



EnVoyage Aurigny's Magazine ISSUE 48 - AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2026

GUERNSEY'S AIRLINE
aurigny

FREE
TO TAKE AWAY

EnVoyage

Aurigny's leisure and business magazine

ISSUE 48



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.

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



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GOLDEN DAYS AHEAD

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

BUSINESS NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

PLUS LOTS MORE

IMAGE: LA COUPÉE, SÂRK

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On display at Guernsey Museum at Candie

18 July to 27 September



Here for *Life*

35 years of Les Bourgs Hospice

Exhibition open daily 10am-5pm

FREE entry with a Discovery Pass

Follow us [museums.gov.gg](https://www.museums.gov.gg)



'SUMMER'S LEASE HATH
ALL TOO SHORT A DATE.'

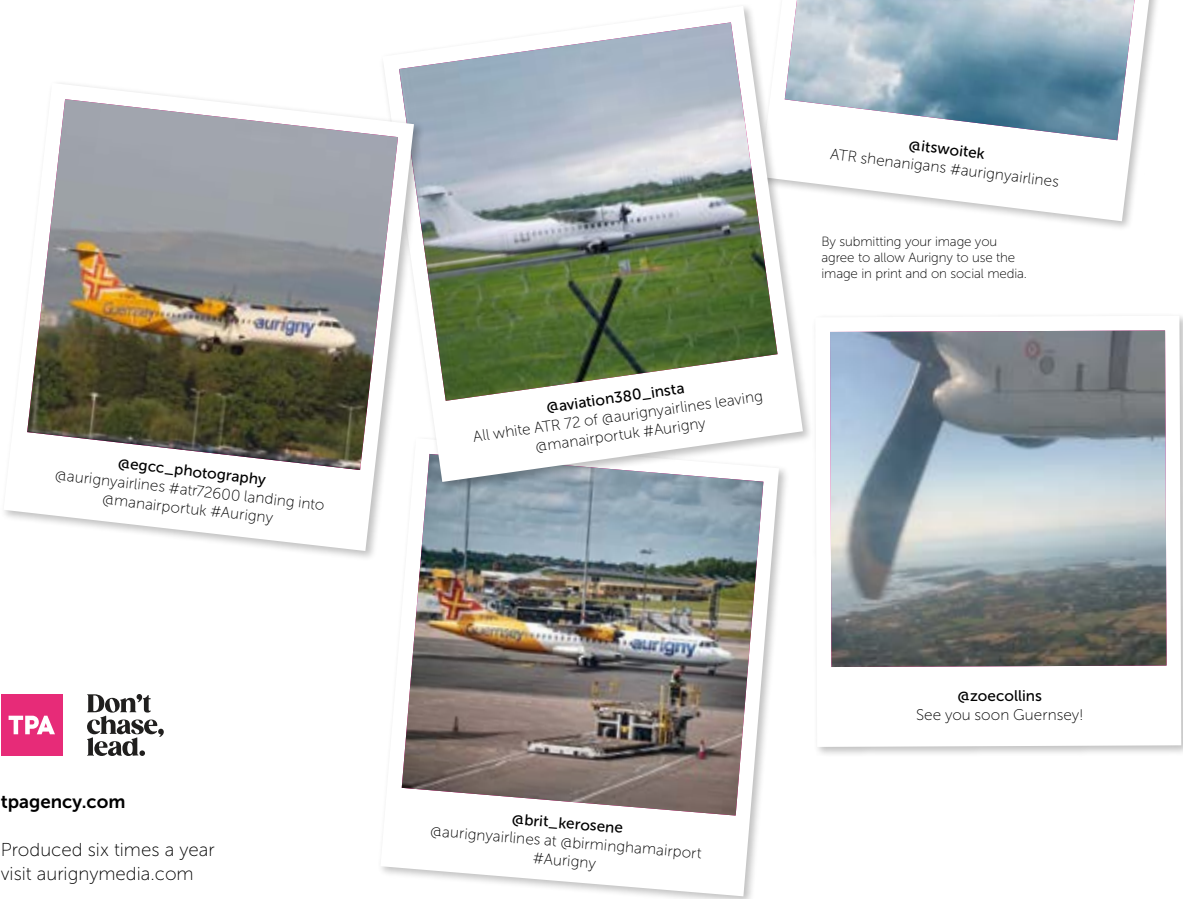
William Shakespeare



IMAGE ©VISIT GUERNSEY

#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.



tpagency.com
Produced six times a year
visit aurignymedia.com

COVER PHOTO
La Coupée, Sark @iStockphoto

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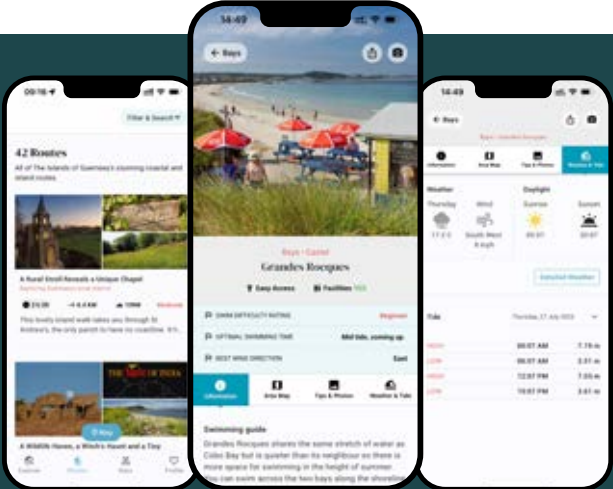
CONTRIBUTORS
What's a magazine without wordsmiths? En Voyage receives content from a variety of writers and contributors in both Guernsey and further afield.

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ISLANDS of GUERNSEY

Download our App
Explore our dramatic coastline. Uncover our rich history and dive into our swim spots with the VisitGuernsey app.



NOW OPEN

14 SMITH STREET ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, GY1 2JL



Pragnell

14

14

JEWELLERS | GOLDSMITHS | WATCHMAKERS | GEMMOLOGISTS | REGISTERED VALUERS

Hello and welcome

SAMUEL TALBOT, HEAD OF MARKETING

On behalf of everyone at Aurigny, I'd like to thank you for choosing to travel with us today.

Summer is now upon us, and the Bailiwick of Guernsey is in full bloom and looking at its very best. If you are visiting – thank you for coming to explore the wonderful islands we call home.

If you are seeking the best spots and things to do for your visit, we'd encourage you to tune in to our new video series, 'The Islands We Call Home,' where we catch up with our very own locally based crew to share their insider knowledge. After all, who are better placed to show you Guernsey than the team at its very own airline? Simply head across to our social channels after your flight.

If you're still pondering a trip with the kids, consider this your sign. They grow

up fast – and right now children aged 11 and under can fly fare-free to London City and Jersey this summer – head over to Aurigny.com or our app for details.

I'd also like to extend my special thanks to our FrequentFlyer members today. We truly value your loyalty. For that reason, FrequentFlyer remains one of the most generous, if not the most generous, frequent-flyer programmes in the British Isles. I challenge anyone to find a simpler and more rewarding scheme for repeat travel to/from the Bailiwick!

If you're not a member, you can join us today at Aurigny.com/frequentflyer/about.

Thank you for flying with Aurigny – your airline that's always for home.

Child Offer: Travel is valid from 1 July - 31 October 2026. Book by 14 September 2026 or whilst seats last – subject to availability. See Aurigny.com/kidsfreesummerlong for full Ts&Cs.

A retrospective on The Great Transition

LOCATION: THE GUERNSEY MUSEUM OF POST-CARBON HISTORY | DATE: AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2126

Today's exhibit takes us back **100 years** to the mid-2020s where a transport metamorphosis was taking flight on an island the **perfect size** for driving electric.

Ancestor Anxiety

Historians today marvel at 'range anxiety': a nagging fear that grew adjacent to the rise of electric transport, when drivers who previously never worried about a half-empty fuel tank felt anxious if their EV dropped to 60%.

Investigations showed however that people could follow much the same pattern of refilling as they did with a petrol or diesel car. When they topped-up once or twice weekly, they likely did the same with an electric car.

A distinct 'neophobia' haunted many people during this remarkable period of technological change. As humans are creatures of muscle memory, transitioning away from decades of internal combustion was inevitably met with trepidation

Ancestral drivers were 'public refuelers' who had never enjoyed the luxury of a private fuel source dispensing petrol or diesel in their own backyard before. For decades, they accepted refuelling rituals at public depots. Here they would stand in all weathers and grip a rubber handle to hand-dispense flammable fuel into their vehicle, which would then burn to create the power needed to move their vehicle.

The advent of vehicle 'charging' stations would flip this narrative.

- For those with home charging points, public detours vanished.
- For others, weekly fill-ups remained, but the substance changed, trading hydrocarbons for electrons.

Early adopters in Guernsey often faced the then-contemporary 'chicken or egg' riddle: what comes first?

- **Car first:** there were several public charging stations around the island.
- **Charger first:** this helped future-proof owned properties

By 2026, the island's all-electric fleet had grown to over 2,100 vehicles, with nearly one in ten vehicles either all-electric or hybrid.

Charging Ahead

Electricity vault 'load profiles' reveal Guernsey's cheapest, cleanest power peaked between 11pm and 5am. Savvy EV owners capitalised on these golden hours by using clever dashboard systems that automatically waited until after 11pm to charge while they slept.

More fascinating around this time was the 'Green Loan', a financial innovation where some lenders provided discounted loans for certain sustainable products such as:

- Electric vehicles
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Electric heating
- Air source heat pumps
- Off Peak Storage Heating
- Insulation
- Battery Storage
- Solar Panels

Interested buyers would contact their preferred loan provider and ask if they were able to offer a discounted loan for their new sustainable product.

Drivers relying on public infrastructure turned to online portals to navigate to the nearest EV charging 'waterhole.' On an island like Guernsey, these digital maps helped find a quick top-up that was always only minutes from a home or workplace.

Some public charging hubs even became social 'campfires' for drivers where strangers, standing by their vehicles, would compare thoughts on EVs while they charged.



Great Carbon Decoupling

Archaeologists unearthed data demonstrating how traffic in Guernsey was the biggest cause behind carbon emissions and the lifecycle carbon footprint of vehicles used at that time.

With much media attention around producing EV batteries, it became necessary to explore the 'lifecycle' emissions of products. Records revealed that in 2026, the entire lifecycle of EV's (including battery production, operation and disposal) outperformed petrol cars – with around 70% less in total carbon emissions.

“Driving one petrol car could release more carbon emissions than three electric cars.”

Archives suggest that producing EV batteries was carbon intensive, but this debt was repaid rapidly once the wheels hit the road. Plus, charging between 11pm and 5am meant EV's sidestepped expensive, carbon heavy hours that relied on Guernsey's fossil-fuel power station.

Curators Final Note

Since installing a subsea cable in 2000 which connected Guernsey to the European grid, the island wiped out nearly half of its 1990's air pollution, significantly improving the island's air clarity.

The onset of decarbonised mobility, including electric vehicles and bicycles, meant potential for even less air pollution.

Driving EVs was also significantly cheaper per kilometre, and less vulnerable to volatile oil price changes influenced by worldwide activity.

To install a home EV charger, islanders first had to ask Guernsey Electricity to confirm their property's cable network could handle the extra power demand.

- The best time to charge in Guernsey was between 11pm and 5am when drivers could rely on 100% low-carbon electricity imported from the European grid.
- The second-best time was between 10am and 4pm, as this avoided the major 'peaks' when Guernsey then relied on burning fossil-fuels locally to top-up the electricity imported from Europe.

Even electricity has a story to tell. To stay in the know, follow Guernsey Electricity on social media or sign up for our e-newsletter www.electricity.gg/subscribe



PAWS ON PLANES



Travelling between the islands just got a lot easier for families, as Aurigny officially opens its Guernsey – Jersey lifeline service to cats and dogs.

The policy change is effective immediately, removing a major hurdle for pet owners who want to travel across the Bailiwicks with their animals.

Where can my pet fly?

- Guernsey ⇄ Jersey
- Guernsey ⇄ Southampton
- Alderney ⇄ Guernsey
- Alderney ⇄ Southampton

Essential guidelines for pet travel

While the airline is delighted to welcome pets on board, Aurigny emphasises that preparation is key. Passengers are highly recommended to carefully review the detailed pet policy, terms and conditions, and specific booking processes on the FAQ page at aurigny.com before making a reservation to ensure all animal health and safety requirements are fully met.

If you have any questions, Aurigny's Customer Services team is on hand to guide you through the booking process and help ensure you and your pet are ready to fly.



INTERNATIONAL CABIN CREW DAY

Aurigny surprised the airline's hard-working cabin staff with a uniquely personal touch.

Custom biscuits might seem like a small gesture, but they carried a massive amount of gratitude. To celebrate International Cabin Crew Day, Aurigny surprised its entire cabin crew roster with bespoke, handmade, personalised biscuits.

From managing safety protocols to delivering top-tier Channel Island hospitality at 10,000 feet, the airline's cabin crew are the face of the company. The sweet surprise was designed as a tangible 'thank you' for the tireless effort, early mornings, and high standards of care the crew display on every single flight.



ULTIMATE TRAVEL HACK: DUBLIN

If you've ever endured the gruelling customs queues at major American hubs after an eight-hour flight, Dublin Airport is your ultimate travel hack.

As the only European capital city to offer U.S. pre-clearance for both originating and connecting passengers, Dublin allows you to complete all U.S. immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections before you board. When your flight touches down in the United States, you disembark as a domestic passenger, grab your bags, and skip the arrival queues entirely.

This seamless experience is backed by impressive scale: Dublin is the fourth most connected European airport to North America, offering direct services to 24 U.S. destinations across more than 260 weekly flights. It operates over 2,700 flights worldwide per week, hosts 45 airline partners, and serves five major U.S. carriers: Aer Lingus,



American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and JetBlue.

Furthermore, the airport has fully rolled out next-generation C3 security screening technology across both terminals, meaning passengers no longer need to remove liquids or laptops from their bags. Accessing this massive transatlantic gateway is incredibly easy for Channel Island travellers, with Aurigny operating direct flights from Guernsey to Dublin every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

WINTER SCHEDULE OUT NOW

Aurigny has extended booking availability across its broader network, allowing passengers to secure flights up until 24 March 2027.

The expanded winter schedule caters to both business travellers and holidaymakers. In addition to London City, Gatwick, Alderney, Southampton and Jersey, Aurigny has expanded its winter schedule to include:

- Manchester
- Bristol
- Paris
- Birmingham
- Exeter

For those looking to catch some seasonal magic, Aurigny has confirmed the return of its festive flights. This winter, travellers can bypass stressful airport hubs and fly directly from Guernsey to Edinburgh and Dublin for Christmas shopping, festive markets, and winter breaks.



IN FOCUS REPORT - MAY

Aurigny in Focus: How we're Performing

We're back to keep you informed of our operations and performance. As the warmer weather arrives and we move further into the busy summer season, we continue to focus on delivering a safe, reliable and dependable service for our island communities and visitors alike.

May in Context

In May, we welcomed 51,219 travellers across our network as we continued through the busy spring period. While the month presented some operational challenges, our teams remained focused on supporting customers throughout their journey and keeping the network operating as smoothly as possible.

Our flight completion rates remained strong throughout the month, reflecting the dedication of teams across the airline maintaining a resilient and reliable operation wherever possible. While punctuality remains a key focus, ensuring flights operate as planned and travellers reach their destinations safely continues to be our priority.

As always, we encourage customers to share feedback through our post-flight survey, helping us identify what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve.

Alderney

We'd like to acknowledge in this issue that services to/from Alderney have not been to the standard we expect, and we would like to thank the Alderney community for their ongoing patience and understanding.

51,219

TRAVELLERS BOOKED

Our On-Time Performance

As is industry standard, we measure on-time performance by the percentage of flights arriving within 15 minutes of their scheduled time.

1. During May, 83% of flights arrived within 15 minutes of schedule, excluding weather and Air Traffic Control (ATC) restrictions.
2. Including weather and ATC impacts, 75% of flights arrived within 15 minutes of their scheduled arrival.

By comparison, all other airlines operating at London Gatwick achieved 79% on-time performance within 15 minutes of scheduled arrival during May.

While May's punctuality was below the levels achieved in April, our performance excluding external disruption remained ahead of the wider Gatwick average.

*Source: Eurocontrol.

Our Completion Rates

Flight completion rate measures the percentage of flights operated compared to the number planned.

1. In May, our flight completion rate was 98% when excluding weather, Air Traffic Control (ATC) restrictions and medevac requirements.
2. Including the impact of weather and ATC restrictions, our completion remained 98%.

By comparison, all other airlines operating at London Gatwick achieved an average flight completion rate of 95%.

Maintaining these completion rates despite operational challenges demonstrates our continued focus on delivering a dependable service and minimising disruption wherever possible.

*Source: Eurocontrol.

What we're Doing

Our priority remains keeping customers moving wherever it is safe and practical to do so. Across the airline, teams have continued working together to minimise disruption and support customers during delays. We also continue to review our operational performance to identify opportunities for improvement as we move further into the busy summer season.

Alderney

We are working closely with Alderney and our partner airline, Skybus, to improve the level of service delivered to the island.

Our Call Centre

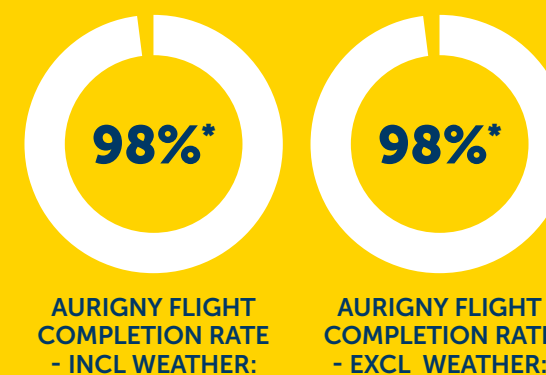
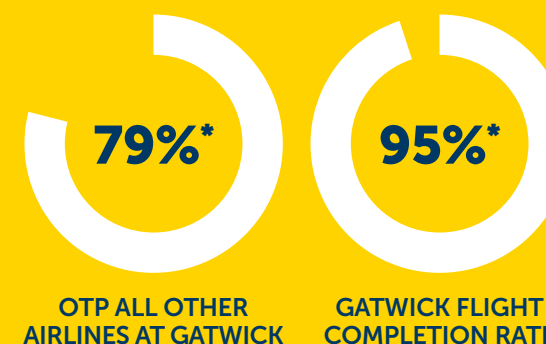
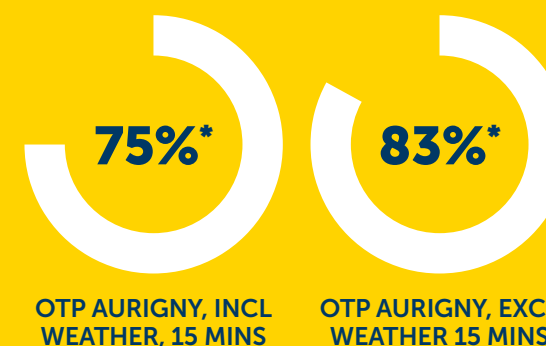
- Calls connected: 3,392
- Average wait time: 34 seconds

Our Contact Centre continued to provide fast and effective support throughout May, assisting customers across the network while maintaining an average wait time of just 34 seconds. The consistently low average wait time reflects the ongoing commitment of our customer service teams to supporting passengers when they need us most.

In Summary

May presented a more challenging operating environment than the previous month, with weather and Air Traffic Control restrictions impacting punctuality across the network. Despite this, we continued to deliver a highly reliable service to and from Guernsey, operating 98% of planned flights and maintaining completion rates above the wider industry average at London Gatwick.

As we move further into the summer season, we remain focused on improving punctuality while continuing to provide a reliable service. Thank you to all our passengers for your continued support.



3,392

NUMBER OF CALLS CONNECTED





OUR FLEET

Aurigny has a fleet of six fuel-efficient ATR aircraft and two Twin Otter DHC6-300s. 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 6
BUILT Toulouse, France
ENGINES 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW-127 M Turboprops
MAXIMUM SPEED 276 knots (318 mph)
SEAT CAPACITY 72
RANGE 1,023 miles (1,646 km)



Twin Otter DHC6-300
NUMBER IN FLEET 2
BUILT Canada
ENGINES 2 Pratt & Whitney PT6A-27s
MAXIMUM SPEED 140 knots (161 mph)
SEAT CAPACITY 17 + Dog
RANGE 982 miles (1,581 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



8
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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALDERNEY• BIRMINGHAM• BRISTOL• DUBLIN*• EDINBURGH• EXETER• JERSEY• LEEDS BRADFORD*• LONDON CITY• LONDON GATWICK• MANCHESTER• SOUTHAMPTON• PARIS CDG | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GUERNSEY• SOUTHAMPTON |

*Denotes seasonal route

Aurigny's full flight schedules are now on sale for travel until 24 March 2027.
Visit Aurigny.com for more details.

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 & VAPING

Smoking of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and vaping devices 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.



PACK RIGHT. SAFE FLIGHT

Lithium batteries are generally very safe, but because of their high energy, if they are not treated with care or if they are abused or have a manufacturing fault, they can catch fire. Batteries have been the cause of a number of fires on board aircraft. It is important for your safety and that of others that you understand our procedures to help us minimise such risks.

1. Power Banks & Vapes:

must always be carried in the cabin. You cannot fly with more than two power banks, and they can never be recharged in-flight.

If you have a power bank packed in your checked luggage, you must alert the crew immediately.

2. Spare Batteries:

must also be carried in your cabin baggage and individually protected from short-circuiting (e.g., in their retail packaging or with taped terminals).

3. Watt-Hour Limits:

lithium-ion batteries exceeding 100Wh cannot be carried without approval.

Devices under 100Wh are common in phones, laptops and cameras.

100wh+ batteries can be found in large power banks - and if you are a member of a film crew - they can often be found within your audio-visual equipment.

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

FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY:

We ask customers to be respectful of the privacy of our crew and fellow passengers when taking photographs or filming onboard. Please do not film or photograph crew members without their permission. If you are planning organised or commercial filming, requests can be submitted via the form on our website.

OFFENCES TO AVOID

1. Assaulting, intimidating, threatening a crew member or passenger.
2. Refusing to follow instructions from the crew.
3. Intoxicated or disorderly conduct or consuming alcohol which was not provided by crew members. You are not permitted to consume your duty free purchases on board.
4. Engaging in or displaying any indecent or lewd behaviour.
5. Smoking anywhere on board, including in the lavatories.
6. Tampering with the smoke detectors.
7. Using a portable electronic device when not permitted to do so.
8. Removing or damaging safety or emergency equipment, the aircraft or property on board.



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GUERNSEY

Beach Guide

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



En Voyage

ROCQUAINE

You might expect a vast, sandy beach like Rocquaine to be overrun by swarms of sun-seekers in the summer months, but in fact this tends to be one of the quieter bays on this side of the island. As a result it packs a lot more for the discerning beach-goer than many places further up the West Coast.

Visually dominated by Fort Grey – with its distinctive white top, one of Guernsey's most iconic landmarks – Rocquaine has plenty to offer no matter what the tides are doing. With an enormous expanse of sand and an abundance of rock pools, it's the very model of a family beach.

As one end of the island's largest bay, the beach boasts panoramic views of L'Erée and Lihou Island to the north and, out to sea, the Hanois Lighthouse.

Rising imperiously out of the depths, the tower has weathered countless storms down the years and stands as imperturbably today as it did when it first became operational in 1862. Before automatisation in 1996, it was permanently manned by a lighthouse keeper. He must have had some great views.

Rocquaine's quiet existence owes as much to its lack of amenities as anything else, but with the Portelet kiosk in easy reach it need not be a deal-breaker. The upside is that you'll have the beach mostly to yourself.

Optimum Tide
Low, coming up

Best Feature
The wide, open spaces

Taken from Guernsey Beach Guide.

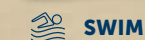


IMAGES: ©VISIT GUERNSEY



WEST COAST

WHAT'S THERE ?



SWIM



DOGS ON BEACHES

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



A TASTE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE HEART OF ST PETER PORT

BOLD FILIPINO FLAVOURS, STANDOUT SEAFOOD AND MELT-IN-THE-MOUTH PORK MAKE LASA A WELCOME ADDITION TO GUERNSEY'S DINING SCENE, SAYS AMANDA EULENKAMP.

With its deep green décor, abundant plants and laid-back soundtrack, Lasa provides the perfect backdrop for a meal packed with bold, memorable flavours.

Over a glass of Provence rosé, I perused the menu, my mouth watering in anticipation. The Filipino- and Asian-inspired menu offers something to tempt any palate, and, to be honest, we were spoilt for choice.

For starters, we chose steamed pork & shrimp dumplings, lechon kawali (the most divinely crispy pork belly) and okoy, which is a crispy Filipino prawn fritter with garlic, onion and vegetables, served with a traditional sharp shallot vinegar. We shared all the dishes, which was a great way to sample something of everything. Overall winner in the starters was the lechon kawali; cooked to perfection, it simply melted in our mouths.

Next up was the main course, and again we shared. The beef Kare-Kare, with its rich peanut sauce and

a generous helping of pak choi and aubergine, is superb. We also had the brightly coloured and lightly spiced vegetable curry, plus the pork sisig, served sizzling, which packed a real punch.

We added in a chicken nasi goreng – complete with a colourful fried egg on top – and a jasmine rice, plus an Asian cucumber salad, served with a light Asian dressing. The chilled cucumber perfectly complemented the other dishes on a hot summer's evening.

The standout dish was the whole fried sea bream, finished with a sweet-and-sour escabeche sauce. Beautifully presented and packed with flavour, it quickly became the talking point of the table.

Why was it the highlight? Taste-wise, every dish was delicious, but Peter had disappeared down to the kitchen to photograph the chef cooking this one, so it felt just that little bit more special.

The dessert menu showcased a trio of dishes, so we had one of each. While each was lovely, the leche

flan, with its silky caramel custard and deep vanilla sweetness, just pipped the cassava cake and biko to top place. Stephanie remarked that the leche flan reminded her of Spain – a fitting observation, given the centuries of Spanish influence on Filipino cuisine. That blend of influences is what makes dining at Lasa so enjoyable. Familiar flavours sit comfortably alongside ingredients and techniques that may be less well-known to local diners, creating dishes that feel both comforting and exciting.

Lasa succeeds in bringing something genuinely different to Guernsey's restaurant scene. With its warm atmosphere, vibrant dishes and confidently executed flavours, it's a place you'll want to return to long before you've finished the last bite.

Lasa can be found in Commercial Arcade, St Peter Port. There are 20 covers inside plus eight outside. There is also a take-out menu. See lasa.gg for opening times, menus, and to make a reservation.

WHAT'S ON IN THE BAILIWICK?



THE WEST SHOW ©GUERNSEY PRESS

Until 15 August TWILIGHT CINEMA AT CASTLE CORNET

Set against the historic backdrop of Castle Cornet, enjoy beautiful views of St Peter Port from the top lawn. A family-friendly film will show at 5pm, with a film for older viewers starting at 7pm. Bring a picnic, a rug (or a chair), plus a blanket! See visitguernsey.com for more information.

12 – 16 August ALDERNEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Enjoy five days of musical masterpieces performed by some of the world's finest young musicians. More information can be found at acmf.co.uk

14 – 15 August ALDERNEY RIDUNA FEST

Riduna Fest is a two-day family-friendly music festival with world-class tribute artists covering iconic rock and pop legends, plus local bands, festival entertainment and food. See visitalderney.com for more information.

15 August SEAFRONT SATURDAZE

Enjoy food and drink, local arts and crafts stalls and al fresco dining, all topped off with a fantastic golden-hour atmosphere along the St Peter Port seafront.

Stalls open from 4pm – 10pm, with music starting from 6pm.

19 – 20 August THE WEST SHOW

Guernsey's premier agricultural and horticultural show, plus a full programme of entertainment both in the arena and around the showground, including a funfair. Live music both evenings in the beer tent. For more information see thewestshow.com.



ALDERNEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL ©VISIT GUERNSEY



GUERNSEY AIR DISPLAY ©GUERNSEY PRESS

26 – 27 August

THE NORTH SHOW AND BATTLE OF FLOWERS

One of the main outdoor events in Guernsey’s summer calendar, the event takes place in Saumarez Park. The Battle of Flowers takes place in the afternoon of the second day. *See facebook.com/GuernseyNorthShow/ for more information.*

30 August

VALE EARTH FAIR

Live music, local food stalls and a brilliant island atmosphere. Noon – midnight. *More information at valeearthfair.org.*

30 August

SEAFRONT SUNDAY

The last Seafront Sunday of the summer – visit St Peter Port’s picturesque seafront and discover local arts and crafts, drinks and food. 10am – 4pm.

4 – 6 September

ALDERNEY FLY-IN

Organised by the Alderney Flying Club, the fly-in weekend attracts around 70 private aircraft and more than 100 people from the islands, the UK and the Continent. *Details of the programme can be found at flyalderney.com.*

9 September

GUERNSEY AIR DISPLAY

Guernsey’s annual air display hosts some of Britain’s most historic and treasured military aircraft, including the iconic Red Arrows, one of the world’s premier aerobatic display teams. The Air Display takes place between Guernsey and Herm, with amazing views from Guernsey’s east coast. *For more information see guernseyairdisplay.com.*

12 – 13 September

GRANITE WEEKENDER

Celebrate a full weekend of multi-sport adventures. All things

swim/bike/run will allow visitors to explore Guernsey’s stunning surroundings and enjoy some excellent competition. *Find out more at graniteweekender.com.*

23 – 26 September

SIX FEST HERM

A festival of all things ‘six’: £6 festival entry, £6 drinks all festival long. Discover a wide range of draught and craft ciders, and craft beers from across the UK and Europe.

Enjoy live music and save on your ferry by showing your festival ticket to enjoy a discounted fare of £12 (round trip).



THE NORTH SHOW ©GUERNSEY PRESS

WHAT’S ON IN BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL SQUARE ©GETTY IMAGES

Until 30 August

THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

What better way to spend a summer day out than travelling behind an historic steam locomotive at express speeds through the Warwickshire countryside to Stratford-upon-Avon, the historic birthplace of William Shakespeare? The Silver Award Winner for ‘Experience of the Year’ at the West Midlands Tourism Awards 2026, this is an unforgettable family day out. Journey from the heart of Birmingham through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside to Stratford-upon-Avon, where you can spend approximately four-and-a-half hours to explore the town and river. *See vintagetrains.co.uk/the-shakespeare-express for more information and to book.*

Until 31 August

WILD BRICKS AT DUDLEY ZOO

Discover a spectacular trail of 140 life-sized endangered animals, all built from thousands of toy bricks. *See dudleyzoo.org.uk/wild-bricks for more information.*

11 – 20 September

BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE WEEK

The annual festival, widely regarded as one of the most popular history and heritage events in the Midlands, will run for 10 days from Friday 11 September to Sunday 20 September 2026. Supported by Birmingham Museums Trust, the National Trust, the University of Birmingham and Birmingham Municipal Charity, the city-wide celebration will once again offer visitors the chance to discover Birmingham’s rich industrial, cultural and architectural

heritage through a diverse programme of events. This year’s programme will include a range of exclusive tours and walks, with confirmed events already including Tyseley depot tours with Vintage Trains, hard hat tours of Moseley Road Baths, building tours of the Birmingham School of Art and School of Jewellery, Council House tours, visits to St Mary’s Convent in Handsworth, and open days at New Hall Mill in Sutton Coldfield. Visitors will also be able to enjoy heritage walks exploring Digbeth, the Jewellery Quarter and Birmingham city centre, alongside popular experiences such as walks beneath Spaghetti Junction and tours of the Mailbox tunnels and Victoria Law Courts. *See birminghamheritageweek.co.uk for more information.*



TUTANKHAMUN ©GETTY IMAGES

Until 13 September

TUTANKHAMUN: THE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION NEC BIRMINGHAM

This exhibition brings Ancient Egypt to life like never before, offering a cutting-edge 90-minute journey back in time. Featuring immersive video projections, VR and metaverse experiences, a hologram of the mummification process, artefacts, plus much more, the interactive exhibition promises an educational and immersive exploration of Pharaoh Tutankhamun’s world. *See tutankhamunexperience.com/birmingham for further information.*

Until 4 October

ANDY WARHOL: ART STAR WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was one of the most influential American artists to emerge in the post-war period. A leading figure in the Pop Art movement, he reimagined what art could be at a time of great social, political and technological change. An ARTIST ROOMS exhibition in partnership with Tate and National Galleries of Scotland, this major exhibition includes both iconic and lesser-known drawings, screenprints, paintings and photographs from the 1950s – 1980s, including images of Marilyn Monroe, The Beatles, Elizabeth Taylor and the famous ‘Campbell’s Soup’. *See wolverhamptonart.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth shows for information on this and other shows.*

Until 8 November

PEPPA PIG SPACE ADVENTURE NEC BIRMINGHAM

Step inside the world of PEPPA PIG for a playful walk-through experience designed especially for preschoolers, early years children and their grown-ups. Created with younger children in mind, the experience combines storytelling, gentle play and hands-on exploration in a calm and welcoming environment where families move through the adventure together at their own pace. Inspired by the familiar charm of Peppa’s house and world, each space is designed to spark imagination and encourage little ones to explore, play and discover. Under-twos go free. *More information at peppapigspaceadventure.co.uk.*



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“My island feeling here,
in my hand”

Ross Raisin, Anthology judge

LEFT: RUTH THOMASON.



ISLAND STORIES

RUTH THOMASON DISCOVERS GUERNSEY
THROUGH THE VOICES OF ITS WRITERS.

For an island shaped by sea and history, Guernsey has never lacked stories – they drift along cliff paths, gather in coves at the edge of the sea, and live on in the memories of those who call it home. These are stories of belonging and imagination, rooted in the Bailiwick.

Guernsey has long inspired writers and artists drawn to its distinctive light, coastline and atmosphere. Figures such as Victor Hugo and Pierre-Auguste Renoir found inspiration here, and that tradition continues in the work of local writers and artists.

Many of their voices come together in *Time & Tide*, an anthology created through the Guernsey Literary Festival's inaugural short story competition. The collection features 20 original pieces by writers connected to the Bailiwick, offering a varied portrait of island life. A parallel art competition, organised by Art for Guernsey, invited artists to respond to the theme, with the winning work featured on the book's cover. The result is a striking visual counterpart to the stories within.

The idea behind the anthology was simple: to nurture and showcase local writing talent. While the

Festival welcomes internationally acclaimed authors each spring, it is equally committed to supporting the arts within the islands, and the anthology grew naturally from that aim.

From the first pages, what stands out is the collection's range. In one story, a section of the tide is mysteriously removed from the shoreline; in another, a discarded mermaid tail blurs the line between reality and imagination. Elsewhere, visitors arrive with expectations that shift in unexpected ways. Alongside these moments are stories of memory and the passing of time – of childhood, relationships and lives shaped by the island. Different in tone and perspective – by turns reflective and humorous – the stories are connected by a shared sense of place.

Island life brings its own perspective to storytelling. Distances are small, histories feel close at hand, and the boundary between past and present is often thin. The sea shapes not only the physical environment but also the rhythm of daily life. As head judge Ross Raisin notes, a 'spirit of the Bailiwick' emerges as the collection unfolds. Together, the stories form a literary portrait of Guernsey's communities and coastline.

For visitors, the anthology offers a different way to encounter the island. While cliffs and historic harbours are immediately captivating, stories add another dimension – revealing a place lived by generations of memory and experience.

Such is the success of *Time & Tide* that the competition and anthology will become an annual event, each year exploring a new theme. The series will capture a moment in the island's literary life, preserving it beyond the Festival. It offers a meaningful way to experience Guernsey – one defined not by guidebooks, but by stories.

The short story anthology is kindly sponsored by Sarnia Hotels and supported by Art for Guernsey, Blue Ormer and UandUs. It is available online at blueormer.gg, in Guernsey bookshops and selected gift shops.

Ruth Thomason is the anthology organiser for the Guernsey Literary Festival and writes historical fiction under the pen name RJ Verity.

The Guernsey Literary Festival is one of the Channel Islands' flagship cultural events, taking place each year from late April to early May. For more information visit guernseyliteraryfestival.com.



ABOVE L-R: DENYS CORBET; GEOFF MAHY WITH HIS FIRST-EDITION OF LES CHANTS DU DRAIN RIMEUX.

ABOVE L-R: DENYS CORBET'S ODYSSEY AROUND GUERNSEY; DENYS CORBET'S PAINTBOX. BELOW: ONE OF DENYS' WATERCOLOURS.

GUERNSEY'S 'RHYMSTER'

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE GREAT GUERNSEY POET DENYS CORBET, WHO WROTE IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GUERNSEY'S OWN NORMAN-DERIVED LANGUAGE OF GUERNÉSIAIS. SIMON DE LA RUE WENT TO MEET CORBET STUDENT AND LECTURER GEOFF MAHY TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE POET'S WORK AND LEGACY.

As I flick through the thin pages of Geoff Mahy's first-edition copy of *Les Chants du Drain Rimeux* by Denys Corbet, I'm confronted by the fact that I'm looking at line after line of poetry which is written in my own native tongue, rich with rural rhythms and reflections, which nevertheless remains inaccessible to me.

What textures of Guernsey life lie there, hidden from my view? I ask myself. And why didn't I carry on with those Guernésiais evening classes?

Happily there are those who still can luxuriate in the original verse, without the discomfiting prophylactic of a translator's necessary compromise, and Geoff is among them.

At his home in the western parish of St Saviour, he shows me Corbet's aforementioned 1884 collection, the title of which translates as *Songs of the Last Rhymster*, or *Songs of the Last Poet*, depending on your take on how self-deprecating he was intending

to be, when he styled himself as the last to go to the trouble of fashioning poetry from his patois. 'He thought he was going to be the last man to write verses in Guernésiais,' says Geoff, 'but in the same way that he was inspired by Georges Métivier before him, Corbet himself became an inspiration to other, younger writers and spawned a following which included Thomas Henry Mahy, Tam Lenfestey and Thomas Alfred Grut.'

Alongside *Les Chants*, amid Geoff's pile of Corbet-related notes, is an 1871 work called *Les Feuilles de la Forêt*, or *The Leaves of the Forest*. But Geoff explains that these are collections of poems written over many years and first seen in more regular publications, such as newspapers. As the secretary of the philology section of *La Société Guernesiaise* – a 144-year-old organisation dedicated to studying Guernsey's culture, history, wildlife and geology – Geoff has studied both the man and his poetry, and when I meet him, he is preparing a lecture for

Guernsey Museum's celebrations of the 200th anniversary of Corbet's birth in 1826. 'We know that Corbet was baptised at St Paul's Methodist Church [in the northern parish of Vale] and that his father was a sea pilot who lived into his 90s,' Geoff tells me. 'But there isn't very much information from official records. He's missing from the 1851 census but he reappears in the Forest Parish in 1861, when he's 35. What he was doing during those 20 years is a bit of a mystery, but his writing shows us that he was an intelligent and erudite man, so he seems to have received a good education in that time.' Corbet is known to have been competent at a number of different skills, finding time to repair clocks and value property, while also producing many paintings – all while holding the position of head teacher at Forest School. Geoff explains that he would have taught all subjects and would probably have been the only teacher at the establishment in those days.

However, Geoff is quite clear that although his paintings have become as well known locally as his writing, he really should be recognised as a poet who painted, rather than the other way around.

'His paintings were really a sideline,' he says.

'He painted cows and rural scenes, along with paintings of properties. These will have been commissioned by the owners of those properties or livestock as a way of keeping a record. My wife's great-great uncle contracted him to paint this house and a couple of prize cows, for example.'

Geoff later shows me the 1894 painting of the farmhouse in which I've visited him, which prominently features two cows named Valentine and Cherry, a small dog – which features in several of Corbet's works and was probably his own – and a resolutely unnamed farmhand tending the cattle.

Corbet was among those self-taught painters who came to be classed as Naïve artists, and Geoff contrasts this with his skills as a poet. He is particularly enamoured of a finely detailed work documenting rural Guernsey life in the late 19th Century.

'In my talk, I'm showing a map of Corbet's route around the island as he composed his poem *L'Touar d'Guernesy*,' says Geoff.

'He chronicles the changes he has seen over the previous 40 years, as

he visits specific points, describing what they are and what they were, although bear in mind that when he's writing this in 1880, he has never seen a motor car – it's still all horse-drawn carts.'

The poem contains specific descriptions of people and places known to Corbet and their folkloric tales of fairy folk, witches and mermaids. It relates a clockwise journey around the island, from St Martin's in the south-east all the way round to St Peter Port on the east coast and then up through central St Andrew's and back to his home in Forest.

'Even though Corbet regarded himself as a disciple of Métivier, what he achieved in his poetry came to be regarded as superior by some,' says Geoff.

'[Dictionary compiler and folklorist] Marie de Garis said he was the more authentically Guernsey poet. Hazel Tomlinson, who you will have heard on the radio for many years reading the news in Guernésiais, has said Corbet is the easier to recite.'

L'Touar d'Guernesy, along with other works by Corbet, is available to be read at St Peter Port's Priaulx Library and those who don't speak Guernésiais can look at the translation by Ken Hill – himself a painter and patois speaker, who was passionate about the preservation of the language.

'It is of course impossible to retain entirely the poetic sensibility of

Corbet's work in translation but reading it in English can give you an impression,' says Geoff.

Corbet's legacy has been to leave us with reams of original poetry in Guernsey's own tongue – with just one of those two books on Geoff's table containing 8,500 lines of verse – but it has also been to encourage other writers to take up the same cause.

'He's had a big influence on the survivability of the language,' says Geoff.

This is a much-needed influence, given the reduction in the number of native speakers. At the last traditional census in 2001, there were just 1,327 fluent speakers of Guernésiais, 70% of whom were over the age of 64.

If the language is to stage a recovery as convincing as that of Welsh, for example, Corbet's work is certain to play a significant role.





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

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ABOVE: LONGIS BAY ©ISTOCKPHOTO.
BELOW: AUTHOR AND CREATIVE WRITING TUTOR GAIL SIMMONS.

WILD ISLAND

ALDERNEY: THE PERFECT SETTING FOR A WRITERS' RETREAT

Alderney Literary Trust has teamed up with a boutique hotel to bring a top travel writer to the island for a two-day retreat combining guided workshops, island walks, quiet writing time, shared meals, and optional evening experienced.



'Wild Edges: Writing Place in Alderney' is led by author and creative writing tutor Gail Simmons, whose work explores travel, landscape and place.

She recently wrote about Alderney for a feature in The Times on the island and The Blonde Hedgehog, where the retreat will be headquartered.

Alderney offers an exceptional setting for writing with its windswept bays, dramatic clifftops, tranquil inland lanes, Roman remains, Victorian fortifications, wartime traces and constantly changing coastal light.

Participants in the retreat on September 20 and 21 will explore how to write 'place' not only through description but also through atmosphere, history, sensory detail and personal reflection.

'It's a small-group retreat for adults who want to slow down, look closely and write in response to place,' said the Trust's Isabel Picornell. 'It's ideal for those drawn to travel writing, memoir, journalling and place-based creative nonfiction.'

Highlights include a first day exploring The Nunnery, Longis Bay and Longis Nature Reserve, with a second outing on the west coast around Fort Tourgis and views towards the uninhabited bird-sanctuary island of Burhou.

For enquiries and to reserve a place, email info@alderneyliterarytrust.com.

THE GUERNSEY LANGUAGE COMMISSION HAS KINDLY SHARED SOME POETRY WITH EN VOYAGE

English translations by
Anne Le Cheminant

Pimperluche par Renée Jehan

Pimperluche, pimperluche,
vian pas près d'mé
Tu m'fais terfi, et j'en ai fré
Pasqué t'es terjous en rage
et guergie
Et j'croîn tant dé ète pitchie
Va ten, va ten, et cache brahment
pour cie té

The Wasp by Renée Jehan

Wasp, wasp, don't come near me
You make me frightened and
I am cold
Because you are always in a rage
and annoyed
And I am very scared of being
stung
Go away, go away and go bravely
home.

La Vacque par Cynthia Renouf

Le lait d'la vacque
A tout plloin d'croime,
Malheur a autchun qui la laque.
A me baille tout plloin, passeque
a m'oime

A reste trantchille quand j'viant,
All oime pas toute sorte de gens,
A les co-d'pise, quand i veulent
la traire.
Mais me, sait, coumtchi l'faire.

I n'peuve pas r'emplir aen
egg-cup,
Mais ma caune est choc-a-bloc,
Ya assaiz ichin pour toute le
monde,
J'pourrais avais enne p'tite raonde.

The Cow by Cynthia Renouf

The milk of the cow
Is full of cream,
Woe to anyone who leaves it,
She gives me so much because
she likes me

She stays calm when I come,
She doesn't like every type of
person,
She kicks them when they want
to move her.

But me, I know how to do it.

They can't fill an egg-cup,
But my can is choc-a-bloc,
There is enough here for everyone,
I could have a little (milk) round.

CHRISTIES

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WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY

NATALIE MYERS FROM ISLANDFAMILIES SHARES WHY TRAVELLING IS SO MAGICAL FOR KIDS – PLUS TIPS FOR HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY

Flying with children can feel like the start of a brilliant adventure, or like you've accidentally signed up for some sort of endurance event. Having flown with babies, toddlers and older children more times than I can count, I've learnt that the key isn't perfection, it's preparation, a good stash of emergency snacks, and a much-needed sense to humour.

By preparation, I don't just mean knowing what to bring and having the right stuff. Make sure you know what to expect when you get to where you're going too – know which train you're going to need, how to find your next flight, or even how to hail a taxi once you reach your final destination. From my experience, young children easily pick up if parents are stressed or worried, and we all want our children to become happy, safe, and confident travellers themselves.

Living in Guernsey, we're lucky that most Aurigny flights are relatively short hops, which alone takes a huge amount of pressure off travelling with children. Even the wriggliest toddler can usually survive a flight to Gatwick with enough raisins and a sticker book. But what many families forget is that the real challenge often isn't the flight itself but the airport waits, the connections, the delays and the 'Mummy, I'm bored' moments in between.

One of my best flying decisions ever was to stop pretending to be a minimalist. With children, especially babies and toddlers, I now fully embrace the organised chaos that comes with them – Trunki and all! Aurigny makes this easier for families too, allowing children under five, two free additional items such as a collapsible pushchair, travel cot or car seat. The ability to take a buggy right

to the departure gate is genuinely invaluable, particularly when you've got a tired toddler who suddenly loses all ability to walk the second you reach security!

I think it's fair to say that we parents only forget a spare change of clothes once. Travel sickness has got us more times than I care to remember and since the first time, a clean top for parents has become essential hand luggage too. And if you're potty training (or even recently trained), please remember that pull-ups for travel days are not a failure, more a tool for survival. Aurigny allows reasonable amounts of milk, formula and baby food onboard, which makes life much easier, but it's always worth checking security rules at the airport you're departing from.

If you're connecting onwards from Aurigny destinations, planning airport downtime properly

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can completely change the experience. Gatwick is one of the easier airports with children – both terminals have plenty of family-friendly food options, baby changing facilities and space to move around. If you have a long layover, the attached/nearby hotels can be a sanity saver and booking a day room for a few hours could mean a proper reset before a long-haul flight.

Manchester is another airport that works fairly well for families, particularly if you research terminals in advance. Some areas have better food choices and quieter seating spots than others. Birmingham tends to feel compact and manageable, while Southampton is small and less overwhelming for nervous flyers or families travelling with babies. London City is fantastic for older children and teens because everything moves quickly, but in my opinion it can feel a bit busy and fast-paced during peak times, so that's always something to consider with toddlers.

When it comes to keeping little ones entertained on a flight, don't go spending a fortune on things

marketed as travel toys. Some of the best in-flight distractions I've ever used have been ridiculously simple, with coloured pipe cleaners being one of them. Cut in half and stored in a bag, they love twisting and building with them.

Painter's tape is another great option for sticking and peeling on tray tables. If it sticks and doesn't leave a mess, it works well. Window gel clings are brilliant on both the plane and on airport windows during waits. Essentially, novelty is your secret weapon. I tend to gather small bits and pieces from the charity shop in the run up. Things they've not seen before and plenty of snacks will generally do the job. After that, sticker books, magic water painting and magnetic games are all lifesavers too.

Tweens and teens are a different challenge entirely. They don't really melt down on the floor of departures anymore, but they can become spectacularly dramatic about boredom, charging cables and airport food choices. I've found giving older children some ownership of the journey really helps. Have them carry their own

stuff, choose airport snacks or be responsible for checking gate numbers. Even researching where we're headed or navigating the airport can help too. It keeps them engaged and surprisingly reduces complaints.

Most than anything, try to lower your expectations slightly because the perfect family flight does not exist. Children cry, snacks get dropped, and you can bet someone will need the toilet at the worst possible moment. But travel is magical for kids, and they seem to grow and change with every trip, and however stressful it feels, I bet you'll be thinking of the next one as soon as you're home.

IslandFamilies is a vibrant hub of information, and home to the popular Community Club, helping families get the 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.



GOLDEN GETAWAYS

By Amanda Eulenkamp

INTRODUCING THE WRITERS



Jessamy Baldwin



Tânia Mendes



Emma Caseby



Philip Saunders

The headline of the last issue's travel intro was Sizzlin' Summer. We couldn't have been more prophetic, with record-breaking temperatures and three heatwaves recorded by the time of writing.

As we head into autumn, however, temperatures will begin to drop, bringing opportunities to wrap up in warm knits and boots and set off on new adventures.

Before then, there is still the August bank holiday to enjoy. If you live in Guernsey, perhaps a day or two in Sark will tempt you. If you're visiting and haven't yet explored the other islands in the Bailiwick, this is the perfect time of year to do so.

In this issue, we take a look at how to spend 48 hours in and around Birmingham, as well as exploring Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare. Looking ahead to the festive season, we also feature Dublin and Edinburgh, two fantastic city breaks packed with Christmas charm and New Year celebrations. Heading north, Tania Mendes shares her love of the Isle of Skye, capturing its beauty and magic perfectly.

Aurigny's chief commercial officer, Philip Saunders, delights us with his tales of Puglia, while Ben Levy uncovers Paris's hidden music and foodie scene. My own recent trip to Paris included a visit to the spectacular Palace and Gardens of Versailles, which I hope will inspire you to add it to your own travel wish list.

Another destination long on my bucket list was Carcassonne. Inspired by a book I read many years ago, I finally visited the walled city during the May half-term break with my son. The time we spent there exceeded all expectations and made the trip truly unforgettable.

Further afield, Emma Caseby of Emara Travel highlights her favourite parts of Sri Lanka, alongside some of my own. It is a beautiful country and one I'm very grateful to have experienced.

Wherever your travels may take you, I hope these pages provide plenty of inspiration.

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ABOVE: BUDDHIST MONK, ANURADHAPURA.
RIGHT: SIGIRIYA LION ROCK. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

SRI LANKA:

AN ISLAND DEFINED BY CULTURE, WILDLIFE AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPES

A SMALL TEARDROP-SHAPED ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF INDIA, SRI LANKA PACKS AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT INTO A COMPACT SPACE.

With eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a warm and welcoming culture, and a breadth of experiences that few other destinations can match, it is easy to see why interest in the island continues to grow. Having visited the country on a solo trip a few years ago, Emma Caseby, from Travel Emara, understands the appeal.

Sri Lanka is a destination which suits the discerning traveller, with its rich cultural heritage, dramatic natural landscapes, abundant wildlife and tropical coastline.

Two weeks is the ideal length for a first visit, allowing a clockwise loop of the central and southern regions without feeling rushed. Here are my recommendations for experiencing the very best of it.

THE CULTURAL TRIANGLE

The natural starting point for a multi-stop itinerary, Sri Lanka's central region is often referred to as the Cultural Triangle thanks to the concentration of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The most iconic, Sigiriya Lion Rock, is a 5th century rock fortress rising 200 metres above the

surrounding tropical forest. The climb via a series of steep staircases takes around 90 minutes, passing ancient frescoes and the lion's paw gateway. The reward at the summit is sweeping panoramic views as well as the chance to explore ruins of an ancient civilisation. An early start or evening visit is recommended to avoid the heat and crowds.

Nearby, the Dambulla Cave Temple comprises five cave sanctuaries carved into a vast granite outcrop, housing 153 stunning Buddha statues, statues of kings, gods and goddesses as well as painted murals. It is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in the country and prehistoric communities are known to have lived there long before Buddhism reached the island.

Once the centrepiece of the Sinhalese Kingdom, the ruins of Polonnaruwa are often considered the highlight of the Cultural Triangle. Abandoned in 1293, the site was quickly consumed by the jungle before being excavated in the 20th century. The former medieval capital is best explored by bicycle or tuk-tuk as palace and temple ruins are spread across a wide area.

With three significant sites in close proximity, it is worth allowing at least two or three full days in the Cultural Triangle to do it justice.

KANDY

Kandy, the second major city in Sri Lanka, is centred around a large artificial lake which was created in 1807 to enhance the setting of the royal palace. The city is home to the Temple of the Tooth, one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in the world, which is said to contain a tooth relic of the Buddha himself. Coincide your visit with a puja ceremony, when the heavily guarded room housing the tooth is open to worshippers and tourists who bring offerings in a ritual that has remained unchanged for centuries. Modest dress is required, so cover shoulders and knees before visiting.

For a different perspective on Sri Lankan culture, the nightly Kandy Lake Cultural Dance Show is a vibrant theatre performance that celebrates local art and culture, including fire eating and walking on red-hot charcoal. It is undeniably touristy, but an interesting experience nonetheless and well worth an hour of your evening.



ABOVE L-R: INSIDE DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE; NINE ARCHES BRIDGE, NEAR ELLA; LAKE KANDY; BUDDHA STATUE AT LANKATILAKA, RIGHT: DAMBULLA CAVE TEMPLE; POLONNARUWA; GOLD BUDDHA; PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE.

The Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya were one of my personal highlights of Kandy and are a peaceful escape from the crowds in the city. Established in 1821, the gardens span 147 acres and are beautifully maintained. Be sure to visit the fragrant spice garden and orchid house, among the finest botanical collections in Asia.

ELLA

The train journey from Kandy to Ella is widely regarded as one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. The seven-hour ride travels through tea plantations, green highlands and mountain passes, a journey that is much more than a means of transport. If seven hours sounds too long, a shorter journey is possible either by starting half way or travelling only as far as Nuwara Eliya.

Some advice based on personal experience: reserved seating is well worth the small additional cost and should be booked as early as possible. I travelled without a reservation and ended up standing for much of the journey, which, while memorable, was not necessarily the most comfortable experience!

Situated in the central highlands, Ella itself sits at 1,000 metres above sea level in the midst of tea plantations and has a noticeably cooler climate than the Cultural Triangle and south coast.

I thoroughly enjoyed a tea plantation tour, where you can walk through the shrubs alongside local workers before tasting different varieties of Britain's favourite drink. Walk along the train tracks to the Nine Arch Bridge, a colonial-era viaduct and one of Sri Lanka's most photographed landmarks, then hike to Little Adam's Peak for panoramic views over the surrounding hills.

NATIONAL PARKS

From Ella, the route continues south towards the coast, with a stop at one of Sri Lanka's national parks along the way. Yala and Udawalawe both offer rewarding wildlife experiences, with elephants and leopards the main draw during dry season.

I visited Udawalawe, home to one of the largest populations of wild elephants in Sri Lanka. The elephant holds deep cultural, religious and historical significance and is one of the country's most revered animals. An early morning safari offers the best chance of sightings, before the heat sets in and the park becomes busier.

Choosing the right safari guide makes a difference: look for operators who prioritise conservation and sustainable wildlife tourism, ensuring you experience the animals responsibly.

THE SOUTH COAST

The perfect end to your trip is a few days on the south coast, where

golden beaches offer a contrast to the cultural and highland destinations. The beach towns are easily connected by tuk-tuk, and accommodation ranges from traditional guesthouses to luxury resorts. Not every beach along the coastline is suitable for swimming, with strong currents in places, so it is worth taking this into consideration when deciding where to stay.

Mirissa offers one of the most picturesque beaches, a curved bay lined with palm trees, which is also a popular surfing spot. Between November and April there is the chance to sight blue and sperm whales just offshore as well as opportunities to visit sea turtle conservation projects.

The fortified colonial town of Galle, an hour further west, was built in the 16th century by the Portuguese and subsequently fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Explore the cobbled streets lined with independent restaurants, art galleries and craft shops, and wander the ramparts for views across the Indian Ocean.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Before arriving in Sri Lanka, you will need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) online. The visa is free of charge for visitors with a UK passport and is valid for stays of up to 30 days. Your passport must have an expiry date at least 6 months after the

date of arrival. Apply only through the official government website at eta.go.lk.

There are multiple ways to travel to the capital, Colombo. SriLankan Airlines operates a daily direct flight from London Heathrow, while British Airways is launching a seasonal direct route from London Gatwick from October this year. Alternatively, Emirates offers connections via Dubai, a popular choice for those looking to combine Sri Lanka with a short stopover.

A private driver is the most practical way to cover longer distances across the island, though Sri Lanka's scenic train journeys are an experience in themselves. For shorter journeys, tuk-tuks are widely available and inexpensive.

The official currency is the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR), a restricted currency that is difficult and usually expensive to buy outside the country. It is best to wait until arrival to exchange cash or withdraw from local ATMs. Major credit, debit cards and US dollars are widely accepted at hotels and larger establishments.

Sri Lanka is best visited during the dry season between December and April, when the south and west of the country are warm but manageable. The hill country is cooler year-round, making it a comfortable stop at any time of year.

FIVE REASONS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SRI LANKA

Amanda Eulenkamp shares highlights from her 2015 visit.

Galle - Known for Galle Fort, I loved the architecture and the city's position on the coast.

Anuradhapura - The capital of the North Central Province, this UNESCO World Heritage Site forms the heart of the 'Cultural Triangle'.

Dambulla Cave Temple - The largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka, this is a must-see.

Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy - Commonly known as the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, another piece of history not to miss.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Kegalle - Seeing the elephants in the Maha Oya River was simply magical.

I travelled with Fazarna and Neil Dobbs, co-founders and owners of Travel Gallery. Flying into Colombo, our group of travel agents and journalists toured by private vehicle. A highlight was a stay at the Dobbs' property, Rosyth Estate House, a 1926 colonial planter's bungalow set in a 62 acre private tea and rubber estate. See rosyth.lk.





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Peninsula

📍 Vale | peninsula.gg

Set beside Grand Havre Beach on Guernsey's stunning north-west coast, Peninsula is the perfect place to unwind. Visit for afternoon tea, relaxed lunches, family dinners or stay a little longer and discover the island's beautiful coastline.

Wish you were here.



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WHOLE SOME FAMILY HOLIDAYS ON SARK

THERE IS A MOMENT, AN INDETERMINABLE POINT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE FERRY CROSSING TO SARK, WHERE THE CHAOS OF THE MODERN WORLD QUIETLY SLIPS AWAY. THE RELENTLESS PING OF NOTIFICATIONS, THE MENTAL LOAD OF LIFE ADMIN AND THE BACKGROUND NOISE OF A HYPER-CONNECTED AND OVERCROWDED EXISTENCE GIVE WAY TO THE INCREASINGLY RARE AND PRECIOUS COMMODITIES OF FREEDOM, SPACE AND QUIET. RISING OUT OF THE CLEAR GREEN-BLUE WATERS OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL LIKE AN EMERALD FORTRESS, THE ISLE OF SARK EMERGES.

For families seeking a holiday that transcends the predictable and over-prescribed resort experience, this larger-than-life tiny island is not merely a destination, it is an instant antidote to 21st-century exhaustion. From the moment you set foot on Sark you know you have arrived somewhere special.

Measuring just three miles long by a mile-and-a-half wide, Sark enjoys a few unique distinctions from the wider world and neighbouring islands; there are no paved roads, no streetlights and cars are strictly banned! The island relies entirely on bicycles, horse-drawn carriages, tractors and the sturdy soles of walking shoes for all its transportation needs.

The absence of motorised traffic not only soothes the soul but transforms the island into a life-sized playground of adventure and freedom. Here, children can reclaim the independence of a bygone era, cycling on car-free roads, running through wildflower fields and exploring the wonders of nature in a setting that feels safe and welcoming. Screen-time pales in comparison to the excitement of unearthing Sark's hidden treasures. Herein lies the makings of a truly wholesome family holiday.

THE MAGIC BEGINS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

The ferry journey from Guernsey with Isle of Sark Shipping sets the tone for the entire stay. Along the way visitors can enjoy stunning

views of the island's intricate coastline while nature spotting sea birds and marine life. Arriving at Maseline Harbour, visitors are greeted by the famous 'toast rack' – an open-air carriage pulled by a sturdy tractor. This unusual vehicle transports you up the tree-lined Harbour Hill to reach the island's plateau and central area known simply as 'the Village'.

In the Village, Sark's timeless charm becomes apparent. Here, visitors may select their trusty steed from one of four cycle hires, gather information and essentials from the Visitor Centre and handful of small shops along the main Avenue or head straight to one of the island's alfresco eateries for a hearty local feed. Whether choosing to hop straight on the saddle or amble

along by foot, the rhythm of your holiday is now your own, the pace set by you and you alone.

Navigating Sark by bicycle is an exercise in pure joy. The lanes are lined by ancient earth banks bursting with wildflowers throughout the seasons. Without traffic lights, roundabouts or zebra crossings to contend with, the simple act of traversing from one location to another becomes a most enjoyable event in itself. Children will relish taking the lead, navigating the way by small wooden signposts and running ahead to be the first to discover the picturesque bay, hidden valley or historic monument.

CALLING ALL ADVENTURE SEEKERS

For adventure seekers and families with older children or teenagers there are thrilling doses of natural drama and adrenaline activities on offer. One example is La Coupée; a breathtaking, razor-thin isthmus connecting Big Sark with Little Sark, dropping nearly 300 feet on either side. Below lies a sprawling sandy bay and several sea caves surrounded by swirling turquoise waters. This magnificent feat of engineering offers an exhilarating crossing on foot whilst the coastal treasures that lie below can be explored through coasteering, kayaking or boat excursion. These sea-based tours provide an unforgettable adrenaline rush and a unique, up-close perspective of the island's rugged geology.

Sark's impressive 40+ miles of untouched coastline is sure to excite even the most intrepid explorer. Dozens of creeks, sea caves, pebbled beaches and picturesque bays surround the island, offering magnificent displays of rare and beautiful marine life. The beaches are accessed via winding coastal paths that descend the headlands and valleys, each one well worth the effort required to reach it.

At low tide, expansive stretches of golden sand are unveiled, revealing rock pools teeming with anemones, hermit crabs, and small fish. High tide transforms the same beaches into deep water swimming pools perfect for diving off the rocks, snorkelling and paddle

boarding. Families can spend hours exploring and enjoying the ever-changing seascape.

What's more, you will often find yourselves sharing these pristine shores only with the occasional oystercatcher or fulmar nesting on the cliffs above.

A SANCTUARY UNDER THE STARS

When the sun dips below Guernsey on the Atlantic horizon, Sark's most spectacular asset comes to life. In 2011, the International Dark-Sky Association officially designated Sark as the world's first Dark Sky Island. Thanks to the absence of street lighting, nightfall transforms the whole island into a celestial theatre of unimaginable brilliance.

For those accustomed to urban night skies, stepping outside after dark in Sark is a profound revelation. The Milky Way stretches across the dome of the sky like a glowing ribbon of starry wonder, with shooting stars and constellations appearing perfectly visible to the naked eye. Whether you choose to visit the Island Observatory for a guided viewing or simply lay down a blanket in the garden with a mug of hot cocoa, observing Sark's starry displays is an educational and deeply humbling experience sure to spark endless bedtime conversations about astronomy, time and our place in this vast universe.

FEAST, REST AND MAKE FRIENDS

The island's culinary scene is a celebration of local produce and sustainably sourced ingredients. Sark lamb, beef and pork, hand-dived scallops and freshly-caught octopus and lobster dominate the menus of local eateries. These delights are complemented by locally-made beverages, such as Sark gin, cider and brandy. As well as serving up good feeds, Sark eateries offer relaxed alfresco settings, each with their own distinct vibe and flavour.

Sark's commitment to simplicity does not require sacrificing comfort. Accommodation on the island ranges from historic stone farmhouses converted into self-catering cottages to charming boutique hotels. There's also fully



equipped camping and glamping sites and bed & breakfast options. Something to suit all tastes, budgets and family dynamics.

Adding to Sark's already significant draw is its sense of community and the many friendly faces that make the island a vibrant and welcoming destination. With a permanent population of fewer than 500 residents, there exists a closeness and trust seldom found elsewhere. It is a place where locals wave as they pass one another on the road, where the posties deliver your mail by bicycle and pop it inside your door and where repeat visitors receive warm greetings upon their return. For the duration of your stay, your family becomes part of this world too.

THE ULTIMATE GIFTS

In a world where holidays are too often measured by the abundance at the breakfast buffet or the size of hotel pool, Sark offers a deliberate pivot toward what truly matters. It strips away the commercial noise of arcades, theme parks and gift shops, replacing them with the raw materials of genuine adventure: a map, a bicycle, a flashlight and a pair of sturdy walking shoes.

On Sark, the days stretch out luxuriously. You will find your family talking more, laughing louder, and discovering the profound joy of shared exploration. When it finally comes time to board the ferry home, watching the high cliffs of Sark recede into the distance, you'll realise that the island hasn't just given you a holiday. It has given your family the gifts of time, space and each other.

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No Accounting for Taste

Scandi-core. Bubblegrunge. Academic Hardstyle.

Gibberish? Maybe. But if you tuned into 2024's Spotify Wrapped, these 'genres' might ring a catchy, perhaps embarrassing, "I-swear-I-share-my-account", sort of bell.

Taste has come a long way. In 2000, you could count the UK's cable channels on one hand. Now, algorithms serve us micro-genres so niche and nonsensical they read like Lewis Carroll.

What was once a communal cultural pool has split into puddles of preference. Media is no longer a window into shared culture, but a mirror of our own taste. So let's step through.

As AI increasingly creates and curates what we consume, we're invited to question: can AI go beyond pattern recognition and make real aesthetic judgements, or is there truly no accounting for taste?

Susan Sontag defined taste as the reaction that precedes reason. It's the goosebumps two chords in. The "that's a bit of me." It's when your body decides before your brain does.

Taste isn't just what you like. It's a sense – tuned by ambient inputs – of what's good, not what's precedented. It invites the unpredictable and irrational. Bebop in the 1940s. Punk in the '70s. Jackson Pollock. Expression over proficiency, risk over polish. Crocs going from ironic to iconic. No algorithm, trained on the data of its day, would bet on Van Gogh in the age of academic realism, where merit was judged on technique, not feeling.

Looking inward, brain imaging studies show that when we find something pleasant, the brain doesn't follow a templated route. On observing a painting, listening to a song, or tasting a meal, the input will pinball between various regions of the brain – memory, reward systems, emotion – in a sequence unique to each individual, calibrated by their history and wiring.

Perhaps a colour combination reminds them of the lighting in their childhood kitchen, or a drum pattern locks into their preferred walking pace, or maybe their meal hits that harmonious salt-fat-acid-sweet ratio that calms their particular nervous system.

Think also of acquired tastes: your first time sipping coffee, or a song that grew on you. While an algorithm may gauge existing preference, it regresses to the mean – taste leaps, preference loops. So taste is prerational, irrational, and relational – we feel it before we know it, it doesn't always make sense, and it's shaped by our personal context.

AI excels at recognising patterns and minimising error, but taste is calibrated by a kaleidoscope of experiences, contexts, and impulses that elude input-output logic. While it may support judgement, for now, this sensitivity appears quintessentially human.



Jesse Byrne
Strategist

As a strategist, Jesse understands what moves markets and what moves people. His focus on the evolving relationship between technology and consumer behaviour shapes both his strategic thinking and his leadership of the agency's AI steering committee.

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PRAGNELL

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BRITISH HANDCRAFTED & BESPOKE JEWELLERY IN WARWICKSHIRE

With more than 170 years of British jewellery craftsmanship, Pragnell Stratford-upon-Avon is one of the UK's leading independent luxury jewellers.

Located in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon, its flagship showroom presents handcrafted fine jewellery, rare vintage and antique pieces, refined engagement rings, bespoke jewellery services, and a curated selection of luxury Swiss timepieces from brands such as Rolex and Patek Philippe. Welcoming clients from Warwickshire, the Cotswolds and the Midlands, as well as national and international visitors, Pragnell's Wood Street flagship showroom provides a refined setting shaped by family heritage and gemmological expertise.

Each Pragnell showroom has been thoughtfully conceived to reflect the company's longstanding family heritage while offering clients an atmosphere of warmth, discretion, and refinement. From historic architecture to bespoke decorative finishes, every detail has been curated to create an elevated yet welcoming environment that complements the rarity and craftsmanship of the pieces on display.

At the heart is the flagship Stratford-upon-Avon showroom where Pragnell was founded. The Tudor building combines centuries of history with modern luxury retail design. During restoration works, an original 430-year-old Jacobean ceiling pattern dating back to the reign of King James was uncovered and carefully preserved, becoming a defining feature of the interior and inspiring several Pragnell jewellery

collections. The showroom seamlessly integrates heritage architecture with contemporary showcases and includes an on-site jewellery workshop, allowing visitors to experience craftsmanship first-hand.

A further dedicated watch showroom can be found in Stratford-upon-Avon, both located on Wood Street. The Embassy by Pragnell at Number One Wood Street features a premier selection of luxury watches and jewellery from leading brands.

As one of the UK's last family-owned, full-service jewellers and a long-standing Responsible Jewellery Council member, Pragnell combines international reputation with trusted local expertise. Its connection to Stratford's cultural life, including the annual Shakespeare Birthday celebrations and the Pragnell Shakespeare Birthday Award, reflect its ongoing commitment to craftsmanship and community.

Pragnell's commitment to craftsmanship is reinforced through philanthropy. The jeweller has been a long-standing supporter of the Royal Shakespeare Company for over 50 years, and in 2025, announced a new partnership as Craft and Design Sponsor. It is also a proud Patron of The King's Trust, employing watch workshop technicians as part of its apprenticeship scheme. Since 2023, Pragnell has also partnered with The King's Foundation including sponsorship of its Annual Awards, which celebrate craft and sustainable techniques.

The RSC is one of the world's most renowned theatre companies,

located in Pragnell's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. Founded in 1961 by Artistic Director Peter Hall, the RSC is famous for producing and performing the works of William Shakespeare and contemporary playwrights.

Pragnell has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the RSC across the decades, rooted in shared heritage in Stratford-upon-Avon. Throughout this collaboration, which began with Pragnell founder, George Pragnell, they have proudly supported the RSC's productions and initiatives, working together to promote the arts and preserve Shakespeare's legacy.



Alongside a shared British heritage and dedication to preserving British craftsmanship, the partnership is committed to and proud to support British talent in its hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon and further afield. The Royal Shakespeare Company's craft and dedication, across all departments, both on and off stage, are comparable to those of Pragnell master craftsmen and apprentices, who preserve the unique techniques required to handcraft Pragnell jewellery.

The Pragnell Shakespeare Birthday Award was established in 1990 by Jeremy Pragnell and is presented annually during the Shakespeare



PRAGNELL, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON. ©PRAGNELL

Birthday Celebrations in Stratford-upon-Avon. This award honours individuals who have contributed significantly to the appreciation, enjoyment, and understanding of Shakespeare's works. Previous winners include professionals in theatre, criticism, or scholarship, with recognition given for notable recent achievements or sustained contributions to the field.

Notable recipients include Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Patrick Stewart, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Dame Vanessa Redgrave DBE and in 2026 Patsy Rodenburg OBE.

Through a celebration of words, ideas, and shared stories, Pragnell is proud to support the Stratford Literary Festival, a cultural fixture that brings world-class voices to Stratford-upon-Avon and enriches the community year after year.

As a sixth-generation, family-run jeweller with deep roots in the town, Pragnell strongly believes that craft and culture belong together: both are built on heritage, creativity, and the human desire to make meaning that lasts. The Stratford Literary Festival is a prominent literary event held in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, welcoming thousands of visitors each year.

The Festival is a registered charity encouraging a love of books and writing. Since 2008, it has grown from a single spring weekend into a bi-annual programme, with a strong commitment to supporting literacy and wellbeing locally. Beyond headline events, the festival's work extends into the community, through outreach in schools, projects with older people, ensuring the benefits of reading and creativity are shared widely.

For those seeking a trusted independent jeweller, the historic Pragnell Wood Street flagship showroom offers discreet access to fine jewellery, private consultations and specialist care in one of England's most celebrated market towns.

Situated a short walk from the River Avon and Shakespeare's historic landmarks, the showroom is easily accessible from across Warwickshire and the Cotswolds, with nearby parking available.

SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORIC WORLD: WHAT TO DO IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



THE HISTORIC MARKET TOWN OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON IS BEST KNOWN AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.



SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE

Visit the restored Tudor home on Henley Street where the Bard was born and spent his childhood. Plus, experience the new exhibition, 'Becoming Shakespeare', exploring the impact of place on the creative spark of William Shakespeare. See more at shakespeare.org.uk



ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

Book tickets for a world-class theatrical performance. Even if you don't see a show, you can take one of several interesting behind-the-scenes tours. See rsc.org.uk/your-visit/tours for more information.

HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOURS

One of the best ways to tick major attractions off your list, including Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Hall's Croft (home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna), the Hop-on Hop-off bus allows you to be a flexible explorer.



ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE

The family home of Shakespeare's wife, the cottage was built more than 500 years ago. Extended over the years, much of the original survives today. See original furniture and wander through acres of beautiful cottage gardens and orchards.

Explore the sculpture trail that was inspired by Shakespeare's plays. The cottage is around a mile-and-a-half west of Stratford-upon-Avon town centre.



THE RIVER AVON

Whether you choose to sit on the banks and watch the boats go by, relax on a guided river cruise, or hire your own rowing boat, there is plenty to see and do by the river. Bancroft Gardens has landscaped, open space, and is the perfect spot for a picnic or to watch canal boats navigate the locks. Alternatively enjoy a peaceful three-mile circular walk along the River Avon Trail.

IMAGES CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LORD LEYCESTER HOSPITAL; ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE; BOATS ON THE RIVER AVON; ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE; SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JEWELLERY QUARTER; THE BULLRING; CADBURY WORLD; ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON; LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTRE; GRAND CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE; BIRMINGHAM CANAL AT BRINDLEY PLACE. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

JESSAMY BALDWIN DISCOVERS THE CANALS, CULTURE AND CULINARY DELIGHTS OF ENGLAND'S 'SECOND CITY'.

Looking for a UK city break that combines industrial heritage, world-class dining and a thriving creative scene? Birmingham might surprise you.

Having reinvented itself in recent years, Birmingham blends striking modern architecture, historic waterways, leafy parks and some of the country's best food. This quirky city packs plenty into 48 hours thanks to a flourishing arts scene and diverse culinary landscape, making it an ideal destination for a weekend escape.

DAY ONE

Start your morning with coffee and a freshly-baked pastry from **Faculty Coffee**, a favourite among locals tucked away in the city centre. From there, head to **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**, home to an impressive collection of Pre-Raphaelite masterpieces and fascinating exhibitions exploring the city's history. Take a short walk to **Victoria Square** and admire the grand civic architecture before continuing to the striking **Library of Birmingham**, where the rooftop terraces offer fantastic views across the skyline. For lunch, book a table at **The Wilderness**, known for its inventive tasting menus and playful approach. Afterwards, spend the afternoon exploring the historic **Jewellery Quarter**, one of Birmingham's most characterful neighbourhoods. Independent jewellers, artisan workshops,

galleries and cafés line the streets. As evening approaches, stroll along the canals around **Brindleyplace** and **Gas Street Basin**, where waterside bars and restaurants create a lively atmosphere. For dinner, head to **Orelle**, perched high above the city with panoramic views and elegant French-inspired dishes. Finish the night with cocktails at **Fox & Chance**, a hidden speakeasy-style bar known for its creative drinks and intimate setting.

DAY TWO

Ease into the day with brunch at **Medicine Bakery**, where excellent coffee and freshly baked treats are served inside a beautifully restored Victorian building. Afterwards, make your way to **Digbeth**, Birmingham's creative quarter. Colourful street art, independent shops and converted industrial spaces give the area an energetic, contemporary feel. Explore **Red Brick Market** for vintage finds, local makers and quirky gifts. For lunch, visit **Hockley Social Club**, a vibrant food hall showcasing some of the city's best independent street-food vendors. In the afternoon, delve into Birmingham's industrial past with a visit to **Thinktank**, **Birmingham Science Museum**, or take a relaxing canal boat cruise to see the city from a different perspective. If shopping is on your agenda, spend some time at the **Bullring & Grand Central**, where major brands sit alongside the iconic Selfridges building with

its distinctive silver façade. As your weekend draws to a close, book dinner at **Opheem**, Birmingham's Michelin-starred Indian restaurant, where chef Aktar Islam's innovative menu celebrates bold flavours and modern techniques. It's a memorable finale to a city that continually exceeds expectations.

OTHER NEARBY SIGHTS VIA CAR/TRAIN:

Stratford-upon-Avon (45 min train) Shakespeare's birthplace offers historic streets, riverside walks and beautifully preserved Tudor buildings.

Lickey Hills Country Park (25 min drive) Woodland trails and panoramic views make this a popular escape from the city. **Cadbury World** (20 min train) Discover the story behind one of Britain's most famous chocolate brands, complete with family-friendly attractions.

LUXURY PICK

Treat yourself to a stay or afternoon tea at **The Grand Hotel** Birmingham, a beautifully restored landmark combining historic grandeur with contemporary luxury in the heart of the city.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Visit **LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre Birmingham**, located at Brindleyplace, where interactive rides, creative workshops and miniature cityscapes provide hours of entertainment for younger visitors.



HOOK

Josh Brook; Executive Chef/Owner and the driving force behind Hook's next chapter.

A year ago, Josh stepped into the role of Executive Chef/Owner after heading up the kitchen team since 2020.

Josh has focused on shaping the future of Hook by taking inspiration from some of Britain's best restaurants & chefs. Hook's approach centres around cooking over fire and ingredient-led dishes that showcase exceptional local produce.

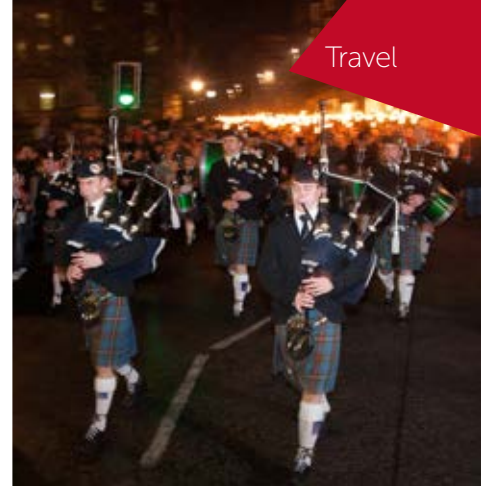
"We're lucky to have access to some amazing produce here, so we don't want to overcomplicate it. Cooking over fire brings a different depth of flavour, and it's something that's become a real part of our style."

Josh's Yorkshire roots have shaped his love of British produce and honest cooking. During his time in the kitchen, he has built strong relationships with local fishermen, farmers and suppliers, giving Hook access to some of the island's finest ingredients.

As Josh explains: *"Running the restaurant has given me a different perspective. I'm still passionate about the food, but now I'm just as focused on making sure people enjoy the whole experience."*

Since being recognised in the Michelin Guide as a recommended restaurant, Josh and the team have continued to build on that achievement, striving to deliver exceptional food, warm hospitality and a dining experience that reflects everything Hook stands for.

thehook.gg | info@thehook.gg



LEFT: HA'PENNY BRIDGE, DUBLIN IN WINTER.
ABOVE: HOGMANAY. ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

CAPITAL BREAKS: DUBLIN AND EDINBURGH

Ireland and Scotland are a short hop away, thanks to Aurigny's winter schedule, with flights operating on Mondays and Thursdays between 20 December and 6 January. Whether you're visiting family and friends, or fancy a quick escape, here's what's not to miss.

DUBLIN

Enjoy the Christmas lights in the city, including TwinkleTown at Smithfield Square. Running from late November to early January, highlights include a Christmas market, ice rink, Santo Panto (a 20-minute family show mixed with a Santa experience), a big wheel and the Twinkle Tavern – an Alpine-style lodge serving hot chocolate, mulled wine, and festive cocktails – plus live performances in the Spiegel tent. Check out twinkletown.ie for more information.

Running throughout December, the Dublin Winter Lights is a spectacular free event of animated art across iconic structures like the GPO and features immersive floating laser displays on the River Liffey and Grand Canal Dock. See dublinwinterlights.ie for further information.

The heartbeat of the city's winter season is the New Year's Festival Dublin, a spectacular multi-day extravaganza that transforms the historic centre into an open-air carnival. This year's festival promises an unforgettable experience as the city comes alive with music, entertainment, and a truly magical atmosphere.

Iconic Dublin venues Dublin Castle and Meeting House Square will host a thrilling line-up of events. The programme will also see the return of the NYF Dublin Fireworks Spectacular, with firework displays taking place in two locations across Dublin, Howth Harbour and Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

Families can enjoy the Countdown Concert Matinee earlier in the evening, ensuring travellers of all ages can share in the electric countdown atmosphere. Tickets are already on sale at nyfdublin.com.

EDINBURGH

When winter arrives, Edinburgh does not simply light a few street lamps, it undergoes a total sensory transformation. Beneath the shadow of a dramatic, floodlit Edinburgh Castle, located in the historic city centre, is the traditional Christmas Market, which runs from 14 November 2026 until 3 January 2027. Discover wooden chalets offering everything from local Scottish crafts to piping hot cups of mulled Glayva, a rich, comforting winter cocktail that combines the spicy, honeyed flavours of the Scottish liqueur with heated fruit juices or wine.

Home to the LNER Big Wheel and the 80m Around the World Starflyer, visitors can soar above the Markets getting a glimpse of the renowned Edinburgh skyline from a Santa-in-his-sleigh eyed view. For more information, see edwinterfest.com/edinburgh-christmas.

For an equally mesmerizing but more tranquil evening, head to

the Royal Botanic Garden for Christmas at the Botanics (runs 19 November – 30 December). This after-dark illuminated trail snakes through the crisp winter gardens, mapping out majestic light installations, singing trees, and dramatic laser shows set to festive music. See rbge.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-at-the-botanics-2026/ for more information.

As December draws to a close, the city pivots seamlessly into Edinburgh's Hogmanay – Scotland's world-famous New Year's festival, generally regarded as the most important Scottish holiday.

Celebrations kick off on 29 December 2026 with the annual Torchlight Procession which sets the city streets ablaze with a river of fire. On 30 December, the Night Afore Concert sees Princes Street Gardens ignite for a raucous night of high-energy tunes to start your Hogmanay musical lineup with a bang.

Ring in 2027 at the legendary Street Party, returning to light-up Edinburgh's skies, at one of the world's greatest New Year celebrations! Expect a feast of live music, DJs, Street Theatre, Pipes & Drums and so much more throughout the city centre. Look forward to a night of anthems, energy and of course the world-famous Midnight Moment Fireworks, all set beneath the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. Check out edwinterfest.com/Hogmanay for further information.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HIGHLAND COW; OLD MAN OF STORR; PORTREE; THE SKYE BRIDGE; FAIRY GLEN; FAIRY POOLS. ALL IMAGES: ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

THE BEAUTIFUL WEST COAST ISLANDS OF THE INNER AND OUTER HEBRIDES ARE A STEP CLOSER WITH DIRECT SEASONAL FLIGHTS BY AURIGNY TO EDINBURGH. WHETHER VISITING SKYE BY SEA ABOARD THE CALMAC FERRY OR BY ROAD ON THE SKYE BRIDGE, THE ISLAND'S MAGIC WILL NOT DISAPPOINT, SAYS TÂNIA MENDES.

The history of Skye spans millennia. Shaped by the elements and time, it's an island full of character, history and charm. By visiting the isle, you will be in good company, following in the footsteps of dinosaurs, fairies, Palaeolithic hunters, clan chiefs and whisky barons.

Skye is the largest island of the Inner Hebrides archipelago. At more than 50 miles long, it is vast and each area has varying things to offer individual travellers as well as families. There is much to see, so I will share a few highlights from visits over the past years.

I love being outdoors in nature, so the Fairy Pools are a favourite, but they can be rather busy. They are incredibly beautiful turquoise pools and waterfalls,

woven into Coire na Creiche, in Glen Brittle and seduce brave souls for an icy dip. They can be found just a gentle walk from the car park, and near the town of Carbost.

For those in search of adventure and who have their hiking boots, waterproofs and Smidge repellent at the ready, the Cuillin mountains provide some serious hiking. However, the remote fishing town of Elgol in the south or Trotternish peninsula in the north of the island also provide many options for those who would like a stroll.

Here you can also see the iconic Old Man of Storr, a striking 55-metre-high volcanic basalt pinnacle on the Trotternish Ridge. Essentially, most places on the island have varying levels of walking as options on your

doorstep, with terrain varying from tarmac to hill and bog.

Equally, if you prefer to spend time on the water, there are many options to join boat trips to secret inaccessible lochs or for closer encounters with seals, otters, whales and puffins in their natural habitat (season dependent).

Alongside opportunities to kayak and be immersed in and part of the Scottish splendour. Sleat in South Skye is a perfect kayaking location. It's in a more remote and residential part of the island, hosting the Gaelic university, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the possibility of hearing Gaelic spoken. You can even join a course yourself. This part of the island also contains the beautiful white sand beach of Camas Daraich. It does demand effort

and possibly determination to reach, but this secluded, pristine white sandy cove is worth the scenic and rugged hike.

If history and the clans are calling, then the battles and woven stories of the MacLeods, historically centred in the northwest at Dunvegan Castle, and the MacDonalds in the south, at Armadale Castle, will provide a wealth of facts and battles to immerse yourself in. Clans previously united communities and fostered deep kinship with a shared heritage, identity and belonging across much of the Highlands and Islands.

The dinosaurs may not have had clans, but they were definitely on the island! The island is known as Jurassic Skye for good reason as it holds more than 10% of the world's Middle Jurassic dinosaur sites. You can even see a real dinosaur's footprint at An Corran Beach, near Staffin! This beach features three-toed Ornithipoda and Megalosaurus footprints, and Score Bay is a great location too for searching for preserved dinosaur tracks. Do check tides before venturing on the foreshore.

Finally for the foodies and whisky drinkers. This island is for you. With two island grown, award-winning distilleries – Torabhaig and Talisker – both providing tours and tastings, alongside a host of tucked away cafés, restaurants, and hotels, including Michelin guide recommended venues, you will not go hungry.

Booking is recommended and as hours may vary, it's always good to know where and when the local store or Co-op is open until just in case.

To all the possibilities on Skye and seeing double rainbows, Meal an t-eilean!





ABOVE: CAFE, RUE OBERKAMPF; AUX FOLIES, BELLEVILLE.
RIGHT: THE CANAL SAINT MARTIN. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.



ABOVE: PARC ANDRÉ CITROËN.
RIGHT: PARC DE BELLEVILLE. IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.



PARIS BEATS AND CULTURAL STREETS



PARISIAN FESTIVAL PRODUCER AND MUSIC AGENT BENJAMIN LEVY MOVED TO GUERNSEY WITH HIS FAMILY FIVE YEARS AGO. HERE, HE SHARES HIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE CITY, FROM THE CHANGING STREETS OF OBERKAMPF AND BELLEVILLE TO THE HIDDEN CORNERS OF CANAL SAINT-MARTIN, THE MARAIS AND BEYOND, ALONG WITH SOME OF HIS FAVOURITE PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR THOSE LOOKING TO DISCOVER THE CITY FROM AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE.

I was raised in the 11th arrondissement, in Oberkampf, long before it became one of the trendiest parts of Paris. Back then it was still a working-class neighbourhood, rough around the edges but full of energy and character. I watched it slowly transform over the years into the cosmopolitan, fashionable district it has become today.

As a teenager, Café Charbon was the place to be. Nearby, Club Cithea became one of the centres of Paris' underground world, funk and hip-hop scene. On any given night you might find yourself rubbing shoulders with drummer Tony Allen or meeting M at the bar. Music was everywhere and it quickly became the centre of my life.

I began playing gigs in nearby Belleville, organising jam sessions and small concerts at a time when the area still had a reputation as one of the city's rougher districts. Around Rue Saint-Maur and Canal Saint-Martin, there was an incredible creative energy. Musicians, artists and night owls gathered in tiny bars after concerts, drinking beers until dawn while music drifted through the streets.

The area around Rue Sainte-Marthe and Rue Sambre-et-Meuse (Paris 10e) was the heart of it all and remains one of my favourite corners of the city. Before the cocktail bars and trendy restaurants arrived, the old neighbourhood cafés were where

everyone gathered after gigs. Even today, it still feels like a village inside Paris.

For visitors wanting to experience a more authentic side of the city, I would recommend wandering through the Belleville market on Boulevard de Belleville on a Sunday morning, before stopping at one of the nearby wine bars or bistros hidden behind the market stalls.

Further along Rue Saint-Maur, near Grange-aux-Belles, an artists' squat, Nearby, Chez Adel (10 Rue de la Grange aux Belles, Paris 10e) was another regular stop.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Canal Saint-Martin still felt eclectic, mixed and deeply local, rather

than the trendy, international hotspot it has become today. Places such as Chez Prune (36 Rue Beaurepaire, Paris 10e) were neighbourhood institutions, while the brasserie at Hôtel du Nord (102 Quai de Jemmapes, Paris 10e) still carried the faded glamour of old Paris, immortalised in Marcel Carné's film.

One memorable evening there with Brazilian musician Ed Motta somehow involved eight bottles of natural wine before he even went on stage at Le Verre Volé.

This period was followed by my 'Marais years'. For all its popularity, despite being inundated by tourists and trendsetters, the Marais still contains some of the most beautiful corners of Paris. I love wandering through Place Sainte-Catherine (Paris 4e), with its café terraces and village atmosphere, tucked behind the busy streets, while Place des Vosges remains one of the city's most elegant squares, busy, certainly, but timeless.

For 10 years, I lived on Rue Volta near Arts et Métiers metro station, just a short walk from my favourite Chinese restaurant, Chez Shen (39 Rue au Maire, Paris 3e). I loved the area for the way it seemed to sit

between two worlds, combining the sophistication of the Marais with some of the more bohemian, creative energy of the 11th arrondissement.

Two places in particular defined that chapter of my life: La Perle and Le Connétable. La Perle remains a Parisian institution, still drawing a lively mix of young locals spilling out onto the pavement late into the evening. At Le Connétable I often played piano late into the night, and it was there I met my Guernsey-born wife, a moment that set me on a new path.

What I love most about Paris is that every arrondissement feels like its own village, each with its own rhythm, food and identity. That became especially clear when family life brought me rather reluctantly to the 15th arrondissement. It was not an area I was familiar with. Coming from eastern Paris, you just didn't go to the 15th. But living there revealed a completely different side of the city.

Food once again became central to daily life. The terrace at Les Trois Garçons (Paris 15e) became a family favourite, while weekends revolved around local markets and

long lunches with friends. It was also there that I discovered Jaja Jaja de Juju (Paris 15e), a natural wine cellar where I spent happy evenings sampling the owner's latest discoveries over platters of cheese and charcuterie.

Nearby, Parc André Citroën became one of my favourite green spaces in Paris. Built on the site of the old Citroën factories, its gardens were inspired by Versailles and remain one of the city's most underrated parks. It is also now home to the Paris New York Heritage Festival, a sustainable community festival I founded nearly a decade ago which brings together live music, natural wine, local artists and family activities. At the centre of the site is the park's giant hot-air balloon, offering panoramic views across Paris.

For me, the view from there captures everything I still love about the city: the rooftops, the energy and its endless capacity to reinvent itself.

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT PARIS IS THAT EVERY ARRONDISSEMENT FEELS LIKE ITS OWN VILLAGE, EACH WITH ITS OWN RHYTHM, FOOD AND IDENTITY.

DISCOVER JERSEY



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ABOVE: MEDIEVAL CITADEL OF CARCASSONNE.
RIGHT: CARCASSONNE AT SUNSET. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

RACE ACROSS THE WORLD: CARCASSONNE

AMANDA EULENKAMP HAS WANTED TO VISIT CARCASSONNE EVER SINCE READING KATE MOSSE'S 'LABYRINTH', PUBLISHED MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO. THIS YEAR, ACCOMPANIED BY HER OLDER SON, SHE FINALLY MADE IT.

'Labyrinth' (a time-slip novel featuring Carcassonne) may have sparked my interest in La Cité, but it was last year's 'Race Across the World' – won by a mother-and-son duo – that clinched the deal.

My older son suggested we did something similar (albeit in a much shorter timeframe and distance, and in a bit more comfort!), and over Christmas, plans came to fruition.

We decided to take the train (the other option was an overnight bus), so I purchased a Carte Avantage Senior TGV INOUI (a 60+ years old rail card). The card paid for itself on the first leg of the journey, and offered considerable savings on the second.

Getting the most out of the May half-term, we took the evening boat to St Malo on the Friday. This gave us all day Saturday to explore (we stayed within the walls), and were

up early on the Sunday to catch the bus to the station for our train to Carcassonne. Overall, the journey took around 10 hours, including time at Rennes and Montpellier where we changed trains. Everything ran like clockwork, and the journey was comfortable and, being daytime, we saw lots of scenery on the way south.

Arriving into Carcassonne railway station around 8.30pm, we took our only taxi of the trip (trying to replicate the essence of 'Race Across the World') to La Cité, the medieval citadel with its numerous watchtowers and double-walled fortifications, which was to be our home for the next four nights. Because of driving restrictions within the walls, the hotel car met our taxi for the final part of the ride.

Once checked in to the Hotel Donjon (one of only a very few hotels within the walls), we headed

out into the balmy evening to find a restaurant, where we enjoyed a beautiful Provence rosé and an anchovy pizza.

DAY ONE: EXPLORING LA CITÉ

We'd booked the hotel on a room-only basis, giving us the freedom to explore the numerous cafés, many of which can be found in Place Marcou, the bustling square. A typical breakfast consisted of orange juice, a hot drink (coffee, tea or chocolate), plus either a croissant or a pain au chocolat, plus a hunk of delicious fresh bread and jam, and usually cost around 6 – 8 euros.

After breakfast, we headed to the Château Comtal, a 12th-century castle within La Cité, and the Ramparts. An admission ticket is required for this, but it is well worth it as it is probably the highlight of any trip to Carcassonne.



LEFT & ABOVE: MEDIEVAL CITY OF CARCASSONNE.
RIGHT: CANAL DU MIDI; CARCASSONNE TOWN CENTRE. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

Plan plenty of time for this (and wear comfortable and sturdy footwear), as there are historic rooms and exhibits to see, plus the ramparts walk typically takes around 1.5 – 2 hours – more if, like us, you keep stopping to enjoy the view over the vineyards to the Montagne Noire (Black Mountain) to the north and the Corbières Massif to the southeast. We also saw the snow-capped peaks of the Pyrénées.

You'll also be able to look down at the Théâtre Jean-Deschamps, an amphitheatre that is attached to the walls of the Cité. At the time we visited, adverts were running for the Carcassonne Festival, one of the top 10 French festivals. It offers 70 shows throughout July and August, with themes ranging from opera to theatre, dance to classical music, as well as concerts by national and international artists. See festivaldecarcassonne.fr/en for more information.

After we'd walked the ramparts (around 0.8 miles), we descended to the narrow streets of La Cité, which nowadays are packed with gift shops and restaurants. It was very hot while we were there, so we were grateful to find large umbrellas shading the outside tables, as well as a lovely garden-like bar to sip an Aperol spritz in

the afternoon under the trees.

A visit to the Basilica of Saint-Nazaire, a beautiful church, is a must. It features a spectacular mix of Romanesque and Gothic architecture and claims the finest stained glass windows in the south of France.

We rounded off our day in La Cité with a ride on Le Petit Train (we were there on bank holiday Monday, the only day it ran that week; operates 1 July to 31 August).

The starting point is the Porte Narbonnaise (Narbonne Gate), the main gateway to the city. Opposite here are the coach/bus park and the car park, as well as the bus stop to catch the bus to the station and lower town (Ville Basse).

The tour had a commentary in English, so we picked up lots of information about Carcassonne.

In the evening, we treated ourselves to the local speciality, cassoulet, in the aptly-named Maison du Cassoulet, just a stone's throw away from the Narbonne Gate. The dish is cooked and served in its typical 'cassole' (an earthenware casserole dish) and only traditional ingredients are used: Lauragais lingot beans, meats such as ham hock, confit, and sausage. Simple but delicious.

THE LICES

The Lices – the open space between the inner and outer defensive walls – is great for exploring. Its medieval purpose was to act as a 'kill zone' to trap attackers who breached the outer wall; in peacetime, knights would joust and train on the flat ground. In the 21st century, the area attracts walkers and lovers of history. Unlike the rampart walk which is ticketed, wandering around the Lices is free. As well as a place to walk during the day, we loved heading there in the evenings to see the wonderful sunsets.

DAY TWO: VILLE BASSE (LA BASTIDE SAINT-LOUIS)

We hopped on the bus that departed for the lower town, heading downhill from La Cité. My son had already scouted out some of the town on his early morning run that took him part way along the River Aude.

The 'new' town features a grid-like street layout focused around the bustling square, Place Carnot. It was here that we decided to have our breakfast, sitting outside sheltered by a combination of plane trees and umbrellas. The

square is dominated by the Fountain of Neptune and on the day we went, there was an outside food market, with delicious local produce.

We had a few hours prior to our pre-booked wine tasting (a birthday treat for me), so we decided to head up one of the brightly-decorated streets and found ourselves by the Canal du Midi.

I could have spent hours watching the boats navigate the locks – it was absolutely fascinating, and has possibly inspired another holiday for my son, as he thought taking a boat along the Canal du Midi would make for a relaxing holiday.

So inspired were we, that we promptly booked tickets for a canal trip the following morning.

Our wandering continued, across Le Pont Vieux (the old bridge, also known as the Roman Bridge) which crosses the River Aude and from where is one of the best views of La Cité and the Pyrénées. We found shade in the Parc de Camin del Garric, which offers walking trails and shaded picnic areas.

The wine tasting was booked for mid-afternoon. Joining around half a dozen other people, we sampled three white, three rosé, and three red... accompanied by an amazing

board of cold meats and cheeses plus bread.

We then walked 10-15 minutes back (uphill) to the hotel where we rested awhile before venturing out for another evening in the walls. It is worth noting that some restaurants closed during the evening, once the day trippers had departed. And that's one of the reasons I wanted to stay within the walls – to experience it in a much quieter way.

DAY THREE: CANAL CRUISE & CHILLING

We decided to walk to the Ville Basse (as it was downhill – we got the bus back!), and joined our 1.5 hours' canal cruise. This was so relaxing, the pace is slow but steady. Going through the locks was interesting, too, as was the commentary. As the only two English speakers on board, we felt very special when the guide turned her attention to us!

A path runs alongside the Canal du Midi, so there were plenty of walkers and cyclists enjoying the scenery, too.

In the afternoon, we decided to relax in our favourite bar with the plane trees offering plenty of shade, an Aperol spritz each, and lots to chat about.

I was so happy that, at last, I'd been to Carcassonne.

P.S. I've since re-read 'Labyrinth', and can now imagine the settings so much more clearly.

We returned to Guernsey via Paris, taking the train from Carcassonne via Montpellier. This journey was around six hours, and sped us straight to the Gare de Lyon. We quickly hopped on another train, and two stops later, were at the Gare du Nord. We stayed just a 5 – 10 minutes' walk from the station, ready for departure to Charles de Gaulle airport the next morning.

In the evening, we walked to Montmartre, enjoying a lovely meal, a wander, and a quick visit inside Sacré-Cœur (there were no queues during the evening, a stark contrast to when I'd visited only a few weeks earlier during the day time), plus, of course, spectacular views over Paris at night.

One week, three hotels, one ferry, seven trains, four buses, one taxi and one plane later, our 'Race Across the World' was complete. And I'd do it all again in a heartbeat. Thank you, Steve, for your time and company.



ABOVE L-R: GOLDEN ENTRANCE GATES; HALL OF MIRRORS; LATONA FOUNTAIN; COUNTRY HOUSE OWNED BY MARIE ANTOINETTE. BELOW: APOLLO FOUNTAIN. ALL IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.

VERSAILLES: THE SUN KING'S PALACE

AROUND FOUR DECADES PASSED BETWEEN AMANDA EULENKAMP'S FIRST AND LAST TRIPS TO VERSAILLES.

She did get flashbacks (such as remembering the famous Hall of Mirrors, plus the vista of the gardens laid out behind the Palace) but some memories, dear reader, were a little hazy... So, whether it's been months/years/decades or you've never been, here is why you should visit Versailles.

The Palace of Versailles is, quite simply, one of the most stunning buildings you'll ever see, set in equally spectacular gardens. It's a sensory overload of gold, velvet, marble, and manicured nature. Quite simply, it is worth taking a

day out of any Paris itinerary and getting out of the city (it's around 12 miles away) to experience the world of Louis XIV, the 'Sun King'.

Designed and built in the 17th century, Versailles was transformed from a simply hunting lodge into the seat of French government. Every room projected Louis XIV's divine right to rule.

By forcing the French aristocracy to live under his roof, he turned nobility into courtiers who competed for his favour. To visit the palace today is to walk the very corridors where modern diplomacy, court gossip, and absolute power intersected.

Architecturally, Versailles represents the pinnacle of French Baroque design. The collaboration between architects Jules Hardouin-Mansart, painter Charles Le Brun, and landscape designer André Le Nôtre created a harmonious universe of stone, gold, and green.

The crown jewel of the interior is the Hall of Mirrors. Spanning 240 feet, it features 578 mirrors facing 17 massive windows. In the 17th century, mirrors were luxury items. Filling an entire gallery with them was a calculated display of France's industrial and economic dominance. Today, it is full of

visitors taking photos, but it still has the power to impress.

Allow a couple of hours to explore the State Rooms as it can get busy. I recommend pre-booking a timed-entry ticket. We still queued but it was worth it.

Beyond the main palace lie the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon. These smaller palaces offer a fascinating contrast to the main estate. They provide a glimpse into the private lives of the royals, particularly Marie Antoinette, who sought refuge there from the suffocating etiquette of the main court.

For many, the gardens of Versailles are even more impressive than the palace itself. Walk among

fountains, groves and classical statues, seeking solace from the sun (or from other courtiers). There are a good number of benches to rest on, plus we discovered that you can hire a golf cart to get around (additional cost to entrance ticket; original copy of driving licence required).

After having lunch in the gardens, and wandering down to the Grand Canal (where the court used to enjoy gondola rides – you can rent a rowing boat today), we were fortunate to see the Musical Fountains Show, a historic waterworks that operates exactly as Louis XIV would have seen.

We explored the Palace first followed by the gardens, which worked for us. Wear comfortable footwear as there is a lot of

walking. And make sure your mobile is fully charged as you'll want to take lots of photos! This year, we visited over the early May bank holiday. The train from Paris was easy, and it was a relatively short walk (around 10 minutes) to the Palace. Make sure you book to the correct station! We got off at Versailles Chateau Rive Gauche, which is served by RER Line C, and is the closest.

I also downloaded the official Versailles app, which offers audio tours and an interactive map of the entire estate.

en.chateauversailles.fr the official website is packed with information, and is well worth visiting before going to the Palace.

BELOW L-R: ORANGERY GARDEN; ORNATE CEILING OF THE SALON OF DIANA. IMAGES ©ISTOCKPHOTO.



EXCELLENCE IN AESTHETIC SURGERY:

12 YEARS OF TRUST CARE WITH
MR MOHAMMAD JABERANSARI,
GMC, MD, PHD, MRCSED,
CONSULTANT PLASTIC SURGEON



IMAGE ©GETTYIMAGES

ADVERTORIAL

The Guernsey Laser & Aesthetic Clinic – which was established 20 years ago – is proud to highlight the continued success and expansion of its surgical services under the leadership of Mr Jaberansari, a highly experienced plastic surgeon dedicated to delivering natural, refined results.

For the past 12 years, Mr Jaberansari has been carrying out detailed aesthetic consultations, guiding patients through personalised treatment plans tailored to their individual goals. Over the last six years, he has been actively performing surgical procedures, building a strong reputation for precision, safety, and patient-centred care.

MR JABERANSARI



ADVANCED SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Mr Jaberansari offers a range of procedures designed to restore confidence and enhance natural beauty, including:

- Facelift surgery
- Blepharoplasty (eye bag surgery)
- Breast lift procedures
- Mini tummy tucks
- And many more

All procedures are carried out under local anaesthetic, allowing patients to benefit from shorter recovery times and reduced procedural risk, while maintaining the highest standards of comfort and safety.

INTRODUCING OUR LATEST LIPOSUCTION TECHNOLOGY

We are also pleased to announce the arrival of our latest state-of-the-art liposuction machine. This advanced technology enables targeted body contouring across multiple areas, including:

- Abdomen
- Arms
- Thighs
- Chin
- And other treatment areas

EXPERTISE IN THREAD LIFTING

In addition to surgical procedures, Mr Jaberansari is an experienced trainer in both COG and PDO thread techniques. His expertise in these advanced, minimally invasive lifting treatments reflects his commitment to innovation and professional development within aesthetic medicine.

A DEDICATED AND EXPERIENCED TEAM

Behind every successful procedure is a skilled and supportive team. Our experienced clinical staff work closely with Mr Jaberansari to ensure every patients receives attentive care, professional guidance, and a safe, welcoming environment throughout their journey.

EXPANDING OUR SERVICES

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new clinic at Island House, Rohais, St Peter Port, marking an exciting new chapter in our growth. This expansion allows us to continue offering advanced aesthetic and surgical treatments in a modern, fully equipped setting.

At Guernsey Laser & Aesthetic Clinic, our mission remains simple: to deliver safe, natural-looking results with honesty, experience, and patient-focused care at the heart of everything we do.

For more information please contact:

Debbie Smethurst, BACN
E: glac@cwgsy.net
T: 07781 123662
W: www.glac.gg



ABOVE: LAMA MONACHILE, ANCIENT BYZANTINE FRESCOES.
RIGHT: PIAZZA PLEBISCITO. IMAGES ©PHILIP SAUNDERS



SEEING ITALY DIFFERENTLY IN PUGLIA

FOLLOWING A RECENT HOLIDAY IN SOUTH-EAST ITALY (DON'T TELL THE BOSS!), PHILIP SAUNDERS, CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER AT AURIGNY, SAT DOWN WITH 'EN VOYAGE' TO TALK ABOUT HIS NEWFOUND AFFECTION FOR THE REGION.

In more than 40 years of international travel — enabled first by a career in the airline industry, and more recently by a sideline in YouTube vlogging — I've been fortunate enough to visit at least 114 countries.

However, I'm not sure standing in the negotiation buildings at Panmunjom, on the most militarised border in the world, really counts as visiting North Korea. Or that peering across the Congo River from a birthday party in Kinshasa toward Brazzaville counts as experiencing the other Congo — the one that doesn't need 'Democratic Republic of' in front of its name.

So the count stays at 114.

The more places I discover, the harder it becomes to answer the question every frequent traveller gets asked: 'Which is your favourite country?'

In my experience, the more you travel, the more you learn to appreciate every culture — each with its own warm welcome, its own vistas, food, drink, and memories that stay with you for life.

But if I'm really pushed, I'll admit it: bella Italia is my favourite destination on the planet.

From the Dolomites to Rome to Sicily; from a glass of medium-bodied Chianti Classico to a shot of thick, syrupy Limoncello; from tender ossobuco in Milan to a simple, ultra-thin pizza alla romana; from the design genius of Gucci to the automotive genius of Ferrari — Italy offers stunning scenery, refined cities, and endlessly kind-hearted hosts.

For a few years now, tracing Italy's outline on Google Earth, I've felt drawn further south — to that slender heel on the well-fashioned boot of Italy known as Puglia.

Twenty years ago, few Britons visited Puglia — it's something of a newcomer to Europe's top tier of destinations. But there's no question the region is experiencing a modern-day Italian renaissance, all while so far escaping the perils of mass tourism. So my wife and I decided to spend a week in June exploring this land of dreamy coastlines, gleaming white hilltop towns, and olive groves in every direction — before too many other tourists have the same idea.

Arriving at Bari Airport, Puglia's well-located gateway, we found entry into Italy efficient and speedy — in no way hindered by the notorious Entry/Exit System now imposed on 'aliens' to the EU. We cleared passport control, baggage, and customs in minutes.

Upgraded by our car hire provider to a top-of-the-range Chinese BYD hybrid SUV — which seemed well kitted out to spy on its driver above



ABOVE L-R: TRADITIONAL CERAMIC TRULLI SOUVENIRS; THE WHITE BUILDINGS OF POLIGNANO A MARE; STONE DWELLINGS KNOWN AS TRULLI; HOTEL RIVA DEL SOLE IN GIOVINAZZO; LAMA MONACHILE BEACH; CHIESA DI SANTA MARIA DI IDRIS.

all else — we hit Puglia's highways and byways without delay.

If you'd rather not risk your life on Puglia's manic, chaotic, and thoroughly unpredictable roads, there's an alternative: a fairly reasonable coastal rail network, conveniently served by a station directly at Bari Airport.

Terrified on every drive, long or short, I'll readily admit that by the end of the holiday I'd come to enjoy jousting with Italian motorists for position and advantage. I felt like 007 — and we'll return to him later.

Our first stop was just an hour's drive from the airport — along a dazzling coastline that stretches over 500 kilometres (hard to believe when you look at the map) — and slightly inland to Alberobello, the global capital of the trullo. These whitewashed, dry-stone huts with conical roofs have been built the same way since prehistoric times, and you won't find them anywhere else beyond a ten-mile radius.

Alberobello has over 1,500 trulli, each unique, spreading through the old town and across the hills beyond, with magnificent views at every turn. Most now serve as homes — fitted with all the modern comforts, despite appearances — but you'll also find design boutiques, churches, and restaurants among them, serving local specialties like bombette.

These naughty little savoury treats are handcrafted at local fornelli (butcher's shop/restaurant): thin slices of pork wrapped around pancetta, cheese — usually provolone — and plenty of Italian herbs. Bombette means 'little bombs', and each one exploded with flavour in my stomach, I can assure you.

Polignano a Mare, a small coastal town perched above the sparkling Adriatic, became our base for most of the holiday. Despite being only early June, the sea was warm enough to swim in and reflected every shade of blue imaginable through long, uninterrupted hours of sunshine.

I'm not usually one for lingering at the beach, but I made an exception here — I loved the limestone cliffs, the rugged coastline, and my daily descent down the rock-cut steps into the sea.

Venturing into the heart of town, we stumbled on one of the most beautiful beaches either of us has ever seen: Lama Monachile. I'd already decided not to film any vlogs on this trip, but this is a place so photogenic it draws you to your camera regardless.

The setting is breathtaking: a pebble beach folded into a small gorge fringed by towering cliffs, from which brave — or foolhardy — Italian youths perform gravity-defying dives into the turquoise water below. The only drawback

is the crowds, so I wouldn't recommend a long stay. But miss this wonder of nature and you'll regret it forever.

One evening we drove up from the coast to Martina Franca. Along with the famed white city of Ostuni, it's one of Puglia's most picturesque hilltop towns. As you wander the walled town, baroque architectural jewels appear at every corner and wrought-iron balconies add further eye-catching detail to the palaces.

Martina Franca is also home to my favourite restaurant of the trip: simple, unpretentious Ristorante Ricci. This long-standing family business serves fabulous, fuss-free Italian food with an unwavering focus on value and quality. I had one of the best steaks I've ever eaten (my wife agreed, and confiscated a quarter of it), a mixed grill to share and die for, and the best pizza south of Naples.

The mixed grill included all sorts of temptations: lamb, veal sausage, fegatini (chicken livers), and — of course — the infamous bombette. All that, and more, for around 60 euros.

Before heading home, there was one more unmissable stop: Matera. It's technically just over the border in Basilicata, but most Puglia itineraries treat it as a major centre of attraction anyway.

This is where we come back to James Bond, and to superhero cars on Italian roads. In *No Time to Die*,

Matera provides the backdrop to one of the film's most memorable car chases — and seeing the real thing with your own eyes is even more dramatic than any Hollywood set piece. Many claim Matera is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.

For us, the highlight of the holiday was wandering at leisure through the ancient Sassi districts — historic cave dwellings carved into the cliffside — and visiting the commanding rock church at the city's heart. Matera has around 150 cave churches; a couple are more than enough to take in frescoes dating back hundreds of years.

It's hard to believe this city was more or less uninhabited as recently as the late 1990s, with barely a tourist in sight. That's changed beyond recognition, and it's clear Puglia will only grow as a destination in years to come.

We vowed to return as soon as we could to discover more. I became so entranced with Puglia — and its food — that my vlogging camera stayed zipped in its case for the entire trip. No YouTube this time. But we had a perfect holiday, and we're already looking forward to booking the next one.

You can find Philip's vlogs on his 'Travel In The Know' channel on YouTube



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EUROPE'S HIGH COST OF LIVING MEETS A NEW ERA OF CAUTIOUS WEALTH



JULIUS BAER HAS PUBLISHED ITS LATEST GLOBAL WEALTH AND LIFESTYLE REPORT. ANDY PHILLIPS, RELATIONSHIP MANAGER AT JULIUS BAER GUERNSEY, EXPLORES HOW CURRENCY MOVEMENTS, GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND CHANGING LIFESTYLE PRIORITIES ARE SHAPING THE DECISIONS OF THE WEALTHY.

The report offers a global view of how high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) are spending, planning and adapting in an increasingly fragmented world.

This year's findings show that the cost of maintaining a premium standard of living has risen by 10.2% in US dollar terms. However, as the report makes clear, the headline figure only tells part of the story.

EUROPE REMAINS EXPENSIVE, BUT LONDON SLIPS

Europe remains one of the most expensive regions globally, with price increases across European cities averaging 14.1% in US dollar terms, well above the global average. This has been driven largely by the strength of the euro and Swiss franc, rather than by local price rises alone.

Zurich has climbed three places to become the second most expensive city in the Index, while Monaco has entered the top three for the first time. Both cities reflect a wider theme within the report: in uncertain times, locations associated with stability, strong institutions and resilient currencies become increasingly attractive.

By contrast, London has fallen from second to fifth place. This does not mean London has become more affordable for those living there. Rather, the British pound has followed a similar trajectory to the US dollar, limiting London's relative increase when compared with mainland European cities. For those based in the UK, the report is a reminder that affordability is increasingly shaped not just by local prices, but by currency exposure and international purchasing power.

A MORE CAUTIOUS EUROPEAN INVESTOR

The report also points to a more conservative mood among European HNWIs, because while wealth has continued to grow for many respondents, Europe recorded one of the lowest levels of significant asset growth globally. Investors in the region are prioritising wealth preservation, favouring traditional asset classes such as funds, equities and real estate.

This judgement is also reflected in spending habits with the decline in spending for items such as jewellery

and watches, yet experiences are still a priority as fine dining and luxury hotel stays continue to attract. The shift suggests that affluent individuals are still willing to spend but are becoming more selective about where they see value.

HEALTH, MOBILITY AND THE NEW MEANING OF WEALTH

Globally, one of the clearest trends is that wealth is being understood more broadly: health-related spending has increased across every region, alongside leisure travel, emphasising the idea that 'health is wealth'. Affluent individuals are increasingly viewing wellbeing, resilience and longevity as core parts of how they define and manage their wealth.

There are also signs that HNWIs are becoming more active in how they respond to global disruption, as more than half would consider travelling internationally to purchase luxury goods to bypass tariffs, with more than a quarter already doing so.

For European and UK-based HNWIs, the lesson is clear: context matters. A lifestyle or investment strategy that works for one city or currency may not for another. In a world shaped by shifting exchange rates, tariffs and geopolitical uncertainty, good advice has never been more important.

Julius Baer understands the value of trusted guidance. Contact Andy Phillips: andrew.phillips@juliusbaer.com

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NEW PREMIUM OFFICE SPACE IN ST PETER PORT

Mill Place, a new premium office destination in the heart of Town, has opened, offering a different type of workplace designed around quality, flexibility and connection.

It has been comprehensively refurbished to create contemporary, design-led office space that moves beyond the serviced office model. The building offers a range of flexible office suites and more traditional leased office spaces, alongside high quality shared amenities, including well-equipped meeting rooms, breakout spaces and informal areas designed to support how modern businesses actually work.

Adding to the atmosphere is Camilla's at the Mill, the independent café located on the ground floor.

Jo Watts, managing director of Watts Property Consultants, letting agents and property manager, said: 'The aim of Mill Place was to respond to how businesses want to use office space today. We are seeing a clear shift in demand amongst smaller occupiers move away from long-term, traditional offices towards high-quality, well-designed spaces that give occupiers choice, certainty on price and flexibility to grow and access to shared meeting facilities and environments that encourage collaboration and connection. Mill Place reflects that wider trend in commercial property, putting the end user first and creating a building that supports modern ways of working.'



L-R: Chris Chilton, Louis Le Cheminant and Jo Watts in Camilla's at Mill Place.

LTS TAX OPENS IN JERSEY



Harry Malet de Carteret.

LTS Tax has opened a new office in Jersey at Titan House, Liberation Square, building on its existing business.

The expansion allows LTS to offer Guernsey, Jersey, and UK tax advisory, accountancy, and compliance services across all three jurisdictions.

Harry Malet de Carteret has been appointed managing director of LTS Tax in Jersey. 'I'm excited to lead this expansion and build on LTS' current reputation and success,' he

said. 'We're committed to building strong relationships with Jersey intermediaries and providing the same personal, high-quality service that LTS are known for.'

Paul O'Neill, managing director of LTS Tax in Guernsey, said: 'LTS has established a strong reputation in Guernsey, and we are regularly being recommended to clients in Jersey. Opening at Liberation Square is the natural next step to support our growing Jersey client base.'

ISLAND'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR STABLE, REPORTS GFSC

Against a backdrop of global uncertainty, the Guernsey Financial Services Commission's latest annual report reveals the financial services sector has remained stable, supported by continued demand for investment funds and other investment and insurance entities.

'In 2025, the commission, having successfully concluded the Moneyval evaluation with

the strong Moneyval AMLCFT report published in February which secured the foundations of our prosperity, we were able to refocus our finite capacities on what regulatory environment would be optimal for Guernsey's long-term competitiveness over the next decade or so, taking into account the considerably changed international environment,' said

Director General William Mason.

'Over the course of the year we made considerable improvements, working in partnership with industry, the States and Guernsey Finance. We look forward to delivering further beneficial reforms through 2026 and beyond.'

See the GFSC's website for the full report.

NEW INDEPENDENT FIDUCIARY BUSINESS LAUNCHES IN GUERNSEY

Barrule Partners Group has launched as a new independent fiduciary, trust, corporate and advisory services business in Guernsey.

Co-founded by Stuart Platt-Ransom, Advocate Alison Ozanne and Kit Hobbs, Barrule Partners Group has been established as a partner-owned, governance-led fiduciary business which will service the needs of high-net-worth families, entrepreneurs and institutional clients.

'Guernsey remains one of the most respected and stable international finance centres globally. Barrule has consequently been headquartered here. The island's regulatory framework, depth of professional expertise and long-standing reputation for fiduciary standards make it the right home for a governance-focused business,' said Mr Platt-Ransom. 'Our objective is straightforward: to build a long-term, independent business that prioritises



Stuart Platt-Ransom, Alison Ozanne and Kit Hobbs.

stewardship, regulatory integrity and direct senior engagement.'

GUERNSEY HELPS SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PENSIONS FOR A MOBILE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

Guernsey's pensions sector is well placed to respond to the needs of an increasingly mobile global workforce, industry leaders said at the Guernsey Pensions Seminar.

The webinar explored how changing work patterns, international careers and the rise of remote working are creating new expectations around pension portability, flexibility and continuity.

Helen Dean CBE, Governor of the Pensions Policy Institute, delivered a keynote address on the significance of changing work patterns and how Guernsey can remain at the forefront of pension reform.

'It's not just about keeping up with change, it's about shaping it. The next generation of pension professionals will assume that their pension travels with them... they won't ask whether it works internationally. They'll expect it to, and jurisdictions that anticipate that



expectation have an opportunity to lead.

'Guernsey has the opportunity not just to participate in the future, but to shape it, because it seems like global mobility is not just a passing phase, it's part of the new architecture of work for many people. That's exciting, it's important, and it's why this event today really matters.'

During a panel session, industry experts highlighted how traditional, regional pension structures are no longer aligned with the

way employees and businesses now operate, with globalisation allowing for greater movement between jurisdictions throughout their careers.

As global mobility becomes a defining feature of modern employment, the session emphasised how Guernsey's depth of expertise, integrated cross-border ecosystem, pragmatic regulation, and level of collaboration between industry and government places it in a strong position to contribute to the next phase of pensions development.

COOP MOBILE WINS INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Coop Mobile has won the Sustainability Champion Award at the prestigious MVNOs World Awards in Amsterdam, one of the most respected industry recognition programmes in the global mobile virtual network operator sector.

The award, presented at the annual MVNOs World conference — now in its 24th year — recognises MVNOs and MNOs demonstrating exceptional commitment to sustainable practices, reduced environmental impact and industry-wide green initiatives.

Coop Mobile launched in February 2026 as the Channel Islands' first



Mark Cox and David McGrath.

MVNO. The judges recognised Coop Mobile's digital-first, values-led approach to mobile, which includes a fully online self-service model, SIM distribution through existing grocery and pharmacy locations, refurbished

handset options, and SIM cards made from recycled plastic.

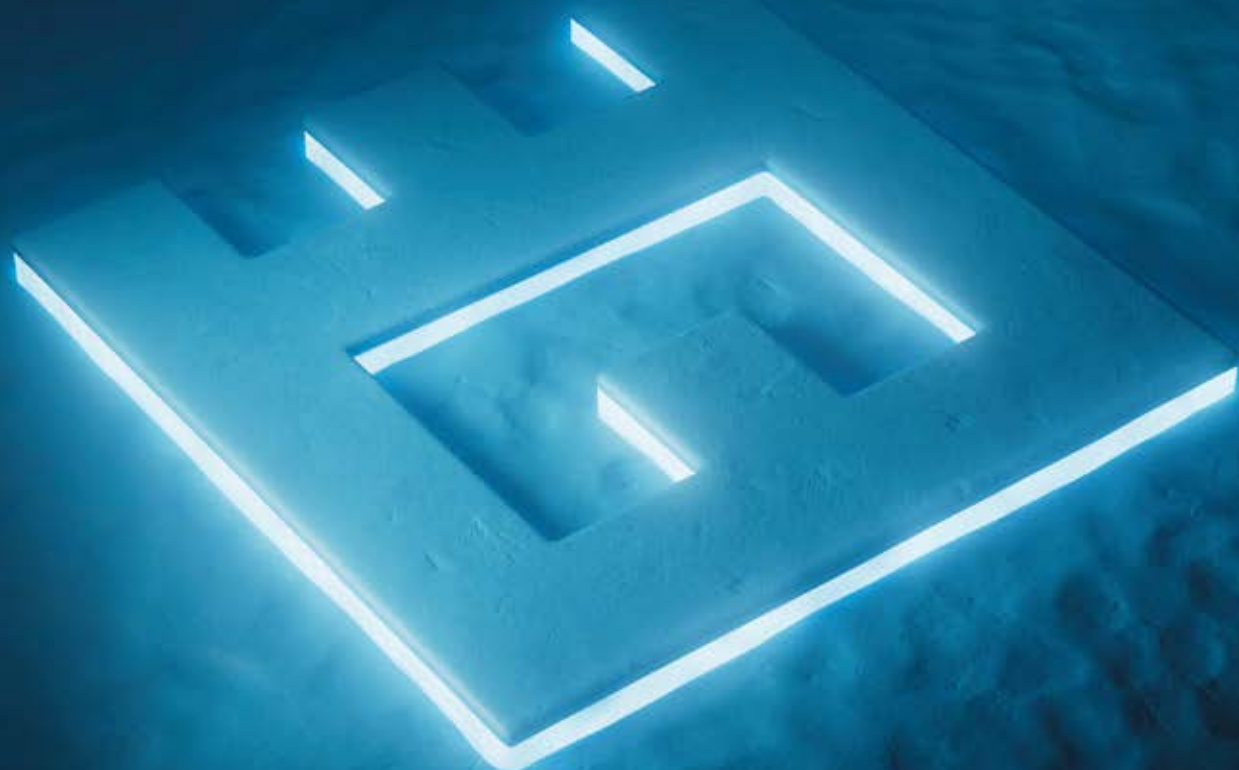
David McGrath, Chief Membership and Marketing Officer for the Channel Islands Coop said: 'Sustainability has been a core focus of Coop Mobile since inception. The model had to align with the Coop's principles. The launch has been very successful and is delivering value for our customers and for the business.'

'This Award reflects our commitment to sustainable innovation, creating value for our members and delivering ethical products and services for our communities.'

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CROWN DEPENDENCY INVESTORS WATCH UK RENTAL REFORMS AS MAINLAND OPPORTUNITIES SHIFT

Investec Bank (Channel Islands) says Crown Dependencies-based investors with exposure to the UK mainland rental market should pay close attention to the impact of the Renters' Rights Bill, as the reforms are expected to reshape how landlords and property investors operate across England.

While this legislation does not affect landlords renting out property in Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man, it is relevant for investors based in offshore jurisdictions who own, finance or are considering residential rental property on the UK mainland.

Hollie Sleight, Head of Offshore Real Estate Lending at Investec, said:



Hollie Sleight.

'For investors based offshore, the important point is that regulatory change is not confined to one market. While the UK Renters' Rights

Bill is reshaping the mainland rental landscape, where we expect clients to look more closely at structure, scale and operational capacity, we are also seeing important developments in Jersey and Guernsey that raise standards and increase expectations for landlords locally.

'As the mainland market becomes more regulated, investors based in the islands are likely to place even more value on careful asset selection, resilient income and the right financing strategy. For well-capitalised investors, that may create opportunities, but it will also require a clear understanding of how the operating environment is changing.'

ACCA CERTIFIES OGIER AS APPROVED EMPLOYER

Ogier has achieved Approved Employer status from the Association for Certified and Chartered Accountants.

The firm achieved platinum status for trainee development and was recognised for its commitment to professional development across the UK and Ireland, the Channel Islands, Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands. ACCA says the accreditation demonstrates that an organisation 'offers the best professional, technical and ethical skills' and it 'supports ongoing training and development'.

Ogier's head of talent and development, Hazel Cardwell, said: 'Achieving ACCA Approved Employer status is testament to the continued

investment in our people, and the strength of Ogier's 'always learning' culture.

'Professional development is vital to our success, which is why we go beyond the traditional training approach. Teams have access to digital learning resources, bespoke development programmes, external qualifications and courses, developmental assignments, and a supportive coaching and mentoring culture. This is complemented by Ogier's commitment to flexible working, diversity and inclusion and employee wellbeing.

'The ACCA Approved Employer accreditation reaffirms to our people



Hazel Cardwell.

that with us, they have all the support they need to build a successful and rewarding career.'

GEN II FUND SERVICES EXPANDS OFFERING



Michael Johnson.

Global private capital fund administrator, Gen II Fund Services,

has been licensed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission to provide fund administration services for Guernsey-domiciled private market structures, in response to growing demand from asset managers structuring funds in the jurisdiction.

The expansion reflects sustained client interest in Guernsey-based private capital structures, alongside Gen II's established experience supporting such entities across private equity, private credit and real assets strategies. As one of Jersey's largest fund administrators, this enhanced Guernsey presence represents a strategic extension of Gen II's Channel Islands capabilities,

enabling clients to access consistent, high-quality administration across both jurisdictions through a single trusted partner.

Michael Johnson, chief commercial officer at Gen II Fund Services, said: 'Guernsey is an important jurisdiction in global private capital structuring, particularly for managers seeking stability, regulatory clarity and international credibility. Having secured the required GFSC licences to provide fund administration services in Guernsey, we are reinforcing our commitment to the jurisdiction and ensuring our clients can access consistent, high-quality administration support where and when they need it.'



Let's talk about... your UK pensions.

If you are resident in Guernsey or Alderney and hold UK pensions, recent changes to UK tax rules make now the right time to review your retirement plans. Our advisers can help you understand your options and whether a UK pension transfer could be suitable for your circumstances.

- 1 Review your existing UK pensions
- 2 Explore your transfer options
- 3 Build a retirement plan with confidence

Book your UK Pension Review today.

01481 700155 | gower.gg/ukpensiontransfers

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Protecting Your UK Pensions:

Why Guernsey and Alderney residents should review their options now



By Robyn Bowyer-Smith, Chartered Financial Planner at Gower

As a Financial Planner, I regularly speak with Guernsey and Alderney residents who have spent many years working in the UK before making the Island their home. Many are surprised to learn that significant changes to UK pension taxation could affect their retirement and estate planning, making now an ideal time to review their pension arrangements.

Understanding the changes

For many people, a UK pension represents years of hard work and careful saving. It is often one of their largest assets and plays a vital role in providing financial security throughout retirement.

However, from April 2027, proposed changes to UK legislation mean that most unused UK pension funds could fall within the scope of UK Inheritance Tax (IHT). This is a significant departure from previous rules, under which pensions have generally been an efficient way of passing wealth to future generations. Under the new regime, pension assets may become subject to IHT at up to 40% on death, depending on an individual's circumstances and the final legislation.

For Guernsey and Alderney residents who still hold UK pensions, this makes reviewing existing arrangements more important than ever.

More than a tax decision

That said, a pension review is about much more than tax. It is an opportunity to ensure your retirement savings reflect your current circumstances, your financial goals and the way you want to enjoy retirement.

Many people have built up several pension pots during their careers. Consolidating eligible pensions into a single arrangement can make them easier to manage, provide a clearer picture of your retirement income and allow your investment strategy to be reviewed to ensure that it remains aligned with your objectives and attitude to risk.

A local solution for UK pensions

For some Guernsey and Alderney residents, transferring an eligible UK pension to a Guernsey-based Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS) may also be worth considering. A QROPS is an overseas pension arrangement recognised by HM Revenue & Customs for the transfer of UK pensions. Depending on your personal circumstances, it can provide a more locally aligned approach to managing retirement wealth while potentially reducing the likelihood of pension assets falling within the scope of UK Inheritance Tax.

Of course, pension transfers are not suitable for everyone. They are complex financial decisions and should only be considered after taking appropriate pension and tax advice. It is essential to seek guidance from a suitably qualified tax professional to understand the tax implications for your own circumstances, and we can make sure you get introduced to someone suitable.

Planning ahead with confidence

We provide advice on the pensions themselves and take the time to understand each client's objectives before making any recommendation. We review existing pension arrangements, assess whether a transfer may be appropriate and, where suitable, help create a retirement strategy that supports both retirement income and longer-term financial planning.

With pension transfers often taking several months to complete, leaving decisions until the last minute may limit your options. Taking the time to review your pension today could help ensure you're well prepared for tomorrow and give you confidence that your retirement planning remains aligned with your future goals.

01481 732221 | robyn.bowyer-smith@gower.gg | gower.gg/ukpensiontransfers

AS PRIVATE EQUITY EVOLVES GLOBALLY, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND ISLAND DEAL EXPERIENCE REMAIN A CLEAR ADVANTAGE.



PRIVATE EQUITY DEALS: GLOBAL THEMES AND LOCAL REALITIES

BY ALEX MASTERTON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DEAL ADVISORY, KPMG IN THE CROWN DEPENDENCIES

Private equity remains active, but the shape of the market has shifted in some important ways in recent years. Against that backdrop, it is useful to separate the wider market view from the Crown Dependencies' perspective, because while the same themes often appear, they do not always play out in quite the same way.

BOLT-ONS REMAIN EXTREMELY ACTIVE

Bolt-ons have long been one of private equity's trusted value-creation tools and, since the 1990s, the familiar '1+1=3' logic has underpinned many buy-and-build strategies. That approach has been turbo-charged in recent years as tougher exit conditions have pushed investment houses to look harder at consolidation, as evidenced by the rise in often contentious continuation vehicles. Mergermarket analysis supports this, calculating that the ratio of platform investments to bolt-on transactions has increased from approximately 0.7x in the early 2010s to 2.4x year-to-date in 2026 (1.8x in 2025). The popularity of the strategy does, of course, vary across markets, with recent activity particularly visible in business services, professional services, wealth management and broking. Consolidators are also moving at different speeds, with some reporting more than 30 add-ons in 2025 — much, I suspect, to the dismay of their internal finance teams.

Island deals view: This creates a real opportunity for independently-owned Crown Dependencies' businesses, particularly those operating in fragmented sectors with strong recurring revenues, loyal client bases and clear scope for expansion. For the

right platform or consolidator, these businesses can represent attractive bolt-on opportunities. The attractiveness markers are no great surprise: integration readiness, management depth, succession planning and a credible organic growth story.

DUE DILIGENCE IS TAKING LONGER

Deal timetables have lengthened. Ideals, a major data room provider, reported that average deal duration reached 264 days in 2025. They measure this from the opening of the virtual data room, so the true average may well be slightly longer. Either way, the important point is that this is around 20% higher than in 2020. That appears to be driven by broader due diligence workstreams and larger deal teams. Financial, tax, operational and commercial due diligence have long been standard, but regulatory, IT and cyber diligence have quickly become just as important. This trend does not look likely to reverse in 2026, particularly as private equity shows greater interest in carve-out opportunities, which bring added complexity through operational disentanglement, TSA negotiations, IT separation challenges and valuation difficulties — all of which can slow things down.

Island deals view: Smaller deals do not always translate into shorter timetables. In practice, momentum is often shaped less by deal size and more by adviser capability, clear process management and how well the workstreams are coordinated from the outset. In owner-managed businesses, internal reporting is often designed for the straightforward shareholder structure rather than presenting and

demonstrating quality to external parties, so it is well worth getting support early to pull together the right data set and KPIs before going to market — dress for success. Given the high proportion of regulated activity across the Crown Dependencies, change of control approvals also commonly create a period between signing and completion, although the level of consolidation seen to date means regulators are well accustomed to these transactions.

DEAL STRUCTURES REFLECT A TOUGHER ENVIRONMENT

Higher rates, lower leverage and flatter multiples are pushing buyers to seek more protection in deal structure. Bain & Company recently made the point neatly: to achieve a 20% IRR or a 2.5x MOIC over a five-year hold, a deal in 2015 needed around 5% annual EBITDA growth, whereas in 2025 it needs closer to 12%. There are obviously many averages applied for this calculation, but the output is directionally important, and it can be seen in private equity deal structures. Earn-out periods of 3+ years are on the rise, management rollover expectations remain high in the larger deals and more detailed leaver provisions are used to protect downside risk.

Island deals view: While all of the above is true in the wider private equity market, it does not always fully align with our experience in the Crown Dependencies. It is difficult to pin down one single reason, but I would attribute it to a combination of smaller deal sizes, less reliance on aggressive leverage, buyer pools with real sector familiarity and the fact that high-quality assets still tend to attract competitive processes.

W&I INSURANCE CONTINUES TO GROW

Warranty and indemnity insurance is now a familiar feature of many private equity deals. It can help sellers achieve a cleaner exit, support lower liability caps and transfer a meaningful part of the residual risk to insurers, subject, as ever, to the usual policy exclusions and underwriting process. The underwriting process itself has also become quicker and more standardised, with greater competition in the market helping to keep premiums at more attractive levels.

Island deals view: We are seeing the same trend in the Crown Dependencies. W&I insurance is often attractive because it can help resolve risk allocation issues without upsetting the broader commercial agreement, particularly where sellers are focused on certainty and a clean exit. It also helps that local lawyers are well used to working with brokers and navigating policy terms, so the process is usually well understood and can be run efficiently. While the buyer typically pays the premium,

in practice the cost is often reflected in the overall deal economics through transaction price adjustments, with the seller effectively picking up the tab — often a modest price to pay for greater peace of mind.

TRANSACTION PRICE ADJUSTMENTS REMAIN A LIVE ISSUE

Transaction price adjustments remain one of the most heavily negotiated parts of many deals. Even where enterprise value is broadly agreed, debates around net debt, working capital, completion accounts and, in some cases, deferred income can still have a material impact on final equity value. In practice, these points often become key battlegrounds because they sit at the intersection of accounting judgement, deal precedent and commercial leverage.

Island deals view: That is equally true in island transactions. By the time parties reach the equity bridge or completion accounts mechanics, headline value is often largely set, so attention turns to the adjustment items. As a result, these issues can become some of the most technical and time-consuming parts of the negotiation — a bit of a battleground. It is an area where lack of familiarity with market precedent can result in a seller losing out. A key issue in island deals, often dictated by sector and licence status, is the treatment of regulatory and liquidity capital requirements, which can require particularly careful navigation.

SUMMARY

It has been a very busy and interesting period for local M&A and, with the high-quality businesses we have in the Crown Dependencies, many of them in highly desirable sectors, we expect the next 24 months to be no different. Recent examples — including the sale of Ross-Gower Group to PIB Group, on which we acted as lead sell-side adviser, Grant Thornton CI's combination with New Mountain Capital's platform, and Permira's agreed take-private of JTC — underline continued private equity interest in Crown Dependencies businesses.

Even with that continued private equity interest, wider market dynamics should not be ignored, but neither should the local nuances that often make the difference between a smooth process and a difficult one.

Visit kpmg.ws/SYIB to find out more or contact Alex at amasterton@kpmg.com.

IT HAS BEEN A VERY BUSY AND INTERESTING PERIOD FOR LOCAL M&A AND... WE EXPECT THE NEXT 24 MONTHS TO BE NO DIFFERENT.



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THE INDUSTRY HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

BY OLLIE GOATER, JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR,
NETWORK INSURANCE & FINANCIAL PLANNING

If you ask someone who works in the insurance industry how they got into it, the overwhelming response is often that they simply 'fell into insurance'.

Few people leave school or university with insurance at the top of their career wish list, yet speak to insurance professionals a few years into their careers and a very different picture emerges. Many are passionate about what they do and describe their work as enjoyable, rewarding and far more varied than they ever expected.

The perception of the industry is often that it is boring, one-dimensional and uninspiring. The reality, however, is quite the opposite.

Insurance offers a diverse range of career opportunities that extend far beyond what many people imagine. Alongside traditional roles in underwriting and claims, there are careers in marketing, sales, business development, data analytics, risk management, technology and client relationship management. Professionals can specialise in fascinating sectors such as cyber risks, fine art, marine, aviation, renewable energy and emerging technologies.

Guernsey itself has a thriving insurance sector and is internationally recognised for its expertise in insurance and risk management. The island has developed a strong reputation as a centre for innovative insurance solutions, particularly in the captive insurance market, attracting businesses and professionals from around the world. This creates opportunities for local people to build careers that have both a strong community connection, and an international reach.

One of the most appealing aspects of the industry is that no two days are the same. Insurance professionals are constantly adapting to new risks, evolving technologies and changing customer needs. Whether helping businesses recover after a major loss, advising clients on risk management strategies, or supporting innovation in new industries, the work is both challenging and meaningful.

Insurance is also an industry that genuinely makes things happen. It enables businesses to invest, organisations to operate, and communities to thrive. From marathons and music festivals to farms, construction projects and international trade, countless activities depend on insurance to provide the confidence needed to move forward.

In fact, it is difficult to identify an area of modern society that is not supported by insurance in some way. While many people associate insurance solely with cars and household contents, its influence

extends much further. It protects livelihoods, facilitates economic growth and helps individuals and businesses recover when the unexpected occurs.

For Guernsey, the insurance industry also represents an important part of the island's professional services sector. It offers a wide range of opportunities for school leavers, graduates and experienced professionals alike, with clear pathways for development, professional qualifications and long-term career progression. Importantly, many of these opportunities allow individuals to build successful careers without leaving the island.

Perhaps most importantly, insurance is a people business. At its heart, the profession is about understanding clients, solving problems and providing reassurance during uncertain times. The technical aspects of the role are important, but success is often built on communication, trust and the ability to help others.

As the industry continues to evolve in response to digital transformation, climate challenges and emerging global risks, there has never been a more exciting time to be part of it. The sector needs talented individuals who can bring fresh ideas, new perspectives and innovative thinking.

So, while many people may still 'fall into' insurance, those who do often discover a career they never expected to love. By challenging outdated perceptions and highlighting the breadth of opportunities available, both globally and here in Guernsey, we can encourage more people to consider insurance not as a backup option, but as a rewarding, dynamic and impactful profession in its own right.

Network Insurance & Financial Planning is a leading independent insurance broker and financial adviser with a range of customer services and products. Our clients are at the heart of everything we do. If you have passion for customer service and are looking for a fulfilling career where no day is the same, then maybe insurance is for you...

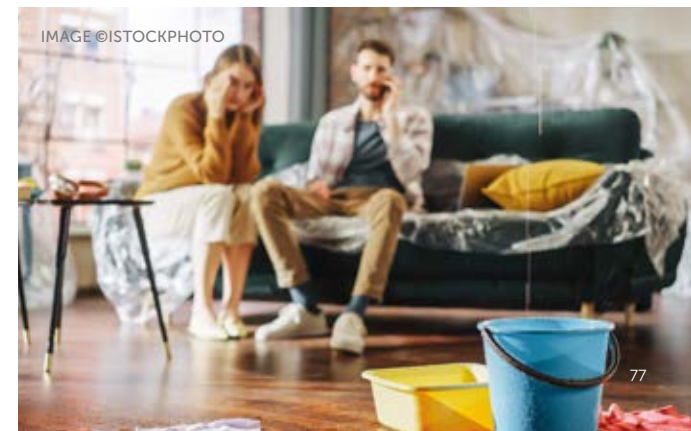


IMAGE ©ISTOCKPHOTO

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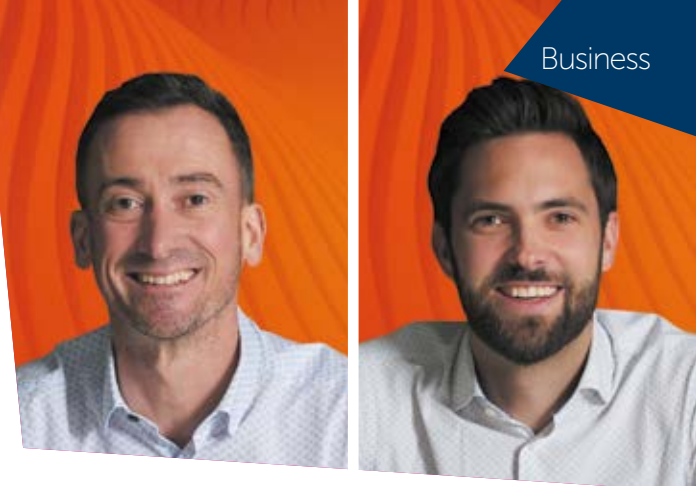
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BUILT IN THE ISLANDS. BACKED FOR WHAT'S NEXT.

AN INTERVIEW WITH OLLY DUQUEMIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND STEVE BREHAUT, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Resolution IT has long supported businesses across Guernsey and Jersey with local teams and strong relationships. While the brand is now changing to Zenzero, much of what clients value day to day remains exactly the same.

The difference lies not in who clients work with, but in what now sits behind that local presence.

'Clients will still work with the same people they know and trust,' says Steve. 'What's changed is the depth of expertise available when needed. Being part of Zenzero means specialist support in cyber security, data and AI can be accessed far more quickly as requirements grow.'

That shift comes as island businesses face increasing regulatory, cyber and competitive pressures alongside rapid technological change. Historically, those challenges sometimes meant turning to multiple providers or looking off island for specialist projects. Today, that barrier has largely disappeared.

'Previously, there were natural limits to what could be delivered locally,' explains Ollly. 'Now we can support organisations end to end, from day-to-day managed IT through to advanced cyber assurance, enterprise data platforms, and governed AI adoption, all through a team that already understands the business. It simplifies things for clients and gives much clearer accountability.'

Over the last two years that expanded capability has already delivered clear benefits to Channel Island businesses. Zenzero has added significant value by helping organisations respond effectively to cyber incidents, automating complex workstreams, and unlocking data insights that were previously out of reach. This, in turn, has enabled businesses to operate more securely and efficiently, allowing them to deliver greater value, resilience, and insight led services to their own clients.

'The same applies to automation and AI,' Steve adds. 'It's not about big, disruptive projects. It's about sensible use cases, automating repetitive tasks, improving insight from data, and rolling tools out in a governed way so they genuinely help people do their jobs better.'

Importantly, this growth in capability hasn't come at the expense of local teams. Zenzero's Channel Islands presence continues to be built around investment in people rather than centralisation elsewhere.

'Our teams here are gaining access to more training, certifications, and exposure to complex projects across the wider group,' says Steve. 'That develops skills locally, which benefits clients directly. You still get local delivery and local understanding, just with more depth behind it when required.'

Today, the Channel Islands operation of around 75 staff is supported by a wider group of 800+ IT professionals. For clients, that balance offers reassurance: familiarity paired with resilience.

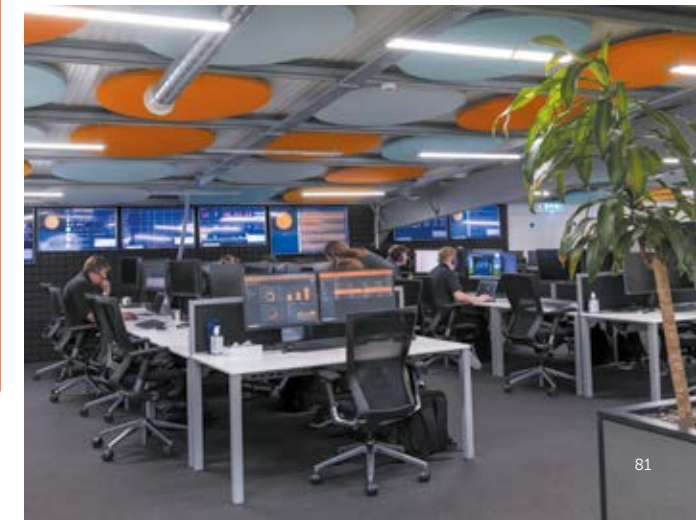
Beyond technology, Zenzero also remains committed to the islands themselves. The business continues to support local schools and charities, runs a pan island invention competition for primary pupils, offers work experience opportunities, and backs a range of community and sporting initiatives. Sustainability also plays a growing role, with efforts underway to measure and reduce environmental impact as part of wider group initiatives.

Looking ahead, the aim is simple: to ensure island businesses don't outgrow their technology partner.

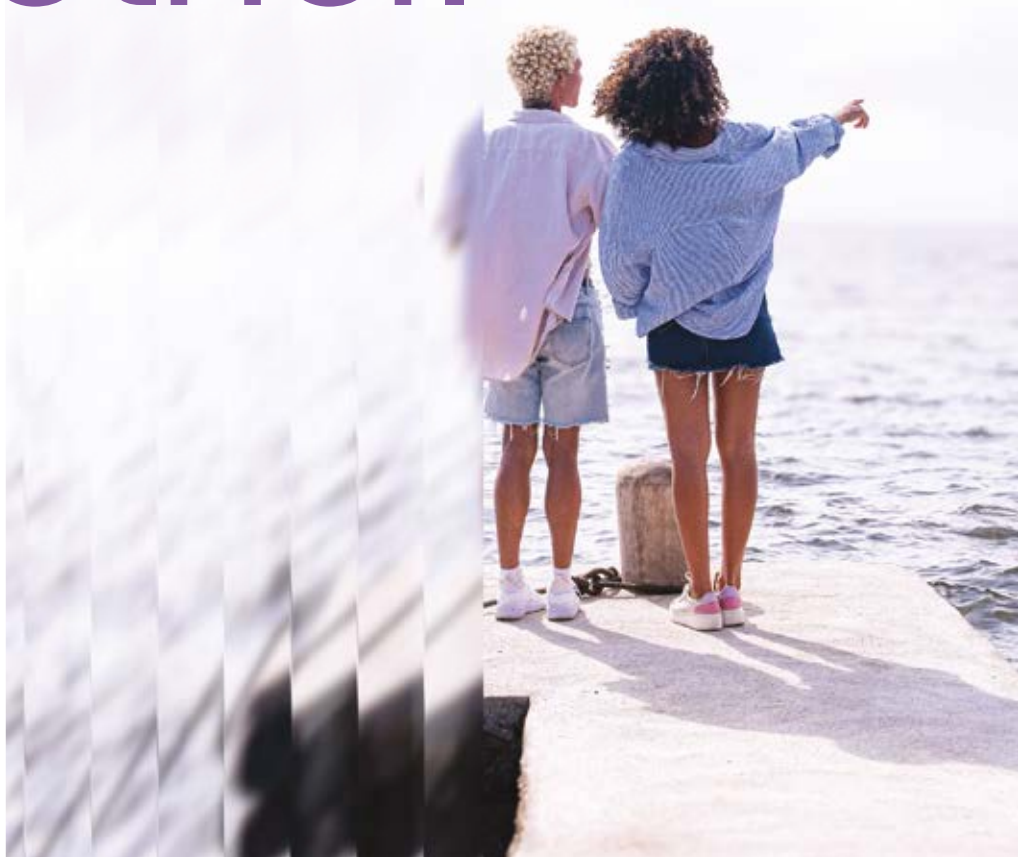
'Being built in the islands and backed by a wider group gives us, and our clients, confidence,' Ollly says.

'AS OUR CLIENTS' REQUIREMENTS BECOME MORE COMPLEX, WHETHER THAT'S AROUND CYBER RESILIENCE, DATA MATURITY, OR AI, THEY CAN STAY WITH A PARTNER THEY ALREADY TRUST, KNOWING THE CAPABILITY IS THERE TO SUPPORT THEM LOCALLY.'

Zenzero's evolution is about continuity as much as change: the same local teams, backed by deeper capability and the confidence to face what's next.



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WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY

BY MARK BOUSFIELD, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TITAN WEALTH IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD AND YOUR HANDS UPON THE WHEEL.

The Doors (1971)

As a child, family summer holidays invariably involved long-distance driving. Part of the fun was that while the destination was clear, the route was anything but – an unexpected bend, a slower vehicle or unplanned diversion. Occasionally, this was because my mother had the map upside down, requiring us all – in the immortal words of Clint Eastwood in *Heartbreak Ridge* – to 'improvise, adapt and overcome'.

But here's the key: we never abandoned the holiday because the journey became complicated. We course-adjusted, kept our hands on the wheel, stayed calm and carried on.

Investing often feels the same.

Despite an endless stream of unsettling headlines, global equity markets continue to hover around record highs. Beneath the surface, however, the picture is more complicated. Artificial intelligence has become the dominant investment story of our time (and may remain so for many years), despite valuations across parts of the technology sector reaching levels that assume continuing years of exceptional growth. Geopolitical tensions remain elevated. Government debt continues to rise. Inflation has proved more persistent than many expected, while central banks still face the delicate task of balancing economic growth against price stability.

None of these concerns should be dismissed. But neither should they distract from the direction of travel.

One thing that has struck me over recent months is that investors with different styles and philosophies are beginning to arrive at remarkably similar conclusions. Lance Roberts has highlighted the growing concentration of market returns in a handful of technology companies. Jesse Felder questions whether investment in AI infrastructure can continue at its current pace. Howard Marks, one of the most respected voices in the investment world, reminds us that a wonderful business can still prove to be a disappointing investment if purchased at too high a price. Lyn Alden continues to focus on the long-term implications of rising government debt, energy security and structural economic change, while Joseph Calhoun quietly argues for patience, diversification and avoiding emotional decisions.

When such thoughtful investors, albeit with very different approaches, begin to converge on similar

conclusions, it is usually worth paying attention. None are suggesting that innovation has stopped. Quite the opposite.

AI is likely to transform industries in ways we are only beginning to comprehend. Healthcare innovation continues to advance at an extraordinary pace. Meanwhile, underpinning much of this technological progress, robotics, automation, defence technology, space exploration and the transition to cleaner energy all represent genuine long-term opportunities. The destination, in other words, has not changed. What these investors are questioning, however, is whether markets are too enthusiastic about how quickly we arrive.

History suggests this is perfectly normal. Every technological revolution creates periods of excitement when expectations race ahead of reality. The railway boom, electrification, the internet and smartphones all changed the world. They also experienced periods where valuations became stretched before reality eventually caught up.

This is where diversification proves its worth. It is not an admission that we lack conviction, but a recognition that progress rarely follows a perfectly straight road. AI, for example, depends upon electricity, copper, cooling systems, semiconductors and communications infrastructure. The companies building the technology may prosper, but so might those providing the foundations that make it possible.

Successful investing has never required us to predict every twist and turn in the road. It simply requires us to set a course, remain alert to change and resist the temptation to overreact when we encounter another bend.

Markets will continue to experience periods of enthusiasm interspersed with moments of doubt. Headlines will remain dramatic because uncertainty attracts attention, and bad news almost always travels faster than good. Yet over the long term, innovation, human ingenuity and economic progress have consistently found a way forward. The road ahead will rarely be smooth, but that should never be mistaken for the wrong road.

Successful investing has always been rather like those family holidays of old: the destination matters far more than the occasional diversion.

So, keep your eyes on the road and your hands upon the wheel.

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QNUPS AND UK RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY POSITION FROM 6 APRIL 2027



Mandy Connolly

CTA

Tax Services Director,
Head of Tax Technical

Pensions are a hot topic at the moment, following the enactment earlier this year of legislation imposing inheritance tax (IHT) charges on the death of the scheme member with effect from 6 April 2027. These new rules will apply not only to UK registered pension schemes, but also to Qualifying Non-UK Pension Schemes (QNUPS).

The QNUPS Regulations were introduced with retrospective effect from 6 April 2006, primarily to ensure that offshore pension schemes which were broadly equivalent to UK registered pension schemes would also qualify for exemption from IHT charges.

QNUPS have been used by many as an IHT efficient "top-up" pension provision and they offer greater flexibility than UK registered pension schemes in terms of the type of assets that can be held, in particular, UK residential property.

From April 2017, it ceased to be possible for non-UK domiciled individuals to shelter UK residential property from IHT by holding it through offshore companies (as a result of the "Schedule A1" legislation) and QNUPS, as IHT exempt vehicles, have been able to offer a solution to this issue. However, from 6 April 2027, this could be impacted by the new IHT legislation for pensions.

The effect of the new legislation is to bring the value of unused pension funds (known as "notional pension property") into the member's estate on death to the extent they can be used to provide death benefits, with exceptions for spousal benefits and scheme pensions for dependents. This value could be subject to IHT at 40% on the death of the member.

There are territorial limitations to the new legislation, depending on the location of the pension scheme and the "long-term residence" (LTR) status of the member.

Non-UK situs assets are generally outside the scope of IHT (as "excluded property") for individuals who are not LTRs. The notional pension property held in a Guernsey QNUPS will be treated under the new legislation as a Guernsey situs asset, but it will not escape IHT to the extent that the UK residential property provisions of Schedule A1 apply.

The Schedule A1 legislation applies to interests in "close" companies (broadly, companies controlled by five or fewer participators) or partnerships that

derive value from UK residential property and certain loans, if they have been applied in relation to UK residential property.

If a Guernsey QNUPS is holding UK residential property through an underlying offshore company (which can be more efficient in relation to the taxation of rental income), the notional pension property attributable to the company shares (and any shareholder loan) would be caught by Schedule A1 and could therefore be subject to IHT on the member's death after 6 April 2027.

In contrast, UK residential property held directly by the trustees of the QNUPS will not be within the ambit of Schedule A1, and the notional pension property should therefore be treated as excluded property in relation to a non-LTR member.

Whilst the intention of the new legislation appears to be that QNUPS with non-LTR members should be outside the scope of IHT on the member's death, it seems doubtful that value attributable to UK residential property assets held directly by the trustees would be intentionally excluded from charge. The legislation could therefore be subject to change in this respect at some stage. Whilst Schedule A1 does contain a targeted anti-avoidance provision (which disregards transactions whose purpose is to avoid an IHT charge under these provisions), it seems unlikely that HMRC would invoke this in relation to a QNUPS structure as a result of UK residential property being moved from company to trust level, especially as the UK government has been discouraging corporate ownership of residential property for a number of years.

With 6 April 2027 now less than a year away, trustees and non-LTR members with QNUPS structures invested in UK residential property should give consideration to their options as soon as possible.

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AMENDMENTS TO GUERNSEY TRUST LAW: A MODERN REFRESH FOR A WORLD LEADING TRUST JURISDICTION



BY TODD MCGUFFIN, HEAD OF DISPUTES & RISK, AND MARTIN JONES, PARTNER, BABBÉ

Guernsey is preparing to give its trust law a significant update. A package of proposed amendments to the Trusts (Guernsey) Law 2007 was approved in principle by the States of Guernsey on 20 May 2026. Draft legislation will now be prepared and, if approved, will implement the changes.

The aim is clear: to keep Guernsey aligned with international best practice, respond to issues highlighted in recent case law and reinforce the island's position as a leading jurisdiction for high value trust and fiduciary services.

Here are the headline reforms.

Reserved powers: a new fiduciary starting point

Modern trusts often give settlors or third parties (such as protectors) 'reserved powers' over key decisions. At present, Guernsey law generally assumes those power holders are not acting in a fiduciary capacity unless the trust document says otherwise.

The proposed amendment reverses that presumption: reserved powers will be treated as fiduciary by default, unless the trust instrument expressly provides to the contrary, which should mean greater certainty for trustees, protectors and advisers.

Streamlining trustee administration

Two practical changes are proposed. First, the minimum number of trustees will be reduced so that a trust may have a single trustee unless the terms of the trust require more. Secondly, individual trustees who become mentally incapable will be removed automatically, reducing the need for court applications.

Paying professional trustees — by default

Under the current regime, trustees are typically only paid if the trust instrument authorises it. The reforms will introduce a default right for professional regulated trustees to receive reasonable remuneration, subject to the trust terms or beneficiary agreement. This should provide comfort and clarity for professional trustees.

Liability, liens and limitation periods: more certainty

A trustees' entitlement to reasonable security for liabilities before transferring trust property will be clarified. Statutory liens will be amended so they do not override earlier security arrangements or lender security.

Time limits for the commencement of claims against trustees will be modernised, running from the earlier of

(i) delivery of complete and accurate trust accounts, or
(ii) the beneficiary's knowledge of a breach of trust.

Trust-to-trust transactions: solving the 'two-party' problem

Guernsey trustees often administer multiple connected trusts. The reforms will allow a trustee to contract with itself when acting as trustee of another trust, subject to safeguards — addressing the longstanding legal hurdle that a party cannot contract with itself, even in different capacities.

Powers of attorney: removing the three-year cap

The current three-year limit on duration of powers of attorney will be removed, improving flexibility for investment and transactional activity while retaining protections against wholesale delegation.

Terminating trusts: restoring the traditional position

It is proposed that beneficiaries will only be able to compel termination of a trust where the class of beneficiaries is closed. If trustees (or another party) have a power to add beneficiaries, the existing beneficiaries would not be able to force termination.

Wider Royal Court powers to approve variations

The Royal Court's ability to approve variations and transactions will be expanded, including where unanimous beneficiary consent cannot realistically be obtained or where a single beneficiary blocks a sensible arrangement — while retaining safeguards to protect core legal principles.

A more flexible available remedy

A breach of fiduciary duty will not be required for the Court to set aside a flawed fiduciary decision, and the Court will be able to declare decisions void, voidable, or effective on modified terms.

Privacy, ADR and arbitration: modern dispute resolution tools

Finally, the reforms will introduce express provision for private hearings and anonymisation, remove the requirement for ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) settlements to be signed by all parties, and expand the use of arbitration, including recognition of arbitration clauses in trust instruments, subject to court oversight.

In short: if enacted, these reforms will modernise Guernsey's trust framework, address practical issues that have emerged since the legislation was last revised, and help to strengthen the island's appeal for both trust administration and dispute resolution.



WHY MOVING YOUR FAMILY TO GUERNSEY COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS YOU MAKE

In today's fast paced world, many families are looking for somewhere that offers not just career opportunity, but also stability, safety, and a better way of life.

Guernsey has become an increasingly popular choice for those wanting to reset the balance – a place where professional ambitions can thrive alongside a relaxed and fulfilling family lifestyle.

Known for its strong economy, beautiful surroundings and welcoming community, the island offers something quite special. And with support from Locate Guernsey – a dedicated service helping both individuals and families relocate – making the move can be far simpler than you might expect.

A SMOOTHER, SIMPLER TRANSITION

Relocating as a family can feel daunting, but Guernsey makes the process refreshingly straightforward. The administration is efficient and easy to navigate,

helping you settle in quickly without unnecessary delays or complications.

From registering for tax and social security to setting up your new home, the system is designed to help families feel ready to hit the ground running in their new environment with minimal stress – allowing you to focus on what matters most: settling in and enjoying island life.

FINANCIAL CLARITY AND STABILITY

For families considering a move, financial stability is often a key factor. Guernsey offers a clear and predictable tax system, making it easier to plan your future with confidence. Highlights include:

- A flat 20% personal income tax rate, with caps available
- No capital gains, inheritance, wealth, or gift taxes

This straightforward approach can provide peace of mind, making long term financial planning more transparent and manageable for families at every stage of life.

STAYING CONNECTED TO THE WIDER WORLD

While Guernsey offers a peaceful island lifestyle, it remains exceptionally well connected. With London less than an hour's flight away, it's entirely possible to stay closely linked with the UK – whether for work, business, or visiting friends and relatives.

The island is also investing heavily in digital infrastructure, ensuring fast and reliable connectivity. This makes it easy for parents working remotely or running businesses to stay productive, while children and teenagers remain connected to education and friends beyond the island.

A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY

One of the things families notice most after moving to Guernsey is the sense of community. It's a place where people know their neighbours and where connections are built quickly.

The island's collaborative and friendly atmosphere makes it

easier to settle in and feel part of something – whether through schools, local activities, or simply day to day interactions.

SUPPORT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Relocating isn't just about logistics – it's about building a new life. Locate Guernsey provides dedicated, free support to guide families through every stage of the process, including:

- Housing and permits
- Referrals to local experts
- Schools and education options
- Integrating into the community

Having a single, knowledgeable point of contact can make all the difference, helping you feel confident and supported from day one.

A LIFESTYLE FAMILIES LOVE

Perhaps the biggest appeal of Guernsey is the quality of life it offers. Imagine shorter commutes, more time together and easy access to beaches and outdoor activities. The island is known for:

- Low crime rates and a strong sense of safety
- Excellent schools and healthcare
- A slower, more balanced pace of life

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ABOVE L-R: EMMA SHELL, MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER; JO STODDART, DIRECTOR OF LOCATE GUERNSEY; GILL MABBETT, RELATIONSHIP MANAGER. ALL IMAGES ©LOCATE GUERNSEY.

For many families, it's not just about moving location – it's about creating a healthier, happier lifestyle.

A FRESH START WITH LASTING BENEFITS

With its blend of opportunity, stability and an exceptional quality of life, Guernsey offers families the chance to build something truly rewarding together.

Whether you're seeking a safer environment for your children, more time as a family, or simply a new chapter in a unique and welcoming place, Guernsey could be the perfect fit.

Locate Guernsey is a government agency promoting Guernsey as a relocating destination and offering free, impartial support throughout the relocation journey.

Contact: 01481 220011

enquiries@locateguernsey.com

More information can be found at www.locateguernsey.com



To start your journey, call the Locate Guernsey team

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GUERNSEY PROPERTY MARKET UPDATE: REALISTIC PRICING IS KEY

BY OLIVIA PHILLIPS, SWOFFERS LOCAL MARKET NEGOTIATOR

As we move into the second half of 2026, the local property market shows no signs of letting up, on the back of a buoyant 2025. Swoffers' local market negotiator Olivia Phillips takes an in-depth look at the defining characteristics of the current landscape.

Guernsey's property market continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience and strength, building on the momentum we experienced throughout 2025, which was the most successful year in Swoffers' history.

The first half of this year has delivered a record-breaking start for our business, with sales activity exceeding expectations across many sectors of the market. Swoffers sold the highest value local market property of the year so far, at a record-breaking £4m. While economic uncertainty and higher borrowing costs remain topics of discussion internationally, the local market has proven that demand for quality Guernsey property remains exceptionally strong.

One of the defining characteristics of the current market is that it is highly price-sensitive. Buyers are active, engaged and willing to move quickly when they identify value, but they are also extremely well-informed. Properties that are launched at realistic and accurate price levels are attracting strong interest and, in many cases, achieving successful sales within a relatively short period of time. Conversely, properties that are ambitiously priced are often finding buyers more difficult to secure.

This reinforces a message we have been consistently sharing with vendors: today's market rewards realism. Those sellers who listen to market evidence and price appropriately from the outset are achieving the best outcomes.

Another notable feature of the market is the return of the property chain. During the years immediately following Covid, we became somewhat spoiled by an unusually high number of cash buyers. Whether driven by lifestyle changes, relocations or accumulated savings, these purchasers often enabled transactions to proceed quickly and with minimal complications.

However, the reality is that chains are a perfectly normal feature of a healthy housing market. As more people move for family, employment or lifestyle reasons, transactions naturally become interconnected.

While chains can create additional complexity, they are also evidence of market confidence and mobility.

The main frustration for buyers and sellers involved in chains remains the inability to have contracts signed significantly ahead of completion. This can leave parties exposed to uncertainty and can occasionally place unnecessary pressure on transactions. Encouragingly, it is clear that both lenders and advocates have recognised this challenge and are actively exploring ways to improve the process. Any measures that increase certainty and reduce risk for buyers and sellers will be welcomed by the market.

At the upper end of the market, we have seen further evidence of confidence among high-net-worth purchasers. This year marked a significant milestone with the local market breaking through the £4m. barrier for the first time. Not only is this an important headline figure, but it also reflects the enduring appeal of Guernsey as a place to live, invest and do business.

The strength of activity at the premium end demonstrates that buyers continue to recognise the island's unique combination of lifestyle, stability and community. It is a positive indicator for the wider market and reinforces confidence across all sectors.

While stock levels across much of the market remain relatively healthy, one challenge continues to persist: the shortage of quality family homes. Well-presented three-, four- and five-bedroom properties in desirable locations continue to attract significant interest, often generating competition among buyers. This imbalance between supply and demand remains one of the key issues facing the local market.

Looking ahead, the fundamentals remain encouraging. Demand remains strong, confidence is evident across multiple price brackets and transaction levels continue to outperform expectations. While realistic pricing, patience and good advice remain essential ingredients for success, the Guernsey property market enters the second half of the year in robust health.

For sellers, buyers, and those considering their next move, there is every reason to remain optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead. Get in touch to discuss your plans, email sales@swoffers.co.uk or call us on 01481 711766.

The Swoffers logo, featuring the word 'swoffers' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a green square background.

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Local Market - Guernsey



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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



Fermain House, St Peter Port
4 bedrooms | 4 bathrooms
£3,950,000

- Stunning New England-style newly built home
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- South-facing patio & garden

Open Market - Guernsey

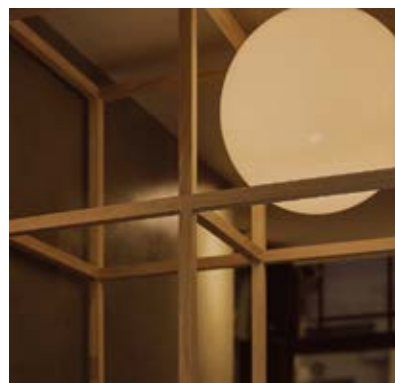


La Collina Verde, Forest



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.

FUKKU
GUERNSEY DESIGN AWARDS 2026
SHORTLISTED: COMMERCIAL
Our reinvention of 16–20 Smith Street transformed a protected former post office into an immersive and contemporary home for one of Guernsey's most ambitious hospitality concepts. The design approach balances sensitive restoration with bold, expressive intervention that responds directly to the character and constraints of the historic fabric. Fukku's atmospheric, carefully curated environment elevates the everyday act of dining into something distinctive and memorable.



THE WEST COAST FARMHOUSE
GUERNSEY DESIGN AWARDS 2026
SHORTLISTED: SINGLE RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION / EXTENSION
Our sensitive reimagining of a 17th-century Guernsey-granite dwelling restored coherence, light and a meaningful connection to the home's outdoor spaces. Conceived as a lightweight pavilion, the new intervention replaced a redundant conservatory with a refined, fully glazed extension. The result is a composed and immersive environment: a delicate dialogue between granite, glass and garden.



THE MANOR HOUSE
GUERNSEY DESIGN AWARDS 2026
SHORTLISTED: HERITAGE
A considered architectural response to a layered and evolving historic dwelling, synthesising old and new, balancing restoration with reinvention. We transformed an 18th-century Georgian property – significantly altered through Victorian interventions and later piecemeal 20th-century additions – into a coherent, high-quality family home capable of accommodating contemporary, multi-generational living, proving that heritage value can be meaningfully extended through design.



INVESTING IN PEOPLE: WHY CAREERS ARE JOURNEYS, NOT DESTINATIONS

AMANDA EULENKAMP INTERVIEWS
CHARLOTTE NEILL, GROUP HEAD OF PEOPLE AT PRAXIS

For Charlotte, a career in Human Resources was never part of a carefully mapped-out plan.

In fact, her route into the profession was anything but conventional. After leaving school, she initially started A-levels and then realised that traditional academic pathways weren't the right fit at the time. Instead, she found something arguably more valuable – an employer prepared to invest in her potential.

THAT SUPPORT WOULD SHAPE HER CAREER.

Over the years, Charlotte completed a couple of degrees and eventually a master's degree, fitting study around work and returning to education at different stages of her professional life. It's an experience that continues to influence how she approaches people and their development today.

Now Group Head of People at independent professional services firm Praxis, overseeing teams from the British Virgin Islands to Hong Kong, she remains passionate about creating the same opportunities for others that were given to her.

'Whatever sector you're in, success ultimately comes down to the people behind it and at Praxis, we remain focused on the fact that businesses are about people.'

That people-first approach sits at the heart of her role. Managing HR across multiple jurisdictions and time zones brings challenges, from differing employment legislation to cultural nuances. Yet for Charlotte, the diversity of a global workforce is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job.

Having spent more than a decade working in international organisations, Charlotte believes that diversity goes beyond visible differences. Creating an inclusive culture where colleagues with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives feel valued leads to stronger teams, better decisions and a more successful business.

It's also why she has a balanced view of one of the biggest workplace developments in recent years: artificial intelligence.

While Praxis uses recruitment technology to manage applications, Charlotte is clear that AI does not make hiring decisions.

'As a global business, people communicate differently depending on where they're based,' she says. 'We still want – and have – experienced people reviewing

applications and understanding the person behind the CV.'

She acknowledges that AI can enhance business processes, but she doesn't believe it can replace human centric relationships.

'We're a people-focused, client-facing organisation. Technology can help us work smarter, but it can't replace authenticity or genuine connection.'

That philosophy is evident in PraxisFirst, the new Praxis academy programme designed for post-A-level students and graduates. The initiative aims to provide more than just professional qualifications. Instead, it offers a structured development journey combining learning, coaching, mentoring and career support.

Charlotte says the idea was born from a recognition that many young people leave school or university without a clear route into the workplace.

'I've been fortunate throughout my career to work for organisations that invested in me,' she says. 'Not everyone finds the right job immediately. Careers take time to develop, and people need support along the way.'

Initially, the programme will welcome around 10 to 12 participants across Guernsey and Jersey. This approach allows Praxis to pilot the programme with a manageable cohort, gather feedback and ensure a high quality learning experience before expanding it more widely.

What makes the programme different, Charlotte believes, is its focus on the individual.

'I OFTEN COMPARE IT TO LEARNING TO DRIVE.

'Some people pass first time, others need a little longer, but with the right support most get there. Professional development is no different. Everyone develops at their own pace, and our responsibility is to create an environment where colleagues can build confidence, continue learning and achieve their potential.'

Ultimately, whether she's leading an international HR function or helping launch a new academy programme, Charlotte's focus remains remarkably simple: investing in people.

Because, as her own career proves, the right support at the right moment can change everything.

Visit www.praxisgroup.com/careers to find out more.



WOMEN, WEALTH AND LEADERSHIP

BY CATHERINE MOORE AND DIANA RODRIGUEZ,
GUERNSEY PRIVATE WEALTH TEAM, OGIER

Women now own an estimated US\$60tn in assets globally and, by 2030, are expected to control 40%–45% of retail financial assets across the United States and Europe (according to statistics published by McKinsey & Company in 2025).

Alongside the marked growth in female wealth generators, a significant amount of that wealth sits within families, prompting a rethink of governance and planning so they better reflect who will lead, decide and manage.

As women increasingly govern, grow and transfer wealth, advisers can add real value by reflecting how they approach risk, values, succession and legacy in practice. Below are some of the areas in which we see that momentum most clearly among our clients.

THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN FAMILY BUSINESSES

In family businesses, more women are stepping into leadership roles, whether day to day or strategically over the long term. Around 18% of family businesses are now led by women, with the highest representation in Europe and Central Asia, as well as Canada, according to KPMG research on generational change in family enterprise. Beyond a shift in succession norms, this reflects a growing recognition that women often bring a long-term, values-led lens to strategy, ownership and continuity.

Research also links female leadership in family firms with stronger prospects of surviving beyond the founder generation, with diplomacy and disciplined risk management helping to preserve cohesion over time.

In practice, we see rising demand for family governance advice and for stress-testing structures, so they work under pressure, with female clients often leading this work. Strong family governance can strengthen decision-making, reduce friction and support continuity in an increasingly complex world.

For women in family businesses, whether as shareholders or executives, legal advice can shape outcomes at the moments that matter most. We see this clearly in practice. Shareholding structures that do not reflect a woman's real role can leave her exposed at transition. Trusts drafted around outdated assumptions can conflict with modern-day priorities, including those of the next generation. Shareholder agreements written without her decision-making in mind can restrict the very choices she is best placed to make.

For advisers, engaging early with female family members on their terms and with a clear view of their priorities is now central to advice that is genuinely fit for purpose.

ENTREPRENEURS

Female founders are building high-growth businesses across the economy, and many are doing so while navigating persistent funding and negotiating gaps. In the UK, all-female founding teams received less than 3% of venture capital investment in 2023, according to research by the British Business Bank.

Early legal advice can help founders address these issues, strengthening capital strategy, negotiation, governance and risk management.

RECIPIENTS OF WEALTH

Women commonly become wealth holders through inheritance, divorce or widowhood.

When a woman becomes the primary steward of family wealth, she often inherits structures that are unfamiliar, complex or not designed with her in mind. With the right support, that transition can also be a chance to build confidence, simplify decision-making and align wealth with what matters most.

These moments also create a window for clear, early planning to include governance, philanthropy and the values that will guide how wealth is used across generations.

At these pivotal points, advice that combines technical precision with sensitivity can support a smooth transition and give the wealth holder and her wider family greater clarity and stability.

LOOKING AHEAD

Open conversations about succession and inheritance remain one of the most valuable, and underused, tools for families with significant wealth. As women increasingly become the primary wealth holder, advisers can add real value by facilitating structured dialogue that clarifies expectations and supports an orderly transfer of both assets and responsibility.

This shift invites thoughtful adaptation, including listening closely, engaging earlier, and designing advice around the realities of how women govern, create and transfer wealth.

Women's growing influence over family wealth is reshaping legacy, succession and stewardship. The decisions made now will shape family outcomes for decades, creating scope for stronger governance, clearer transitions and genuinely values-led impact. Advisers who bring insight, empathy and robust structures to these conversations will be best placed to support the women at the heart of those decisions.

Catherine Moore is a partner and Diana Rodriguez is counsel in Ogier's Private Wealth team in Guernsey. For more information visit www.ogier.com.



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VEGA TECHNOLOGY



Vega Technology has strengthened its commercial team with the appointment of Raj Birk as New Business Sales Director.

Working across Vega's UK and Guernsey operations, Mr Birk brings more than 18 years of commercial and technology sector experience, including a decade specialising in tax technology and regulatory compliance solutions for corporate and professional services firms.

In his new role, he will lead business development activities across Vega's growing portfolio of software, SaaS and AI-enabled solutions, supporting clients as they look to improve efficiencies, streamline processes and adopt new technologies with confidence.

'Raj brings the perfect mix of sector understanding, commercial experience and relationship-focused approach that is

important to Vega as we continue to grow,' said David Collings, Managing & Technical Director at Vega Technology. 'His experience working with firms operating in highly regulated environments will be invaluable as more organisations look to modernise systems, automate processes and explore AI adoption in a practical and compliant way.'



The firm has also appointed Anne Maddocks as Customer Success Lead, strengthening the company's focus on client relationships, service delivery, and future innovation.

'Understanding our clients' needs has always been central to how we develop and evolve our solutions,' said Mr Collings. 'Anne's experience and industry knowledge make her a valuable addition to the team and she will play an instrumental role in strengthening client engagement as the business continues to grow.'

TITAN WEALTH



Titan Wealth has promoted two of its team in Guernsey to newly-created group roles.

David McGall, who is Head of GRC in the Channel Islands,

becomes Group Head of Risk, and Senior Operations Officer Katie Cochrane becomes Group Data Protection Officer.

'As the business has grown internationally, so has the need for qualified, experienced and world class people to take on group roles to ensure compliance and consistency across our eight jurisdictions. We are now 1,400 people globally and as part of the integration process of the business who have joined us, we identify skills and expertise that could benefit the whole group,' said Group co-CEO James Kaberry.

'David and Katie are perfect examples of that. They have played key roles within the Channel Islands and can now use that knowledge at a group level.'

Robin Newbould, CEO of Titan Wealth in the Channel Islands, said that the promotions highlighted the benefits of being part of a global group.

'David and Katie's promotions to group roles are testament to the expertise they have and I am delighted that has been recognised,' he said.

'A number of other Channel Islands staff are involved with various different group initiatives across investment strategy, marketing and IT systems which provides them with additional skills and experiences that they may not have had as a local business. We have also recently seen one of our former academy members move to take up a new role in London which means that talent nurtured and grown in the islands remains within the group.'

MOORE STEPHENS



Moore Stephens Channel Islands has appointed Nicole De Sousa as Senior Audit Manager and Zarwisha Rasheed as Audit Senior.

Tanya Scholtz, Audit Director for Moore Stephens in Guernsey, said: 'We are thrilled to

welcome Nicole and Zarwisha to our audit & assurance team. Nicole's breadth of experience and commitment to wellbeing and Zarwisha's enthusiasm and growing expertise are a great fit for our expanding team. We look forward to seeing the contribution they will both make as they continue their journey with us.

'They will both play a key role in supporting the firm's growing audit portfolio and delivering high-quality service to clients.'

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DNA



Local tech-focused accounting, tax and business advisory firm DNA has announced a series of senior promotions, alongside continued investment in its growing team.

Alex Jenner has been promoted to Client Director; Charlotte Barnes and Rosie Stonebridge to Senior Manager; and Charlotte Dickson to Client Manager.

'We're incredibly proud to recognise these promotions. Each of them reflects not just individual performance, but the strength, depth and ambition of our wider team. They embody what DNA is all about - taking ownership, delivering exceptional client service and continuously developing,' said Diane de Garis, Director at DNA.

The promotions follow another year of strong growth for DNA, with the firm welcoming five new team members during 2025, including Amy Ryan, DNA's first ICAEW trainee; accountants Andrea Anderson and Raymond Terry; Gail Adams, supporting bookkeeping and office administration; and Lucy Edmonds joining as operations assistant and management accountant.

WALKERS



Walkers has strengthened its private capital & trusts offering in Guernsey with the appointment of Jennifer Morris as Senior Counsel.

Advising on a wide range of offshore trust and private wealth matters, including wealth structuring, succession planning, and trust and estate administration, she works with high-net-worth individuals, families and trustees on complex cross-border arrangements, with particular experience in international wealth structuring and intergenerational planning.

'Walkers has a well-established Private Capital & Trusts practice with a clear focus on cross-border client work. I look forward to working with colleagues across the Channel Islands to support clients with their evolving structuring and succession needs,' she said.

HSBC



HSBC has appointed Paul Shaw as Chief Information Officer for Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Based in Jersey, in his new role he will lead on the delivery and

execution of all technology services across the islands, playing a pivotal role in driving investment in innovation to support customers and employees across the regions. Paul will also have CIO responsibility for HSBC's business in Bermuda.

'I am genuinely excited about this new role. The opportunity in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Bermuda for technology to deliver a material benefit to the business and our customers is significant. This is complemented by having fantastic teams across the islands who will help us achieve amazing things both for the Bank and our customers,' he said.

LANCASTER



Lancaster Guernsey has strengthened its client services team with four senior appointments

Matt Gilligan as has been appointed Head of Client Services, alongside Emma Gaudion as Client Relationship Manager, and Royston Barnes and Lucy Wickins as Client Accountants.

Paul Oliver, Group Managing Director at Lancaster Guernsey, said: 'These appointments strengthen the team in the areas our clients and partners value most.'

'Matt, Emma, Royston and Lucy each bring substantial experience in private wealth, and together they help us continue to provide the independent, personal service Lancaster Guernsey is known for.'

The appointments come as Lancaster Guernsey continues to grow its private client, fiduciary and corporate services.



L-R: BRYONY BAILEY, JESSICA TRUSTUM, ELAINE KENNEDY, SIMON FALLA, DIANA STANSFIELD, LIAM CONROY.

ZEDRA RECOGNISES TALENT WITH FIVE PROMOTIONS IN GUERNSEY

ZEDRA has announced the promotion of five team members in its Guernsey office, underscoring the firm's ongoing investment in talent and long-term career development.

The promotions span Incentives, Corporate and Wealth services and recognise individuals who have consistently delivered high-quality client service, supported colleagues and contributed to the growth of the Guernsey team.

The promoted team members are:

- **Simon Falla**, promoted from Manager, Corporate Services to Senior Manager
- **Bryony Bailey**, promoted from Senior Trust Administrator to Trust Officer
- **Diana Stansfield**, promoted from Assistant Trust Administrator to Trust Administrator
- **Jessica Trustum**, promoted from Trust Administrator to Senior Trust Administrator
- **Liam Conroy**, promoted from Trust Administrator to Trust Officer

The appointments reflect the breadth of experience and opportunity within ZEDRA's Guernsey office, which provides Trust, Incentives, Pensions, Fund and Corporate services to a diverse international client base.

ZEDRA Guernsey plays a key role within the wider ZEDRA global business, supporting Corporate and Institutional clients, Private Clients, Family Offices and Intermediaries across multiple jurisdictions. The team combines technical expertise with a relationship-

led approach to help clients manage complex structures and evolving requirements.

Elaine Kennedy, Managing Director of ZEDRA Guernsey, congratulated all the team members and said: 'These promotions are hugely well deserved and reflect ZEDRA's commitment to creating opportunities for our staff to build long-term rewarding careers within our Group.'

'SIMON, BRYONY, DIANA, JESSICA AND LIAM HAVE EACH MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR TEAM AND OUR CLIENTS. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED THROUGH THESE PROMOTIONS AND WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THEIR NEW ROLES.'

'Supporting people as they develop their careers is one of the most rewarding aspects of leading our Guernsey business, and it is encouraging to see the strength of talent continuing to grow across the team,' she added.

The latest promotions follow a period of continued growth for the Guernsey business and highlight the depth of the local team as well as the wider support available across ZEDRA's international network.

Zedra Trust Company (Guernsey) Limited is registered in Guernsey. Registered Number: 24531. Registered Office: First Floor, Le Marchant House, Le Truchot, St Peter Port, GY1 1GR, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Zedra Trust Company (Guernsey) Limited is licensed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission under The Regulation of Fiduciaries, Administration Businesses and Company Directors, etc. (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2020.

ISLANDS ENERGY GROUP



Islands Energy Group has appointed a lawyer with more than 30 years of experience across the international energy sector as Group General Counsel.

Karen Lawrie will lead legal, governance and regulatory matters across the Group's operations in the Crown Dependencies, providing strategic legal support to the business as it continues to evolve. She has held senior legal and executive leadership positions with several global organisations, including EDF Energy, Storegga, Subsea 7, Atlas Corp and AET Tankers. Most recently, she was Chief Legal Officer at Esyasoft, a global energy transition technology business.

'I am delighted to be joining Islands Energy Group at an exciting stage in its development,' she said. 'The energy sector is undergoing significant transformation and I look forward to working with colleagues across the business to support its strategic ambitions, manage risk effectively and help deliver sustainable growth across the Crown Dependencies.'

Graeme Millar, CEO of the Island Energy Group, said: 'Karen's appointment represents a significant addition to our leadership team. Her experience spans some of the world's most complex and highly regulated energy and infrastructure businesses, giving her an exceptional understanding of the legal, governance and commercial challenges facing our sector.'

LEAPFROG



Leapfrog has strengthened its service offering by partnering with Jeremy Frith, who joins to deliver coaching and leadership development programmes.

Mr Frith will work with businesses across Guernsey to develop leadership capability, improve performance and support employee retention.

Leapfrog's vision is to help build a personal development offering, enabling businesses of all sizes to unlock the full potential of their people. Mr Frith's approach centres on coaching as a practical, results-focused process. His programmes are supported by tools such as Insights Discovery, helping individuals better understand behaviour, communication and team dynamics.

'Coaching creates the space for people to think clearly, challenge themselves and move forward with purpose,' he said. 'I'm looking forward to supporting individuals and businesses across Guernsey to achieve their potential.'

Chris Gnapp, Managing Director of Leapfrog, said: 'We are delighted to welcome Jeremy to the team. His expertise adds a valuable new dimension to our offering and supports our ambition to help businesses build stronger, more effective leadership.'

BDO



BDO Guernsey has promoted nine people across its audit and tax teams.

In the audit team, Ellis Solway has progressed to the role of Senior Assistant Manager, while Adenike Owokade, Michael Aduamah, Olawumi Emmanuel, Sophie Gallienne, Sophie Berry and Toby Brook have all been promoted to Assistant Manager. Belinda Mandondo has been promoted to Senior Supervisor.

In the tax team, Emily Marriott Trebert has been promoted to Manager.

Richard Searle, Managing Director, said: 'At BDO, our people shape what matters, for our clients, our communities and each other. These promotions recognise the dedication, ambition and professionalism shown by each individual, as well as our commitment to backing our people with the opportunities, support and trust they need to progress.'

'We encourage people to think beyond what's expected and create an environment where everyone can bring their best.'

Seeing colleagues progress into these next stages of their careers is a powerful reflection of that commitment, and I am delighted to congratulate them all on their well-deserved promotions.'



Rocque a L'Or
New Build

DELOITTE



Deloitte has expanded its senior leadership team in Guernsey with the relocation of Jonathan Wiseman, Associate Partner in Audit & Assurance, from the firm's Jersey office.

Mr Wiseman, who leads Deloitte's Private Equity focus across the Channel Islands, brings more than 20 years' audit and assurance experience, including 17 years in London working with major listed and global financial services organisations. He specialises in investment management, with experience across private equity, credit and real estate. In his Guernsey-based role he will focus on supporting existing clients, developing new relationships, and working with firms bringing funds and wider financial services activity to the island.

'Guernsey continues to be a vibrant and growing market within the funds industry, with a strong reputation across private equity and alternative assets. I look forward to building on Deloitte's existing work in the island, and developing new relationships across the wider finance ecosystem, including fund managers, administrators, asset servicers and industry bodies,' he said.

In the latest round of promotions, 35 of the Guernsey team have been advanced, including Peter Byoonabye and Tyrone Pillay in the Audit team to senior manager, and Harry Rose, Herbert Settimba, Noor Taghlebi, Pauline Eugene, Tariq Muhammad and Tosin Okegbola to manager.



L-R TOP ROW:
PETER BYOONABYE,
TOSIN OKEGBOLA,
HERBERT SETTIMBA.
L-R BOTTOM ROW:
PAULINE EUGENE,
HARRY ROSE,
NOOR TAGHLEBI

PRAXIS



Praxis has strengthened its pensions and employer solutions offering in Guernsey with the appointment of Bob Banfield as Senior Executive Director.

With more than 35 years of industry experience, including 26 at board level, spanning pensions, private wealth and fund administration, he is well-known in the Guernsey market, and brings deep sector expertise and a strong track record in governance and regulatory compliance.

Mr Banfield leads the Guernsey arm of the Group's pensions and employer solutions and will work closely with James Barber-Lomax, Group Head of Pensions & Employer Solutions, and colleagues in Malta and the UAE to further align and develop Praxis' pensions offering across its markets, drawing on the strengths of each location to deliver an efficient, high-quality service for clients and their advisers.

'Praxis' reputation across private wealth and corporate services provides a strong platform for savings and retirement planning solutions,' he said. 'In a continually evolving legal and fiscal environment, I am excited by the opportunity to continue developing our services and products to meet the changing needs of our clients.'

Elsewhere in the team, Hayley Rose was promoted to Pensions Manager, while Jake Williams has been appointed as Pensions Manager.

Robert Fearis, Chief Executive Officer, said: 'In an ever-changing fiscal landscape, combined with the way people are choosing to work more flexibly, the need for clear, responsive and well-structured retirement planning solutions has never been greater. 'Bob, Hayley and Jake each bring valuable experience and expertise to the team, further strengthening our ability to support clients and advisers across multiple jurisdictions.'

ODPA



Experienced regulator John Curran has been named Chairman of Guernsey's Data Protection Authority, where he is already serving as a member of the Board.

He succeeds Richard Thomas CBE, who has stepped down as Chairman for family reasons, but will remain on the board as a member for the time being. 'We are delighted to welcome John as chairman of the Authority,' said Commissioner Brent Homan. 'He brings extensive experience of working within regulatory frameworks,

alongside a strong track record in interpreting and applying complex legislation. He also has a long-standing commitment to public service in the island, which will be invaluable in this role.

'I would like to express my sincere gratitude, on behalf of the Authority and the ODPA, to Richard. A former UK Information Commissioner, Richard has established himself as a leader in the global data protection community. Appointed chairman in 2018, Richard's experience and knowledge has been instrumental in advancing data protection in the Bailiwick. I have greatly valued his insight, wisdom and generosity with his time.'

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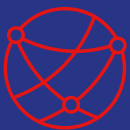
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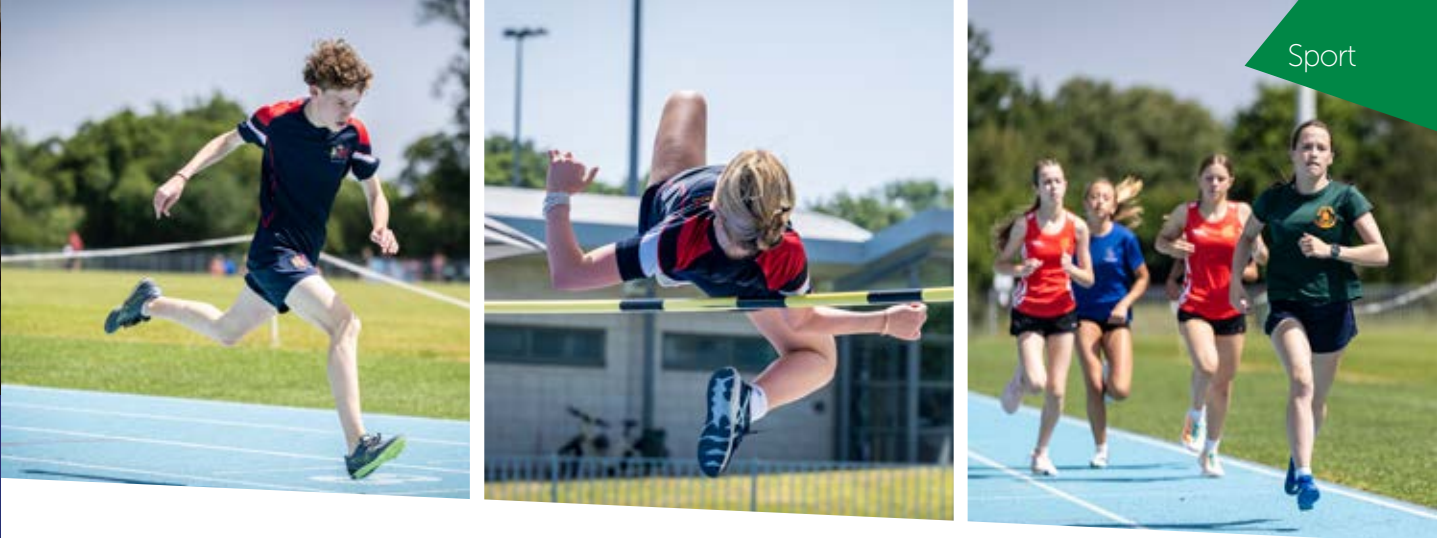
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Terry Walters
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OLD RIVALRIES AND COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Budding Guernsey and Jersey competitors battled
it out in the recent heatwave as the Schools'
Athletics Inter-Insular returned from an eight-
year absence.

At the tail-end of a year of facing students from their
own island in events like the Inter-Schools Sports Day,
kids lapped up this special competitive opportunity
at Footes Lane.

The event had two boys and girls per year group –
8 and 9 – representing their island in each of various
track and field disciplines, together with relays, in the
sun of the late morning and early afternoon.

Guernsey's best efforts could not stop Jersey getting
the winning total of 252 points to 220.

This included edging the year 8 contest 121-110,
together with a slightly more comprehensive 131-110
victory in the year 9s.

Guernsey's year 8 boys had excelled, winning their
category 58-51, but Jersey were the stronger in the
remaining groups and particularly the girls.

To organise this event, St Sampson's High teacher
Gearoid Lee had joined forces with Guernsey Athletics
and Jersey's Katie Tanguy.

Mr Lee, a keen local sportsman for St Jacques
Vikings and the Guernsey Gaels, praised the event's
competitive nature.

'When you split it down and have a look, the totals
are quite close on the boys' side of things,' he said.

'And the girls, there were some outstanding
performances from both.

'Hopefully this is now on people's radars and we can
get it going year after year.'

Lee also highlighted the 'real grit and determination'
shown by competitors in hot conditions, which did
mean the 1,500m was trimmed to 1,200m.

He had been grateful to Jersey's Mrs Tanguy for getting
in touch initially, after which further support made
it possible to get the event off the ground and give
students new opportunities.

'Massive thank you to the schools, first, for their support
in getting this event on and letting their students come
out and compete in it,' he said.

'It's a fantastic opportunity for our students to represent
the island.'

While several competitors had already flown the flag
for Guernsey, be it in athletics or another sport, others
had not done so before.

'For some, they have not represented the island, so it's
a really good opportunity,' Mr Lee added.

'We're blown away by the support for Guernsey athletics.'

Jersey Sport helped fund the trip for their 42
competitors.

As Jersey look to return the hosting favour next year,
Mr Lee is looking for sponsorship towards travel and
to support other future editions.



ALL IMAGES ©PETER FRANKLAND





'GRANDE' UNVEILING OF WORLD-CLASS OFFERING

THE STUNNING, REVAMPED LA GRANDE MARE GOLF COURSE IS OPEN FOR PLAY, REPORTS GARETH LE PREVOST.

The centre-piece of a multi-million-pound redevelopment of the resort on Guernsey's west coast, golfers were able to tee off on the extended and re-configured layout from the start of August.

The 5,367-yard, par-69 course has incorporated innovative agronomic techniques to ensure exceptional year-round playing conditions. Wherever possible, soil and turf

materials from the original course were carefully retained and reused, helping preserve the site's character while establishing healthy, resilient playing surfaces.

Combined with the expertise of leading golf course agronomists and the installation of modern drainage and irrigation systems, the result is a course built to perform at the highest standard in all seasons.

'Our vision has always been to build on what makes La Grande Mare

special, rather than change it,' said Stephen Lansdown CBE, owner of La Grande Mare.

'From the outset, we wanted to respect and enhance the natural beauty of the surroundings, while providing golfers with a challenging yet enjoyable course experience, and we really feel we've achieved that here.

'We want La Grande Mare to be a jewel in the crown not only for the local area, but for Guernsey as a

whole, and this new milestone is a significant step towards that goal.'

The course was designed by renowned golf course architect Robin Hiseman of European Golf Design, whose previous projects include the JCB Golf & Country Club, ranked among the top 100 golf courses and top four parkland courses in the British Isles, as well as restoring the East Course at Wentworth.

'It's been fantastic to work with the team at La Grande Mare to develop a course built to such an exceptionally high tournament standard,' he said.

'The greens and surrounding areas here have been constructed to the same specification as Adare Manor, so the conditions golfers experience here will closely mirror those expected at the Ryder Cup next year. On top of that,

the course has been designed to provide a rigorous and highly strategic test of golf.

'While there are a few very well regarded shorter 18-hole courses within the British Isles, there is nothing of this standard and built to such a modern specification – I can't think of a single course that looks anything like this, it's so unique.'

The state-of-the-art Golf Performance Centre, which was the first completed phase of the redevelopment and opened its doors in November 2025, will act as the interim clubhouse until the country club is complete next year. The club will include a pro golf shop and dedicated golfers' dining and bar facilities.

Golfers are able to book tee times on a pay-and-play basis via a contemporary new website at

www.lagrandemare.com. With no membership required, green fees will be £200 per round.

Managing director Ben Stimson joined the La Grande Mare team in April to oversee the opening of the golf course and completion of the country club next year.

'I am incredibly proud and honoured to be leading such an exciting chapter in La Grande Mare's redevelopment,' he said.

'Building on the success of the Golf Performance Centre, which is already proving popular with golfers, the course will provide equally extraordinary experiences for the wider community.

'I am looking forward to welcoming islanders of all abilities onto the course as we continue to reshape the golf landscape here in Guernsey.'



ALDERNEY SPORTS FOUNDATION



The Alderney Sports Foundation was formed in 2018 by Chairman, Simon Brazier and Patron, Duncan Goodhew, whose family has been connected to the Island for over 60 years. Its trustees include both Alderney residents and long-term visitors from the UK.



Its mission is quite simply to encourage young people on the Island to make the most of their sporting potential, particularly by helping them with equipment, facilities and off-island travel. Until now, the Foundation has focused entirely on school-age beneficiaries. Many of these young people are now progressing into adult sport but continue to have similar needs for financial support, so the Foundation is raising its upper age limit to 25.



The Foundation would love to hear from residents, visitors and anyone interested in sport or supporting young people, as well as from young people themselves.

Contact us if you would like to

Donate

Volunteer

Apply for a grant

alderneysportsfoundation@gmail.com

alderneysportsfoundation.org

GUERNSEY TRIPLETS MAKE HISTORY WITH YORK CITY ACADEMY

Three Guernsey footballers have become the first island players to secure places at York City FC's Player Development Programme, marking a major milestone for female football in Guernsey and the growing partnership between the Guernsey FA and York City FC.

Sixteen-year-old triplets Emilie, Hollie and Millie Jeffreys have relocated to York, and, alongside studying a BTEC Sport qualification at York College, will train and compete within York City's female pathway, with opportunities to feature for the Under-18s, Development Squad and Women's First Team.

Beginning their football journey with Guernsey FA's Wildcats programme in Year 3, the triplets progressed into the Marrant Academy in Year 5 and have continued to develop under the guidance of coaches including Joelle Priaux and Scarlett Kenneally.

Their success represents the first tangible outcome of a developing relationship between the Guernsey FA and York City FC, which has been built over the past year to create new opportunities for talented Guernsey players to



pursue football and education opportunities in the UK.

Adam Crowle, Head of Operations at York City Academy, said:

'Through the course of the last 12 months as a club, we've been developing our relationship with the Guernsey FA and really looking at how we can impact the growth of both organisations and ultimately develop footballers, both male and female.'

'Through our already established education pathways at York College, we are able to offer footballing opportunities for players

from Guernsey when they leave secondary school and head into further education. Making sure both football and educational potential is met has been at the heart of every conversation with the family.

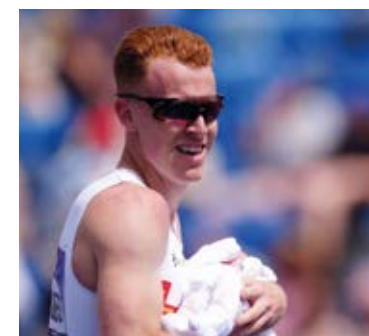
'Being part of our female pathway is an exciting opportunity for both the girls and the club as we launch our new Player Development Programme alongside greater oversight of our women's first and development teams. I'm very much looking forward to seeing their growth as they join us for pre-season.'

A FATHER'S DAY TO REMEMBER

Guernsey athlete Alastair 'Ala' Chalmers marked his first Father's Day by celebrating his sixth UK Athletics Championships 400m hurdles title with his newborn son after the race.

Ala regained the title he had previously held between 2020 and 2024 at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium at the end of June, crossing the line in 49.05 seconds. His gold-medal race was watched by family and friends, including his fiancée, Ellie; his son Robert, born just days before the race; and his parents, during the early summer heatwave.

Since 2018, the 26-year-old has been sponsored by professional services firm Praxis, whose support has helped fund training and travel.



The 2026 UK Championships marked the start of a busy summer for the Cardiff-based Olympian, who was also targeting a personal best at the London Diamond League event in mid-July as part of his preparation for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. He has had an impressive start to

the season and, with a sub-48-second target in his sights, continues to represent his home island and Great Britain on the international stage.

Praxis' Senior Communications Manager, Tracey O'Neill, travelled to Birmingham with Aurigny for the weekend's track and field meet. She said: 'It has been a privilege to watch Ala's talent, discipline and determination continue to take him to the highest level of the sport.'

'Long-term sponsorship is about more than financial backing; it is about building trusted relationships, sharing the journey and celebrating the milestones together. We are very proud of Ala and delighted to share in another big year for him and his family.'



Specialist Neurodevelopmental Assessments in Guernsey



Multidisciplinary neurodevelopmental assessment
and support for children, young people, adults, and families

Who We Are

Dr Cassie & Associates is a specialist neurodevelopmental and mental health service, providing comprehensive assessments and support for children, young people, adults, and families across Guernsey. Our multidisciplinary team brings together consultant paediatricians, psychologists, psychiatrists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and SEN specialists, delivering expert, evidence-based care through a collaborative and individualised approach.

By bringing multiple disciplines together under one service, we provide clear diagnostic pathways, bespoke recommendations, and ongoing support to help individuals and families achieve the best possible outcomes.

What We Offer

ASD Assessments

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ADHD Assessments

Comprehensive evaluation and support pathways

Medication Appointments

Ongoing medication management to support your treatment plan

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Specialist diagnosis and treatment for teens and young people

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Understanding how your child thinks, learns and processes

Adult ADHD Assessments

Comprehensive virtual ADHD assessments for adults



If you have questions or would like to learn more about how we can support you, please contact our fantastic admin team.

T: 01491 822 614
E: guernsey@drcassie.co.uk
www.drcassie.co.uk

PEREGRINE WEALTH RENEWS VIVE LA VALLETTE SPONSORSHIP

Peregrine Wealth has renewed its sponsorship of Vive La Vallette for another year, extending its founding partnership to five years.

The renewal reaffirms the wealth management company's long-term commitment to support Vive La Vallette's mission to create an inclusive and accessible site that offers year-round free public swimming with a strong focus on personal wellbeing and connection.

'Vive La Vallette is a project we are closely aligned with, and have been proud to support and be involved in since the start of the restoration,' said Peregrine Wealth Director and Wealth Manager, Adrian Starr. 'Seeing the area grow into an inclusive, community-focused site has been very special, particularly as we approach our fifth anniversary working with Dave Warr, Helen Bonner-Morgan and their team.'

Helen Bonner-Morgan, of Vive La Vallette, said: 'Peregrine Wealth's corporate support from the outset has been instrumental in transforming La Vallette into a genuine community asset. Their decision to renew again this year is vital to sustaining a space for the public good, and we're very grateful.'

La Vallette has been redeveloped with accessibility, durability and sustainability at its core. Facilities now include modern changing rooms, a café, spaces for events and educational activities, and a new outdoor catering area.



Helen Bonner-Morgan of Vive La Vallette and Adrian Starr, Director at Peregrine Wealth.

ONLY FOOLS AND DONKEYS



The Only Fools and Donkeys (OF&D) Mules Flandres charity bike ride took place in June cycling through Northern France, Belgium and into Holland.

55 cyclists supported by a crew of 10 took on routes of 60, 80 or 100 miles to raise funds for local charities working with children, young people and adults living with physical disabilities and learning difficulties.

The route for the first few days took the cyclists through the Somme, past countless roadside cemeteries including a visit to Tynecot, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery on the Western Front, and through the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The second half of the ride gave the cyclists the opportunity to tick items off their bucket list, including riding on the velodrome at Roubaix and taking on some of the infamous cobbled climbs of the Tour of Flandres and the Paris-Roubaix.

This is the sixth ride organised by OF&D and the charity

has raised more than £300,000 since it was founded in 2010 and it is hoped that this year's ride will raise another £40,000 – 45,000.

The money raised to date has been spent on a wide range of projects and equipment, including three adapted bikes for Wheels for You, who create accessible cycling opportunities for individuals who are unable to ride a traditional two wheel bike, with a trailer so they can be transported easily and enable more individuals to benefit; purchase of sails for the Guernsey Sailing Trust's inclusion and sailability programme; sponsoring the Le Murier Everest Challenge so all funds raised could be put towards the school's residential programme; and funding of communications board for Autism Guernsey to name a few.

For more information about the charity and to support the riders who took part in this year's challenge by making a donation please visit the website only-fools-and-donkeys.com.

CI COOP LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND USING DORMANT ACCOUNTS



Jon Bond with Guernsey Recipients of CIF.

Channel Islands Coop (CI Coop) has launched a major charitable initiative, the Community Impact Fund.

The programme will reinvest unclaimed member balances from dormant accounts into meaningful community, environmental, social, and heritage projects across the islands. The first recipients have been announced, receiving £69,000 between six projects.

The Community Impact Fund was made possible following a member approved rule change at the 2021 Annual Members' Meeting, where members voted for dormant account balances to be used for positive island impact rather than remaining untouched. This decision created a ring fenced fund dedicated to projects that align with CI Coop's sustainability ambitions, cooperative values, and long term community purpose.

The Community Impact Fund will complement and strengthen the existing Community Fund, ensuring a joined-up approach to community support. While the Community Fund will continue to back smaller grants and local initiatives, the Community Impact Fund will help enable larger projects, offering funding of up to a maximum of £25,000 where there is a clear and lasting community benefit.

The Community Impact Fund will distribute grants through three routes:



Simon Matthews with Jersey Recipients of CIF.

- Direct support for specific projects identified and approved by the fund committee.
- Partnership grants to trusted foundations.
- An annual application programme, similar to the Coop Community Fund but designed for larger, higher value initiatives.
- This approach ensures CI Coop can support a diverse range of causes, from environmental conservation to heritage preservation and community accessibility, while maintaining transparency and alignment with members' wishes.

'Because our members asked us to put dormant account balances to work in our communities, we are proud to launch a fund with clear purpose and real potential,' said Mark Cox, CEO of CI Coop. 'The Community Impact Fund strengthens our ability to support some of the excellent work already being delivered in the community, while helping us to fulfil our vision of making a real difference to the communities we serve. We are confident it will deliver meaningful environmental and social impact, support organisations doing outstanding work, and contribute to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of our islands.'

Updates, application windows, and details of supported projects will be shared on CI Coop's website and social channels throughout the year.

EY SUPPORTS GUERNSEY CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

A team of volunteers from EY took part in a conservation day at L'Erée headland and Rocquaine coastal sites, supporting Guernsey Conservation volunteers with their ongoing work to protect and enhance the island's biodiversity.

They removed invasive non-native species such as sour fig and bracken, helping to create the conditions needed for native plants to recover and thrive across both sites.

This volunteering initiative is part of EY's continued commitment to environmental sustainability, as part of its global corporate responsibility programme, EY Ripples.

EY volunteer, Andy Domaille said: 'At EY, we are pleased to support Guernsey Conservation Volunteers



and be part of such an important initiative. It was great to spend the day involved in hands-on work clearing invasive species and really see the difference we can make. It was a brilliant opportunity to spend time together as a team while helping protect the island's natural environment.'

JT SUPPORTS MUSIC IN ACTION

JT has supported Jersey charity Music in Action with the donation of four tablet devices to help enhance digital access to music education for children from lower-income families.

They will be used as part of Music in Action's musical education social access scheme, which currently supports around 90 children whose families are in receipt of income support. Through bursaries funded by the charity, these children receive specialist instrumental tuition, small group learning, opportunities to perform within their schools and access to practice clubs — opening the door to creativity, confidence and personal development through music.

The addition of tablet devices will enable music to be stored and shared digitally during lessons, supporting children to read music and learn music theory in a more engaging, interactive way. The technology also allows tutors to more easily review progress, tailor support to individual needs and build skills that extend beyond music into wider learning and wellbeing.

For many of the children taking part in the programme, access to this type of digital learning tool at home would not otherwise be possible.

'Music has the power to transform a child's confidence, wellbeing and outlook, but access to learning tools is not equal for every family. These tablets will make a real difference to our students, allowing



them to read music, explore theory and develop skills in a way that is fun, interactive and inclusive,' said Naomi Mews, Treasurer of Music in Action. 'We are extremely grateful to JT for recognising the importance of digital access in music education and for helping us continue to remove barriers for the children we support.'

The tablets were donated through JT's Community Giving scheme, which supports local charities and organisations to harness technology in ways that deliver lasting benefit for people and communities across Jersey.

Laura Belo, Head of Human Resources at JT, said: 'At JT, we believe digital technology should open doors, not create barriers. Supporting Music in Action with devices that enhance learning and development, creativity and confidence for young people is a great example of how digital can be used for good.'

'Music education builds skills for life, and we're proud to support a programme that is creating meaningful opportunities for children who might otherwise miss out.'

HERE FOR LIFE: 35 YEARS OF LES BOURGS HOSPICE



Here for Life: 35 Years of Les Bourgs Hospice is a deeply human photographic exhibition that invites travellers to explore one of the island's most meaningful community stories.

Held in the Brian White Gallery at Candie Museum, the exhibition celebrates Guernsey's only Hospice — an organisation cherished by islanders for its compassion, care and unwavering support. For visitors who enjoy uncovering the stories behind the places they explore,

this exhibition offers a unique and heartfelt addition to any summer itinerary.

For those unfamiliar with Les Bourgs Hospice, this exhibition offers a meaningful insight into why it holds such a special place in island hearts. Founded to ensure that anyone in the Bailiwick living with a life limiting illness can receive specialist care in a calm, respectful and supportive environment — without cost — the Hospice embodies the island's strong sense of community.

Runs until 27 September. Check the Guernsey Museums' website for the latest opening hours.

WOODEN SPOON SPIDER'S WEB

A new spider's web climbing frame has finally been installed at Saumarez Park after several years' delay.

The new play equipment has replaced the old climbing frame which was used by children for more than 25 years before being removed in October 2023 for safety.

The recent addition to the park is six-metres high and should have lifespan of about 15 years.

'This is a very special project for us and one that will have a lasting impact on the island's children,' said Wooden Spoon Chairwoman Karen Solway.

'The previous climbing frame was loved by generations of families, and we are delighted to be helping create a new centrepiece for play at Saumarez Park.

'Our hope is that this fantastic new structure will inspire adventure, friendship and fun for the next generation and beyond.'

The project reflects Guernsey Wooden Spoon's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of children and young people within the Bailiwick, the charity hopes the new installation will become a landmark feature enjoyed by families for many years.

The charity would like to thank its supporters, partners, volunteers and donors whose generosity is helping to bring this ambitious project to life, with special mention



©Sophie Rabey

to Prime Paving, Hope for a Child and Saffery Rotary Walk who helped with the installation.

The spider's web which was bought by Wooden Spoon through people's donations had different fittings to the previous one, and Environment & Infrastructure had to understand what needed changing for the new one to be installed.

There will be further enhancements to the area but nothing that will stop the children from using it.

FLORIST EXTRAORDINAIRE SIMON LYCETT BRINGS FLORAL MAGIC TO GUERNSEY

This October, florist extraordinaire Simon Lycett comes to Guernsey for a spectacular one-night event, giving islanders the chance to hear his unique stories while he creates a series of dazzling floral creations.

Celebrated for his creations for the Royals, Elton John and the Beckhams, the internationally acclaimed floral designer will entertain guests with his trademark storytelling while crafting his unique floral creations on stage.

The event includes a three-course dinner, an exciting auction featuring a week at a five-star Marbella beach resort, Wimbledon debenture seats, and even the chance to fire Guernsey's Noon Day Gun! Guests will also have the chance to win Simon's floral creations in a special raffle.

Tickets go on sale in August/September through Floral Design Guernsey, with full details to be announced soon. Be one of the first in the know by following Floral Design Guernsey's Facebook page. Proceeds will be split between Cancer Research UK and Floral Design Guernsey.



ABOVE: REG'S SON GARY BLANCHFORD.
RIGHT: REG BLANCHFORD AS A YOUNG AMBULANCE DRIVER

HEALS ON WHEELS: ST JOHN AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICE AT 90

THE ORIGIN STORY OF GUERNSEY'S ST JOHN AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICE – WHICH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS THIS YEAR – CENTRES AROUND ONE REMARKABLE GUERNSEYMAN. SIMON DE LA RUE SPOKE TO GARY BLANCHFORD ABOUT HIS FATHER REG – A RECORD-BREAKING INNOVATOR WHO WAS LUCKY TO SEE HIS 16TH BIRTHDAY.

Who knows what life might have thrown at young Reg Blanchford – the 15-year-old Guernsey lad labelled 'feckless and workshy' by his school masters at Les Vauxbelets College – if he had ridden his motorbike uninterrupted up Le Vauquiedor, along Mount Row and into King's Road on the last Tuesday night of October 1930?

That possible future may have been very different to the life that he was actually destined to live – a future mapped out by the consequences of a single moment that nobody would have wished upon him, yet which ultimately led to his being revered as one of the greatest Guernsey men of all time, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the chap with the most bravery awards to his name.

In that fateful moment, as he turned the corner into King's Road at 8.45pm, a Studebaker emerged from the Ville au Roi and

the collision that followed was violent enough to buckle his front wheel, bend his front forks and handlebars, and break the exhaust pipe. Needless to say, Reg didn't come out of it too well either.

He lay unconscious where he was thrown, with a broken pelvis, broken leg, broken arm, broken nose, smashed eye and other injuries. Along came two residents of the street, Frank Le Poidevin from no. 22 and George Baker from no. 3, who managed to get a car owner – Ulric Ash, who owned a garage on Brock Road – to take the lad to a doctor.

Arriving at the home of Dr E de Jersey, they found he was out for the evening. On, then, to Dr E V Gibson, who quickly assessed that Reg needed to go to Victoria Hospital. The doctor followed and gave him every attention, such was the seriousness of his condition. There was some doubt as to whether Reg could survive.

RESCUING PARTY

That he did was in no small part due to the impromptu rescuing party described above, along with three years of trips to UK hospitals for operations, during which Reg had a lot of time to think. He especially thought about the fact – divulged by some of the medical staff looking after him – that his injuries could have been better tended, and therefore could have healed more quickly, had there been an ambulance to get him to a hospital in more haste.

'His mind went over and over again about the lack of a fast-reacting ambulance service for the island,' says his son Gary. 'It became his obsession.'

'HIS MIND WENT OVER AND OVER AGAIN ABOUT THE LACK OF A FAST-REACTING AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE ISLAND,'



ABOVE: REG IN HIS RETIREMENT.
RIGHT: REG'S FIRST AMBULANCE, A SECOND-HAND TALBOT

PART-TIME

The only ambulance which operated in Guernsey at the time of Reg's crash was government owned. It was kept at the Town Hospital and the driver, who had to be called out, was only part-time and not trained in first aid. Medical treatment therefore began on delivery to a hospital.

'In 1934, the St John Ambulance formed a brigade,' says Gary.

'This was just what Dad had been looking for and he immediately decided to join. Over the next two years he trained along with other members but all the time he was looking for a way to start an ambulance service. He brought the subject up many times with his officers but to no avail.'

Finally, in 1936, they relented and allowed Reg to investigate establishing such a service – as long as he raised the funds himself and could find somewhere to keep the vehicle.

Happily, his father Harry Blanchford ran a concrete works on the Rohais and agreed to build a garage near the entrance for an ambulance.

'He was lucky enough to find a second-hand Talbot ambulance and a generous donation from Jurat Roussel of £100 [about £6,000 at today's value] secured the purchase, and so a rival service to the States of Guernsey ambulance started,' says Gary.

The first call to the original number of 'central 70', is believed to have been answered at 5pm

on Tuesday 2 June 1936 – a moment that can be regarded as the birth of the transport section of Guernsey's St John Ambulance Brigade, a professionalised entity that we now refer to as the St John Ambulance and Rescue Service.

Rather confusingly – in this 90th anniversary year – it has to be conceded that the St John Ambulance Association was actually established in Guernsey in 1882 and supplied first aid training, nursing care and eventually a volunteer ambulance division, but the SJARS and St John Ambulance are now two separate entities within the Order of St John, and it's the former which celebrates its origins this year.

SECOND-HAND AMBULANCE

That first response was perhaps a case of 'start as you mean to go on'. The 'new' second-hand ambulance was not actually supposed to enter service until the following morning, 3 June. But when that call came in from a man only two days into his subscription to the service, suffering with pneumonia, it was smartly answered and he was promptly taken to Alexandra Nursing Home by Reg and Cpl R A Luff.

'It was not long before islanders realised that if they wanted prompt attention they called Dad's transport section,' says Gary, 'as he would eat and sleep by the phone 24 hours a day. Whereas the driver of the States ambulance had to be called out to go and unlock the garage to get the ambulance out and go to a call.'

Despite the level of service to the community, Reg was officially unpaid at this time, although his father agreed to provide him with a small allowance.

A second ambulance was added in 1937 after the public responded to an appeal and raised the money for it, and by 1939 the States agreed that the SJAB should be the island's official ambulance service and the States ambulance was passed to St John, along with a small annual subsidy of £200 and two paid members who had been SJAB volunteers – Corporal John Dorey and Private Charlie Froome.

During Guernsey's occupation by German military forces in the Second World War, Reg managed to persuade the new hierarchy to allow autonomy for the service. This was on the grounds that the Germans had arrived without ambulances of their own, that Reg's outfit knew the island like the back of their hands and that they would undertake to treat local and non-local patients just the same. That's not to say that he had a cosy relationship with the occupiers. Throughout, he made it his business to take covert photographs of German military activities on his secreted Zeiss camera, risking deportation, or worse.

In the late summer of 1944, when petrol became extremely scarce and expensive, Reg and Charlie took the desperate measure of stealing two 40-gallon drums from a German depot on nearby Collings

Road, but Gary says they were so on edge in the ensuing days, that they vowed never to do it again.

So, ever the innovator, Reg arranged for Mollett's Coachworks to convert a 1936 ambulance so that it could be drawn by horses. However, when it turned out to be too heavy for the horses, Mollett's dug out some old plans for a lightweight coach and built one from scratch. It is now to be seen on display at the German Occupation Museum.

Another vehicle was converted to run on charcoal during the Occupation, which racked up 86,000 miles.

'Dad had a great team of volunteers behind him and it was said that not a call went unanswered during those years,' Gary says.

Despite his legendary dedication to his vocation, Reg managed to maintain a home life, marrying Rona Payne in 1940, with Gary coming along in 1942, followed by Roger in 1944. Rona was 'totally involved in the whole thing', says Gary, 'manning the phone when Dad was out on a call.'

With the Occupation over, Reg took on the Rohais site as a stand-alone operation, while the concrete works moved to Collings Road.

There followed a remarkable period of innovation, including the carrying out of cliff-rescue operations, for which a wooden training tower was built at the Rohais.

FIRST IN THE BRITISH ISLES

In 1947, the SJAB became the first ambulance service in the British Isles to operate two-way radios. Five years later, the first marine ambulance was introduced, with the States contributing funds to it from 1956. A first aid room was added, where minor procedures could be carried out. Gary gives the example of removing fishhooks from hands and fingers.

With diving seeing a growth in popularity, a recompression chamber was introduced, along with appropriate training for SJAB staff. There was also to be an inshore rescue boat, a mobile searchlight and even mobile radar units.

All through this time, Reg displayed courage and gallantry sufficient to earn him an MBE in 1950, a Queen's Commendation in 1957, a George Medal the following year and an OBE in 1961. By 1970, he had been made a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

His departure from the service was equally single-minded, if a little less likely to be celebrated. He resigned in 1977, saying he 'could no longer withstand unwarranted local interference'.

When the Guernsey Press celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1997, it held a public vote to identify the 'greatest Guern' of that century. Reg came top.

Reginald Herbert Blanchford died on 4 September 2002, aged 87.

'My father was totally dedicated and driven to building the best possible ambulance transport and rescue service for the Bailiwick of Guernsey,' Gary says.

'He was driven by the need to ensure that only the best was good enough and he also expected that from his men. He was a perfectionist and would not accept anything less than perfect, as my brother and I found out while growing up.

'The St John Transport section was run as a very disciplined organisation. He hated bureaucracy that interfered with getting things done and fell foul of committees on many occasions when they created bureaucratic obstruction'

Gary concedes that his father would not have been the easiest to deal with, but he looks back on his achievements with no small measure of awe.

'I've always been immensely proud of him,' he says, 'he had unusual determination, he never stopped innovating, he was selfless and he was also a great father, even though his work consumed most of his time.'

WHEN THE GUERNSEY PRESS CELEBRATED ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1997, IT HELD A PUBLIC VOTE TO IDENTIFY THE 'GREATEST GUERN' OF THAT CENTURY. REG CAME TOP.

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