



COMMUNIQUÉ

The Newsletter of **LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE**

October 2015 Issue No.88

Guernsey's Local Research, Natural History and Conservation Society

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great sadness that I write today of our President, Pat Costen's, sudden death on 13th September after a short illness. She had only just started treatment and we were all looking forward to the time when she could be with us again. Needless to say we are heartbroken.

We will miss Pat's commitment, her energy and her clarity of thought. She has been responsible for so much in her two terms as President, carrying us all along with her boundless enthusiasm and good humour.



Pat took a very active role in La Société, not only as President but also fulfilling a number of other roles, most notably her keenness to encourage the Junior Section. Unfortunately there will be no more stories of the Conservation Herd invading her house or pictures of the steers 'going-viral' on the internet, making the national and international news. A bleak time. Our thoughts are very much with Peter and the family.

La Société has already received a number of generous donations in memory of Pat. I should like to thank everyone for their contributions and we are in discussion with her family for a fitting and lasting memorial and we will announce the outcome in due course. You can be assured that any money contributed will be earmarked for a worthwhile tribute to Pat and that the money will not go into general funds.

One of Pat's latest projects was a proposed revamp of La Société's website. Phil Atkinson, Head of the British Trust for Ornithology's International Team, originally devised the site for us and Phil still manages it on our behalf. We recently held a meeting with Phil (Jessie Jennings, Julia Henney, Kate Lee and myself) to discuss how it can be improved and the type of format that we would like in the future. We really need your help to suggest what information you would like displayed on the site and also the type of site that you feel is appropriate. Perhaps you would treat this as an informal consultation and email your suggestions to our Secretary Kate Lee, secretary@societe.org.gg who will collate them.

Richard Hocart recently formed a panel with Jessie Jennings and Julia Henney to interview applicants for the 2015 Griff Caldwell Bursary. They had a short list of two strong candidates and I'm pleased to report that they selected Evie Wood who is studying Environment and Media at Brighton University. She will be back in the island in December and we are planning to make a formal presentation of a cheque for £1,000, publicising the 2016 bursary at the same time.

La Société maintains a presence at the West Show and at the Viaër Marchi. We man a stand, greet old friends, make some new ones and sell a few books and pens, which more than pays for the hire of the stand. I should like to thank Kate and all the volunteers who took it in turns on the stands. Including proceeds from Vraic Day at L'Eree, West Coast Weekend at Fort Grey and Mini-Vraic day on the Lihou headland (special thanks to Lawney Martin) we raised £278.38p in total.

Lawney Martin has undertaken the role of Hon. Membership Secretary over the past year. Pat had agreed to take on this role next year and we are really grateful that Lawney has once again stepped into the breach and volunteered to do this for another year.

Please note we have reverted to our former office opening hours of **10am to 11.30am, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.**

And finally, to return once more to the sad loss of our President and enthusiastic leader, Richard Hocart has written a separate appreciation of her work with La Société. We all agree that Pat will be an extremely hard act to follow!

Andrew Casebow

A FURTHER TRIBUTE FROM RICHARD HOCART

Pat served as President from 2008 to 2011 and began her second term in 2014. She was a 'hands on' president, and devoted a great deal of time and effort to running the society. During her first term as president the Council decided to set up an information centre at Les Sablons. Pat took on the task of planning it and co-ordinating the volunteers who prepared the displays and re-decorated the centre.

Unfortunately, owing to the death of the owner of the property we had to close the centre, but while it was open it raised awareness of La Société and its work. It was also during her first term of office that Pat established and ran the Junior Section, introducing many children and parents to aspects of nature and history in the island. With her direct and natural way of dealing with people she helped to make the society seem much less remote for many younger adults and their children.

Pat was very loyal to all who were actively involved in the society, giving support and encouragement to members whatever their interests or studies. Pat's special interest was bats. She ran the Bat Group and added a great deal to our knowledge of a group of mammals that had not received much attention previously. Pat's evening bat walks were always popular and well attended.

Pat will be greatly missed by all La Societe members. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Election of New President and Archivist/Librarian

On Monday 12th October Council elected Andrew Casebow as Temporary President and David Le Conte as Archivist/Librarian.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016

Subscription rates remain unchanged for 2016 as follows;

	Local	Overseas
Single	£25	£25
Double/Family	£30	£25
Student	£5	£5
Corporate	£200	£200
Schools	£20	£20
Life Membership-single	£300	£300
Life Membership-double	£400	£400

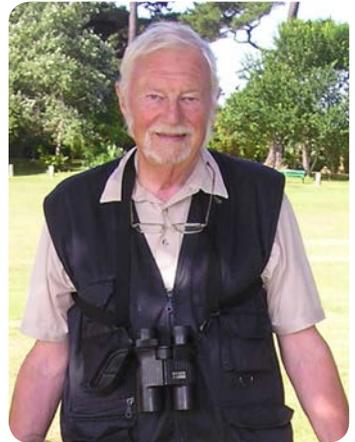
For those members paying by Direct Debit, your 2016 Subscription will be taken in January 2016. A few of our members are still paying by Standing Order at rates that are woefully out of date. If you are paying by Standing Order then kindly increase your Standing Order in accordance with the rates above and instruct your bank likewise. We do understand that some of our long-standing members may experience difficulties in submitting the correct amount but Council has regretfully decided that due to high printing and postage costs, these members will no longer receive a copy of the annual Transactions.

PUBLICATION OF THE TRANSACTIONS 2014

The Transactions for 2014 will be published in 2016. A publication date will be announced in due course.

GEOFF ATKINSON 1932-2015

For many years, Geoff was one of the most active birdwatchers on the island and was a stalwart of the Ornithological Section. He moved to Guernsey in 1959 and his passion and love of the island stayed with him for the rest of his life. He was an extremely active birder on the island for over 30 years and contributed many thousands of records to the Société's records (>5,000 in 2011 alone). He loved these islands and turned up a number of notable records including rarities such as Bean Goose, Quail, Purple Heron, Spoonbill, Montagu's Harrier, Common Rosefinch, Waxwing, Pallas' Warbler (a first record for Guernsey – Sacred Ibis was his other first), although the Eastern Black Redstart at Richmond was the rarest bird he discovered. Rarities were never that important to him, although nice to see, and his motivation for birding was really his love being outdoors and nature in general.



His greatest love was the sea - he was never happier than being on a boat and was the first to sign up on the pelagic trips and was, on occasion, the last man standing! I will never forget a number of things - rushing off to see a Little Egret with him at the Reservoir when they were mega rare in the 80s, seeing Common Rosefinches singing at the Lihou Headland with him, Black-winged Stilt at Fort Doyle in 1988, Great Spotted Cuckoo at Pleinmont in 1999 and the Solitary Sandpiper at Rue des Bergers in 1997 (after I misidentified it half an hour earlier – thanks to Tony Bisson who identified it correctly!).

At Christmas 1996, when he rushed home to drag me out of bed to say he had just seen a flock of 23 Cranes off Pezeries, I did wonder at the time if the Christmas spirit had had been opened a bit too early but I did catch up with them later in the day! Geoff was definitely a patch birder. For three decades he would studiously visit about 20 regular sites each and every month. He had many favourite areas but La Claire Mare, the Silbe Nature Reserve and the Grande Pre were probably his top three. He gave a donation to La Société to help manage the Claire Mare reserve and the scraping of an area known as 'Geoff's reedbed' at the back of the reserve resulted in records of Crane and 2 Black-winged Stilts there in April 2010, only a few months after the work had been done.

Geoff passed away in September 2015 and his family would like to make a lasting legacy to him and have been discussing with the Ornithological Section about making a donation to continue the management and development of La Claire Mare and also possibly putting in an extra hide. At the funeral, we requested family flowers only and asked that if anyone wanted to make a donation in his memory, donations towards this project could be sent to The Treasurer, La Société Guernesaise, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 1UG or made via the LSG website (<http://www.societe.org.gg/about/donate.html>). We would like to thank all those who have made donations so far.

Phil Atkinson

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2015

This year's Christmas Lunch will take place on Sunday 13th December in the Pavilion Restaurant at St Pierre Park Hotel at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. The menu is as follows with any 2 courses priced at £16.50 and 3 courses at £20 a head to include a small tip to the staff but excluding drinks.

Multi Choice Festive Sunday Lunch Menu 2015

Ham Hock, Caper & Parsley Terrine, Bayeux Mustard dressing (GF)
Brie Fritter, Spiced Pear Compote (V)
Chunky Minestrone Soup (V) (GF)
Guernsey Chancre Crab Risotto, Rocket & Parmesan Salad (GF)
Smooth Chicken Parfait with Red Onion Marmalade, Melba toast
Smoked Salmon & Prawn Marie Rose Parcel (GF)

* * *

Traditional Roast Turkey with Trimmings, Fondant Potato & Vegetables
Slow Roasted Brisket of Meadow Court Farm Beef, Yorkshire pudding, Winter Vegetables, Chasseur Sauce
Sea Bass fillet with Baby Spinach Risotto (GF)
Turkey & Ham Pie with Creamy Mash or Fries
Seared Scallops & King Prawns with Chorizo Sausage & Nero Risotto (GF)
Grilled Salmon Steak, Broccoli & New Potatoes, Béarnaise Sauce (GF)
Thai Spiced Crab Cakes, Fries or Salad
Moroccan Tagine of Lamb Shank, Dauphinoise Potatoes, Mange Tout (GF)
Goats' Cheese & Beetroot Risotto, Orange & Walnut Salad (V) (GF)
Pork Fillet Medallions, Broccoli, Torteval Blue Cheese Sauce & Fries (GF)

* * *

Homemade Christmas pudding, Brandy Sauce
Hot Festive Sticky Toffee Pudding, Treacle Sauce
Warm 'Mince Pie' Tart with Rum Butter Custard
Vanilla Crème Brulée or Chocolate Chip Mint 'Arctic Roll'
Torteval Blue Cheese, Guernsey Honey Oatcake, Chutney
White Chocolate Cheesecake

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2015 CONT.

If you would like to join us please send your choices along with a cheque payable to La Société Guernesiaise along with the names of those attending to the Secretary Kate Lee by **Monday 30th November**. Please note there will not be a seating plan.

ROUND TABLE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Beau Sejour, Sunday 22nd November, 10am to 4pm. Free Entry

We shall be holding a stall at the Round Table Christmas Fayre and will be selling Christmas cards, a few books, small gifts and a lucky dip so please come along and support us.

CHRISTMAS IDEAS

We sell a range of local scene Christmas cards priced at £1 for 5 cards, also local view notelets priced at £1.50 for 5. The office at Candie is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 11.30am so do pop in and have a look at our full selection of cards and books.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING A SOCIETE MEMBER..

In the 1960's La Société Guernesiaise was co-founder of the Folk Museum in Saumarez Park and today we still wish to maintain this relationship. The National Trust of Guernsey, Folk & Costume Museum would like to extend a welcome and remind all your members that your La Société Guernesiaise membership still entitles you to visit the Folk & Costume Museum at Saumarez Park for free on presentation of your membership card. (Any Member without a green membership card should please E-mail Kate Lee secretary@societe.org.gg)



The museum currently offers exhibitions covering domestic life during the later 19th and early 20th century, special showcases of the island's largest collection of historic costume and insights into many island occupations ending with Britain's largest public display on the tomato growing industry in the British Islands. The museum's normal opening hours are 10.00am - 5.00pm (Last entry at 4.15pm) for seven days a week.

This year's season ends on Sunday 1st November but if you miss out you can visit the museum's Christmas Shop which opens on Friday 13th November until Saturday 19th December. During the Christmas Shop the Old Guernsey Kitchen display remains while if you visit the shop on Fridays you can sample free mince pies and mulled wine. The shop is open Tue - Sat 10.00am - 4.30pm and Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm.

If we don't see you this year the museum reopens on Tuesday March 15th 2016 and we hope to see you soon.

Christian Morris
Folk & Costume Museum Curator

JETHOU TRIPS 2015

This year we did 2 trips in June and July. Tickets cost £19 and the weather was glorious and Members enjoyed exploring the lovely island. Some were lucky enough to see puffins!



Photo courtesy of Graeme Cox



Photo courtesy of Paul Baudains

NEW PUBLICATION

Boydell & Brewer, the local history publisher, are delighted to offer La Société Guernesiaise members a 25% discount off their recent title: *Poverty and Welfare in Guernsey, 1560-2015* by Rose-Marie Crossan. It is an account of poor relief in Guernsey from the Reformation to the twenty-first century, incorporating a detailed case-study of the St Peter Port workhouse.

Orders can be placed by phone on 01394 610600, by fax on 01394 610316, by Email: trading@boydell.co.uk or on-line at www.boydellandbrewer.com. The discount will make the price £26.25 for members (instead of £35.00 RRP).

Postage is £3.00 in the UK, £7.50 per book (up to a maximum of £30.00) to mainland Europe and £13.50 per book outside Europe. Please quote the offer code 15577 to ensure that the discount is given. The offer ends 30th November 2015.

INTER ISLAND ENVIRONMENT MEETING OCTOBER 2015

This year's ILEM was organised and hosted by the States of Alderney and the Alderney Wildlife Trust at the beginning of October. A number of La Société Guernesiaise members were invited to attend and to present, and La Société on the whole was very well represented at the conference. This year's theme was 'Mind the Gap': the importance of ecological research and its use as a mechanism for environmental management within the islands.

As every year, a variety of government bodies, non-governmental organisations, environmental managers, voluntary groups and relevant individuals from across the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man were in attendance.

Presentations, posters and field trips were available which included matters such as monitoring habitat management, butterflies of Jersey, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the UK and seabed

surveying, as well as visits to the local Ramsar site and fortifications. The two days were divided into terrestrial and marine, although there was overlap between these two of subject matter which was relevant to both. A great experience and learning opportunity for all those present.

The conference was a great success, and congratulations must be given to the team of the Alderney Wildlife Trust for working hard to provide an excellent IEM. The question now is where will it be held in 2016?

Minutes of the conference can be made available on request, and links to the groups etc. involved can be found on our Facebook page.

Jessi Jennings

SECTION REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGY

In 1993, as part of the 'Fortress Guernsey' project to upgrade the island's fortified sites, the then States Archaeology Officer Bob Burns led an excavation at Rouse Tower. A cross-section was dug through the turf rampart and ditch surrounding the tower and, at the back of the ditch, a group of large stones were found in a context containing Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age flints and decorated pottery. At the time it was only possible to examine a small area of this site and it was subsequently covered over and left. In June this year, the Clifton Antiquarian Society led by Donovan Hawley and Laurie Waite, and assisted by Guernsey Museum staff and Archaeology Section, reinvestigated the Rouse site.



Excavations at Rouse (photograph by Tanya Walls)

A four by five metre trench was positioned to partly overlap that dug 22 years earlier. The large stones were relocated and thoroughly examined, but no evidence was found to show that they had been deliberately placed and it was concluded that they had probably rolled down from the hougue on which the tower is built. However more flint, pottery and part of a stone axe were recovered; charcoal from the prehistoric contexts will be radiocarbon dated and hopefully provide dating for both the occupation and the sand-blows which buried the archaeology here. The finds are being examined by Donovan Hawley and an excavation report will appear in the Transactions.

Also in June Barry Cunliffe and his team returned to continue their project in Sark. This year a number of small investigative trenches were dug, including one around a standing stone in a bank on Little Sark. Further buried stones were found and the standing stone was shown to be part of a larger monument of probable Late Neolithic - Early Bronze Age date. Associated with it was a very significant find and a first for the Bailiwick – an archer's wristguard. This flat, polished stone was pierced at either end so that it could be strapped onto the lower forearm to give the archer protection from the bowstring. Such an item would have been imported from the continent and must have been highly valued.

SECTION REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGY CONT.

This summer's 'Celts and Romans' exhibition at Guernsey Museum gave opportunity to see finds from excavations at the Iron Age cemetery in Kings Road, as well as to find out more about the Jersey Hoard. Two timbers from the Roman Ship, 'Asterix', formed part of this exhibition and they will soon re-join the others at Guernsey Pearl where they can be viewed from a small display area (open 10am - 4.30pm).

Two summertime events, organised by Guernsey Museum with assistance from La Société volunteers, were the 'West Coast Weekend' and the 'Fete des Dolmens'. The former event was held at Fort Grey and included rock pool rambles, demonstrations of salt extraction from brine and the opportunity to sample food foraged from the seashore. The latter gave the opportunity to meet archaeologists at four of the island's dolmens and hear about discoveries made there, including seeing and handling some of the finds.

The Section has now reached the third anniversary of our renovation project at The Brothers' Cemetery in St Peter Port. There is still work to do, but we do feel it is time to show it off a little, so there will be an Open Morning on Saturday 14th November between 10 am and 12 noon.

If you would like to know more about the project visit: <http://brotherscemetery.wordpress.com>



Site on Little Sark, with inset of archer's wristguard
(photograph by Tanya Walls)

ASTRONOMY

We enjoy welcoming visitors to our open evenings and also to our group bookings when social clubs, Schools and Scouts for example come on group visits. But occasionally the reverse is true where we are invited to attend another venue. An example of this was June 23rd when David Le Conte was invited to give a talk to the Ladies College year 8 and 9 Students, as part of the College astronomy day.

May 25th 2015 we held an Open Day rather than an Open Evening. The idea behind this was to concentrate on the sun during the day rather than the stars at night. It actually went very well. Whenever we have tried to use our 'coelostat', a motorized mirror which reflects the sun's image to a convenient wall, clouds usually work together to cover the sun. But on this occasion the clouds were not dominant, allowing our visitors and members of the Guernsey Press to catch glimpses of the sun as it really is. Along with illustrated talks and film shows it made the day something special.

Our summer open evenings started in July. The first was July 23rd and then held on each Thursday evening until August 27th. These are to coincide with the summer school holidays. People have asked why we open in the summer when the sun does not go down till quite late. Why do we not hold them in the winter when it is dark by 5 pm? Our reason is that the winter is cold and often wet and although we open the observatory whatever the weather, it is so much nicer to enjoy a warm summer evening even if it does rain and can be rather late.

ASTRONOMY CONT.

This year was a mixed bag of weathers. July was quite good but August was rather wet. Even so, we have added to our list of illustrated talks and we thank our visitors, as always for their generous donations.

Saturday July 11th we joined other sections of La Société Guernesiaise at the west Coast Week end. This was an event organised by Jo Dowding at Fort Grey and involved different sections displaying the value and interest of each. It was held over Saturday and Sunday, but Geoff Falla and I were involved only on the Saturday. We met many interesting visitors and some of our own members and it was good to meet up with other sections.

July 14th was a day for keen astronomers to remember, amateur and professional. It was the day that the NASA 'New Horizons' probe flew past Pluto. It was expected that Pluto would be grey with lots of craters. But the initial pictures sent back showed a much more interesting planet with some colour and evidence of internal heating. NASA launched the Saturn rocket nine years ago. It travelled at times of speeds up to 50,000 mph over a distance of four thousand million miles and it arrived only 8 minutes late. This was quite incredible and will take a long time for all the information to be analysed.

Tuesday August 11th was the evening of our annual barbecue. We always coincide this with the peak of the Perseids meteor shower. The idea is to enjoy the barbecue, then relax in a comfortable chair and watch the shower. Occasionally it does actually work, last year was particularly good. But this year the weather was always looking as though it would win, so I arranged with Pat Costen that we could borrow the Société's gazebo and with Edith Le Patourel's help in locating it, was erected in the observatory's grounds. It was a very enjoyable evening in spite of the rain and not one meteor to be seen.

Saturday afternoon September 5th Colin Spicer and I entertained the Junior section at the observatory. This had been arranged earlier in the year between Pat Costen and I and Pat contacted the Juniors herself a few days before the event. Once again we wanted to use the coelostat to reflect the sun but the sun had other ideas. Instead we showed pictures on our overhead projector of the sun, including how it appears from Mars and how the sun works. For a short time there were thin clouds allowing us to view the sun through eclipse glasses which helped make the afternoon a success.

For a number of years we have had on loan an all-sky camera from Hertfordshire University. It takes pictures of the full night sky every two minutes or so. The results are used in Hertfordshire along with other camera around Britain. But the camera or perhaps the software has stopped working. Attempts to restart it are on-going. It is hoped we can restore it as the pictures taken are quite interesting as can be seen on our web page www.astronomy.org.gg

On the evening of Wednesday September 16th Dr Robin Catchpole gave a lecture to a full house at the Frossard Theatre, Candie Gardens, entitled 'From here to the edge of the observable universe'. It was an excellent evening. Dr Catchpole is with the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University and has been well received World wide in many places such as New Zealand, Hong Kong and South Africa. The evening was the result of working closely with the Jersey Astronomy Club. Jersey advised us that Dr Catchpole was giving this lecture in Jersey and if it were possible would we like him to come to Guernsey.

SECTION REPORTS

ASTRONOMY CONT.

We immediately agreed as David Le Conte and Dr Catchpole have been friends for many years and we knew from a previous event how well Dr Catchpole is received.

We are now looking forward to our next **Open Evening on Thursday 29th October at 6pm** and the more sociable hours of darkness for our telescopes.

Frank Dowding

SEE THE STARS WITH LARGE TELESCOPES

Visitors are welcome at Guernsey's Astronomical Observatory on **Thursday 29th October at 6pm**: Visitors will be shown how the telescopes operate with viewing if clear and given illustrated talks on space related subjects. Donations are welcomed and assist with running and maintenance costs. We suggest adults £2, children £1.

The Observatory is in La Rue du Lorier, St Pierre-du-Bois. Perry's Guide reference 21 E3. Parking is usually available at La Houquette School, Rue des Paysans. From the school go 100 yards up the road, then left onto Rue du Lorier, then immediately right, behind a large bunker. The road is dark, so a torch is advisable.

For further information and directions see www.astronomy.org.gg or call 255215.

Finally a wonderful photo of the recent eclipse:



The Moon almost totally eclipsed, photographed by David Le Conte at the Astronomy Section **Monday 28th September**

BOTANY

This June our young botanist George Garnett (aged 16) attended a Field Botany course at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh with the support of LSG. We are delighted to hear that George thoroughly enjoyed the course and graduated with a mark of 82% and a distinction and was awarded a Certificate. George has now been asked by the BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) to speak about Guernsey Flora at the Annual Exhibition Meeting on **Monday 28th November at the Natural History Museum**. We wish him luck.

The BSBI is a society for everyone interested in the flora of Britain. It traces its origins to 1836. It welcomes professional and amateur members and devotes itself to the study of botany in Britain, Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. (www.bsbi.org.uk)

New Botany members should contact Jean and Gavin Sampson as below. Members will receive a monthly newsletter, either by post or email. Please send a cheque to Soc. Guernesaise Botany Section with your details to Jean and Gavin Sampson, The Ferrers, 1 Milton Gardens, Rue Cauchée, St Martin, Guernsey GY4 6NU **Tel: 234430 or E-mail: gavsampson@cwgsy.net**. Please send your name, address, postcode and telephone number, and your email address if you wish to receive your newsletter that way.

ENTOMOLOGY

Any queries kindly contact Rich Austin on **Tel: 721915** or **E-mail: richmond.austin43@gmail.com**

FAMILY HISTORY

Members of the Section were very sad to hear of the death of La Société President, Pat Costen. Pat had worked hard for our Section and will be sadly missed.

The Section room at Les Vauxbelets is open for research on the first and third Saturday morning of the month, 10am to noon. However, Family History is looking for new premises next Spring. We require a very large room and storage space for LSG books. Ground floor would be ideal with parking. If you can help please e-mail Maria van der Tang as below.

Any Family History queries should be addressed to The Family History Section, PO Box 314, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3TG. Alternatively E-mail Maria van der Tang researchenquiries@hotmail.co.uk

Events

- **Wednesday 18th November at 7.45pm, Frossard Theatre, Candie.** AGM followed by a talk by Graham Guille titled "Henry Mahy 1837 – 1911, Master Mariner and Harbour Master".

GEOLOGY

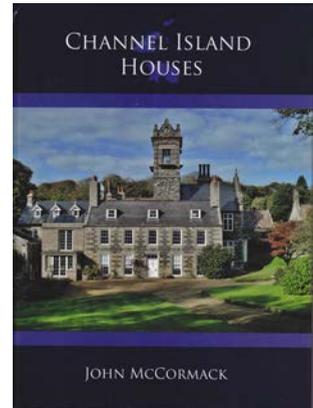
Contact Andy Dorey **Tel: 252123** or **E-mail: andydorey3@gmail.com**

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

After many delays and alarms, John McCormack's new book, 'Channel Island Houses' is at last published and on sale at bookshops and at La Société for £65, all 840 pages of it with lots of pretty pictures in colour! As its title implies, this volume not only updates 'The Guernsey House', published as long ago as 1980, but extends the same sort of research to all the other islands. The Duke of Richmond Map of Jersey, surveyed in 1787, is published for the first time, with all surviving houses marked and numbered, and maps for Sark and Alderney have been made up to show houses remaining there from roughly before 1800. These numbered houses are then listed in extended tables that show as many details of each of them as possible in the space available.

A general meeting of La Société, free to all members (£5 to non-members on the door), has been arranged for 7.30 pm on 28th November in the Lecture Theatre at Candie, where all the stages in the making of this book, which has taken seventeen years, will be demonstrated, including the visiting of upwards of 6,000 sites marked on the Jersey map in order to eliminate those no longer existing, and the subsequent requests to go inside about 1,500 that were thought to remain. The entertaining differences in the architecture of houses between each island will be discussed, and the extreme age of some of our standing structures, dating back to the twelfth or thirteenth centuries will be mentioned. New insights include what amounts to a revolution in landscape and architecture due to a change in drinking habits in Elizabethan and Jacobean times: to find out more, please come along!

John McCormack



Events

- Saturday 17th October at 7.30pm – Frossard Theatre, Candie - Landscape and the positioning of traditional houses.
- Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm – Frossard Theatre, Candie – joist mouldings through the ages; sequencing and dating where possible.
- Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm – Frossard Theatre, Candie - Upside-down fireplaces in two medieval houses; what, if anything, accounts for them?

New members or visitors are always welcome to attend, but should contact John McCormack, the Section's Secretary, on 720303 or E-mail mrjam@cwgsy.net beforehand, in case of alterations or final instructions. An annual charge of £10 is due at the beginning of the year, payable by those who expect to attend regularly.

MARINE BIOLOGY

For more information visit the website, the Facebook page or E-mail [Jessi Jennings](mailto:Jessi.Jennings@marinebiology@societe.org.gg);
marinebiology@societe.org.gg

LA SOCIETE CONSERVATION HERD



Photo courtesy of Helen Young

This summer the boys began their work in earnest with the launch of "Operation Skylark". Skylarks became extinct from Guernsey as a breeding species roughly 5 years ago. This was due to a combination of factors, one of which was the loss of breeding habitat. It is hoped that by grazing rather than cutting the common in the area of Port Soif the habitat will prove to be more attractive to this iconic bird through the creation of grass tussocks – ideal breeding sites.

LA SOCIÉTÉ CONSERVATION HERD CONT.

One of the most encouraging features of their time on the common was the interaction between the herd and the general public. We were all anxious at placing the steers in a location so exposed to dogs, the public and in close proximity to busy roads. It soon became apparent that our concerns were misplaced as the steers were quickly taken into the hearts of the community at Port Soif.

Dog walkers expressed delight in seeing them on their daily walks and local residents were pleased to see the cattle back on the common after a 30 year absence - "just like when they were young".



Photo courtesy of Julia Henney

The Herd became such a part of the lives of the community that they were even the focus of several art entries in the North Show, one of which was awarded first place in its category. We are so grateful for all the support the Herd were offered whilst grazing there and we are very much looking forward to moving them back next spring.

After two months grazing at Port Soif the steers were moved on to wet meadows managed or owned by La Société at Gele Road and Rue des Vicheriers. To keep track of where the steers are take a look at our web map at arcg.is/1dHGiob

Thank you to everybody who donated to the Herds' collection boxes over the past few months. We raised a fantastic £134.24 over the three months. They are back out in Co-op stores at L'Aumone, Bailiff's Cross, St Martin's, Royal Terrace and Queen's Road pharmacy. So please keep donating your loose change. Every penny helps!

Sadly, as you will have read in the Vice Presidents report we tragically lost Pat Costen in September. Pat was the Chair of the Conservation Herd Steering Group and one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Herd. Without her determination, inspiration and tenacity the project would still be in its conceptual stage. From strimming the fence line at every pasture to rearing the calves in her yard (and on occasion her house), she was always first to volunteer for a task. She will be sorely missed by all those who were lucky enough to know her.

NATURAL HISTORY

Meetings

- Monday 16th November at 8pm – Frossard Theatre, Candie.
- Monday 18th January at 8pm, Frossard Theatre, Candie.

More information about the section can be found on the Société website or by contacting Lesley on 710737 or Email: lbourgaize@cwgsy.net

ORNITHOLOGY

As I write the Autumn migration is well underway - swifts left us in August and now swallows and martins are moving south on their long journeys.

At our last Section meeting Tony Bisson gave an interesting presentation on the 40 birds which have been seen only once in Guernsey. Of these some came from Canada or America and some from the East.

These were probably brought by strong weather systems, so, watch the weather forecasts and maybe you will get the second sighting of a Bufflehead duck, a Rose-breasted grosbeak, Red-eyed vireo or American golden plover; you may even spot another Olive-backed pipit. The shame is that these birds, in all probability never returned to their natural habitats.



Pied Wagtail – photo courtesy of Rod Ferbrache

One bird, another of my favourites, which we notice mostly at this time of year is the pied wagtail. It certainly lives up to its name, being both black and white and constantly wagging its tail up and down as it searches for food. As it flies it gives its characteristic call—'chis-ick–chisick' with emphasis on the second syllable.

By day one can see pied wagtails on fields, in gardens and on beaches where they feed on insects but, they are equally at home on streets and car parks gleaning prey from pavements and road surfaces. At night they gather in flocks to roost to keep warm. They are fascinating to watch and learn about as are all our birds whose abilities never cease to amaze.

If you wish to know more about the birds we see here and what can be done for them, then please join us on the first Thursday of the month at Candie, we look forward to welcoming you.

Nancy Ogier

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

Members are reminded that it is possible to make La Société a beneficiary of their will. 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.



Environment Guernsey is the wholly owned company of La Société Guernesaise. We manage La Société's nature reserves and undertake numerous land management contracts for various States of Guernsey Departments, the National Trust and private individuals. We also run the Guernsey Biological Records Centre and provide an environmental consultancy service. For all aspects of conservation advice and contracting, please contact us.

Guernsey Tobacco Factory, La Ramée, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2ET
Tel: (07781) 166924 • Email: jamie.hooper@cwgsy.net • gsybiorec@cwgsy.net

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS - EVENTS

Monday 23rd November at 8pm: Frossard Theatre, Candie - Presentation in French about Quebec - its history, economic importance, political status, language and culture. The speaker is Eric Martineau-Fortin.

Thursday 28th January 2016 at 8pm: Frossard Theatre, Candie - Presentation in French about the future of photography. The speaker is Jean-Christophe Godet, Artistic Director of the Guernsey Photography Festival.

Contact details Geoff Mahy Tel: 263029

PLANT HERITAGE GUERNSEY

Nerine Festival in Candie Lower Greenhouse. **Sunday 11th October to Saturday 24th October daily 10am to 4pm. Free Entry.**



ASSOCIATED GROUPS:

Alderney Wildlife Trust	Roland Gauvain	822935
Bat Group	Jane Gilmore	700024
Blue Dolphins Sub Aqua Club	Jessie Jennings	bluedolphinssac@gmail.com
Friends of the Priaux Library	Jenny Tasker	jenny@taskeronline.com
Guernsey Conservation Volunteers	Angela Salmon	721163
Guernsey Meteorological Observatory	Martin Crozier	237766
G.S.P.C.A	Steve Byrne	257261
La Société Serquaise	Jo Birch	832788
Le Cercle Français	Geoff Mahy	263029
Lé Coumité d'la Culture Guernésiaise	Dr Harry Tomlinson	255891
Guernsey Trees for Life	Andy McCutcheon	07781 110180
National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (Guernsey Group)	Tattie Thompson	239444
The Alderney Society & Museum	The Secretary	823222
The Guernsey Beekeepers Group	Chris Tomlins	07781 100311
The Guernsey Botanical Trust	Ivan Le Tissier	07911 719115
The Guernsey Society	Michael Paul	235858
WEA	Roy Bisson	256848

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers:

Temporary President	Dr Andrew Casebow	722245	president@societe.org.gg
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Archivist & Librarian	David Le Conte	264847	

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Ornithology	Vic Froome	254841	ornithology@societe.org.gg
Philology	Bill Gallienne	265529	history@societe.org.gg

In addition to the Section Secretaries being Council members, other Council members are:

Jamie Hooper (co-opted), Jane Gilmour (co-opted), Sylvia Brouard, Lesley Bourgaize, Richard de la Rue, Michael Deane, Adrian Nicolle, Lawney Martin and Julia Henney.

Office Hours:

Our office at Candie is open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon.

Tel: 01481 725093

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