



EnVoyage Aurigny's Magazine

GUERNSEY'S AIRLINE
aurigny

FREE
TO TAKE AWAY

EnVoyage

Aurigny's leisure and business magazine

ISSUE 39

ISSUE 39



2025: A NEW HORIZON

Expert guidance on your Guernsey relocation

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

Whether you're buying, selling or investing in property in the Channel Islands, you'll be getting market-leading legal advice when you instruct us.

We specialise in supporting high net-worth individuals and their families. Our clients value our personal, commercial and comprehensive approach.

Our services include:

- buying and selling property
- high value residency
- coordinating local advisors
- private wealth services
- wills and estate planning
- moving your business
- commercial property



Scan to find out more

Ogier
Property Law

Redwood House, St Julian's Avenue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1WA | Telephone: +44 1481 721672
44 Esplanade, St Helier, Jersey JE4 9WG | Telephone: +44 1534 514056
See ogier.com for more information about Ogier's legal services.

ogierproperty.com

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

BUSINESS NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

PLUS LOTS MORE

IMAGE: RIOMAGGIORE, LIGURIA DISTRICT, NEAR GENOA

CATHERINE BEST

UNIVERSAL VISION FROM A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

DOMINION

An international business, proudly based in Guernsey since 2004

dominion-funds.com

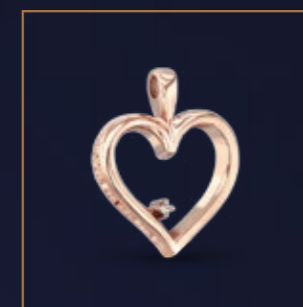
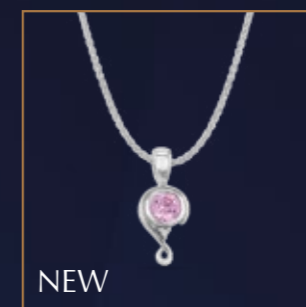
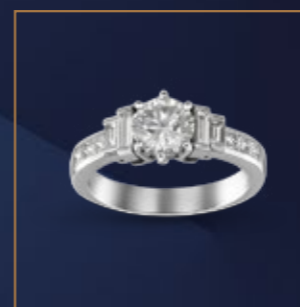
Image © Fiore Photography



VALENTINE'S DAY

Say I Love You
with Catherine Best

Blue Aurora
This exceptional Tourmaline
ring is destined to become a
cherished heirloom



Looking for the perfect piece of jewellery to say those three words. There's no better way to show your love than with our stunning Valentine's collection.

Find out more



LONDON | JERSEY | GUERNSEY



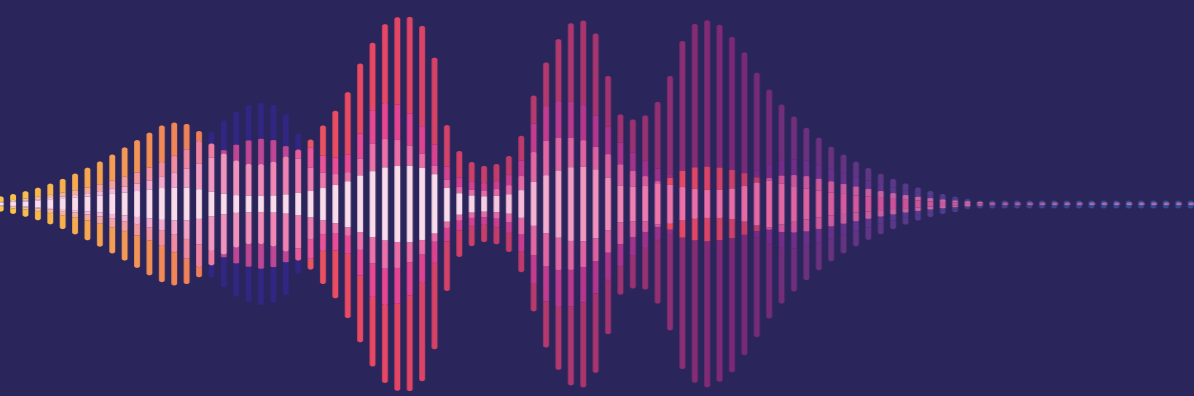
catherinebest.com



Tel: 01481 237771 | Open seven days a week

We've got it covered

Listen wherever you get your podcasts, or at guernseypress.com/podcasts



- RUGBY
- THEATRE
- ELECTION
- FOOTBALL
- MUSIC
- POLITICS
- DEPUTIES
- ATHLETICS
- CULTURE
- POLICIES
- GOLF
- DESIGN



Guernsey  Press

'THE WORLD IS A BOOK AND THOSE WHO DO NOT TRAVEL READ ONLY ONE PAGE.'

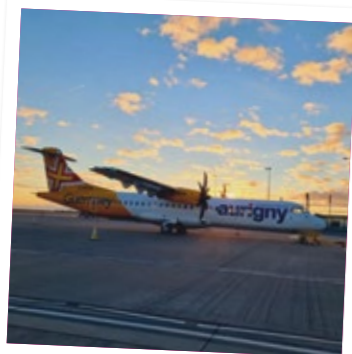
St Augustine



IMAGE ©VISITGUERNSEY

#Aurigny SEND US YOUR SHOTS!

We want to see your photos, perhaps a colourful sunset at 12,000 feet, a runway panoramic or an on board 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.



@glassboom_diaries
#Aurigny sunrise and sunsets Guernsey Airline. Servicing the Channel Islands



@maaikepilot
Sunset landing into London Gatwick

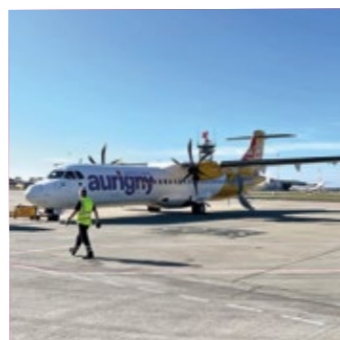


@maaikepilot
Jets are for hot tubs



@airsideellie
To finish off my wing collection.

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



@londonsouthendairport
We loved hosting the team from @aurigny_gsy for this diversion a few weeks back.

TPA Don't chase, lead.

tpagency.com

Produced six times a year visit aurignymedia.com

COVER PHOTO
Riomaggiore, Liguria @istockphoto

Original content published in this magazine cannot be copied or reproduced without prior permission of the publishers. The views expressed in En Voyage are not necessarily those of Aurigny or TPA.

IMAGES
Unless otherwise specified, all vendor images are copyright to that establishment.

Aurigny Air Services Ltd,
States Airport,
La Planque Lane, Forest,
Guernsey, GY8 ODT

aurigny.com

MEET THE TEAM



EDITOR
AMANDA EULENKAMP
amanda@aurignymedia.com
Call +44 (0) 1481 240234



ADVERTISING
ASHLEY MILES
ash@aurignymedia.com
Call +44 (0) 1481 240245

CONTRIBUTORS

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

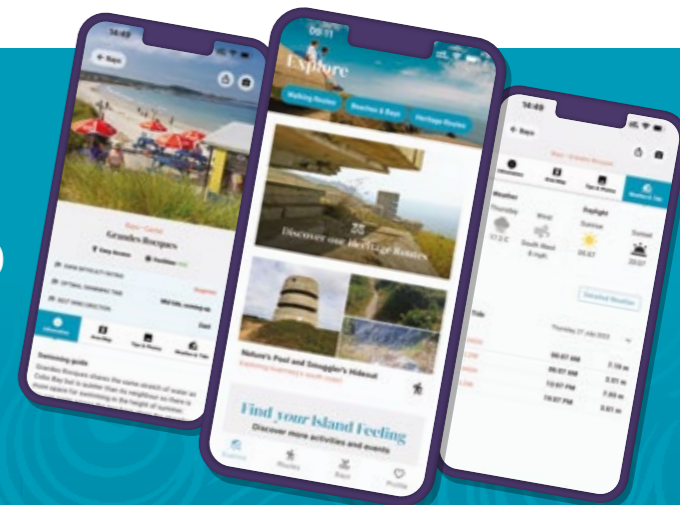
CONTENTS

- 9 **A QUICK GUIDE TO...**
Paris, Edinburgh and Genoa
- 19 **GUERNSEY BEACH GUIDE**
Petit Bot
- 20 **KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE**
The German Occupation Museum
- 25 **WHAT'S ON?**
Forthcoming events in the Bailiwick and beyond
- 28 **WEAVING THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**
The Alderney Literary Festival
- 30 **WRITE STUFF COMPETITION**
Seeking the Bailiwick's young writers
- 34 **WORKING FROM HOME**
Dawn O'Porter on why Guernsey is such an inspiration to her
- 36 **GUERNSEY CONNECTING**
Breaks in the UK and abroad
- 38 **ITALY'S TIMELESS TRIO**
Rome, Milan and Florence
- 44 **CITY TO CITY**
Mini breaks via London City Airport
- 46 **VILNIUS, LITHUANIA**
Discover the Baltic way of life
- 49 **COMING HOME**
Winchester student Charlotte Green
- 53 **FIVE FUN THINGS TO DO...**
Near Southampton Airport
- 54 **48 HOURS IN SALISBURY**
A charming blend of medieval heritage and natural beauty
- 58 **FIELD OF DREAMS**
Creating a luxury glampsite in Guernsey
- 62 **BUSINESS SECTION**
Inspiring interviews and local news
- 92 **CAPTAIN WILLIAM LE LACHEUR**
The Guernseyman who saved Costa Rica
- 96 **EASTER IDEAS FOR KIDS**
Keeping busy in the school holidays
- 99 **SPORT**
- 106 **COMMUNITY SPIRIT**
- 109 **SKY SNACKS AND DUTY FREE**

The ISLANDS of GUERNSEY

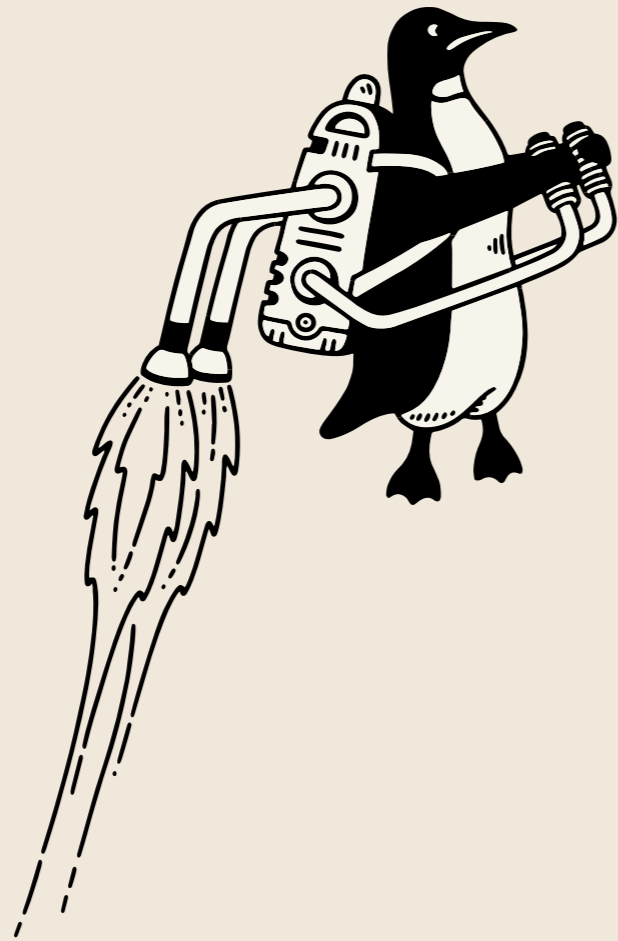
Download our App

Explore the islands' stunning scenery, secluded coves and rich heritage with self-guided walks and wild swimming guides.



Don't
chase,
lead.

TPA



Great
ideas can
take you
anywhere —

TPA is the Channel Islands' leading creative agency.
So, if you want to lead together, talk to us. tpagency.com



New beginnings in 2025 with Aurigny

PHILIP SMALLWOOD, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

On behalf of our crew and the entire Aurigny team, I warmly welcome you aboard. We're delighted to be of service today, helping you connect with the people and places that matter most.

As one of the newest members of the Aurigny team, it feels fitting to reflect that spring is just around the corner; a time for renewal, fresh opportunities and new beginnings. With that in mind, we're pleased to have announced our new seasonal route from Guernsey to Genoa, Italy - a city renowned for its vibrant history, stunning coastline, and delicious cuisine. Flights are available to book now at aurigny.com

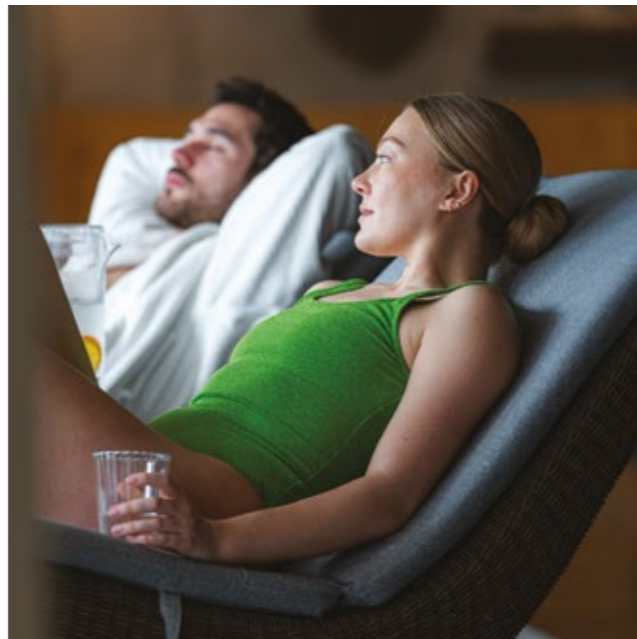
Here at home, Guernsey and Alderney truly come to life in spring - as the islands bloom with wildflowers and lush greenery, their coastal paths and

countryside trails become a haven for walkers and nature lovers. If you're visiting, we trust your stay will be an enjoyable one.

Behind the scenes, the dedicated team at Aurigny are firmly focused on the year ahead, with a particular emphasis on preparing for the 80th Liberation Events in May. This milestone is not only an opportunity to honour the past but also a moment to reflect on the values that define Guernsey—determination, resilience, and a strong sense of community—values also shared by our team.

Thank you for choosing to fly with us today. We wish you safe travels and fresh adventures this season.

Bon voyage!



ST PIERRE PARK
— HOTEL, SPA & GOLF RESORT —
ST PETER PORT, GUERNSEY

PURE RELAXATION AWAITS

Treat yourself to the ultimate spa experience with a carefully curated selection of luxurious treatments. From soothing massages and revitalizing facials to serene spa days, everything is designed to help you unwind, relax, and feel your very best.

01481 753385 | handpickedhotels.co.uk/stpierrepark

HandPICKED
HOTELS



ABOVE LEFT: NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL; ABOVE: THE SACRÉ-COEUR. BELOW: VERSAILLES. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

A QUICK GUIDE TO... PARIS

With Notre Dame recently reopened after its devastating fire, and with Aurigny continuing its twice-weekly (Fridays and Mondays) flights to the French capital, now is the perfect time to book a trip to Paris.

No doubt millions of people will plan to visit **Notre Dame** this year. The cathedral is open year-round, every day of the week, and entry is free. Check out the official website notredamedeparis.fr/en/ before visiting for up-to-date news.

If you want to get your bearings, consider either a boat ride on the **River Seine** (why not indulge in a dinner cruise?) or how about a hop-on hop-off bus? This will allow you to visit places such as Notre Dame, the **Louvre Museum** (home to the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo), the **Paris Opera House** (one of the most elaborate buildings in the city), and the **Gardens of Trocadero** (enjoy its fountains and statues before heading up to one of the most spectacular and iconic buildings in the city, the **Eiffel Tower**).

Constructed (as a temporary structure!) between 1887-9 for the 'Exposition Universelle', a World Fair that marked the centenary of the French Revolution, the Eiffel Tower is synonymous with Paris. Restaurant options accompanied by fantastic views across the city simply means that you should leave plenty of time for your visit. See toureiffel.paris/en to plan your time there.

Views across the city (including the Eiffel Tower) can also be seen from the **Tour Montparnasse**. Europe's fastest elevator (a mere 38 seconds) will swiftly whisk you up there. Stay and indulge in a bite to eat, or head back down to Montparnasse, known for its famous cafes and brasseries where writers, painters, and poets gathered at the beginning of the 20th century.

At the top of the world-famous **Champs-Élysées** is the **Arc de Triomphe**, one of the most famous symbols of Paris. It was commissioned in 1806 after the victory at Austerlitz by Emperor Napoleon I at the peak of his powers. The monument stands over 51 meters (165 feet) in height and is 45 meters wide. Its design was inspired by the Roman Arch of Titus and is so large that an early daredevil flew his plane through it.

Beneath the Arc is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (from the First World War, interred here on Armistice Day 1920) and an eternal flame which burns in memory of the dead who were never identified (now in both World Wars).

The Arc has one lift, to the level underneath the exterior observation floor. Visitors can either climb 284 steps to reach the top or take the lift and walk up the remaining 46 steps. From the top there is an excellent view of all Paris and of the 12 major avenues leading to and from the Arc.

Another Parisian landmark is the **Basilique du Sacré-Cœur de Montmartre**. Stroll through the chapels to admire the mosaics (it houses France's largest at 480 m²) before climbing up the Dome to enjoy a view of the city. The **Montmartre** district is one of the most famous – explore its cobbled streets, bistros, museums and nightlife.

Make time to take the short train ride from the centre of Paris to the stunningly beautiful **Palace of Versailles**. As well as the various extravagantly decorated palaces and out-buildings, the grounds of Versailles contain one of the largest formal gardens ever created, with extensive parterres, fountains and canals. Check out en.chateauversailles.fr for further information and ticket options.



Book at aurigny.com



ABOVE: THE WILLOW TEA ROOMS, GLASGOW; RIGHT: EDINBURGH CASTLE. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

ABOVE LEFT: BOCCADASSE; ABOVE: VIA GARIBALDI. BELOW: GALATA MUSEO DEL MARE. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

A QUICK GUIDE TO... EDINBURGH

Aurigny's weekly (Wednesday) flights to Edinburgh are the perfect opportunity to combine a break in the capital with a side visit to Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city.

Dominating the Edinburgh skyline is the medieval **Edinburgh Castle**. It is home to many important Scottish artefacts, including the UK's oldest crown jewels. The castle has a long rich history as a royal residence, military garrison, prison and fortress. If time is limited, then take a guided tour or log onto edinburghcastle.scot to see highlights. Make a day of it by including a bite to eat, or indulge in afternoon tea at The Tea Rooms, nestled at the top of the castle in Crown Square.

Edinburgh Castle is part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site; the juxtaposition of the two areas gives the city its unique character.

You won't miss **The Royal Mile**, which connects Edinburgh Castle with the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**.

Visit for its shops (make time to pop into the The Edinburgh Chocolatarium, a place dedicated to all things chocolate, and of course the Scotch Whisky Experience, for a dram of finest Scottish whisky) as well as its attractions – check out The Real Mary King's Close or the Scottish Storytelling Centre, historical sites including St Giles' Cathedral, and the ultra-modern Scottish

Parliament, a striking building boasting a cutting-edge design.

For 360-degree views of Edinburgh and the Lothians, head to Arthur's Seat, located within Holyrood Park. The ancient volcano sits 251m above sea level – you'll also be able to see the medieval remains of St Anthony's Chapel. There are plenty of paths and trails to follow, suitable for all, including the trail to St Margaret's Loch which is both wheelchair and buggy accessible.

If you're looking for a thrilling alternative adventure, visit **The Edinburgh Dungeons**, where you'll learn about the city's gruesome history. Walk the plague-ridden streets of 1645, evade the murderous duo Burke and Hare, and even face a trial. With live actors, underground rides and special effects, you're guaranteed a 'spooktacular' time. If you're feeling brave, check out thedungeons.com/Edinburgh.

Why not head over to **GLASGOW** for a two-city break? The train from Edinburgh (Waverley) to Glasgow (Queen Street) takes just over an hour on average.

History buffs should visit **Glasgow Cathedral**, widely considered the city's oldest building. The awe-inspiring building dedicated to St Kentigern, also known as St Mungo, was built in the 1100s and drew countless pilgrims to his shrine. Today, it's the most complete medieval cathedral on the Scottish mainland,

having survived the Protestant Reformation almost intact.

Visit it for its crypt, built in the mid-1200s, the pulpitum (a richly carved stone screen between the choir and nave added in the early 1400s), and find the effigy of Bishop Wishart, an ally of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

Buchanan Street is Glasgow's main pedestrianised shopping area. Take a break from the shopping at the famous **Willow Tea Rooms** (booking recommended). Once fed and watered, continue shopping in Sauchiehall Street and Argyle Street, both of which connect with Buchanan Street.

Science buffs should head to the **Glasgow Science Centre**, including the Newton Flight Academy. Budding scientists can enjoy numerous experiences, such as The Planetarium, a spectacular state-of-the-art full-dome digital projection system. Plan your visit at glasgowsciencecentre.org.

And finally, if you need some peace and quiet, wander 50 acres of leafy parkland in the heart of the west end at **Glasgow Botanical Gardens**. Visit Kibble Palace, a magnificent wrought iron-framed Victorian glasshouse filled with exotic tree ferns, plus a further 11 other balmy glasshouses.

A QUICK GUIDE TO... GENOA

Aurigny is operating a weekly Saturday flight direct from Guernsey to Genoa, running from 12 April to 10 May, just in time for Easter and the perfect spring getaway. Whether you're planning a short city break or looking to explore more of Liguria, Genoa is ready to enchant you.

No visit to Genoa is complete without stepping into **Palazzo Ducale**, the city's historic heart and cultural hub. Once the residence of Genoa's doges, this stunning palace now hosts art exhibitions, cultural events, and concerts. Its central location makes it a perfect starting point for your Genoese adventure. Check out the calendar at palazzoducale.genova.it for current events.

For a glimpse into Genoa's seafaring history, head to the **Galata Museo del Mare** (Galata Maritime Museum). It's the largest maritime museum in the Mediterranean; explore life-sized ship replicas, historical artefacts, and even a submarine. The panoramic terrace offers sweeping views of the city and port – a perfect spot for photos. Visit galatamuseodelmare.it for further information about opening times and exhibitions and events.

Strolling through **Via Garibaldi**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is like stepping back in time. The opulent palazzi lining the street, such as Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo

Bianco, house incredible art collections featuring works by Van Dyck, Caravaggio, and Rubens. These grand mansions provide an unforgettable peek into Genoa's Renaissance splendour.

Don't miss the chance to explore Genoa's lively **Caruggi** (narrow alleyways). Here, you'll find everything from boutique shops to historic churches tucked away in atmospheric corners. Stop for an espresso or aperitivo at a cosy café to soak up the local vibe.

If you're a foodie, Genoa won't disappoint. The bustling **Mercato Orientale**, located in a 19th-century covered market, is a haven for lovers of Italian cuisine. Stock up on fragrant focaccia, handmade pasta, and local olive oils, or enjoy freshly prepared dishes at one of the market's eateries.

For nature lovers, Genoa offers plenty of options. Take a hike through the **Parco delle Mura**, with trails that wind past ancient forts and offer panoramic views of the city and the Ligurian Sea. Or head to **Nervi**, where seaside cliffs and botanical gardens make for a serene escape from the urban bustle.

Want to see Genoa from the water? Hop aboard a **Genoa Port Cruise**, where you'll enjoy a leisurely journey through one of Europe's largest ports, learning about its history while soaking in views of the city's skyline. Look out for dolphins – they're

known to make appearances!

Make time to visit **Bocchadasse**, a colourful fishing village on the city's edge, which offers picture-perfect charm. Wander the pebble beach, enjoy a gelato by the sea, or savour a classic Genovese pesto dish at one of the quaint restaurants. It's a slice of Ligurian paradise just a short bus ride from the city centre.

Beyond Genoa, the city's proximity to **Milan**, **Turin**, and **Pisa** makes it an ideal base for wider exploration. Whether it's the fashion capital of Milan, Turin's grand boulevards, or the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa, these destinations are all within a few hours' travel.

With its rich history, breathtaking vistas, and culinary delights, Genoa is a treasure waiting to be discovered. Book your spring flight and let this captivating city sweep you off your feet.

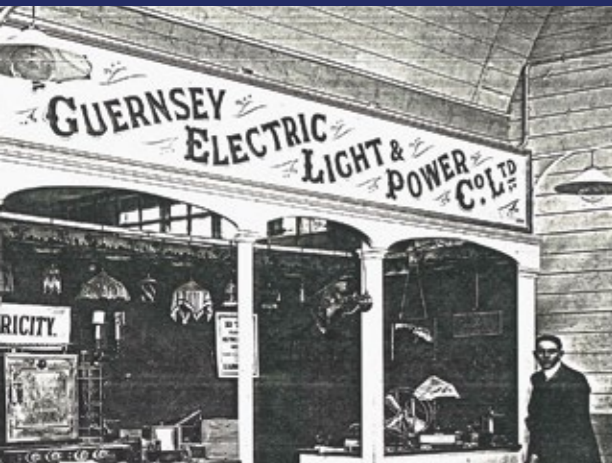




CABLE LAYING IN MARKET SQUARE IN THE EARLY 1900S



IN 1933 THE STATES TOOK OWNERSHIP AND RENAMED THE COMPANY 'STATES ELECTRICITY BOARD'



ELECTRICITY USED BY GERMAN FORCES IN 1940-41

ELECTRICITY USED BY GERMAN FORCES		
Date	Units	Notes
1940/41		
July and August	7672	
September	5000	
October	33030	
November	42892	
December	68942	
January	100125	
February	62025	
March	45163	
April	45707	
May	44262	
June	30000	1941
July	28409	1941
August	52100	1941

MUSCLE POWER TO MEGAWATTS

In 1937, a Francis Barritt Hills made a significant quote that has filtered through the generations.

"... there is hardly one outstanding invention of the pasty fifty years that does not employ the medium of electricity in one form or another."

Eighty-eight years later, and we can all agree on one thing – electricity makes almost everything we do possible.

And this year, we're celebrating 125 years of bringing power to Guernsey, giving us the chance to turn down the notifications on modern life and take a step back to see how far we've come.

GUERNSEY'S BIG BANG

Scrolling back to 1900, Guernsey's very first electricity company was formed after a Mr F.E. Gripper received a concession to build and operate an "electricity generating and distribution system" in 1898 on behalf of Edmundsons Electricity Corporate of London.

The Yacht Hotel – better known today as Boots the chemist – was the first building to be wired. However, the people of Guernsey had to wait until February 1900 for the first units of power to be generated and 'distributed' to customers from Les Amballes power station in St Peter Port.

Officially opened on 26th July 1900, Les Amballes was soon followed by another power station at Northside, the Vale. At a time when only coal was used to generate electricity, thankfully the island's 'maximum demand' was just 150 kilowatts.

For some context, today 150 kilowatts could power the heating and ventilation system in a medium sized office.

STATE OWNED

After a long public debate, the States of Guernsey took ownership of the 'Guernsey Electric Light & Power Company', creatively re-naming our utility as the 'States Electricity Board' on 1 July 1933.

THE OCCUPATION

At a time when blackout rehearsals were normal, the maximum demand during the winter of 1936/37 rose to nearly 3 megawatts serving a customer group of over 5,000. With the prospect of war growing, the time came for the States Electricity Board to reinforce our power station.

During the German Occupation, electricity was severely restricted as emergency stock of coal and oil needed to be gathered. By the end of March 1945, electricity became severely limited. Even the hospital only had power for four hours a day. To islander's relief, electricity rationing came to a welcome end on 24th May 1945.

STORMS OF CHANGE

You may have noticed that unlike most parts of the world, we have no overhead power line cables in Guernsey.

The storms of early 1985 brought down several overhead power line cables, causing some of the frequent power cuts people may remember. These storms were eye-openers that sped up the decision to relocate any overhead lines below ground to be safe from Guernsey's cruel high winds.

Any doubts over the wisdom of this decision were blown away on the night of the 15th/16th October 1987 when hurricane forces of the 'Great Storm of 1987' hit Guernsey. As it took around 5-weeks to repair the damage, all remaining overhead lines were replaced with underground cables over the following 15 years.

INCORPORATED BUSINESS

In 1993, a name you're maybe more familiar with became official when 'Guernsey Electricity' was adopted as the trading name. In 1998, the 'Channel Islands Electricity Grid' was also established to operate subsea cables supplying electricity from Europe to provide a secure, reliable and affordable electricity source.

In 2001, GE became 'GEL' as Guernsey Electricity became a Limited Company following commercialisation. The 'States Trading Supervisory Board' remains the sole shareholder.

CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

While celebrating GEL's 100th anniversary, the year 2000 spelled great – positive – change for the island as the subsea cable 'Guernsey-Jersey 1' (GJ1) was installed.

In fact, it was this event that had the biggest reduction to the island's carbon emissions on 1990's levels as a huge amount of demand was removed from our fossil-fuel power station.

Stretching from the shores of France to Havelet Bay, via Jersey, each day the GJ1 cable imports around 60 megawatts of low carbon electricity from the European grid to our homes and workplaces.

POWERING CHANGE TODAY

The only constant has been change over the last 125 years, and today you'll see or hear about us developing the network every single day. With conversations around on-island renewables, new technology and decarbonisation always strong talking points, we're working hard upgrading our network to decarbonise the island.

If you'd like to stay in the know with what's happening today, why not sign up for our e-newsletter or follow us on social media.

www.electricity.gg/subscribe



CABLE LINK FROM FRANCE VIA JERSEY BEING INSTALLED AT HAVELET BAY IN 2000



THE GUERNSEY ELECTRICITY TEAM OUTSIDE THE RETAIL STORE



SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED ON THE ROOF OF THE POWER STATION





OUR FLEET

Aurigny has a fleet of five fuel-efficient ATR aircraft and two next Generation Dornier 228s.

The aircraft are suited to our regional network.

Did you know? Some of our aircraft registrations have a special meaning to us; for example, G-PEMB is named after Pembroke Bay in Guernsey.



ATR 72-600
NUMBER IN FLEET 5
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)



1968
Founded



17 MILLION
Aurigny has carried over 17 million passengers since it was founded



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



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



1
FA Cup
Flown to Guernsey on 19th August 2016



7
Aircraft



1
Birth on board
Between Alderney and Guernsey



1
In-flight marriage



300
Staff



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 FROM ALDERNEY

- ALDERNEY
- BIRMINGHAM
- BRISTOL
- DUBLIN*
- EDINBURGH
- EXETER
- GRENOBLE*
- LEEDS BRADFORD*
- LONDON CITY
- LONDON GATWICK
- MANCHESTER
- SOUTHAMPTON
- PARIS CDG

- GUERNSEY
- SOUTHAMPTON

We will be operating a European Easter route to Genoa from 12 April to 10 May inclusive. More European routes will be added soon. Visit Aurigny.com for more details

*Denotes seasonal route

SAFETY FIRST

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 the 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.

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, take-off 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. Bluetooth can only be used throughout the flight on the ATR.

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, take-off and landing.

BLUETOOTH ACCESSORIES

All Bluetooth accessories (for example wireless keyboards, headphones etc.) may be used on 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 seatbelt 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 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 & 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



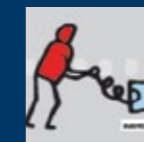
Smoking anywhere on board, including in the lavatories



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



© Darya Ostapenko



GUERNSEY MUSEUM AT CANDIE

Exhibition developed by



Wildlife Photographer of the Year

31 January - 23 March 2025

Guernsey Museum at Candie, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port
Open daily 10am - 4pm / FREE entry with a discovery pass

www.museums.gov.gg

GUERNSEY

Beach Guide

Guernsey has a beach and a bay for everyone. Here we discover Petit Bot.



PETIT BOT

A gentle drive down through a leafy valley eventually brings you to Petit Bot, one of the island's most popular beaches. You don't have to spend all that much time here to understand why.

A solitary loophole tower stands watch over an expanse of sand that gradually opens up as the tide recedes. Boasting countless rock pools (and one cave) to explore, and wide open spaces ideal for sandcastles and ball games, Petit Bot can sometimes seem like a laboratory experiment aiming to create the perfect beach for small children.

The cliffs that surround the bay form magnificent views in all directions and, in late August or September, also provide a modicum of shelter from the chilly autumnal winds should summer slip away earlier than seems fair. This towering backdrop can be a problem, however, if you intend to do some evening sunbathing – even in June the sun will disappear by about 6pm.

High tide might eradicate the sand, but swimming becomes even more enjoyable as the waters rise. For the more adventurous,

it's possible to swim around the western headland to another sandy beach, Portelet, which is to all intents and purposes inaccessible from the cliff path, and thus tends to be blissfully deserted. These twin beaches are popular locations for kayakers.

With convenient facilities, and food available from a kiosk beside the loophole tower, you can more or less stay at Petit Bot all day if you want to. And you'll probably want to.

Taken from Guernsey Beach Guide

Best Feature: All that sand makes Petit Bot a popular 'bucket-and-spade' location.

Optimum Tide: Mid, going down.


IMAGES: ABOVE @SHUTTERSTOCK; BELOW @GUERNSEY PRESS.



SOUTH COAST

WHAT'S THERE ?

-  CAFÉ
-  SWIM
-  TOILETS

 **DOGS ON BEACHES**
See gov.gg/dogsonbeaches for up-to-date information.



ABOVE: RICHARD HEAUME. RIGHT: EXTERIOR OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION MUSEUM @VISITGUERNSEY. FAR RIGHT: OCCUPATION STREET.

GERMAN OCCUPATION MUSEUM: SHINING A LIGHT ON GUERNSEY'S DARKEST PERIOD

With Guernsey gearing up for a special year of commemoration, Simon De La Rue visited Occupation expert Richard Heaume to discuss his unique museum and his lifelong passion for keeping history alive.

One of the biggest events in Guernsey in 2025 will be the celebration of the 80th anniversary of liberation from German military occupation on 9 May.

Naturally, a great deal of attention will be focused on the liberating task force itself – Force 135 – and the euphoria which engulfed a starving and diminished population. Some argue it is the most significant date in Channel Island history.

But rather than one day, the story of the islands' occupation during the Second World War is a tale of almost five years – beginning as it did on the last day of June 1940 – and the storyteller-in-chief is indisputably Richard Heaume.

His German Occupation Museum, tucked away in the lanes behind the little parish church of Ste Marguerite

de la Foret and a short walk from Guernsey Airport, opened 59 years ago and continues to open 363 days of the year – only keeping its doors closed on 1 January and Christmas Day.

SERVE THE PUBLIC

'We are here to serve the public, year round,' Richard tells me, as we take our seats in his museum cafe – where he charges old-school prices and a sign on the fruit bowl says "Free - help yourself".

The same sign could easily have been draped across any number of German military structures during the 1950s, when Richard and some of his fellow school friends found them irresistible for exploring and investigating.

Understandably, most of the population that had lived through the Occupation – or those that had left their island through evacuation, deportation or serving their country in the armed forces – were keen to move on. Most of these sites were regarded as architectural monstrosities with nothing to offer but scrap metal.

CAVES OF ALADDIN

For Richard and his schoolmates at St Peter Port's Elizabeth College – born during the Occupation but too young to have understood its privations at the time – the bunkers and tunnels were like the caves of Aladdin. The friends formed a school group called the German Occupation Research Department.

'We were quite defiant because the authorities at Elizabeth College were not keen on people bringing weapons and artefacts to school or breaking into tunnels and trespassing,' he recalls, 'so we were all threatened with expulsion. But we stuck to our guns and met in the house opposite the museum in the attic on a regular basis in the 1950s.'

By 1961, the group had done most of their exploring and decided to form the German Occupation Society, which became the Channel Islands Occupation Society.

'I decided at that time that I wanted to open a museum,' Richard says, 'and the members were welcome to be a part of it, but I was going to do it on my own initiative.'

'I OPENED THE MUSEUM HERE IN 1966 WHEN I WAS 21 OR 22 AND I HAVEN'T LOOKED BACK. I'VE KEPT IT OPEN EVER SINCE.'

'When the farm cottage here became vacant in 1965, I asked if I could keep my collection in the attic. As time went on, we opened the next section and continued to build on it. I opened the museum here in 1966 when I was 21 or 22 and I haven't looked back. I've kept it open ever since.'

Once opened, he quickly found his collection bolstered by donations and items offered for sale. Within two years, the not-for-profit museum had doubled in size and it was significantly extended in 1976, when the display corridor, tearoom and toilets were added, and again in 1987, when the hugely impressive Occupation Street was opened on the upper floor.

AUTHENTICITY

However, regardless of his appetite to expand, Richard is determined not to dilute the authenticity of his collection and will not take just any wartime trinket or piece of Nazi memorabilia.

'We salvaged things from the tunnels, such as whole suitcases

of German uniforms which they couldn't take with them, as they left as prisoners-of-war,' he says, 'and we've collected some items from Sark and one or two relevant pieces from Jersey, but everything is sourced here in the islands – we don't import anything.'

'ISLAND MADNESS'

That there was so much material left behind in 1945 is a reflection of Adolf Hitler's obsession with these islands. His own generals described his over-emphasis of their symbolic importance as his 'island madness'.

Having gained a piece of British territory, he poured resources into defending the Channel Islands – and Guernsey in particular – out of all proportion to their strategic value. In 1941, he personally studied maps of the islands and ordered the construction of more than 200 defensive positions in Guernsey alone. Almost 10% of all the concrete used to build Hitler's Atlantic Wall – from northern Norway to southern France – was poured in Guernsey, and as many as 70,000 mines were laid across more than a hundred minefields.

Today, an impressive array of mines – in cross-section for ease of interpretation – are on display in Richard's museum, along with pistols, sub-machine guns, mobile

artillery pieces, motorbikes and even a searchlight. Richard also has an exceedingly rare four-wheeler Enigma machine.

In one room, one of the oldest and most recognisable parts of the museum for locals, there is a tableau of mannequins depicting a family at their kitchen table, listening to a crystal set – a rudimentary radio – for news from the BBC, while keeping an eye out for any approaching Germans.

LITTLE DETAILS

As you wander around the many rooms, it's often the little details that bring home the realities of life under occupation, such as a simple wooden sign which reads 'under water explosives in this bay, all bathing prohibited', a hospital worker's armband featuring a swastika over a red cross, or the tiny camera used by Reg Blanchford – of the Order of St John – to take surreptitious photographs of German activity through the buttonhole of his coat, at great risk to himself.

That last item is included in a profoundly moving display about the ship which saved hundreds – some say thousands – of lives in the last few, desperate months of the Occupation. With the D-Day landings and the subsequent



ABOVE RIGHT: THE RED CROSS SHIP, THE SS VEGA. OPPOSITE PAGE: HORSE-DRAWN AMBULANCE.

advance of Allied forces through nearby France, German supply lines were cut off. For several months, Winston Churchill forbade the delivery of emergency rations to the islands. If the occupying forces could not feed the population, as stipulated by the Hague Convention, they should depart – and a seven-day plan was in place for the subsequent takeover.

The resolve among the occupying forces, however – at least among the most senior German ranks – was to fight to the last man.

RED CROSS SHIP

Eventually, with starvation becoming a reality, it was agreed that a Red Cross ship from neutral Sweden could sail from its base at Lisbon in Portugal, with thousands of emergency food parcels, salt, soap, tobacco, clothes and medical supplies. The SS Vega arrived on 27 December 1944 and called again in each month until the end of war in Europe, a little over four months later. Indeed, so pitiful was the food situation in the islands that it called again a month after the liberation.

'It was salvation – liberation from starvation,' is Richard's conclusion, as he shows me the meticulously crafted model of the ship created

IT'S BELIEVED THAT MANY OF TODAY'S GUERNSEY RESIDENTS WOULD NEVER HAVE COME INTO THIS WORLD HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE VEGA...

by the late Robert Brown, which sits at the heart of this display.

There are also dozens of tins from far-flung Canada and New Zealand, which brought salmon, corned beef, peas, prunes, sugar, coffee, powdered milk and so many other precious sources of much-needed calories to desperate islanders.

It's believed that many of today's Guernsey residents would never have come into this world had it not been for the Vega, and following a conversation I had with my grandmother in the 1980s, I believe I'm one of them.

The passing down of knowledge through the generations is a driving consideration for Richard, who regularly accommodates school visits. He is very careful, however, about the number of people he allows in at any one time.

'We don't allow large coach parties from the cruise ships,' he tells me. 'Tour guides bring small parties

from those ships, and they're very welcome, but we don't want to be swamped by 30 or 40 people all at once. It's not good for the overall visitor experience.'

He estimates that about 10,000 people called in to the German Occupation Museum in 2024, mainly from the UK but with increasing numbers from France, Germany and the Netherlands.

FESTUNG GUERNSEY

Since the travel restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic – and the subsequent drop in visitor numbers – the museum has not opened in the afternoons. However, this affords Richard time to open up some of the other sites in which he is intimately involved, through the restoration group Festung Guernsey – which he also co-founded.

Thus, if you don't find him sitting at the entrance to his museum in the morning, you might well find him in the afternoon at the M19 automatic 5cm mortar bunker at the Fort Hommet headland on the west coast, or at the MP3 observation tower at Pleinmont – the south-west point of Guernsey.

Now into his 80s, Richard shows no sign of easing off on his mission to explore and explain.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

'It's important because this was one of the most significant events in our history,' he says.

'Centuries ago, the French occupied the harbour and Castle Cornet for up to a year, on and off, but this was very different.'

He is certainly buoyed by what he sees as a significant resurgence of appreciation, locally, for the importance of our wider historic heritage, which may soon culminate in a Victor Hugo Centre along St Peter Port's seafront.

Richard himself has been royally recognised, being made an MBE in 2010 and receiving his 'gong' from Queen Elizabeth II, who told him she was sorry she had never made it to his museum during her island visits.

Before I leave the museum, I ask Richard which one item he most enjoys showing off to those who visit. He draws my attention to a horse-drawn ambulance, made in 1944. Petrol was another commodity in very short supply after D-Day and this vehicle was frequently used for taking pregnant mums to hospital and for trips to accident and emergency.

The ambulance, designed to be pulled by two horses, was an initiative of that same Reg Blanchford – the secret photographer.

After the war, it was not being used and so it was loaned to the island of Sark, where motorised transport was (and is to this day) banned – except for tractors.

In 1973, Richard visited Sark and saw that the vehicle had fallen into disrepair, with chickens roosting in it. So he negotiated a trade for some harness equipment with the family on whose property it stood and soon he was bringing it back by boat for a more suitable home at his museum. It is fair to say that not everybody in Sark was happy about its departure but soon, the much-neglected vehicle was being repaired at the historic, local coachworks where it had been built, on its way to its current position beside the entry desk at Richard's museum.

TEND TO THE SICK

I'm struck that despite all the machinery of warfare that was left behind after the Second World War – and all the concrete displays of might that dot our hills, valleys and shoreline – Richard treasures most of all a contraption whose purpose

was to tend to the sick and prevent further distress.

Like his extensive Vega display, it reminds us that amid the bloody chaos of the world's most widespread conflict, the worst excesses of violence were mirrored by the most dedicated and innovative commitments to care.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The German Occupation Museum, owned and operated by Richard Heaume MBE, is open daily from 10am to 1pm, with last admission at 12.15pm.

Admission is £8 for adults and £4 for children – cash only. Cards are not accepted.

The museum is at Les Houards, Forest, GY8 0BG (bus routes 91, 93, 95 and a short walk from Guernsey Airport).

What3words: custodial.prototype.insisting

Call 01481 238205 or see germanoccupationmuseum.co.uk for more information.



COBO
GASTRO PUB
REAL ALES
SUNSETS

The
ROCKMOUNT

01481 252778
www.therocky.gg
info@therocky.gg

Cobo Coast Road,
Guernsey GY5 7HB



COBO
SEA VIEW
COCKTAILS
LOBSTER

LA REUNION
RESTAURANT

01481 255600
www.lareunion.gg
dine@lareunion.gg

Cobo Coast Road,
Guernsey GY5 7HB



ST PETER PORT
STEAKS
HARBOUR
SEA VIEWS

ESTD 1887
SLAUGHTERHOUSE
BAR & EATERY

01481 712123
www.slaughterhouse.gg
info@slaughterhouse.gg

Castle Pier, St Peter Port,
Guernsey GY1 1AN



ST PETER PORT
WINE
SHARING PLATES
DINE

PRINCE OF WALES

01481 724493
www.pow.gg
info@pow.gg

Rue Du Manoir, St Peter Port,
Guernsey GY1 2JH



ROCQUAINE
SEA VIEWS
TERRACE
LOCAL

IMPERIAL
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

01481 264044
www.theimperial.gg
reservations@
theimperial.gg

Roquaine Bay, Torteval,
Guernsey GY8 0PS



WHAT'S ON IN THE GUERNSEY?



BAILIWICK WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION.
©GUERNSEY PRESS.

Until 23 March 2025 BAILIWICK WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

A staple in the Guernsey Arts calendar, the exhibition showcases the wildlife the Bailiwick has to offer.

This year, the exhibition is focused on celebrating the following categories: birds, insects, marine, Bailiwick animals, film & video, and patterns in nature. Guernsey Arts has collaborated with the Pollinator Project, welcoming a new 'Pollinator' category. This category, for students in full- or part-time education under the age of 24, will highlight the importance of pollinators within the local ecosystem. The 'Pollinator' category will feature a separate judging panel and will introduce a new award, the 'Barry Wells Award' named after the late co-founder of the pollinator project.

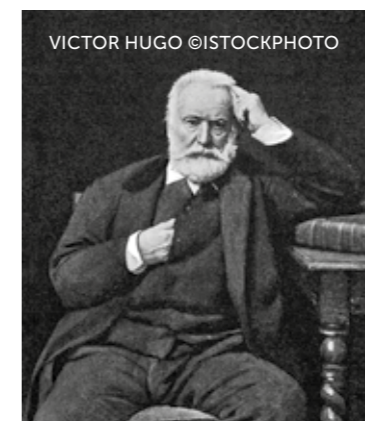
The exhibition takes place in the Greenhouse Gallery at the Guernsey Museum at Candie.

15 February 8pm MIRROR BALL DOES MOTOWN

The Soul Funk Corporation return for another night of Motown, Soul and Funk after its 2024 sold-out show. The band will play hits from Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, Four Tops, The Jackson 5 and more.

Northern Soul DJ Andy Newman will play sets either side of the live band.

Doors open at 8pm with the live music set to start at 8.30pm. Over-21s.



VICTOR HUGO ©ISTOCKPHOTO

27 February 7.30pm LECTURE & MUSIC INSPIRED BY VICTOR HUGO

By Arnaud Bigaignon de Sulle
St James.

28 February – 1 March GUERNSEY RALLY

The rally starts on the evening of Friday 28 February and is staged in lanes around the island. There are a total of six rally stages, two of which will take place on Friday and another four on Saturday, completing the event. Each stage is run four times

and they have been specifically chosen to highlight the skill of competitors and thrill spectators. Motorsport UK officials will be in attendance. See page 101 for further information.

Multiple dates (1 March – 20 September)

SEAWEED FORAGING TOURS

Join Guernsey Seaweed for a tour of Port Soif Beach with knowledgeable guides and learn about the history of seaweed in Guernsey and its many uses, from cosmetics to cooking.

On the tour you will have the chance to sample seaweed moisturizer, as well as eat seaweed straight from the beach.

The tour is approximately an hour-and-a-half long and costs £25 per adult with a minimum of five people per group. Children under 15 are free (one per paid adult).

For more information on when the tours will take place, see guernseyseaweed.com



GUERNSEY RALLY ©GUERNSEY PRESS.



LIBERATION DAY. ©GUERNSEY PRESS.



LE GRAND PALAIS. ©SHUTTERSTOCK.



BLUEY. © KATHY HUTCHINS / SHUTTERSTOCK.

8 March, doors open 7pm,
show 8pm, St James

**GUERNSEY SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA: CELEBRATING
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Ewa Strusinska conducts a concert to celebrate all women on International Women's Day.

19 March

**THE FANNY DAVIES INTERNATIONAL
PIANO SERIES PRESENTS
LUKE JONES, ST JAMES**

Welsh international prize-winning pianist Luke Jones will perform Ravel's exquisitely colourful Sonatine and Beethoven's early Sonata in C major, Op. 2 No. 3 before Liszt's monumental Sonata in B minor at St James. Drop in at the free workshop before his performance and chat with Luke at the bar after the concert.

The workshop begins at 4pm, before the recital at 7pm and a 'meet the artist' reception at 8.30pm.

6 April

GUERNSEY MARATHON

See more information on page 105.

25 April – 4 May

GUERNSEY LITERARY FESTIVAL

Michelin-starred chef Tom Kerridge, garden designer and BBC presenter Adam Frost, and acclaimed novelist and creative writing teacher Kit de Waal are among the early speakers signed for the 2025 Guernsey Literary Festival.

See guernseyliteraryfestival.com for latest information.

9 May

80TH LIBERATION DAY

Commemorating the islands' freedom from German Occupation during World War II. There will be many events taking place in St Peter Port and across the island. See liberation.gg for full details.

Dublin

Until 28 February

GUIDED BOOK OF KELLS EXPERIENCE

Enjoy an exclusive guided tour of the Book of Kells Experience at Trinity College Dublin over the winter season. Your journey will begin at the Trinity's Old Library where your guide will introduce you to the world of the famous Book of Kells, before being led through the long room to marvel at Gaia and the Brian Boru Harp. After that head to the Red Pavilion for a self-guided immersive experience in the new digital exhibition.

For ticket information see visitrinity.ie/book-of-kells-experience/guided-tour/#tickets.

16 March

THE ULTIMATE BUBBLE SHOW

Join Ray Bubbles, international bubbleologist and Guinness World Record holder, at the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre, to help him complete the 'bubble game' and make the ultimate bubble. His fast-paced, high-energy show sees Ray use various gases to create incredible bubble sculptures. Watch him create a bubble volcano, carousel, ghost and even a tornado inside the bubble.

To buy tickets for his show and more information visit tseac.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873644017.

Southampton

19 February and 19 March

SOUTHAMPTON GHOST TOUR

The award-winning tour will take you on a journey around Southampton where you will come face to face with the city's ghosts including Sir John Dawtrey, the King's Guard and many more. This is the perfect experience for those who enjoy a scare, as live actors join you on the tour around some of the city's medieval vaults.

For more information and to book tickets see ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/hampshire/st-michaels-square/southampton-ghost-tour 2025-01-22/20:00/t-lnlapm

20 February

**ART FOR ALL: BLUEY INSPIRED
WATERCOLOUR AT SOUTHAMPTON
CITY ART GALLERY**

This watercolour workshop is suitable for children aged four and up. Create a Bluey and Friends inspired artwork by using watercolour and collage techniques.

To enjoy a creative workshop suitable for all the family, book tickets at southamptonmuseumsandgallery.co.uk/events/bluey-inspired-watercolours/

Winchester

21 February

**WAKING UP THE HOUSE TOUR
AT JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE**

Go on an exclusive early morning tour of literary great Jane Austen's house. Join the curatorial journey as the team dust, polish and check that everything is in order to start the day. Along the way, hear secrets and stories of this extraordinary house through the ages.

After the tour, enjoy a light breakfast of tea and English muffins as Jane used to.

To book and to see other events at the house, visit janeaustens.house/visit/whats-on/

1 March

HAT FAIR CABARET, THEATRE ROYAL

The show is coming back to Winchester after a previous sell out performance. Packed with award-winning comedy, circus tricksters, magical mayhem, international cabaret all-stars and madness galore, the show has something for everyone and is suitable for all ages.

Tickets are available for £16 from Theatre Royal Winchester theatroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/hat-fair-cabaret.

19 February – 22 February

ART CAPITAL

Discover the work of more than 2,000 artists in Le Grand Palais. The fair, which has been running yearly since 2006, brings together artists from different backgrounds and has become a reference point for the promotion of the current art scene. See paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures in one of the world's most iconic exhibition halls.

Artcapital.fr has all the information.

15 March

**SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT:
FRANCE VS SCOTLAND**

Europe's best rugby-playing nations come together for the five-week tournament. France will host Scotland at the Stade de France as they hope to get a step closer to becoming the champions.

Edinburgh

15 – 16 February

CAPITAL SCI-FI CON 2025

Prepare for an intergalactic adventure as Capital Sci-Fi Con returns for its 10th anniversary year, with an event that's bigger, better, and more epic than ever before! The two-day convention will take place at the O2 Academy.

Every penny of profit from this event goes directly to Children's Hospices Across Scotland to support children in Scotland living with life-shortening conditions, and their families.

For tickets see capitalscificon.com/

20 March – 23 March

**EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL
IMPROV FESTIVAL**

The Edinburgh International Improv Festival is held at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Its four days of workshops, shows and jams celebrate the best in longform improv from around the world.

Check out the details at edimprovfest.com/.



BOOK OF KELLS REPLICA.
©SHUTTERSTOCK.



WEAVING THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

A FANTASTIC LINE UP OF AUTHORS WILL VISIT ALDERNEY IN MARCH TO ONCE AGAIN BRING THE MAGIC OF HISTORICAL FICTION AND NON-FICTION TO THE ISLAND FOR THE NINTH ALDERNEY LITERARY FESTIVAL. WE TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT.



Returning is Sunday Times bestselling author Simon Scarrow, who is a former chairman of the festival.

'I'm delighted to be returning to Alderney,' he posted on social media. 'They have one of the best literary festivals I have ever been to. Also, the island is a magical place and well worth a visit.'

Scarrow's latest novel, *A Death in Berlin*, is the third in his Inspector Schenke series set in wartime Germany. Powerless against the consequences of the war, Schenke fights to keep criminals off his patch. But with doubts growing about his loyalty to the Nazi regime, he is walking a tightrope – and as his relationship with a Jewish woman is exposed, a dreadful fate awaits.



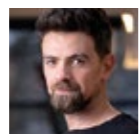
Another returnee is Clare Mulley, an award-winning author who focuses on female heroics during the Second World War. She will discuss her latest book, *Agent Zo*, *The Untold Story of Fearless*

WW2 Resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka. Told here for the first time, *Agent Zo* was the only woman to reach London from Warsaw during the Second World War as an emissary of the Polish Home Army command, and then in Britain she became the only woman to join the Polish elite Special Forces, known as the 'Silent Unseen'.

Secretly trained in the British countryside, she was the only female member of the SOE affiliated forces to be parachuted back behind enemy lines into Nazi-occupied Poland. There, while being hunted by the Gestapo who arrested her entire family, she took a leading role in the Warsaw Uprising and the liberation of Poland.

Mulley guested at the Festival in 2019 and recently appeared on History UK's documentary *Hitler's British Island*.

Scarrow and Mulley are joined by eight other renowned authors.



Leo Vardiashvili, a child refugee from Georgia whose debut novel, *Hard by a Great Forest*, follows the fortunes of a father

and his sons who must return to their decaying but still beautiful Georgian homeland to rescue each other and make peace with the past.



Rosie Garland, whose new novel *The Fates* (Quercus Books) is a re-imagining and retelling of the Greek myth of the Fates. Val McDermid has named her 'one of the most compelling LGBT+ writers in the UK today'.



Lavie Tidhar, who works across several genres, combines detective and thriller modes with poetry, science fiction and historical and autobiographical material. His literary fiction career began with the highly-regarded *Maror* (2022) and was followed by *Adama* (2023) and *Six Lives* (2024). *Golgotha* is forthcoming in 2025.



Flora Johnston, a writer from Edinburgh with a particular interest in stories from Scotland's past. Her latest novel,

'I'M DELIGHTED TO BE RETURNING TO ALDERNEY. THEY HAVE ONE OF THE BEST LITERARY FESTIVALS I HAVE EVER BEEN TO. ALSO, THE ISLAND IS A MAGICAL PLACE AND WELL WORTH A VISIT.'

The Paris Peacemakers, is set in 1919. As the guns fall silent, the story follows three Scots – Stella Rutherford, her sister Corran and Corran's fiancé Rob Campbell – who are attempting to rebuild their lives after the trauma of the First World War while the fabric of Europe is stitched together for good or ill.



Lesley Downer, author, historian and all-round Japan buff. She will focus on her newest book, *The Shortest History of Japan*. Zen, haiku, martial arts, sushi, anime, manga, film, video games... Japanese culture has long enriched our Western way of life.

Yet from a Western perspective, Japan remains a remote island country that has long had a complicated relationship with the outside world. Downer's book delivers hundreds of years of history in one riveting, fast-paced read.



Eleni Kyriacou is an award-winning editor and journalist. She will feature in conversation with

local author Rachel Abbott about the research and the writing of her novel *The Unspeakable Acts of Zina Pavlou*. Based on a true story, it's set in 1954 London and is about Zina, a Greek Cypriot grandmother who is accused of murdering her daughter-in-law. She became the penultimate woman to be hanged in Britain.



Ellen Alpsten, an international best-selling author and scriptwriter born and raised in the Kenyan highlands, whose third book, *The Last Princess*, is the retelling of 1066 and Gytha Godwinson, daughter of Harold, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England.



Anna Abney, whose *Measham Hall* novels are affected by many of the major incidents of the 17th Century – plague, civil war and revolution. Though often overlooked, this is a century that was fundamental in the shaping of modern Britain.

The festival's chairman is again Anthony Riches whose *Empire* series and *Centurion* trilogy, of

which there are now 17 books, is set in late second century AD Britain and Europe. He is also the author of two modern-day thrillers, *Nemesis* and *Target Zero*, the first two books in the *Protector* series.

Alderney Literary Trust's Isabel Picornell said she is stunned by the success of the festival.

'We've had a tsunami of interest from historical and fiction authors wanting to come to our ninth festival and it was so difficult to have to choose only 10.

'We did this bearing in mind that the festival theme is 'Weaving Historical Narratives' – how we tell stories. Our 2025 festival-goers will be in for a treat and I look forward to welcoming our authors and audiences to the Festival.

'Special thanks must go to Ravenscroft and to Ann Robilliard, a Festival devotee, for their financial support in allowing us to buy all our own sound equipment.'

The Alderney Literary Festival takes place on 28 – 30 March. Details can be found at alderneyliterarytrust.com/festival and tickets are now on sale.



IMAGE ©GETTYIMAGES.

YOUNG WRITERS ON A JOURNEY TO WIN GREAT PRIZES, INCLUDING AURIGNY FLIGHTS!

THIS YEAR'S POPULAR ANNUAL WRITE STUFF COMPETITION FOR THE BAILIWICK'S YOUNG WRITERS WAS LAUNCHED ON 7 JANUARY AND THE SUBJECT IS THE JOURNEY.

The competition, which is organised as part of the Guernsey Literary Festival, is in its 11th year and last year entries topped the 1,000 mark for the first time.

Entries came from no fewer than 21 schools, including from Sark, Alderney and Herm, and attracted home-schooled entrants as well. The competition is sponsored by Julius Baer and supported by Guernsey Literary Festival partners, including the Guille-Allès Library, Aurigny, Guernsey Arts, Island Families and U&US.

The judges are illustrator, author and character designer Dapo Adeola, Louie Stowell, who writes the Loki books about magic, gods and monsters (mostly), Pari Thomson, the author of the New York Times bestselling Greenwild series, and Dr Huw Lewis-Jones, polar-exploring author and naturalist, who grew up in Guernsey.

To help celebrate the 11th year of the competition, Literary Festival partner Aurigny is generously

providing two return flights from Guernsey to London Gatwick for the first prize winner in each of the five categories. There will be a cash prize of £50, Island Families membership and a trophy for the first prize winner in each of the five categories, with £25 cash prizes for second and third places.

Winners will also receive a signed book and an original illustration designed by Lynda Adlington, who has been commissioned to produce bespoke illustrations of the winning stories. The winning stories and illustrations will also be displayed at the Guille-Allès Library and local schools.

Up to five highly commended prizes will also be available in each category. Each highly commended winner will receive a £10 book token and a certificate as well as their story published on the website.

As in previous years, there are four classes, Primary (years 3-6), Intermediate (years 7-9) and Senior (years 10+), and a class for writers

with additional learning needs (ALN), split into junior and senior.

The word 'journey' conjures up ideas of travel, which may be exciting, eventful, adventurous, disastrous, even life changing; It may suggest a metaphorical journey such as a transition, a life changing experience leading to growth; it may be a journey through time and space; it could be inspired by the writer's own journey through life.

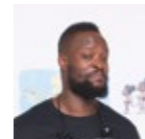
The title lends itself to a myriad interpretations and genres: adventure, fantasy, historical, science fiction, a fictional memoir... the possibilities are endless.

The judges will be looking for originality, creativity, clarity, style and accuracy of language which will transport them with the writer on the journey.

The competition closes on 7 March and the WriteStuff winners will be announced in May. Prizes will be given out during the Guernsey Literary Festival at the Competition

Awards Ceremony on Saturday 3 May. This year's Festival runs from 25 April to 4 May.

All entries should be submitted directly through the website writestuff.gg. For further information please contact education@guernseyliteraryfestival.com or call 07781 143545. A Teachers Pack and posters can also be downloaded from writestuff.gg/resources.



Dapo Adeola (Primary class judge) is an illustrator, author and character designer who was awarded Illustrator of the Year at The British Book Awards in 2022. Dapo rocketed into the picture book world with his greatly acclaimed illustrator debut, *Look Up!*, written by Nathan Bryon and published by Puffin in 2019, which won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2020.

Dapo illustrated *My Dad is a Grizzly Bear* and *My Mum Is a Lioness* written by award-winning author Swapna Haddow (both published by Macmillan Children's Books), and collaborated with Malorie Blackman on their picture book *We're Going to Find the Monster*. Dapo made his author debut in 2021 with the Puffin published picture book *Hey You! An Empowering Celebration of Growing Up Black*, featuring 18 talented Black British illustrators, which also went on to win Illustrated book of the year at The British Book Awards in 2022. Born in Britain and of Nigerian heritage, Dapo is an avid believer in the importance of equal representation in the creative arts. He currently lives in Manchester.



Louie Sowell (Intermediate class) writes books about magic, gods and monsters (mostly). She has written carefully researched books about space, ancient Egypt, politics and science but eventually lapsed into just making stuff up. She has written fiction for 8-12 (*Nosy Crow* and *Walker Books US*), but *Loki: A Bad God's Guide* series is her first as both author and illustrator, inspired by her research into Norse myths. Louie writes full time in London,

where she lives with her wife Karen, her dog Buffy and a creepy puppet that is probably cursed.



Pari Thomson (Senior class judge) is the author of the New York Times bestselling *Greenwild* series, as well as being an editorial director for picture books at Bloomsbury Children's Books. *Greenwild: The World Behind the Door* was Blackwell's Children's Book of the Year and winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2023. Half Persian, half English, Pari has lived in many places, including India, Pakistan, the United States and Belgium. She studied at Oxford University and now lives in London, not far from Kew Gardens.



Dr Huw Lewis-Jones (ALN judge) is a polar-exploring author and naturalist, who grew up in Guernsey. He now lives in Cornwall where he is a professor at Falmouth University, teaching natural history and other creative things. Huw also travels across the Arctic and Antarctica each year working as an expedition leader.

'SUCH FANTASTIC STORIES COME TO US, EACH AND EVERY YEAR.. AND WE HOPE THIS YEAR, OUR ELEVENTH, IS NO DIFFERENT. WHAT A JOURNEY THIS COMPETITION HAS GONE ON TOO! I KNOW I CAN SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE JUDGES WHEN WE SAY, THE VERY BEST OF LUCK!

'PICK UP A PEN AND SCRIBBLE SOME IDEAS DOWN. HAVE A GO! PERHAPS YOU HEAD OFF ON A GREAT ADVENTURE? PERHAPS YOUR JOURNEY IS MORE MYSTERIOUS AND YOU NEVER LEAVE THE ISLAND? PERHAPS YOU TAKE US TO PLACES, AND TO MEET PEOPLES, AND CREATURES THAT WE'VE NEVER EVEN IMAGINED? THE ONLY WAY TO BEGIN, IS TO BEGIN! SO WHERE MIGHT YOUR STORY TAKE YOU? WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ IT!'

HUW LEWIS-JONES, WRITESTUFF JUDGE

He has written numerous books for children, including award-winning *Do Bears Poop in the Woods?*, *Do Penguins Like the Cold?*, the *Bad Apple* series of picture books, and the best-seller *Clive Penguin*. To date, his books have been published in 19 languages. Huw is a Guest Curator of the Guernsey Literary Festival.

Filter judges this year include Julia Bichard and Adam Bayfield from the Guille Allès Library, retired English teachers Maz Campbell and Sue Williams-Smith, and Suzie Almond, a creative education specialist with experience of first round judging for the BBC 500 Words and Settle Stories competitions.

Alexandra McInnes, Managing Director of Julius Baer Guernsey, which has sponsored the Write Stuff for a number of years, says, 'We were delighted with the number and quality of last year's entries and we're looking forward to a similar response this year. All of us go on journeys, whether to wonderful places in the world or important journeys in our lives and the great thing about The Write Stuff competition is that it gives young writers the opportunity to recreate their journeys for us. We can't wait to read the entries and be involved with what is always a fantastic competition.'



INSIDE OUTSIDE LIVING.

The frameless insulated sliding doors by Swiss manufacturer Sky-Frame blend naturally into their surroundings, creating a seamless continuity between indoors and outdoors and blurring the line between where the living space ends and the view begins. SKY-FRAME.COM

SKY-FRAME



Authorised Sky-Frame distribution partner for the UK

CLEAR LIVING LTD.

01606 45109 | info@clear-living.co.uk | www.clear-living.co.uk



IMAGES ©PETER FRANKLAND

WORKING FROM HOME

WHEN DAWN O'PORTER VISITED GUERNSEY LAST YEAR TO SIGN HER LATEST BOOK HONEY BEE, LUCY ROUGET CAUGHT UP WITH HER AND FOUND OUT WHY THE ISLAND IS SUCH AN INSPIRATION TO HER.

As a small island, we are often protective of those who leave and pursue bigger things beyond the capabilities of the Bailiwick, the sports stars, those who find themselves on the screens or in the West End and the wordsmiths who make reference to our little home in their bestselling literature.

Dawn O'Porter falls into this category of people. Once a Guernsey-raised school girl, and now a bestselling author, broadcaster and fashion designer, Dawn finds inspiration for her work in the island.

Visiting the island for a book signing back in November, it was fascinating to see childhood friends, neighbours and old colleagues popping in for a quick hug and to say hi and encompassed truly what Guernsey means to her.

'The book-signing was great, I didn't think anyone would come and I arrived to a queue which was very nice and reassuring,' she said.

'It's odd to come back to Guernsey and do work stuff, it's always just been home to me.

'I feel nervous, but it feels nice so maybe it will be a thing now.'

The premise of the book is a love letter to female friendship, based in Guernsey.

It is the third book in her series about the characters Renee and Flo, who first appeared in her earlier works Paper Aeroplanes in 2013 and Goose in 2014.

But the draft of Honeybee had laid dormant since 2014.

'I actually wrote this book ages ago set in London, but I got to the end of it and was like 'What am I doing?' I have this amazing location that is really special and beautiful, so why am I setting this book in London?' Dawn explained.

'I had to rewrite the whole thing and put them back in Guernsey, and I'm so glad that I did. It feels really lovely to come from a place like this and write about it.'

Taking the inspiration from the island and putting it into the story of Renee and Flo, Dawn is grateful for Guernsey and the characters for resuscitating her writing career.

Having moved back to London from the USA with her husband – the actor and comedian Chris O'Dowd – and their two children, visits back home are now more frequent.

About 12 years ago the TV work suddenly dried up and Dawn said she was broke, depressed, and more than a little lost.

It was at this time that an editor approached her as

a result of reading a newspaper column of hers, and asked if she'd like to try writing young adult fiction.

She had given this sufficient thought already to be able to blurt out a fully formed plot line for Renee and Flo, and the editor offered her a book deal on the spot, steering her away from the screen, onto the page and back across the English Channel.

The honey bee serves as a metaphor for the juxtaposition of fragility and strength which she believes her characters embody. But honey bees are also symbolic of childhood bliss and nature's own nurture, as they turn her mind back to her Auntie Jane's St Martin's home.

'There's something really magical about coming from a small place, but not only a small place, a small place that's surrounded by water. It's unusual, it's beautiful and it's dramatic,' said Dawn.

'There's sometimes this feeling when you live here that you're stuck here, and other times you feel so lucky to be here, that's the kind of course that you go through as a person who grew up on an island, so there's loads of write about.

'When you're writing novels, you have your great characters and a great story, but when the location becomes a character of its own, it keeps on giving.'

Honey Bee could be viewed as the end of the series and the end of the road for Renee and Flo, but Dawn is clear that they will return.

'I don't feel like Renee and Flo's story is over yet. They are only 22 in this book and my intention has always been to write about them for the rest of their lives, it's just a case of what age I pick them up at next,' she said.

'I think I'll jump them on a bit and make them older next time. I always need to be about 10 years ahead of them in life and have the kind of retrospective look on where they are; I'd like to think there will be another one in five years.'

Dawn continues to return home as much as possible, seeking inspiration from the beaches, the people and her childhood home.

'I come back quite a lot, usually in the summertime and then I try and get a couple of trips on my own during term time without the kids and then bring them back during the school holidays,' she said.

'I come back as much as I can because I love it so much.

'I'll come back here for a weekend and just sit up in my old childhood bedroom and do some writing after a good walk on the cliffs and it always comes, the ideas always come.'

In fact, the idea of Paper Aeroplanes came from Dawn when she was sitting at Jerbourg Point.

But she also regularly sits at Fermain Bay for some creativity.

'There's nothing like the sea air and a gorgeous view, peace and quiet (apart from the odd seagull screeching in your ear) that is going to give you some inspiration,' she said. 'I've come back for lots of writing trips; I look back and I think if someone could have just whispered in my ear, "You live in one of the most beautiful places – you're so lucky you've been so safe and you've been allowed to have this unbelievable childhood of so much freedom," I'd have said, "Oh, shut up!" at the time, but now I get it.'

2025: A NEW HORIZON

By Amanda Eulenkamp

INTRODUCING THE WRITERS



Jessamy Baldwin



Rupert Diggins

JUST ONE FOR THE ROAD

I've always enjoyed planning holidays, thinking about where to go, when the best time to visit is, and what to see and do.

When I worked in the travel industry, we would often be planning holidays up to a few years ahead. Other times, people would come in looking for last-minute inspiration.

So, what are you planning this year? Maybe you're ahead of the curve and have everything booked and in place. But if not, then this travel section will hopefully inspire you. Each destination is either reachable via a non-stop Aurigny flight or via one of its UK hubs (Gatwick and London City, for example).

An Italian adventure, perhaps? Travel blogger Rupert Diggins guides us around Italy's timeless

trio: Rome, Milan, and Florence. Each has its own style and its own history. Try one, two, or three, and indulge in la bella vita – taking your own time to enjoy the moment, Italian-style. See page 38 for inspiration.

If city breaks are your thing, then we've chosen a selection via London City for you. London City is a fantastic airport for transiting through due to its compact size. There's a taste of Bergerac, Billund, Frankfurt, Innsbruck, Nice, and Rotterdam, starting on page 44. There are also quick guides to Genoa, Edinburgh and Paris on pages 9-11. I've booked my flights already, looking forward to a long weekend in la belle France! All three are now served direct by Aurigny, so again, try one or all.

And how about Lithuania? A former

colleague of mine is from Vilnius, so thanks to her for sharing her thoughts about where to visit. I confess I've never been, but with flights from London City, perhaps that's another place on my wish list?

A new addition to En Voyage is our focus on university towns and cities. Guernsey girl Charlotte Green gives us a great insight into Winchester, plus explains why she loves coming back to the island and showing it off to her friends. Southampton is the closest airport to Winchester, so if you're flying in, you could also head off to Salisbury and the New Forest. Jessamy Baldwin suggests things to do in 48 hours on page 54.

Just think how many new and different destinations could be on your horizon this year...



ITALY'S TIMELESS TRIO: ROME, MILAN, FLORENCE

FROM THE ANCIENT WONDERS OF ROME TO THE FASHIONABLE STREETS OF MILAN AND THE RENAISSANCE BEAUTY OF FLORENCE, ITALY OFFERS AN INCREDIBLE MIX OF HISTORY, CULTURE, AND STYLE.

With so much to see and do, it's no wonder these cities are at the top of many travellers' wishlist. So, pack your bags, embrace the Italian way of life, and get ready to make unforgettable memories in this trio of magnificent cities, says travel blogger Rupert Diggins.

ROME: THE ETERNAL CITY

Rome, the Eternal City, remains one of Europe's most captivating destinations, attracting visitors of all kinds. From history enthusiasts to food lovers, art aficionados to fashion-conscious travellers, Rome offers something for everyone.

Practical tips

Rome is well-connected, with direct UK flights to Fiumicino or Ciampino airport. When in Rome, you'll find that the buses and metro are convenient. However, I found that the city is best explored on foot. Consider purchasing a Roma Pass which is a tourist card that gives you access to both public transportation and discounted or free entry to various attractions in Rome. To skip the queues, booking tickets for top

attractions in advance is always a good idea.

Top sights and attractions in Rome

A trip to Rome wouldn't be complete without ticking off the major landmarks. Start with the Colosseum, the world's largest ancient amphitheatre, where gladiators once fought. Just a short walk away, the Roman Forum offers a fascinating peek into life in ancient Rome.

From personal experience, summers in Rome can be quite hot, so it's best to visit the Vatican and outdoor sites early in the morning. Marvel at Michelangelo's stunning frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and explore the awe-inspiring St. Peter's Basilica. If you're into art, be sure to check out the Galleria Borghese, tucked away in the Villa Borghese gardens – it's full of Baroque masterpieces. For families, some of the Vatican museums even have child-friendly tours.

For a real taste of Rome, wander through its historic centre. The Pantheon is a must-see, as

is the Trevi Fountain. Remember to toss a coin, a tradition that supposedly ensures your return to the city. It hasn't worked for me yet, but I'm sure it will in time! For the best views, climb the Spanish Steps or take a walk up to Janiculum Hill.

For a more local vibe, head to neighbourhoods like Trastevere, with its cobbled streets and cosy trattorias, or the trendy Monti district. Piazza Navona and Campo de' Fiori are perfect spots to soak up the lively atmosphere, with street performers, markets, and plenty of character.

For some lesser-known places of interest, check out the Appian Way, Villa Doria Pamphili, or even the non-touristy market, the Mercato di Testaccio.

Top events in Rome, 2025

Rome's calendar is packed with events that celebrate its rich culture and traditions. Some of those not to miss include:

Easter Celebrations (April):

The Vatican becomes a pilgrimage site for Christian visitors worldwide, with the

ABOVE L-R: COLOSSEUM; TREVI FOUNTAIN; ROMAN FORUM; RIVER TIBER AND ST.PETER'S BASILICA, ROME. ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

Pope's Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square being a deeply moving experience.

Rome Film Festival (October):

A celebration of both Italian and international cinema, attracting film buffs and industry insiders.

Estate Romana (Summer): A city-wide summer festival featuring outdoor concerts, theatre performances, and art installations.

Christmas Markets (December):

Wander through the festive markets, especially in Piazza Navona, where you can pick up unique gifts and soak up the atmosphere.

Dining in Rome

Rome's food scene is all about simple, fresh ingredients and big flavours. You can't leave without trying the classic dishes like cacio e pepe (pasta with pecorino and black pepper), carbonara (pasta with eggs, pancetta, and cheese), or saltimbocca alla romana (veal with prosciutto and sage). And, of course, there's the pizza – thin-crust and crispy perfection. You certainly will not find a deep pan Hawaiian with pineapple.

For street food lovers, you can't miss supplì (fried rice balls filled with mozzarella) – they're delicious! If you're a wine fan, Lazio's Frascati

and Cesanese wines are perfect accompaniments to any meal. Try them at a local trattoria or grab something fresh from Campo de' Fiori market.

More information

Rome blends ancient history with modern-day charm. Whether you're a culture enthusiast, a foodie, or just someone who enjoys a bit of la dolce vita, Rome never disappoints.

Accommodation in Rome varies, with options to suit every budget. You'll find luxurious hotels near the Spanish Steps or Via Veneto, boutique stays in Trastevere and Monti, and affordable hostels and guesthouses scattered throughout the city. Wherever you stay, you're never far from the action.

For more details on attractions, events, and travel tips, visit the official Rome tourism website: turismoroma.it

MILAN: STYLE, CULTURE, AND FASHION

Milan, Italy's fashion and design capital, is a city that never sleeps. With its mix of historical landmarks, modern attractions, and a cosmopolitan vibe, you won't be disappointed in Italy's vibrant capital of fashion and design.

Practical tips

Milan is easily accessible, with direct flights from the UK to Malpensa, Linate, or Bergamo airports. Once you're there, the city's efficient metro, trams, and buses make it a breeze to get around. The Milan Card is a popular city card for tourists, offering a combination of unlimited public transport access, retail shop and attraction discounts. Many of Milan's attractions are within walking distance, so be sure to pack comfy shoes.

Top sights and attractions in Milan

Milan is a city of contrasts, where centuries of history meet cutting-edge modernity. Start with the Duomo di Milano, an imposing Gothic cathedral that's one of the largest churches in the world. For unbeatable views, make sure to climb up to the rooftop terraces.

Art lovers will be in their element here, with Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper (advance booking essential!) housed in the beautiful Santa Maria delle Grazie. Don't miss the Sforza Castle either – its museums offer fascinating insight into Milan's past.

For fashion lovers, a stroll through the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is



ABOVE L-R: GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II; SEMPIONE SQUARE AND ARCO DELLA PACE; DUOMO DI MILANO, MILAN. ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

ABOVE LEFT: DUOMO SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE. RIGHT TOP - BOTTOM: PONTE VECCHIO & RIVER ARNO. BRUNELLESCHI CUPOLA OF DUOMO, FLORENCE. ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

a must. This elegant 19th-century shopping arcade houses some of the world's top boutiques, as well as cosy cafés for a well-earned coffee break. If you're after a more bohemian vibe, head to the Brera District, with its art galleries, antique shops, and charming cobbled streets.

Modern Milan is just as impressive, with sleek skyscrapers and trendy spots like Piazza Gae Aulenti and CityLife, a futuristic urban development. Nature lovers can unwind in Sempione Park, a peaceful escape right next to the castle. If, like me, you're a sports fan, a visit to the world-famous San Siro football stadium is well worth it, especially if there's a game on.

If you're into vintage fashion, the Navigli district is home to quirky boutiques and charming antique shops that are off the main tourist trail.

Top events in Milan, 2025

Milan's event calendar is jam-packed, so there's always something exciting going on:

Milan Fashion Weeks (February & September): As a global fashion hub, Milan is the place to be for the latest trends, with top designers and models flocking to the city twice a year.

Salone del Mobile (April): The

world-renowned design fair takes over the city, with exhibitions and events that showcase the latest in furniture and design.

Milan Jazz Festival (November): If you're a jazz fan, this festival is a real treat, with performances in iconic venues across the city.

Oh Bej! Oh Bej! Christmas Market (December): Held near the Sforza Castle, this traditional market is the perfect place to get into the festive spirit and pick up unique gifts.

Dining in Milan

Milan's food scene is a mix of tradition and innovation. Classic Milanese dishes include risotto alla milanese (creamy saffron risotto), cotoletta alla milanese (breaded veal cutlet), and ossobuco (braised veal). I was a great fan of the Milan aperitivo culture where you head to a local bar and enjoy pre-dinner drinks paired with delicious small snacks.

Milan also boasts some fantastic wine, particularly from the Franciacorta region, a sparkling wine that rivals Champagne. Whether you're dining at a traditional trattoria or exploring the city's food markets, you'll find fresh, high-quality ingredients that are the cornerstone of Milanese cooking.

More information

Milan is the perfect destination for anyone who appreciates elegance, art, and great food. From high-end boutiques to innovative art galleries, this city is a playground for style lovers.

Accommodation options range from luxury hotels near the Duomo to charming boutique stays in the Navigli or Porta Romana districts. Budget options are available too, with hostels and guesthouses that are well-connected by public transport.

For more details on attractions, events, and travel tips, head to the official Milan tourism website: turismo.milano.it

FLORENCE: ART, HISTORY, AND CHARM

Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, is a city that oozes charm, culture, and history. Whether you're an art lover, a history buff, or simply someone who wants to soak up the atmosphere of one of Italy's most stunning cities, Florence is the place to be.

Practical tips

Florence is easy to reach, with flights to Florence Airport or Pisa Airport, followed by a short train ride. The city is compact and best explored on foot, though there

are buses and trams if you need them. Consider purchasing a Firenze card that gives you access to more than 70 museums and attractions in Florence, including the Uffizi Gallery, Accademia Gallery, and others. It's worth noting that Florence can get crowded in the peak summer months, so visiting in spring or autumn might be more enjoyable.

Top sights and attractions in Florence

Florence's historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site, full of landmarks that will take your breath away. Start at the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (the Duomo), with its stunning dome by Brunelleschi. If you're up for it, climb to the top for panoramic views of the city.

For art enthusiasts, the Uffizi Gallery is a must-see and home to masterpieces by Botticelli, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci. Just around the corner, the Accademia Gallery is home to Michelangelo's David, one of the most famous sculptures in the world.

Romantic couples may like to cross the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's oldest bridge, lined with quirky jewellery shops, and take a stroll through the Boboli Gardens, a beautiful green space perfect for a break from the busy centre.

For a taste of local life, explore the artisan workshops and authentic trattorias in the Oltrarno district, or head to San Lorenzo for lively markets and a real Florentine buzz.

Top events in Florence, 2025

Florence is always buzzing with cultural events:

Scoppio del Carro (Easter Sunday): This centuries-old tradition features a spectacular fireworks display launched from a cart in front of the Duomo.

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (April – June): One of Europe's oldest music festivals, this event offers a mix of opera, concerts, and ballet performances

Firenze Rocks (June): A huge music festival attracting major international rock and pop acts.

Florence Biennale (October): This prestigious contemporary art exhibition showcases global talent and attracts art lovers from all over the world.

Dining in Florence

Florence is a food lover's paradise. Tuscan cuisine is hearty and full of flavour. Don't leave without trying bistecca alla fiorentina (Florentine steak), ribollita (a rustic vegetable and bread soup), and pappa al pomodoro (tomato and bread stew).

Wine lovers will enjoy the local Chianti wine, while Vin Santo, a sweet dessert wine, is perfect for pairing with cantucci (almond biscuits). Florence's markets, such as Mercato Centrale, offer fresh produce, cheeses, and cured meats, giving you the chance to sample the best of Tuscan cuisine.

More information

Despite the volume of people visiting the city, I loved Florence. Rich in history and overflowing with art, it feels like strolling through a living museum—making it the perfect destination for a city break.

Accommodation options range from luxurious hotels near the Duomo to more affordable boutique guesthouses in quieter areas. Whether you're after a five-star stay or a charming B&B, Florence offers something for every budget.

For more information, check out the official Florence tourism website: visitflorence.com

GETTING THERE:

There are regular flights to Rome, Milan, and Florence from London Gatwick and London City airports.

Visit Sark and enjoy
life in the slow lane

STOCKS  SARK
ISLAND HOTEL & RESTAURANT



Located in the heart of car-free Sark,
Stocks is the oldest hotel on the island

Re-opening on 11th April 2025
with great value early booking offers

Travel by horse and carriage, by bicycle
or on foot, and enjoy life in the slow lane



+44 (0)1481 832001
reception@stockshotel.com
www.stockshotel.com



ABOVE: NICE. RIGHT: BERGERAC. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

CITY TO CITY: MINI BREAKS AND MORE VIA LONDON CITY AIRPORT

THERE ARE MORE THAN 30 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE VIA LCY; WE DISCOVER A FEW OF THEM.

BERGERAC

This beautiful medieval town in the Dordogne is a Ville d'art et d'histoire (town of art and history), so there are plenty of cultural things to see. The narrow, cobblestone roads of the old town are bordered by ancient timbered houses and flanked by colourful flowerbeds and charming cafes.

Château de Monbazillac is one of the most stunning, imposing castles of Perigord Pourpre and is around a 10-minute drive from Bergerac. It's a must-see when you visit the region both for its wines and for its architecture.

BILLUND

Home of Lego, Billund styles itself as the 'Capital of Children'. It goes without saying that a trip to Legoland Billund Resort (legoland.dk/en has information and opening times) is a must...

but what else is there to do in the Danish town?

Part of the Danish National Museum, Kongernes Jelling is a free attraction that preserves a UNESCO-listed 10th-century Viking monument created by King Harald Bluetooth (Fact: Bluetooth technology is named after the Danish king Harald Bluetooth due to his communicative skills in bringing warring factions together).

Whatever the weather, head to Lalandia Billund, Scandinavia's biggest water park – an easy indoor win on a wet day.

FRANKFURT

Situated on the River Main, Frankfurt effortlessly combines history and modernity. In the city's historical centre, visit Römer Town Hall, Emperor's Cathedral, St Paul's Church, and the 'Old Opera' or Alte Oper – for details of shows,

see alteoper.de/en/programme.

The New Old Town (Dom-Römer Quarter) is considered to be one of the largest and most important half-timbered towns in Germany. Totally destroyed in the air raids of 1944, it was re-built during 2012 and 2018. Situated between the Römer and the Emperor's Cathedral, the restoration project now boasts independent shops, cafes, museums and plazas.

The Museum Embankment is lined on both sides of the river with internationally renowned museums.

For a great view of the city, head up to the observation tower of the Main Tower. The skyscraper is 200m tall, with the viewing terrace at 187m. The Main Tower restaurant & lounge is on the 53rd floor – worth booking in for dinner with a view.



INNSBRUCK

Buy yourself an Innsbruck card with free entry to 22 museums and attractions, one upward and one downward journey on selected lifts and cable cars in the region, free use of public transport and free use of the Sightseer hop-on hop-off bus – the card can be purchased for 24, 48 or 72 hours. See innsbruck.info/en/sightseeing/innsbruck-card for information and to purchase.

Once in possession, head up to the majestic Hafelekar peak in the Nordkette Mountain range (around 30 minutes on the lift/cable car) for the best view of Innsbruck. Visit the Alpine Zoo to discover around 2,000 rare animals – did you know that when the church bells ring in Innsbruck, the wolves at the zoo howl in unison?

Innsbruck hosted the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. The famous ski jump on Bergisel hill was rebuilt in 2001; a two-minute lift ride will whisk visitors up to a height of 250m above Innsbruck. Enjoy the tower-top restaurant and viewing terrace, plus learn about the history of the place and the development of ski jumping from a series of information panels.

The Golden Roof is another of Innsbruck's famous landmarks. Emperor Maximilian I had the Golden Roof built around 1500; its 2,657 gilded copper shingles and rich fresco and relief decoration attract thousands of visitors every day. Copies of the reliefs were made in 1952 in order to protect the originals; six of the originals can be seen in the Museum Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof Museum).

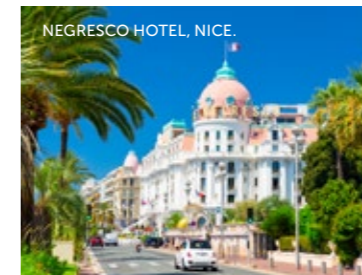
The Emperor was also responsible for completing the Imperial Palace in 1500. One of the most important cultural buildings in Austria, visit for its magnificent state rooms, halls and salons.

Climb the 130+ steps up to the viewing platform of the City Tower, completed in 1450. You'll be rewarded with a romantic view of Innsbruck.

NICE

Nice Old Town is a honeycomb of narrow streets, bustling squares and cafés galore to sit and watch the world go by. You'll get a great view of the Old Town from Castle (or Chateau) Hill.

The iconic Promenade des Anglais runs for seven kilometres; it starts between Parc Phoenix and the Côte d'Azur Airport and continues to Quai des États-Unis, at the foot of the Chateau Hill. Walk, run, roller skate... and enjoy the beautiful views of the sea, plus check out some of the luxury hotels, such as the Palais de la Méditerranée, the Hotel West End, and the Hotel Negresco.



Nice makes a great base to visit other resorts on the Riviera. Take the train to Cannes (it's around a 30-40 minute journey) for great shopping, beautiful beaches, food, and of course the mini 'Hollywood Walk of Fame'. Or head to Monaco (around 30 minutes by train).

During your whistlestop tour, take in the Monte Carlo casino, have your photo taken at the Grand Prix 'hairpin bend' (head to the Fairmont Hotel for this one), see the yachts in Port Hercules, stroll through the Jardin d'Acclimatation (you'll see the famous Opera House), visit the Prince's Palace of Monaco, and finally sit at the Café de Paris in Casino Square for a well-earned drink!

How about exploring more of the countryside on the Chemins de Fer de Provence line? It runs from Nice to Digne-les-Bains, famous for its thermal baths and spas. In the summer months, you can take the 1920s steam train the Train des Pignes, which will take you at a

leisurely pace to Entrevaux, Annot or Le Fugeret.

A trip inland to Grasse by train or bus is a treat for perfume-lovers. You could even have a go at making your own at one of the major perfume houses, such as Molinard, Galimard and Fragonard. Find out the history of perfume making at the International Perfume Museum, the only one of its kind in the world. Check out museesdegrasse.com/en/presentation-museum. Make time to wander the narrow streets and discover architectural treats – or why not visit the cathedral, with its wealth of art dating from the 15th century?

ROTTERDAM

One of the largest ports in the world, a harbour cruise should be top of your list of things to do. You'll see container ships, historical shipyards, and modern architecture along the banks of the Mass. You could also visit the SS Rotterdam, a former ocean liner of the Holland America line that has been beautifully restored. Dine in one of the restaurants or even stay overnight.

Then for a different perspective of the city, head up the 185m tall Euromast. From the top, you'll get a 360° degree over the city and the harbour. The brave could choose to abseil down! Check out euromast.nl to discover more, including an overnight stay in a suite in the sky.

Back on terra firma, the Diergaard Blijdorp is one of the oldest zoos in the Netherlands. As well as areas including the African savanna and the Asian jungle, there is also the Oceanium, where you can walk among penguins, sharks and exotic fish.

Head out of Rotterdam to Kinderdijk, a UNESCO site. Here you'll discover 19 iconic windmills, including museums, films and tour boats. Pre-booking is necessary – all the details can be found at kinderdijk.com.





FROM ONE CITY TO ANOTHER

Aurigny's flights to London City have proved to be very popular – and no wonder, when it's so easy to transit through the airport. Why not enjoy a city break in Vilnius, Lithuania (there are flights year-round from LCY) and discover the Baltic way of life? This year is a good one to visit, as the city is the European Green Capital 2025.

Did you know that Lithuania was once the largest country in Europe? Its lands during the 14th/15th centuries included present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and parts of Poland and Russia, from the Baltic to the Black Sea. As well as Vilnius, the capital, there are plenty of lakes and mountains to explore – its breath-taking vistas will appeal to those who love the outdoors.

For this trip, fly into Vilnius airport, around three miles south of the city. Within around 15 minutes, you'll be in the centre. There is a fully integrated bus and trolley bus network which boasts one of the newest bus fleets in Europe.

But if you're wanting to keep to the green theme, then don some comfortable walking shoes and explore the city on foot. For self-guided walks packed with information, check out walkablevilnius.com. As well as discovering Vilnius's history, reflected in the style of the buildings (look out for Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque, plus more recent evidence of its Soviet era), particularly in the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you'll also discover green parks to wander through.

The vast **Kalnai Park** is ideal for hiking and jogging – in the summer, concerts and festivals take place there. The park is formed by several hills, with the **Hill of Three Crosses** the most prominent. According to legend, seven Franciscan friars were beheaded here in the 17th century. To commemorate them, wooden crosses were erected. Eventually the wood rotted and in 1916, a concrete monument, the **Three Crosses Monument**

replaced them, which was rebuilt in 1988.

Or why not visit the flora-rich **Botanical Garden of Vilnius University** for a peaceful walk? At 199 hectares, there are plenty of places to wander, and the garden offers gazebos and picnic spaces, too. **Bernardine Garden** is home to the oldest oak tree in Vilnius, approximately 400 years old.

You'll also tick the green credentials by staying in one of the city's sustainable hotels that focuses on eco-friendly practices, like energy efficiency and waste reduction. Many feature locally sourced materials and green-certified accommodations.

SIGHT-SEEING

Pilies Street is the oldest street in town, taking you from Cathedral Square to Market Square. Market Square is an attractive square that was the main commercial square up to the 19th century. Feast on the views looking back

ABOVE L-R: FUNICULAR TO GEDIMINAS' TOWER; NERIS RIVER IN WINTER; VILNIUS TV TOWER; GEDIMINAS' TOWER; CHURCH OF ST ANNE & BERNARDINE COMPLEX. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

towards **Gediminas' Tower**, which dominates the top of its steep hill. Either walk up or take the funicular (three euros return, two euros one-way). The Tower, the remaining part of the Upper Castle on top of Gediminas' Hill, is one of the main symbols of Vilnius and you'll find a permanent exhibition covering the architecture and armaments of the city's past. Catch a panoramic view of the red roofs of the Old Town in one direction, the glass tower blocks of the city in the other.

Gediminas' Avenue is the main thoroughfare in Vilnius and is full of restaurants, cafes, large stores, parks plus some interesting monuments and buildings. Part of it becomes a pedestrian street at night and weekends.

Vilnius TV Tower is the tallest structure in the country and among the tallest in the world. It is one of the most distinctive structures in the country. Enjoy stunning views of Vilnius and its surroundings from the 67th-floor bistro-bar Tolia or the 68th-floor business and leisure space Debesys. The seasonal open terrace offers an unlimited height experience and a chance to test

your courage with an Edge Walk at a height of 170m.

If you can't get enough of the views of the Old Town, then head to the romantic **Subačius viewpoint**.

Church of St Theresa – A Roman Catholic Church in the Old Town, it has no tower but rather a square belfry crowned by a weathervane. Near to the **Gate of Dawn**, the most famous of Vilnius's city gates, built in the early 1500s. Within the gate itself is the chapel Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn, a major pilgrimage site in Lithuania.

Located close by, you'll also spot the **Basilian Monastery Gate**, a superb example of Baroque architecture. Lovers of Baroque architecture must also visit **St Casimir Church**. From here, and for a change of style, head to the **Vilnius Contemporary Art Centre**, one of the largest contemporary art spaces in the Baltic region.

Church of St Anne & Bernardine Complex – This is one of the most famous attractions in Vilnius, which led to Vilnius being named a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture – legend has it that

Napoleon wanted to take the church back with him to Paris.

Cathedral Basilica of St Stanislaus and St Ladislaus – Just off Cathedral Square in the shadow of Gediminas' Tower, this dramatic 18th-century basilica is grand inside and out, with interior artwork and sculptures created following the 1990 declaration of independence. Explore the late medieval underground vaults and the Royal crypt of **Vilnius Cathedral** on a guided tour; alternatively, head up the bell tower for views over the city.

The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania – Rebuilt this century, the Palace was originally constructed in the 15th century for the rulers of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the future Kings of Poland. Discover history, archaeology and architecture, reconstructed historical interiors, and weaponry. There are four routes/exhibitions to discover – check out valdovurumai.lt/en/ to plan your day.

The Presidential Palace – The official office of the president of Lithuania, the Palace has been at the centre of important state events for centuries. Every Sunday



ABOVE: TRAKAI CASTLE.
RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM: LITHUANIAN BEER;
COLD BEETROOT SOUP (SALTIBARSCIAI); STUFFED
POTATO DUMPLINGS (ZEPPELINS OR CEPELINAI) ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

at midday there is a solemn flag-hoisting ceremony. Free tours (with pre-registration) available in English on a Sunday. See govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius/places/presidential-palace for further information.

Grab a Vilnius Pass with free access to more than 60 museums and attractions – even if you're here just for a day or two, the Vilnius Pass will help you make the most of your visit. See govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius/get-vilnius-pass for information.

Užupis – Across the river from the Old Town is Užupis, a bohemian neighbourhood that declared independence from greater Vilnius more than 20 years ago. While it was left to crumble under Soviet rule, it is now packed with art galleries, bars, cafes and restaurants.

EAT & DRINK

Lithuania's known for the earthy beers from its farmhouse brewing traditions, as well as traditional mead (honey wine).

Food-wise, zepelins or cepelinai are huge potato dumplings, stuffed with meat, mushrooms or cottage

cheese, often topped off with fried minced onion and bacon or sour cream. A hearty meal, a portion (or try sharing!) will fill you up for the day. Also try the Baltic classic borscht (cold beetroot soup) and 'hunters' dishes' such as boar, beaver or venison stews and roasts.

Kibinai are tradition pastries filled with mutton, mushrooms, beef, vegetables, or chicken. The most authentic place to eat Kibinai is **Trakai**.

BEYOND VILNIUS

A 30-minute trip from Vilnius will take you to the town of **Trakai**, once the main centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Here you'll find **Trakai Castle**, located on an island on Lake Galvė. As well as the castle and its museum, take advantage of the surrounding natural settings and take a boat out onto the water.

WHAT'S ON

Vilnius International Film Festival runs for 16 days (7 – 23 March 2025). More than 100 movies are divided into a number of different programmes including the annual competition. See kinopavasaris.lt/en/



ABOVE: CHARLOTTE GREEN.
RIGHT: COBO BAY ©SHUTTERSTOCK.



COMING HOME

A NEW, OCCASIONAL SERIES WHERE WE ASK A LOCAL STUDENT WHO IS STUDYING IN THE UK OR OVERSEAS, WHAT IS THEIR FAVOURITE THING (OR THINGS) ABOUT HEADING BACK TO GUERNSEY – AND WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN THEIR UNIVERSITY TOWN OR CITY FOR VISITORS?

► **NAME: CHARLOTTE GREEN**

► **UNIVERSITY: WINCHESTER**

First off, I thought I should start off by introducing myself. My name is Charlotte Green, and I am in my fourth year at the University of Winchester, completing a PGCE allowing me to become a primary school teacher.

Before that I did a BA in media and communications, also at the University of Winchester. I graduated last year, which was one of the best days of my life, being able to celebrate with my family and the friends I had made over the last three years. It was a day I will never forget.

When asked about what my favourite thing is about coming home, I struggled to think of one single thing. For the first 18 years of my life, I don't even think I fully appreciated how much Guernsey has to offer; however, by going away and now coming back I definitely realise how lucky I am to call Guernsey home. By having the

chance to see Guernsey through the eyes of my university friends, I have been able to fully appreciate the best bits of living on a tiny island in the middle of the English Channel. While this does come with some challenges, the good by far outweighs the bad.

One of my favourite memories back home has been being able to show off our island to my new university friends. I did this in my second- and third-year summers so my friends could experience a traditional Guernsey summer.

This included visiting the West Show and North Show, a trip to Herm, a day out at the Donkey Derby, looking around the Little Chapel and watching a Cobo sunset. We went to the bathing pools for a swim at low tide, which blew my friends (Joe and Flo's) minds.

I've got to say, I love going to the bathing pools in the summer, jumping into the cold, crisp water

after sunbathing for an hour, it does not get better than that.

When they came over, both were overwhelmed by the sense of community the island holds, especially around the time of the shows. They loved the community aspect of everyone coming together to listen to the Big Band Collective, even in the pouring rain – they had never seen anything like it. Also music related, I love going to all the balcony gigs at Cobo, whether that's appreciating the music from the beach, or being up in the crowd on the road. I can promise you I have never seen anything like it in the UK with such stunning scenery.

Equally, when the Christmas holidays roll around, I love going to the Boxing Day swim. It's become a family tradition in our house, walking down to Cobo early in the morning, and running into the sea with my whole family, with the



ABOVE L-R: LA VALLETTE BATHING POOLS. ©SHUTTERSTOCK. PICTURESQUE SHELL BEACH, HERM; THE LITTLE CHAPEL. ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

ABOVE: WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL. RIGHT TOP - BOTTOM: KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE; THE RIVER ITCHEN; THE PRIORY GATE ©ISTOCKPHOTO. JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE; MARWELL ZOO ©SHUTTERSTOCK.

cautious ones holding the towels. Yet again, another massive sense of community, raising money for an incredible charity by running into the freezing cold sea. Late night Christmas shopping, bumping into people you have not seen for years and stopping for a good chat, promising to meet them for coffee in the New Year.

On the way back from late night shopping, my family and I will sometimes take the long drive home, passing the houses that always have the best Christmas light displays this time of year, not only being able to appreciate them, but half the time you even know whose they are so you can tell them you appreciate the lights too!

One of my favourite traditions we have adopted since I went to university is going out on a Sunday for a roast dinner right before I go to the airport. It's so nice to spend quality family time together before I head off for another eight weeks in Winchester.

We have a range of favourite places we go to, but including the Fleur du Jardin, the Slaughterhouse and the Rockmount, all of which do

a brilliant roast. I guess what I'm trying to say is, the reason why I love coming home as a university student is the sense of community that the island holds which is nothing like anywhere else, whether that be at the summer shows, or in the winter at the Boxing Day swim.

Bumping into people you haven't seen for years while late night Christmas shopping or going back into work and seeing your colleagues after weeks away, there is something really special about the strong community vibe Guernsey has. This is something that will never get old, time and time again as I come back for the holidays.

What makes a community is the people, and Guernsey people are some of the friendliest people around. Whether that be letting people go at yellow lines or letting someone jump the queue in front of you, this is something I will never tire of about Guernsey.

In England, it's easy to see why some towns have lost this sense of community, with the sheer size and lack of community events (like the summer shows) and this is

something I hope Guernsey will never lose. As my time at university ends, it is easy for me to see why I keep coming back in the holidays while my friends stay at university all year round. That community feel and sense of belonging that I cannot get away from, it feels like coming home.

WINCHESTER

Winchester as a city is beautiful. I chose the University of Winchester as Winchester city is one of the safest in the UK. It has a historic cobbled high street with one of the oldest pubs in England just off it. Winchester is also the old English capital, so is steeped in history, perfect for history students!

One of my favourite things to do when family come to Winchester is walk up St Catherine's Hill. Winchester is on the edge of a National Park, so it is surrounded by nature and plenty of long walks.

Another one of my favourite things to do when family come over around Christmas time is the Winchester Christmas market. It is set in the cathedral grounds and is one of the best in the country.

Winchester University also appealed to me due to its proximity to Southampton airport. It is just an eight-minute train ride away or 20-minute drive. This makes it super quick and easy for me to get home whenever I need to. It is also only an hour from London by train, making it easy to do day trips to go and see shows or for shopping as well as being an hour away from the coast.

WHAT TO DO IN WINCHESTER?

Winchester Cathedral

A must-see when visiting Winchester, the cathedral is steeped in centuries of history. One of the best ways to explore the Cathedral is with a trained guide, who will tell you all about the cathedral's past, and stories about the people associated with the Cathedral, including William Walker, the diver who saved the Cathedral in the early 1900s. As part of the tour, you will have the opportunity to discover the massive vaults of the Cathedral's early Norman crypt, the ornate Renaissance chantry chapels, novelist Jane Austen's grave and the Great West Window.

Regular guided tours are available Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 3pm, which are included in the admission fee.

Jane Austen's house

Visit literary-great Jane Austen's house. It is one of the most important literary locations in the world and it was in this inspiring cottage that Jane Austen's genius flourished and where she created all six of her well-loved and major novels. Step back into the 19th century and see the rooms where she lived and wrote, her writing table, jewellery, letters and first editions of her novels up close.

Marwell Zoo

A trip to the zoo makes a great family day out. Marwell Zoo has more than 140 acres of space for about 100 animals, including giraffes, tigers and rhinos to meerkats, penguins and lemurs. They also have five adventure play areas, cafes and a gift shop. The zoo is owned by global wildlife charity Marwell Wildlife and by visiting you will contribute to its conservation project.



The Guernsey Tourism Partnership is dedicated to representing and promoting tourism related businesses in Guernsey.

We have created a network of members to share ideas and information to benefit all. Our goal is to establish tourism as one of the core industries in Guernsey and to promote its unique benefits to the public, both locally and abroad. Below are just some of our many partners.



ABOVE: PEPPA PIG WORLD. RIGHT: HMS WARRIOR.
BELOW: ST MARY'S STADIUM. ALL IMAGES ©SHUTTERSTOCK

FIVE FUN THINGS TO DO NEAR SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT

FROM FOOTBALL TO MARITIME HISTORY, THERE IS PLENTY TO SEE AND DO IN HAMPSHIRE. WE PICK A FEW FAMILY FAVOURITES.

ST MARY'S STADIUM

Guernsey-born Matt Le Tissier spent his entire professional football career at Southampton FC. So it's understandable that there are many local supporters of the premier league team. A tour of St Mary's Stadium will show you things that you wouldn't normally see on a matchday – including the chance to soak up the atmosphere in the changing rooms and even walk down the tunnel.

Check out southamptonfc.com/en/stadium-tours for further information and to book.

PAULTONS PARK

Home of Peppa Pig World, there are no doubt many Guernsey families who have enjoyed a day or more at Paultons Park. But did you know that there are another four themed worlds to explore? Head to Tornado Springs, Lost Kingdom, Critter Creek and Wild Lands for a fun day (or longer) out.

There are more than 70 rides and attractions included in the entrance price. The park is set within 140 acres of beautiful parkland on the edge of the New Forest National Park and is home to rare exotic birds, beautiful gardens and a lake, a historic watermill, amazing adventure playgrounds, an indoor play centre, and two super fun water splash parks.

See paultonspark.co.uk for further information.

EASTLEIGH LAKESIDE RAILWAY

Situated in the 22-acre Lakeside Country Park (around a 10-15 minute walk from Southampton Parkway railway station and the airport), Eastleigh Lakeside Steam Railway is a dual gauge 10¼" / 7¼" miniature railway running from its main station, Eastleigh Parkway, to Monks Brook Halt.

Trains run approximately every 20-25 minutes and are normally steam hauled. The return journey of just under 1¼ miles, takes about 20 - 25 minutes. The last train departs 15 minutes before closing time.

Why not treat yourself to breakfast at the Lakeside Café first? Find more information at steamtrain.co.uk

PARTYMAN WORLD OF PLAY, EASTLEIGH

If you're looking for somewhere for the kids to run off their energy, then this indoor soft play centre hits the spot. Simply turn up and play. For admission prices and other information see partymanworld.co.uk/location/eastleigh/

SOUTHAMPTON'S TITANIC STORY – SEACITY MUSEUM

Discover the story of RMS Titanic and how the tragedy affected the city and people of Southampton. Featuring an interactive model of the Titanic, recorded messages of its passengers of the fateful night, original objects from on board the world-famous ship and more.

Or follow 200,000 years of Southampton's history, from Roman traders to Saxon settlers, to WWII and the introduction of the docks in the Gateway to the World and Southampton Stories exhibitions, bursting with an exciting collection of models, costumes, artworks, photographs, incredible stories and much more.

See seacitymuseum.co.uk for further information.

If you're interested in maritime history and have some spare time, hop on the train to Portsmouth to visit Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. You'll learn about the Mary Rose, HMS Victory and HMS Warrior among others. Take advantage of the waterbus service for easy travel between Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, The Royal Navy Submarine Museum, and Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower. Dates and times vary depending on season/weather.

Plan your day at historicdockyard.co.uk



ENJOY GUERNSEY
 DJW@CWGSY.NET
 07839118988
 @DJWGROUP
 AIRPORT & HOTEL TRANSFER | PARTY BUS HIRE | COACH TOURS | SIGHT-SEEING | EXPERT GUIDE | TAXI HIRE

Donkey Taxis Ltd
 GUERNSEY TAXI SERVICE
 IAN VAUDIN
 07839 747667 | donkeytaxis@gmail.com

UP CLIMBING
 BOOK NOW
upclimbing.gg

GUERNSEY SEAWEED TOURS
 Discover the World of Seaweed with our expert guides. Explore Guernsey's rich seaweed history and its uses in:
 • Cosmetics • Culinary Delights
 • Farming • Fashion
Hands-On Experience:
 Try seaweed moisturizer and taste fresh seaweed straight from the beach.
 Uncover the secrets of seaweed up close!

Camp de Rêves Glampsite
 Private luxury Shepherd Huts with panoramic sunset sea views, ensuite amenities, and a log-burning stove.
 Ideal for a spontaneous getaway.
 +44 (0)7781 415640 enquiries@guernseyglamping.com www.guernseyglamping.com

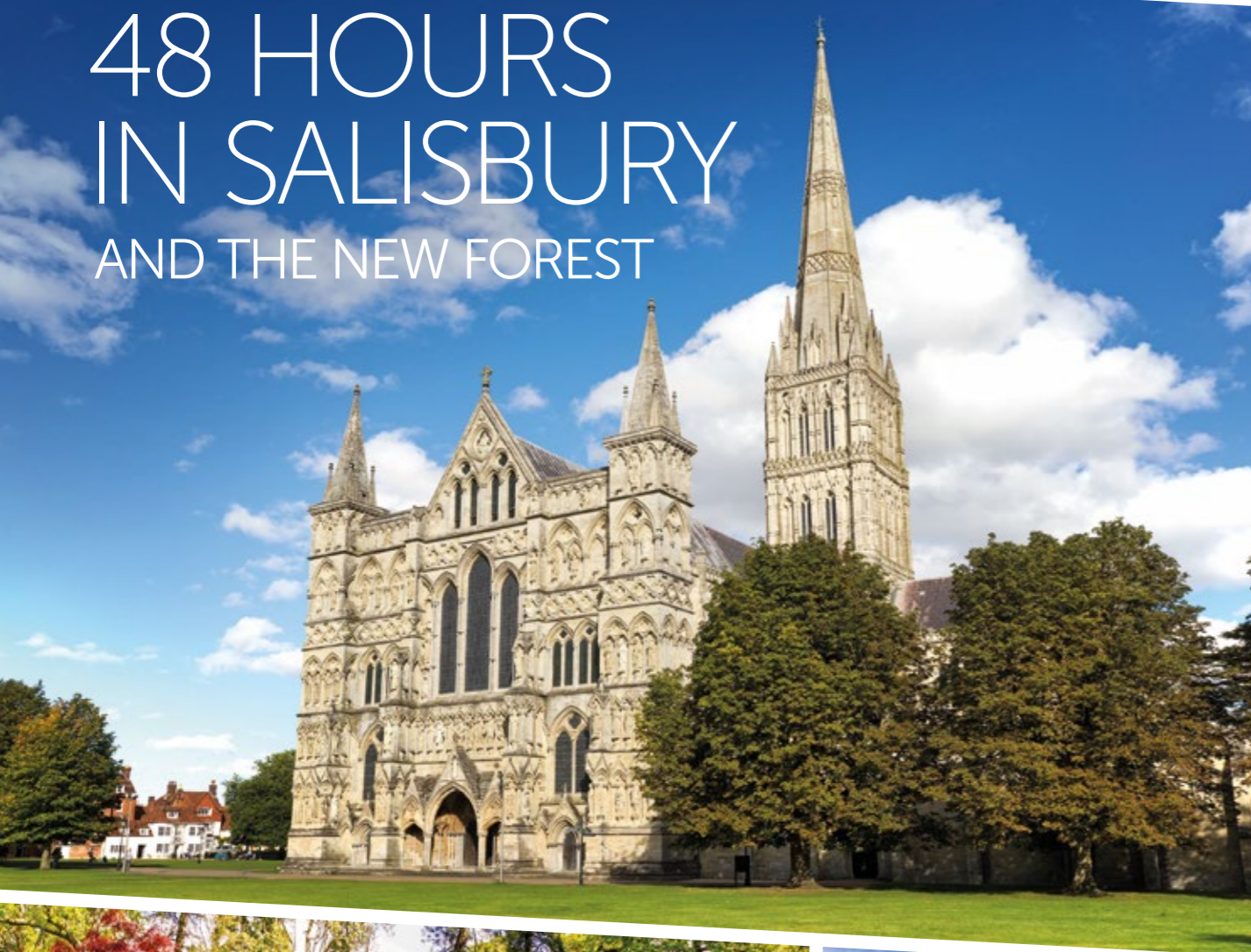
See, Explore & Discover with
Tours of Guernsey
 Walking & Vehicle Tours with 5* rated Accredited Tour Guides
 www.toursofguernsey.com
 Email: info@toursofguernsey.com

Follow the locals to
 @mimsworldguernsey
 Mims World
 Instagram Facebook

GUERNSEY TAXI APP
buses.gg
 SCAN ME TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



48 HOURS IN SALISBURY AND THE NEW FOREST



IMAGES CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SALISBURY HIGH STREET; STONEHENGE, SALISBURY; BEAULIEU MOTOR MUSEUM ©ISTOCKPHOTO. NEW FOREST PONIES; HURST CASTLE AND HURST POINT LIGHTHOUSE; BEAULIEU HOUSE; EXBURY GARDENS ©SHUTTERSTOCK. MAIN IMAGE: SALISBURY CATHEDRAL ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

A charming blend of medieval heritage and natural beauty, Salisbury and the New Forest are sure to leave you with your mini-break cup well and truly filled. Hire a car and combine exploring both of these enchanting areas in one trip. You'll no doubt be able to squeeze in a variety of activities during a 48 hr break, says Jessamy Baldwin.

DAY ONE: SALISBURY, A CITY STEEPED IN HISTORY

Start your day by going back in time, 400 BC to be exact, to one of the most important historic sites in southern England. Climb to the top of Old Sarum and soak up breathtaking countryside views from this ancient ruin. This Iron Age hill fort was Salisbury's original settlement. Next, head to the 800-year-old gothic-looking Salisbury Cathedral, which boasts the tallest spire in Britain (don't miss climbing this for panoramic views of the city and surrounding countryside).

Here you'll also find the world's oldest mechanical clock and the best-preserved copy of the 1215 Magna Carta globally. Now, peruse Mompesson House in Cathedral Close. This elegant 18th century town house offers a glimpse into the Georgian era, complete with original period furniture and a charming garden.

Spend the next few hours meandering through the pretty

city. Set upon five rivers – the Nadder, Ebble, Wylye, Bourne and Avon – Salisbury exudes charm with its waterways, cobbled streets, independent shops and award winning eateries. Nole Pizza, Cafe Diwali and The Salisbury Orangery are all great spots to refuel, while the Haunch of Venison, Caboose and Tinga are perfect for a tippie stop.

DAY TWO: BACK TO NATURE IN THE NEW FOREST

Fuel up for the day at Culture Cafe before setting off to explore the New Forest. Just a short drive from Salisbury, the New Forest National Park offers a tranquil escape into unspoiled countryside, wild ponies, ancient woodlands and quaint villages. Options for today are plentiful and if you have longer than 48 hrs you may be able to cover them all. But for those on a two-day break, just pick a couple.

The beautiful fairytale village of Beaulieu boasts the Beaulieu Abbey and Palace House as well as the National Motor Museum – well worth a visit. Lyndhurst (known as the capital of the New Forest), Brockenhurst (with its wild ponies and cycle routes along the Lymington River), Burley (known for its witchcraft folklore, tea rooms and horse-drawn wagons) are all delightful. The world famous Exbury Gardens offers 200 acres of rhododendrons, azaleas and other stunning flora. Don't miss the steam railway for a fun ride through

the gardens. Finally, Hurst Castle, located on a spit of land with panoramic views of the Solent, is a truly scenic pit-stop.

Getting around: Salisbury is best explored on foot, while the New Forest is ideal for cycling or driving. I'd recommend picking up a hire car from Southampton airport to give you flexibility.

Where to stay: Combine the city and forest experience with two different accommodation bases. Opt for a charming inn/forest lodge as well as a central Salisbury hotel.

Top tips:

- Driving past Stonehenge (20 mins north of Salisbury) is enough to get a glimpse of the famous landmark. However, you can book tours to get closer and learn more about the history. There's a visitor centre and reconstructed Neolithic houses for those wanting a more in-depth look.
- Best time to visit: Spring and autumn offer mild weather and fewer crowds



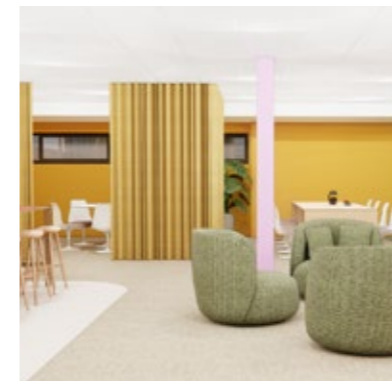
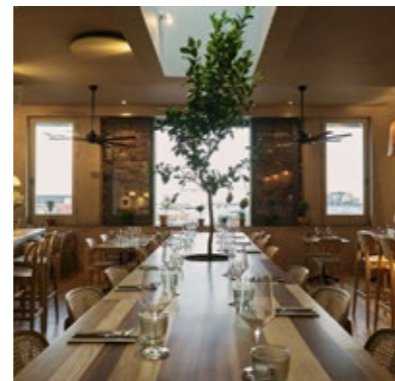


Architecture + Design + Interiors + Landscapes



Studio is an award-winning architecture and design practice working on residential, commercial and community projects across Guernsey and beyond. Our considered, contextual designs create beautiful, functional and sustainable structures and spaces that will be enjoyed for generations. We offer interior design and landscape design as part of broader architectural commissions, or as standalone services. We take pride in tailoring each design to meet the precise needs of each client and site, and in working closely with trusted contractors and consultants to deliver exceptional results. Planning a project? Get in touch to find out how we can work together.

The team at **Rosso** tasked us with refreshing and reimagining their space. Our reinvention includes beautiful, newly exposed granite and brickwork, a new bar featuring handmade terracotta tiles that echo the bricks, and a new colour palette, plus new furnishings and lighting fixtures. The original hardwood floor has been given a new lease of life. Large windows fold back flat onto the internal face of the facade in the style of a classic European dining terrace, connecting the space with the St Peter Port seafront and harbour beyond.



We're designing new offices for **HFL**, a fund administration and private client company based in St Peter Port. With a brief to create warm, welcoming, contemporary spaces in which this growing team can thrive, we've been finalising concepts and refining finishes to deliver exactly what the client needs and wants. Our response creates four distinct but interconnected zones. Central to the design is a dividing wall with 'statement' faces. Bold sweeps of colour bring warmth and character. Works on site are already underway.





ALL IMAGES: ©GUERNSEY PRESS.

FIELD OF DREAMS:

A GUERNSEY COUPLE'S ARDUOUS PURSUIT OF LUXURY

TURNING A VISION INTO REALITY IS RARELY EASY AND DANNY AND JANE BARNES CERTAINLY HAD THEIR SHARE OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS ON THEIR WAY TO CREATING A LUXURY GLAMPING SITE IN GUERNSEY. SIMON DE LA RUE REVEALS THEIR STORY.

It's the last day of October 2023 and a violent storm is spinning across the Atlantic towards the Channel Islands. Events are being cancelled in every parish and Guernsey's schools and airport are being kept closed, with everybody advised to stay at home. Meteorologists are talking about 'explosive cyclogenesis', tornadoes and winds of up to 97mph.

As the indifferent agent of destruction nears, Danny and Jane Barnes could be forgiven – as they survey their newly opened, west-facing, luxury glamping site – for cursing their luck.

They have already forced Camp de Réves into being through sheer force of will, despite the complications of Brexit, the privations of a global pandemic and the equally stasis-inducing quagmire of their home-island's planning processes.

Their shared dream, for which they have fought so hard, is now at the

mercy of Storm Ciarán.

As 'teenage sweethearts' (Danny's phrase), Danny Barnes and Jane Brehaut had no teenage dreams of going into hospitality and in the subsequent decades they had no inkling of creating a business venture such as the one they were eventually to build on the slopes of the west-coast Guernsey parish of St Peter's.

For most of those intervening years, they went their separate ways, led their own lives and formed their own families.

'I was a landscaper for 35 years,' says Danny, 'running my own business with my own yard and equipment.'

He gestures beyond the games room in which we sit, because the bustling old workplace once occupied the same space as today's pristine glamping site.

For many years, Danny majored in the production of seaweed compost, producing more than

a thousand tonnes annually.

'We supplied the Barclay brothers for their Sark projects – that was a big contract – and it was used by gardeners and landscapers too.'

He had grown up around plants and in a business environment, with his parents owning and running the long-established Dell Nursery, on the outskirts of Guernsey's capital, St Peter Port.

His brothers Marcus and Dom trained as tree surgeons and the St Peter's site had been used for that enterprise. It was an area pockmarked with holes after being mined during the Second World War by the occupying German forces, for the construction of their mighty Batterie Mirus defensive installation.

Danny's route into landscaping was via a horticultural apprenticeship at Dell Nursery, followed by study at Merrist Wood College.

Jane, meanwhile, 'spent 30 years in finance'.

However, these long-diverged paths were to cross once more on the sacred turf of Guernsey's western parishes.

With both having separately separated, they reconnected again after a hiatus of nearly 30 years, by dint of a chance meeting at the traditional, agricultural West Show.

There, Jane booked Danny to survey some landscaping work she needed doing... and you can insert your own joke about 'earth moving' here.

Amid the less-than-salubrious surrounds of his business premises, where composting gave rise to 'ginormous piles of poo and seaweed juice' (Jane's words), Danny began to envisage something altogether less industrial and his gift for visualisation, combined with his sense of adventure, was to point them both in a new direction – owning and running a campsite.

'Danny brought his campervan to work, so they'd have somewhere for making teas and coffees,' Jane says.

'In the summer, we started having barbecues for the extended family and it evolved from that.'

As a landscaper, Danny could picture how the site could be reconfigured to make the very best of its astonishing sunset views and he had the equipment to make it happen.

But first he had to overcome Jane's understandable pragmatism.

'She took a bit of convincing,' he says.

'I did think "you're mad",' she recalls. 'People won't want to come here, with all this poo juice everywhere. But he took me to a certain spot and said "if you stand here, look what you can see".'

Jane was soon convinced but the journey was to be longer and more arduous than they could have imagined.

They did start out with certain advantages. In a sense, they had both spent much of their lives independently conducting unwitting market research, as they had always been keen campers – Jane getting to know Herm like the back of her hand and Danny becoming a stalwart Alderney camper.

But they had their business heads on from the start and set about conducting further research in 2016, quickly becoming keenly aware of a rapid growth in enthusiasm for glamping.

'It was going crazy in the UK and on the continent,' says Danny. 'People were increasingly looking for outdoor, active holidays as part of a growing consciousness of wellness.'

They went on glamping holidays of their own, to see what worked and what didn't, and attended trade

shows. They quickly decided they wanted to create a high-end, small-scale facility with excellent views, where every need was anticipated and catered for – in short, the sort of place they would want to stay.

'It needed to be super comfortable but we also wanted it to have minimal impact on the environment,' says Jane.

This has been an important part of the DNA of Camp de Réves since its inception.

They decided to make use of the abundant glacial boulders to be found on the site and to resurrect an old hoggin quarry, thereby reducing the amount of additional bulk materials that would be needed.

They planned on choosing muted colours for all the structures on the site, along with as many natural materials as possible. They would only plant indigenous trees, shrubbery, and wildflowers to encourage a thriving wildlife habitat for birds of prey, garden birds, small mammals and insects.

But before they could make any of this happen, they required the necessary planning consent and this proved to be the first of several rather high hurdles.

When I ask what the process was like, Danny and Jane fall silent for a moment. I think I detect a shudder. They look at each other with wry smiles.



ALL IMAGES: ©GUERNSEY PRESS.

'Let's just say it took longer than anticipated,' says Jane.

It seems ironic that a change of use for the site should cause them so much delay and difficulty, given that the site was once summarily and permanently altered by a military force that took heed of nothing but its own agenda. The German anti-aircraft searchlight bunker and machine-gun post are still to be found within a few yards of our position beside the table-tennis table.

They may not feel inclined to expand on the saga of their planning challenges, but they do admit to having made a contingency plan which involved leaving their home island altogether, as they felt 'exhausted and demoralised'.

By the autumn of 2018, however, permission was in place and a renewed vigour came with it. At this stage, the site had no water and no electricity but Danny's expertise, equipment and landscaping team were brought to bear, and the land began to yield.

Then the next hurdle hove into view, as the repercussions of the Brexit vote became clearer.

'There was a massive panic over the tents,' says Jane. 'We saw them at a UK trade show and then made our way to Amsterdam to order them directly from the manufacturers but because of Brexit, we were suddenly up against a deadline. There was no guarantee we would be able to bring them in after April 2019.'

'And when they arrived,' says Danny, 'we had to decant them at the Ferryspeed yard because they came in two 40ft artic trailers that were too big to be brought to the site.'

The shipment consisted of five large safari tents, made using particularly durable wood, replete with interiors and furniture, including mattresses, plumbing and wood for the decking. The company selling the tents even dispatched a team of four staff to oversee their construction.

On their journey to the island, these safari tent specialists may not have anticipated Guernsey's third wettest March on record, with the barometer giving its lowest average reading for the month of March since 1947.

Work to install drains and electrics went way beyond the original timeline and the hoped-for opening date of April 2019 slipped and slid.

Danny had given up his landscaping work in 2018 to devote his time to the great glampsite project but fortunately, Jane's work was able to continue, with her Saffrey Champness colleagues aware of her plans but keen to keep her on while they could.

There was one big, glowing source of sunshine in all the gloom, however.

In May 2019, the clouds parted just in time to provide the hottest day of the year, just in time for Danny and Jane's wedding, which was celebrated in the lower field.

Work to prepare Camp de Rêves continued in earnest for several months and finally, as the spring of 2020 came into view, the Barneses were storming it – the glampsite was ready to wow its first inhabitants and there were plenty of bookings on the calendar.

What could go wrong?

Well, how about an event that caused most of the world's population to have to stay at home?

The UK went into lockdown in March 2020. That little SARS-CoV-2 virus has done a lot of things to a lot of people over the last five years. In the case of Danny and Jane, it removed, at a stroke, their entire UK trade. It also meant that the 'finishing touches' took ages, with strict limits to how many workers could be on site.

It was not until the end of June 2020 that the glampsite could finally open but when it did, things began to look up.

'Bookings for the UK trade had been looking really good, so it was devastating to lose them to Covid,' says Danny, 'but it was a blessing in disguise – eventually.'

Guernsey's peculiar situation for much of that summer – locked down hard against the outside world, yet with free movement around the Bailiwick – created an unprecedented staycation boom, fuelled by a sort of fin-de-siècle determination to enjoy our freedoms while we could.

As a result, that first season was not only a success but it also

introduced a large cohort of first-time customers to Camp de Rêves who would be ideally placed to revisit.

This was especially handy in 2021, when the frequent and unpredictable imposition of travel restrictions played havoc with UK bookings. In fact, Danny and Jane barely bothered to advertise to the UK market that year, such was the disruption.

'The local market is still the mainstay of our business,' says Danny, 'and we get lots of repeat bookings. There's no travel for them – that's a big Brucey – there's zero hassle, it's safe for the children and they can even pop home to feed their pets. It's a good market.'

'They may not be far from home,' says Jane, 'but they can look out to sea and believe they're a world away from everything.'

Remarkably, their most local visitor lives barely 200 yards away from Camp de Rêves and their most frequent repeat visitor has stayed 11 times in three years.

This mix of local and loyal customers has enabled Camp de Rêves to expand, introducing a quiet retreat to the lower part of the site, which is reserved for adults. Here, they have installed three shepherd huts, hand-built by Dicky Deans of East Sussex using sustainable oak and insulated with British wool, 'ensuring warmth and cosiness while minimising their carbon footprint'.

This is particularly useful when building a strong winter trade, which Camp de Rêves has been able to do – the log burners being especially enticing for visitors in the colder months.

Colder but also windier.

At 5am on 1 November, with Storm Ciarán's threat increasing, Danny and Jane carried out some last-minute checks, making sure everything was held fast.

The worst of the storm came just a few hours later, bringing wind speeds to the Channel Islands of over 100mph. The worst impact was felt in Jersey, while Guernsey recorded winds of 78mph. Buildings were damaged – including the airport – and about

70 trees were brought down.

'We had fair warning, so we were prepared,' recalls Danny, 'and we actually ended up having more damage to our own house than we had here. But that was no accident – we'd bought the most stormworthy tents.'

As the winter of 2024/5 approached, the glampsite had become all the more established and – without wishing to tempt fate – it has surely seen the last of those high hurdles.

Mr Danny and Mrs Jane Barnes now have additional staff, having taken on Ellie Torode as marketing and communications manager and Ross Torode as head groundsman. They are Jane's son and daughter, who have set about bringing their own expertise to the party.

Ellie has 'upgraded everything, marketing-wise', says Danny, while Ross has made use of his teaching qualifications to introduce the provision of outdoor learning for school children. Their friend Amy Hoskins has also joined as head of housekeeping.

This year has seen further progress when it comes to Camp de Rêves' environmental credentials. The grounds are watered using water from a bore hole, energy is derived from solar panels and there are plans to introduce wind technology as well. Nest boxes are in place around the site, along with bug hotels, while there is no use on site of chemical fertilisers, rat poison or pesticides. Instead, organic fertilisers, natural deterrent sprays and some good old-fashioned hoeing are the order of the day.

For the first time, Camp de Rêves has also opened up its own 'hedge veg' stall – also accessible to non-guests – providing organic produce from a new vegetable patch and polly tunnel, with the traditional Guernsey honesty box for payments.

There is now a pizza oven beside the playground and a petanque terrain beside that, while all around, the still relatively young landscape slowly matures.

Surveying the safari tent area after our conversation about

the adventures they've had to create it, Danny and Jane take an understandable pride in what they've achieved.

'Our priority was to create a glampsite where everything worked,' says Danny. 'Attention to detail is essential and everything is laid on. We take feedback very seriously and we try to accommodate every need.'

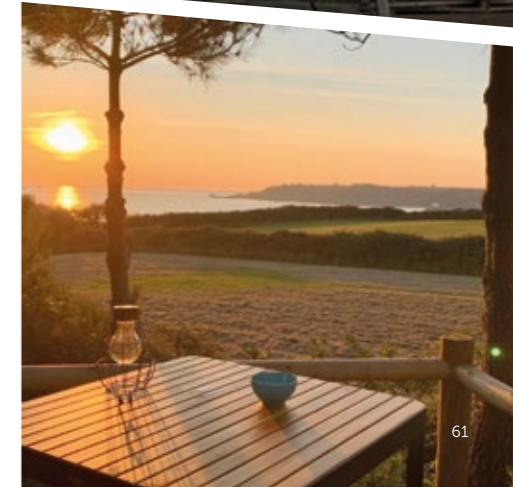
'That's why we have a teapot for six in a cupboard here somewhere,' says Jane. 'It may only make an occasional appearance but it's there when needed.'

She goes on to describe the big draw of glamping as 'having the chance to be out in nature but with all the home comforts'.

And the big draw for them as glampsite owners?

'It never gets dull,' says Danny. 'It's always evolving.'

'It's exhausting at times and it can be stressful,' says Jane, 'but I wouldn't go back to my old life for a second. You pinch yourself that you've finally got what you wanted. On a sunny day like today, it's sustaining, physically, mentally and financially.'





BUSINESS NEWS

64 NEWS BULLETIN

The latest business news from the Channel Islands

67 WHEN 5% IS EQUAL TO 95%

Nick Robison of Babbé presents the case for a different form of maths

71 IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Lisa Le Ray reflects on what makes Fort stand out from the crowd

72 FINANCE INDUSTRY UPDATE

Rupert Pleasant of Guernsey Finance looks back on the highlights of 2024

74 MARKET OUTLOOK 2025

Derek Beatty of Julius Baer looks ahead at the global economic landscape

CASH VS. INVESTING 76

Bex Goater of Network Insurance on key differences and making the right choice

COMPETITIVE EDGE 79

Wayde Finch of Zenzero discusses solutions to future-proof the finance industry

A WINTER WELCOME 82

Discover a very special time in island life

GUERNSEY'S PROPERTY MARKET 86

Alex Stuart and Scott Ingrouille of Swoffers reflect on 2024 and offer predictions for 2025

HIGH-FLYING 87

The latest appointments at leading Channel Island businesses

PRIVATE WEALTH: PREPARING FOR THE GREAT WEALTH TRANSFER

BY CATHERINE MOORE, PARTNER, OGIER

Over the next decade, considerable wealth will be passed from one generation to the next, in what's being called the great wealth transfer. This big change is making families and their advisors think hard about the best ways to handle it.

Each family's dynamics, values, and assets are unique, and the strategies for preparing the next generation must be equally bespoke. From estate planning to financial education, family offices play an important role in addressing these challenges.

This article answers key questions on the concerns, preparations, and educational strategies that are essential for a smooth and successful transfer of wealth, ensuring that the legacy of one generation can be effectively carried on by the next.

HOW ARE FAMILY OFFICES PREPARING FOR THE GREAT WEALTH TRANSFER OVER THE NEXT DECADE?

Many individual clients, families and family offices are actively preparing for the great wealth transfer by fostering a culture of education, dialogue, and engagement between generations. Dialogue must be two ways – for the next gen to understand what their parents' long-term wishes are and for their parents, advisers and family offices to understand what their goals and interests are.

Recognising the unique perspectives and tech-savvy nature of the next gen, we are seeing the incorporation of digital tools and technologies to streamline operations and make wealth management more efficient from the next gen's perspective. There is a significant emphasis on philanthropy as well as sustainable and ethical investment strategies, aligning with the next gen's strong inclination towards social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

By involving the next gen in discussions around wealth management early on, the aim is to equip them with the knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of inheriting and managing substantial wealth and to pass on to them lessons and values their families hope they will appreciate and benefit from.

WHAT ARE COMMON CHALLENGES IN TRANSFERRING WEALTH TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

One of the challenges families can face in the context of wealth transfer is bridging the gap in perceptions and values between generations. The next gen can hold differing views on wealth management, investment strategies (for example, digital investments and cryptocurrencies), and the role of wealth in addressing

social, environmental, and economic inequalities.

There's a concern over ensuring the next gen feels comfortable and prepared to inherit and manage significant wealth, especially considering their desire to balance personal values with family expectations and societal views on wealth. Understanding the next gen's unique perspectives on wealth and its uses is crucial in overcoming these challenges.

HOW DO YOU ENSURE THE NEXT GEN IS EQUIPPED TO MANAGE SIGNIFICANT WEALTH RESPONSIBILITY?

This involves a multi-faceted and collaborative approach. Advisers and family offices should focus on educating the next gen about financial management, the intricacies of family businesses, and why appropriate structuring can be essential.

If they can understand why wealth is managed and structured in a particular way, they will more often respect the same while looking to explore ways to bring in their interests and aims (such as sustainable and ethical investing) without upsetting the long-term arrangements the family has planned.

Encouraging the next gen's active involvement in family discussions, business operations, and philanthropic activities helps instil a sense of ownership and responsibility. Creating a transparent and supportive environment between them, the family's advisers, and family office to who they can express their views and aspirations, allows for a collaborative approach to wealth management, fostering an environment where the next gen feel they can ask questions, challenge where needed but without upsetting the family or any family business equilibrium.

As we face the great wealth transfer, both opportunities and challenges emerge for families and their advisers. This pivotal moment highlights the critical role of family offices in guiding the next generation through the complexities of inheriting and managing significant wealth.

HOW OGIER CAN HELP

Ogier's private wealth services are designed to support this journey, offering bespoke solutions for wealth structuring, succession planning, and asset protection. By focusing on the future and preparing today, we help shape lasting legacies and make a meaningful impact for generations to come.

Catherine Moore is a partner in Ogier's Private Wealth team in Guernsey. For more information, email catherine.moore@ogier.com or visit www.ogier.com.

QUESTIONY LEADS MARKET IN SECURING LOCAL TAX BREAKS



A tech start-up which is one of the first local companies to be awarded certification under the new Guernsey Enterprise Investment Scheme has said that the States initiative is one way to reverse some of the disadvantages of trying to launch a global business locally.

Questiony, a knowledge-sharing video platform, featuring leading academics and industry specialists, aims to reach one million video questions by 2027.

Under the GEIS, the company will now be able to offer tax relief of up to 30% to individuals looking to make an early-stage investment in the business.

Questiony founder Anthony Reynolds described the pilot initiative by the States Economic Development committee as a 'game-changer'.

The first round of GEIS applications took place in the autumn and Questiony, a subsidiary of local company MSE Ltd, was successful following the submission process.

GEIS aims to encourage an estimated £2.2m. of investment into Guernsey businesses and a future round is anticipated to open later this year.

LEADING LISTING AGENT FOR TISE

Lawyers for the leading listing agent for The International Stock Exchange have said that they are heartened by interest in specialist companies listings on the exchange.

Carey Olsen Corporate Finance, which operates in Guernsey and Jersey, has been confirmed as the leading listing agent on the exchange for the ninth consecutive year, for both issuers and security classes, across TISE's full product range. It acted as listing agent on 40% of all listings last year and the majority of high yield bond classes listed.

'We have been encouraged by the early interest we have seen in specialist companies listings, especially given the active role we have taken in assisting with the drafting of the specialist companies equity rules,' said Matthew Ecobichon, counsel in Carey Olsen's debt capital markets team in Jersey.

Specialist company rules were only adopted by the exchange in November, aimed at privately-held structures whose securities will not be frequently traded and are primarily held by institutional and professional investors.

They are seen as particularly positive for real estate investment trusts.

The expansion of the TISE trading sector follows up on the development of TISE Private Markets, its sustainable segment and its approved passport programme, a pan-European fast track listing service.

CAREY OLSEN ADVISES ON 'FIRST OF A KIND' PENSION



An innovative new pension arrangement through a captive insurer has been completed in Guernsey.

The £500,000 deal saw leading saving and investment company M&G launch a value share bulk purchase annuity as an innovative alternative to a

traditional buy-in, allowing pension trustees to continue to insure more than 3,000 scheme members while allowing corporate sponsors to participate in the risk and reward generated from insuring their well-funded UK pension schemes.

M&G has written more than £1.4bn of new business since re-entering the bulk annuity market in September 2023. It was a founding member of the industry with an annuity book of some £15bn over 400 transactions between 1997 and 2016.

The transaction involved the issue of a £500m. contract by M&G's wholly owned subsidiary, the Prudential Assurance Company, to a UK pension trustee.

As with a traditional buy-in transaction, under the BPA, PAC insures the trustee's liability to its pension scheme members. In addition, a newly-formed Guernsey captive reinsurer, managed by SRS Management Guernsey, was

established by the corporate sponsor of the pension scheme. The captive reinsures a portion of PAC's exposure, thereby enabling the sponsor to participate in both the upside and the downside of the buy-in transaction alongside PAC.

'Guernsey is well established as Europe's leading domicile for captive insurance and highly regarded internationally for its proportionate, risk-based regulatory regime. We are delighted to have advised on this transaction – particularly as it is the first of its kind in the UK,' said Christopher Anderson, partner at Carey Olsen, which advised on the local legal elements of the deal.

Other key partners in the deal have hailed the 'first of its kind' structure as working for pension trustees and scheme members.

'The solution we have achieved ultimately enables the trustee to achieve their derisking objectives and secure members' benefits, whilst enabling the sponsor to access risks and rewards that would be passed to an insurer in a more traditional transaction,' said Alison Fleming from PwC.

Clive Bolton, life insurance CEO at M&G, added: 'This has the potential to transform the market by providing an alternative option for sponsors of large UK pension schemes to consider as part of their de-risking endgame.'

LOCAL BOOKKEEPER WINS NATIONAL AWARD



A local bookkeeper has been named UK student of the year at an awards ceremony.

Emilia 'Millie' Goubert, operations manager at TCS Guernsey, was a winner at the annual Luca Awards, hosted by the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers, which celebrate exceptional achievement across the bookkeeping profession.

©Guernsey Press

The ICB is the world's largest bookkeeping institute, with members in 110 countries, and is widely regarded for setting the gold standard in bookkeeping qualifications.

Ms Goubert achieved the certification for her part-time study alongside her full-time role at TCS Guernsey, which provides outsourced bookkeeping, accounting and payroll services to local businesses.

She has been with TCS Guernsey for over four years, and achieved the certification alongside her full-time role.

'I'm thrilled to have won the ICB UK Student of the Year,' she said. 'Balancing study, full-time work, and managing a small team has been challenging at times, and this moment made it all worth it.'

'At TCS Guernsey, we have a young team, many of whom join as trainees, and I hope to set an example for them and others in the profession, showing the exciting opportunities they can pursue.'

GUERNSEY WINS OFFSHORE FUND DOMICILE OF THE YEAR AWARD



Guernsey has been named the Best Offshore Fund Domicile for 2024 by Institutional Asset Manager.

'Winning this award is a great recognition of Guernsey's excellent reputation as a jurisdiction for funds,' said Guernsey Finance chief executive

Rupert Pleasant, whose London representative Jo Kitcat picked up the award.

The awards recognise excellence among service providers within the institutional asset management sector in Europe.

They are based on a nomination survey where industry participants can put forward nominations in a multitude of categories.

These nominations are then collated and reviewed by the Institutional Asset Manager editorial team, and the winners are the companies with the largest numbers of nominations in each category.

'Winning the Institutional Asset Manager's award for Best Offshore Fund Domicile 2024 reinforces Guernsey's reputation as a leading jurisdiction for fund domiciliation,' said Haley Camp, chairwoman of the Guernsey International Funds Association.

'This recognition highlights our strengths in regulatory excellence, innovative fund structures and our lasting appeal to fund managers.'

DOUBLE PROSHARE AWARD FOR JTC

JTC's long-standing commitment to employee shared ownership has been recognised, with two awards at the prestigious recent ProShare Annual Awards 2024.

The company was named winners for best overall performance in fostering employee share ownership for mid-sized companies and for most effective communication of an employee share plan.

JTC, a listed company, has 100% take-up of employee share ownership, which judges said was 'nothing short of remarkable' for a business in the financial services sector. It said that employee ownership was 'at the heart of the company's culture'.

It was not the first time that JTC has been successful in the ProShare Awards.

'It is an honour to be recognised by the ProShare judges in both these categories for our shared ownership model, which has been at the heart of our culture for more than 26 years,' said JTC CEO Nigel Le Quesne.

BLONDE HEDGEHOG CELEBRATES DOUBLE WIN AT THE GOOD HOTEL GUIDE AWARDS



Boutique Alderney hotel The Blonde Hedgehog is the Cesar Award winner for Best Hotel in the South West and Channel Islands. The award recognises exceptional hotels that go above and beyond to develop unforgettable guest experiences.

It has also received a coveted Foodie Award from The Good Hotel Guide 2024. The accolades celebrate excellence in hospitality, with The

'We know that our track record and continued success is fundamentally down to our people and by aligning their ambitions with those of the company we have the drive and expertise to support our clients with the exceptional levels of service they have come to expect from JTC. Further, we have been able to take that wealth of experience and apply it to supporting a growing number of businesses with their own share plan strategies.'

Earlier this year the global service provider granted share awards worth around £50m to its global workforce, following the successful delivery of its 'Galaxy Era' business plan.

In addition to its own shared ownership model, JTC also supports other global businesses through its employer solutions team. The team administers and manages share plans for a diverse range of businesses, ultimately ensuring that their employees get the most from their plans by feeling valued, supported and motivated.

Good Hotel Guide inspectors describing the hotel as 'pretty much perfect' and praising its culinary offerings, stating 'the food is divine'.

Directors Julie-Anne Uggla and Tracey Farquhar-Beck were delighted to receive these awards. 'These awards are a testament to the passion and commitment of our entire team,' said Tracey. 'From the warm welcome and superior service headed up by Front of House Manager Alexandra Rotaru, to the unforgettable dining experiences from Stephen and his team of talented chefs, we are deeply proud to offer something truly special on Alderney.'

Independent excellence
Since 1920

Babbé

Established heritage, independent mindset.

Our premier Disputes & Risk team is a proven market leader, with a lengthy track record of acting in Guernsey's foremost & landmark cases. It forms part of Babbé, one of Guernsey's oldest law firms, with a long-established reputation for delivering world-class legal services to domestic & international fiduciaries & corporates, financial institutions & high net worth individuals & families.

Contact us to discuss how we can help your business.

T +44 1481 713371
E info@babbelegal.com
babbelegal.com

OFFSHORE. GUERNSEY. LAW.

Disputes & Risk | Regulatory Investigations | Trusts | Restructuring & Insolvency | Corporate | Banking & Finance | Private Wealth | Property | Wills & Estates | Employment



WHEN 5% IS EQUAL TO 95%



IN THIS EDITION OF EN VOYAGE, NICK ROBISON, MANAGING PARTNER OF BABBÉ LLP, PRESENTS THE CASE FOR A DIFFERENT FORM OF MATHS.

In the previous edition of En Voyage, I wrote about whether the interests of employers, employees and clients could ever be aligned. In this supplement to that article, I explore how continuity of the relationships between employers, employees and clients benefits all – but especially clients... including those who don't even know they are clients yet!

Before I do so, however, I would like to mention the '95/5 rule'.

The genesis of the rule is in the thinking of Professor John Dawes of the University of South Australia. In crude terms, the rule is that, in most markets, only about 5% of consumers are ready to purchase at a given time, while the remaining 95% are potential, future customers: they aren't currently 'in the market' but may be at some point in future.

So, rather than focus on the 5% who are in the market now, the rule suggests that brands should instead focus on the 95% by building and refreshing 'memory links' to the brand so that, when a prospective client from that 95% is in the market, your brand is the one that first springs to mind.

A recent example of this can be seen in the way that Jaguar has marketed its latest offering (or not, as the case may be). The initial advertisements made little reference to any car; rather, they focused on creating a buzz about Jaguar in order to start people talking about the brand.

Shortly thereafter, Jaguar unveiled the Type 00. However, it is only a concept car; the 'real' car is not yet being marketed and is not likely to be marketed for many months. By then, however, Jaguar will have 'built and refreshed memory links' so that those (then) in the market will immediately think of Jaguar as an option.

What does Jaguar's marketing strategy have to do with law firms and their clients – and, crucially, what does it have to do with those who don't even know they need a lawyer yet?

The answer at Babbé is... 'promote from within' and, like Jaguar, 'keep a firm eye on the future'.

Our existing clients take priority: they are as much an existing client as they are a potential new client and must be given priority so as to ensure that they feel their interests are being properly looked after. This means having ready access to the most senior lawyers of the firm, even if much of that client's day-to-day work is performed by a member of the team that is less expensive than their seniors. This, in turn, ensures that when that more junior lawyer is promoted to a senior position, the existing client will have the confidence of having dealt with them for a long time.

New voices also bring fresh ideas and approaches, however, and staff promoted from within will often have client (or prospective client) relationships of their own. By ensuring that the skills of younger staff are recognised and promoted, it therefore ensures that those with fresh ideas are being lifted to a point where they are permitted to put their ideas into practice, and that their relationships with existing and a new generation of clients are being properly valued.

What this all means, of course, is that every business needs to combine long-term goals with short-term targets.

The best firms are those that strike the right balance between short- and long-term thinking. Having focused heavily on internal promotions and longer-term planning over the past five years, we think we have got the balance right, both for our clients and our staff.

'THE ANSWER AT BABBÉ IS... 'PROMOTE FROM WITHIN' AND LIKE JAGUAR, 'KEEP A FIRM EYE ON THE FUTURE.'



©ISTOCKPHOTO



Exceptional waterfront development



ST PETER PORT, GUERNSEY
3,000-3,200 sq ft | **From £3.75 million**

The brand new Royal Terrace development occupies arguably one of the finest locations in Guernsey, offering residents luxurious penthouse living with unrivalled views.

Choose from 3 modern lateral penthouse apartments, each with a spacious open-plan reception room, 3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, underground parking for 3 cars, direct lift access, and a generous terrace with sea views out towards Herm, Sark, and Alderney.

The reception and common areas of the development feature limestone floors and walls, polished Impala granite skirtings and American white oak feature panelling – truly cementing Royal Terrace as the most exclusive of Guernsey residences.

These perfect pied-à-terres are also a stone's throw from St Peter Port's town centre, with its shops, cafés, supermarkets and highly-regarded restaurants – bringing the best of the Island to your doorstep.

“The expansive reception space and south-facing terraces are real highlights”



Nick Paluch
DIRECTOR, RESIDENTIAL SALES - SAVILLS GUERNSEY
nick.paluch@savills.com | +44 (0)7781 161 627

To find out more about these apartments or to book a viewing, scan the QR code below or contact Nick Paluch.

Savills Guernsey

Unit 2 & 3 Royal Terrace,
Gategny Esplanade
GY1 2HN, Guernsey
+44 (0)1481 713463



We know your island, because it's our island too.

savills | savills.gg

www.fort.group



Strength in Independence

Independent solutions to global challenges
in Trust & Corporate Services

Fort's independence breeds innovative solutions to global challenges. Our flexible approach allows us to tailor solutions to your unique needs, delivering success on your terms.

Discover independent solutions

T: +44 (0)1481 711144 E: hello@fort.group



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE



HAVING JOINED FORT LAST YEAR, IN THE MIDST OF THE BUSINESS CELEBRATING FIVE DECADES OF BUSINESS, LISA LE RAY – HEAD OF PEOPLE, REFLECTS ON WHAT MAKES FORT STAND OUT AS AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE IN THE BAILIWICK'S CROWDED MARKETPLACE.

As one of the few remaining local independently-owned trust and corporate services providers, I was initially drawn to Fort's approach to business, as well as the desire to remain independent.

Our model is simple – strive for client service excellence in all that we do, and offer a market-leading employee experience, enabling our people to be their best.

In this increasingly aggressive market, which continues to see so much consolidation, and where some businesses are heavily focused on shareholder results, employee culture can take a back seat, ultimately leading to low staff morale and in turn, unhappy clients, Fort continues to be consciously different. As a true people-first business we acknowledge that employee engagement is critical to the success of our strategy, and by doing so, presents us with significant opportunity to grow and thrive.

We are in year two of our three-year strategy which focuses on commercial growth and operational transformation – we are dedicated to empowering our clients with excellence and enabling our people to be their best and, following our successful brand refresh, we've started shouting about what we do – I think it's safe to say, we are no longer the local TCSP best kept secret!

STABILITY AND CONTINUITY

With almost 50 employees across our offices in Guernsey and Alderney, and an average length of service of over 10 years, Fort is proof that the stability and continuity of our team allows us to build strong client relationships and consistently deliver exceptional service. We continually encourage employee feedback and acknowledge that 'one size doesn't fit all'.

Rewarding employees is not just the monthly financial transaction, when salaries hit bank accounts – it's about being flexible and offering solutions which support our colleagues to achieve the life/work balance they desire; it's providing development opportunities, whether it be professional qualification support or developing wellbeing strategies to aid colleagues in our continually busy lives; it's listening and taking action; it's ensuring the best tools are available to our colleagues

enabling them to engage in, and deliver rewarding work; it's acknowledging and celebrating successes (however big or small); it's about timely, and accurate communication ensuring that colleagues are updated and engaged in relevant information and that everyone understands the business strategy, and of course it's about having fun – we spend a long time working, let's have a good time while we are here!

PEOPLE-FIRST APPROACH

Fort has a true people-first approach, is continually evolving, adapting and thriving in a rapidly changing business landscape and I am thrilled to lead the people strategy within this incredible business. We do things right, we do things properly and throughout we ensure we look after our clients, employees and communities. This is what has given our business 50 years of success and make us poised to be successful for the next 50 years.

FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESSFUL BRAND REFRESH, WE'VE STARTED SHOUTING ABOUT WHAT WE DO – I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY, WE ARE NO LONGER THE LOCAL TCSP BEST KEPT SECRET!





FAR LEFT: RUPERT PLEASANT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GUERNSEY FINANCE, IS MADE A FREEMAN OF THE CITY OF LONDON. LEFT: BAILIFF NEW YEAR'S DAY RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL COURT. DEPUTY LYNDON TROTT PICTURED WITH HIS CHILDREN L-R JACK, SEREN AND JODIE, AND HIS WIFE KAREN (RIGHT). PHOTO ©GUERNSEY PRESS. ABOVE: ONE OF THE SESSIONS AT THE INDUSTRY UPDATE 2024 ©GUERNSEY FINANCE.

OPENING 2025 WITH AN INDUSTRY UPDATE

RUPERT PLEASANT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GUERNSEY FINANCE

2025 is set to be another busy year for Guernsey Finance, beginning with our Industry Update which took place at the end of January.

Industry Update provided an excellent opportunity to meet with those working across the various sectors of Guernsey's financial services industry to inform them of our progress in 2024 and outline our priorities for the year ahead.

We heard from our global business development representatives to gain insights from their markets of the UK, US, Middle East and South Africa, as well as representatives from the Guernsey International Business Association who took part in a fireside chat.

Finally, we heard from Guernsey Finance Chairman Deputy Lyndon Trott, who I am delighted to say was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the King's New Year's Honours List for his

contribution to Guernsey's financial services and politics.

Deputy Trott joined Guernsey Finance's Board of Directors in 2014 and was appointed Chairman two years later, a position he still holds. He has represented Guernsey's financial services sector for six years on the Leadership Council of TheCityUK, and has been heavily involved in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, currently serving as independent trustee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Trust Funds.

Looking back at 2024, I had the great personal honour of being made a Freeman of the City of London in November. My nomination was made by the City of London's Lord Mayor at the time, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, who also conducted the ceremony at Mansion House. The nomination was for making a significant contribution in furthering the relationship

within financial services between Guernsey and the City of London, which was very humbling, especially being in such esteemed company for the ceremony.

In mid-November, I was part of a delegation from Guernsey who travelled to Singapore for the STEP Asia Conference. It was great to meet so many expat Guernsey professionals now living in Singapore and Hong Kong, referring business to the island. Their important and essential contribution to our economy must not be underestimated.

It was a pleasure to be a Gold Sponsor of the conference to discuss the benefits of Guernsey's extensive private wealth sector for this region with the Guernsey Finance delegation – Jo Stoddart, Director of Locate Guernsey, Jacob Cockcroft, Chief Commercial Officer at Butterfield Bank Guernsey, David Gilmour, Group Managing Director at Imperium

Group, Joanna Caen, Counsel at Carey Olsen, and Paul Blackwell, Client Services Director at PraxisIFM.

With more than five decades of experience in the servicing of private wealth, Guernsey is globally recognised as a leader in family office management and first-class asset structuring. During my trip, I was able to discuss this and more on Guernsey's role as a financial hub and how that links with Hong Kong for The Close on Radio 3 RTHK.

The end of November marked my final trip of the year, where I travelled to Birmingham for TheCityUK National Conference 2024. Guernsey Finance was proud to sponsor the event as a Gold Partner and represent Guernsey's well-regulated industry.

It was here where I was fortunate to spend 45 minutes with Tulip Siddiq, Economic Secretary to the Treasury of the United Kingdom. During a small, closed door round table session I was able to discuss Guernsey's huge economic contribution to the UK economy and our role as a member of the British family. Guernsey plays a significant part in increasing the

international competitiveness of UK financial services providers, improving risk-adjusted returns and diversifying portfolios. A recent Frontier Economics report found that Guernsey-based funds currently hold UK assets worth £57bn, and UK FTSE 100 companies may collectively save almost £100m. per year by using Guernsey captive insurance structures.

I was then delighted to take part in a panel session to a packed audience, alongside Sandra Wallace CBE, Deputy Managing Partner and Managing Director Practice Groups at DLA Piper and TheCityUK Chair in the Midlands, Cuan Coulter, Executive Vice President and Head of UK and Ireland and State Street, Carl Sizer, UK Chief Markets Officer at PwC and Claire Tunley, Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Services Skills Commission. We discussed creating inclusive prosperity and investment across the UK, FDI and the regions accessing international capital. It was great to share the stage with such an esteemed panel and it was a hugely worthwhile visit to Birmingham, where I was joined by our North of England

Representative Rowan Stone.

To round off a busy year, Guernsey won Institutional Asset Manager's award for Best Offshore Fund Domicile 2024. The Institutional Asset Manager Awards recognise excellence among service providers within the institutional asset management sector in Europe, and this recognition highlights our strengths in regulatory excellence, innovative fund structures and our lasting appeal to fund managers.

In 2025, we will continue to build on our successes in 2024, with strategic themes focusing on private capital as a force for good, enabling the new generation of wealth holders, captive insurance expertise, and Guernsey's agility and innovative nature.

If you would like to know more about Guernsey Finance's specific initiatives this year, or you would like to get involved with one of our events or roadshows, please get in touch.





MARKET OUTLOOK 2025: WHAT WOULD IT BE WITHOUT POLITICS?

ABOVE L-R: TRUMP'S VICTORY; EUROPEAN FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTY;
SHANGHAI FINANCIAL DISTRICT; SHIBUYA CROSSING, TOKYO. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO

FOR INVESTORS IN GUERNSEY AND BEYOND,
UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMIC TRENDS IS CRUCIAL TO
NAVIGATING A YEAR POISED FOR SIGNIFICANT TWISTS AND TURNS.

ADVERTORIAL

Looking ahead to the rest of 2025, the global economic landscape will be defined by political transitions, evolving monetary policies, and shifting market dynamics. Derek Beatty, Portfolio Manager at Julius Baer Guernsey, guides us through the market outlook for 2025.

For investors in Guernsey and beyond, understanding the economic trends is crucial to navigating a year poised for significant twists and turns. While the forecasts vary across regions, common themes of elevated rate volatility, the dominance of the US market, and the importance of diversification emerge as guiding principles for the year ahead.

TRUMP'S VICTORY – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MARKETS?

The US economy enters 2025 on robust footing, bolstered by healthy private and corporate balance sheets and policy shifts from the new administration. Deregulation efforts, particularly in technology sectors like artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, are expected to fuel investments, contributing to above-potential growth. Simultaneously, a more accommodative monetary stance by the Federal Reserve aims to balance inflationary pressures with economic expansion.

Investors can expect short-term strength in the US dollar, supported by robust nominal growth and fiscal policy adjustments. However, long-term challenges such as growing budget deficits and current account imbalances necessitate vigilance. One notable trend is the 'Trump Bump', where smaller-cap stocks have outperformed the mega-cap technology firms that have dominated in recent years. This rotation signals a healthier, more balanced investment landscape

and offers diversification opportunities for portfolios traditionally centred on large-cap equities.

For fixed income investors, the US outlook remains favourable for corporate credit. Elevated rate volatility is expected to persist, suggesting a tactical approach to duration and credit risk. The Federal Reserve's careful navigation of rate cuts minimises the risk of being behind the curve, further supporting corporate credit performance.

EUROPE FACING PERSISTENT HEADWINDS

The outlook for Europe is somewhat less positive, with Germany, historically the eurozone's economic engine, now representing a significant drag on European growth. This is due to cost and selling price increases during the inflationary upswing in 2022–2023 that have outpaced cost and price increases in the US, Japan, China, and Switzerland. Increased competition from Asia in critical export markets such as cars poses a further challenge to growth.

Despite this, the high complexity of Germany's production processes offers some resilience, enabling exporters to maintain pricing power. Germany remains close to Japan on the Economic Complexity Index, emphasising its ability to navigate challenging economic conditions.

Looser monetary policy has the potential to rebalance economic growth in the eurozone, however it seems that policymakers do not feel the urgency for an accommodative monetary policy stance, despite the underperformance that has been going on for some time. There is a risk that the European Central Bank (ECB) may find itself behind the curve and need to cut rates even faster.

POLICY PIVOT IN CHINA AS GROWTH CHALLENGES PERSIST

China has reduced its trade dependency on the US, with exports to America now accounting for just 3.3% of GDP, down from 8%. This shift diminishes the potential impact of US tariffs on the Chinese economy. Instead, China has pivoted to investing abroad, transitioning from a destination for foreign direct investment to a significant global investor.

However, domestic challenges persist. Excessive private debt and a deflating real estate bubble continue to restrict growth, limiting the effectiveness of monetary policy adjustments. While lending rates have decreased, fiscal policy remains constrained by declining revenues, slowing the pace of recovery.

Despite these hurdles, China's focus on establishing production capacities abroad reflects a long-term strategy to adapt to global economic shifts. For investors, this means opportunities in sectors aligned with China's strategic focus, balanced against the risks of domestic economic pressures.

EMERGING MARKETS IN ASIA

Emerging markets across Asia present a mixed outlook for 2025. While many economies benefited from growth recovery in 2024, the region faces fresh challenges, including stretched credit valuations and trade tensions with the US. Countries like Japan, South Korea and Singapore remain reliant on trade with China, whose economy is grappling with domestic pressures.

Inflation remains under control in most Asian economies, allowing central banks to maintain accommodative stances. However, the spectre of

US tariffs poses risks to export-driven markets, potentially leading to slower GDP growth.

Resilient sectors such as technology and consumer goods may offer selective opportunities for investors. Diversification across local-currency bonds and equities can help mitigate risks tied to geopolitical and trade uncertainties.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR INVESTORS?

As we move through 2025, there are three factors investors need to keep an eye on. First, how the new US administration's policies will be implemented. Second, whether any major central banks are behind the curve or too far ahead of it, and thirdly, related to this, how a potential re-leveraging of private balance sheets is evolving. Depending on these developments, it may be necessary to adjust strategies accordingly – but this will be a decision to be taken during the year.



Navigating the complexities of 2025 requires a thoughtful and adaptive approach. Having a trusted advisor is essential. For tailored guidance and strategies to help balance your portfolio, please get in touch with Derek at derek.beatty@juliusbaer.com.

Bank Julius Baer & Co. Ltd., Guernsey Branch is licensed in Guernsey to provide banking and investment services and services ancillary to consumer credit, and is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.



CASH VS. INVESTING: UNDERSTANDING THE KEY DIFFERENCES AND MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

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

One of the key shifts that has occurred in the last couple of years for investors and savers has been the pretty big increase in the Bank of England base rate, which has increased from a historic low of 0.10% in 2020, to a recent high of 5.25% in August 2023. Currently, at time of writing, it is 4.75%.

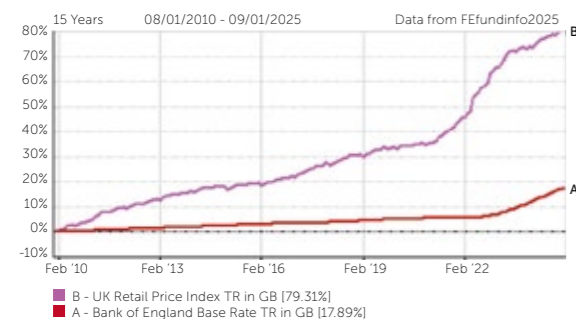
This has led to a lot more people being tempted by cash, with the appeal being the comparatively increased rates received for taking minimal risk. And over a period of increased stock market (and bond) volatility, I can understand the appeal. But is cash the right place to be?

Well, the answer to this really depends upon individual client objectives, and isn't an absolute yes or no applicable to everyone.

Cash is often seen as the safest option for storing wealth. It's liquid, accessible, and free from the fluctuations of the market. For those who prioritise safety, cash offers a sense of security, especially in uncertain economic times. However, while cash is relatively risk-free, its ability to grow your wealth is limited.

Over the short term, it may at times be possible to see cash beating inflation; however, over the long term, 'investing' in cash is likely to result in losses in real terms. This is because after inflation is considered, the value of the cash (even after interest is applied) is likely to be worth less.

This is demonstrated by the below chart, comparing Bank of England base rate to UK inflation (Retail Prices Index) over the last 15 years¹:



Inflation effectively reduces the value of cash, as things are more expensive, so you require more money to buy them. The previous chart indicates that cash invested 15 years ago now has a much lower real value, even though the actual value may have increased, and a real loss has been made when factoring in inflation.

In addition, interest is all income, which means it is entirely taxable under Guernsey Income Tax rules, meaning the interest rate being received is actually less after tax is deducted.

How does this compare to investing (in the markets)?

Well, we expect (and have always seen historically) that investing should see higher returns than cash over the long term; however, there is an increased level of risk to be taken to achieve those returns and, as such, values can go down as well as up (both in actual and real terms).

A key factor therefore with investing is that a suitable timescale is required, as short-term volatility could cause issues if an investment needs to be withdrawn over the short term, when markets and thus value could be down. As such, we require a timescale of at least two or three years for investing to be recommended, and if funds are likely to be required sooner than this, cash is likely to be a more suitable place for the money.

As well as timescale, capacity for loss is also key, and whether the investor can afford to risk the capital. Now, there is a scale of risk with investing, it isn't all scary high levels of risk, but ultimately, if you can't afford the risk to the capital over the medium term, then again, investing may not be the most suitable option.

If capacity for loss is present, there still needs to be a suitable risk profile in terms of attitude to risk. We don't want someone losing sleep over their investments, if taking risk isn't something they are comfortable with. However, this is where timescale comes back into play, as if you have a long timescale (and capacity for loss), taking some risk to invest may be the more suitable option, in order that the real value of the capital is not eroded (and hopefully, in fact grows over and above inflation).



The above chart demonstrates both the short-term volatility of a medium risk investment (with the peaks and troughs in the blue line), but also the long-term real returns available over and above both inflation and cash.

In addition, generally investments achieve growth through capital gains as well as income, and the former is not currently taxable in Guernsey. As such, investing can offer tax efficient growth compared to cash.

So, going back to the original question: is cash the right place to be? As I said, this very much depends upon your circumstances, with a focus on time scale and capacity to loss. But despite the interest rates at the moment (that seem high compared to what we were used to for over a decade), it is anticipated that base rates are now reducing again, and as noted above, over the long term, in order to achieve real returns, some level of investing is likely to be required and recommended, if affordable.

Even for those who can and do want to invest, it is always important to retain some funds in cash (or cash equivalents) to be able to fund short term or unexpected capital requirements without having to access investments at what may be an unsuitable time (when the markets are down). Therefore, a balanced approach, combining both cash for short-term needs and investments for long-term growth, is often the most prudent strategy for many individuals.

As noted, there is not one size fits all answer here, so please do contact a financial adviser to discuss the options accordingly before making any decisions. Understanding these two options and how they fit into your broader financial plan is essential to making decisions that will help you achieve your financial goals.

We have a team of qualified financial advisers at Network Financial Planning. Please do get in touch on 01481 701 400 or at advice@network.gg today for a free initial review with one of the qualified advisers to discuss your personal circumstances.

¹<https://www.feanalytics.com/>



IMAGE ©ISTOCKPHOTO

INSURANCE & FINANCIAL PLANNING MADE EASY WITH NETWORK

INSURANCE

Personal | Commercial
Private Client | Professional & Financial
Personal Claims Service

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Pensions | Investments | Health Insurance
Business Protection | Employee Benefits
Life Assurance & Protection Planning

We're with you every step of the way.

To find out what we can do for you, give us a call, send us an email or pop in to our office at South Esplanade.

T: +44 (0)1481 701400 E: hello@network.gg www.network.gg

Network Insurance & Financial Planning Limited is licensed in Guernsey by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission and in Jersey by the Jersey Financial Services Commission.



New Year, New IT.

Proactive IT support, robust information security and innovative data and development solutions to get your year off to a running start.

- IT Support
- Information & Cyber Security
- vCTO & vCISO
- Professional Services
- Transformation, Data & Development
- Managed Print Services
- Cloud Solutions

Guernsey | Jersey | Dubai
hello@resolutionit.com
resolutionit.com

FUTURE-PROOFING THE FINANCE INDUSTRY THROUGH DATA AND AUTOMATION: WHY GUERNSEY CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT



BY WAYDE FINCH, DIRECTOR OF DATA AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AT ZENZERO

A new generation of business leaders, clients, and stakeholders brings with it a fresh set of expectations.

For businesses to maintain a competitive edge and meet the demands of an exacting client base, it's important to utilise innovative solutions that prioritise efficiency and user experience. By harnessing data-driven insights, process automation, and bespoke software solutions tailored to the unique needs of the business, organisations can achieve effective growth and stay ahead in a fast-evolving market.

Zenzero's Director of Data and Development Services (DDS), Wayde Finch, explains why Guernsey-based finance firms should be excited about these opportunities – and why acting now could give your business what it needs to stay ahead.

FROM INSIGHT TO IMPACT

Financial services generate vast amounts of data daily, but much of its potential goes untapped. With the right strategy and architecture, your data can become one of your most valuable assets.

The purpose of DDS is to work with businesses to develop strategies that align technology with growth goals. By consolidating, manipulating, and visualising data from multiple systems, you can create a single source of truth that provides actionable insights. Imagine having instant, reliable data to make informed decisions, identify trends, and seize opportunities ahead of your competition, in real time.

Beyond internal insights, data science can also enhance your client offerings. Leveraging advanced modelling techniques, you could transform raw data into powerful market insights, adding measurable value for your clients while setting your services apart.

DELIVERING MORE WITH LESS

For many finance companies, the automation of complex processes and consolidation of business data is crucial for closing the gap between competitor firms. Solutions can be developed to automate client onboarding, customer due diligence, or the calculation of net asset value. Beyond automation,

visibility into data can be utilised to make informed decisions about client and asset management using real-time analysis of employee timesheet data.

These are just a few examples of solutions we've implemented for our Guernsey finance industry clients. By leveraging modern data architecture and low-code/no-code platforms, we help businesses streamline workflows, improve accuracy, and free up valuable resources for strategic growth.

WHY NOW?

In September 2024, the Guernsey Financial Services Commission and Guernsey Finance had the foresight to host 'Finovation,' a conference exploring how Guernsey should harness technology to drive growth. At the core of the Guernsey finance industry's transformation is a clear need for digital innovation. Conference speakers emphasised that leveraging cutting-edge technology is no longer optional for businesses wanting to stay competitive and enhance operational efficiency. Advanced data analytics, cloud solutions, and AI-driven insights are just some of the tools that can help Guernsey firms lead the way in financial services innovation.

The urgency is clear. Other offshore jurisdictions and Guernsey's main competitors are already embracing technological advancements to improve their services, attract new clients, and solidify their positions as leaders in the financial services industry. To remain a key player in this competitive global market, Guernsey must take proactive steps to innovate and modernise.

If you haven't already done so, 2025 is the year to act on this advice. The financial services sector is evolving rapidly, with technological advancements reshaping how businesses operate. Firms that adopt digital transformation strategies today will gain a significant head start in tomorrow's market. Conversely, delaying investment in data and development could mean falling behind competitors who are already reaping the benefits of automation, digitalisation, and data-driven decision-making.

To learn more about Data and Development Services, get in touch with Resolution IT at hello@resolutionit.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

LOCAL EXPERTISE YOU CAN COUNT ON.



LTSTAX

Chartered Tax Advisers

E taxenquiries@lts-tax.com

T +44 (0)1481 755862

lts-tax.com



GUERNSEY RESIDENTS' EXPOSURE TO UK INHERITANCE TAX

Prior to the UK Autumn budget, a Guernsey resident and domiciled individual's exposure to UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) was broadly restricted to certain UK situs assets held, with the most common being UK property and UK listed shares.

There was a general exemption provided in the UK IHT legislation for certain UK Government backed investments (and specific other assets) held by an individual domiciled in the Channel Islands, these being:

- > War savings certificates.
- > Premium savings bonds.
- > National savings certificates.
- > Deposits with the National Savings Bank or with a trustee savings bank.
- > A certified SAYE savings arrangement within ITTOIA section 703(1).

The IHT legislation that excludes the above assets from UK IHT is to be repealed (as at the time of writing this article), with the change anticipated to be effective from 6 April 2025.

This is a small part of the much wider changes to UK IHT, as we move from domicile and into UK tax residence as being the main consideration for chargeability to UK IHT. Therefore a Guernsey resident holding any of the above may well find that, post 6 April 2025, they are now potentially subject to UK IHT.

The proposed IHT changes, from 6 April 2025, do not however change the IHT position of a Channel Island resident where they hold specific "Free of Tax to Resident Abroad" (commonly referred to as

FOTRA) securities, as issued by the UK Treasury. These will continue to be excluded assets for IHT purposes if they are in the beneficial ownership of persons resident in the Channel Islands.

This could be quite helpful for UK IHT planning purposes for a long-standing Guernsey resident and indeed a new Guernsey resident (who may be subject to a maximum ten-year UK IHT tail – broadly meaning they need to be non-UK tax resident for ten years) as the IHT legislation provides an almost immediate exclusion from UK IHT for a Guernsey resident person holding these FOTRA assets.

UK IHT is complex and can apply to those who have never been UK resident, depending upon the type of asset held. As we move into a new era where UK tax residence replaces domicile as the main determinate for chargeability to IHT, now may be an opportune time to consider whether UK IHT planning should be undertaken.

LTS Tax Limited, registered with the Chartered Institute of Taxation, is an independent and leading tax practice in Guernsey. The team is qualified to provide UK and Guernsey tax advice and would be pleased to discuss UK and Guernsey tax matters with you.



Julian Turian
ATT FMAAT
Executive Director



Natalie Chamberlain
CTA
Executive Director

LTSTAX
Chartered Tax Advisers



A WINTER WELCOME

For some new arrivals to the island, getting to know Guernsey over the winter months can seem more challenging when compared to summer. Days are shorter, temperatures cooler, and the weather can sometimes restrict that outdoors lifestyle that islanders are known for.

But, with a full events diary and time to enjoy all that the island has to offer outside of the busier tourist months, winter is still a very special time in Guernsey. With a few easy steps, you can quickly settle into island life and establish a new on-island network.

In this article, Locate Guernsey shares their top five suggestions for making the most of your first (or next) winter in Guernsey.

- 1. Enjoy the island's restaurants** – Guernsey is well known for its high-quality restaurant offering. While many are in the St Peter Port area, you will find restaurants scattered across the island. From fine dining to 'pub-grub', wine bars to friendly locals, there's something for everyone. Taking the time to experience the island's culinary offering can be a fantastic way to see more of Guernsey and spend quality time with new friends.
- 2. Try a new hobby** – Winter is the perfect time to try something new. While Guernsey may be small, there is a hobby, activity or social group for everyone. Why not try your hand at a new artistic medium, learn a little Guernsey French or take up a dance class? Not only is it a

great way to step out of your comfort zone and learn a new skill, but it's also an excellent way to meet new people and get to know the island.

- 3. Island hopping** – Another unique aspect of life in Guernsey is the opportunity to visit its sister islands of Herm, Sark and Alderney. Whether a day trip or mini break, visiting over the quieter months offers a chance to truly experience the tranquillity of these islands and explore their beautiful and unique landscapes.
- 4. Attend local events** – Even in the cooler months, Guernsey has a jam-packed events diary for all ages and interests. There are excellent music events, art exhibitions, workshops and more! Events take place across



IMAGES ©LOCATE GUERNSEY

WHILE THE WINTER WEATHER CAN BE QUITE CHANGEABLE, COOLER TEMPERATURES MEAN THAT WINTER IS THE IDEAL TIME TO EXPLORE GUERNSEY BY FOOT.

the island which mean they are a great way to quickly get a feel for island life and appreciate the island's warm and welcoming community.

- 5. Spend time in nature** – While the winter weather can be quite changeable, cooler temperatures mean that winter is the ideal time to explore Guernsey by foot. The island's cliff paths are perfect for peaceful hikes and its network of Ruettes Tranquilles (tranquil roads) offer endless opportunity for long rambles to enjoy the island's stunning scenery and clean fresh air.

Locate Guernsey is a government agency that promotes Guernsey as a destination of choice for relocation, as well as offering free and impartial support

throughout the relocation journey. If you are new to Guernsey and would like support to settle into island life or are considering a move to the island and have questions about the relocation process, please get in touch.

The Locate Guernsey team can be contacted on enquiries@locateguernsey.com or calling 01481 220011.

More information can be found at locateguernsey.com


A better life for you



To start your journey, call the Locate Guernsey team

T: +44 (0)1481 220011

E: enquiries@locateguernsey.com

W: locateguernsey.com

This feature has been prepared for general guidance and interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. No liability is accepted for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from the use of the content and the same is specifically excluded.

The Swoffers logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a green square background.

Luxury living in Guernsey



Open Market

Kirtlington, St Peter Port

Up to 6 bedrooms | 5 bath/shower rooms

£3,650,000

- Superb modern family home
- Walking distance to the town centre
- Self-contained local market studio apartment

A cornerstone of the Guernsey real estate market for more than five decades, the team at Swoffers brings a wealth of knowledge, ensuring that clients receive expert advice tailored to their specific needs.

Swoffers' proven track record means clients can trust us to sell their property, or find a new one, with ease and confidence. Whether you're looking for a luxury home, a quaint cottage, or a modern apartment, view the largest selection of Local, and Open Market properties at www.swoffers.co.uk, or contact our team today on **01481 711766**.

Scan the QR code to view Guernsey's largest selection of Local & Open Market properties



Frenchay House, St Peter Port

6 bedrooms | 5 bathrooms

£1,695,000

- Beautifully-renovated Georgian townhouse
- Breathtaking views over Havelet Bay
- Enclosed gardens, garage and parking

Local Market



GUERNSEY PROPERTY MARKET: REFLECTIONS ON 2024 AND PREDICTIONS FOR 2025

SWOFFERS' OPEN AND LOCAL MARKET NEGOTIATORS ALEX STUART AND SCOTT INGROUILLE REFLECT ON A YEAR OF FLUCTUATING MORTGAGE RATES AND POLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE UK, AND SHARE THEIR OUTLOOK FOR GUERNSEY'S PROPERTY MARKET IN 2025.

The property market is ever-changing, and 2024 was no exception. Early in the year buyers were more cautious, to see if interest rates would fall, while political uncertainty in the UK both pre- and post-general election prompted a surge in enquiries from those considering a move to Guernsey. Despite the fluctuating landscape, Swoffers retained its position as Guernsey's leading estate agent.

'2024 saw a significant uptick in open market activity, with almost 50% more sales compared to the previous year. Swoffers cemented its position as market leader and was responsible for just under 70% of open market sales. Stock levels remain healthy, offering a broad range of properties across all sectors,' said Alex Stuart, open market negotiator at Swoffers.

Alex noted that the firm experienced a substantial increase in relocation enquiries, a trend that has continued into 2025.

'Following Labour's general election victory and subsequent tax changes outlined in the Autumn budget, we've seen a consistent flow of enquiries from individuals and families looking to relocate,' he said.

'Guernsey's appeal remains strong, thanks to its stable government, excellent work-life balance, favourable tax system, high-quality education, and safe environment. These factors make the island an attractive destination for those seeking a fresh start.'

On the local market front, the picture was more challenging. Sales were harder to secure across the board, yet Swoffers managed to grow its market share significantly and notably the agency sold three times as many properties over £1m. as its nearest competitor.

'We took on a large number of properties, particularly in the first quarter of 2024, which gave buyers more choice and more time to make decisions. The panic-buying phase, where people felt they had to make an offer immediately after the first viewing, has eased,' explained local market negotiator Scott Ingrouille.

Scott highlighted the importance of transparency with vendors.

'We've made it a priority to be upfront with sellers about realistic pricing and to prepare them for offers below

the asking price. The market has shifted – buyers are now negotiating more than they were previously.'

The start of 2024 saw many potential buyers holding off, waiting to see if interest rates would decrease. Once signs emerged that rates were stabilising, activity picked up across all levels of the market, with first-time buyers showing particular interest.

Looking ahead to 2025, both Alex and Scott remain optimistic. For open market buyers, Guernsey continues to be a highly desirable place to live, while local market buyers are benefiting from stabilising prices and increased stock availability.

'There's still strong demand from buyers, and we've already seen a high number of valuation requests for 2025. These should translate into new instructions as we move towards spring and better weather,' said Scott.

He noted that, after a 40% rise in average local market house prices from the start of the pandemic until the end of 2022, prices have since fluctuated but are now around 5% below their peak.

'We don't anticipate major changes in pricing over the next 12 months,' he added.

Alex echoed the positive outlook for the open market.

'Early signs for 2025 are encouraging, with strong demand from both new and returning applicants. Guernsey's straightforward relocation process and stable environment will continue to attract buyers.'

If you're considering buying or selling in Guernsey, get in touch with the island's most successful estate agent. Email sales@swoffers.co.uk or call 01481 711766.

GUERNSEY CONTINUES TO OFFER A STABLE GOVERNMENT, THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN EXCELLENT WORK-LIFE BALANCE, A FAVOURABLE TAX REGIME, HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION AND A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT TO LIVE IN.

SWOFFERS' OPEN MARKET NEGOTIATOR, ALEX STUART



ALEX STUART,
OPEN MARKET NEGOTIATOR



SCOTT INGROUILLE,
LOCAL MARKET NEGOTIATOR

NEW NED APPOINTMENT AT STENHAM CANNON GROUP



Cannon Asset Management and Stenham Trustees have appointed Lisa Barnett as a non-executive director. Integrated within the Stenham Cannon Group since 2021, the two companies have operated from the Bailiwick for 27 and 37 years respectively. Ms Barnett brings more than 30 years of experience to her role. A Chartered Secretary, she is a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute, a qualified member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, and holds a degree in business and law.

Richard van Vliet, Group Managing Director for Cannon Asset Management Limited and Stenham Trustees Limited, said, 'We are very fortunate to have Lisa Barnett as non-executive director. Lisa's background and experience is an extremely positive addition which will assist in the furtherance of the Stenham Cannon Group consolidating its position.'

NEW COO AT PWC CI



Dan Usher has been appointed Chief Operating Officer at PwC Channel Islands.

He has more than 30 years' experience in the financial services industry, and in his new role will

have responsibility for the development of the Business Enablement function and for ensuring that the operational excellence of the firm is maintained and continues to evolve.

PwC CI Senior Partner, Nick Vermeulen, said: 'We're delighted to welcome Dan back to the PwC Network where he first trained in the '90s. There is no doubt that Dan's energy, enthusiasm and experience in leadership roles across various sectors in the financial services industry make him ideally placed to drive operational excellence and accountability for performance within our local firm.'

NEW APPOINTMENT AT MAWSON COLLINS

Cerys Collins has joined Mawson Collins as management & marketing administrator, aimed at supporting the company's growth.



'I was very keen to capitalise on the opportunity to bring Cerys into the company,' said managing director Mike Collins. 'Her marketing background and enthusiasm is perfectly aligned to the company's requirements at this pivotal phase of our development and growth.'

COLLAS CRILL ROUND OF PROMOTIONS



L-R: Rachel Parrott, Kate Miller and Harry Gent.

Collas Crill has promoted Kate Miller to senior conveyancer and Harry Gent to conveyancer. Within Business Services, Rachel Parrott has been promoted to marketing and communications manager.

'It is an honour to announce this year's round of promotions,' said Jason Romer, Group Managing Partner.

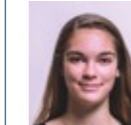
'We are proud to be a firm where brilliant people choose to work and we are passionate about supporting those brilliant people to develop their careers with us. It is always a privilege to see colleagues grow and progress to achieve their own personal milestones.'

SIX PROMOTIONS AT BDO

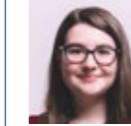
Six professionals have been promoted at BDO Guernsey following its latest appraisal and promotion cycle.



In the audit team, Stany Makwena has been promoted to assistant manager, Wongani Masasula to senior supervisor, and Sophie Gallienne and Sophie Le Page to supervisor. Benjamin James has also been promoted to the position of assistant manager in the advisory team while Imogen Bach has been promoted to marketing manager.



Richard Searle, BDO Guernsey's managing director, said: 'Our core purpose at BDO is helping people and businesses to succeed and seeing six of our team take the next step in their careers shows how this applies to our clients and team alike. The hard work and devotion to their work that each of them has demonstrated is clear and I thank all six for the contributions they have made and continue to make to the business.'



Top - Bottom: Stany Makwena; Wongani Masasula; Sophie Gallienne; Sophie Le Page; Benjamin James; Imogen Bach.

OAK GROUP EXPANDS



Oak Group has expanded its team with the appointment of Laura Savident as director of the private client team.

In her new role, Ms Savident will work closely with Oak's existing four local directors.

She brings nearly 20 years of experience in financial services.

'I am delighted to join Oak Group and work alongside such a talented team of directors,' she said. 'The firm's reputation for excellence in client service resonates with my own approach to wealth management.'

'I look forward to helping our clients manage their complex, multijurisdictional wealth structures with bespoke solutions that reflect their individual needs.'

KEY APPOINTMENT AT CLOSE FINANCE



Richard Elliott has joined Close Finance as the new Head of Lending responsible for the Guernsey lending team.

With more than a decade of experience working in the island's financial services sector, his role includes identifying new opportunities and customers, as well as looking for ways to improve the business offering to local clients.

'Close Finance has developed a genuine reputation for responsible lending to both individuals and businesses in the Channel Islands,' he said. 'I'm looking forward to the challenge of working for a business with an appetite to expand the products it offers, and excited about driving new initiatives to help Close Finance achieve its strategic goals.'

SENIOR APPOINTMENT AT INVICTA



Nel Schoeman, who relocated to Guernsey more than six years ago, has been appointed client relationship director. In his new role, he will manage existing client relationships and grown new ones.

'I am very pleased Nel has joined Invicta,' said CEO Jim Elliott. 'We have worked across from each other in different capacities over the past few years, and it is great to have him in our team. The foundation of our business success is our people, who deliver exceptional client service. Nel is a great fit for our team and clients for Invicta. Nel brings a wealth of experience and will be responsible for developing our relationships globally.'

NEW DIRECTOR AT CORE FUND SERVICES



Dave Davison has been promoted to the role of Director, Head of Operations at Core Fund Services.

Mr Davison is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, holds a degree in History from the University of Exeter and is a former island rugby player.

Martin Scott, CEO said: 'Dave has been an integral part of Core's business since he joined just over two years ago. In that time he has led the technical implementation of our accounting and company secretarial systems along with the successful onboarding of our first clients and their structures. Furthermore, Dave's positivity and desire to be the best he can be every day in everything he does, perfectly embodies the ethos and culture of Core, so I know that he will be a great ambassador for the company in his new role.'

PROMOTIONS AT TISE

The International Stock Exchange has made several promotions in its Guernsey office.



Adrian D'Arcy has been promoted to manager, Neeta O'Keeffe to senior analysts, Daniel Ogier-Keltie to senior listings & data analyst, Miguel Gouveia to senior risk & compliance analyst, and Ben Woodhead to senior finance assistant.



In addition, Alex Taylor has taken on the expanded role of business development lead in TISE's London office.



'I'd like to warmly congratulate Adrian, Neeta, Daniel, Miguel and Ben on their promotions which are richly deserved. They reflect the expertise and dedication which each have brought to their respective roles and the progression which can be achieved through our Career Development Framework,' said Cees Vermaas, CEO at TISE.



'In addition, Alex has done tremendous work to develop the brand profile and generate a sales pipeline for TISE Private Markets and so we are delighted that he will now also lead on business development for our public market.



Based in our London office, he is ideally situated to promote our services across both public and private markets to clients and intermediaries in the City, which remains a hugely important hub for new business and innovation.'



Top - Bottom: Adrian D'Arcy; Neeta O'Keeffe; Daniel Ogier-Keltie; Miguel Gouveia; Ben Woodhead; Alex Taylor.

FORT MAKES SENIOR APPOINTMENTS



Jack Castleman has been appointed Chief Financial Officer, and Simon Luxon, Head of Risk & Compliance at Fort. In his new role, Mr Castleman will be responsible for managing and leading the financial initiatives of the business to deliver Fort's strategic ambitions going forward.



'The strength of Fort is its people, who are all engaged to offer forward-thinking and trustworthy services to clients,' said CEO, Graham McCormack. 'We are very excited to welcome Jack to our senior management team and look forward to the strategic vision and leadership he will bring to our financial future.'

'We are excited to welcome Simon to our senior management team and look forward to the strategic vision and leadership he will bring to the business.'

GROUP WIDE PROMOTIONS AT HIGHVERN



Nicola Tomlinson has been promoted to assistant trust manager and Amie Laine to senior trust administrator. On the Guernsey Funds side, Ali Moulin has been appointed director, fund administration, and has joined the regulatory board for HIGHVERN Guernsey Funds.

Martin Hall, Chief Executive, HIGHVERN, said, 'We pride ourselves on setting new standards in client service and operational excellence, and our people are at the heart of this mission. Supporting the professional growth and development of our team members is fundamental to our success as a business. Congratulations to all those who have achieved these well-deserved career milestones.'

PROMOTIONS AT KPMG IN THE CROWN DEPENDENCIES



A number of promotions have been made at KPMG in the Crown Dependencies to director and associate director level.

NEW CEO AT ISLANDS ENERGY GROUP



Islands Energy Group has appointed Graeme Millar as its new chief executive officer.

Mr Millar has lived in the Channel Islands for the past 14 years, and spent 11 of those as the Group CEO of Jersey Telecom, where he oversaw

the rollout of fibre connectivity across Jersey and Guernsey. During this time he also oversaw a commercial cooperation agreement between JT and Manx Telecom. Latterly, he was the CEO of Velos IoT, JT's former Internet of Things business.

'I am excited to join IEG at such a pivotal moment in the company's history,' he said. 'Gas is an essential part of the energy mix of our communities, especially as we transition towards net zero.'

'I look forward to working with all our stakeholders to ensure we provide our islands with energy security and resilience that is safe, low carbon and cost effective.'

MOURANT LAWYERS CALLED TO GUERNSEY BAR



Two Mourant lawyers have been called to the Guernsey Bar. Partner James Cousins and Senior Associate Alex Garner were admitted as Advocates of the Royal Court of Guernsey, following

the successful completion of their Guernsey Bar exams.



'We are delighted to congratulate Alex and James on their success at becoming Advocates of the Royal Court of Guernsey. I am well aware of the months of commitment and hard work that went into

achieving this success. Alex and James are huge assets to our Guernsey office and both have bright futures ahead of them at Mourant,' said Guernsey Managing Partner, John Lewis.

Outsource Smart Grow Faster

Starting From £750 per month

Marketing that delivers you results, without breaking the bank.

Let Genie help take care of your marketing:

- Access expert and affordable marketing talent.
- Scale up or down with fixed, transparent pricing.
- Focus on growth while we handle the rest.
- Backed up by transparent reporting.

Book Your Free Consultation Today!

www.geniedigital.co.uk

Genie

www.geniedigital.co.uk

How Genie is transforming marketing efficiency

Outsourcing for smart growth

In today's world of rising costs, tighter budgets, and economic uncertainty, businesses are increasingly turning to outsourcing as a smarter, more cost-efficient way to grow. Outsourcing isn't just about cost efficiencies; it's about accessing specialist talent, speeding up execution and enabling businesses to better test new growth strategies and channels with a lower-risk approach.

Re-imagining the modern marketing agency

Given the changing economic landscape, it seemed the perfect time to launch Genie here in Guernsey. Our new model offers transparent and affordable fixed-price solutions, combining top-tier talent with cutting-edge AI tools. Our approach is designed to deliver flexibility, cost efficiency savings and real impactful results to local businesses.

What sets Genie apart

Traditional marketing agencies can sometimes come with opaque pricing, long contracted commitments and rigid structures that just don't always work for modern smaller businesses that want to scale easily and cost effectively. At Genie, we're doing things differently to help small businesses grow and partner together. Our model is built on three simple principles:

1. Fixed-Price Transparency

You pay one predictable monthly fee for a full suite of marketing services—digital ads, creative design, analytics, and more. No surprises, no hidden costs. We even include ad spend for your digital channels, so you know exactly what you're getting.

2. Direct-to-Specialist

We scale our own team from a handpicked network of local and overseas talent including strategists, designers, copywriters, developers and analysts. This means faster and more reactive turnarounds, better collaboration, and higher-quality results.

3. All-in-One Convenience

Whether you need a social media campaign, want to run some print advertising, or looking for a full digital strategy, we've got you covered. No juggling multiple agencies or freelancers, just an all in one team for your local media through our negotiated partnerships. Together this saves you time and money whilst getting you cost effective bundled reach across multiple channels for maximum effectiveness.

Why outsourcing makes sense

By outsourcing your marketing, you could be saving significantly compared to hiring a full suite in-house specialist team. Here's how:

- **Flexible Expertise:** Access a team of specialists that can scale with your needs, without the long-term costs of full-time salaries or pensions.
- **Cost-Effective Solutions:** Outsourcing saves on hiring, training, and employee-related expenses while helping you achieve your goals efficiently.
- **Scalability:** Whether you're a small business or a larger company, outsourcing offers the flexibility to scale up or down as needed.
- **Reduced Risk:** Outsourcing eliminates the risks of hiring and firing, giving you the freedom to adapt quickly to changing business needs.
- **Speed and Agility:** With a team of specialists ready to go, you can launch campaigns faster and test new strategies without the delays of recruitment or training.

Your growth, our expertise

Ready to transform your marketing? Let's talk. Discover how Genie's fixed-price, transparent solutions can help you grow smarter, save costs and thrive. Book your free marketing consultation today.



Pierre Le Page

Managing Director

pierre@geniedigital.co.uk

With over a decade of hands-on experience, Pierre has crafted and managed B2B and B2C digital ad campaigns for companies of all sizes across diverse sectors, delivering impactful results.



ABOVE: CAPTAIN WILLIAM LE LACHEUR ©GUERNSEY PRESS.
 RIGHT: SIMON DE LA RUE INTERVIEWING RAFAEL ORTIZ FABREGA IN 2022 ©SOPHIE RABEY.
 OPPOSITE PAGE: HELEN GLENCROSS, KEITH LE PAGE, RAFAEL ORTIZ FABREGA, MRS. LAURA MARÍA VALVERDE BORBÓN (AMBASSADOR'S WIFE), MARGUERITE TALMAGE AND ANDREW OZANNE.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LE LACHEUR: THE GUERNSEYMAN WHO SAVED COSTA RICA

While he has been long revered in Central America, Guernsey seafarer William Le Lacheur has been somewhat overlooked in his home island until recent years. Simon De La Rue reports on recent efforts to honour the coffee trader's legacy.

A few months ago, a member of staff at London's Highgate Cemetery was tasked with locating and then tidying up a grave in the section reserved for non-Anglican burials, ahead of a requested visit.

All in a day's work, perhaps, but this was no ordinary visit. Among those attending would be the chairman of a society of expats from a British island in the English Channel and a Central American nation's ambassador to the UK, along with their wives. For there, among the likes of scientist Michael Faraday and the parents of literary legend Charles Dickens, lie the remains of Guernseyman William Le Lacheur, whose trading ships adorn Costa Rica's coat of arms and who is credited with facilitating that country's rise from impoverished

enclave to the second most prosperous nation in its region. Freshly cleared of its overgrowth, it nevertheless presented a sorry sight, with the headstone having long since slid down a wooded slope. A tree now grows in the space between the grave and its headstone, indicating that it collapsed a long time ago. It had taken some considerable clearance work to expose it at all.

However, the visit of these dignitaries is one of many indications that Le Lacheur's legacy is being appreciated more and more. Such is the growth of enthusiasm, in fact, that the cemetery staff may one day be preparing the ground for a fittingly grand, new headstone. That's the hope, anyway.

When, in 2022, I interviewed Costa Rican ambassador Rafael Ortiz Fabrega on the unveiling of a blue plaque to one of his country's great heroes, it was an education for me. I had known about William Le Lacheur's pivotal role in the development of the

coffee trade in and out of London, but I had no idea of the extent of his contribution to Costa Rica's establishment as a viable nation in a volatile region.

Standing in the rain beside L'Epinel Farm, a stone's throw from Guernsey Airport, Mr Fabrega soon put me straight. This is a diplomat who appears to be so cognisant of Le Lacheur's great deeds and so enamoured of the island of his birth, that he has taken it upon himself to declare his achievements to the wider world.

So it was, a little over two years later, that 'all the marvellous people of Guernsey that we have met' received invitations to the unveiling of another plaque on 15 September last year – Costa Rica's Independence Day. This time the venue was St Katherine Docks, yards from the iconic Tower of London – the site at which Le Lacheur first delivered a consignment of coffee beans.

Among the invitees were Marguerite Talmage and Andrew Ozanne (two of the great-great

grandchildren of one of Le Lacheur's captains, John Lucas), head of Guernsey Heritage Services Helen Glencross, and the chairman of the Guernsey Society, Keith Le Page.

'It was a great pleasure to be there with the ambassador to pay homage to this great Guernseyman in central London,' says Keith. 'It was fascinating to see something unveiled to a famous Guernseyman – although he should be a lot more famous than he is.'

Keith admits that he had relatively little knowledge of Le Lacheur until the groundwork was being done to prepare for Mr Fabrega's first visit to Guernsey in 2019.

By contrast, siblings Marguerite and Andrew have had family histories passed down to them from Capt Lucas' tales, albeit fragmented in places. But for the sake of all those gathered by the Thames in September – including a former British ambassador in Costa Rica, the head of the Latin America department of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and some of William's UK-based descendants – Mr Fabrega delivered a potted history which left nobody in any doubt as to Le Lacheur's significance.

He began by stressing the country's status as the longest-established

democracy in Latin America, its achievement in abolishing its army 75 years ago and diverting resources into education, and its recognition through the Earthshot Prize for reversing deforestation, from 20% forest coverage to 60% in 40 years.

'But when you think of these achievements you have to think 'How did you get there?' because Costa Rica at the time of our independence was probably one of the poorest nations in Central America,' he said.

The short answer, he explained, was coffee, along with Le Lacheur's 'vision and determination'.

During his voyages across the Atlantic in the early 1840s, Capt Le Lacheur learned that Costa Rica was looking for ways to export its coffee to Europe. Keen to set up new trade routes, he took his ship The Monarch round Cape Horn at the tip of South America, to load a cargo of coffee in Puntarenas.

'He actually convinced the coffee growers to trust him with their crop, as he didn't have any money to pay,' said Mr Fabrega.

'He said he would come back with their money, and he did. They entrusted him with their crop and he returned 10 months later with the proceeds of the sale and he had purchased goods which would

benefit our army, economy and livelihood of our society. So trust, honour, courage and vision were some of the values embodied by Capt Le Lacheur.'

He spent his profits on building more ships in Guernsey and soon more fields in Costa Rica were planted up. And because he had dealt directly with the local people, rather than with foreign investors, the growers were small-scale. The legacy of this is that today, 85% of Costa Rica's coffee producers are independent farms with fewer than four acres.

'It is a way of democratising our economy,' said Mr Fabrega, 'so in honour of our forefathers and the enduring relationship of our two nations we celebrate the trade and commerce which brought education, culture and freedom at this iconic place.'

But coffee trading was just one element of the great man's efforts.

'He brought many young men from Costa Rica to study in London where they graduated from one of the best universities, creating our first professionals,' Mr Fabrega said.

'These young professionals returned to our homeland with the knowledge and skills which would drive progress and innovation and they also brought something which has become very beloved to us –



THE GATHERING AT ST. KATHERINE DOCKS
©MARGUERITE TALMAGE



ABOVE: WILLIAM LE LACHEUR'S GRAVE,
HIGHGATE CEMETERY ©KEITH LE PAGE

they also brought football, which has become an integral part of Costa Rica's culture. We still have the goal to take a Costa Rican team to Guernsey one day.'

So there it is – the world of football can thank a chap from a farm in southern, rural Guernsey for Derby and Man City legend Paulo Wanchope.

But the most significant legacy was foundational.

'Capt Le Lacheur's impact extended even further during a critical moment in Costa Rica's history,' the ambassador went on.

'We faced the threat of an invasion from an army of filibusteros [freebooters] who had taken over Nicaragua. Capt Le Lacheur suspended cargo operations from the Port of Puntarenas where they were ready to return to London and instead he transported the Costa Rican army up the Pacific coast, ensuring that they reached the northern border where the invaders were coming – fresh and ready. On 29 March 1856 the Costa Rican forces met and defeated the invading filibusteros in the Battle of Santa Rosa which lasted only 15 minutes, because we were much better equipped than they were.'

Perhaps even more importantly, the Costa Rican army then continued on to Nicaragua the next month and burned down the would-be invaders' base in Rivas.

'In reality, this is when we achieved this independence,' Mr Fabrega said. 'We didn't have to fight anymore. This was really a war of independence – these people

from southern New Orleans were really thinking of taking over our countries and making them part of the confederacy, with slavery instead of freedom.'

The ambassador dubbed this loan of ships 'Costa Rica's first navy' and explained that Le Lacheur had earlier prepared the way by enabling the army to obtain modern weapons such as 'rifles, cannons and campaign battens'.

'The invaders probably thought we were only going to fight them with rocks or bows and arrows but these rifles had been used by the British Army in the war in Crimea. So they got something coming when the battle only lasted 15 minutes,' he said.

Long before these events, Le Lacheur's motivation had been to help an impoverished community thrive and fend off troublemakers. He also wanted them to be saved in the sight of God, bringing in the first Protestant bibles – hundreds of them.

It was this influence which, when the constitution of the predominantly Catholic country was formed in 1848, led to a 'liberty of people to show whatever faith they had – something which has made Costa Rica very different'.

Marguerite thanked the ambassador and spoke of Capt Lucas, who worked for Le Lacheur, rising from a 17-year-old cook aboard the Esperanza in 1854 to master of the clipper named 'William Le Lacheur' in 1865.

'He sailed that route from London to Puntarenas and back several

times and held the record for the fastest voyage back to London in the William Le Lacheur, taking 97 days,' she said.

The case for restoring Le Lacheur's grave seems extremely strong but there are certain hurdles to jump.

All restoration work at Highgate Cemetery is carried out through a contracted master mason, who has now been approached to give an estimate of the cost. However, unlike in Guernsey, graves there are privately owned – usually by a descendant – and the owners' permission is required before any work can be done.

In the case of William Le Lacheur's grave, the last transition of ownership dates back to 1908, so Keith is among those who have already begun the work of tracking down the current owners.

To make matters trickier still, a vacancy in the role of registrar at the cemetery caused a backlog of enquiries during 2024.

Once permission has been obtained, fundraising can begin, with Keith hopeful that donations can be secured from Guernsey and from Costa Rica. He is keen to capitalise on the ambassador's enthusiasm while he still can – Mr Fabrega has little more than a year left of his 'stint'.

Keith and his wife are visiting Costa Rica this year, in part to visit the historic church where there is a memorial to the great Guernsey seafarer. In time, he hopes, there may be suitable memorials on both sides of the very Atlantic Ocean which William Le Lacheur navigated to such great effect.

REDEFINING EARLY EDUCATION

The Ladies' College is recognised for its high educational standards, combining excellence with innovation and a student-centric approach.

Principal Daniele Harford-Fox won 'Disrupter of the Year' at The Véyaon Awards 2024 for her commitment to preparing students for the future by blending technology, creativity, and real-world problem-solving into its curriculum.

This approach also shapes its Pre-School and Junior School, Melrose. We spoke with Mary Lawson, Head Teacher of Melrose, and Sinead Le Noury, Deputy Pre-School Leader, to learn more.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR APPROACH TO EARLY LEARNING MAKES THE PRE-SCHOOL AT MELROSE STAND OUT?

Mary: Our educational offering nurtures and helps prepare children for school. We use project-based learning to make real-world connections while following the children's interests. A recent project, 'Furry Friends: How Do We Take Care Of Them?' was a huge success and highly engaging. Students met experts such as a vet and learnt how to care of animals through story and play-based exploration. They met, looked after, and walked the Principal's dog. We've also strengthened our early phonics approach, using sound discrimination, rhythm, rhyme, and oral blending. This sets the foundation for confident reading and writing.



L-R: SINEAD LE NOURY AND MARY LAWSON

We personalise each child's learning journey with input from all staff. Regular trips and Forest and Beach School sessions are brilliant for developing a love of the outdoors.

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT FAMILIES?

Mary: Our relationship with parents is central to everything we do. We operate an open-door policy and work in partnership to give each child the best experience. We've made some exciting changes to give families, especially working parents, more flexibility.

Sinead: Children can now start at any point in the year from the age of two. Children aren't required to be out of nappies, so we can welcome younger children.

Breakfast club starts at 7.45 am and we now offer an after-school club until 5.30 pm. We are also exploring introducing a voucher scheme that provides 15 hours of free access to our setting. It's important every child feels ready to learn.

COULD YOU SHARE MORE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

Sinead: We use free-flow provision, so the children can move between indoor and outdoor activities, which encourages independence, creativity, and curiosity.

We offer music, French, dance and swimming alongside Forest School on a weekly basis, and being in St Peter Port means there are plenty of off-site opportunities, such as fire station and farm visits, pond dipping, or library trips.

Mary: We've also expanded our range of co-curricular clubs in Melrose to include activities like Lego, yoga, boxing, and VR. There's something for everyone, whatever they enjoy.

WHAT MAKES PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL?

Sinead: It's the family atmosphere and the care we offer each child. We are dedicated to encouraging independence and nurturing every child's unique abilities.

Mary: I couldn't agree more. Our blend of excellent facilities, strong community connections, friendly and experienced staff team and a personalised approach to learning makes Pre-School a special place to start a child's educational journey.

Because Pre-School is already part of the Melrose community, by sharing its facilities and joining in school events, the transition to Reception is seamless. Children are familiar with the wider school so starting Reception feels less intimidating.



KEEPING BUSY IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

NATALIE HENRY FROM ISLANDFAMILIES HAS PLENTY OF IDEAS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES TO HAVE FUN IN THE ISLANDS DURING THE EASTER BREAK.

Guernsey is the perfect Easter getaway for families. The island hosts spring earlier than mainland Britain, arriving around four weeks earlier, which means there's even more time to enjoy a broad range of activities that cater to families with children of all ages.

Families can immerse themselves in both indoor and outdoor experiences that showcase the island's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. From nature trails and hiking to rock climbing both indoor and natural, there really is something for everyone no matter the weather.

PRESCHOOLERS

Guernsey has a wealth of beaches to explore with little ones, and sometimes the best fun really is free. Let them explore the golden sands on one of our beautiful bays, paddle in shallow waters, and collect shells. If it's windy, bring a kite; if it's damp, pack a puddle suit. Visit L'Eree Bay or Rouse for rockpooling to see what wildlife they can discover, or head to Petils Bay, a firm favourite for over a

decade in our house, where the rock pooling is brilliant at low tide, and there are rope swings up in the trees above. Please make sure you check a local tide timetable online before you go as Guernsey has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world.

Island-hopping across the water to Herm can be a fantastic day out for little legs. Enjoy the car-free environment, take in stunning Shell Beach, enjoy the nature trail, then relax and savour some local cider while the kids spend their pennies in the much-loved Herm shop.

If rainy days call for creative play, why not do some pottery painting at Iris & Dora Studios? Simple crafts like handprint plates or painted bunnies are perfect for toddlers.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our beautiful beaches lend themselves to children of all ages. Mine have loved sea glass hunting from a young age, and youngsters can spend hours scrambling across the rocks on what can only be described as nature's playground. Spring's a fantastic time to head

down to Moulin Huet where you can admire the flora along the way, enjoy the crystal-clear waters, stunning views and a bit more climbing on the amazing rock formations. The walk is perfectly doable from toddler onwards, but be mindful that it'll take them longer to trek back up. There's a water lane on your way down that ours have always loved playing in. Though be warned – they will get themselves wet regardless of what they're wearing, so spare clothes are a must.

Saumarez Park, the largest public park on the island, offers open spaces for Easter picnics and a children's playground to burn some energy. There are ample grassy areas for running around, and the duck pond with its marvellous Japanese pavilion is always a hit.

The weather doesn't always play ball, and while a little rain never hurt anyone, it's the perfect excuse to enjoy Oatlands Village with its family-oriented fun, including trampolining, mini golf and an indoor playbarn. Two minutes up the road, Guernsey Candles

LEFT: NATURE WALK IN HERM. ABOVE: PETILS BAY. BELOW: MOULIN HUET BAY. ALL IMAGES ©ISLANDFAMILIES.

can take you through a hand-dipped candle-making process too. Another spot to consider is Guernsey Museum, which offers interactive displays and hands-on exhibits, making history come alive. A full list of exhibitions can be found online and the staff on reception can also lend you the key for Victoria Tower nearby – a climb mine have always really enjoyed.

TWEENS

Guernsey's a great place to walk at any time of year but comes into its own in the spring.

Round up your mini adults and head on out for a cliff path adventure – walk the south coast paths and let kids enjoy spotting nesting birds and the abundance of spring wildflowers. Routes like Icart to Moulin Huet are short and scenic while a romp from the bathing pools to Fermain is a little more challenging but you pass the bluebells on the way.

Guernsey Seaweed runs Seaweed Foraging Tours throughout the spring, which can be great fun and under-15s go free with a paying adult too.

Looking to island hop a little further afield? Consider a day or two in Sark for an extra adventure. Hire some bikes and take in the island's coastal views and stop at the Sark Dairy to try out its milk vending machine and milkshake station. Adrenalin hunters can get their fix

with outdoor activities through Adventure Sark.

If the British weather lets you down and the great outdoors isn't an option, you could head to Up Climbing or the local library's FabLab.

OLDER TEENAGERS

Guernsey has a wealth of quiet lanes to explore with something to admire around every corner. Why not hire some bikes and explore the island's scenic countryside with its blooming hedgerows and springtime flowers? The peaceful lanes and stunning views dish up some great shots for their social media too!

If you're raising history lovers, the island offers historical sites in abundance, from German bunkers to Castle Cornet, and a stop at the German Underground Hospital might be right up their alley. These attractions provide educational insights and interactive exhibits suitable for older children. The Guernsey Tapestry, which showcases the island's history through beautifully crafted embroidery, is well worth a visit too.

Karting Guernsey offers a bit of adrenalin for the older kids and while Golf19 offers something for all ages, if the weather's not playing ball (excuse the pun), older teens might particularly enjoy the driving range. Hit some balls and have some food in the restaurant.

Pirate Bay Adventure Golf is there too.

Why not get the whole family involved with the escape rooms at Fermain Valley? Solve clues and puzzles together then head next door for Mexican food at Buho Restaurant (restaurant opening times subject to seasonal demand).

Guernsey's blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and family-friendly activities makes it an ideal destination for an unforgettable Easter holiday.



IslandFamilies is a vibrant hub of information, and home to the popular Community Club,

helping families get most out of life in the Bailiwick. Visit islandfamilies.com for more information on things to do, places to go, and money to be saved along the way.





PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR PERFECT SUMMER

Dreaming of warm summer days? While summer may feel ages away, it's a great time to design your ultimate outdoor escape. Our architectural expertise can not only help with designing your project but also take care of the detail, delivering a space to relax, entertain, and make unforgettable memories

Contact us today for a **FREE** consultation.



jga.gg — info@jga.gg



IMAGE ©SOPHIE RABEY,
GUERNSEY PRESS

GO, GO, GO!

DOZENS OF FAST CARS ARE SET TO ROAR AROUND GUERNSEY IN THE ISLAND'S BIGGEST AND BEST RALLY YET. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The sixth Guernsey Rally will take place across Friday 28 February and Saturday 1 March, promising more stage miles than ever in a bid to entertain competitors, supporters and casual spectators alike.

Loved by many despite small pockets of vocal criticism, the Guernsey Rally has been an ever-so-nearly annual spectacle of the island's sporting calendar since its debut in 2018, enticing crowds of onlookers to watch local, Jersey and UK drivers whizz around an array of different road stages – each with designated safe zones for spectators.

Many competitors and followers faced disappointment when the 2024 rally was called off months in advance, owing to a temporary ban from Guernsey's Environment & Infrastructure on events requiring multiple road closures.

But after receiving the relevant permissions for this year's comeback event, Guernsey Rally chairman Karl Marshall confirmed their intention to come back with a bang.

'We have approximately 58 rally stage miles, which consists of seven fantastic stages,' he announced via social media.

It is the first Guernsey Rally to exceed 40 miles, with new Friday afternoon stages helping make up the distance.

'While the team are looking forward to another rally after

missing 2024's, this rally will be very special to us as we shall be running 2025's event in memory of our dear colleague and friend, Graham Robert, who sadly passed away [in 2023],' Marshall added.

'It seems only right to hold the 2025 Guernsey Rally in his memory.

'To this end, please rest assured we are doing our best to bring you the most exciting Guernsey Rally yet.'

The cancellation of several stages in 2023, following protests from the public while the rally was under way, did highlight the controversy the event can attract.

But the organisers are proactive in reducing the impact on residents, who are notified of stage plans months in advance, and the environment – in 2023 they worked with Carbon Neutral Motorsport to offset 9,000kg of CO₂e.

Organisers are quick to underline the sports tourism value, with Guernsey Rally secretary Caren Vidamour previously commenting that the event brings approximately £84k into the island.

As for fans, it provides hours of entertainment, with hundreds watching from properties and designated spectator zones.

For the crews turning out to compete, the assignment is clear.

Teams of two – a driver and navigator – will tackle a series of stages around the island on Friday and Saturday, the objective being to record the fastest cumulative time possible. The splitting into

classes allows many different vehicles to be competitive.

Past stages have varied from the relatively fast and forgiving coastal roads in the north to tight lanes in St Saviour's and the exhilarating descent, sharp turn and long climb up Petit Bot.

There are crashes, there are upsets, but the same faces keep returning year after year.

This is a curse for locals when it comes to Ross Le Noa. The seemingly invincible Jerseyman has won all five editions so far, four times alongside Domonic Volante, with whom he has long also excelled in the sister isle's even bigger rally.

But the locals always put up a good fight, with Paul Trebert and Jason Carre placing a surprise second overall in 2023 on top of winning Class C.

Will Rutherford, who navigates for Dale Crowsley in the host island's most consistently capable combination, said in a Guernsey Press interview: 'It's amazing being able to sleep in your own bed and go rallying for the day.'

'The opportunity for it to be on our doorstep is great and to be able to show people of Guernsey what rallying's all about, I think that's fantastic.'

If you want to see what the event is all about, more information is available on guernseyrally.net or on Facebook via the 2025 Guernsey Rally Official Page.



ALL IMAGES ©VICTORIA PARK



GETTING THE GREEN CARPET READY

THE ISLAND IS COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS UNTIL VICTORIA PARK, GUERNSEY'S NEW HOME OF FOOTBALL, OPENS. EN VOYAGE SHARES AN UPDATE.

The big kick off is nearly upon us. Having been a decade in the making, Guernsey's new home of football, Victoria Park, will open its doors this spring with the world-class 3G artificial pitch scheduled to be in use from March.

The stadium also comprises seated stands across the north and south touchlines and two standing structures at the goal ends, as well as changing rooms and a clubhouse.

It will be the first permanent home for the Guernsey Football Association and the new home ground of Guernsey FC, the local club who have played in the non-league pyramid since 2011 and are currently in Isthmian South Central.

'It's great to see Victoria Park taking shape, and 10 years on since planning began, we're pleased that the project is well on track,' said Gary Roberts, the chief executive officer of the Guernsey Football Association. 'The new 3G pitch will provide Guernsey football with a high-quality all-weather surface, so seeing it going down has been a particularly special moment.'

'The stadium's development means the whole community will benefit from experiencing football on a world-class playing surface, and we're looking forward to welcoming players and fans to enjoy all the facilities Victoria Park will offer.'

Project planning began in 2014, with local architects Lovell Ozanne designing the stadium. Guernsey-based building contractors

Rihoy & Son started developing the site on Victoria Avenue, St Sampson's, in July 2023. Jason Powers Consultants have acted for the buyer throughout the process. The project has been privately funded, including substantial investment from the Football Association, the Football Foundation and local benefactors.

'The buzz that Victoria Park is already creating has been incredible, so we're really pleased that the project is on schedule and, hopefully, we'll be greeting players and fans through the turnstiles next spring,' said Rob Jones, director of Victoria Park.

'Victoria Park will realise an exciting new era for Guernsey football and we're thrilled that the community is already supporting us, from sponsors who are keen to get involved to clubs and players looking forward to getting their boots on the pitch, it's a really exciting time.'

The name Victoria Park was chosen to reflect the stadium's location on Victoria Avenue and the ground's recreational and unifying identity.

'To be involved in this project at this stage is, firstly, to recognise the sheer grit, determination and vision from all the work that has gone into this for the past 10 years. We are now at an exciting stage, counting down to when everyone in Guernsey will be able to witness the reality of what Victoria Park will deliver,' said Nick Graham, chairman of the Victoria Park steering committee. 'Occasionally, I will go to a Premiership game,

and every time I go, I love walking up the concrete steps and seeing the deep green manicured grass for the first time – it's always a special moment. I would love to believe that when Victoria Park is up and running, every person has a similar experience.'

'I anticipate a great deal of intrigue and interest around the opening, as it will be novel and exciting. I hope that once players and fans acclimatise to making this their new home, everyone will adjust their routines and really enjoy everything about Victoria Park.'

The stadium's next-generation football turf has been engineered for professional football and is used in major competitions, including FIFA World Cup qualification matches and the UEFA Champions League.

It will host the Muratti Vase final – the annual football competition between sides representing Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney – the Women's Muratti, and other inter-insular matches from this year as well as Guernsey FC's men's and women's side.

'As a club, to have a home ground of Victoria Park's calibre is an absolute game-changer – it's something we've always dreamed of,' said Tony Vance, manager and club director of Guernsey FC. 'Having the security of an all-weather pitch and premium facilities means our players have the best quality training and match play available – and I'm sure our fans will appreciate the opportunity to visit our stylish new home ground.'

ATHLETICS

The EY Easter Running Festival is set to be as popular as ever in 2025 as locals and visitors of all abilities come together to share their love of sport while competing in some of Guernsey's most scenic locations.

The four-day festival will be held over the relatively late Easter weekend in 2025, starting with the Good Friday 5km on 18 April.

The tried and tested format continues with Saturday's Keith Falla Memorial Cross-Country at L'Anresse, Sunday's 4x1 mile relay at Delancey Park and Monday's road 10km.

Guernsey Athletics endurance director Chris Gillman described the festival as 'always a highlight of our running calendar'.

'It's such a unique way to enjoy everything Guernsey has to offer,' he said.

'Whether you know the island well or you're visiting for the first time, the festival offers a truly welcoming atmosphere. The camaraderie is always special.'



The club are striving to make the event as accessible and inclusive as possible.

'Whether you're a seasoned athlete or a complete newcomer, all ages and abilities are welcome to join us,' Gillman added.



'We're particularly keen to grow our field of wheelchair athletes this year in the 5k and 10k races.'

'In the past, people have had to come prepared with their own racing chairs, but this is no longer a barrier as the club now has two of these available for people to use, should they be required.'

A regular participant is a familiar face in Guernsey sport as well as a partner at EY, Ove Svejstrup.

'The EY Easter Running Festival is such a fantastic event for everyone to enjoy,' said the man who has competed at the Island Games in badminton and triathlon.

'Whether you're new to running and want a new challenge to train for in the new year, a seasoned runner aiming for a personal best, or supporting family or friends taking part, it's a great opportunity to get outside over the Easter weekend.'

'We're proud to continue our sponsorship of an event that positively impacts the health and wellbeing of so many within our local community.'

HOCKEY SPONSORSHIP

Guernsey Sports Commission has announced budding young Guernsey hockey players now have a smoother transition to the adult league thanks to a new division. The Guernsey Hockey Sure Division Three is a development league, helping players from the junior 7-a-side game adapt to the 11-a-side adult leagues.

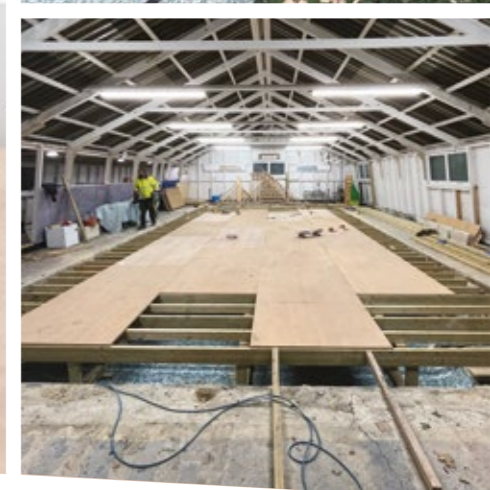
Sure's sponsorship will go towards the pitch costs and ensuring less-experienced players have increased playing opportunities, encouraging more youngsters to play hockey and enjoy the physical and mental benefits of the sport.

'We are so grateful for Sure's sponsorship. It's a big jump going from the Under-13s league to senior hockey and we're seeing juniors drop out as a result. We hope the Sure Division Three will encourage more young people to continue their hockey journey for years to come,' said Guernsey hockey development officer Teya Sheppard.

Acting Chief Commercial Officer at Sure, Mike



Fawkner-Corbett, added: 'Sport plays a crucial role in connecting our local community. We're thrilled to support Guernsey Hockey and hope that Sure's involvement will inspire a love for the sport among junior players.'



ALL IMAGES ©GUERNSEY SPORTS COMMISSION

RAMPING IT UP

CREATIVE THINKING, HARD WORK AND A PARISH DOUZAINÉ WHICH BOUGHT INTO THE VISION HAS RESULTED IN GUERNSEY'S NEWEST INDOOR SKATEBOARD AND BMX VENUE BEING OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN JUST A MATTER OF MONTHS.

The former St Andrew's School swimming pool, now part of the St Andrew's Community Centre, has been brought back to life by a passionate group of skaters, parents and other volunteers with the full support of the parish authorities who were keen to see the redundant building given a new lease of life.

'It was a pool with a hole in the bottom, so it wasn't much use for swimming,' said Tim Gaudion from Guernsey Skateparks and the driving force behind the project.

'It had ivy taking over half of the building. We took the pool walls out to lower the sides of the building to make the space bigger and we've created a new floor in ply. Some of the ramps are fixed at the two ends so they are built into the structure, and we've got moveable components in the middle.'

The space has been designed to be as flexible as possible with storage areas under the ramps and mobile elements that can be changed around regularly to keep it fresh.

'Within a month to six weeks we had gone from an empty room to having a finished skatepark,' said Tim.

'It's really nice breathing fresh life into a site so we've named it the Poolhouse as a nod to the swimming pool that was here before. The Jubilee skatepark at Beau Sejour you can rock up to any time; this place is only open and available when we are doing our sessions. We're running it as an academy for skateboarding and BMX.'

The venue is already buzzing even though Guernsey Skateparks hasn't yet actively publicised the new facility.

'Traditionally this time of year when it's wet it just stops, everyone puts their boards away for six months and you get the odd session, but you lose that continuity of being able to do it each week, said Tim.

'We run free skateboarding lessons with the Youth Commission and have a big group of juniors every Saturday morning and whenever it's wet we're having to cancel their lessons or spend half the morning trying to dry the skatepark only for it to rain again two minutes later which is then frustrating and disappointing for the young people, so with this space now we can just move the lessons to the indoor location.'

The Poolhouse is the culmination of a period of growth and development in the sport. Skateboarding is now an Olympic sport appealing to all ages and around 50 children and young

'I THINK IT'S A REALLY GOOD THING BECAUSE IT'S ENCOURAGED LOTS OF PEOPLE INTO THE SPORT AND SPECIFICALLY LOTS OF GIRLS. SKY BROWN HAS BEEN AN AMAZING ROLE MODEL FOR THEM.'

people regularly turn up to the free skate lessons on a Saturday morning at the Jubilee Skatepark. Guernsey Skateparks is now a community member of Skateboard GB and back in September they came over to provide training for the local coaches. Working in partnership with the Youth Commission, Guernsey Skateparks has cemented a close relationship with Skateboard Jersey and plan for further collaboration with them in the future.

'It is a lifestyle and it's closely tied in with the arts, fashion and culture. Some people love the fact that it's in the Olympics, some skaters aren't so excited about it but for me I think it's a really good thing because it's encouraged lots of people into the sport and specifically lots of girls. Sky Brown has been an amazing role model for them,' said Tim.

'We've got some amazingly talented young people; there's definitely some potential there and

it would be great to see some of them going further and competing in the future, but skateboarding isn't really about the competition side; it's more about the fun and enjoyment of just doing it.

'It's a really good sport for people who don't necessarily fit into the more traditional team sports. It's a sport that's about self-progression so no matter what level you are at you can enjoy participating with your mates even if you're a complete beginner and they're really good. You can both have fun at the same time in the same area.'

Tim would love to see other redundant buildings around the island used in similar ways and is full of praise for the St Andrew's Douzaine and the Community Centre.

'A massive thanks to them: they saw what we were trying to do, they liked the idea, they got excited about it, and they've given us the opportunity to build this place.'

'We've had a huge amount of help and support which has been brilliant. Lots of the skaters and BMXers have stepped up and helped build this as well as parents who have given up their time. Lots of local businesses have helped us too. Everyone I've asked has given us a good discount or stuff for free to get us to where we are now which has been brilliant.'

For further information follow @guernseyskateparks on Instagram.

The Poolhouse has been completed thanks to:

- The Social Investment Fund
- J Meerveld & Sons Ltd
- Ray Lowe Interiors
- Bob Froome & Sons Ltd
- Norman Piette
- Sam Latham Electrics
- Youth Commission
- GFF

Switch off your mind, not your roaming.

With our data inclusive
Pay Monthly plans.

Plans now
include USA
data roaming.

Find out more.
[sure.com](https://www.sure.com)

Inclusive data varies per plan and covers usage in the UK, EU & USA. Ts&Cs apply.

sure.



SURE GUERNSEY MARATHON

Guernsey Press sports reporter Jamie Ingrouille on why the island is practically the ideal size and shape for a marathon.

Organisers of the Sure Guernsey Marathon make the most of the island's layout to stage a 26.2-mile run that follows all of its major coastal roads and very little else.

'An island perfectly shaped to run' is how they promote their event online, along with frequent pictures showcasing the beautiful coastline, and preparations are well under way ahead of this year's race on Sunday 6 April.

The challenging yet immensely rewarding 26.2-miler headlines a busy running festival that also includes the 'Marathon Mile' for budding athletes and a huge Mourant Relay Race, which allows teams to split the course into two or five pre-determined legs and compete together for an array of trophies.

Overall, well over 500 runners will be pounding the roads of Guernsey on marathon weekend.

Even the strongest relay teams struggle to match the individual times of the top marathoners, which was especially true last year when French visitor Guillaume Ruel set a glorious new course record of 2hrs 31min. 29sec.

The record-smashing runner highlighted the 'amazing' course and 'beautiful landscapes' in his post-race interview and hopes to return in the future.

For women, the time to beat is Guernsey resident Vicky Carre's record of 3-10-10 from 2021.

Far from an elite-only affair, the marathon attracts good numbers of locals and visitors alike, with 156 finishers last year.

Among them was Courtney Holmes from the USA, who told the Guernsey Press: 'Completing my ninth marathon, I can confidently say this race boasted the most enthusiastic crowds and dedicated local supporters.'

I can vouch, having run my marathon personal best on this course, that the support throughout is fantastic and that it is also not a bad one if you have a target time in mind.

Certainly, the early scramble from the South Esplanade start to the top of Le Val des Terres – a 77m climb – is not quite as bad as it may sound!

It makes for a slower first mile, but the hardest part of the course is already behind you – and what goes up must come down.

You can find a rhythm over the gently rolling 'upper parishes', before a fast drop in the ninth mile takes you to the picturesque west coast and you're soon breezing past the island's sandy bays.

Especially if you have the wind at your back, you can get in a real groove.

It remains that way until mile 22, where you begin your homewards leg along the east coast, culminating in the finishing sprint – if you can muster one – past the vocal crowds at South Esplanade.

There will be regular water stations around the route, which also offer carb-heavier options like Lucozade, bananas and jelly babies to help meet competitors' extreme energy demands. And Sure's support lends an extra technological touch to the event.

The race as we know it today has been organised by Michael Quittenden and his team since 2020, picking up from the late Peter Head's Guernsey Waterfront Marathon.

Head's brainchild took place annually in August, but he retired officially from organisation in spring 2019.

Quittenden took over and tweaked the course with the intention of hosting a spring marathon in March 2020 – which proved ill-fated, as the Covid pandemic pushed it into October.

The course has been fine-tuned further to its current form and, bar the 2021 edition being another October affair, the marathon now takes place annually in April as a gruelling, exuberant and unpredictable highlight of Guernsey's spring sporting calendar.

To help accommodate visitors, St Pierre Park Hotel and Spa is offering special rates over the marathon weekend of Friday 4 to Monday 7 April.

More information is available via [guernseymarathon.com/marathon](https://www.guernseymarathon.com/marathon).

PICTURED ABOVE L-R: ADAM DOREY AND SUSIE ARMSTRONG SOAK UP LOCAL SUPPORT AS THEY RUN DOWN THE WEST COAST; ETHAN WOODHEAD (FIRST GUERNSEY MALE FINISHER) AND LINDSAY SWORD (FIRST GUERNSEY FEMALE FINISHER); MARATHON WINNER, FRANCE'S GUILLAUME RUEL, SETS A NEW RECORD FOR THE SURE GUERNSEY MARATHON. ALL IMAGES © SOPHIE RABEY, GUERNSEY PRESS.

IMAGE ©ISTOCKPHOTO

WORKING TOGETHER FOR IMPROVED WELLBEING

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR PEOPLE, YOUR BUSINESS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY BY GUERNSEY MIND.

Work plays a crucial role in most of our lives. It's where we spend a lot of time, earn our income, and often form friendships. Having a rewarding job can boost our mental health and overall wellbeing.

Yet, there are times when life becomes overwhelming – sometimes due to work-related pressures like deadlines or travel, and other times due to personal challenges like health, relationships, or circumstances. These stresses can impact how we perform at work.

Workplace wellbeing is not always easy. The past few years have seen employers face many challenges that impact the performance of their employees and organisations. The mental health of individuals and their close family members can have huge implications on work standards and performance.

Employers, managers, and employees all have a part to play in fostering healthy work environments. Addressing mental health in the workplace is essential for those with existing issues, those at risk, and the entire workforce.

Many companies have wellbeing policies, but too often these become 'tick box' exercises, offering things like yoga sessions, social events, or quiet spaces. While these activities have their place, they don't tackle the root of mental health and wellbeing issues at work.

Guernsey Mind's Workplace Partnership aims to equip local businesses with tools and support to ensure the wellbeing of all staff and helps workplaces create open, supportive environments. It isn't about earning a badge or certificate. Instead, it's about committing to practical, suitable actions within organisations to reduce mental health discrimination in workplaces and the broader community.

WHY PRIORITISE MENTAL HEALTH?

Studies show that one in six workers in the UK are impacted by mental health issues each year. This isn't just a statistic – it is a reality that affects business. Poor mental health is a hidden pressure on productivity, leading to increased absenteeism, turnover of staff, and low morale.

Recent Deloitte studies have revealed a staggering 40% of staff turnover costs are linked to mental health challenges. But the study also showed that for every £1 invested in mental health support, businesses saw a return of £4.70. So prioritising mental health is not just a good deed – it's a smart, proactive business move.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

With the Workplace Partnership, organisations can choose the package that best matches their needs, taking into account team size and existing wellness initiatives.

The process starts with a wellbeing survey for all staff, yielding valuable insights in a dashboard, alongside verbal and written summaries. Developed by Guernsey Mind with local company CoEfficient, this tool gathers high-quality data quickly, focusing on staff mental health and wellbeing. Completing the confidential survey at the partnership's onset helps identify gaps and issues staff face.

This survey data guides where to focus efforts and resources so that organisations can begin improving workplace wellbeing by working strategically with Guernsey Mind based on the data collected.

WHY ACT NOW?

60% of employees, 64% of managers, and 75% of executives are seriously considering quitting for a job that would better support their wellbeing*. The time to act is now – not just to retain your top talent, but to attract the next generation of employees who value mental wellbeing.



For further details about the Workplace Partnership and the support offered by Guernsey

Mind, please call 01481 722959, visit www.guernseymind.org.gg or email info@guernseymind.org.gg

*Source: Deloitte Well-being at Work Survey 2023



Rollo de Sausmarez of Better Journeys Project Guernsey, and Kate Huntington of ATW Jersey.

BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Guernsey's Better Journeys Project has joined forces with The Alternative Transport Week in Jersey. The Guernsey charity is now known as The Better Journeys Project Jersey and Guernsey.

Both charities aim to encourage people to travel more sustainably on Island roads, whether on foot, by bike, by bus or by car-pooling. The changes mean new branding in both islands and a new website betterjourneys.life.

Rollo de Sausmarez, who has been involved in Better Journeys Project in Guernsey from the start, said, 'Together we're stronger. We're taking the best of both organisations to drive more sustainable transport options across both Jersey and Guernsey.'

The dates for the newly renamed Better Journeys Week in 2025 are confirmed as 19 – 23 May.

FUELLING GOOD CAUSES

ATF Fuels has launched its new charity-driven Corporate Social Responsibility initiative aimed at supporting multiple local charities.

ATF is inviting people to nominate a charity, and each quarter throughout 2025, will dedicate a day and donate 5p per litre to the beneficiary charity for simply filling up at one of its forecourts.

'At ATF we believe that businesses have a responsibility to give back to the communities that have supported them. This new initiative reflects our commitment to third sector in very challenging times for them,' said director Jon Best. 'The initiative will run through 2025, and the company is committed to continuing its efforts in the long term to ensure sustained support and lasting change.'

To nominate a charity visit atf.gg. The first Fuelling Good Causes day is 1 March.

RECIPIENTS OF INVICTA'S FIRST COMMUNITY FUND GRANT ANNOUNCED

Grow and the Lihou Charitable Trust have been named the first recipients of Invicta Wealth Solutions' first charitable grant.

The Foundation was set up last year to support local charities with projects and initiatives.

'We were inundated with requests for support. Every application was very worthy of our support, but we chose two who we felt we could make a lasting difference in their work and leave a legacy from our contribution. We encourage everyone to reapply, including new applicants, when we open the funding again next year,' said Invicta CEO Jim Elliott.

Invicta's support for Grow will enable a fruit orchard to be planted this year, while in Lihou, it will support an educational project enabling schoolchildren to participate in more activities while staying on the island.

The 2025 grant application process will open in the spring.

LIBERATION GROUP'S INAUGURAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WEEK



Teams from its pubs across the region organised working groups and fundraising initiatives for a variety of local charities and good causes.

The Deerhound raised more than £1,000 through organising beach cleans (left) and live music nights, benefitting Autism Guernsey, while Dix Neuf supported GSPCA and

Guernsey Active by organising a quiz night that also raised more than £1,000.

The Thomas De La Rue held a meat draw in aid of Les Bourgs Hospice and a drag bingo evening in aid of the GSPCA, collectively raising nearly £1,500. The Puffin and Oyster also raised funds for Guernsey Welfare.

'We're absolutely delighted with the incredible work our teams have done, working with such a wide variety of charities and helping to support good causes in the communities we serve,' said Jonathan Lawson, CEO, Liberation Group. 'It is vital that our pubs play their part at the heart of these neighbourhoods and our Community Engagement Week is just one way our teams can make a real difference by building meaningful and long-lasting relationships with local charities. It's also lots of fun and a great way to meet the locals. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a huge success.'

Agility,
independence
& excellence.



Established in 2014 by our management team, NSM is an independent financial services group, headquartered in Guernsey, with offices in London and Dubai.

Specialising in bespoke private client, corporate and fund services, we pride ourselves on our agility, ambition and client service excellence, making us the perfect partners for your financial journey.

nsm.group

Private Client **▴** Corporate **▴** Funds

8 **90**

GBP Billion AUM

Client Jurisdictions

80 **11**

Group Employees

Years in Operation

Sky Café

Enjoy refreshing drinks and snacks at great prices, plus make the most of Aurigny's excellent duty-free offers.

Products listed may be subject to change due to availability.

Breakfast Bites



Pain au Chocolat
£2.75



Pain aux Raisins
£2.75



Muffin - mixed flavours
£2.75

Sweet Snacks



Cadbury Nibbly Fingers
125g
£2.20



Nestlé KitKat 4-finger
41.5g
£2.20



Cadbury Dairy Milk
Chocolate Bar 45g
£2.20



Walker's All-Butter
Shortbread 11g
£1.50

Savoury Snacks



Pringles Original
40g
£2.20



Pringles Sour Cream
& Onion 40g
£2.20



Mini Cheddars
45g
£2.20



Sea Salted Pretzels
30g
£2.20



Sour Cream & Chive
Pretzels 30g
£2.20

Great Value Deals

DEAL 1

Any Hot Drink
& Breakfast Bite

£5

DEAL 2

Any Beer, Cider or
Wine & your choice
of Savoury Snack

£7.55

DEAL 3

Any Soft Drink
& your choice of
Savoury Snack

£3.70

DEAL 4

Any Hot Drink
& your choice of
Sweet Snack

£4.85

DEAL 5

Any Soft Drink
& your choice of
Sweet Snack

£3.60

ALLERGENS

Please be aware that some of our products may contain allergens and some of our customers may bring onboard their own products containing allergens. If you are susceptible to serious complications arising from allergens **it is your responsibility** to make our cabin crew aware of this immediately.

Sky Beverages

Hot Drinks

WARNING
These drinks are hot. Please handle with care in order to protect yourself and fellow passengers



Tetley Tea
£2.75



Clipper Earl Grey Tea
£2.75



Hot Chocolate
£2.75



Nescafe Gold Coffee
£2.75



Decaf Clipper Coffee
£2.75



Nescafe Cappuccino
£2.75



Nescafe Latte
£2.75

Soft Drinks & Water



Coca Cola Classic 150mm
Diet Coke 150mm
Sprite 150mm



Schweppes Indian Tonic Water 150mm

£1.50

Ballygowan Water

Ballygowan water has a unique mineral content, the result of 750 years of natural filtration through mineral-rich limestone.

Still 500ml
Sparkling 500ml

£2.50



Daymer Bay Orange Juice

Squeezing the best from nature, inspired by the natural beauty of North Cornwall's Daymer Bay.

250ml
£2.50

Blackcurrant Ribena 200ml
£2.20



Sky Bar Service

Mini Spirits



£5.95

2 SPIRITS AND 2 MIXERS
£13

Bacardi Carta Blanca Rum 50ml
Jack Daniel's Whiskey 50ml
Gordon's Dry Gin 50ml
Smirnoff Red Vodka 50ml
Bombay Sapphire Dry Gin 50ml
Bell's Scotch Whisky 50ml
Blue Bottle Gin 50ml
Blue Bottle Pink Gin 50ml

Wines



2 FOR
£9

Jack Rabbit Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, White Zinfandel or Pinot Grigio 187ml

£5.45

Beers & Cider



Madri Lager 440ml
Caple RD Cider 330ml
£5.45

2 FOR
£10



Lunetta Prosecco

200ml

A deliciously light and fruity Prosecco with hints of apple and peach on the nose and a fresh, softly sparkling palate.

£7

2 FOR
£13

BLUE BOTTLE DRY GIN



The epitome of boutique distilled gin. Each batch is meticulously crafted in a copper still at the Three Fingers Distillery on Guernsey. Blue Bottle gin has a unique combination of botanicals scrupulously selected to create a delectable treat.

50ml only **£5.95**



ALLERGENS

Please be aware that some of our products may contain allergens and some of our customers may bring onboard their own products containing allergens. If you are susceptible to serious complications arising from allergens **it is your responsibility** to make our cabin crew aware of this immediately.

Sky Duty Free

Spirits



Bombay Sapphire Dry Gin 1ltr
£17.99

2 FOR £32

- Gordon's London Dry Gin 1ltr **£12.99**
- Smirnoff Red Vodka 1ltr **£11.99**
- The Famous Grouse Whisky 1ltr **£13.99**



MIX & MATCH
Any mix of Gordon's Gin, Smirnoff Red Vodka or Famous Grouse
2 for £21.49



Wheadon's Gin

70cl
Handcrafted Gin from the Island of Guernsey.
A premium artisan gin distilled in very small batches, Wheadon's seasonal infusions balance locally foraged flavours with a traditional blend of botanicals to produce perfectly balanced gins for a discerning palate.
Inspired by our island home and constantly seeking expressive and unique flavours to delight drinkers, Wheadon's can be enjoyed on the rocks with a garnish, or pairs perfectly with tonic.

£35

Cigarettes & Tobacco

Marlboro Gold	200 / 400s	£62 / £92
Benson & Hedges	200 / 400s	£49 / £79
Lambert & Butler Silver	200 / 400s	£49 / £65
Mayfair King Size	200s	£47
Golden Virginia Tobacco	5 x 50g	£55
Amber Leaf	8 x 30g	£49

ALLOWANCES & PAYMENT

On flights from the Channel Islands to the UK, the allowance includes 200 cigarettes and four litres of spirits. On flights from the UK to the Channel Islands, the allowance includes 200 cigarettes and one litre of spirits. A duty-free service is only available on the ATR aircraft. You must be 18 years old or above to purchase tobacco or alcohol. Major credit or debit cards are accepted.

PLEASE NOTE
Items will not be exchanged/refunded. Please check your duty free purchases before departing the aircraft.



Giving back to the community



Together, building a brighter future for our communities

Skipton International seeks to add value back to its local communities by supporting smaller good causes through the Skipton Community Fund.

If you belong to a non-profit organisation or a charitable project in the Channel Islands, the Fund will consider applications for grants up to £5,000 per organisation.



visit skiptoninternational.com/skipton-community-fund

or email communityfund@skiptoninternational.com



SKIPTON INTERNATIONAL