

RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 48 | Autumn 2024

Royal visitors

Their Majesties the King and Queen visit 'The Best of Jersey' Expo in Liberation Square

In the steps of Stanley

Jerseymen on the Great Zaire-Congo Expedition – 50th anniversary

Special theme:

The home - and the built environment

Making homes and preserving the countryside

Our interview with the Chief Minister, Deputy Lyndon Farnham

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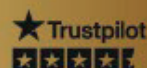
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Welcome

‘There’s no place like home,’ as the old song has it, which is as good a way as any to introduce the special theme of this edition of **RURAL** magazine – ‘The Home’.

Given the limitations of available space in a printed magazine, we have tried to give a rounded series of essays on this subject, ranging from the quarrying of stone for home foundations all the way through to interior decoration. It is certainly a big subject.

Dr Johnson remarked once: ‘Man’s entire endeavour is to be happy at home.’ In that insight, he was reminding us that joy is not to be found in grand projects, cerebral philosophies, or the accumulation of wealth, but in the profound delights of family and the very simple things that surround them.

Nevertheless, in current times there is a note of controversy in the concept of ‘the home’: we would all love to own a home; in Jersey – as in the UK – it is difficult to afford one. Housing development often seems to be at the expense of the countryside and of the Island’s traditional agricultural economy. And yet, the possession of one’s own home is a stake in the community, foundational to a Distributist economy and something, in short, that should be encouraged. It is a difficult balance to maintain.

The word ‘home’ implies that the residents of the home are living there by mutual consent and ties of affection – or civility at the very least – with certain unwritten but mutually accepted ‘house rules’. A good home usually welcomes visitors, but not visitors who want to impose their own world view and habits on the house’s occupants and who manifestly believe that every home should be just like every other home.



In the modern world, we should have every right to keep, preserve and enjoy our long-held and treasured home life, our familiar possessions and our own way of doing things, whatever other families might think about us. In respect of our Island home, that might be summed up by the familiar phrase ‘the Jersey way’ – which is all too often used unfairly and pejoratively.

In the first edition of **RURAL** in 2013, we wrote on this ‘Welcome page’ ... ‘How Jersey’s local countryside, culture and heritage can remain intact in today’s modern world should always be a theme to engage our attention and be a subject for debate, lest by forgetting the local and the particular, we lose a precious inheritance.’

Keep the home fires burning.

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

A handwritten signature of Alasdair Crosby in dark ink, written on a light-colored background.

Front cover image:

Chief Minister Deputy Lyndon Farnham and his dog.

Photograph by Gary Grimshaw

See page 14

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The Club Hotel & Spa
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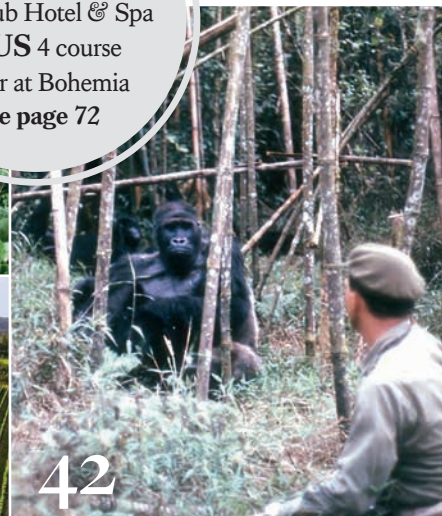
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Over the wall

A RURAL view

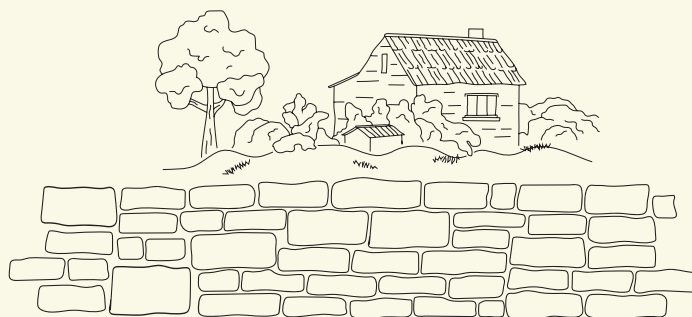
How secure are the fields of Jersey from building development? How can the expectations of Islanders – those who want a home at affordable cost that they can call their own – ever be met?

Government assures us that iconic areas of Jersey – in and around the National Park, for example – will be protected for all time and there is no reason to disbelieve that. But, it has to be admitted that there is nothing especially beautiful or romantic about a flat potato field, many of which exist in all parts of the Island. Could not some of these be rezoned without spoiling Island scenery and the Island's rural character too much?

The arguments for and against have been well-rehearsed and widely promoted, so there is little point in rehearsing them here, once again. There are two factors, however, that have not had so much exposure, and which merit being brought to a wider audience for consideration.

The eyes of developers – or those that benefit from development – have been viewing fields that are unused, with a view to buying them up and, if necessary, leaving them unfarmed, so as to wait for the moment that planning regulations are changed and they become potentially suitable for building development.

The effect of this is that more land is transferred to become the property of fewer, wealthier people – which is an unhealthy trend in itself. It was the author G K Chesterton, writing in the early years of the 20th Century about capitalism, who said that we don't need fewer capitalists, we need as many of them as possible – a concept that is easily applicable to land and land ownership, and which would also define traditional land ownership patterns in Jersey.



Buying agricultural land in the hope that it can be used or sold for development, is, of course, nothing new in Island history. These days, however, there is an additional matter of concern: producing enough food in the Island to keep us going in the event of there being any disruption to imported supplies. What if there were a disruption, political or environmental, to our food imports?

There is a second cause for concern: prime quality farmland is at risk of becoming developed for the installation of solar panels. This is particularly concerning if prime growing areas that fall outside the protection of the Coastal National Park, such as those in the southeast of the Island, commonly called 'the golden mile', are to be developed.

Here, in an arc from St Clement to Grouville, generations of farmers have made big profits from growing their crops – both outdoor tomatoes and early potatoes – and it has been said that this land is so fine that it would, actually, be difficult not to make a profit in an average to good year, when other farmland might struggle – not all fields are created equal.

The first three ground-based solar farms, on agricultural land, have already been approved for development, with others in the pipeline. There will not only be the panels themselves, but the associated infrastructure to take the electricity generated into the grid. Would it not be prudent for the first solar projects to be developed, so that the public can fully understand the benefits, as well as the visual and other impacts of these developments, before more of our land is converted and more proposals are quietly approved?

It would be obtuse not to recognise the advantages of producing energy from the sun as opposed to producing it from the grid and less sustainable sources. But, in the same way that, as is commonly said, 'there is no such thing as a free lunch', also 'there is no such thing as free energy'. There is, of course, a cost: the cost of installing panels and infrastructure, for example. But equally there is an aesthetic cost: extensive rows of panels instead of pleasant, traditional – and food producing – countryside.

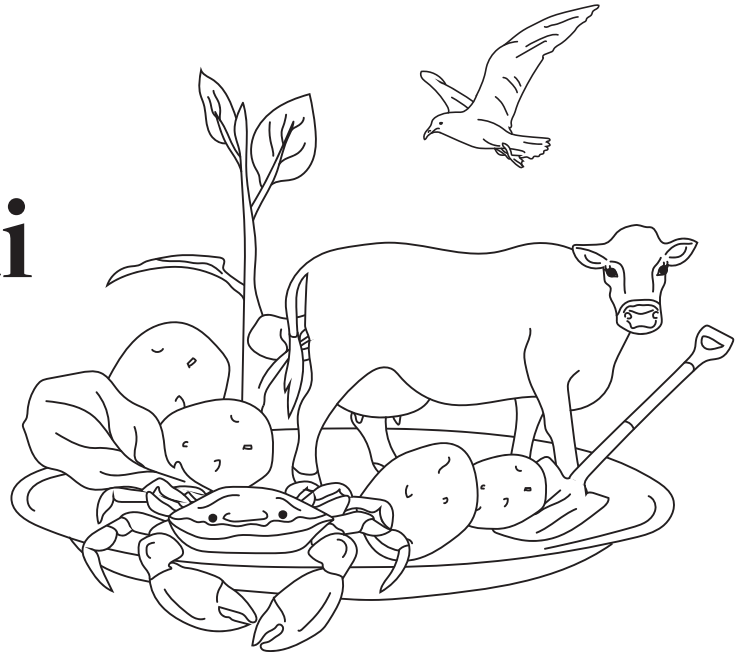
In an Island with increasing food security issues and in a world plagued by food shortages, is it morally correct to potentially develop land that is among the most productive in the world?

There is certainly an argument for lower quality land, in terms of its ecological and agricultural potential, to be developed for renewable energy. But is the agricultural value of our land being given the same level of consideration in these and other planning decisions, as other factors? And should we first not consider developing solar parks on top of our buildings, car parks and concrete landscapes?

It is often said, in relation to building development, that 'you can't eat concrete'; equally true that neither can you eat solar panels – both warnings are important to remember in a dangerous and seemingly ever darkening world.

The Jersey Salmagundi

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



Blending the old and the new

Julie Wallman writes of the joy she feels in keeping old family possessions



My Father passed away in December 2023. It is still raw to think about it, as I had cared for him full time for eight years. It was a great privilege.

I sit quietly drinking from my late grandmother's china cup and saucer and touch the beautiful character of it. It makes the best tea! I look across at the beautiful Victorian bureau with its beautiful detail, that could only have been created by a very talented craftsman of that long-ago time. Then I can't help but notice my late grandfather's RAF hat and suitcases.

They are all timeless pieces that make home feel like home.

My rented all-new flat is feeling full of character now. It is full of items that I inherited together with my sister, and these items create warmth and a feeling of being at home: Victorian old mixed with new furniture. I love it!

I want to celebrate the old and the new. To see both old and new work, and to sit alongside one another and to see old and new long-term in our society – not only furniture but for us human beings as well.

Old furniture is not fit for the dump! Old is fit for being seen and is due the respect it deserves.

Old is beautiful. New is beautiful too. But put the two together and 'magic' is created.

If I had one wish, it would be this: that before we decide to throw away our precious family possessions we step back, think, and then decide if we can keep them alongside our new possessions so that future generations also see the beauty of both.

50th Anniversary: The Zaire (Congo) River Expedition of 1974-75

October marks the 50th anniversary of one of the largest scientific expeditions of modern times – the Zaire River Expedition, which was led by Jersey's renowned explorer, Colonel John Blashford-Snell of the Scientific Exploration Society (SES).

A hundred years after Sir Henry Stanley traversed Africa, settling the question of the source of the Nile and navigating some of the Zaire River, in October 1974 the Scientific Exploration Society launched the expedition to carry out research and study the cause of the dreaded 'river blindness' disease along the 2,700-mile river.

To commemorate the anniversary of the expedition, the Jersey branch of the SES will be holding a presentation in the Jersey Arts Centre on Friday 25 October, with members of the expedition speaking of their time on the adventure. The aim is to raise funds for a man or woman to carry out a worthwhile project overseas.

For the expedition, some 165 servicemen, medical experts and scientists from 10 nations used giant inflatable boats and innovative jet craft to navigate the giant river's huge rapids.

Land Rovers, Range Rovers, a train and an Army Beaver plane supported the four-month project.

President Mobutu and the Zaire Government, the British Ministry of Defence, the Natural History Museum, the Daily Telegraph, Survival Anglia TV and over 340 companies and individuals backed the venture. The late Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip) also gave valuable help.

The inclusion of young people from Jersey was due to the Royal Trust Company of Canada (CI) and the Jersey Evening Post, which organised a competition, thanks to the support of the JEP's then marketing manager, Frank Walker. Two young Jerseymen were selected after arduous tests and joined five other Islanders in the team.

Many hazards were overcome in this challenging enterprise and the success of the scientific and medical studies was widely acknowledged. Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth congratulated the expedition and the involvement of young people led Prince Charles, then the Prince of Wales, to found Operations Drake and Raleigh, which helped to develop leadership in over 50,000 young men and women. Many of the participants such as Major Tim Peake have achieved outstanding success. The current Prince and Princess of Wales also took part in Operation Raleigh.

See the article by Colonel Blashford-Snell on page 42



Giant inflatable (David Gestetner) shooting the Kinsuka Cataract.
Inset: Richard Le Boutillier of Jersey with his equipment.

Horses in Jersey beauty spots and unusual places



That is the theme of a photographic project called 'Jersey Horses, a one-of-a-kind Projection' by a Jersey photographer of horses, people and dogs, Barbara Pustelnik. It will be taking place in November at the Museum's Link Gallery.

The goal is to feature horses in 12 different, well-known locations. So far, she has photographed seven locations against the backdrop of Jersey castles, St Aubin's Fort, St Catherine's Woods, and St Catherine's Breakwater and many more locations, which she is keeping as a surprise!

She said: 'No one has ever done a project like this, featuring horses in these iconic locations. Everything is still in the planning and preparation stage. The exhibition will last nearly a month. I am very excited to be able to promote Jersey in my photographs in such a unique way and show how I love the place and its beauty.'

Barbara is looking for sponsors to promote and support her project. She is open to any possible forms of financial, substantive, and promotional support.

Barbara can be contacted on info@barbpustequine.photo



The RURAL Jersey Landscape Awards – Jersey Summer Exhibition

At the Summer Exhibition of the CCA Galleries International, the RURAL Jersey Landscape Awards' first, second and third prizes were awarded to Louise Ramsay, Graham Tovey and Anna Frances Le Moine.

The RURAL prizes were judged and awarded by David Benest (BCR Law), Donna Le Marrec (National Trust for Jersey), Alasdair Crosby and Gary Grimshaw (RURAL magazine).

Louise Ramsay took first prize with her picture *Coast Land, St Mary*. She received a prize of a cheque for £500, sponsored by BCR Law.

Graham Tovey took second prize with *Teal Serenity* and received his prize of a free weekend at Le C  tel Fort, St Mary, sponsored by the National Trust for Jersey.

Anna Frances Le Moine took third prize with her painting *Vision* and received a £150 cheque from BCR Law.

The judging for this competition, now in its fifth year, is separate from the main CCA Summer Exhibition.

This year, the RURAL magazine competition and the awards evolved to include an afternoon seminar on seeds and seed cultivation, given by environmentalist Sheena Brockie. This underlines the competition's connection further with agriculture, the community and countryside, which are the three core elements of RURAL magazine.

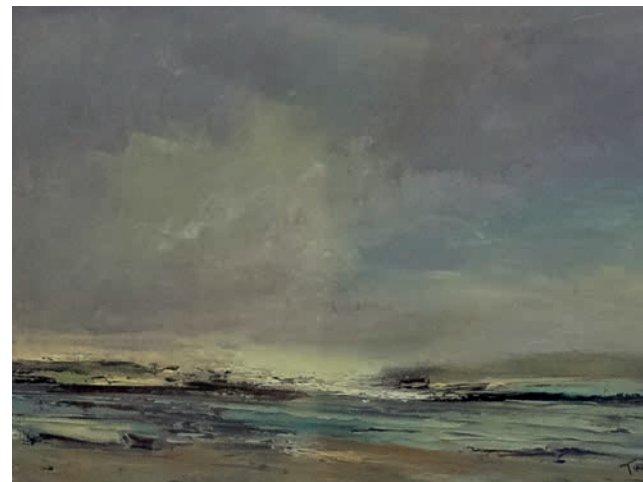
The 2024 Exhibition's Summer Prize was jointly awarded to artists Paige Le Geyt with the work *Amorphous 25 (Contained)* and Eleanor Nugent with the work *Desert*.

The Gallery Magazine Graphic Arts Prize was awarded to Mick Humpage with the work *Milan*.

The gallery has been closed for its summer break from 5 August, and was due to reopen on Monday 2 September.

CCA Galleries International is developing a programme of events for 2024 and 2025. Join their mailing list and follow their Eventbrite page to be first to know when events go online. Or e-mail enquiries@ccagalleriesinternational.com

Louise Ramsay *Coast Land, St Mary*



Top: Graham Tovey *Teal Serenity*
Bottom: Anna Frances Le Moine *Vision*



The Royal visit: *The great Jersey EXpo*

Despite the unseasonable rain, an exhibition of the best of Jersey food, farming, and environmental responsibility was a hit with Royals and non-Royal visitors alike

Left to right: The Bailiff, Sir Timothy Le Cocq; Jersey Farmers Union president Doug Richardson, Their Majesties the Queen and King, Lady Le Cocq.

The rain, when it came down for the march past, was almost biblical in its ferocity. So very sad for the youngsters – apart from anyone else – who got drenched in the downpour. A musician of the Band of the Island of Jersey remarked afterwards that in all his years of marching with the band, he had never been quite so wet. Airing cupboards must have been very full around the Island that evening.

Fortunately, the Royal tour of the Best of Jersey Expo in Liberation Square took place in a non-rainy spell between the showers. A chance for the King and the Queen to meet Jersey food producers, Genuine Jersey members and view their products and representatives from the environmental sector – too many of them to list in this article.

Perhaps the stars of the show were the seven heifers that have been given to the King, and which will soon be on their way to His Majesty's Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire.

First stop for the King and Queen was the wildflower hub, which has been established at Samarès Manor. Jean Drydale was on hand to explain that the Manor had been approached in 2020 by the Government of Jersey's Natural Environment Department to grow plants in situ from native Jersey wildflower seed, collected from the wilds of Jersey by the Botanical Section of the Société Jersiaise, then grown and the seed harvested by the Samarès Manor volunteers. It is the only place in Jersey where local native Jersey wildflower seed can be purchased to avoid importing non-native invasive species.

Before 2020, only non-native seed was purchased off the Island, increasing the risk of importing invasive plant species and, of course, plants as pollinators.

The volunteers have collected over 100 species of pure native Jersey wildflower seed, which is held in a seed bank.

A choice selection of seed and plug plants are now available for purchase by landowners and members of the public – on sale in the shop at Samarès Manor.

Representatives from the Jersey Beekeepers Association were on hand to explain the 'Bee Field' – a base for educational and outreach programmes for Island beekeepers, schools and colleges and the people of Jersey.

The Jersey Royal export industry was represented by the Albert Bartlett Company, with their display in front of an impressive mural in which a còtil near Mont Orgueil 'merged' into the exhibition stand.

Then came the Magnificent Seven – the heifers now on their way to be sent to Highgrove, to the King's private Jersey herd. The Home Farm at Highgrove is run by his Duchy of Cornwall tenant, Henry Gay, who had visited the Island earlier this year to choose the heifers.



Lieutenant-Governor Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd and HM The Queen.

Phil Le Maistre of Master Farms, one of the donors of the animals, commented on the bloodlines of the pedigree animals, the oldest of which goes back to 1879; one of them has an ancestry going back 33 generations. At the moment, the King has one Jersey cow at Highgrove, but a herd of Ayrshires – so this will boost the Jersey presence!

Paul Houzé, the president of the RJA&HS, was happy that he did not get wet during the downpour later in the afternoon. Why was he not wet? Because he was at the Pomme d'Or, at the Royal tea party.

Asked what the King had to say when he sat down at their table, he replied: 'He wanted to know about agriculture. He was interested in the partnership between Overseas Aid and our African project, helping subsistence farmers in African states by improving their cattle with Jersey breed genetics. He seemed very knowledgeable.'

All the exhibitors – agriculture, fisheries, or environmental – were delighted when the King or Queen stopped to talk to them. They were interested to know what Jersey was doing to reduce its carbon footprint, and how it was dealing with the climate emergency and climate change.

At 4Hire, Adrian de Gruchy told the King that his company was one of the first few companies to bring in HVO diesel fuel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil), a fossil-free paraffinic diesel, meaning it can be used as a direct replacement for mineral diesel fuel, and produces 90% less carbon emissions.

'We also do eco active driver training, do lots of more eco-friendly ways of doing things, which is why we were invited to come along and assist at the exhibition.'

Alastair Christie, senior scientific officer for invasive species at the Department of the Environment, told the King about the battle against Asian hornets.

'Numbers are well down this year,' he said. 'Nest numbers are down as well – 51 so far this year, compared to just under 70 last year. The weather had a lot to do with it – it has been so very wet. Also, we haven't had much in the way of easterly winds –and that has really helped us. We've dodged a bit of a bullet on that one.'

Last word to Phil Le Maistre:

'We should do this exhibition every year, as a celebration of Jersey's farming, produce and countryside.'

He added: 'When the band started up, all the heifers came to the fence, ears pricked forward, listening... they seemed to enjoy the music!'

With thanks to the JEP and their photographers, Jon Guegan and George Marriott, for their permission to use photos



Alastair Christie



Paul Houzé



Adrian de Gruchy



The Band of the Island Jersey, on their way to getting very wet.

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Making homes and preserving the countryside – the political balancing act

Life is a balance. So is the balance about making homes for Islanders and preserving the rural aspect of the Island. Chief Minister Deputy Lyndon Farnham met Kieranne Grimshaw

As head of the Council of Ministers, the Chief Minister has to prioritise many important issues. A top priority for him is to control Jersey's balance sheet and to provide more affordable homes to rent or buy for Islanders. There has been the successful First Step Scheme, which was launched recently and has been well supported. The shared equity scheme is aimed to help first time buyers and is in partnership with Andium Homes. He hopes it will help aspiring homeowners on to the property ladder.

'Quite often it's the deposits that people cannot afford,' Deputy Farnham said. 'We can have deposit loan schemes and if people could borrow 100% mortgage with a longer repayment period, this would get them on to the property ladder.'

The subject of housing is topical, both locally and worldwide.

'We have had a housing crisis for a number of years and it's now too expensive for many young Islanders to buy their own home or even aspire to this. Although there is no quick answer, we have to find a solution to that, not least because our medium to long-term forecast shows we're going to see a reduction in the working age population.

'We're living longer and retiring earlier and young people are leaving the Island and not returning because of the cost of living here. We also have a reduction in the birth rate.'

Finding a solution will inevitably also involve tackling the controversial issue of whether to rezone fields for future building development. The Chief Minister would support this to a point: 'We need to ensure we use our land productively and I think we can do that if it's to provide more affordable homes, rather than speculative over-priced developments. We aspire to build more affordable family homes and we need to start building more of them.'

Balancing the need for more homes with the desire to protect our environment is a significant challenge facing the Chief Minister and his team. He reflected: 'There are beautiful parts of the environment that must remain protected. Looking at the views over Les Mielles conservation area in St Ouen is very special. There are other parts of the Island that we could perhaps reconsider.'

The challenge of juggling the drive to protect the countryside with a contrasting potential need for further town housing could be solved by better urban planning, he said. He believes a combination of more housing in town with additional parks and green spaces could significantly improve St Helier.

Being a Chief Minister involves not only addressing local issues, but also being aware of Jersey's place in the global stage. With a Labour win in the UK's July election, there could be concerns for the Island's offshore status, although Deputy Farnham is optimistic about the future relationship between Island and national government – 'it is in both our interests to work closely together.'

He remains positive about achieving his goals within the term of office.

'I'm confident we'll achieve our short-term priorities; there's a short list of 13 achievable priorities which I'm pretty sure we can get most of, if not all, over the line by the end of this term of office.'

“ We have had a housing crisis for a number of years and it's now too expensive for many young Islanders to buy their own home or even aspire to this

Staying focused will be the main challenge: 'We mustn't diversify too much. I think previous Governments have tried to do too many things, and achieved few. We want to reverse that.

'We're also monitoring our progress on a monthly basis, so we know exactly where we are in achieving our priorities. This is also running alongside business as usual. We want to ensure that over the next few years we'll be looking at everything the Government does. I think there's a certain amount of overreach and we need to get the balance right. We need to do what we need to do to deliver, focusing on the essential services and making sure we do the basics really well.'

Following the effects of Covid and recent rising costs, dealing with local food sustainability has never been more vital. Keeping locally produced food for Islanders' consumption will come at a cost. Improved food sustainability will require an increased subsidy for farmers.

The Chief Minister explained: 'This is simply because we cannot compete with the scales and volumes of larger producers in other countries that can grow, ship and import to Jersey for far less cost than we can grow it ourselves. In the supermarkets we've seen imported produce from the UK and around the world next to Jersey produce and the other produce outsells it. Consumers are choosing. I'd prefer it if we could only buy things in season as we used to, because that provides a balance. But now, with modern methods of growing, we can buy strawberries all year round.'

In challenging times, the lack of produce currently growing in our fields seems more prevalent than ever – local produce has become expensive. The Chief Minister admitted: 'It's disappointing, but a commercial reality unfortunately, and our wonderful Jersey potato crop accounts for the vast majority of what's grown here. It's easier and cheaper for the major retailers to import and that's what they're doing, but we must do everything we can to support local growers. I know the Economic Department, led by Deputy Kirsten Morel, is looking closely at that.'



Appreciating the Island's natural beauty is a major part of Deputy Farnham's work-life balance, accompanied by his faithful dog, Winston.

'We walk together every morning and every evening. It's that hour or two I spend with him each day provides a balance for me, otherwise it would be too easy to be completely consumed with politics. I think if you let yourself get too busy, you don't achieve what you need to do. For me it's about making sure I carry out my duty to the best of my ability, but it's always about keeping a balance in life, looking after your health. I still manage to run, swim and get out on my bike from time to time and make time for the family and grandchildren. If you don't do that, then I believe you won't be productive and useful.'

He continued: 'Winston, my dog, never answers back, he sort of agrees with everything I say and is quite happy to walk around with me when I'm making a few calls. It's those early morning and late evening walks that are a great time to think, clear my mind and make some decisions that have been hanging around.'

The stunning rural and coastal paths in St Ouen above the bay are among the Chief Minister's favourite walks.

'I've travelled to most parts of the world, and I still say Jersey is hard to beat on a warm summer's day, wherever you go. We must protect the special parts of our Island. I think we understand the value of the environment, but we must also be pragmatic when it comes to ensuring we have the infrastructure in place to provide more affordable homes for local families. We need to shift our focus and reduce the provision of one and two-bedroom flats and instead aim for small affordable family homes.'

Although admitting the role as Chief Minister involves a lot more work, he considers it still manageable.

'People often ask me what hours I work, and I reply: "When I'm awake I'm at work and when I'm asleep I'm sometimes dreaming about it!" ...'



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Ronez – part of the Island's foundations

Ronez, a company that was incorporated in 1921, supplies materials for construction in the Island, from the foundations up. Its managing director, Mike Osborne, talked to Alasdair Crosby



Mike Osborne.

‘Housing in Jersey doesn’t come without Ronez,’ said its managing director, Mike Osborne.

The company produces heavy building material for all manner of construction: roads, buildings, concrete blocks, solid concrete-framed buildings... most Islanders are impacted, one way or another, by Ronez products.

Mike also represents the Chamber of Commerce on their Building, Housing and Environment subcommittee – so he has plenty of empathy for those three areas.

At a time when construction companies are finding it tough and some are going to the wall, he was asked how Ronez was coping.

‘Things are very difficult,’ he replied. ‘There is no doubt that we have hit a significant storm, whether it be in terms of inflation shocks that have been out of our control, the economic cycle, or energy prices driven by the Ukraine war, or the post-Covid situation... we have endured a lot of headwinds. Clearly, housing affordability and interest rates have dampened the market for speculative house building.

There have been a number of social housebuilding projects – Andium Homes, for example – that have continued, which is good, but the private developers have been developing less, reflecting what’s happening in the housing market.

‘We’ve seen some high-profile delays getting building going – the Hospital being the best example – that have just been delayed, and delayed further, and delayed yet again, whether brought about by financial reasons or policy issues. Backlogs processing planning applications have also not helped the industry.

‘So, all those things have combined to slow down business activity significantly, which is currently at an historically low level. That affects us as much as it affects many other businesses.’

A further challenge is the lack of local sand supply, since the Simon Sand company closed down in 2021 – they had no further sand reserves to extract. Since then, Ronez has been importing natural sand and also using its own quarry-produced sand as much as possible, to offset, through local production, the significant additional costs of importation.

‘But the increased cost is still significant – the cost of shipping into the Island is an incredibly large part of the total value of imported supplies. I guess it should focus everyone’s attention on the importance of Jersey as an island, being self-sufficient industrially as well as in the production of food.’

‘We are very focused on ensuring Ronez is a secure, long-term business that supports the Island.’

Mike continued: ‘Despite challenges, we have a very strong, solid and long future in front of us. Our business is based on the reserves that come from the quarry, from which we manufacture our asphalt, our concrete products, and our ready-mixed concrete. Those reserves were becoming depleted, so over the last decade we have been working with all the relevant stakeholders to extend the quarry westwards. That extension gives us an additional 20 years to work the quarry... so we have several decades of mineral reserve in front of us.’

‘There is a very secure future for the business and for everybody who works at Ronez and in the construction economy that the business supports.’

Turning from the industrial to the environmental, Mike made it plain that the Ronez quarry was not just a big hole in the ground or a scar on the environment. Although expanding the quarry to the west, Ronez has also released land for environmental benefit – and there has been a net biodiversity gain.

‘It’s a great situation that we were able to take something that wasn’t high quality habitat and we’ve been able to offset that by actively improving some of our other habitats. We have supported the very successful release of the red-billed choughs into nearby Sorel, and we are currently looking at options to create a new footpath, inland, taking walkers off the North Road, through a wet meadow, and out again on the north coast path.’

There is also an increasingly strong environmental aspect to new methods of construction.

‘There is quite a significant move towards recycling and sustainability in general, in which we engage heavily. We have solar panels on one of our factory roofs, and we are very energy conscious in terms of looking for solutions with raw materials that have lower embedded carbon. Our clients are increasingly aware of this and wanting to incorporate lower carbon products into their own designs. We intend all our products to have a lower carbon alternative within the next few years.’

‘Recycling is a big part of the construction economy at the moment, which we fully embrace. We are working on a number of projects where we can incorporate a higher percentage of recycled constituent parts in our products. “Sustainability” is not a cliché.’

‘We’re not buying offsets, we’re able to make a real contribution to the process towards net zero and carbon neutral objectives.’

Sustainability is not just an environmental concept, he said, but also a business one. Hence, he is dubious about the importation of units for modular housing.

‘If we’re importing modular housing that’s built in a factory in the UK or elsewhere, we’re exporting the value from the construction economy. Business sustainability – the economic sustainability of our Island – is of vital importance. So maintaining the economic value in the Island, where it is correct to do so, is very important, and we should be cautious that modular housing does not undermine the construction economy.’

Mike has an empathy with houses and housing that stands the test of time – his own home was once a working farm in St John that needed a new owner to put new life into it, which is what he has done, and restored it lovingly. It is now entering its fourth century – it has a datestone of 1724. It’s probably good for another three or four centuries: it is solid, it has good foundations, and now it is well insulated with modern facilities and services.

‘So, I do very definitely believe in building and construction methods for the long-term,’ he said.

Where he lives, proves his point.



Design for living



Matthew Collins heads MAC Architecture, which has designed 37 houses that will be built in a field adjacent to the Sion Methodist chapel in St John

Fields versus concrete – homes versus crops. It is regularly stated that no one wants to see a field be taken out, yet it is sometimes unavoidable in the interests of providing affordable homes for Islanders.

Matthew Collins' practice, MAC Architecture, has had Planning approval for 37 houses, to be built in a field next to the Sion Methodist chapel in St John – Field J1109.



Matthew Collins with the current site.

They will be predominantly for first time buyers or social rented housing, with two, three and four bedrooms. Great news – but where they will be constructed has until recently been a productive agricultural field.

'It is always difficult when you have to build over a virgin field like this,' Matthew said.

'I'm sure all of us would rather keep the field. Government has rezoned fields as part of the latest Island Plan, and this was one that had been rezoned.

Once that has happened, it's best to maximise it as best one can, and find a balance between conservation and development.'

People need houses, of course, but the other side of the coin is – what is happening to the traditional rural aspect of the Island with all this development?

'It is very difficult. I am still in my early 40s, and I appreciate the difficulties people have in getting somewhere to live for their families.

‘Luckily some people can afford to buy existing housing stock, but it is not the easiest thing for everybody. I think without developments like this, it is a well-nigh impossible situation for first time buyers. Looking at house prices now, a buyer would need to be earning substantially to be able to afford to buy. So, this development at least gives people a bit more of a chance, and such developments should be definitely encouraged.’

There were 38 houses planned for the site, but one was taken away so as to increase space for the remaining 37.

‘This is quite a unique site because 30% of the site is to be retained as parish or open space for residents. ‘So that is quite a large park area, which will be administered by the Parish of St John and the residents of Sion can use it. Also involved is traffic flow improvement and other positives for the area.

‘Our client, the development company Melrose Homes, purchased the site very shortly after it had been rezoned, a few years ago, as part of the new Island Plan. It took quite some time for the government to release the full detailed briefs that we had to follow in the design. We had to wait quite a long time to get the full final brief of what exactly we were supposed to do, and what not to do.’

He was speaking on the site, where little has happened yet, although some earth moving machinery has now been parked there, a presage of activity to come.

‘We’ve had Planning permission,’ Matthew said, ‘which is very good to have obtained, but now there are quite a lot of conditions attached to the development permit.

A lot of ecological matters have had to be resolved, and the developer has been digging trial holes to assess the ground conditions. The client is also going to implement quite a lot of intensive planting along the boundaries, to encourage nature and biodiversity. We are hoping to start the planting later in the year. There will be lots of landscaping to protect the ecology of the site.

‘It has been a very collaborative application, and it is a good example of these sorts of applications – everyone working together... the Planning Department, us, ecologists and all the other consultants. This development has really benefitted from this collegiate approach.’

Matthew added that there had been numerous conversations with local Sion residents, who will be able to use the parkland area.

‘These discussions always provide very mixed views,’ he said. ‘There is always a bit of friction to what the States propose and what the residents think is best, but we got to a good point in the end.’

Did he think that the waiting list for housing would ever go away? Or if it did, would it be at the expense of the ruination of Jersey’s countryside?

No, in a word, he did not think a waiting list would ever disappear.

‘The Island Plan that was released in 2022 identified the need for housing, and it identified that thousands of units would be needed. This is the first development to be approved in a rezoned field. There are other ones that will follow, but the demand will always outsource the supply.

You will always have that in an island the size of Jersey.

‘There have been years of apartment developments. Some people see a two- bedroomed flat as their house for life, which is quite disappointing, but it seems to be the way things have gone in Jersey.’

Matthew said he would like to see more senior housing developed, so people could be encouraged to downsize, to free up existing housing stock and to make more desirable locations for retired people, like the L’Hermitage Gardens development off Beaumont Hill, and which would free up housing stock in a future Island Plan.

He started his practice in 2009, working originally as a one-man band. The name, MAC, are his initials, Matthew Alexander Collins. There is no connection with the MAC companies that have recently stopped trading, Matthew hastened to add – his company is still going strong. He worked for 10 years with Mason Design – Axis Mason as it then became – and then set up on his own. There are now ten people in his team.

The development of the Sion field is his biggest project yet. Current other major projects are a development of 10 homes in St Brelade, a couple of very large houses for wealthy clients elsewhere and various house refurbishments and extensions.

‘There are some very good architects in the Island,’ he said, ‘and an understanding of the Island and its traditional built environment. So, everyone should use local architects for building development.’

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Handcrafted with passion

Restoring the past – and building the future. Alasdair Crosby met stonemason Matt Thebault

I love restoration – that’s my favourite part of the job!

Matt Thebault was talking about his stonemasonry company and the traditional stonemasonry skills that he uses in his work. He has been working as a stonemason all his working life, since leaving school at the age of 15 to start as an apprentice for his father, also a stonemason.

‘I am still working as a stonemason, 38 years later,’ he said. ‘The only difference is that perhaps I am not quite so strong or as full of energy as I was when younger. When I started, I could lift a bag of cement weighing 50kgs; now I rely more on my good team of work colleagues to help me out!’

Matt was showing his work on what had once been a farmhouse in Trinity, but has since become a most desirable private residence. It was built in the mid 19th Century, although there is a 1720 datestone (that may have been removed from somewhere else).

In particular, he has worked on a former barn on the same property – built earlier, probably at the start of the 19th Century - that had become a shell but will now have a future as holiday lets.

‘This was quite a nice project,’ he said. ‘It had all been plastered, so we took all the render off it and rebuilt areas, such as some of the brick stacks that were not particularly stable once we had taken the render off.

‘We did all the walls, all the brickwork, the entrance pillars, the cobblestones on the ground surface, and we refitted a cider press that the client had found tossed in a hedge. We reconstructed it and found a nice old bit of wood, to match the stone wheel.



**“ I love the work. Super-love it!
Every day is just completely different**



‘In short, this building was in quite a state. It has all been re-lime pointed and various parts of it have been rebuilt, there were quite a lot of old bricks on site, which proved to be really handy. So we recycled all the old Jersey bricks, and reintroduced them round the windows. The Trinity barn project was a long one, lasting for almost a year.’

As part of his love for restoring properties, Matt is enthusiastic about using traditional lime render.

‘There was a period of about 30 years between the 1950s and the early 1980s where we would put thick grey weather pointing on churches, thinking we were doing them some good, and as an apprentice I was taught to put it on. Unfortunately, it sealed all the damp into the building. That happened to mediaeval parish churches in Jersey, and many other beautiful old properties ... so all we do now is take that out and replace it with lime. It allows the buildings to breathe and hydrate a little bit. Why should we change the materials we are using?’



The granite he uses comes mostly from a quarry that no longer exists as a quarry: Mont Mado, which closed in the mid-1970s. He buys it from the demolition companies, and the granite gets recycled by being passed through a stone splitting machine, especially to use stone of slightly brighter colour than the usual grey or brown.

In Matt's team there are six stonemasons, a tight team, with no apprentices or labourers. They mix their own cement and feel more comfortable just working as a team. He hasn't needed to recruit for some time: 'I've got guys that have been with me for 15 or 16 years. We're a tight little unit. We try not to get any bigger than we are, and try just to keep up with the work that comes in. We don't overstretch ourselves and that number is comfortable to manage.'

Matt added: 'I love the work. Super-love it! Every day is just completely different.'



“ In short, this building was in quite a state. It has all been re-lime pointed and various parts of it have been rebuilt, there were quite a lot of old bricks on site, which proved to be really handy

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The hidden bakery

La Boulangerie Cachée... The clue to the original purpose of the building is in the name. Nicole Castle, who is the name behind Studio 14, a Jersey-based interior design service, is combining her interests in old properties and interior decoration to transform a mediaeval cottage into a 21st Century home. Alasdair Crosby paid a visit

Nicole Castle.



La Boulangerie Cachée – ‘The Hidden Bakery’ – is located in a similarly hidden part of St Ouen. The locality is very quiet; it is quite possible to have a lengthy conversation while standing in the middle of the lane outside (not many roads in Jersey where one can do that). The old part of the home is probably 14th Century, the newer part mid-19th Century – and it is, of course, made of granite, which is why its owner, Nicole Castle, was intent on buying it.

After coming to live in Jersey with her husband, Nicole promised herself that one day she would live in an old Jersey granite house.

‘I just think they are so charming. I love the old-world style. It was a long search to find this place. Literally, every evening I was looking at Google Maps, and walking round country lanes, asking around if there was a cottage for sale. I particularly liked this area of St Ouen, it’s just lovely.

We can go down to the beach, or the cliff paths – and I like riding and there are lots of places around here where one can ride without too much tarmac-trotting.

‘One day, I walked down this lane. I saw a skip outside a building, so I realised I must do something! It sounds crazy, but I had a dream that I would find a home with land to keep a horse. So, when I saw this place, I had really good vibes – especially as a field was part of the property. I looked every day to see if it had come up on the market.

Then, one day, my computer told me about houses for sale in St Ouen. "My" home was for sale with the Living Room agency – it was a little bit out of my price range, but a sale to potential purchasers fell through and I got it, instead. Lucky me!

Bringing the home back to its former glory is work in progress. The big fireplace has been repointed, but major work is still subject to Planning consent.

'Windows, patio, entrance, kitchen – it's going to be a big job. I work with Jersey craftsmen on everything; the pointing completed so far is by Matt Thebault; the old bread oven is still a feature of the living room.

'In my interior design work (Studio 14), I love juxtaposing the old and the new and working with my architect, Matt Collins of MAC Architecture, to achieve that effect. I think the old and the new has such a positive dynamic, and I love these old Jersey houses that carry a history, and a maturity, and which provide a lightness of design to contrast against it.'

Nicole is originally from Germany. She gained a scholarship to study art and design in London and then worked in fashion design. In the course of her work, she travelled worldwide to source material, talk to suppliers and to put collections together. Then she met her husband; they married and within four years she had left the world of fashion, moved to Jersey and become a mother.

She was instantly attracted to old-fashioned Jersey granite houses: 'I love things that have grown slowly, that have a history, that have a story.

I think your house reflects who you are, where you have travelled, what experience you have had and what your values are.'

That same philosophy is maintained in the sense of personalising an interior's design to reflect a client's character and interests.

'When I design a house interior, I speak to the clients, the people who are going to live there. 'I gather information, I highlight their special memories – places and possessions that they have loved in the past and that still mean a lot to them, and seeing them around you when you come home from work in the evening makes for a good feeling. I do appreciate beauty, but also it has to be functional.'

Nicole continued: 'Also, I love nature, and I love designing in a style that is sophisticated but casual – rooms that are liveable and usable. You need to live in your home; you need to be comfortable; you need to make memories in your home, and that is what I love about this house – I love easy living and I like material that is easy going (and I like my clients the same way!')

A mediaeval feature of the house is a very low granite entrance arch. But even with the potential problem of having to treat unwary visitors for concussion, Nicole loves her granite home: 'I love it, and I never want to move – and I will never, ever move!'



La Boulangerie Cachée – 'The Hidden Bakery'.

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Considering colour

By Bryony Richardson, who runs her own interior design company in Jersey

I am a colour addict past the point of return. I soak up inspiration for colour combinations wherever I find myself – from cliff paths to roadside verges to swathes of sun and shade soaked sea. Never the same, these combinations intensify and soften depending on the light and the season. The sea facing slopes of our beautiful Island rotate from bracken throngs of emerald greens and coconut scented sharp gorse yellow, to gradually being baked to brittle cinnamon and sienna as autumn takes hold.

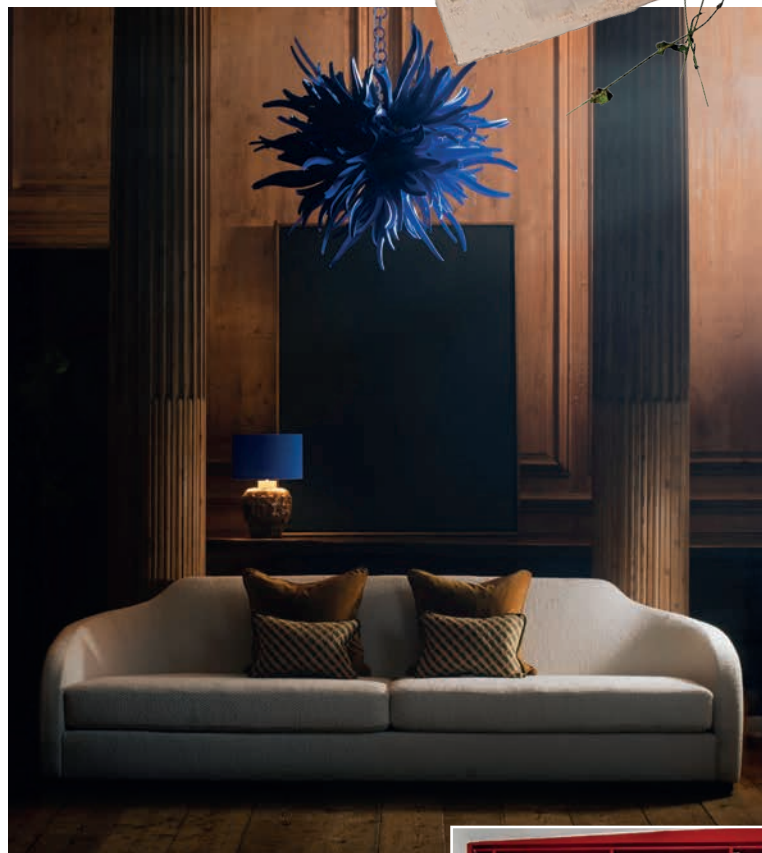
These colours never clash. They jostle happily and harmoniously alongside each other, and this is the bedrock approach I take to much of my work as an interior designer.

I believe that bringing colours that you love into your home can uplift and calm the spirit. A carefully considered and personalised palette can set off wonderful little sparks of daily joy and, to boot, it doesn't need to cost the earth – literally (see eco paint reference below) and figuratively speaking.

Introducing colours to your home can be done in a number of different ways, some obvious ones being:

The Colour Pop

Here, Porta Romana have devised a jaw-dropping scheme of quiet luxury. The original oak panelling has been emphasised by the ochre velvet cushions and earthy boucle neutral sofa. Then, like a water bomb to the senses, you have a jolt of electric blue in the form of their Urchin chandelier and linen light shade.



The colour pop.



Ombre of colours.

The Unexpected Red Theory

Making your way up a neutral staircase – charcoal sisal runner and off-white walls – you're unexpectedly faced by a floor to ceiling bookcase painted in an intense and energising bronze red. 'Unexpected reds' can be introduced in many ways – a red vase within a neutral scheme, red cushions, a red chair ... there are so many beautiful reds to chose with different base notes that will enliven your existing scheme.



The unexpected red theory.

Ombre of Colours

Using an ombre of neutral colours where tones graduate from pale to intense can be an approachable and sophisticated way to introduce colour – especially for those not wanting to saturate schemes with intense tones. Here, you might want to rely on layering in textures and pattern to keep the scheme lifted and energised.

Inspiration from Outside

Here, reclaimed sun-bleached terracotta tiles, pink granite panelling, conker toned leather and grassy green prints bring the outside in. Inspiration for colour schemes can also be found from favourite patterned clothing.

In essence, your home is a place where you can be yourself – embrace your hidden colour addict!

Often, we shy away from colour in fear of ‘getting it wrong – there is no such thing.

If you love it, and it inspires and delights, that is reason enough!

In day-to-day life, a label on its own holds little thrall over me but when it comes to paint, I am an absolute believer that it’s worth digging deeper and splurging on the premium brands: Paint and Paper Library, Little Greene and Farrow & Ball. These manufacturers offer a superior depth of pigment and palettes curated over many years of research into historical colours that really can’t be ‘matched’.

Heritage shades keep schemes ‘safe’ with an intrinsic mellowness as a result of their natural origins. For my clients prioritising sustainability, I recommend Edward Bulmer paints which have completely eco-friendly credentials and provide a wonderful range of heritage inspired colours.

There’s more about Bryony on her website –
www.bryonyrichardson.com

**Contact Bryony on: 07829 880130 or
e-mail: br@bryonyrichardson.com**



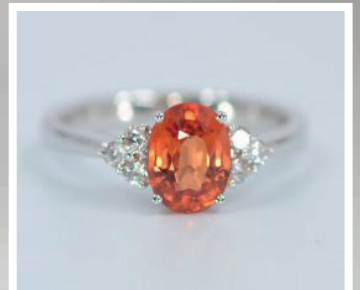
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A home with impeccable green credentials

Buying 'pre-loved' furniture that is not only practical, functional and often cheaper than new, is also helping to save the planet.

By Stephen Cohu

In the 21st Century, with the world's natural resources being put under ever greater pressure, we should all be concerned about the impact our buying choices have on the planet.

With this in mind, you should look no further than at least partially furnishing and decorating your home with practical, functional and beautiful pre-loved pieces, including everything from fine antiques to practical second-hand furniture. Pre-owned anything comes with a zero-carbon footprint.

And, despite preconceptions, many vintage and antique items are now less expensive than buying the new equivalent. So not only are you saving the planet, you are saving money – which can only be a win-win situation.

Pre-owned items have impeccable green credentials – the planet's natural resources have already been used in their manufacture and transportation. No more trees need to be cut down to make a fine Georgian mahogany chest of drawers, or fuel burned to make a Victorian cranberry glass jug.

Old growth forests continue to be decimated but good teak furniture from the 1950s to 1970s is readily available, good quality, not expensive – and now very much in vogue. People love the clean designs particularly of Scandinavian origin.

When there is so much fine quality Jersey made furniture from the 18th and 19th Centuries available, the popularity of new Indonesian hardwood furniture and its associated environmental destruction is quite saddening.

A new item of furniture, ceramic or glass bought new, will have a consequence that extends far beyond the fossil fuel used to deliver the item from its production source, often on the other side of the world. And if you trace back the production history of every aspect of your purchase you will often encounter not only deforestation and its consequent release of greenhouse gases, but also toxic processes used in its production and the subsequent high human cost.

We live in a disposable world where quality construction and longevity are rarely valued and yet there is an almost unlimited supply of antique and pre-loved items that have survived 200 years and will survive 200 more!

We all have to take responsibility to protect our world's resources for future generations and not only does this relate to being careful when buying products, but also to how items no longer needed or wanted are disposed of.

Often, little consideration is given to the reusable potential. Every day there are queues of people lined up to toss perfectly good pieces of furniture and just about everything else into the skips at La Collette. Many of these items could be of significant value but they don't get them checked out, they simply chuck them out.



Victorian cranberry glass.

In our business, we undertake many property clearances every year and very rarely send more than a small percentage to La Collette. We keep the best for the shop and the warehouse and as much as possible of what is left will be processed for charity. Nearly everything can be found a happy new home.

We have to ask ourselves ... why have we become such a throw-away society? Our grandparents, who lovingly cared for and cherished their household possessions for their entire lives, would be horrified to see it all end up in a skip. For previous generations, hand-me-downs were the norm and people would be very appreciative of being given 'second hand' items to start their lives as independent beings.

Many of our younger customers and plenty of older ones appreciate not only the impeccable green credentials of pre-loved items but also their character and history. Seeking out individual, unique pre-loved pieces to furnish and decorate your home is so much more rewarding than buying from an online catalogue. You'll be secure in the knowledge that your planet friendly purchase doesn't come with a spurious 'sustainably sourced' certificate.

Think about your actions and the impact they have on our precious world. Don't thoughtlessly dump unwanted possessions and consider buying pre-owned treasures, the ultimate reusables, recyclables and resaleables.

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An hotel for your possessions

Le Gallais' chief operating officer Robin Sappé described their self-storage facility at Five Oaks

Le Gallais' self-storage new facility stands on the Five Oaks site where once stood the JEP. It is a new building, opened in 2022.

An immediate impression is how bright and clean everything looks.

'People sometimes think of storage as somewhere dark and dingy, but a self-storage facility needs to be bright and inviting. Not only because clients need to see what they are doing, but also it helps to give them the feeling that they are leaving their precious possessions somewhere safe, clean and dry,' said Le Gallais CEO, Robin Sappé.

'We appreciate that the long corridors do look a bit like hotel corridors, with doors to rooms on either side. So, we have decorated the unit doors with some big, colourful images, to add a bit of fun and help give people a sense of direction to find their own storage area. We have spent a lot of time and effort on maintenance and presentation.

“ People sometimes think of storage as somewhere dark and dingy, but a self-storage facility needs to be bright and inviting. Not only because clients need to see what they are doing, but also it helps to give them the feeling that they are leaving their precious possessions somewhere safe, clean and dry



‘That’s why we don’t have 24/7 unmanned stores, which are common elsewhere. We do like to have somebody on duty at all times, just in case, for example, somebody forgets their access code, or if something is not right, or clients just need a bit of guidance on how much space they actually need. We like to offer a personal service.’

A first visit for a potential client generally consists of arriving at Reception – or should that be the ‘Concierge’ desk? – to ask about a storage unit. The concierge is always on hand, seven days a week, and can give prospective guests a tour, because otherwise they might find it difficult to visualise what the square footage of a storage area actually looks like. They can see where their unit is located and what floor it is on, and if they’re happy, they can sign in. Customers have pin code access to the store for ease and security.

If they need packing materials, they can buy that in the hotel (sorry, storage facility) shop and the cost can just be added to their account.

Robin continued: ‘We are on the verge of the countryside, and so we did a lot of planting around the building.



“ We are on the verge of the countryside, and so we did a lot of planting around the building. We maintain wildflower beds and we were keen to keep open spaces

‘We maintain wildflower beds and we were keen to keep open spaces. From the JEP era, we have managed to save quite a few of the mature oaks and horse chestnuts along the front of the site, which screens the building a bit from the road. Many developers would have squeezed a lot more building into an area this size.

‘There are EV charging points, and solar panels are on the roof top of each building – we did make everything as “green” as we could!’

At the time of writing in late July, Le Gallais had just withdrawn from the local estate agency sector to focus on self-storage.

But it still owns many commercial buildings in town and there's an extensive portfolio of large commercial properties in the UK.

Much of the building development in Jersey over the past 15 to 20 years has been apartment-based, small units of accommodation with not a lot of storage, so the demand for storage has increased significantly.

Storage, Robin said, is a really useful solution for people downsizing from a larger property, moving into a bungalow or a smaller property, who find that they don't necessarily want to get rid of all their stuff – at least, immediately. So, moving possessions into a big unit at Le Gallais can be a solution, especially if there is too short an interval between the confirmed sale of their former property and the agreed moving out date.

Once they have moved their goods into a unit, they can come and go at their leisure to sort through their belongings without rush or panic and decide what to jettison and what to keep. Then, quite often, they can move down to a smaller unit, perhaps moving down from a 200 to a 100 sq ft area, and maybe ultimately retaining a 35 sq ft unit for the residue of possessions they really don't want to dispose of, but don't have room for, in their new home.

The self-storage units are also of interest to commercial tenants, Robin said.

'We've got electricians, plumbers and other trades that use a storage unit as a stock room, so they can buy their goods and materials in bulk at a decent price and then store them until a job comes up, maybe a year later, by which time costs may have risen exponentially and impinged upon an original quote for the work. So our storage units can be very useful for business and trades.

'They are also useful for retailers predominantly at our town centre store, especially if they carry a wide range of stock but only have small retail premises. To pay full retail rental rates just for storage isn't economically viable, whereas they can store all their surplus stock with us. No onerous lease and only two weeks' notice should they want to vacate.'

There are about 430 separate storage units at Five Oaks, and just over 650 at their larger Hilgrove Street store in town. The units range from 15 sq ft up to 300 sq ft at Five Oaks; there are much larger units at Hilgrove Street, which some businesses use for archive storage as well.

'Think of our units as an hotel for your possessions, really,' Robin said, 'somewhere that is both safe and convenient for them to stay when away from home.'



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A farming legacy

Peter Houguez, these days the only dairy farmer in St Ouen, talked to Emma Pallent about his farm and farming career

In a world hurtling into the future, Peter's farm survives as a relic of the past. New rules and regulations have changed some of his farming methods – for example, trading tethering for electric fencing – but by and large Goodlands Farm remains the same.

Although other dairy farmers in Jersey have had to introduce much larger herds to survive, Peter has sustained his small farm of 12. His farm is a family legacy, with the lifestyle being passed down through the generations. This autumn, Peter is celebrating the 80th anniversary of dairy farming at Goodlands, where his herd grazes in grassy pastures in the heart of St Ouen.

The story of Goodlands is intertwined with Jersey's history. At the start of the Second World War, Peter's grandfather gave up being a carpenter to tend to his farm, having the foresight to predict a future need for homegrown crops. It was a move that lessened the hardship once the Germans arrived in Jersey, when we were cut off from Britain's supply chains during the Occupation. It wasn't until D-Day that Peter's grandfather bought his first cow, in response to the Allies gaining ground in France. Now cut off from both Britain and France, the milk from the family cow provided essential nourishment in the final stages of the war.

Until Liberation Day, Peter's family were limited in their pastoral endeavours.

'If you had two cows during that time,' Peter recalled, 'the Germans would come in your yard and demand one of them. They'd say "tomorrow morning we will be back. You have to decide which cow you do not want, because we will be taking one away" ... they used to say it was food for the population, but it wasn't, it was food for them.'

Peter's family were resourceful in this time, never giving up the fight. They had a secret crystal radio in the attic, to which Peter's grandfather keenly listened for news updates. In the absence of cows, the manure tank served as an excellent hiding spot for his uncle's MG sports car.

When Liberation Day finally came, the car was lifted out of the ground, and Peter's family began to build a herd worthy of the farm. In the years that followed, cow farming was integral to Goodlands, and Peter inherited responsibility for it when his father fell sick in the early 1980s.





Peter's lifestyle is not an easy one. 'You don't get many days off as a farmer,' he joked, 'the cows still need milking on Christmas!'

It's been 46 years of hard work, but it's paid off. Through using his cows to increase the yield of his potato crops, Peter has welcomed bountiful harvests, in soil nourished by the produce from his cows. Rotating his herds around his fields, the land gets time to rest, and avoids being 'hammered with big machinery'. He hopes that when it's time to retire, he will find a worthy successor to whom to pass on the Hougueux legacy.

Even at the age of 66, Peter can't see himself stopping anytime soon. Farming is his life, and he knows his cows by name. Above all, he hopes he's done his family proud, and finds happiness in the joy that his cows bring to the community. Tantivy Coach tourists practically fall over each other for a good photo of them, and walkers often stop to admire the beautiful animals. Peter's love for farming spurs him on, come rain or shine, through thick and thin.

He could do what he does till the cows come home – and with heifers prone to wandering, this might be a while yet.



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The care we all deserve



Jeremy Mallinson meeting this huge Gorilla.

In the steps of Stanley: The Great Zaire-Congo Expedition

On 25 October, at the Jersey Arts Centre, the 50th anniversary of the major UK expedition will be celebrated with a presentation by some of the Islanders who took part. The expedition was led by Jersey's eminent explorer, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, CBE, who will be speaking on the anniversary evening. He recalls the expedition for **RURAL** magazine



Thanksgiving service on reaching the Atlantic.



John Blashford-Snell and friend with (Sophie) the rare Bonobo monkey.

Seeking to discover the source of the Nile, Henry Morton Stanley set out from Zanzibar in November 1874 with three Britons and 356 Africans. After an incredible journey by land and river spanning 999 days, following his famous meeting with Dr David Livingstone in 1871, Stanley had crossed Africa, coast to coast, finally emerging with only 115 survivors.

The vast central African territory that he traversed became the Belgian Congo and having gained independence from Belgium in 1960, it was renamed the Republic of the Congo after the mighty river that runs through it.

In 1971, President Mobutu renamed it the Republic of Zaire and in 1997 it became the Democratic Republic of the Congo following Mobutu's downfall. It was in 1970 that the Scientific Exploration Society started work on a proposal to navigate the Zaire River, now renamed the Congo. The plan was to use this ferocious 2,700-mile waterway as a route through the Congo Basin enabling scientific and medical teams to explore the still little-known interior, commemorating the centenary of Stanley's epic journey.

Backed by the Ministry of Defence and many companies, including the Royal Trust Company of Canada (CI) and the Daily Telegraph, the team flew into Lubumbashi in President Mobutu's DC-10 in October 1974. There were 165 of us including 50 medics, scientists and administrators, and although the majority came from Britain, there were also members from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, France, Holland, Nepal and Fiji, as well as 20 soldiers and scientists from Zaire itself.

Some seven came from Jersey, including two young men, Richard Le Boutillier and PC Peter Picot, and the venture was promoted by Frank Walker of the Jersey Evening Post.

A major task was the study of Onchocerciasis, or 'river blindness', affecting over 20 million Africans. Botanists, entomologists, geologists and zoologists also joined the expedition, and the late Jeremy Mallinson of Jersey Zoo led a team to study primates.

Various craft were used to navigate the enormous river, including Avon whitewater rafts. Royal Engineers constructed 40-foot inflatables and, thanks to the help of the late Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, we had two powerful Hamilton jet boats.

Encounters with wildlife livened the voyage. An Avon was destroyed by an angry hippo, but the crew included an Army padre, an Olympic canoeist, whose prayers ensured the men's survival! On another occasion, a swimming cobra climbed into a boat, forcing an instant evacuation. In dense forest, Jeremy Mallinson encountered a massive mountain gorilla and by chance we discovered a rare Bonobo chimpanzee in a local lady's home!

My PA, Pam Baker, homed a pet bushbaby in her shirt, who would pop out to terrify the locals! Pam had been the personal nurse to President Mobutu which proved of real value to the expedition. We were also fortunate to find the endangered okapi, a type of giraffe, in the dense forests.

Bands of dissidents were kept at bay by weapons provided by the Zaire Army which thankfully we did not need to use. Accidents and illnesses suffered by our team were treated successfully by our 11 doctors and only two casualties had to be evacuated by air.

The tireless 19-strong international ophthalmic group covered some 6,000 miles of jungle, savannah and river to examine hundreds afflicted by 'river blindness', to produce a vital report for the World Health Organisation.

In the final stretch of the river, massive rapids with 20-foot waves faced us. A giant inflatable, punctured on a rock, was pulled to safety by a jet boat and Corporal Neil Rickard, Royal Marines, was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for rescuing three men from a huge whirlpool into which their boat had capsized.

The success of the venture was largely due to well organised logistics, especially the support of the Army Air Corps Beaver that parachuted in supplies and flew ahead to recce the route through the cataracts.

After 109 days we reached the Atlantic and held a Thanksgiving Service on our flag boat and received a message of congratulation from HM The Queen.

The results of the scientific and medical work and the navigational achievements won wide acclaim. The example and public lectures of Richard Le Boutillier and Peter Picot inspired the then Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) to launch Operations Drake and Raleigh for leadership development, which has created over 50,000 young leaders.

Without doubt the expedition had been a worthwhile project with a good mixture of science and adventure, showing that there were still plenty of people about with the same healthy contempt for difficulties and dangers such as Stanley and Livingstone had endured. This is what the Jersey Scientific Exploration Society is seeking to encourage today.

The Great Zaire-Congo Expedition 50th anniversary lecture is being held at the Jersey Arts Centre in St Helier on 25 October, starting at 7pm. There is an admission fee of £12.50, but tickets are being sold through the Jersey Arts Centre.

Top to bottom:

River Blindness team on the expedition 1974, Pet Fish Eagle (Compo) being given water from a whisky bottle, Pam with Tiddlypush the bushbaby.



The Jersey Seigneur from Colorado

A Jersey Fief has a new Seigneur this year – James Kaye, from Colorado. He met Alasdair Crosby



James Kaye has always been interested in history. One evening, as he was browsing on the internet, doing research on Sir Edmund Andros, a Bailiff of Guernsey and first Governor of colonial New York, he found out about the sale of the Fief ès Poingdestre – a Fief that extends from Sorel southwards to Sion.

This was being put on sale by the Seigneur, Sam Le Quesne, so that the proceeds of the sale could be donated to Ukraine.

'It must have been the universe telling me something,' James said. 'I felt compelled to place a tender. It was a blind tender, so I took my best stab at it, and put my best foot forward, and happily my best foot was better than others.'

He bought the Fief and the title of Seigneur for £75,000.

James was elated when he found his bid had been accepted, and commented: 'I hope one day to attend a Liberation Day in Kyiv.'

'I thought to myself: "Hey, man, this is not an opportunity that presents itself very often", and of course I knew about the Seigneurs and the Seigneuries, and I thought ... how can I convince the wife to buy into this?'

'Of course, I was quite successful there! But when you tell someone about Jersey, it's not a hard sell after that! I think that's the beauty of it. What this Island is, and has been, in its history, is quite remarkable. If you want to protect and promote history, I feel you should be prepared to make a little of your own as well along the way, and I feel this is the way to do that.'

James is a senior engineering manager for Lockheed Martin Space, working in Denver, Colorado, on hypersonic weapons development. He is originally from the southeastern part of the United States and joined the US Army at a young age and fought in the Iraq War. He is now married and has three children.

Mr Kaye made his first visit to Jersey to appear before the Royal Court in order to acquire his new title in-person.

'The ceremony was quick,' he said, 'but just being in the Royal Court in front of the Bailiff let it set in how much tradition Jersey holds.'

'I came to Jersey for the title, but left with friends.'

James is taking his duties as Seigneur with due seriousness and is establishing a seigneurial court – but the Bailiff need not fear that this will be providing competition to the Royal Court.

'Historically, feudal courts dealt with matters of tenancy and land ownership. The role of my Fief Court in modern times is to provide opportunities for court officers to work collaboratively with the Poingdestre/Poindexter family, communities, parishes and States of Jersey, towards cultural, economic development, and charitable causes. The Court's officer positions will reflect the courts of past but allows for new roles to be added, as deemed necessary by the Court and Seigneur, to align with initiatives.'

To assist him in the running of the Court is his newly appointed Prévôt, Rosie Boleat (née Poingdestre), the chief steward or executive.

'It is a very important role. She speaks for me, and you need someone to provide good order and discipline in the Fief, and helping me when I am not in the Island. And, of course, my good friend Melanie Guest started out as my conveyancer last year, and now is the Court's Seneschal (Judge).'

He has also appointed Cara Billot as Greffier (secretary), Gill James as Grénétier (Treasurer) and Constable Mark Labey as Sergeant. Poingdestre/Poindexter descendants and international representatives will make up the Vavasseurs (Jurats), that will help with representing Jersey's identity internationally.

James said: 'I'm also working closely with Deputy Carolyn Labey and her Ministry of International Development to increase cultural connections with the Jersey diaspora through the Jersey Connections project.'

This includes hosting an 80th Liberation Day celebration at the California State University Channel Islands campus next year,' (those are the Californian Channel Islands)... 'where we're hoping to have an exposition of Jersey, similar to what was set up for the visit of the King and Queen, which I was honoured to attend with the other Seigneurs and Dames.'

In July this year, two students from Texas State University and California State University respectively, came to Jersey on a Seigneur's Trust Scholarship to study aspects of Jersey's heritage. They took part in an archaeological dig at La Hougue de Vinde and unearthed a Bronze Age arrowhead. Also being discussed is a scheme to send Jersey and Guernsey students to America. He intends to donate to the preservation of Jërriais, and also hopes to learn the language with his children.

James added: 'If this title gives me a small podium to speak from, then I'll make the most of it and do the best work I can for Jersey and the US, to improve the lives of our people.'



I will be back in September for the Assize, making it my third time in Jersey this year. I'm excited about all the projects and networks I've been able to build.

'Maybe, when I have retired, my family and I will move to the Island – at least that's the goal!'



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In winning form

The early morning has gold in its mouth' – Jersey-born jockey Vic Malzard has proven in her riding career the truth of the old proverb. She talked to Emma Pallent

Victoria (Vic) Malzard is no stranger to an early wake-up call. Night owls might shudder at the thought of getting up at 5.30am, but this feat does not phase the young jockey. Every day when the rooster crows, she begins her mucking out and tacking up routine. By the time many have hit snooze, Vic has got three horses ready to ride for 7am. Hers is a daily routine that humbles many.

Vic's awe-inspiring starts are far outshone by her achievements on the track. Her success in the realm of Jersey racing allowed her to jump across the Channel, to pursue her passion in larger fields.

She currently works full-time in the UK, under up-and-coming trainer Harry Derham, but Jersey gets Vic back during the quiet months in summer, so she can shine her light on the Island's racing scene. Whilst she loves the UK, she appreciates recharging amongst the friends and family she grew up with. As she says: 'it's the best of both worlds, really'.

Being at home allows her to reflect on her roots, and the environment that birthed her love for horses. Under the wing of her mother, Alyson Malzard, she got to grips with the basics at a very young age.

She doesn't remember a day when she didn't ride, starting out with pony club and a sprinkling of showjumping. At the age of 10, Vic gave a racehorse a run, and caught the racing bug immediately. Within a couple of years, she was competing in pony races, and knew being a jockey was her ultimate dream. After all, racing is in her blood – she confessed she's 'always had a need for speed'.

Her life of adrenaline surely makes her heart race. But there is hard work behind the scenes that also gets her blood pumping.

By 12 noon she's ridden three or four horses, heading back for evening stables between 3pm and 5pm. After putting the horses in the walker, she partners with pitchforks, shovels and muck buckets to clear out seven stables.

Once she's filled up the hay buckets and fed all the horses, Vic can finally think about resting before starting it all again the next day. It's a lot of hard work, but if it keeps her on the racecourse, it's a price she's happy to pay.

When you take out the early mornings and chores, Vic finds the jockey-life 'a lot of fun'.

'You are mostly competing against the same group of people on a regular basis, so good friendships are formed off the racetrack,' she added.

It is this team that supports her as she navigates being a woman in a male-dominated sport. The under-representation makes things harder for her. But she looks at it positively, saying 'times are changing' and it 'makes the success more rewarding'. She looks up to female jockeys like Hollie Doyle and Rachael Blackmore, who 'are proving women are just as good as men given the opportunity'.



If anyone is demonstrating this, it's Vic herself. She's having an absolutely phenomenal career, highlighted by her 2021 win at Cheltenham on Kansas City Chief. She's had the opportunity to race there twice, which she looks back on as 'incredible'. Whilst the home of England's jump racing is renowned for its competitive environment, Vic shouldered the pressure with the support of her loved ones.

'It was great to have the whole family there to share the special day with me', she said. She surely made the owners of Les Landes racecourse proud.

Vic's successful racing career is making the Island very proud. It will be exciting to see where the world takes her. We wish her the best of luck with the racing – and also with the early starts.

She's a beacon of inspiration for those inclined to hit the snooze button, when woken by the alarm clock.



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Meeting a huge demand

So many people want to learn to ride, but where can they go? Ruth Le Cocq discovers that Sammy Monins is doing her bit to provide riding school instruction



There is something about Homeland Equestrian that draws you in as you drive down the narrow country lane with ponies grazing in the fields alongside.

Tucked away behind the family home that Sammy Monins shares with her husband, Callum, and their two young daughters, the riding school buildings are hidden from prying eyes, with nothing but curiosity shining brightly in the eyes of the ponies stabled within.

Sammy handpicked the six ponies, all from local homes, to cater for the varied riding abilities of the children, aged between two and 16, who are lucky enough to be having regular one-to-one lessons here in the backwaters of St John.

Homeland Equestrian first opened its doors at Easter this year and Sammy, an experienced riding coach, has been surprised and delighted at the number of clients seeking riding and pony care lessons.

‘We launched the week before the Easter holidays and we were full within three or four weeks,’ she said. ‘The demand is huge.’

Sammy grew up in Jersey and spent nearly every waking moment living and breathing ponies as she immersed herself in the Island’s equestrian community. Then she moved to the UK and worked at riding schools where she taught under the guidance of BHS (The British Horse Society) instructors.

‘Me and my sister were very horsey, so Mum and Dad built the sand school, did the stables and got the fields sorted, so this has all existed since I was about ten years old,’ explained Sammy. ‘While I was away in the UK, we had our horses loaned out and, as they got older and moved on, we had space for more.’

Sammy and her husband moved back to the Island just before the Covid lockdown in January 2020. She knew she wanted to have a family and was keen that any children had access to an outdoor way of life similar to her own childhood.

This seems to be the case because, as if on cue, Mabel (2) appears from around the corner asking for help to put her riding hat on so she can clamber aboard a stationary saddle, while the excited sound of giggling sees Edith (1) using a push walker to explore the stable yard.

Sammy laughed at their antics while being pulled in two different directions at once.

'It's pretty full on here,' she said. 'I'm so lucky my husband works for himself so he comes home and takes over. I can have these two in the morning and do kid things. I try to keep riding lessons to the afternoons throughout the week although I have quite a few home schoolers who come a little earlier. Weekends are back-to-back lessons from morning until night.'

However, life could have been very different if they hadn't read an article in the 2023 winter edition of *RURAL* magazine.

'We were planning to go back to the UK, but then we read the article about the lack of riding schools in Jersey.' Sammy's voiced trailed off as she stepped forward to scoop her youngest daughter up into her arms.

'I really want the girls to be horsey – if that is what they want – but all the riding schools have waiting lists and the clubs don't have the numbers of people competing that they used to.'

'I think it starts at a grassroots level and a huge stepping stone is missing. People aren't getting into it so they can't carry on.'

Sammy is aware that this situation can prompt inexperienced parents to buy a pony for inexperienced children which can lead to safety issues accompanied by a lot of heartache. Other children, whose parents can't afford to buy a pony, never get the chance to realise their pony dreams.

'When I was a child, we would work all day at the riding school and then we would get a free ride,' said Sammy, fondly reminiscing. Nowadays, health and safety issues prevent this dissemination of knowledge and hands-on experience.

As a result, Sammy provides pony mornings when children can practice plaiting, grooming and course building.

She has also held competition weeks for some of her more able riders who haven't got their own ponies so they can experience the thrill of going to a competition.

And what's next for this busy family?

'Well, I know winter is going to be "fun" because winter is always "fun" with horses,' laughed Sammy, giving me a knowing look at the thought of handling ponies amid the wind, the rain and the mud.

'The grass will be greener on the other side and then I would like to cater for more riders, so I'm going to look at doing some joint lessons at weekends and put people in a group. Then I might look at getting someone to come and teach.'

It seems Sammy is living up to the age-old expression: 'If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it!'





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Why not cut me out?

Gundog training

Dogs that hunt and retrieve – they enable the most rural of the dog sports. By Harry Matthews of Origin Dog Training

There have been Gundogs as long as there have been guns – obviously. But there have been hunting and retrieving dogs for long before the invention of guns.

For over a thousand years, dogs were taught to flush ground dwelling birds so they could be caught by nets. Dogs were also taught to retrieve birds shot by archers – and to locate the arrow itself. Some canine historians even believe a dog's love of sticks comes from being bred for this skill.

There are essentially three types of Gundogs. Some will hunt, point and retrieve – the pointers, Weimaraners and Vizslas. Some were bred to flush out birds and then to retrieve them, once shot, like Spaniels. And then there are the pure retrievers like Labradors.

Jersey has no Gundog scene, as such. There are no organised shoots and very few people shoot with their dogs. But this does not mean we shouldn't train a Gundog to complete some of these tasks. Even if you are never going to shoot in Jersey, France or the UK, there are many benefits to training your Gundog, like a Gundog.

The first is the crossover to the real world. Gundog training teaches steadiness, recall, walking to heel and other 'obedience' commands.

Secondly, by satiating your dog's natural drive you get a better, calmer, happier dog. If your dog has been bred for gundog work, then it would make sense that Gundog house training would help with certain behavioural problems.

Thirdly, for those dogs with high prey drive, Gundog training can help to harness their hunting ability. Like an unruly teenager that wants to punch something, boxing classes will help them control that urge.



Some dogs just don't respond well to a walk – to just exercise for the sake of exercise. Working the dog's brain is just as important – and giving them a job, something they can actually do.

We have a working Labrador; a great little Gundog. Of course, she gets off-duty walks, she is never happier when she is hunting with her nose.

Gundog training is a synthetic version of an actual shoot, predominantly revolving around the retrieve. Normally, retrieving a dummy rather than an actual animal or bird.

Some of the dummies are hyper-realistic and made to look just like the real thing. They are then scented so they smell like an animal too and are hidden in order for the dog to locate them with their nose. Like all good training, we build up the difficulty with small progressive steps.

The dog learns to locate the dummy and retrieve it back to the handler. We then incorporate 'whistle work' into the retrieve. So the handler and dog work together and improve their bond, which is what dog training is all about.



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Helping to make lives whole

Kieranne Grimshaw met volunteer Guide Dogs puppy raiser Hilary Morris and yellow Labrador, Gromet, to discuss Hilary's experience in raising and training a guide dog

How true the quote from American naturalist Roger Caras, who said: 'Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.'

It is certainly something in which Hilary and Andrew Morris are firm believers. When they lost their own dog that had grown up with their children, they decided they didn't want another 'full-time' dog, but would rather do something amazing for someone else. So, they became puppy raisers for the Guide Dogs charity. This involves caring for a puppy for between 12 and 14 months at the start of their journey to become a potential guide dog.

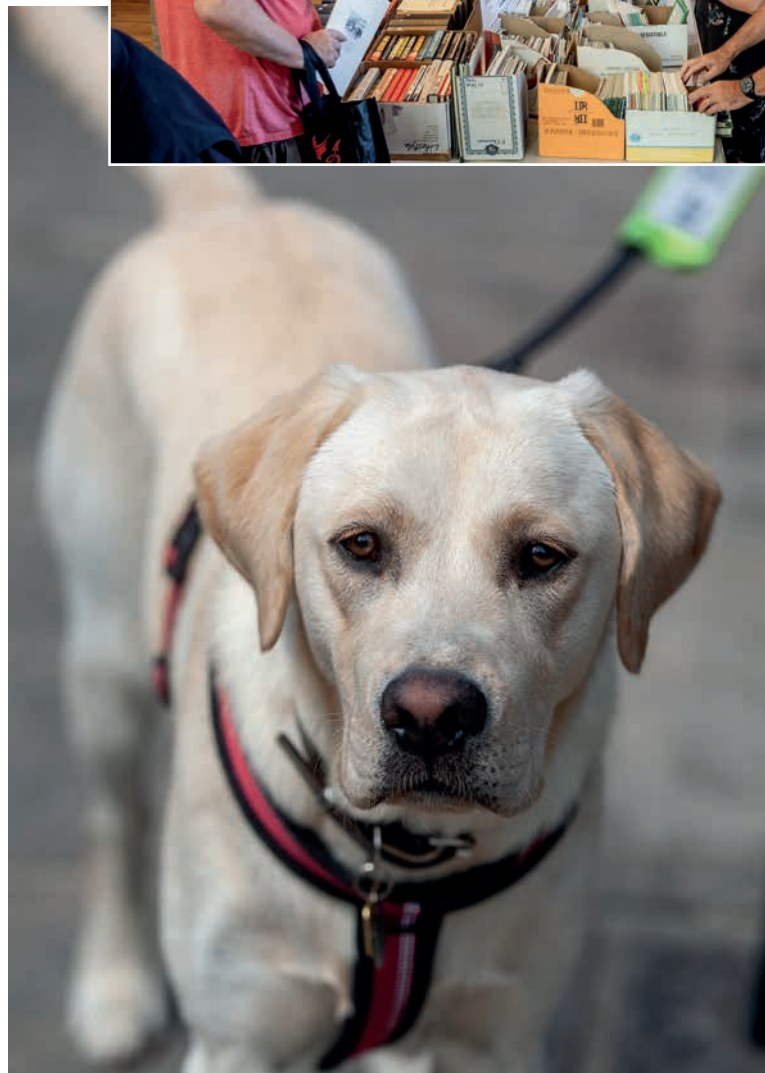
'Gromet came to Jersey on a Blue Islands flight in December last year,' said Hilary.

'As the weather was bad, the private plane from Southampton flight kept being cancelled. Blue Islands were fantastic; they allowed Leanne, the Puppy Development Advisor, to bring the puppy in the cabin with her. He slept all the way; he was tiny, only eight weeks old. But he still remembers Leanne, who comes over regularly to check on him. At first, I slept next to him for seven nights, then I said, "No more" and had to stop!'

Hilary has seen Gromet develop from the beginning. Enjoying racing around their garden with other dogs when they visit, Gromet loves 'zoomies' (mad moments) during his downtime. But overall, with his calm, confident character, Gromet seems a natural for his future career.



Guide dogs book sale.



'Gromet' the guide dog.

Hilary with 'Gromet'.



'Nothing really fazes him,' remarked Hilary. 'He's good in shops, almost like he knows how he should behave, and when you put his puppy jacket on, he just plods along with no desire to pull you in one direction or go after anything. Fortunately, he also chooses to walk around puddles, rather than through them.'

Gromet enjoyed visiting the Guide Dogs-Jersey book sale in June at St Ouen's Parish Hall. Hilary recalled that Gromet was very happy to see three of his friends at the last sale, as they were dogs he boards with when she is away. The good news for puppy raisers is they can still go on holiday because their puppy goes to a volunteer fosterer, free of charge.

The role of puppy raisers is supported through compulsory online training through Guide Dogs UK, as well as additional puppy classes they can attend in the UK. Other tasks involve puppy socialising, taking them into shops and restaurants and making sure they can settle easily.

Hilary explained: 'You can carry a settle mat around with you and once the mat goes down, you say "place". They'll go on it and just settle, hopefully.'

'Gromet has some free time off the lead every other day. We give him a 40-minute run, as every day is too much for his joints. Other days he has just a lead walk, which can be going through town or into shops or to events.'

“He's good in shops, almost like he knows how he should behave, and when you put his puppy jacket on, he just plods along with no desire to pull you in one direction or go after anything

'We took him to see the King, or at least to the celebrations of the Royal Visit.'

She continued: 'I was training him in town recently and we had stopped in King Street, waiting for Gromet to ignore and disengage from a yappy terrier. I was waiting about 10 seconds, when a lovely lady walked up to me and, seeing Gromet's puppy jacket and luminous flash on the lead, had assumed I was visually impaired and asked if she could help me cross at a junction. I had to explain that I was only training Gromet and thank you, but I didn't need any help. We both saw the funny side of things and it was very nice to know that people are looking out for others.'

'Recently we had a training walk with our Puppy Development Advisor around M&S in town. With the temperatures rising and more people wearing shorts, Gromet can't resist a lick of an unsuspecting leg as he walks past. I think he likes the different flavours of moisturisers they're using. This can be quite embarrassing when they turn around and look at you, until they spot Gromet.'

For any queries or volunteer applications please contact www.guidedogs.org.uk

In the three book sales that have taken place this year, a total of £8,296 has been raised for the Guide Dogs charity.

The BIGGEST Book Sale will be held at Albert Bartlett, Trinity Hill, on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September, open from 9am – 4pm each day.

Home tweet home

The amazing talents of our avian nest builders. By Mike Stentiford

As any avid birdwatcher knows, the 'homes' likely to be the most familiar to us are the unobtrusive little nests of creativity we sometimes discover in our gardens.

Not only do birds' nests come in every shape and size but the majority of them are built using an absolute treasure trove of materials.

It's doubtful that anyone adept at DIY has such a wide selection of natural materials to choose from: twigs, grasses, leaves, moss, lichen, wool, feathers, cobwebs and yes, even saliva.

Furthermore, how nests are constructed should be acknowledged for the ingenuity they truly are, when all a bird has as a building tool is its beak.

Homebuilding starts in earnest around April, a time when the security of leaf cover and a good supply of natural food are both proving extra generous. With no fear of planning restrictions, it's the female that generally takes care of the construction while the male, bless him, undertakes most of the fetching and carrying.

Home, they say, is where the heart is, something that can barely be ascribed to the robin, a species that, on deciding upon a place for family-orientated residency, often exchanges its heart and soul for misguided ingenuity.

Man sheds, temporarily parked vehicles, flowerpots, old tin pots and kettles and, on one recorded occasion, inside a dead cat – and you can't get more bespoke than that.

The nest of the long-tailed tit, on the other hand, is really something to behold and no prizes for guessing why it's sometimes known as the 'bottle tit'.

Made mostly from moss, lichen and spiders webs, this small, neat and often domed little nest frequently has to accommodate anything up to a dozen youngsters.

But, should any species be accused of spoiling its lady-love rotten, then look no further than the cock wren.

With an obvious talent as a building developer, male wrens set about constructing something in the region of six basic unlined nests.

Following a bevy of 'open house site visits', Jenny wren then has the privileged task of selecting the one she considers most suited to her needs.

Once settled, her hard-working better half then has the final task of lining the interior – a bit like laying the chosen carpet I suppose.

Another male of the species that does an awful lot of groundwork, or to be more precise, tree work, is the great spotted woodpecker.

As traditional hole-nesters, it's the paterfamilias that have the unenviable task of using their pneumatic drill of a beak to power their way through the toughest of tree trunks.

Having completed this essentially 'boring' task on a number of trees, just one is chosen as the perfect family home while the remaining holes might simply be used as occasional overnight B&Bs.

Attaching the word 'house' to the cheeky little sparrow says it all as to where this gregarious wee species decides to set up home.

Unlike most other birds that prefer their des res to have an element of peace and solitude, house sparrows enjoy the close company of their kith and kin.

Not known for any constructive tidiness, their nests are basically pieces of dried vegetation that are often simply stuffed into a convenient hole in a building.

Such is their spirit of close community that it could be said that their homes form the basic equivalent of avian housing estates.

It's here and along thick hedgerows that high levels of constant chattering give the impression of heated committee meetings.

Not always, but on occasion, some species take the lazy way out by making no attempt whatsoever to construct a family home.

One bird frequently caught exercising its 'squatter's rights' is the stock dove, an indolent local species that often requisitions the man-made boxes of barn owl or kestrel.

It's all a bit of a cheek, really, but it does show that, given the chance, some of our feathered parishioners are savvy enough to grab a literally, freehold deal when they see one.



Top: Long-tailed tit nest. Bottom: Robin.

Campaign in great shape

From John Michel, fundraising and communication manager for Jersey Trees for Life

Last time, we provided an update on Jersey Trees for Life's annual Hedgerow Campaign, following an unforgettable winter that began on the back of a generational storm and ended with a volunteer assisted 13,000+ whips and trees planted Island-wide.

Now that the dust has settled on what was its second most prolific such campaign, the charity has been preparing for the next, which is due to start in late November.

It has also been busy revisiting previous sites, as all hedgerow planted as part of the initiative receives biannual maintenance for three years.

Planting sites for the 2024/25 Hedgerow Campaign have been agreed with various landowners, as the core aim is to plant native species around agricultural land to create new habitat corridors for wildlife – in addition, of course, to the various other benefits of hedgerow.

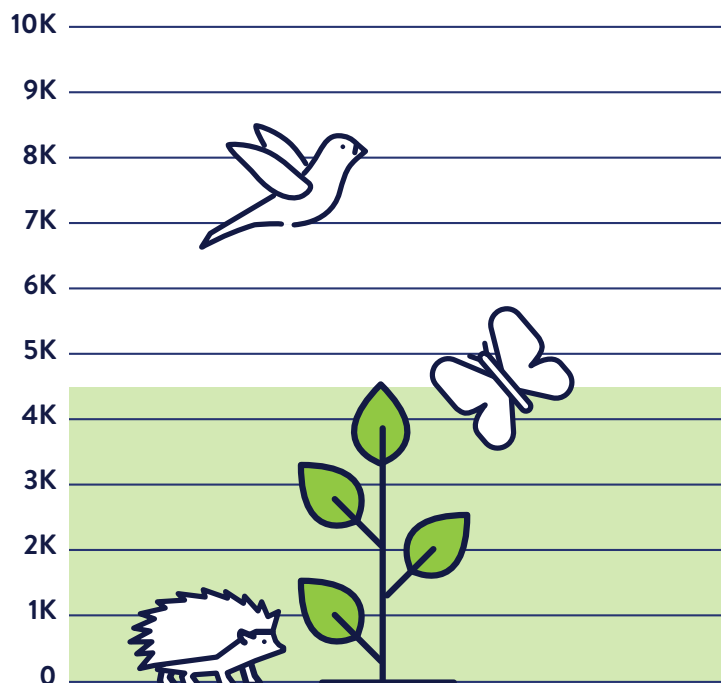
As things stand, just shy of 1½ miles of new hedgerow, interspersed with saplings, is due to be planted across nine parishes – a comparable figure to the last. This, however, doesn't include the Railway Walk, which makes up around half a mile of additional extra tree and hedgerow planting as part of the government-backed post-storm regeneration project, the Jersey Tree Fund.

Alex Morel, Jersey Trees for Life CEO, said: 'We're in great shape for the upcoming Hedgerow Campaign, which we expect to be similar to last year in output terms. The big difference this season – at least we hope – is that there won't be a major weather event to manage, meaning we can focus our efforts on planting.'

If you're a landowner interested in having hedgerow planted, the charity would love to hear from you. You can call 857611 or e-mail admin@jerseytreesforlife.org to find out more.

Jersey Trees for Life's 2024/25 Hedgerow Campaign is kindly sponsored by ATF Fuels.

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Attention all local poets!

Help us to celebrate International Geodiversity Day by submitting your poems and short prose that reflect on the theme 'Conserving the Past – Sustaining the Future'.

Selected works will be translated into Jèrriais and featured in a special poetry and prose reading night at the Jersey Museum, and be published on aspiring Jersey Island Geopark's social media and website.

Submission deadline: 26 September 2024

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submit your poetry.**



6TH OCTOBER
**INTERNATIONAL
GEODIVERSITY
DAY**
THE DIVERSITY
SUSTAINS THE LIFE



Shaken but not stirred

**Paul Chambers and
Millie Butel of the
new and aspiring
Jersey Island
Geopark, describe
the Great Jersey
Earthquake of 1926**

The end of July 1926 saw Jersey in the grip of a heatwave. For days the skies had been cloudless and the winds light, thrilling tourists and those fortunate enough to not be at work.

In the early afternoon of 26 July, just as the beaches were filling with holidaymakers, a 'curious stillness' was discernible within the hot and humid air.

At around 2.20pm a farmer noticed his cows had begun pacing restlessly about their paddock followed by a low rumbling noise, like 'distant thunder'. The sound increased, building towards a climax that, according to one witness, sounded 'like a gas turbine exploding'.

The ground began to shake violently, heaving backwards and forwards, causing people to sway unsteadily as they would on a rolling ship. After 20 seconds, the shaking ceased, and normality returned. The Island of Jersey had been hit by an earthquake – and a large one at that.

The tremor lasted less than 30 seconds but left behind a remarkable trail of destruction. Buildings across the Island were rocked to their foundations, throwing objects from shelves, pictures from walls and moving furniture. Windows rattled, doors slammed and, in many places, cracks appeared in walls, floors and ceilings.

In some parts of the Island, the damage was more serious. St Helier bore the brunt of the harm and experienced toppled chimneys, lost slates, broken windows and cracked plaster.

In Midvale Road, the Presbyterian church spire was shifted out of line, the top being held in place only by the lightning conductor.

Miraculously, there were very few injuries and as the Island came to terms with what had happened, soon some remarkable stories began to circulate.

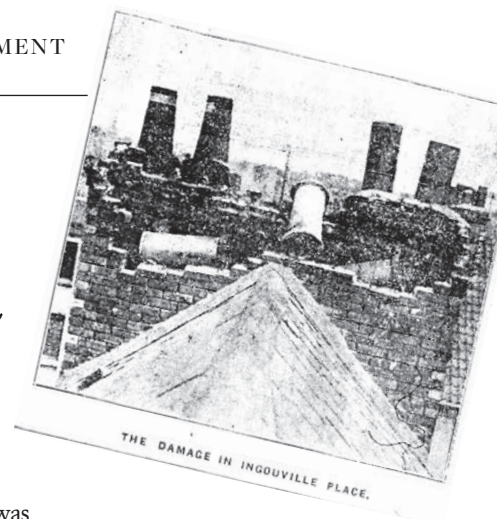
In the schools, children were badly frightened and could not easily be calmed by their teachers, while King Street was filled with people fleeing from shops and offices. A painter working on a roof was thrown forwards and had a lucky escape, claiming that fate had prevented him from toppling into the street below. A fence builder in St Ouen was amazed to see his newly erected posts come flying out of the ground while, more comically, the sound of smashing crockery caused a restaurateur to shout at a waitress: 'What on earth have you done now?'

In the days that followed, scientists declared the tremor to have been felt as far away as Brittany, Normandy and Devon. Jersey took the worst of it with neighbouring Guernsey barely affected at all. Seismologists at the British Geological Survey (BGS) pinpointed the epicentre as being off the Island's east coast, originating at a depth of around ten kilometres.

'This earthquake,' said Dr Shaw of the BGS, 'is the worst that I have recorded in Britain.' He scored it at eight out of nine on the British earthquake scale which a 2020 study has reevaluated at 5.6 on the Richter scale. This makes the earthquake massive in British terms but only 'moderate' globally, and certainly strong enough to cause damage.

Jersey is regularly subjected to minor earthquakes (see www.gov.je/weather/earthquakes) but very few large ones.

Several large tremors were recorded in Jersey prior to 1926, including examples in 1804, 1882 and 1889 but the only comparably big one occurred centuries before, in April 1773.



This was sufficiently large for the then Lieutenant-Governor to order all Islanders to observe a day of fasting to 'appease the wrath of God'.

In 1926, people were told that it might be decades before a similar size quake occurred but a little before midnight on 17 February 1927, the Island was subjected to more violent shaking. This earthquake was rated at 5.0 on the Richter scale but caused relatively little damage, although the shaking and rattling of windows did wake many people.

For decades there were plenty of small quakes but no large ones until, at lunchtime on 11 July 2014, a 4.2 tremor rippled across the Island. Windows rattled and cutlery dropped from tables but there was no serious harm done.

Hazards such as earthquakes form part of the aspiring Jersey Island Geopark which is there to recognise, promote and celebrate our outstanding geoheritage. This geoheritage includes ancient fault lines situated just offshore which will periodically adjust, creating earthquakes big and small. These are detected at the St Aubin Seismic Station operated by Jersey Met on behalf of the British Geological Survey.

The aspiring Jersey Island Geopark encompasses all aspects of the Island's geoheritage, from occasional tremors to rich cultural traditions such as our traditional Jèrriais language, to the diverse natural landscapes and seascapes shaped by time and tide.

We are working towards official UNESCO Global Geopark designation, and to follow the application progress or find out more about the aspiring Jersey Island Geopark visit online at www.jerseyislandgeopark.org.je or in person at the free Aspiring Geopark Visitor Centre, open daily at Jersey Museum.



**Ariel Whatmore,
who lives at Les Aix,
St Peter, describes
her gardens and
gardening work
during the autumn.
Her gardens are open
once every year to
benefit the Jersey
Association for
Youth and Friendship**

August and September are generally the hottest months of year, when it would be good to relax a little in the garden.

But sitting in your own garden is a feat to be worked towards with unflagging determination and single-mindedness. I once read of a gardener who wrote:

'My children love to photograph my behind in the air, as I bend over'. There is, however, an advantage as gardening is reputed to lengthen your lifespan by as much as 14 years on account of the exercise and exposure to natural bacteria.

Even so, it is always a good policy to place chairs, benches and even tables in suitable areas in order to relax and chat with friends and perhaps enable them to enjoy your hard labour. It is also on these occasions that I can spot deficiencies of design or upkeep that need to be taken into consideration.

Then, of course, seating areas are essential for family barbecues that tend to occur during the latter months of the summer. The choosing of a particular paint colour for garden furniture is, in my view, a very difficult task. In the end, after endless deliberation, I have chosen 'wheelbarrow grey' as it seems to complement different flowers and foliage.

When visiting other gardens I have noted how effective an architectural backbone can be.

It is interesting that the renowned gardener Gertrude Jekyll often worked with the architect Edwin Lutyens, and Vita Sackville-West worked in combination with her husband, Harold Nicolson, to create an interesting layout to their planting.

Looking back at garden books with writers such as Rosemary Verey and Alville Lees-Milne, one notices that photographs, almost without exception, emphasise the spring and summer aspect of gardens, but rarely an autumn border. This has all changed with the style of Piet Oudolf and other similar designers who have billowing coloured masses of plants that have a prairie look about them. My reservation would be the complexity of the upkeep as all, or some of the varieties, could prove invasive, and it would often be difficult to divide and control them after the initial few years.

Garden nurseries have increased in numbers and it is important for them to keep the gardener absorbed throughout the year. I have noticed that my local nursery emphasises one or two plants at their entry which are at their prime during the various seasons.

Garden furniture painted with Farrow and Ball grey.



The Jersey climate is suitable for more exotic plants like giant cannas, gunnera, palm trees, and majestic echiums. They add an interesting scale and texture to a planting of herbaceous borders. When driving around the Island, however, it is apparent that in autumn the most significant plant is, undoubtedly, the vast and rewarding range of hydrangeas. They come in a glorious range of colours, are hardy, robust and survive well even when there is a hard frost in winter.

My particular favourites are the flowers of the white and lime green Annabelle, *hydrangea arborescens*, and *hydrangea anomala petriolaeis*, which is a climbing variety that even does well on a north facing wall. These varieties have several newly grown 'cousins' such as Incrediball and the pinkish Vanille Fraise. Along my drive I have tried to establish an avenue of hydrangeas as they do not require a great deal of upkeep and have a consistent display for most of the autumn months. They don't seem to mind the rather dry and deprived soil conditions and conveniently also take well from cuttings. Other favourites of mine are the Villosa group with lace-like heads of a blue purple.

Another plant that is easy to manage and compliments hydrangeas is the variety *Persicaria*. They also flower for long periods, are tolerant of difficult conditions and need little upkeep. I have interspersed these plants with the hydrangeas that line my drive.

Dahlias are also of prime importance when it comes to planning an autumn border. They are showy and come in a vast range of colours and thrive when so many other plants are past their best. In many parts of the UK it is wise to lift them and store them over the winter, but in the mild climate of Jersey it seems safe to leave them where they are.

Other plants that keep the garden thriving at this time of year are Japanese anemones, agapanthus, *sisyrinchiums*, myrtle, buddlejas and even perovskia with its blue spires that are a delight in flower arrangements. I am told that it originated from Afghanistan. Then, let us not forget the *Amaryllis belladonna* (Jersey Lily) and the nerines which are known as the Guernsey lily.

Jobs to be done during Autumn are mainly deadheading on a regular basis and making sure everything is well watered.

Until now the swallows have continued to be one of the main attractions in our courtyard.

The babies are allowed out of their nests and are soon whirling around the tool shed and it will not be long before they depart with their parents to warmer climes. This is all indicative that autumn is well on its way and our days of autumn gardening are coming to an end and we must think in terms of what the winter challenges are to be.



Lillies and astromeria in hot border.

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Small is beautiful

The overall winners of the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society's annual All-Island gardens competition were Richard and Jayne Le Maistre

They achieved a score of 96.5%, taking first place in the medium garden class (100-250 sq m) and winning the Vautier Challenge Rose Bowl and Quenault Trophy.

Their house and garden is nothing if not tucked away, out of sight near the bottom of Mont Cochon. They moved in 40 years ago, two years after their marriage.

Because the garden could not be seen from the road, they were never eligible for a prize, Richard explained. But now the rules have changed.

Richard recalled: 'The garden was a real jungle when we moved here, not good at all. The first job I did was to clear all the ground – it only took a week.'

Next door to their garden is a demolished bungalow, where what had been the garden is still a jungle, but not a weed is ever allowed to cross the frontier into their own, immaculate garden.

The green grass of the lawn is so green that it might be mistaken for artificial grass. Asked how he had achieved such perfection, he replied: 'I mow the lawn every other night.'

A simple solution, of course.



A riot of sunflowers, begonias and salvias border the lawn; a cucumber plant seems to have taken over the porch, rather like a non-malevolent triffid.

Apart from the garden, Richard cultivates a 4.5 vergée allotment a bit further up the hill, where he keeps some chickens and fruit trees – although birds tend to contend with him for the produce.

'Nothing gets sprayed,' he said, 'neither in the allotment nor in the garden.'

Richard works as a gardener for St Helier Parish, along with his friend and fellow RJA&HS member, Kevin Roberts.



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After your lunch, relax with drinks listening to live music in the Waterfront Bar. To make your visit stress-free, we offer complimentary car parking for all our guests. Leave your worries behind and focus on enjoying the festivities.

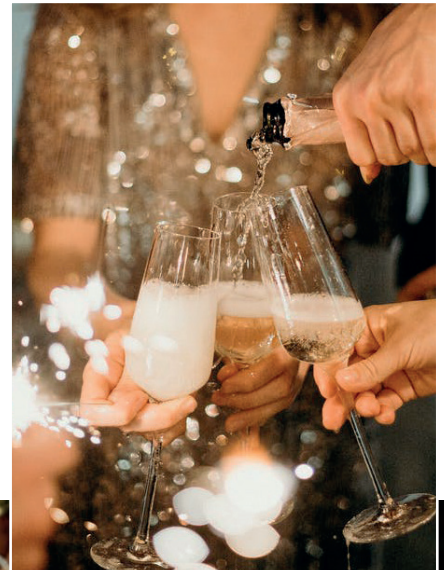
Time: Lunch service starts at 12:30pm and finishes at 3pm. Dinner service starts at 6pm and finishes at 9pm

Price: Adults - £115 per person, Children (5-12 years old) - £57.50 per child, under 5's are free

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Make this Christmas truly special by creating lasting memories at our waterfront haven. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Autumn in the veg patch

Late autumn and winter are arguably the most exciting and hopeful time of the year. By Tom Robinson, RJA&HS Horticultural Committee member



It's been a busy but strange summer with more rain and less heat than we're used to. Every year is different so it's always like you're having to adapt each day.

As we go into September, October and then November, it's so important to keep your vegetables working so you can get the most out of them. As the days shorten, the amount of feeding is reduced, and watering has to be monitored carefully so as to not encourage diseases. As some leaves die off naturally, you should keep removing them and pop them into your compost bin, if you have one.

Compost bins are an amazing aid to the gardener, the amount of green waste they consume is incredible. It is important to add some soil as you go, as this just helps to bind everything together during the breakdown process. Being able to turn over the compost is important as it adds oxygen into the compost which will help the worms that are in there. A little handful of calcified seaweed won't hurt either as it will keep the mix neutral.

Personally, I don't make compost when I'm clearing out my beds.

I save up the old used plants and dig trenches in my freshly cleared beds and put in as much of the old crops as I can; then fill the trench in. A few nice handfuls of calcified seaweed in the trench helps the breakdown of the plants, it's especially important to dig in your old bean crops as they collect nitrogen in their roots so are a really good source of nutrients for next year.

Probably the best part is to look back at the season and work out what has grown well and what has been a struggle.

Broad beans were a disaster for me this year, so I'll change my sowings around and grow them earlier next time. I tried a new carrot variety this year which seems to have been happy at the allotment, so I'll definitely be growing a few more next year. I also had a new beetroot variety to grow, which have also done really well, so I'll get more to grow next year. My sweet peas really struggled with lower temperatures but are now cropping well and they bring such a wonderful fragrance to the house. Finally, and probably the biggest success of the year were the pot leeks I bred myself. Pot leeks are shorter and fatter than the leeks you see in the supermarket, they are not the easiest to grow and this is my best year ever.

If you're wanting to get ahead of the game for next year, there are some pea varieties that can be sown happily in October or November, as are some broad beans – get Pea Meteor and Broad Bean Aquadulce Claudia, as these are the best and easiest to grow. Shallots can be started off in 3-inch pots in a cold greenhouse to be planted out in early April.

November is the time to get seed catalogues and spend evenings looking through all of the new varieties and also other varieties you might fancy trying. Maybe even try a crop you've never attempted before; next year I'm going to have another go at Chinese cabbage – I've tried several times but never succeeded. That's the joy of gardening! Everything works wonderfully in the mind, but it's even more fun to try to put your dreams into reality.

The main thing is that you are doing something that you enjoy, and that is the most important thing, as it just makes you happy.





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Japanese knotweed is 'knot' welcome!

By Katharine Marshall, Partner, Ogier

Not all weeds are, as American agricultural scientist and inventor George Washington Carver once said, 'flowers in the wrong place'. Some are invasive plant species that must be stopped. One example is the vigorous perennial plant, Japanese Knotweed.

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Monkey Weed, Donkey Rhubarb, and Elephant Ears are some of the more exotic names for this plant. Originating in Japan, it arrived on Jersey's shores in the late 1800s. Though it looks harmless, Japanese Knotweed is an aggressive and invasive species. Look out for its reddish roots, tall hollow bamboo-like stalks, and green heart shaped leaves.

Why is it problematic?

Japanese Knotweed can cause significant damage to building foundations, walls, and drainage systems.

Did you know Japanese Knotweed can grow up to 10cm each day? Its roots can reach three metres deep and seven metres long, parallel to the soil. Exploiting weakness in tarmac, concrete, and brickwork, it causes structural instability.

A 2022 government study identified 270 cases of Japanese Knotweed in Jersey and it continues to be a 'growing' problem.

Japanese Knotweed in local legislation

Japanese Knotweed is listed as an invasive, non-native species in Article 25 (1) of the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021. This law prohibits the possession and deliberate planting of Japanese Knotweed, as well as knowingly causing another individual to plant the non-native species.

Japanese Knotweed can deter potential buyers, affect a mortgage company's decision to lend against the property, and reduce property prices. However, it is a legal obligation for sellers to disclose the plant's presence.

Controlling the spread

Once identified, it is strongly recommended to control the plant's growth to limit its spread across the Island. With no quick solution, the process to eradicate the plant from your property can be long and costly. (It could cost more than £5000.)

Japanese Knotweed can regenerate from small fragments. So, Islanders must be careful when removing and disposing of the plant. It is vital that fragments should not enter watercourses, ditches, and green waste.

Bag debris and contact La Collette on 01534 448383 to arrange for its incineration.

Everyone can help

Raising awareness of the plant's dangers is essential. If you spot Japanese Knotweed, report it to the Jersey Biodiversity Centre. Even this small step can make a big difference.

Together, we can all contribute to the eradication of Japanese Knotweed in Jersey.



Gardeners' questions

Answered by RURAL magazine's agony aunt on gardening matters – 'Aunty Planty'

From 'Sunny in St Brelade':
My *Gaura* has decided to grow sideways this year and has flopped onto the lawn where we want to mow. If I cut the stem will it grow another this year?



This has happened to a lot of us who grow the 1 metre tall *Oenothera lindheimeri* (previously *Gaura lindheimeri*) which has a wafting habit and seeds itself generously in our warmer summers, and usually needs a delicately placed twig or two to contend with breezier conditions! My advice would be to cut the wayward stem back to $\frac{1}{3}$ and then it should produce flowers from that section of stem growing upwards.

At the end of the summer, just give it a light prune to leave protection over the winter, then prune it to 30-50cm in spring. This year I gave mine a 'Chelsea chop' (down to about $\frac{1}{3}$) at the end of May and they rewarded me with flower and waft growing no taller than 75cm. I will try that trick again next year, maybe stagger the timing of the chop on different plants of *Gaura* around the garden to flower over the summer as they are so pretty in a vase. There are many good cultivars of *Gaura* available if you want to try pink or shorter stemmed varieties.



Bindweed seems to get everywhere, the trick is to get onto it early in the season (May) by inserting a cane for it to grow up, and you want to make sure you have around 1-2m of leaves to absorb a systematic glyphosate weedkiller spray.

A week or two later, remove the cane, slide the twined growth carefully into a recycled plastic bread or veg bag, and spray the weedkiller liberally into the bag. Close the bag so that no liquid or sprayed bindweed touches any surrounding plants and tuck it away for 1-2 weeks. This should keep the harmful liquid away from plants and insects whilst the bindweed imbibes the poison down into the roots.

Too late for a cane? Just unwind the bindweed stem carefully and push as much into the bag as possible.

From Sarah in St Lawrence:
My garden has been taken over by bindweed, which I was unaware of before noticing pretty white flowers on my normally blue *Agapanthus*!

From 'Sluggish in St John':
Slugs have eaten so many plants in my garden this year, not just the leaves, but climbing up stems to eyelevel! I go out with a head torch late at night with a record haul of 95 in my beer trap... what can I do to get rid of them?



Slugs have been everyone's nightmare with the soggy start to summer, but as I write for the September issue, they should have buried themselves by now!

Here are several things to suggest for next year:

Look out for small white eggs buried in the ground in spring. Take care of your seedlings and young plants by checking the base of the pots and trays for baby slugs. Storing them on gravel or grit works well.

Slugs hide under bricks and tiles in the day so consider leaving the odd tile or brick in amongst vulnerable plants, where slugs will hide during the day as a trap from which you can remove them. Make sure new plants are a decent size before planting them out and surround them with a handful of grit, gravel or coffee grounds.

Water plants in the morning, night-time watering can encourage trails from plant to plant for the nocturnal feeders.

Slugs love bran and will gorge themselves to the point of dehydration, unable to move or retreat home (a cautionary tale if ever there was!)

Vaseline or WD-40 applied round the rim of pots will keep them off your plants. Copper collars are also effective, slowing down slime production (yuk!), but expensive.

Nematodes (microscopic worms) that invade the slug and reduce it to a liquified end (sinister and expensive) are effective for 6 weeks after watering with the powdered mixture.

Slug pellets of ferric phosphate approved by organic growers are less harmful for wildlife than the historic metaldehyde compounds.

Sienna Hosta use a garlic drench to water vulnerable plants once a week. I'm planning to use their recipe:

Boil 2 heads of garlic in 2 litres of water till soft, mash with a fork and sieve into a container (open kitchen windows!) The brew should last all season if kept cool and dark. Use 2 tablespoons in 5 litres water, from February to October.

Encourage predators into your garden, hedges for birds, leaves and log piles for hedgehogs, water as a home to frogs and toads, who love eating slugs.

Slugs don't like aromatic, hairy, or plants containing toxins such as foxgloves, *aconitums* and euphorbias. Roses and members of their family such as *Astilbe* are recommended. Also, geraniums, *Agastache* (giant hyssop), *Hylotelephium* (Sedums), *Penstemons*, *Alchemilla mollis*, Japanese anemones, lavender and shrubby *Salvias* such as *Salvia microphylla* and *Salvia greggii* varieties.



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Boxing – are you a prize fighter or up against the ropes?

Anna Bradstock provides knockout inspiration on how to deal with a mob of green and black villains in your garden

Cydalima perspectalis, the box tree moth and caterpillar.



Has the green framework of your garden faltered? The vibrant green growth of your *Buxus sempervirens* fallen victim to a mob of green and black villains able to create a Halloween nightmare of cobwebs amongst the twigs of their feast in a mere 24 hours?

Meet *Cydalima perspectalis*, the box tree moth and caterpillar. Having fought through Box blight's fungal destruction from 2006, this beastly critter first appeared to plague us from Asia in 2011. Surviving winter in a dormant form and ravenous by the time temperatures reach 15C, it begins a life cycle of 45 days. The stealthy, insignificant looking moth will hatch from a pupa, making quick work of Jersey with a flying range of 10km to lay eggs in our carefully clipped box.

Ariel Whatmore sprays her fabulous box maze in St Lawrence preventively, having grown it all from her own cuttings. I was too slow setting my pheromone trap with its promise to capture male moths by exuding the allure of female company and had to swallow my sanctimonious sensitivity towards spraying by calling 'Ghostbusters' for a dose of reputedly organic pyrethrum. Where's the Jackdaw when you need him? One of the few birds not to mind the bitter toxic taste that the box leaves give the juicy green caterpillars.

Not shy of a horticultural challenge, I explored the excellent website of the European Boxwood & Topiary Society (UK) – ebts.org/uk/. They provide a wealth of information, with a list of recommended combative options offering discounts on sprays and pheromone traps.



Podocarpus nivalis growing at Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.

They recommend sprays containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) which infect the *Buxus* leaves so that the caterpillars eat themselves to death within the hour! A victory, as it holds no hazards for birds and mammals.

Local garden nurseries stock plenty of products, unless of course you want to call it a day and walk towards the plant centre...

So, what are the stylish substitutes for box?

The Royal Horticultural Society have trialled a selection of compact small evergreen shrubs at Wisley (Walled Garden East, worth a visit) and they list an inspiring selection of options to box: www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/shrubs/box-alternatives

For every reason it is important to buy locally in support of our excellent nurseries.

1a) *Euonymus japonicus* – glossy small leaves and resilient nature.

1b) *Euonymus* Green Spire – a robust healthy cultivar that fills out well for topiary.

2) *Ilex crenata* Japanese holly – small dark glossy leaves, expensive, but stunning for topiary.

Looking 'outside the box' (sorry, you knew it was coming!)

3a) *Podocarpus nivalis* Alpine totara – small leathery naviculate (boat shaped... how perfect!) leaves.

3b) *Podocarpus nivalis* Kilworth Cream – a dense variegated cultivar.

Two beautiful contenders for topiary:

4) *Phillyrea angustifolia* f. *rosmarinifolia* False Olive (from southern Europe) – provides a leathery narrow leafed option with scented flowers.

5) *Osmanthus delavayi* Fragrant Olive, and *O. x burkwoodii* – small, dark, dense foliage with an intoxicatingly scented early white flower.

In Jersey, we can choose the more tender options:

6) *Myrtus communis* subsp. *tarentina* Sardinian Myrtle – small leathery leaves with a solitary white flower, makes a beautiful hedge or topiary shape.

7a) *Pittosporum tenuifolium* Wrinkled Blue – silver-blue wavy foliage with dark stems. Shelter from cold winds.

7b) *Pittosporum tobira* Nanum – forms a 'blob' for structure with glossy tongue shaped leaves and scented cream flowers early summer.

8a) *Hebe albicans* – forms a compact mound with glaucous foliage and dense spikes of white flowers in early summer.

8b) *Hebe topiaria* – forms a dense dome of silvery foliage and white flowers.

8c) *Hebe* Red Edge – glaucous leaves with vermillion coloured edges

9a) *Teucrium x lucidrys* Hedge germander – drought tolerant with crinkly edged aromatic leaves and short spires of pink flowers in early summer. Great for pollinators.

9b) *Teucrium fruticans* – silvery leaves, with a more airy look.

Lavender is so tempting, but although it thrives in rocky, chalky soil, it can struggle in clay, with the early summer flowering varieties leaving one with brown flowers by August when I want my garden flourishing.

I'm keen to try *Lavandula*, *Lavandula x intermedia*, flowering in July-August, a cross between *L. angustifolia* and *L. latifolia*, the latter parent making it more tolerant of acid soil. Needs well-drained soil and full sun. Trim in late summer and again to shape in spring.

10a) *Lavandula x intermedia* Alba – pure white flowers above grey foliage.

10b) *Lavandula x intermedia* Sussex – lilac and violet scented flower spikes above grey-green foliage.

Well, having survived 10 rounds of suggested species, you may be reaching for your gloves to plant anew or spray your surviving box. How I wish the Asian Hornet would develop a taste for box tree moth rather than our beautiful bees!



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Cloudy Bay

The wine that put New Zealand on the global fine wine map

Where it all began
In 1983, David Hohnen tasted his first Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Captivated by its intensity, he began a journey to bottle the essence of Marlborough and share it with the world.

He and winemaker Kevin Judd launched Cloudy Bay in 1985 to international acclaim, with a Sauvignon Blanc that put New Zealand wine on the map. Cloudy Bay joined Veuve Clicquot in 2003 and became part of the LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton) family in 2010 which also owns the famous Provence wines of Whispering Angel and Minuty, as well Moët & Chandon, Ruinart and Dom Pérignon Champagne Houses.

Cloudy Bay's legacy began in Marlborough with Sauvignon Blanc and now includes Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pelorus sparkling produced in the *méthode traditionnelle* style. The spirit of adventure continues with Te Koko, a barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc, and Te Wāhi, a sophisticated Pinot Noir from the company's two special southern vineyards in Central Otago.

Cloudy Bay Vineyards

The South Island is crowned by the drowned valleys and greenstone waters of the Marlborough Sounds. This divides into three distinct winegrowing regions that make up Marlborough. Awatere Valley, known for minerality and crispness. Southern Valleys, home to clay soils and the region's first vineyards. And, finally, Wairau Valley.

It was Wairau Valley which lured in David Hohnen. Its' warm, dry maritime climate and stony free-draining soils are perfect for unhurried ripening and pungent aromatics.

Winemakers deserve credit for the quality of wines, but the climate and terroir lay the groundwork. Marlborough is sunny. And while it gets hot, the average temperature is on the cooler side, half a degree lower than the average in Sancerre (in France). Marlborough has rhythm, the cadences of its diurnal cycle making it perfect for grapes. Warm days for vibrant ripening on the vine, cool nights for balance and acidity.

In the 1970s, only a few hundred hectares of vines existed in the region. Inspired by Cloudy Bay's international success, New Zealand's wine industry has grown quicker in one generation than anyone can quite believe. Marlborough's vineyards now cover around 27,000 hectares. For size, the region is now approaching the Champagne appellation, at 34,000 hectares. Marlborough represents more than 60% of all New Zealand vineyards and produces 70% of all New Zealand wines.

In Marlborough there are 163 parcels of vines and 65 grower blocks. The parcels closer to the Wairau River have stony, sandy and free-draining soils ideal for the iconic Sauvignon Blanc. Further south of the river in the Southern Valleys, the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vineyards love the heavy clay-based soils. These soils and Marlborough's maritime climate work in harmony to set the stage for Cloudy Bay's captivating style of wine.



The wines



Sauvignon Blanc

Cloudy Bay's Sauvignon Blanc vineyards sit across three sub-regions in the heart of Wairau Valley: Rapaura, Renwick and Brancott Valley. Almost all the vines live in the coarse, free-draining gravelly soils of the old river valley. It was this soil that David Hohnen identified as ideal for the style of Sauvignon Blanc he wanted to make. This soil, and the valley's climate, come together in harmony to create the perfect conditions for growing Sauvignon Blanc grapes. The resulting wines are pure, vibrant and full of concentrated stone fruit, citrus and subtle tropical characters. This is the Cloudy Bay benchmark style.



Pinot Noir

The Southern Valleys are subregion to the south of the Wairau Valley. The three main valleys, Brancott, Omaka and Waihopai, are rich with clay soils. These soils are home to three Cloudy Bay vineyards – Barracks, Mustang and Delta.

These three vineyards cover the breadth of ideal conditions for Pinot Noir: one is a valley, one is rolling, and one is elevated. The clay soils of the Southern Valleys are cooler and hold more water than those of the gravelly Wairau Valley. Sloped sites give longer exposure to the sun for perfect maturation. Through attentive winemaking, the three terroirs find their voice in every vintage.



Chardonnay

Cloudy Bay's approach to Chardonnay is all about balance and harmony. Vineyards planted in the stony soils of Wairau Valley and the dense clay of the Southern Valleys work together to create a wine that marries ripe stone fruit and citrusy elegance. The key vineyards for the variety include Barracks, Motukawa, Estate, Mustang, and Brook Street.



Pelorus Brut

Pelorus is the definitive New Zealand sparkling wine, and has been since 1987. Crafted using the time-honoured *méthode traditionnelle*, Pelorus is widely acclaimed for its elegance, finesse and complexity. Its' deliciously crisp and balanced flavours make it the perfect bottle for any occasion.



Pelorus Rosé

Pelorus Rosé is the benchmark for New Zealand sparkling rosé wine, drawing on over 30 years of heritage from the original Pelorus. Crafted using the *méthode traditionnelle*, Pelorus Rosé has reinforced the reputation of the original Pelorus with its elegance, finesse and complexity.



All the wines are available from Liberation Quality Drinks, Longueville Business Centre, Longueville Road, St Saviour, JE2 7SW. Tel: 01534 764066 Email: vhshop@liberationgroup.com www.liberationqualitydrinks.jp

Classic fun

The Jersey Classic Vehicle Club is one of several car enthusiast clubs in the Island.

Alasdair Crosby profiles the club

Anyone who has been driving for longer than 20 years is sure to have driven a 'classic car' at some stage of their driving career. Ford Cortina, Volkswagen Beetle, Sunbeam-Talbot ... some of us may be driving a 'classic car' at the moment, under the impression that it is just getting a bit old and ought to be replaced some time.

At the moment, any car aged 20 years or above is classed as a classic car. Over 200 Islanders are members of the Jersey Classic Vehicle Club and between them they own in excess of 300 vehicles.

Any car registered before 1951 qualifies for the next classification of 'oldies', and these 'Vintage' or 'Veteran' car categories are represented by the Jersey Old Motor Club.

The Jersey Classic Vehicle Club chairman is Frank Laurens; vice chairman is his wife, Pam. He is in his second year as chairman. 'It is a very enjoyable post,' he said. 'We accept most cars over 20 years old – we're all petrol heads!'

One of Frank's collection is a 1953 MG TF, (mid-engined, rear wheel drive). He has owned it for about three to four years and works on it himself.

'I'm lucky,' he said. 'Car repairs, bodywork and painting have been my trade all my life. I began my trade at the age of 15 years at First Tower Garage. I worked at Falles Garage, and then was self-employed for over 40 years.'

'My favourite car is the E-Type Jaguar Series 2, fixed head coupé. I also have a 1959 Austin Metropolitan; this make of car was the first car I drove, and I managed to find one in the Island in the same colour scheme as my original one.'

At a meeting this summer in Liberation Square, among the vehicle owners were Richard Anderson who has owned a 1959 MGA 1600 Roadster Mark 1 for the past 12 years. He owns quite a few cars, including a Mini Cooper Sport 2000 and a couple of old Porsches, a yellow 'hot rod' and a Morgan.

Club chairman Frank Laurens driving his MG TF.



Trevor Gallichan was showing off a Ford Consul Mark 2, first registered in 1960 to Laurence Motors (Luxicabs) and used as a taxi until 1965. It was owned by Stanley Le Montais who owned it for 35 years and since then it has changed hands a few times.

Trevor owns five other cars: 'It's been my hobby for years! I retired recently, which has given me more time for my cars.'

Robin Pallot was with his Sunbeam-Talbot 90, registered in 1954, the year before the make won the 1955 Monte Carlo rally.

'It is a brilliant car for driving – very sporty. Just an ordinary 4cc engine, very well made and very well designed. I just love the shape of it – gorgeous! It is typical of the British motor industry of the 1950s, when everything was going along swimmingly, and no threat as yet from Japanese car manufacturers.'

The Jersey Classic Vehicle Club was formed in 1992 by a small group of enthusiasts who felt that the owners of classic vehicles were not being catered for in the Island, in other words, vehicles which did not fall into the vintage or veteran category. Interest soon increased and the club grew quickly with a whole range of vehicles joining in, including cars, motorcycles, commercials, tractors and military vehicles.

As the club grew the number of events held during the year increased, with drives out and static displays taking place at different venues, plus the regular club meetings which are held on the last Sunday of each month, currently at St Clement's Parish Hall commencing at 10.30am.

It is not just classic motor cars that comprise the Island collection of classic vehicles, but classic tractors as well. There are regular 'tractor runs' or cavalcades through the countryside, of around two dozen tractors at a time.

Numerous events, get-togethers and socials are held throughout the year.

If you have a classic vehicle or are simply interested in classic motoring, please feel free to contact the club by e-mail on jerseyclassic@hotmail.com or just come along to one of the Sunday meetings.



1947 Front end of a Bedford Lorry owned by Roger Thomas



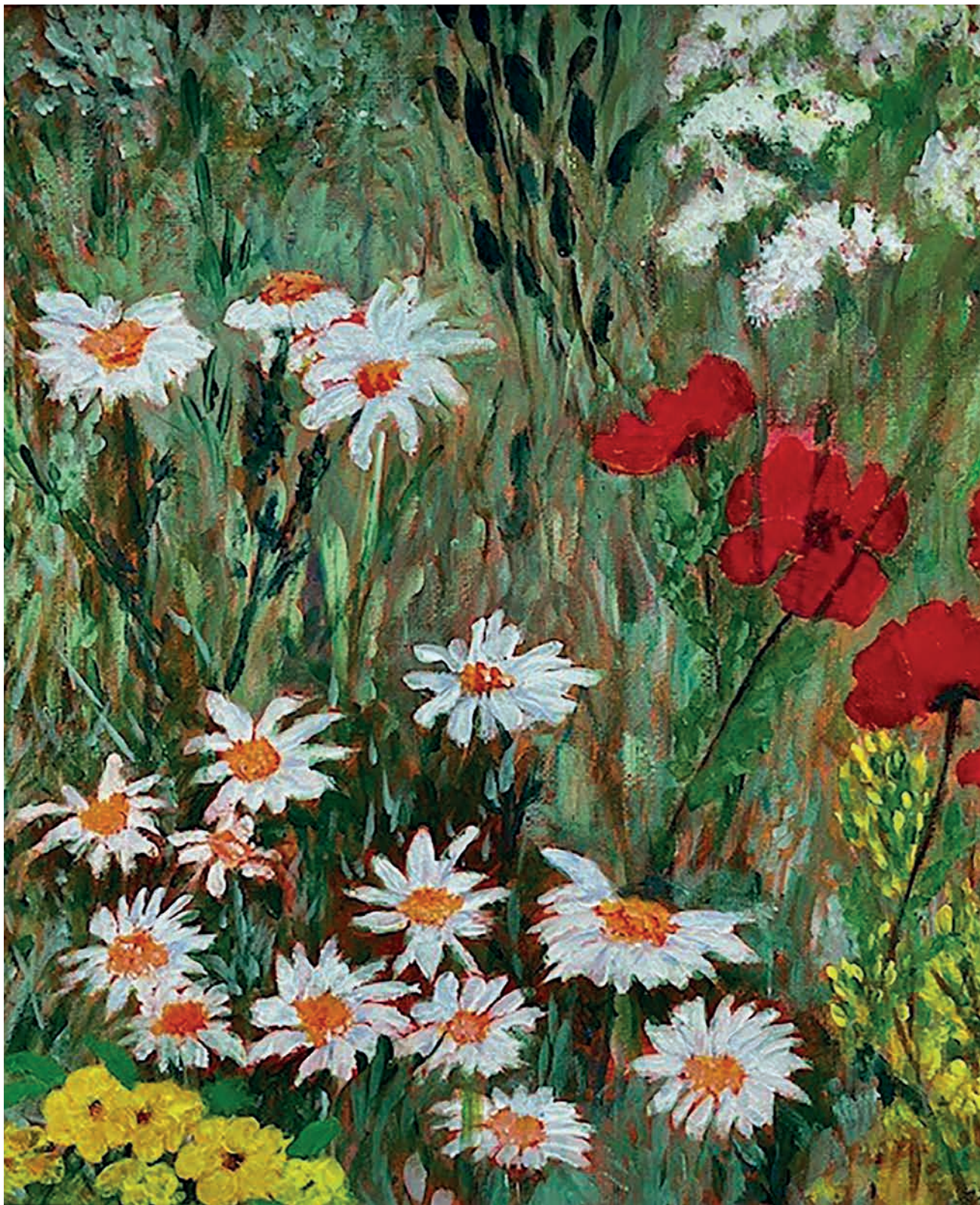
1943 Willys Jeep owned by Edward Pipon

“ It is a very enjoyable past... We accept most cars over 20 years old – we're all petrol heads!

'Should anyone join the club, they can be assured of a warm welcome from friends with a mutual interest,' Frank said.

'It's quite a happy club, to be honest.'

For more details, see www.jerseyclassicvehicleclub.je



Sally Reading *Wildflowers*



The Jersey Society of Artists

The society's president, Sally Reading, writes

We had a fun and fundraising sale, auction and raffle recently at St Ouen's Community Centre. Some of the auction lots on offer were 'Have your Portrait painted'; 'Have your Pet painted'; 'Have a garden or house makeover consultation'; golf round at the Royal Jersey Golf Club (money can't normally buy this treat); art lesson; case of wine; Jeroboam of wine (a must for parties). There were also loads of art-related stuff in the sale including books, paints, canvases, prints etc, and a raffle with great prizes. It was much enjoyed by visitors and members alike.

Also very popular was our new 2025 calendar featuring some of our artists' work. This will be on sale at other outlets.

The next treat will be the Society's new exhibition **Celebration of Colour**. This time it is being held at David Hick Interiors, Carrefour Selous, from Saturday 5 October until Saturday 12 October (closed Sunday and Monday). This will definitely be celebrating Jersey artists at their best. From our June exhibition, the Lieutenant-Governor, Vice Admiral Jerry Kyd, and his wife, Dr Karen Kyd, chose one of our member's paintings for Government House. This was *The Lavender Farm* by Brian Marr and we are very thrilled about this honour.

The Society has been thriving for the past 60 years and continues to provide a meeting point for artistic locals. Sessions are held currently three times weekly at the St Ouen Community Centre base, and caters for artists in all media – drawing, acrylics, watercolour, oils. There are Life and Portrait sessions plus Still Life, and members are welcome to use the studio for their own work.

Summer months see members painting outdoors at various venues, both public and private, which is always a treat. During the other months, tutorials are organised with both visiting and local professional artists.

The Society is a very friendly, welcoming club and holds several social get-togethers during the year.

The presidential term of the current president, Sally Reading, will finish after 3½ years at the end of October and the Society will then again move onwards and upwards as it has done for the past 60 plus years.

So – watch this space!

A forgotten house

Michael Blackie has the last word

Walking with my wife, Jane, in St Lawrence earlier this year, I noticed a datestone set into the wall at the Bel Royal end of La Rue de Haut.

Inscribed on the stone, which was clearly very much older than the wall, is 'PGB ED 1802'. Remarking on the oddity of the stone having little apparent connection with its lapidary surroundings, my wife said 'PGB stands for Philippe Gibaut and he is one of my ancestors'. Some people might have been surprised at this coincidence, but I have been in Jersey long enough to know that the familial connections of Jersey folk make a spider's web look somewhat elementary.

The Gibaut family of Jersey goes back centuries, but I made my starting point Moise Gibaut (1732 - 1796). He had two sons – the younger, also Moise, born in 1766. His grandson was Peter Falla of St John who brought the first car into the Island in 1899.

The older Moise's elder son was the Philippe commemorated on the datestone. In 1794, he married Elizabeth Dean, the daughter (and, significantly, heiress) of Jean Dean, a shipowner of considerable means. It was Elizabeth's inheritance that allowed the couple to build the house of which the datestone once formed a part. This was Mainland.

The land had been in the Gibaut family for many years and there were already properties there. The house they built in 1802 was much enhanced in 1850 by their son, another Moise (nearly always referred to as Moses Gibaut of Mainland), a one-time Deputy for St Lawrence. He was born in 1809, was married four times, but was widowed every time. His second wife, Henriette, died in 1860 of a heart attack as she descended from a bathing machine 'for the purpose of taking a seawater bath'.

Moses married again in 1870, but his wife died three years later. In 1875, he married Georgina Elizabeth Poingdestre, who was his junior by 41 years. She outlived him by 26 years, dying at Sandybrook House in St Peter in 1922. Despite this uxorial accumulation, Moses died without issue.

With the improvements of 1850, Mainland became an elegant example of a Jersey 'Cod House'. Joan Stevens in *Old Jersey Houses, Volume II*, writes that the house was built to a 'design in which everything was sacrificed to the grand entrance, the hall and the entertainment rooms'.

The grounds were given over to the successful cultivation of various crops and flowers. In 1856, a French agricultural society from Rouen visited the Island and reported that the best managed orchards and the heaviest crops were found at Mainland.

In 1859, the *Jersey Independent* and *Daily Telegraph* newspapers reported on the Jersey Horticultural Society's Flower Show at which Moses was 'the successful winner of prizes, gaining second prize for his ferns and first prize for his petunias'.

Later in the year, the paper reported on the RJA&HS's annual exhibition at which Moses was the winner of the first prize for 36 ferns and also a collection of petunias and roses, 'in the cultivation of which this gentleman excels'.

The JI and DT were not above being critical. We may think that the JEP is sometimes a little scathing of authority, but it is mildness itself by comparison. The EP edition that reported on Moses' successes also considered 'Mr F Bertram's stand the best, although it did not get first prize, owing to some conventional arrangement "as to turns" of the Managing Committee. With their private opinions, we do not interfere, but in their capacity as the Officers of a Public Institution, we call upon them to drop their red tapism and act like men.' Crumbs!

Sadly, and to considerable consternation at the time, Mainland was demolished in 1975, though a number of treasures were preserved – amongst which were two staircases and the two gateposts surmounted by splendid pineapples which found a new home in a northern parish.

With thanks for the help in research afforded by the Société Jersiaise, Jersey Archive and Jersey Library



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