



## Guernsey's Local Research, Natural History and Conservation Society



### Annual Sale

**Sunday 18 May** at 2.00pm at Blanchelande College, Les Vauxbelets, by kind permission of the Principal Mrs L Le Page.

Please support this enjoyable fund-raising event by attending, helping and contributing items. The following are the stalls and the organisers who will arrange to collect or to receive goods from you. Any goods may be brought to Les Vauxbelets on the morning of the Sale from 10 o'clock onwards.

**Plants** - This stall is being organised by the Botany Section  
Please contact:  
Jennie Grange tel. 713403  
Rhiannon Cook tel. 253705

**Cakes** - Please contact:  
Julia Peet tel. 238620  
Lawney Martin tel. 237853  
Pat Costen tel. 264500

Jams, preserves, breads, puddings-anything edible welcome.

**Books** - This stall is being organised by the Nature Conservation Section. Please contact:  
Jane Gilmour tel. 700024  
Denise Thoumine tel. 723003

If you've tried and failed to read a book three times you will never read it, so send it along to the stall! We may get 100 copies each of 'Ulysees' and 'A Brief History of Time', but we'll endeavour to sell them!

**Bric-à-brac** - This stall is being organised by the Climate Change Section. Please contact:  
Vanessa Crispini-Adams tel. 728799

Good quality items only please, including all those items you saw in the kitchen catalogue and thought you couldn't manage without - and have never used; unused Christmas presents; out-grown toys - anything!

**Raffle** - This will be organised by the Ornithology Section.  
Please contact:  
Nancy Ogier tel. 268191

Good wine; anything you would wish to win yourself.

**Organiser: Pat Costen**

### Jethou Trips

Once again we have arranged with Sir Peter Ogden, the tenant of Jethou, to run two trips there. The dates are 17 May, departing at 1.00pm, returning at 4.00pm, and 14 June, departing at 9.30am and returning at 12 noon. The cost is £13 per person by prior booking via the Secretary at Candie HQ, to whom you should send £13 pp along with the names of those wishing to go. Travel will be on Buz White's Access Challenger, leaving from the Sark boat quay. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit a very special place. Charles David will accompany the 17 May trip for a natural history tour if you wish.

### Orchid Field Walks

The following walks have been arranged and all will start at 10.30am at the car park with the bus shelter at L'Erée. The cost is £3 per person and the walks will last about one and a half hours. The walking is easy on flat ground. The orchid fields are renowned for their spectacular displays.

Sundays 11, 18 and 25 May and 1 June  
Wednesdays 14, 21, 28 May and 4 June

### Société News

The first news I have to impart as newly-elected President, is that Philip Bush our Executive Officer, has resigned due to personal family reasons. During the short time that he has been with us, Philip, with his expertise and experience in executive management, has been a huge asset to La Société and we have learned a great deal from him. He has set in motion many systems on which we can build. He will be greatly missed and we hope to see him and his wife at future meetings when they visit Guernsey.

At the AGM, members voted to allow Council to increase subscriptions for the 2009 fiscal year by RPI rounded to the nearest pound, and to do so in subsequent years if deemed necessary. This will be reviewed by the AGM after five years.

Members also voted to allow the introduction of subscription by direct debit. The Honorary Treasurer, Peter Budwin, assured members that under the rules of the direct debit

## Officers and Council Members

		Telephone Number	Email: please add @societe.org.gg to the name below
<b>Officers:</b>			
President	Pat Costen	264500	president
Vice-President	Vacant		
Secretary	Lawney Martin	237853	secretary
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Budwin	716134	treasurer
Membership Secretary	May Teagle	724835	
Editor of the Transactions	Richard Hocart	254693	editor
Reserves Committee Chairman	Jane Gilmour	700024	
Land Management & Conservation Officer	Jamie Hooper	266924	
Volunteer Co-ordinator - Reserves	Vanessa Crispini-Adams	728799	
Librarians	Jean & Gavin Sampson	234430	
<b>Section Secretaries:</b>			
Archaeology	Tanya Walls	727614	archaeology
Astronomy	Debby Quertier	725760	astronomy
Botany	Jennie Grange	715059	botany
Botany	Rhiannon Cook	253705	botany
Climate Change	Andrew Casebow	722245	climate.change
Entomology	Charles David	238978	entomology
Family History	Edith Le Patourel	721566	
Geology and Geography	Andrew Dorey	252123	
Historic Buildings	John McCormack	720303	
History & Philology	Bill Gallienne	265529	history
Marine Biology & Zoology	Vacant		
Nature Conservation	Denise Thoumine	723003	
Ornithology	Nancy Ogier	268191	ornithology
<b>Associated Groups:</b>			
The Alderney Society & Museum	The Secretary	823222	
Alderney Wildlife Trust	Roland Gauvain	822935	
Bat Group	Pat Costen	264500	
Guernsey Conservation Volunteers	Angela Salmon	721163	
Friends of the Priaulx Library	Gavin Lanoe	246715	
La Société Serquaise	Jo Birch	832788	
National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (Guernsey Group)	Tattie Thompson	239444	
Lé Coumité d'la Culture Guernésiaise	Hazel Tomlinson	255891	
Guernsey Meteorological Observatory	Martin Crozier	237766	
WEA	David Le Conte	264847	

### Additional Council Members are:

J. Hooper, (co-opted), G. Allez, J. M. Bairds, J. Nicolle, Mrs V. Crispini-Adams, A. Ritchie, J. L. Curtis, N. Day and Miss J. Gilmour.

Any member of La Société who is interested in joining one of the Sections or groups should contact the relevant Section Secretary.

### Office Hours:

The office at Candie is normally open between 10.00am and 11.30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.  
Telephone: 01481 725093  
Fax: 01481 726248

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system, members would always be notified of any payment increase and would be given the option to refuse.

The subject of the Transactions was raised. This was debated at the last AGM and agreement was made then that members would be given the option to receive the Transactions in digital format. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Please be assured that the Transactions will remain in the original format for any members who continue to want them this way, and that such members will not in any way be penalised.

In my address I announced that I would put before Council a proposal that we form a Junior Section, with each of the existing Sections hosting the juniors once a year. Details will appear on the web-site and in the What's On section of the Guernsey Press.

The Annual Sale will take place again this year after a break of three years. Details appear on page 1. Please support this important event. Apart from raising funds it does bring together many members who wouldn't otherwise get to meet each other. It is a most enjoyable occasion.

Pat Costen

## Archaeology

One sunny afternoon in January the Section made a visit to Port Soif where there are two prehistoric flint working sites. The flints are eroding from an ancient land surface and we were able to collect quite a number. When added to those collected on previous occasions, the total was around 1,280. These are now being carefully worked through. David Lane has been studying local flint for some years and has been working with other Section members on how to sort and begin to evaluate the flint. Most of it is debitage - the waste flakes produced when the knapper works the flint nodule to achieve the form needed to produce tools. If there is enough flint, it is possible to identify the broad period of a site by studying the types of flint flakes recovered. Initial examination of the Port Soif material suggests that this was a knapping site of the Neolithic period (around 6,000 – 4,000 years ago). We are hoping to look at other flint sites around the Island for comparison. Flint was used for tool-making from the Paleolithic period (the earliest Stone Age) into the Bronze Age and perhaps as late as the Iron Age.

In February we enjoyed a fascinating lecture by Professor Chris Scarre of Durham University. The subject was Neolithic tombs of Brittany and their relationship to the landscape. Hilltops were often the focus of the earliest monuments and more were concentrated around the coast than inland. This may be because these were areas of early clearance in an otherwise heavily wooded landscape. Although they tend to begin as quite modest monuments, some developed - probably over many generations - into highly complex arrangements. These complex examples may well have been sites which had come to be seen as places of pilgrimage and were drawing people from large distances. Carnac is the most developed example surviving in Brittany, with Stonehenge and Avebury as English parallels. The Neolithic tombs of the Channel Islands are in the Breton tradition and it is interesting to speculate as to how they would have fitted into this picture. With the notable exception of La Hougue Bie in Jersey, the

surviving Channel Island examples are smaller than many Breton tombs, but they may still have seen highly complex development and use over time. Le Déhus and Les Fouaillages are both local examples of monuments which were certainly altered and developed during their period of use. This summer Professor Scarre will be beginning a project to look at the prehistoric tombs on Herm, so we may get a few more answers.

In addition to the flint collection at Port Soif we also took the opportunity to examine the rather mysterious stone features on the headland on the north-east side of the bay. There are at least four sites which appear to be archaeological and may be the remains of prehistoric tombs or cists, but there has been no known excavation of any of them. Two of the sites were cleared of vegetation to permit a closer examination. This work coincided with Professor Scarre's visit and we were pleased that he confirmed our suggestion that they may well be prehistoric monuments. Hopefully some more work can be done on this area in the future.

Tanya Walls

tel. 727614, email tanyawalls@yahoo.co.uk

## Astronomy

**13 May** Open evening to members of the public from 9.30pm. Numbers limited, so please contact Debby Quertier on 825760 for more details.

## Botany

Our January meeting was our traditional Christmas Dinner - which was held, this year, at La Villette. It was thoroughly enjoyed by us all and was particularly special as we were joined by Terry Ozanne.

Our February meeting was an indoor one held at La Société Headquarters at Candie. This was well attended and gave us an opportunity to review our 2007 activities and our financial position and to make plans for 2008 before finally being treated to a slide show of Alderney flowers by Jennie Grange. We would like to convey our thanks to all the section members for their support and to especially thank Gavin and Jean for their hard work in administering the section, to Edith for her work in organising a very successful Botany Section Dinner at La Villette and to Hazel and Norma for ably 'holding the fort' in the months following Bridget's demise.



Monterey Cypress at La Haye du Puits



On 1 March we were fortunate to have a sunny afternoon for our walk at La Haye du Puits which was the 25th anniversary of the visit made by the section with Patience Ryan in 1983. As expected, there were changes as some trees could not be re-found but others of interest had been planted. Near the arched entrance, we looked at the Maidenhair Tree - *Ginkgo biloba* which had shed its leaves so the stubby spur shoots were clear to see. We passed some hybrid Poplars bearing deep red male catkins and reached the massive Monterey Cypress - *Cupressus macrocarpa*. At a height of 5 feet, we measured the girth at 240 inches which meant the tree was well over 200 years old according to Alan Mitchell's system.

In the vegetable garden, a fine Foxglove Tree - *Paulownia tomentosa*, carried numerous sprays of flower buds which will bloom in May. Some of last year's fruits were also present. This tree, native to China, is indeed a member of the Foxglove family.



Sycamore Buds Burst

Beside the ponds, we found a splendid new planting of Dawn Redwood with the impressive Latin name of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. This deciduous conifer was believed to exist only as a fossil until it was discovered in a remote area of China in 1941. It is unique in that its paired buds are borne below the leaves. Most of the fern species were re-found but sadly the row of Tongue Fern - *Phymatosorus diversifolium*, an Australian introduction, had disappeared. However, the Chain

Fern - *Woodwardia radicans* had made a large colony with its rooting frond-tips. We particularly enjoyed the 'machine-stitched' sporing bodies on mature fronds. The beautiful buildings were admired by us all and we heard something of its history from Sarah Leworthy and Richard Hocart. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Barton-Wright for allowing us access to this interesting garden.

Spring is upon us and already the Bullace, especially showy on our cliff paths, and the bursting tree buds of Sycamore, Ash and Oak are well worth observing.

Our April meeting was inland from Rocquaine - we headed for Rue du Camp D'Ebat and although the forecast was not promising the weather was kind to us - it remained dry and the sun shone brightly. As anticipated, we found a significant number of plants recorded 25 years ago but sadly did not find the elusive Guernsey Spleenwort - *Asplenium x sarniense* nor the 'lush plants of Balm-leaved Figwort - *Scrophularia scorodonia* growing in the very wet corner' as described by Patience.

As we left the main road and gently climbed Rue Hurel we noted the abundance of Early Scurvy-grass - *Cochlearia danica* at the edge of the roadside. This plant is not a grass but a Brassica which tends to be found in seaside habitats and

was acknowledged as a rich source of Vitamin C by sailors and thus it protected them from suffering the disease Scurvy. A little further along was a huge growth of Heart-leaf Ice Plant - *Aptenia cordifolia*, from South Africa, which was climbing up a conifer. We proceeded up over a crossroad onto a road with a flow of running water on the right-hand side. There we recorded a number of typical wet-loving plants and our attention was drawn to the rather handsome and pleasant smelling Honey Spurge - *Euphorbia mellifera*, (from The Canaries). As we ascended into the green lane we admired a number of spring trees in blossom - including, much to our delight, a Hawthorn (May Tree) - *Crataegus monogyna*! Further along the overgrown green lane we found many of the expected hedgerow plants in flower but the highlight of that section were:- Early Forget-me-not - *Myosotis ramosissima*, Dovesfoot Cranesbill - *Geranium molle*, Bulbous Buttercup - *Ranunculus bulbosus* and Musk Storksbill - *Erodium moschatum* with its distinctively shaped fruits. On leaving the green lane and resuming walking on tarmac we found more garden escapes from warmer climates very much at home in our lanes. These included - Purple Toadflax - *Linaria purpurea* and Rosy Dewplant - *Lampranthus roseus* (both from South Africa) as well as Beach Aster - *Erigeron glaucus* (from California). An early red flower of Red Clover - *Trifolium pratense* caught our eye in the grassy entrance to a field before we reached the main road. This is the first of the Pea family to flower - with the exception of Gorse - *Ulex europaeus* which appears to be in flower perpetually.

April 14th was Bridget's birthday and it was fitting that La Société organized to name the orchid reserve at L'Erée - 'The Bridget Ozanne Orchid Fields' - on that day. Charles paid a warm tribute to her and Terry unveiled the colourful and informative plaque. It was a moving occasion which was well attended by family, friends and colleagues. It is such an appropriate memorial to Bridget who so loved that area and gave of her time to guide walks in the summer when it is at its best.



Bullace Blossom

Planned meetings for the rest of the year:

**3 May** - Pleinmont - park at mast, Perry 32 C3.

**7 June** - Silbe Reserve, Perry 20 D5.

**5 July** - Candie Gardens.

**2 August** - Pembroke Bay, Perry 6 C2.

**6 September** - Nature Reserve at Marais Nord, L'Ancrese, Perry 6 3D/E.

**4 October** - Jerbourg, La Bouvee, Perry 31 G4.

1 November - Le Douit and La Pomare, St. Peter's, Perry 20 D4.

**6 December** - Saumarez Park Trees - park at Perry 15 G1.

For further information contact Jennie Grange on 715059.

## Climate Change

**29 April at 7.45 pm at Les Cotils - 'Message in the Waves'**

This powerful BBC film documents the rising levels of marine debris in our ocean environments. It will be supported by a presentation highlighting the problems locally and the efforts currently being deployed to address this modern phenomenon. All welcome. Places are free but limited. Please email: vcrispini@cwgsy.net or call Vanessa on 728799 to reserve your seats.

Kindly sponsored by Co-op & Creaseys.

## Family History

At our March meeting we welcomed Dr Jason Monaghan who spoke on "Romans in Guernsey". It was a very interesting talk on the findings found here of that period.

Forthcoming meetings are:

No April meeting.

**21 May** - Graham Guille: "Letters to my Wife"  
- a Civil War diary of Andros Guille.

**18 June** - Outdoor meeting: "Noughts and Crosses"  
- a walk/talk with Sylvia Brouard. Meet at 7.00pm, south Cobo beach kiosk. Members £3, non-members of the Section £5.

**23 July** - Visit to Island Archives at St Barnabas. Phone Marie Sillars on 256676 before 30 June if you wish to attend.

**22 October** - Annual dinner. Tennerfest at Cobo Bay Hotel. Phone Maria van der Tang on 248538 for reservations.

**19 Nov** - Bryan Vandertang "Les Dicqs and Rousse Headland". Followed by AGM.

Any queries should be addressed to The Family History Section, PO Box 314, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3TG.

Edith Le Patourel

## Historic Buildings

At 2.30pm on Saturday 14 June, this Section will lead a visit to see the restoration works that have taken place at the Town Church, St Peter Port. This visit is open to the general public, and will be attended by the Dean.

## Marine Biology & Zoology

**17 May** Meet for an outing at 11.00am at the Jerbourg Monument car park. Why not bring a picnic lunch to eat on the beach?

**14 June** Meet for an outing at 9.30am on the Lihou Island causeway.

**19 July** A combined outing by the Marine Biology and Nature Conservation Sections. We are hoping to see some botany in the morning and biology in the early afternoon in Herm. Please buy your own ticket and meet on the 10.15am boat. The return time is your choice. Bring a picnic if you are intending to make a day of it.

**16 August** Lihou island visit – meet at 12.30pm at the top of the causeway slipway. Be aware that parking may be a problem at this time of year.

Please phone 710737 or 238978 if weather is doubtful for any of these events.

## Nature Conservation

Contact Denise Thoumine on 723003 for further details.

## Ornithology

This has proved to be such a frustrating spring for our section members, as to date we have endured westerly gales that have caused havoc along our coastline, northerly cold blasts from the Arctic, and only the odd glimpse of a spring like day. The result of this has meant that any migrants that might have been making their way bravely towards our shores have been stopped in their tracks.

Although there have been the odd Wheatear, Sand Martin, and Swallow reported, there has been at time of writing nowhere near the numbers one might expect by the middle of April.

Over the years, we have been gathering data for the first date of each migrant species seen, and although possibly we are not far from the average dates, there have not been any records broken to date. One can only hope that better days are ahead, and the flow of birds will resume.



Magpie

Of course apart from spring migration, one of the other major dates on our birding calendar is the Section's annual Bird Race, where teams of four spend as much as 18 hours out on a one-day birding bonanza. It is an excellent means of fund-raising for La Société and RSPB from the generous sponsorship that gets collected by participating team members. This year however is going to be somewhat different. For a number of reasons, several of the regular contestants are away. Some are going on a birding holiday to Hungary, I made the mistake of booking a holiday without giving a thought of what date I was booking, and others are otherwise engaged. So instead of several teams being out hoping to break the 100 species in a day barrier, it will be down to just a couple of teams to carry the flag. We wish



them well, and look forward with renewed enthusiasm to Bird Race 2009.

Although winter tends to be a fairly quiet and reflective time, Section members have been far from idle. As I wrote in the last publication, the Bird Atlas has been launched, and is now well under way. Some 13 people in our Section have committed to carry out four surveys over the next four years, in common with volunteers the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. This will serve to provide vital data as to the population status of all birds that visit or live on the mainland and on the various islands including our own. Even Alderney, Sark, and Herm will be covered. No doubt it will once again highlight the decline of what were once common species. It will also flag up a warning that further species need urgent attention and protection. However, I believe it will also demonstrate the northward push of hitherto Mediterranean species.

One of our members, Phil Alexander, has taken on the role of being our local co-ordinator. If his level of enthusiasm could be bottled and sold it would be a best seller! He took out a group recently on less than a perfect Sunday morning on a familiarisation trip to Pleinmont; this was to be able to demonstrate what the requirements are in carrying out the Bird Atlas surveys. I was thrilled to hear that his endeavours were rewarded with good views of a stunning male Ring Ouzel on the cliffs. This was one migrant that had not been delayed by the adverse weather conditions.



New hide at Marais Nord

This winter has also seen a number of major developments on some of our reserves. At Grand Pré, at what is Guernsey's largest reed bed, a new bird hide has been constructed overlooking the pond at the far west end of the reserve. This reserve is an excellent site for Sedge, Cetti's and Reed Warbler. Also at this time of year there are good numbers of Martins and Swallows passing through, and will spend time feeding on insects flying over the reeds. Why not take time to find this gem in the north of the island?

Another little known northern gem is Marais Nord. This is a private reserve that was created quite a number of years ago by the late Mr O'Rorke. It is a manmade lake that covers an area of some 3-4 acres. It is surrounded by reeds, willow, and numerous species of trees. Local ornithologist Paul Veron has spent many hours carrying out bird ringing here over a number of years, and the numbers recorded are truly staggering for such a site. Due to the wonderful generosity of



View from the hide at Marais Nord

a legacy left by Mr O'Rorke, a hide has recently been constructed by Section members, overlooking the lake (see photos). This is now open to members of the public, and can be highly recommended (Perry's page 6 D3).

However, as this is located on private land, due consideration is needed when visiting. If approaching the property by car, drive down the road to the gateway of Marais Nord. There is parking immediately through the gate on the right hand side in front of an adjacent outbuilding. Access to the hide is over the footbridge and along the path.

Further work is currently being carried out at the scrape on the Colin Best Nature Reserve. This area of water and the adjacent hide are proving popular with both the birds and our members. It has been decided to extend the scrape eastwards with the intention of drawing the birds a bit closer to the viewers. The birds commonly seen here are Curlew (very often up to 150+), Shelduck who have really established themselves as a breeding species on the island, occasionally Lapwing, Wheatears, and large numbers of various species of gulls depending on tide and weather conditions.

Just like the birds we watch, the Section members are always on the move: looking, working, and improving wherever possible the environment for the wonderful range of birds that we have the privilege of playing hosts to. Whether it is species that are with us a few days twice a year, or stay a few months to breed, or overwinter, or our own resident population, our aim is to give them the best possible chance of survival while they are with us.

If you want to find out more why not pop into the Société HQ at Candie on the first Thursday of each month. New members are always assured of a warm welcome.

**Rod Ferbrache**

## Bat Group

**Saturday 12 July** - joint bat and owl hunt with RSPB starting at the Reservoir.

For details of bat walks please consult the Société web-site.



## Guernsey Conservation Volunteers



Planting trees below Essex Castle

On Saturday 23 February the Guernsey Conservation Volunteers and the Alderney Wildlife Trust joined forces to carry out one of the largest tree planting schemes to be seen on Alderney for many years.

A mixture of hazel, hornbeam and oak were planted on the beautiful southern hillside at Essex. A total of 375 trees were planted over the course of the day. These trees will provide a series of coppices interspaced with areas of scrub, bracken and bramble to provide cover for nesting birds. The planting scheme allowed for the inclusion of existing trees already on the hillside including ash, sycamore, elder and sweet chestnut.

This is the first time that GCV has worked with the Alderney Wildlife Trust. The project was coordinated by Angela Salmon from the Guernsey Conservation Volunteers and Roland Gauvain from the Alderney Wildlife Trust. It was a fantastic opportunity for GCV to carry out work on another island in the Bailiwick and learn more about conservation work happening on Alderney. A total of twelve GCV members travelled to Alderney to take part in the project and teamed up with AWT volunteers. The project was very successful, and hopefully this will be the start of a number of projects where the two groups join forces.

GCV was very grateful to Aurigny for helping towards the travel costs of the GCV members.



Spring in Guernsey is a very busy time for the Guernsey Conservation Volunteers as this is when the group starts the annual cut of hemlock water dropwort in the orchid fields at Rue Rocheuse, L'Érée. This is a very labour-intensive job and they always appreciate extra pairs of hands at this time. The hemlock sessions are as follows:

**Thursday 24 April** at 6.00pm  
**Saturday 26 April** at 10.00am  
**Thursday 1 May** at 6.00pm  
**Saturday 3 May** at 10.00am  
**Thursday 8 May** at 6.00pm  
**Saturday 10 May** at 10.00am  
**Thursday 15 May** at 6.00pm

If you wish to come along to any of these sessions or find out more about the Guernsey Conservation Volunteers please contact Angela Salmon via the website - [www.gcv.org.uk](http://www.gcv.org.uk)

## Geology

For the first of our "3 coasts, 3 evenings" meetings, we will be looking at the "Northern Igneous Complex". This consists of the L'Ancrese Granodiorite and the rock on which the quarrying industry was founded, the Bordeaux Diorite. We will examine the characteristics of each rock type, as well as the area of contact between the two, which gives many clues to the origin of the rocks which form the northern part of Guernsey.

Meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14 May at the car park south of Fort Le Marchant, to the south west of the Martello Tower, which is marked as "Le Catelaine" on Perry's p7 F1.

## La Société Sercquaise

In August 2007 the Société published a Charter of Community Values in an effort to identify areas of concern here in Sark and it has had good support. Residents and visitors were encouraged to sign the Charter and in early February it was put on the official Sark tourism website, [www.sark.info](http://www.sark.info) where there is a link for anyone wishing to sign the Charter. To date (early April) there are over 800 signatories.

In August we held a Mill Week and continuing exhibition to celebrate Michael Beaumont's 12:1 scale model of the Sark Seigneurial windmill; a remarkable feat of engineering skill and patience which took over four years to complete. The Lieutenant Governor and his wife opened the exhibition and Richard Axton gave twice-daily tours of the mill.

Jerseyman Richard Le Tissier's book on the occupation of Sark, "Mined Where You Walk" will be launched in Sark on 10 May at the Société Room. The author will be signing copies of his book and there will be a display of WWII artefacts. The event is open to all and refreshments will be available.

We have a new Section devoted to Marine Biology headed by Sue Daly, underwater photographer and wildlife author, and Jo Birch is to head a new Environment Section.

The society accepted an offer from the Army to make use of their Gazelle helicopter in September 2007 and aerial photographs of the Silver Mine site and cliff edge fortifications

at the Eperquerie were added to the photographic record of Sark. More excavation and research of the mines in Little Sark were carried out by the Cornish mining historians in the spring and a very instructive talk was well attended on 5 April.

Jo Birch

## NCCPG

**26 May - Bank Holiday Monday:** Giant Plant Sale at 10.30am at Sausmarez Manor.

**Sat 11 - Sat 25 October:** Nerine Festival in the Lower Glasshouse, Candie Gardens.

**Wed 29 October** at 7.30pm at La Trelade Hotel: Bill Baker from Kew Gardens will give a talk on 'Temperate Plants in Tropical Places: a Gardener's Tour of Tropical Mountains'. Entry to non-NCCPG members £4.

**Wed 24 November** at 7.30pm at Les Cotils, Felicity Green will give a talk on 'Gardening in Containers'. Entry to non-NCCPG members £4.

## Website

The Société website has now got a completely new format which we hope is more modern, visually attractive and informative than the old one. It should also be much easier to maintain. Phil Atkinson has done all the work and we are very grateful to him.

It can be found at the usual address [www.societe.org.gg](http://www.societe.org.gg).

## Legacies and donations in lieu of flowers

Members are reminded that it is relatively simple to leave money to La Société in a will. All that is required is a codicil to a member's will which can be arranged by an Advocate or Solicitor. Money or property can be left for general use, or if desired for a specific purpose.

They are also reminded that donations in lieu of flowers can be made in memory of members who have died.

Communiqué kindly sponsored by

# Julius Bär

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