

RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 51 | Summer 2025

**The future of
food production
in Jersey...**

...and the future of the
Central Market

**Tranquil and
enchanting**

The magnificent gardens
of Rosel Manor

2025 special theme:
**The future of
rural Jersey**

**Horse riding
in Jersey**

Making sure of a future
for this threatened sport

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Welcome

This edition has a special theme of horse riding in Jersey. It fits into our wider, year-long special theme of Jersey futures... what will the future hold for well-loved aspects of our way of life in the Island?

On the face of it, the answer to the question: 'What does the future hold for the Island's equestrian community?' might not seem terribly upbeat. There are far fewer horses in Jersey than there were even 20 years ago – far less than 1,000. Equestrian clubs and activities attract fewer participants. The Drag Hunt is now just merely a cross-country riding activity, without hounds. There are fewer riding schools, making it more difficult for those who want to learn to ride, or to hire horses for a day out hacking.

For those with horses, the number of bridle paths has decreased: several of those that still exist or have not been blocked off by landowners tend to require maintenance and are unused... these are just a few of the impediments to a more vibrant equestrian sector.

Also, more generally speaking, all outdoor activities and associations – social or sporting – are challenged by the contemporary lack of interest or lack of leisure hours that are a sign of modern times. Children, again speaking generally, seem happier indoors on their phones and computers than enjoying the outdoors.

Conversely, there is still great interest in riding: a new riding school that has opened in Trinity has proved to be very successful and already has a long waiting list for lessons. If only there were more opportunities for riding and learning to ride!



RURAL magazine's interest in riding is part of its enthusiasm for enjoying the Island's countryside, and it will support the equestrian sector, as best it can, to confront its contemporary challenges.

The establishment of a Jersey Horse Association, for example, aimed at being a conduit for government support and to promote the sector, is one welcome ray of light amid the gloomy present. Anyone who wants to be more involved with horses and riding should contact its secretary, Rebecca Flath, on info@jerseyhorseassociation.com

So, is the end of horse riding as a sport in Jersey nigh? Not if we care sufficiently to avoid such a dire outcome. We sincerely hope the answer to that question is 'nay'... or should that be 'neigh'?

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

A handwritten signature of Alasdair Crosby in dark ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.



Front cover image:

Derek Clackett
President of the Jersey Horse Association
Photograph by Gary Grimshaw
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WIN

Dinner for two
at Colmar with a
glass of bubbles!
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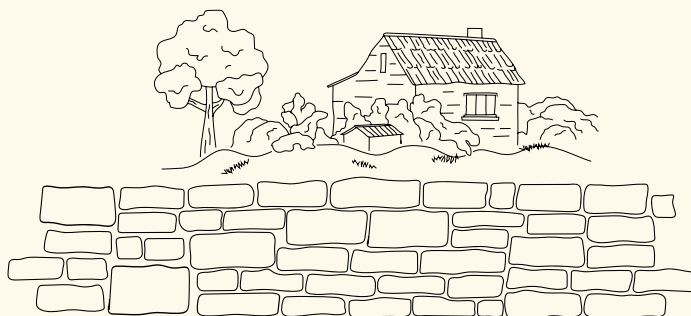
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Over the wall

A RURAL view



Access to the countryside – it is a theme that emerges regularly in Jersey, just as it does, writ large, in the UK.

Lucky are those Islanders who, through land ownership, or with the permission of a friendly landowner or farmer, can remove themselves from the roads and make use of private property to stroll, to enjoy riding a horse, walk a dog, or go mountain biking far from the madding crowd.

There are areas of the Island that are still so secluded, that it would be possible to imagine that one was not living in a small island, but in the depths of the English countryside. But they are not easily accessible.

The fact is, however, that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a quiet spot in the countryside for private enjoyment. The Island's population has increased in the last 40 years and people's recreational pursuits have changed and become more diverse. There are only so many paths that can exist in this small Island, so think 'multi-user paths' as opposed to bridleways, footpaths, or biking paths.

The relationship between the owners of the land with public paths is a fragile one. 'Private property' should always mean 'property that is private', and there have been a few instances in the last year or so where inconsiderate users have prompted landowners to threaten to stop access, and negotiations have taken place to keep them open. It is perhaps not generally known how much we rely on the generosity of landowners in just maintaining the existing paths. It is also very difficult to create new paths.

It is fair to say that horses and bikes cause the most damage to the paths, particularly in sensitive areas like dunes. There are thousands of walkers and probably thousands of cyclists, but there are believed to be less than 1,000 horses in Jersey.

Should we be expending so much effort to benefit such a minority leisure pursuit?

Nevertheless, the benefits of riding are many and the connection between a horse and rider develops a person's abilities to have empathy and compassion for another being, as well as boosting their resilience to cope with adverse situations (including dealing with fear and frustration) as well as becoming more courageous. These are all skills that will help them in their human relationships.

Riding in nature can also encourage people to appreciate it and respect it and therefore develop a lifelong desire to protect the environment.

Over the last 40 years, off-road riding has diminished, which is not good for either horses or riders. Horse riders are right to be fearful of hacking on the Island's busy roads, where the amount of traffic has increased dramatically, and where there are too many inconsiderate car drivers, and equally inconsiderate cyclists who are just as capable of spooking horses. The answer too often, is to limit riding to arenas, which is not conducive to equine wellbeing, physical or mental, or for developing riders' skills.

Those whose experience of hacking or walking around the Island extends over any length of time are all too aware of how many former bridleways and footpaths have been closed off.

A constant plea has been to have a joined-up network of off-road bridle paths and footpaths, which could be linked with Green Lanes, and which could indeed provide access to the countryside for Islanders, including those with mobility issues. Such a network could also create extra opportunities to promote tourism.

A good start was the publication in 2016 of the *Countryside Access Strategy for Jersey* by the Environment Department, which led to the creation of a digital map showing all known permitted footpaths, bridle paths, cycle tracks and Green Lanes. There have been other success stories, such as the opening of new multi-user paths that open up the countryside without impacting on local biodiversity and wildlife.

Jersey's historic *chemins* could well be rediscovered and reopened – a hard and complicated job, especially as some of these paths now go through people's gardens.

Farmers need to be aware of the payment from the Rural Support Scheme of £2.50 per linear metre to provide public access around fields and field tracks.

Beaches are another resource for exercise and recreation, and as has been often mooted, there would be considerable advantages of having at least one unrestricted beach available for horses and dogs throughout the year; this would stagger the times when horses and dogs use it, so it would be less busy and safer for all.

All too often we promote the idea of 'Beautiful Jersey', but it would be good to allow more people actually to experience the hidden beauty of Jersey's countryside.

The Jersey Salmagundi

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



Retired vet walks 100 miles raising funds to help horses

Retired veterinarian John Hamilton is this year donning his kilt and walking 100 miles to raise money for research into equine grass sickness.

He is taking part in the Kiltwalk Challenge, Scotland's largest mass participation walking event, and has already put his best foot forward in Glasgow and Aberdeen. John is now looking forward to doing the same in Dundee in August and Edinburgh in September.

Jersey residents need not be disappointed, however, because it will also be possible to catch sight of the flick of his kilt when he completes a walk here too.

'I did the Dundee Kiltwalk last year,' said John, 'and this year I am going to do all four which is a total of 81 miles so, to round it up to 100, I am going to do a 19-mile walk in Jersey.'

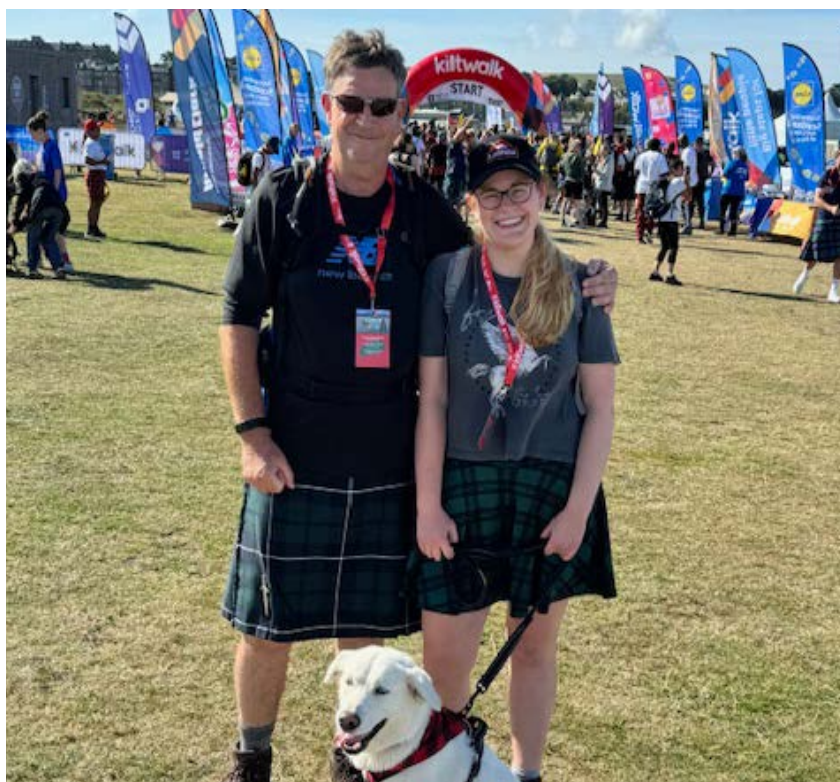
Rather than being accompanied by his Clydesdale horse, Bailey, John's daughter, Natascha, and her dog, Everest, have kept pace with him throughout.

John explained that he is raising funds for grass sickness research following two of his friends' horses dying in Scotland.

'It is an awful disease with a very low survival rate but there has been some exciting research recently into the causal toxin which hopefully will lead to more effective treatment in future,' he said.

Should you wish to donate, please visit John's Just Giving Page:
<http://bit.ly/3Sp4zVm>

Fortunately, equine grass sickness is rarely seen in Jersey although this hasn't stopped John's Scottish draught horse, Bailey, stepping up to the challenge of raising awareness of the disease – he is featured in The Mitchelhill Scott Equine Grass Sickness Fund's latest calendar, supporting The Moredun Foundation Equine Sickness Fund.



The group that helps hedgehogs now also needs help

The Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group is concerned about its ability to continue to care for the Island's hedgehogs.

This is due to a lack of volunteers and the ill health of its core members. The group has been working recently with the Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to create a new role of Animal Carer, who would work in the group's hedgehog hospital in order to continue caring for the Island's hog population.

Since 1992, the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group — a small, but dedicated band of volunteers and caring sponsors — has been rescuing sick and injured wild hedgehogs and caring for them, so as to return them to the countryside.

Hedgehogs make lovely nests with leaves and grass, where they have litters of three to five hoglets. They live to around five years in the wild, but much longer if kept as pets.

They mainly eat insects, berries and nuts, but will also eat small mammals and birds, given the chance. They survive the winter by hibernating, when their body temperature can drop to around 2°C, awakening on warmer days or in the spring. But, as our winters have become warmer in recent years, hogs can often be found foraging all year round.

The current population of hedgehogs were introduced to Jersey in the late 19th Century. It is highly likely that hedgehogs are native to Jersey, but became extinct centuries ago. Population counts in Jersey were attempted in 2007, 2012 and 2022, but the data is unreliable and we still do not know how the local population is faring. But there are many threats to the local hedgehog population.

As hedgehogs' main form of protection is to curl up in a spiny ball, they suffer many terrible injuries from strimmers or from encounters with vehicles.

They become ill, get caught up in nets, fall into holes and swimming pools, attacked by dogs and generally get into all sorts of trouble. Each year, some 500 sick and injured hogs come through the hedgehog clinic.

If you are in a position to help the group to raise funds for this important role, we would be very grateful to hear from you. If you are seeking a caring charity to remember in your will, we would ask you to consider us when leaving a bequest.

Many people in Jersey help to feed and protect our local hedgehog population, as, by doing so, we also protect many other species of wildlife in Jersey.

To find out more about how you can help, please visit our website at www.jerseyhedgehogs.org.je; find us on Facebook or leave us a message on 01534 734340

John Pinel, Chairman, Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group



Rural art

The awards for the winners of the RURAL Art Awards evening will take place, as it has done for the past five years, at the CCA International art gallery in July, as part of its Summer Exhibition.

The theme of the competition is to acknowledge the inspiration that the Island's landscape provides for artists and to encourage them to produce artwork that showcases the natural environment.

At 6pm on 10 July there will be the presentation of the awards to the winning artists of the RURAL landscape art competition. The judges will be – David Benest, senior partner of BCR Law; Aras Amiri, creative commissions producer at Jersey Heritage, Tom Parker, manager of CCA International Art Gallery; Alasdair Crosby and Gary Grimshaw, respectively the publisher and editor of RURAL magazine and RURAL's photographer.

The competition is sponsored by BCR Law and supported by Jersey Heritage.

Also to be announced on the same evening will be the winners of the Summer Exhibition Prize and the Emerging Artist Prize, both sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada. The 'Inspired by the Sea' award, a new prize for 2025, is sponsored by Madhatter Surf Shop, and the Design & Illustration prize is sponsored by Gallery Magazine Jersey.



Entry to the awards evening is free, but advance notice would be appreciated: please e-mail Tom Parker at tom.parker@ccagalleriesinternational.com or Alasdair Crosby at acrosby@live.co.uk

Louise Ramsay, Coast Land St Mary
Last year's winning picture of the RURAL art competition

The delicious Jersey Food Festival

Thousands of Islanders flocked to Weighbridge Place in St Helier at the end of April to enjoy the Jersey Food Festival.

Designed as a showcase and celebration of the best of our Island's land-based food scene, the free, two-day, family-friendly event included pop-up restaurants and eateries, live music from local musicians, a Farmers' Market featuring seasonal offerings from local growers, locally produced honey, alcoholic beverages and artisanal food, as well as live cooking presentations.

Local and guest chefs were centre stage. Michelin star chef Michael Caines, who is a familiar face on TV, took part in a special Q&A session on the Saturday morning with industry leaders, before officially opening the festival.

And celebrated author and star of TV's *River Cottage*, Steven Lamb, hosted interactive food demonstrations featuring local beef, pork, lamb and dairy.

One of the most popular tents during the weekend was 'Discover Dairy' – hosted by the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Here there was an opportunity for everyone to find out where their food comes from, with crafts, games and quizzes for the kids, an opportunity for chats with local growers and dairy farmers, and a chance to meet some beautiful Jersey calves, from the Westlands dairy herd in St Brelade.

The event was organised by the Jersey Hospitality Association as part of its Delicious Jersey campaign and was backed by the Government of Jersey and Jersey Electricity.

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The future of local produce – on the farm and in the market

William Davies, proprietor of the Just William greengrocer stall in the Central Market, sees local food production from two angles, as a farmer and as a market stallholder. He spoke to Alasdair Crosby

Hot buttered toast and a pot of tea – William Davies knows how to give an interviewer a good time.

We were sitting in Rosie's Tea Room in Market Street, just a few paces away from his Market stall, Just William. The stall will be familiar to anyone who has strolled through the Central Market and it has been his 'town office' for the past 42 years. His other 'office' is La Cornetterie Farm in St Martin, which he bought in 1985 from Maggie Allain – another well-known (and very likeable) Market stallholder in her day.

Since then, William has expanded it, and it now comprises 40 vergées around the old farmhouse. There are about 50 different types of vegetable that he grows, and then there are pigs and chickens as well.

Much of the produce comes into St Helier for sale on his Market stall. In addition, he distributes produce to hotels and restaurants and exports to multiples and supermarkets in the UK.

But the farm is not just about agriculture and commerce, it is also an educational establishment, Sprouts Farm Club, which is run by his daughter, Grace Crake.





‘Farm schooling’ is something that he considers essential for the future of the farming of local produce.

‘We want to pass our knowledge on to the next generation. At present, we have around 15 schools sending their pupils to us for a bit of instruction on how to grow produce. Grace is farming the next generation! That’s what we are trying to do: to instil the wellbeing of being outside, the wellbeing of working with the land and trying different things.

‘How do you measure success in what we are doing?’ The young boy who is idling in the classroom and is disruptive will suddenly come alive when he is taken to a field. He will start leading the group, he will get his hands dirty, he can hear things differently, he’s not surrounded by any distractions or other things or influences, but he’s come alive, and all of a sudden this beautiful young child is blossoming, growing in the sunlight, and interacting with the chickens or the pigs, or the ducks, planting the crops, seeing them grow, measuring them, photographing them, identifying them... the joy and the satisfaction! That’s what I class as success.

“ **The Market is now the best it’s been for the past 40 years. We are looking for innovation, and for more small growers to supply us. We need to get the ball rolling. The future of the Market, at the moment, is looking better than ever**

‘So, the education goes even further: the farm club has been in existence now for ten years. Some of our earlier students have now become farm workers, or tractor drivers, or gone to study horticulture, or are involved in gardening. We’re teaching and we’re educating.

‘So, that’s the answer to the question ... “Where are we getting the next generation of farmers?” We are looking at education, and at how we can instil an enthusiasm for farming.’

At the moment, William said, the Island had lots of small growers and allotment occupiers who, given the opportunity, would like to ‘upgrade’ and become small farmers.

The FJ Ahier Country Gardens allotment area above Mont Cochon, in a four vergée field, is crammed with allotment holders trying to grow things, who, in essence, are trying to be small farmers. Each plot holder runs, essentially, a concise little farm.

William continued: ‘How do we expand that? There are 2,000 vergées of Crown land not being worked. They could be brought back into full agricultural production.

‘Give each of the young aspirant farmers four vergées of Crown land and let them try and make a go of it. They need a tractor? A tractor costs about £100,000, but the Government auctions off equipment every three years. Why can’t there be six tractors retained, and young people trained to use them? Or a rotavator? Train them to use a plough. With an equipment bank and a technology bank in place, and available land, and people who want to farm... local farming has a future.’



He continued: 'I think that if we really want this Island to be sustainable and have a future for local production, then we need to have large cloches on the fields – polytunnels without any foundations. That would give an extra fortnight for a crop to develop and with sufficient young farmers using them, all of a sudden, we can start supplying local people with a wide range of produce.'

'Our Planning Dept should be saying: "Look, put up a cloche, tell us what you are growing inside it, how long it's going to be there for; make sure that the structure you use has no concrete in it, that there is nothing permanent about it, and that it can be taken down and the field restored to the status quo ante."

'At the moment, the Planning department will not allow anyone to put up a temporary tunnel. It would be the obvious answer to help small growers develop into bigger growers, and for developing a sustainable countryside. We've got 35 people registered as small growers last year or the year before. The reason why the number is not growing is, quite simply, too much red tape.'

'Take away the bureaucracy, and have a little bit of imagination, and then see ... our dream is much bigger than just our Farm Club, but we seem to have started something.'

'Education – that is the grassroots of everything we are doing, and everything we want to do. There are some incredible stories to be had, and I think we're part of the story. We have had so much fun doing what we've done.'

For William, the Central Market entered his life before farming – to that extent he also is a first generation farmer. But when he was born, in the 1950s, in the Mont Cochon area, there were something like 200 farms stretched out along the line of the road from Mont Cochon to La Route de St Jean.

There was no background in his own family in farming, but he was born near one, and as a boy he was always helping out on neighbouring farms. When he was a bit older, he was helping to plant potatoes and working with cattle. He had thought of going to university as a mature student aged 25, but then opportunities opened up in the Market.

He had been a Saturday boy working for the late Cyril Goaziou at his stall, but then he was able to get his own stall in 1984, exactly the same stand that he now runs, at the same spot in the Market. Since he first set up his stall, the Market has been transformed, and it has been in the doldrums.

'The supermarkets started to dominate us and oppose us. We've lost a lot of butchers and a lot of greengrocers. But it is the same everywhere – markets and small retail food businesses have deteriorated because of supermarkets, out-of-town shopping, ready meals and home deliveries. They have all affected our markets and traders.'

But, despite the adverse trading conditions, and despite the bad traffic infrastructure and lack of parking, he feels the Market is coming back to life again – and is on the cusp of a successful future.

'There are plenty of people in Jersey who want to buy local produce and who are prepared to pay just a bit extra for it, because they want quality. We are building that area of growth through our own farm and through our small growers.'

‘We’ve also got some great cake makers, the butcher and bakers are brilliant, there is a great delicatessen and restaurant and cafés, and interesting knick-knacks around the Market to buy. Even in Market Street, there is an eclectic mix of small businesses, which is exactly what Tourism wants to see, and also exactly what the public want to see. If people come on holiday, they want to see a market that is vibrant and relative to local trade.’

So not dying, then?

‘No, not at all. It’s far from dying. Of course, we have bad days, just as the town has bad days, mainly because customers can’t get to us, because of the traffic and the lack of infrastructure investment in the roads. We do have to get away from pedestrianising the whole town. In French towns, they have often taken away the bollards, and reinstated parking places, where you can park for free for two hours.

‘We could have a street market. We could use the Fish Market car park behind the Telecoms building. Why haven’t we got a Farmers’ market there once a week?

‘You might think that would be cutting my nose off to spite my face, but it wouldn’t affect me. It would bring more people into town, and it would encourage more people to use Jersey produce.’

William continued: ‘We are now looking to open the Market in the evenings, opening on Thursday afternoons, at night, trying to bring life to it, a bit of music, and a bit of culture, a bit of dancing, even! Flamenco dances at Casa Paco, for example – or Jersey Morris dancers! The future is a blank piece of paper.’

In addition, he said that more people, especially young adults, were discovering the joys of cooking fresh produce at home, rather than relying on ready meals and pasta, or buying online, and so missing out on an interactive relationship with their food suppliers.

‘Our success depends on having the florists, the supply lines, the fishmongers and the fishermen willing to fish, the guy who produces local strawberries, or raspberries, everything local that we can sell.’

As far as the Just William stall is concerned, that will soon be redesigned to include a bar, so they can stay open late on Friday and Saturday and be open on a Sunday.

There will be local soda on offer, and a Just William pale ale, and they will be working with nearby stalls – such as Paco’s and Relish – to provide spaces where people will be able to sit and relax, chat with friends, and enjoy the ambience, as well as just going shopping.

‘All of a sudden people will have a good reason to come to the Market.

‘But how are they going to get here? There would have to be an improved transport system put in place. We want to be the future centrepiece of town leisure and culture and to be involved with everybody, so we’ve got to look at how we’re going to do that. None of the stallholders want huge amounts of Government funding, but we want the Market to thrive, and we want adequate public access to it.’

He concluded: ‘The Market is now the best it’s been for the past 40 years. We are looking for innovation, and for more small growers to supply us. We need to get the ball rolling. The future of the Market, at the moment, is looking better than ever.

‘Don’t worry about the Market. There is a very good tenant base who can take this place forward. These are very exciting times.’



Rooted in tradition – and growing with purpose

The future of Genuine Jersey, by its CEO, John Garton



The year 2026 will be Genuine Jersey's 25th anniversary – a good time to celebrate that the GJ association continues to go from strength to strength.

What began as a small group of dedicated growers, makers and producers has blossomed into a thriving community of over 190 members – each one passionate about creating high-quality goods that are proudly local.

At the heart of the Genuine Jersey mission is the belief that locally made matters. Supporting our Island's artisans, farmers, fishermen and creators isn't just about shopping small – it's about sustaining traditions, championing innovation, and building a vibrant local economy. As we look to the future, that mission has never felt more relevant.

Over the last year, we have seen more Genuine Jersey members opening dedicated shops and studio spaces, which are not only helping their own businesses thrive but are also creating new platforms for other local creatives. These hubs are becoming community spaces – somewhere to meet the maker, watch a craft in progress, or discover a new favourite local brand. From pottery to fine art, chocolates to baked goods, and shellfish to homegrown produce, more and more members are finding ways to make their work visible, accessible, and sustainable.

This enterprising spirit is nothing new to our community. Many of our members balance their creative passions with other jobs – a testament to their dedication and resilience. Whether it's early morning baking before a full workday or weekends spent tending smallholdings in all weathers, the commitment to their craft is inspiring.

Being part of the Genuine Jersey community helps them stay connected, supported and visible.

We're also committed to helping our members share their stories far and wide. Through regular social media support and features, we shine a spotlight on the people behind the products. Our *Meet the Member* video series, made possible thanks to the generous support of our patron Evelyn Partners, gives audiences a deeper look into the passion, skill and journeys that shape each Genuine Jersey business. It's this kind of storytelling that helps connect customers to the heart of what buying local really means.

Another key part of our work is bringing local producers face to face with the public. That's why we're excited to continue our popular Genuine Jersey Artisans' Markets in St Aubin, which take place on Saturdays, every two weeks, both inside and outside St Aubin's Parish Hall.

These markets are more than just stalls – they're a celebration of Jersey's creative spirit, where locals and visitors alike can sample the best of what our island has to offer. From freshly baked treats to handmade jewellery, unique art pieces to seasonal produce, there's always something new to discover. These markets wouldn't be possible without the support of local businesses, Hepburns and MasonBreese, their values align so well with ours making them more than just sponsors.

From 22 June we're also adding in a Sunday market based inside and outside the Seaside Café at Grève de Lecq.



Above: *Meet the Member* video series

At both markets, produce sold by Genuine Jersey Members will have been crafted, brewed, baked or processed by the stallholder, so come along and soak up the atmosphere while celebrating Jersey's finest. You can find a full list of the dates of both markets on our website.

Last year's Royal Visit and the Jersey Expo gave us a powerful reminder of how impactful that visibility can be. Having the opportunity to showcase the breadth and depth of local talent on such a significant stage helped raise the profile of Genuine Jersey and brought renewed energy to our members. Events like these don't just shine a spotlight on the incredible work happening on our doorstep – they also reinforce how much value there is in keeping it local.

As we gear up for our 25th anniversary, we're not just reflecting on what we've achieved – we're looking at what comes next. That means continuing to champion local, investing in our members' futures, and finding new ways to support the diverse talents that make Jersey unique.

The future of Genuine Jersey is bright, bold, and brimming with possibility – and we can't wait to take the next step, together with our members.

For more information go to our website – www.genuinejersey.je

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A life with horses

Over the last 60 years, Derek Clackett has been involved in all aspects of Jersey's horse community. Now, as president of the Jersey Horse Association, he is keen to continue promoting equestrianism for the good of all. By our equestrian editor, Ruth Le Cocq



There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man' said Sir Winston Churchill. Yet, with Derek Clackett, I would argue the sentiment goes both ways.

The 85-year-old has spent a lifetime with horses and seems to have a particular gift for encouraging those, with less desirable traits, to see things his way.

I wonder whether Derek's ability to gentle horses began when he was a young boy and his grandfather welcomed Romany Gypsies on to their land, enabling him to race around on ponies riding bareback?

Or was it when he witnessed the plight of a young racehorse, who was so dangerous that no one dared to enter the stable, prompting him to take the time that was needed to build a relationship built on mutual trust and respect?

'It's difficult to analyse,' said Derek, 'but I do feel very much at ease with any horse and if I'm told to be careful around a horse then I immediately treat it as a challenge.'

At that moment he turned to look at his daughter's dog, also clearly at ease lying on the sofa beside him, who had been bouncing excitedly around the room a few minutes before.

'It's like this animal is very boisterous, but she does seem to settle if I ask her to.'

Then, with more than a twinkle in his eye, Derek wondered out loud whether his middle name, Francis, linked him to Francis of Assisi, who is associated with the care of nature and animals.

Such a sense of humour has stood Derek in good stead throughout his life because, as anyone who has spent time around large animals knows, accidents do happen. A broken jaw and a broken arm are just some of the injuries he has sustained while galloping and jumping across fields with the Jersey Drag Hunt.

Riding to hounds, following a scent rather than hunting an animal, has provided Derek with so much more than just riding and being out in nature.

'It is the camaraderie and being part of a community,' he said.

And that sense of community is something, as president of the Jersey Horse Association, he is keen to promote within the Island, because equestrianism has changed so much since he first became involved back in the 1960s.

At one point, during the 1980s and 1990s, it was estimated that there were around 1,800 horses in the Island. Now, that number is believed to have dropped to around 600 although nobody knows for sure because no register exists.

'In the old days we had a cross-country course here at Bigrel Farm, which was 1½ miles long, and we had the first teams of four here and there were 37 teams,' said Derek, as he picked up a show programme from 1980. 'Here there are 53 ponies entered in one jumping class and 42 horses in the show ring.'

“ One of the things I think that could help bring the horse world together is to have something that involves all the clubs... I think that would focus people's attention and they could come and look and talk to people and perhaps think about where they could learn to ride

“The future is not easy because they are all hampered by rules and regulations and the health and safety aspect... Plus, there aren't the horses around that there used to be

Sadly, these days, there have been times when some of the horse organisations have struggled to gain enough entries to go ahead with competitions.

‘The future is not easy because they are all hampered by rules and regulations and the health and safety aspect,’ said Derek. ‘Plus, there aren't the horses around that there used to be.’

Practical aspects, such as ensuring that areas are properly fenced, mean that horse riding events can no longer be held at a variety of different venues around the Island and tend to be based instead at the BSJA (British Show Jumping Association), Jersey Riding Club and the Pony Club fields in St Lawrence.

Also, two commercial ventures, Home Farm Equestrian and La Haie Fleurie Stables, both with top of the range facilities, hold competitions, including dressage and showjumping.

Derek believes that the changing face of equestrianism means that now may be the time for Island's long-standing clubs, including those mentioned above, to consider doing things differently, perhaps by pooling their resources.

‘One of the things I think that could help bring the horse world together is to have something that involves all the clubs,’ he said.

He added that this could include hosting a rural show, similar to the successful West Show at St Peter, incorporating all aspects of country life and including trade stands.

‘I think that would focus people's attention and they could come and look and talk to people and perhaps think about where they could learn to ride,’ he said.

At that point, Derek paused as he realised that many of the Island's riding schools have closed over the years and, although there is a strong demand for riding lessons, the financial implications of running an equine business mean it is not an attractive proposition.

This situation is something that the Jersey Horse Association hopes to start to resolve, by attracting government funding to support equestrianism in the Island, perhaps taking advantage of the promotional aspects of the Chinese Zodiac's Year of the Horse in 2026.

Other ideas being mooted include encouraging the Jersey Drag Hunt and the Pony Club to host a handy hunter competition, for both horses and ponies, at Les Landes Racecourse, the home of the Jersey Race Club.

These three clubs were once interlinked with the Jersey Drag Hunt and Chase Club being one organisation and the Pony Club still being called the Jersey Drag Hunt branch.

In fact, it was Derek's love of the thoroughbred that led to his involvement in Jersey's racing scene when he arrived in the Island in the 1960s.

‘The racecourse was then at Les Quennevais and I was asked if I would ride a horse called Young Napper who turned out to be a bit of a rogue that nobody wanted to ride. Daft me rode it,’ laughed Derek.

It was during that time that he was introduced to Blue Nearco, who was so dangerous that nobody could go into his stable.

‘I would say “hello” to him over the door every morning and we became very friendly. In the end I went into the stable and I squatted down, and he lay down beside me.’

Derek backed the little stallion, who never raced, but hunted, showjumped and stood successfully at stud.

These days, despite being drawn to ride thoroughbreds, Derek rides Peach, who he fondly describes as a ‘carthorse’. In the last five years he has had, what he calls, ‘a few minor health’ problems – Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and a mini-stroke – but he has continued to ride throughout. Derek firmly believes that being in the presence of horses is very beneficial.

In fact, one of his long-standing farming friends, the late Charles Le Cornu, moved into a care home towards the end of his life and Derek took his big horse to see him.

‘I think they were expecting a Shetland so they were a little surprised,’ he laughed. ‘Charlie was sitting down and just as he reached for the horse, she bent down and touched him. We took a picture, framed it and gave it to him. I was told that Charlie held the picture towards the end of his life.’

Derek said several other residents, who had never touched a horse before, enjoyed doing so. He added that, when he is riding, parents quite often ask if their children can stroke his horse's neck.

‘I really do believe that, with my trials and tribulations, I've only got to put my hand on a horse, and I'm cured,’ he smiled.

Proof indeed that there really is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.

“I really do believe that, with my trials and tribulations, I've only got to put my hand on a horse, and I'm cured



Where have all the
bridle paths gone?



Over the last 40 years off-road riding has diminished Island-wide, despite the best efforts of the Government of Jersey's Natural Environment department. Ruth Le Cocq spoke to Environment manager Julia Clively and BHSI Level 5 performance coach Penny Cruttwell about possibilities for the future

Farmland is one of the keys to opening up access to the countryside for horse riders who are becoming increasingly fearful about hacking on Jersey's busy roads.

And rediscovering and reopening Jersey's historic chemins, as featured in the books *Jersey Place Names I and II*, written by Jean Arthur, Charles Stevens, Collette Stevens and Joan Stevens, may also provide access for all.

Penny Cruttwell, a BHSI (British Horse Society) Level 5 performance coach, said anxiety about traffic on the roads is prompting some children and inexperienced equestrians to ride more in arenas. This can affect their horse's wellbeing as well as preventing them from developing their horsemanship skills which are of benefit both physically and mentally.

For many years, safety concerns have prompted the equestrian community to lament the lack of a joined-up network of off-road bridle paths.

However, over the last 40 years or so, many privately owned paths that used to be accessible to horses, as well as some of those owned by the parishes, have closed.

Penny said her concerns were twofold.

'We need to talk about safety – to give alternatives to riding on the roads – because the amount of traffic has increased so dramatically, and we are sharing the roads with an increased amount of cyclists who can spook horses. The other side is horses' mental and physical wellbeing. If the roads aren't safe, we need different options than always using training arenas.

'They need to go out and about and relax and enjoy being ridden without being schooled all the time. This maintains soundness and develops fitness. It's been proven that, in order to do their strengthening and conditioning training, they need to be ridden on different terrain, up and down hills and on different surfaces.'

In 2016 the Environment Department published Countryside Access for Jersey which led to the creation of a digital map showing all known permitted footpaths, bridle paths, cycle tracks and green lanes. It included those managed by Natural Environment, the National Trust for Jersey, Jersey Water and the Island's parishes.

Environment manager Julia Clively, who links her love of nature to the hours she spent in the saddle as a child, understands the horse community's concerns but explained that, unlike England, Jersey does not have the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and is therefore reliant on the goodwill of private landowners to allow access. She added that even maintaining the existing paths is challenging.

'The majority of the Island's access network was created over 40 years ago and the iconic north coast route crosses land owned by more than 30 different landowners. Over time property may change hands and, in many cases, it is difficult to identify current owners to ask permission to undertake work,' said Julia.

On a more positive note, the department has recently opened a new multiuser path behind the racecourse at Les Landes Site of Special Interest by connecting old chemins together.



'It takes people off the environmentally sensitive protected – we need to look after these places – the biodiversity and the wildlife is really important,' she said.

Julia believes one way forward is for horse owners to build relationships with landowners and farmers to ask if they might consider allowing them to ride over the edges of certain fields to link with existing paths and the green lane network.

'There is the Rural Support Scheme, a Government initiative for farmers, which pays approved applicants £2.50 per linear metre to provide public access around fields and field tracks.'

She added that there could be an opportunity for the BSJA, Pony Club and Jersey Riding Club fields, which are all based in the centre of the Island, to be linked by off-road routes.

'People could trailer there and park and then, if the clubs worked together, it could be used as a facility, a hub.'

This, combined with the reopening of historic chemins, some of which are public roads, could also make a real difference.

Julia said recent work by certain parishes has reinstated some of these old paths. In addition, the ancient practice of the Visite Royale, which occurs in a parish once every six years, plays a vital role. The Royal Court can judge on matters relating to public roads and footpaths which have been brought to its attention by the parish.

'Proving that it is an historic path isn't straightforward and may be a very costly Court business as some of the paths originally leading to fields go through what are now people's gardens.'

Penny recognises that equestrians are fortunate to have access to the Island's beaches but there are caveats.

'We have restricted access during the months when it is suitable to ride on the beach and the dog owners have restricted access too. You tend to have everybody in the key areas either early morning or late, so it's a safety issue when dogs are off leads.'

With some equestrians being nervous about riding outside arenas, Penny is encouraging two trainee coaches, Beau Richardson and Tally Kershaw, to develop their coaching skills by supporting children in this respect.

'We are going to take them to safe venues – fields, bridle paths or the beach – and I will oversee the coaching and the girls will work with me as my assistants. When they are familiar with the riders, they will start to take the sessions and I will observe them and oversee them for safety.'

Penny is a passionate believer in supporting children's mental wellbeing.

'I think they are under a huge amount of pressure and there isn't much time when children do just spend time in nature. It is so important that, if their love and passion is for ponies, they can take the ponies that they love and can get out, off the road, out of the normality of everything and spend time in nature, but they and their parents have to feel that they are in a safe space.'

Both Penny and Julia emphasise the importance of respecting the environment, wildlife, landowners and others when using the Island's paths.

Penny said there are various initiatives, including Ride Safe at Haie Fleurie Stables and road safety training through the Pony Club, to educate equestrians and Julia added that the Jersey Access Forum, made up of a range of people who regularly use coast and countryside paths, is currently investigating codes of conduct.

'Ask around to find out about potential routes,' urged Julia, 'do some research and a bit of leg work. If you have got agreements with landowners, we are happy to map the paths for you and we can help advise about signage too.'



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Taking the bull by the horns

After a childhood spent with ponies, Siobhan East reconnected with horses, aged 50. Now, she is having lots of fun and, together with equestrian coach, Cilla Perchard, has introduced working equitation to Jersey. Ruth Le Cocq investigates

Motorists, walkers and cyclists passing the BSJA field in St Lawrence recently may have taken a second glance on seeing a very large and very black bull surrounded by horse riders. No, horseback herding has not been introduced to Jersey, but working equitation has.

It's a relatively new discipline which tests the horse's temperament and training, the rider's skill and ability and the relationship between horse and rider.

It combines modern elements with traditional farming, herding and riding techniques and has three stages – dressage, ease of handling and a speed test. In 1996, Spain, Italy and France held the first international working equitation competition, including cattle penning, and it has expanded since then to become a global discipline.



Poppy Watson photography: Siobhan East on Larry the horse



Poppy Watson photography

Siobhan East, who has returned to riding after several years, said: 'After getting back into riding at 50 and finding the best schoolmaster horse, Larry, I joined the amazing local equestrian clubs and did a variety of instructionals and competitions. It was a great year, and it made me want to do more.'

She wondered if there was a new discipline that could be introduced to the Island and, after some research, decided that working equitation, which can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities, looked like fun.

'There was local support for the idea so myself and Cilla Perchard decided to have a go at putting on a taster session.'

The first event, held in April, focused on the ease of handling trial and attracted a wide range of horses and riders of all ages and abilities.

'It was easy to set up and build the course and my other half, Michael, built the bull for us out of scrap wood, bamboo and a dog toy!' Siobhan laughed.

'Some horses were a bit scared of some of the obstacles at first but, after some encouragement and some Polos, Cilla managed to get them through,' she added.

During the ease of handling section, riders are expected to tackle several obstacles. For example, they may be required to guide their horse over a raised platform or a bridge to demonstrate the horse's trust and sure-footedness, or navigate their horse through a figure of eight pattern to showcase precision and control.

They may need to guide their horse into a small enclosure or pen, requiring accuracy and calmness, or they may need to lift a jug from one pedestal to another, demonstrating the horse's steadiness and the rider's concentration.

**“ Working
equitation is a level
playing field – your
horse might be good
at one thing but not so
good at another – and
it improves riding skills
which will benefit every
rider and every horse**

Picking up a pole from a drum tests the horse's training and the rider's dexterity, and replacing it shows control and precision. Spearing a ring with a lance, while moving, tests the accuracy and agility of both horse and rider while switching cups between poles demonstrates the horse's patience and the rider's steadiness.

Riders may also be required to guide the horse into an alleyway, ring a bell and back out, sometimes in an L-shaped path, and they may need to weave through a series of cones or poles in a straight line or go sideways along a rail, demonstrating lateral movement.

Skills often include those associated with handy hunter classes such as opening gates, jumping over a fence, crossing water and going up and down a bank.

Siobhan said the atmosphere at the BSJA during the event was very supportive with curious spectators chatting on the sidelines and catching up with old friends.

'Working equitation is a level playing field – your horse might be good at one thing but not so good at another – and it improves riding skills which will benefit every rider and every horse.'

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Horse in the frame



Self-taught Jersey photographer Rachel Hughes is passionate about the outdoors and uses natural light to enhance the connection between her subjects and the environment. Here she shares how to photograph horses

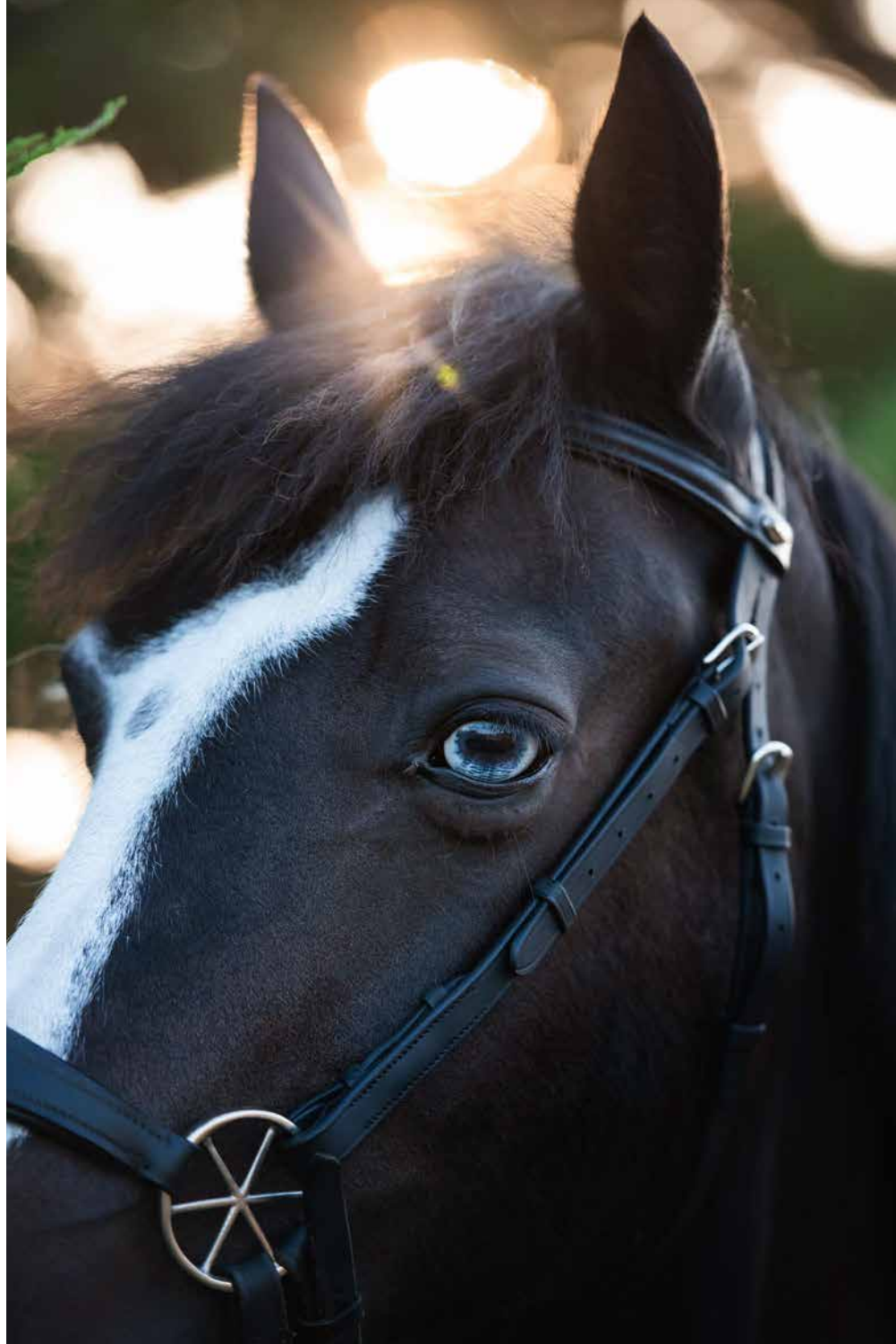
Horses are elegant, strong, intelligent and magnificent. It's no wonder that for centuries humans have admired them, outlining them in cave paintings, shaping them into statues, sewing them into tapestries, brushing them into artwork, and carving them into hillsides.

Photographing these majestic animals is a privilege. I have been lucky enough to photograph them and their owners against the backdrop of our beautiful beaches, meadows and forests.

Here, I share my top 10 tips on how to photograph these stunning animals, illustrated with photos from a very special shoot with Poppy and her horses.

1. Relax into the photoshoot

Horses are incredibly tuned into our emotions and body language. If you are at all anxious or fearful during a photoshoot, they will pick up on this and it could unsettle them too. Being calm and confident will ensure they trust you and then you can photograph them at their best.



2. Prioritise safety

A handler will know their horse best and, as beautiful as horses are, they can be unpredictable. During a session I will be led by the handler, keep my distance with a zoom lens, and avoid any sudden movements or noises. I usually arrive early to a session to ensure the horse has time to get accustomed to me. Before I begin photographing, I will get them used to my camera's shutter sound by taking a few clicks in the presence of their handler while they reassure them.

3. The right lens

Having the right equipment will make for a beautiful photo, but not if you first don't understand the basic elements of how to take that photo – light, camera settings, composition, location.

As a professional photographer, my go-to lens for a horse photoshoot is my 70-200mm lens. It means I can give the horse plenty of space, the clicking of the lens is quieter as I am further away, there is no distortion of the image (this can look very weird with horses) and I can get beautiful blurring of the background to make my subject stand out.

4. Choosing the right location

When finding a location for a horse photoshoot, I seek out areas that are quiet and off the beaten path avoiding people and dogs that might spook a horse. My favourite backgrounds are those where the sun is peeping through trees behind my subject, bathing them in ethereal sunlight, or a big expanse of sand and water which makes them really stand out.

5. Choosing the right lighting

Early morning or the few hours before sunset work best for horse photography as the light then is softer and more flattering. Plus, there are likely to be fewer people and dogs around at that time.

6. Bring an assistant

Having an assistant with you can be invaluable so they can get the horse's attention. Ideally, this is someone that the horse knows well. They can stand behind you, call their name, or rustle a bag so the horse pricks up its ears.

7. Ears up

Try to time your photographs when the horse's ears are up thus ensuring they look happy and alert.

8. Look for the detail

Full body shots of horses show them in all their glory but don't forget the little details that can be incredibly beautiful. An owner's hand resting on them, their expressive eyes, or their ears. The horse in this photoshoot, Sassy, had the most incredible eye colouring, with one ice blue eye and the other a hazelnut brown – so I was definitely going to get that shot!

9. Capture that beautiful connection

Take time to photograph the special bond between an owner and their horse. This was my second time photographing Poppy and her horses. The first time was probably one of my favourite photoshoots I have ever done, so I knew this one would be equally special. Poppy has autism, and the most incredible bond with her animals, and absolutely blossoms when she is with them. I feel like I am not just photographing a girl and her horses, but something much more meaningful – a connection between a human and an animal that is really quite something.

10. Take some silhouettes

Horses have beautiful silhouettes. Wait until the sun is just setting and then get down low and shoot straight into the sun to capture these striking shots.

If you are based in Jersey and would like a photoshoot with your horse to bring out their personality and the bond between you, please visit my website: rachelhughesphotography.com



World-Class Glaucoma Care Comes to Jersey

A leading UK specialist joins Evolution Eye Care

From May 2025, Islanders with glaucoma will benefit from access to top-tier care as Mr Alastair Lockwood, a highly respected UK glaucoma surgeon, joins Evolution Eye Care. Mr Lockwood's credentials include training at Cambridge, Oxford, and Moorfields Eye Hospital, along with a PhD in glaucoma surgery. His subspecialist expertise ensures patients receive cutting edge, personalised care.

'I'm excited to bring a dedicated glaucoma service to Jersey,' said Mr Lockwood. 'My focus is entirely on glaucoma, allowing me to offer tailored treatment options for each individual.'

Jersey's only Glaucoma specialist

Mr Lockwood will be the only glaucoma fellowship-trained surgeon consulting in the Island, providing a unique opportunity for Islanders to access second opinions or fully transfer their care. His regular glaucoma clinics at Evolution Eye Care — Jersey's largest private eye clinic — ensure continuity of care for this lifelong condition.

'Alastair's arrival is a major step forward for eye care in Jersey,' said Mr Anish Shah, co-founder of Evolution. 'We're thrilled to offer a truly specialist-led service.'

National-Level Expertise, locally delivered

Mr Lockwood will provide the majority of glaucoma care — including medications, monitoring, and laser procedures — in Jersey. If more complex surgeries are required, Mr Lockwood will operate at his established specialist unit in Portsmouth. His dual practice offers both the reassurance of national-level expertise, with the convenience of local care.

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SCAN TO BOOK



Horseracing thrives

By Jersey racing follower and enthusiast, John Henwood

Racing was introduced in the Island, as in so many other parts of the British Empire, by the military. It was seen as a means of improving the training of both horses and riders while serving the additional purpose of providing a distraction for bored soldiers.

It was in the reign of George III that the first recorded organised race meeting was held, in 1789 at St Aubin's Bay. Hunting began later when a serving officer, Lieutenant David Lascelles, introduced a pack of hounds in 1876.

In the years since, hunting and racing initially operated separately, then came together and eventually went their separate ways. Both are inextricably linked to the rural community.

It was in 1981 that racing and hunting separated, the two factions recognising it was in the best interests of both that each should have their own administration. The new Jersey Race Club was formed and the Drag Hunt & Chase Club went its own way. Sadly, with the dissolution of the Hunt's pack of hounds and the consolidation of ownership of farmland, drag hunting has subsequently died.

Enthusiasts still organise collective rides, but as one former hunt master put it ... you can't have a hunt without hounds.

On the other hand, horseracing not only survives, but thrives. That said, the margin between success and failure of the sport is very small. The Jersey Race Club has no financial reserves and relies on patrons and commercial sponsors to put up the prize money for the races and on a small army of volunteers to stage nine race meetings a year, usually between Easter and the end of August.



Photograph by George Mariott



Races Grouville Common, Ouess

There are presently about 50 thoroughbreds in training with just three active licensed trainers, not enough to stage five races every two to three weeks, so it has become ever more important that owners and trainers from overseas are encouraged to bring their horses to race here.

It is not unusual for a Lambourn trainer to take a horse 380 miles to run at Ayr, and that is probably an easier option than travelling a little over 200 miles to race at Les Landes. It is also less expensive. There is the cost of the ferry of course, but if the sailing schedule is not consonant with the race programme, a horse, its groom and the box driver must be accommodated for one or two nights here. Even if the horse wins, the modest prize money may not cover the cost of the trip.

So why do they come? The Jersey Race Club provides a modest grant to help cover travel costs, but more importantly it has worked hard at developing relations with UK-based trainers. Some, like Bath-based Neil Mulholland, have become regulars; his owner Mike Burbidge's yellow and green colours have become a familiar sight, with his supporters frequently wear colourful 'UK Raider' caps. It was Mulholland who in 2021 broke Alyson Malzard's near monopoly of the champion trainer title.

Most recently, Lambourn-based Archie Watson, trainer of 28 pattern race winners in France, Italy, Germany, Ireland and Qatar as well as the UK, sent two horses to Les Landes for the first time to race at Easter.

By increments, The Race Club is improving the sport in Jersey. Greater competition from outside has encouraged local owners to acquire and race better horses and the club is also improving the racecourse itself. Criticised in the past for having a poor and uneven surface, much time and considerable expense has gone into restoring the track's watering system, to help ensure the going is reliable and even all around the one-mile circuit. There are also plans to improve the environment of the infield, creating a more attractive and ecologically satisfying area. The welfare of horses and the safety of racegoers continues to be a priority.

It's a slow process and the Race Club can only move as fast as there is funding to make further improvements. That said, Les Landes, the most southerly racecourse in the British Isles, has natural advantages other, possibly grander, racecourses would envy. Where else in the world does horseracing take place against such a magnificent vista? And where is an afternoon or evening at the races so much fun?

Small wonder then that for many years racing has been the most popular spectator sport our Island has to offer, and it's not just the location and excitement of watching five races that attracts them. The thoroughbred, the fastest weight carrying animal in the world, is a magnificent athlete and to see seven or eight of them at a time proudly parading, beautifully turned out and gleaming, is a spectacle in itself.

Racing is set for an exciting season ahead. At the time of writing, the Easter fixture has attracted a bumper attendance with eight more meetings to follow. Come racing!

The remaining fixtures in 2025 following *RURAL*'s publication in mid-June:

Friday 27 June:
The Midsummer meeting

Friday 11 July:
The July meeting

Sunday 27 July:
The Jersey Derby

Sunday 10 August:
Ladies' Day

Monday 25 August:
Champions' Day

For more information visit
www.jerseyraceclub.com

The Jersey Horse Association



A new association has been created to help promote and grow the equestrian sector in Jersey. Its Secretary, Rebecca Flath, describes its aims and objectives

The Jersey Horse Association was formed last September after about 80 members of the Island's horse community attended a meeting and voted in favour of its creation.

It is designed to be a promotional and social body for equestrianism in Jersey, for the benefit of all those involved, as well as acting as a liaison with Government on subjects such as planning.

The association recently undertook a survey, which revealed that their proposed objectives align closely with the views of the Island's equestrian community.

Respondents highlighted their desire for more 'off-road' riding, particularly due to their concerns about road safety, supporting the association's objectives to reestablish and connect bridle paths, as well as improving road safety for horses and riders through liaising with Government, the States of Jersey Police and the Island's parishes.

The survey also evidenced people's opinions about the level of regulation in relation to commercial equine businesses as well as how to oversee the welfare of equines through improving education – aligning with the objective to enhance and safeguard equine welfare standards.

Other objectives include uniting the equestrian sector by working with commercial businesses, clubs and riding organisations and creating a website to act as a central hub, thus providing relevant information, promoting events and gathering ideas.



One of the association's suggestions, which had a majority of support in the survey's findings, is to create an equine register – logging the number of equines in the Island. This will be beneficial when approaching Government for support and assistance, especially regarding equine welfare and transport.

The constitution of the Jersey Horse Association was ratified at a recent meeting when Derek Clackett was appointed as President and Alasdair Crosby as Chairman.

Several working groups have been formed to support the organisation's objectives including commercial equine businesses, clubs and riding associations, event promotion, training and instructional, bridle paths and field routes, health and welfare, and road safety.

By coming together as one voice, equestrians and horse owners stand a greater chance of being heard as a community.

To get in touch, email: info@jerseyhorseassociation.com

The Jersey Horse Association survey

In January, a survey was conducted by the Jersey Horse Association to gather information regarding the equestrian sector, and to obtain feedback from the horse riding community in relation to their views and interests. A prize draw was undertaken for those who had completed the survey (which ended in February), and whilst all the prizes have now been claimed, details of the sponsors follow below:

- A free lesson with Cilla Perchard, British Horse Society Stage 3 coach and representative in the Channel Islands of the British Horse Society.

www.bhs.org.uk/go-riding-and-learn/find-a-coach-or-groom/cilla-perchard/
T: 07797 721472
cilla_perchard@hotmail.com

- 1 voucher to the value of just over £100 for Le Claire Riding Stables. The riding school is based in a scenic, rural site offering tuition for all levels of riding right from the beginning.

Location: Sunnysdale, La Rue Militaire, St. John, JE3 4DP
T: 07700 334848
Facebook: @Le Claire Riding Stables

- 10 haylage bales from Michael Binet.
mbinet@outlook.com
- Vouchers for a beach ride with Happy Hooves – donated by Elle.
happyhoovesjersey@gmail.com
- 3 x £30 vouchers towards a photo shoot with Barbara Pustelnik equine photography.
www.barbpustequine.photo

- A £65 voucher off a Horse Box/Trailer Service by MBM Services, donated by Beverley Bingle.

mbmservicesjsy@gmail.com

- 2 vouchers for Jersey Rugwash – donated by Megan Hughes.
jerseyrugwash@gmail.com

- 4 Sand School hire slots at Beuvelande Stables Equine and Canine Solutions –

Donated by Sarah Haworth
equineandcaninesolutions@gmail.com

- A day shadowing the Clerk of the Course of Jersey Race Club on a Race Day, courtesy of Jersey Race Club.
- 1 ½ hours of field flaying (grass trimming). By Stephen Pallot, worth £82.50 — donated by Stephen Pallot
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Edmund Blampied – master painter of the horse

Throughout his life, Blampied was witness to the ubiquitous role of the horse in Jersey. By Stephen Cohu of Stephen Cohu Antiques

Edmund Blampied is regarded as the preeminent artist to come out of the Channel Islands in the 20th Century. He was born in St Martin in 1886 and was raised by his widowed mother and his late father's two sisters, Tante Rachel and Tante Elizabeth, who went on to feature in many of his later works. Growing up in rural Trinity, Blampied was more interested in studying and sketching the horses, Breton farmworkers and other scenes from country life than in his school work.

In the late 19th Century, virtually all Island travel was by horse, either as a rider or as a passenger in carts, vans and char-à-bancs. Virtually every house had their own stables, even those in town, and of course farmwork and ploughing was all carried out by equipment pulled by horses. There were no cars, buses or tractors and horses could be seen everywhere. It was particularly in the rural landscape that Edmund learned to sketch horses in all situations, but particularly the working horses ridden by the Breton farmworkers.

With no formal art training but with a natural skill for drawing and caricature, his talent was spotted and in January 1903 Blampied left Jersey to study art at Lambeth School of Art. His first language was Jèrriais, which features often in his later humorous drawings. In 1905 he went to Bolt Court in London to study etching. His interest was in the works of Rembrandt and Dürer, the influence of which can be seen in many of his own etchings.



Driving Home in the Rain, Edmund Blampied



Red chalk drawing of horses eating hay, Edmund Blampied

A significant number of his etchings feature horses, either at work or at play. His most highly regarded etching, *Driving Home in the Rain*, won print of the year award in 1914 and remains a hard to find iconic image to this day. The sheer energy in the etching, achieved simply by scratching lines into a copper plate, captured the attention of the art world and Edmund Blampied became an instant hit.

Horses pulling carts, riders in the surf, rolling in hay on a relaxed Sunday afternoon, terrified horses in burning stables, his work featured all situations both good and bad. *The Knacker* is a particularly challenging etching but showed that Edmund wasn't scared to depict the reality of life (and death) for an old horse.

Following a successful career in London, Scotland (where he exhibited alongside the Scottish Colourists) and the United States as an illustrator, etcher and watercolourist, Blampied returned to Jersey in 1938 just before the outbreak of war.

He was a man of some celebrity with great standing in the Island and was at the house of Jersey's Occupation Bailiff, Sir Alexander Coutanche – Clos des Tours above St Aubin's Harbour – on Liberation Day 9 May, 1945.

During the German Occupation of the Island, artists' paint became largely unobtainable, and he continued to work using house paint. Many of his Occupation period paintings in both oil and watercolour were simply swapped for food or other service that Edmund and his wife Marianne needed, and many paintings were done on insulating board or other suitable panel. Many featured horses, which highlighted the importance of these animals to Jersey's rural economy.

Many of Blampied's most atmospheric paintings were done during the 1930s and 1940s and if he particularly liked a painting he might sign it several times. From dreamy almost fairytale watercolours, to gritty dark oil paintings, he covered every aspect of Jersey life, often featuring a horse or two.

Many of his later more romantic paintings depict vraicing scenes of seaweed gathering on the beach and these works featured in many exhibitions both locally and internationally. Into the 1950s and 1960s, his oils became more abstract, partly due to his suffering from Parkinson's disease. He produced many caricatures and swiftly done sketches but painted much less in watercolour.

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the death of Edmund Blampied but his works, among the many local and international collectors, remain as popular as ever. His depictions of horses, for which he is most famous, will surely endure in popularity for generations to come.

Less rush, more reassurance

That is the approach of All Pets Veterinary Centre, led by Ruth Guegan and Emily Sabin, because veterinary care should feel as safe as home.

By Summer Lister

In the quiet corner of St Peter's Village, nestled in the familiar stone buildings of Manor Farm Barn, there's a small veterinary practice doing things a little differently. You won't find a crowded waiting room or feel hurried through a ten minute slot. Instead, there's the soft patter of paws on the floor, a gentle voice offering a treat, and a sense that here, your pet is truly known.

This is All Pets. A proudly independent, female-owned practice led by Ruth Guegan and Emily Sabin, who share not only years of veterinary experience, but a deep-rooted belief that pets – and their people – deserve better.

A Practice Built on Purpose

Ruth and Emily took on All Pets in 2019, unaware that just months later, the world would come to a halt. But rather than derail their plans, the Covid pandemic gave them a unique chance to establish their values from the ground up.

'It levelled the playing field,' Ruth said. 'Every practice had to rethink. For us, it was about building something slower, more personal, and with care at its core.'



Emily Sabin and Ruth Guegan

Both had spent years working in larger, well-resourced surgeries, but found themselves missing the aspect that made the job matter – the relationships. The familiar wag of a tail. The cat who always meows at the same moment. The quiet trust built between vet and animal, over time.

'I wanted a practice where we weren't clock-watching. Where we could really get to know our clients and do right by every animal, without rushing,' Ruth reflected.

Emily nodded: 'We didn't want to just do the job – we wanted to have balance and operate sustainably for the long-term – a career of care for the rest of our working lives doing what we genuinely love.'

Fear Free, Familiar, and Flexible

At the heart of All Pets approach is the belief that veterinary care should feel safe – not just for pets, but for their owners too.



At reception, Marlene Willing and Eve Maurant, with Freddie the cat

“ I wanted a practice where we weren’t clock-watching. Where we could really get to know our clients and do right by every animal, without rushing

Their fear free ethos means every effort is made to reduce anxiety and stress for animals: appointments are 20 minutes as standard, allowing time to go at the pet’s pace. Where appropriate, home visits are offered – particularly helpful for nervous animals, senior pets, or multi-animal households.

There are stories that bring this approach to life. The dog who arrives for a procedure, receives its light sedation, and then takes a drive around the block with their owner while the medicine takes effect – returning calm, sleepy, and ready to be gently cared for. Or the cat who’s so focused on treats that it barely notices a blood sample being taken.

‘We rarely need to restrain,’ Emily said, ‘because we’re not rushing. That’s the difference. We’re able to read the animal, let them settle, and work with them.’

They also use PetsApp for quick queries and same-day booking, adding convenience without losing the personal touch. And for cats, All Pets is an ISFM (International Society of Feline Medicine) awarded Gold Standard Cat Friendly Clinic, with future hopes to open an entirely cat specific clinic on the Island.

A Team That Truly Cares

All Pets isn’t just different for clients – it’s different for the people who work there too.

‘We knew we couldn’t create the right environment for pets if the team was burnt out,’ said Ruth. That’s why All Pets champions a positive work culture, from proactive wellbeing policies to offering above-average pay. It’s no surprise that the practice has attracted a team of like-minded professionals who genuinely care – and stay.

It’s also the only vet surgery in Jersey run by female directors. With over 70% of the UK’s veterinary workforce now women, it feels both timely and important.

‘There’s no corporate model to follow here,’ Emily said, ‘We make our own decisions, always based on what’s best for the animal and their owner.’

Now Welcoming New Clients

Thanks to their growing team, All Pets has recently reopened its books and is now taking on new clients – and their companions.

Whether it’s your first hamster, a beloved rescue dog, or an ageing farm cat in need of gentler care, All Pets welcomes them all with kindness and time. This is a practice where your dog’s name will be remembered, where the team already knows your cat hates loud noises, and where your pet’s wellbeing will always come first – even before the invoice.

A Final Word

If you’re looking for a different kind of veterinary care – one that puts compassion before convenience, and calm before clock-watching – you’ll find it in the heart of St Peter’s.

Because here at All Pets, it’s never just a job. It’s a relationship. A commitment. And a promise to treat your pet like one of our own.

Visit www.allpets.je or pop in to say hello

Trusted by pets. Chosen by their humans.



Twenty years of walkies

The Spotted Wellies dog walking company celebrates its 20th anniversary this summer. Alasdair Crosby talked to business owners Levi and Isley Wylie

Walking fuels a bond with dogs – as any dog owner knows. That is certainly the view of Spotted Wellies business owners Levi and Isley Wylie.

‘We love dogs – I think we could say that we are obsessed with dogs,’ said Levi.

‘I used to be a chef, and my sister, Isley, was a make-up artist. I worked for long hours in a hot and pressured environment and I can’t say that I enjoyed it too much.

Then in 2016 we took over our father’s window cleaning business, and that was better, as I realised that I much preferred working outside. I never want to work in a kitchen again!’

A year later their father passed away, and subsequently they sold the business. Levi was wondering what to do next – and saw an advertisement from the Spotted Wellies owner, Joanna Simpson, for a walker, so she made contact and started a life of going walkies – much better than working in a kitchen, even in bad weather, and also the sisters had always kept dogs and loved their company.

“ It was just as Covid struck. Probably not the best time to take on a business, and we didn’t know how that was going to affect us. But things went well, and we’re still going

Spotted Wellies had been established in 2005, so it is one of the oldest dog walking companies in the Island. Jo Simpson was known for walking in her spotted wellies – and at the same time wearing a bikini in hot weather – and she ran the business until she returned to studying to begin a new career. The business was then co-managed by another Joanna – Jo Matthews – until 2019. The two of them were known as Curly Jo and Little Jo.

In 2020, after Levi had been a dog walker for a year, Curly Jo felt ready to start a new career full time, so Levi and Isley were asked if they would like to take the business over – which is what they did.

‘It was just as Covid struck. Probably not the best time to take on a business, and we didn’t know how that was going to affect us.

‘But things went well, and we’re still going,’ Levi explained.

It is not only going well; it has also doubled in size. When they took over the business, there were five walkers, and now that number has risen to 10, with an eleventh member of the team, Gail, helping with the administration.

‘So, 10 people doing two walks every day for groups of dogs and some solo walks — it’s about 90 dogs a day. We’ve done really well, actually. I’m surprised that it has kept growing as it has. There was no conscious plan to expand — it has just happened!

‘The number of people owning dogs has just ballooned since Covid. Before then, people usually only owned a dog if they worked from home or were at home a lot.’



“ We work hard to provide a reliable, trustworthy service and to make sure all our dogs go home happy and fulfilled. Between us, the walkers, the dogs and their owners, we are like a big family. We all want the best for our dogs, and that’s the reality of it

‘Now there are very many dog walking or doggy day care services just to keep pace with demand. The latest figures show that there are over 9,000 dogs in the Island – and those are just the registered ones, not the unregistered ones!’

‘At some point, Government has to think about how they are going to manage this rise in the canine population. But, in the short-term, it means that we are definitely not short of customers!’

Like all dog walkers, Spotted Wellies walkers usually have a group of several dogs to take walkies at any one time, with a maximum number of six. With five or six dogs, how on earth can they all be kept properly under control? And isn’t that just a bit intimidating for other dog owners – especially for elderly or inexperienced owners, who are having a quiet walk with just one pet and are not expecting or wanting to be suddenly in the middle of Dog City?

‘If we take on a new dog, we give it a bit of time before introducing it to a group and sometimes that may take a while. But we have training techniques that we use, and lots of reinforcements, such as balls – or treats, of course. We soon know which dogs are reliable off the lead. We also give regular updates to our customers, to help them keep their dogs behaving well. But we feel it’s really important to dogs to have off lead time to sniff, run and play with others – they are social creatures like us. It’s important for them to see their friends.

‘We do regular training with our walkers on how to handle dogs, which really helps. I often accompany them to ensure they are doing things that they should be doing, and giving them prompts and help. I think that the dogs we walk get a lot of training; we give them lots of treats and cuddles, and the dogs feel secure in their routine.

‘We’re not going to walk dogs in a group if they aren’t social. We are very aware that some people aren’t the biggest fan of dog walkers, so we are always trying to keep our dogs close to us, keeping an eye on them and making sure that they are not doing anything they shouldn’t. You need eyes in the back of your head with a group of dogs – they are here, there and everywhere! You are always calling them, checking in with them – you’ve got to be on it, all the time.’

The ‘Wild Poo Project’ was initiated by Spotted Wellies, and the company is known for encouraging their walkers – and the general public – to pick up dog poo and litter in the countryside. For every ‘wild poo’ cleaned up, they donate 10p to a local dog rescue charity, such as the JSPCA, Company of Dogs or Jersey Rescue Dogs. Recent figures have been over 1,000 poos per month, meaning a donation of over £100 – and a kind supporter of the project donates an equal amount to match what Spotted Wellies has donated.

One thing they would like to see relaxed is the summertime on lead restriction for dogs (and horses) on beaches from 10.30am to 6pm.

‘Maybe 20 years ago when there were more tourists visiting the island, the ban was necessary, but now there are fewer areas that are busy. Aside from the obvious places that are really popular, like St Brelade’s Bay, not all of the beaches are busy with people throughout the season. Some beaches are practically empty for a fair amount of the time between May and September. Especially on weekdays outside of the school holidays and on ‘not-beach-weather’ days.

‘We can still take the dogs on our first walk to the beach, but it would be nice if the on lead restrictions were reduced for some of the beaches that are so often empty.

‘At the end of the day, we’re very lucky to have so many beautiful places that the dogs can have fun together, and we care about taking care of those places. Ensuring that our team manage the dogs responsibly and respect our countryside and beaches is one of our priorities.’

Levi added: ‘We work hard to provide a reliable, trustworthy service and to make sure all our dogs go home happy and fulfilled. Between us, the walkers, the dogs and their owners, we are like a big family. We all want the best for our dogs, and that’s the reality of it.’



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Does a wagging tail always mean a happy dog?

By clinical animal behaviourist and registered veterinary nurse Becka Whitehead



'My dog is wagging their tail, so it must be happy' is a common belief that I have encountered throughout my career. But is this true?

First, before exploring the tail wag, it is useful to understand that dogs use their tails as a form of communication. Communication requires a sender and a receiver, however, transmission and decoding of information can become lost or hindered during transmission, which can lead to miscommunication.

Misinterpretation commonly arises between humans and dogs, which is not surprising since we are a different species.

Dogs have developed an exceptional understanding of human body language and facial expressions through domestication, but humans are less competent at interpreting the body language of dogs.

But what about the tail?

The position of the tail gives us a small piece of information to build an understanding of how a dog is feeling. Typically, a dog with a lower tail that is tucked underneath their body and is still or has a narrow, fast wag is likely feeling nervous or fearful; in comparison, a neutral tail positioned in line with the spine and with a wide wag suggests that a dog is relaxed and willing to engage or interact positively. An excited dog may wag their tail in a helicopter-type motion or move their hips in tandem with their tail.

An upward-pointing tail generally indicates that a dog is more responsive in their environment, however, it does not necessarily tell us the dog's emotional state. A dog with an upward-facing tail that is moving fast or wide is likely experiencing a positive emotional state, whereas a dog with an upward-facing tail that is wagging slowly or with a narrow wag may be experiencing a negative emotional state.

A broad or wide tail wag is typically considered to be friendlier and non-threatening, whereas a narrower wag or still tail could indicate that a dog is feeling uneasy.

Likewise, a neutral, loose, flowing tail can indicate that a dog is relaxed, whilst a stiff tail could indicate that a dog is feeling uneasy about an interaction or something in their environment. A dog with a stiff tail that is positioned high and arched towards the back with the tip moving in a fast-vibrating motion may indicate that a dog is highly focused on something and could progress to hostile behaviour.

More recently, researchers have proposed that the direction of a dog's tail wag may be associated with their emotional state. It has suggested that the left hemisphere of the body focuses on avoidant emotions and the right hemisphere on engaging emotions; the left hemisphere typically controls the functions of the right side of the body and vice versa, although some functions are controlled by both sides of the brain. It is thought that dogs experiencing a positive emotional state are more likely to have a right-sided bias to their wag, while comparatively, dogs in a negative emotional state will wag towards the left with a higher frequency.

One final point we should consider is that every dog is an individual, and factors such as breed, learning and health may influence the movement or positioning of a dog's tail. For example, some dogs may not have a tail, while others may have a curled tail, and some have been bred to have a high position, but others may naturally hold their tail low.

In a nutshell, a wagging tail does not always mean a happy dog. Although the tail wag provides us with some useful information about a dog's emotional state, it is only one piece of our puzzle; we should always assess a dog's entire body language to understand how they may be feeling.

Becka can be contacted on at
www.companionconundrums.com;
enquiries@companionconundrums.com

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- Fix dripping taps (they waste up to 60 litres per week!)
- Ditch the hose – grab a watering can



jerseywater.je



Why working dogs need more than work

The power of force free training,

by Harry Matthews of Origin Dog Training

When people picture a working dog in the countryside — especially breeds like the German Shepherd, Labrador, Malinois, or Collie — they often imagine a dog with a job and endless freedom. Fields to run in, tasks to complete, livestock to move.

But here's the truth: even in the most active, rural environments, these dogs don't just need more work. They need the right kind of work, built on structure, focus, and trust.

That's where force-free training comes in — and why it matters more in rural life than many realise.

Force free doesn't mean permissive. It doesn't mean letting dogs do what they want. It means training without fear, intimidation, or physical corrections. We rely instead on reward-based systems that build the dog's confidence, deepen the bond with their handler, and keep the lines of communication crystal clear.

In my work with high-drive breeds — dogs bred for stamina, intensity, and precision — the old school 'dominate and correct' approach doesn't just fall short. It backfires. These dogs thrive on clarity and purpose, not coercion. When a dog is confused or fearful, they either shut down or act out. That's not a temperament issue — it's a handler issue.

Living and working in rural areas poses unique challenges for dog owners. There are livestock distractions, fast-moving vehicles, wildlife, and miles of open land where a moment of disconnection can lead to a big problem.

That's why the foundation of our training system is simple: engagement first. Before I ever ask a dog to heel, recall, or leave livestock alone, I teach them to look to their handler like a teammate, not a threat or an obstacle.

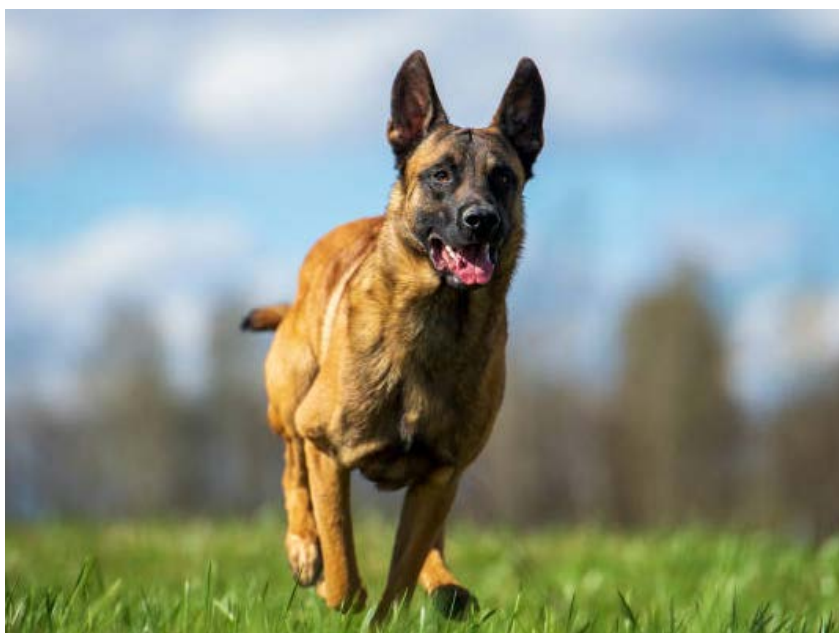
One of the most common problems I help rural owners solve is overstimulation. Dogs see a pheasant, a tractor, or a group of sheep — and boom, their instincts take over. But instincts can't be punished out of a dog. They must be redirected. That's why we prioritise building solid focus behaviours with high value rewards — treats, toys, praise — so the dog learns there's more benefit in listening to you, looking at you, than chasing what's in front of them.

This isn't just about making life easier — it's about safety. A reliable recall can save a life.

Calm livestock behaviour prevents injuries and costly accidents. And a mentally fulfilled dog is far less likely to develop frustration-based behaviours like reactivity or destruction.

For rural dog owners, the benefits of force free training are long-term. You get a dog who wants to work with you, not one who obeys out of fear or obligation. You build a partnership grounded in respect, not control.

So whether you're raising a farm pup or trying to recalibrate an older working dog, remember this: the strongest handler is the one who communicates with clarity, rewards effort, and leads with calm confidence.





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Wanted: junior handlers



Annie, Everlynn & Nora

Do you love dogs? Are you aged six or over? Then the Kennel Club of Jersey would like to invite you to become a Junior Handler

The Kennel Club of Jersey are hoping to attract more young people to the sport of Junior Handling, with the focus being to provide a training ground for a lifelong journey in dog shows and sports.

The club runs Junior Handling classes at all their matches, open and championship shows, and has recently included Junior Handling for the first time at their prestigious Channel Islands Dog of the Year show, held in February.

There are currently three rising Junior Handling stars: sisters Annie Brookes (10) and Nora Brookes (12), and Everlynn Stewart-Smith (8), who is following in the footsteps of her mother, Lorraine Stewart-Smith, the club's secretary and president.

Club chairman Helen Lester said: 'The most important thing is to see the Junior Handler and dog enjoying what they are doing, and talking to the dog in the ring and working as a team. A Handler may be asked to change dogs and compete with a dog they have never handled to demonstrate their ability to work with any dog and show their skill and love of dogs.'

The following Junior Handling classes are available for members to compete in at the Kennel Club of Jersey Shows: Handling 6-11 Years and Handling 12-16 Years, progressing to Handling 17-24 Years and onwards to Adult Handling.

Children 6 to under 16 years old learn basic handling skills, and how to care for, and present, different breeds in a competition. 'It is about having fun and making friends too,' Helen said. 'Handling competitions are designed to give its members the opportunity to meet and compete in friendly competition with others of a similar age.'

In August 2024, Annie and Nora Brookes enquired with their mother, Abigail, how they could get involved with helping at shows. They were invited up to meet the chairman and committee at a Fun Companion Show being run that month. At the Companion Show they had a lovely time, and then joined the club as Junior Members and attended their first match soon after. The girls own a pet 'Sprocker' (a Springer and Cocker Spaniel cross-breed), but they required a pedigree dog to compete in the Junior Handling classes.

There is always a member of the club willing to let the Juniors handle their dogs, and both girls have been competing with registrar Claire White's Cocker Spaniels. They have achieved great success in the ring so far, learning all the time, and they have both already won many rosettes and a shield. Nora recently won Best Junior Handler at the Spring Championship Show held in March, and her sister, Annie, came 2nd in the 6–11 year old class. Both girls are known as 'Dog Girls' at their schools, as they are making their mark in the dog world, with the schools taking great interest in their exciting journeys.

Everlynn started handling from the very young age of three with her mother's dogs and took part in competitions just for experience and fun, as she enjoyed it so much. From the age of six, Everlynn has competed at many of the club's shows, making many friends along the way.

“

The most important thing is to see the Junior Handler and dog enjoying what they are doing, and talking to the dog in the ring and working as a team...

'Her love of dogs shines,' Helen said, 'and she has a natural ability, handling her mother's Papillon with great confidence and a great pace in the ring.'

'At the Channel Islands Dog of The Year in February, Everlynn was crowned Junior Handler of the Year 2024, and she was presented with a trophy by club patron Bailiff Sir Timothy Le Cocq. It was a magical moment for Everlynn at such a young age and at such a big event.'

The three girls all agree that the Junior Handling makes them feel good and brings great enjoyment, and they hope more Juniors will be encouraged to have a go!

All three girls will compete at the Summer Championship Show on 19 July, and may have extra competition in the ring from Juniors from the Guernsey Kennel Club.

The Junior Handlers are now sponsored by RURAL magazine, which will be reporting on their progress as they continue to have fun in the show ring with the dogs they love, and work towards competing at the next Channel Islands Dog of the Year Show on 14 February 2026.

If anyone is interested in 'having a go' at Junior Handling please e-mail showsecretary@thekennelclubofjersey.com and for any further information please visit www.thekennelclubofjersey.com

PAWSITIVE IMPACT

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jerseynationalpark.com/pawsitiveimpact



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PROTECT.
ENJOY.**



Off the lead and in the doghouse

Getting to grips with ‘dogs behaving badly’, by the Jersey National Park’s Mike Stentiford

Scooby-Doo, Pluto, Snoopy and our latest hero, Gromit; just a few of the wonderful canine cartoon characters that have the capacity of endearing themselves to generations of us humans ... and why not indeed? Dogs have proved themselves time and time again to be man’s very best friend and most faithful soulmate.

According to government statistics, no fewer than 10,000 dog licences were issued by Jersey’s parish authorities in 2024. For a comparatively small Island, this impressive tally fully endorses the reciprocal loyalty we have with our four-legged buddies.

As we know, dogs are never happier than when running wild and free on any permitted area of coast or countryside where witnessing such tail wagging abandonment guarantees as much fulfilment within the owner as it does in the dog itself.

The reality, of course, is that dogs are known to do what excitable dogs are naturally wont to do which, in certain situations, can cause unnecessary upset, angst and even financial loss to others.

To publicly address this reality, the Jersey National Park launched its Pawsitive Impact campaign in January 2025, a three-month endeavour to highlight the responsibilities expected of all dog owners.

While recognising that our national park owns no land of its own, it does have an obligation to support, whenever and wherever possible, all those landowning stakeholders that allow access within the park’s protected boundaries.

This carefully thought-out exercise concentrated on three major concerns relating to dogs running free and ‘leadless’ – the protection of migrating shorebirds, safeguarding agricultural farmland and crops, and disturbance to livestock.

This well constructed awareness campaign also included the naturally expected yet highly unpleasant subject of dog mess.

Treading on ‘something rather nasty’ when out and about in our rural environment has now become an unwelcome yet frequent misfortune for a remarkably high number of residents.

It’s a subject that’s also been highlighted on the social media platform Wild Poo Project, a worthy local campaign that, somewhat worryingly, recorded the collection of 1,363 items of dog faeces in just one area during the month of March.

To any responsibly inclined ‘pick up the poo’ dog owner, such an admission will be embarrassing, shameful and clearly indicative of an Island-wide problem.

Although a number of issues involving canine disturbances have been widely reported by the Island’s media, other likewise distressful incidences often hide in the shadows.

Dogs worrying other dogs, for instance, clearly proves that our best friends exist in every shape, size and temperament.

What encourages Rex to be ‘mean-spirited’ to Fido is obviously a job for a canine psychologist but, when it happens, it’s never a pleasant experience for either dog or owner.



Most unsettling is the uncomfortable issue of hyperactive dogs worrying livestock, and in particular the Island’s increasing number of sheep.

Taking the brunt of attacks have been the Loaghtan long horns. These animals are particularly vulnerable on specific sections of the Island’s north coast where the open landscape and steep sea-cliffs provide little protection from dogs running amok.

It is incomprehensible that some dogs are given such runaway freedom at what is surely a predictably sensitive location.

In an effort to maintain momentum, Team National Park will be focussing on specific case studies that, with an element of community engagement, will direct the spotlight on issues involving a minority of irresponsible dog owners.

Assisting the campaign is the Comité des Connétables, who are in discussions regarding steps to improve enforcement – whether through DNA testing or other measures.

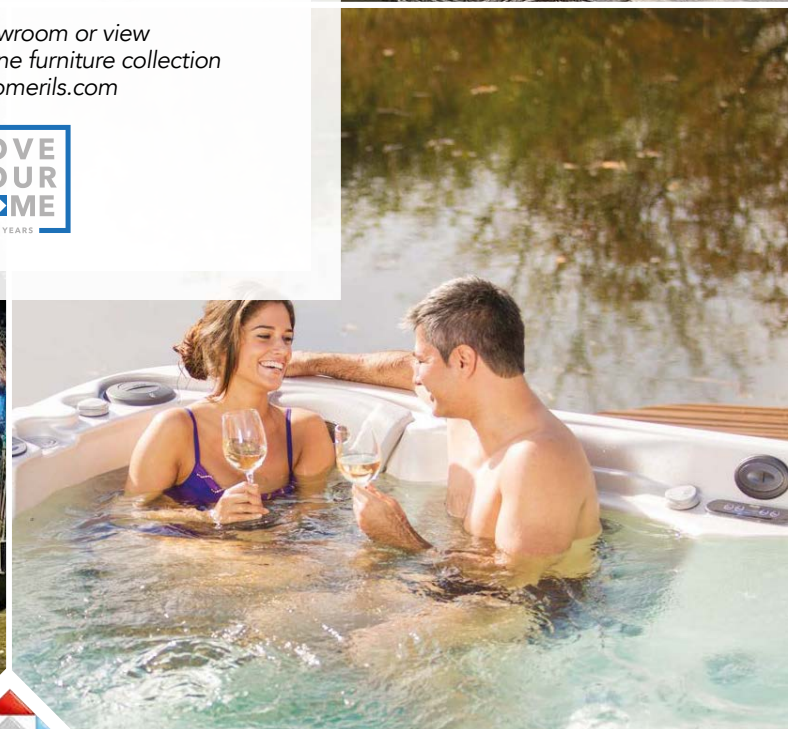
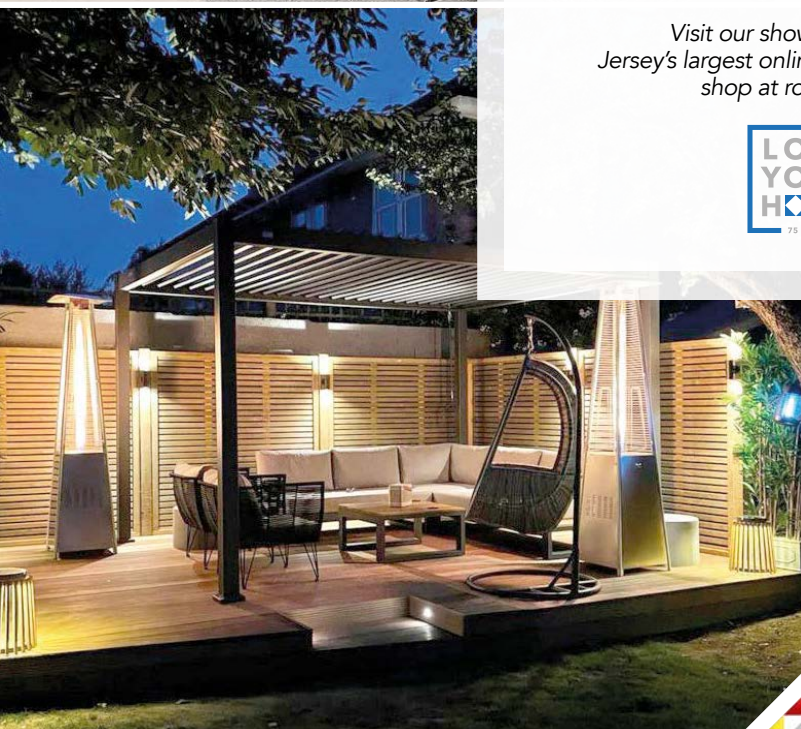
At the end of the day, it’s ‘a dog’s life’ but, even more importantly, a responsible dog owner’s life too, one would hope.



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Building alternative energy

A new solar farm has been officially opened in St Clement — the first ground-based solar farm to be generating power in the Island. Alasdair Crosby was at the Grand Opening

A new ground-based solar farm has been officially opened in St Clement — the first one to be generating power in the Island.

How do you open a solar farm? You can't exactly 'open' it, if, as in this case, it is already generating electricity. It is not, as Jersey Electricity chief executive Chris Ambler remarked, as easy as flicking a switch.

'When you have got the system switched on, you want to leave it on,' he said.

So, the time-honoured and low-tech expedient was employed — cutting a tape with a pair of scissors, wielded by Minister for the Environment, Deputy Steve Luce.

The sun shone brightly on the solar panels for the grand opening, at Rue du Moulin à Vent, St Clement — a shiny sun is always helpful for a solar farm.

'This is a significant moment for Jersey and a key milestone towards a more secure energy future,' said Chris. 'This facility is now fully operational, delivering local, homegrown renewable electricity directly into Island homes and businesses.'

Apart from the panels themselves — and the sheep from Panigot Farm that are now safely grazing among them, there was something else that JE wanted to show everybody:

'There is a screen showing a feed of data from this solar farm on to our public website. Islanders will be able to see for themselves — updated every 15 minutes — how their solar facility is powering their lives, at any time of the day.'

'And it will be brought to life using meaningful comparisons; equivalent houses supplied, cups of tea made, miles of travel in an EV.'

'During testing and commissioning, for example, the solar farm generated 482 megawatt hours in March alone (so saving the Island tens of thousands of pounds in imported power) — more than 30% ahead of forecast — enough energy to power 64 properties for a full year. So, we're putting information as well as local power, into the hands of Islanders.'

'This solar farm alone will generate enough electricity to power 14% of homes in St Clement — around 650 fully electric households — not just for a few years but for the next four decades.'

'Although modest in size by international standards, this 4.3MW solar project represents a meaningful step forward — underscoring our Island's collective commitment to sustainability, energy independence and community-driven progress. It's a locally owned, community-based project that reflects the values at the heart of our Island.'

JE's broader solar strategy is ambitious — but achievable, Chris said. Within the next two years, the Company aims to build 25MW of solar capacity across the Island, capable of securely meeting around one third of Jersey's peak summer demand.

He continued: 'With the recent drama of major power cuts in Spain and Portugal, we've seen very clearly just how dependent we are on electricity supplies and what happens when we lose them. Projects like these provide alternative sources of energy and build diversity.'

'But this isn't just about diversity, it's about holding energy costs down and protecting consumers with lower and more stable prices over the long-term.'

But Chris believes this project also goes well beyond energy: not just electricity being generated, but meaningful environmental and economic benefits in the Island, as well:

'Beehives, wild grasses and new hedgerows will turn this area into a sanctuary for biodiversity and wildlife — insects, birds, rodents, flora and fauna.'

'Furthermore, the land itself must remain in agricultural use — we ourselves insisted on this from the "go" — and it's helping to diversify Jersey's rural economy by supporting more sustainable, innovative farming practices — known as "agrovoltatics".'

'Today, we can see agrovoltatics in action.'

Jeremy Hughes of Panigot Farm, JE's solar shepherd partner, has relocated his flock of sheep back to the site.

“ This solar farm alone will generate enough electricity to power 14% of homes in St Clement — around 650 fully electric households — for the next four decades



These lambs will help manage the land while producing high quality, locally-reared lamb for Jersey's restaurants.

'We're proud to support nascent farming businesses, like Jeremy's, and support diversification that is now so vital to a struggling farming sector,' Chris said.

'Over the next 40 years, this land will enjoy a break from intensive farming, allowing the soil to recover and enrich, helping water retention and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

'This is how we deliver a just transition—keeping energy affordable for all whilst at the same time creating opportunities for future generations, protecting the land and our environment, and supporting livelihoods – all at the same time.

'This project shows what we can achieve when we work together. Projects like this keep money in the local economy and stimulate our construction sector, and they equip our workforce with valuable green skills needed to thrive in a low carbon future.'

Addressing the quite voluble level of opposition to these ground-based solar panel sites, he observed that these projects were often misunderstood.



Chris Ambler & Deputy Steve Luce

'But the Island's energy consumers' (in other words, all of us) 'need to take some level of responsibility for producing it here in Jersey. As roof solar energy is so much more expensive to produce, ground solar is pretty much the only way of generating local power cleanly and cost effectively.'

Secondly, these facilities are not displacing agriculture but supplementing it. Whatever land they use, it stays in agricultural use. They are pursuing six solar schemes in the delivery of their 25MW target, and this collectively would represent just 0.6% of agricultural land. Bear in mind also that 27% of agricultural land currently lies unused.

Thirdly, they are also working harder than ever on roof solar PV (photovoltaic) on commercial buildings and they are scaling up propositions for the residential market. 'So it's not ground *or* roof solar – its ground *and* roof solar — that is needed in the future energy system.

'Far from damaging the countryside, these schemes are here to improve it. But there is a fail-safe. If at the end of the 40-year life, the next generation want to do something different, all this kit will be automatically removed — and we can be sure that the earth will be left in a better condition than ever before.

'Together, we are laying the foundations for a more resilient, self-sufficient, and sustainable Jersey.'



Photography inspired by nature

A magazine should always be as much pictorial as it is 'wordy' and much of the success of RURAL magazine over the years has been the photographs taken of Jersey rural life and rural landscapes by our photographic editor, Gary Grimshaw.

This year, we are featuring four pictures from him, one in each of our quarterly editions, that show the Island and Island life in the four seasons.

For this Summer edition, we present the north coast scenery at Egypt.

To see a full range of Gary's pictures, see his website at www.photoreportage.co.uk, or contact him at info@photoreportage.co.uk

If you only do one thing for your home this month ... Buy a houseplant!



Biophilic design, rooted in our innate connection to nature, transforms indoor spaces into calming, restorative environments. By integrating natural elements, this approach enhances wellbeing, boosts productivity, and creates sanctuary-like interiors.

If your fingers are not of the green variety, you can still embrace biophilic design by bringing leaf print fabrics and wallpapers into your home. Many natural plant derived materials – woven linens, sisal flooring, textured raffia wallpapers – imbue this same innate serenity into a space, and plain versions of these are available for those who don't like prints or patterns.

Bring nature indoors... ease into and absorb the power of Biophilic Design.

By our interior design writer, Bryony Richardson

What is Biophilic Design?

It incorporates natural materials, light, plants, and patterns to mimic the outdoors. While it's more than just plonking a pot plant onto your coffee table, it is easy to embrace and studies show that biophilic spaces can reduce stress, improve focus, and even lower blood pressure.

Bring the outdoors indoors

There is a type of houseplant suitable for every home. As a general rule of thumb, the darker the leaf, the less natural light the plant will require. For a bright window ledge, consider planting up your largest favourite bowl with a throng of asparagus ferns to add a fresh, healthful vibe. For a darker corner, you may wish to look at purchasing a well-established fiddle-leaf fig and finding a handmade basket for it to sit in for a Balinese retreat kind of atmosphere, or place in an elegant concrete planter for a more minimal modern feel.



Leaf print fabrics are also a versatile tool in a biophilic interior scheme, bringing the essence of forests and gardens into your home. Imagine curtains with delicate fern patterns filtering sunlight or a sofa upholstered in bold banana leaf prints that evoke balmy, tropical serenity. These fabrics add softness and movement, creating a tactile connection to nature. Opt for natural fibres like cotton, linen, or hemp to enhance sustainability and authenticity. For example, a scatter cushion with a botanical print can instantly refresh a living room, while leaf-patterned bedding can turn a bedroom into a tranquil retreat.



Transforming walls with leaf print wallpapers

These offer a dramatic yet grounding effect within a biophilic scheme. From subtle eucalyptus sprigs to vibrant jungle motifs, these designs immerse one in nature, large-scale palm leaf pattern can make a small room feel expansive, while a soft, monochromatic leaf design adds understated, timeless elegance. Modern wallpapers are eco-friendly, with non-toxic inks and sustainable materials, which align with biophilic principles. You can layer in the biophilic feel further by pairing wallpaper with natural wood furniture or stone accents to amplify the organic aesthetic.

Sourcing sustainable options

When selecting leaf print fabrics and wallpapers, consider prioritising natural materials, eco-conscious brands that use water-based inks, recycled materials, or low-impact dyes.

There's more about Bryony on her website: bryonyrichardson.com

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Tranquil and enchanting

RURAL Magazine's gardens and gardening writer, Anna Bradstock, visited Rosel Manor and its magnificent gardens

In a hidden, sheltered valley behind Rosel Manor are some of the most beautiful — and biggest — trees in the Island.

The gardens were remodelled circa 1820 by the then owners, Charles and Elizabeth Lemprière, who embraced the fashionable hybrids of *Magnolia*, *Rhododendron* and *Camellia* species. The trees now tower above the gardens, as if they were growing in an Asian mountain forest.

In the valley are two ponds: the top pond was stocked with fish in the 14th Century for the Friday dinners of the Seigneurs de Rosel.

A waterfall leads down to a lower, less formal pond. These ponds create the garden's main theme.

The stream that issues from the ponds flows through St Catherine's Woods to the bay. The stream was once a perquage or sanctuary route.

The present Dame de Rosel, Emma Johnston, has frequently performed her 800-year-old feudal duty as liege of the monarch, divulging who in Jersey should be trusted. She recently served King Charles with a well earned cuppa, dressed in her white gloves.

But she can more often be found wearing gardening gloves, working alongside her gardening team headed up by Mike Willams, aided by Paul Sullivan, who have worked tirelessly to clear the devastating damage caused by Storm Ciarán.

Thankfully, there are many veteran trees still standing, the principal 'champion tree' being the Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) towering over the top pond. It is perfectly situated on the bank with its roots developing 'knees' (pneumatophores), as they thrive in the water. Measuring 111ft tall in 1982, it is currently the tallest in the British Isles ahead of its rival at Broadlands in Hampshire.

The 150-year-old *Wisteria sinensis* covers the façade of the 12th Century chapel.



Rosel Manor, north façade

Arum lilies surround the Top Pond below the 12th Century chapel



The garden nearby is dominated by the giant python trunks of the *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Alba', which spreads its enormous canopy by layering its branches to the ground and sustaining yet further branches of white cupped blooms to a 4m height and spread... buyer beware!

Leading on to the Palm Garden beyond are four Chusan Palms, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, which stand sentinel in the shelter of the granite walls, where Emma has recently developed a Mediterranean garden on the site of old glasshouses.

A beautiful yellow flowering magnolia, most likely *Magnolia* 'Elizabeth', steals the show in April, whilst a Himalayan native with beautiful red spring foliage, *Euonymus lucidus*, forms another 'champion tree' alongside a desirable Chilean *Drymis winteri*, with its hanging clusters of pure white flowers in late spring.

The tranquillity of this enchanting garden can be best enjoyed from the chapel looking down the sloping lawn to the pond in May and June, when hundreds of Arum lilies illuminate the banks with their white trumpets for weeks on end.

As a foil for their serenity, a blast of magenta, red and pink evergreen Kurume *Azelea* planted in a border on the path dividing the ponds, has been extended to include *Rhododendron* 'Mother's Day' and R. 'Geisha Purple'.

Storm Ciarán brought three mature beech trees crashing on to the magnificent deep red *Rhododendron* which towered over the path, their trunks remaining in the pond for several months.



However, undeterred, the resourceful Dame de Rosel sought to use this as a planting opportunity for the western bank, with a view to extend the seasonal interest into the summer and autumn, as this will be the focal point walking down the path from the manor.

Emma has already put her stamp on the garden, cutting back large areas of *Rhododendron ponticum*. In their place she has planted *Rhododendron* 'Cunningham's White', *Crinodendron hookerianum* with its bright red lanterns, *Cornus kousa* 'Eddie's White Wonder' for May/June and *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Phantom' flowering from July right through the autumn.

A passion for plants runs through the family as John Bolitho, married to Emma's aunt, planted up the perquage stream and lower pond area whilst living at the Manor in the 1950's.

A Cornishman with contacts in the famous plant nurseries (together with Tree Fern, *Dicksonia antarctica* seeds in his pocket!) he created an exotic woodland of spring and summer glory under the authoritative stature of the Coastal Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*. We see *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Rustica Rubra', rose pink cupped blooms, white inside, with *M. stellata*, white star flowers, and two magnificently tall *M. campbellii* 'Lanarth' holding outrageously vivid pink flamboyant flowers high on bare branches in early spring.

The Swamp Cyprus, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, thrives further down the stream with the Foxglove Tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*, and a cathedral like *Rhododendron sinogrande* with leaves 1ft long and with a huge pale yellow flower with magenta internal markings.

I have known and loved the garden at Rosel Manor all my life. Now, in the safe care of this present Lemprière generation, its romantic charm inspires every visitor lucky enough to view it.



Gardeners' questions

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

If you have a question for Aunty Planty, please contact her at editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk

How do I weed wearing glasses? They fall off when I peer down to spot weeds ... do I need to get a special sports strap, or maybe Auntie Planty doesn't need glasses?

- From Mary B, Trinity

I can assure you that Auntie needs glasses! However, she gets closer to the subject by kneeling to weed ... dare I suggest that you might be bending down to weed, also giving yourself backache?

So long as your knees allow, do try Velcro knee pads or a kneeler of some sort to explore the ground close up. You may find self-seeded plants in amongst the weeds which is always a justified reward for weeding. Regard it as a stretching exercise by varying your position ... you can always slip in a 'Downward-Facing Dog' yoga pose in there to keep supple!

Another suggestion would be to create beds along the top of a wall, if you are lucky enough to have a low wall.

A raised bed arrangement is most particularly good for small delicate plants and alpines that enjoy the heat of a wall and sharp drainage. There are so many plants that will tumble colourfully downwards, flowering all summer long and should overwinter in good drainage.

Starting early with the bright blue Lithodora, *Glandora prostrata* 'Heavenly Blue', African Daisies *Dimorphotheca ecklonis* in colours to suit every garden, Bacopa 'Snowflake', *Chaenostoma cordatum*, a hanging basket favourite and we all love the purple Dalmatian bellflower *Campanula portenschlagiana*, so happy to seed in granite walls with the ubiquitous Mexican fleabane, *Erigeron karvinskianus*.



Which is the best App for plant ID?

- From S. Holmes, St Helier

I rate PlantNet as the best, it's free and you can set your geographical location on gardening hols!

My lily leaves are full of holes and covered with black goo underneath... who or what is eating them, and will I get any flowers?

- From Liz L, St Saviour



Lily beetles! The good news is that apart from the defoliated look of the lily, not to mention the undesirable black mess associated with their larvae, you should have flowers. You may not have brilliant flowers next year as there will be limited leaves to photosynthesise giving the lily opportunity to replenish energy to store in the bulb at the end of the season.

First job is to wash the larvae (and excrement!) off the leaves and keep a constant look out for more bright red critters. They should be squashed between your nimble fingers... they jump, so it takes some skill!

The adults overwinter in the soil, emerging on sunny days in March to then mate in April, with leaf damage April/May.

If you need backup, Grazer's G4 is an effective spray, available with a host of other pest solutions from www.greengardener.co.uk. The lilies should make a full recovery if fed regularly through next season. Next year try scratching around in the soil surrounding the lily bulb in March to catch the beetles before they go on the rampage.

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In a bind about bindweed?

There is no quick fix to solving a problem like bindweed, as Gill Maccabe reports. Just a 'slow fix' of hard graft

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Our travel plans have been firmly thwarted because of the garden. Even a weekend away seems too much bother as there is so much to do on our return.

As I write, after an exasperating few weeks of being unable to see the fruit for the weeds, I would happily pave over the whole lot.

The main culprit of my disquiet and exasperation is bindweed, *calystegia sepium*, which is performing highly trained guerrilla manoeuvres nightly, perfecting its well-honed technique of strangulation and decapitation of any plant which gets in its way. As it spirals anticlockwise to the sun, it razes its victim to the ground and then scarpers off to the next.

Any attempt to shoot it out of the bed is futile as it has burrows deep below the ground, like a well-trained Special Boat Service commando inching along on their belly seeking out another plant to invade with the accuracy of a Rapier missile. The higher my salvias, verbenas and alliums grow, the happier it is, using the stalks as a ladder to victory.

These professional saboteurs steal water, light and nutrients from the plants you want to grow and unfortunately, they are very difficult to eradicate by hoeing and regular methods, as their long white taproots can extend deep into the soil.

If you try to pull them away from your plants, they snap, and you can be forgiven for thinking the problem has gone. But I'm afraid not! The powerful roots are able to regenerate from the smallest sections and established colonies can spread outwards by around 6ft in a single season. Because of its burrowing habit you can even catch it from your neighbour's garden.

Some ideas for resisting the invasion:

- Call in the professionals to spray it with glyphosate repeatedly as it will survive one application, and probably two or three doses once it grows back after the first, which it always does

- Cover the whole plant with a light excluding fabric, almost impossible as it will sneak around the edges, but the best bet on a large flat site
- Or learn to love it. It really is one of our most beautiful native plants and it is really useful for clothing ugly chain link fences and industrial buildings, so it does actually have its uses.

In addition, the RHS suggests that in the autumn, when the ground is dormant and bare, you can have some success forking out as much of the root system as you can and keep repeating throughout the cold season.

'By persistent digging and hoeing, it is possible to eradicate these weeds in a couple of years,' they report.

Many people swear by placing bamboo canes or similar at strategic places amongst the plants, and letting the bindweed climb up them which gives more visibility.

Sorry, I wish I had a quick fix – I can only offer these slow fixes!



The Waterfront Bar & Terrace

A Haven for Foodies and Relaxation Enthusiasts

Summer's here! The Waterfront Bar & Terrace is now open for food and beverages with extended food serving hours from 8am – 10pm daily, ensuring all guests are never short of delicious culinary delights. Sit and relax with a view while indulging in our mouth-watering food offerings.

Our terrace area, boasting stunning views of the marina, is now open (weather permitting). Guests can revel in this beautiful setting, perfect for an afternoon tea with a view or a sunny lunch to brighten up their day. On weekends, live music will add to the already vibrant and lively atmosphere, creating an unforgettable experience.

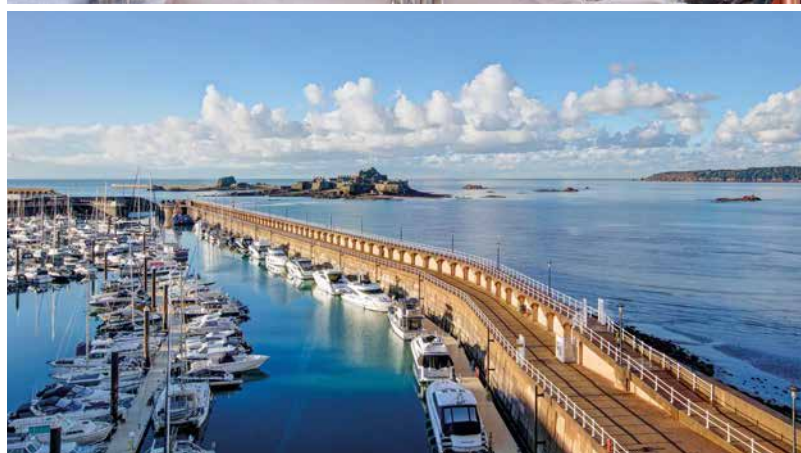
For those driving to our location, we offer complimentary car parking. Our convenient location makes it easy for locals and tourists alike to enjoy all that the Waterfront Bar & Terrace has to offer.

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The 'Searching for Jersey's Celts' exhibition at La Hougue Bie (Jersey Heritage)

The future of the past

'Making an exhibition of ourselves' — Jersey Heritage's Exhibitions Curator Lucy Layton explains how exhibitions play a key role in sharing these historic items and the stories they hold with the public

Artefacts, works of art, documents and more form part of Jersey Heritage's collections, which define the Island, hold the evidence for its historical development and act as the community's memory.

It's not enough, however, just to collect these objects and archives and store them away for the future. We also need to research and understand them and share their stories in engaging and relevant ways that connect with Islanders and visitors.

As a community, if we have an understanding and appreciation of our unique history, we are more likely to value and protect it. A changing programme of temporary exhibitions is one of the many ways in which Jersey Heritage seeks to promote this.



Across the UK, museums tend to hold around 90% of their collections in storage. Temporary exhibitions are an opportunity to showcase some of them and to tell new stories. The recently opened 'Life after Liberation' exhibition at Jersey Museum is a good example of this. While the permanent exhibition in the Occupation Tapestry Gallery at the Maritime Museum shares the story of the Occupation, this new temporary exhibition takes a fresh look at the Island's Second World War history by using Liberation Day as the starting point to explore the Island's road to recovery, rather than treating 9 May 1945 as the end of the story.

This novel approach has allowed us to display many objects and archival records that have never before been on public display.

One of the most eye-catching displays is a case filled with rusty German helmets. These were rescued from Occupation era underground tunnels in the 1980s, where they had been dumped shortly after Liberation.

Forty years in the damp conditions of the tunnels had caused the helmets to rust, so their condition was stabilised and they were stored in our purpose-built Museum Collections Store waiting for their moment to go on display. Now, the helmets – very powerfully – illustrate the story of the post-Liberation clean-up operation, that also involved the removal of 65,000 mines and the dumping of bargeloads of German field guns and ammunition at sea.

Other objects on display, such as a pile of German reichsmarks, are more recent additions to the collections. These banknotes were exchanged by Islanders for sterling in the days that followed Liberation. They lay forgotten in a Treasury vault for 79 years until their historic importance was recognised and they were transferred to Jersey Archive last year.

Exhibitions can also be the catalyst to research new stories. For example, a new display this year at Hamptonne presents the untold history of the farm during the Occupation years.



People queuing outside a bank in May 1945 to exchange their worthless German banknotes (Jersey Evening Post Photo Collection)

Despite extensive archaeological and archival research of Hamptonne by experts and local historians covering the 16th Century to the restoration of the farm in the early 1990s, there were few details recorded about the war years.

Fortunately, our Volunteer Coordinator, Julia Coutanche, had a family connection to Hamptonne. Her grandparents were tenant farmers during the Occupation and she had gathered family memories, stories and photographs, which were cross-referenced with records held at Jersey Archive. From this new research, we created a powerful display, 'Farming After Liberation', about the challenges of farming during and after the Occupation years.

Temporary exhibitions also offer an opportunity to present the latest research on a subject. The Le Câtillon II hoard, which was discovered in 2012, is a good example. It originally went on display at Jersey Museum as part of a working science lab where visitors could watch the hoard being taken apart coin by coin.

Below: German helmets on display in the 'Life After Liberation' exhibition at Jersey Museum (Jersey Heritage)



Peter Allo, a tenant farmer at Hamptonne, with his horse Bob around 1940. With fuel supplies scarce during the Occupation, farmers abandoned their tractors and returned to farming using horsepower (Allo family collection)



Since then, the hoard and its contents – including gold jewellery, a leather purse, insects and plant material – have been the subject of much academic research, and the latest findings and interpretation are on display at La Hougue Bie in the 'Searching for Jersey's Celts' exhibition.

There is a wide range of temporary and permanent exhibitions to explore across Jersey Heritage's museums and castles. We hope they not only inform and entertain our visitors but encourage a wider understanding and appreciation of our Island's special history and ultimately contribute to safeguarding our heritage for future generations.

'Life After Liberation: the road to recovery' at Jersey Museum and 'Farming After Liberation' at Hamptonne are open daily until the end of 2025



This leather purse, found in the Le Câtillon II hoard, was the subject of much academic research and conservation before going on display at La Hougue Bie in the 'Searching for Jersey's Celts' exhibition (Jersey Heritage)



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Caring for the community

The chief executive of the Orchid Group, James Ahier, and its strategy director, Adam Chamberlain, talked about their company's services to Alasdair Crosby

We all know about 'parts'. In every sector of the economy or in the exigencies of personal life, 'parts' never seem to be there; 'parts' have to be ordered, and that might take weeks or months. 'Parts' are the bane of modern life, especially in Jersey, where a 'just-in-time' delivery service is much more difficult to achieve than in mainland UK.

But when it comes to 'parts' or supplies that the elderly or infirm person might need to maintain their independence at home, a lack or delay in supply could have the most serious consequences, even leading to death if they are not readily available.

This is the sort of situation that the Orchid Group wants very much to avert. The Group has evolved from the Orchid Care Services company, now ten years old.

Its chief executive, James Ahier explained: 'We created Orchid CareEquip to address a definite gap in the market. We could see how our clients were not able to access the right equipment when they needed it quickly. Our USP is next-day delivery. So, we have made a huge investment into stock and everything that is typically needed is readily available for sale or hire.'

He continued: 'In our warehouse there are whole areas filled with such basic items – slings and cushions, for example. One of our customers, a care provider, said she was desperately trying to find a particular item that had been ordered months before, but had not arrived yet. I was able to tell her "We have ten of them in stock. What size would you like?"

'We set the bar very high to ourselves; if you like, our other USP is our unique level of stock, which is not replicated elsewhere in the Channel Islands.



'We have 5,000 square feet of warehousing full of medical equipment, from scooters, to machinery, to hospital beds. And we have invested heavily in training our engineering team so they can service and maintain all the equipment.

'We can really be that "one-stop shop" for individuals, care homes and hospitals, so we can serve the community, and serve it well.'

Orchid CareEquip was one year old in May, but the group has evolved from Orchid Care Services, which has provided home care in the Channel Islands for the past ten years.

It provides the supplies and the hardware needed by Islanders, care homes and hospitals; they are the Islands' largest stockists. Last year they fitted out a complete hospital ward with all the furnishings that were needed.

Adam Chamberlain, the group's strategy director, said: 'Because of the availability of this equipment, we have been able to get patients home from hospital; we have been able to keep people in their own homes; people have been able to die at home – and none of that would have been possible otherwise.'

James describes the other company in the group, Orchid Connect, as a technology-enabled care business.

'We put a lot of research and development into developing our service, and innovation into hybrid care and utilising technology and personal care to keep people in their homes for longer.'

Its service has been centred around preventative care. There are alarms for safety but also the latest sensors enabling people's wellbeing to be monitored.

'No cameras or microphones,' Adam said, 'but activity sensors so the relevant people know when there is an unexpected alteration to a person's normal routine'.

With Orchid Connect, someone can be independent and interact normally out and about within the community, with the reassurance that if anything untoward were to happen, they would be found.

'The preventative care service means much less likelihood of an event such as a fall, and consequent hospital admission. Also, people can now come home from hospital earlier with Orchid Connect's option for monitoring safety at home. That didn't exist at all before, especially if there is no regular carer or family member to support them.

'It's a big innovation, which can massively alleviate bed-blocking in a hospital – and can keep people in their own homes for longer.'



Operations manager Marco Ferreira in the showroom

“ We are care led. We put people first. We are not just saying that – we are investing to make sure that the community has what it needs

In February, Digital Jersey endorsed Orchid Connect as the service provider to deliver technology-enabled care for Jersey, from 70 applicants to their Impact Jersey CareTech Challenge. Orchid Connect's service is available to individuals directly through the company, or via a person's chosen care provider in a 'hybrid care' blend with personal care.

'We really are a "one-stop shop", providing everything someone might need, be it technology, equipment or home care, all focussed on keeping people in their homes for longer and enabling their continued independence. There is very much a person-centred approach to everything we are doing,' James explained.

James and Adam were speaking in their showroom premises in St Peter, located in the long building that stretches behind Marks and Spencer. It also houses the warehouse full of all the stock they need. This is where their operations manager, Marco Ferreira, is based, so he can welcome visitors to the showroom and help them choose whatever it is they need, be it a specialist frame for an invalid bed, a hoist, a stair lift, a scooter or just a blanket, a sling or specialist cleaning fluids.

There are mattresses and pumps, PPE for the care homes, and a huge selection of different types of wheelchair sizes. Rental arrangements are available for larger or more expensive items.

The Orchid Group is very much a Jersey company, independent of the government, but providing vital services in terms of care of the infirm and the elderly that one might expect a government agency to provide – an example of what the private sector can achieve.

As James stressed: 'We are care led. We put people first. We are not just saying that – we are investing to make sure that the community has what it needs.

And as Adam said: 'We knew that we could never make a genuine "next-day delivery" promise, if we didn't actually have the stock in the Island. Yes, it is a big financial investment, but it is part of saying "We are care" – our whole business is care.'

The Orchid Group can be contacted by phone on 01534 734293; or by e-mail: info@OrchidCare.je; info@CareEquip.je; info@OrchidConnect.je

Success is a journey, not a destination

Chris Parker, route director of Jersey's new ferry operator, DFDS, spoke to Kieranne Grimshaw about how he thought the service had been operating so far and about the company's future plans

In a relatively short time, DFDS route director Chris Parker feels that a lot has been achieved. He has particularly appreciated the support already received from logistic or freight companies and the tourism sector – 'We touch every aspect of Jersey life,' he said.

On arriving in the Island last December, the challenges ahead became all too apparent. Reality hit home as he appreciated that everything going in and out of Jersey would now be pretty much dependent on the ferry company.

'That's a heavy responsibility and also a challenge,' he said. 'I like a challenge, so it's been fun – although there have been times when we've stretched the definition of fun!'

Building new teams, both in France and the UK, has been a rewarding experience.

After a fairly 'rollercoaster' start, he considers that the teams' reaction to initial teething problems has been very positive.

Chris' previous experience has been setting up the Rosslare-Dunkirk route.

'The challenge in Jersey has been that although we know how to run ferries — we've a huge amount of experience in doing that — we don't necessarily know about local tidal restrictions around St Helier and Saint-Malo, and about customer expectations. These are things we have had to learn very quickly.'

Starting any new business is a learning curve. The immediate feedback to their pricing model was almost immediate. The company managed to make some changes: 'It's that element of listening and trying to adapt to what Jersey really needs – that is going to be a challenge.'

Working closely with the Jersey Royal Company, DFDS adapted to help this vital local business, so as to make the necessary adjustments to ensure the Island's prime export was transported to the UK on time.

'When we launched the schedules, we went through the tender process, but what this could never do is cover all the nuances for what that means for Island businesses and indeed, for Islanders themselves – Jersey Royals are a perfect example of that.'

'We sat down with them and had a few meetings. Without their help and that of the logistic sector, we wouldn't have got there – so that's a really strong partnership building exercise that we've gone through.'

Recognising the need for good communications, the two companies share a WhatsApp group, so DFDS can update about any issues, such as delays due to the weather. Chris appreciates the huge value of Jersey Royals and the importance of the supply chain – 'I'm reminding my guys that it's not just about putting a trailer or people on a vessel, it's actually about the fact that we're connecting businesses, and we're creating value.'

Adjustments have also been made on the Jersey to Poole route, as initial schedules were adapted to suit the needs of the hospitality industry. Learning that more sailings were expected on Bank holidays and weekdays in the summer, DFDS responded appropriately.

The large demand for day trips to Saint-Malo has also been taken on board. More sailings were added over Easter and May Bank holidays, although that had to be dependent on the availability of slots and tides.





The day trip prices are set over 24 hours from arrival to departure, so passengers are theoretically able to stay overnight for the same price – excluding hotel costs.

The diverse local sporting community could also benefit when travelling with the new ferry service. DFDS are the main sponsor for Jersey Cricket and Chris was proud to see the Women's team wearing their Jersey kit with the DFDS logo when they arrived back from Cyprus. The company aim to support youth, and plan to help with future key events, such as the Dragon Boat Race, by reducing or waiving costs wherever possible.

Learning of the keen interest in inter-Island sport, Chris arranged for a one-off sailing to take passengers over to Guernsey, for the very popular Muratti – so football fans could watch their favourite game.

It's also been a learning curve when addressing the needs of individual clubs and associations, such as the Jersey Race Club.

'We hadn't quite fully grasped how many horse riders there are in the Island and how important it is,' Chris said. He hopes to meet with the equestrian community and establish what they require. 'We need to look at each sector individually – each segment has their own demands.'

Pet travel is another very popular sector and there have been lots of questions about travelling with pets – especially dogs. Together with the Kennel Club of Jersey, they plan to publish a guide for passengers travelling with dogs, aimed particularly at new owners. The company offers three options for dog owners: dogs staying in the vehicle, in a pet cabin with the owners, or in a pet lounge.

'We've been working with Government to ensure that the pets are looked after, and that's going extremely well.'

Future plans, in the medium term, include a refurbishment/rebuilding programme and three new vessels by 2032.

“ I like a challenge, so it's been fun – although there have been times when we've stretched the definition of fun!

£1.5 million has already been spent on refurbishing the *Levante Jet* chairs. Listening to feedback, he explained there will also be a bigger Duty Free shop – with slightly less chocolate and more wine!

With all these improvements and plans, it's hoped that travellers will have a pleasurable experience and enjoy their journey.

As Chris said: 'I've been in the ferry industry for 32 years. The day I'm not slightly excited about getting on to a ferry is when I need to find another job. I do think it's a fantastic experience and I want people to travel and have confidence.'

Navigating Jersey's property market

From picturesque country lanes to the glittering coast, there's no denying that Jersey has a magnetic pull that compels you to call the Island 'home'. Whether you're a first-time buyer, a landlord, or perhaps looking to relocate to the Channel Islands, it's natural to have plenty of questions

No matter where you are on the property ladder, Ogier's expert team cut through the complexity of Jersey property law, providing clear advice every step of the way. Here, they shed some light on several key questions.

Supporting first-time buyers

Answered by Laura Shirreffs, Emily Sieroczek, and Natasha Polak

What are the benefits of being a first-time buyer?

First-time buyers can benefit from reduced stamp duty if the property being purchased locally is under £700,000. Additionally, there are properties designated as 'first-time buyer homes' that can only be purchased by those who have never owned property before.

What support is available?

The First Step Scheme is an assisted purchase scheme administered by Andium Homes which enables first-time buyers to purchase using a contribution of up to 40% of the value. Additionally, some developers have schemes targeted at first-time buyers, for example allowing payment of deposits in instalments or even 'no deposit schemes' letting purchasers move in without a large deposit up front.

Purchasing as partners

Answered by Tim Bechelet, Charles Le Maistre and Georgia Warfield

Are there any protections in place for unmarried couples?

We would recommend considering an equity agreement which reflects the contribution each partner has made to the equity in making the purchase and deals with procedures for a sale or buying the other out in the case of a separation. A will should also be considered.

What options are available for friends or siblings purchasing a house together?

In either case, the buyers should consider whether they purchase on a survivorship basis (known as joint tenants) or tenants in common. 'Joint tenants' means the survivor inherits automatically, which may not be appropriate for friends or siblings who wish their share of the property to pass to another relative. 'Tenants in common' can leave their share under a will and the percentage each person holds can be adjusted to reflect the situation, for example 75% : 25% if monies are contributed unevenly.

Becoming a landlord

Answered by Katharine Marshall and Jonathan Anderson

Do you need a licence to rent to a family member?

Since 1 May 2024, Jersey landlords need a Renting Dwellings Licence for each unit of residential property rented for more than 30 days in one year. This also applies to properties with more than two lodgers, staff accommodation, agricultural worker accommodation and even family members who pay rent or provide a service in return. A licence costs £60 and is valid for two years. You can apply for a licence online at www.one.gov.je

What do landlords need to be prepared for this summer?

Updated Jersey legislation ensures minimum standards for rental properties including gas inspections, fitting smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) at the start of a tenancy. The lease must also comply with the Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Law 2011 and attach a written condition report, which may include photos, recording the physical condition and state of repair of a property at the start and end of every tenancy. If you choose to take a rent deposit, this must be placed with MyDeposits Jersey within 30 days of receipt.

An attractive destination for high net worth individuals

Answered by Jonathan Hughes, Sarah Parish and Mia Dixon

Is Jersey likely to remain a popular location for HNWI looking to relocate from the UK in the future?

In the past decade, there has been a surge in relocations to the Island.

Although tax efficiency may be one reason, choosing a jurisdiction to become a home is about much more than tax advantages.

The Island's lifestyle continues to be the leading factor. Jersey provides a brilliant balance of a hub for business, with a bustling financial services industry and strong travel links to the UK and Europe, and a safe, family-friendly environment complete with beautiful beaches. Jersey continues to be an attractive community environment with work-life balance and time with family at its heart.

Buying or selling a property is a major life event, so you need a team with the experience and expertise to guide you through the process.

Ogier has been ranked by legal directory Chambers as the Island's best property practice for the ninth consecutive year in the UK 2025 Guide.



L-R: Emily Sieroczuk, Jonathan Anderson, Georgia Warfield, Natasha Polak, Tim Bechelet, Laura Shirreffs, Jonathan Hughes, Katharine Marshall, Charles Le Maistre, Sarah Parish and Mia Dixon

The only property team to be ranked top tier across the leading legal directories, Ogier remains in a league of its own who 'prove time and time again that they have the ability and skill set to handle complex matters quickly and professionally'.

For more information on how the team can help you on your property journey, visit www.ogierproperty.com

Expert guidance, precisely tailored.

Finding the right home has to work for your family, your lifestyle and your future.

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WIN

3 course set dinner menu for two with a glass of bubbles!



Le Brasserie Colmar, nestled in the heart of King Street, St Helier, offers a delightful fusion of classic French cuisine and local flavours

Inspired by the grand brasseries of Paris, this charming eatery serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner six days a week, with Sunday lunch also available.

The menu showcases dishes crafted from the finest local ingredients, including fresh seafood, meats, and vegetarian options. Notable offerings include sweet potato gnocchi with sage and hazelnut beurre noisette, and Jersey Black Bream with ratatouille and crab bisque. Colmar's customers love our attentive service and elegant ambiance, making it a must-visit for both locals and tourists seeking an authentic dining experience in Jersey.

To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize, simply answer the following question:

Where in St Helier is Colmar located?

- A: Queen Street
- B: King Street
- C: Bath Street

Please enter online at ruraljersey.co.uk/competition

Closing date for entries is 31 July 2025.

Prize winner must be over 18.

Winners will be contacted via email

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Purchasing or selling property is often more than a transaction, it is a strategic investment, a lifestyle choice, or the beginning of a new chapter. But beneath every successful deal lies something less glamorous but absolutely critical: expert legal advice. In Jersey, where property law is based on centuries-old customary law, instructing the right legal team is not just beneficial, it is essential.

A Legal System Like No Other

Unlike many jurisdictions, Jersey does not operate a system of state guaranteed title. Instead, property transfers are registered by contract in the Public Registry, with the legal title being passed when the Royal Court sits each Friday. There is no Land Registry as known in England and Wales, no definitive record of ownership, no title plan, and no government-backed guarantee. This means that the role of the conveyancer is not simply administrative, it is analytical, investigative, and advisory. Every property has a history, and every contract tells a story.

The conveyancer must examine the chain of title, review historic contracts, visit the site and ensure there are no rights, encumbrances, or restrictions that could come back to trouble a buyer later. Conveyancing is much more involved than in the UK. Compared to the streamlined systems elsewhere, Jersey conveyancing is more rigorous, but also, more protective, if it is completed correctly.

Precision, Pace & Discretion

When market conditions are uncertain, there may be a need to complete a transaction more quickly, however experienced practitioners know that this must never come at the expense of rigour.

A well-prepared lawyer can expedite the transaction process by anticipating what needs to be done from the outset. This can be achieved by working hand-in-hand with agents and aligning legal due diligence with commercial strategy, which will help clients secure the properties they want with no unwelcome surprises later.

“Specialist legal advice for high value Jersey property transactions delivered with clarity, precision, and foresight”

Strategic Legal & Tax Advice

Many of our clients have complex needs, often involving corporate vehicles, trusts, and international considerations. A property transaction might also involve questions of succession planning, asset protection, co-ownership structuring, immigration or tax strategy.

This is where our integrated offering adds real value. Within the BCR Group, BCR Professional Services provide advice on tax and structuring, ensuring that each acquisition aligns with the client's broader financial and estate planning.

Whether it is advising on ownership, reviewing implications of relocating to the island, or coordinating with family offices, we foster a multi-faceted approach that aligns our clients' global presence and long-term goals.

Beyond the Deal: Ongoing Support

Completion isn't the end of the journey. We regularly assist clients with drafting wills of immovable estate, advising on development potential, and ensuring that ownership structures are future-proofed. For many, buying property in Jersey is just one part of a broader plan, and at BCR we are here to help and support you through this journey.

Trusted Partnerships That Deliver

We pride ourselves on close relationships with estate agents and intermediaries. By working collaboratively, we help avoid delays, resolve issues early, and maintain the highest standards of client service throughout.

When you are buying a home or an investment, there is no room for uncertainty. At BCR, we will ensure the legal process is smooth, efficient, and secure to support you every step of the way.

To find out more about our services, please contact us.

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Revolutionising Cataract Treatment: A New Pathway for Jersey Patients



The purpose-built Prema clinic in Portsmouth

For Islanders with cataract, the prospect of treatment often comes with concerns about long waiting times, surgery with trainees, or high costs of private care. Some Jersey patients are quoted double the average UK fee.

But a new collaboration between the Prema Clinic in Portsmouth, and Evolution Eye Care in Jersey, is transforming the landscape. Operating since January 2025, the Prema Cataract Pathway offers a streamlined, affordable solution — combining high-quality, consultant-delivered surgery in a state-of-the-art facility, with the convenience of all consultations here in Jersey.

A More Accessible Option for Islanders

Consultants at Evolution Eye Care already operate regularly at the Jersey General Hospital.

However, rising costs of treatment — and widely-reported equipment failures in the hospital's eye theatre — left many patients looking for an alternative.

The new pathway allows Islanders to undergo surgery with Evolution consultants in the state-of-the-art, CQC-registered Prema clinic in Portsmouth, while all pre- and post-operative care is conducted locally in Jersey. Patients get the best of both worlds: cutting edge treatment with world-class surgical facilities, but with the comfort of all consultations locally.

Cost-Effective, High-Quality Surgery, with Minimal Inconvenience

Private cataract surgery at Prema starts from £1,960 per eye. Even including tests and consultations, most patients can now undergo bilateral cataract surgery — where both eyes are treated on the same day— for under £4,800.

Consultant surgeon, Mr Anish Shah, adds: 'One concern with UK treatment is the inconvenience of multiple trips. We've streamlined the process, so in most cases, patients only need a single trip for both eyes. This is a game-changer for many.'

Travel links to Prema are hassle-free. Flights take 40 minutes, and patients can either stay in hotels directly opposite the clinic, or even complete the trip in a single day.

Reliable Aftercare Close to Home

Post-operative care is another concern for patients undergoing surgery off-island. However, Evolution Eye Care, Jersey's largest private eye clinic, provides full post-operative support locally, offering reassurance and continuity of care.

'Having lived and worked in Jersey for 11 years, I know how important aftercare is to our patients,' Mr Shah explains. 'With our setup, they receive full support right here on the island, eliminating the stress of having to travel back for follow-ups.'

How to Access Treatment

Patients can request more information or book online at www.evolution.je/book, email info@evolution.je, or call 01534 835400.

Cataracts no longer need to be a barrier to daily life. With expert-led care, affordable pricing, and seamless aftercare, the Prema Cataract Pathway is providing a much-needed solution for Islanders looking to restore their vision.

Building change, regeneration and resilience

Taylor Smythe of HYPHA Consulting has the last word



We are not just witnesses to change; we are its architects.

Jersey's rural economy is not a relic of the past — it is the foundation of our future. When we invest in local food, we invest in resilience. When we strengthen rural businesses, we secure Jersey's market sovereignty.

The opportunity is before us: to transition from a commodity-driven economy to one that nourishes people, place, and purpose. Today, we stand at a crossroads: 90% of what we eat is imported, while 90% of what we grow is exported.

The disconnect between our people and our food system is widening — but this is not the story we have to tell. Jersey thrives when its people engage. There is also a new story emerging, one that is encouraging new entrants, diversification, smaller scale production, chemical free and young people back into the industry.

Our Rural Economic Framework, launched in 2022, has started to tell a different story — one of renewal and regeneration. The number of rural businesses supported by the government has tripled in four years. Instead of just paying per hectare or per cow, we now promote behaviours that deliver environmental, social, community and economic value. We've mapped 1,927km of hedgerows now paid for and protected through the new scheme. This is real investment in the living infrastructure of our landscape.

However, the future of our rural economy is not built by policy alone but by participation.

What if we leveraged the £15 million public investment in the rural economy this year to co-create a long-term Island Food Policy?

What if 10,000 households received vegetable boxes grown and sold locally? What if retailers reserved dedicated shelf space for Jersey-grown produce?

What if every parish had a community garden like Sheena Brockie's Grow Jersey, where families and retirees gathered, grew, and shared food together? What if schools offered horticulture as a GCSE? What if students came to Jersey to learn the future of regenerative agriculture?

What if the National Trust used its properties to create multi-enterprise farms for new entrants? What if every new housing development included fruit trees, hedgerows, and pollinator-friendly planting?

What if Jersey Royals reached the world's best markets — and Jersey Dairy and Jersey Overseas Aid expanded their successful Ripple Effect model to support smallholders here at home?

What if we built a culture of shared tools, circular waste, and mutual support?

What if we get it right?

There is no Plan B. In an increasingly volatile global food system, Jersey must become more self-reliant, more adaptive, and more resilient. We have everything we need.

We must re-engineer our society and culture around a different farming future. The path forward is clear:

For Islanders: Every purchase, every meal, every conversation about local food strengthens our collective food future. Supporting Jersey's farmers, growers, and fishers is an investment in community, health, and sustainability.

For Businesses: The tools and support exist to start, sustain, and grow rural enterprises. By fostering partnerships, sharing knowledge, and leveraging available resources, we create an economy that works for everyone.

For Policymakers and Institutions: Trust is the foundation of progress. By listening to communities, investing in regenerative practices, and prioritising food security, we build a system that is both fair and future-proof.

The revival of Jersey's rural economy is not about nostalgia — it's about possibility. It's about recognising that food sovereignty is within reach and that participation, not perfection, will get us there.

This is the next chapter in our story. The time is now. Jersey, let's dig in.

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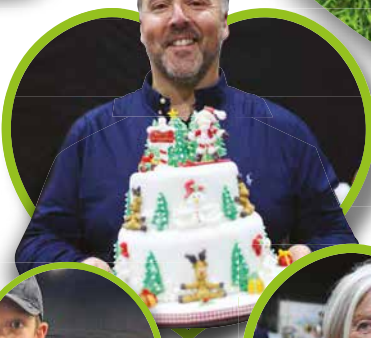


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