

RURAL

Jersey Country Life Magazine

Issue 56 | Autumn 2026

Digging up the past

La Hougue Bie in poetry,
Jèrriais and archaeology

Yoga for horses

An international expert has
been in Jersey to give training
on core conditioning for horses

Special theme:

The home – there's
no place like it!

A new life for a Jersey farmhouse

A revamped interior design of
a historic granite farmhouse
reveals its full potential

WIN

Meal for Four
at Jaipur Indian
Restaurant





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Welcome

'There's no place like home,' as the old song has it.

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

In the wider sense, Jersey is that home in which we live, and Dr Johnson's salutary reminder of where joy is to be found at home and NOT to be found at home is quite pertinent to life in the Island of today.

We would all love to own a home; in Jersey – as in the UK – it is difficult to afford one, be it for purchase or rental. Housing development often seems to be at the expense of the green fields that have always defined the nature of the Island. And yet, the possession of one's own home is a stake in the community, foundational to a Distributist economy and something, in short, that should be encouraged. It is a difficult balance to maintain.

A good home usually welcomes visitors, but not visitors who want to impose their own world view and habits on the house's occupants and who manifestly believe that every home should be just like every other home.

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



In this issue and in our next (Winter) edition of RURAL magazine, we cover some of the aspects of 'The Home', in particular we shall be covering the thorny subject of housing development on green field sites, but also the housing market, construction, architecture, and interior design.

The whole subject of 'The Home' is so important to Islanders, that it merits coverage in the next and future editions.

RURAL will always strive to keep the home fires burning.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Alasdair'. Below the signature is a horizontal line.



Front cover image:

Laura De'Ath, veterinary physiotherapist, on Enzo (owned by Hannah Foley).

Photo by Connor Rault

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If play is the ultimate expression of humanity, how does it fit in our value-based society? 'Play Collaborative' Emily Jennings has the last word in this edition

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HOMEWARES & INTERIOR DESIGN

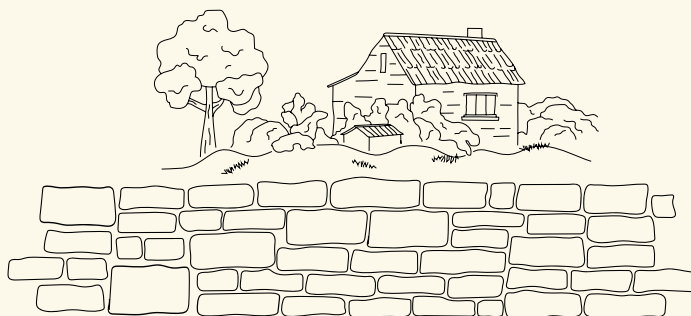
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DOG NOT FOR SALE

Over the wall

A RURAL view



The longest, driest, hottest summer for decades not only presented challenges for farmers and gardeners but at the time of writing in August, it is clear that the Island's wildlife is struggling to cope with the unusual heat and lack of water.

In our seas, the heating has led to tuna becoming so plentiful that licences for commercial rod and line caught tuna have been awarded to local fishermen for the first time. Meanwhile octopus continues its relentless march into our waters, laying waste to crab and lobster stocks.

If climate change deniers still exist, then surely this summer's onslaught of global warming's symptoms will make them reflect on the fact that we can see its effects daily, right in front of our eyes.

The summer did not only bring foreboding weather; it also heralded the emergence of a new States Assembly and government. The elections themselves took place in an excellent atmosphere but the change to Sunday voting doesn't appear to have brought with it any significant increase in voter turnout.

Perhaps most concerning from a rural perspective was the lack of discussion of environmental matters. This was in stark contrast to 2022's elections when the environment was at the top of the agenda, the Carbon Neutral Roadmap having just been agreed by the States.

Fast forward four years and this year, the roadmap came in for criticism rather than praise due to the level of cost incurred for limited results. It is right that the allocation of scarce resources remains a key political discussion point but if carbon neutrality is no longer going to be the goal that it once was, it is concerning that the issue of mitigation – or finding ways to live comfortably in a warming Island – did not attract discussion.

On the plus side, food security was viewed as an important aim for most candidates, which makes sense following the vote in March, just before the elections, that led to very strong support for the rural and marine economies. Ongoing funding to support farmers and fishermen was locked in with the aim of creating greater food security and developing new export markets for Jersey's high-quality produce.

To achieve this in a warming world, farmers are going to have to learn to adapt as the climate changes.

Such learning sits at the heart of the Regen Gathering at Le Tâcheron Farm, which, on the back of the wildly successful Open Farm initiative and summer farmers' markets, gave the clearest possible indication of the value that Islanders place in local food security and a healthy, biodiverse environment.

Regen Gathering, farmers markets, open farms, the ever-growing RJA&HS seasonal shows, indicates that Islanders are voting with their feet and by attending in their droves, they are making it as clear as they possibly can that rural Jersey is where you find Jersey's true heart and identity.

We all know that there are more financially beneficial industries in Jersey but it is hard to think of any that attract such interest and praise from Islanders at large.

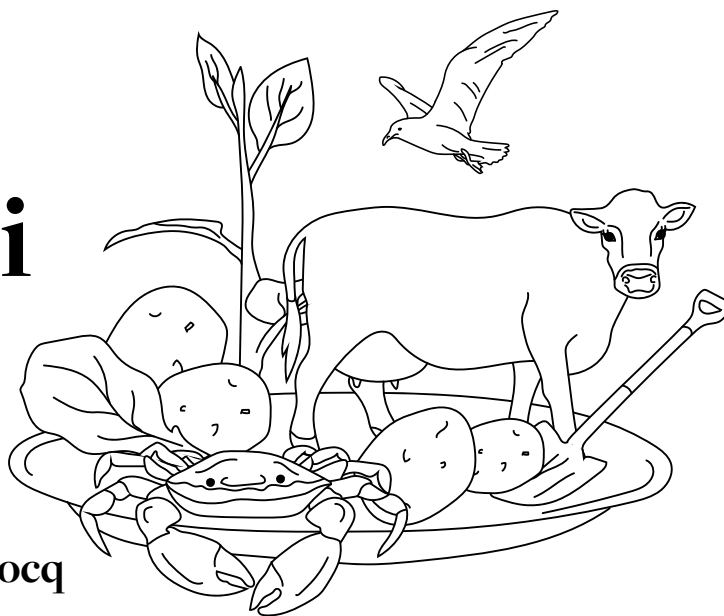
Regen says that it puts 'farmers at the heart of change'. In a tech-driven world, in which we have all succumbed to the dopamine-generating devices that we carry in our pockets, it speaks volumes that Islanders are turning their backs on technologies that are doing such harm and instead are embracing the true value of high-quality food and a superb environment.

By turning out in their thousands, the people of Jersey are showing that they value local, high-quality food and understand that it protects our health and environment.

The coming four years will show whether our politicians understand that too.

The Jersey Salmagundi

A mixed salad of events and news, with a bit of this, that and the other thrown in.
Salmagundi editor: Ruth Le Cocq



For better or for worse?

We are grateful to Eve Blunt for sending us some photos of her holiday in Jersey in 1954.

She was engaged to her fiancé at the time, Alec Blunt, and they both worked for Kodak Ltd in Harrow, Alec (Alexander) as a driver and chauffeur, and Eve (Evelyn) as a typist in the export department. The holiday was before their wedding, which took place later that year.

They stayed at Undercliffe Guest House, St Helier – in separate rooms, of course. There was a technical hitch with their return ticket on the ferry back, the TSS St Patrick, so they had to wait in Jersey for a few extra days. This meant phoning up their workplace to explain why they would not be at work on Monday morning... eyebrows were raised: they had gone on holiday together but were not married, they were late for work afterwards... hmm, just a bit racy!

Their honeymoon was a weekend in Brighton. Their marriage lasted 56 years until Alec's death in 2010.

Of interest is the photo of the wine list in a Jersey restaurant showing prices for wine and other drinks in 1954. If only they were today's prices.

Eve hopes to return to Jersey in September for another holiday – her first holiday in Jersey since 1954. She has agreed to meet us before the end of her holiday. It will be interesting to hear her views on how the Island has changed since her first visit in 1954.



SPIRITS		WINE	
Brandy, 3 Star	1/6	White	1/6
Brandy, 4 Star	1/8	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	12/6
Brandy, 5 Star	1/4	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	15/6
Whisky	1/2	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	18/6
Gin	1/2	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	21/6
Gin & Tonic	1/2	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	24/6
Liquors	1/2	Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	27/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	705/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	708/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	711/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	714/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	720/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	726/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	729/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	747/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	768/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	774/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	777/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	780/6
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		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	822/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	825/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	828/6
		Chateau Lafite, Bordeaux, 1948	831/6
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All the fun of the farm

An estimated 4,000 visitors went to La Ferme, St Martin, in July for its Farm Fun Day - a fun-filled and informative day out, and a chance for people to connect with their rural heritage, to understand the workings of a dairy farm and generally enjoy themselves in the St Martin countryside.

It was a resounding success, held in glorious weather.

‘We pulled out all the stops,’ said host farmer Tom Perchard, ‘and made the Fun Day even bigger and better than in past years.’

This had been a regular summer event before the Covid pandemic; this year it made a welcome return. It comprised the usual mix of farm and rural based activities, accompanied by musical entertainment and many food outlets. Adding to the event this time was the presence of the Farmers Market – there was something for everyone.

‘We partnered with Rotary Club de la Manche, Jersey Dairy, and RJA&HS to put on an event that we felt would appeal to all,’ said Tom. ‘It was an opportunity to learn how our milk is produced as well as giving everyone the chance to enjoy a pleasant day in the country with all sorts of attractions, food and entertainment.’

‘We had farming related things including the Discover Dairy marquee and a 12-minute video made by Jersey Dairy, explaining the workings of the farm and milk production.’

‘It was wonderful to give people the opportunity to see our herd of pedigree Jersey cows coming in for milking and to see the calves at close quarters - not to mention the famous if rather whacky cow pat competition.’

A record sum of £26,000 was raised, with all the proceeds being split between the RNLI and Jersey Child Care Trust.

There are tentative plans in place to repeat the event in 2028.



Markets pull in the crowds

The first season of Jersey’s Farmers Markets at Le Tâcheron Farm is all but complete; they close at the end of September. Anyone who has visited them will vouch for their great success.

The markets were organised by Farm Jersey. The organisation’s Taylor Smythe said: ‘The response was beyond anything we anticipated. We were completely overwhelmed - in the best possible way. We had no idea that so many people would come and we’re genuinely grateful.’

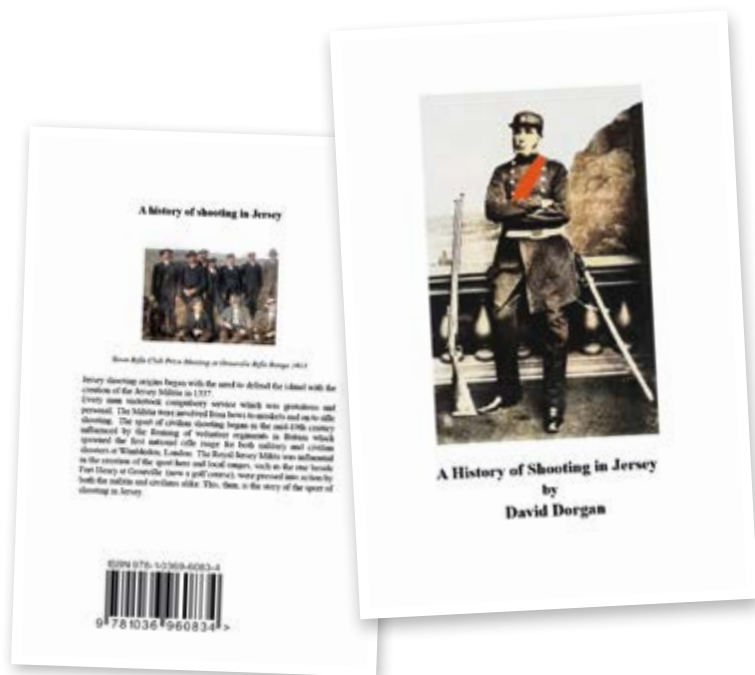
There was fresh fruit and vegetables, locally caught seafood, cut flowers, honey, free-range eggs, meat, pastries, and freshly baked bread. Visitors could stay for the coffee and delicious hot food. There was live music and children loved seeing the farm’s rare-breed animals.

Taylor commented: ‘Behind the market is a simple but important principle: local producers deserve a direct route to their community, one where they keep 100 percent of their profits and build their businesses with genuine support behind them. There are thousands of Islanders who want to buy local. They just don’t always know where to find the people growing and making things. This market is one avenue to make our incredible producers more visible.’

‘The goal isn’t just a nice morning out, although it was certainly that as well. It’s about rebuilding food resilience in the Island and making buying local something people feel proud to do... not just this season, but long-term, in a way that keeps Jersey farming.’

‘The markets were a reminder of what community actually feels like.’





Shooting stars brought to book

'A History of Shooting in Jersey' by David Dorgan

Jersey's marksmen and shooters have always been renowned for their standard of skill. This dates back to the large part in Island life once held by the Militia.

Jersey's shooting origins began with the need to defend the Island and the creation of the Jersey Militia in 1337. What started with bows and arrows evolved into musketry and then into rifle shooting. Compulsory training sessions took place in every parish.

The sport of civilian shooting began in the mid-19th Century. The Royal Jersey Militia was influential in the creation of the sport here, and local ranges, such as the one beside Fort Henry at Grouville (now a golf course) were pressed into action by both the Militia and civilians alike.

From 1861 civilian shooting clubs practised at other ranges around the Island and these are covered in the book, together with over 90 names of shooting clubs and associations that flourished until the Occupation caused the cessation of shooting in 1940.

Also covered in the book are details of the shooting clubs from 1945 up to 2026, as well as Jersey-made guns and gun makers, together with some more recent gun retailers, and an outline of the firearms laws from 1879 to the present.

Finally, there is a listing of Jersey Government Gold and Silver Medal winners from 1863 to 1913 with the names of the first three places.

The book will appeal to all Islanders who shoot for pleasure and as a sporting discipline, and is a fitting memorial to the high standard of Jersey marksmanship, past and present.

The book is available from Amazon.co.uk, £10.00 ISBN 9781036960834, the Société Jersiaise and the book shop in the Central Market.

Experience a close encounter with explorer John Blashford-Snell at the Jersey Arts Centre

John Blashford-Snell promises a visit to the 'Garden of Eden' during his talk at the Jersey Arts Centre in November as he describes the beauty of Costa Rica's largest national park.

He led a 15-strong team, who built a bridge using planks of recycled plastic, into the Corcovado, a protected reserve of Central America, while being surrounded by surprisingly tame animals, including a puma.

Hosted by the Jersey Scientific Exploration Society, John will share films and slides showing how the team helped the community, surveyed trails and catalogued wildlife for a guidebook.

His expeditions over the last 50 years have prompted many young people to embark on adventures on their own.

Islander Eloise Rouault was one of those to be so inspired and, having been awarded a £1,500 bursary from the JSES, she spent five weeks in South Africa recently on a trip organised by Raleigh International. Eloise will be sharing her experiences alongside John at 7pm on 6th November.

Tickets, from the Jersey Arts Centre, are £12.50 for adults and £5 for students under 18.





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Our cover story

Yoga for horses

Visconte Simon Coccozza is an international clinician, author and educator specialising in equine biomechanics and postural rehabilitation. He was in Jersey this summer for a clinic, arranged by two Jersey veterinary physiotherapists, Hannah Foley and Laura De'Ath. The three talked to Alasdair Crosby

'Yoga for horses?' — Yes, really.

The idea might create an amusing mental picture, but that was Visconte Simon Coccozza's own proposal to his publishers for the title of a book on equine biomechanics... but his publishers said 'no'. So, instead, he proposed 'Happy Bendy Horses' — the publishers said 'definitely no'.

'I wrote the book about my training techniques,' he said. 'I developed ten key exercises, so that if people practice them every day, the horse will become automatically more supple and more balanced. The book — finally titled 'Core Conditioning for Horses' — has been very popular, and the exercises have been very effective.'

Simon was giving a lecture to equine professionals in the Island and clients, covering equine anatomy, biomechanics and the principles behind his training methods to influence posture and movement in a positive way.



Laura De'Ath on Enzo, owned by Hannah Foley

He was also instructing at a clinic arranged by two Jersey veterinary physiotherapists, Hannah Foley and Laura De'Ath. Hannah is also a chartered human physiotherapist and Laura is also a personal trainer.

Speaking to them at the end of the clinic, they agreed that it had been really interesting and really well attended.

It was one of very many clinics that Simon conducts worldwide. He works with vets internationally to develop bespoke rehabilitation programmes. These are closely monitored, and developed collaboratively with other equine professionals, including vets, farriers, saddlers and physiotherapists. They all share the same goal of enhancing equine welfare, comfort and wellbeing.

His Core Conditioning system helps horses and riders worldwide find balance, release tension, and achieve lasting performance through functional gymnastic retraining.

'Each exercise does have a yoga equivalent,' he said, 'because both humans and horses have a spinal column. We are all vertebrates, and although horses are horizontal quadrupeds, and humans are vertical bipeds, nevertheless we suffer from similar issues. Of course, the horse has to carry a human being on his back as well, so they tend to be affected more immediately.'

'The yoga principles really did help to find solutions to specific issues, and I like to make the comparison to yoga because the client base is often composed of ladies who do yoga, so they relate to doing similar things with their horses.'

'I developed a system of riding horses, or at least training horses, on a daily basis that enhances their physical resilience and capacity to carry a rider comfortably. Because horses are not naturally designed to be ridden, I think that my input is to give people tools to release a horse's back and make it more supple, so that the horse is comfortable and more receptive to training and to being ridden.'



L-R Visconte Simon Cocozza, Hannah Foley, Enzo, Laura De'Ath

Laura De'Ath explained that Simon had been in Jersey for five days, and had given four full clinics in various locations across the Island. 'The transformation of each horse was really pronounced and the work that Simon achieved in each session was transformative,' she said.

Simon has ridden horses throughout his life. He decided he would become a riding instructor and then for around 25 years was a competitive rider, hoping for selection for the Italian Olympics team.

He invested a lot of family money in buying the right horses – or at least he thought they were the right horses. But after years of training, particularly classical competition training, they really weren't progressing: 'It is one of those strange forks in the road in life, where, if it had worked out, I would have been a very different rider today. The horses were doing high intensity work, but the road of trying to find out why these very well-bred athletes were not at the top level, as they should have been, has defined my subsequent career.'

'Looking back, I think it's been a better road, because when you start to look at horses from a competitive perspective, and you start to live vicariously through a horse's performance, winning becomes everything. I deal with a lot of clients who have a very egotistical way of looking at horses.'

'I see horses as emotional creatures, sentient animals, even though they can't express themselves in the same way as we do, they are feeling as intensely as we are, and that has been a better road for my soul.'

“The yoga principles really did help to find solutions to specific issues, and I like to make the comparison to yoga because the client base is often composed of ladies who do yoga

'I had sometimes between ten and 15 — maybe 20 horses — over those years, so I had a lot of time to practice trying to solve their problems. I was classically trained, so that left about half the horses unfit for competition, and it's expensive to have them around, so I had to find solutions for the others.'

'Classical and modern dressage didn't cater for them, hence the "Core Conditioning" process, because I realised that it was all about what was going on in the back, in the spinal column; if the column isn't working properly, nothing else is going to work properly.'

‘Our job is to preserve and maximise the quality of life and physical wellbeing of each and every horse, just like we do with people. When I started competing, horses aged from about 12 to 16 were finished. Now, half the horses at the Jersey clinic were in their teens or 20s. That is 25 percent more working, functioning lives. Fantastic! Long may it continue.’

“Our job is to preserve and maximise the quality of life and physical wellbeing of each and every horse, just like we do with people

Laura and Hannah are both self-employed with separate businesses, but collaborate on running training clinics.

Hannah said: ‘Long term, we are going to look at rider fitness as well, as Laura is also a personal trainer. We are both animal physiotherapists, so our jobs really do link, not only just for the horse, but for the rider.’

Simon added: ‘What comes next? How can we play a very small part in helping Jersey equestrian? We are planning to run multi-day training camps where riders join us for several days of focused coaching. During this time, we shall work on rider position, horse and rider health, and posture, helping each rider develop a body that is better adapted to correct riding. Riders leave with practical ideas, personalised feedback, and effective training techniques that they can incorporate into their daily routines to help their horses.’

Enzo with Simon



The end of a successful training clinic

Hannah’s Andalusian grey, Enzo, played an instrumental part in the clinic, as it allowed them to practice Simon’s training techniques. He is pictured on our front cover being ridden by Laura, with Mont Orgueil in the background on a magical summer’s evening.

The last word to Simon: ‘Horses are thinking, breathing creatures, and the easier it is for a horse to physically perform, the happier it is as an entity — and ensuring that happiness is our responsibility as riders.’

For further information, contact
Hannah on hannahfoley.physio@gmail.com
or
Laura on laurajane.vetphysio@gmail.com
(website www.laurajanevetphysio.com)



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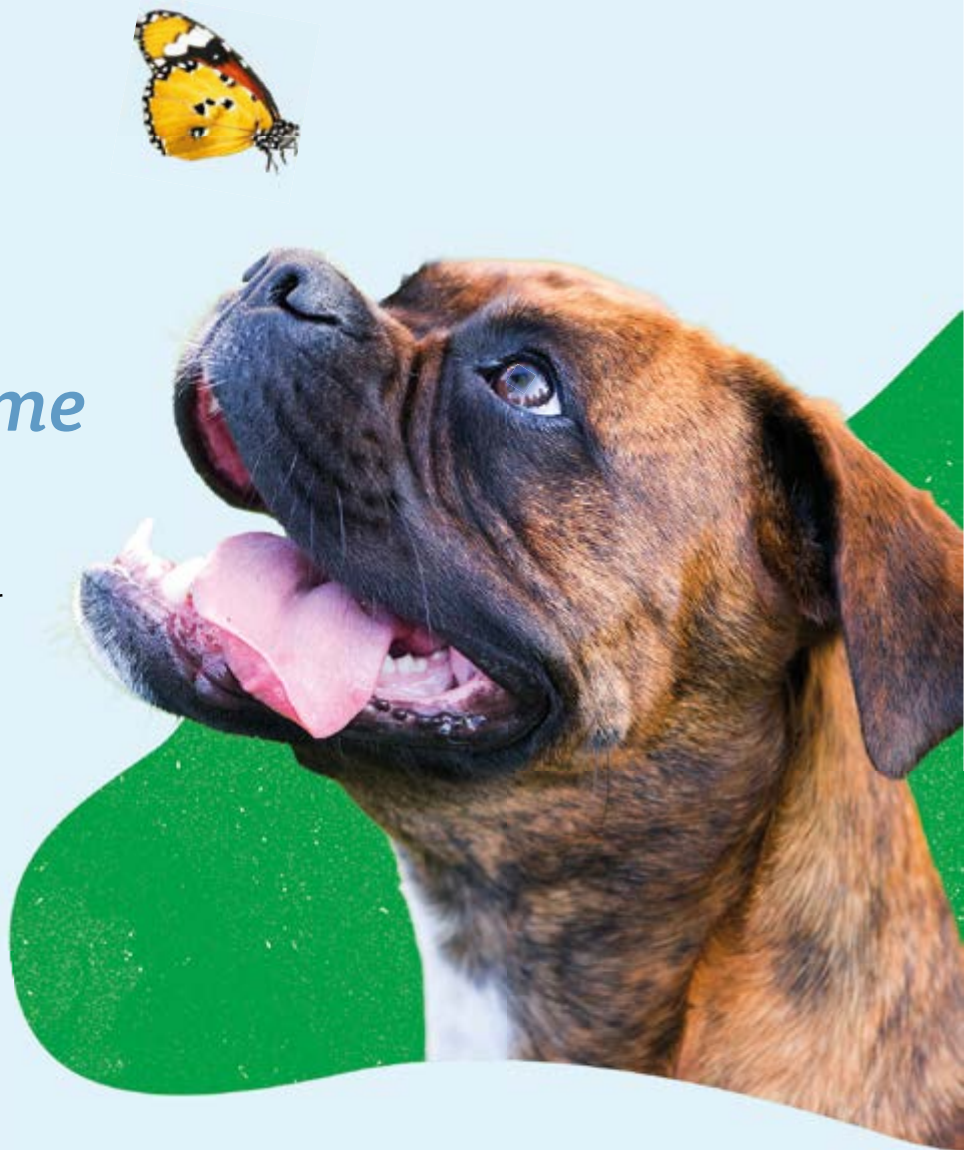
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Do you understand horses?



Love them or loathe them, horses can produce strong reactions from people who are confused by their antics. Equine behaviourist Justine Harrison spoke to Ruth Le Cocq about how, more often than not, they are simply misunderstood

Justine Harrison has seen her fair share of dangerous horses in her role as an equine behaviourist and has supported humans to discover ways to help these troubled animals.

‘Some of the most dangerous horses I see,’ said Justine, ‘live on yards where there are the most restrictions and some of the safest horses are the ones that have the most choice and freedom and the most social contact.’

Justine, who visited the Island recently at the invitation of the Jersey Horse Association, is the founder of Understand Horses – an education platform providing courses in equine behaviour and welfare. Also, she provides continuing professional development for organisations such as the British Horse Society, World Horse Welfare, The Brooke and the RSPCA, as well as accredited courses for equine professionals and horse owners.

‘Friends, forage and freedom’ are words bandied about in the equine world as the basic requirements necessary for the welfare of horses but sometimes it is not easy to provide these here in Jersey, where equine grazing is limited by law. Justine understands this only too well.

‘I live on The Wirral, which is a peninsula, where we have limited land available and there are horses with very restricted turnout and I can see the same thing is happening here,’ she said.

However, all is not lost because there are plenty of ways to enrich the everyday lives of horses without too much effort or expense. Justine suggested making sure horses have good social contact by being creative with how we manage them, by making use of yard or arena areas as turnout and by giving them choices.

“There are plenty of ways to enrich the everyday lives of horses without too much effort or expense

She knows small changes in management can mean big changes in a horse’s wellbeing with behavioural problems often disappearing – perhaps not quite overnight – but in a surprisingly short space of time.

Take the horse with a fear of humans and being inside a stable. An area was fenced in alongside the loose boxes so he could choose whether to be inside or outside while also interacting with his field companion.

Within 24 hours, both were discovered lying down and sleeping next to each other in the largest stable. Within days that horse began to seek out human touch.

Justine explained that horses – as herd animals – need to interact, play and groom with other horses all their lives. They need access to forage 24/7, including a range of tastes and, as herbivores who graze between 16 and 18 hours a day, they need to move.

‘If we are stabling them for long periods of time, we are restricting their movement and that is going to affect them psychologically and physically. Naturally, they would move one of their feet every three to five seconds and they rarely stand still unless they are dozing.’

She added that horses would also choose to eat shrubs, plants and trees, including bark and twigs, all of which can be provided for horses in captivity, by giving them access to browse in hedgerows, or from friendly tree surgeons.

For Justine, who spent her childhood at a stable yard and then went on to ride competitively, horses ‘feel like members of the family’.

‘We tend to focus on a horse’s symptoms and try to fix them but we are not really considering why the behaviour is occurring in the first place. It is often a symptom of unsuitable and/or inappropriate management, pain, fear or poor training,’ she explained.

To The Rescue!

Kieranne Grimshaw reports on two very different JSPCA success stories

The dog who had to learn to love the car

When Elaine bought her house in St John, she wanted a rescue dog to fill it — and to drag her out from behind a desk after long working hours.

She had grown up in Canada, where her family always had rescue dogs. Pablo, a 55kg Spanish mastiff labrador cross, had been at the JSPCA for six months with a history that ruled him out of homes with children or other pets. Most people would have kept scrolling. Elaine didn't. 'I saw his photo on the website and instantly fell in love with him.'

The challenge was on. Pablo even needed sedating just to travel in the van to his new home. He wouldn't go near a car, wouldn't go near the road and, for a while, wouldn't really go anywhere at all. Elaine's car became a second home that first winter. She ate dinner in the driver's seat, roast chicken in hand, coaxing him closer night after night until two paws finally landed on the back seat.

The real turning point came at Christmas, when her parents suggested simply carrying him in. St Ouen's Beach did the rest. 'He jumped out of the car,' Elaine said, 'and it was like a light switch — doing zoomies in the sand, running around, as he used to go to the beach before being at the shelter.'

He just slept the following day, then asked to go back.

These days Pablo's routine is built around open ground: the cliff paths, Grosnez, and regular trips to watch the sheep at Sorel - on a lead of course - fitting, Elaine notes, for a breed originally bred to guard flocks in Spain.

He's still choosy about company, but he's settled, and he's home.

There were times when Elaine did think 'what have I done'? but with patience and perseverance, she managed to build up Pablo's trust and enable him to become comfortable with people and feel safe.

'He's made my life a million times better. I have a routine, and get out in all weathers to walk him and he gives that unconditional love — I wouldn't be without him.'

“He's made my life a million times better. I have a routine, and get out in all weathers to walk him and he gives that unconditional love — I wouldn't be without him



The nursery at the bottom of the garden.

Not every JSPCA rescue needs a house — some just need their garden left alone. Senior animal carer, Nina Powell, has spent this year hand-rearing orphaned baby rabbits, three of which arrived at just six days old after their nest was accidentally dug up and destroyed. Eyes still closed, entirely dependent on milk and warmth, their odds weren't good until a member of the public stepped in. This enabled the rabbits to start having the vital specialist care they needed.

“By caring for Jersey's wildlife and protecting the habitats they depend on, we're also helping to protect the health and balance of our environment

Nina then spent a few weeks carefully hand-feeding the baby rabbits milk replacer and monitoring their development. 'Now, these three little rabbits are growing quickly. They're almost fully weaned from milk and beginning to eat independently, which is an exciting milestone in their rehabilitation.

'There's something incredibly rewarding about watching these animals grow stronger and more independent each day.' Nina said.

After about a month in care, rabbits can normally be released back into the wild. They all receive a Myxomatosis vaccination, giving them a chance of a healthy future.

Cottontail rabbits are a joy to see in the countryside, soft white tails bobbing behind them as they dart through the undergrowth. They also form underground burrows that strengthen our soil health, so are valuable members of our ecosystem.

Nina reflected: 'Protecting wildlife is about much more than helping individual animals. By caring for Jersey's wildlife and protecting the habitats they depend on, we're also helping to protect the health and balance of our environment.'

It's a reminder of how much garden habitat matters and how little it takes to protect it:

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Dwelling on a problem

Housing remains one of the Island's thorniest political issues. Andy Sibcy examines what is being done to solve the housing crisis and asks whether the new government poses a threat to the countryside

Politics is the art of compromise, the balancing of competing interests to arrive at an imperfect solution.

That uncomfortable truth is rarely more pronounced than when it comes to attempts to solve Jersey's housing crisis. How do you provide more homes while also protecting the countryside? Should new homes be concentrated in rural or built-up parishes? How do you make homes affordable while also ensuring developers can stay in business? How do you prevent property being hoovered up by investors without stalling the market and reducing the number of homes being built?

The need for affordable housing might have been a feature of pretty much every election manifesto this year, but that is generally where the consensus ends. So where are we – and what is being done to alleviate the shortfall? Who are the winners and losers?

The problem is particularly acute for younger Islanders wanting to get on the property ladder. The first rung is getting further and further out of reach.

The latest housing needs data published by Statistics Jersey reveals that there are shortfalls of 580, 250 and 800 one- and two-bedroom flats and two-bedroom houses respectively. Prices reflect the mismatch of supply and demand. The mean average price of one- and two-bedroom flats in the first three months of this year was £310,000 and £506,000 respectively – and rising. The mean price of two-bedroom houses was £471,000. At the other end of the market, there is a significant oversupply of larger properties, and prices are falling.

Parents unable to afford eye-watering prices for three-bedroom houses (average cost in Q1 2026 – £736,000) are struggling to find homes to accommodate their families. The data suggests that many are contemplating leaving Jersey.

A significant part of the government response is being delivered by Andium, the Island's largest social and affordable housing provider. Not only have they been working with developers to create hundreds of new homes in the north of town near the Arts Centre and on the Anne Street Brewery site, but they are building in several other parishes.

Last year, Andium built 363 new homes and sold 154 to first-time buyers. Their ambitious plans include the provision of 3,000 new homes by 2030. Developments due to be completed in 2027 include Clos des Friquettes in St Saviour, The Copperfields in Sion, Le Jardin de Potage in St Peter and Anne Street Brewery in St Helier.

The properties are a mix of social rented homes and those that will be sold under assisted purchase schemes.



Architect's drawing of the appearance of the Copperfield site, once completed

The need for new homes has laid bare the Island's creaking infrastructure. The homes in Sion cannot be occupied, for example, until sewerage works, responsible for diversions on one of the main routes in and out of town, are complete.

In March 2022, the States Assembly approved the Jersey Bridging Island Plan 2022-2025, a short-term planning framework designed to manage development, alleviate the housing crisis and increase the provision of affordable homes, while also protecting the environment.

Based on the assumption that net migration would result in an increase of 800 people a year, it was decided that there was a need for 3,750 new homes. It was hoped that the consequential building programme would help bring prices down.

At the centre of the Bridging Island Plan was a focus on delivering more affordable homes, especially family properties with gardens, outside of the main built-up areas. It was agreed that at least 15 percent of homes on developments of 50 or more had to be released for affordable assisted purchase.

“ Not only have they been working with developers to create hundreds of new homes in the north of town near the Arts Centre and on the Anne Street Brewery site, but they are building in several other parishes

Perhaps the most contentious element of the plan was the rezoning of green fields. While the priority would remain concentrating new homes in built-up areas and avoiding 'town creep', a number of agricultural fields were rezoned, leading to some rocketing in value and calls for a windfall tax. No such levy has been introduced.

Rezoned fields have been identified in seven parishes: St John, St Peter, St Martin, St Saviour, Trinity, St Mary and St Ouen.

It was agreed that government-owned land should be made available for construction by Andium and that special provision be made for essential staff and agricultural workers. Schemes to encourage older Islanders to downsize were included in the plan and greater protection was extended to coast and countryside.

Deputy Malcolm Ferey is now the Housing Minister. Following his appointment he restated a commitment to deliver more homes.

He said: 'I'm aware of the importance of housing, and the difficulties some in the Island face regarding housing. My ambition is to ensure we have homes which meet the needs of our population, whether someone aspires to the dream of home ownership, or wants to rent it.'

His vision may well be impacted by another minister, States debutant Senator Mark Boleat, who fills a new position as Minister for Planning and Regulation. He has said that glasshouse sites no longer usable for agriculture should be released for housing and that he wanted to see fewer hurdles and less bureaucracy at the Planning Department.

He wants to oversee the creation of a new Island Plan to replace the Bridging Island Plan, which he argued put too great an emphasis on preserving the past rather than protecting the future.

Does that put the countryside at risk? We'll have to wait and see.

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Building for a community

When it comes to housing the Island's 100,000-plus population, what does success look like? Andy Sibcy posed the question to Peter Le Gresley, head of planning and placemaking at Andium Homes and the former director of Planning

As things stand, there is a tendency to see success as a numbers' game – X units of accommodation are needed to home Y Islanders. And if $X=Y$, and enough of them are in the affordable bracket, its job done.

But that is merely chapter one. Take The Copperfields estate in Sion, for example, which is currently being built by Melrose Homes and Ashbe Construction for Andium, the Island's largest social and affordable housing provider.

Sewerage works permitting, it could soon be home to 37 families. There will be three two-bedroom, three four-bedroom and 31 three-bedroom properties, 100% of which will be available to first-time buyers through an assisted-purchase scheme. There has understandably been significant interest given that demand has long outstripped supply.

Each house will have one parking space, save for the three largest properties, which will have two each. There are no garages, but all properties will have a shed, the space designed to take two bikes plus a little extra storage.

How will the success of the estate be measured in five, ten or even 20 years' time? Will it meet the needs of those who live there, enabling them to live full and rewarding lives?

Given the speed of technological change, it is hard to predict. Will people-carrying drones make parking spaces redundant? Maybe we'll all be on e-bikes? And how will AI change the way we live? Whatever the reality, one thing is certain – connection and community will be essential, perhaps more so than ever.



That is certainly in the minds of Andium and its construction partners. Planning policy requires developers to consider what is described in the jargon as ‘placemaking’. In layman’s terms, it is all about creating the space for happy and healthy communities to thrive.

In the 2022-2025 Bridging Island Plan, the constituents of placemaking include design quality, the creation of communal spaces, safeguarding biodiversity and heritage, and the provision of community and play facilities.

The Copperfields includes a rain garden in the heart of the development, a reimagined soakaway which is a little like a planted pond or dry basin depending on the weather. It features large granite boulders and bridges. The granite boulders will be engraved and there will be artwork on the wall behind, all part of the percentage for art scheme to add a splash of colour.

On the northern edge of the site, there is a piece of public land which will be transferred to the parish of St John free of charge. It will feature a small orchard, herb garden, play area and petanque terrain. It will also act as a safe corridor for a colony of bats residing in the neighbouring former Methodist chapel. There is a second play area and benches will be dotted around the estate.



Peter Le Gresley, head of regeneration and placemaking at Andium and formerly director of Planning, said: ‘This is a huge investment into the community of Sion. It will be the same when we open homes in St Peter and other locations. These communities don’t just stay in stasis. They are vibrant, living communities. The more people, the more homes you have, the more likely it is that there is a shop, a pub and so on. You need a critical mass of people in order to generate that commercial vitality.’

“ Whatever the reality, one thing is certain – connection and community will be essential, perhaps more so than ever

He is also pleased by the success of the community square outside the Arts Centre in what was Ann Court. ‘It’s a great space. It’s about building real vitality into the community. We’ve seen shops open and cafés spill out. It’s just fantastic, like a new destination.’

At Le Grand Douet, a 201-home Andium development on the site of the former Mayfair Hotel in St Helier, there is a free-to-access community space for birthday parties, film nights and other events.

Who knows what will grow from the meetings in these and other spaces like them where people are encouraged to get together.

Communities will evolve organically as networks grow. It is the responsibility of Andium and others to create a fertile environment for those first connections. Their developments’ ability to do that will ultimately be a headline metric of success.

Countless studies have shown that the quality of relationships and social ties is the strongest predictor of a happy and healthy life.



Andy Sibcy with Peter Le Gresley



The perfect recipe for buying your first home...

... only takes three ingredients for success, say Marcia Lee, senior conveyancer and Godelaine Harrison, conveyancer at Le Gallais & Luce

For many Islanders, getting a foot on the property ladder can feel out of reach. The Andium Homebuy Scheme has already helped many first-time buyers into a home of their own. Here is how it works and what buyers need to know about property, the law and finance before the keys are theirs.

Buying your first home in Jersey can feel daunting, especially when navigating an assisted purchase scheme for the first time. Over the past two years, we have helped over 300 clients purchase their first home via the Andium Homebuy Scheme and understanding how it works and what's expected of applicants is the first step towards a successful purchase.

The first ingredient:

The right property — understanding the Andium Homebuy Scheme

The Andium Homebuy Scheme is designed to bridge the gap between what first-time buyers can afford and what a property costs on the open market, with no deposit required. Eligible applicants only need to borrow 75 percent of the purchase price from a mainstream lender, while the remaining 25 percent is provided by Andium Homes as a 'deferred payment' loan. No monthly repayments are due on this portion. Instead, 25 percent of the property's value is repaid to Andium when the property is next sold and that money is recycled back into the scheme to help the next generation of buyers.

How to apply

To be considered for the scheme, you'll first need to register on Andium Homes' Assisted Purchase Pathway. Broadly, you'll need to be over 18, hold entitled residential status and have lived in Jersey for at least six months. You must also be a genuine first-time buyer (having never owned property anywhere in the world), be unable to afford a suitable home on the open market and have a household income within the published limits for the scheme.

Once you're on the Pathway, it's worth arranging in principle how much you can borrow from one of the mortgage lenders who support the scheme, so you know your budget before viewing a property. Andium will then market suitable properties directly to registered applicants, prioritising those who have been on the Pathway longest and who are genuine first-time buyers. If you're offered a property, the sale typically completes within six to eight weeks, though it's worth being aware that waiting times to reach that stage can range from one to three years depending on demand and the properties available.

The second ingredient:

The right property lawyers

Once a property has been found and the finance arranged, choosing a legal firm with conveyancing experience of the Andium Homebuy Scheme is what brings the transaction together. Because the scheme involves three parties, the buyer, Andium and a mainstream lender, a legal firm needs to understand what each requires and be able to liaise directly with the legal teams representing both Andium and the lender, so nothing is missed and the process runs as a single, joined-up service.

Why do you need a property conveyancer?

A property conveyancer from your legal firm checks the title to a property for a minimum of 40 years to establish what clauses or restrictions affect it, then cross-checks these against neighbouring owners' contracts to make sure everything ties in together. If the property is a flying freehold flat, they also confirm that the association's legal obligations have been fulfilled before the purchase goes ahead.

Flying freehold typically applies to flats and apartments, where you own your individual unit outright, but it sits within a building where other parts, such as the roof, foundations, and shared areas, are owned in common between yourself and the owners of the other units.

Buying a flying freehold property automatically makes you a co-owner of the common areas and a member of the building's association which is responsible for looking after those shared areas. It's essential to check that the association has met all of its legal obligations before a purchase completes, which is one of the checks a conveyancer carries out as standard.

If you purchase a freehold property, it means you own both the building and the land it sits on outright, with no one else's permission needed to make changes to the structure (subject, of course, to normal planning rules).

“**Buying your first home should feel exciting, not overwhelming**”

Your conveyancing team also carry out a site visit, which is their chance to translate all of that research into what they can actually see on the ground, checking that everything that is supposed to be at the property is there, and in the right place.

Once they have completed their checks, explained everything to you clearly and confirmed your loan documentation has been correctly executed and approved by both Andium and your lender's lawyers, you're ready for the final step: The Royal Court.

In Jersey, buying freehold or flying freehold property means you, or your lawyer, must appear before the Bailiff and two Jurats in the Samedi Division of the Royal Court, which actually sits at 2.30pm on a Friday, not a Saturday as its name suggests. There, once the Oath has been taken, you'll receive your keys and the property will finally be yours.

The third ingredient:

The right finance

Arranging the personal bank loan alongside the Andium contribution is a key part of the process. Local mortgage brokers, such as Octagon Finance, can help buyers understand their borrowing options and identify which lenders support the scheme. Whichever adviser a buyer chooses, their conveyancer will liaise directly with the lender's legal team to keep the process moving smoothly.

Getting started

Le Gallais and Luce's experience of working with the Andium Homebuy Scheme means we understand what is required by all parties. Buying your first home should feel exciting, not overwhelming. If you're thinking about applying for the Andium Homebuy Scheme, or you already have an offer on a property, get in touch with our team for a friendly, no obligation conversation about how we can help.

Tel: 01534 760 760

Email: propertyteam@lgl.je



Marcia Lee, senior conveyancer



Godelaine Harrison, conveyancer

House Adler, a bespoke family home extension



Baufritz UK is expanding into a new market segment in the UK and the Channel Islands with energy-efficient, design-led home extensions that combine contemporary architecture with proven Baufritz quality and sustainability standards

The flagship project is House Adler, a modern family home in Jersey. Because planning permission required the original building to be retained, Baufritz developed a bespoke, energy-efficient extension, while a trusted partner refurbished the existing building using Baufritz materials and integrated it seamlessly into the new design.

The house comprises three, slightly offset volumes. The new, spacious extension features an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area designed for family life and entertaining guests. A double-height void over the dining area creates an airy, light-filled space, while floor-to-ceiling sliding doors offer direct access to the terrace outside. The focal point is a striking ceiling-high statement fireplace that acts as a room divider separating the kitchen and dining area from the living space. Muted colours and natural materials such as timber and granite are repeated throughout the house and provide a touch of elegance. The result is a streamlined, contemporary home that meets modern expectations of comfort, functionality and energy efficiency while fully respecting local planning constraints.

"Baufritz takes an intelligent approach in cases where planning permission is conditional on part of the original structure being kept. The same materials were used for the extension and the existing house to create a modern, streamlined family home with a coherent design," says Oliver Rehm, CEO of Baufritz (UK) Ltd.

“The result is a streamlined, contemporary home that meets modern expectations of comfort, functionality and energy efficiency while fully respecting local planning constraints

House Adler meets the brief to modernise and expand, whilst respecting planning rules protecting existing buildings. Baufritz homes are precision-engineered off-site to millimetre tolerances and assembled on site with minimal disruption. The project marks a milestone year for the company, as they celebrate 20 years of building homes in the UK.

Webinar: Building Your Bespoke Baufritz Home

We regularly host webinars where prospective clients can listen to our experts and ask relevant questions. Using real-life examples, we'll take you step by step through the journey to building a sustainable, precision-engineered home.

Follow our newsletter and website for updates. To register for the next webinar, visit baufriz.co.uk and select Company & News.

Company Details

For more information, contact Baufritz (UK) Ltd on 01223 235632, via email at enquiries@baufriz.co.uk, or visit the website at baufriz.co.uk.

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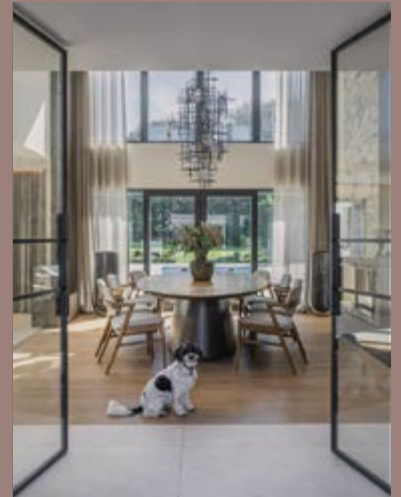


Designed with vision. Built for life.



House Adler: A blueprint for home extensions

At Baufritz, we design and build bespoke home extensions of exceptional quality. Prefabricated in Germany with millimetre precision and superior craftsmanship, they combine energy efficiency with an innovative design. House Adler in the Channel Islands showcases Baufritz's intelligent approach in practice: We integrated the existing structure into the overall concept to create a seamless, barn-style design.



BAUFRITZ®



A new life for a Jersey Farmhouse

In the last (Summer) edition of RURAL, interior designer Bryony Richardson described how she undertook a deep-rooted rethink of a historic granite farmhouse in quiet Jersey countryside. Now, she shows how the property has revealed its full potential and has brought the house back to vibrant daily life





Entrance hall

Old Stones. New Story

In this historic granite farmhouse, a 1970s extension added an additional footprint that, with some floorplan tweaking in this recently completed renovation, enabled the addition of a crucial hallway.

The hallway runs, elegant and uninterrupted, from the entrance hall through to the newly conceived heart of the home – a generously proportioned farmhouse kitchen and orangery seating area.

This calm processional route, runs alongside the back of house areas to the home – effectively concealing a hard-working, highly functional dog room, boot room, utility and scullery.

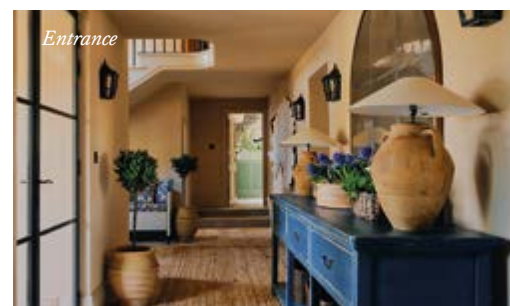
Bathed in natural light from every angle, the orangery has been transformed into a true year-round garden room. Raised glazed elevations and a new leaded roof with skylights ensure comfort whatever the weather, while views of the established gardens complete the picture.

The master en-suite demonstrates creative problem-solving: despite immovable pipework, the challenging layout now comfortably accommodates two showers and a bath, forming a serene retreat. A newly created dressing room allowed for all cupboards to be removed from the principal bedroom.

A cleverly reconfigured first floor now includes an additional guest en-suite. When the guest wing is not in use, a secret door within a bookcase closes it off, allowing the main house to feel cosier and more intimate.

Throughout the house, naturally inspired palettes and tactile layers create an atmospheric sanctuary that feels both timeless and deeply personal.

Bryony Richardson Interior Design
Br@bryonyrichardson.com,
07829 880130



Entrance



En-suite

Orangery

Secret door to guest wing



Master bedroom



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Property Client, 2025

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Inviting autumn's colours into your home...

After the summer drought and before a wet and windy winter, Anna Watson explains how to ensure that our nests remain comfortably well feathered

Who can believe the drought we had this summer?

Our gardens and homes struggled through weeks of burning sun, most of us were struggling to keep everything and everyone living and functioning properly. The final cooling at the end of August brought a welcome change and we cheered as we felt the first drops of rain.

One of the finest things about living in the British Isles has always been the temperate weather and the four well-delineated seasons. But what a muddle of extremes they are now. Too much sun in the peak of summer, too much rain in the winter and not enough frosts in the early spring.

It's why these middling months have become, for so many of us, our favourites – early summer and autumn offer respite from heat and rain and give us a chance to relax for just a moment, in anticipation of what's to come.

This autumn, our gardens can finally relax after the fight for life they have had against drought; we can feel our shrubs and borders drop their shoulders as they head towards winter hibernation and welcome sleep.

Our homes have stressed and strained in the beating sun – metal, wood and glass have been tested beyond measure: our houses have bloated and creaked through July and August. The cooler, shorter days of autumn allow them to settle back into themselves and breathe an almost audible, sigh of relief.

So many of us have spent the summer in our gardens with our baking conservatories and stifling sitting rooms left unused and neglected. Now is the time to feather our nests and slowly rebuild our favourite rooms in preparation for what will surely be a long, wet winter.

It's amazing what a difference a well-made, interlined pair of curtains can make to the temperature of our rooms. At Susie Watson Designs, our curtain maker is one of the best in the business - creating stunning curtains and pelmets using our timeless printed and embroidered linens.



“With the long shadows of autumn appearing all there is left to do is to bring in some logs, light the fire and cosy up with a dog or two and your favourite tittle

In the summer, we encourage our customers to keep their curtains closed during the daytime to block out the sun. With their beautiful unique striped cotton linings, pompoms and tassels, the windows look lovely from both inside and out even with the curtains drawn. In the winter months a thick, soft pair of curtains pays dividends at keeping the heat trapped in the room and all draughts at bay, from even the oldest windows.

The autumn colours should be exceptional this year so why not reflect all that colour outside with cushions, throws and kilim rugs in the same jewel shades? Invest in our pretty new Lydia sofa with gently pleated skirt or choose a wonderful wool throw to cover up your old upholstery and build up a lovely array of cushions in the softest velvets, stone washed linens and silk.

Bring life to an old floor with a wool kilim which will last a lifetime. It will not only inject a huge amount of colour to any room but will help anchor your furniture and allow you to create different nooks and areas in your larger rooms.

Good, practical lighting cannot be overlooked. Here at Susie Watson Designs we have a wonderful array of lamps, hand-carved and painted in deep crimsons, green-greys and ochres. Combined with colourful linen lampshades they give a gentle, welcoming light. Adorn your rooms with lamps rather than harsh overhead lighting.

And don't forget to have vases and jugs filled with stunning seasonal everlasting flowers. The real ones struggled to grow this summer so it feels much kinder to allow them to settle back into the earth and use our alternative silk flower bunches instead. They are deceptively realistic and cheerful even on the darkest day.

With the long shadows of autumn appearing all there is left to do is to bring in some logs, light the fire and cosy up with a dog or two and your favourite tittle.

Please do join us for a glass of champagne at our open day on Thursday 24 September in Gorey. Or arrange a visit from our interior designers from 21 to 27 September.

Contact our Sherborne store for further details:

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Get in touch today to discuss your project.

Living with History

Jersey's heritage buildings represent the Island's history. Whether it's a granite farmhouse, a Georgian town house or a former agricultural building converted for modern living, these properties offer a clear link to Jersey's past

Listing helps protect the features that make these buildings significant. It also means owners need to understand what can be changed, what could need permission and where extra care is required.

Making changes

One of the most common misconceptions we encounter is that listing prevents owners from making changes to their property. In practice, changes are possible, but they need to be approached carefully. Some prospective buyers are nervous about purchasing a listed building for that reason, while others are surprised by the level of scrutiny that can apply to relatively modest works.

The listing system exists to ensure that changes are carefully considered and that features which give a building its historic or architectural significance are not lost unnecessarily.

Buildings are graded from Grade 1 to Grade 4. A Grade 1 building will usually involve the most careful scrutiny, while a Grade 4 property may allow more flexibility, although it is still protected.

“Applications sometimes require Heritage Impact Statements or archaeological assessments

What listing can cover

Protection doesn't only apply to the exterior of a building. Original staircases, fireplaces, interior layouts, boundary walls, outbuildings and other structures within a property's premises could all form part of what is protected.

This can occasionally catch owners out. A project that might seem straightforward in a modern home can require more thought if historic features are involved. With windows and doors, for example, owners may need to include detail as to why existing features cannot be repaired and how the proposed design preserves the character and appearance of the building.

Setting and surrounding land

A property's setting can also be relevant. For a farmhouse, this could include surrounding fields, boundary walls, outbuildings, access points or other features that help explain the character of the site.

For rural property owners, this is particularly relevant. Changes to access, boundaries, outbuildings or surrounding land can sometimes have heritage implications even where the main house remains largely untouched. Planning applications may therefore need to address both the building and the land around it.

Planning ahead

The planning process can be more involved than for a non-listed property. Applications sometimes require Heritage Impact Statements or archaeological assessments. These reports help explain what is significant about the building or site, and how proposed changes would affect it.

Before committing to purchasing a listed property, it is worth checking the listing grade, heritage considerations, and any previous permissions. Identifying potential constraints early can help avoid surprises or delays later.

Early discussions with architects, conservation specialists and the Historic Environment team can help shape your proposals before an application is submitted. This can reduce the risk of delay and make the process easier to manage.

Why ownership still appeals

Whilst ownership of a listed building does come with extra responsibility, many owners value the character, craftsmanship and long-term appeal these buildings offer.

More broadly, listed building ownership also plays a part in Jersey's architectural and cultural heritage. Decisions made today can affect how those buildings are used, altered and appreciated in the future.

For many owners, that is part of the attraction – caring for a small part of the island's story.

How Ogier can help

Ogier's property team advises on Jersey property transactions, planning matters and heritage-related issues involving listed buildings. We can help clients understand the legal and practical considerations that may arise when buying, altering or maintaining a listed property.

Contact Katharine Marshall, partner in Ogier's expert property team in Jersey, to learn how we can help you.

Katharine.Marshall@ogier.com



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For water supplies,
the heat is on

Val de la Mare Reservoir

What does it take to keep water flowing when the rain dries up, reservoirs run low and Islanders need more water than ever? By Mark Bowden, head of water resilience and emergency planning at Jersey Water

This summer has been a reminder that water is one of our most valuable resources. As hotter, drier weather puts pressure on supplies, Jersey Water is asking Islanders to use water wisely today while it plans for meeting the Island's needs for tomorrow.

The unusually warm and dry weather has caused headaches for many people — including me!

My job is essentially to make sure Jersey has enough high-quality drinking water to meet the Island's needs, whatever the weather. Having clean water at our fingertips will always be a necessity, so my role is also to look at the Island's future water demands and plan ahead to make sure we'll be able to meet them.

This year's hot, dry summer has really hammered home some of the challenges we're likely to continue to face. By the end of July, we'd experienced three of the warmest and driest months on record, back-to-back, leaving reservoir levels more than ten percent below the ten-year average for the time of year.

As you would expect, customer demand for water goes up during hot weather, just as the rain stops topping up our reservoirs, which can put a lot of pressure on water supplies.

Even when they're all full, our reservoirs only hold around 120 days' worth of water, which makes Jersey very sensitive to prolonged dry weather. That's why we've been reminding customers that using less water now helps protect reservoir levels for everyone.

As an Island, we need to re-frame how we think about water and recognise that it isn't an endless resource. In other parts of the world, being water conscious is a way of life. Our changing climate means that we must start behaving this way too.

When it comes to water, small changes really add up to big savings. Taking shorter showers, using watering cans instead of hoses, turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, only running the washing machine or dishwasher when full and washing cars with a bucket and sponge are everyday habits that help keep our water supplies healthy all year-round.

Shaving just three minutes off your daily shower can save 30 litres and turning the tap off when brushing your teeth can cut back your water use by up to 24 litres a day. That's equivalent to nearly four typical household buckets of water per person per day. If everyone made these changes, Jersey could save enough water to fill more than two 25-metre swimming pools every day.

In the summer, it isn't just the amount of water we have to think about, but the water can take more effort to treat. Lower water volumes mean naturally occurring substances like manganese can become more concentrated, while warmer weather can encourage algae to grow. It becomes a busy time for our operations team, who monitor water quality around the clock and adjust treatment processes to keep our drinking water consistently clean.

Where our water comes from

We use around 19 million litres of drinking water a day, and this figure can go up to 25 million per day in the warmer months. Keeping up with demand will only get tougher as our climate and weather patterns continue to change.

As a small island, we're almost entirely reliant on rainwater that we store in our reservoirs for our everyday needs in our homes, businesses and workplaces. At Jersey Water, this means that we can get very excited about rain. We haven't resorted to rain dances yet, although our operations team does have a couple of rain sticks they shake. After this summer, you can imagine the reaction when we finally get a decent dose of rain.

“All these actions will help create a stronger safety net during dry periods, but they're only part of the answer

Joking aside, autumn and winter are critical because we rely on rainfall to refill the reservoirs. History has shown that every ten or 20 years we can get very dry winters. A multi-year drought combined with not enough rain to recharge our stocks is our biggest risk. Climate change and events like El Niño have the potential to re-write the rulebook on seasonal weather. We're in the era of climate weirdness and, as the saying goes, past performance is no indicator or guarantee of future performance.

Every drop of water that comes from your tap has been carefully treated to make sure it's clean, safe and of the highest quality. It's easy to take it for granted, but water is a precious resource. When you look at a glass of water, remember that it takes time, energy, money and rain to produce.

Predicting and planning

Our forecasts show that the Island could face a water deficit of as much as 8.6 million litres per day by 2035 in a worst-case drought scenario, unless we take action now.

We're looking at how we can help people use water more efficiently, while also investing in projects that increase how much we can supply and make our infrastructure more resilient.

To meet Jersey's future water demand, we are taking a two-pronged approach: helping customers use less water and investing in projects that increase supply and strengthen resilience. Over the next five years, this includes upgrading the desalination plant to increase its output by 50 percent, rolling out more smart meters, improving leakage and pressure monitoring, upgrading mains infrastructure and planning longer-term solutions to respond to changes in climate and demand.

The desalination plant is an ageing piece of kit that's very costly to run and ready for a major upgrade. Upgrading it to a modern facility that can produce more water, more efficiently and more reliably, will give us a stronger safety net during spells of low rainfall.

This approach is the quickest and most cost-effective way to bolster our drought resilience while we continue to explore other options that will take longer, and require greater investment, to deliver, such as a new reservoir.

A new reservoir does remain one of the options we're exploring longer-term, along with expanding an existing one, water recycling and more desalination to make sure future generations have enough water.

All these actions will help create a stronger safety net during dry periods, but they're only part of the answer. The rest comes down to all of us thinking about the value of water, being mindful of the amount we use and doing our bit to make Jersey's supplies go further.



The desalination plant. Photos credit: Max Burnett

A walk on the rewilding side

A project which is helping to rejuvenate the abundance of animals, insects and plants native to Jersey, is quietly taking place at a farm in St Peter. Ruth Le Cocq found out more

There is something rather special about watching the birds and the bees, the butterflies and the bats and hearing the crickets at night and the grasshoppers during the day at Le Sergenté, St Peter.

Add in some cattle and a couple of Exmoor ponies and the three-year-old project to support the regeneration of the Island's native flora and fauna at the Quenault's family farm is going from strength to strength, despite this year's drought.

Charles Quenault, better known as Chas, has been working with Piers Sangan, the director and principal ecologist of Sangan Island Conservation, to support the diversity of Jersey's plants and animals by setting aside around 80 vergées of land.

'I noticed that when we stopped flailing and working the land with machinery, that's when the crickets started to come back and we really got to see large populations of butterflies,' said Chas.

As he walks along the narrow paths, created by the hooves of the cattle and ponies, the sound of insects, including a hive of bees in the hollow of a tree, is music to his ears. Recently, in just one walk, he saw over 100 butterflies.

'This year it is absolutely humming with them – I think they like the heat.'

In 2023, Chas read a book, written by conservationist Isabella Tree, about the rewilding of a West Sussex farm and he was inspired to try something similar in Jersey.



Animals and birds help to create tree hollows by breaking the outer bark thus creating space for other species to build their nests





Exmoor ponies, General and Mystery, graze alongside cattle and their movement helps to break up dense vegetation, lower wildfire risks and spread seeds to boost local biodiversity

‘It’s a principle I’m trying to work with and I have learned, especially with Piers’ help, about the poor quality of nature on this Island – it’s really shocking.’

Piers said it’s very exciting to be involved in the natural regeneration project.

‘It’s exciting to be part of a project that is looking at landscape change to restore the lost ecology of our landscape.’

‘People say that they are helping biodiversity but often there are no baseline data, there is no plan and there is no understanding that you can do more harm than good.’

For example, in the UK, some mass tree planting schemes are causing ecological damage because the places assigned for tree planting are wet meadows and/or species-rich grasslands.

Piers added that it’s not possible to introduce true rewilding principles in Jersey because there are no large wild herbivores plus, as a managed landscape, it could be argued that the Island’s land has all been fundamentally altered, modified or created by human activities.

‘The natural environment here is completely shaped by agriculture – our farming practices historically differed from the UK,’ he said.

Last year’s survey revealed 364 different species living on the land, including 45 bird species, 16 bat species, 20 species of butterflies, 154 moth species, a locally rare large cone-head cricket, black-backed meadow ants, glow-worms and 110 different plant species.

Chas has also seen a garden warbler, a songbird rarely seen in Jersey, humming bird hawk moths, pink and green elephant moths, wood ants and wild hops growing in the meadow.

“It’s exciting to be part of a project that is looking at landscape change to restore the lost ecology of our landscape

However, he explained that the number of each individual species living on the site is just as important as the number of different species.

‘It’s about abundance,’ said Chas. ‘A lot of species are under threat because there is a low level of population.’

He explained that while he is interested in individual species, the bigger picture involves a much wider ecosystem.

‘We want to align agriculture with the environment,’ said Chas.

Photography inspired by nature

We live in interesting times, as far as weather and climate are concerned.

Five heatwaves took place over the summer, and there is still an opportunity for more heatwaves to come this autumn.

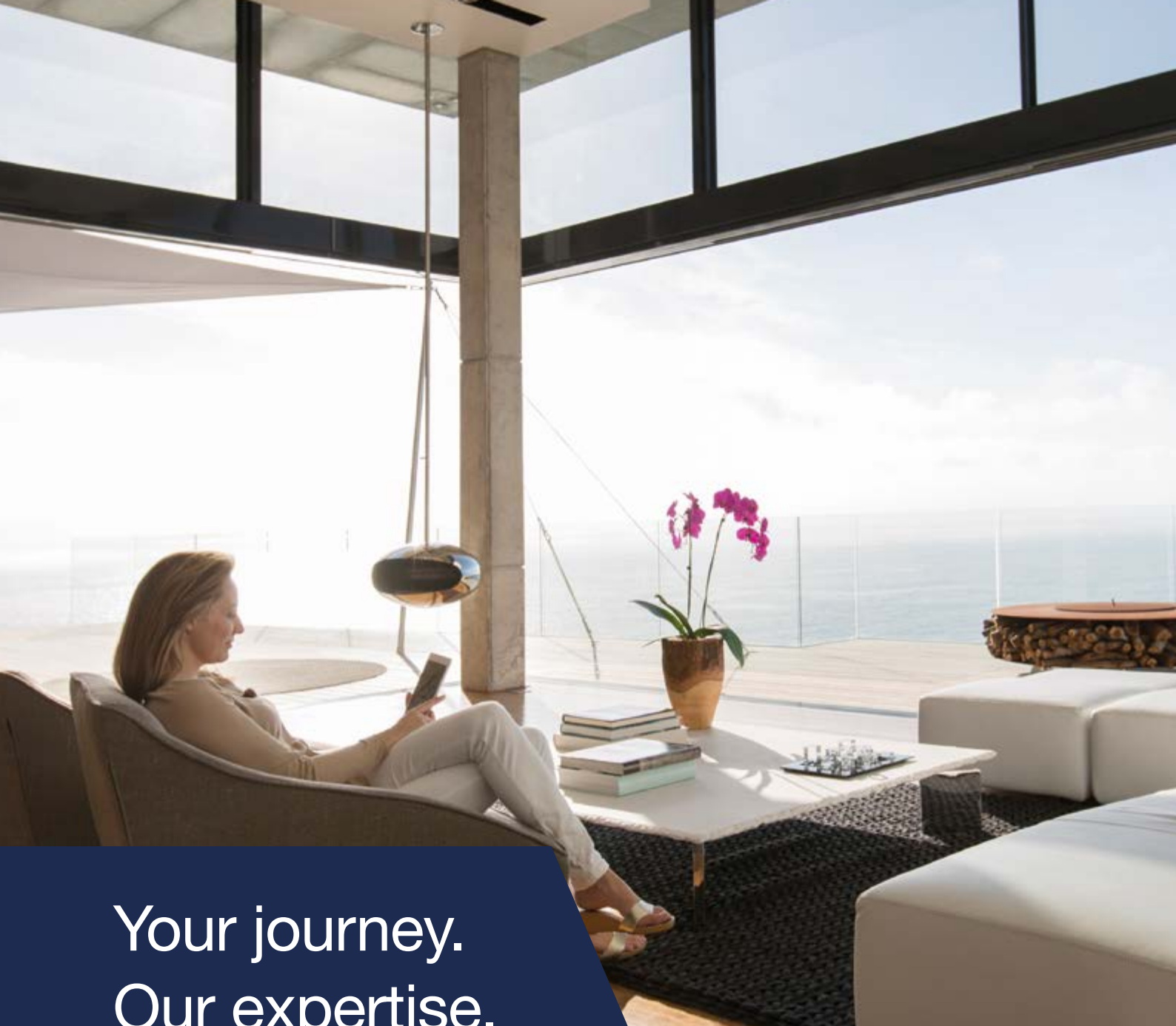
Then in August came the much heralded, much vaunted eclipse of the sun. Considerably underwhelming, actually, but RURAL's photographic editor, Gary Grimshaw, has caught the occasion perfectly: the sun, the light, the parched landscape.

This was taken between Sorel and Mourier Valley, looking west. The picture doesn't show the sheep, looking curiously at the humans, looking at the sky.

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







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Branching out in St Clement



St Clement Constable Marcus Troy

St Clement has the least amount of tree cover in the Island, according to research by Global Forest Watch, but Ruth Le Cocq discovered how this is about to change

Parishioners are being urged to support an initiative to boost the number of trees in St Clement.

The Constable, Marcus Troy, is backing St Clement Goes Green, a project suggested by Dr Vicki Rice Weber, who discovered the parish's tree cover is just 0.4% compared to 9.8% in St Lawrence.

He was shocked to learn that green space was so limited despite the creation of 'The Meadow,' alongside the parish hall, and 'Len's Wood' behind the church.

'I was blissfully unaware of the value of trees even though, when I've got problems, I go for a walk on my own and I calm down,' said Marcus.

Vicki, together with freelance ecologist John Pinel and John Michel, of Jersey Trees for Life, is promoting the value of trees to communities.

'I grew up in St Lawrence and always loved trees,' she said. 'This stayed with me and, at university, I spent a lot of my time sitting under trees.'

“ A study in Denmark revealed how access to green space was the most significant variable in protecting children's mental health across their life course

Her friend, who was studying forestry at that time, was adamant that everything important fundamentally came down to trees, including human health and wellbeing.

'In the last ten years, science has been illustrating how right he was,' said Vicki.

She explained that a study in Denmark revealed how access to green space was the most significant variable in protecting children's mental health across their life course, second only to the socio and economic status of parents.

'Being able to see a tree from a window and having green space, rather than concrete in front of a house, has been shown to give children resilience against adverse childhood experiences such as the death of a grandparent and parental conflict.'

Marcus is keen to involve Public Services and Andium Homes in the project and is encouraging anybody interested in donating native trees, suggesting potential sites and volunteering to plant trees to contact the parish hall.

Plans are afoot to plant three conifers at Samarès School in the new year and three trees at Millard's Corner.

John Michel said trees are examples of nature and evolution at work and that humans could not survive on Earth without them.



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John the tree surgeon takes a bough

John Pallot talked to Alasdair Crosby about his life with trees and about his company, V H Pallot and Sons



John Pallot with company manager Nathan Shambrook

After the violence of Storm Ciaran, in the autumn of 2023, the countryside did not look happy. Not so much bruised and battered; rather, the ravished victim of a violent rape by a brutal and devastating tempest.

The aftermath was a hectically busy time for all tree surgeons, including John Pallot and his team at V H Pallot and Sons. The morning after the storm John and his team were out with chainsaws helping to unblock roads. His company had become part of the Island's emergency services.

'It was awful,' John recalled. 'It was so upsetting to see so many big trees blown down. All hands were on deck that day.'

'Tree work is a unique business. It's one of the only trades where everything is re-used. For example, the branches are turned into woodchip, the timber is turned into firewood or planks and the green waste is turned into compost. It's the only industry with a life cycle.'

John hates the idea of cutting down trees for no good reason: 'One thing that has always been important to us as a family company is pruning and preserving trees wherever possible.'

'Tree pruning is a genuine skill that takes years to master. Reducing a tree by around a third isn't simply about making it smaller. It's about carefully thinning and reshaping the canopy, cutting back to healthy new growth while maintaining the tree's natural appearance. Customers are often amazed by the huge pile of branches and green waste on the ground because the tree itself still looks balanced, healthy and beautiful. That's the art of professional tree surgery.'

'Trees need to be reduced properly; this will not only keep Jersey looking green but preserve the life of our trees and animal habitat.'

Tree pruning often entails climbing very high trees. John is now semi-retired – or at least he leaves the climbing to his experienced team of workers. Sometimes they have to climb 80-foot or 90-foot trees, although most of the time the trees are between 30 feet and 50 feet high. That's quite a long way to fall, so the climber is harnessed and double-roped at all times.

The company has got all the latest equipment to enhance and speed up the work and carry out the job safely and efficiently. Very different from when John's father, Vernon, first started caring for Jersey's trees 50 years ago.

'It was 1977 and I was 17. My father had retired from farming five years before and was doing some gardening and a bit of tree work on a Saturday. I started some part-time work; my brothers Rick and Roy became partners and I went full-time in 1983. We had no idea what we were doing – it was self-taught as we were going along. We only had one lorry, one van, and we employed two men.'

'What started as a weekend venture has grown into Jersey's longest-established tree surgery company, and it has been a wonderful journey.'

'When people ask me what has kept our business going for so many years, the answer is simple – it's the people. Our customers, our staff and my family have all played a part in building something of which I'm incredibly proud.'

John said that one of the greatest pleasures of his job has been the relationships built over the decades. 'Many of our customers have been with us for years, even generations. Every year we return to prune their trees, trim their hedges or carry out fencing work, and over time they become much more than customers – they become friends. It is a privilege to look after their gardens year after year.'



Dismantling a tree bit by bit in a controlled manner

He continued: 'I'm equally proud of the team around me. I call them "my boys" because they really are like family. Many of them have been with me for a great number of years, and that loyalty says everything about the people we have.'

His manager, Nathan, originally from Australia but now married and settled in Jersey, has been with the company for 17 years, six of those as manager. 'Nathan is the best tree climber and tree surgeon that I know of. He was my number one climber for ten years and I used to think that I was good after having climbed for 20 years but he was so much better than me. It's a dangerous job, especially when you have to dismantle big trees bit by bit with ropes and pullies.'

There are five climbers and seven groundsmen all told. Nathan organises the teams and so doesn't climb anymore. His leadership has allowed John to take a slightly more relaxed role, concentrating mainly on the fencing side of the business, carrying out quotations and preparing daily risk assessments, while his teams take care of the physical work.

John's wife, Liz, keeps the office admin running smoothly; John's son, Matthew, recently back from working on some of New Zealand's enormous trees, is now a tree surgeon with the company.

'Although we work hard,' John said, 'we enjoy ourselves too. Every morning starts with plenty of laughter and friendly banter while we're loading the lorries and preparing the equipment before heading out to our customers. Every other Friday evening the team play football together. That team spirit has always been part of who we are, and I believe it shows in the work we do.'

John added: 'Looking back over nearly five decades, I feel incredibly fortunate. I've worked alongside my family, built lifelong friendships with customers, and been supported by a loyal team that feels like an extended family. I genuinely enjoy coming to work every day.'

'People often ask if I'm retired. The answer is no – perhaps semi-retired. At 65, I still love what I do far too much to stop. My father worked until he was 90, which is an incredible example to follow. I don't know if I'll quite match him — but I certainly hope to be involved for many more years.'

“Looking back over nearly five decades, I feel incredibly fortunate. I've worked alongside my family, built lifelong friendships with customers, and been supported by a loyal team that feels like an extended family. I genuinely enjoy coming to work every day

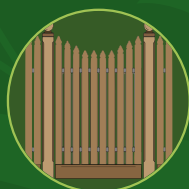


The team, with Nathan Shambrook (standing, far left) and John Pallot (standing, far right)



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Plastic waste takes on a bridge role

Jersey's eminent explorer, Colonel John Blashford-Snell CBE, pays a working visit to a remote Garden of Eden



Last year I carried the Jersey flag to the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, where the emerald green rainforest meets the deep blue ocean on the Osa peninsula. This is dominated by the Corcovado, largest of the country's national parks and a crown jewel in the protected reserves of Central America.

Of all the wild areas I have seen worldwide, this assembly of pristine beaches, tumbling waterfalls and mangrove swamps, alive with wildlife, is unsurpassed.

My first visit was in 1979 when, during Operation Drake, we erected a memorial cairn in memory of Sir Francis Drake's arrival 400 years before. Then in 2015, the Scientific Exploration Society (SES) was asked by the Costa Rican park department to build a ten-metre footbridge, crossing a ravine and leading into the Corcovado reserve. It was built and lasted for ten years but, by 2025, the timber decking had rotted, and the structure needed urgent repairs.

Thus, with the support of Pioneer Expeditions of Dorchester and the backing of the SES, a 15-strong team set out to rebuild the bridge and also carry out community aid tasks to help the indigenous Ngabe people.

“ My first visit was in 1979 when, during Operation Drake, we erected a memorial cairn in memory of Sir Francis Drake's arrival 400 years before

Other tasks included surveying trails in the tropical forest and cataloguing the wildlife to provide a simple guidebook for the area. Following the examples of work carried out on the Flipflop project in Kenya using recycled plastic, it was decided to rebuild the bridge using materials made from plastic waste and even including obsolete Nicaraguan banknotes. Other waste plastic came from hospitals and along the beaches of this beautiful country.

We were fortunate to have Lana Wedmore, a former member of Operation Raleigh, living on the edge of the Corcovado park at her legendary Luna Lodge wellness centre. Lana was able to give us much valuable help as did Adrian Morales, whose La Leona Lodge was near the bridge site. Both these lodges are fantastic places for a holiday in a very remote area not filled with tourists.

Flying in on the 20th of November 2025, the team drove for nine hours to the Ngabe village of Aqua Riva, carried out trail surveys, provided material for the local schools and distributed reading glasses to the local people.

Using camera traps, biology teacher Sarah Wood catalogued the wildlife and Peter Manns, of Winchester, did a study of the Ngabe's cultural life and met with their medicine man.

Tim Harrison, of Taunton, was responsible for mapping the jungle trails to be included in the guide book.

Woollen animal puppets, made by a group of ladies in Bournemouth, were presented to local children following the extraction of a tooth by the expedition dentist.



Very soon the youngsters were saying: 'Take out my tooth. I want a puppet.' Hopefully the puppets will encourage the children to protect the wildlife.

We also did a study of the work needed to create a health post for the area using an old cargo container. Working in temperatures of up to 30° C and enduring several heavy rainstorms, the team were closely watched by great red macaws and a troop of monkeys as well as being visited by giant anteaters. Indeed, the animals were incredibly tame with tapir and other mammals approaching our people. Even a puma walked into one camp. We were all astounded by the lack of fear of humans displayed by the animals. For bird watchers it was a real paradise.

After three weeks' hard work, under hot and humid conditions, the new bridge was opened and the venture in the 'Garden of Eden' declared a success. Perhaps plastic waste could be gathered up and put to good use in Jersey?

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A Jersey tradition preserved



The National Trust for Jersey's Black Butter evening in October preserves a connection to Jersey's rural past while bringing people together in the present. By Sophie Gorman, of the National Trust for Jersey

Once upon a time, there was a small island where apples grew. It lay not in the imagined world of Greek or Celtic legend, but in the real, cold and salty waters of the English Channel.

Jersey was an isle of apple trees. For centuries, growing apples and making cider were important parts of Island life. During the height of cider production in the 18th Century, around a quarter of Jersey's cultivated land is estimated to have been covered by orchards. In good years, there could be a glut of apples, and farmhouses had an ingenious way of using the surplus: they made black butter.

What is black butter? It is not, as the old local joke has it, butter from black cows. Its traditional Jèrriais name is *beurre nièr*, and, for those who have never tried it, it is a concentrated apple preserve made during the cider-making season. It is flavoured with spices, some of which originally came from the New World.

During Jersey's cider-making glory days, the Island was also involved in ship building and cod fishing. Many Islanders farmed for part of the year before sailing to Newfoundland.

Their catches were salted and transported to the Catholic countries of South America, where Jersey fishermen could exchange their cod for exotic spices that found a ready market back in Britain.

Black butter brought together several strands of Jersey life: apples from the orchards, labour from the farms and spices acquired through fishing and trading connections.

More than a recipe, black butter represents an important part of Jersey's rural heritage. Its production required enormous amounts of labour, so it became a co-operative activity involving family, friends and neighbours.

Music, songs, dancing, cards and storytelling helped keep everyone going through the long night. In Jèrriais, such an evening was known as *Un Séthée de Beurre Nièr* – an evening of black butter.

Today, the National Trust for Jersey is helping to keep this tradition alive. Its annual black butter-making event has become a much-loved community occasion, bringing volunteers of all ages together at The Elms in St Mary.

The Trust uses a recipe passed down by long-time supporter Neil Mourant, who grew up with the tradition in the 1950s. The recipe came from his grandmother's family, who had made black butter for generations, and has remained unchanged.



In recent years, Mac Macready has taken the lead in the black butter making process. He is shown here stirring the 'bachin'



In recent years, Mac Macready has taken the lead in the black butter-making process. Mac has volunteered with the National Trust for Jersey for more than 25 years and has attended every black butter event since the Trust's tradition began more than 20 years ago.

For Mac, the event is about much more than making a traditional preserve.

'This annual event is all about getting the whole community together,' he says. 'People of all ages come into that bake house and stir the bachin. You can meet so many nice people and get to know them and their families while you stir.'

And stirring is no small task.

Mac arrives on the Friday at The Elms at 5am to light the fire. A bachin, or cauldron, containing 12 gallons of freshly pressed apple juice is placed over the fire and boiled until reduced by two-thirds.

Volunteers and staff spend two days peeling and chopping apples. On Friday evening, food and live music help keep spirits high as volunteers continue stirring through the night.

Mac leads the team as 1,000lbs of peeled apples are added, followed by 24lbs of sugar, three-quarters of a pound of liquorice, and the grated rind and juice of ten lemons. The mixture is stirred constantly with a rabot, or rake, until Saturday lunchtime.

“ Its traditional Jërriais name is *beurre nièr*, and, for those who have never tried it, it is a concentrated apple preserve made during the cider-making season



Finally, the bachin is removed from the heat – a task requiring two or three strong people – and half a pound each of mixed spices and cinnamon is added. The black butter is then poured into pots and taken to a large tent on the front lawn, where volunteers jar, wipe, lid and label every jar.

It is a remarkable community effort and one the National Trust for Jersey is committed to preserving for future generations.

Black butter preserves far more than apples. It preserves a connection to Jersey's rural past while bringing people together in the present. In every spoonful, there is more than apple and spice: there is a taste of Jersey's farming, fishing and family traditions.

This year's National Trust for Jersey Black Butter Festival takes place from 8 – 10 October at the Elms, St Mary, with the market day on Saturday 10 October. To get involved, please contact enquiries@nationaltrust.je or visit nationaltrust.je/events.



Try, try again!

Jersey Rugby Football Club's youth contact, Michelle Clark, spoke to Kieran Grimshaw about how youngsters can get involved in this inclusive sport of unity and grit, which is suitable for both sexes, and all physiques and ages



Michelle Clark chair of the minis and juniors

As a volunteer, Michelle Clark chairs the minis and juniors. 'I've always liked rugby,' she said. 'I think it's a sport that inspires and is great to watch. Sadly, I'm from a generation where rugby was never offered to girls at school.'

When her youngest son was in the under sevens, the lead coach said they needed a manager, adding: 'There's not much to do.' Despite having three young children and a full-time job, she put her hand up and ended up managing the young group for ten years. Seven years later and about to retire, the position of chairman became vacant and she was persuaded to apply, resulting in her successful appointment – she's never looked back.

Unlike years ago, girls are now welcome in the sport. Women's rugby only started becoming mainstream in the 1960's and is constantly progressing.

“ Despite some setbacks, JRFC has pulled through, enabling youngsters the opportunity to become involved in a competitive sport, and have fun

'We have a young lady, Seren Coombs, who was capped for England U18s in 2025 and trained with the U21 national team last season. She's fabulous and now technically an adult. Her coaches recommended her to be assessed for County Rugby, at which she excelled.'

Having just been selected as part of the U21 England squad, this could perhaps inspire the next generation of young girls to try this evolving sport.

With age being no barrier - boys and girls can start at under six - the club encourages enjoyment as well as learning the basics for the minis.

'It's fun, so not actual rugby, but very much running around with a ball in your hand and playing games, they absolutely love it.'

Sunday morning practice for all of the minis and junior squad



The girls' squad take a well-earned rest at the end of the morning session

"It's about building skills, and contact is introduced very gradually and safely"

For the under sevens and eights, tag rugby is introduced, in which children tackle by removing some tag attached to the opponents' belts. This non-contact sport is perfect for developing youngsters' rugby skills, including fitness and decision making, without the bruises.

Contact is offered for the under nines. 'This is done very gradually and safely,' Michelle explained. 'There's a massive element on safeguarding and ensuring the contact element is managed correctly. We have to abide by the laws of the Rugby Football Union.'

If anyone visits the Rugby Club on a Sunday morning, they will see how things have changed. 'There is a place in a rugby team for everyone, so there's a need for the strongly built and for fast ones, for those who can think and see the game and for those who can grab the ball. It's the breadth of skills for me that's really good.'

For any parents who think their children would like a try - and be converted to the game - they can contact the club.

Despite some setbacks, JRFC has pulled through, enabling youngsters the opportunity to become involved in a competitive sport, and have fun. 'They enjoy themselves in all weathers. Often in winter you'll see the under sixes jumping around in torrential rain - they all turn up.'

Contact:

Jersey Rugby Football Club:

www.minisandjuniors.je

email: mandjs@jrjc.je

Tel: 07797 744 405 (Minis 5 - 11)

Boule-y for you!



There are pétanque terrains in every parish and many new housing developments have one included in their midst. When did pétanque become so popular? Ruth Le Cocq spoke to Wendy Ritzema, the vice-chairman of Pétanque Jersey, to find out more

There is a hint of a glint in Wendy Ritzema's eyes as her competitive nature acknowledges the skill and precision required to play pétanque at top level.

Then, a slow, steady smile creeps across her face as she remembers all the countries she has visited and all the people she has met since she threw her first boule 12 years ago and was instantly hooked on a sport that is played worldwide.

At that time, like many people, Wendy assumed pétanque was a sport for the older generation because many retirees take up the game as a hobby in their later years.

'But that is quite the wrong image,' she said. 'It is the national sport of France and youngsters from the age of three are encouraged to play. What's so wonderful about the sport is that you can have a five-year-old playing an 85-year-old and it's a sport for the whole family.'

Pétanque Jersey is the governing body of the sport in the Island. There are four affiliated clubs – the oldest being the Jersey Pétanque Club – as well as the Carrefour Pétanque Club, the Liberation Pétanque Club and the St Mary's Pétanque Club.

Wendy is the vice-chairman of the association, which has over 450 members, including independents who do not belong to one of the clubs.

As one of the Island's top-ranking female players, she is stepping down from playing internationally and is keen to encourage more youngsters – and particularly female players – to become involved in the sport that she loves with a passion.



L to R - Jean Stewart, Nicky Maindonald, Wendy Ritzema, Katrina Holden



Wendy Ritzema plays a shot

‘The better female players are of a certain age and we really do need to encourage younger females to have a go at pétanque or join a club,’ said Wendy.

The sport is played at many of the Island’s primary schools and Pétanque Jersey’s youth development officer, Robin Stockton, is encouraging more secondary schools to become involved.

‘We had an inter-school competition recently and it was encouraging to see girls from Haute Vallée School playing against Victoria College – the VC boys won, but only just,’ laughed Wendy.

She is keen to highlight how enjoyable the sport can be, whether it is played as a hobby or something more.

‘I hadn’t travelled much in my life – holidays were always put on the back burner because I had dogs,’ explained Wendy. ‘But, in the last 12 years, I have played in the most amazing places, France, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Denmark, The Netherlands, New York and that’s just to name a few.’

In Jersey there is an annual inter-club competition and the winners represent the Island in the Euro Cup where they play against the best clubs in Europe.

‘In 2024 I was fortunate to play with my doubles partner, Gary Cowburn, in the mixed doubles competition against a world champion and his wife. It was a truly unforgettable experience – they beat us, obviously, but it took them over two hours to do so. All the French players and supporters came to watch because, at one stage, we were actually winning,’ smiled Wendy, mischievously.

However, competitive pétanque is not for the faint-hearted.

‘If you are in an all-day competition, it’s tiring both physically and mentally. You can walk 15km and games can be won and lost on tactics.’

Now, Wendy is looking forward to travelling to Athens in October to represent Jersey in the European triples.

“**It’s become my life and I just love it and I just love the people; I’ve met the most wonderful people, who will be friends for life. That’s the beauty of pétanque, it crosses all ages**

‘It is likely to be my last European competition, but I still want to be involved in pétanque,’ she said.

‘It’s become my life and I just love it and I just love the people; I’ve met the most wonderful people, who will be friends for life. That’s the beauty of pétanque, it crosses all ages.’

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LA CARRE D'LA POÉSIE

Poetry Corner

Our regular series, of Jersey poetry is contributed by our readers. If you have a poem that fits into RURAL's remit of heritage and countryside, please send it to the editor, Alasdair Crosby, at editorial@ruraljersey.co.uk, for possible inclusion in a future edition.

With the Autumn equinox taking place at much the same time as this issue of RURAL is due to be published, it seems appropriate to include this poem by Cate Hamilton, and its translation into Jèrriais by Geraint Jennings.



Sonnets at La Hougue Bie on Autumn Equinox

Paused on the pivot point of nights and days,
light nudges at the coast, tickles awake
the drowsing birds, as first tentative rays
fumble through dew-ghosted grass to take
their route towards the round maternal mound.
Upon its flanks, late summer-weary leaves
skirt its curves. The cairn yawns. Underground,
between its shadowed structures, brightness weaves
its penetrating path, a brimming beam
of life, in brilliance pulsing through the stones.
It inundates the chamber, the swift stream
illuminates the place where once-dead bones
were laid, awaiting resurrected birth,
in faith as sun-shot shafts flood through the Earth.

A sanctity no raiders could erase
endures millennia. Time's meaningless
in the quiet peace of this liminal space
where generations find a sacredness.
Conjoined by one roof, twinned chapels rise
in supplication to another Son.
Hope lives on, clothed in a different guise,
declaring victory over death is won.
In granite, humankind would here confine
a transitory spark of something more,
a power beyond this known life, the Divine:
the Truth that follows on, that came before.
A moment's grace born in serenity
holds fast the hope of immortality.

Sonnets La Hougue Bie l'Échinnoxe du S'tembre

Croch'tée sus les craûles des journées et nyits,
la lueu catouôle la côte pour détâner
l'ouaith'lin tch'y haûte, quand l'apprèche du preunmyi
d's écliats vouautre aue les r'vénants d'la roucée
et amonte vèrs la hougue bèrchie en bielle.
La mouaie s'èbâle, ses cotelles lus rêvilyent
ès bords, lâssées d'l'Été, étalées d'fielles.
Ombreé souos terre la leunmiéthe s'entouortil'ye
avaû s'n allée lithante remplyie d'solé
et d'vie, raide égaluante par les pèrrons.
Oulle écliaithe la chambre, et cache lé canné
et veint lithe où'est qu'est la resurrection
espéthée d'ossâle entèrrée et horte
quandi qu'l'épart d'la fouai empl'ye et emporte.
Eune saint'té sé garde contre des contchéthants
pour des mille ans. Lé temps ch'est du niolin
dans la tranchilité d'chutte plaiche d'écant
où'est qu'des généthâtions ont trouvé l'scîn.
Souos un lief des chapelles jeunmelles assises
montent en supplyication à un aut' Fis.
L'espé vit acouo, r'cliâmant à sa dgise
eune victouaithe sus la mort ensolilyie.
En grannit, l'genre humain embédonn'nait
un mio satchi d'un co d'tchi acouo pus,
lé Divin pus fort qu'la vie qu'nou connaît:
la Véthité tchi siètha, déjà v'nue.
La grâce d'un moment tch'est dans chute paix née
tcheint bouôn à l'espé d'l'immortalité.

Translation into Jèrriais by Geraint Jennings.

Digging up the past

Around 300 people attended an open day of a recent archaeological dig in a field close to La Hougue Bie — evidence of how much interest there is in the Island's deep past. Afterwards, Alasdair Crosby talked to the dig's director, Dr Matt Pope and to Jersey Heritage's Olga Finch

It is an unremarkable field, flat like countless other potato fields around the Island. Not worth a second glance, really. But potentially this field could have a remarkable story to tell.

An archaeological excavation there in August attracted some 300 Islanders, who had come on an open day arranged by the dig's director, Dr Matt Pope, associate professor in Palaeolithic archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and by Olga Finch, curator of archaeology at Jersey Heritage.

The reason for so much interest was the location of the field: it lies just across the road due east of the entrance to La Hougue Bie; the entrance to this Neolithic construction is orientated towards the east to catch the first rays of the sun at the spring and autumn equinoxes.

Could the field, for example, show traces of some ceremonial or processional pathway that might once have led to the mound?

“Was this plateau area occupied during the Ice Age?

An intriguing thought, but there was nothing to indicate that. There was little material uncovered that could be dated to around 6,000 years ago, when La Hougue Bie stood in all its glory; no traces of buildings, no post holes, no artefacts, no skeletons, no artefacts near the mound, though some artefacts have been found at the far end of the field, furthest away from the mound. Perhaps what is now the nearest part of the field was holy ground, a sacred space from which the community was excluded? It is fascinating to speculate.

‘There may be many fields across Jersey that have remarkable stories, but we won't even look at them, because they don't have La Hougue Bie next door to them,’ said Matt. ‘We hope that by telling the story of this field in detail, we can start to look at the wider landscape in a slightly different way.’

It has been received wisdom that the Neolithic settlement of the Island was around the then existing coastline, and the interior of the Island was remote and sparsely populated... but, of course, that begs the question, why was La Hougue Bie constructed so far inland?

‘One reason why it could be here is that it is located on flat ground above a number of valleys coming from the south and east that have petered out by the time La Hougue Bie is reached. It sits at a watershed, a cusp; it has been described by the archaeologist, Mark Patton, as an Omphalos, the ceremonial ‘navel’ of this part of the Island.



Investigating the geology and soil depth on site



Open day at the dig



Dr Matt Pope and Olga Finch by the 'Neolithic House' at La Hougue Bie



The jadeite hand axe

'It's a commanding position in the landscape, and if you were moving from the Island's south coast to its east coast, you would pass this plateau.'

He added that there was not enough information to say what the Neolithic landscape would have been like. A pollen record would be needed, and traces of the original vegetation. Was La Hougue Bie built in a landscape that was effectively wild and open, or was it densely forested, or was it intensively farmed? More research is need to answer such questions.

And the people who lived at the time La Hougue Bie was built? Again, we still know tantalisingly little about them. We do know that their artefacts and monuments show close connections with the Neolithic cultures of Brittany. And certain developments have been discovered, such as a jadeite hand axe that would have been purely for ceremonial use, which show much longer-distance connections with Europe.

Olga showed the axe, found early in the 19th Century, and simply described at the time as being found 'in a field near La Hougue Bie' – so, not much clue there about exact location or context.

But it is highly polished and is marvellously tactile; it seems like a priceless objet d'art from a much more recent century, created with love, care and effort by a superb craftsman. It had been quarried in the Austrian Alpine region, and possibly then traded and re-traded until eventually it found its way to Jersey.

'I feel it belonged here,' Olga said. 'It was purely a prestige item; maybe it was part of the ceremonies that took place at La Hougue Bie? Perhaps it was carried in procession by one of the priestly officiants here. Once again, we don't know.'

A tour of the dig revealed half a dozen small test pits, widely spaced around the field. Nothing of great import was found, only some rubbish and broken crockery from recent centuries, possibly thrown away from local farms or the then Princes Tower Hotel situated at La Hougue Bie. Why this keyhole archaeology, rather than perhaps one long trench, in which they might have discovered more?

'The first stage of this project was a magnetometer survey. This showed up magnetic anomalies: areas of intense magnetism, both positive and negative which could indicate significant human activity in the past. And so we decided to site test pits on those anomalies to see, for example, if they marked an area of burning, or a significant large stone that could have been buried, or perhaps a more recent chunk of agricultural metal.

'These were very tenuous exploratory holes. None of them showed up a positive feature that could explain the magnetism, but the landscape has a complex history. It was originally divided into four fields, one of them an orchard. What does it take to reduce an orchard, in terms of felling trees, pulling up roots, burning, and then filling the holes left by the roots?

'So, we do think that some of the anomalies relate to that change in landscape use. One of the four field names was Le Jardin de Perchard, and as it is currently farmed by Richard Perchard, that is now the actual working name of the site and the field.'

What were the future plans for the site?

'Subject to agreement from Jersey Heritage (which now owns the field) and Planning, we hope to retrieve a bore hole sequence through the layer of loess (originally dust blown by strong winds in the Ice Age and now a layer of subsoil) to be able to date it and reconstruct Ice Age climates, and to look for human activity deeper into the past. Was this plateau area occupied during the Ice Age? What sort of activities could have taken place here by very early Homo Sapiens and Neanderthal people? Both of them would have been here as well as the animals they were hunting. Have they left a trace, and can we find that trace?

'As well as answering important questions about the context of La Hougue Bie and its history, I think it is the discovery of that deeper Ice Age story that this landscape offers.

'As archaeologists, we look for patterns; patterns become data, and data becomes the evidence on which we pursue our research agenda for the next stage. We go away, we analyse — and then we come up with new questions.'



All systems go...

...or are they? If you are thinking of crossing to France this autumn, Kieranne Grimshaw explains what Jersey travellers need to know about new requirements coming into force

There's a particular pleasure in a short hop to France - the market at St Malo, an oyster lunch in Cancale or an afternoon among the antique dealers of Dinan. For Jersey residents, it has always felt more like popping next door than leaving the country. This Autumn, that popping-next-door will come with a little more ceremony at the border than islanders are used to, though nothing that should discourage the trip.

The border has grown a memory

Since April this year, every external Schengen border - including the ferry terminal at St Malo - has been operating the EU's new Entry/Exit System, or EES. In plain terms, the old passport stamp has been retired in favour of an electronic record: your fingerprints and a photograph are taken on your first crossing and the system then remembers you for future trips.

It's not something you need to arrange beforehand. It happens at the terminal itself, at a kiosk or with an officer. The one thing worth knowing before you travel this autumn is that the system's first summer in full operation has not been entirely smooth - ports and airports across the Schengen area have reported queues running into several hours at peak times, as staff and infrastructure catch up with demand. The sensible response is simply to build in extra time at check-in, particularly if you are travelling on a Friday afternoon or at the start of a school holiday. Treat the crossing as part of the day's plans rather than a formality squeezed in beforehand.

The other system - still waiting in the wings

You may also have heard of ETIAS, the online travel authorisation that was expected to arrive alongside EES this year. The good news, for anyone travelling in the autumn, is that there's nothing to do. Despite earlier plans for a launch in the final months of 2026, the scheme has slipped again - the EU's own website has quietly dropped its previous target date, and a fresh timetable isn't expected until after a review board meets this September. Most observers now expect the system to arrive in 2027 rather than this year.

In short: no application, no fee, no portal to visit. Anyone offering to process an ETIAS application for you today is not to be trusted - the official channel does not yet exist.

And coming home to Jersey

Here the picture simplifies rather pleasantly. Jersey sits outside both the EU and the Schengen area, so the return leg of your journey isn't touched by either EES or ETIAS at all. Coming back through St Helier, you'll go through the same familiar Jersey border control as always - a passport check, nothing biometric, nothing new. The extra layer of process belongs entirely to the outbound half of the trip.

The practical upshot

For an autumn crossing to St Malo and back, the advice is refreshingly simple. Take a passport with a few months of life left in it, allow extra time at the French end of the journey - particularly for that first fingerprint scan - and don't give ETIAS a second thought, because there is, for now, nothing to prepare. The old ease of a weekend in Brittany hasn't gone anywhere; it has simply picked up a queue, on one side of the water only.

As ever with anything emerging from Brussels, the exact shape of things may shift again before the year is out. But for this autumn at least, the message for Jersey travellers is: go, enjoy the crossing, allow a little patience at the French border, and let the way home stay exactly as uncomplicated as it always was.

Senator Helen Miles,
Minister for Justice and Home Affairs,
was unavailable for comment.

See full details on the Customs & Travel page of www.gov.je

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Care at home – for those who care about living at home

**Lochlainn Mahon,
of C I Home Care,
talked to one of his
company's clients,
Frank Langlois, about
how the care company
enabled him to keep
his independence
in the comfortable
surroundings of his
own home**

Frank Langlois lives at La Pouquelaye and has been living in Jersey since he returned to the Island as a young man. For the past 71 years, he has been with his wife, Pam, but Pam passed away last December. Since then, he has continued to live at home but the fact that he has five children, all of whom live in Jersey, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, means there is always family around.

Despite his age, Frank still enjoys gardening, music and visiting parts of the Island, particularly the north coast. He has a special interest in ironworking which aligned with his career in maintenance, mainly at the Airport.

He continues to live at home, but now needs some support: 'I can live independently with the support of my fantastic team of live-in carers from Complete Individual Home Care,' he said. 'I have regular carers with whom I get on very well and they take great care of me. They know what I enjoy and they consider this when planning my daily routine, be it meals that I prefer, to daily activities at home and around the Island.'

'They encourage me to keep active by supporting me to participate in daily exercise and regular movement through various activities.'

'My wife Pam and I had our live-in carers prior to Pam's passing and after seeing the benefit to us both from our marvellous team of carers, I wanted this to continue for myself.'

Having C I Home Care carers supporting him around the clock at home means that he can remain living safely at home, which is his main priority: 'I do not want to live in a care home if I can avoid doing so, and this gives me the option to live life as I want.'

'I have round-the-clock reassurance, particularly with moving around my home, as at times I can feel unsteady or giddy on my feet, so having a carer close by means I am not so restricted.'

'I am more than satisfied with the care I receive from my carers, and I feel they take great care of me. They provide quality care that is focused on my needs and interests, and I feel their approaches are consistent and reliable.'

*Main Picture: Frank with some of his CI team (15th July 2026)
- Left to Right: Carole Tilley (Live-In Care Manager),
Frank Langlois (Client) and Rebecca Smith (Live-In Carer)*

My carers always include me in planning for what I need, so that I am always involved, and this maintains my autonomy. My carers continually offer assurance so I can focus on being active and doing the things I enjoy.'

Frank said he would highly recommend C I Home Care to anyone who was considering care at home and wanted to continue living at home rather than in a care home.

'C I Home Care offers fantastic carers - I have been fortunate to have a great team of regular carers who were selected to support my individual needs. To date they have taken the time to get to know me and to ensure I am well looked after; I am greatly reassured by this. Anytime I want to discuss my care plan, my carers and the managers are always at hand to support, and their proactive approach has meant I have been able to address any concerns or queries quickly, for which I am grateful.

“ I have round-the-clock reassurance, particularly with moving around my home, as at times I can feel unsteady or giddy on my feet

'Essentially, C I Home Care provides me flexibility. I don't feel rushed and I can engage in any spontaneous activity that I really enjoy doing, such as going for a drive to Corbière to watch the sunset, or watching the waves during a storm.

'I wouldn't necessarily have such options and the freedom to do any of that without my live-in carers from C I Home Care.'

C I Home Care is part of the LV Care Group.



Frank at the beach in St Aubin (Summer 2026)

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An artist's life

At this year's CCA Galleries International Summer Exhibition, Ann Morgan's painting, Springtime in Fern Valley, won the RURAL magazine Landscape Award



The RURAL Landscape Award celebrates artwork inspired by Jersey's rural landscape, farming, wildlife and natural environment. This year it was awarded to Ann Morgan for her painting 'Springtime in Fern Valley'.

The award is supported by the National Trust for Jersey, who donated a free one-day stay at the Trust's Le Catel Fort, Grève de Lecq.

Speaking about the subject of her painting, Ann said: 'I love Fern Valley.'

'It is an easy walk from my home on the outskirts of town; a few minutes and you are in deep country. The inspiration for the painting came from the numerous walks I have taken down there. The vibrant greens in springtime were particularly appealing to paint.'

She is much more drawn to seascapes than landscapes, however. 'The sea is in my blood. As a child I spent a lot of time on the sea, as we were a boating family.'

On her easel is a large painting of Green Island as the tide is going out.

'It is one of my favourite places. I love the transparency of the sea at the shore and the surface and ripples at a distance. I have painted Green Island many times.'

Portraiture is a subject she also enjoys and she has painted members of her family, her children, grandchildren and other family members at different stages of their lives. She also likes figure studies and often puts figures into her landscapes.

Ann paints in oils and watercolours and painted in watercolour for many years before taking up oils. 'I love oil painting as it is so expressive and is much more forgiving than watercolour.'

'I am always getting new inspiration for paintings. A recent trip to Le Saie Harbour has provided a lot of material for future paintings, one of which I have recently started. A climb down the headland to La Cotte à la Chèvre (the small Neanderthal cave) with friends a couple of years ago gave me lots of material for four painting. I love going to these more remote sites, though the climb down was not for the faint of heart.'

Ann paints a wide variety of subjects, such as Les Blanchés Banques or Ouaisne Bay. 'Sometimes I just like to home in on outdoor still life. They are not landscapes as such.' She has also started to paint winter scenes, such as winter swimmers in St Brelade's Bay'. 'The colour palette is so different, more subdued – such a different feel to the summer scenes.'

After her four children were born, painting was an ideal occupation in free moments at home when she was looking after them. She has participated in many exhibitions over the years and has also sold her work at many different locations and galleries.

Ann taught oil painting, watercolour and drawing for Adult Education at the Philip Maurant Centre, Highlands College and also taught art at The Arts Centre for eight years, as well as teaching privately.

'I loved teaching adults art and feel very privileged to have done so. I am retired now but paint with two different groups of former students.'

She sells her work through the Trading Point in St Lawrence, and through Facebook @Ann Morgan artist and Instagram @Paintingwithann

She can be contacted through private messages on both these platforms for enquiries or studio visits.



The artist Ann Morgan at work in her studio

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The nature of art

An exhibition of paintings and ceramics by local artists Rosemary and Lucy Blackmore is being held at the Atlantic Hotel, St Brelade from 8 to 11 October, from 10am to 5pm daily

The Light Within' is the title of an exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Rosemary Blackmore and her daughter, Lucy Blackmore. It is in aid of Dementia Jersey, with both artists donating 20 percent of the profit to the charity. The exhibition will be opened by the CEO of Dementia Jersey, Claudine Snape.

The theme of this year's exhibition is loosely 'Nature' and, as well as seascapes, it encompasses flora and fauna, including some small still-life paintings. Fish, birds, plants and animals all feature in both Rosemary's paintings and ceramics, including a large metre-square painting of stampeding horses and, of course, one of her favourite subjects, beautiful iconic Jersey cows.

The ceramics are varied, including poppy seed pods, vases and some quirky octopus and jellyfish pieces.

New for this year are flower panels, three of which are large and mounted on beautiful wooden panels. Smaller versions are also available.

'Rosemary said: 'I love combining different materials with my ceramics and am delighted to have enlisted the help of two local craftsmen: Darren from Woodshed Living and Theo, an artist blacksmith, to enhance my work. Darren created the wooden panels on which the flowers are mounted, while Theo made the metal bases for two bird baths.'



Lucy and Rosemary Blackmore

Everything is handmade and unique, and visitors will find not only original paintings but also sculptural pieces for the home and garden.

Rosemary has occasionally exhibited with her elder daughter, Hannah, who is a successful professional artist now living in Tasmania. 'Having Lucy join me for this exhibition is another privilege, and I am extremely proud of both our daughters' achievements in the art world.'

Lucy has spent 11 years leading art classes for Dementia Jersey, which are hugely popular with people living with dementia and their carers.



Evening Light, St Ouen by Lucy



Storm Over Pinnacle Rock by Lucy

Rosemary said that having encouraged creativity and confidence in others for so long, it felt very special to be showcasing Lucy's own paintings in this exhibition. She will also be exhibiting a collection of her much sought-after ceramic houses.

Lucy said: 'My work offers escapism, inviting viewers into worlds that are deeply personal. My paintings create emotional landscapes that offer a sense of solitude and reflection.'

Rosemary and Lucy hope they have created a joyful celebration of the natural world. Rosemary added: 'Colour, texture and mood are important elements of the exhibition and, if our work evokes an emotional response or familiar feelings about the subject matter, we will have achieved our aim.'

'To say there is something for everyone in this exhibition is an understatement. Lucy and I look forward to welcoming both new visitors and our many loyal supporters.'

This is the third year Rosemary has held an exhibition in support of a local charity. The previous two were for the Jersey branch of the RNLI and Jersey Hospice.

“Colour, texture and mood are important elements of the exhibition and, if our work evokes an emotional response or familiar feelings about the subject matter, we will have achieved our aim



Lucy's ceramic houses

Rosemary thanked the exhibition sponsors, LGT Wealth Management, whose support has made the exhibition possible, and the management and staff of the Atlantic Hotel, 'who unfailingly welcome us with excellent coffee and smiles while we are there'.

'The Light Within' will be open from 8-11 October at the Atlantic Hotel, St Brelade, from 10am to 5pm daily.

For further details of Dementia Jersey, and their very wide range of activities and events, see their website: dementia.je.



Stampede by Rosemary



Big Bertha by Rosemary

Notes for music lovers

Christine Jasper previews the opening concert of the 2026/2027 season of Moments Musicaux Jersey chamber concerts

After a gap for the summer, and after my own baby pause, I am so happy to start a small but exquisite 2026/27 'Moments Musicaux Jersey' chamber concert season.

Entitled Echoes of Beethoven, the upcoming concert season reflects on the enduring influence of one of music's most extraordinary composers as we approach the bicentenary of Beethoven's death in 2027.

Across four concerts, we will explore how Beethoven's musical legacy inspired generations of composers, including Brahms, Dvořák and Schubert.

The opening concert is on Saturday 3 October 2026 at 7pm at the Town Church.

It will feature the quartet of the London Mozart Players and Anika Vavić on the piano. Our opening concert brings together two of the most cherished works in the chamber repertoire.

The London Mozart Players Quartet joins Vienna-based pianist Anika Vavić for the first time in Jersey to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4, in its chamber version, alongside String Quartet No 12, the beloved 'American' Quartet.

Anika has performed solo recital in Jersey, as well as last season's collaboration with Ballet d'Jerri. The Vienna-based pianist has collaborated with leading conductors, including Vladimir Jurowski, Valery Gergiev and Paavo Järvi, and has appeared at the BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, the Vienna Musikverein and the Vienna State Opera. A former protégé of Mstislav Rostropovich and an official Steinway Artist, she is recognised for the depth of her interpretations, her distinctive artistic voice and her uncompromising musical integrity.

The London Mozart Players have become familiar guests to our series over the years. Although both have previously performed in Jersey, this concert marks their first collaboration in the Island.

The quartet is drawn from the UK's longest-established chamber orchestra. It comprises four distinguished musicians united by a shared passion for chamber music. Their performances are characterised by musical insight, warmth and a genuine spirit of collaboration.

We look forward to sharing four concerts with our friends across 2026/27, culminating in an invitation-only Salon concert on 12 June next year, devoted to piano music by Beethoven and Schubert.

As a small thank you to our loyal audience and supporters, everyone who books tickets for the other three concerts on Eventbrite will automatically receive an invitation to join us for this special closing evening.



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*'My husband
deals with that'*

...As a financial planner, this is a phrase that wealth consultant Lisa Davies, of Titan Wealth Jersey, hears surprisingly often

Recent research suggests this experience is far from uncommon. While 84 percent of women say they are actively involved in managing daily finances and are more likely to lead household budgeting and spending, far fewer take the lead when it comes to longer-term financial matters. Research from St James Place shows that just 34 percent of women say they lead on investment decisions, while only 32 percent take the lead on retirement planning.

While every relationship is different, I would encourage women to get involved in discussions about pensions, investments and savings so that they are informed and have a voice in decisions about the future.

I often ask clients a simple question: 'If something happened to your partner tomorrow, would you know where everything is and how it works?'

Surprisingly often, the answer is no.

The problem is not a lack of ability. It is often a lack of confidence, time or opportunity. In fact, research found that only 54 percent of women would feel confident managing a significant inheritance on their own, and just 44 percent would feel confident investing that money, despite women being expected to inherit more than half of all wealth transferred globally by 2048.

That confidence gap is one of the reasons why financial advice can be so valuable. A good financial planner is not there to take control of your finances or make decisions for you. Their role is to help you understand your options and give you the confidence to make informed decisions.

“Understanding the finances that affect your future can help you feel more informed, more confident and better prepared for whatever life may bring

The problem is that financial discussions often focus on the risks of investing, rather than the risks of not investing. As a result, some women avoid making decisions altogether, believing they are taking the safer option. Yet over time, inflation and missed investment growth can quietly do far more damage to long-term wealth than short-term market fluctuations.

The risk nobody talks about

Many people think holding cash is the safe option, however, inflation quietly reduces the spending power of that money over time.

I have met many women who left their pensions sitting in cash believing they were avoiding risk, but what they were actually doing was missing out on years of potential growth. While their pension value may not have visibly fallen, they lost something much harder to replace – time.

The cost of that missed opportunity can be significant. Money that could have been working towards a more comfortable retirement was effectively standing still while the cost of living, and the amount needed to retire comfortably, continued to rise.

When life gets complicated

Financial planning is rarely as straightforward as having a salary and a savings account. I have worked with many women whose wealth was spread across pensions, investments, property, business interests or family assets and I have seen pensions held in one spouse's name, investments structured around the higher earner, or significant wealth tied up in a business that both partners helped to build.

These arrangements are rarely deliberate attempts to create inequality. They simply evolve over time. The challenge is that complexity can sometimes create distance from financial decision-making.

That is why understanding how your finances are structured is so important. Knowing where assets are held, how they are owned and how they fit into your wider financial plan can provide clarity and a greater sense of control over your future.

Why financial independence matters

Understanding the finances that affect your future can help you feel more informed, more confident and better prepared for whatever life may bring.

Not every contribution is reflected on a payslip, share certificate or company structure, but that does not make it any less important. If your efforts help build the family's future, you deserve to help shape the financial plan that supports it. A good financial planner can help bring those conversations to life, providing clarity, structure and reassurance while helping you build a plan that reflects your own goals and aspirations.

Because nobody has a greater interest in your financial future than you do.

FINANCIAL PROMOTION:

The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and you may not receive back all the money which you invested.

*Lisa Davies,
wealth consultant*

Are women better investors?

One of the biggest misconceptions about women and money is that women are naturally risk averse. In my experience, that's simply not true. Women just tend to think differently and are more likely to consider the bigger picture.

Interestingly, the evidence suggests that women may actually make better investors. Research carried out with Barclays investors found that women outperformed men by 1.8 percent per year on average over three years. One reason is that women are often less likely to make impulsive decisions or react emotionally to short-term market movements. Instead, they tend to focus on long-term objectives and stick to their plan.



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It offers contemporary and traditional Indian cuisine, celebrating the flavours of Jaipur, India's "pink city," using natural spices instead of artificial colourings. The venue caters for lunches, dinners, business meetings, and social gatherings, with menus including dine-in, takeaway, set menus, desserts, and wine.

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Email: eyahiakhan39@gmail.com

Book online at: jaipurjersey.com

Simply answer the following question:

Where in Jersey is Jaipur Indian restaurant located?

- A: Gorey Pier
- B: The Esplanade
- C: St Aubin's Village

Please enter online at ruraljersey.co.uk/competition

Closing date for entries is 30 November 2026.

Winners will be contacted via email.

Good Luck!

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A perfect partnership

Emily Jennings, the 'Play Collaborative', has the last word in this edition

Without community there is no commerce. If play is the ultimate expression of humanity, how does it fit in our value-based society?

Where once stood a mournfully neglected play area and a sparsely populated café with a loyal clientele in a forgotten Victorian park, there now proudly stands two brand new playgrounds and a vibrant café business.

A park that served as a cut through and an essential green lung for the nearby hospital, now draws a crowd to create community and generate a buzzing café commerce.

The inter-connectedness of community and commerce can be traced back to their Latin root words: *com* meaning 'together' and *munis* meaning 'duty/office', before they diversified into 'com-unity' and 'com-merchandise'.

Parade Gardens playgrounds and café convey this well and now once more contribute to the beating heart of St Helier.

A brand-new toddler playground alongside the café attracts families to stay and play, creating a sense of community that also inspires confidence for an older demographic to absorb the happy play atmosphere over a cuppa and cake.

Café owner Dave Walsh has risen to the challenge with covered heated seating for the winter, parasols for the summer and a plethora of home-made delights, always delivered with a smile.

Beyond the criss-crossing paths and the cool shade of grand old trees, the older children's playground provides physical challenge and much needed real-life hang out spaces for tweens and teens. Whether they scale the 4m-high climbing dome to chill'n'chat at the top, fly high to connect on six-way hexagonal swings, or sit on the shady corner bench, it's a welcoming free-to-play space to just be with one another. Having watched, listened to and analysed children's play needs for several years, it's clear that community co-production delivers excellent co-designed spaces: a hive of children's activity quickly becomes a community hub - pop it at the centre and watch it radiate.

Who knew that a rainy day chat with the St Helier Parish Parks team would give birth to my two playground designs, and other powerful ripple effects, that not only improve children's lives but also benefit the economy? A thriving year-round café business, a significant reduction in police patrols

(as pro-social activity naturally helped curb the anti-social behaviour that used to plague The Parade), more active children to help reduce our high rates of childhood obesity and physical inactivity, as well as greater community cohesion to combat all-age loneliness and reduce the burden on our overwhelmed mental-health services.

Which begs the question: where else could benefit from the creation of a community hub to attract wellbeing activity, stimulate financial flow and get us all living a flourishing life together? Let's playfully join the dots across all sectors of society (infrastructure, economy, health, children, education, justice, housing, environment etc) to mitigate the rising costs of living with cost-effective fun interventions.

Emily Jennings Play Consultancy services can be found on LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/in/emily-jennings-b25587334



Family and toddler play adjacent to the café



All smiles on the faces of the contributing youngsters at the playground opening



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