

# RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 45 | Winter 2023

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## Stormy times for Jersey's trees

Jersey Trees For Life and  
Storm Ciarán

## How can we learn to ride?

Is there a future  
for equestrian  
training in  
Jersey?

*Special theme:*

## Dogs in Jersey

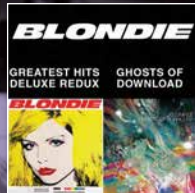
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# Welcome

After a couple of stormy days when we didn't venture out – truly in the interests of 'health and safety' – we were able to prove the truth of the old saying: 'You can lead a dog to the garden, but you can't make it poop.'

So, on Day 3 post-storm, I took my dog to Les Blanchés Banques to give it its liberty – an area reasonably free of wonky trees that might have dropped a branch on us as we passed underneath. It was a chance to see, as we drove along, how the countryside had fared; it did not look happy. Not so much bruised and battered; rather, the ravished victim of a violent rape by a brutal and devastating tempest.

The hedgerows of St Mary and St Ouen were pulled out of shape; the roads were slippery with fallen leaves and bits of fallen tree, bush, leaf and twig. That road, mistakenly called Hydrangea Avenue for the spurious reason that it is an avenue lined with hydrangeas, was now lined with fallen branches and pulled-about bushes. Trees in the Jersey Pearl area had either fallen or had collapsed on to neighbouring trees. The leaning tree near Kempt Tower – familiar to me since boyhood and the survivor of a thousand gales – was now wretchedly mutilated and one can only hope it will survive and regenerate. Tree trunks that should have proudly borne aloft a canopy of greenery, now ended with a raw and jagged stump, with their upper parts collapsed and trailing on the ground.

As we began our walk – wild, wet, still windy, and with the occasional peal of thunder for variety – the view out to sea across the bay showed waves crashing on to the shore like the charge of a white-plumed cavalry.



That, at least, was a magnificent sight – but I was glad that I could admire it from the safety of the land.

This issue of RURAL magazine was meant to feature the Jersey organisation, Trees for Life. It still does – but the content has had to be changed somewhat, in the last few days before going to press.

'Rewilding' has become a popular concept in recent years; 'leave everything to nature'. Much of the Island's treescape has indeed been 'rewilded' by the storm. So always be careful what you wish for, in case it turns out to be not exactly what you wanted.

.....  
Alasdair Crosby | Editor

[www.ruraljersey.co.uk](http://www.ruraljersey.co.uk)



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Photograph by Barbara Pustelnik  
[www.barbpustequine.photo](http://www.barbpustequine.photo)  
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## Editor

Alasdair Crosby  
[editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk](mailto:editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk)

## Assistant Editor

Cathy Le Feuvre  
[cathy@cathylefeuvre.com](mailto:cathy@cathylefeuvre.com)

## Photography

Gary Grimshaw  
[info@photoreportage.co.uk](mailto:info@photoreportage.co.uk)

## Design

AI Studio  
[www.aistudio.je](http://www.aistudio.je)

## Advertising Sales

Paul Thorniley  
[advertising@ruraljersey.co.uk](mailto:advertising@ruraljersey.co.uk)

## Our regular writing team and the topics they cover:

**Agriculture** Alasdair Crosby  
[editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk](mailto:editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk)

**The Environment** Caroline Spencer  
[carolinespencerjersey@gmail.com](mailto:carolinespencerjersey@gmail.com)

**Horses** Ruth Le Cocq  
[ruth\\_le\\_cocq@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth_le_cocq@hotmail.com)

**Dogs and other pets** Kieranne Grimshaw  
[kieranne.s@gmail.com](mailto:kieranne.s@gmail.com)

**Gardens and gardening** Gill Maccabe  
[gillmaccabe17@gmail.com](mailto:gillmaccabe17@gmail.com)

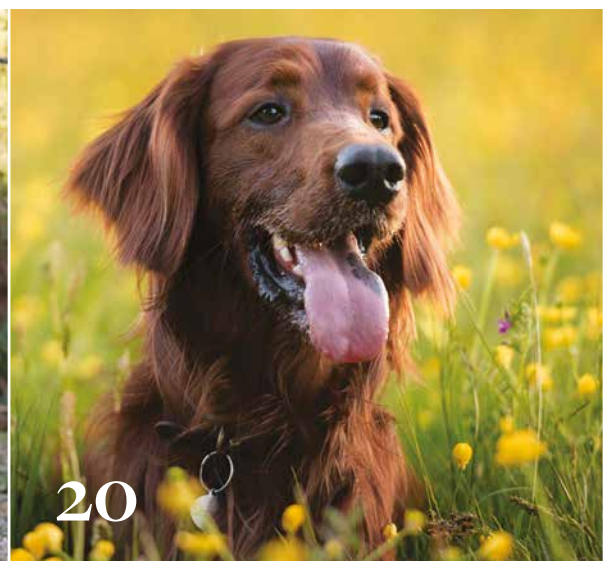
## Local art, music and books

Alasdair Crosby [editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk](mailto:editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk)

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### Paw print

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The Harbour Gallery will be 21 years old in December. To celebrate, it will host a special Christmas exhibition, featuring artist and designer Mark Holley along with 40 other first-time exhibitors, Mark writes about his work

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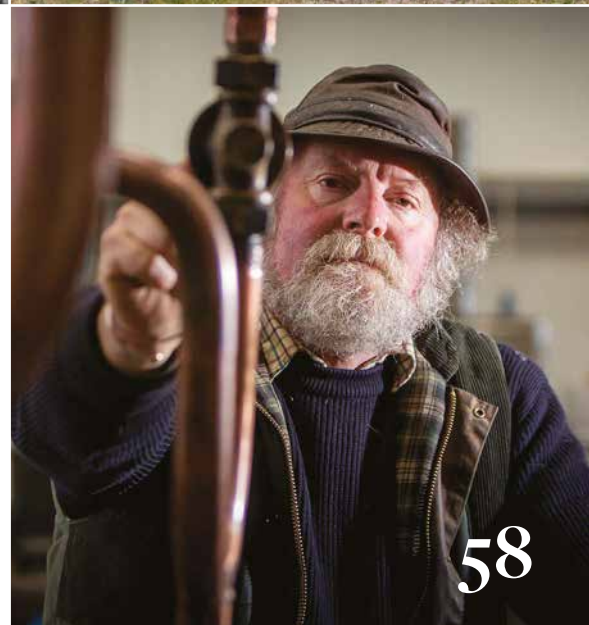
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- Andrew Gilson
- Kieranne Grimshaw
- Catherine Hamilton
- Hayley Hamlett
- Mark Holley
- Rachel Hughes
- Sarah Lewis
- Ruth Le Cocq
- Donna Le Marrec
- Hamish Marett-Crosby
- Harry Matthews
- Helen O’Meara
- Barbara Pustelnik
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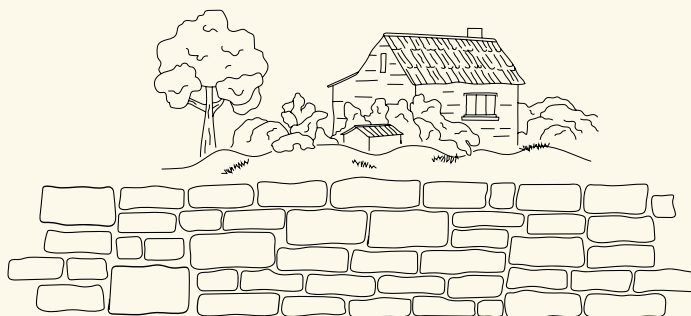
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# Over the wall

## A RURAL view



Trees are making news in Jersey – and not just those trees that have been damaged by Storm Ciarán.

There has been much debate on proposed legislation to provide greater protection for trees on private land, that their owners might wish to be felled. The proposals are nothing if not contentious. The legislation should have been debated by the States Assembly last March; the draft met with a hostile response and the debate was deferred until October, then to November and has now been deferred again until January 2024.

The sad thing in this dispute is that there is no right and no wrong: both sides want adequate protection for trees; they just differ – markedly – about how this can be best achieved.

Jersey's government has been consulting and negotiating about the size under which works to trees will be exempt from a notification process. The latest proposals, which are still subject to change, is that a tree which is 25cm or less in diameter will be exempt.

Proponents of this legislation say that although different trees have different growth rates, this size will prevent healthy mature trees from being felled without any form of notification. However, an unintended consequence of the law is that people who want to cut down trees growing in their own property will cut down the next generation of trees while they are still young.

The legislation that we have at the moment is just not adequate, it is argued. Taking that famous sycamore at Sycamore Gap by Hadrian's Wall as an example – if that tree had been in Jersey and growing on privately owned land, it if had been felled by order of the owner, it would have been absolutely legal and permissible. The new law would show that trees belong to more than the landowners and that the argument is: 'Yes, the tree might be on your land, but there might be a whole community who love and appreciate it. If you just felled it, there would be an outcry.'

At the time of writing, tree fellers have never been so busy, because there is this fear that the new law is coming into place ('so I must cut down my tree while I still can').

It is another unintended consequence.

This urgent tree felling, it is said, is not necessary. There would be enough exemptions in there that would protect the average person: it's about making sure that developers aren't clearing land and clearing mature trees, just to make way for a larger footprint of buildings.

Turning from the arguments in favour to the arguments against. Overall, they say, this law is unnecessary and disproportionate and could seriously backfire. Furthermore, the former Bailiff and now Grouville Deputy, Sir Philip Bailhache, has stated that revised plans to protect trees are a 'gross intrusion into individual freedom'. In turn, the Environment Minister, Deputy Jonathan Renouf, has said that this was 'alarmist nonsense'.

The new system and law change would certainly cause difficulties in the Planning department (which already appears to be under a great deal of strain).

It is argued that it would create a culture of people policing one another: 'a civil servant with a clipboard behind every tree', as one disgruntled landowner has described it. It would seem the Planning department is in no way prepared or has any qualified personnel to take on such a big change.

In short, those unhappy with the proposed legislation agree with the aim of the law – the protection of trees – but feel that this is the wrong way to go about it.

The vast majority of tree destruction is usually a result of large scale development, where developers want trees removed before they approach Planning. This happens increasingly, usually because they fear rejection if trees are spotted beforehand.

Most people who love trees either want to maintain or preserve or just want to plant more trees. This law, it is argued, would cause people to think twice about planting them.

It has been suggested that there should be blanket protection for woodlands; anyone who owns an area with 3 vergées or more of tree should register the land as woodland. If major works are needed, a qualified tree surgeon would make a report and justify the work required, for the government tree officer to review and sign off.

Again, it is argued that the present legislation regarding the protection of trees is, in fact, perfectly adequate; it just needs to be applied.

The result of the States debate, whichever way it goes, will be given careful consideration by all Islanders who own – or simply love – trees.

# The Jersey Salmagundi

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



## Learning to read, paint and getting to know the natural world

**L**ucy and Tom's Chicks – and who they meet as they grow'  
By Ariel Luke

Locally based acclaimed artist and writer, Ariel Whatmore, who writes and paints as Ariel Luke, has produced a book for young children which is both educational and fun. It will certainly appeal to children with an interest in colouring in and in the natural world, and who will be inspired by the beautiful drawings created by the writer.

As the title states, a family of baby chicks meet the other animals around their home in the 12 weeks that they grow up and before they join the other hens. There are all sorts of animals that they meet – some nice, some pretty, some nasty (from a chick's point of view) like a buzzard who swoops down on a chick and catches a snippet of feather before he is driven off by the chick's father, the cockerel. Mother hen is understandably furious and tells her chick to be more careful in future.

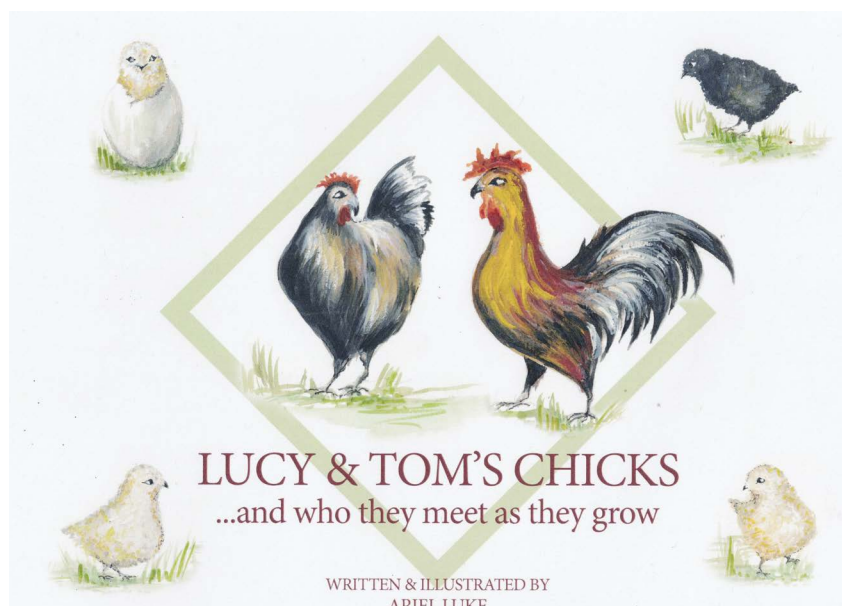
But there are 18 other nicer neighbours, including swallows, herons, dragonflies, frogs, geese, moles butterflies, doves...

What makes this book stand out are the very artistic and detailed coloured drawings by Ariel. They are expertly drawn and appear on the left-hand pages of the book. On the opposite, right-hand page, the same or similar drawings are shown in black and white outline, tempting the young reader to colour them in, with (one hopes) the same care and attention to detail shown on the opposite page.

A lovely Christmas present to give to a young friend.

**The book, priced at £10, is available from the author, who can be contacted at [alukewhatmore@gmail.com](mailto:alukewhatmore@gmail.com); T: 861284. Anyone who enjoys the open garden events of the Jersey Association for Youth and Friendship will know her lovely garden at Les Aix, St Peter.**

By Alasdair Crosby





## Opening Meet of the Jersey Drag Hunt

The Opening Meet of the Jersey Drag Hunt's 2023-2024 season took place on Saturday 14 October, in sunny weather, at the Rozel Camping Park, by kind permission of Tosh and Heather Germain.

This year is the club's second season of hunting without hounds. Following the retirement of the Huntsman, the club was unable to find a suitable replacement for the job. This, along with the expense of finding affordable accommodation for any potential huntsman or kennelman has meant that hounds could no longer be kept.

If suitable premises and a huntsman were to be found in the future, it is hoped that one day, the hounds might return to Jersey.

The Opening Meet was as successful as in previous years and much enjoyed by not only the riders and horses themselves but by the followers.

The Hunt is always very grateful to the landowners, who very kindly allowed the Hunt to pass through on their land.

Both regular hunt followers and new members are still enjoying countryside riding, despite not having hounds – 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 the Island's countryside on horseback.

The Opening Meet marks the official start of the hunting season, which will run every Saturday until February/March, weather permitting. Prior to the Opening Meet the club holds a number of rides that are used to get horses fitter and to encourage new members.



Joint masters Christie Barette (on Freddie) and Karen Dufty (on Lily)

The Jersey Drag Hunt was founded in the 19th Century and is the second oldest drag hunt in the British Isles.

*By Christie Barette*

Picture: Poppy Watson

## The French pilot whose Spitfire came down in a Trinity turnip field

A full-sized and framed reproduction of the memorial painting of Bernard Scheidhauer and his Spitfire is now in place in Rue de Diélament, Trinity, at the old gateway to Diélament Manor. It fulfils its intended role of drawing attention to the story told on the inscriptions on the monument to a courageous young airman.

The production and mounting of the piece were organised by the Parish of Trinity and especially by its Constable, Philip Le Sueur. Its design was by Jersey artist Catherine ('Cate') Hamilton.

Cate said: 'Feedback to myself and to Constable Le Sueur, has already been very positive and I am very appreciative of his efforts.

Those who have stopped at the monument have mentioned that in putting a face to the name in the story, it brings more vividly to life a unique piece of history in this tucked away corner of Jersey.'

At the time of writing, the Lieutenant Governor, Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd, is due to unveil the image and a plaque he has commissioned at the annual memorial service for Bernard Scheidhauer during the Season of Remembrance on Friday, 10 November.

**Cate is currently writing a book to chronicle Bernard Scheidhauer's life. She outlines his story on the RURAL magazine website: [www.ruraljersey.co.uk/scheidhauer](http://www.ruraljersey.co.uk/scheidhauer)**



## Fishermen's friend

**C**an you imagine if your quality of life, the needs of your children and family were all dependant on the weather and the use of skills handed down through generations – and luck?

How would you feel waving your loved one off as they go out to sea on their commercial fishing vessel for sometimes longer than a 14-hour working day? Seeing them go out of sight and knowing they are doing one of the most dangerous peacetime occupations in the UK. If your income was subject to the health of the skipper, the vessel being seaworthy... and much more?

Jersey has a long and deep history of fishing and thankfully there are still local fishing families hauling as their fathers did before them. Sadly, regulations, fees and different demands are increasing and are the highest they have ever been.

But fortunately, Jersey residents are keen to buy local and are remarkable in supporting their fishing communities.

On my recent visit to Jersey, I met over 30 local fishermen who do all manner of fishing. It was uplifting to hear their stories and emotional to hear their fond memories of times gone by and people that have been lost. In particular, Mick Michieli from L'Ecume II, who was lost last year along with his two crewmen, and who is still greatly missed.

Many of the fishermen I met were touched to hear about The Fishermen's Mission and how we support active and retired fishermen, their families, and widows.

Most recently we have funded animal therapy for a child of a fisherman, got some grants to help with cost-of-living expenses and purchased appliances they couldn't afford but needed, such as a washing machine.

Across Jersey there will be numerous retired fishermen, widows of fishermen and fishermen who may have changed to a different line of work. We can still support such people and urge readers to make sure they know about us and how we can support them. This could be a grant for something they need, or simply a listening ear.

The Fishermen's Mission is the only national charity that directly supports active fishermen, former fishermen and their families.

Providing services around the whole of the UK coastline and the Channel Islands, offering financial, practical, and welfare support including 24/7 emergency response for fishermen who are taken ill or have an accident at sea, as well as vital and unique support for the families of fishermen who are lost at sea.

**Do you have a business, a contact or an idea that would help us raise awareness of our work, help us reach out and maybe raise money for those in need? Then please, make contact with me.**

*By Hayley Hamlett, mission area officer (South East England and the Channel Islands) for The Fishermen's Mission charity*

Email: hayleyhamlett@fishermensmission.org.uk  
Mobile: 07827 965243

[www.fishermensmission.org.uk](http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk)



A recent event held for Jersey's fishing fleet



## The enjoyment of a Suffolk Punch

Anyone who reads this headline and thinks that the article is misplaced – that it should have been grouped with food and drink articles – should note that a Suffolk Punch is actually a critically endangered breed of working horse.

It originated in Suffolk; the word 'Punch' is an old English word for a short stout person. It is a heavy draught horse, always used in agriculture and during wartime to pull heavy artillery. As farming became increasingly mechanised, the breed fell out of favour, and almost disappeared completely. It is considered to be the rarest horse breed in the UK.

There have been Suffolk Punches in Jersey in the past, during the 1970s, but at the moment, owners Stuart Barette and Steph De La Cour believe their horse to be the only one of the breed in the Island.

His name? Willow Banks Mr Bojangles, known as 'Bo'. He is a three-year-old gelding, and as he only comes of age at seven, he is still in his awkward childhood years.

Steph said: 'We wanted to rehome a youngster, so we went over to the UK to meet him. It was obvious that he had a few behavioural issues, but he was gorgeous!'

And Stuart added: 'He is very food orientated. He doesn't mean to pull you over – he just doesn't understand his own strength.'

They already have two horses, but aged 30 and 32 respectively, they are like indulgent elderly grandparents to the naughty young new arrival.

'I have always loved horses,' Steph said. 'Some of my earliest memories were with Shires. I used to live not far from the Shire Horse Farm; my grandfather farmed at Manor Farm, Vinchelez, and always ploughed with horses.'

They keep Bo and their other two horses at Badier Farm, St Lawrence, where they rent the land from owner Ben Liebart. Their aim is to train Bo to become a ride/drive/light farm work horse. They are doing the training themselves.

Stuart said: 'We wanted a horse we could ride, and which could pull a cart. One of the challenges we've got is that if a tree falls down on the steep farm track, it is far easier to use a horse to remove it than getting a tractor down there. We need a multi-purpose horse: a riding horse, one that can pull a cart, will do the logging and do a bit of small scale farm work.'

A Suffolk Punch is smaller than a Clydesdale or a Shire Horse, at 17.2 hands, and is quite nimble: Stuart looks forward to one day riding him across country in the Drag Hunt.

'That is why we want him to be versatile: he will appeal to more people, especially to heavier people who want something a bit chunkier to ride: he's not a plod. He can go really fast when he wants to go; he can jump, he is sure-footed.'



In due course, Bo will star at Hamptonne and maybe be a therapy horse to help those who are ADHD. As there are other heavy horses in Jersey, maybe in years to come there could be heavy horse classes at events such as the Horse of the Year Show.

And if the ever-increasing cost of fuel becomes too challenging for both farm work and general transportation, heavy horses like Bo may come into their own once again.

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living with diabetes

# Stormy times for Jersey's trees



## Alex Morel, the chief executive officer of Jersey Trees for Life, was speaking to Alasdair Crosby about the charity's projects at a time of seasonal tree planting ... but then Storm Ciarán intruded – violently

**W**hat a difference a couple of days can make.

On the Monday, I was being kindly shown round the Val de la Mare Arboretum in St Ouen by the chief executive office of Jersey Trees for Life (JTFL), Alex Morel. The sun shone kindly on us as we made our way around the woodland areas and viewed some of the very special, very rare tree collections that were there, among them eucalyptus, cypresses, and some very rare Dawn Redwood trees from China, which were once thought to be extinct.

'We are showcasing the trees,' she said. 'We have renamed our ten tree collections and very soon we shall have four new walking routes, to take people into collections of which they have probably never been aware.'

'We also have new signage to be put up at the roadside entrance, so people passing by in their cars will actually know something interesting is there! At the moment, it looks just like a normal place to park cars and there is nothing mentioned about an arboretum. We want visitors to arrive and say... "I'm somewhere special". We hope the planting will be done in the winter of 2024.'

It was a most enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Then, in the small hours of the Thursday morning, Storm Ciarán came calling, and, like the Big Bad Wolf in the fairy tale, it huffed and it puffed and it blew the trees down.

A tragedy, if ever there was one.

A day afterwards, I was again with Alex at the Arboretum, viewing with her the damage caused by the storm.

Immediately the storm had passed, the team of arboriculturists from JTFL and personnel from Nurture Ecology were on hand to clear the hoggan path to the reservoir and to survey the damage – of which there was lots.

'The sad thing,' Alex said, 'is that some of our key specimens have been damaged. We have lost three eucalyptus, and one called Big Betty, which was sponsored by the Cater-Essex family, is almost down, with just a bit left standing. Down also are large white gum trees; Coastal Redwoods have had their tops taken off – they will never reach their height potential now. Our Swamp Cypress as well – the top came off it, so it will lose its pyramidal shape. So many oaks have come down, and pines.'

'Fortunately, only one birch has been lost. The elm trees, planted as a response to Dutch Elm Disease – a lot of them are down. The Cuban Juniper, of which there are only 53 mature in the world, is currently underneath a large fallen elm.'

'You can't walk the paths. You can't go off into our Walnut Collection, where trees have fallen upon other trees, so it is difficult to know how many trees have actually fallen.'

Asked how long she thought it would take to clear the damage, Alex replied: 'We are going to need volunteers to help, just to move the branches. It will take a month at least. The problem is, we also have our ongoing hedgerow campaign, so it's going to be difficult. We are going to keep the Arboretum closed until it is safe (there is now a no entry sign at the entrance)... then it will be a couple of months of work.'

‘Then we will start the task of sourcing new plants. Some of the trees are very endangered species, so they are not easy trees to source. It’s going to be a big task ahead and it will take many years before the Arboretum looks once again as it did before the storm.

‘It is so disheartening, as we really felt we were just nearly there... repairing the neglect of years. But things can only get better. We are very grateful to the Crown for their commitment to support us in restoring the Arboretum, which is part of the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy.’

§

‘Every tree has its enemy,’ wrote Tolkien, ‘few have an advocate. In all my works I take the part of trees against all their enemies.’

The same might be said about the aims of JTFL, once called Men of the Trees, which was founded in Jersey in 1937. It is the only charity dedicated to planting and protecting trees in the Island, and it promotes the planting, conservation and protection of trees as well as an appreciation of trees for their ecological and social importance.

**Alex listed six key projects, all of which are ongoing:**

## The Val de la Mare Arboretum

This was created by the Moore family, ‘1(1)k’ residents, in 1975 in memory of their son, Nigel, who had died tragically in a car crash in the South of France. The Arboretum was set up in his memory, with initial funding from the Moore family. Seeds were carefully sourced from around the world and planted by the States of Jersey. Originally, the area was just a farmed valley, denuded of trees.

Once the initial funding had ended, ongoing care of the trees suffered, and the area became neglected and overgrown. Jersey Water – it is their land – provided a maintenance budget. A new walk was opened up, from the Walnut Collection to the Chinese Collection and botanical labels were being placed around all the trees... then came the storm.

## A rewilding project on Mont Vibert, St Ouen

There is a small piece of land, owned by JTFL, which has been a very neglected sycamore woodland, with a few Holm Oaks. JTFL have been in the process of taking out the sycamores and replacing them with native trees, putting up bat boxes, bird boxes and some hedgerows. The sycamore woodland was mainly planted after the war, and it is not a healthy woodland. So the sycamores are being replaced by hawthorn, elder, oak, ash, sweet chestnut and hazel, to make it a more natural woodland. Only one sycamore was lost in the storm.

The project is financed by Rossborough Insurance.





“

What will these areas of the Island look like in 50 years' time, when our saplings have grown up? It will be lovely, I'm sure – like Adelina Wood on a grand scale

## Alder Collection

Jersey has one of the only three national collections of alder trees in Britain, and the largest number of alder trees in one spot. It is located near the site of the former Shell House on Mont Les Vaux and stretches downhill to the Railway Walk. There are 40 trees from all over the world, including Argentina, the only place where alder trees grow in the southern hemisphere, as well as Japan, Russia, Cyprus and Turkey.

Funding from the CoinShares company has enabled JTFL to build an access route, and they are waiting for planning permission to build a bridge across the stream, connected to the Railway Walk. The site is recognised by the plant conservation charity, Plant Heritage.

Three bearded alders have survived Storm Ciarán. One red alder was lost.

## Adelina Wood

Planted almost 20 years ago, this area off La Grande Route de St Jean now looks more like a wood rather than simply trees planted in a field.

Alex said it is really popular with dog walkers – a public amenity in a built-up area. It now contains 115 trees, mainly native, but also a Himalayan Cedar.

‘When it becomes mature (when we’ll be long gone), it will be a tree you will be able to see from anywhere in the Island.’

Three trees were lost in the storm: a Silver Lime, a Mongolian Lime and an aspen.

## A new tree nursery at Howard Davis Farm

The JTFL tree nursery is now at Howard Davis Farm, where they have been given a field that allows them more space. The whips for their hedgerow campaign are kept there, and their ultimate plan is to grow trees from seeds that have been sourced from their own nursery, so they know the provenance of the material.

It currently contains thousands of whips and is some seven times bigger than the former nursery at Adelina Wood.

## Education

JTFL now has a volunteer environmental education officer, Ben Linnell. He has been building education into all of its activities so there will always be an education element in them. He has also been into schools to talk about the importance of trees and to help pupils learn about their own trees at their schools.

## The Hedgerow Campaign

This started in 2017. It is a joint project with the National Trust for Jersey – the two organisations are planting much needed hedgerow, using native trees across the Island. Planting has been done around Mourier Valley and Sorel on the north coast, as a joint project with Jersey Electricity and Jersey Water.

Alex said: ‘We have our own team, two arborists Josh Francis and Tuscany Jones, and two ground crew Lee Tucker and Matt Fennell, who between them do all the work of tree planting, care and maintenance. Between them, they have planted 11,000 trees this year, with one tree every 12 metres being allowed to grow into a standard-sized tree.’

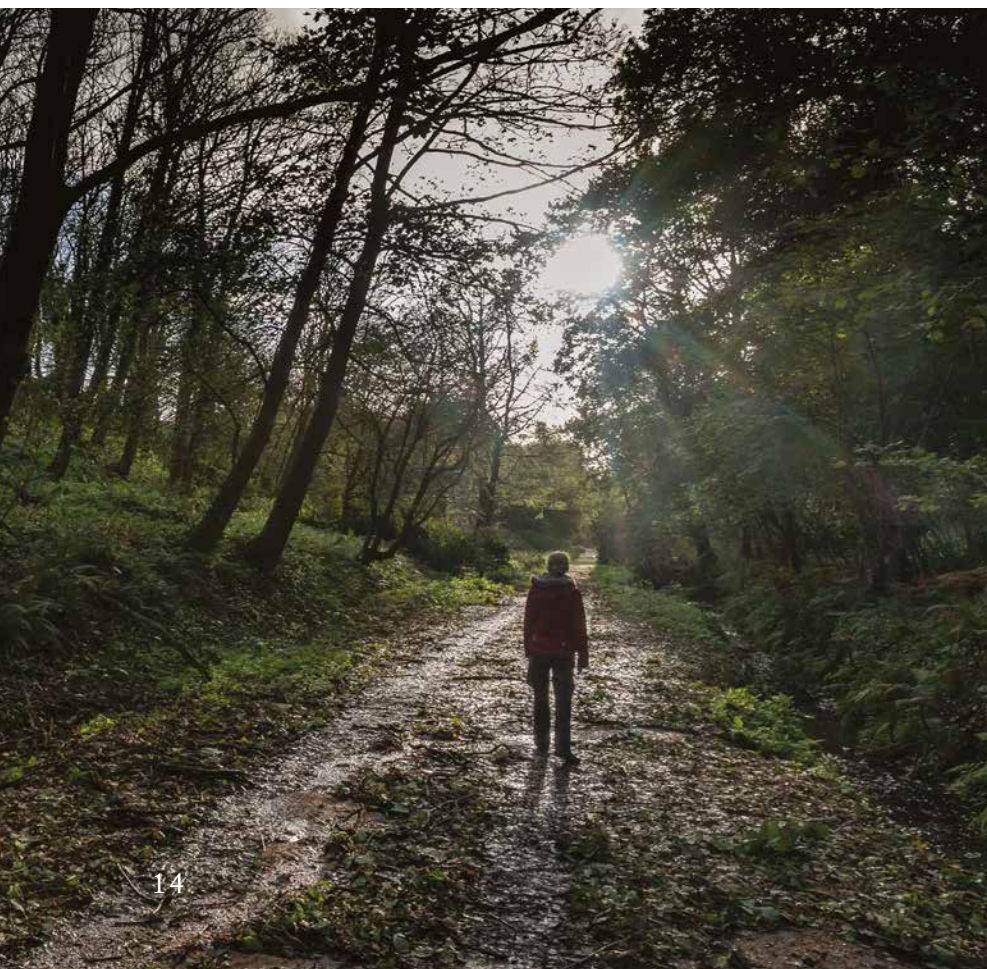
She added: ‘What will these areas of the Island look like in 50 years’ time, when our saplings have grown up? It will be lovely, I’m sure – like Adelina Wood on a grand scale.

‘We hope there will not be another violent storm – touch wood.’

**There are volunteering sessions on the first Friday of every month, for tree care or helping to plant hedgerows. There are a whole range of ways JTFL can be supported, principally by becoming a member.**

**Contact Alex at:**  
[ceo@jerseytreesforlife.org](mailto:ceo@jerseytreesforlife.org)

**See the website:**  
[www.jerseytreesforlife.org](http://www.jerseytreesforlife.org)







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Just up the road from the Arboretum is St Ouen's Manor, the home of Charles ('Charlie') Malet de Carteret, currently the president of the National Trust for Jersey.

The manor grounds were one of many affected by Storm Ciarán, with trees blown down and trees mutilated – some of them more than a century old.

He said: 'In some cases we have the problem where one lateral branch on one side of the trunk has been blown down, leaving the tree unbalanced. So the tree surgeon may tell me that the branch on the other side of the trunk will have to go, otherwise during the next storm the tree will fall down. So, we could be left with a spindly tree – a shadow of its former self.

'We will do as we are advised, and preserve as much as we can.'

“ My father, Philip, moved into the Manor in 1978, and he was advised then that the trees were either already affected by Dutch Elm Disease or would become affected. He pondered what to do, and decided, on balance, to take all the trees down and to replant... That is what he did, and we are now faced with the same dilemma

Also affected were the roadside trees in the Avenue, the main road that skirts the Manor. About 20 trees have been blown down out of 70.

'My father, Philip, moved into the Manor in 1978, and he was advised then that the trees were either already affected by Dutch Elm Disease or would become affected. He pondered what to do, and decided, on balance, to take all the trees down and to replant.

'That is what he did, and we are now faced with the same dilemma. Nearly one third of all the trees have been blown down. Do we plant small new trees among the established trees? We will take advice...'

He added: 'Thankfully the house was spared and no one was hurt.'







'The Avenue' (road past St Ouen's Manor) after the storm



# Dogs and horses

## In Jersey's art and photography

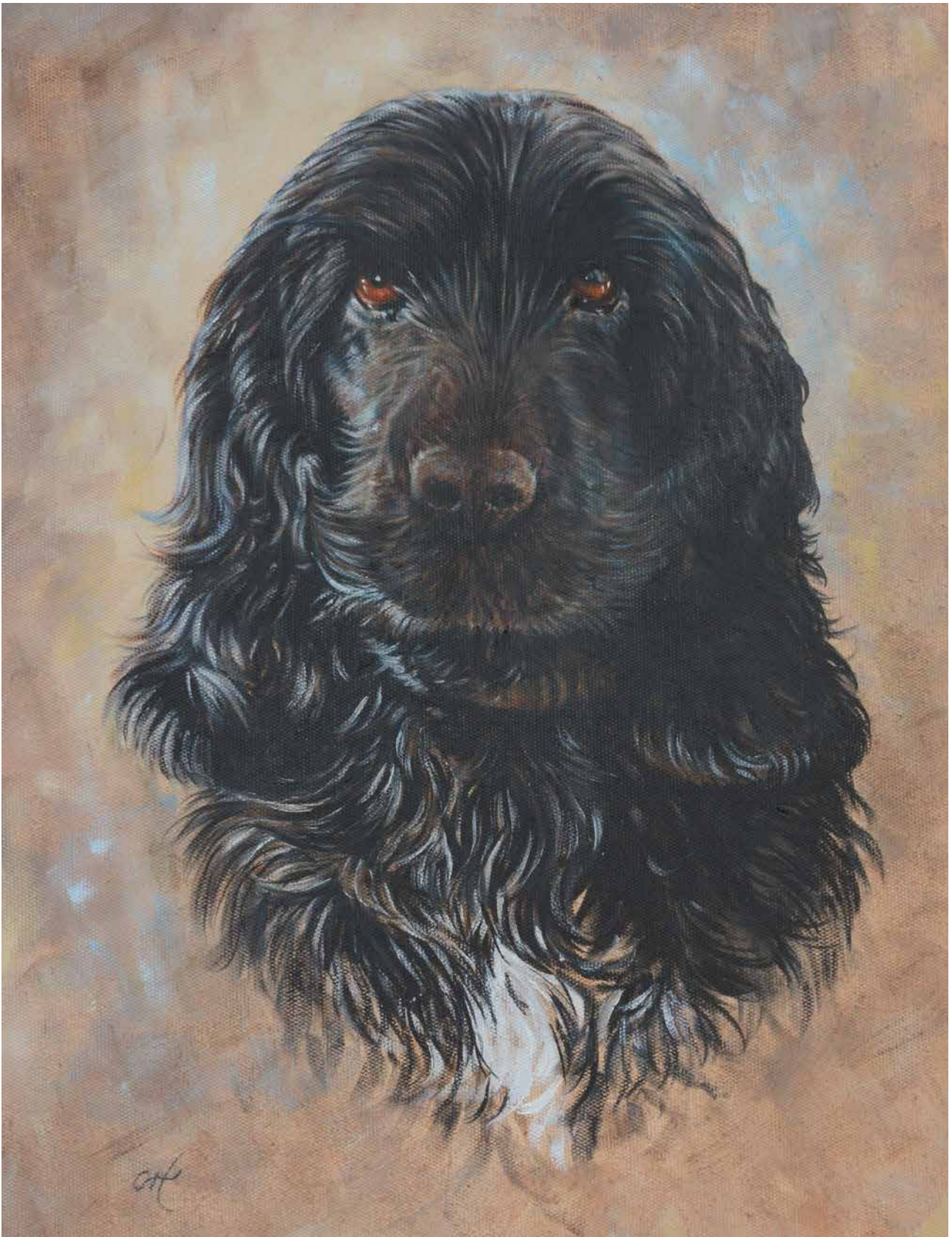
*When the Man waked up he said, 'What is Wild Dog doing here?' And the Woman said, 'His name is not Wild Dog any more, but the First Friend, because he will be our friend for always and always and always.' ...*

*When the Man and the Dog came back from hunting, the Man said, 'What is Wild Horse doing here?' And the Woman said, 'His name is not Wild Horse any more, but the First Servant, because he will carry us from place to place for always and always and always.'*

- from 'The Cat that walked by Himself', in 'Just So Stories' by Rudyard Kipling.

Photo by **Barbara Pustelnik**  
info@barbpustequine.photo | www.barbpustequine.photo





**JESTER**

Bred by Claire White, Granrose Kennels

Picture in oils by **Catherine Hamilton**

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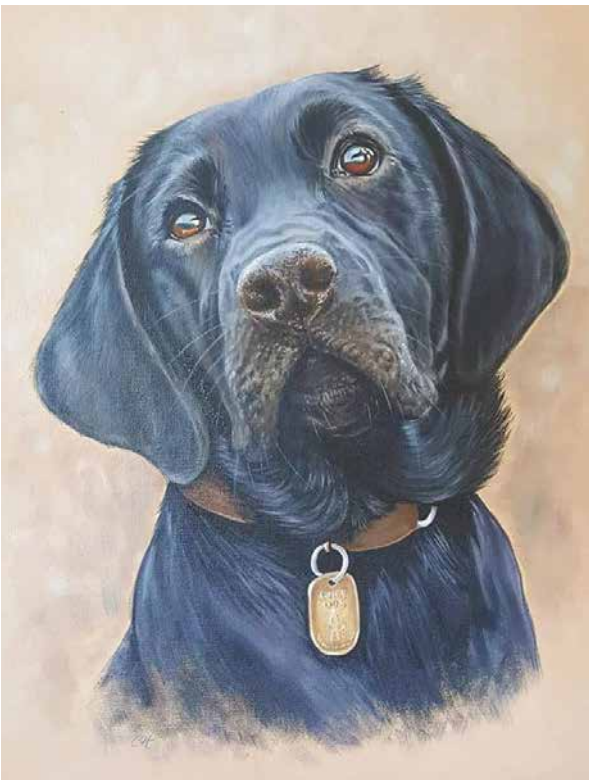


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Paintings by **Anita Eastwood**  
anitaeastwood@hotmail.com | www.anitaeastwood.com



Picture in oils by **Catherine Hamilton**  
cate.hamilton@outlook.com | www.catherinefinearts.com

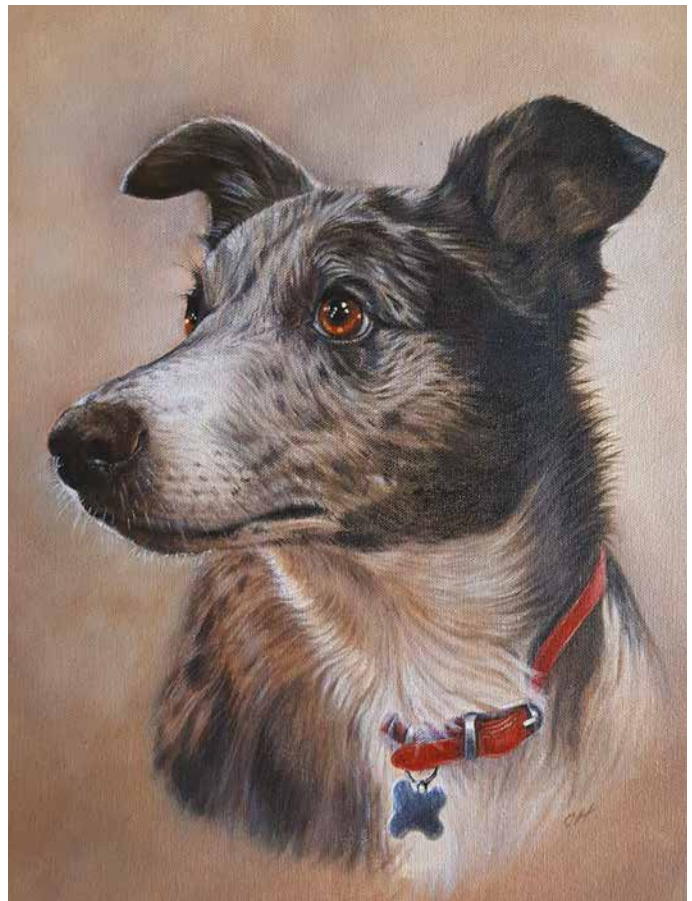




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Photos by **Rachel Hughes**  
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## Barbara Pustelnik

Barbara is a Jersey-Polish photographer of horses, dogs and people. Photography allows her to combine her three greatest passions – her love for horses, architecture and travel. Her photographs have been published in the JEP and Vogue Italy, among others.

For the past year she has been working on a project called 'Jersey Horses', in which she combines local horses with the most beautiful places. She produces a calendar and an exhibition of her photographs is due to take place at Jersey Heritage's Link Gallery in 2024.



## Rachel Hughes

In her words: 'I run my photography business in between being a mum to three beautiful children, Seren, Jack and Benjamin, and chasing after our lovely spaniel, Willow. I love my job. I am a self-taught photographer with a background in nature conservation so I am passionate about the outdoors and our connection to it.'

## Catherine Hamilton

'Cate,' as she is known to her friends, was born and raised in Jersey. Her love of animals, so often reflected in her work, 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.



## Anita Eastwood

Anita is a watercolour and acrylic painter. She loves to work in watercolour and 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. 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.'

## Gary Grimshaw

Photographer of the Irish Wheaten Terrier article (page 33) and most pages in RURAL magazine, as he is its photographic editor.

Gary, a freelance photographer, says: 'My work is shaped and influenced not just by my own years of experience, but also from having studied the work of many of the great classic photographers and cutting-edge work of modern documentary photographers. Ultimately, editorial and corporate work is about knowing how to tell the story of a complicated subject.'

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# CALENDAR HORSES 2024

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AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF HORSES  
BARBARA PUSTELNIK.

My calendar is the accumulation of my three years of photographic work and travels in search of the most beautiful horses and shots. It contains 13 previously unpublished photos, including three secret locations from Jersey and photos from Spain, Turkey and Poland!

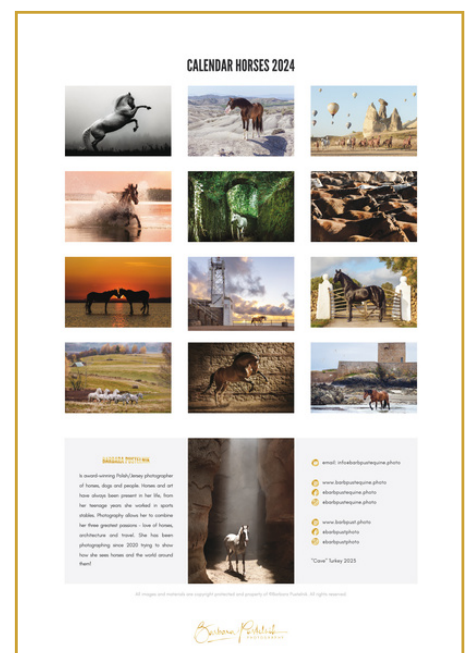
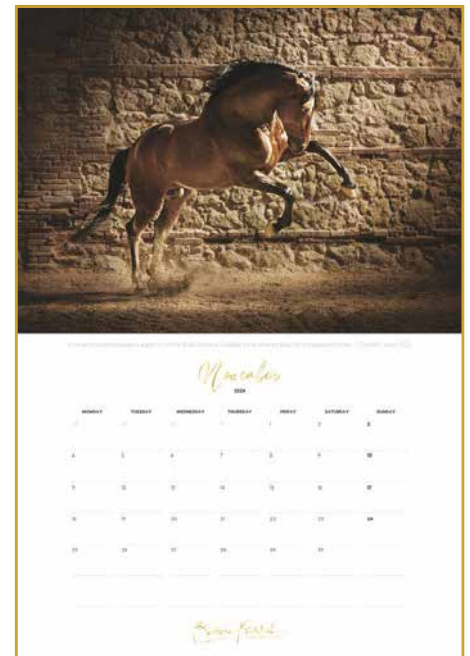
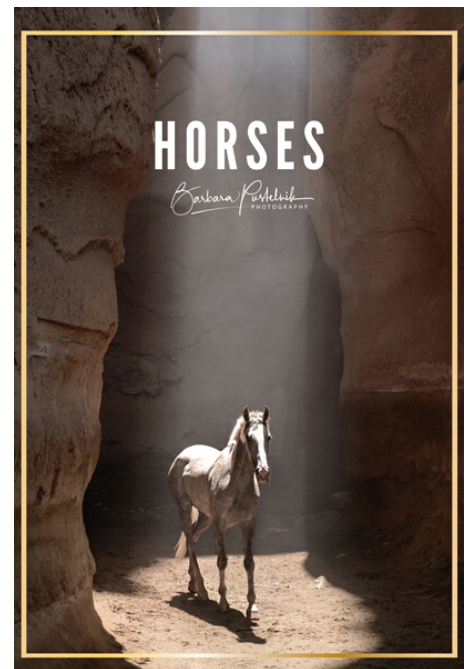
*Barbara Pustelnik*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Dog types - and the impact of 'type' on training

**W**hy study history and origins? Ironically this question is as long as history itself. The better we know our history, the better we know ourselves. This is the same for dogs and dog training.

The reason we must understand their history and their job is so we can train our dogs well. They need it. We do our dogs a disservice if we just assume that a cookie-cutter programme will work as well for the German Shepherd as it does for the Jack Russell.

Any good training programme should also be individualised, not just to the breed, but to the individual dog itself.

Dog and man have lived alongside for millennia. A conservative approximation is that we have lived alongside dogs for at least 20,000 years. You cannot claim to understand man without knowing the dog. Canine domestication predates the agricultural revolution.

## The origin of the dog is vital when considering how we train our dogs. By RURAL'S writer on dog training, Harry Matthews

Why have we had dogs alongside us for so long?

Because they had a function. A role to play. A role in hunting. Vermin control. Guarding. Herding. A role in farming. A role in war. And companionship too.

These functions are what have created the breeds as we know them today.

The concept of a dog breed is a relatively modern one. The majority of breeds were established in the 19th Century, a time when the classification of the world was important, and showing dogs rather than working them came to prominence. The Kennel Club was created in 1873.

Before the dog breed, was dog type. The different dog types referred to their job.

Instead of specific breeds, our ancestors would have had types of dog. These can broadly be placed into the following categories.

### Herding and droving

Droving was the act of moving livestock from the farm to the market. Think of the Heelers and the Corgis who could move cattle and sheep from Wales all the way to London. Herding games are imperative for these dogs. Otherwise they will find their own things to herd – such as children, toys and other animals.

### Livestock and guardian

The guarding breeds, from Mastiffs to German Shepherds, were bred to protect, either livestock, property or man. The ability to guard is not something we need anymore but the dog still has the drive to do it. Introducing guarding games, spring poles and tug will help to satiate that drive. Early socialisation is also key.

### Sled dogs

The Huskies and Malamutes. Bred to run and pull. Teaching the dog to pull a sled or wear a weight vest if they are physically capable is a good start. Hill sprints, especially on the sand dunes, are ideal.



Red and White Setters



“ Any good training programme should also be individualised, not just to the breed, but to the individual dog itself

### Cart dogs

Bred to pull slow and heavy. Think of a St Bernard or Rottweiler. Sled pulls, tug and man-trailing are all ideal outlets for these large, powerful dogs.

### Water Dogs

Most maritime communities had a dog capable of hauling in nets and catching stray fish. The Spanish and Portuguese Water Dogs are now very popular. Teaching the dog to swim can be a useful outlet for their excess energy.

### Gundogs

Jersey does not have a Gundog or shooting scene as such. This does not mean we cannot use the principles of flushing, pointing and retrieving to teach the Gundogs how to do it as a form of exercise and mental enrichment.

### Sighthounds

The Greyhounds and Lurchers. Flirt pole and lure training is ideal for these visual, fast dogs. Satiating their drive to chase and catch rabbit is vital. By turning it into a game, Jersey's rabbit population remains safe.

### Scenthounds

Man-trailing is the ideal exercise for these scent-based hunting dogs. Think of Foxhounds, Bloodhounds and Beagles.

### Terriers

Bred to go down into the earth and catch rats and other small animals. The training should replicate this. Flirt pole, tug and impulse control training is really important here.

We will be covering these dog types and how to train them in more detail in future articles. If you want to find out more about dog training and exercises such as man-trailing, gundog work or flirt pole training, contact Harry at [Harry@Origindogtraining.com](mailto:Harry@Origindogtraining.com).



Left: Foxhound | Right: German Shepherd



## 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.

Contact: Julie 07797 713797  
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## Chaos and happiness

### Life with a Soft Coated Irish Wheaten Terrier - a unique breed, in more ways than one - and a rare breed in Jersey. By Kieranne Grimshaw

**A** decade has flashed by and it only seems like yesterday that a furry ball of cuteness called an Irish Wheaten Terrier arrived home – and has caused chaos and happiness ever since.

Wheatens were originally bred in Ireland as an all-purpose farm dog. With their playful personality, they seem to possess the Irish sense of humour and are always ready for a game. They are gregarious and inquisitive, but less scrappy than other terriers.

Often having their own agenda, Wheatens can be wilful and challenging to train. However, with patience and perseverance, both you and your Wheaten will benefit from puppy training – it should also be fun for both of you!

Perfect for people with dog allergies, Wheatens don't shed. Possessing silky gently waving coats, they do need regular grooming to avoid matting – but brushing your dog can be quite therapeutic, and relaxing for your dog too.

As working breeds, Wheatens need lots of interaction and stimulation. Just like children, they enjoy playtime and as long as they've been properly socialised as puppies, will make good family pets. They are highly affectionate and outgoing, often greeting anyone you meet on a walk. Be prepared to make new friends at bus stops too, where your Wheaten may just pause for a pat and a sniff – this breed just loves people!

In the park or on the beach, new friends and acquaintances are often made with a Wheaten in tow.



They can look like a giant teddy bear so attract children like a magnet – fortunately this breed enjoys attention. Despite their many qualities, Wheatens are quite rare – on outings, owners are regularly asked 'What breed is it? Is it a Cockapoo?' They are even listed as a vulnerable breed by the Kennel Club UK.

At least an hour's walk a day is recommended, but they won't say no to more. The key is to make the walk fun – the more to sniff the better... sniffing is your dog's way of engaging in its natural instincts to explore its surroundings.



Kieranne Grimshaw with dog Monty

“ Wheatens were originally bred in Ireland as an all-purpose farm dog. With their playful personality, they seem to possess the Irish sense of humour and are always ready for a game

Co-owner Gary, with our male Wheaten, Monty, said: 'Monty is always looking for a game, whether it be running around with a stray sock or shoe in his mouth, getting our attention – he just wants to be chased.'

As well as being a loyal pet, Wheatens have even been known to have acting careers. Wheaten Danny starred in the musical Annie for an entire decade earlier this century. The only issue was he had more people rushing to see him after each performance than the child stars – perhaps understandably.

Wheaten owners will soon become familiar with the 'Wheaten Greetin'. Being somewhat overzealous when they greet people, especially a family member, Wheatens will often twist and twirl around excitedly in a circle before greeting you – either upon your return home or even out and about greeting a passer-by. Their joie de vivre is contagious.

Wheatens also enjoy sleeping, often on their backs with their four legs in the air, paws outstretched – whilst this looks quite comical, they are actually just keeping cool as the cold air can reach their belly. Other favourite sleeping positions are under the covers with their heads on a pillow – they love to keep their owners company.

If you think this endearing breed is for you, the Kennel Club UK will have details of a reputable breeder.

Wheaten owners will often admit – a house is not a home without a Wheaten.



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# Winter care for your ageing canine companion

## Tips from Sarah Lewis of Pawellness, a veterinary physiotherapist in Jersey

As the colder months are upon us, it's essential to give special attention to the wellbeing of our older canine friends. Older dogs may face unique challenges in the winter, from joint stiffness to chapped paws, but there are many ways in which we can help them through the winter season.

### Understanding your Senior Dog's Needs

As dogs age, they often experience changes in mobility, muscle strength and overall health. An animal physiotherapist can assess your dog's specific needs and design a personalised plan to improve their health and comfort in their senior years.

### Joint Care and Mobility

#### Regular Exercise

Despite the colder weather, it is crucial to keep your senior dog active. Gentle, regular exercise such as short walks but often (2/3 times a day) and light play, can help maintain joint mobility. Your animal physiotherapist can provide a guidance on suitable exercises for your dog's age and condition.

#### Warm-up Routine

Just like humans, dogs can benefit from a warm-up before off lead exercise, especially in the colder months.

Consider inside exercises and gentle dynamic (moving) stretches to prepare your dog's muscles and joints. Side to side stretches and sit to stands are an example of inside exercises you can do before walking to warm up the muscles and tissues.

#### Weight Management

Maintaining a healthy weight is essential for senior dogs, as excess weight will exacerbate joint issues. If your dog is overweight, most veterinary clinics hold weight clinics for advice and guidance. Hydrotherapy can be a good weight loss aid by improving cardiovascular fitness and mobility with a reduced load on the joints.

#### Joint Supplements

Joint supplements for older dogs can be beneficial in maintaining their joint health, improving mobility, and reducing discomfort associated with conditions like osteoarthritis.

Before starting any supplements, it's essential to consult with your veterinarian or veterinary professional to determine the best approach for your specific dog, as the choice of supplement may depend on your dog's individual needs and any existing health conditions.

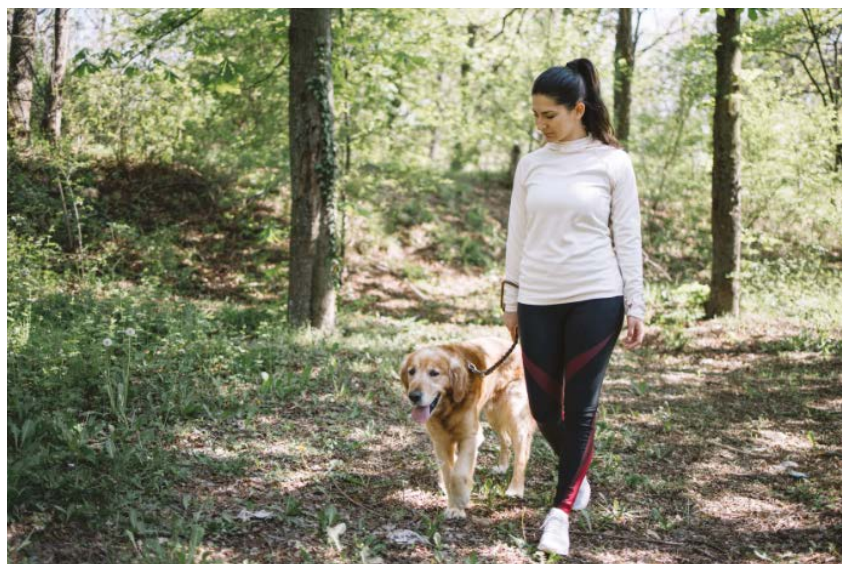
It's important to choose high quality joint supplements because the nutraceutical industry (supplements) is not held to the same standards and testing as the pharmaceutical industry. Make sure to check the ingredients to ensure adequate therapeutic levels.

### Cold Weather Safety

In Jersey we don't see a lot of the white stuff (snow) very often but it's always best to be prepared if we do.

#### Coats

Consider providing your elderly dog with a dog sweater or coat to keep them warm during outdoor activities. The warmer they are, the more mobile they will be, with less stiffness. Pay close attention to their comfort and adjust clothing as needed.



### Paw Care

Boots are available should the cold pavement or snow hurt your dog's paws. They will also help to prevent slipping injuries. Remember to always check your dog's paws after every walk as the cold can cause ice burns.

In extremely cold weather, limit the duration of walks to prevent your senior dog from getting too cold or experiencing discomfort. Little and often would be better than one long walk.

### Indoor Comfort

#### Cozy Sleeping Area

Create a warm and comfortable sleeping spot for your older dog.

Provide extra blankets and a soft, supportive bed to ease joint pain. A flat bed with no sides is often easier to get on and off from, and more comfortable for dogs with neck and back discomfort.

#### Indoor Activities

Encourage mental stimulation with indoor games and puzzles to keep your senior dog's mind active. Ripping up a cardboard box with treats hidden inside can be a simple but effective way to mentally stimulate your dog.

### Regular Check-ups

Schedule regular check-ups with your veterinarian and animal physiotherapist for a physical assessment.

They can monitor your dog's health, recommend adjustments to their care plan, and address any emerging issues quickly.

### Pain Management

If your senior dog is dealing with chronic pain or arthritis, discuss pain management options with your veterinarian. Making small changes to the home environment, physiotherapy, supplements and medications can help improve your dog's comfort and quality of life.

### Quality Time Together

Finally, the winter season is an excellent opportunity to spend quality time with your ageing dog. Cuddles, gentle massages, and simply being there for them can have a significant positive impact on their wellbeing.

Any questions or advice on how you can help your dog, email: [info@pawellness.co.uk](mailto:info@pawellness.co.uk)



“ Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. - Roger Caras

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 journey of life is sweeter when travelled with a dog...'



**... maybe...but not the journey to Saint-Malo, now that post-Brexit changes to rules for traveling to the EU with pets have taken effect. Kieranne Grimshaw spoke to States Vet, Dr Susana Ramos, to find out more about the new regulations**

**A**lthough it is still possible to take your pet to France from Jersey, States Vet Dr Susana Ramos said that post-Brexit, there are now several new rules and regulations to follow: the pet must be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies, and have an Animal Health Certificate issued in the ten days prior to travel.

'The rabies vaccination will have to be done at least 21 days before the Animal Health Certificate is issued. The Certificate must be accepted in the country you're travelling to and is only valid for one visit. Dogs will also need tapeworm treatment, although this has always been required when travelling to countries that are considered tapeworm free and when returning to the UK and Jersey.'

This may all seem quite daunting, but as long as owners do the research and consult with their registered vet, the process should become easier.

For many dog owners, the main change is that the UK style EU Pet Passports are no longer valid. Dr Ramos confirmed that the replacement Animal Health Certificate has resulted in more work for private vets, as there is more information to be added and it all has to be checked. The extra cost to owners, currently £145, is considerably more expensive than before 2021 and understandably leaves some owners concerned – whether to pay the extra costs and enjoy the company of their pet on holiday or to leave it behind with a pet sitter or kennels.

'It's important to stress that the health conditions haven't changed significantly, it is more the documentation,' she confirmed.



'Beforehand, pet dogs could travel to the EU with a passport, now they need a Health Certificate. The requirements for vaccination and identification were in place before Brexit.'

Despite Jersey never being part of the EU, Dr Ramos clarified the grounds for these new requirements.

'Protocol 3, which was in place while the UK was part of the EU, considered Jersey as part of the EU for animal movements including pets.'

After Brexit, the general public have no doubt found the new rules a big change and quite overwhelming, which she said was equally frustrating for vets.

In addition to the change, new dog owners also need to be aware of all the up-to-date information for travel procedures. Just as for pre-2021, a consultation at your local vet is required before travelling and also in France before your return, the latter must be within five days of the date of re-entry to Jersey.

“ **There are currently high-level discussions with the EU, with the intention of simplifying the pet travel process. This is also happening between the UK and France – we are all in the same boat, so it's better we negotiate together**

As post-Brexit travel procedures are relatively recent, it's always best to check with your local vet as soon as you have your holiday dates. Pet travel information can also be found on the Government website – [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je).

Despite the extra red tape, costs and time-consuming vet visits, many pet owners still recognise the advantages of taking their pets on holiday; since the pandemic, travel has become popular again.

One dog owner said he found the rules frustrating: 'Under the old arrangement I was able to go to France instantly with no forward planning. The new system is not only expensive but means that set dates are required. As a result, I don't go to France anymore.'

Dr Ramos remains optimistic: 'There are currently high-level discussions with the EU, with the intention of simplifying the pet travel process. This is also happening between the UK and France – we are all in the same boat, so it's better we negotiate together. The procedure should then become easier, so cheaper over time.'

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## The ‘Ariat’ range of leisure wear from the JFTU

**A**riat 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.

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

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.

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.**



# To every dog, its day

Plus a tail to wag and a tale to tell.

By Mike Stentiford

**F**ew could doubt as to who man's best friend is when, given some horribly wet and windy weather, both handler and dog faithfully brave the inclement elements together.

According to the UK's Kennel Club, Britain has some 222 registered breeds of dog, a fact that could prove a wee bit tricky when choosing a canine buddy for life.

Digging into the depths of doggy statistics reveals that there are something in the region of 13 million dogs in Britain, a number that recognises the UK as the second most canine-friendly place on the planet – Germany being the first.

The august Kennel Club also states that three of the most popular breeds in the British Isles are the Labrador Retriever, the French Bulldog and the Cocker Spaniel.

Similarly, top names for canines include Lunar, Bella, Milo, Max, Buddy and Bailey. Long gone, it seems, are the days when a best-loved four-legged pal answered to the name of Rex, Patch or Fido.

Dogs, of course, come in all shapes, sizes and temperaments, although the jury's still out as to whether they are directly descended from wolves. What has become evident is that with so many rapidly arriving new breeds, tracing their ancestry becomes a little on the sketchy side.

Unsurprisingly, there are certain members of the foreign dog tribe that are beyond peculiar and exist quietly under the title of 'false dogs'.

The Dholes of Tibet and Mongolia, for instance, look like dogs but have a very different jaw and teeth structure from other canines. They're also known as the red dog and, for obvious vocal reasons, the whistling dog.

Two of the most endangered wild canines hail from South America, the first being a coastal crab-eating species while the second hides behind the unpronounceable moniker of Xoloitzcuintlis – try saying that even before a single malt. If you're wondering, it's pronounced something like ... 'show-low-eats-QUEENT-lee'.

In the 1700s, Alexander Pope, poet and essayist, presented the then Prince of Wales – George II – with a pet dog that wore a collar inscribed with the words, 'I am His Highness' dog at Kew. Pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?'

Surely one of the strangest dog stories in the 1940's involved the last independent ruler of the Indian state of Gujarat, the esteemed Nawab of Junagadh.

Not only did His Highness enjoy the company of his 800-plus carefully selected pedigree dogs, but each one had its own room and uniformed attendant. Extending this passion for canines even further were the extraordinary celebrations surrounding a number of carefully choreographed dog weddings. It was estimated that such acts of self-indulgence cost the Nawab a cool £32,000 a year.

Another odd record from a half-century ago concerns one Anders Hallgren, who opened the world's first school for dog psychiatrists.



Although, surprise surprise, there's no record as to whether his pupils secured a lifelong occupation following graduation.

Around the same time, the French Post Office published a report stating that over 3,000 postmen had been attacked by dogs, a high proportion of them receiving bites in the nether region.

It was during the 1970s when Leeds apparently had the rather quirky honour of opening the world's first dog museum. Included in the artifacts was a collection of some 60 antique dog collars dating back to the early 16th Century.

Evidently one of the top dogs around that time, a pampered pooch belonging to the Archbishop of Salzburg, wore a ridiculously expensive velvet-lined silver collar.

Turning back the pages of history even further we find that while the Greek historian, Xenophon, wrote the very first manual on dogs, it was Aristotle who first mooted the idea that dogs had dreams.

In fact, dogs were so numerous within the Roman Empire that notices were erected at the entrances of exclusive properties clearly stating 'cave canem' – beware of the dog.

It's very clear, then, that our beloved mutts have a very long and impressively historical pedigree and certainly one with more than enough doggy stories to reach the rafters of a very large kennel.

# Providing for pets



## Pets and Private Client Law, discussed by senior associate Anna Styles at Corbett Le Quesne

Last month in RURAL we talked about how couples deal with pets when they separate. As we discussed, pets are owned by the person who bought them as they are considered to be property or 'chattels'. This also means that you cannot leave money to a pet in a Will.

So what can you do to ensure a beloved pet is cared for if you die before them? You could find a suitable friend or relative and ask them if they are prepared to care for them. You can then leave them the pet and suitable funds in your Will with the proviso they care for them. They will then inherit the pet and the money from you on death.

You could go further and establish a non-charitable purpose trust for your pet, which you can do here in Jersey, but not in the UK. The named caregiver could then withdraw funds from the trust to care for them. If you have many pets, or large animals like horses who need stables, you may want to leave someone a property to live in with the pets until the pets die.



Anna Styles, with her dog, Harvey

If you do not have anyone suitable to whom to leave a pet, you may be able to leave him or her to a charity and provide them with the funds to care for them. You should check that the charity is willing and able to take your pet(s) before putting this in your Will.

If you, like the majority of us at Corbett Le Quesne, are passionate about not only your pets but about animals in general, you may also want to leave a legacy to an animal charity. Durrell and the JSPCA are popular choices in the Island, but there are many charities that could benefit from your kindness. There is a list of charities on the Association of Jersey Charities website and you can find the animal welfare charities here: [www.jerseycharities.org/members#category-animalwelfare](http://www.jerseycharities.org/members#category-animalwelfare)

**What if you do not have a Will or you have not made provision in your current Will? Well, we offer free 30-minute consultations to discuss your options so do feel free to call us on 733030.**

Essentially though, you would have to rely on the kindness of strangers. A charity may be able to help – otherwise the worst-case scenario is that your pet would be put to sleep.



Bolt, owned by Simon Lofthouse, head of private clients at Corbett Le Quesne



We always advise people to strongly consider discussing the terms of their Wills with their nearest and dearest to avoid problems down the line.

**If you have any questions, call us on 733030 or email [enquiries@corbettlequesne.com](mailto:enquiries@corbettlequesne.com).**

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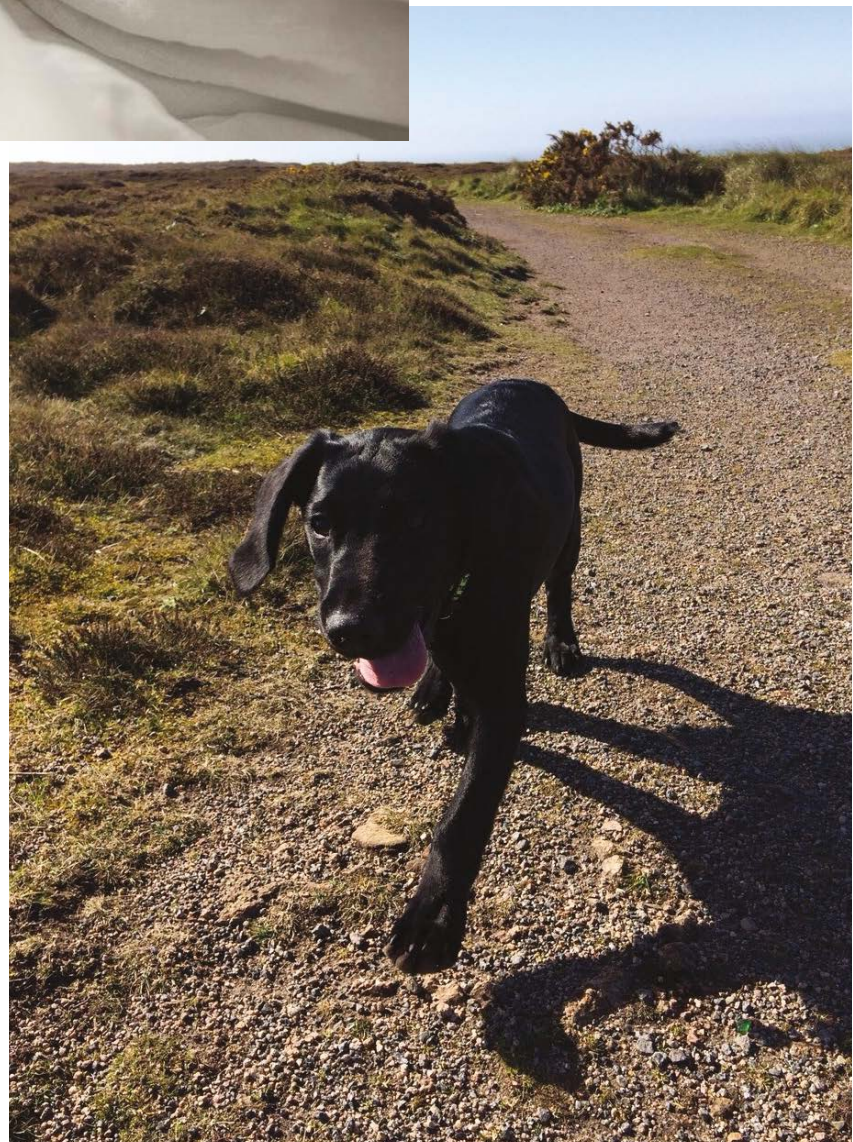
Toby, owned by Jamie-Lee Morgan, *ecrivain* at Corbett Le Quesne

You will also need to provide for what should happen to any remaining assets when the pet has passed away, to ensure the Will doesn't fail.

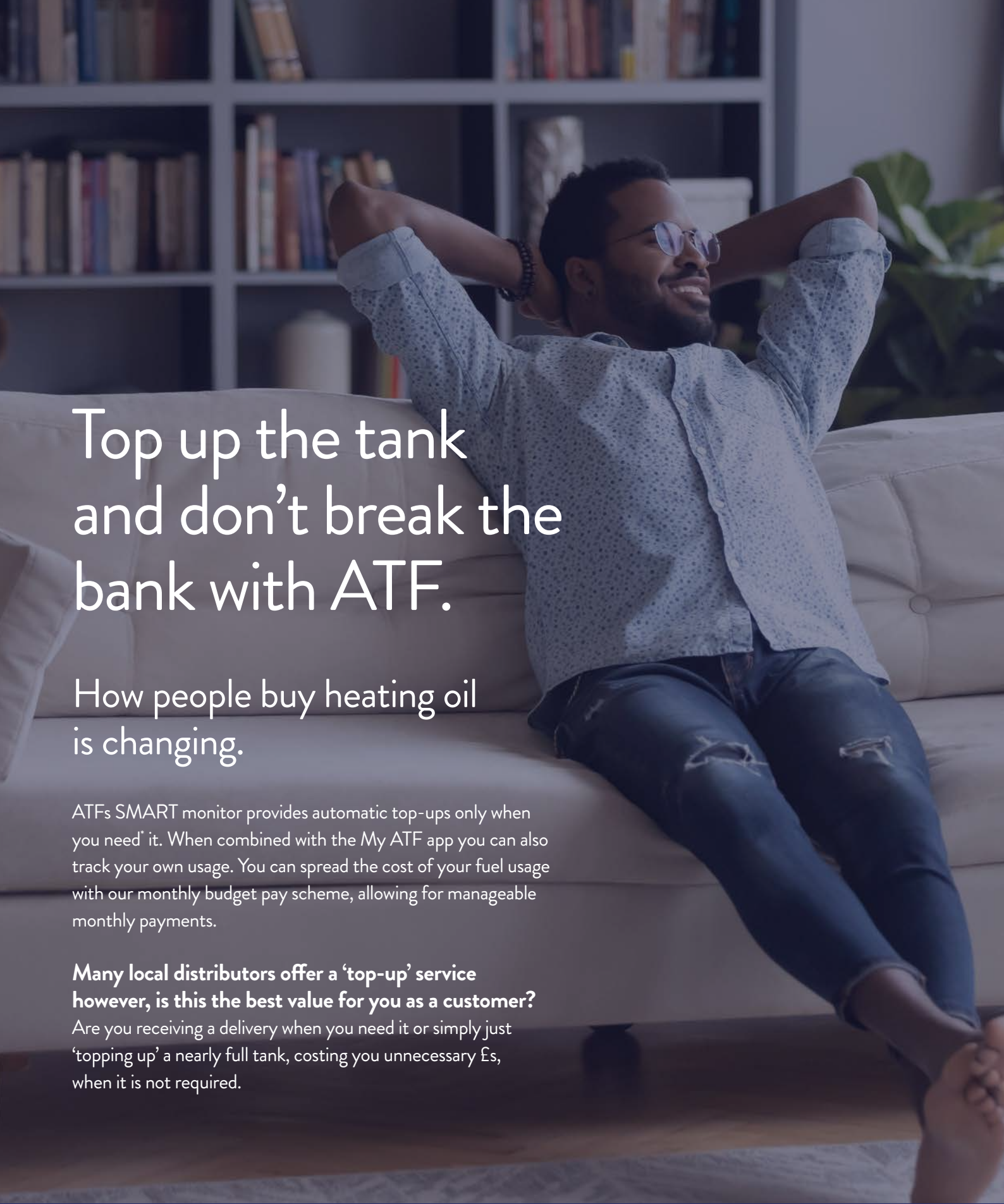
We understand that pets may be the most important part of your life. Most of us at Corbett Le Quesne have dogs and cats and we have regular canine visitors to the office.

I have grown up with all sorts of pets including Shetland ponies and geese and many, many dogs. While I only have one dog now (a gorgeous black Lab called Harvey), my parents have four rescue dogs, and they need a lot of special care. I would have no hesitation in saying I would look after them as my own, but I am not sure I would have been able to take on the Shetland ponies or geese without some provision being made in a Will.

So there are practical considerations that you should consider. Do you have a suitable home? Can you afford the vet bills? Do you have the time to look after them properly?



Harvey, Anna Styles' dog



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# Is there a future for riding schools in Jersey?

The number of horse riding schools and opportunities to learn riding in Jersey has plummeted in recent years.

By Ruth Le Cocq





**T**he decline in the number of riding schools in the Island mirrors a similar trend in the UK – and it threatens the future of equestrianism in Jersey.

Cilla Perchard, a British Horse Society registered coach, estimates that 80% of the Island’s riding schools have closed during the last 30 years with just three new businesses opening. This leaves five establishments to cope with demand.

Of these, some have older horses and ponies whose welfare needs mean they are unable to carry heavier riders and/or are unable to work in a sand school, so they are restricted to providing hacking only.

“ Despite the decline in riding school numbers, there are still around 500 horses in the Island

In days gone by the Island was served by more than 10 riding stables, including Bon Air, Brabant, Les Ruettes Farm, Louanne, Multina, Sorrel and Westview. Of those, just Le Claire Riding Stables and a reinvented Haie Fleurie remain open alongside East Riding, Greencliff Equestrian Centre and Happy Hooves.



Le Claire Riding Stables held competitions at their premises in St John for many years. Palominos, Honey (left) and home-bred mare Cassie, took part in the pairs class



Captain Mark Phillips teaching a riding lesson at Sorrel Stables during the early 1990s



A Christmas ride from Sorrel Stables in 1988 with riding school owner, Liz Marks, riding Guardsman (second from right).



Cilla, who has run a British Horse Society approved livery stables for many years, is concerned that, like in the UK, it will no longer be financially viable for some riding schools to function.

Similar concerns prompted the BHS to launch a recent campaign called 'Keep Britain Riding', to protect and nurture the special horse/human bond that can be 'transformational for people's physical and mental wellbeing, no matter their background or experience'.

Cilla explained that it makes more financial sense to provide stables for horse owners offering complete care (full livery) than buying and keeping a horse or pony and providing lessons.

'Let's say renting out a stable brings me in £600 a month full livery. I'm paying for bedding, hay and feed so it'll be making me at least £450. A riding school pony is going to have to teach enough lessons to bring in £450 plus there's the cost of the tack, insurance, farrier, vet, dentist as well as my teaching hours. It's not cost effective.'

“ Anybody can set up a riding school. You've got a handful of BHS qualified instructors here, but a lot of others do not have qualifications and it does worry me

Cilla believes there are too few riding school horses and ponies to cater for demand in Jersey.

The costs of finding suitable animals and keeping them, employing qualified grooms and riding coaches as well as adhering to requirements such as health and safety, safeguarding and continuing professional development mean riding school owners face an uphill struggle.

Then there is the maintenance of the buildings, land and facilities, including a sand school, which costs thousands of pounds every year.



Horse Bubbles taking part in a fancy dress class at Le Claire Riding Stables (left) Donna Galloway, owner of Le Claire Riding Stables (right)



Karen Barette

Horses Rocky and Mac arrived at Le Claire's aged five and taught many children how to ride during the next 20 years.'

As a result, Cilla fears horse riding may encourage Islanders to buy a horse or pony before they have enough knowledge and experience, which could lead to welfare issues and more riding accidents.

'Despite the decline in riding school numbers, there are still around 500 horses in the Island. Riding schools don't just teach riding, they also teach stable management and welfare, and they gateway people into Jersey Riding Club and The Pony Club, which are obvious places to go once you have your own horse to continue learning.'

Karen Barette of Home Farm Equestrian recognises the threat of horse riding becoming elitist in Jersey.

'I deliver feed so I'm aware of how expensive it is, and the riding schools need to charge a certain amount to cover their costs,' she said.

Karen added that ideally a riding school should have a range of horses and ponies to suit novice and more experienced riders.

'You want to have the right horses so they're sensible but not that they can't go forward.

'It's a really hard balance because you've got to be safe but when you ask a horse to do something you need it to be reactive so you can learn the feel of it.'

“ It's a really hard balance because you've got to be safe but when you ask a horse to do something you need it to be reactive so you can learn the feel of it

She wonders whether the time is now right for the Island to have a mechanical horse so novice riders can learn how to ride more economically. She explained, for example, that it can take several lessons on a horse to learn how to do rising trot.

'On the mechanical horse you can get the feel of rising trot and then pop the person on a horse. That would be an hour better spent,' Karen said.

She added that the benefits of interacting with horses is well documented and in the UK some riding schools are funded by the government.

'It would be nice to see riding schools here where people could apply for grants for a course of lessons or, if we had the mechanical horse, I'd be happy to put an area here and donate days where kids could come and learn how to ride and then go onto the riding schools.'

Although there are several BHS approved livery yards in Jersey, only Haie Fleurie is an approved riding centre and Oli Simmons, the joint owner of HFP Equestrian Limited, explained that he has just three ponies available for lessons and they are mainly involved in supporting the continued professional development of staff.

He, like Cilla, is also concerned that Jersey remains one of the only places in the British Isles where a licence is not required to set up a riding school and public liability insurance is not mandatory.

Cilla said: 'Anybody can set up a riding school. You've got a handful of BHS qualified instructors here, but a lot of others do not have qualifications and it does worry me.'

Five horse riding schools exist in Jersey with some operating within certain restrictions, including rider weight limits and/or offering hacking only.

These are East Riding, Greencliff Equestrian Centre, Happy Hooves and Le Claire Riding Stables. Haie Fleurie Stables, which is a British Horse Society approved centre, has a limited number of horses and ponies available for lessons and these are mainly involved in supporting the continued professional development of staff.

The Animal Health and Welfare team for the Government of Jersey is responsible for the issuing of all Animal Welfare Licenses and the ongoing inspections relating to them.

Currently there is not an Animal Welfare Licence that relates directly to horse riding schools. However, the legal requirement is that anyone responsible for keeping animals should adhere to the Animal Welfare Codes, which can be found on [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je). The Animal Health and Welfare Team follow up on all animal welfare concerns brought to its attention.

Anybody wishing to go riding should check that the staff are suitably qualified and experienced and that the establishment has public liability insurance.



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OUR HENS HAVE  
HAD ROOM TO ROAM



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## From our 'foreign' correspondents

RURAL magazine has a settled policy of only accepting contributions from Islanders or those with a strong connection to Jersey. However, we are aware that there is a wider world beyond our shores, and so we have made exceptions whenever we feel that a correspondent has something pertinent to say that would interest us in the Island.

*In this issue, Jonathan Waterer, who farms with his wife, Fiona, in North Devon, asks:*

# Does farming with horses have a future as well as a past?

**A**s a boy of 11, I was fascinated by the harness hanging in the harness room on my family farm just outside Reading in Berkshire.

I rode a pony and loved horses. Those early years set me on a path to working on a ranch in Southern Alberta, Canada. Much of the work was still carried out on the ranch by Percherons. I learnt to be a cowboy, including breaking in Percherons, Appaloosas and Quarter Horses.

On returning to England in 1982, I settled in the South West, on Exmoor. I ran a small farm and rented more ground to accommodate 260 ewes and 40 suckler cows.

I cut grass for hay with sickle bar mowers with pairs of horses. I cut oats with a binder, hauling the sheaves into the barn with the horses. The sheaves were then fed to the cows and horses in winter.

I got married to Fiona in 1988 and in 1997 we and our young son and daughter moved to Chittlehampton to Higher Biddacott Farm, a holding of around 90 acres.

Here we started up a B&B business – nowadays we can take up to 12 people. We decided to derive our living primarily based on the horses.

We take people on driving courses teaching everything from road driving with horses, to ploughing, harrowing, rolling and forestry work.

My fundamental living is training horses of all types to both ride and drive. As I have got older there is more emphasis on the driving side.

By the time we came to Chittlehampton I was spending up to three months a year extracting timber from steep slopes, wet ground and areas with difficult access except by horse. This is an activity that is well suited to horses. Even today, if the wood is of a smallish acreage and very steep, the horse is able to pull the timber down the hillside and can be turned sharply to avoid stumps and standing trees. The alternative might be a winch tractor and two men. It is laborious, repositioning a winch tractor and cable to take the pull into a different angle to avoid stumps, thus making the horses more efficient.

I remember astounding two fellows cutting for me. I was extracting oak nearby us in Devon. Each trunk was around ¾ to 1 cubic metres weight. They were amazed at how the horse would turn sharp this way and another, to avoid all the obstacles. By the end of the first day, they reckoned 28 tons of oak had been extracted to the track below.

Besides timber work, I used the horses for some of the ploughing on the not so steep slopes. We grew 20 acres of wheat to produce thatching reed. We would use the horses for all the work. The ground would be worked down, drilled, rolled and the corn cut with a binder. Sheaves would be hauled using pairs of horses on the wagons and ricked in the field. The crop would be combed in October. We did this successfully for several years.

Over the years our horses have appeared in several films. I have spent time abroad in such far-flung places as southern Turkey training horses to pull Assyrian chariots, and spending time in Israel breaking in all sorts of horses to ride and drive. Closer to home, I have trained and supplied horses to Jersey and Guernsey.

I spent time in southwest France breaking in six Percherons to drive to be used for all tasks including tillage for wheat. It was there I got a taste for growing ancient wheat for breadmaking.

I have always looked toward the Amish in North America for harness and machinery. I was the first person to use Canadian harness in England over 40 years ago. It is far superior to our English harness in its design. The traces are leather or webbing. The collars are light and have a pad inside the collar that is removable. We change the pads every year. This design almost eliminates collar sores that we used to see with the traditional English collar.

Years ago, I started importing North American machinery from the Amish. I bought in manure spreaders, forecarts, hoes, ploughs and mowers.

If you are serious about using horses on the land you have to have multiple hitches of horses for many jobs. The work needs to be completed as efficiently as possible within the limitations of using horses as opposed to tractors.

We train all our horses as 3-year-olds. There is nothing better to get a horse used to all noises and sounds as using them. The more work they do both on and off the farm, the more reliable they become.

The horses are like police horses by the time they go on the motorised forecart. They gain confidence from the other horses.

I am passionate about using the horses for the farm work and the weddings and funerals that we do off the farm for extra income.

To use horses in this day and age you have to be totally dedicated and really enjoy what you do. I think nothing of going and hitching up four or six horses to do a job. It is surprising how little time it takes to do this with the harness hanging behind the horses' tie stalls.

If you are on a small flat acreage, say a mixed farm, you could use entirely horses, no tractor.



Because our farm is so steep in places, I do not hesitate to use a tractor for cutting, turning and baling. It is impossible to do the work on such slopes using horses. The difference in draught for the horses is immense compared to working on flat ground.

If you are organic, as we are, hoeing is a great job to be done by horses. I worked out some years ago that if I hoed with a pair of horses on a two-row straddle hoe twice in the season, it was the same price as spraying for weed once.

The beauty of using horsepower on the farm is that you have so little compaction of the soil. The added benefit is that horses can replicate themselves when you need more!

We keep five geldings and one stallion. We put our stallion on to other people's mares and hope that we might be able to purchase back some offspring to give us our horses. Our stallion also works and is particularly even tempered with the geldings.





If you only work with the horse on the land, you have no need to shoe them. To maximise our income with the horses, we need to shoe them in order to work on the roads doing wagon rides, weddings, funerals, and training the young horses that come to be broken in.

Working with horses is extremely rewarding. You have to work out the most efficient way to get the job done in order to look after your horses. To be out in the field working with one's horses for the day is great for the soul and body. There is nothing like horses working well to uplift the spirit.

**Higher Biddacott Farm can be found on Instagram and Facebook under [waterersworkinghorses](#). Our website is [www.heavy-horses.net](http://www.heavy-horses.net)**



“ If you are serious about using horses on the land you have to have multiple hitches of horses for many jobs. The work needs to be completed as efficiently as possible within the limitations of using horses as opposed to tractors

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# Champagne: a triumph of perception and marketing

**C**hampagne. Everyone drank it; at the Folies Bergère and Maxims in Paris, across Europe to the Russian Court and, back in London, the Café Royal. It was drunk copiously by the smart set; the high-water mark of the grande bourgeoisie and was the drink of society revellers. It was drunk in dainty glasses, in tankards and out of chorus girls' slippers. Until recently that echo of Burlington Bertie was still attached to the rosé variety: 'No gentleman,' I was once told, 'bought pink champagne other than to pour down dancers' cleavages.' Nowadays one of the best selling champagnes in Jersey is Laurent-Perrier Rosé.

The creation of champagne had been a fortunate meeting of trends. The perfection of champagne technology coincided with the new money from the Industrial Revolution which fuelled international trade. Conspicuous consumption was *à la mode*. It was the drink with which to celebrate. And the champagne houses have, for well over a century fought hard, and sometimes people say 'dirty', to keep that marketing position.

**The champagne industry has been triumphant in equating their product with celebration and success. By Hamish Marett-Crosby**

The habits and associations of that era take a long time to die. We serve champagne at weddings with a rich fruit cake and, let's be honest, the mixture doesn't work. Originally champagne was much sweeter and the combination did work. Similarly with champagne and caviar, the combination works better with a sweet champagne, which is how it was drunk at the Russian Court.

Dom Pérignon created champagne. Wrong. The good monk's fame rests with his skills as a winemaker and his ability to make an excellent still wine by blending grapes from a variety of vineyards and vintages. If he had wanted to make it a sparkling wine, the lack of technology would have thwarted him. Cork was not in use in France during his time and nor was there the ability to make glass strong enough to resist the huge pressure building up inside a champagne bottle.

References to sparkling champagne were appearing in English literature 20 years before the date the French claim Dom Pérignon invented it. How could this be? Because the English, then as now, could never resist the temptation to try and change, adapt, or even, in their own view, improve something that had been imported. And they had the expertise. Coal-fired glassmaking technology was common in England. Coal burnt hotter than wood, making better and stronger glass; furthermore, the use of cork as a stopper had been common in England for over a century.

## Party poppers

The purists will say that there is no point in using champagne as a mix in a party cocktail, you only lose the taste of the drink with whatever has been added. Surely only the terminally label-conscious would waste money in this way. Yet a little voice inside me says: 'Up to a point, Lord Copper.' Therefore, with the caveat that other sparkling wines are available, here's a couple of traditional recipes for the party season.

## Black Velvet

'I've never tried it because I don't like it.' A brilliant Guinness advertisement from a generation ago, looking forward to the faddy, pickie society of today. The idea of this classic celebration drink may not immediately appeal (I've never tried it etc.) but it is effervescent and rich.

And it's so easy; all you need is champagne and (preferably draught) Guinness. Keep it chilled. Fill a decent sized flute about 60% full of cool champagne and when the foam has subsided, add the cold Guinness, and serve. Break a habit, try something you think you don't like. This simple blend of two classic fizzy drinks will annoy the modern cocktail snob, appeal to beer drinkers and upset champagne elitists. So, it's a win all round.



## Buck's Fizz

Again, just two ingredients and it's quite simple, orange juice and champagne. This is the classic Christmas morning cocktail and one that allows those driving to vary the ratios between Champagne and orange juice to suit their own requirements to cope with Christmas.



## Kir Royale

This is a variation on Kir, (white wine poured over a small measure of blackcurrant liqueur), known to every Jersey resident who has even been to Saint-Malo for a meal. Kir Royale is essentially the same but made with champagne – and a popular variation for both is to use blackberry liqueur (Crème de mûre) instead. It's appeal in Brittany is obvious; how else can you disguise the palate numbing acidity of some of the local wines?

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# Cider with – La Robeline

**It has been an eventful year for La Robeline – rather up-and-down-y. Hopefully, now ‘up’ more than ‘down’. Alasdair Crosby talked to the owners, Richard and Sarah Matlock**

**I**n Jersey terms, La Robeline is as about as remote as you can get. Down a narrow St Ouen lane, and then down another narrow lane, and then down an even narrower lane... nestling there is a 300-year-old granite cottage.

Here be cider.

And here also be the home of Richard and Sarah Matlock, the owners of La Robeline Cider Company. When the restaurant in their cider barn is open, access to it would be difficult by car, and egress, after a few mugs of cider, even more difficult – and probably illegal as well.

That is why they encourage their guests to walk or cycle there if possible, or else park at Les Laveurs car park (near Jersey Pearl) – and the Matlocks will arrange transport from there and back again at the end of the evening.

La Robeline was quiet during a visit in late October, but it was the quiet before a storm. Very soon apples would be arriving there for pressing and to start the transmutation from hard fruit to soft cider. Sarah said: ‘There seem to be quite a lot of apples on the trees. The varieties that we grow are late ones, very similar to the traditional Jersey varieties, and as the trees come from Normandy, I expect they are at least their close cousins.





‘We have to monitor the cider really carefully, shortly after pressing, when it goes through the process of defecation – which means what you might imagine it to mean. All the nasty bits float up to the top of the cider and after about 10 days, the cider is ready to be racked: the clear liquid is drained from the bottom, and you are left with the bits that get thrown away. It often seems to happen at night, after a day’s work, and Richard has to start work again, racking the cider.’

Apart from making the cider, there are private parties to be catered for, and preparation for the Simply Christmas markets in the Royal Square, where they will be having, as usual, their stall. Sarah faces the prospect before then of making thousands upon thousands of sausages. Then just before Christmas they prepare the Christmas hams.

During the early months of the New Year comes the bottling of the cider, before the restaurant opens on 4 April.

La Cidrerie restaurant is located in their cider barn, which houses the cider press – over 100 years old.



“ We have to monitor the cider really carefully, shortly after pressing, when it goes through the process of defecation – which means what you might imagine it to mean

Also there is the still, all the tanks, the filtration machine, the bottling machine ...In non-cider-making months, the barn was pretty much redundant – just a storage area. The conversion of part of it into a restaurant was an ideal way of maximising their available space. The food, cooked over an open range, is hearty and filling – steaks and local produce, rather than pretty little dishes to arrange on a plate and photograph on a mobile phone. There is cider and wine as accompaniment.



It is a simple menu that has proved to be very popular with their regular customers.

Finally, La Robeline's restaurant has obtained its Planning consent, and they have a full licence. It all went through at the end of September – just in time for the end of the catering season. Richard and Sarah lost 20 weeks of income because of the Appeal against the original Planning consent in March.

Happier was the publicity they received on television in the series 'Jersey & Guernsey', a UK-produced TV show on Channel 5 narrated by Alan Titchmarsh. About 1.1 million viewers tuned in to watch the first episode of the series.

'We filmed with them for about a week,' said Sarah. 'Originally, they came because we were supposed to be opening a restaurant and literally, a day or two before they arrived to start filming, we were told we were not allowed to open up because of the Planning debacle. They just switched their whole focus to the cider.'

Apart from the cider, La Robeline makes *L'esprit de Jèrri*, an apple brandy, made on the same principle as calvados. The *vieux* that they are using now is about 6 or 7 years old, but the *Prestige*, is 15 years old – and certainly comparable to an old calvados. They also make *pommeau*, and an *eau de vie*.

A new business problem since Brexit and Covid (don't we all have them!) has been the difficulty in obtaining commercial supplies of bottles. Suppliers will only supply them with complete pallets of bottles, which would be over 1,000 of the *Prestige* bottles, which they would still be getting through in 30 years' time! Trying to get a few hundred bottles seems to be almost impossible. Another challenge.

Oh, to be in business, now that Brexit's here.

# Cheers m'deer!

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# Alcohol in the professional world: Evolving attitudes and impacts

By Will Austin-Vautier,  
employment law  
specialist at Ogier

There came a point – when, I am not sure – that society coined the phrase *"alcohol is the only drug that you are criticised for not taking"*. A reference to the peer (or other) pressure felt in social and professional circles to 'drink'. You may agree that attitudes have slowly been evolving in recent years.

Some point toward the impact of generational, economic or political changes. There is truth in each of these. As lawyers specialising in employment, discrimination and data law, we are well-positioned to see the societal and legal forces and changes that also have a bearing upon attitudes toward alcohol.

The alcoholic drink will always have a valued place in our culture, a proposition that is an article in itself. But it has been interesting to observe how its role and purpose has had to develop in response to cultural advancements and the general expectations of our society today.

In many respects – and this can certainly be said of the professional world – this has been demanded as a consequence of the improved awareness of the potential effects of its misuse, or simply a lack of understanding of its correct application in working environments.



In pursuit of an inclusive, tolerant, safe and respectful professional setting, conscientious organisations today see the potential contradictions, or worse, that can arise where business development activities, annual office socials, departmental prizes, or corporate gifts, fall back on the alcoholic drink alone to reward, celebrate, break the proverbial ice or thank. There will obviously be many occasions where doing so is entirely appropriate, but modern employers know the time, place and degree and are aware of the potential harms. Organisations have for centuries been bound by their tortious duty to 'take reasonable care'. In the period since, this has been fortified by successive layers of legal consideration – whether in the form of health and safety, employment, discrimination, and data best practice. Those organisations that quickly assimilate change, adapt and move forward insulate themselves from risk.

More importantly, they free themselves up to pursue the opportunities presented from that evolution.

Unfortunately, the benefits are often neither tangible nor immediate. The fruits of those labours emerge over time, and in areas that are precious to an organisation but that are notoriously hard to incubate; a staff and customer base that regards the organisation as having its finger on the proverbial pulse, a leader, respected, trusted.

This article is not subliminal propaganda advancing the mocktail. That is a misreading. It and the cocktail are of value in the professional world in equal measure (pardoning the pun). The evolving role of the alcoholic drink in business is just one example of how, with the right approach, organisations can differentiate themselves from the competition as both an employer and business partner.





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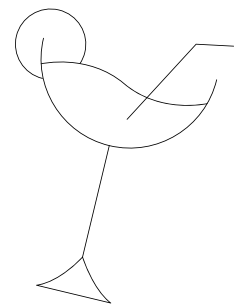
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# Sip, savour, and celebrate!



## A Merry Christmas with alcohol-free drinks – and a Happy New Year, Valentine’s Day, Easter... says Jo Ferbrache, also known as ‘Sober Jo’

The air becomes crisp as Christmas approaches, and the streets fill with twinkling lights, symbolising the change in season and time to celebrate. For many, this time of year has traditionally been associated with gatherings, merriment, and a toast or two with alcoholic beverages. But what if I told you that you can have just as much fun, create unforgettable memories, and connect with your inner child without alcohol in your glass? The importance of choice in what we drink cannot be understated, and today, we have many options to explore.

I know a thing or two about the world of alcohol, having worked at Liberation Brewery in the past. There, I fell in love with the flavourful Liberation Ale beer and eagerly anticipated the seasonal releases. I was passionate about beautiful beer. I am nearly five years sober and still passionate about beer, just the alcohol-free variety! I still get to enjoy their beer now as their Liberation IPA Zero has all the strong, big flavours of the original IPA but without the alcohol. It’s a testament to how far alcohol-free options have come and how much love and care people are now pouring into this drinks category, providing us with the same taste experience without the unwanted side effects.

One of the greatest joys of the festive season is coming together with loved ones and creating lasting memories. Whether it’s decorating the tree, exchanging gifts, or laughing around the dinner table, these moments are what truly make Christmas special. And you can rest assured that these moments can be just as magical with alcohol-free drinks.

Remember the excitement of waking up on Christmas morning as a child, racing downstairs to discover what Santa had left under the tree? There was pure, innocent joy in those moments, and alcohol wasn’t part of the equation. Embracing alcohol-free drinks allows you to recapture that childlike wonder and enthusiasm.

Being alcohol-free also provides practical advantages.

You can be the designated driver, getting you and your loved ones from party to party safely without waiting in the long taxi queues the Weighbridge offers. You can be the holiday hero whilst prioritising your health and wellbeing!

Many alcohol-free options are available now, and the choices are getting better. Whether you’re out and about or enjoying the festivities at home, there really is something for everyone.



If beer isn't your thing, there is a local gin, **Sippin Vir-Giin 0%** – mix this locally produced spirit as a cranberry cocktail for that Christmassy flavour without the hangover!



And for those who want something entirely different, there are exciting alternatives like **KTea Kombucha**, a healthy, flavoursome alternative brewed in Guernsey – good for your gut and great served in a wine glass.



We've just touched on some of the local offerings – but there are a range of adult soft drinks, spirits for every taste, ciders and beers available from a host of shops locally.

As this article goes to print, The Sober Sessions Christmas party will have just happened, where we celebrated the season with alcohol-free drinks, connecting with friends and loved ones, and created cherished memories. The new year will bring many more events to join, not just for those who are sober, but for anyone who wants to be mindful and connect with others.

So, this Christmas, raise your glass – be it filled with an alcohol-free brew or a refreshing Kombucha – and toast to the memories you'll create, the laughter you'll share, and the joy that abounds when you choose to celebrate the season in a way that suits you best.

Merry Christmas and cheers to a season filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

**Jo Ferbrache, known as 'Sober Jo'** is a certified mindset coach, EFT practitioner, and alcohol-free advocate. Since 1 January 2019 she's been inspiring others to embrace a joyful, booze-free life.

Follow her journey and gain insightful inspiration at [soberjo.com](http://soberjo.com) and on social media @realsoberjo



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*Good Luck!*

# 'Only ghosts and prostitutes'?

How correct was this view of a German staff officer about the attitude of Jersey's population towards their Occupiers? Did Jersey people either ignore them as much as they could, or else cosy up and collaborate with them? The answer is more nuanced, as author Andrew Gilson describes in his recently published book...

**'The German Occupation of Jersey: Agriculture and Survival in a Time of War' – Article by Alasdair Crosby**

On 9 August 1940, just a few weeks after the start of the German Occupation, Major Hans Egon Pelz arrived in Jersey. He was head of the agriculture and food supplies section of the German Military Government, named Field Command 515. This was based at College House in Mont Millais, the former boarding and residential section of Victoria College (now the Jersey College for Girls). That evening there was a formal dinner at the Grand Hotel where he and the senior officers of Field Command 515 met the Bailiff and the Island's civil dignitaries.

Once in place, Field Command 515 comprised 200 members, experts in their relevant fields. These were bureaucrats in uniform as opposed to regular army personnel. The lower ranks were billeted in the Continental Hotel, St Saviour's Road; the Staff Officers in spacious houses around the Island.

It seems like a huge number of people to govern such a small island. Also, the quality and intellectual acuity of its members was most impressive. They included international lawyers, trained administrators, PhD level academics ... Why had they all been sent to Jersey?

In Andrew's words: 'When I read Pelz's family biography, written by a daughter-in-law, it said quite clearly that Field Command 515 was going to be made ready to be sent to England straight after a successful Operation Sealion – the invasion of England.'



Major Hans Pelz with Jersey cow. Picture courtesy of Alan Allix

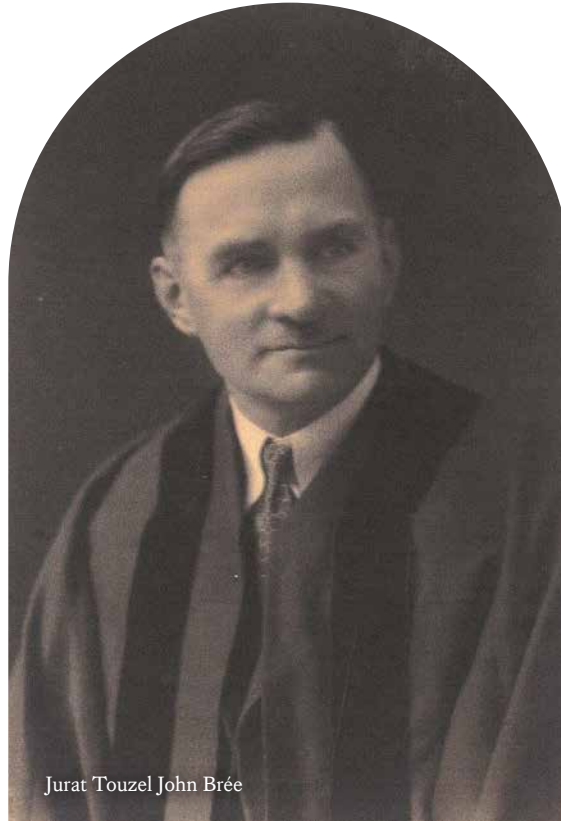
515 were going to be the first German government administrative unit in occupied London. Field Command 515 was destined to go to London and be knocking on the doors of Westminster. Of course, plans for Operation Sealion were subsequently abandoned.'

Before the war, Pelz, who came from Salzburg, was evidently a cattleman who had extensive knowledge of cross breeding cattle and of herd books in Austria. He was sent to Jersey to oversee the Island's pedigree herds and he was instrumental in the requisitioning of Jersey cattle for the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Germany.

What were the rules regarding such requisitions? For the Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche, the most important factor was the Hague Convention. So long as the requisition followed the rules of the Convention, the demand was legal and could not be denied, provided that there was a separate requisition for each animal.

The chain of command from Germany stretched to Jersey via the German Military Government in Paris, which instructed the regional command based at Saint Lô in Normandy. They then passed the orders to 515 in Jersey, concerning what agricultural laws were to be implemented. The instructions were conveyed to the Jersey States Superior Council, which was the body set up by Coutanche – half a dozen States Members who could meet quickly and carry out decisions, rather than getting the whole of the States Assembly together.

Then the Superior Council informed the Department of Agriculture what to do to implement the laws coming from Paris. In its turn, the department would then let the Jersey Farmers Union, the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society and Parish Honorary Inspectors know what to do; these would then contact the farmers.



Jurat Touzel John Brée

For the system to work, there needed to be 'collaboration' (in the professional sense) all along the line. Hence the remark by the German staff officer that gives this article its title: he said that the Jersey civil population as a whole either wanted to have nothing to do with the German administrators or else they stuck as closely to them as ladies of the night.

In fact, the personal relationships that were built up over five years with the German Military Government were much more nuanced. The chain of command depended on personal relationships and it worked very well. There were many different types of relationships between the occupiers and the occupied.

The author calls these 'structural relationships' based on the new agricultural structure of the Island set up by the Agriculture department and 515. This can be seen at the beginning of the book in a diagram and is useful in understanding these relationships.

For example, Andrew talks about 25 'elite' farmers – those who had the big farms and the best pedigree cattle. The staff officers knew them and they interacted socially.

Over the course of five years they started to build up relationships, and even some friendships. The relationships depended on what you did, or whether you felt you were of the same social class, whether you were an administrative person in the civil service, a professional person, or lived in the town or country. The relationship between the Islanders and the Germans varied, there were very many shades; there were friendships, some of them very close friendships that may have edged into collaboration.

Fortunately both Pelz and the head of the Department of Agriculture, Jurat Touzel John Brée, were both practical and intelligent men. Brée was a successful, talented and hard-working farmer and Pelz had a farming background; they got on and worked together very well. As an illustration,

for Christmas 1940 Brée gave Pelz an alarm clock – Pelz had a habit of turning up late for meetings!

They needed to meet up frequently to discuss problems in detail: mainly, the nationalisation of Jersey agriculture and the importation of continental cattle into Jersey. Before the war, agriculture was export-led, but after the Occupation had begun, that – of course – had to change completely. Jersey farmers did not like that and were very angry about it, so much so that in December 1940 Touzel Brée and the Bailiff summoned the major farmers to the States, and told them that if they did not cooperate with the new laws of the States of Jersey concerning agriculture, the Germans would simply take their farms over and they would be left without business or income.

The system had to be nationalised to provide home grown food for the Island population of 40,000 souls, and also for the German garrison, because, under the Hague Convention, the Germans were quite within their rights to requisition food, as well as to import French and foreign cattle into the Island.

Brée was informed by Pelz that they had to grow arable crops – wheat, barley, rye, oats – to produce home grown flour. By November 1940 old mills were back in use, under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, to mill flour for bread. The Agriculture department told farmers what to grow so that all vegetable and cereal crops could be distributed as equitably as possible among the population, and so that the Germans could have their fair share.

Throughout the system there were checks and double checks: milk, potato and grain control, cattle and pig control. Given the circumstances of enemy Occupation, the system worked very well – at least until October 1944, when Pelz was posted to active service in mainland Europe and the status of Field Command 515 was reduced in size to a smaller version of an administrative unit, a *Platzkommand*.

The subject of black marketeering is often raised in relation to the Occupation agricultural economy.

There were some 1,800 farmers in the Island, but the quantity of black marketeering was, in fact, very small, unlike in France, where 20% of agricultural produce went through the black market. It did happen – Jersey farmers sold produce to the Germans when Pelz signed an authorisation docket on behalf of 515. The authorisation docket stipulated the name of the farmer and the exact purchase details, and this was shown to the farmer. Therefore, why break the agricultural laws selling on the black market and risk ending up in the Royal Court? Brée gave transgressors a verbal warning and that was very effective with most miscreant farmers. Only extreme cases were prosecuted.

It is worthwhile recording that the quality of the cattle straight after the Occupation was fantastic, because the ‘bad’ cows, heifers and milkers, had been turned into meat. Also, everybody in Jersey – not just children – received full fat milk for the entire Occupation.

Jersey was the only occupied area in Europe where this happened.

So, the author concludes that serious collaboration can be ruled out. There were structural relationships built up through having to work together (the German Military Government and the Superior Council) in order that the Island and military population was fed.

**The book, priced at £30, is available at the Royal Jersey Showground, Waterstones, Amazon, or, for signed copies, from the author at [aggilson99@gmail.com](mailto:aggilson99@gmail.com)**

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# Happy 21<sup>st</sup>!

The Harbour Gallery will be 21 years old in December. To celebrate, it will host a special Christmas exhibition, featuring artist and designer Mark Holley along with 40 other first time exhibitors at The Harbour Gallery. He writes about his work



**I**t's great to be part of the Harbour Gallery's 21st birthday celebrations and to have an opportunity to exhibit some of my work there. There's a nice bit of history here too as my dad's work was shown there for at least ten years. I recently held my first ever exhibition with two (similarly reluctant) local artists, so this has been quite a year!

Art and design is the only thing that has ever really interested me for as far back as I can remember. I am sure my teachers remember it too. I joined a local creative agency as soon as I left school and have been fortunate to have built a great career doing what I love, both as a freelancer and, for many years, as a partner in my own agency.

Agency work is extremely varied, which has always suited me – I'm just as happy working to a brief to develop a new brand identity as I am exploring the multitude of ideas that continuously pop into my head.

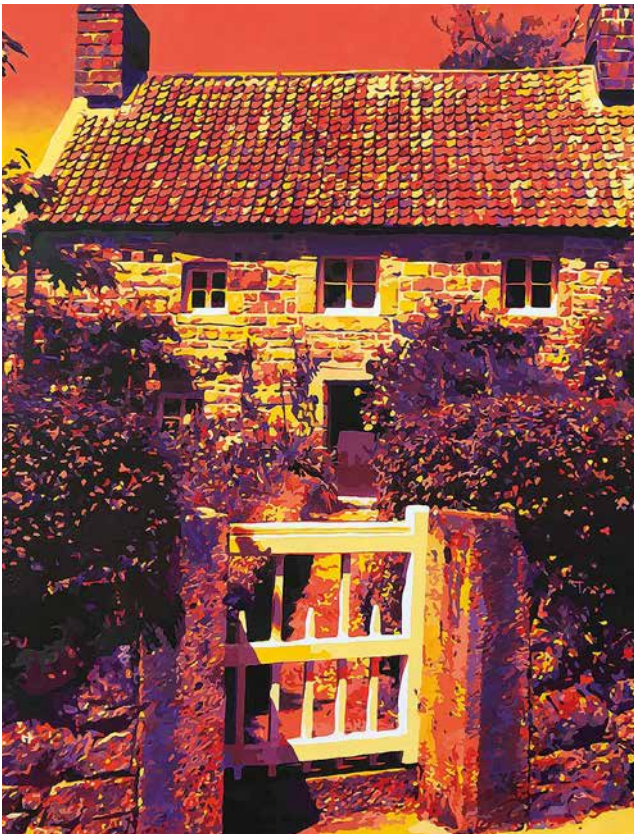
My inspiration is eclectic, from 1970s street art to more traditional artists from the impressionist and Fauvist eras, and local artists such as Blampied and Derek Crow, who was my art teacher at Hautlieu.

I enjoy receiving commissions. *The Cherry Tree* for example was for a local client, but equally I like choosing my own subject matter, such as *Le Rat Cottage*, which was part of the CCA Galleries Summer exhibition last year.

I've recently completed ten portraits in acrylics of well known icons such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Amy Winehouse. The limited edition prints which will be on sale at the Harbour Gallery are mostly of local subjects so please come down and have a look.

**The Harbour Gallery's 21st birthday Christmas exhibition starts on Friday 17 November and will run continuously until Christmas. You can find the gallery at 19 The Quay, Commercial Buildings, beside St Helier Old Harbour**

The Cherry Tree



Le Rat Cottage

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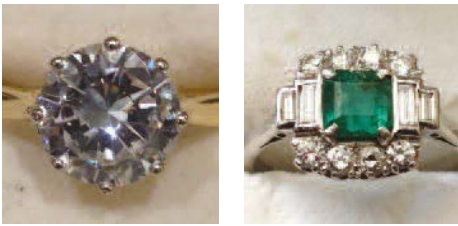
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# Wild

BLAMPIED COLLECTION

The Wild Collection, designed and handcrafted by Aurum of Jersey.

Pictured on left hand page, Cascade earrings and Quiver Tree necklace.  
On right hand page, Rustle and Rosie double finger ring.



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# Created by Blampied



**Designs that are elegantly simple or intriguingly detailed, at Aurum of Jersey our craft is our passion and quality our byword.**

Spanning two generations now, family-run business Aurum of Jersey was formed in 1968 when young Richard Blampied had just returned from his studies and apprenticeship at the prestigious Goldschmiedeschule in Pforzheim, in the Black Forest of Germany. From small-scale but firm foundations, together with a very powerful work ethic, Aurum has grown over the years into an iconic Jersey success story.

Richard's intense pride in the business is now carried forward by daughter Julie, a qualified gemmologist and goldsmith, who followed in her father's footsteps at the Goldschmiedeschule and who leads Aurum's fabulous team, both in the workshop and in the retail showroom.

The business's delightful shop windows look out on Charing Cross, perfectly located at the very start of St Helier's pedestrianised shopping street, and unfailingly attract many longing looks.

Here at Aurum, we are passionate about designing and creating fine, unique and exciting jewellery in 18ct gold and platinum, using only the most beautiful diamonds and rare and exquisite coloured gemstones. In our upstairs workshop, our highly qualified goldsmiths still employ the same traditional goldsmiths' tools that would have been used hundreds of years ago, as well as modern cutting-edge equipment, and each handmade piece always begins with a hand-drawn design from Aurum's in-house designer, Richard's wife, Alexa.

Her award-winning designs may take inspiration from such varied sources as the natural world's flora and fauna, architecture, films or artworks, and every couple of years, Aurum's super-talented team of goldsmiths produce and launch a collection of around 30 unique pieces of jewellery, all designed and made in-house.

The beauty and landscape of Jersey, our island home, has consistently provided inspiration and spurred us on to keep creating new collections, as well as individual commissions for customers on a day-to-day basis, using the gemstones that Richard and Julie painstakingly source on their regular travels abroad.

With a wealth of gemmological knowledge and the expertise in our workshop, we are able to craft pieces which maximise each stone's distinctive allure, giving pleasure to the owners of these little works of art for many, many years to come.

# Old age resolutions

The process of support planning for our older age is not as widely recognised as financial planning or holiday planning but is just as, if not more important, argues Helen O'Meara, *Director, CI Home Care*



**B**irth plans, wedding plans, career plans, game plans, financial plans, holiday plans, New Year's resolutions. Our lives involve planning on many levels... until we reach our older age. Somehow, the extent of thinking ahead and making and communicating choices falls off dramatically.

Over half of us die without making a will; even more without actively choosing how and where care support should be sourced if needed. Or who should make decisions for us if we lose capacity. Many of us don't even investigate the options for elderly care – often falsely believing that there are none.

But this isn't true at all. We do have options as we age, and Jersey is particularly good at supporting them. The Island boasts a range of elderly care organisations and flexible financial support from the States of Jersey. Indeed, Jersey is ahead of many other places which only offer government subsidy for residential care.

In Jersey those of us assessed as needing the highest level of care are offered the same financial support (once eligible) for care in our own homes or in a residential setting, which makes live-in care much more accessible.

So, whether you are self-funding or partially/wholly supported by the Long-Term Care (LTC) Scheme, there are options to investigate. And it's never too soon! None of us know what's around the corner. It may not seem as exciting as holiday planning, but old age lasts a lot longer than a trip to Majorca!

And it can cause significantly more family division. As a care agency we frequently meet families where some siblings want to keep a parent at home and others opt for residential care. Sadly, the decision is not always based on what would be best for the parent but on all sorts of other factors such as perceived simplicity or the availability of the family home for one of the siblings!

Even in the most loving of families not making decisions ahead of time can put enormous strain on others.

I write from personal experience. Mum has made it very clear that she loves her own home, her feisty old cat, her own timetable for G & T's and meals and being able to have us both stay with her (in about that order!)... none of which would be possible in residential care. However, we did not take the discussion quite far enough and her GP is now asking questions to which my sibling and I have different answers. We're lucky, as Mum still has capacity. I wish we'd asked her when she wasn't quite so poorly, but at least we still can now. How much better though to plan ahead and make your wishes clear. More relaxing all round.

Don't know where to start? It can be as simple as picking up the 'phone. Most professional care agencies offer free consultations and have informative websites. You may not feel it's quite as much fun as holiday planning but the peace of mind this planning offers can be equally relaxing.

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# Stormy weather

Donna Le Marrec has the last word

**W**ell, this is written the morning after the night before and we seem to have survived Storm Ciarán.

I was wondering what to write about for this article but no other subject matter compares, given that the Island has just withstood gusts of over 100 miles an hour and a tornado in St Clement. My garden is wrecked, fences are down and the storm continues outside but our small group of eight houses are relatively unscathed and our neighbours are safe, which is all that matters.

I remember the great storm of 1987 as if it were yesterday. Newly married and living at Maufant, we awoke to absolute devastation – all the roof tiles on our small rented cottage were on the ground and surrounding my brand new red miniMetro which, rather bizarrely, was totally untouched. Not a ding in the bodywork. Not the same as now, when my less new and much less shiny old Fiat 500 is covered in fence panels and there are dings aplenty.

I remember having to walk into town that morning, an adventure at the time, and clambering over fallen trees and battered hedgerows as the main road, Le Grand Chemin, was closed and the silence was eerie. It was as we got closer to Five Oaks that it began to resemble a war zone. Ancient oak trees had keeled over and as we got to the bottom of Mount Millais, we saw what looked like a dolls house where the roof had completely peeled off an apartment block revealing the furnished rooms inside. It was chaos, but then as now, the Island pulled together and our amazing public sector workers, the emergency services and Honorary Police sorted everything out.

This time, I am reading news reports of ‘ice bomb’ hail stones and ‘sting jet’, which is supposed to hit us this morning. I have never heard these geological terms before, but all I know is that nature is all powerful and extreme weather systems can stop anything happening.

This had been at the forefront of my mind as my sister and brother-in-law had made the decision earlier this year to move to the South West. My sister was born and brought up in the Island and we have generations of family with roots in both Normandy and Brittany. Having also lived in their house for over 30 years, this move was always going to be a ‘big deal’. Anyway, last week the time had come and the house was sold. It took days to pack up, clean and sort a lifetime before the move to the UK was to take place last Friday afternoon. Four cancelled ferries later and a dog and a cat to transport, they finally left on Monday afternoon, a very short and opportune window of travel opportunity. It was so stressful as they, and the animals, were at the mercy of stormy seas.

Our dependence on the weather and any subsequent isolation as a result, has once again raised the issue of self-sufficiency and how the Island would cope in a longer-term situation. I remember my mother-in-law talking about how the Covid pandemic reminded her of the Occupation, when there was limited food and shelves were being emptied. But for her, the Occupation was a friendlier time and an easier proposition than the pandemic, when people could still gather and talk.

In this present time, with AI and other technologies available, it never ceases to surprise me that we are held to ransom by such a simple issue as bad weather. I can’t think of any large growers anymore that could realistically feed our population. Aside from dairy produce and eggs, chilli peppers and tomatoes (of which there are plenty), we are totally reliant on imported food and clothing, furniture and so on.

More needs to be done about food security and how produce and product gets to us, as it doesn’t seem like these crazy weather systems are going to end any time soon.



Picture: Sara Crosby



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