

RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 44 | Autumn 2023

Racing certainties – and uncertainties

Horseracing in Jersey, 2023

It's a top dog's life

The Jersey Kennel Club;
Obedience and Agility
Clubs

Special theme:

Horses in Jersey

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photographers

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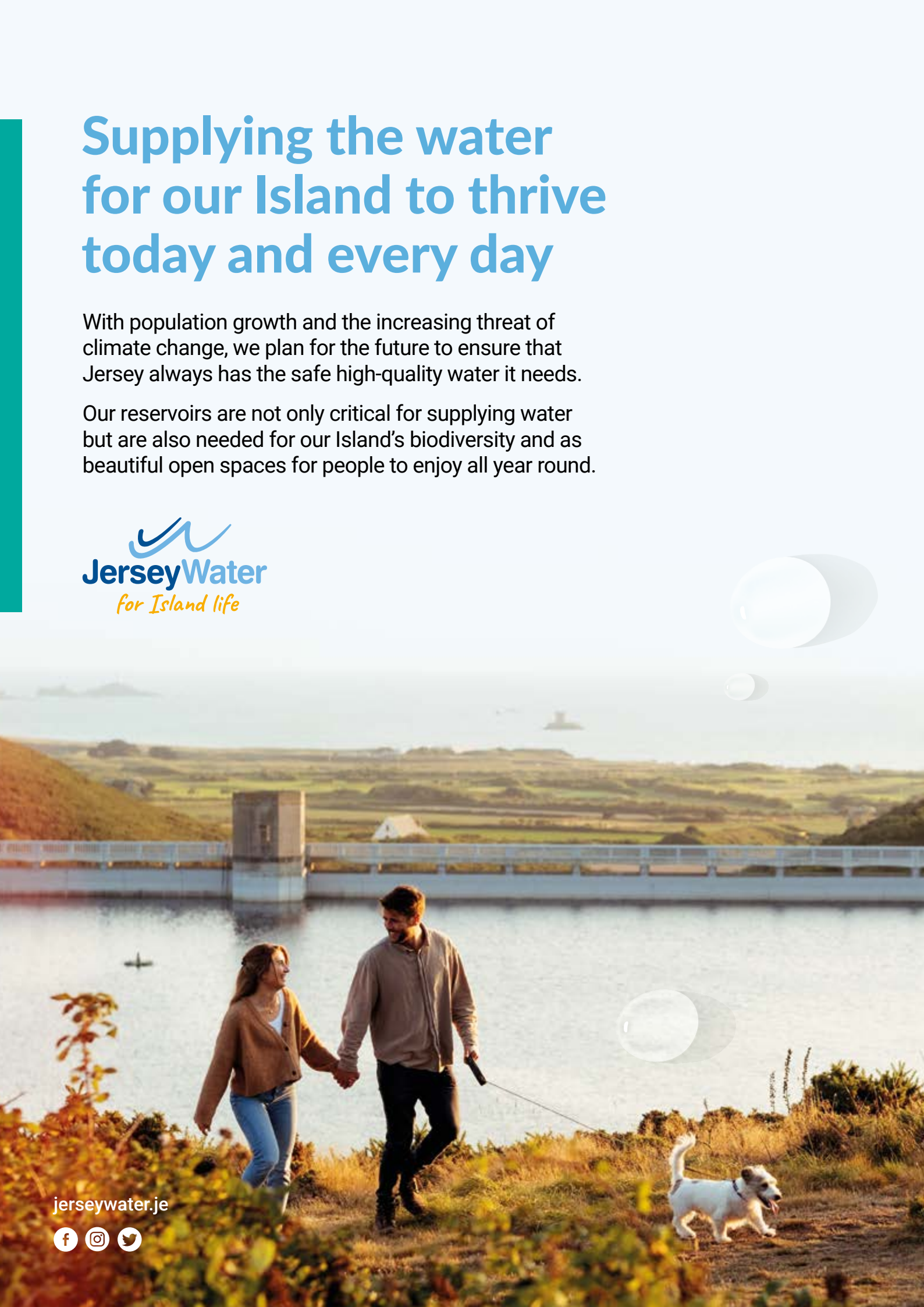
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Welcome

In his Just So Stories tale of *The Cat who Walked by Himself*, Rudyard Kipling wrote an engaging fable about the domestication of wild animals. In this issue of RURAL magazine we have a special theme: dogs and horses – animals which, if we allow them, are very capable of returning our love.

Some years ago I visited a small town in up-country Bolivia (admittedly, an odd place to find the editor of RURAL Jersey magazine), which was quite ‘third world’ in character. As part of a small group of other visitors, we walked around the little town to see what we could see. By an open rubbish dump, we came upon a street dog scrabbling around in the trash.

One of my group – who had already told us (repeatedly) how much she loved animals – was already crouching down to do her ‘hello, who’s a good doggie?’ routine. The dog, who had probably never had any positive or friendly human interaction in its life, bared its teeth and slunk off to the further recesses of the dump, tail between its legs, whither my companion – showing, for once, unusual prudence – chose not to follow.

Speaking quietly to another group member, we agreed that we could hardly think of a more stupid thing to do than to try and pet such a feral, dangerous and potentially diseased scavenger.

It is received wisdom, however, that the wild state is the natural state of existence for animals, and any interference with that by humanity is an aberration and perversion of what should be the natural order of things.



Anyone who delights in sharing their life with a pet animal will take issue with that, especially as it can be seen how their own loving influence and close companionship can transcend their pet’s character to a higher level: ‘He’s almost human’ is a phrase one hears from devoted owners.

In the Book of Genesis, we read that Adam was commissioned to ‘name the animals’. We can still do just that in our own domestic, post-lapsarian Edens – and thus enable ‘the wild dog’ and ‘the wild horse’ and all the other animals we might love, to transcend their animality into a state that is indeed more truly ‘natural’, becoming, as in Kipling’s story, our close friends and our willing, devoted servants.

Indeed, could not ‘naming the animals’ still be a part of our own human mission?

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alasdair Crosby". Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers at both ends, resembling a brushstroke or a decorative underline.

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Poppy and Pompero
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Read this on our website:
www.ruraljersey.co.uk/saving-money-tips-from-chelsea

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Over the wall

A RURAL view

In a magazine whose pages so often feature Jersey cows – in this issue, for a change, we feature those other famous quadrupeds, horses and dogs.

And both horse and hound are central to the story of the Jersey Drag Hunt – founded in the 19th Century in Jersey and the second oldest drag hunt in the British Isles. It might be helpful to point out that the word ‘drag’ is not used in its common, modern sense, nor does it mean dragging an animal around as a bait for hounds. The hunt chases after a dragged stinky rag (when there are hounds) or rides over a pre-planned course across country.

But as far as the Jersey Drag Hunt is concerned, sadly, no longer are there any hounds. The expense of finding affordable accommodation for a huntsman or kennelman near suitable kennels, and the lack of income because of fewer members than in the past are both contributory factors.

Like all associations and clubs, the Hunt is having problems in attracting membership. Last season, the biggest field (number of riders attending) was slightly less than 25. A few decades ago that would have seemed a very thin turnout indeed.

But regular hunt followers are still coming out regularly and many of them are just as passionate about their sport as are any enthusiast of any sport. It is, after all, the one equestrian activity in Jersey that is not competitive: everyone is equal, no one is trying to better anybody, and everybody who comes out hunting is doing so simply to have a good time and to enjoy on horseback the Island’s countryside.

So, the story is by no means negative overall. It could also be said that there are certain advantages in not hunting with hounds: one positive result is that there are no worries about hounds losing a scent or running into a road –

or into mountain bikers or dog walkers coming the opposite way along a narrow path.

Without hounds, it is easier to pick a line most suitable to the age and experience of the ‘field’.

It is hoped that one day, the hounds might return – even if it is just paying for a huntsman and a few couples of hounds to visit from the UK for short periods during the hunting season.

“What of the future? Well, there is something that could help perpetuate and enhance this sector: a Centre of Equestrian Excellence

If horses in Jersey are not nowadays kept for agricultural reasons, they continue to play a major part in the lives of many Islanders and in their sporting and social interests.

The Home Farm Equestrian club and British Show Jumping Association come easily to mind as sporting associations, as does the Jersey Race Club, which regularly attracts large crowds to its meetings at Les Landes but suffers from a lack of both local and visiting trainers.

And for anybody wanting to learn to ride there is a real lack of riding schools: these days, they are simply unprofitable as commercial ventures.

It is not as if the whole of the Island’s equestrian sector is moribund and in terminal decline. There is still lots of enthusiasm – passion, even – to maintain it.

There is something for a keen horse rider to do almost every weekend throughout the year. Even the Drag Hunt’s Pony Club had 35 children (an increased number) attending its annual camp this summer.

What of the future? Well, there is something that could help perpetuate and enhance this sector: a Centre of Equestrian Excellence.

We have Thrive – a centre for sporting excellence. Just imagine: a traditional farmyard, now no longer able to be part of the modern agricultural economy. Boxes could be rented out to visiting horses, thus encouraging competition not only in racing but other equestrian disciplines. It could also be used as a training centre.

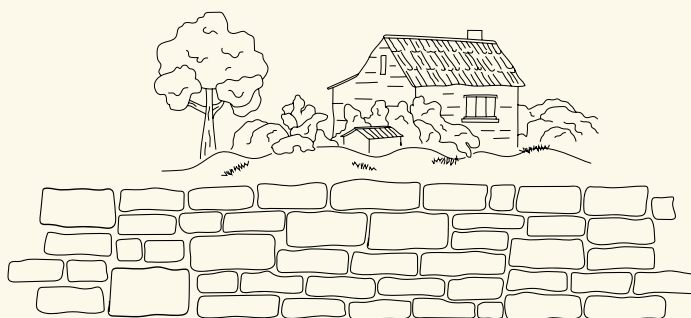
It could provide temporary accommodation for visitors: perhaps the Hunt could use it to accommodate a huntsman and hounds coming over for short periods or it could even be a permanent home for the Drag Hunt’s hounds.

It could provide hirelings for those who cannot at present find anywhere to learn to ride and set them on course for future membership of one of the equestrian clubs.

It would favour the talent and potential of young Islanders to help them further their own talent, and also, it would perpetuate a fine old historic tradition of horsemanship, that the Island would be poorer for losing.

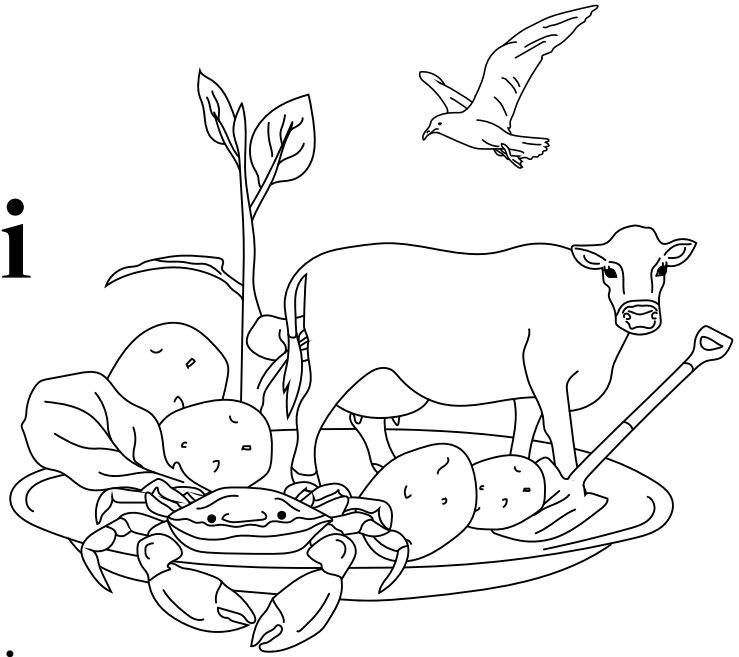
It would need sponsorship, of course – but might there not be someone who has enjoyed equestrian pursuits in the UK and who would be happy to help sponsor an equestrian centre of excellence in Jersey?

Applications for this vacant position are warmly invited.



The Jersey Salmagundi

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



RURAL Jersey Art Competition

The fifth annual RURAL magazine Jersey Landscape Awards for 2023 has been won by Ann Morgan for her painting *Early Morning, Bouley Bay*.

Runner-up was Celina Borfiga's *Icho Tower*.

Third place went to Patrick Malacarnet for *The red barn, Parish of St. Clement*.

The first prize was a cheque for £500, sponsored by BCR Law. Second prize, sponsored by National Trust for Jersey, was a free weekend for Le Catel Fort. Third prize was a cheque for £150 from BCR Law.

The judging for this competition is separate from the main Summer Exhibition of the CCA Galleries International. The judges were David Benest, senior partner at BCR Law; Donna Le Marrec, the marketing manager of National Trust for Jersey; Tom Parker for CCAI Gallery; Gary Grimshaw and Alasdair Crosby for RURAL magazine.

Thanking the judges and sponsors for their help in selecting the winning works of art, RURAL's editor Alasdair Crosby said that the remit of the competition remained unchanged: it was to choose the best of the entries that celebrated the rural landscape of the Island, its history, its present, its future.

He added: 'I have to say that most days I am out with my dog having our joint daily exercise in the Island's countryside and I see countless beautiful rural views, which, if I had the talent, I would attempt to paint. I don't have that talent, but there are many people here this evening who do, so it would be great if, in future years, a greater amount of the Island's beautiful countryside could be captured by artists than has been the case this year.'

“So, an exhibition like this reminds us of the corners of the Island that are still ‘rural’ in character



Ann Morgan with her winning picture



Alasdair Crosby announcing the prize winners



Runner-up, Celina Borfiga

‘Perhaps greater than ever, the eyes of developers – or those that benefit from development – are viewing fields that are unused, with a view to buying them up and sitting on them, leaving them unfarmed, if need be, waiting for the moment that planning regulations are changed, and they become potentially suitable for building development.

‘The effect of this is that more land will be transferred to become the property of fewer, wealthier people – which is an unhealthy trend in itself.

‘So, an exhibition like this reminds us of the corners of the Island that are still ‘rural’ in character and a recollection of what we could so easily lose, through greed, development – or sheer absent mindedness.’



Third place, Patrick Malacarnet

Sustainable Fashion

By Housing Minister Deputy David Warr

Highlands College Arts students have staged a 'Sustainable Fashion Show' celebrating their creative talent, at Cooper's International Finance Centre coffee shop.

“The students came up with some amazing designs and demonstrated the depth of talent that exists in our tiny Island. The story moves to their generation and maybe just slowly we will change hearts and minds. As they say, there is no Planet B

It's the culmination of a project initiated by an article I read in a Sunday Times magazine. It was about the enormous amount of clothing being dumped in the waterways of a West African country. Clothing that had been discarded in Europe. Despite all efforts to recycle as much clothing as possible, the quantities were so overwhelming that containers were literally rusting away full of unusable clothing left to rot out of sight of those who had once worn them.

I reflected on this abomination – what if those very containers could be seen on our coast? What would happen if container after container disgorging their contents on to the beach of St Ouen started to appear? Would we simply shrug our collective shoulders in the belief that nothing could be done? I don't think so. There would be an outcry and very quickly solutions would be found. This Times article highlighted the old adage 'out of sight, out of mind'.

By coincidence, soon after reading the article I was emailed by a company called Teemill. Initially I thought they were just another company promoting personalised T-shirts, but after research I discovered this truly original idea whereby you design your own T-shirt which when worn out gets sent back to them for repurposing. Genius!

Cooper's coffee business is very much community led and although we sell significant amounts of coffee, I've always thought of ourselves in a much broader sense.

Who can we work with that creates something that is bigger than the sum of its parts? Whilst promoting our products can we also tell stories that raise our customers' awareness of subjects that are of local and international importance?

Here was a great example, working with young people in education. Not only telling a very important story but also developing their talent and exposing them to the world of commerce.

To make matters more complicated, I'm also on a political journey. As Housing Minister I've become very aware of the corrosive effect of empty homes. In a society where homes have become unaffordable it has struck me as bizarre that we have so many long-term vacant properties. An example, this time, of wasted resource in full view.

I approached Highlands College, and they enthusiastically took on board my suggestion that students design T-shirts with a message around sustainability and market them using the Teemill platform.

The students came up with some amazing designs and demonstrated the depth of talent that exists in our tiny Island. The story moves to their generation and maybe just slowly we will change hearts and minds. As they say, there is no Planet B.



David Warr with Highlands College Art students





‘What makes you different, makes you beautiful’

This is the story of two remarkable friends, Poppy and Pampero, told by Jersey-based family and pet photographer Rachel Hughes, in words and pictures

Poppy is beautiful, has the most impressive hair I have ever seen and is incredibly passionate about horses. She was 12 years old when I took these photos. Poppy has autism, which can affect how a person communicates with others and how they experience the world around them. It is a spectrum disorder and can affect each person differently. But of course, what makes you different makes you beautiful.

Horses can be hugely beneficial for those with autism. Horses have a calming effect, which can be a tonic to those who find the world a little overwhelming and stressful at times. Horses are powerful animals, but are also kind; being around them can make someone with autism feel safe, connected and improve their self-confidence.

Most pet owners are only too aware of the ‘feel-good factor’ associated with pets in their lives. Autistic people can often find it hard to interact with others in the way that they would like to, for example making eye contact. The non-judgmental and non-verbal interaction that horses provide can enable a person with autism to develop a deep bond with the horse, helping them to feel more at ease in other social situations.

Horse riding is also a great form of physical therapy that can help people to develop coordination, strength and balance. It can also help with sensory difficulties such as being over-sensitive or under-sensitive to touch, sights, sounds and smells – as the person can receive sensations from acts such as riding or brushing the horse.



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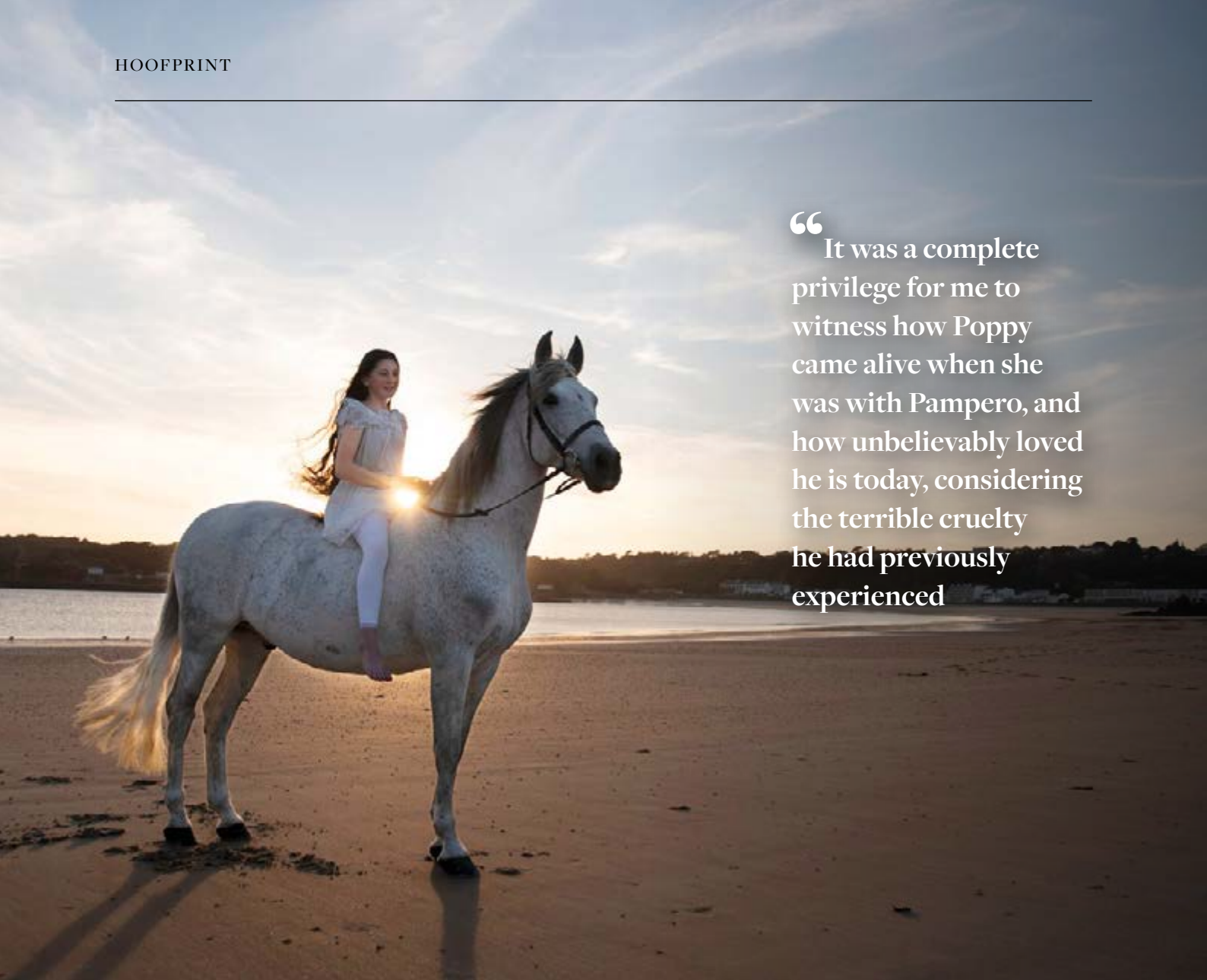


Seeing how the normally shy Poppy simply shone when she was with Pampero was phenomenal; on her photoshoot she was happy, relaxed and let me take the most beautifully natural shots of the two of them. The first time I met Poppy I remember she found it hard to make eye contact, but the second time we met, with her arms around majestic Pampero, she looked straight into the camera lens. She was stunning to photograph, a joy to be around and amazing with her horse.

It is important to give Pampero's backstory. At 15 years old, he is a rescue horse from the Spanish bull rings. The barbaric 'sport' of bullfighting involves two majestic animals: bulls and horses. Whilst it is commonly known that the bulls are guaranteed to die for the entertainment of the crowds, the future of the horses is often less well known, with their fate not much brighter. It is not uncommon for horses to suffer debilitating bull horn wounds, or to be killed outright.

Pampero was rescued and taken into the care of Poppy's family in Jersey in 2017. He was nervous, in very poor condition, and his body was littered with deep scars from his wounds. With great time and patience, Poppy and her mother, together with a farrier (who specialises in hoof care) and a physiotherapist, have gently nurtured Pampero back to health. I was very touched by some of the things they did, such as planting lavender around his field to promote calmness. He is, however, still terrified of cows, especially black ones, and if anyone throws a blanket or likewise in the air he will bolt. As a stunning and incredibly powerful horse, he was visibly calm in the presence of Poppy, and the trust he placed in her was absolutely clear.

“**As a stunning and incredibly powerful horse, he was visibly calm in the presence of Poppy, and the trust he placed in her was absolutely clear**”



“ It was a complete privilege for me to witness how Poppy came alive when she was with Pampero, and how unbelievably loved he is today, considering the terrible cruelty he had previously experienced



Before the photoshoot I spent time with Poppy and Pampero to ensure they were both comfortable being around me, so that we could capture them at their most relaxed. During the photoshoot we built in extra time to ensure Pampero was settled before we began shooting – Poppy and her mother were so tender and gentle with the horse. It was a complete privilege for me to witness how Poppy came alive when she was with Pampero, and how unbelievably loved he is today, considering the terrible cruelty he had previously experienced.

I hope you enjoy looking through a few of the photos from the photoshoot and hearing their wonderful story, which they have so kindly let me share. Poppy is a true inspiration to other young people. It was certainly one of the most humbling and emotional photoshoots I have ever undertaken as a photographer in Jersey. Even editing the images brought a lump to my throat as the pictures are so emotive and the bond between them is plain to see – I just hope I have done these two beautiful friends justice.

Rachel is based in Jersey: see www.rachelhughesphotography.com



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Horses in photography and art

The horse, as portrayed by
Jersey artists and photographers

Barbara Pustelnik

Barbara is a Jersey-Polish photographer of horses, dogs and people.

Horses and art have always been in her life; in her teenage years she worked in sports stables and became a riding instructor. For the past six years she has lived in Jersey — she came on holiday and decided to stay (not an unusual story); she was captivated by the beauty of the Island.

Photography allows her to combine her three greatest passions, her love for horses, architecture and travel. So far, she has visited more than 20 countries, but for the last few years she has been travelling to photograph mainly horses; she has explored the beauty of Spanish horses in Menorca and Andalucia and this year she visited Turkey to photograph wild horses there.

She has already won several international awards and her photographs have been published in the JEP and Vogue Italy, among others.

She transfers all these experiences to her photography and for the past year has been working on a project called *Jersey Horses*, in which she combines local horses with the most beautiful places. The first results could be seen in the calendar she published last year with her photographs. A further edition is underway this year and the project is scheduled to culminate in 2024 with an exhibition of photographs at Jersey Heritage's Link Gallery and a calendar dedicated solely to Jersey horses.



A black and white pinto horse is captured in a dynamic pose, rearing up on its hind legs on a rocky, sandy shore. The horse's body is dark with large white patches, and its tail is thick and dark. The background features a calm sea with several large, dark rock formations. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a warm, atmospheric glow. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

“ For the last few years she has been travelling to photograph mainly horses; she has explored the beauty of Spanish horses in Menorca and Andalucia



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“ Barbara has already won several international awards and her photographs have been published in the JEP and Vogue Italy, among others

Barbara's work can be seen on her website and social media.

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www.barbpustequine.photo

Anita Eastwood

Anita is a watercolour and acrylic painter who was born in Somalia and travelled extensively until settling in Jersey in 1991.

She loves to work in watercolour and as it is so unpredictable you literally need to 'go with the flow' and every day brings a new perspective! Anita has turned to painting on local slates, recycled wood and mixed media depicting local points of interest and other works, such as animals and even a vintage car.

Anita is a member of the Genuine Jersey brand which celebrates local art and assures both locals and tourists satisfaction that they are acquiring quality produce.

She says: 'I have always loved colour and try to depict this through my art work. Likewise, I am very keen on photography and I often use it as a base for my work. Jersey is a beautiful island and a fabulous canvas for ideas.'

anitaeastwood@hotmail.com
www.anitaeastwood.com



“ Anita loves to work in watercolour and as it is so unpredictable you literally need to 'go with the flow' and every day brings a new perspective!

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](https://www.facebook.com/anitaeastwoodart)
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Catherine Hamilton

Known to her friends as 'Cate'.

Catherine was born and raised in Jersey. Her career in art began at an early age, when crayons, paint brushes and paper were freely supplied by her parents for her to express her interest in living things.

Owing to the premature death of her father when Catherine was still a child, her family situation denied her the chance to attend Art College. Undeterred, she set about supplementing her 'day-job' in the finance industry by undertaking portrait commissions — a successful endeavour, which has seen her paintings hung on many walls in her native Island and further afield including Britain, Ireland, Australia and the USA.

Catherine's love of animals, so often reflected in her work, also began at an early age, surrounded by her family's pets. She now shares her life with seven dogs, five cats and two chickens. She took to the saddle at the age of four - and has seldom been out of it since. She currently owns a small herd of seven ponies and horses, including Miniature Shetlands, Welsh ponies, Connemaras and Cobs.

Two pictures of hers are shown here. She writes:

'Jasper, the grey, unbridled horse has been mine for 20 years and is a favourite subject.'

“Cate currently owns a small herd of seven ponies and horses, including Miniature Shetlands, Welsh ponies, Connemaras and Cobs





Wellesley, the grey in ceremonial bridle, is the former mount of HRH Prince William. I realise - he's not a local horse - I'm just very proud of his portrait!

All these paintings are completed in oils on canvas.

For commissions and enquiries,
contact cate.hamilton@outlook.com
www.catherinefinearts.com

In the winter issue of RURAL, we shall be showing artists' and photographers' representations of dogs in Jersey

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Up and Running Again

Bunny Roberts has had a long connection with the Jersey Race Club and has been president for two separate terms of office. Her present three-year term has been far from easy, thanks mainly to Covid. She talked to Alasdair Crosby about the state of the club in 2023

In any outdoors sport, it is generally a good idea to start, in a traditional English way, by discussing the weather.

At the start of the year, it was not just Les Grands Vaux that had trouble with flooding. Up at Les Landes, in the northwest corner of the Island where the Jersey Race Club's course is located, part of it was also flooded, which might seem unusual in one of the highest parts of the Island.

'We weren't able to start the season because the course was so waterlogged,' said club president Elizabeth ('Bunny') Roberts.

'There is a downhill gradient from south to north and the water drained to the area by the bottom two bends – where you could have floated a liner! The amount of water was absolutely unbelievable – it was flowing like a river from the top of the course and the level just built up, completely flooding the practice track. It was quite disastrous!

'We had to act quickly. I contacted James Bevis of Practical Pond Solutions and pleaded for help. He pitched up within 24 hours and started draining. It took two months to clear the flood.'

“ At the start of the year, it was not just Les Grands Vaux that had trouble with flooding. Up at Les Landes, in the northwest corner of the Island where the Jersey Race Club's course is located, part of it was also flooded

The first race of the season on Easter Monday had to be cancelled.

But after the floods came the drought and the strong winds which made the ground as hard as concrete. The strength of the wind disrupted the watering system – the water went everywhere except on the ground it was supposed to water.

The wind was still blowing a gale when we met at her home overlooking Grouville Bay, which offered a view of huge waves charging the shoreline like a host of white-plumed cavalry.

‘Condor can’t sail in weather conditions like this,’ Bunny said. ‘So no horses could come from the UK. At the moment, the wind strength is between Force 7 and 8 and it’s been like this for the past five days. Horrific – and no rain is forecast, either. We’re forever touching wood.’

It was very important to attract horses from the UK, she continued. ‘We’ve got about 40 racehorses in training in the Island, and it’s tough on them: to make them race every two weeks during the summer is a big ask. At our last meeting we had three UK horses and for our next meeting we have two – we could do with a few more.’

“**Their season last year was a great improvement – almost normal and a big step towards this year’s ‘normality’**”

‘It is difficult to make an excursion to Jersey profitable for the trainer, of course, by the time he has paid for the transport, but we do pay a travel allowance subsidy, despite rising costs. We also pay the accommodation costs of visiting jockeys – but all that is part of the Island’s hospitality and should generate, in return, more income for the Island.’

‘If only Condor would not keep putting their prices up.’

One problem that has gone away (we hope) is Covid and the effect of that on the 2020 race season – there wasn’t one. There were very strict restrictions in 2021, policed by ‘inspectors’ to make sure that rules were being followed to the letter – and to top everything, they were not even able to have a bar!

Their season last year was a great improvement – almost normal and a big step towards this year’s ‘normality’. Great help was given by the Race Club’s sponsors, CoinShares, on whose generous sponsorship the club has relied for three seasons to date.

Even before the pandemic struck life was proving difficult for the Jersey Race Club. The years 2017 to 2019 weren’t the easiest years, either, but Bunny stressed that the club was once again on the up. Lots of new members of the team: new management of the caterers, Niche Events, who have invested £115,000 on a complete kitchen on site.



Elizabeth ('Bunny') Roberts



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There are two enormous television sets, installed last year, which can make a huge difference, if the weather is unpleasant, to simply enjoy lunch and watch the races on TV! The club has plans to open up the racecourse on important race days such as Grand National, Goodwood or Royal Ascot, and allow the public to watch the racing in the company of other racing enthusiasts – and the marquee can also be used for weddings.

Not least there are new members of the team: a new commentator, Derek ('Tommo') Thompson, who has been presenting and commentating around the world for many years as well as presenting the World of Sport and Channel 4 Racing programmes; a new Starter, Mattie ('Batch') Batchelor, a very successful jockey before his retirement from race riding, who was Champion Jockey for many years at Les Landes; Jim Cantle is the new Clerk of the Course and a new groundsman is currently learning the job.

New as well is a new working tote and a new watering system that should defeat the vagaries of the wind.

But perhaps the most important players at the Jersey Race Club are the race sponsors – since without them, the club could not pay for the races. There are 45 different sponsorship opportunities over nine race meetings a year.

“We are in good heart for next year. Things are looking very positive... positivity is key! It's got be, after the past three years!

Bunny has been a racehorse owner for many years – her own family have been in racing since the 1920s. She is in partnership with her brother, Robert, who lives in Belfast, but the horses are kept at Newsells Park, near Newmarket, where they have ten horses in training this year. She became the president of the Jersey Race Club in 2008, retired and came back as president in 2019 – just in time for the pandemic.

With the shadow of Covid slipping away she is resuming her interest in animal charities: she was the Jersey organiser of the Animal Health Trust – a UK charity benefitting principally horses, dogs and cats. It had to close its doors in 2020, following fundraising issues, exacerbated by the pandemic. In its place, Bunny is running a Jersey support group for Racing Welfare, a registered charity supporting the workforce of British horseracing.

The annual golf tournament in September, that had supported the Animal Health Trust in the past, is returning on 21 September, to benefit Racing Welfare, with some top jockeys attending.

Bunny is looking forward with more confidence to the 2024 season: 'We are in good heart for next year. Things are looking very positive... positivity is key! It's got be, after the past three years!'

The last meeting of the 2023 season was Champions Day on Sunday 10 September.



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The Trainer's Story

Alyson Malzard

Alyson Malzard is owner and manager of Malzard Racing and Livery Stables at Grosnez Farm, St Ouen, the largest horseracing trainer's yard in Jersey. Interview by Alasdair Crosby

Alyson Malzard's family background is more about cows than horses.

Her father, Ken Vibert, was Constable of St Ouen for 20 years from 1994 and also a successful dairy farmer. The family's Grosnez Farm happens to be located next to Les Landes Racecourse, so when Ken retired from farming, there was a ready-made trainer's yard waiting to be used, and accommodation for cows easily converted to accommodation for horses.

'My mother, Beryl, rode,' she said. 'I always wanted a pony, and as we had a farm there was space to keep one.'

Alyson has now been training for 35 years – she was training before she was old enough to do so, officially. This year, there are 18 horses in training at her yard, the highest number that she has ever had. She also has horses at livery, so in total there are about 40 horses on the farm.

Asked whether training had changed much over the past 35 years, she replied: 'Once, a trainer would have had more staff. Usually, one member of staff would look after three horses; nowadays one member of staff looks after six horses – in the same amount of time. There was more labour available then – and the present staff-to-horse ratio may not be ideal, but it is certainly more efficient. It just seems that life on the whole is busier and therefore training is busier.'

Her yard is the biggest racehorse training establishment in the Island. There are four others, however: 'we could do with another trainer, but it's a profession that's really hard and very expensive to get into. I'm lucky because we have the farm, and the facilities, but for someone starting up from scratch, it would be very difficult.'

Was access to land for grazing horses a problem?

'We don't really need much land to exercise them,' she replied. 'Traditionally, race horses aren't turned out, whereas I insist that ours go out every day. But they don't need the grass – because grass is like chocolate – it's a treat, but not very good for an athlete. It's not like riding horses, who spend all day in the field, and you need lots of grass for them. Racehorses don't need a lot of grass.'

‘When I first started, racehorses wouldn’t have been turned out, because racehorses weren’t – but I do like to turn them out, as it gives them more of a quality of life – they are much happier outside.’

Asked what particular problems there were in training racehorses in Jersey at the moment, she replied simply: ‘the weather’.

‘Because of the lack of rain, all the surfaces are very firm, and it’s not good to be running racehorses on firm surfaces. Like humans, they can take some of it, but then they start getting ‘jarred up’ and they get bad knees and fetlocks.’

A bit of a change then, from Easter Monday, when the meeting had to be cancelled because of the soggy conditions.

Did she think there was a viable future for racing in Jersey?

‘It’s quite scary really, because finding young people to work in a training yard is not easy and it’s very costly to set up in business because of all the equipment you’ve got to get, and facilities you’ve got to rent. Any youngster thinking of doing that would go to England – as my daughter, Victoria, has done. The idea is that she’s going to come back and take over from me, but she’s doing well in England and won’t want to come back here yet.

‘She had her fifth winner in May – she rides as an amateur, but she wants to concentrate on the training side so that she can take over from me. I think she has had 29 rides in England and five winners – a really high strike rate.

‘I really hope that there are some youngsters who have gone to England to gain experience will come back. I am lucky this year, I have got a great team of staff, but some of the other trainers are really struggling.

You have to get staff from England – and English trainers are also struggling to get staff. There are easier ways of making money.

‘For me, I call this a way of life rather than a job. In Jersey, as long as there are horses here, we’ll keep racing ... but we really could do with more trainers!’

“ I call this a way of life rather than a job. In Jersey, as long as there are horses here, we’ll keep racing ... but we really could do with more trainers! ”



Victoria Malzard

Racing certainties – and racing uncertainties



In the second of a two-part series of articles (for the first part, see RURAL's Summer 2023 edition), Jonathan Perrée, Head of Racing for the Channel Islands Horseracing Authority, talked to Alasdair Crosby about the present and future of horseracing in Jersey

Think: a warm summer's evening at Les Landes racecourse. The sun sinks gently over Guernsey. The sea is blue, flat, and calm. Racegoers are enjoying themselves, watching the racing from the grandstand, finishing a meal in the marquee restaurant, having a drink at the bar – a crowd, sometimes 3,000 or 4,000 strong, is enjoying one of Jersey's most traditional sporting events.

Think another picture: it is pouring with rain. That Jersey meteorological speciality, a Force 8 Fog, blankets out the view and sends the few race spectators, who have braved the weather so far, scurrying for shelter or for their cars, to get home to the warmth and comfort of the great indoors.

Jonathan Perrée, Head of Racing for the Channel Islands Horseracing Authority, said: 'We are one of the most watched spectator sports in the Island... on good days we get bigger crowds at Les Landes Racecourse than go to the Jersey Rugby Club. But, on a wet weekend we are never going to attract big numbers – in bad weather we might get 500 spectators if we're lucky!'

He continued: 'Back in the days when there were bus trips and big coachloads coming up from hotels in town, there were always great crowds at Les Landes – it was something for locals and holidaymakers to do. Now the Island doesn't attract tourists in such large numbers we as a sport have to work hard to attract the crowd. Covid didn't help racing at all – just as it affected most other spectator sports.

'I think racing in Jersey is still very much under the radar as far as its economic potential for the Island is concerned. It generates more than a million pounds a year in commercial activity, all of which is of local benefit from feed merchants to farriers. With help from the States could we do more to attract racehorse owners from the UK to see their horses run at Les Landes?'

“One wonders if the same investment made by the Island into other major sports were applied to lesser-known sports what benefit to the population and to the tourist industry that might bring?”

'We already have one owner flying in by helicopter to ride here! Surely the more racegoers that the Island can attract has a benefit to the Island economy? Whether that is from France or the United Kingdom. One wonders if the same investment made by the Island into other major sports were applied to lesser-known sports what benefit to the population and to the tourist industry that might bring?'



“ This year there are only five registered trainers in the Island. We are losing trainers – some have retired, we need to be encouraging youngsters to come into the sport. But to encourage that, they need access to yards and land. We have lost that in today’s Jersey

Asked what he thought about the likely future of racing in Jersey, Jonathan replied: ‘It’s a tough question, because we are seeing the rural landscape change and becoming diminished. In the past, farmers and those involved with the land would have kept a horse on the farm and enjoyed competing against one another. In their spare time, they might go up to Les Landes or to the previous racecourse at Don Farm, to watch or take part in racing and/or the Hunt Point-to-Point. As an Island we were much more of a rural or agricultural population than now.

‘As farms have disappeared and been converted into multiple dwellings, racing yards and stables have been lost and very few people – if any – now would own a horse that was both a racehorse and a general-purpose horse.

The future of racing in the Island suffers from the same thing that everything else in the Island is suffering from: the high cost of rentals. The cost of renting a yard and the loss of agricultural land to gardens and ornamental fields rather than remaining in agricultural use – these are both factors that affect the future of racing. Moreover, having fields that are suitable for equine needs is very different to having fields for cows: equine and bovine needs are very separate.

‘So, in some sense one might think the outlook for racing is quite bleak: it costs a lot of money to keep a horse in training and investing in racehorses is quite an expensive prospect. But the Island does have a number of people who love to keep horses in training and their support of the sport is very much welcomed. The trainers here supplement their income by having livery yards, so they now have dual purpose yards ... but again, we are back to the loss of yards, and the loss of agricultural land.’

This year there are only five registered trainers in the Island: 'We are losing trainers – some have retired, we need to be encouraging youngsters to come into the sport. But to encourage that, they need access to yards and land. We have lost that in today's Jersey.'

'I wonder if there might be an appetite to take over a farm and turn it into an equine centre of excellence? Boxes could be rented out to visiting horses, thus encouraging competition not only in racing but other equine disciplines. It could also be used as a training centre for those wishing to be involved in equine pursuits, somewhere to keep Drag Hunt hounds, perhaps?

'As an Island, have we lost touch with our rural roots? Will horse racing disappear? I don't think it will. In Guernsey, there are rumours of investment in polo, so maybe horse racing isn't as far away from a renaissance as we might think. If someone in Guernsey is interested in investing in polo boxes, then perhaps someone will consider putting horses into training there and give the annual race meeting there a new lease of life. The flame flickers still – it is not quite snuffed out.'

Talking of polo, what of the possibilities of that taking off in Jersey? Readers with long-ish memories will remember the crowds that attended the beach polo event at St Brelade's Bay in 2014, even if the lunches on the promenade and in the champagne bars attracted as much enthusiasm as viewing the sport itself.

Polo was not his specialist subject, Jonathan replied, but he was not aware of anybody wanting to set up a polo yard in the Island. 'Occasionally I have chatted to people who wanted to put a polo field in the middle of Les Landes Racecourse. And the question does pop up perennially: "why isn't there polo here?" There is no reason why not – it just needs pure, unadulterated investment.

'Last year they were playing polo on the beach at Carteret and there are two beach racing courses in northern Brittany. Whether beach racing in Jersey would be a distraction from the main racing up at Les Landes? Maybe, but it would certainly be a spot of fun...

'We must never lose sight of the fact that every time we race, we are putting on a show. And that is something that sometimes we lose sight of – and as the saying goes 'The show must go on!'

As a postscript to the earlier article, Jonathan has been re-elected onto the Executive Council of the European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation and has added the Azerbaijan Jockey Club to his list of racing authorities that he is advising.

If any readers would like to be involved in racing, as volunteers, the Channel Islands Horseracing Authority is always on the lookout for new stewards and the Jersey Race Club for judges. A knowledge of racing and stewarding is not necessary – it can be taught 'on the hoof!' The only requirement is an interest in the sport.

“ We must never lose sight of the fact that every time we race, we are putting on a show. And that is something that sometimes we lose sight of – and as the saying goes 'The show must go on!' ”



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Claire White and Orchid



It's a top dog's life

The Kennel Club of Jersey, Agility for Jersey, Jersey Dog Training Association – three clubs for you and your dog

The improvement of the breeds of dogs in the Island – that has been the object of The Kennel Club of Jersey since it was founded in 1888 as 'the Jersey Dog Club'.

Claire White, the current president, vice chairman and acting registrar of the club, said: 'We are still doing what we were doing in the 19th Century: trying to focus on breed health and betterment of dogs and educating people.'

There are just under 150 club members and seven dog shows are held throughout the year. The main one is the Channel Islands Dog of the Year Show, held normally in the second week in February, which is the Channel Islands' equivalent of Crufts.

'We have one show for members, two Open shows, three Championship shows and the Dog of the Year show,' she said. 'Then there is a fun dog show – for dogs of all shapes and sizes. We also run a very popular show training and 'Good Citizen' training weekly for members. Agility for Jersey and the Jersey Dog Training Association are registered clubs of The Kennel Club of Jersey and they have their own shows. So there's a lot going on – and lots of awards.'

Claire has been the club president for the past year, the vice chairman for two years and the registrar for four years. As registrar, she keeps track of all the 'new' pedigree dogs that have come into the Island and whose owners want to show them, as well as litters of pedigree puppies and Agility champions.

In her other roles, she is the point of contact for the public who want to know more about puppies and suitable breeds to own.

'There have been many more dogs coming into the Island since the Covid years,' she said, 'and the registrations have certainly picked up. However, some people unfortunately do not do much research before they buy a cute puppy. The canine population grew enormously during Covid lockdown, and sadly puppies were unable to socialise with other dogs. So many of them were deprived of the vital socialisation skills required in everyday life. Unfortunately some dog owners are once again spending working days in the office, and some of them have found with changing circumstances they need to rehome, or find they cannot afford to keep their dogs due to increased cost of living. We are always here to help offer advice, and help in any way we can to support any dog owner.'

Jersey has a good record of wins at UK shows. Claire was lucky enough for her Cocker Spaniel, Orchid, to be shortlisted at this year's Crufts, as was a Scottish Terrier owned by Anna Pinto and Fiona Whitehead.

There were many other dogs owned by members in Jersey, Guernsey and the UK who placed at the biggest dog show in the world. Over the years, The Kennel Club of Jersey has awarded 50 dogs the Jersey Champion title, which is very prestigious. At the latest Spring Championship show Orchid, Claire's 21-month-old Cocker Spaniel, got her third crowning ticket. She is the first ever Cocker Spaniel to ever become a Jersey Champion.

Claire's family have kept dogs ever since she was born, both pedigree and crossbreeds. She trained as a dog groomer and had her own business, Posh Paws. She now has a business supplying raw food for dogs – Raw N More.

“It can be very noisy at times,' she said, 'but very merry. Fortunately Misty the cat rules them all and keeps them in order

Cocker Spaniels are her favourite breed and she breeds them at her Granrose Kennels in St John: 'I love spaniels – they are so pretty and elegant. They love company – I forget when I was last able to go to the toilet on my own! And they are all very voluble ... they are always talking!'

At the moment there are eight spaniels living at home with her and her family ranging from four months to 10 years.

'It can be very noisy at times,' she said, 'but very merry. Fortunately Misty the cat rules them all and keeps them in order.'

For further details, visit www.thekennelclubofjersey.com

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The Jersey agile dog

You've heard of that energetic amphibian, the Jersey Agile Frog – now meet the rather larger animal, the Jersey Agile Dog. Kieranne Grimshaw visited an Agility for Jersey Show to discover more about this sport for dogs – and their owners

Imagine having to navigate around an arena full of unusual obstacles, including a tunnel and a see-saw, leap over a few cavaletti jumps, and all to the commands of your owner, at speed. Welcome to Dog Agility!

The Agility for Jersey Show was held at the Jersey Accommodation & Activity Centre in St Martin over the long bank holiday weekend at the end of May. With its large flat grassy pitch and rural surroundings, this was the perfect location for dogs to both compete and recover afterwards. Breeds ranged from Dachshunds to Shelties – most looking remarkably relaxed before their turn in the ring.

In the Grade B Class, for the slightly more experienced, was Rose - a pretty, grey Cesky – with owner Christine Marett. This breed train well, are quite muscular and want to please, so are ideal for agility. It was a joy to see the pleasure and fun both owner and dog were sharing, despite the intensity of the event. Most classes were fast and furious as dogs jumped, weaved and traversed around the arena, to be judged by Chris Allen from the UK.

Another keen competitor, Finn, a four-year-old Sheltie, looked at home in the ring. With their high energy levels, Agility provides the physical and mental stimulation this breed needs. Owner Nicky Stewart said: 'I love the training and the partnership with my dog. I used to compete with horses, so it ticks the box and you know the dog loves it.'

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Obi, aged eight, directed by her owner, Angie Seedhouse, clearly loved competing. 'Some Staffies can be faster than a Whippet,' she said. 'Obi's mum, Apache, is twelve and still competes.'

For both veterans and inexperienced dogs, there was an 'Any Size (No See-saw)' Class – understandably a wobbly see-saw could prove the most unnerving of obstacles, even for the bravest among us.

This looked even more fun and entertaining than the pros! As with the earlier class, it involved a lot of shouting commands – 'tunnel, this way, turn!', but always ending with a 'well done', a pat and, of course, a treat. Most dogs finished looking exhilarated and ready for another round – owners perhaps were a little wearier.



“**Most dogs finished looking exhilarated and ready for another round**

If you think your pet might benefit from this excellent form of exercise and bonding, it could be the start of an exciting new hobby. There are training sessions every Saturday morning. They have five classes for all the different levels and mixed breeds are welcome.

There are four shows a year, all licensed by the Kennel Club of Jersey, normally held at the Activity Centre. As well as a great experience, dogs with a clear round can qualify for the annual Channel Island Dog of the Year.

Please contact Angie Seedhouse for details on training sessions.

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Not a boot camp for dogs

The Jersey Dog Training Association is a not-for-profit dog club that trains dogs to be obedient and well behaved – but, more importantly, it gives them lots of fun and socialisation. Alasdair Crosby went to the dogs

The friendly dogs at the Jersey Dog Training Association were obviously enjoying themselves; it was not a canine military drill parade.

‘It is NOT a boot camp for dogs – it’s got to be fun. They’ve got to really, really enjoy it to do it,’ said trainer Liz Keeler.

The JDTA uses the miniature rifle range at the Maillard Memorial Hall in St Lawrence – right by the entrance to Glencoe, on La Rue Fraide, as their club house.

It is affiliated to the Kennel Club of Jersey but is independent of it.

The club runs puppy and basic obedience classes on a Thursday which are open to all (but please book before coming as sometimes space is limited and there can be a waiting list), and it holds Members only classes on a Tuesday.

There are three grades of training, which seem almost like primary school, secondary school and further education.

The primary schooling consists of puppy classes, for pups from between three to six months. The puppies are taught the basics of obedience, but most importantly, have the opportunity to socialise with other dogs.

Puppies can start school at three months old, once they have had all of their injections so they can mix with other dogs. There are no school terms: you can start your 10-week course at any time.

Then comes secondary education for dogs over the age of 6 months: obedience training. The dogs are taught to understand and obey the basic commands that are needed for a dog in a home environment: Sit, Go Down, to walk by the owner’s side without pulling on the lead, to return to owner when called, to stay in one spot when the owner leaves them, and to pick up and bring back and give items when requested.

The club stresses that it does not condone harsh training.



Ceres, owned by Liz Keeler - a happy champion

Liz Keeler, trainer

Then comes the university stage education in 'Competitive Obedience'. The dogs are encouraged to walk closely next to their owner, and to turn when the owner does, without the owner needing to say a word (for the advanced), to fetch any item that is thrown, to stay in a position while the owner leaves the room. Advanced exercises also include teaching scent, where the dog will smell a cloth with the judge's scent on, and then fetch the cloth with the matching scent from a line of similar looking cloths.

“ The club stresses that it does not condone harsh training

Dogs compete in different classes depending on their ability. In a competition, dogs must perform their exercises in a stylised and precise manner, for example on a recall the dog must not just come to the owner, it must come to the owner in a straight line, and then sit straight in front of the owner, not at an angle.

Liz said: 'Of course, at this level, you can't speak to your dog; you can't move your hands, or your fingers, or twitch your nose. If the steward shouts out "right turn" you have to do it in one stride. If you don't, you are penalised heavily.'

Her young Border Collie, called Ceres, who is just 16 months old, entered her very first Obedience competition in the UK in September and won the class! She was in a class of 47 entered on the hottest day of the year.

Liz added: 'We ended up on the same marks as another dog, so had to do the round again in a "run off" and Ceres was more accurate & won the class. This win at her first ever time in a competitive ring at a big Obedience Show is "what dreams are made of" as this is so rare, even by those in England who compete every week.

But how, she was asked, does the dog know what to do if you can't talk to it?

'Because you have spent so much time with him. You don't need to speak to him, because you have had the dog on a lead, chatting away to him and giving him titbits, that at the top competitive level they know what to do without any instruction.

'I talk to my dog a lot – it's only when we are in the ring that I don't – and it just works!

'We try to make it interesting – so that the dogs don't get bored!'

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Setting your puppy up for lifelong mobility

Preventing orthopaedic conditions in dogs, by Sarah Lewis of Pawellness (veterinary physiotherapist in Jersey)

Osteoarthritis is often thought of as an older dog's disease but 25% of dogs older than one year have osteoarthritis. This increases to 50% between 5 and 10 years of age.

Prevention starts right from the beginning when puppies are born. The first 8 to 12 weeks when they are with the breeder are one of the most crucial times. Exposure to multiple non-slip surfaces and textures where the puppies can explore at their own pace is vital in the initial weeks. Varying surfaces involving grass, gravel and concrete challenge their balance and proprioception (the body's ability to sense movement, action, and location).

A few ideas that the breeder could be doing:

- Gentle handling and grooming
- Playing in a children's play pool full of empty plastic water bottles or balls
- Low play equipment such as foam climbing blocks or yoga blocks
- Balance discs and wobble cushions

Never be afraid or intimidated to ask the breeder questions. A legitimate breeder should be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

A breeder should always be looking for the best home for their puppies so do not feel offended if they ask questions too.

So, once you have brought your bundle of joy home what can YOU do to prevent arthritis later in life?

1: Weight management

Obesity is the number one cause of osteoarthritis. Fat contains inflammatory mediators that aggravate arthritic pain, as well as having a significant impact on the rest of the body. The joints, ligaments, tendons and muscles are all under increased strain with every movement to control the body which speeds up the degeneration process.

A nutrition study was carried out on 48 Labradors from 8 weeks of age up until 14 years. The control group were allowed to eat unlimited amounts of food during the 15-minute daily feed. The dogs in the lean group were given 15% less food.

It was shown that the average life span for the lean dogs was 1.5 years more than the control group!

If you are struggling with your dog's weight, speak to your veterinary practice. Most hold weight loss clinics by trained veterinary nurses who can help.

2: Home environment

Research suggests that improving the home environment for puppies can decrease the likelihood of orthopaedic issues later in life.

Changes in the home routine include:

- No slippery floors
- No stairs at a young age
- No jumping/on off sofa, bed etc.
- No high impact exercise like chasing a ball/frisbee

The list above are all high impact movements, and the repetition of these high impact movements causes an increase in the wear and tear of the joints. At a young age a puppy doesn't have the necessary stability around the joints to brace the joint for the impact, causing more uncontrolled forces on the joint.

There is a 15-50% genetic influence with hip issues and 60-85% is environmental factors.

We are here to help pet parents be the best they can be.
Our approach is **knowledge is power** and the more information you know about your furry friends and how to care for them the more informed choices you can make.

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The Pet Parent Hub




3: Stability and proprioception exercises

Puppies are born with poor proprioception (not aware of where their feet are). We can help with this by building strength and working on balance. When muscles are stronger, they have more control over joint movement and decrease the abnormal wear and tear.

Some exercises that you can start with are:

Standing Square

You would be surprised by how many puppies and dogs cannot stand square for up to 30 seconds!

It takes a lot of core strength and awareness not to move.

Begin with 10 seconds repeated 3 times.



Ladder/Cavaletti

- Walk over sets of cavaletti poles (can also be brooms or any small pole/stick) or through a ladder
- The puppy becomes more aware of where their feet are and teaches foot placement
- Make sure the poles are initially on the floor for a small puppy or slightly raised for a large breed puppy
- Begin with 4 lengths 3 repetitions



Figure of 8's/walking around an object

- Use two objects to walk around inside or outside – chair, cones, trees etc.
- Walk around them in a figure of 8 pattern
- Begin with 3 figure of 8 patterns, 3 repetitions

By implementing the factors above, you can reduce the risk of orthopaedic conditions such as arthritis and cruciate ruptures in your puppy later in life. By providing a balanced diet, controlled exercise, appropriate rest times and weight management you can ensure your puppy grows up with healthy joints, allowing them to lead an active and improved quality of life.

Any questions or advice on how you can help your dog email: info@pawellness.co.uk



Franky's Dog Grooming Parlour

Franky's is a small private salon in St Ouen catering for all breeds in a calm environment offering one to one appointments. Julie, formerly of Julie's Pet Parlour in St Peter, has returned to grooming on a smaller scale offering personalised and tailored care for your dog. All breeds are catered for and Julie specialises in nervous or anxious dogs. Fully licensed under the Animal Welfare Law and comprehensively insured, Julie's handling and grooming processes ensure your dog's comfort and wellbeing.

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Playing,
having fun
and being
silly



Fiena Roberts

Teaching your dog has evolved immensely over time. Kieranne Grimshaw met Dog Trainer Harry Matthews and his team from Origin Dog Training and discovered the importance and benefits of the correct training

Dog trainer Harry Matthews threw his car keys into long grass in the middle of a large field... a dangerous thing to do, surely?

No problem for his lithe German Shepherd dog, Leo, who zig-zagged swiftly around the field, using its powerful scent to retrieve the keys within minutes. It was evident that his owner had every confidence in him.

A former Police Dog Handler, Harry found that he had a passion for dogs and their training and also for working with people and getting the best out of them. 'People often assume that, as an ex-Police dog handler, I'll be more disciplined and shout at the dog,' Harry said. 'We don't use any force or any of those sorts of adverse methods at all. It's all about playing, having fun and being silly.'

Harry is helped by team members Fiena Roberts and Shaena Cohen. Dog training isn't an easy task, he said, and requires several essential qualities: 'It's virtually all about communication. We don't train people's dogs; we train people to train their dogs and we find what makes the owner tick. The key is to keep it simple - we use virtually no equipment whatsoever.'

“ People often assume that, as an ex-Police dog handler, I'll be more disciplined and shout at the dog. We don't use any force or any of those sorts of adverse methods at all

Fienna added: 'I think you need passion and patience and a general draw towards animals.'

The team work with all dogs. 'It's all about engaging with the dog and making training fun,' Harry said. 'We tend to work with the working breeds. It depends on what your aim is and what's the dog's job - what do we want it to do in the end? It's also important to know your breed, as there's sometimes a lack of research.'

Puppy training can begin a lot earlier than some owners would think. Learning by association starts from birth and the habit never dies, so it's important to begin socialisation as soon as you are able. 'You can even play car noises or washing machines on U-tube, so when the puppy turns up on day one at eight weeks, he's already used to all these things,' Harry explained.



Harry Matthews and Leo

Leo, Red Fox and Indie make up the family team. 'About a week before Bonfire Night I start firework noises in the house, really quietly. When they start playing, Indie and Leo both run to the treat cupboard as they've now been conditioned to think - "that's the noise", and they sprint to the treat cupboards as they know fireworks equals treats and not scary noise.'

“ It's so rewarding when you see someone come to you struggling, then maybe in a few weeks they walk past with the perfect dog, you think "ah I helped with that!"

Different dog breeds may value different training rewards and for Indie, she loves her pheasant toy. Harry confirmed that working Labradors need to satisfy their natural desire for chasing and Indie clearly enjoyed her game, whilst being both physically and mentally stimulated.



Shaena Cohen

Being a dog trainer can be very rewarding. For Harry, being outdoors, playing with dogs and meeting nice people all make it worthwhile. Shaena said: 'It's so rewarding when you see someone come to you struggling, then maybe in a few weeks they walk past with the perfect dog, you think "ah I helped with that!"

The team promote the three fundamental building blocks for dog training: relationship, origin and focus.

'Building a relationship and teaching a dog, when you say its name, it stops what it is doing and looks at you. Dogs only pay attention to you when you start paying attention to them - a nice way to teach focus,' Harry said. 'Origin is what were they bred for and what is their history?'

'A well-trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner. And, as the actress, Helen Thomson, said: "A well trained dog will make no attempt to eat your lunch. He will just make you feel so guilty that you cannot enjoy it."'

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- C: Metal

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Closing date for entries is 26 November 2023.

Winners will be contacted via email.

Good Luck!



More for the dog walk
than the catwalk

The 'Ariat' range of leisure wear from the JFTU

Ariat is named after 'Secretariat', the legendary American racehorse and 1973 Kentucky Derby and Triple Crown winner, widely considered to be the greatest racehorse of all time. As Ariat's founder, Beth Cross, says: 'His athleticism and non-stop competitive spirit make him an enduring inspiration for our company.'

Growing up on a working horse farm in Pennsylvania, she was one of eight children. She spent her childhood surrounded by animals – horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, dogs and cats. She founded the Ariat company in 1993 and Beth has since built it up into one of the top equestrian, outdoor and workwear brands in the world.

“ They all have an amazing cushioned footbed and you can go walking for miles in total comfort — and warmth

Ariat was founded on the concept of 'the new breed of boot,' integrating athletic footwear technology into boots for equestrian athletes. Jersey's footpaths are apt to get very muddy in rainy weather, but wellies are not the easiest boots to wear for taking the dog for a walk. The advantage of Ariat's footwear is that they all have an amazing cushioned footbed and you can go walking for miles in total comfort — and warmth.

Footwear remains one of the strongpoints of the Ariat range but there is a wide range of clothing for all outdoor activities, as well as accessories (also accessories for the dog!) The clothing is seasonal, so at the JFTU you don't see lots of the same product year in year out – and the JFTU are the sole retailers of Ariat in Jersey.

Visit the JFTU at Southfork, Rue du Trot (the road between Midland Stores and La Hougue Bie) or phone Jenny Deans on 733277.



Planning ahead: Pets and Wills

By Ogier's head of estate planning, wills and probate, Henry Wickham and associate, Nathalie Le Cuirot

Lasting powers of attorney

A lasting power of attorney, also known as an LPA, is a legal document that lets you choose one or more people (known as 'attorneys') to help you make decisions, or to make decisions on your behalf, should you lose capacity.

Lasting powers of attorney typically list the individual's specific wishes and instructions, and these can include the care of their pets. These instructions can vary in detail, noting who should care for the pet through to specific diets or even instances when the pet should be put to sleep.

Often, we will outlive our pets, but it is important to plan for the alternative. They are wonderful companions and so should not be forgotten in these vital discussions.

If you have any questions about wills, lasting powers of attorney or estate planning, contact a member of Ogier's Estate Planning, Wills and Probate team who will be happy to assist.



Continuity of care – by specifying a caretaker in their will, a pet owner can ensure their pet is cared for by someone they trust and who is willing and able to provide for the pet's needs.

Financial provisions – while a pet owner cannot name their pet as a beneficiary of their will or of a trust (as they are not 'persons'), testators can couple bequests with a gift of money to compensate the named individual for the pet's expected cost of care. Remember, these costs, which include medication and vet bills, may increase as the pet grows older. It's important to first discuss these wishes with a sympathetic and trustworthy friend or relation who is prepared to take on this responsibility.

Emotional attachment – pets are often considered to be part of the family. Not only will owners want to ensure their pet is cared for in the event of their death, other family members may too.

To prevent abandonment or neglect – by specifically mentioning a pet in their will, the owner can help prevent the pet from being abandoned or ending up in a shelter.

Legal certainty – it can help avoid disputes over ownership following the death of the owner.

Individuals can also leave bequests in their wills to animal charities. Not everyone will have family or friends who are able to care for their pets, but there are some fantastic charities which look after 'orphaned' pets. The testator may wish to bequest a specific sum to these charities in their will coupled with a request that the charity finds their pet a suitable home.

We all love our pets. They are a key part of our families. But have you considered who would look after your trusted companion if you lost capacity or passed away?

When planning for the future, it's important to include a reference to your pets in your will or lasting power of attorney.

While there is no provision under Jersey law for the appointment of guardians for pets, there are ways to ensure sensible steps are taken to determine their future and, in particular, where they will live.

Wills

For testamentary purposes, a pet is normally considered a 'chattel' and can be left to someone in your will. People often bequeath pets in their wills for several reasons.

Longevity – the pet's expected lifespan is an important factor to consider. For example, tortoises are known for their long lives with some species living for more than 100 years.



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Avoid a dog fight...



Did you know that legally a pet is the property of the person who paid for it in the same way as a sofa or any other item? So while you may think you bought the cat together, if in fact your partner paid for the cat using their money, legally it is their cat. Even if a pet clearly belonged to one person before a couple met, over time both people may come to love and treasure that pet equally.

You may know a couple who separated years ago but who still share a pet. There may be a clash of holidays sometimes or some grizzling over who should pay the vet bills but it can work very well. However, sometimes the pet becomes the centre of a battle. Who bought the pet? Who cared for it more? Who can provide the better home? A pet is often an invaluable part of the family so this can be a difficult situation. In addition, your ex-partner remains in your life and new partners have to accept this, as well as the pet of course.

Sharing a pet and continuing to manage a relationship with an ex might seem impossible. Like with anything, it is best to deal with things while relations are good. In the same way as a pre-nuptial agreement can provide for how assets will be divided in the event of a marriage breaking-up, you can reach an agreement to provide for a beloved pet even if you are not married. Relationship agreements like this can deal with all sorts of things where the law does not afford you the protection you may want or need.

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Shotgun (and) weddings



The Château du Val, between Rennes and Vannes, is a place for shooting parties and wedding parties (if not, perhaps, on the same occasion).

Alasdair Crosby went visiting

“ It was very run down, but Jas and Joss now run tailor-made shooting breaks: rough pheasant shooting for corporate and private parties. They have also made it a venue for weddings

I woke up early and looked out from the windows of my bedroom on to a quiet and very rural landscape: hills and woods, small villages and farmland.

Wraiths of mist hung low over the fields; below the windows of the chateau were two deer, peacefully grazing. The sun, at first a dark red smudgy ball without brightness or heat, slowly drove away the wraiths as daybreak gave way to morning and the sun's might grew stronger.

I trod over wet grass to admire again a statue of the goddess Diana, bow in one hand, fondling a hound with the other; the dog looks up at her adoringly. It was given as a present to the owners of the Château du Val, Jas and Jocelyn (Joss) Saini, by the sculptor Peter Howard and his wife, Papychette; the model for Diana's hound was none other than their own departed black Labrador, Arti. Although maybe 'loosely' modelled might be a better term, as Arti possessed a fondness for French cooking that manifested in a pleasantly plump figure. The statue also serves as a gentle tribute to their beloved companion.

The woods of Château du Val in Brittany would be a perfect place for Diana and her hounds to hunt and indeed they are, in modern times, the venue for shooting parties – and equally, wedding parties – organised by Jas and Joss.

This quiet, green country is just an easy drive from Saint Malo: take the fast road south, drive a short way round the Rennes ring road and turn off towards Redon on the D117. Once back in the countryside, turn off at the exit marked ‘Saint-Just’ and start threading country lanes in the heart of rural Brittany.

Then the Château du Val comes into view. The original owner built the chateau not so much as a family home as a place for sporting and ‘country house’- type parties. It incorporated all the latest and most luxurious features of the late 19th Century – as well as requiring an army of servants to run.

The 20th Century was not kind to big houses that required maintenance by an army of servants, but as far as the Château du Val is concerned, in some senses nothing essential has changed too much: after a decline in its fortunes it is now once again an oasis for leisure, field sports and convivial enjoyment.

Jas Saini owns a company connected with public healthcare I.T; his wife has family connections with the Duke of Richmond Hotel in Guernsey and grew up on a Wiltshire farm (which had a herd of Jersey cows). They divide their time between their home at Château du Val and Jas’ working address in Geneva.

Restoring the Château has been an ambitious project for them. It was very run down, but Jas and Joss now run tailor-made shooting breaks: rough pheasant shooting for corporate and private parties. They have also made it a venue for weddings: two fiancé couples from the USA happened to be there during our visit, casing the joint for their own wedding parties next year.



Diana and hound (the late 'Arti')

“Wraiths of mist hung low over the fields;
below the windows of the château were two deer,
peacefully grazing



“**Ideal for parties – perhaps shooting parties, perhaps wedding parties, perhaps family get-togethers for important celebrations. There is a great deal of space available, both inside and outside – in the grounds and the estate’s woods and surrounding countryside — and plenty to do on the estate and nearby**

The guests, depending on their number, can take over accommodation in the château (nine bedrooms sleeping 22) or the ‘lodge’ – the old stable block, an imposing building in itself, which sleeps 19 in six bedrooms. The lodge has recently been restored and provides very comfortable accommodation for groups.

‘We are neither an hotel nor a bed and breakfast,’ Jas said, ‘we are not geared up for individuals just passing through and staying for the night. But we think it is ideal for parties – perhaps shooting parties, perhaps wedding parties, perhaps family get-togethers for important celebrations. There is a great deal of space available, both inside and outside – in the grounds and the estate’s woods and surrounding countryside — and plenty to do on the estate and nearby.’

The on-site facilities include a 15m swimming pool with cover, an all-weather tennis court, private forest (with marked trails) and a lake with the possibility of coarse fishing.

The estate’s woodlands sweep down to the lake’s edge, from there the paths lead uphill to a tangle of gorse and brambles, where the pheasant pens are located.

The estate rears Reeves’s pheasants, a beautiful bird where the cocks have a spectacular black, white, and gold plumage and tails that can reach five feet in length. The chicks are bought in at 10 weeks old and grow up in the safe tangle of undergrowth – about three acres – enclosed by fox-proof fencing and raptor-proof net covering. When they are adult, they are let out of their ‘pen’, but the environment outside is just the same as the environment inside: furze and bramble and bushes. In this tanglewood the pheasants continue to live as wild pheasants should, enjoying presumably happy pheasant lives until one day they meet a hunter with a gun.



Relaxing after a long day in the woods



Dinner at the Château



Jas and Joss Saini, with Rosie

But: 'With our hunters, the pheasants win most of the time,' joked Jas. 'This area is really a halfway house for the birds. They are wild still — it's not as if they are kept in small crates. We try to keep the same environment outside the pens as well as inside, so that they continue to feel at home. They know how to hide and how to nest.'

He continued: 'We like people to have a good time, so they have to see the birds and have to have a chance to shoot them. Everyone shoots a lot of cartridges and no one goes away saying "we didn't see anything; we didn't shoot anything".'

'It's difficult to shoot the pheasants, but it's good sport. When you do bag one, you feel a sense of achievement — it's not easy.'

There are no beaters employed to drive the game to the guns, and the number of guns is limited to a maximum of six, for security reasons. The guns have to stay in line and wear thin pink jackets — for their own safety.

“**There's a great sense of camaraderie. Sometimes the guns walk some 20 kms — after that you feel like a whisky or two**”

The estate is also known for its woodcock — the woodland scrub is ideal for them. The estate also offers clay pigeon shooting.

Visitors from abroad who have difficulty in bringing their own guns through border controls can rent one inexpensively from the local gun shop.

'It's a great day out, physically and mentally,' he said, 'and there's a great sense of camaraderie. Sometimes the guns walk some 20 kms — after that you feel like a whisky or two.'

Getting to the point

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The Lodge - ideal for groups

“ Le Val is an hospitable, interesting and attractive destination in the midst of charming countryside – both for those who shoot and for those who are looking for a spectacular wedding venue – within easy driving distance from Saint-Malo

This leads on to the question: ‘what can a non-shooter do at Château du Val?’ (Apart from getting married there).


‘Alternative activities’ include horse riding at a nearby stables, or visiting the charming little town of Le Gacilly – home of the late Yves Rocher and the base of his world-famous company. Its narrow, cobbled streets are full of arts and crafts, people, and flowers.

But for me, (admittedly an archaeologist manqué), especially fascinating were the many megaliths in the area; at one minor crossroads near the château were signposts pointing to megaliths in all four directions. It seems as if the area was more populated in the third millennium BC than it is in the third millennium AD.

Altogether, Château du Val is an hospitable, interesting and attractive destination in the midst of charming countryside – both for those who shoot and for those who are looking for a spectacular wedding venue – within easy driving distance from Saint-Malo.

Contact details:

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MyPad does not only have the largest range of beds and mattresses in Jersey online with a 21-day delivery, but it also boasts a superb West's Centre showroom in St Helier

MyPad started trading in 2013 and has established itself as one of the market leaders with a stunning contemporary furniture showroom in St Helier. The pioneering leader of the Jersey furniture scene was initially set up in a small bedroom at the home of its founder, who had a vision to mimic the aspirational boutique furniture showrooms that he had visited throughout the UK and Europe. The business has now evolved into one of the largest collections online in the Channel Islands.

It has devoted the majority of its first floor to an extensive selection of quality beds and mattress products - with large screens to view hundreds of products and an experienced knowledgeable sales team. MyPad can offer the widest selection with the minimum of fuss.

The boutique environment helps to direct you on to selected products that you can feel and touch - this is not a huge showroom with too much choice. We have carefully selected the best quality UK manufactured beds and divans, all available exclusively to MyPad, with cutting edge design plus a vast array of fabrics from which you can choose the design to suit your needs.

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The war of the wines

In recent decades New World wines have made huge inroads into French wine sales, partly by concentrating on grape variety rather than geographical location. The famous Burgundy house of Louis Latour is fighting back. Hamish Marett-Crosby interviewed Latour's area export manager, Joséfa Perret



Burgundy wine from the house of Louis Latour, be it red or white, has been a long-established presence in Jersey. From the rare and extraordinary vineyard holdings with the official designation Grand and 1er Cru (1st growth) status to the more generic village wines, the name Louis Latour has been in the forefront of the local market for decades thanks to the work of a series of linked importers, G Orange and Co, Victor Hugo Wines Ltd and now Liberation Quality Drinks, which is run by Tim Hubert.

First the basics. Maison Louis Latour is a merchant and owner of red and white burgundy producing vineyards and has remained family-owned and independent since 1797. Each generation has worked to preserve this heritage with a visionary and ambitious spirit, slowly building up a unique holding among the top vineyards of the region. Louis Latour has the largest holding of Grand Crus in Burgundy's Côte-d'Or and is based at its winery at Château Corton Grancey where the red wines are still vinified and aged at the historic building, in which a system of elevators and small containers attached to rails allow the transport and winemaking process to be carried out by gravity.

But in recent years, there is one Latour wine which has grown in popularity, with thousands of cases over the years shipped to Jersey. Acknowledging that the relatively small vineyard area of classic Burgundies could not meet the ever-growing market, Latour made a point of investing heavily in the wine area south of the Côte-d'Or, the Mâconnais, and the result has been Mâcon Lugny, 100% chardonnay with a soft and creamy texture and a hint of oak, very drinkable, utterly reliable and a great introduction to the joys of white burgundy.

“**The success of Mâcon Lugny proved that that good chardonnay wines were not exclusive to the Côte-d'Or**

The success of Mâcon Lugny proved that that good chardonnay wines were not exclusive to the Côte-d'Or. Then came the worldwide success of wines from Australia, South Africa and South America selling by concentrating on what was in the bottle (grape variety) rather than the French system of specifying an (often obscure) place of origin (Appellation d'origine contrôlée – AOC).

Louis Latour realised that their response in these wine wars had to feature something the Appellation Laws forbade; displaying the grape variety on the label. So, the answer was simple, use the two Burgundy grapes, the Chardonnay for white wines and Pinot Noir for the reds and grow them in areas where no such restrictions applied.

“ Valmoissine is located on the site of the ancient monastery of the same name at 500 meters above sea level. This guarantees sunshine during the summer months whilst remaining cool at night and limits the possibility of spring frosts

So, we have answered the question, ‘Why?’ The next stage was to answer ‘Where?’ and ‘What?’ These questions were put to Joséfa Perret, area export manager (and therefore frequent visitor to Jersey) for Maison Louis Latour.

‘After lengthy research, the company focussed on the valley of the Ardèche River, with its clay and limestone-based soils, as the ideal location to produce top-quality Chardonnay wines,’ she explained. ‘So, welcome to Latour’s Chardonnay Ardèche as well as the Grand Ardèche, which is treated as if it were grown in one of the Grand Cru vineyards of the Côte-d’Or. Neither location is within an “Appellation Area”. Only the ripest grapes are used and fermentation and ageing take place in oak barrels from the Louis Latour cooperage.’

Joséfa also emphasised that respect for terroir is one of the fundamental values of Maison Louis Latour, who have practised so-called ‘reasoned agriculture’ for almost 20 years. Understanding and interpreting the geological complexity of each parcel is indispensable, and ‘it is for this reason that we regularly undertake soil analysis in order to study the interaction between the terroir and our wines.’

As partner to the Ardèche Chardonnay, Valmoissine Pinot Noir from the Var region is the red wine offering. Valmoissine is located on the site of the ancient monastery of the same name at 500 meters above sea level. This guarantees sunshine during the summer months whilst remaining cool at night and limits the possibility of spring frosts. The vineyard’s southern exposure gives the grapes perfect maturity at the same time as the Grands Crus of Corton. The yield is small in order to ensure perfect maturity and concentration of the grapes, factors that create the best quality wines. This results in an elegant wine with remarkable finesse.

‘Wherever the wines are made, from the shores of the Mediterranean to Burgundy’s Côte-d’Or, there is the same emphasis on quality,’ said Joséfa.

And she is right of course: if you want proof, the answer is in your hands. Try some.



Village of Lugny, Louis Latour vineyards



Judith Querée is still welcoming visitors to the little corner of paradise which she and her late husband, Nigel, created down a narrow lane in St Ouen, nurtured in accordance with organic principles. By Gill Maccabe

Sponsored by



“ It lies in an enviable valley situation protected from coastal winds and provides a microclimate for up to 2,000 rare and unusual plants from all around the world

Known simply as ‘Judith Querée’s Garden’, the nine-vergée site is wrapped around an exquisite, 300-year-old chocolate box granite cottage called Creux Baillot.

It lies in an enviable valley situation protected from coastal winds and provides a microclimate for up to 2,000 rare and unusual plants from all around the world.

Judith created the garden and renovated the property with her husband, Nigel, with whom she spent 50 years before his death last March. Everywhere are tangible reminders of their life and love for each other and of Nigel’s craftsmanship.

Over in the west corner sits the folly he created using reclaimed Jersey bricks, emblazoned with two ancient stone gargoyles they named ‘Mad Monk’ and ‘Sloth’.

‘There used to be an ancient priory close by,’ Judith said, ‘so we thought we would build this in homage.’

There is the gift shop Nigel crafted from pallet boards; the intriguing weathered timber and rope boardwalk over the bog garden, with metal plaques engraved with ‘J and N 1998’ on each upright stanchion post; the shepherd’s hut painted in their signature green shade, where they would take siestas and relax of an evening; and the solid oak bench with its high gothic-shaped back created by Roy Whittingham to Judith’s design.

There are numerous sculptures and installations that the couple took great delight in designing and sourcing, such as a chicken wire sheepdog guarding the chicken wire sheep, a magnificent horse in the west meadow and giant stainless steel dandelions topped with a fairy guarding the wildflower meadow.

There is an air of romantic perfection everywhere with something to look at wherever you turn, like a plein air painting of how rural life should be.

Even the chickens and guinea fowl scramble around like catwalk models with their heads held proud, confident and happy.

Nigel was, of course, best known in the Island as Senator Nigel Querée – lifelong environmentalist and a past president of the Planning and Environment Committee, as it was then called.



“ There is an air of romantic perfection everywhere with something to look at wherever you turn, like a plein air painting of how rural life should be



“As well as collecting plant species from around the world, Judith also cares deeply about the natural environment

He also played a central role in designating the Island’s southeast coast and reefs as a Ramsar site and in protecting Les Mielles in St Ouen’s Bay, as well as helping to initiate the National Trust for Jersey’s successful campaign to buy the Plémont headland.

Self-effacing and modest, Judith is clearly a skilled, self-taught plantswoman and works in her garden year-round, every single day.

She has recently featured in a French gardening series called ‘Silence, ça pousse!’ (think Monty Don with a Gallic shrug), and she has appeared in many gardening textbooks including ‘1001 Gardens You Must See Before You Die’.

The site allows different growing conditions: there is the bog garden which is fed by numerous underground springs so it stays wet in even the driest summers, and a woodland area and drier areas where Judith grows drought loving plants such as South African nerines.

There are also traditional herbaceous borders stuffed with every cottage garden delight you can think of, featuring a huge collection of salvias from all around the world.



Around March each year, Judith sows two strips of annual ornamental wild flowers in the meadow in front of the cottage. They are the first things visitors see as they wind down the narrow lane.

This year for the first time a beautiful member of the Iris family, *Dietes grandiflora*, native to South Africa, has put in an appearance.

In the wet area, Judith also hosts the largest ever collection of outdoor grown ferns in the British Isles, including two that grow wild in New Zealand. Around 200 species of clematis, at least one of which flowers every day of the year, crawl through trees, climb up strategically positioned ropes and willow structures, and tumble over walls.

As well as collecting plant species from around the world, Judith also cares deeply about the natural environment. She works with the Animals' Shelter to provide a soft release site for injured or abandoned red squirrels and has two barn owls nesting in a pretty superior tree house high above the bog garden.



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Contact David Leng | 07797 856313
Email: davidleng@blancpignon.com | Instagram: blancpignondairyfarm





There are well fed hedgehogs in abundance, and she is passionate about leaving ragwort for the insects and clumps of honey thistles with their intoxicating fragrance for the honeybees.

Judith has been called 'a rara avis' in a paper delivered by a scholar from an Australian landscape design institute. How right they are.

If you haven't already, you must visit Judith Querée's garden. It's a bit tricky for those with mobility issues, but do call first for advice. No walk-ins, tours by appointment.

Contact – judith@judithqueree.com

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The Harbour Gallery moves harbours

After 20 years on the quayside at St Aubin, The Harbour Gallery has changed harbours. Pat Robson is the director of the Art in the Frame Foundation, which manages the gallery. She showed Alasdair Crosby around the new premises at Commercial Buildings, St Helier



Earlier this year, an office building that had been part of Norman's at 19, The Quay, Commercial Buildings, became 'The Harbour Gallery' – a name that has become synonymous with arts and crafts in Jersey.

It used to be at The Bulwarks in St Aubin, but it closed late last year at the end of its lease. Throughout the first four months of 2023 the Gallery packed itself up and moved: it is now a bigger gallery facing a larger harbour – it's now beside St Helier Old Harbour.

Also synonymous with Jersey arts and crafts is Pat Robson, the director of the charity, Art in the Frame Foundation, which runs The Harbour Gallery.

She has been just a bit busy during the move: 'I'm working 15-hour days at the moment, seven days a week,' she said. 'There's always something that needs doing. As long as you don't stop, it's fine.'

“**fortunately we've had the most amazing carpenters, electricians and plumbers – I can't praise them highly enough**”

She continued: 'It's been a struggle being closed for four months. We need people to support us in every way they can, to get us through this first year, because of all the extra bills we've got in connection with converting our new home from offices to a gallery. There have been planning issues and building issues, but fortunately we've had the most amazing carpenters, electricians and plumbers – I can't praise them highly enough. They have been very kind to us.'

'Now that we are open to the public, we are trying to persuade as many people as possible to come and see our new home and all the art and craft workshops that we have here.'





On the ground floor, there are four artists' studios and an outside yard area, which is mostly under cover, so suitable for workshops during warm weather. On the first floor is their wool shop, a seated area, the Genuine Jersey Market Place, art materials, two work spaces, and little and big exhibition rooms.

And what can a visitor see?

'Items from about 80 different local producers or artists (apart from two from Guernsey, who have local connections): paintings, 3D work, art and textile materials, graphic art, jewellery, ceramics, woodwork, recycling – everything. There is an enormous variety!'

A new addition is the greatly expanded range of Genuine Jersey produce. Pat sits on the board of Genuine Jersey as the arts advisor and she has made a point of stocking a very good representative selection of many of the association's produce and products.

The gallery, of course, is not just for shopping. There are plenty of workshops to provide scope for people to try their hand at a new skill. They also work with four local charities to encourage people to experience the joy of creative art.

There have been four exhibitions so far since the move, sponsored by Cavendish Fiduciary and Abaris Chartered Accountants.

There is no café, unlike in St Aubin, but they do have the facilities for people to make their own tea and coffee, and to buy cakes.

Along with her team at the gallery, Pat is a volunteer, one of 20; there are only two paid workers. She said: 'I can live on my teaching pension, and I enjoy what I'm doing – what would I be doing otherwise ... sitting at home, stressing about how I can spend my time usefully as I cannot just be walking my dogs all day?'

Pat's early years were spent helping on the family farm. Her father was a grower and she was brought up driving a tractor on the beach at La Rocque – she didn't need many driving lessons when it came to taking her test.

Art and textiles were her two best subjects at school: the only ones in which she was really interested. She became a schoolteacher and was Head of Arts at Beaulieu for 22 years before retiring and setting up Art in the Frame with her teaching colleague, Elizabeth Le Gal.

'I felt in those days there was very little opportunity for artists and especially for craftworkers. We just felt we needed somewhere where both painters and makers could display their work and sell it, somewhere where you could run workshops. Having both been teachers, we realised then how important art was, but it was actually quite a small part of the syllabus for many children.

“ We could make this area by the harbour a lovely art-y area; Jane James has her atelier beside us, and Jason Butler's studio is just up the road. Please come down and find us. It's not that far down Commercial Buildings – only three minutes' walk from the Tunnel



'Then there were older people who were getting on towards retirement age who might have liked doing art when they were younger but stopped because there weren't the opportunities or the jobs. So, we wanted to do some art classes and allow them to get back into it. That's basically why we started up. We felt there needed to be a hub. It all fell into place quite suddenly.'

Looking to the future, she said: 'We could make this area by the harbour a lovely art-y area; Jane James has her atelier beside us, and Jason Butler's studio is just up the road. Please come down and find us. It's not that far down Commercial Buildings – only three minutes' walk from the Tunnel.

'We're bigger and better than we ever were before.'

Courses, workshops and exhibitions from September to December 2023 at The Harbour Gallery Jersey

Courses and Workshops

Autumn is a busy time for courses and workshops at The Harbour Gallery – a great time to try something new. Below are our regular weekly workshops; we will be adding exciting weekend and Christmas workshops to this list... to find out more, follow us on Facebook at 'The Harbour Gallery Jersey'.

Adult Courses

Drawing – a 6-week course using a mixture of drawing materials – mornings.

'Time for men' – 3-week taster courses on 3D construction, creative writing, cartooning/caricatures, photography – evenings.

Neuroarts – 6-week course on developing mindfulness and wellbeing through creative practice – mornings.

Painting – 6-week course, beginners and those looking to develop their technique further, watercolour and acrylics – mornings.

Crochet – 8 weeks learning 3 different crochet techniques – mornings.

Needle felting – once a month learning to needle felt a range of beautiful creations – afternoons.

We also organise arty crafty hen parties, baby showers, special arty crafty birthday parties for adults and children, SNICK Lego parties for adults and children, individually organised corporate course/workshops and events.

Children's Art Courses

After school – 12-week course for 6 to 10 year olds – young artists.

After school – 12-week course for 11 to 14 year olds.

Children's school holiday art and SNICK Lego sessions.

Exhibitions

Art in focus, exhibition for World Mental Health Day.

A collaboration between the charities Art in the Frame Foundation (managing charity of The Harbour Gallery Jersey) and Focus on Mental Illness, supported by Jersey Community Foundation.

Tuesday 10 October - Sunday 27 October, closes at 4pm.

To be officially opened by Dr Lorna Collins at 7pm, Tuesday 10 October.

More information to follow regarding the visit to Jersey of Dr Lorna Collins.

Second time around

An inspiring exhibition of repurposed and up cycled items, fabrics, clothes and more.

Thursday 26 October - Sunday 12 November, closes at 4pm.

Exhibition to tie in with the visit of upcycling artist and tutor Jessica Grady, who will be running workshops for the schools and for the public at the gallery.

21st Birthday Christmas Exhibition of The Harbour Gallery Jersey

Yes, we will be 21 years old! 20 years at St Aubin and our first year at 19 The Quay!

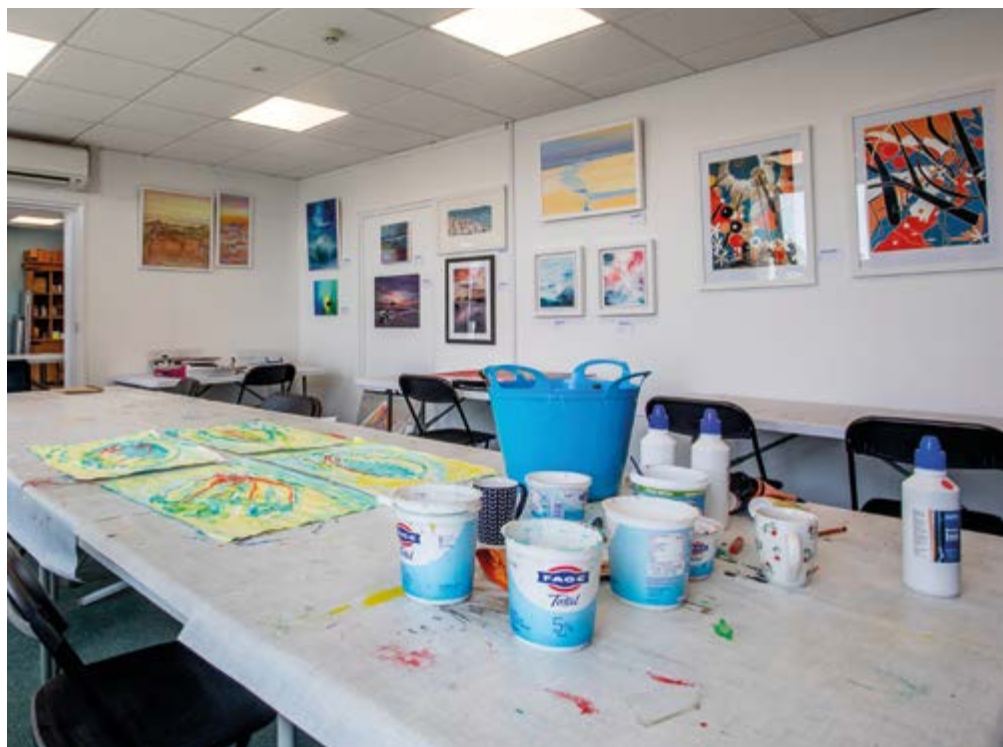
Thursday 16 November with a Christmas birthday party... a first!

This event is sponsored by Cavendish Trust Company Ltd.

Sunday 7 January closes 4pm for one week only.

E-mail – partintheframe@yahoo.co.uk

For information about these events and extra Christmas Workshops, see our website: www.theharbourgalleryjersey.com





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The wild bunch

'Weeds' went crazy during the summer of 2023.

By Mike Stentiford



Should there be such a thing as 'botanical testosterone', then plant life has given it a remarkable degree of flaunting this summer.

It appears that 2023 has made it compulsory for every garden, field and hedgerow to take full exploitative advantage of each droplet of rain and every temperature controlled ray of sunshine.

As a consequence, Jersey's countryside has been blessed with a lushness and greenery that, allowing for general acceptance, has proved an absolute delight to the beholder.

Due entirely to their customary Island-wide dominance, umbellifers such as hogweed, cow parsley and hemlock have combined their genuinely attractive talents to add further glorious touches of delicate character to much of our countryside.

While many such plants might appear to have got a 'bit too big for their roots', it's worth reminding ourselves of the countless takeaway benefits each and every stem, petal and stamen has to offer biodiversity.

It is precisely because of this largely unseen benevolence to wildlife that simple environmentally friendly guidelines on the twice-yearly obligations of branchage have been implemented and recommended by official authorities and by local conservationists.

There are, of course, other forms of plant life that sit outside the annual branchage commitments yet still require regular regimes of control.

Having an unenviable reputation of being classified as 'injurious weeds' within the Weeds (Jersey) Law, these are the noxious or invasive plant species that, over time, have rapidly gained a measure of public notoriety.

Chief among these in scores of open public spaces are ragwort, thistles and docks, species that, despite being regarded as 'bothersome', play a much bigger role in the Island's biosphere than we might suspect.

Take ragwort for instance, a flowering plant that, because of its astonishing seeding capabilities, yields to an official demand of control.

If any plant can be accused of going forth and multiplying big time, then ragwort meekly surrenders to the guilty verdict.

“**While many such plants might appear to have got a 'bit too big for their roots', it's worth reminding ourselves of the countless takeaway benefits each and every stem, petal and stamen has to offer biodiversity**

Writ firmly within the Weeds Law, ragwort is unfortunately paying a heavy penalty for its inclusion.

On the one hand, if eaten by a horse in substantial quantities, the animal can quickly succumb to insidious and irreversible cirrhosis of the liver. And yet, while the dominance of ragwort in specific areas obviously requires a firm measure of control, the flowers themselves support an incredible diversity of pollinating insects.

Regular monitoring of ragwort has recorded a veritable cornucopia of insects, each one heavily reliant on the plant's energy-giving qualities. Included are several species of bees, wasps, hoverflies, butterflies and a real little eye-popper, the caterpillar of the Cinnabar moth.

Similar regiments of pollinating insects also form queues around the nutritious flower heads of many species of thistle.

Regarded as beneficial to pollinators, yet unloved by gardeners, thistles have also, apparently, been in occasional demand, by us, as a food source.

According to those in the culinary know, once young shoots have been stripped of their spines, they can be eaten and enjoyed as, allegedly, a tasty side dish to a salad.

Furthermore, in acts of admirable individuality, certain species of thistles have ownership of some wonderfully descriptive names; carline, musk, slender, spear, meadow and, one that certainly deserves a degree of comforting, the melancholy thistle.

Broad-leaved docks, bless their wretched little invasiveness, tend to be public enemy number one in areas of open uncultivated fields and margins.

It is precisely because of this over-exploratory gung-ho nature that docks regularly fall foul of laborious fork wielding sessions of anti-weeding.

Its one redeeming feature, as every sting sufferer knows, is that of soothing the annoying tingle gained from stinging nettles.

Like so many unwanted and unloved species of wild plants, perhaps an extra measure of understanding might be observed when the next 'controlling' fork, spade or trowel finds itself in turbocharged weed removal mode.

Recycled concrete – a rather heavy subject

Nevertheless it is an important subject for Alan Langlois,
our new recycling in Jersey columnist

Concrete is a rather heavy subject I know – but I find it of incredible interest. Why? Not just because it's become an important component of my business, but because we are using recycled aggregates and sand to make it.

What is recycled aggregate? And why is this of interest to anyone not involved in the construction sector?

“ We are a key problem solver for how to handle Jersey’s inert waste. We have an amazingly engineered wash plant which takes in crushed rocks with soil and sand

The answer to the first question is that aggregate comprises a broad category of materials used in construction and it includes gravel, crushed stone and builders’ rubble.

The answer to the second question about why this is of any interest... well, there’s a vast amount of demolition and reconstruction going on in town. Buildings come down, so there is then one heck of a lot of building waste. And, of course, that is not just in Jersey: the construction sector creates a third of the world’s waste and also 40% of global of CO₂ emissions.

Therefore, by deconstructing end-of-life buildings and supplying ‘waste’ aggregate to our site for recycling from demolitions and development projects across the Island, we provide a more sustainable approach for the supply of building materials.

Furthermore, by using recycled aggregate on site, we are producing an additional product to our already recycled material.

I like the fact that we are a key problem solver for how to handle Jersey’s inert waste. We have an amazingly engineered wash plant which takes in crushed rocks with soil and sand, then grades between sizes and separates out silts. Some of the small chippings and sands we produce then go towards our concrete production.

We are supplying concrete by truck delivery and we also receive a stream of daily orders collected on site. We need to let the Jersey public know that as an Island we are more than capable of dealing with our building waste and producing our own sustainable products that reduce the need for importation – which will start to lessen our carbon emissions!

This year so far, we have produced 4,200 tonnes of concrete as well as a significant number of large blocks known as Kelly Blocks – which come in three different sizes and essentially stack together like Lego – for example, we use them on site to separate where our stockpiles are kept.

We are hoping that we can continue to develop the concrete aspect of the business, with a new plant and equipment, supporting businesses across the Island.



Every little bit helps, so 10,000 tonnes of recycled aggregate used for concrete is 10,000 tonnes less of waste!

Recycle it – Make it – Use it! The advantage of that for the Island’s construction industry, and for the whole of the Island, speaks for itself. I am proud to be at the forefront of this change and we aim to continue being an important player at the forefront of Jersey’s sustainable development initiative.

Alan Langlois is the owner of AAL Recycling.

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In June 2022 David Warr was elected to the States as Deputy for St Helier South and was then appointed Housing Minister. A year and a bit on, he talked to Alasdair Crosby about housing issues and the unaffordability gap in housing

“Incomes over the past decade have gone up by about 28%, house prices have gone up just short of 90% – that’s the unaffordability gap. So, we are trying hard to find out what can we do to narrow it

How nice – a cup of coffee outside Cooper’s Café at the International Finance Centre. How dismal – it was raining yet again. Fortunately, there was a roof covering above us to allow for an extended chat with Deputy David Warr, owner of Cooper and Co, and since his election last year, Jersey’s Housing Minister.

In his manifesto for election he stated: 'For many, including my workforce, the biggest issue is the cost of housing ... We need to review the criteria used for giving support to the most vulnerable in our society.'

So, a year into the job, what’s the housing queue at the moment?

'About 800 families waiting for social housing, around 540 families wanting assisted purchase homes, as supplied by Andium Homes. What is interesting is the change in demographic – the biggest demand is for one bedroomed accommodation. It outstrips all the demand in other areas.

'Incomes over the past decade have gone up by about 28%, house prices have gone up just short of 90% – that’s the unaffordability gap. So, we are trying hard to find out what can we do to narrow it.'

He continued: ‘A lot of people say: “Minister, stop building rabbit hutches!” I hate to use the word “rabbit hutch” because that is not fair; all the homes that Andium are building are built to certain specifications, which is a good thing. What’s increasingly important for me is that if we are going to build higher density housing, we have to make sure that our public realm is better looked after – or better “considered”.

‘My job, as I see it, is about building communities, not just providing houses. People can die of loneliness, if they are in a one bedroomed place by themselves – or at least will have lots of related health issues. One of my jobs has to be: how do we maintain the integration of our community? That’s a big question.’

At least the Bridging Island Plan has already established that the town will take the bulk of higher density housing. That, he said, had been very much a policy objective so that the countryside could remain green.

The Minister said: ‘We have a building programme that says we will build 5,000 homes by 2030. In principle there is a recognised gap, in all sectors, and that we need a greater supply. But any area designated for extra housing throws up the NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) syndrome among local residents – just as happens in the UK.’

Asked whether more fields would be rezoned in the future, the Deputy replied: ‘The fields that have already been rezoned will have to be built on. One of the challenges about the fields is how much are they worth. A rezoned site near Sion has sold for £3.5m. So, for the vendor, it is like winning the lottery! If the intended buildings are supposed to be homes for first time buyer homes, how can we depress that value back down for someone to afford them and to live in? That is a major policy issue for us at the moment. We are trying to bring down by 30% the value of these sites, to try and make them suitable for first time buyer homes.’

There was also the problem of farmers retiring or going out of business and very rich people buying the land, on the off chance that the land would be rezoned.

There was no guarantee that it would be rezoned, of course – buying such land was a gamble and a commercial decision of the buyer. But the land bank would be owned by a smaller number of people, waiting and hoping to ‘win the lottery’. Nevertheless, there was no policy in the agricultural world to stop that from happening. Nor was it easy to make policies when there were so many individual cases, circumstances and complications – as was also the case with exploiting vacant homes.

“ We have a building programme that says we will build 5,000 homes by 2030

‘Vacant homes are one of my big passions,’ the Minister continued. ‘We have some 900 vacant homes in Jersey, but making these part of the housing stock is full of problems. As an example, one lady died intestate in 1975 but the home is still vacant. All the relatives live away from the Island, show no intent of wanting to come back, almost happy to abandon the place, but we don’t have the mechanism in place to release this property back into the housing market. The UK has the same problem.’

There was some uncertainty about population levels in the Island, since the last census was in 2019 – and things have changed just a bit since then.

‘My take at the moment is that we are in a much changed scenario. We may even be in a declining population, but we’re still basing our assessment on figures produced in 2019. Is this still a valid database on which to base our housing needs?’

‘There is evidence that the population is going down – that was indicated in the last census – or at least that the population level has flattened out. But we need more and up-to-date relevant data. We are very poor at collecting live data and using it. The census was four years ago, but we refer to it as a bible on which policies are driven. Actually, that census data now is old hat – it’s out of date. How can you make strategies based on it?’

‘For me, my introduction to housing has been a steep curve, learning what predecessors have done, and reading the relevant reports. One of the things we lack is corporate memory. Something that I thought “Oh, that’s an original idea” has actually been thought of by previous Housing Ministers before me.

‘So, I made a lot of discoveries, keeping abreast of things that had happened a decade ago. This is the problem: everybody forgets what has happened previously. That’s been one of the biggest challenges.



“**If you are a young person who wants to stay in the Island and contribute to it, we should be able to provide you with a stable base at a reasonable rental level, where you can go out to work and build up a long-term future, based around having a secure, stable home**

‘A lot of people say: “Government is too silo-ed” and one of the things that I find now is that we are able to do cross-ministerial things, because I can’t build a home without the Planning Minister saying: “You can build a home there” or “You can’t build a home if the drains aren’t in place”.

‘It does require lots of departments working together to get somewhere. People seem to think it’s just the Housing department’s responsibility.’

What of super-rich people settling in Jersey and buying large properties with ample accommodation space that they keep to themselves?

He replied: “The question we have to ask ourselves is: what economic benefit do they bring to this Island? Traditionally, high-net-worth individuals came to Jersey to avoid paying their capital gains tax in the UK and retiring here. Today, we are more likely to see entrepreneurs – for example, people bringing their funds business into Jersey, managing it here ... we are talking billion of £s in this respect. Obviously, as a result of that, they have to pay significant amounts of tax, which in turn helps to pay for public infrastructure, doctors, nurses, teachers, and it will help to support more people not to have to pay rent or struggle financially.’

Was there a diverging gap between haves and have nots?

‘I think it’s very clear that if you don’t have property in this Island or have that sort of equivalent asset, that is absolutely right – that divide is becoming more and more clear.

‘One of my big priorities is to increase affordable homes or lower the bar on social housing. Home ownership in Jersey is about 54%, which is low compared to the UK, or Guernsey, and lower than in France or Germany, where people think that most people rent. The more people we can move towards home ownership, the better.

‘The minimum age for a single person to have social housing is 35. I want to reduce that to 25. If you are a young person who wants to stay in the Island and contribute to it, we should be able to provide you with a stable base at a reasonable rental level, where you can go out to work and build up a long-term future, based around having a secure, stable home.

‘If we try and get more “haves”, we can have a better society as a result.’





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Last Word

Donna Le Marrec has the last word

There is a wonderful walk along the cliff paths from Plémont to Grève de Lecq with breathtaking coastal views known as 'The Seabird Trail'.

The walk takes two hours, is just over 1½ miles long in distance and the objective, other than enjoying a lovely walk, is to spot how many native seabirds you can see soaring above the cliffs or swimming and diving for food in the sea below.

Atlantic Puffin, Herring Gull, Northern Fulmar, European Shag, Razorbill, Oystercatcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Great Black-backed Gull, can apparently be seen along the coast in wonderful sounding places such as Le Creux Gabourel, Petit Becquet and Douet de la Mer.

I am ashamed to admit that I have never seen a puffin (or a dolphin come to that) and, sadly, given the fact that there are so few now – I possibly never will.

I never realised that this was the situation until talk of creating a seabird reserve was raised. I didn't know, despite the puffin being a locally loved mascot and face of children's TV from my youth, that the situation was so dire. Back in the 1900s there were between 200 and 300 breeding pairs and now there are only four.

Puffins have been affected by predators such as rats, ferrets, hedgehogs and even cats. At present 70% of the world's seabirds are threatened and rats and cats alone have together caused the extinction of over 158 species across the world – I can attest to this as a cat owner despite my much-loved feline being overweight and 18 years of age.

I have no doubt that one of the greatest issues of our age is the loss of wildlife, caused by climate change (all those wildfires) but also because of increases in populations, destruction of habitats, intensive farming and so on.

I can remember regularly camping in France and our tent being covered in craneflies. You couldn't eat outside without being bothered by wasps and the ambient noise to holidays was chirping of crickets – now these insects are in rapid decline, and some are an endangered species!

The worldwide initiative, supported by the Government of Jersey, '30 by 30' seeks governments around the globe to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean areas as protected areas by 2030, but it is difficult to visualise this happening in an Island where land is so precious.

There is a seemingly constant demand for housing and larger and larger houses are being developed. I was amazed to be sitting at the Airport the other day next to an advertising hoarding offering a series of very glitzy and expensive properties to 'lock up and leave'!!

So, how do we save these beloved seabirds in an island where our coastline is threatened, and everyone wants access to everywhere, all the time?

The seabird reserve is a long-term project which hopes to make safe the puffins' breeding grounds so that they can thrive, and their colony can recover. The proposal is to erect a predator-exclusion fence that will also protect other seabirds, mammals, reptiles and insects and at the moment a demo fence is up, and the public are invited to have their say via a survey.

There appears to be support on social media for the initiative, but there will always be those who don't want to see anything upset the status quo, question statistics and science, and those who just don't care about the loss of wildlife full stop if it impacts on them in any way.

We need to understand that humans share this planet with millions of species of plants and animals. and it is not just 'all' about us. We need to get off the fence, make a stand and protect other living creatures that make our world so special.





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