



# EnVoyage

Aurigny's leisure and business magazine **Issue 26** 

## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

COMMUNITY SPIRIT BUSINESS NEWS

SPORTS SECTION PLUS LOTS MORE

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### "WHAT GOOD IS THE WARMTH OF SUMMER, WITHOUT THE COLD OF WINTER TO GIVE IT SWEETNESS?"

John Steinbeck, Travels with Charley: In Search of America

DISCOVER #THATISLANDFEELING VISITGUERNSEY.COM



### THE ISLAND'S FINEST DINING AT THE OGH

Enjoy a taste of luxury in the heart of St Peter Port with a range of experiences at The Old Government House Hotel. From breakfast and weekend brunch served in the Brasserie, afternoon tea served in our cosy lounge with an open fire to dinner in the Brasserie or our Governor's Curry Room where we serve Indian cuisine, with South African inspiration.

With magnificent sea views, The OGH is family and pet friendly, offers an extensive wine list and cocktail menu as well as dishes created using a wide variety of local produce.

We look forward to welcoming you.

WWW.THEOGHHOTEL.COM 01481 724921

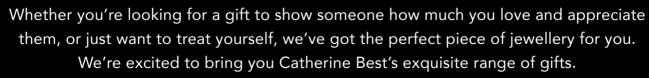






£155

### A wonderland of gifts from Catherine Best



Guernsey prices shown.





£165

### #Aurigny SEND US YOUR SHOTS!

We want to see your photos, perhaps a colourful sunset at 12,000 feet, a runway panoramic or an onboard abstract. Upload your best photo to any social media platform and tag using #Aurigny. It could be featured in the next issue of En Voyage. Please remember to make sure your device is switched to the flight safe mode for taxi, take-off and landing, and upload at a suitable time.



@maiikethepilot Ready for departure!



**@lieneluu** On cloud 9 - different way of napping today



The jewel of the seas



**@jamesmillsgsy** To the 2022 @londonmarathon with @aurigny\_gsy!

By submitting your image you agree to allow Aurigny to use the image in print and on social media.



@maxredhead Flying the flag

### TPA

DIGITAL AND MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY www.tpagency.com

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COVER PHOTO

Ibiza Cathedral ©istockphoto

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What's a magazine without wordsmiths? En Voyage receives content from a variety of writers and contributors in both Guernsey and further afield.



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## Engaging architecture



If you are thinking about transforming your existing property, want to design a new-build home or need advice on a potential development then talk to our team at Lovell Ozanne. We believe that great design should be possible no matter how big or complex the project. We aim to offer a bespoke personal service whilst maintaining the capacity and expertise to tackle large scale developments. Using our experience and passion we make everyday spaces exceptional.

### To book your free consultation please call 01481 235397 or email hello@lovellozanne.com

"People are at the heart of what we do and our client's brief is always central to our thinking."



Residential | Commercial | Hotel | Education | Bespoke Homes





Aurigny will be operating to more destinations than ever before in 2022 while continuing to operate its scheduled services

2019

Named Airline

of the Year at 2019 Southampton Airport Awards



### HOLIDAY FLIGHTS IN 2020

Aurigny was one of the only airlines in the world to offer isolation-free holidays in 2020 with travel corridors between Alderney, Guernsey and the Isle of Man



In-flight marriage

Staff



**1977** First airline in the world to ban smoking on all services



**1** FA Cup Flown to Guernsey on 19th August 2016



**1** Birth on board Between Alderney and Guernsey



2019 Ranked best short-haul airline by Which?



### AURIGNY GUERNSEY'S AIRLINE

OK, it's not the easiest of names – pronounced **Or-ree-nee** – but it's certainly one that islanders are proud of. 'Aurigny' is the Norman name for Alderney, the northern island in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, where Aurigny Air Services was launched in 1968.

Aurigny has been serving the Channel Islands for over 50 years and is owned by the States of Guernsey.

### **OUR DESTINATIONS**

### FROM GUERNSEY

- ALDERNEY
- BIRMINGHAM
- BRISTOL
- DUBLIN
- EAST MIDLANDS<sup>†</sup>
- EXETER
- GRENOBLE<sup>†</sup>
- LEEDS BRADFORD<sup>†</sup>
- LONDON GATWICK
- MALAGA<sup>†</sup>
- MANCHESTER
- SOUTHAMPTON

- GUERNSEY
- SOUTHAMPTON

**FROM ALDERNEY** 

† Seasonal route

Look out for additional destinations for short breaks being added throughout 2022.

NEW

Direct flights to Ibiza, Madrid, Prague, Porto, Nice, Mallorca, Barcelona and Edinburgh already on sale.

Visit aurigny.com for more details.



## OUR Fleet

Aurigny currently has a fleet of six aircraft serving the network.

We introduced our flagship Jet, an Embraer 195, in July 2014 to service the Guernsey-Gatwick route. The twinjet aircraft is the largest aircraft in the fleet, with a capacity of 122 passengers.

Three ATRs also help to serve our UK and European destinations. The newest additions are three brand-new ATR 72-600 aircraft which Aurigny took delivery of at the end of 2019. Each came fitted with a contemporary cabin design which introduced the latest standards of comfort, offering more space for luggage in overhead bins and providing passengers with 18" wide seats.

We took delivery of our second New Generation Dornier 228 in 2017, to serve the Alderney routes.



#### Embraer 195

NUMBER IN FLEET 1 BUILT Sao Jose Dos Campos, Brazil ENGINES 2 x General Electric CF34-10E7 Turbofans MAXIMUM SPEED 542 knots (624 mph) PASSENGERS CARRIED 122 RANGE 2,500 miles (4,023 km)



#### ATR 72-600

NUMBER IN FLEET 3 BUILT Toulouse, France ENGINES 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW-127 M Turboprops MAXIMUM SPEED 276 knots (318 mph) PASSENGERS CARRIED 72 RANGE 1,023 miles (1,646 km)

Dornier 228NG NUMBER IN FLEET 2 BUILT Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany ENGINES 2 x Garrett TPE331-10 Turboprops MAXIMUM SPEED 223 knots (257 mph) PASSENGERS CARRIED 19 RANGE 350 miles (563 km)

### WELCOME ABOARD!

#### NICO BEZUIDENHOUT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

aurigm

I would like to personally welcome you on board and thank you for choosing to fly with us today. Please sit back, relax and enjoy your journey.

I was asked recently to describe 2022 in three words. Anyone who knows me would immediately laugh at this request, knowing limiting me to three words is a near impossibility. However, after much thought, my three words for 2022 are positivity, family and goals.

Positivity. For me, the act of responding to situations calmly and optimistically each day is a skill you get better at the more you do it. It takes time and a little effort every day, but the rewards can often be life changing. Starting 2022 with Covid and Omicron still affecting so many of our lives, we all needed to hold on to positivity. Now that we're nearing the end of 2022, I believe it turned out to be a good year - the sun shone, we returned to the new normal with smiles on our faces and embraced our freedom once more. The team at Aurigny gave their very best to deliver our passengers to their destinations, meetings, adventures and, of course, family and friends. It has been a privilege and pleasure to see so many happy customers travel with us. Thank you for choosing Aurigny.

Family. I am incredibly lucky to have a wonderful family; they most definitely ground me. Having a busy work life, the balance of family is very important to me. As a father of three, I'm certainly kept on the go – there is aways something going on or needing to be done and I very much like playing my part, I guess there's something very comforting to just being Dad and of course a fabulous husband! Please don't fact check the latter with my wife though!

Goals. Aurigny has been around for 54 years, the second oldest regional airline brand in the UK. We all need goals, they help to focus the mind and achieve success. My goal is to lead Aurigny to achieve financial sustainability, protect our important and critical lifeline routes, and adhere to best practice.

What will your goals be for 2023? My advice would be don't wait for the New Year to make a resolution, start now. Could you see yourself taking part in the festive dip on Boxing Day at Cobo perhaps? Take a look at our festive swimming article on page 26 for some inspiration. You never know, I might see you there myself! Or is it to finally book that festive European City break or decadent balmy winter sun weekend in Marrakech? Wherever you are heading and whatever your plans and goals, thank you for flying with us today. Enjoy our magazine and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas holiday and a healthy, wealthy, and happy 2023. AURIGNY NEWS

### EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS 2023

Following on from the popularity of our direct European services in 2022, we are planning lots more direct flights weekly from the end of March through to the end of October 2023.

Direct flights to the sun giving week long breaks in: Majorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Malaga, Porto, and Bilbao. Additionally, we will also be offering further weekend breaks, destinations to be announced soon.



Above: Majorca, Right: Bilbao. Images ©istockphoto



## CHARITIES UPDATE

Our Aurigny staff have been extremely busy over the recent months taking part at various charity events.

### SKIPTON SWIMARATHON

Once again, we were very pleased and proud to participate in the Skipton Swimarathon which was held in Guernsey 5-9 October. We had two teams (pictured right and below right) taking part. All monies raised were donated to GROW Limited.

### SUNRISE SWIM AND FLAG DAY

In September some our staff swam at the inaugural Sunrise Swim for the charity The Teenage Cancer Trust Guernsey at the Bathing Pools, raising funds and also raising awareness of the charity.

The charity also held its second flag day of the year where some of our staff helped at Waitrose and Le Friquet.





En Voyage



### RUNWAY RUN

Also in September we had a team take part in the 5km Runway Run, which took place on Guernsey airport's runway, raising funds for Channel Islands Air Search.

L-R: Simon Bretel, Mike Reeves, Claire Louise Gorman, Des Gorman.

### MEET THE PILOTS AND WINGS AND WHEELS

In September we let Junior Joey go to the Meet the Pilots and Wings and Wheels events. We also also had our flight deck crew participate in the Meet the Pilots day where they spoke to a lot of happy children who were excited to see Junior Joey and talk about becoming a pilot.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARE



L-R: Fiona Power, Cindy Kay, Mike Simmons, Amanda Hobart, Dawn Browning. Missing from the photo were Clive Acton and Mike Reeves.

The well-being of our employees is paramount at Aurigny and we have a growing number of trained mental health first aiders to support colleagues across the business. We work closely with Mind Guernsey to offer external guidance and training.

During Covid, mental wellbeing really did rise to the top of our agenda, and it has remained there. With the online counselling we offer, along with a dedicated facility for our pilots, our employees can talk in confidence and access the right help at the right time.



### ΑΜΥ

### How long have you been with Aurigny?

I've been with Aurigny for five years and I was part of the team that set up self-handling at Gatwick Airport.

### What are your hobbies outside work?

I enjoy outdoors – I love hunting and shooting. I love spending time with my family, watching movies, eating pizza with lots of cheese. I'm a massive boxing fan.

### What is your proudest moment at Aurigny?

I am proud that I have built good relationships with our regular customers and of gaining 27 children (my team). I'm a fantastic Auntie.

### What would a perfect day look like both at and away from Aurigny?

At work the perfect day for me no 'f' word (fog) and just a smooth operation at Gatwick

Away from work, my perfect day would be: waking up somewhere hot and my only decisions would be what bikini to wear and what cocktail to drink.

What are your challenges? Not being in control.

What is your favourite holiday destination? *Jamaica*.

### aurigny BEHIND THE SCENES

### AMY BASON GATWICK DUTY MANAGER

### ARTURS FREIBERGS GATWICK STATION MANAGER

#### What was the latest book you read? Tyson Fury's autobiography.

Do you have a favourite TV programme or series and film?

Married at First Sight – I'm thinking of applying for the next UK one.

**What music is on your playlist?** Anything I can wiggle to.

What is your favourite place in Guernsey when you come to visit? The Slaughterhouse.

### ARTURS

### How long have you been with Aurigny?

I've been with Aurigny for seven years and seven months.

### What are your hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy being a husband, and a dad to my 11-month-old son. Apart from that I'm a fitness and nutrition enthusiast. I love going on a long road trip, photography and nature walks.

### What are your proudest moments both at and away from Aurigny?

I'm proud to be a Station Manager for Aurigny at Gatwick Airport and to make a difference to my colleagues and our passengers. I'm proud to be a family man.

What would a perfect day look like both at and away from Aurigny?

Being busy, meeting different people and solving problems.

Away from work, my perfect day is to spend time with my family and friends going out for a walk and having a BBQ or dinner together.

What are your challenges? Managing people can be a challenge, but it's the part that I enjoy.

What is your favourite holiday destination? Alla Llevado in Catalunya.

What was the latest book you read? The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Green.

Grand Tour

#### **Do you have a favourite TV programme or series and film?** *Star Wars is one of my favourites, as well as Lords of the Rings and*

What music is on your playlist? Depending on the mood, I can appreciate most good music, but hate mainstream pop music.

What is your favourite part of Guernsey when you come to visit? I love fishing with my friend in different spots around the island. Also, cliff walks, especially around Saints Bay Harbour and Icart.

0

BOMBA

SAPPHIRE

DUT

FRFF



Enjoy our fantastic range of refreshing drinks and snacks at great prices. See pages 123-124.

## Kombucha has come to the Channel Islands

Kate Attieh first tasted Kombucha on holiday in Cape Town in 2017. Blown away by the taste, she realised she'd found a delicious, nonalcoholic drink for those of us who don't want a hangover after a good night out. On her return to Guernsey, she began researching, brewing and flavour testing, and in the summer of 2018, KTea Kombucha was born.



#### So, what is Kombucha?

All Kombucha starts with just 3 simple ingredients - tea, sugar and water. However, this highly complex drink is affected by the quality of the ingredients and the method of brewing.

KTea is traditionally slow brewed for a fuller flavour, using the highest grade, ethically sourced tea leaves, raw cane sugar and crystal clear filtered water, with no concentrates, forced carbonation or shortcuts. It's vegan, low in sugar and caffeine, and gluten, additive and preservative free. For us, compromising on quality just isn't an option.

But there's one final component... and it's where the magic really happens.

#### **Introducing The SCOBY**

The SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast) is a living organism similar to those that ferment your cider, sour your sourdough and culture your cheese. It's a healthy colony working together to munch up the sugar and caffeine in the sweet tea mix to create this unique tasting drink bursting with beneficial bacteria and organic acids.

Once the **SCOBY** has worked its magic, it is bottled and allowed to second ferment like champagne to

produce a lightly sparkling drink that can be enjoyed at any time of the day. And it's all the more delicious for knowing you're doing yourself some good with each sip.



Hard at work in the brewery

#### Available in 5 delicious flavours

Whether you like a playful zing or want a kombucha as sophisticated as you are, there's a **KTea** for every palate. Between us and our loyal customers, we have done extensive research and proudly produce some of the best Kombucha in the world right here in Guernsey.

#### The magic of metamorphosis

KTea has grown from 1 woman to 4 full time female brewers plus 30 beautiful SCOBY's and a brand-new brewery capable of producing 250,000+ bottles of KTea. (our first brews were produced at home in our wine cellar) We feel privileged to be part of a legacy of recorded history, dating back to China in 200BC, where the cultures were passed down generations, to land here in Guernsey in 2018!

#### **Our beliefs**

We believe in diversity in our guts, soil and the link between the two, so we donate most of our waste to the local soil farm. Nothing is wasted - our spent tea leaves, over-abundance of SCOBY's and organic botanicals all end up enriching our soil!

#### The future.

The Team at **KTea** are working on some exciting new lines, flavours, cultures and new experiences! All good for you and your gut!

So, let KTea set your heart aflutter naturally, and leave those artificially heart-racing drinks behind!



Kate (2nd from Left) and her team

To order online or to see a full list of stockists, please visit kteakombucha.com

#### **01** Les Hubits House (on-site)

A large domestic project, restoring a rural Manor House in a conservation area with significant mews style rear extension and full refurbishment, outbuildings and Landscape Design.

#### **02** CANVAS nightclub (on-site)

Fast track transformation of a tired local nightclub into a bold, fresh dance and cocktail venue. Opening in Dec!

**O3** Vue de Reve (Planning Approved) Full Design for a highly specified, and perhaps Guernsey's largest, dwelling. The building grows from the clifftop, meaning landscape and biodiversity principles are key, hidden from public view but enjoying very wide panoramic views.

#### 04 La Fosse (on-site)

Refurbishment and radical extension to a quintessential Listed Guernsey granite cottage. Detailed glazing and junctions see the building integrated into the treetops.

**OS** Smuggler's Notch (Planning pending) A new-build lifetime home, all on one level, taking advantage of panoramic sea views and natural light, with biodiversity principles at its core.

#### **06** Claverton House (Concept)

Designs for a light filled extension bridging between our client's historic manor house, traditional granite outbuildings and mature garden beyond.

#### **07** Icart Point (Planning pending)

Design for a new-build family home, a contemporary concrete design but with a subtle classical language, anchored into its clifftop site, capturing natural light from sunrise to sunset.

#### 08 'Art for Guernsey' Gallery (on-site)

Creating a home for 'Art for Guernsey', including art galleries, children's art areas, workshop and social spaces, all within a listed building at the heart of the 'Old Quarter'.

**O9** The Garden House (Planning Approved) An experimental design for a planning approved pool house, rich green external tiles frame a crisp and clean minimal interior for an all round connection into the landscape.

#### **10** Les Blanches (Planning Approved)

This contemporary extension to a protected farmhouse respects its surrounding conservation area. Its tapered roof creates an exciting, bright vaulted kitchen and dining space, contrasting the cosy living space.











### 

### Considered, Contextual Architecture and Design



Since forming 18 months ago StudiO has been working on a vast spectrum of projects, all of which we are immensely proud of. The passion and attention to detail from our skilled team of Architects, Technologists, Interior Designers and Project Manager has seen StudiO design, receive approval for, and building commence on many exciting projects in 2022. We're looking forward to what 2023 holds.













### COVID SAFETY

The safety of our passengers and crew remains a priority at this stage in the pandemic. Our aircraft are deep cleaned and fogged every day using an antibacterial and antiviral solution which remains active for up to 10 days. Masks are now optional on most Aurigny flights. Please check our latest guidance online for details. Please respect the personal space of others as much as you can.

### HAND BAGGAGE

Once you've boarded and located your seat, please ensure your hand baggage is stowed safely. Small bags can be placed underneath the seat in front of you, unless you are seated in an emergency exit row.

All other items should be placed inside an overhead locker. Please take care when opening the overhead lockers as items may have moved during flight and falling items may cause injury.

### YOUR SAFETY

We want to look after you on board and our main concern is for your safety and that of the Aurigny crew. Cabin crew are here primarily for your safety, so please pay attention to their instructions. Any feedback about the crew and flight is welcomed.

Life jackets are provided for use in the extremely unlikely event of an emergency. It is an offence to tamper with or remove them without authorisation and this may jeopardise the safety of others.

Both staff and passengers have the right to fly within a calm, safe and friendly environment. Aurigny has a zero-tolerance policy towards any violent, disruptive or offensive behaviour, and crew have been trained to deal with such incidents.

#### SMOKING

Smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes is not permitted on board, including within the toilets.

### FOOD ALLERGIES

Allergy information is available for all snacks – please see the packaging label or ask a member of the crew.

## SAFETY FIRST

### TRAVELLING WITH INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Infants under the age of 2 need to be secured whenever the seatbelt sign is on, this can be achieved through the use of a seatbelt loop provided by the airline to secure the infant on an adult's lap. A child over the age of 2, must be secured in their own seat to ensure their safety in the event of an emergency landing or turbulence.

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES\* HANDHELD DEVICES WITH A 'FLIGHT SAFE' MODE

Handheld devices, such as tablets, e-readers and mobile phones, may be used during all phases of the flight, provided the 'flight safe' mode is enabled before departure. Larger devices must be safely secured in hand luggage during taxi, take-off and landing, either in the overhead locker or under the seat in front of you. Any device that transmits or receives communications but does not have a flight safe mode must be switched off from doors closed to doors open.

#### LAPTOPS, ULTRABOOKS AND NOTEBOOKS

Devices may be used during boarding but not for taxi, takeoff and landing, when they must be safely stowed away in hand luggage. They may be used in flight, provided they are set to flight safe mode, with WiFi turned off. On the Embraer and ATR Bluetooth may be used throughout the flight.

#### DEVICES WITHOUT A 'FLIGHT SAFE' MODE

This will include items such as DVD players, electronic games and music players. Only small, handheld devices may be used during taxi, take-off and landing. Larger devices must be switched off and safely stowed away in hand luggage during taxi, takeoff and landing.

### **BLUETOOTH ACCESSORIES**

All Bluetooth accessories (for example wireless keyboards, headphones etc.) may be used on the Embraer and the ATR.

#### ARE THERE ANY TIMES I CANNOT USE MY HANDHELD DEVICES?

Under certain circumstances your flight or cabin crew will ask that all electronic devices be switched off, for example, during refuel operations. This will be announced over the PA.

#### CAN I USE MY HEADPHONES THROUGHOUT THE FLIGHT?

Personal headphones can be used for some stages of the flight and may be attached to your personal device. We ask that customers remove their headphones whenever the seat belt signs are illuminated during the taxi, take-off and landing phases and during the safety demonstration.

#### CAN I USE A REMOTE POWER PACK?

Aurigny does not allow passengers to charge their devices while on board our aircraft.

### Please ask a member of cabin crew if you have any queries.

\*Electronic devices can only be used on the ATR and Embraer E195 aircraft. Unfortunately they cannot be used on the Dornier.

### BAGGAGE ADVICE FOR PASSENGERS



Always secure a tag onto your baggage containing key contact details, including where you will be staying.



Insert a sheet of paper into your bag with key personal details, such as your name, contact details, flight numbers and address of where you will be staying.



Carry any essential items, such as money and medication, with you on the flight.



Customise the look of your bag to make it easier to identify.

Immediately report the loss of checked-in luggage if it does not arrive at your destination. Do this before leaving the airport.

### on board PASSENGER AWARENESS

### Welcome on board!

We hope that you will enjoy your flight and of course allow others to enjoy theirs. All passengers have the right to safe, secure and comfortable travel on board our aircraft. Unruly or disruptive behaviour would ruin this experience and could also be traumatic for passengers or crew.

### UNRULY BEHAVIOUR PRIOR TO FLIGHT:

If unruly or disruptive behaviour is noticed prior to the flight, please be aware that transport may be denied.

### UNRULY BEHAVIOUR DURING THE FLIGHT:

If such behaviour is demonstrated during the flight, please be aware that there may be serious consequences to these actions. The aircraft may divert and make an unscheduled landing, authorities may meet the flight, and the person responsible for the unruly or disruptive behaviour may be arrested, fined, charged and/or prosecuted.

It is for this reason that we ask all passengers to always:

- 1. Follow crew member instructions promptly
- 2. Respect crew members and fellow passengers
- 3. Behave in a safe and appropriate manner
- 4. Refrain from endangering the safety of the aircraft or its occupants

### OFFENCES AND OTHER ACTS COMMITTED ON BOARD AIRCRAFT:

Under the Air Navigation Order (A.N.O) and Aviation  $\vartheta$  Maritime Security Act the following are considered as unacceptable behaviours on board:

- 1. Assault and other acts of interference against a crew member on board a civil aircraft
- 2. Assault and other acts endangering safety or jeopardising good order and discipline on board a civil aircraft
- 3. Other offences committed on board a civil aircraft

### OFFENCES TO AVOID:



Assaulting, intimidating, threatening a crew member or passenger

Refusing to follow instructions from the crew



Intoxicated or disorderly conduct or consuming alcohol which was not provided by crew members



Engaging in or displaying any indecent or lewd behaviour



Smoking anywhere on board, including in the lavatories



Tampering with the smoke detectors

### Using a portable electronic device when not permitted to do so



Removing or damaging safety or emergency equipment, the aircraft or property on board

### **The Perfect Fit**



Channellsland CERAMICS

Fitted wardrobes from Novamobili Kitchens | Bathrooms | Bedrooms | Homeware | Tiles Forest Road | Tel: 234000 | mail@cic.gg | cic.gg

## **Conservatory Insulations**



### Is your conservatory too cold in winter and too hot in summer?

This fast, efficient solution transforms your conservatory into a comfortable year-round living space. Exclusive to Conservatory Insulations, this Conservaheat layered foil guilt system comprises technology developed by NASA for the Space Shuttle programme.

The outer foil of our quilt incorporates a unique True Aluminium Foil, **specifically** designed for conservatories. The benefit for you is it helps maximise heat retention. Suitable for all roof styles, it is a cost-effective solution which insulates your conservatory for a fraction of the cost of a new tiled roof.

With this proven energy-saving product you and your family can relax in complete comfort all year round.

### Full UK and Channel Island coverage

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## OYSTERS – THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

#### Guernsey Sea Farms is celebrating 40 years in business. It's a labour of love for owners Penny and Mark Dravers.

If you've ever eaten an oyster at a restaurant in the UK or locally, chances are it started its life in the quarry at Bordeaux, where Guernsey Sea Farms is tucked away.

One of the many hidden gems of local businesses, Guernsey Sea Farms is a longstanding, successful operation that has developed a global reputation. It is one of two oyster hatcheries in the British Isles and produces more than 50 million baby oysters (or seed) a year, shipping to oyster farms around the world, including Canada, South Africa and Hong Kong.

'Oyster farming is fully sustainable and organic – no antibiotics, no fertilizers – just natural, no waste,' says Mark. 'There is an increasing demand for seed thanks to interest in locally-sourced food.'

Mark, with a degree in mechanical engineering, designed and built the complex system of tanks, pipes, pontoons and pumps in the sea water filled quarry, which is also a haven for wildlife, including kingfishers, ibis and cormorants.

He says he literally 'reinvented the wheel', referring to the paddlewheel that quietly turns at the end of one of the pontoons, a design that has now been sold all over the world.

#### THE HATCHERY

The peaceful setting is background to the main thrust of the business, namely rearing oysters. Penny, whose father was a professor of seaweed, is qualified in environmental sciences, so is well-placed to understand the highly scientific elements in rearing oysters from scratch.

Guernsey's clean, unpolluted water – vital to rearing oysters and other bivalves – is the main reason they chose to set up the business here. The water is also free of the pests and diseases that affect bivalve shellfish, a huge selling point for worldwide exports. Interestingly, a side-line of the business is the export of seawater to laboratories in the UK and Europe



for environmental monitoring. Oysters clean seawater by filtering micro-algae and other particles in murky water. A single oyster can filter up to 200 litres of water each day.

#### THE PROCESS

In the first two or three weeks of their lives oysters are smaller than pinheads and swim around in specially treated seawater for about three weeks before they develop a natural urge to fix themselves onto something – in the wild this would be to a rock or other shell. In the hatchery, it is to the sides of the tank. For the operation to run smoothly, it is crucial to feed the tiny oysters on specially selected and cultured microalgae. Test tubes and bubbling flasks of green, brown and yellow algae line shelves in the laboratory while a series of tanks outside the main building are used for producing this vital algae in much larger quantities.

From the tiny, sand-like seedlings, the oysters grow to a size where they can be transferred to tanks outside and eventually placed in aluminium boxes on a pontoon. Here, algae rich seawater is pumped through them by means of a paddlewheel which is so efficient that it can move 30 tonnes of seawater a minute on just a one horsepower motor.

From there they are graded regularly into different sizes before being chilled and packed dry into polythene boxes for airfreight.

'The importance of airfreight from Guernsey is not always fully appreciated,' says Mark. 'We deliver the next day to most customers in the UK and can deliver to nearly anywhere in the world within 48 hours.' In 2022, the company sent 25 million oysters to Vancouver alone, via Southampton.

#### THE FUTURE

Diversification of the business has seen the company start producing clam seed for Italian and Spanish customers, and seaweed production has also been suggested. There are also opportunities in the water testing side of the business where improvements could be made to laboratory techniques used.

As for Penny and Mark, they freely admit that they have absolutely loved building a successful business. But after 40 years, they are at the stage where they are looking for some new blood, someone with energy and enthusiasm, someone who would continue to grow a business that makes such an innovative contribution to the aquaculture industry of the island.

Oyster hatchery, anyone?













## BERNARD'S BABES

Running a pig farm may seem at odds with a career in finance, but it's exactly what one group of friends are doing. Amanda Eulenkamp found out what inspired them.

We meet in a café in town, as far away from a field as you can get. The three friends, Danny McAuley, Stephen Hill, and Jonathan Marquis, are enthusiastic about their 'hobby' (their words, not mine).

It started when their fourth partner, retired farmer Peter Bougourd, needed a knee replacement at the same time as Danny was made redundant. Peter asked Danny if he would help him with the animals.

'And then Jon came along at the weekends, and then Steve... that's what started it,' says Danny.

The group are all Freemasons, and, while they are in different Lodges, all knew each other. The trust and friendship between them is tangible, a testament to their bond.

When someone suggesting 'getting a pig for the table', it snowballed, and they ended up with a pig each. 'It was a roller coaster from there on,' says Danny.

Jon picks up the story: 'We didn't know a lot about pig farming but we asked Mark [Terry] who had owned a pig-farm, Wallow, if we could use some of his land. Since he had given up farming, Terry gave us the sows and five babies, and we are in the process of buying the largest of the three fields he had.'

#### **BERNARD'S BABES**

The growth of the farm has been such that they now have six sows, 37 piglets, and one boar – Bernard. 'We've named five of the sows after 60s and 70s singers – Lulu, Cilla, Debbie, Sandy, and Twiggy,' they say. Tellingly, they don't name any pigs that are going to the abattoir. Debbie and the sixth sow are cross breeds, but the rest are Oxford sandy and black pigs.

They have learnt a lot from the Oxford sandy and black pigs group, a registered charity where knowledge is shared and guidance is given.

Peter looks after the pigs Monday – Friday while the others are at work, but at the weekend, Danny, Stephen and Jon are joined by the fifth member of the group, Jon's 15-year old son, Jacky.

While they still enjoy their day jobs, they freely admit that they 'live for the weekends'. Is that a problem for their wives and families? 'Not at all!' they say in unison.

#### FREE RANGE FARMING

The pigs live a free-range life, eating food that is grown locally, including fodder beet that they grow on the farm, plus other treats from other local businesses. 'We get apples from local orchards, and even whey and out of date cheese from Torteval Cheese, which gives the meat a creamy flavour,' says Danny. Commercial feed that has the right vitamins complements the local veg, including potatoes.

'Food mileage from farm to table is probably less than seven miles, it's really sustainable and has a low carbon footprint,' says Stephen.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The trio acknowledge that the business – which is less than a year old – will need to become more commercial as time goes by. Danny, who has worked in hospitality in the past, has signed up for a butchery course. They've done their first hog roast for a friend, with Danny preparing salads on the side.

'As Masons we have charity at our roots, and as such we are happy to support local charities who may require catering or even a tour of the farm,' they say.

They also need to build up the infrastructure of the farm, and want to continue attracting more families to drop in. 'We want children to come and touch the pigs, see the farm,' says Jon.

They tell me that the Lieutenant Governor has visited the farm after seeing the pigs at the West Show. 'At the moment, people need to give us a call to arrange a time to go up, but we're there every weekend,' they say.

Selling the pigs is obviously key to the business, and they are in discussion with local butchers and other shops to sell into the local market. Charcuterie is possibly on the menu, too, although that is likely to be a little further in the future. And like all good businesses, they are diversifying with turkeys and French chickens.

'We had the turkeys on land in Cuckoo Lane in the Vale,' says Stephen. 'But we've since moved them to our own farm – it's where we get our name from.' The French hens - Poulet de Bresse – are being bred purely for their meat.

To date, the farm has not produced any income for the partnership. Like many businesses in their first year, the partners have ploughed money into it.

Would they do it all again?

'Absolutely!' they chorus, a group of financiers-turned-pig-farmers who are loving every minute of their hobby farm.



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#### **GUERNSEY**

# Beach Gride

Guernsey has a beach and a bay for everyone. Here we discover Bordeaux Harbour.

### BORDEAUX

In the shadow of Vale Castle lies the pretty harbour of Bordeaux. As far as beaches on the northern part of the East Coast are concerned, it's comfortably the competitor is Belle Greve, which scarcely qualifies as a beach at all. Bordeaux's claims to the crown.

Many northern residents extol the virtues of its petite charms: the fabulous views across the (surprisingly close) islands of Herm and Jethou, the imposing backdrop machinations of the ships traversing the length of the coast, together setting for an afternoon dip.

This unassuming little port is loaded with more than its fair of Guernsey used to be a tidal island called Le Clos du Valle, with a bridge being the only permanent link to the remainder of the Island (surprisingly enough, the area once a bridge). In 1806 the British government, worried about the threat of Napoleonic invasion, shore up the island's defences.

EAST COAST

Prior to the unification, Bordeaux was an important natural harbour, providing the inhabitants of Le Clos du Valle with unconstrained access to the Little Russell.

These days its function as a port has been overshadowed by the much greater capacity of St Sampson's to the south. Instead, swim, a scenic mooring for small fishing boats that bob about on its glassy waters, and a pretty more isolated, and in some ways more idyllic, past.

#### **Optimum Tide** High

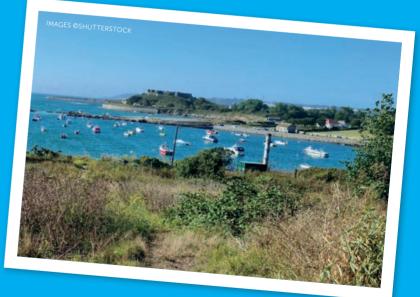
Best Feature Picturesque harbour

Worst Feature At low tide, it's not great for swimming

Taken from Guernsey Beach Guide. Beaches change – stay up to date

#### WINTER TIP

Either take a flask from home or buy a hot drink from the kiosk at Bordeaux and enjoy the view while sipping a winter warmer.



WHAT'S THERE ?

TOILETS CAFÉ

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DOGS ON **BEACHES** 



Richmond beach winter ban (between 1 October and 30 April) Richmond Beach has its own classification as 'voluntary ban' throughout the winter. This means that even though it is legal to take your dog on this beach it is a very important site for the declining wading bird populations. Dogs should be kept away from Vazon south in the winter to protect wildlife. Lihou Island and Lihou causeway – Dogs are not permitted on Lihou Island and Lihou causeway all year round.

See gov.gg/dogsonbeaches for up-to-date information.





## FESTIVE SWIMMING

### FANCY DIPPING MORE THAN YOUR TOES IN THE WATER THIS WINTER? THEN CHECK OUT THESE BAYS TO GO TO FOR A SEASONAL SWIM

Sea swimming in Guernsey is a national pastime. There is something to suit everyone, from organised community events and clubs, to those that just want a quick dip in the briny, to individual challenges (such as those that our advertising rep, Ash, completed this summer, swimming from Guernsey to Herm for charity. Well done, Ash!).

And when winter beckons, well, the fun doesn't stop.

There are a number of benefits to sea swimming, according to its fans, including lowered stress levels, clarity of mind and a boosted immune system. It can put a smile on your face that lasts all day - this is because swimming in cold water puts stress on your nervous system, spiking your endorphins, which in turn increases your levels of happy-making dopamine and serotonin.

But you must be prepared. Swimming outdoors in the winter can be an endurance test, so you will need to prepare - grab your fluffiest hats, flasks of tea and lots of layers - before heading to the beach. If you want to take the plunge this winter, there are a number of organised events that you can join in the Bailiwick.

### CHRISTMAS DAY POLAR BEAR SWIM

Join the Guernsey Swimming Club on Christmas morning at La Vallette Bathing Pools in St Peter Port to get your celebrations started. Starting at 9.30am until 11am, the swim is free to enter and all participants will get a certificate, and you can enjoy the beautiful early morning sun on the east coast of Guernsey. Pop in for a quick dip and soak up joyful, festive atmosphere! Warm drinks and snacks are encouraged as well as lots of courage!

### BOXING DAY COBO DIP

A beloved Guernsey tradition, the Boxing Day dip is

held on one of Guernsey's most spectacular sandy beaches on the west coast, Cobo Bay, where hundreds of brave participants line up to run into the sea. Fancy dress is highly encouraged, and you will spot many Santa hats bobbing in the water, all in support of the Guernsey Cheshire Home, a local care home for disabled individuals in the community.

Starting at 9.30am, there are shuttles available from 8am from North Beach in St Peter Port if you are staying in town, and mince pies and mulled wine will be available to all chilly participants afterwards to help you warm up!

### NEW YEAR'S DAY WATER FESTIVAL, ALDERNEY

If you're in Alderney, don't miss the New Year's Day Water Festival. It starts with a traditional wet welcome at the Marais Square (11am), courtesy of the Alderney Fire Brigade, followed by the first swim of the year at Braye beach (12pm).

### 12 BAYS OF CHRISTMAS

If you are looking to take on a personal challenge, enjoy mindful moments and explore all the different swimming spots in Guernsey on your visit, how about challenging yourself to the 12 Bays of Christmas?

The 12 Bays of Christmas festive swim challenge runs from 1 -31 December. Inspired by an idea dreamt up by the Marley and Sealey families who are all keen sea swimmers, this annual fundraiser encourages people to take a dip in 12 festively themed bays around Guernsey to raise money for Les Bourgs Hospice. As each person has a different tolerance to the cold, there is no set number of strokes, distance, or time to be in the water. People are welcome to just dip in and get out, or are welcome to wear wetsuits (encouraged for u18s). And if anyone starts the challenge, there is no obligation to complete it - the emphasis is completely on people being aware of what they can achieve and not going beyond those limitations. TOP LEFT: CHRISTMAS DAY POLAR BEAR SWIM AT THE BATHING POOLS. ABOVE LEFT, ABOVE, RIGHT & BELOW RIGHT: BOXING DAY SWIM AT COBO BAY. BOTTOM RIGHT: NEW YEAR SWII AT BRAYE BEACH, ALDERNEY. ALL IMAGES @GUERNSEY PRESS



This year's bays are:

- 1. Vaz-on the first day of Christmas Vazon Bay
- 2. Rocquaine around the Christmas tree Rocquaine Bay
- 3. Bathing Yules The Bathing Pools
- 4. Baby it's Cobo outside Cobo Bay
- 5. Porte-let it snow Portelet Harbour
- 6. Away in Fermain-ger Fermain Bay
- 7. Saint Nick's Bay Saint's Bay
- 8. Chestnuts Rousse-ing on an open fire Rousse
- 9. I'm dreaming of a Moulin Huet Christmas -Moulin Huet Bay
- 10. Cheese & Port Soif Port Soif
- 11. Grandes Rocques-in Robin Grandes Rocques
- 12. Bordeaux-ho-ho Bordeaux

#### **ENTRY**

Registration is £10 for an adult and £5 for a child, with an optional extra of a woolly hat for £10.

Full details and entry via the Les Bourgs Hospice website: 12 Bays of Christmas 2022/Les Bourgs Hospice, or collect a manual registration form from Les Bourgs Hospice charity shop.

The event is kindly supported by Rocq Capital, The Potting Shed and Tiny Island Studio.







### 66

Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been *swimming naked.* 



WARREN BUFFETT

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### WHAT'S ON IN THE BAILIWICK?

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### 17 December GUERNSEY CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN

Watch as approximately 35 tractors, decorated with Christmas lights, make their way around the island. The route is expected to be from Vazon via the north of the island, down the east coast, ending at Forest Stores. Further details on visitguernsey. com/experiences/events/ guernsey-christmas-tractor-run/

### 17 - 31 December GADOC PANTOMIME – SLEEPING BEAUTY

Tickets available from Beau Sejour and guernseytickets.gg

### Until 21 December TUK TUK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOURS

25 minute Christmas lights tours around the streets of St Peter Port.

Starts on the Albert Pier and includes Mill Street, Market Street, Le Pollet, Smith Street, and High Street.

Tuk Tuks carry two passengers (no children under 6, under 12 with an adult).

### Until 1 January FESTIVE ALDERNEY

Enjoy a host of festive events taking part during December, from late night shopping to the Christmas panto.

**16 December** – carol singing, including mulled wine, mince pies and a raffle. 6.30pm – 7.15pm at St Anne's Church

**16 December** – late night shopping 5pm – 8pm

**1 January** - New Year water festival 11am at Marais Square

**1 January** – New Year swim 12pm at Braye Bay



### 14 January MARC PAUL'S MIND GAMES

Marc Paul is a psychological illusionist who has entertained and amazed audiences both in the UK and worldwide with his incredible award winning performances. Marc's show creates a unique interactive experience that never fails to enthrall audiences.

He is considered to be a 'Master Mentalist' by his peers. His mind blowing performances of mental agility, influence, reading body language and facial cues will keep you glued to the edge of your seat. One word of advice from Marc -Be careful what you're thinking...

Doors 6.30pm, show 7.30pm at St James

Suitable for children aged 12+ Tickets available at St James or via Eventbrite

### Until 21 January BOUNDLESS CURIOSITY EXHIBITION

at the Guille-Allès Library

### 26 January DAVE JOHNS: A COMIC'S TALE

Part of the Comedy at St James collection, this critically acclaimed comedy show, which received 5\* reviews at 2022's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, is coming to Guernsey. Tickets available at St James

lickets available at St James or via Eventbrite



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### IT'S PANTO SEASON – OH YES IT IS!

17 December – 29 January 2023 DICK WHITTINGTON Birmingham Hippodrome

### 2 – 31 December

CINDERELLA Bristol Hippodrome

9 December – 7 January 2023 ROBIN HOOD Exeter Northcott Theatre

### 10 December – 15 January 2023 JACK & THE BEANSTALK

London Palladium

### 10 – 31 December PETER PAN

Manchester Opera House

### 10 – 31 December GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

### Various dates and events until 18 December

### NEWSTEAD ABBEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Head to Lord Byron's ancestral home this festive season and explore a Christmas in Nottingham like no other. There is a cornucopia of things to do at Newstead Abbey this festive season from outdoor trails, self-led walks and afternoon teas to Christmas dinners and festive craft stalls.

newsteadabbey.org.uk

### 12 December - 8 January THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE

#### The Lowry, Salford

From the imagination of Neil Gaiman, best-selling author of Coraline, Good Omens and The Sandman, comes the National Theatre's major new stage adaptation of The Ocean at the End of the Lane. **visitmanchester.com** 

### 17 December

### THE SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA: BIG BAND CHRISTMAS

#### Stoller Hall, Manchester

Renowned for its exciting blend of high octane big band swing and classic dance music, the orchestra's repertoire ranges from the wartime million sellers of the legendary Glenn Miller through the era of the great Count Basie Orchestra to the hit songs of Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. Count Basie himself described the Syd Lawrence Orchestra as 'So good it should be BANNED!'.

### 1 January LONDON NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE

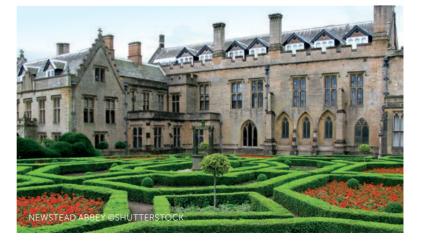
Start the new year off right by spending New Year's Dav in London. Check out the January sales at London's best department stores, listen to a concert at a church or cathedral, or get caught up on culture at a museum exhibition. Ring in the new year at the annual London New Year's Day Parade in central London. Thousands of performers from around the world, including dancers, marching bands and acrobats, parade through the centre of the capital during this huge confetti-filled event.

### 22 January CHINESE NEW YEAR

The central London festivities take place across the West End, from Shaftesbury Avenue down to Trafalgar Square.

There are lively activities and foodie treats in Chinatown; Leicester Square offers familyfriendly entertainment; and while Trafalgar Square hosts the main stage performances, more stages can be found on Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue.

The celebrations also host the vibrant Chinese New Year parade, featuring colourful floats and the largest gathering of Chinese lions and dragons in Europe.





## KOI KOI

Christmas has come to Koi Koi with an explosion of festive, fusion flavours. Cocktails infused with the tastes and smells of Christmas. Cherries. Pears. Orange. Food marrying Asian zing with traditional Christmas cooking. Turkey. Venison. Mince pies. Service with a seasonal smile.

If you're new to Koi Koi – found in cobbled Lefebvre Street just past the archway from High Street – or a regular, then you're in for a treat. Whether you've been naughty or nice this year, the only way to celebrate with friends, colleagues, and families, is over a meal.

And where better a place to go?

Start in the atmospheric bar, which is dominated by a beautiful pink blossom tree and superbly back-lit shelving housing a host of beautiful bottles in different shapes and sizes, their contents glowing in the light. Looking after photographer Sophie and me, was Valerio, who TREAT, SAYS AMANDA EULENKAMP

CHRISTMAS TASTING MENU IN NOVEMBER WAS A SEASONAL

designed the seasonal cocktails.

After mixing and shaking three deliciously decadent drinks, we grabbed a couple of straws each to try them all. First up was the Winter Cherry Cocktail (names at the time of testing were a work in progress), which Sophie declared her favourite. A combination of cherry liquor, cherry juice, Baileys, and a dark chocolate liquor, it was pleasantly not too sweet - for Sophie, it would be the perfect after-dinner cocktail.

I preferred the lighter pear flavoured drink (which I called 'A Partridge in a Pear Tree'). Ingredients included homemade pear puree, vegan egg white, vanilla extract, pear syrup and vanilla vodka. It was refreshing, teasing the palate prior to the main event.

The third drink was a peanut butter flavoured whisky 'Old-Fashioned Christmas' with a twist – it also had orange and Angostura bitters, and sugar, and was served topped with a flaming marshmallow.

Once you've enjoyed your cocktail or pre-dinner drink, it's time to go upstairs to the restaurant. Sophie and I shared a table for two, but for those looking to join a large group, then Koi Koi's private room is simply fabulous. With a bird's eye view of the feature fish tank, it's an ideal place to while away a few hours while enjoying a meal.

We'd pre-ordered our meal from the set Christmas menu. Each course offers a choice of three dishes. Once our food arrived, we decided to share as they looked so tempting! For starters, we had the cheese wontons and crab tart. The tart contained crab meat, smoked pancetta, sake béchamel and chives. If, like me, you usually opt for the salmon starter, which is pretty much omnipresent on Christmas menus, then this was a delightful alternative. The cheese wontons – crispy wonton skins,











A la carte is available for lunch and dinner **Set Christmas menu** Two courses **£30** Three courses **£35** 

cheddar, manchego, brie, cranberry and Jalapeno - were served on a bed of shredded white radish. They had a real zing and set the taste buds alight for the next course.

Traditionalists may choose the turkey ballotine, served with chicken mousse, bacon, pistachio, cranberry, bubble & squeak and turkey jus. This doesn't have the same kick as many Koi Koi dishes but was perfectly balanced and tasty, nonetheless. For a bit more flavour, we both loved the venison, which was accompanies by a wild mushroom bonbon, sweet potato fondant, spinach puree and Madeira jus. This is a succulent dish, ideal for winter. Vegetarians are catered for with a cauliflower based dish as one of the main course choices.

By the time dessert came, we were feeling a little full, but a job's a job, and we needed to taste it! I'd gone for the chocolate opera cake, a light end to a meal with kahlua sponge, hazelnut, and coffee mousse. Sophie had chosen the mince pies, four delicious little pies filled with citrus, dates, sweet miso, Hakushu single malt whisky and accompanied by Chantilly cream. Again, we shared the dishes but asked for a couple of espressos to drink, which perfectly balanced the sweet finale of our meal and elevated the desserts to a new level.

Koi Koi has certainly put a unique spin on Christmas food – it is different to other places, and twists and moves the boundaries of traditional festive fayre. If you're looking for somewhere a bit special this year, then add Koi Koi to your Christmas list.

#### KOI KOI IS OPEN:

Takeaway & Dinner Tuesday - Saturday: 6pm - 9pm Bar

Tuesday - Saturday: 5:30pm - 12:45am See koikoi.gg for further information





ALL IMAGES ©SOPHIE RABEY

En Voyage

2022 2021 2020

2023

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The human race has been making resolutions since time immemorial.

Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the medieval era, knights took the 'peacock vow' at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry.

Depending on when you're reading this, the New Year is either in a few weeks' time, or it's been and gone.

It it's the former, then you're probably fired up and determined to make some life changes. If the latter, then, sadly, you may well have already given up on what seemed like a really good idea at the time.

Check out any poll about the most popular New Year's Resolutions, and the same ones pop up. Getting fitter, losing weight and saving money are three of the most common. Also pledges to be nicer, happier and kinder are declared everywhere once the midnight bell tolls on 31st December.

Starting with the last one, there's a lot to be said for resolving to be more patient, thinking before you speak, or going the extra mile for someone. All of these are free, but need your buy-in on a daily basis. The others need a bit more strategy.

Come the end of January – when in our neck of the woods it's generally cold, wet and windy – many of these New Year's resolutions are just hazy memories.

So, this year, how can you stick to those resolutions?

Be realistic. If you've never been to the gym but sign up for a year, there's a risk you might only go a handful of times. Most gyms offer taster sessions and have personal instructors who will be happy to discuss with you what you are aiming to achieve. Take it in bite size chunks – you're not going to go from zero to ready to run a marathon in a week. Losing weight is also best done gradually. There are plenty of slimming clubs available locally who will help and support you. Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day. Set yourself realistic goals and don't be too despondent if you occasionally slip up. After all, we're all human and we are probably all striving for a happier and healthier life.

January has now become 'Dry January' for many. Giving up alcohol totally may be a step too far, but reducing your intake will have health benefits. Ask your friends to help you. If you're seriously going to limit your alcohol intake, tell your drinking buddies in advance. Don't feel pressurised to 'have another' if you don't want to. Yes, it takes a lot of iron will and strength, but you'll feel so much better for it the next day.

There's a plethora of money saving tips around, especially at the moment as we live through a cost-of-living crisis. Something simple like giving up your daily coffee fix on the way to work could save you £10 or more each week.





ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO

### Here are a few more resolutions you could consider:

- Eat a new food each week. It's a dead cert that there's fruit and veg out there that you've never tasted. So why not choose a new one each week to add to your diet? The more colourful the better!
- Give up watching mindless TV and do something useful. That doesn't mean give up watching altogether, but stop the channel hopping and maybe read that book you've been saying you'll read for years. Or contact a friend or family member you've lost touch with and get some quality time back in your life.
- Be tidier. OK, so maybe this is quite a common one – but, let's face it, it doesn't take long for the mess to come back.
   Follow the old adage 'A place for everything and everything in its place,' and you won't go far wrong. Dedicate a cold, wet Sunday afternoon to sort out your stuff. Tackle a room at a time, though, and try not to get distracted part way through. You will feel an enormous sense of achievement when you've finished.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



**Spain:** Eat 12 grapes, one for every ring of the midnight bell. Succeed, and good luck will be with you all year.



Japan: How about 108 rings of a bell rather than 12? The bells are rung 108 times in a Buddhist tradition that is believed to banish all human sins. It's also good luck to be smiling or laughing going into the New Year – but that could simply be because you can't hear what anyone is saying.



South America: Countries such as Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil believe that your fortunes for the year ahead will be decided by your underpants. When the clock strikes 12, make sure you're wearing red if you want to find love, yellow for wealth and good luck, and dazzling white for peace.

**Denmark:** Probably best to do this one without a glass of Champagne in your hand, as it involves leaping off a chair. The belief is that you 'leap' into January at midnight, thus bringing good luck and banishing bad spirits.

Puerto Rico: Watch out for water above, as Puerto Ricans believe that throwing a bucket of water out of the window at midnight drives away evil spirits. However, sprinkling sugar outside your house invites good luck in.

## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

By Amanda Eulenkamp

This is traditionally a time of year when many visitors to the island are friends and family coming to celebrate Christmas. Going in the opposite direction are islanders heading off to spend time with their loved ones, mostly in the UK but lots in other countries, too.

There is a special atmosphere when travelling, especially the closer to Christmas it gets. Everyone has the extra little bit of seasonal love to share, and the airports enter into the festive spirit with their decorations. Come January, it can feel a little bleaker, but the winter sun is a powerful draw for the many Brits who wish to escape the grey days of our cold season. For those living in the Channel Islands, a trip to the sun more often than not (especially at this time of year) involves connecting flights in the UK.

Plan it carefully and it can go like clockwork. However, sometimes the best laid plans go awry, and there are probably numerous readers who have experienced unplanned delays. So, it is excellent to read (see page 2) that Aurigny has announced that it intends on flying direct from Guernsey to a number of European destinations this summer, removing the need to book connecting flights, overnight hotels, transfers etc.

We take a look at the Balearic Islands, particularly focusing on Ibiza, an island I have only visited once in the early 80s. A typical 'girly' trip, I remember my friend and I lying on the beach, soaking up the sun, turning ourselves around to follow its rays.

SALFORD QUAYS ©ISTOCKPHOTO

#### INTRODUCING THE WRITERS



Jessamy Baldwin



Rupert Diagins

JUST ONE FOR THE ROAD

After a day turning our skin into shimmering bronze (well, that was the idea – no doubt there was a bit of sunburn, too!), we'd head back to the hotel to shower and change and head out to enjoy the warm summer nights.

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LUCIER DE L

Ibiza has no doubt changed much over the decades, so it was lovely to research what it has to offer now.

Also on Aurigny's list is Malaga, one of the most visited coastal cities in Andalucia. The birth place of Pablo Picasso and home to 16 beaches, it combines a cultural visit with a relaxing one. From the historic to the modern, we explore what it has to offer.

Wits-

Closer to home, travel blogger Rupert Diggins headed over to Alderney, his first visit to the island. He was so enthusiastic about it on his return that he has vowed to return sometime in the not-too-distant-future. His article is great reading whether you're a seasoned Alderney person or, like Rupert, new to the island.

Regular contributor Jessamy Baldwin focuses her attention this issue to the north of the country, and shares what to do if you are in Manchester for a couple of days. Aurigny has regular year-round flights to the airport, so whether you're going for a shopping fix or wish to explore some of the beautiful, nearby countryside, read Jessamy's advice.

I'm also thrilled that Bernice Saunders is going to continue to be a contributor to the magazine. This edition, she drills into the heart of the country, exploring the area around East Midlands airport. There's so much to do, one trip is probably not enough...



## **SPANISH SUN:** THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

Mallorca (Majorca), Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera are the four largest in the archipelago. There are many smaller islands and islets, all benefitting from the Mediterranean climate and culture. It's no wonder that Brits have been flocking there for decades. Featuring as one of the destinations Aurigny will fly direct to from Guernsey in summer 2023, Amanda Eulenkamp took a look at what Ibiza has to offer.

Aurigny is operating flights to Ibiza from Guernsey every Wednesday between 9 August and 27 September. In addition, a couple of springtime flights are available, with outbound flights on Saturday 22 April and Saturday 29 April, and inbound flights on Saturday 29 April and Saturday 6 May. With a flight time of just under three hours, you'll soon be soaking up the Spanish sun.

So, what is there to do in the island? Well-known for its lively

nightlife and pulsating club scene, it's easy to think that Ibiza has a one-dimensional offering. But it's so much more than that. There is a quieter, more tranquil side to the island, found in its pine forests and small coves where you can escape for a day or more, the glistening, turquoise Mediterranean sea a mere step away.

If you enjoy nature, then places like Benimussa Valley and the plain of El Pla de Corona tick the rural charm box. Ses Salines Natural Park's salt pans and maritime marshes extend across the south of Ibiza and the north of Formentera. The sea here is home to a large part of the posidonia oceanica seagrass meadows, which have helped earn the island its place on the World Heritage biodiversity list.

For culture, Sa Caleta, a Phoenician settlement, and the necropolis at Puig des Molins also form part of Ibiza's UNESCO World Heritage assets, as does the imposing, walled historic centre of Ibiza Town, the beautiful Dalt Vila. Take a trip to Ibiza Cathedral, initially built in the 14th century in Gothic style before being restored in the 18th century with a Baroque style. And don't miss the Alnundaina, now adjoined to Ibiza Castle, which was originally the administrative and military headquarters of the Muslim 'Wali'. There are nine square towers, and several archaeological excavations have revealed structural ruins from the 12th and 13th centuries.

After sightseeing, why not relax on one of the many boat trips around the island? The Balearics are a favoured sailing area for many celebrities, so you never know who you may see!

Or simply enjoy the numerous beaches and fine cuisine and wine on offer in Ibiza. Round off the day watching a spectacular sunset - some of the best places are the rock of Es Vedrà (rumoured to be the tip of the sunken city of Atlantis), Cala Conta, and San Antonio's Sunset Strip.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CALA D'HORT, IBIZA; STEPS LEADING DOWN TO CALA ES CUBELLS, IBIZA; HISTORIC OLD TOWN AND CATHEDRAL (SANTA MARIA D'EIVISSA) IBIZA; ILLETAS BEACH, MALLORCA; TALAIOTIC REMAINS, MENORCA. IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO. BOTTOM RIGHT: PALMA CATHEDRAL ©SHUTTERSTOCK. BELOW: FORMENTERA AND NAVETA DES TUDONS, MENORCA ©ISTOCKPHOTO.



#### FORMENTERA

Switch off completely in Formentera, with its fine white sands and azure sea. There are three historic villages to explore: Sant Francesc Xavier, Sant Ferran de ses Rocques, and El Pilar de la Mola. There are traditional craft markets in La Mola and Sant Ferran, and you can also indulge in some local specialities, such as Peix sec (dried fish), liquid salt, curd cheese, and herbal liquer.

Crank it up a gear and get active at Les Salines Natural Park, where you can explore more than 30 natural hiking routes and cycle tracks, or enjoy some scuba diving or kayaking.

### WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE OTHER ISLANDS:

**Mallora:** Visit Palma Cathedral (right) and you might just hear the dulcet medieval tones of the Song of the Sybil, a Gregorian chant passed down through the generations, to the present time when it has become a part of Intangible World Heritage.

**Menorca:** Menorca's Talaiotic culture is a spectacular legacy that's more than 3,000 years old. Discover the silhouettes of the watchtowers and wonder at the Naveta des Tudons (below), a funeral building used between 1200 and 750 B.C.











## SPANISH SUN: MALAGA

Aurigny will be operating its Embraer 195 jet to Malaga every Wednesday from 24 May to 2 August. The Costa del Sol extends along more than 150 kilometres of coastline in the province of Malaga, in the southern Iberian Peninsula.

But as well as its beautiful beaches, Malaga has much to offer the discerning traveller, as Amanda Eulenkamp discovered.

Pablo Picasso was born and spent his early childhood in Malaga, and its inspiration – such as flamenco, doves and bulls – can be seen in many of his works. The Picasso foundation-Birthplace Museum, housing a valuable collection of art, can be found at Plaza de la Merced, where he was born. Look out for the Farmacia Bustamante (formerly the Mamely pharmacy) at the corner of the Plaza de la Merced, on Calle Granada. It's one of the oldest pharmacies in the city, and when it was run by Antonia Mamely the back room became a meeting place for his friends, who included the father of Picasso.

There are plenty of nods to Picasso in Malaga, including the Pompidou Centre, the first branch of the Parisian institution outside France. Its permanent collection includes more than 80 works by major artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, including, of course, Picasso. And don't forget the art district of Soho.

If art and culture is your thing and you're spending a little more time in the area, then check out these nearby – and contemporary - venues.

Setas de Sevilla (the mushrooms) is the largest wooden structure in the world. Here you'll find an archaeology museum, restaurants and a nearly 30-metre-high viewing point. Seville's tallest tower at the Caixaforum Seville has won international recognition for its adaptation to the space and its use of natural light – like a plant, it spreads underground, coming to the surface to flower. There are several fast trains a day to Seville from Malaga, with a journey time of just under two hours.

The Medina Azahara visitors' centre in Cordoba has an interior structure reminiscent of Islamic city planning. The modern building complements the stunning archaeological site of what was once the 'shining city', the capital of the Caiphate. Much of the building is underground, so you can discover Medina Azahara much like the archaeologists did. Direct trains to Cordoba take approximately one hour 45 minutes.

For something a bit more historical, visit Malaga Cathedral, Alcazaba Fortress and the Malaga Roman Theatre.

Malaga Cathedral is, quite simply, of the best Andalucian Renaissance temples. Popularly known as La Manquita, the Cathedral of the Encarnación is one of the town's most important monuments. Situated in the historic centre of the town, the south tower and the main façade are still unfinished. Work began



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STATUE OF PICASSO; CALLE LARIOS; THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ENCARNACIÓN; THE POMPIDOU CENTRE; SETAS DE SEVILLA; ARCHES AT ALCAZABA FORTRESS. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

in the first half of the 16th century, in the Gothic style, ordered by the Catholic Monarchs, and continued in the 17th and 18th centuries. It has its own gardens and a magnificent courtyard. The interior of the cathedral has Renaissance and Baroque influences. Don't miss the 17th century choir stalls in the central nave and the sculptural works of Pedro de Mena.

Alcazaba Fortress – an Arab palace-fortress built in the 11th century by King Badis of Granada – is built into the contours of its hilly home. It is made up of two concentric spaces: the outside part is on the lower level, and the inner part houses the palace.

Malaga Roman Theatre, which lies at the foot of the Alcazaba Fortress, remained hidden underground for many centuries. It was built during the Empire of Augustus in the first century, and was used up until the third century. The Arabs took capitals and column shafts as support for the horseshoe arches over the doorways in the Alcazaba Fortress. The theatre has a radius of 31 metres and is 16 metres tall.

#### SHOPPED OUT IN MALAGA

Malaga is home to one of the most exclusive and renowned streets for shopping in Spain: Calle Larios. While it's considered to be one of the most expensive streets, with its famous fashion brands, there are also small, traditional shops.

If you can tear your eyes away from the window displays, you'll notice that the shops are contained within stately buildings and are all symmetrical with rounded corners. Running parallel to Calle Larios is Calle Nueva, which, despite its name, is one of the oldest streets in the city's old town.

For vintage boutiques and second-hand shops, try Calle de los Martires. Finally, don't miss Plaza Pintor Eugenio Chicano, also known as Le Brecha. Here, you'll discover a plethora of artisan boutiques.





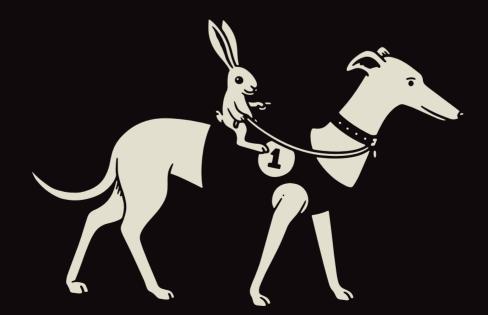




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# ALL ABOUT ALDERNEY...

RUPERT DIGGINS FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MOST NORTHERLY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Just off the Normandy coast, the Channel Islands is an archipelago of seven islands, including two Crown Dependencies: the Bailiwick of Jersey, the largest of the islands; and the Bailiwick of Guernsey, consisting of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and some smaller islands. I was fortunate enough to visit Alderney recently...

Going anywhere for the first time has always raised my level of anticipation. The day was going to be all about adventure and discovery, so with a rucksack, comfortable layers of clothing, a camera, binoculars, and a strong pair of walking boots, I boarded the wonderful little Aurigny Airlines Dornier aircraft for the very brief but oh so exciting 14-minute flight from Guernsey to Alderney.

#### INTRODUCING ALDERNEY

Alderney is just one and a half miles wide by three and a half miles long and just eight miles off the coast of France. It is brimming with areas of special interest. At its heart is the delightful little town of St Anne, with its cobbled streets, quaint shops, and stylish accommodation.

Around the island are several spectacular sandy beaches or rocky outcrops, all connected by cliff paths that are worn by those who venture over to explore this friendly welcoming island that is steeped in history, abundant in wildlife and blessed with natural beauty.

#### **GETTING AROUND**

The best way to discover the island is to walk. Its small size means that you can circumnavigate Alderney on foot in a day. A fun and healthy alternative is to explore the island by bike. While there are cars, the only likelihood you may use one is for an excursion or an airport taxi transfer. As a little tip, make sure you have cash as taxis here do not accept credit/debit cards. There is a bank with a cash machine on the main street in St Anne.

#### AN ISLAND TOUR

Stepping off the plane at Alderney airport is an experience to savour. Just 20 metres from the aircraft takes you into a tiny little terminal hardly the size of a football pitch.

I was fortunate enough to be greeted by the team from "Visit Alderney", who collected me in an off-road wagon for my tour of the island. We were going in a clockwise direction, making our way from the airport to the extreme west coast for a view of the rugged offshore islands known as Les Etacs.

#### Les Etacs

Between February and September, these two rocky islands are home to one per cent of the worldwide population of gannets. This incredible bird has a wingspan of two metres and, if you bring a pair of binoculars, you can witness them going about their daily business from various viewing points at Giffoine, which is an area of heathland home to Dartford Warblers, whitethroats and the rare Glanville fritillary butterfly.

For those wanting to view Les Etacs up close and personal, you can take a boat trip where experienced and knowledgeable guides will offer informative commentary from the sea.

#### The Telegraph Tower & Lager Sylt

From Les Etacs we took the short drive to two historic locations which give you a taste of what is to come. The Napoleonic War of the early 19th century and then the German occupation of the island during World War II is a fundamental part of Alderney's history. Wherever you go, you will see reminders of these times, in the form of the island's many forts, bunkers, and memorials.

The Telegraph Tower was built in 1809 and was a signalling tower used to communicate the movements of French shipping vessels during the Napoleonic War. This was performed via visual means known as Mulgrave's 'semaphore' system.

ABOVE: DRAMATIC SOUTH COAST CLIFFS, BELOW: THE ODEON WORLD WAR II NAVAL RANGE-FINDING TOWER. RIGHT: AERIAL VIEW OF THE ISLAND. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO





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ABOVE L-R: CORBLETS BAY; ST ANNE'S CHURCH; ROW OF HOUSES AT BRAYE BEACH; LES ÉTACS 'GANNET' ROCK. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO

We also made a brief stop to reflect at the site of Lager Sylt – one of four Nazi labour camps on the island during World War II. The gate posts and plaque that mark the entrance to the camp commemorate the 400 prisoners who lost their lives here on Alderney.

#### Fort Clonque & Fort Tourgis

From Lager Sylt, we headed up the northwest coast passing Fort Clonque which today is owned by the Landmarks Trust and can be rented for self-catering holidays for up to 13 people. Back in the mid-1800s, it was built to protect the Channel Islands from capture by the French and was home to ten guns across four batteries pointing out in the direction of Hannaine and Clonque Bay. At high tide, the Fort is cut off from the rest of the island.

Further along the coast is Fort Tourgis, which is open to visitors. This impressive Fort, made from Alderney granite, was completed in 1855 and is the second largest of the Forts of Alderney. During World War II the Germans occupied this site and made it a powerful defensive position. Not far from Fort Tourgis is The Watermill – one of Alderney's oldest surviving sites, dating back to 1236.

#### Burhou Island & Ramsar Site

A stone's throw from Fort Tourgis is Burhou Island. Most famously, it is home to a population of lovedup Puffins who return every year to find the same mate. As with Les Etacs, boat trips allow you a closer view of these charismatic sea birds. However, landing on the island is strictly forbidden during the nesting season. The region that includes Burhou island, Les Etacs and the West coast of Alderney achieved what's called Ramsar status in 2005. A Ramsar site is an area of wetland designated to be of significant international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as 'The Convention on Wetlands'.

#### Braye Bay & Harbour

Passing both Fort Doyle and Fort Grosnez, I arrived at Braye Harbour with its three-quarters of a milelong breakwater protecting the bay from what is known as the Swinge, a tidal stream between Alderney and Burhou which even on a calm day can be treacherous. I was struck immediately by the pretty line of buildings with their pointed roofs all looking out across the harbour.

### The Quarterdeck Restaurant at Braye Harbour

A wonderful location from which to relax and enjoy lunch down at the harbour is the Quarterdeck Restaurant. This stylish restaurant offers lunch or dinner in an intimate atmosphere for up to 26 guests plus an outside deck with sensational views on those sunny days. I was lucky enough to meet Mark the manager who explained how, after many months of planning, the restaurant opened in July 2022. As with all good restaurants the menu will change with the season and today was no different, with a selection of fresh fish, shellfish, and meat dishes all served with fresh salads and vegetables.

I chose the Charcuterie starter for one served with olives, salad, and crusty bread that came with a generous pot of Guernsey butter. Despite my love of mussels, I felt the need to sample the catch of the day, choosing a plaice that was the size of a small satellite dish and served with capers, potatoes, and vegetables. The meal, the setting and the service from start to finish were superb and I would very much recommend you pay a visit during your trip to Alderney.

#### **Braye Railway Station**

A surprise to many is that Alderney is home to the only working railway in the Channel Islands. Opened in 1854, it was Queen Victoria and Prince Albert that first took the journey from Braye Station just north of St Anne, to Mannez Station on the East coast. The line is normally open from May to September and is operated by enthusiasts keen to preserve a special part of the island's unique heritage.

#### St Anne – Alderney's Only Town

From Braye Railway Station I walked uphill into St Anne. The main shopping area with a small selection of quaint independent retailers lining the pretty cobbles was Victoria Street. This is the liveliest part of town with locals going about their business during the day, while at night the surprising number of pubs and accommodations ensures a steady trickle of evening revellers.

Attractions in the town include St Anne's church or 'the Cathedral of the Channel Islands', which dates to 1850. Open from April to October is the award-winning Alderney Museum, showcasing the history of the island. Then there is the magnificent Alderney Cinema with just 90 seats, which is run by local volunteers.





#### Fort Albert & Bibette Head

Leaving St Anne, I headed east. It was becoming apparent on my tour around the island that Alderney has more Forts than an entire series of Game of Thrones. Thirteen in fact, and Fort Albert was the next on my call list.

Originally Fort Touraille, but later re-named Fort Albert following the death of Prince Albert in 1861, this unique 'polygonal' fort was intended to be not only the strongest coastal defence but also to act as the main citadel should the island be overrun by enemy forces.

Head north from Fort Albert and you come to Bibette Head, where you will find the German Strongpoint, Biberkopf. This is one of the best preserved and most impressive of the German defences on Alderney.

#### The Hammond War Memorial

Another short drive from Bibette Head led me to a place of remembrance.

Following World War II, residents built this memorial to commemorate the lives of the slaves and forced labourers who were brought to the island by the Nazis and subsequently lost their lives. There are five plaques in Russian, Hebrew, Polish, French and Spanish.

#### The Odeon

This World War II naval rangefinding tower is one of the signature sights on the island of Alderney and a must-visit for those interested in the story of German occupation between 1940 and 1945. Built to observe enemy warships, there are three levels each with slits providing views out to France. One of the viewing points has a telescope.

Inside there is a communications room where a fascinating mural provides a timeline of both World War II and, below it, the events that were taking place in Alderney at this time. In another room, there is a mini cinema where you can watch a short documentary titled 'Alderney The War Years', which includes useful information and moving interviews with those who were there.

#### Fort Quesnard & Fort Houmet Herbe

The most easterly point on the island is home to three Forts protecting that area of coastline. Fort Les Hommeaux Florains, Fort Quesnard and Fort Houmet Herbe. The most interesting of these is Fort Houmet Herbe with its distinctive medieval appearance. Back in 1854 it had ten guns and was manned by more than 60 men.

#### Nunnery Roman Fort

Swinging around the East coast we soon passed Mannez Station at the other end of the Railway line before arriving at the Nunnery Roman Fort.

Nearly 2,000 years ago the Romans built a fort on this site located by Longis Bay. Today it claims to be the best-preserved Roman fort in Western Europe. Opened to the public in the summer of 2020, you can discover not only its Roman history but also when it was occupied by the British Army in the late 18th century. More recently you can learn about its German occupation in the Second World War.

#### The Southern Coast

The south coast offers dramatic cliff walks, scattered with several interesting German fortifications. Some of the best views of the island can be enjoyed from the 9-hole golf course – another unexpected find on this surprising little island.

#### **FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

Aldernev hosts several events throughout the year. Some of the best include Bloomin' Alderney in May and June when residents open their gardens to the public. Alderney Week in August is a festival with over 70 events including live music, bunker parties, carnivals, and entertainment for the whole family. On the 15th December each year, the island commemorates the return of the first group of islanders to Alderney after WWII. In December there are many festive events, including late-night shopping, Santa train rides and a community-led Boxing Day Walk.

#### ALL IN ALL

Alderney truly is a little gem of an island. The beauty, history, cuisine, and friendliness of the local people will become memories that you take home with you. Then there is the wildlife, which I will cover in more detail in another article as there is so much to discover for nature enthusiasts.

All in all, Alderney exceeded my expectations. If you get the chance, pop over – you will not be disappointed.

Rupert Diggins is a leading travel blogger and the founder of www.justonefortheroad.com

# 48 HOURS IN MANCHESTER









LEFT: SALFORD QUAYS, ABOVE: CITY CENTRE TRAM, ABOVE RIGHT: CHINATOWN. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO

#### On the hunt for your next 48 hour getaway? Look no further than the everchanging city of Manchester, says Jessamy Baldwin.

Indulge at pop-up eateries, treat yourself at innovative restaurants, gaze at street art and walk in the footsteps of musical legends and football heroes.

If you know where to look, you can cram a lot into your two day stay.

Accommodation: For a central location, consider the The Stock Exchange Hotel. Native Manchester offers the best of inner-city luxury. Manchester South Hotel provides a cheaper option just outside the city centre.

**Breakfast spots:** Dishoom Manchester is famed for its bacon naan roll and delicious house chai, while Duchie Street Warehouse is not to be missed. Try Ezra and Gil for locally roasted coffee, rustic vibes and seasonal deliciousness or grab a takeaway pastry from Trove Bakery. Federal, Fig and Sparrow, Foundation Coffee House, Fress, Evelyn's, Another Heart to Feed, Pot Kettle Black, Black Sheep Coffee and Koffee Pot are other stellar choices to fuel up to the day ahead.

Lunch spots: Rudy's Pizza is a local favourite, as is El Gato Negro, known for incredible tapas (try getting the chef's table). Award winning Pollen, a spacious bakery overlooking New Islington marina, is a fine choice, as is Sugo Pasta Kitchen. Trof is great for Sunday roast.

**Dinner spots:** Mackie Mayor food market (10 eateries to choose from) is a lively evening spot with something for everyone. BAB offers mezze to die for, while PLY provides the best sourdough pizzas in town and twists on classic cocktails. Bundobust is a popular choice and has its own brewery. After a view? 20 stories is located (you guessed it) twenty stories up, offering unrivalled views of the city and surrounding area. Where the Light Gets in offers sustainable, locally sourced food – booking is a must.

**Bars:** Cottonopolis is famed for its Asian-inspired cocktails, beers, teas and sakes. Sample ales from around the world at the Oast House or hop between the indie bars of the Northern Quarter including South American bar El Capo which boasts 70 different types of tequila. Bavarian style bar Albert's Schloss offers impromptu live performances and fantastic beer. Arcane boasts Victorian era décor while laid back The Good Rebel is popular with locals.

Getting into the city: Choose from taxi, train or bus. The quickest transfer option is the train, which takes 15 minutes to reach the city centre and costs just £3.20. Another convenient and quick transfer option is taking a 20 minute airport taxi. Or, take the Stagecoach 43 or 103 bus, which takes 45 minutes to reach Manchester and costs £3.50.

#### DAY ONE:

Peruse more than 25,000 pieces of artwork at Manchester Art Gallery before paying a visit to the Grade II listed John Rylands Library, donned a 'real life Hogwarts'. Check out the impressive Wolfson Reading Room. Nearby, you'll find Chinatown Manchester, the second largest Chinatown in the UK behind London. This popular city-centre area is packed with authentic Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Singaporian and Malaysian restaurants, bakeries and gift shops.

If football's your thing, a trip to the National Football Museum is a must. Other museums include the Science and Industry Museum and the People's History Museum. Uncover hidden gems at the Manchester Craft and Design Centre. Tick off another iconic Manchester building by visiting The Royal Exchange, a historic arcade with over 30 shops, coffee shops and tearooms.

In the evening head to Matt and Phred's, a jazz club and live music venue or book to see a show at The Palace or the Opera House.

#### DAY TWO:

Get stuck into retail therapy at Manchester's famous Arndale Centre, home to over 200 shops, boutiques, eateries and cafés. Treat yourself on New Cathedral Street, the luxury shopping district, right opposite. Afterwards, peruse the trendy Northern Quarter with its vibrant street art, bohemian bars and independent record shops.

After a dash of adventure? Strap on a pair of skis or a snowboard at Chill Factore, the UK's longest indoor ski slope. There's a snow park, climbing wall, and even ski lessons. Or, if you prefer to spend the afternoon relaxing, book into the spa at the historic hotel The Midland, which has been part of the city's landscape for 115 years. Finish your whistle-stop tour of Manchester with a film at HOME a centre for art, theatre and cinema.

## THE EAST MIDLANDS: THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY

ABOVE: NOTTINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSE ©ISTOCKPHOTO

The East Midlands is the name given to the Eastern half of the centre of the UK. East Midlands Airport is at the heart of this wide-reaching area, providing a gateway to some of the greatest destinations in the UK, with easy access to Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln, Loughborough and more.

Travel

Bernice Saunders explores the area.

Whether you want a weekend away shopping, an adventure of a lifetime, or the perfect family holiday, the East Midlands has it all. And with a flight time with Aurigny of just one hour and 15 minutes, it's never been easier to access the heart of the UK from Guernsey.

#### NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham is a short car or train journey from East Midlands Airport, and is recognised as the third best shopping destination in the UK, after London and Birmingham.

For all your favourite stores, visit The Victoria Centre in the Northern part of the city centre, consistently rated one of the top 15 shopping centres in England, or Broadmarsh in the Southern end. Both boast more than 120 shops for retail lovers to get lost in. Alternatively, just over half an hour outside Nottingham is one of the famous McArthurGlen designer outlet stores. Inside are more than 65 stores, from designer outlets to high street brands.

For a more unique shopping experience, head to the Bridlesmith Gate area for designer shops, including the original Paul Smith boutique. At Exchange Arcade, however, you'll find boutique, independent retailers.

Nottingham isn't just great for shopping; it is a hub of history, art and culture. Art lovers will find art galleries, such as Nottingham Contemporary, the Harley Gallery and Patching Arts Centre. Theatre and film fanatics will be rewarded with an independent film at Broadway Cinema or a live show at Nottingham Playhouse or the Theatre Royal. And with cultural festivals, from Splendour, a horror and cult film festival, to The Byron Festival, D.H. Lawrence Festival or the Nottingham Poetry Festival, there is something for everyone.

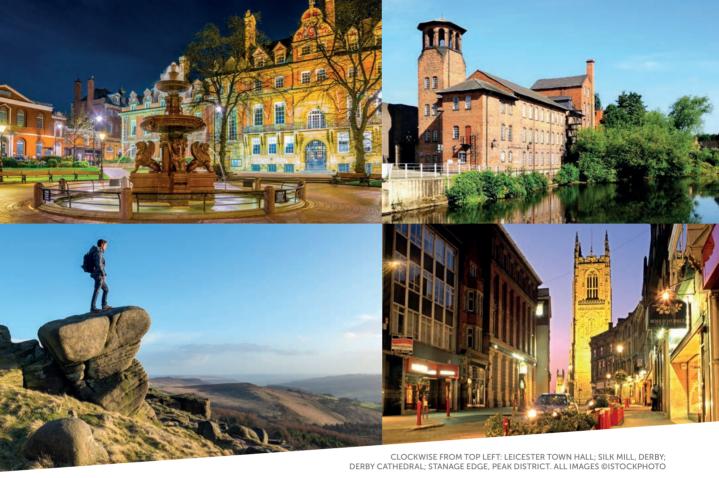
Nottingham Castle is well worth a visit, housing most of Nottingham's fine and decorative art collections, galleries on the history of

Nottingham and the regimental museum of the Sherwood Foresters, amongst others.

Nottingham has the UK's largest network of caves, with over 800 hidden beneath its streets, carved out of sandstone. At The City of Caves you can discover the largest publicly available section of this underground network, immersing yourself in the history of the caves and their uses while exploring.

For a more adventurous time away, visit Nottingham Ice Stadium, home to the Nottingham Panthers ice hockey team. Whether you want to watch the professionals in action, or want to improve your own ice-skating skills – maybe not to the standard of Olympic champions Torvill and Dean, who hail from the city – you're guaranteed a fun day out.

Alternatively, just 10 minutes outside Nottingham City Centre, set in 270 acres of parkland, is Holme Pierrepont Country Park, home of the National Water Sports Centre. It has something for people of all ages to enjoy, with activities available in the water and on land.



LEICESTER

In just 30 minutes by car, or one hour 30 by train, you can be in Leicester from East Midlands Airport. Here, you will find Highcross, a shopping centre with a range of retailers, more than 40 cafes and restaurants and a 12 screen Cinema de Lux with an XPlus Screen.

For local produce and handmade goods, Leicester Market is the place for you. The Market has recently undergone a multi-million pound improvement, including a large, open public square beside the new food hall.

Leicester is perfect for a holiday to expand the mind. The Leicester Museum and Art Gallery houses the popular Victorian Art Gallery and The Attenborough Collection, containing pieces from Lord Richard Attenborough's personal collection. There is something for everyone; events at De Montfort Hall and the Y Theatre, contemporary visual art at the Attenborough Arts Centre, and free activities across Leicester's museums. Additionally, the Curve theatre hosts an array of live performances, or, catch a film at the Phoenix.

The National Space Centre is a museum focused on space science and astronomy. With six interactive galleries, the UK's largest planetarium, and the iconic 42m high Rocket Tower, this award-winning attraction is not to be missed.

If the countryside is what you need, Bradgate Park, renowned for its herds of deer, is the only remaining enclosed mediaeval deer park in the East Midlands, and contains the oldest rocks in England.

#### DERBY

Just one hour away from the airport is Derby. Here, you will find Derbion, a retail hub housing some of the biggest brands as well as a range of eateries and entertainment. If you get bored of shopping, you can visit the Showcase Cinema de Lux, Hollywood Bowl or Paradise Island Adventure Golf.

The Cathedral Quarter lets you browse independent retailers while walking down historical streets. The cultural hub of the city, there are art galleries, museums, orchestral concerts, live gigs, contemporary dance performances, plays and films available throughout the year. The night is just as lively, with bars, pubs, nightclubs and restaurants all within a short walk of each other.

For thrill seekers, Donnington Park motorsport track hosts motorsport events throughout the year. You can watch professional races, or have the thrill of racing yourself, with driving experiences available.

Less than an hour away from Derby is Alton Towers. Located within beautiful grounds in Staffordshire, it is the perfect place for thrill seekers and adrenaline junkies, with exhilarating roller coasters, a magical children's land and many fun places to eat. Each season is themed, with the annual 'scarefest' being a highlight in October.

#### THE PEAK DISTRICT

If a relaxing holiday away from it all is what you need, the Peak District is just an hour away by car, a few hours by train. It covers an area of over 355,000 acres of land, has walking trails, wooded areas and many small villages scattered throughout. For a break that will allow you to unwind and relax, The Peak District is perfect.

## A PLACE FOR EVERY OCCASION

The Duke of Richmond provides the perfect getaway in the centre of St Peter Port, try our Duke's special for breakfast in the Conservatory, local seafood for lunch, traditional afternoon tea with a twist in the Zebra lounge, our famous Gin Safari and dinner served in the Leopard Bar and Restaurant where you can watch your meal being prepared from our open kitchen.

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#### DUKEOFRICHMOND.COM 01481 726221



\*\*\*\* THE DUKE OF RICHMOND HOTEL



ABOVE: THE OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE HOTEL

## STAYING IN STYLE

BY TRAVEL BLOGGER, RUPERT DIGGINS

En Voyage travel writer, Rupert Diggins, recently visited the island and stayed at two of the Red Carnation Group's hotel. Red carpet treatment was the order of the day.

#### THE DUKE OF RICHMOND HOTEL

Visiting Guernsey has always been a treat. On a recent trip, I received the warmest of welcomes at two of Guernsey's finest hotels - the 4\* Duke of Richmond Hotel and the 5\* Old Government House Hotel and Spa. Both are members of the exceptional Red Carnation Group of Hotels.

Named in honour of the 9th Duke of Richmond, the Duke of Richmond Hotel is believed to be on Guernsey's very first hotel site. Set in a peaceful, leafy part of town, at the edge of Cambridge Park, and with a short walk into St

Peter Port, this hotel is the perfect base from which to relax and enjoy the many delights Guernsey has to offer.

As I bounded into reception it was immediately apparent that this hotel has more than its fair share of pizazz. The black and white tiled floor, the shiny mirrored furniture, and the white orchids all offer a modern feel, while the zebra-printed chairs and the big cat sculpture were an unexpected taste of African chic.

I was warmly greeted by a friendly team at the reception desk who quickly dealt with the formalities before showing me to my room. Each of the 73 comfortable rooms and suites are uniquely designed and decorated in keeping with the rest of the hotel. Comfy beds, soft linen, air-conditioning, TV, Wi-Fi, and coffee-making facilities are provided as standard. There were also numerous plug points

for charging my many electrical devices and the bathroom was wellappointed with soaps, shampoos, soft towels, and cosy bathrobes.

On my first evening, I wanted to get under the skin of the much-vaunted Leopard Bar and Restaurant. I pulled up a chair at this trendy, vintage-style bar, which offers a wide choice of spirits, beers, and cocktails of the week. After a delightful welcome, I sat back, enjoyed the cool jazz sounds, and watched guests of all ages arriving for dinner. This was truly the heartbeat of the hotel.

From the bar, you lead through into the main dining restaurant with its Art-Deco designs, leopardprint carpet, and bronze statues. Chefs prepare their creations in a glass-walled kitchen, which offers a modern-day twist and a truly unique dining experience. An a la carte menu showcases the chef's talents with a rich variety of meat, seafood,



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE POOL AT THE DUKE OF RICHMOND; THE OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE HOTEL – BRASSERIE; SEAVIEW KING ROOM; AFTERNOON TEA; CURRY; ROMANTIC TURNDOWN; RED ROOM; OUTDOOR POOL.

pasta, and some more traditional options, all available with fresh local vegetables and salads. The Guernsey influence is never far away.

A breakfast buffet is served in both the main dining restaurant and the conservatory and includes a wide choice of pastries, teas, coffees, and freshly squeezed orange juice, while the menu contains the classic fry-up as well as eggs served in every way imaginable.

For an alfresco experience, there is a beautiful large open Sun Terrace where, in the summer, barbecues are prepared. All year round, an afternoon tea menu is popular.

A recent addition to the hotel's festive programme is their Christmas Domes. These cosy pods are available to pre-book between November and New Year and are guaranteed to provide a unique and memorable experience in a fairy-tale-like setting. The outdoor swimming pool is heated between May and September, while, during the winter months, you can use the facilities of the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre close by.

The hotel caters for families with kids by providing colouring packs and puzzles, plus, upon check-in, children may even receive their very own Duke of Richmond Teddy bear.

As you would expect, the hotel can host all manner of conferences, seminars and business meetings and can cater for both intimate and lavish weddings.

The Duke of Richmond hotel is a relaxing choice for a few days if you wish to experience comfortable and stylish surroundings with wonderful hospitality, exquisite dining, and all a stone's throw from the main sights of Guernsey.



#### THE OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE & SPA

Just a five-minute walk from the Duke of Richmond, passing the Priaulx Gallery and the Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery, you will arrive at its big sister and the only 5\* hotel in Guernsey, The Old Government House & Spa.

Also known as the 'OGH', this grand building dates to the 18th century and was originally the official residence of the island's Governor.

I was fortunate to be staying the night and was looking forward to discovering why the 'OGH' is a bit of an institution here on the island.

For the location, in the heart of St Peter Port, the hotel is hard to beat. As you step outside you are just a few paces from St James Concert and Assembly Hall, Candie Gardens, the Guernsey Tapestry, the War Memorial and The Pollet, Smith Street and High Street, which is the main shopping area in the town. I particularly liked the Sunken Gardens just across the road from the hotel which provide a calm space to relax.

Upon arrival, some hotels raise the heartbeat – the OGH did not disappoint. The luxuriously appointed reception area was accompanied by attentive staff that are on hand to help at every step of the way. After a polite and efficient check-in offering just the right amount of information without taking up too much time, I was escorted by a porter to my room.





When staying at the OGH you need to allow yourself plenty of time to enjoy the magnificent cuisine, the atmospheric bars, and the variety of truly exceptional dining options.

The Brasserie Restaurant provides seasonal lunch and dinner menus with fresh local, organic ingredients, while in the conservatory you can sample delicious seafood and steaks while enjoying the live piano.

As the name suggests, The Curry Room at The Governors serves authentic Indian cuisine in relaxed and convivial settings.

When the sun is shining, the Olive Grove is a great location for al fresco dining, while all year round you could always indulge in a classic afternoon tea.

The Crown Club is a superb venue to enjoy a few drinks and a light meal, while the Centenary Bar offers an extensive bar & cocktail list. Breakfast can be taken in the conservatory, which features garden and harbour views. A superb buffet spread along with a menu of freshly cooked alternatives is available. If Eggs Benedict is your thing, then it got my vote!

The in-house spa, with its extensive facilities and a fantastic treatment list, ensures you leave relaxed and recharged. There is also a superb heated outdoor swimming pool, studio gym, spa pool, sauna and steam room.

For those looking for business facilities then there are conference and meeting rooms, whereas if you are looking to tie the knot, then the OGH can cater for groups of up to 250 guests.

The OGH oozes elegance and luxury with its high levels of service, opulently decorated and stylish rooms, atmospheric bars, peaceful terraces, an orangerystyle conservatory, and relaxing spa facilities.

It is hard to find fault with this heavenly hotel that would appeal to individual travellers, families, or couples looking for that special occasion. The OGH is just magnificent!

Rupert Diggins is a leading travel blogger and the founder of justonefortheroad.com









## BUSINESS NEWS

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## NEXT LEVEL BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION BENEFITS



Having built a solid reputation as reliable and innovative enablers of business transformation and improvement, The Evolution Group is now launching two new service lines. The new offerings of training and coaching focus on enabling organisations undergoing transformation to unlock further business improvements by utilising a people-first approach.

#### CEO OF THE EVOLUTION GROUP, MATT WARREN, EXPLAINS THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Our new service lines of training and coaching help our clients to meet not only their immediate challenges, but also prepare them for their future challenges. We always work towards leaving a legacy of expertise with our clients and these new service lines take that one step further.

#### TRAINING

It's an undisputed fact that business transformation can bring many benefits and improvements to an organisation. Corporate training is a great option for building on and extending the possibilities for improvement brought about by a change project. It helps to support effective change.

We are offering training courses within programme, project, change management and business analysis. We identified a gap in the market for training that is tailor-made around individual transformation initiatives. Bespoke content designed to enable individual clients to reap the maximum benefits from their transformation investments.

We're providing a joined-up approach in which The Evolution Group can manage and deliver an organisation's transformation, as well as providing training for their staff aligned to the change and developing their internal project and change team's capability for the future.

We're delighted to be able to provide this new service, especially to our clients based in the Channel Islands, whose previous training options would have involved studying remotely or off-island.

#### COACHING

Coaching is another tool which has the power to influence how an organisation reacts to transformation. The business coaching industry has boomed worldwide in the last decade. It is by no means a new concept, so why the sudden popularity?

It ties in with the increased understanding of the value of employee engagement and organisational culture. The value of one-on-one development at an executive level has been recognised for a while, and now more business leaders are realising the power of using that style of development throughout their organisation. Coaching guides individuals through a process which allows them to think through problems and resolve issues for themselves by helping them to identify their individual goals and what they need to do to achieve them. It raises awareness and generates responsibility while demonstrating that the business respects and values the individual's thoughts and personal goals.

A solutions-based tool that can influence the culture and performance of an organisation.

It's the benefits that result from coaching that really help to explain its popularity.

#### **BENEFITS OF COACHING**

## **(**)

#### FOR INDIVIDUALS

- career progression
- development of aspirational approach to goal(s)
- monthly touchpoints ensure continual progress in pursuit of goal(s)
- increased willingness to learn and develop new skills
- increased ability to find solutions to problems
- greater accountability and ownership
- more receptive to development and change
- greater clarity on roles and objectives
- improved mental health and happiness

   life satisfaction, purpose and social connection improve, stress levels reduce

- improved individual performance
- improved employee retention
- improved employee engagement
- identification and development of high-potential employees
- positive company culture
- improved communication, less silos
- improved customer service
- improved teamwork
- removal of time-consuming traditional performance management process frees up time for managers

The benefits are numerous and far reaching, bringing positive results for individuals and organisations. Combined, they develop a company culture which is likely to be accepting and understanding of development and change. The perfect base for successful transformation.

If you'd like to find out more about how training and coaching could benefit your business contact Matt at The Evolution Group - hello@theevolutiongroup.co.uk.

NEWS

BUSINESS

### GUERNSEY'S CAPTIVE INSURANCE SECTOR NAMED EUROPEAN DOMICILE OF THE YEAR

Guernsey's captive insurance sector – which this year marked 100 years since the first captive company was established – has been crowned European Domicile of the Year at the 2022 Captive Review European Awards. The awards recognise the top providers and professionals of captive insurance products and services, and celebrates innovators, creative minds and customer service professionals who have outperformed their competitors and demonstrated the highest levels of excellence over the past 12 months.

'Coming on the back of celebrating the centennial of the first captive in Guernsey, this award reinforces the island's success as the preferred captive domicile,' said Malcolm Cutts-Watson of Cutts-Watson Consulting, who collected the award at the event in Luxembourg. 'Accepting the award on behalf of the whole Guernsey captive community in front of my peers was an honour and recognition that the island's captive offering remains relevant and popular.'

Guernsey International Insurance Association chairman Mark Elliott said: 'Captives are the bedrock of the insurance sector on the island and this award is a fantastic endorsement and reflects the hard work and innovation from everybody involved in the local sector.



Mark Elliott and Malcolm Cutts-Watson

## HIGHVERN EXPANDS INTO CAYMAN



The Highvern group has expanded into the Cayman Islands with the acquisition of Genesis Trust & Corporate Services, one of Cayman's leading providers serving the private capital and funds governance markets.

The acquisition will complement Highvern's private wealth, funds and corporate services offerings, and further cements its position as one of the leading multijurisdictional, independent service providers, with more than 100 employees and offices also in Jersey, Guernsey, Ireland, Switzerland and the UK.

Paul Drake and managing director, Roger Priaulx, of Genesis will remain with the business, with Mr Priaulx also joining Highvern's executive committee. 'Highvern is clearly the optimal acquirer for the scale and nature of our business, and we are already seeing opportunities that being part of such a well-regarded international group brings for both our clients and our colleagues,' said Mr Priaulx.

Highvern chief executive, Martin Hall, said: 'We are delighted to welcome all our new colleagues in Cayman with whom we have already developed a close working relationship; we are looking forward to supporting them with growing the business in Cayman and making it a fully integrated part of the Highvern group.'

Naomi Rive, group head of private wealth at Highvern, has joined the Cayman board.

'The professional team at Genesis has a very strong reputation and we're excited to leverage the potential from bringing our two businesses together, hiring elsewhere too, and creating one of the strongest private wealth teams across the locations in which we operate,' she said.

## RESOLUTION IT AWARDED CONNECTWISE PARTNER OF THE YEAR



Resolution IT has been awarded ConnectWise Partner of the Year against thousands of MSPs in EMEA at the WISE Awards in Orlando, Florida. Hosted by The IT Nation, the ConnectWise WISE Awards recognise the achievement of ambitious business goals and innovation using the foundations of the ConnectWise products, services and community.

'This unexpected and hugely appreciated win is a massive

milestone for us,' said Olly Duquemin, CEO. 'To have been selected against thousands of other leading industry partners across the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Africa is an absolute honour.'

Steve Brehaut, managing director, said: 'The ConnectWise suite of products and services play a pivotal role in our business strategy and help us deliver first-class service to our clients. We are incredibly grateful to have been recognised by ConnectWise and it was a privilege to attend this event amongst thousands of other attendees from MSPs and vendors around the globe.'

This award marks Resolution IT's third industry win during 2022, following Network Group MSP of the Year and the MSP 501 award from Channel Futures.

## **EVOLUTION GROUP EXPANDS**

The Evolution Group has expanded into the UK market, launching The Evolution Group UK.

Business and technology change expert, Stuart Low, has been appointed as managing director.

'We've experienced a huge increase in enquiries from UK based organisations so establishing a foothold over there is a natural next step for us and will enable us to serve those clients even more effectively,' said Matt Warren, CEO, The Evolution Group.

'We're thrilled that Stuart has taken up the position of Managing Director of The Evolution Group UK. He has an incredible professional track record in identifying and delivering successful business and technology change across the globe. We set a high bar when we search for individuals to join The Evolution Group team, demanding high levels of experience, qualifications and passion, and Stuart most certainly ticks all those boxes.'

In addition, the group is branching out to provide a more all-inclusive offering for their clients with new service lines of training and coaching.

'We're passionate about helping our clients to meet not only their immediate challenges, but also their future challenges. This is where the basis of our new service lines has developed,' said Mr Warren. 'Offering a training service line fits with that sustainable culture of evolution, enabling us to leave a legacy of expertise with our clients. We will be offering training courses within programme, project, change management and business analysis.



Matt Warren

Business



Christian Gattiker

### GLOBAL MARKETS 'COULD BEGIN TO RECOVER IN 2023'

Julius Baer's head of research has predicted that 2023 could be a year of recovery for financial markets.

Christian Gattiker was in the island for a presentation looking beyond the current focus of inflation, interest rates and currency values. He said that the moment of 'peak hawkishness' of central banks over interest rate rises to fight inflation was imminent.

A hawkish approach to monetary policy generally favours rising interest rates as a means of controlling inflation, despite the impact on economic growth and consumer spending. He referenced Kwasi Kwarteng's catastrophic mini-budget from September.

'It was fascinating to watch how the markets blew up after the announcement,' he said. 'The central bank is trying to fight inflation, but the UK government came out full throttle going for growth. It's like putting the pedal to the metal in your car while the handbrake is still on.'

Mr Gattiker said that his team had rarely seen such a stark change in economic policy from a government, and had never witnessed such a market reaction. 'This is an emerging market crisis, not a developed market one,' he said. 'We normally see this sort of thing when an emerging market does something silly and global investors pull out, not when an established economy makes a budget announcement.'

He said that globally '2022 has been a very difficult, very corrective year, with the first half dominated by inflation, and the second half reflecting reduced growth. We expect economies around the world to start reflecting a sustainably lower inflation rate sometime in 2024, to account for the adjustment period.'

Craig Allen, head of investment management for Julius Baer in Guernsey, said that history always had lessons for investors. 'History has told us that remaining invested and staying the course is the best way to ride out market turbulence, and that's what we've been advising our clients to do across 2022,' he said. He said the world was experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, but that was very different to the global financial crisis of 2008. 'The key for investors over the coming months is to spot the catalysts for recovery – what's the sign that markets are really starting to recover? Of course, that's hard to do, and advice should be sought, but that's the position most investors will currently be in.'



Rachel Le Mesurier

### BILL GREEN AWARD 2022

The winner of the Bill Green Award 2022, presented by the YBG, is Rachel Le Mesurier. Together with four other thriving local businesses, each presented to the YBG's judging panel, formed of YBG president Louise Le Pelley, Phil Eyre, founder of Leaders Consultancy, Tom Becker, director of Viking Maritime Group and Chris Humber, co-founder of KT Kombucha. Ms Le Mesurier was presented with the coveted Wooden Wheel at the first ever Véyaon Awards.

The shortlisted businesses were Amigos Cocktail Bar  $\vartheta$ Fiesta Household, Freesia  $\vartheta$  Fox, Rachel Le Mesurier, Cortex Technologies LTD and Second Meridian Brew Co. Ms Le Mesurier is the author of 'The Musician's Promise' series, all of which were written during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The traditionally published novels are historical fiction, based on the events leading up to the Mexican Revolution but focusing on many themes and issues that are relevant globally today - such as class division, female empowerment and mental health.

'It's been a real honour to participate in the Bill Green Award alongside some truly inspirational local innovators.' said Rachel. 'I am incredibly proud of my career and it was wonderful to have the chance to talk about my books and my whirlwind of a journey to becoming a traditionally published author. As a disabled woman with two young children, I can't tell you how much it means to me to hear the judges describing me as 'a credit to my island' for how I've overcome adversity to achieve global success as an author. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity, and for bringing light to creative innovators.'

Louise said that YBG was delighted to be involved in the 2022 Veyáon Awards. 'Everyone that put themselves forward has shown high calibre and it's amazing to see how much entrepreneurial and innovative spirit exists in Guernsey. We would like to thank all the shortlisted applicants, our judges and of course, send our biggest congratulations to Rachel,' she said.

To find out more about the Bill Green award, see ybg.gg

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### HARNESSING THE POWER OF AUTOMATION TO TACKLE THE RECRUITMENT CRISIS

The recruitment crisis in the Channel Islands is presenting challenges for all businesses. Tim Roussel from Clarity explains why now is the time to explore how organisations can harness automation to boost workplace efficiency.

Recent reports make it clear that the Channel Islands have a recruitment crisis. The proposed measures to tackle this crisis are predictable; relaxing population management, extending licences and encouraging locals to return and train on island. All of these are, at best, mid-term and mostly long-term solutions.

We are now in a position to show how the deployment of extended automation can overcome these challenges, enhancing staff effectiveness rather than replacing employees. Roles in hospitality and retail remain best suited to people, however, many office and administration tasks are perfectly suited to automation.

Repetitive, boring tasks are the obvious candidates. People can undertake these tasks, but they often find shortcuts and non-standard ways of performing them. These less interesting tasks can also lead to reduced wellbeing and high staff turnover.

Automation thrives on these tasks and can automatically and seamlessly process them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, undertaking the work of multiple employees, freeing up their time and allowing them to undertake other important tasks. Additionally, automated processes don't require any additional compensation once implemented, cutting down on business expenditure.

Here are two examples of what our clients have achieved using automation.

### AUTOMATED PAYMENT CHECKING WITH VOYONIC

Voyonic provides employment services, including payroll. We agreed the first process to automate would be reconciling salary payments.

They make thousands of payments every month, with staff typically spending 100 hours per week on the process. We automated the manual checking process, with three possible outcomes; the payment could be approved or denied, with a further option to ask for manual intervention if a problem is identified.

As this was their first step in automation, and due to the importance of these checks, Voyonic continued to process the checks manually whilst performing



parallel runs using the automation process until they were satisfied. Confidence grew and the process has now become entirely automated.

Neil Carrington, Chief Executive at Voyonic, commented: 'Our first automation has allowed us to reduce the time spent on a routine administration function, thereby freeing up people to spend more quality time providing added value services to our clients. We look forward to improving and automating more of our processes.'

#### REDUCING MANPOWER FOR PRESCRIBER CHECKS WITH HEALTHXCHANGE

HealthXchange fulfills prescriptions to thousands of practitioners, and a critical process is checking the registration status of the prescribing professionals. To manually check the status of each subscriber annually would take thousands of hours, so the client looked to technology for a solution.

We created an automation process to check the registration status of each subscriber to determine if that person was still entitled to prescribe. Any changes were then reported and updated on the business system.

Dr John Curran, Chairman and Co-Founder of HealthXchange Group, said: 'When we first started using the Clarity generated automation, we thought it was prudent to keep a manual step to check the data output before it was downloaded into our business application. This proved unnecessary and we were quickly confident enough to instruct Clarity to provide an update to complete the automation such that no human input is required.

Clarity have been a key partner in our drive to automate processes and, where possible, to diminish the burden on human resources'.

#### HUMANS OR AUTOMATION?

Automation is not meant as a means of replacing people's jobs, it is an extension of our employees.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of implementing intelligent automation is the speed of deployment. Even if you find the perfect person for a certain job, it can take time for them to become fully integrated into the team and systems used. Intelligent automation can be deployed within days.

Tim Roussel is part of the Business Transformation Team at Clarity. For more information visit www.seekclarity.com/automation

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\*\* See website for available branches

## THE 10-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THE HALO SCANNER

### A local partnership between Offshore Electronics and iD Porte has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Partnering with customers to provide outsourced electronics manufacturing services, Offshore Electronics works globally, producing the circuit boards that drive industry and consumer electronics, employing 70 staff at its purpose-built and stateof-the-art manufacturing facility in St Peter Port, Guernsey. Continued investment in people, the plant and equipment has been paramount in meeting the ever-changing requirements of their customers over the past 32 years. In parallel to this, creating and maintaining long-standing relationships has been key to their success and future prosperity.

One such example of a relationship which has blossomed over the past 10 years is with iD Porte, a locally owned innovator and manufacturer right on their doorstep. After early success with the Pet Porte cat flap, in 2010 iD Porte started prototyping the Halo scanner, for identifying lost or stolen microchipped dogs. Through the use of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology the scanner references a database that has since reunited thousands of pets with their owners in many countries around the world.

On hearing that the first batch of Halo scanners proved a success, there was a need to scale up production and Offshore Electronics approached iD Porte at the end of 2012. Investment in the best and most advanced electronics manufacturing technologies has helped Offshore Electronics maximise quality, precision and repeatable productivity; values which are at the heart of the relationship's success. Dan Attewell, Technical Sales Director at Offshore Electronics, explains more about how when he first met Nick Smith, Technical Director at iD Porte, and got the project started: 'When we first met, Nick's passion for their product was clear to see. After reviewing the data and successfully quoting, we had our first purchase order in September 2013 for the Halo product, since then we have built 220,000."

The ethos of keeping as much as possible local has some obvious benefits for this manufacturing partnership, as the proximity between the two production facilities ensures quick delivery of products and in-person meetings. This advantage was highlighted by recent challenges around travel brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is not to say



Guernsey is completely insulated from the outside world, as the ripple effects of both the pandemic and Brexit have seen supply chain issues becoming more of a challenge, forcing changes to some components.

At the heart of each company the shared principles and engineering pedigrees that created this partnership 10 years ago still ring true now, with both businesses being ISO 9001: 2015 certified.

Nick Smith explains more: 'Having the partnership with Offshore Electronics allows us the comfort and confidence that our production electronics boards will arrive right first time and reduces the need to implement costly testing and repair regimes.'

The success has now led to the full production of a second product, the Porte Locator, commissioned by Costa Rican registered Established Labs. The Motiva Flora® Porte Locator enables surgeons to accurately locate and fill breast implants once inside the human body. Expandable breast implants can be gradually filled by surgeons during breast reconstruction following mastectomies using the Port Locator's integrated RFID port. Rigorously tested and FDA-approved, it is hoped this device will be life-changing for many.

Future projects and collaborations with new industries in which RFID technology can be utilised are continuously being investigated, as this successful partnership looks to continue flourishing and, in turn, support Guernsey's vibrant manufacturing industry.

For further information on partnering with Offshore Electronics please visit www.offshore-electronics.co.uk





# City Work, Island Location

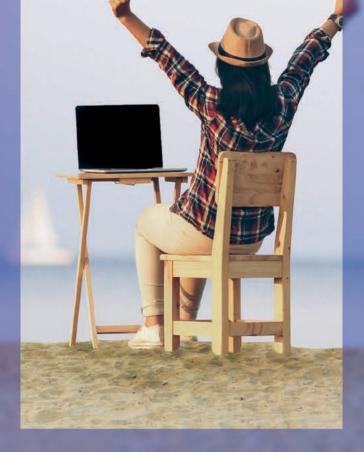
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## CITY WORK, ISLAND LOCATION

KPMG ON THE BENEFITS OF WORKING ON AN ISLAND

There's a saying that often goes around: 'If you want to make a name for yourself, you have to move to the city'.

We hear it from friends, teachers, older relatives. We see it in films and TV shows. We read it in newspaper articles and career guides. And it makes sense. The city is where all the company headquarters are located. Where all the top jobs are based. Where all the networking takes place to get your foot in the door and up the ladder.

Where the opportunities are.

While that's still largely true, times and attitudes have changed since this adage emerged, and technology has improved. Those of us go-getters who wish to relocate and experience city life while they're young can still do so, complete with its lengthy packed commutes and dizzying mile-a-minute pace.

But there are other options. And they involve just as many prospects – with lifestyle benefits to boot.

At KPMG in the Crown Dependencies, we understand how valuable a strong work / life balance is. It's a key part of island living and something all our staff – whether they're based in Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man – enjoy to the fullest. A happy and fulfilled workforce is a productive one, after all.

It's why islanders often have a reputation for being the loveliest of people. Wouldn't you be if you could leave the office and arrive at the harbour within fifteen minutes, setting sail on your boat? Or head straight into sports or band practice, and still have the time and energy to come home and enjoy the rest of your evening?

It's a way of life that suits Advisory Manager Jabari Bovell, who joined KPMG in the Crown Dependencies after moving over from Barbados.

'The most obvious benefit of island life versus city life is the lack of a commute,' he says.

AT KPMG IN THE CROWN DEPENDENCIES, WE UNDERSTAND HOW VALUABLE A STRONG WORK / LIFE BALANCE IS... A HAPPY AND FULFILLED WORKFORCE IS A PRODUCTIVE ONE, AFTER ALL.



'It takes me around ten to fifteen minutes to get into the office on any given day. The Channel Islands are an absolutely stunning place to live – particularly on sunny days! And the wonderful community here means you're always likely to run into a friendly face wherever you go.'

Indeed – life is good here. And we're keen to make sure our people's workstyle fits their lifestyle wherever possible. Whether it's hours that vary from the standard nine to five, working from home up to two days a week as standard, or the chance to work offisland if you need to be with family for a time. We encourage our staff to have that conversation with us and discover how they can make their job work best for them.

So, while some still believe that upping sticks and moving to the city is the price we pay for success, us islanders know we can have our cake and eat it, too. We're always open to recruiting, so if you fancy a slice get in touch by emailing cdscareers@kpmg.com.

'THE CHANNEL ISLANDS ARE AN ABSOLUTELY STUNNING PLACE TO LIVE – PARTICULARLY ON SUNNY DAYS! AND THE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY HERE MEANS YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKELY TO RUN INTO A FRIENDLY FACE WHEREVER YOU GO.'







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I have lived in Guernsey for over a decade now, but it felt like home from the day I landed here. Our island charmed me with its warm weather, safe surroundings, and of course, the endless, beautiful sea views. I also loved the fact that everyone seemed to know everyone. It took me a while, but now when I walk down the High Street, I too say hello to a number of people on my travels.

However, there is one thing about Guernsey that can be a challenge upon moving here, and that is the differences compared to the UK. Not that it is challenging to get used to island life; rather to find out what you need to know.

I think many non-islanders (or even new islanders) are aware that our tax system is not the same as that in the UK. But there are also other differences, such as the structure of the Government, our healthcare system, pensions and benefits system, and of course, the filter in turn (which is wonderful). It was also a shock to discover there was no McDonalds!

And while much of the information is available online once you know where to look, it isn't overly easily when you first get here, particularly in relation to financial differences.

One challenge I faced at the start of my career as a financial adviser was finding out Guernsey-specific information. Not the headline rules that apply to all, as these are relatively easily found; but the niche 'applies to one client every five years' kind of information.

Online research of any topic will generally lead you to details and information relating to our Mainland friends, which makes sense since said rules apply to around 67 million people. Our rules apply to only 63,000 people, and even inserting 'Guernsey' in the search function doesn't always yield results.

Why am I writing about this? Well, I have realised the importance of our local advisers to those who are new (and old) to the island. Such advisers have built up a wealth of Guernsey-specific knowledge – gathered from Government resources, case studies, industry contacts, and the asking of many questions over the years.

Having now worked in financial advice for a decade, I can answer most questions I get from any newcomer straight away, and I also have a pack of information that I know is immediately useful for all newbies, about topics that they may have not even considered when relocating.

## I'M AN ISLANDER

BY BEX GOATER, DIRECTOR AND FINANCIAL ADVISER AT NETWORK INSURANCE & FINANCIAL PLANNING

I still recall when I moved to Guernsey that I was told there was no NHS, and to me this translated to no public health service at all. I imagined dramatic events unfolding, similar to those US-based medical dramas, where patients are forced to leave the hospital, or trading a kidney to afford care.

I now know that this is not the case, and most secondary health care IS provided by the States, including excellent and inclusive maternity services. That said, with one hospital on the island, private health insurance is generally worth considering for those who can afford it.

Our different tax rules can impact upon ongoing suitability of investments and bank accounts, so these should be reviewed when moving to the island. While some UK investments may remain as an option, there may be offshore based investments that are much more tax efficient for a non-UK resident.

In addition, some insurance products (including life insurance), that may have been purchased when living in the UK, may not be valid to Guernsey residents. It would be sensible to check these to ensure any future claim would be valid, and consider new policies, if not.

Pensions also need to be considered, both in the short term and longer term, and it is likely that contributions into non-Guernsey pensions should be ceased after a while, or they become tax inefficient.

And these are just some of the areas that differ; there are of course many more considerations.

So, what would I recommend to a new island resident? Well, I would suggest initially visiting an independent financial adviser and insurance broker. They will be able to review your financial situation and existing plans holistically and then, if required, assist with making changes, or setting up new plans suitable for the new island.

Network Insurance & Financial Planning Limited can offer holistic independent financial and insurance advice, so if you're new(ish) to Guernsey and fancy a free consultation, please get in touch with us at advice@network.gg or on 01481 701400 and one of our qualified advisers will be delighted to chat you through our island's quirks.

I still miss McDonalds though!

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# WHOOPS...



## WHAT HAVE I GOTTA DO TO MAKE YOU LOVE ME? WHAT HAVE I GOTTA DO TO MAKE YOU CARE? WHAT DO I DO WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES ME?

#### Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word, John/Taupin, 1976

Well, that ended badly. For weeks, if not months, we have been told about the Red Wave<sup>1</sup> in the recent US mid-term elections. Everyone assumed that it would be a referendum on Sleepy Joe and his spendthrift Democratic Party colleagues stoking the worst case of inflation seen since the days of Jimmy Carter. And, while it is likely the case that the Republican Party has snuck back into possession of the House, as I write it's still up in the air. Whatever happens, the idea that the Right would have two years' free rein to lambast the White House, persecute the FBI and investigate Hunter Biden has gone up in smoke. Instead, Conservatives will now commence their own recriminations – and it will be interesting to see which side of their Party prevails.

Orange Man Bad made his 'very big announcement' on 15th November. Now, you can either look at this as smart politics – he didn't want to be on the losing side in the mid-terms in case they went badly – or you can take the view that he didn't have the courage explicitly to put his name on the ballot and thereby ducked a formal vote on his potential candidacy. After all the fuss, the announcement he would run again turned out to be a bit of an anti-climax, framed as it was by the Red Ripple.

Ron DeSantis, who has just won re-election as Governor of Florida by a massive margin, would be a likely presidential victor in 2024 with Joe Biden summarily defenestrated as the Democratic Party candidate for some losing alternative (maybe even Kamala Harris). Why? Because all sorts of people who can't stand the Democrats can't stand Trump even more! The fact is that even though many voters actually like some of Trump's policies, they can't bring themselves to vote for the thin-skinned narcissist himself. He remains essentially just as toxic as Hillary Clinton was to the other half of the 2016 electorate; which, of course, is the only reason he won.

Will the Orange One take one for the team and stand down in favour of the (much) younger and (far) more popular man? Will his ego allow it? After all, he's not big on sorry!

<sup>1</sup> Don't forget the political colours are reversed in the US.

Any good Party Man would do the honourable thing and ride off into the sunset; but, of course, The Donald is not really a Republican and certainly no ordinary ex-President. It will be fascinating to see what transpires in the Republican Presidential Primary given that there now has to be some uncertainty as to whether DeSantis will even run.

Meanwhile Biden has had arguably the best mid-term elections for quite a while (remember that Obama was spanked twice in his mid-terms) all because of the Boogeyman from Mar-a-Lago. If not stopped by what looks like a razor-thin Republican House majority, this will no doubt embolden Biden to pursue even more radical spending plans in order to resuscitate the struggling US economy that he himself drove into the ditch. I think one thing is certain, however. Trump running means Biden will eventually decide to run and that Biden – despite his obvious weaknesses – will win simply because he's not orange.

Why does all this matter to us 5,000 miles away across the pond? Well, regardless of the bananarepublic-style goings-on in the UK, the scaredy-cat EU reaction to events in Ukraine and Mercedes, BMW's, Germany's abject kowtowing to China, the US remains the world's most powerful military and economic actor – the only country able to face down Russia and China on the global stage. Whoever's in charge of the US still matters a great deal. Some, like Elon Musk, believe that the US only really functions properly with gridlock, i.e. having the parties in opposing occupation of Congress and the White House, and there is strong evidence for that over many years. As investment managers during the most geopolitically and economically turbulent time since the Second World War, a bit of sanity and stability - even if it is fuelled by absolute antipathy - wouldn't go unappreciated!



**Business** 

# The world's wealthy invest for greater impact

Today's ultra high net worth individuals are proactive, future-oriented investors. Some are already influencing change on global issues by making philanthropic investments that have a positive impact in areas of education and healthcare. However, our 'World Shaping Wealth' report shows that more of them are also thinking bigger and tackling the complexities of their own wealth management.

If UHNW individuals want to create and help shape a future that leaves a lasting legacy for themselves and their families, and for the planet, holistic expertise from their advisors is more important than ever.

Ninety one percent of UHNW individuals describe themselves as active wealth creators, identifying their own investment opportunities alongside their advisors. Meanwhile, just 9% leave their wealth management entirely to the experts. This is a dramatic shift from previous generations of UHNW individuals, who largely left the management of their wealth in the hands of professionals.

Many UHNW individuals want to give something back to society – not just through charitable donations but by investing in something for the future, such as human rights, economic equality and scientific research. They are asking what their legacy will be, and how it will be different to that which previous generations have left behind.

This is a new age of social consciousness from a generation that understands lip service will very quickly be called out, and recognises the real impact legacy can have. Aspirations are already being backed up by action with 66% making investments that follow positive environmental, social and governance criteria so they can be involved in making a difference.

Emma Danks, Partner, UK: "The meaning of "legacy" is broader than just the money people leave behind. Impact is motivating UHNW individuals more than accumulation of wealth. This is driven by an awareness of the responsibility that comes with wealth, likely accelerated by the pandemic and the focus on climate change."

### The challenges ahead

While wealthy individuals can be more agile than institutional investors, proper due diligence on investments, data and the credentials of those involved, is increasingly important to identifying potential financial and reputational risks. With 74% of UHNW individuals confirming that ESG investments will be central to growing their future wealth, those made through wealth-holding structures to resolve environmental challenges, public health crises and world-wide conflicts, come with higher expectations and considerations.

These structures comprise of strong governance, multiple entities in multiple jurisdictions, and complex control mechanisms. Decisions will likely sit with individuals or entities that have fiduciary obligations to protect wealth for current and future generations, which are not seen in commercial transactions. The potential for disputes is also far greater and advisors play a key role in helping evaluate the potential risks and rewards.

Alexander Erskine, Partner, UK: "Central to successful ESG investing is understanding the frameworks, the impact and the returns. The right legal advisors can work with both UHNW individuals and their wealth advisors to tailor structures to ESG goals. Impact and sustainability are now part of the decision-making processes, and this means seeking advisors who can take a broader, more longsighted approach."

### Holistic advice for a hands-on approach

Three quarters of UHNW individuals say that an expert advisor who can support in all areas of their personal and professional lives is essential, so that they can use their wealth to effectively drive this level of lasting change. Expectations of their advisors are therefore high, and understandably to help them navigate serious challenges around the current geopolitical environment, increasingly complex legislation and considerations on their long-term reputation. These are growing in risk every day, with more scrutiny around their influence, greenwashing and perceptions of the world's wealthiest only offsetting the bigger carbon footprints they have, with their contributions to support climate change goals.

UHNW individuals who are driven by more than creating wealth for the sake of wealth creation should be seeking advisors who can help them achieve their legacy goals. To be successful, those advisors need to establish an individual's intended impact and then put the right structures and specialisms in place to support this, offering broad expertise that is international in scope and holistic in approach.

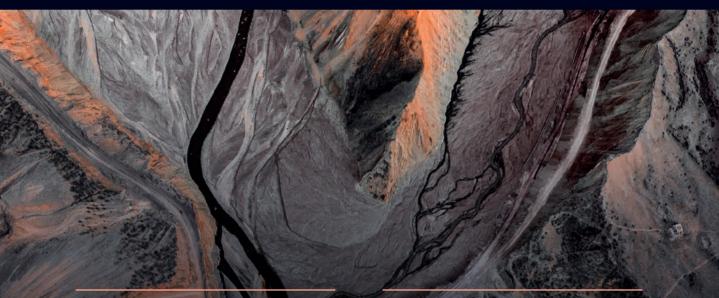
Independent opinion research was conducted in late 2021 by global research specialists, conducted among 215 UHNW individuals with an estimated combined wealth of over \$69.4 billion, and 225 of the intermediaries who manage their wealth (private banks, multi-family offices, single family offices, accounting firms and trustees).



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# PARI PASSU AND AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION







David Doutney Senior Associate

Nick Robison Managing Partner

Scott McPherson Managing Associate

In one of the most important offshore trust decisions in recent years, the team from Babbé LLP, led by Managing Partner Nick Robison, successfully represented Guernsey fiduciaries, Fort Trustees Limited and Balchan Management Limited ('Fort') before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the hearing of two appeals: one from the Royal Court of Guernsey, ITG Ltd and others v Fort Trustees Ltd and another; and the other from the Royal Court of Jersey, Equity Trust (Jersey) Ltd v Halabi (in his capacity as Executor of the Estate of the late Madam Intisar Nouri).

The Guernsey appeal (commonly known as 'Investec v Glenalla') related to a Jersey law trust of which well-known property investor, Robert Tchenguiz, is a discretionary beneficiary (the Tchenguiz Discretionary Trust or 'TDT'). The original trustees of the TDT, Investec Trust (Guernsey) Limited and Bayeux Trustees Limited ('Investec'), had been found liable in 2012 for certain judgment debts due to various BVI companies. Fort later succeeded as trustees of the TDT, and whereas the TDT did not have sufficient assets to satisfy the judgment debts due to the BVI Companies (and other claims against it), Fort took assignment of the judgment debts.

Thereafter, at a hearing in summer 2021, the Privy Council heard argument on (and held, in October 2022) as follows:

Question 1: Does a trustee's right of indemnity confer on the trustee a proprietary interest in the trust assets? Answer: The Board held that the answer to this was yes, unanimously.

**Question 2:** Does the proprietary interest of a trustee survive the transfer of the trust assets to a replacement trustee? Answer: yes, unanimously.

**Question 3:** Does the former trustee's proprietary interest in the trust property take priority over the claims of subsequent trustees under their rights of indemnity? Answer: No. All claims rank pari passu (by a majority of 4:3).

**Question 4:** Does a trustee's indemnity extend to the costs of proving its claim against the trust if the trust is 'insolvent'? Answer: yes, unanimously.

The watershed aspect of the matter was the split decision of the Privy Council on question 3: whether a former trustee's proprietary interest in trust assets ranks pari passu with the equivalent interests of successor trustees or, alternatively, whether a former trustee's proprietary interest should take priority over successor trustees' interests, with the former trustee's right of indemnity therefore ranking 'first in time'. The Babbé team, on behalf of Fort, had persistently submitted to the many courts that had considered the issue previously, that such interests should rank pari passu, and not on a first in time basis.

The general legal principle of pari passu means that all creditors, of a particular class, in insolvency processes, must share any available assets of the insolvent entity, or any proceeds from the sale of any of those assets, in proportion to the debts due to each creditor. The Privy Council's finding that trustees' claims rank pari passu altered the previous, presumed position that trustees' claims rank according to the 'first in time' rule applicable to other equitable proprietary interests, overturning the Guernsey and Jersey Courts of Appeal.

The Privy Council's decision will prove to be of huge importance to settlors, beneficiaries and trustees across the offshore world, and particularly those interested in Jersey and Guernsey law trusts. Whereas, since the original finding of liability against Investec in 2012, there had been uncertainty about the vulnerability of trustees and creditors of Jersey and Guernsey law trusts, the latest decision of the Privy Council will give tremendous comfort to those with an interest in those trusts.

Having been involved in the litigation for many years and having successfully overturned the decisions of the Guernsey and Jersey courts of appeal on the 'priorities issue', the team at Babbé is uniquely placed to assist settlors, beneficiaries, trustees and creditors of Guernsey and Jersey law trusts with these and related issues.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL'S DECISION WILL PROVE TO BE OF HUGE IMPORTANCE TO SETTLORS, BENEFICIARIES AND TRUSTEES ACROSS THE OFFSHORE WORLD...



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# BUYERS CAN FINALLY CATCH THEIR BREATH AS HOUSING MARKET STABILISES



### BY ANTONIA THOMAS, LOCAL MARKET NEGOTIATOR, SWOFFERS

I am a huge fan of punctation. Not only does it give narrative a structure, without it, subject matter rambles on, lacking in direction and purpose.

Where the past few years have rolled into endless months lacking any recognisable pauses or breaks, 2022 will be remembered as a turning point in all our lives - it has certainly felt more punctuated.

For one, the Covid-19 pandemic, though still in our world, was not so obvious in our daily lives. In February, the daily statistics issued by the States turned to a weekly occurrence, and by the end of the month, Bailiwick Covid-19 stats were overshadowed by the increasingly alarming news emerging out of Ukraine. In true Guernsey style, the Bailiwick humanitarian response to the war was a moment of unified generosity.

Closer to home, we celebrated and lost Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in the space of a few months, while in the matter of a few weeks, experienced three Prime Ministers, at which point – not wholly unconnected – the island's housing market finally peaked.

However, Guernsey remains remarkably resilient in times of political and financial uncertainty. The ripples of September's 'mini-budget' that emanated from Westminster were certainly felt upon our shores, but within a few weeks, activity levels bounced back.



Additionally, the hokey-cokey of mortgage products being removed and reintroduced culminated with more expensive borrowing but we all knew that those unsustainable, rock-bottom rates that had defined the last 15 years were never going to last. This was always going to happen, and purchasers have amended their budgets accordingly.

What does remain consistent is Guernsey's strong housing market, where demand continues to outstrip supply. This beautiful island remains a dream destination for both locals and non-islanders (beneficial tax, low crime, excellent quality of life, the list goes on).

Punctuation in the form of a big, fat comma has created a well-needed pause in the housing market. The franticness synonymous with the past 24 months or so has dissipated (we're no longer seeing dozens of potential buyers turn up and offer above the asking price). This isn't a full-stop though, as, while the financial pressure on households increases, relatively low stock levels are still supporting prices.

Hereupon creep in the question marks, is this really a bad thing? I suspect not. Now is an opportunity for buyers to catch their breath. Purchasers can now take their time in viewing property, understanding what it is they would like/ need/ desire unconditionally.

The 30-strong team at Swoffers is on hand to give its expert advice across both markets, Local and Open. The latter in particular – the largest and most knowledgeable team on the island – still maintains its phenomenal market share, selling more Open Market homes in 2022 than the competition combined, that's over 60% of property. We've welcomed many new residents from UK and across the world this year, and that looks set to continue.

## ...GUERNSEY REMAINS REMARKABLY RESILIENT IN TIMES OF POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTY.



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# HANDING OVER THE REINS AT JULIUS BAER GUERNSEY

After 18 years with Julius Baer Guernsey, Branch Manager Stephen Burt is retiring at the end of 2022, leaving the Swiss wealth management group in good health. His successor is Alexandra McInnes, who has almost 20 years of financial services experience and returned to her home island of Guernsey in 2018, having also worked in London, New York and Bermuda. We sat down with them both to reflect on Julius Baer's success and new beginnings.

## ALEXANDRA, HOW EXCITED ARE YOU TO TAKE ON YOUR NEW POSITION?

Alexandra McInnes: I'm excited to join Julius Baer and the experienced, high-quality management team here; I was really impressed with everyone I encountered through the interview process, from the local staff to those I met in London and Zurich. This is such a good opportunity; to lead a successful local branch that has the clear backing of an international group. I've worked in governance, risk and compliance; operating model transformation; and across the banking sector, and this role is going to require me to bring together all the experience I have accrued throughout my career for the good of our clients, team and the group.

### STEPHEN, ALEXANDRA IS JOINING THE BANK AFTER A PERIOD OF SUSTAINED GROWTH, AND THE MOVE INTO THE NEW OFFICE AT ADMIRAL PARK. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT HERE?

Stephen Burt: Julius Baer has undergone amazing growth in Guernsey over recent years, and our new office is a fantastic place to work, but I consider our culture to be the thing I'm most proud of. This can be a very intense industry, with clients to service, tight deadlines and regulations to be met, so to maintain a positive culture and have this be a place people want to come every day to work requires a lot of effort, but is so worth it.

I consider myself the oil in the machine, my job has been to create an environment for talented individuals to excel professionally alongside having a sensible work/life balance. We've got a super-talented team here, I've just been lucky enough to wear the captain's armband.



#### ALEXANDRA, HOW DO YOU INTERPRET JULIUS BAER'S VALUES OF CARE, PASSION AND EXCELLENCE?

AM: I love that the first value of the bank is 'care' and I believe the culture of the Guernsey branch lives and breathes this. I'm passionate about making our office a great place to work, where we are agreed on a clear vision and are supporting each other to get there, delivering excellent results for our clients, for the group and for our staff.

## WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR TAKING JULIUS BAER FORWARD?

AM: The bank is entering a new phase as outlined in the 2023-2025 group strategy, which consists of the three key pillars of focus, scale and innovate. I look forward to working with the Guernsey team to understand how we can execute this in line with the needs of our clients, staff and the group. Much of my experience is in delivering strategic change in the banking sector, and particularly in relation to operating model efficiencies, so I hope to apply this in delivering an even greater experience while focusing on what we do best - pure private banking geared around our clients here in Guernsey and around the world.

# WHAT DOES RETIREMENT HOLD FOR YOU STEPHEN?

SB: More family time, some voluntary work, some writing, and I'd like to learn to play the piano! I'm also a keen sailor, so the prospect of sitting tight in a nice anchorage rather than battling the elements to get back to work is particularly appealing – much as I'll miss the brilliant people I've worked with.

Julius Baer is the brand name of the Julius Baer Group of companies in Guernsey. Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd, Guernsey Branch is licensed in Guernsey to provide banking and investment services and is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

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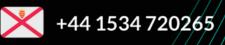








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# IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN - OR IS IT?

The current UK energy crisis has encouraged homeowners and businesses to focus on environmental improvements to properties, including more efficient heating systems, improved insulation and the installation of energy efficient lighting.

While the initial investment may be costly, these items can have a significant impact on reducing future outgoings. Where the position relates to rented commercial property, the situation is more complex, as tenants with short term leases have no long term interest in the property and consequently may be less willing to contribute to environmental improvements where they will not benefit in the long term.

However, one way of encouraging landlords and tenants to improve the environmental impact of their premises is for the parties to enter into a green lease, as Ogier partner Katharine Marshall, a specialist in Channel Island property finance, explained:

'A green lease describes a lease which incorporates a series of provisions that require the landlord and/ or tenant to improve the environmental impact of the premises and consequently make the property more sustainable. This may include energy efficiency measures, waste reduction and water efficiency. While the benefits for landlords are more apparent, tenants can also be seen to benefit financially from green leases from lower operating costs through reduced energy and water consumption, as well as being seen to meet corporate social responsibility requirements.'

Although green leases have an important role in new buildings to ensure the standard is maintained throughout the term of the lease, they are of equal importance for older buildings, which are likely to be operating at a lower standard, to ensure the building can be occupied and managed in a more environmentally friendly way in the future. Furthermore, where a lease is already in place and does not contain green clauses, the parties can enter into a lease variation or, alternatively, a memorandum of understanding which sets out how the parties agree to cooperate to improve the environmental standard of the building.

While green leases are the norm in the UK, it is still early days for their uptake in the Channel Islands. While there is growing momentum in Jersey, there is currently little appetite for green leases in Guernsey, as senior associate Martin Casas, from Ogier's property team in Guernsey, explained:

'Following the implementation of EU legislation in the UK and EU (the EU Directive 2002/91/EC and



subsequent legislation) that brought about "energy performance certificates," or EPCs as they are more commonly known, leases that contained green clauses became not just desirable but essential. This is because in the UK a property that doesn't meet certain energy standards cannot be let or continue to be let. Guernsey hasn't followed the UK or the EU with EPCs yet, but I'm sure it's just a matter of time.'

In Jersey, landlords and tenants are already exploring new ways to improve sustainability.

'An alternative solution for landlords who wish to demonstrate their corporate social responsibility by generating renewable energy is to make use of otherwise unused roof space above their premises by leasing the airspace above the building," said senior associate Laura Shirreffs, a Jersey property expert for Ogier's Channel Islands Local Legal Services team.

'Ogier has assisted a number of landlord clients to date who have been able to profit from the unused roof space on their building (providing a new income stream) by allowing companies to install a rooftop solar farm that generates electricity which otherwise would need to be imported. Alternatively tenants may seek landlord permission to install solar panels as a method of reducing their overheads, bearing in mind that tenants are almost always responsible for electricity and other outgoings, on top of their rent.'

Green leases might not yet be widespread in the Channel Islands, but this could change. As investor appetite for ESG considerations develops, and the climate crisis puts sustainability under increased focus, it is anticipated that green leases will become an increasingly desirable solution for both landlords and tenants alike.

This article was co-authored by partner Katharine Marshall and senior associate Laura Shirreffs from Ogier's Property team in Jersey, and senior associate Martin Casas from Ogier's Property team in Guernsey.





# THE VALUE OF VALUE

BY MARK CHASEY, CHAIRMAN, OAK GROUP

### I'm privileged to work alongside senior leadership I believe are as good as any in the industry.

Graham McCormack, our Group CEO, brings intelligence and insight, but leads with his heart – critical in a people-driven business. Our managing directors – Tanya O'Carroll in the Isle of Man, Paul Schreibke in Mauritius, Jo Gorrod in Jersey, Joe Woodward and James Tracey in Guernsey – each offer their own professional and personal perspectives forged by decades of experience across an eclectic mix of geographies, backgrounds, and disciplines.

But to get the best out of any team requires leadership and an inspirational set of values that unify all behind a common purpose.

## 'PRICE IS WHAT YOU PAY; VALUE IS WHAT YOU GET.' WARREN BUFFET

When we relaunched Oak's vision this year, we were clear from the start that we wanted to run a business of which we could be proud, and which would benefit everyone we come into contact with. So we asked ourselves a simple question: what matters most?

We had three answers: our PEOPLE, our PLANET, and creating VALUE for all. Without our people, we don't have a business. Without a sustainable future for our planet, none of us, anywhere, will have a business. And without delivering value to everyone involved in our business, frankly, what's the point?

James and Joe have already written on the first two elements of our new purpose-led strategy, which leaves the last, perhaps the hardest to define, to me: VALUE.

## WE ARE A BUSINESS THAT DELIVERS SUSTAINABLE LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE

## TO CREATE VALUE FOR OUR CLIENTS, OUR EMPLOYEES, OUR SHAREHOLDERS, AND FOR THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE EXIST.

To help define our new vision, we met with Channel Island-based design agency, the Potting Shed, and explained that Oak was embarking on a journey we knew where we wanted to arrive, but needed help getting there. They listened to our people through workshops and interviews and discovered a consistent pre-existing narrative of safety, inclusion, and purpose. A good start! This helped us evolve the concept of the Oak ecosystem: a manifestation of the human and environmental touch points of our business. Our new identity was taking shape.

## 'THERE'S NOTHING I VALUE MORE THAN THE CLOSENESS OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY, A SMILE AS I PASS SOMEONE ON THE STREET.' WILLIE STARGELL

When we talk about value at Oak, we mean just this. Warren Buffet said, 'Price is what you pay; value is what you get', which also goes to the heart of our definition. For our business to thrive, everyone who encounters us, that plays a part in our ecosystem, needs to benefit.

Wages, taxes, invoices, fees, dividends – these are the monetary mechanics, but value is so much more. It's the extra mile, it's the heart, it's the pride, it's the sense of belonging and purpose. That's the kind of value we mean and for which we strive. That's the type of business I'm proud to lead.

Oak is a meaningful purpose-led business, with sustainability at its core, that stands out in a crowded marketplace to deliver sustainable excellence. Gower Financial Services Ltd is licensed and regulated by The Guernsey Financial Services Commission. Company registration number 37312. Registered office: Suite 1, Weighbridge House, Le Pollet, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1WL.

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# TURBULENT TIMES IN THE MORTGAGE MARKET

BY NEIL STANFORD, MORTGAGE MANAGER

IN 28 YEARS OF ADVISING ON MORTGAGES IN GUERNSEY, GOWER'S MORTGAGE MANAGER NEIL STANFORD HAS SEEN PLENTY OF CHANGE. RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE MOST DRAMATIC HE HAS WITNESSED IN HIS CAREER. HERE HE REVIEWS THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES AND SUGGESTS HOW BUYERS AND SELLERS ALIKE CAN NAVIGATE THIS EVER-CHANGING MORTGAGE SCENE.

#### THE POST-PANDEMIC PROPERTY BUBBLE

The Guernsey property market has been buoyant for the last couple of years, with many people making significant changes to their lifestyles during and after the Pandemic. The resulting demand for property has pushed up prices significantly. The knock-on effect of this has been felt across the whole market, especially for first time buyers who have seen the amount they need to raise for an initial deposit rise substantially.

#### **'TRUSSENOMICS' & INFLATION**

It may have been short, but Liz Truss's era in Downing Street had a material impact on mortgage interest rates. The mini-Budget caused the Bank of England to raise the UK base rate to calm financial markets and protect the Pound, which in turn pushed up mortgage costs. In addition, the Bank of England, in-line with central banks around the world, was already increasing rates to try and combat escalating inflation due to supply chain issues during and following the Pandemic.

### **KNOCK-ON EFFECTS**

The effect of all of this has seen the average 5-year fixed rate rise from c.2% as recently as April this year, to up to 5.5% at the time of writing this article in early November, with some lenders at over 6%.

Needless to say, this is causing concern for borrowers who have tracker or fixed interest rate deals. Whilst those with a fixed rate won't witness an immediate change, when they do eventually expire - particularly in the near future - there is a strong possibility that the new rates available will be significantly higher. For example, in the coming months a borrower coming off a 5-year fixed rate of 3% set in 2017, will likely be looking at a jump to c.5.5% for a similar deal, resulting in a monthly repayment figure that would be considerably higher than the previous deal.

### SPEAK TO A BROKER

The mortgage market is shifting rapidly; lenders are having to be more nimble and make regular adjustments to the products they offer. It means there is yet more information for the borrower to digest. This makes the role of the Mortgage Broker more relevant than ever as we can keep abreast of the constantly changing offers more easily. We will take time to discuss the options with you. Should you re-fix, over what term; two years, five years or indeed 10 years? Perhaps you should opt for a tracker in the hope that interest rates stabilise or reduce in the future, so you'll be able to reconsider fixing later? Is this a blip, or will things stabilise over time?

It is not possible to generalise on this topic, as every individual and their circumstances will differ. As a Mortgage Broker it is our job to clearly explain the options so that you can make a decision that feels right for you. Because Gower is independent, we can monitor what is available from the whole market rather than just what your current lender is willing to offer. If you are concerned that your current mortgage rate is about to expire, we would be happy to discuss any potential alternatives and bring you up-to-speed with the latest deals. In the meantime, let us hope for more stability and less turbulence in 2023.

# RELOCATING TO GUERNSEY

The last two years or so have seen an influx of relocators to the Island, attracted by the outstanding natural beauty of the Island coupled perhaps with no capital taxation and a low single rate of income tax.

Perhaps the most significant change to the Guernsey tax system for some considerable time is the move to independent taxation of married couples effective from 1 January 2023. Whilst a significant change the likely impact is perhaps summarised as the need for a further ten thousand or so personal tax returns to be both completed and processed and the possible doubling of the statutory tax caps that, before 1 January 2023, applied per couple. The tax caps available in Guernsey are:

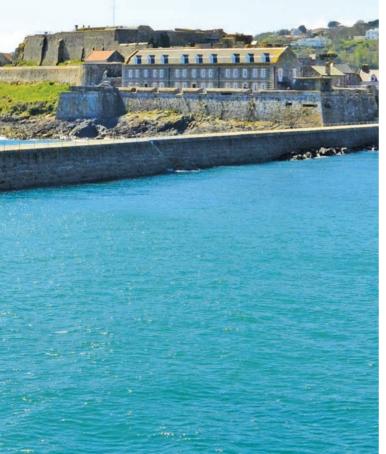
- Open Market Cap of £50,000. Available for the first four years of Guernsey residence. Requires the purchase and occupation of an open market property within 12 months of tax residence. The purchase must generate minimum document duty of £50,000 (property cost of £1.4m). There is a grandfathering provision (so if you are travelling to Guernsey before 31 December 2022 and intend to purchase a property you may meet that special provision and claim a joint Open Market Tax Cap).
- Foreign income tax cap of £150,000. This is for non-Guernsey source income only. Guernsey source income remains subject to 20% tax. Guernsey bank interest is not considered Guernsey source.
- Annual tax cap of £300,000. A global cap utilised by individuals with substantial Guernsey Source income.
- The "standard charge". This is currently £40,000 per annum and is available by election in place of worldwide income disclosure, for those who are broadly, not full time tax resident on the island.



Other significant tax incentives for a relocator may include:

- Ability to claim double tax relief in Guernsey for UK corporation tax paid, where shareholder control of the UK company is in Guernsey.
- Ability to receive UK dividends that are exempt from UK and Guernsey taxation.
- Ability to receive UK pension income, potentially including a lifetime flexible draw down that is solely taxable in Guernsey.
- Ability to mitigate UK capital gains tax on gains made upon the disposal of certain UK assets.

There are many tax considerations a relocator might like to consider. The highly experienced and qualified tax team at LTS, who can advise upon all aspects of Guernsey and UK tax, would be delighted to hear from you.



- > Guernsey and UK tax advice
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- > UK residence and domicile planning
- > Inheritance tax planning
- > Emigration and immigration planning
- > Trust tax advice and compliance
- > Fund taxation and reporting obligations
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# LISTEN, LISTEN, AND LISTEN SOME MORE



BY JIM COUPE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, SKIPTON INTERNATIONAL

Skipton International is a Channel Island success story. The savings and mortgage bank has seen vast growth over the past few years, serving global customers in over 100 countries and employing talented and skilled staff across Jersey and Guernsey. Here, Managing Director, Jim Coupe, tells us why listening to your customer is crucial.

Buying a home can be daunting, and it's not helped if lending processes are disjointed, with little alignment to customer expectations. Over time, processes can become complex and confusing for customers, leading to poor satisfaction. Furthermore, 'normal' customer service was thrown upside down by the pandemic, with responsiveness and flexibility more vital than ever, causing lenders to hastily review their traditional methods.

Understanding how customers think and feel is key to providing them with the best possible service. Any financial services provider needs to be open and proactive about embracing change with its customers, taking them on an improvement journey and constantly evolving in response to their needs.

It is also key to listen to feedback from colleagues and mortgage brokers who are interacting with customers daily as these are the people who know what isn't working for them and in turn know what impacts customers.

At Skipton, we have made significant investments to accelerate our growth plans, yet any innovation and change we make is in response to the behavioural and social evolution of our customer base; it is based on what is going well, and more importantly, what can be improved.

We found that customers looking to buy a new home and obtain mortgage finance can be frustrated with the amount of information required by some lenders, with long delays in some cases. Skipton is committed to consistently improving this end-to-end journey.

WE INVOLVE OUR COLLEAGUES FROM THE START, AND... WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO REVIEW EACH PART OF THE LENDING AND CUSTOMER PROCESS. We believe that the journey to giving customers the best experience starts with investing in people, giving them the skills to identify problem areas and empowering them to make changes to drive improvement. We are mindful that teams often experience change being 'done to' and not 'with' them, which can lead to resistance to change, so we involve our colleagues from the start, and always work collaboratively to review each part of the lending and customer process.

Part of this is being aligned to Feefo, the independent review platform that assesses customers' feedback on our services (www.feefo.com). We have been Platinum 'Trusted Server' holders for the past two years, following three consecutive years of holding the Gold category. Having partnered with Feefo back in 2015, Skipton receives around 600 verified reviews each year, allowing us to shape and hone our offering accordingly.

Digital is increasingly important for our customers and for any business strategy. With innovation moving at a faster rate than ever before, the opportunities to use technology to drive improvements for our customers is exciting. It is crucial, however, to ensure that these are rolled out at a pace that works for customers and is in line with their needs and expectations. There is a wealth of opportunity for digital innovation to improve customer experience across the financial services, and Skipton is pleased to embrace this with open arms.





# FIFTH ANNUAL PRIVATE WEALTH FORUM

British astronaut Tim Peake was the keynote speaker at Guernsey Finance's fifth annual Private Wealth Forum, held at London's prestigious Banking Hall.

Opening the event, he revealed the meticulous planning, preparation and attention to detail that goes into preparing for a lengthy space mission.

He spoke of his experiences on the International Space Station mission in 2015, and how the team explored every possible risk scenario and method of mitigation.

The importance of collaborative working was also highlighted by the astronaut, with particular reference to climate change. He said: 'You can see smog and pollution very clearly from space, and it makes you realise we have to work together to solve some of these problems.'

These core themes continued throughout the ensuing panel discussion between fiduciary and family office experts, which focused on the family offices of the future.

The panel was opened by Russell Clarke, Managing Partner of Carey Olsen, who suggested that the pandemic was a trigger event for many wealthy families to consider both succession planning and to reflect on what their wealth is for and its purpose.

Sophie Ward, Head of Charities & Education, HSBC Private Banking, followed on from this and suggested it was important to drill down carefully into purpose and what it means for current and future generations. For some, it might mean not doing harm, while others expect positive returns on investment or a more altruistic outcome.

Reference was made by panel member Eric Martineau-Fortin, Founder and Managing Partner of White Star Capital, to how families are increasingly engaging members in investment discussions from a younger age. Consequently, they are contributing to the process of creating purpose in the family wealth, leading to more Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) integration or climate-focused investments and greater family cohesion.

The panel discussed how an increased focus for family wealth on purpose-driven investments will have an impact on the choice of jurisdiction, as families seek out vehicles that meet their ESG criteria. For example, Guernsey's new Natural Capital Fund regime aims to channel investment into projects aimed at preserving biodiversity.

The audience were also reminded that the earlier good governance practices are put into place, and the sooner younger members take it on board, the more effective it will be.

Michael Betley, Global Head, Private Clients, Ocorian, contributed to the panel and underscored that fiduciary duties include taking into account all the risks – including climate risk – that might be inherent in investments. He said: 'benefits are not limited to financial gain, having clean air for future generations also has a clear value.'

The panellists agreed that many families are refocusing their wealth on a particular purpose.

That might be channelling investments into sustainabilityfocused projects or simply using their wealth in a merchant bank model to invest in new businesses which in turn contribute profits to collectively benefit the whole family.

Other 'super themes' being seen by advisers include security, balancing privacy and transparency, global mobility and managing macroeconomic shocks.



ABOVE LEFT: TIM PEAKE WITH THE GUERNSEY FINANCE TEAM; ABOVE: RUPERT PLEASANT AND TIM PEAKE; ABOVE RIGHT: STEPH GLOVER REPRESENTING GUERNSEY AT THE UNITED NATIONS FINANCIAL CENTRES FOR SUSTAINABILITY (UN FC4S) ANNUAL MEETING.

The panel discussed how advisers need to stay relevant to their clients. Michael Betley said: 'We need to act with integrity and create a platform for our clients that is reliable, trustworthy and fit for purpose. Guernsey's finance industry is part of the capital flow system, so we need to demonstrate that we are a good global citizen, and regulation is part of staying relevant.'

The panel returned to the theme of people and the need for advisers to consider individual characters and their personal needs within family planning, governance and wealth distribution. They agreed that private client advisers need to use their soft skills to encourage collaboration and early intervention, together with good governance practices, to help to avoid potentially contentious issues.

Looking ahead to the future, Eric discussed how web3, decentralised finance and digital assets are changing how people are storing and moving assets. Family offices can harness these new technologies to respond quickly to opportunities.

Throughout the session, Guernsey was referenced as a stable platform for private wealth, the need for which has never been stronger in a volatile world. Representatives of Guernsey Finance attended the United Nations Financial Centres for sustainability (UN FC4S) annual meeting hosted by Casablanca Finance City, Morocco.

At the meeting, FC4S members met to share their individual learnings from the last year and to establish how the members can work together to tackle sustainable finance issues and opportunities of the future.

Working with the FC4S enables an open platform to share knowledge and establish sustainable finance practices, and Guernsey has been a longstanding member of the United Nations Financial Centres for Sustainability network since 2018.

During the meeting, Africa was described as the 'Continent of Opportunity', particularly for sustainable finance, with inspirational urgency and scale of ambition coming from some of the African members, such as Lagos and Casablanca.

All countries described their personal and increasing experiences of climate change and extreme weather events, making it abundantly clear that the impacts of climate change are already happening and providing a stark reminder of why adaptation and transition finance is so important.

Natural Capital, Biodiversity and Nature were recognised by the network as a core pillar of the UN FC4S work and the current state of play was described as the 'goldrush' stage of nature developments, with enormous opportunities for first movers in this arena.

It was recognised that, globally, we now need greater organisation around nature standards and regulations, an area in which Guernsey is taking serious steps to address through the development of the Natural Capital Fund regime, and the GFSC joining the Taskforce Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

Another core pillar for the UN FC4S is their Annual Assessment Programme, which is presented to the United Nations Development Programme, the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action and the G20. The latest results revealed that Guernsey scored above average in several areas including debt markets and professional development and education.

We have been fortunate to have a forward thinking and proactive industry and financial regulator in upskilling our workforce, meaning we are at reduced risk of greenwashing and in a better position to meet our climate commitments. While there is still more to be done for Guernsey in Sustainable Finance developments, this groundwork sets us up to be best placed to tackle the challenges, and to make the most of the opportunities of sustainability.

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The island is setting its Electricity Strategy in the new year and as part of this we need to consider how we reach net zero carbon by 2050. Where our energy comes from and how we use it will play a leading role in achieving this goal.

While our unique island provides opportunity, it also presents unique challenges. We need to provide the best possible infrastructure to suit our island's needs, but time is of the essence. Much of our power station is at the end of its life, and demand is predicted to increase.



### SO HOW SHOULD WE POWER OUR ISLAND? WHAT ARE THE BEST SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

To answer these questions, we need a mix of skills and experience within our diverse team.

You can help us be at the forefront, leading the energy transition, and playing our part in creating a sustainable future.

It's not just about transitioning away from fossil fuels and the important role electricity will play in the decarbonisation of transport and heat. New technology, particularly digital, will enable the world to use energy in new ways every day and we play a large part.

### Together, we'll build a better future.

For helping us to look after the Island's energy for future generations, we offer a generous and unique benefits package.

Our benefits package is designed to look after our employees and help them enjoy island life flexibly, progress in their careers, be recognised for their efforts and be paid fairly.

OUR MISSION IS TO WELCOME EVERYONE AND CREATE A FULLY INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



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# KPMG PROMOTIONS

More than 40 promotions below director level have recently been made in Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man offices of KPMG in the Crown Dependencies.

Guernsey promotions include; in the audit department, Charlene Aguilon, who has been promoted to an audit senior manager and Chelsie Marquis and Onose Oniha, who have been promoted to an audit manager. Having recently qualified as chartered accountants, Kat Reynolds, Daniel Vickers, Charlotte Barker and Charlie Sykes have been promoted to audit assistant manager.

In advisory; Jack Castleman has been promoted to a senior manager and Emeka Chukwuma to an associate manager, while in tax; James Tipper has been promoted to a manager, with Elaine Duerme, Freddy Green and Laudate Seballos all promoted to an associate manager, and Sia Banbury and Anastasia Banbury both progressing to senior tax consultant.

'I would like to congratulate all my colleagues who have been promoted,' said Andrew Quinn, managing partner at KPMG in the Crown Dependencies. 'We place a lot of emphasis on the development and career progression of our people. It is personally very rewarding to see so many colleagues being promoted and continuing to develop and progress their careers at KPMG. Their promotion is a result of their hard work, a desire to continually learn and seek out new experiences and they are an inspiration to others in the firm.'

## GUERNSEY FINANCE APPOINTS DEDICATED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Guernsey Finance has appointed a dedicated business development representative for the insurance sector. William Lewis has worked in the insurance market for more than 44 years, where he has acquired a broad range of knowledge across the sector, including the formation of Protected Cell Companies (PCCs) and extensive interaction with the Guernsey regulator. He has experience dealing with UK and Lloyd's regulators and is a previous director of a Lloyd's members' agent and of a Bermudan Special Purpose Insurer. He currently holds a position as director of a Guernsey PCC and is a research analyst at Hampden Agencies, both of which he will retain alongside his appointment with Guernsey Finance.

'Overall, my career has enabled me to gain a very broad and extensive knowledge of the global insurance and reinsurance markets, as well as an excellent understanding of what Guernsey has to offer, from captives to PCCs,' he said. "I'm really excited to be joining Guernsey Finance through this innovative initiative, and to bring benefit to Guernsey's economy.'



William Lewis



Meriel Lenfestey

## JT BOARD APPOINTS NEW CHAIR

Meriel Lenfestey has been appointed chair, taking over from Phil Male, who has held the position since 2018. She has been a director on the Board since 2016 and was most recently its senior independent director.

Previous roles have included working for Microsoft in Seattle and the BBC in London.

'I'm really looking forward to taking over as chair from Phil and supporting JT as we deliver our new five-year strategy,' she said. ' JT is already making great strides in ensuring the needs of all our stakeholders are at the heart of everything we do, and I'll be working closely with the team to develop that further.'



Richard Cannard

HSBC APPOINTS HEAD OF WEALTH DISTRIBUTION FOR CHANNEL ISLANDS AND ISLE OF MAN

Richard Cannard, who has been at HSBC for more than 31 years, has been appointed as the head of wealth distribution across the Channel Island and the Isle of Man as part of the bank's ongoing strategy to evolve its wealth and personal banking business.

In his new role, he will be responsible for the premier and wealth teams across the islands.



James Legge

## NEW FINANCIAL DIRECTOR AT HFL

James Legge has been appointed financial director at independent fiduciary and fund administration company HFL. The newly created role will see Mr Legge manage and oversee the company's finance function, implementing the financial strategy and enhancing the financial reporting side of the business, as the company continues to grow.

'I am joining HFL at a very exciting time for the business and Guernsey's financial services industry. We are seeing significant demand for the firm's expertise in the venture capital and private wealth markets. I am looking forward to helping HFL achieve its ambitions for growth,' he said.

# UN1TY BOLSTERS ITS ADVISORY

Executive level advisory services UN1TY has expanded with the appointment of two new directors. Colin Woodcock of Scolopax Consulting, a programme management and business analysis firm, has joined the partnership along with Charlotte Dunsterville of Customerise. The UN1TY model of 'board member as a service' gives organisations the opportunity to access senior expertise on demand or to supplement the existing board with specialised skills or as an interim measure, and its pay-as-you go model is proving popular with local businesses.

'Colin and I are excited to join UN1TY and offer our expertise and leadership support to local



organisations,' said Ms Dunsterville. 'The UN1TY model of senior advisory on-demand is flexible and means that businesses can easily access support in a number of areas just when they need it.' With the new directors on board, the UN1TY partnership now includes customer experience and change management as key pillars of the proposition.



Robin Newbould

# SENIOR CHANGES AT RAVENSCROFT

Ravenscroft has appointed Robin Newbould to the board of the parent company, Ravenscroft Holdings Ltd, as part of changes to its senior management.

Mr Newbould co-founded Ravenscroft with Jon Ravenscroft in 2005 and has been chief operating officer since July 2021. He will now become managing director of operations, to work alongside Mark Bousfield, whose new title is managing director of investments.

They will be supported by David Chan, OBE, who rejoins Ravenscroft as chief of staff. Mr Chan, who spent 25 years as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force and was awarded his OBE in 2006, spent nearly five years working for Ravenscroft, then continued to be a consultant and nonexecutive chair of the investment management business.

Group CEO Jon Ravenscroft said the company had grown

in recent years to more than 140 staff across five offices and six distinct investment offerings to clients. 'The experience, passion and knowledge of the board and senior management team has been integral to that success,' he said. 'The changes we have made will allow Robin, Mark and David to focus on the areas that will be essential to the continuing success of Ravenscroft for the benefit of our shareholders and our clients.

'Robin knows every part of our business through the roles he has previously held, and that knowledge, together with his analytical approach, will benefit the board, the company and, of course, our clients. David makes a welcome return to Ravenscroft having also been here in the early days. His experience, both from his time in the military and in investment management, will be invaluable, as the Ravenscroft team is our greatest asset.'

# NEW ADVOCATE OF THE ROYAL COURT OF GUERNSEY AT CAREY OLSEN

Carey Olsen senior associate Kirsty McGeough was admitted as an Advocate of the Royal Court of Guernsey, following her successful completion of the Guernsey Bar exams and the Certificat d'Études Juridiques Françaises et Normandes at the University of Caen.

She is part of the firm's trusts and private wealth practice and advises on a range of fiduciary and trusts law as well as private wealth matters. She is particularly experienced in the laws of trusts, inheritance and estate planning and regularly counsels professional and private trustees, high net worth individuals and families.

'We are pleased to congratulate Kirsty as she becomes an Advocate of the Royal Court of Guernsey,' said managing partner, Russell Clark. 'We are committed to providing high levels of client service and supporting our staff through continued professional development helps us to achieve this aim.

This significant achievement follows months of study, commitment and hard work and we are very proud to see another talented lawyer called to the Guernsey Bar. Having worked with Kirsty over the past two and a half years, I am confident that Kirsty will have a very successful career. She is a very welcome addition to the Bar.'

Ms McGeough was first admitted as a solicitor in Scotland in 2016 after achieving her degree at the University of Edinburgh and completing her two-year legal traineeship. She joined Carey Olsen in 2020 from a leading private client law firm based in Edinburgh where she trained and worked postqualification in the trusts, tax and succession team.



Kirsty McGeough



# ABOUT A BOY

Amanda Eulenkamp talks to Charlie Edwards, one of eight children who has been in foster care for most of his life. Identifying as male, Charlie was born female. This is his story so far.

At just 18 years old, Charlie is now studying for university. A wise head on young shoulders, he is quietly outspoken, determined to do his bit for those that he says are 'not protected'.

'I'm a big activist. I love just fighting for people, doing what's right or what's needed,' he says. 'I've worked heavily with the Youth Commission and done speeches and been to conventions for foster children because I am one.

Whether it's programmes, schemes, or events, I try to make people aware; fight for legislation to get equal rights and protection.'

Charlie has worked in schools covering many different areas of discrimination from disability to age and the LGBT community, as well as being vocal about climate change.

Born female, he is on a waiting list to transition to male. 'I've got a few years before I get my first appointment and it's going to take a long time for me to start on testosterone,' he says. The reason is not because of his young age (he is now on the adult waiting list), but simply the length of the waiting list.

He says he self-identified as male when he was in year six at school. 'I was in primary school and was very young, but I always knew that I was a boy,' he says. 'I was what you would call a tomboy – pre-puberty, I would walk around shirtless, I would play football. I had all the masculine traits of younger boys.'

Growing up in Guernsey, in a small community, was very difficult especially at a time when, according to Charlie, being transgender was still very unknown. 'I didn't even know what transgender meant,' he says. 'I didn't turn around and say: 'I'm transgender'. I said: 'I want to be a boy'.' Charlies says that people thought it was just a phase. 'Something I'd grow out of.' But after a few years, friends and family understood that he genuinely did want to be a boy. There was a precedent in his family already, as his eldest sibling is also trans. 'They are male to female.' Another of his sisters is his biggest supporter although Charlie says she grieved for the sister that she no longer had.

On grieving, Charlie says that he understands why people use that term but says that he's still the same person 'just in a different physical body'. Put like that, he makes it sound so easy to understand.

'My gran, who grew up in a different era, has learnt to understand and is now one of my biggest supporters,' he says.

Charlie spent the summer in Alderney, working and living in a staff house. One issue of being a foster child is that very few people want to foster teenagers. The third oldest of eight children, he is the first in his immediate family to go to university.

'We were neglected as far as education is concerned,' he says. One reason he wants to go and complete his degree is to show his family that he can do it. He knows he'll also be exposed to a variety of 'different types of people', and he'll no doubt continue to fight all of their corners.



## Trusted with Guernsey's heritage





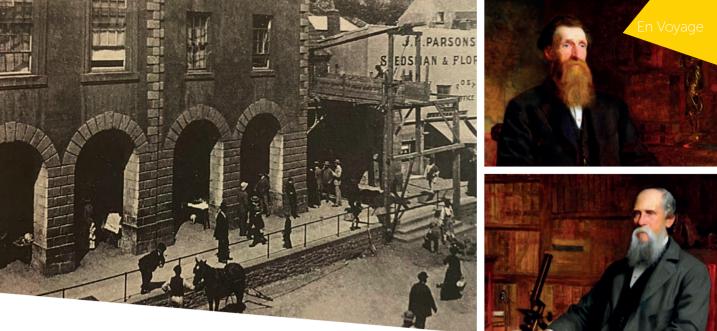
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ABOVE: CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENTRANCE HALL, C.1883; TOP RIGHT: FREDERICK ALLÈS; BELOW RIGHT: THOMAS GUILLE. ALL IMAGES ©GUILLE ALLÈS LIBRARY

# BOUNDLESS CURIOSITY

The Guille-Allès Library first opened its doors in 1882. To celebrate its 140th birthday, there is a special exhibition called 'Boundless Curiosity' that tells the story of the Library's founding, and the two men who made it happen, Thomas Guille and Frederick Allès.

The exhibition presents a unique opportunity to see some of the spectacular items in the Library's collection, including John James Audubon's 'The Birds of America', one of the rarest and most beautiful books in the world.

### THE FOUNDERS: GREAT FRIENDS, GREAT PLANS

Childhood friends who left Guernsey aged just 14 to seek their fortune in America, Thomas Guille and Frederick Allès became successful in business, and for decades harboured a dream to one day return home and start a library.

Thomas was encouraged by his father to learn a trade, and at the age of 13 he was apprenticed to a local carpenter. A friend of the family, Daniel Mauger, had recently emigrated to New York, establishing a successful painting and decorating business. On a return visit to the island, Mauger's tales of this 'new world' so enthralled the young Thomas that he asked for his parents' permission to accompany him back to America. In February 1832, aged just 14, he left Guernsey and sailed across the Atlantic to become an apprentice in Mauger's firm.

On arrival in New York, Mauger sponsored Thomas's admission to the vast Apprentices Library, a department of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen.

As he was to tell it later, on his very first evening in the library Thomas decided there and then that one day he would return to Guernsey and found a similar institution.

'Never shall I forget the emotion of wonder and delight which seized me when, for the first time, I entered the library...

Would that a kind providence might put it into the heart of some wealthy man to provide my own countrymen with such precious opportunities of instruction as I now enjoy through this splendid institution. Had I but the means, how gladly would I myself supply them with this boon!

...From this very day I will save every penny that I do not urgently need, and will devote all my savings to the purchase of books which shall form the commencement and nucleus of the future Guernsey Library'. In 1834, Thomas was joined in New York by his great friend Frederick Allès.

Thomas shared his library dream with Frederick, who was equally excited by the idea. In their spare time they began visiting auctions and buying books.

By the time Thomas was 20, they'd built up a collection of several hundred volumes.

Over the next few decades, Thomas Guille made frequent trips back to Guernsey. On one such visit in 1856, he made his first attempt to turn his library dream into a reality. He divided his now vast collection of books into five sections, which he placed in five locations around the island. His intention was to establish a circulating library, with the collections rotating at intervals.

He called it the 'Guille Library', and it was met with some initial interest. But Thomas soon returned to New York and, without his oversight, the scheme failed to take off.

### A DREAM REALISED

In 1869, after a near-death experience from sunstroke, Thomas settled his business affairs in New York and returned to Guernsey permanently, bringing his books with him.



CLOCKWISE L-R: ENTRANCE HALL C.1900; ASSEMBLY ROOM C.1900; TWO IMAGES OF THE MUSEUM; TWO PLATES FROM JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S THE BIRDS OF AMERICA. ALL IMAGES ©GUILLE ALLÈS LIBRARY

In 1881 Frederick Allès returned to Guernsey, reuniting with his old friend and partner. Together, they leased from the States of Guernsey the Assembly Rooms in Market Street.

Built in 1782, the building had been used for nearly a century as a venue for parties, balls, and dances for the island's aristocracy. Thomas and Frederick filled it with their collection of books, amassed over nearly half a century, and at last the new Guille-Allès Library was thrown open to the public on 2 January 1882.

Thomas and Frederick were not finished there. Wishing to expand the space available for the library, in December 1883 they bought the building from the States for £900, and then added a plot of land behind. Major building works took place, including a raising of the roof to add a new floor to the building (plus a 'widow's walk', which we now call the Story Tower) and the construction of a grand Entrance Hall - seen as scaffolding in the photograph above.

On Monday 26 November 1888, the newly transformed building opened to the public, and the library was complete.

## EARLY DAYS OF THE LIBRARY

The Guille-Allès started life as a subscription library, with subscribers charged 10 francs a year. New and popular books were regularly added, and there was a Suggestion Book where subscribers could make recommendations. The early lending and reference library comprised 70,000 books in all branches of literature and science, mostly in English and French. There was also a Reading Room (now the Children's Library) with newspapers, an assortment of magazines, and a daily service of telegrams provided by the Central News Agency.

As well as the traditional library, the Founders were keen to create a kind of hub for education and culture. Launched in 1890, a weekly series of lectures proved popular, covering subjects across science, art, and literature. These attracted huge audiences, regularly filling the 200-seat Lecture Hall (now the Hayward Room).

The Lecture Hall was also the venue for classes, including music lessons, while numerous clubs and societies took up residence, including a chess club and even a table tennis club. The Guille-Allès Musical Association numbered some 200 performers, and gave regular concerts.

This programme of lectures and classes was very important to the Founders, who had always wanted the 'Institution' to become Guernsey's cultural and educational centre. As Thomas Guille wrote to his chosen successor as managing director:

'You must never let it become a library and nothing more'.

## THE MUSEUM OPENS

The opening of the library was a significant moment in Guernsey's cultural and intellectual history. The new Library gave islanders easy, instant access to a world of information in a way that largely hadn't been possible before.

This was reinforced by the addition of a museum, which stretched the length of the third floor and extended the name of the institution to the Guille-Allès Library & Museum.

The museum boasted exhibits on science and natural history, which were making huge strides at the time, as well as new discoveries from faraway lands. Items on display included artefacts from Ancient Rome, Ancient Egypt, and the South Pacific, as well as numerous taxidermied animals.

The nucleus of the Museum's collection was formed by the Guernsey Mechanics' Institute (later to become the Société Guernesiaise), which had been transferred to Guille and Allès's possession in December 1881. The pair worked to grow and improve what they'd inherited, adding items from their own extensive private collections, amassed over many years in New York.

The Museum remained open until 1979, when the contents were sent on long-term loan to the new Guernsey Museum at Candie.



To this day, the 'Guille-Allès Collection' plays a key part in many Guernsey Museum exhibitions. And now, for the first time in more than 40 years, some of these artefacts have returned home to the library for display in Boundless Curiosity.

## GUILLE & ALLÈS: A LEGACY

Frederick Allès died at his home in St Martin's on 20 February 1895, at the age of 77. Thomas Guille followed him on 4 December 1896, aged 79. Upon his death, the management of the Library passed into the hands of a Council and a Board of Management, the first members of which had been anointed by the Founders themselves.

Guille & Allès were remarkably far-sighted people. Before their deaths they wrote a Constitution for the Library, expressing a fervent wish that it should always be moving with the times.

'The Founders are conscious that the chief wants of today may not necessarily be the most pressing requisites of a century hence. Therefore, they wish to imbue the whole Institution with such elasticity of adaptation as shall enable it successfully to grapple with the changing necessities and varying requirements of succeeding generations as they pass. As a broad principle: whatever intellectual needs may become apparent among the people of Guernsey, the Founders of the Guille-Allès Library wish the Institution to supply'.

As the decades passed, the Library cemented itself deeper and deeper at the heart of island life. An editorial in the Guernsey Press on 2 January 1962 declared that: 'Guernsey without the Guille-Allès would be unthinkable'.

### THE LIBRARY TODAY

Times have certainly changed since Thomas and Frederick's childhood dream became a reality, but the library they founded is still going strong – and what's more, their original vision is still intact. Successive generations of staff have continued to embrace their philosophy – and never more so than today.

As in their day, the core of the service remains the collection of books, but these are now joined by digital collections of eBooks and audiobooks; computer and WiFi access; a busy and constantly evolving events programme; regular activities for children; meeting rooms and quiet study space; and the latest addition on the top floor, the Fab Lab, providing free access to cuttingedge technology for the whole community.

The Boundless Curiosity exhibition runs from 4 November until 21 January 2023.

More information can be found at library.gg

## **OPENING HOURS**

The Guille-Allès Library is in Market Square, just off Guernsey's main High Street.

Monday: 8.45am – 5.30pm Tuesday: 10am – 9pm Wednesday: 8.45am – 5.30pm Thursday: 8.45am – 9pm Friday: 8.45am – 5.30pm Saturday: 8.45am – 5.15pm







# ESCAPE INTO A WORLD OF BOOKS

If you want your children to have a life-long love of books and reading, then there is no better place to take them than the Guille-Allès Children's Library in St Peter Port.

In 2018 the Children's Library was transformed into a magical world where children can learn, have fun and be inspired, and it has become a library like no other. It is one of our favourite places to spend time in Guernsey and is a must-visit for local children and families visiting the island.

It is located on the first floor of the Guille-Allès Library and it is instantly inviting before even getting inside, thanks to the small curved door that is only big enough for children to use (there is also a regular sized door for adults!). The Children's Library is split into two rooms, with an arch between, and both are just as inspiring and fun to spend time in.

### **BEYOND BOOKS**

There is much more to do at the Children's Library than to just choose books. There is a children's table and chairs in the first room, which has always got colouring, available and there is often a spot-it sheet too, inviting children to find a certain number of things in the library and being rewarded with a sticker when it is complete.

On Tuesday afternoons the table is transformed into an amazing interactive games table, called the Tovertafel Table. This interactive table uses a high quality-projector and infrared sensors to project interactive games onto the table. It is great fun for kids and parents alike, especially for children with additional needs. Games include bursting bubbles, hunting for bugs, paint splat, fishpond and more!

# FREE WEEKLY FUN FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

The library offers various free pre-school sessions during of the week (during term-time), whether in the library building itself or at their community libraries. Sessions include Rhyme Time (for those 0-3yrs), Baby Bounce (30 minutes of songs, rhymes and sensory play), Tots on Fridays (for children 1-3yrs with stories, songs and rhymes) and they offer free storytelling sessions at 11am every Saturday. Details of the sessions can be found in the What's On calendar at guernseywithkids.com.

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

All families and children are welcome at the children's library and even visiting children can borrow books from the library. So make sure to pop-in when you are in St Peter Port.

Antonia Rainbow is mum to 9-yearold twin girls and has a passion for writing and a real love for Guernsey. She founded Guernseywithkids.com to help local families and visitors get the best out of the island







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# **OPERATION BASALT –** BRITAIN'S COMMANDO RAID ON SARK

To mark the 80th-anniversary commemoration of the 1942 British commando raid on Sark, and after 17 months of planning and a global search for accurate equipment, the reenactment of Operation Basalt took place in Sark 80 years to the day since the original mission. Author Eric Lee travelled to the island where he was a guest speaker at an event at Stocks Hotel. He recounts the events of the raid...

In June 1940, following the fall of France, Nazi German forces occupied all the Channel Islands, including Sark. These were the only parts of the British Isles occupied by the Wehrmacht. Thousands of German troops were stationed there throughout the war, and the islands were heavily fortified, constituting part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' defences designed to repel an eventual Allied invasion.

British forces withdrew from the islands before the Germans arrived, but Prime Minister Winston Churchill never gave up on them. He ordered a series of commando raids designed to make it clear to the Germans that they were not welcome on British soil and that their occupation was temporary. The attacks led to increasing numbers of Germans being deployed to guard the islands instead of being used where needed, such as in France.

Another goal of the raids was to capture German soldiers and return them to England for interrogation. The intelligence collected from those prisoners would be vital in planning the Allied invasion of Normandy, which took place on 6 June 1944.

A special commando unit known as the Small Scale Raiding Force (SSRF) was tasked with staging several of these operations.

One of those raids, code-named 'Operation Basalt', took place on the night of 3-4 October 1942. Twelve British commandos arrived at Sark on a specially silenced motor torpedo boat. While one commando waited by their landing craft, the others climbed the cliffs to reach the Hog's Back, the crest of the promontory between Dixcart Bay and Derrible Bay.

They were led by the legendary Danish commando, Anders Lassen, an expert in silent killing and a future recipient of the Victoria Cross. Major Geoffrey Appleyard was the commander of the mission. A contingent from a group known as the 'Irish Commando' led by Captain Phillip Hugh Pinckney also took part in the raid. They were well-trained and highly motivated but were lacking in highquality intelligence. The Napoleonic era cannon at the cliff's edge was believed to be a possible German machine gun emplacement. Though it was known that the island was hosting hundreds of German soldiers, the British had no idea where they were based.

To prepare for the raid, the commandos relied upon a tourist guidebook for walkers on Sark (which is still in print today). They also used Appleyard's family home movies, as he had holidayed on the island as a child. The young Geoffrey had loved climbing Sark's cliffs. This turned out to be quite helpful on that October night.

The commandos went in search of German soldiers. Their 'primary target', an isolated home known as Petit Dixcart, proved empty. Eventually, they came upon a house, La Jaspellerie, where they awakened Mrs Frances Pittard, the doctor's widow. Seeing men in uniform with blackened faces, she assumed them to be firefighters and asked if there was a fire. She told them where they could find Germans and gave other valuable intelligence at significant risk to herself. She even gave them chunks of the local bread so they could later analyse this and learn about how civilians survived under







ABOVE L-R: AUTHOR ERIC LEE; SARK'S COASTLINE FROM THE HOGSBACK, WHERE THE COMMANDOS LANDED (THE NAPOLEONIC ERA CANNON WAS THOUGHT TO BE A POSSIBLE GERMAN MACHINE GUN EMPLACEMENT); PETIT DIXCART, THE 'PRIMARY TARGET' FOR THE COMMANDOS; SIBYL HATHAWAY, THE DAME OF SARK; FRANCES PITTARD, WHO PROVIDED INVALUABLE INTELLIGENCE TO THE COMMANDOS.

German rule. From her, they learned about the deportations of civilians to Germany then taking place, which London knew nothing about.

When they came upon the Germans' quarters, Lassen took care of the lone sentry using his commando knife. Inside a hotel annexe, they found several sleeping German engineers, awakened them, bound their hands, and readied them to be taken down to the boat and back to England.

But once the Germans realised that a small group had captured them, most of them decided to fight back, shout and scream, and raise the alarm among the hundreds of heavily-armed troops on the island. In the fight that followed, two more Germans were killed, and one - who was naked - escaped.

Time was running out for the commandos, as their motor torpedo boat needed to get far away from Sark before sunrise.

One of the Germans had stayed quiet and was taken alive. The commandos raced back to shore. That captured German prisoner was the commander of the small team of engineers.

The raid was a tactical success. The captured engineer offered invaluable intelligence about coastal defences on Sark and across the entire 'Atlantic Wall', including France. Churchill personally summoned Major Appleyard to come to London at once to congratulate him.

But Hitler, learning of the raid, was furious and issued his infamous 'Commando Order'. This was sent to all German commanders on all fronts ordering them to treat any captured Allied commandos as terrorists and to execute them, even if they were caught in uniform. Many Allied commandos lost their lives because of this. The Commando Order was considered a war crime and came up in the Nuremberg tribunal.

None of the six officers involved in the Sark raid survived the war, though some enlisted men did. The last survivor, Cpl James Edgar, lived until 2021. He was 100 years old and living in Australia.

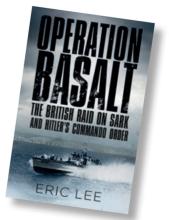
There are several reminders of the raid in the Channel Islands. On Guernsey, the graves of the Germans who died that night on Sark can be found in the Fort George Military Cemetery.

And on Sark itself, there are two reminders of the battle. On the Hog's Back, there is a new memorial, unveiled on the 75th anniversary of the raid in 2017, listing all the names of those who participated. It was recently updated with more names added.

There is also a tree planted near where the commandos seized their German prisoners. Known as the Cassino Oak, it is marked with a small sign containing this line from a poem by Philip James Bailey: 'We live in deeds, not years'.

And finally, in the island's main cemetery is the modest grave of Mrs Pittard, the doctor's widow who risked everything by helping the commandos. Her grave is just next to the one belonging to the Dame of Sark, Sibyl Hathaway.

Eric Lee is the author of Operation Basalt: The British Raid on Sark and Hitler's Commando Order (The History Press, 2016), the only full-length account of the raid and its aftermath.



# 2022 A YEAR IN PROPERTY

When we entered 2022, it was hard to predict how the year would unfold. The tumultuous 'Covid years' meant that every company in the world had to be flexible and remodel how they operate. Thankfully, at Livingroom we actively embrace change and through high levels of communication safely navigated the waters. Just like our geographical and political place in the world, the islands have been relative safe havens and remained as strong as the granite they have at their hearts.

We started the year with the news that we were chosen to represent the UK and British Islands against other European agents in the International Property Awards (*our industry Oscars*). Then, rather astonishingly, we won the highest accolade of all to win our category in the International finals and become the World's Best Single Office Estate Agent of 2021/22. Quite simply, we couldn't feel any more humbled or appreciative of our award and grateful for the recognition of all we do in promoting the islands to a wider audience.

Throughout the year, the 30-strong Livingroom team have been incredibly active - securing record-breaking residential lettings and sales in both islands. Since 1st January 2022, Livingroom Guernsev have successfully completed 218 transactions and Livingroom Jersey achieved a further 245. The total so far comes in at a staggering 463 success stories in the Channel Islands ranging from £1,000pcm lettings to our most valuable sale at £9,750,000. We had 3,004,802 page views on our websites between 1st January and 14th November 2022, and currently offer the largest social media following of any agency in the Channel Islands to bolster our presence across all customer demographics. Our website subscriber levels reflect our ability to immediately reach the broadest audience possible for our clients and their properties.

GUERNSEY +44 1481 7155555 JERSEY +44 1534 717100 WWW.LIVINGROOMPROPERTY.COM By choosing Livingroom, you're choosing a Channel Island agency where money remains in the Channel Islands; for every sale that Livingroom complete, the Livingroom Foundation donates to island charities. In 2022 Livingroom has proudly distributed £25,000 to island charities. An enormous thank you to everyone who chose Livingroom, together we have made a big difference to our islands.

The proof is in the pudding – not just in the promises. Strength in numbers is exactly what our clients benefit from. But we're not just a big team, we're an experienced one. Each of us are dedicated to providing a bespoke and exceptional customer service when you need it most.

December 2022 also sees the launch of our brand-new group website www.livingroomproperty.com and TV advert, designed to keep moving our brand forward while trying our best to redefine agency, accessibility and presentation.

We'd like to take this moment to say a huge thank you to our loyal customers. Without your support an amazing year like 2022 simply wouldn't be possible.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HERE'S TO 2023, WHATEVER IT MAY HOLD.



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## LOCATE GUERNSEY

# LOCAL SPORTING HEROES

Although geographically small, when it comes to producing sporting talent the island of Guernsey punches significantly above its weight. Locate Guernsey highlights a few of our local success stories.

Our short commuting distances provide islanders of all ages the opportunity to participate in lots of different types of sporting activity, giving youngsters the chance to discover what they love and where they excel.

The Commonwealth Games, which took place in Birmingham in the summer of 2022, saw 28 local athletes flying the island flag in seven different sports. Local boy Alastair Chalmers won Guernsey's first track and field medal (bronze) in the 400m hurdles, while Lucy Beere won a silver medal in the Women's Singles Lawn Bowls.

When it comes to football, Southampton and England footbal star, Matt Le Tissier, is a wellknown Guernsey man who started playing football on his home island and eventually moved to play professionally for many years. Although not the same branch of the family, Guernsey woman Maya Le Tissier also started kicking a ball here, playing alongside the boys aged four when her father, Darren, coached a local team.

Her talent was obvious from a very young age and at 16 she started playing in the UK for Brighton and Hove Albion. She signed with Manchester United in July 2022 and in November was called up to play for England's Lionesses in friendlies against Japan and Norway. We are all excited to see what comes next for Maya! In July 2023, Guernsey will host the NatWest International Island Games. Once every two years, athletes from 24 member islands come together to compete. Having been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 3,000 athletes and team members from 23 other islands will come together in Guernsey, making it the biggest sporting event the island has ever hosted.

Known as the 'friendly Games', the tagline 'Inspiring Islanders' has been added to Guernsey 2023 to reflect the power of sport and to create a legacy of physical activity, wellbeing and international friendship. Guernsey has always produced fantastic results at these games winning,



IN JULY 2023, GUERNSEY WILL HOST THE NATWEST INTERNATIONAL ISLAND GAMES... MORE THAN 3,000 ATHLETES AND TEAM MEMBERS FROM 23 OTHER ISLANDS WILL COME TOGETHER IN GUERNSEY, MAKING IT THE BIGGEST SPORTING EVENT THE ISLAND HAS EVER HOSTED.

382 golds and a total of 1,203 medals, placing Guernsey third in the overall rankings. Part of this consistent success is down to the excellent quality of Guernsey's sporting facilities and a wide range of superb local coaches, who play a significant role in helping local athletes develop their skills.

Sailing and water sports feature prominently in islanders' lives and children's summer holiday activity clubs will often involve time spent at Surf School as well as sailing. The Guernsey Sailing Trust is an RYA Training Centre established in 1988 to enable local children to experience the fun and challenges involved with sailing, as well as to make the sport accessible to all. Younger children start sailing in the Model Yacht Pond while older children venture out into Havelet Bay and the Little Russell.

There is not enough room to provide details of all of Guernsey's sporting successes and opportunities but, suffice to say, there is something for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to find out more about island life, please visit www.locateguernsey.com.





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## TOP OF HER SPORT: REFLECTIONS OF A WORLD CHAMPION

Sport

If you've ever passed through Gatwick with Aurigny, chances are passenger services agent Martine Simmons may have helped you. But did you know that before that, she was a world champion squash player?

Nowadays, Martine – like many of her family – works in the aviation industry. She's been at Aurigny for the past five years and her son works alongside her as a despatcher. Her work life is dominated by schedules, checking people in, hoping that there's no fog to disrupt things.

But it wasn't always that way.

Head to Beau Sejour in Guernsey and you'll see Martine's image on one of the plaques celebrating the island's sporting heroes.

And it's a place that she certainly deserves to be. For Martine Le Moignan MBE (her maiden name) won the World Open in 1989, was runner-up at the World Open in 1990, and runner-up at the British Open in 1985, 1989 and 1992. She also won four consecutive World Team Championships from 1985-1990. Impressive stuff.

Something that really helped her on her way was the donation from an anonymous sponsor of funds to help her on her journey.



'Without that person, I don't think my parents could have afforded to send me off to play squash and leave the island so early,' she said. 'It helped me to pursue and actually start my career, along with the backing of my parents as well.'

To this day, she does not know who the anonymous sponsor was but is 'eternally grateful'.

The pathway of her career was virtually the same as another island squash player, Lisa Opie MBE, whose biggest successes were winning the British Open in 1991 and, alongside Le Moignan, four consecutive World Team Championships from 1985 -1990.

Both were coached in their early years by Reg Harbour. Growing up alongside another great squash player, what was their relationship like?

'People always said there was rivalry, but I will say that Lisa and I got on very well. We played in all four winning world championships together – I think we were good for each other as we understand what we were going through.

#### 'WHEN WE WERE BOTH PLAYING FOR ENGLAND, WE BOUNCED OFF EACH OTHER AND THAT WAS WHAT MADE US SO SUCCESSFUL TOGETHER.'

While they don't particularly keep in touch nowadays (Lisa is a physio), when they do see each other there is 'no awkwardness', according to Martine. 'It's just like: 'do you remember so and so? Or when this or that happened?''

Martine says that she was lucky to come out of squash 'relatively unscathed'. 'A lot of squash players have had hip and/or knee replacements – all I've come out with is a dodgy back!'

Does she still play? 'No, not even socially. I enjoy tennis, exercise classes, walking, but nothing too taxing now,' she says.

Her Guernsey links are still strong, and she regularly visits family and friends on the island. One of the things she most enjoys about her job at Aurigny is giving people a little insight into the island.

'People ask 'what's the nicest place to stay or the best restaurant to go to eat out'. I've got all that information to hand – and I also love meeting fellow islanders who are flying through the airport,' she says.

'If the weather is perfect, then there's no place better than Guernsey.'





# FROM GUERNSEY CUB TO ENGLISH LIONESS

#### Maya Le Tissier has recently made her senior England team debut, playing in the international friendly against Norway.

At just 20 years old, Maya Le Tissier's senior career is only just beginning. She had her first cap for England playing the full 90 minutes against Norway, a game that resulted in a 1 - 1 draw.

Having impressed Sarina Wiegman, the England manager, since her departure from Brighton and debut for Manchester United, the future is certainly looking good for the young woman who played for club and island level in Guernsey as a junior.

A trailblazer for young female footballers in Guernsey, Maya played with the boys from a young age. Her father, Darren – who also coached her when she was a junior at St Martin's - had to push for rule changes so that she could play alongside the boys growing up.

'I remember in schools football Maya was initially not allowed to play and I had to find the right people to talk to and cajole them into allowing her to play – we had it at local schools' football, then CI schools and then at south-west level, but every one was a part of the FA and they needed to follow the same regulations, so I was always on to a winner once we started,' he said. 'I remember telling her "it's not just about you Maya, it's about the other girls to come too".'

Memorably, she became a Guernsey football pioneer by being the first girl to represent the island in the Star Trophy and the U16 Muratti. Her dedication was clear to see even at this level, according to a member of Guernsey's coaching team, Stewart Moyles.

'We lost the Star Trophy, so everyone was obviously a bit disheartened, but when GFC played later, when our other players were probably off having a hot dog or something, I saw her in the gym at Footes Lane – that just shows you where she was at.

I don't think she ever thought she was sacrificing anything, that was just what she wanted to do – that's a massive difference to most kids that age. I don't think there was ever a pull for her to be doing something else. She is just phenomenal in that way and that made her easy to coach.'

She has already won a number of local awards for her football and has been back to the island to help coach younger girls. The upward trajectory of her career is testament to the hard work that she – and her family and coaches – has put in so far. But the final whistle is far from being blown, and it is exciting to see where she is headed. Watch this space, as they say.







FAR LEFT: MAYA (NO. 2) PRIOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND NORWAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2022 IN MURCIA, SPAIN. ABOVE LEFT: MAYA ON THE BALL DURING THE MATCH. IMAGES @NAOMI BAKER - THE FA/THE FA VIA GETTY. ABOVE CENTRE: MAYA COACHING THE RAVENSCROFT GIRLS AT ST SAMPSONS HIGH SCHOOL @GUERNSEY PRESS. ABOVE RIGHT: WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - PLAYING FOR MANCHESTER UNITED V WEST HAM UNITED. IMAGE FROM @MAYALETISSIER. LEFT: MAYA AT GIRLS AGE 7-15 SOCCER TRAINING, PORT SOIF, VALE. BELOW: THE GUERNSEY SPORTS COMMISSION TROPHY WINNER – OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR, PICTURE BY TONY CURR. IMAGES @GUERNSEY PRESS

#### GUERNSEY PRESS SPORTS JOURNALIST, HARRY JONES, WENT TO SCHOOL WITH MAYA

'Growing up it was evident that she had an extremely bright future. She didn't just fit in playing alongside the boys, she thrived. She was one of the best players in our entire year group and has hopefully inspired a generation of local girls to take up the beautiful game.

I remember being only 10 or 11 years old telling fellow classmates that she would be playing professional football someday, and that notion of somebody in our little primary school on Guernsey playing on the biggest stages sounded purely ridiculous, but to me it was always pretty obvious that she was destined for the highest levels.

She captained our Castel Primary School team to a Channel Island Championship back when we were just in Year 6, which still remains one of the best moments I have had playing football.

There was never any doubt in my mind that she would achieve what she has already achieved from when we were around that age, so while seeing somebody I grew up with thriving in the Women's Super League and now for England is pretty mental, it is certainly no surprise.

She looked cool and collected on her debut against Norway playing at right-back and centre back, and it definitely would not take a psychic to predict that she will only grow as a full international.

Of course, I do not want to pile unnecessary pressure on Maya, but I'm pretty confident that she will be playing a major role for Sarina Wiegman's Lionesses at the Women's World Cup next year, purely because every time any obstacle is thrown at her she seems to overcome it.

She has made everyone on the island so proud already, and it is so exciting to see what she will achieve next as she rises up the ranks of the women's game each and every day.'

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## HELPING TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOU

At Kings we find members rely on the support of our personal trainers for more than just physical wellbeing. Claire Luvin, Kings Fitness and Wellbeing Manager and Head Personal Trainer, explains how exercise can benefit both the mind and the body and why membership goes beyond first class facilities.

As a personal trainer, I have a responsibility to help our members to reach their physical goals through exercise and develop healthier minds in the process.

Being active is not just a great way for people to stay fit, but it can also have a powerful effect on their mental wellbeing. At Kings, we provide fitness classes and personal training opportunities with mental and physical wellbeing at the very forefront of the activity. We pride ourselves on the friendly and inclusive environment we have built, and the significant investment over recent years means there is everything you could possibly want from a gym or health club membership all under one roof.

New members receive a complimentary club induction and then have access to an amazing array of opportunities from over 100 classes a week, state of the art gym facility, luxury changing rooms and, of course personal training sessions. Our personal training sessions can be booked in either 60-minute or express 30-minute slots. We also offer PT Duo sessions, where two people can train together with one Personal Trainer.

By setting challenging but attainable targets, we can support you to progressively achieve them, providing the right motivation and support to educate you along the way. By combining realistic short and long term goals, everything is achievable.

For example, our For Mind, For Body classes are designed to help those participating lose weight and improve fitness. This six-week programme creates a support group for members and non-members looking to lose fat with a more monitored approach. Research shows that people are more successful at weight loss when they are part of a community with a shared goal.

There is also scientific evidence that during exercise, natural, mood-boosting chemicals are released into the body, such as serotonin, dopamine and endorphins, while harmful, stress-related chemicals are reduced. As such, numerous studies have shown that physical activity can have a strong and positive effect on mental wellbeing and some mental illnesses – increasing self-esteem and reducing stress, anxiety



and depression to improve quality of life. So, my work as a personal trainer is not only helping to make people healthier, but happier too. In support of what we do we also have the technology to back it up.

Knowledge is power when it comes to your body and our fantastic KBT (Kings Boditrax) machine is FREE for all our members to use whenever they want.

It allows members to learn about the make-up of their body, set goals for training and monitor their progress against them. It is a comprehensive method of understanding your physical composition that goes far beyond the humble scale. Using an undetectable electric current, the KBT machine systematically scans your body to assess muscle mass, fat percentage and differences across your body to provide a far more detailed metric of your fitness than just overall weight.

As always, our PT team design training programs around what makes clients comfortable and adapt them when we identify what's working versus what's not.

For many of our members, engaging with others in a friendly sociable environment like a fitness class can be therapeutic. With over 100 classes to choose from there's something for everyone, such as the Les Mills BodyAttack, a high-energy fitness class combining athletic movements like running, lunging and jumping with conditioning exercises such as push-ups and squats. Or the Les Mills Sh'Bam, a dance inspired workout where all you need is a playful attitude.

Studies suggest that any form of physical exercise can help improve our mental and physical health. But, with a fitness trainer in the equation, the chances of skipping the drills are low. In addition, people who struggle with mental well being often find it challenging to do their daily tasks. Enrolling in classes, hiring a personal trainer focused on promoting physical activity, and working towards their personal goals will ensure better mental health in the long run.

There are many types of memberships at Kings offering great value for money. With an unrivalled mix of facilities and services, you'll enjoy a great new experience that will see you meeting new challenges, new people and improving your lifestyle.

Kings offers over 100 classes a week, world class studios, state of the art gym technology, luxury changing rooms, extensive on site facilities and a focus on making the most of you. Membership for adults start from just £52 per month, or try a Day Pass for just £27.50. Enquire today on **01481 723366** or email **info@king.gg**.

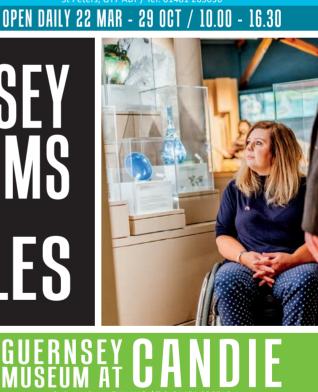




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# GUERNSEY MUSEUMS AND CASTLES



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## MUG OFF-ROAD CHARITY RIDE

About 300 cyclists of all ages took part in the Male Uprising Guernsey [MUG] charity cycle ride, which was sponsored by Oak. MUG was founded in 2012, with the aim of increasing awareness of male cancers and to help those who are affected by prostate, bowel and testicular cancer.

Riders started at Saumarez Park, and headed to Grandes Rocques, via the La Mare nature trail, then around the coast to Bordeaux and finished at Vale Castle with an after-party. About 95% of the twohour ride is off road and is not typically accessible to the public.

All proceeds go towards local male cancer projects. The event was also supported by Ian Brown's Cycle Shop and TPA.

## SKIPTON SWIMARATHON RAISES £65K



The annual charity swimming event, which took place over five days at Beau Sejour and local schools, saw 1,892 swimmers complete a total of 704km in the pool, raising around £65,000 between them.

Swimarathon organising committee chairman John Stuart said that the event had been 'extremely successful'.

Grow Ltd – a charity that supports people with learning and other disabilities – has received £25,000 backing from the event already, and the remaining money will be shared between Guernsey Round Table and the Lions Club of Guernsey. They will use it to help the local community.

## SKYDIVE RAISES MORE THAN £10K FOR CANCER RELIEF



The Guernsey Society for Cancer Relief has received more than £10,000 from a charity skydive in memory of John Le Tissier. His widow, Steph Le Tissier, and her friend, Aimee Brownee, dived 10,000 feet over Guernsey. They were in freefall for 30 seconds, falling 5,000 feet at 120mph, before gently gliding down the rest of the fall once the chutes opened.

The jump had already been cancelled once due to Covid, but took part on a sunny day, with almost perfect conditions for it. Steph and Aimee jumped with Skydive Jersey, landing at L'Eree on the fields used for the West Show.

'I was hoping we could possibly raise a few thousand pounds at least, but there were people who did not know John, myself or even our family donating to my Just Giving page, some of whom are not even from Guernsey, which was utterly amazing,' said Steph. 'It just shows how much love and kindness there is in this world. I'm truly humbled by it all.'

# CELEBRATING THE ISLANDS' COMMUNITY HEROES

## THE ANNUAL GUERNSEY PRESS PRIDE OF GUERNSEY AWARDS RECOGNISED SOME OF THE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE LIVING LOCALLY

Unsung heroes from across the Bailiwick of Guernsey were recognised in the Guernsey Press Pride of Guernsey Awards.

The 42 shortlisted nominees, drawn from more than 100 nominations sent in by the public, were up for 14 awards on the night at the St Pierre Park Hotel. The awards cover all aspects of island life – from neighbours and carers to emergency heroes and teachers. The awards were hosted by Carl Ward, with special guests Andy and Jo Priaulx.

Find out more at prideofguernsey.com

## PRIDE OF GUERNSEY AWARD WINNERS

Diversity & inclusion – sponsored by RBC: Adrian Sarchet

Grandparent of the Year – sponsored by CI Co-op: **Mike Chapple** 

Angel of the Year – sponsored by Ravenscroft: **Roustel Ward** 

Teacher of the Year – sponsored by HSBC:

#### Fiona McGinn

Customer Service of the Year – sponsored by DWA: Julie Williams

Sustainability Hero of the Year – sponsored by Aon: **Pollinator Project** 

Emergency Hero of the Year –

sponsored by MSG: Flying Christine III crew Overcoming Adversity – sponsored by Close Finance: Anthony McMahon

Parent of the Year – sponsored by Ray & Scott: **Helen O'Hara** 

Arts Contribution of the Year – sponsored by Moonpig: **Sark Festival organisers** 

Young Achiever of the Year – sponsored by St Pierre Park Hotel: GATE U17s song & dance group

Sports Volunteer of the Year – sponsored by Sure: Heather Robilliard

Neighbour of the Year – sponsored by Guernsey Energy: **Brenda Galsworthy** 

Carer of the Year – sponsored by Specsavers: Martine Dean

























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150ml Coca Cola or Diet Coke

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150ml

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150ml Slimline Tonic Water or Tonic Water

500ml Still Spring Water £2 200ml Robinsons Fruit Shoot £2.20

#### BREAKFAST BITES **Muffins**



## **SWEETS**

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#### **SNACKS**

Pringles Original or Sour Cream & Chive

#### Mini Cheddars

Sea Salted Pretzels

Snack Shortcake



## **BAR DRINKS**

2 FO

£ 8

FO f8

2 FOR

Jack Rabbit £5 18.75cl Sauvignon Blanc. Rosé or Merlot

Lunetta Prosecco £6.50 200ml

Strongbow Cider, Carlsberg Lager or Guinness £5 440ml



Smirnoff Red, Bombay

Sapphire, Famous Grouse.

2 FOR Spirits 50ml £5.50 Bacardi, Courvoisier, Gordon's, Jack Daniel's,





## COMBO DEALS

DEAL 1	DEAL 2	DEAL 3	DEAL 4	DEAL 5	DEAL 6
Hot drink AND Muffin	Cheddars, Pretzels OR Pringles AND Beer, Cider,	Cheddars, Pretzels OR Pringles AND	Kit Kat OR Maltesers OR Dairy Milk OR	Soft drink AND Kit Kat OR Maltesers OR Dairy Milk OR	Beer OR Cider AND Wine
£4.50	OR Wine <u>£7.00</u>	a soft drink £3.50	Snack Shortcake £4.50	Snack Shortcake £3.00	£8

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▶ Mayfair	£43	-	
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