



La Société

For nature, history and
science in Guernsey



Chris Packham with La Société President Yvonne Burford at L'Ancrese BioBlitz. Photo courtesy of Julia Henney.

President's Report

I am writing this having just caught up on sleep after the incredible series of events surrounding Chris Packham's visit. The week began with a well-attended Nature Guernsey family event at the Colin Best Nature Reserve. The following day, Barry Wells and I collected Chris from the airport in time to do a media interview before he took to the stage at St James. Both nights were sold out and the event was a great success. Chris's performance was fascinating, thought-provoking, inspiring and humorous by turns. It was quite mesmerising to see the world through Chris's eyes and through his skills as a photographer. We were also reminded starkly of the impact that our choices as humans have on us and on the natural world.

On the Tuesday, the Biodiversity Partnership and the Guernsey Biological Records Centre hosted a well-attended BioBlitz at L'Ancrese which Chris formally opened. Julia Henney will report on this in full in our next newsletter.

As a result of these events and the publicity surrounding them, we have gained over a hundred new members and I'd like to welcome every one of you and thank you for your support. Please contact any of the section secretaries listed on the back page of this newsletter if you would like to learn more or get involved with a particular section. I must also thank Guernsey Post who delivered our leaflet advertising Chris's visit to all the households on the island free of charge, introducing La Société to a wider audience.

Chris expressed an interest in our Orchid Fields, so we visited the Bridget Ozanne reserve. Our joint Botany secretary, Helen Litchfield, came along to discuss the finer points of the flora and we were also accompanied by a marsh harrier and a kestrel. Chris was so taken with the display that he instantly tweeted Dave Goulson (who was due to come to Guernsey a few days later) to insist he also take a look at them. Dave is a renowned bee expert and founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. He gave an engaging talk to a packed hall at Les Beaucamps. All in all, it was a truly inspiring week at a time of year when our island is looking its very best.



Chris Packham supports The Pollinator Project and encourages Guernsey audience to attend Professor Dave Goulson's talk at Les Beaucamps High School on Sunday 19th May. Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.

Also in May, Sue Daly gave a presentation based on her new book, *Marine Life in the Channel Islands*, which was fully subscribed. She has kindly agreed to return for a repeat performance at the Frossard Theatre on Saturday 21st September. Kate will be sending out an email once the times are finalised to enable those who are interested to reserve a seat. As usual seats are free to members with a charge of £5 for non-members.



Sue Daly with a copy of her new book "*Marine Life of the Channel Islands*" (available from La Société, priced at £20). Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.

The AGM in March included the presentation of honorary life memberships to Jane Gilmour and Dr. John Renouf.

The new Zoology section has got off to a flying start. Charlie Le Marquand addressed a packed theatre on the subject of her MSc thesis on hedgehogs in Guernsey. A zoology book club has also been set up – this month's book is, appropriately, Chris Packham's memoir, *Fingers in the Sparkle Jar*. The next book club meeting to discuss Chris Packham's memoir will be held on Wednesday 3rd July at 7pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie. If you would like to get involved please email Charlie (contact details on back cover).



Charlie Le Marquand at her talk on hedgehogs in Guernsey. Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.

Later in this edition, Jessi Jennings writes about the new La Société project 'Seasearch Guernsey'. The addition of Seasearch brings the current number of La Société projects to three, the other two being The Conservation Herd and The Pollinator Project.

That just about wraps up my report for this edition. Please don't hesitate to join in with any of our sections or projects – you will always be welcome. I will be taking advantage of the long days to spend more time outdoors, particularly around our beautiful coastline and I wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

Yvonne Burford

Upcoming Astronomy Talk

On the 50th anniversary of the launch of Apollo 11 David Le Conte will give an illustrated talk entitled "Man on the Moon" on Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm in the Frossard Theatre, Candie. It has been estimated that some 400,000 people were involved in this exciting achievement, David being one of them. He will describe the Apollo programme using original footage from the time. Free admission. All welcome.

2017 Transactions

The 2017 Transactions are available for collection from Candie. The picture on the front cover is of a Hawfinch. The office is open on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning between 10am and 11.30am – parking is easier on a Saturday morning.

We have many uncollected Transactions for 2014, 2015 and 2016. If you are unable to get to Candie to collect kindly let us know. If you no longer wish to receive the Transactions or would prefer to receive them electronically via our website kindly email secretary@societe.org.gg

Nature Guernsey Events

Sunday 30th June - Rock pooling led by Marine Biology Section, please meet 10.30 a.m., Portelet Harbour Perry's ref 32D2.

Thursday 25th July - Nature walk including visits to the Colin Best and Claire Mare reserves. Start 9 a.m., L'Eree car park Perry's ref 20B1.

Friday 16th August - Evening bat walk led by Bat Section. More details to follow.

Sunday 1st September – Nature Guernsey Family Event based at Pleinmont. More information to follow.

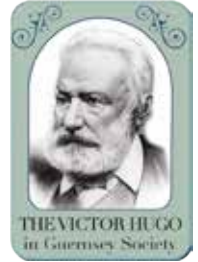
Sunday 20th October - Ornithology walk at Pleinmont, looking for migrant birds. Start 10 a.m.

Please keep an eye on our website www.societe.org.gg for further details of all the above events.

The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society

At the turn of the 19th century, Victor Hugo was rather in vogue in the English-speaking world. In July 1914 Hugomania reached its culmination in Guernsey, at least, with the inauguration of the statue of France's génie littéraire by Jean Boucher in Candie Gardens, the gift of the French government. Everyone was excited; even the collars of the local dogs were emblazoned with blue, white and red ribbons. A mere couple of weeks later sombre events abruptly wiped the memory of those happy celebrations.

It was left to that doyenne of La Société, Edith Carey, to carry the banner for Hugo after the war and in 1927, when Hauteville House was given by his descendants to the City of Paris and especially in 1932, when the French President Edouard Herriot visited Guernsey, reporters and politicians alike beat a path to Edith's door in Hauteville to learn about Victor Hugo and his life in the island.

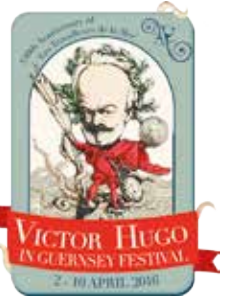


French President Edouard Herriot leaving Mesnil Carey in 1932
Photograph courtesy of the Priaulx Library



Later, other eminent members of La Société interested themselves in Hugo: Jean Le Pelley and Victor Coysh had a deep knowledge of Guernsey's most famous resident, which they shared in their lectures and articles, while in recent times Dr Gregory Stevens Cox has studied Hugo's exile and his relations with Guernsey and its people, lecturing and publishing his findings and revealing much that is new to scholars.

In 2015 Dr Gregory Stevens Cox enlisted the help of Roy Bisson in putting together a week-long festival to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Toilers of the Sea*, the novel Hugo dedicated to the people of Guernsey. A charity was formed to facilitate the smooth organisation of the festival - **The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society**.

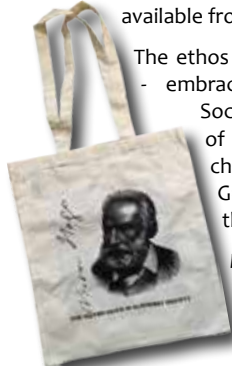


Following the success of the 2016 festival, the Society has continued to celebrate the deep links between Hugo and Guernsey, inviting scholars to give lectures in the island, organising conferences here featuring some of the most eminent Hugo researchers in the world, from France, the UK and the USA, producing books and merchandise, welcoming journalists, supporting performers, and encouraging the island's authorities to recognise in Victor Hugo one of our greatest assets.

The Society translated a play, *The Intervention*, a social comedy written by Hugo in the island in 1866, and staged it for the first time in English last June at the Princess Royal Centre with some of Guernsey's finest actors – an unforgettable and emotional world première. The script, an archive, educational materials for schools and a film of the production will be freely available from the Society's website.



The ethos of the Society - that Victor Hugo is for everyone - embraces both the scholarly and the popular, and our Society shares with La Société not only the virtues of enthusiasm and academic rigour, but also its characteristic determined optimism and love of Guernsey. We will be, we trust, a good fit, and we thank the Council for accepting us as an Associate.



Dinah Bott, Chair, TVHIGS.

Victor Hugo in Guernsey Conference 2019
28 - 30 June • Full details & tickets from
www.victorhugoinguernsey.gg



Members in Paris

All photographs/images courtesy of TVHIGS except where otherwise indicated.

Guernsey Seasearch Project

Seasearch is a citizen science project developed by the Marine Conservation Society in the UK. Guernsey Seasearch was established in 2018 in association with the Guernsey Biodiversity Partnership and Seasearch in the UK.

The aim of Seasearch nationally is to gather information on seabed habitats and associated marine wildlife through the participation of volunteer divers and snorkelers. In addition to this, Guernsey Seasearch will collect data to better inform work streams within the Biodiversity Strategy.

The project enables the collection of quality local marine data whilst educating and qualifying the community to take part in the project and learn more about local marine conservation.

The first Guernsey Seasearch training course was held on Saturday 11th May 2019, led by Dr Charlotte Bolton, National Seasearch Coordinator. The aim of the one-day course was to provide those new to Seasearch a basic grounding in marine recording. Dr Bolton gave an overview of marine life in the Channel Islands, how to recognise and classify marine habitats, and how to complete an Observation Form.



The First Seasearch observer course of 2019 was a great success! *Photo courtesy of Dr Charlotte Bolton.*

There was great interest in the course, with seventeen people taking part on the day, completing the classroom-based theory. There were many new faces, which was really encouraging and bodes well for the future of marine conservation in Guernsey

We also held a marine species ID evening at the Frossard Theatre, which highlighted some of the species to be found in our waters, and was attended by several of the Seasearch trainees. Many of the new recruits put their skills to the test by collecting data on the marine life at L'Ancrese East as part of Guernsey's first ever BioBlitz, held on Tuesday 14th May.



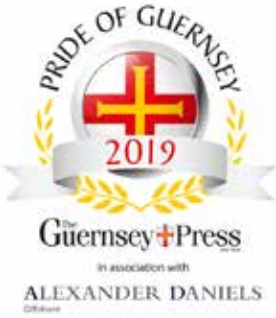
Marine Biology Section Secretary Laura Bampton and National Seasearch Corodinator Dr Charlotte Bolton at the marine species ID evening. *Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.*

Now the Seasearch trainees will be able to complete an Observation Form following a dive or after they have been snorkelling, and help build Guernsey's marine database. Once forms have been completed, they will be submitted to Seasearch for verification and the data will be provided to the Guernsey Biological Records Centre. The course attendees are particularly looking forward to helping to map and monitor Guernsey's eelgrass beds, an important habitat both locally and nationally.

The course was so popular that we hope to hold another on Saturday 13th July. Booking is essential. Please email guernseyseasearch@gmail.com if you would be interested in taking part. In the meantime, we are looking forward to welcoming the Seasearch team back to Guernsey in June for a week of diving and data collection!

Jessi Jennings

The Guernsey Press Pride of Guernsey Awards



The Guernsey Press Pride of Guernsey Awards are back and nominations are now open with a new category for 2019.

The island takes great pride in its natural beauty from heritage sites, to open space to our miles of coastline. Although this is something many people appreciate, for some, conserving our natural world from flora to fauna to marine life is a top priority. The Conservation Hero Award hopes to celebrate these custodians of Guernsey's land and seascapes, many of who often receive little or no recognition of the important work they do. To nominate someone who you think is a Conservation Hero, visit www.prideofguernsey.com/nominate to submit your hero and to say why you think they deserve the award.



Saint's Harbour. Photo courtesy of Adrian Miller.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 5th July. For more information please contact Charlotte Le Marquand at CLemarquand@guernseypress.com or by calling 240233.

Section Reports

Archaeology

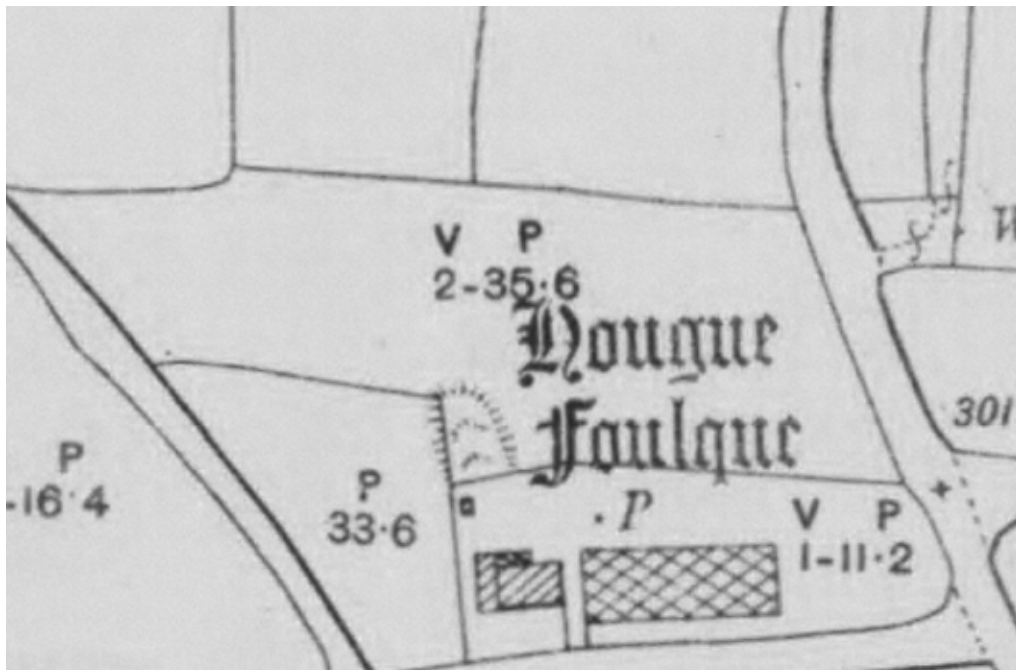
In February we visited La Hougue Fouque in St Saviours. This mysterious mound is located on the high ground behind the airport and, although visible from the road, it is usually covered with vegetation causing it to blend into the background. A cottage on the south side of the mound has recently been bought by developers who are hoping to enlarge it and during clearance of the site vegetation was removed from the mound making it now very visible. With kind co-operation from Wheeler Developments we have carried out a measured survey of the mound and a geophysical survey of the fields to the north and west. At the beginning of May we are hoping to dig some test pits in these fields.

La Hougue Fouque is roughly rectangular and measures about 10 by 15 metres. It is about 3 metres high. It has been truncated on the south and west sides and must originally have been larger but its original size and shape are unknown. The mound is located on the plateau where there is a thick layer of loess soil and no rocky outcrops, so we may suppose that the mound is made up entirely of earth, but we cannot be sure of this. The ground immediately north of the mound is lower than elsewhere, suggesting that this area may have been the source of the construction material. La Hougue Fouque has been a significant landscape feature long enough for it to have been given a name and it is one of the few features labelled on the 1787 Duke of Richmond map. Two field boundaries are aligned on the mound and the earth for these probably came from it. The Gun Inspection Reports of 1816 record that an 18 pounder gun was set up on La Hougue Fouque in the 'centre of the island' for the purpose of 'signals of alarm'. Was the mound built for this gun, or was it already there? Given the truncation of the mound where it is met by the field boundaries and the curved shape of the apparently undisturbed north and east sides, the mound must pre-date the field boundaries and so probably the alarm gun also. An earth mound such as this could have been a burial mound, such monuments were typically built during the Bronze Age and also in the dark ages. Other earth mounds are recorded from the Channel Islands, but they do not appear to have been common. Local antiquarian FC Lukis records that stone axes and rubbing stones were found 'on the skirts of the Hougue Fouque', so there was prehistoric activity in the vicinity.



La Hougue Fouque cleared of vegetation, the bank in front of it is modern.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Parrott.



1900 Ordnance Survey map showing La Hougue Fouque and the way in which the fields converge on it.

La Hougue Fouque is a Protected Monument and we will not be digging into it to try and find out its age and original function, however the current development has given us an opportunity to look more closely at it and to investigate the fields around it. Our test pits will help shed more light on the environs of the mound and might give some clues as to its origins.

Tanya Walls

Astronomy

The annual six-week WEA Star Gazing course was again run at the Observatory in February and March, with a number of Section members participating in giving talks and demonstrations and manning the telescopes. This was the 18th consecutive year of the course, and it was again fully subscribed.

It was followed by a three-week astrophotography workshop, being an introduction to the subject, run by member Jean Dean, and one of series of courses she has organised over the past year. It has resulted not only in greater interest and expertise in this area, but has also encouraged a number of new members.

Astronomy cont.

Group visits by schools and youth groups have continued during the winter, organised by Elaine Mahy. This year, for the first time, we welcomed the Guernsey Deaf Children's Society.

Several new state-of-the-art items of equipment have been acquired to support hands-on observing and photography, including an 80mm astrograph refractor, a 120 mm refractor, an 8-inch SCT reflector, and GOTO mounts. These are all available for members to use.

Congratulations to Jean Dean for the high accolade of having her superb image of the Rosette Nebula in the constellation Monoceros the Unicorn selected as NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day on Friday 12th April 2019. It can be seen at <https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap190412.html>, and is reproduced here with her kind permission. She captured the image with 13 hours total integration time, using a monochrome CCD camera with red, green, blue, H α , OIII and SII filters. Each was combined into a single image and then the 6 images were combined at the Observatory into the final full colour image.

Jean explains that a camera allows us to see much deeper into space. The image shows a molecular cloud complex some 5,000 light-years away which is a stellar nursery where new stars are being formed, possibly together with new planets and moons and the possibility of life.

Jean has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Former Astronomy Section member Colin Gaudion, who now lives in Canada, has also been elected as a Fellow of the Society.



Rosette Nebula. Photo courtesy of Jean Dean.

Events

During the summer school holidays the Observatory will be open every Thursday evening, from the 25th July to the 29th August. The first two nights will start at 9.00 pm and the others at 8.30 pm. Park at La Houguette School and follow the signs. There will be talks and slide-shows, and observing through the telescopes if clear. No need to book; just drop in. The planets Jupiter (with its four brightest moons) and Saturn (with its rings) will be visible, as well as many other objects. Members will point out the constellations and interesting objects in the night sky. Donations (suggest adults £2, children £1) are welcomed to assist with running costs.

David Le Conte

Bat Section

La Société Bat Group is interested in hearing from members of the public about the location of likely bat roosts. June is the time when bats form roosts in the roof spaces of buildings. They do no damage, keep themselves and their roost clean, and anyone with bats should consider themselves blessed!

If you have seen bats emerging from a building at dusk, typically from small gaps under the fascia board of the roof eaves, or through a larger hole elsewhere, then this probably indicates a roost and we would love to hear from you. Other signs of a roost are:

tiny droppings on window ledges or on the ground under the roof eaves, or stuck to the side of walls.

frequently seeing bats flying around a building at dusk or dawn. If it is your house, possibly also hearing noises in the attic.

If you suspect a roost, you can contact us by email (below) and tell us why you think you may have a roost, or telephone Jane Gilmour on 700024.

If you find an injured bat please contact Aimee Golden directly on 07911 713115, or the GSPCA who will contact the Bat Section.

Contact Charles Hurford email bats@societe.org.gg for details of the next Bat Section meeting at Candie. New members are always welcome. Find us on Facebook: Guernsey Bat Group

Botany



Bridget Ozanne Orchid field. *Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.*

A very busy month for the Botany Section. We hosted our first ever Nature Guernsey Event in the form of an open invitation for everyone to join our monthly walk. This took place at the Orchid Fields which gave a spectacular display this year. So much so that Chris Packham tweeted photographs to his followers. The day itself was a great success with several guided tours. Visitors were also given the opportunity to take a self-guided walk around the 15 fields now in La Société care. Throughout the month, different groups were given guided tours from school children to gardening enthusiasts, both local and visiting. A new plant for Guernsey was discovered by Hazel Hill and verified by the BSBI specialist as *Orobanche reticulata*, Thistle Broomrape. Previously only known in the North Yorkshire, we are still puzzling about how it has fetched up at Port Grat. Not just one specimen found but several.

Helen Litchfield

Botany Walks

Saturday 6th July, Ozanne Nature Reserve. Meet in the coastal car park at Les Amarreurs Harbour from where we will walk to the reserve. Perry's guide page 6, A4

Saturday 3rd August Colin Best reserve. Meet by triangle at turning to Lihou headland. Perry's guide page 20, B1.

Saturday 7th September Pleinmont. Meet in car park by bunker. Perry's guide page 32, C4

Saturday 5th October Pitronnerie Road fields (location to be confirmed – please check the website events page www.societe.org.gg)

All walks meet at 2pm for a 2:15pm start.

For further enquiries about the monthly Botany walks please contact Anna Cleal by email: botany@societe.org.gg

Join the Botany Section's Facebook page to find details of the monthly walks and recent plant photos. Once you have joined you can add your own images.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1310943042297921/>

Entomology

The Atlantic Beach Cricket also known as the Scaly Cricket

As a result of proposed further landfill at the northern end of Belle Grève Bay and in particular in Spur Bay, the Entomological section decided to check if the Atlantic Beach Cricket, *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*, could still be found in this area. At around the same time, the British Orthoptera recording scheme suggested that in view of decreases in some of the UK populations, Guernsey should reassess its own sites.

In the UK the species can be found at three locations: Chesil Beach which is the UK stronghold and smaller numbers at Branscombe to Beer Head in Devon and Marloe Sands in Pembrokeshire. The species is at risk due to ever more severe storms as well as pollution to their shingle beach habitat. In Global terms the insect is found at about 30 sites. As well as the UK and Bailiwick sites the insect is found in isolated locations along the French coast from Cherbourg to Finistère. Further south, a new site was found in northern Spain last year and populations may still hang on in Portugal, Morocco and the Canary Islands. Mid stage nymphs were found on Dixcart Bay in April this year, the same location as the first Bailiwick record in 1998. The species is classified as endangered in the Red Data Book and in France it is classed as critically endangered.

In June 2018, pitfall traps were set at Spur Bay and in just three traps 167 crickets were trapped. These were all sexed and it was found that females outnumbered males seven to three. As a result of our success we contacted Professor Karim Vahed of Derby University who has been studying the lifecycle

Entomology cont.

of the cricket and has been rearing them in captivity on behalf of English Nature. It was hoped that the insects could be reintroduced to areas that had suffered declines, but alas, the insects released do not appear to have survived. On hearing about the numbers caught on Guernsey, the Professor considered the densities at Spur Bay to be equal to Chesil Beach in Dorset.



Scaly Cricket. Photo courtesy of Andy Marquis.

Professor Vahed and I kept in touch and he kindly agreed to visit Guernsey to do some field work and to give a lecture on his study into the species' life cycle. We were able to add to what is known about this by finding adult crickets of both sexes that had overwintered, which had not previously been noted in the wild, and in the laboratory only females had survived. We set about eighty traps in April but did not catch a single cricket due to heavy rain and low temperatures. Professor Vahed persisted and managed to find an adult male under a rock, and this was filmed by CTV.

The Entomological section has started a programme of trapping at all Guernsey's potential sites. Royal Haskoning who are preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment, are aiding us in this research. As the cricket is thermophilic Professor Vahed recommended that we do most of our trapping between July and September. Since the Professor's visit two new sites have been found in the north of the Island, Fontenelle Bay and the eastern side of L'Ancrese Bay. The latter site was located during the BioBlitz and we were able to show Chris Packham his first Atlantic Beach Cricket!



Professor Karim Vahed of Derby University with Entomology Section Secretary Trevor Bourgaize. Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.

What needs to be done now is to complete our surveying and collate the data from all our known sites. We need to have a clear understanding of the densities at each site to decide if the population is viable. What is certain is that Guernsey has internationally important populations of this member of the Orthoptera and a responsibility to care for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people that have helped in trapping, particularly Andy Marquis, Mark Lawlor and Professor Karim Vahed.

Trevor Bourgaize **Contact Trevor Bourgaize email entomology@societe.org.gg**

Family History

The Family History room at the Russels, Les Cotils is now back on summer opening times of 9.30am until 12.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome so if you have a friend or relative who would like help on how to research or if you need advice with any problems we are happy to help.

If any of you have a family story or article you would like to see printed in the next Journal, please send it to us by sending it to us at researchenquiries@hotmail.co.uk

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

Maria van der Tang

Historic Buildings

Saturday 13th July – 2.30pm - a visit to La Rocque Balan, by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Toynton.

Saturday 10th August – 2.30pm - a visit to St. Andrews's Church, by kind permission of the Dean.

Saturday 14th September – 7.30pm, Frossard Theatre, Candie - a talk by Elaine Jordan entitled "Listing Buildings: its Importance and Process".

Saturday 12th October – 2.30pm – a visit to La Grande Maison at L'Islet by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Fysh to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Historic Buildings Section.

New members are always very welcome to attend. Please contact John McCormack email mrjam@cwgsy.net or telephone 720303.

Ornithology

The spring migration is nearly over for another year. Numbers of migrant species have been light this year. Possibly with many days of clear weather, birds flying north for the breeding season have simply flown over the island.

There is concern that it could be an indication that many species are suffering a decline in numbers.

There have been some excellent sightings in the island including:

Hoopoe, Little Ringed Plover, Ring Ouzel and Siskin in March, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed), Grasshopper Warbler, Cirl Bunting, Tree Pipit, Serin and Siskin in April, Canada Goose, Turtle Dove, Golden Oriole, Hawfinch and Pied Flycatcher in May.

Ornithology cont.

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The first Cuckoo was heard on 19th April in the Fauxquets Valley. The first Swallow was seen on 25th March at Chouet.

Some unusual long-staying birds include Garganey, Pochard, Cattle Egret and Spoonbill.

The photograph accompanying these notes is not a migrant, but a resident stonechat. About the size of a robin, these birds can be seen along the cliffs and other coastal areas. The photograph, taken this spring by new member Duncan Le Cras, shows a male in breeding plumage with its striking black head, white around the side of the neck and an orange-red chest. They are not shy birds, but the chances are you may hear them before you see them. It's alarm call sounds how it is named - just like two stones being hit together - and is surprisingly loud for its size. They hunt insects, spiders and, as seen in the photograph, caterpillars. They will feed on seeds and berries in the winter.

Stonechat. *Photograph courtesy of Duncan Le Cras.*



Visitors to the Grand Pré Nature Reserve will have noticed that Environment Guernsey have cleared a large area of reeds close to the parking area. It looks drastic but the work was long overdue. The reed beds are a managed habitat. Over time, they start to dry out and woodland takes over. This work is necessary to keep the reed beds as a place where associated plants, insects and birds can flourish

The Ornithology Section is undertaking a summer survey of breeding Kestrels in the island for the first time. These birds are easily recognisable in the air as they are the only species that hover as they hunt for food. They are found on the coast and inland. Any Kestrel sightings would be welcome, particularly if they are carrying any nesting material. Of particular interest would be any known nesting sites, or sightings of fledged youngsters. Sightings can be emailed to info@guernseybirds.org.gg

The Ornithology Section helped out at the very successful BioBlitz held on Tuesday 14th May at L'Ancrese East, with over thirty species of birds listed. This was the first event of its kind and, with the presence of Chris Packham, was well supported. Taking snapshots of wildlife in an area over a period of time will better inform future management of our precious green spaces.

Chris Mourant has organised a programme of outdoor meetings and events for the summer.

- Sunday 21st July - Alderney day trip
- Saturday 7th September - barbecue at Blanchelande Park

Other trips away will be:

- Pelagic day trip in August
- Diélette day trip in August
- Jersey week-end in October

More details on these will be given on the Guernsey Birds website www.guernseybirds.org.gg

Julie Davis.

West Show 2019

We will be attending the West Show on Wednesday 14th August and Thursday 15th August. We are looking for volunteers to do 2 hour shifts along side a Council member ie 2 people per shift. The 2 hour shifts start each day from 10am and the last one ends at 8pm. Please note free entry passes will be provided. If you are able to help kindly e-mail secretary@societe.org.gg with your preferred time slot. Many thanks. Kate Lee - Secretary

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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		
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The Alderney Society & Museum	Karen Hill	823222
The Guernsey Beekeepers' Association	Damian Harris	07911 721785
The Guernsey Botanical Trust	Cathy Morgan	07911 732912
The Guernsey Society	Michael Paul	253858
The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society	Roy Bisson	07781 100296
WEA	Roy Bisson	07781 100296

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.

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Environment Guernsey
Environmental contracting & consulting

Environment Guernsey is the wholly owned company of La Société Guernesiaise

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.

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Other Council members are: Jamie Hooper (co-opted), Helen Litchfield, Roy Bisson, Rodney Collenette, Angela Salmon, Colin Spicer, Donna Francis and Alex Hershel.

Office hours:

Our office at Candie is open to the Public on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Mornings between 10am and 11.30am.

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