



COMMUNIQUE

The Newsletter of **LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE**

October 2016 Issue No.91

Guernsey's Local Research, Natural History and Conservation Society

UPCOMING EVENTS IN BRIEF

- “Engineering Life: frontiers of gene editing and synthetic biology” by Dr Jenny Molloy on Saturday 22nd October at 2.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie.
- “A Guernseyman at War” – (the WW1 Memoir of Wilfred d’Auvergne Collings, who took part in the retreat from Mons and the campaigns against the Turks in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia culminating in the capture of Baghdad). A talk by his daughter Juliet Campbell on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie.
- “Alderney The Evacuation/The Homecoming” - Films to be shown on Tuesday 22nd November at 7pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie.

Free entry to Societe Members, £5 to non-members payable on the door. Please note reservations for the Frossard Theatre are not taken so please come early to avoid disappointment.

2014 TRANSACTIONS

For those Members who opted to collect their Transactions from Candie please note we still have a lot of 2014 Transactions awaiting collection. Please note Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon is a good time to collect them as there is usually parking outside Candie.

2015 TRANSACTIONS

We expect to publish the 2015 Transactions before the end of January 2017 and members will be notified in due course when the Transactions are available either by e-mail or in the next newsletter.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I am just back in the Island from walking the length of Northumberland and subsequently attending an Oxford University ‘International Climate Change Conference’ at Keble College. Here in Guernsey La Société hosted the annual Inter-Island Environment Meeting with delegates coming from the Isle of Man, Jersey, Alderney, Sark and the UK.

Jessi Jennings who, with Julia Henney, was a member of the organising committee has written a report about the conference.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT)

Back on the Farne islands at dusk I heard the ghostly calls of several hundred seals hauled out on sandbanks just off-shore, sounding strangely melodious. In Celtic mythology the 'seal legend' has it that the seal was once human and can sometimes resume human form. There are about 6,000 Grey or Atlantic seals in the waters around the Farne Islands and at a distance in the twilight they sound eerily feminine, mermaids perhaps? The islands are also home to large Guillemot and Puffin colonies.

In 2009 I attended a Climate Change conference in Oxford entitled '4 degrees and beyond' which looked at the scientific evidence that if world-wide carbon emissions continued as they were then it was likely that the average temperature of the world's climate would be more than 4 degrees Centigrade higher than before the Industrial Revolution by 2100.

Temperatures at the Arctic were expected to be much higher, resulting in the melting of glaciers in Greenland, which, if continued over several hundred years, could result in a very significant rise in sea levels. Such high temperatures would have an immense impact on wildlife populations unable to cope with such rapid change, but also on the human populations living in the 100 or so low lying and vulnerable nations around the world.

Now, since the Paris Agreement in November 2015, the politics of the situation has changed, but not the scientific evidence. I was invited to attend an International Conference held at Oxford University in September to explore the arguments behind the Paris Agreement goal of limiting climate warming to 1.5 degrees. In the media this has been depicted as an agreement by 195 countries to limit climate warming to 1.5 degrees, which means that carbon emissions must reach a peak and start to decline no later than 2020, if it is to be achieved.

We learnt that in fact this goal was an 'aspiration' rather than a target and many scientists were talking of there being an 'over-shoot', anticipating that emissions will continue to increase well into the 2020's and beyond but hoping that at some time later in the century much greater progress could be made in either reducing emissions or by the use of 'carbon-capture and storage' solutions, by which the level of carbon in the atmosphere might be reduced, resulting in lower temperatures. However, by that time the damage could be done. I was left feeling very pessimistic and convinced that we, and the worldwide community, need to take more positive action.

The good news is that La Société has been successful in purchasing two fields in St Peters, one of which is adjacent to La Claire Mare nature reserve. Hopefully, by the time that you read this the purchase will be completed and the land conveyed. La Société is still on the look out for suitable areas of land that will enhance the reserves which it owns and it is hoped that in future years we will be able to expand our reserves and manage them for the benefit of wildlife but also for future generations, for our own children and grand-children to enjoy.

Finally, let me close on a high note. We have had a number of excellent meetings this autumn, culminating in the Pat Costen Memorial Lecture held at St James to an audience of over 170 people, at which TV presenter Dr George McGavin spoke about 'Bug World: Sex Violence and a Cast of Billions'. This was a superb talk enjoyed by everyone who attended. Our thanks to Collenette Jones for generously sponsoring this event.



Dr George McGavin with
Dr Andrew Casebow - photo
courtesy of George Garnett

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT)

The next day George and his wife expressed the wish to go for a long walk along the cliffs, so I took them out to La Gouffre and bade them farewell as they went on their way towards lunch at Fermain and their final destination in St Peter Port. Later in the day I received a message that they were 'all done in!' But the following day when I took them to the airport they were over the moon about the cliff path. George said that it was one of the best walks that they had ever done and that it "must be one of the top 10 walks in the world". Praise indeed, but fully justified.

Andrew Casebow

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DETAIL

- **"Engineering Life: frontiers of gene editing and synthetic biology"** by Dr Jenny Molloy on Saturday 22nd October at 2.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie.

New genetic technologies give us unprecedented ability to diagnose and treat disease and to precisely engineer biological organisms to produce everything from biofuels to medicines, flavours to fragrances. This talk will cover the basics of these new tools and approaches to biology, some cutting edge applications and what their future might mean for ourselves and our environment. Dr Jenny Molloy is a molecular biologist by training and completed her DPhil at the University of Oxford investigating the use of genetics to control mosquito populations, specifically dengue and Zika virus vectors. She now coordinates the University of Cambridge Synthetic Biology Strategic Research Initiative and OpenPlant, a UK Research Centre for open technologies in plant synthetic biology.



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Both initiatives apply formal engineering principles to biological systems to make novel and useful traits and have a strong focus on making research freely and openly available to benefit society. Jenny is particularly interested in this intersection of DNA and 'open source' technologies, but has general interests across a broad range of topics in genetics and synthetic biology including gene editing and genome engineering.

Free entry for Société Members and Students - £5 for non-members payable on the door.

- **"A Guernseyman at War"** – (the WW1 Memoir of Wilfred d'Auvergne Collings, who took part in the retreat from Mons and the campaigns against the Turks in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia culminating in the capture of Baghdad). A talk by his daughter Juliet Campbell on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie.

Wilfred Collings was born in Guernsey and educated at Elizabeth College and Sandhurst. A much decorated regular soldier, he was commissioned into the Army Service Corps (later RASC) in 1914, serving through WW1 and WW2 (Western Desert, Greece, Syria, Iraq and Western Europe as DST 21 Army Group and then BAOR).



Wilfred d'A Collings (1893 – 1984)

UPCOMING LECTURES IN DETAIL (CONT)

He was a founder member of the Sudan Defence Force and on leaving the army spent 8 years in Beirut as the first chief of supplies for UNRWA before finally retiring to Guernsey.

Juliet Campbell was born in London and christened in the Town Church in Guernsey and was schooled in many countries. She later read PPE at Oxford (LMH), then joined the diplomatic service where she served in Western Europe and South East Asia as well as in the Foreign Office in London. Her final post was British Ambassador to Luxembourg (1987 – 1991). Juliet left the Diplomatic Service to become Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge (1992 – 1998) and now lives in Oxford. Juliet recently published her father's memoirs.

Free entry for Société Members - £5 for non-members payable on the door.

The book is available for purchase direct from Juliet – kindly send a cheque for £21 (to include postage and packaging) to Juliet Campbell 3 Belbroughton Road, Oxford. OX2 6UZ enclosing your address.

- “Alderney The Evacuation/The Homecoming” Films to be shown in the Frossard Theatre, Candie on Tuesday 22nd November at 7pm.

Eye Film, a production company based in Norwich but with close ties to Alderney, have launched a crowd funding Appeal to raise the funds needed to produce their documentary, “Alderney The War Years”. This film, the final in the trilogy of three telling the story of Alderney during WWII, will focus on the German occupation of the island and will attempt to uncover what went on the island during the war - using first-hand accounts.

In 2015, Alderney remembered the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of the island, with the subsequent German occupation and 70 years from its liberation and the islander's homecoming. Eye Film ran a successful crowd funding campaign at the time, through Crowdfunder.co.uk, which resulted in them travelling to Alderney and filming interviews with many islanders, capturing their own unique, very personal stories about the Evacuation on June 23rd 1940 and their Homecoming on December 15th 1945.

Two films have now been produced and shown on the island one on the Evacuation and one about the Homecoming, but there is still one more to make, to tell the story of what happened on the island during the Second World War while the islanders were away. Director Charlie Gauvain is travelling to Guernsey in November to interview those in Guernsey who have first-hand accounts of travelling to Alderney during WWII and what the island was like under German occupation.

At the same time there will be a screening of “Alderney The Evacuation” and “Alderney The Homecoming” at the Frossard Theatre on Tuesday 22nd November.

Anyone who has any stories to tell or is interested in contacting Charlie can do so via e-mail charlie@eyefilm.co.uk or telephone 01603 727750. The screenings will commence at 7pm on Tuesday at the Frossard Theatre Candie. Entrance for Société Guernesiaise members is free with non-members being £5 payable on the door.

Please note reservations cannot be made so please come early to avoid disappointment.

The annual Inter-Island Environment Meeting (IEM) was in held at Castle Cornet in Guernsey this year, on 22nd and 23rd September, and hosted by La Société Guernesiaise and the States of Guernsey.



Background

The first IEM took place in Guernsey in 2000 and was entitled 'Joint Environment Meeting'. Subsequent annual meetings took place in Jersey, Alderney and the RSPB Southwest headquarters in Exeter. Thanks to the efforts of the late Charles David (the then President of La Société Guernesiaise), after a break from the meetings between 2004 and 2007, the meetings came back with a new lease of life in 2008, with involvement from the Isle of Man and increasing contact with UK and French organisations.

IEM 2015

In October 2015, the IEM was hosted by the Alderney Wildlife Trust, and focused on the importance of ecological research and its use as a mechanism for environmental management within the Islands. However, it also saw a strong line of discussion directed towards developing the mechanisms for communication between the Islands and considering future resource sharing opportunities. Please visit <http://www.alderneywildlife.org/node/5138> for details of the presentations given and the posters displayed at the meeting.

IEM 2016

Following on from the success of last years IEM in Alderney was a challenge.

The IEM organisers started getting things together in January 2016, and ideas were discussed as to the theme for this year, as well as meeting location and field trip suggestions. A theme of 'designations' was decided upon, which would recognise the importance of a particular area, species, habitat or policy and how we can make them work in the most effective way in the context of Island jurisdiction. A focus on education, citizen science and community involvement was strong on Day 2 of the IEM. In addition to this, updates were included in the programme on a variety of ongoing projects and areas of research that have previously been presented at the IEMs. Below are some examples of presentations given this year:

- 2016 State of Nature (Paul Buckley, RSPB)
- SSS's and ABI's (Planning Services, States of Guernsey)
- Marine Protected Areas in Jersey (Paul Chambers, States of Jersey)
- Designations in Sark (Jane Norwich, La Société Sercquaise)
- Wildlife Education (Claire Thorpe, Alderney Wildlife Trust)
- Seasearch (Chris Wood, Seasearch, Marine Conservation Society)
- Chough Update (Glyn Young, Durrel Wildlife Trust)
- Bat Research in Jersey (Annika Binnet, Annyctalus Ecology)

A copy of the delegate pack and full programme is available on request:
Email: iem2016@societe.org.gg

INTER-ISLAND ENVIRONMENT MEETING 2016 (CONT)

This year's IIEM was held in Castle Cornet, where the presentations took place in the Hatton Gallery overlooking Herm and Sark, and poster presentations were on display in the Amherst Room throughout the two days. Delegates from a number of environmental conservation organisations attended the conference, such as the Guernsey and Jersey Biological Records Centers, Jersey Barn Owl Conservation, Guernsey Tree Wardens and Guernsey Trees for Life, British Trust for Ornithology, the National Trust for Jersey, the GSPCA, and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. A number of students from the Guernsey Grammar School were also in attendance over the two days; we hope to continue to see students coming along to the IIEM, and maybe presenting!



Ramsar information board in Herm, photo courtesy of Jessi Jennings.

The field trip this year was to Herm Island, where we were taken on a tour of the Island to see and learn more about the new Ramsar designation. Herm, Jethou and the Humps were formally designated as a Ramsar site in October 2015. The various marine and terrestrial habitats on and around Herm support a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, including important breeding areas for sea birds species. Herm common also has a rich cultural heritage with numerous archaeological remains.

For more information about the 2016 IIEM

Email: iiem2016@societe.org.gg or visit the

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IIEM2016/>

Thanks go out to the Insurance Corporation of the Channel Islands for their continued support and sponsorship, the staff at Castle Cornet for helping us organize and set-up the meeting, and to Herm Island Limited for all their help with the field trip and evening of merriment which was much enjoyed by all!

Jessi Jennings

CONSERVATION MAP PROJECT

Julia Henney from La Société Guernesiaise and Vanessa Crispini-Adams from The Little Trees Project have joined together to develop the Conservation Map project.

The outline of the project is simple – to map all the land on the island managed for conservation. The aim of this map, however, is much grander!

Over the coming months, we will be collecting information from organisations, schools and individuals across the islands who manage any land with the aim of conserving biodiversity - from large nature reserves to small wildlife gardens. We will be collating information on the type of land, what condition the site is in and how the site is managed. All this data will be brought together into a detailed online interactive map.



Photo credit: Vanessa Crispini-Adams

CONSERVATION MAP PROJECT (CONT)

This map can then be used as a tool by land managers and conservation scientists to advise how best a site can be managed for the benefit of the island as a whole, rather than considering each land parcel in isolation. It will also allow the connectivity of separate sites to be examined - as the more isolated a site, the more vulnerable the site is to degradation and species loss. We may find, for example, that the map highlights the need for more wildlife corridors to create a large network of conserved land.

It is also hoped that by bringing together information on the work of the different nature organisations and land owners into one place we can encourage greater collaboration – allowing all involved to make more informed decisions and to share resources.

And finally, we hope that this interactive map can be used as an educational tool and to encourage the general public to get involved in practical conservation.

For example, if a school group creates a wildlife pond or plants a stand of trees, they will be able to submit their project and see their hard work which will then appear on the map. This will illustrate the value and importance of their work in collaboration with other efforts in the community.

This project has been made possible thanks to two successful grant applications from the Co-Op Eco Fund and the Saffery Rotary Walk which has provided the funding to collate the information and host the live map online.

So, if you manage a site for wildlife conservation and would like to see your nature reserve on the map please do get in touch!

Julia Henney (La Société Guernesiaise) and Vanessa Crispini-Adams (Little Trees Project).

SECTION REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGY

In August and September the Section was involved in two excavations. In August we worked alongside the Alderney Society at the Nunnery, the Roman fort at Longis Bay in Alderney; in September we investigated the earthwork defences on the Corbiere headland.

This was the fourth season of excavations at the Nunnery led by Guernsey Museum Director, Jason Monaghan. This year a trench was sited to locate the west side of the tower which stood inside the fort. It was hoped that the entrance would be found and that it would be possible to reach the Roman ground surface outside the tower. The excavations revealed part of the tower wall, including the south-west corner and the entrance in the middle of the west side. The photograph shows the south side of the tower's entrance, and demonstrates that the wall was 10 Roman feet thick. The wall lies just a few centimetres beneath the modern ground surface and survives to a uniform height, to which it must have been deliberately reduced at some time.



The Nunnery: inside the curtain wall, looking north across the tower entrance – photo courtesy of Tanya Walls.

It had also been repointed, repaired and had a cobbled surface laid at its base, so it appears to have been re-used as the foundation for a later building. It is quite possible that this happened in the 16th century when the Chamberlains were in residence here. There were very few Roman finds, probably because the Roman and the medieval levels had been cleared out at some time. However there was a significant amount of early post-medieval pottery, suggesting that it was at this time that those earlier deposits were cleared; once properly analysed this will be very useful in dating this later use of the fort.

A second trench was dug in the north-west corner of the fort, against the inside of the curtain wall. This revealed the plinth onto which this Roman wall had been built, as well as remains of another post-medieval building. This building clearly runs underneath a Napoleonic magazine and so is perhaps part of the 16th century phase. Post-excavation work is now in progress and further details will appear in the Transactions in time.

The excavation at the Corbiere investigated a defensive bank and ditch system which crosses the narrowest part of the headland, so protecting it from an inland attack. Although these defences are extant, the headland is usually covered with dense vegetation and they are not easy to see.

The trench was 2 metres wide and 15 metres long and we hoped it would take in one side of, what appears to be, the main bank and the whole of the ditch. There were very few finds and after the first couple of days we wondered whether we were digging geological features, but the eventual discovery of worked flint showed that we were indeed dealing with a man-made structure. The ditch proved to be almost two metres deep and had been hacked out of the rock; this would have been a lot of work, although the rock is lcart gneiss which fractures and can be prised out. The photo shows the fully excavated ditch looking south towards the bank and beyond that to the sea. The ditch was U-shaped in section, with the north side being more steeply cut than the south; it was about 6 metres wide. An attacker would have had to get cross this ditch and then scramble up the opposite bank, which probably had a timber palisade on the top.



La Corbiere: Looking south across the excavated ditch towards the bank - photo courtesy of Philip de Jersey.

Such a structure is typical of late prehistoric defences, but due to a lack of finds we have been unable to prove this date. The other possible date would be medieval. A survey of 1680 shows a ruinous medieval castle at Corbiere and it is possible these earthworks were part of its defences. Indeed the ditch was filled with stones, some of which had lime mortar adhering and had clearly come from a building. Were these part of the medieval castle?

It is also possible, perhaps likely, that the earthwork was prehistoric in origin and was re-used in the medieval period with the ditch having been re-dug and kept clear at this time. So the headland certainly had formidable defences, but quite when they were built and when used, remains elusive.

Tanya Walls

See the Stars with Large Telescopes

Visitors are welcome at Guernsey's Astronomical Observatory on the following date:

Friday 4th November 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 Peter Langford on 265557.**

BAT SECTION

The section undertook its first bat roost survey in June and early July. We found some good maternity roost sites for Common Pipistrelles, including one with 105 bats emerging, but sadly none so far for Grey Long-eared Bats. We know there are some in Guernsey as I had a juvenile Grey Long-eared to care for in August, which had been taken to the GSPCA having been found outside the Rohais Fish and Chip shop. An unusual location indeed! We would welcome any information that would help us to locate more Pipistrelle roost sites and any active Grey Long-eared ones. All records are entered into the Guernsey Biological Records Centre database and the roost survey results have been sent to Bat Conservation Trust. We are currently surveying for swarming and hibernation roost sites, especially focussing on tunnels and caves using a static bat recorder. We will be able to report on these investigations in the next newsletter.

If you find an injured bat you should contact **Aimée Golden directly on 07911 713115** or the GSPCA, who will contact the Bat Section. The next Bat Section meetings will be held on 2nd November and 7th December 2016 and thereafter the first Wednesday of every month during 2017. Meetings will be held in the Section Room at Candie Gardens at 7:45pm and new members are very welcome.

Aimée Golden

BOTANY

Walks

- **Saturday 5th November at 2pm - Moulin Huet, Perry's guide page 30, D3.**
- **Saturday 3rd December at 2pm - Saumarez Park to look at Winter trees, meet in the back car park, Perry's guide page 8, G1.**

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. Guernesiaise Botany Section with your details to Jean and Gavin Sampson, The Ferrers, 1 Milton Gardens, Rue Cauchée, St Martin, Guernsey GY4 6NU, tel: 234430, 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.

For enquiries about events please contact Anna Cleal by Email: botany@societe.org.gg

ENTOMOLOGY

Any queries kindly contact Mark Lawlor Email: mplawlor@cwgsy.net

FAMILY HISTORY

Family History News

We are delighted with our new Family History Premises at the Russels, Les Cotils, St Peter Port. Thanks must go to La Société Guernesiaise as without their help we would not be able to afford the rent.

We have had many visits from local and overseas members since our move and also from people who have been to the café and visitors who stay at Les Cotils.

We welcome anyone who is interested in researching their ancestry to visit. There is good parking and a café for light refreshments on site.

Opening Hours 2016

Monday - October 24th and November 14th and 28th - 10am to noon

Tuesdays - October 25th and November 29th - 7 to 9pm

Wednesdays - October 19th and November 2nd, 9th and 23rd and December 7th - 2pm - 4pm

Saturdays - October 15th and November 5th and 19th and December 3rd and 10th - 10am to noon

All welcome.

Events

- Wednesday 16th November 7.45pm - AGM preceded by a talk by the Very Rev, John Guille entitled "My Family, The Church and Me".

Any general Family History queries should be addressed to The Family History Section, PO Box 314, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3TG. Alternatively Email: [Maria van der Tang researchenquiries@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Maria.van.der.Tang@researchenquiries@hotmail.co.uk)

GEOLOGY

Contact Andy Dorey Tel: 252123 or Email: andydorey3@gmail.com

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Events

- Saturday 12th November – "Doors and Doorways in medieval and post-medieval houses" – a talk by John McCormack.
- Saturday 26th November – "A Historical Look at Orchards and Gardens in Guernsey" – a talk by Richard Hocart.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS (CONT)

- Saturday 10th December – “Paving and drainage in and around ancient houses” – a talk by John McCormack.

The above talks start at 7.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie. Free Entry for all.

Contact details - John McCormack Tel. 720303 Email: mrjam@cwgsy.net

JUNIOR SECTION

For details of Junior Section events please contact Chris Maurant on 07911 130415 or Email chris.maurant@yahoo.co.uk or visit our website www.societe.org.gg

LA SOCIETE CONSERVATION HERD

La Société Conservation Herd have spent the summer continuing Operation Skylark by grazing Port Soif Common.

The project has built on the success of last summer with an increase in the land grazed and even more volunteers helping to manage the herd.

We began grazing a stretch of grassland outside Ocean Drive Clos which in recent years had become over taken by Alexanders. Large sections of grassland behind Rovers Football Club which had become very tall, weedy and had begun to be invaded by brambles were also grazed for the first time.



A member of the Conservation Herd grazing around a pyramidal orchid at Port Soif Common – photo courtesy of Julia Henney.

We hope to return to all of these sites in the years to come and begin to reduce the dominance of the alexanders and other tall plants and encourage the development of a species rich grassland.

Due to the lack of a livestock trailer, we were unfortunately unable to attend as many shows as last summer. We were, however, able to take the two newest members (named Seven and Eight) to the West Show in August.

They were grazing in Les Vicheries – a short walk by halter and leadrope from the show ground. They were awarded three rosettes; first and second in their class and Seven won reserve junior beef champion. Eight was also involved in the young handlers competition, where he and his handler took second place.



Seven and Eight joined the six larger steers grazing at the Bridget Ozanne Orchid Fields – photo courtesy of Julia Henney.

We were also able to take Seven and Eight along to the Herd’s car boot sale held at Sausmarez Park. Despite a rather wet start to the day we had fantastic support and managed to raise over £600 for the Herd. It was also an opportunity to meet the newest members of the Herd.

LA SOCIETE CONSERVATION HERD (CONT)

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Co-op Eco Fund of £4,000 and the support from RH Gaudions and Condor Ferries I am very pleased to announce that we have now been able to purchase our own trailer! This is not only essential for us to move the cattle between sites, but will also enable us to attend more events in the future.

After grazing Port Soif common, the herd were moved to Les Vicheris where they were joined by Seven and Eight. This is the first time that the full herd of 8 steers had been together and, whilst we were apprehensive at having a herd of such mixed ages, the young members fitted in easily and they can now be seen grazing contentedly alongside Charles and David who are now almost 6 feet tall!

In a few weeks we expect the weather window to close and the steers will need to be moved to their winter lay-back lands - areas of less sensitive grassland which can be grazed through the cold wet winter months.

Over the next months we will also be producing the first beef for sale and close to Christmas we will be recruiting the next young stock.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Herd through 2016, especially to the Co-op for such a generous donation. We're looking forward to 2017!

Julia Henney

For details of how you can help with the Herd please email Julia Henney: conservationherd@societe.org.gg

MARINE BIOLOGY

Since the last newsletter, the Marine Biology Section (MBS) has been busy with lots of events and courses throughout the summer. This has included a seaweed ID course, our annual Ormer survey, rock pooling with the Junior Section, a seabed surveying course in Jersey, as well as involvement in an intertidal habitat biotope survey at Vazon Bay, in association with the Alderney Wildlife Trust and the Guernsey Biological Records Centre. Our thanks go out to Dr Mel Broadhurst for the intertidal biotope survey and report.

At the beginning of September, the MBS took part in a course organized by the GSPCA: Marine Mammal Medic, through the British Divers Marine Life Rescue. A great day of learning and practical work, and an interesting spectacle for beach-goers. The life-sized plastic Pilot Whale certainly drew attention!



Marine Mammal Medic course - photo courtesy of Jessi Jennings.

More information regarding these events will be included in the La Société Guernesiaise Transactions available next year.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Upcoming events include a course on the use of habitat mapping software, an MBS social evening, as well as trips out to gather data on seaweed and continue the collection of local intertidal species photographs for our marine species ID publication.

All of the MBS events are put up on the La Société website www.societe.org.gg under the SECTIONS area, and on the La Société Facebook page.

If you would like to be included in the Marine Biology Section's mailing list to find out more about our events etc., or would like to become more involved, please Email: marinebiology@societe.org.gg

NATURAL HISTORY

Events

The next Natural History meeting will take place in the Frossard Theatre, Candie on Wednesday 23rd November at 8pm. All welcome. 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 it is the first day of October and it has been notable for the numbers of swallows and house martins I have seen, doubtless on their long journey South to their wintering grounds in South Africa. It is a reminder to watch for the other birds which hopefully will pass through Guernsey on their Autumn migration. Later in this and then in the New Year we will, I hope, see our usual winter visitors/residents. A gorgeous little bird to watch for from October to April is the Snow bunting. In its winter plumage it presents as a brown and white bird with a large white wing patch. Look for them near the coast and listen for their loud 'tsweep' sound as they call to each other.



Snow Bunting – photo courtesy of Rod Ferbrache

Snow buntings are resident in Iceland, summer visitors to Scandinavian mountains and the Russian tundra. There is a small isolated population in the Scottish highlands. They winter in Scotland, Denmark, Southern Sweden and Germany toward the Ukraine. Any that we see here have probably been brought by the weather so, after an Easterly wind look for one or several near the coast. If you are not at the coast at the right time then some other migrants you might see inland, and if lucky, in your garden, are Redstarts, Blackcaps, Chiff-chaffs and willow warblers. Some winter visitors/residents are Redwings, Fieldfares, Lapwings, Curlews and Brent geese. If you need aid to recognise these birds there are some excellent books to help and you will be well rewarded when you see the actual birds.

To learn more why not go to Candie on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm and join the Ornithology group. They will be pleased to welcome you.

Nancy Ogier

LUNCH TIME LANGUAGE LESSONS AT CANDIE MUSEUM

'Lessons at Lunch Time' is a Guernsey Language Commission supported initiative which began during the autumn of 2013. Guernsey language classes take place at Candie Museum in La Société Guernesiaise's room on Tuesday and Wednesday lunch times (generally from 12.15pm - 1pm & 1.15pm - 2pm). The classes are run as a series of six sessions which are informal and relaxed, the emphasis is on speaking. All levels are catered for from beginners, to elementary and intermediate. There is also an 'innovation', a class for 'rememberers' (specifically for people who spoke the language when they were younger, but have trouble remembering it). A 6 week series of sessions costs £25 (£20 if you have a Discovery Pass), and are open to all.

Yan Marquis

The next series of lessons will begin during the week beginning 31st October, if you are interested in coming along, please contact:

Josephine Dowding, Access & Learning Manager / Guernsey Language Commission
Culture & Heritage Tel: +44 (0)1481 747264 or josephine.dowding@gov.gg
<http://www.facebook.com/Guernesiaais> <http://language.gg/>

CERCLE FRANÇAIS LECTURES

Thursday 10th November - 'Serge Lama, singer & song writer'. Presentation in French by Bryan Morris together with recordings of songs. 8 p.m , Frossard Theatre, Candie – Free Entry.

Thursday 26th January - 'The Law Officers of the Crown'. Presentation in French by H.M. Procureur Megan Pullum, Q.C., the first woman in history to hold this post. 8 p.m. , Frossard Theatre, Candie – Free Entry.

PLANT HERITAGE GUERNSEY

The Nerine Festival is now on in the Lower Greenhouse at Candie



Open daily from 10am to 4pm until Saturday 22nd October. Nerines for sale. Free Entry.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017

Subscription rates remain unchanged for 2017 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 2017 Subscription will be taken in January 2017. Cheques can be posted to Candie or cash dropped in during office opening hours. Alternatively you can pay your subscription via our website www.societe.org.gg

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.

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.

ASSOCIATED GROUPS:

Alderney Wildlife Trust	Roland Gauvain	822935
Blue Dolphins Sub Aqua Club	Jessi 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' Association	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:

President	Dr Andrew Casebow	722245	president@societe.org.gg
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Kate Lee	235380	secretary@societe.org.gg
Honorary Treasurer	David Cranch	07781 120915	treasurer@societe.org.gg
Membership Secretary	Lawney Martin		membership@societe.org.gg
Editor of the Transactions	Richard Hocart	254693	editor@societe.org.gg
Reserves Committee Chairman	Jane Gilmour	700024	
Conservation Officer	Jamie Hooper	266924	
Volunteer Co-ordinator - Reserves	Anthony Stagg	722351	
Archivist & Librarian	David Le Conte	264847	

Section Secretaries:

Archaeology	Tanya Walls	727614	archaeology@societe.org.gg
Astronomy	Peter Langmead	265557	astronomy@societe.org.gg
Bat Section	Aimée Golden		bats@societe.org.gg
Botany	Anna Cleal		botany@societe.org.gg
Climate Change	Dr Andrew Casebow	722245	climate.change@societe.org.gg
Conservation Herd	Julia Henney		conservationherd@societe.org.gg
Entomology	Vacant		mplawlor@cwgsy.net
Family History	Edith Le Patourel	721566	
Geology and Geography	Andrew Dorey	252123	
Historic Buildings	John McCormack	720303	mrjam@cwgsy.net
History	Vacant		
Junior	Chris Mourant	07911 130415	chris.mourant@yahoo.co.uk
Marine Biology & Zoology	Jessi Jennings	07839 250558	marinebiology@societe.org.gg
Natural History	Lesley Bourgaize	710737	
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), Helen Litchfield, Richard de la Rue, Michael Deane, Adrian Nicolle, Lawney Martin, Rodney Collenette, Alex Hershel and the Very Reverend John Guille

Office Hours:

Our office at Candie is open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 11.30am

Tel: 01481 725093

Published by La Société Guernesiaise
Candie Gardens, GY1 1UB

Email: societe@cwgsy.net
Website: www.societe.org.gg

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