. The Howard Davis Park is one possibility, while the almost theatre-like hall in the new Les Quennevais School is another.

But even these major events on the calendar, Mr Davan Wetton believes, are not enough for Jersey’s music hungry audiences.

‘For example, you could rehearse, say, a Brahms symphony over a weekend and then charge people a fiver each to watch a workshop performance. Or you could select a piece of Mozart and take it apart and put it back together again before an audience.’

‘It is really important that we demystify music and make it more accessible to people.’

The JSO will hold its summer concert in Les Quennevais School Hall on Saturday 6 August. Hilary Davan Wetton will conduct his first performance by the orchestra since being appointed Musical Director in January 2020. Gerard Le Feuvre, cellist, will play Elgar’s Cello Concerto which was scheduled for April 2020.

Also in the programme is music by Copland, Glinka, Smetana, Greig and Bizet.

**For further details see the JSO or RURAL magazine websites.**



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# Leave no trace this summer

By Julia Clively and Adam Dallas-Chapman, Land Resource Management, Government of Jersey

**A**fter what seems like a long winter, summer is finally here and Jersey's countryside provides a magical place to spend some quality time with family and friends, relaxing and enjoying the very best of what the Island makes freely available.

Sandy beaches, woodlands, rocky shorelines, sand dunes and heathlands, our small Island certainly has a lot to offer those wanting to explore. The restrictions of living with the pandemic have encouraged many of us to reconnect with nature and shown us more than ever the huge benefits of spending time outdoors immersed in nature. For some, it is a place to walk the dog, appreciate our natural world or just recharge from a busy life. Others see it as a place to get fit, hone their sporting skills or socialise with friends.

“ **The restrictions of living with the pandemic have encouraged many of us to reconnect with nature and shown us more than ever the huge benefits of spending time outdoors immersed in nature** ”

Whatever way you choose to spend your time in Jersey's amazing countryside this summer, please do keep in mind that you will be sharing it not only with other visitors but also with the special plants and animals that call it home.

Many of Jersey's most beautiful landscapes are legally protected by the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002 as Sites of Special Interest (SSI's), and along with the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 the wildlife is protected from damage or disturbance, and for very good reason.

They may look rugged and wild, but they are sensitive environments with unique and special wildlife, so if you are planning to explore the great outdoors this summer, the Government of Jersey and members of the Jersey Access Service Providers (JASP) group would like to remind Islanders to respect, protect and enjoy Jersey's unique countryside. Please remember:

- Visit thoughtfully - leave no trace of your visit
- Social or anti-social - is your activity fun for everyone?
- Know where you can go - all land belongs to someone





## Visit thoughtfully

### leave no trace of your visit

Litter can come in many forms, and sadly visits to the Island's beauty spots can be ruined by party remains, firepits and barbecues, fly tipping, dog mess and cigarette butts. Some debris may have been dropped accidentally, however some may have been intentionally left at the end of a fun evening. This mess is not only unsightly, but is dangerous to site visitors, wildlife and farm animals. Also spare a thought for those who have to clear up. In many of our ecologically sensitive areas this task falls to countryside rangers. It is an unpleasant and unnecessary job which takes skilled environmental professionals away from their important work of protecting, monitoring and caring for sensitive habitats and the wildlife found there. If the bins are full, please take your litter with you.

## Social or anti-social

### is your activity fun for everyone?

The outdoors can be a great place to socialise with friends but consider the impacts your fun may have on other people's enjoyment.

Noise travels far and wide across the open spaces and windswept headlands, which is likely to disturb other visitors and scare wildlife. Many of Jersey's most beautiful areas are in remote and inaccessible spots where bunkers, steep drops and natural vegetation which can hinder rescue by hard-working emergency services if you get into difficulties. Accessing these areas can be challenging and hazardous. Wildfires starting from discarded barbecues and broken glass can quickly become out of control and are dangerous and devastating to wildlife and their habitats.

Surveys of visitors to the Island's environmentally sensitive areas in 2021 showed that 53 percent of visitors had a dog with them, and there is no doubt that Jersey's countryside is a great place to enjoy with your pooch, but if your faithful mutt is out of view, do you know what it is up to? To protect wildlife and respect landowners, farmers, other site users and their dogs please keep your pet under close control or on a lead where you are required to do so. Pick up after your dog, and remember that nobody likes to see bushes or trees adorned with poo bags. Bag it and bin it.

## Know where you can go

### all land belongs to someone

Always give thought to the land you are on and the activities which may or may not be permitted there. It is often overlooked that Jersey's green fields, bracken covered slopes and open wild areas are all owned by somebody. There is no right to roam here, so without the generosity of the private landowners who allow the public to access their land, we would be very limited in where we can go.

In 2018, 51 percent of Jersey's land area was classified as agricultural. This land provides much of the food we eat and a livelihood for the people who farm it. Ensure you and your dog always stick to permitted paths and minimise your impact on crops and livestock.

When visiting the countryside please remember this and respect and treat private property as if it was your own.

If you are planning on spending time outside this summer, remember to respect, protect, enjoy and leave the countryside exactly as you found it for others to enjoy just like you have.

**For further information and to see a map of Jersey's path network and green lanes visit [www.gov.je/CountrysideAccess](http://www.gov.je/CountrysideAccess)**



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Benjamin's job as theatrical operations manager with Norwegian Cruise Lines was due to start in March. He came to Jersey to drop off his dog and his car, and then lockdown happened.

The business launched in September 2020 with their first six key ingredients being; Jersey Apple Pectin, Jersey Seaweed, Jersey Sea Salt, Jersey Lavender, Jersey Lemon Verbena and Jersey Beeswax. They are an all-natural, cruelty-free company and totally vegan (except for where they use beeswax).

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(Clue can be found on the website: [www.jerseyskin.com](http://www.jerseyskin.com))

- A: 10
- B: 11
- C: 12

Please enter online at [ruraljersey.co.uk/competition](http://ruraljersey.co.uk/competition)

Closing date for entries is 31 July 2022.

Winners will be contacted via email

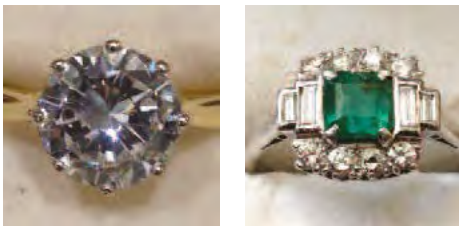
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# Genuine Jersey Directory

## 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  
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Contact Beverley Speck | 01534 484729  
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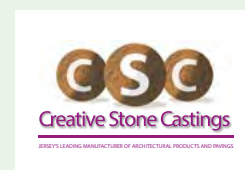
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# Genuine Jersey Directory

## 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](http://www.sheilabirchimages.com); e-mail me at [sheilabirchimages@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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# Big ideas required

Donna Le Marrec has the last word

The Bridging Island Plan has been an interesting experience for many; the hundreds of people and organisations that submitted comments and attended public meetings during the 12-week consultation period, the civil servants who compiled the mammoth document, the independent Planning Inspectors and of course our elected representatives who debated the plan ... and all those amendments!!

The Plan set out to deliver the Government's Common Strategic Policy, which aims to meet the following objectives: 'Make homes more affordable for Islanders; making town a better place to live; protecting our special coasts, countryside, and marine areas; improving transport and supporting a sustainable economy – with more flexibility for retail innovation in town, and support for tourism destinations.'

I am not sure whether the Bridging Island Plan and the decisions made will deliver any of the above objectives, but what seemed rather strange, was that the results of the last census were published some time *after* the plan had been debated. I would imagine the net inward migration figures, number of vacant homes and the number and demographics of people living in the Island might have had an impact on the plan and any ensuing decisions?

Not only unedifying, especially after the time and effort that obviously went into the plan, was the issue of those green field sites being hurriedly thrown into the mix by politicians at the very last minute – why not at the beginning of the exercise rather than at the end?

It was also very strange, despite the public support, that the creation of a Marine Park was rejected. This would have achieved the desired protection aimed for in the Common Strategic Policy and would have generated so much positive PR and thus put Jersey 'on the map'.

Despite the aim of (providing) 'support for tourism destinations', I was surprised to find out how few tourism beds the Island actually now has compared to only a few years ago - 8,463 as of December last year excluding campsites and before the last new Premier Inn was included. At least some of the lost hotels will create much needed homes in town, unlike the multi-million- pound homes being built along the coast (replacing for example The Water's Edge hotel at Bouley Bay and Café Romany at Grève de Lecq) which will probably only be occupied for a very short time each year by a very small number of people.

In terms of 'supporting a sustainable economy', what we have actually witnessed in recent years is an apparent devotion to any kind of wealth (which since Russia invaded Ukraine, seems to me to be particularly abhorrent) and an 'open door' for high net worth individuals – symbolised and objectified perhaps by the reality TV show 'The Real Housewives of Jersey'.

There appears to be an acute lack of 'big ideas' in other sectors e.g. hospitality and agriculture (aside from the aforementioned Premier Inn and growing medicinal cannabis). In fact, when I think back, Jersey seemed to be doing so well on the 'foodie front', especially with our wonderful local produce, a host of food festivals and fabulous Michelin starred chefs. These, sadly, now seem to have disappeared, even before the pandemic.

I have become a recent devotee of Devon and Cornwall and although house prices aren't that cheap, especially in Devon, and employment opportunities aren't that diverse, both counties seem to have an entrepreneurial spirit and flair.

I have stayed in some beautiful (and newly created) hotels where local produce is exalted and promoted, where there really is innovation in retail offerings in towns and villages and where, importantly, local people are employed in the hospitality and food industries. Might be something for us to think about?



The former Water's Edge Hotel



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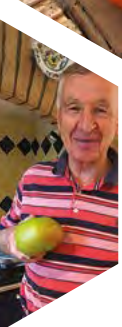
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