



Issue 27
Summer 2010

Alderney Wildlife



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Protecting Alderney's Wildlife for the Future



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Swallowtail 13 August 2010

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NEWS & VIEWS



Corn snake

Should the 'summer' issue of Alderney Wildlife appear in June or July, in mid-season, or should it come out when the summer's activities are complete? This year we are making a virtue of necessity, since unavailability, illness and above all a plethora of events occupying our small staff meant that we could not get everything together any earlier.

It has been a hectic summer, with many highlights. The 'big' events, Wildlife Week in May and the Trust's considerable contribution to Alderney Week in early August both went very well and the Wildlife Weekend in late August was wildly successful, with Miranda Krestovnikoff and her family tireless in their involvement, and obviously enjoying themselves greatly. The 'gallery' pages depict the events more vividly than any formal article could. Apparently more than a thousand people visited the Fayre at Essex Farm on August 29th and with the island's population standing at about 2,400 this is an extraordinary achievement, even though holidaymakers obviously helped swell the numbers. During the summer the Trust's long-term projects have progressed well, with Keris's well-planned Community Woodland already an attraction, although the trees are only a metre high. Phase

2 of the planting will be on 4th December. Keris is tireless and is also continuing with weekly bat walks. In addition many other Trust activities will continue into early autumn with, for example, regular cliff walks, rock-pooling sessions, Roland's popular kayaking lessons, an up-coming Bird Club and a lot of activity in the Garden Moth Scheme.

During the summer plenty of unusual creatures have been seen in the island. Perhaps the most startling was a bright orange corn snake, found by Edward Rowe and cared for by his brother Henry for a month. We have no wild snakes in Alderney, so it was obviously an escape and eventually the (still anonymous) owner came forward. It had been on the run (slide?) for six months and one can only marvel at the good luck of the reptile, choosing of all places the Rowes' house in Trigale to reappear! Perhaps the most mysterious bird to arrive was the black swan that appeared first at Platte Saline on 14th August accompanied by two white mute swans. It then visited Mannez pond before spending the rest of the day at Corblets and disappearing overnight with its companions. Presumably it had come from a private collection somewhere – but where? Many startling invertebrates also arrived here this summer. Top of the list must be the swallowtail butterflies which appeared on the southern cliffs at the end of August. In all, eleven were seen, nine more than Alderney had previously recorded in a single year. And just as this article was being written, on 10th September, young Liam Connor found a gigantic blue underwing sitting beside his light trap. This was one of the Victorians' favourite moths, and they called it the Clifden Nonpareil, to signify where the first one had *contd. PAGE 3*

been found and that it was 'without equal'. Also during the summer lots of seals, sharks, bright blue jellyfish, plenty of dolphins and even a cou-



Clifden Nonpareil

ple of whales were reported. Clearly global warming contributed to their arrival in our waters but we learnt about them by the observers' efficient use of 'sightings books' placed in the shop and the bird hides. It has been a wonderful summer for both wildlife and weather.

Finally, Charles Michel will be in Paris at the end of September, attending the 9th Annual World Conference for Microcirculation, where he will be delivering a lecture and the Japanese will be presenting him with an international award. We know Professor Michel is very self-deprecating, but that needn't stop us all from being proud of our President!

DW

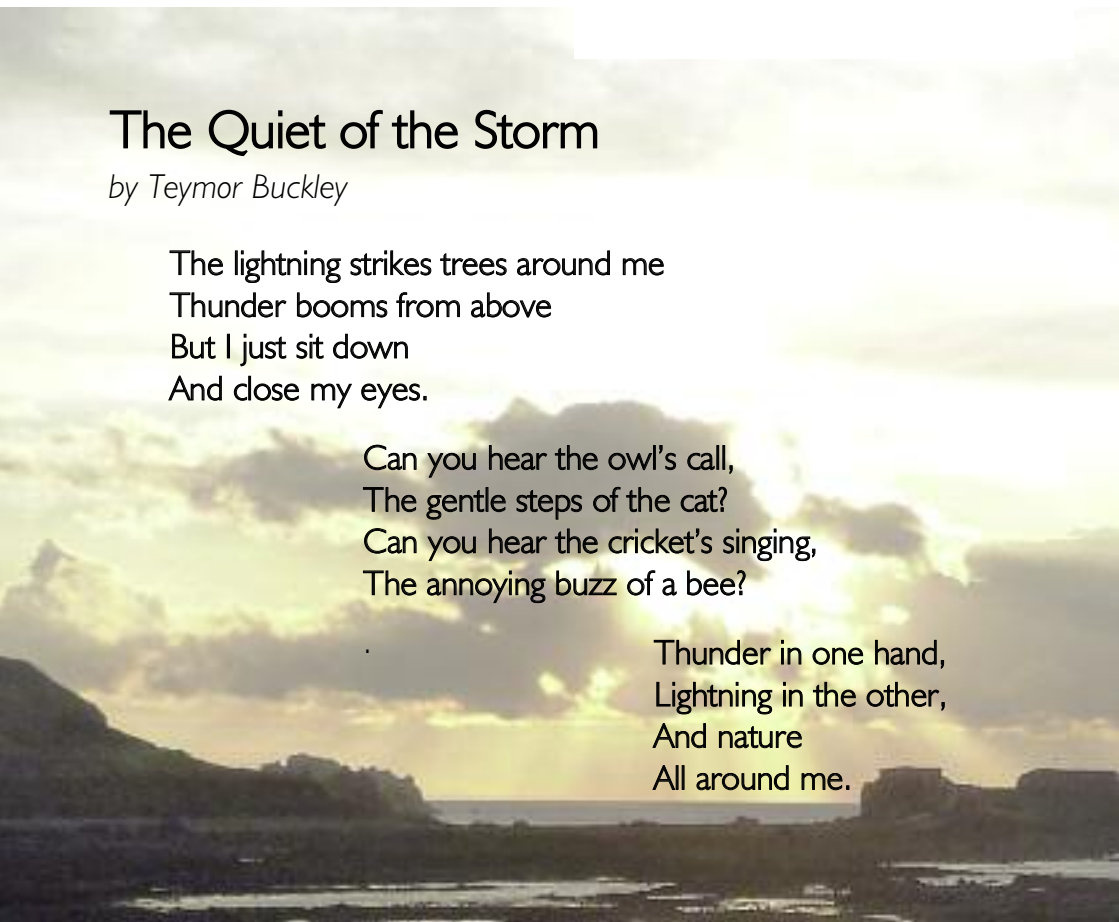
The Quiet of the Storm

by Teymor Buckley

The lightning strikes trees around me
Thunder booms from above
But I just sit down
And close my eyes.

Can you hear the owl's call,
The gentle steps of the cat?
Can you hear the cricket's singing,
The annoying buzz of a bee?

Thunder in one hand,
Lightning in the other,
And nature
All around me.



The Puffins of Burhou

I was excited the moment we got into my Grandpa's boat The Aquila Star and I couldn't wait to get to Burhou, but my mum noticed that we were still towing the dingy and we had to strap it to the back of the boat, so we set off slowly and my sister fell asleep. Sadly I could not do the same and I found my self staring at the fish finder, hoping to find a distraction. I was bored to death by the time we reached Burhou and I was feeling a bit sick from the fumes.

There was a huge flock of seagulls above the island but definitely no puffins. The engine was off and we were drifting around the island. I noticed a cave in the rocks that was so dark I couldn't see anything through it. I saw the hut and hoped there would be some puffins there but, sadly, there were none and I was disappointed. My brother shouted and we all looked to starboard. There were no puffins.

Finally a group of black birds came into view and as they flew away I thought I spotted red-and-yellow beaks; it was good enough to make me believe that I had just seen puffins. We saw more and more groups far off in the sea but not on land or near us. My brother Neo started boasting about how he had spotted them first. I headed inside, annoyed and sea sick.

The longer we were there the closer the puffins came and now I was very excited. At one point we spotted a puffin three metres away and we all rushed to port.

It was a young one and its eyes were beautiful. It came closer and I could see its tiny blinking eyes.

We cast out a fishing line when we were clear of the puffins and caught absolutely nothing, but it didn't matter. The Puffins of Burhou were good, and I'm off to France for lunch tomorrow. That was my last thought as I fell off the boat, into the harbour.

by Teymor Buckley
Age 11



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BIRD REPORT *by Mark Atkinson*

With Wildlife Week a distant memory, I must remind everyone what a success it was. The week was mainly aimed at birds, but events included a nocturnal nature walk with bats and moths, a walk to the Community Woodland and information about tree care. Having David Lindo the Urban Birder and his partner Penny here was the cherry on the cake as David is a great role model for birdwatchers young and old, and is extremely knowledgeable and well travelled. I'm sure that everyone who was part of the full house in the museum to listen to his talk would have been as engaged as I was. As many of us birdwatchers know, David writes in many publications, one of which is his monthly article in Birdwatching magazine. Usually the articles focus on cities, but the August addition was a little different, entitled 'The Suburban Birder in Alderney'. This was a great article and David gave a very enthusiastic insight into the island as he saw it: it really helped put us on the map and we are extremely grateful. I personally hope it isn't too long before he returns to do a spot of birding here.

On another note, carrying on from the last issue where I mentioned the 2005 breeding bird survey and then the 2010 sequel, Jen is busy looking at the comparison between the state of Alderney's breeding birds then and now, which I'm sure will make interesting reading as she put a lot of hard work into organizing the 2010 survey with the RSPB, and analysing the data. The whole island was split into different areas, which were surveyed in April and again in July, and all the birds within each area were recorded.

Sadly, while I mention the island's breeding birds, although closely monitored, our Ringed Plovers have not fared very well. These birds only nest on Platte Saline and are very scarce in the rest of the Channel Islands. We monitored nests and watched with great excitement young birds hatching and toddling off down the beach with devoted parents; however, none of our birds reached adult status. This is due to human disturbance, which next breeding season we hope to rectify.

You might recall from the last issue, that back in

March, whilst doing Long-eared Owl surveys, Alastair located a pair in the Bonne Terre. Well in June, Alastair, Jen and Paul St Pierre heard at least one juvenile calling in the same area, which proves breeding success, hooray! Our Peregrine Falcons have also bred successfully; although I was disheartened when I received a call from Roland to say a Peregrine family were reported somewhere over town and shots were heard close to them. Thankfully I have seen adults and juveniles this last week. I hope they don't fly anywhere near the Victorian time warp again!

The Burhou team have had a busy season and Charles and I can bear witness to the hard work they do, as we spent a day with Jen carrying out various survey work, bracken management and a general clean up. I believe this is extremely important work and long may it continue to safeguard Burhou's seabird populations. Back on Alderney a Bee-eater was seen on 11th of June, the first sighting since 2004. I spotted it as it flopped over the Lower road towards the trees at the Arsenal; it was raining heavily and the bird looked fed up. However, Alastair and Lynn caught up with it later on and it was looking much better. It remained for a few days then went on its way.

On the 24th July Tony Paintin the Jersey bird recorder visited the island. He was joined by Ian Buxton, another well known birder, and they noted Mediterranean Gulls, White Wagtails, Willow and Dartford Warblers. Chris Gent who has been visiting the island since the 1950's has just returned home after another visit. He has a great insight into Alderney's birds and some interesting stories; he made me jealous on two occasions this time by locating a Dotterel on the airfield and turning up three Arctic Skuas in the Swinge. Long may his visits continue!

Well, the nights are again drawing in and the autumn migration is under way. Wheatears are moving through the island stopping off on their way back to Africa. On overhead power lines Swallows are gathering readying themselves for their long journey. It just remains for me to say keep a close eye on your garden bird-feeders – visitors are imminent.

Yellow Wagtail,
Longis



Black Swan, Corblets

Goldfinch at Longis Pond



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Answers to Wildlife Quiz 4 AWT Issue 26

1. The New Zealand flax is a phormium – in Alderney almost invariably phormium tenax.
2. Datura stramonium is the thorn apple and is highly poisonous.
3. Surprisingly, rabbits have been known to eat snails.
4. Ragwort (senecio jacobaea) is known as 'Stinking Willie' in Scotland and herb of St James elsewhere.
5. A Lappet Moth
6. The Alderney lion holds a sprig of broom (planta genista anglica), emblem of the Plantagenets.
7. An emperor moth (saturia pavonia) has two eyes and four 'eyes', one on each wing.
8. As a rule, crows feed in families, rooks in flocks, but in Alderney we see only occasional rooks, while crows often feed in large numbers! The adult rook (corvus frugilegus) has a bare patch at the base of its bill. The crow (corvus corone corone) has a slightly shorter bill with a curved tip.
9. The speckled wood (pararge aegeria) does not hibernate; it overwinters as either a caterpillar or a chrysalis.
10. B A row of cottages! (Whitegates)
11. The sedge warbler (acrocephalus schoenobaenus) may go through its entire life without once repeating its song.
12. A murder of crows, a charm of finches (or goldfinches).
13. 'The Englishman's grape' is the elderberry.
14. If wasps are vespine, bees are apian.
15. C Food (sea kale)
16. The common bat is more commonly known as the pipistrelle (pipistrellus pipistrellus).
17. The puffin (fratercula arctica) grunts, most usually from its burrow.
18. House and garden, crab and wolf are all types of spider.
19. Alderney sandstone has been taken from Mannez quarry for use at the commercial quay.
20. You might well describe a fragment of laverock as a bit of a lark!



ALDERNEY FAYRE

30 AUGUST 2010



INSECTS

Every summer our small island is brightened by hosts of butterflies and this very sunny year several resident species have appeared in such numbers that counting them has been well-nigh impossible. In particular red admiral, gatekeeper, wall, common and holly blue, grayling and small heath have all enjoyed a remarkable flight-season. Earlier in the year Glanville fritillaries were numerous. With the wind coming only seldom from the south and east, there have been fewer migrants than usual, and painted ladies have been seen in threes and fours, rather than last year's thousands, and we have seen only about a dozen clouded yellows, but there have been several long-tailed blues noted and, on 7th July, the island's

second Queen of Spain fritillary. We have recorded at least twelve swallowtails. Most years we see one or two of these spectacular butterflies, but the recent immigration was something special. Lindsay saw the first on 13th August, and she started the 'rush' on 5th September, when five were seen, with four more on the next few days. Several observers had good views, including some excited ramblers. Having seen swallowtails in numbers in the Norfolk Broads, where they are rather sedentary, I found these free-flying migrants both larger and brighter-coloured, and was surprised to note how territorial they were, defending an area of hillside and swooping out to drive away red admirals, themselves powerful insects.

Moths have likewise appeared in huge numbers, with some normally common species reaching new levels of abundance. The Garden Moth Scheme, that we take part in by carefully recording trap captures every Friday, has obvious limitations but does give a fair picture of the vast quantity of moths in Alderney. More than a hundred shuttle-shaped darts turned up in Henry Rowe's Trigale trap on two successive weeks, while in the Valley several species of footman moth tallied more than fifty on a regular basis. Some formerly rare migrant species have recently become common residents and we have seen well over a hundred delicate and an astonishing 43 splendid brocade. The attractive micro *Cydia amplana*, first seen here only in 2006, now seems to be resident. Another recent colonist, scarce chocolate-tip is now more numerous than the more familiar chocolate-tip, with both species occurring together in the traps, while bordered sallow, a species not found in any of the other Channel Islands, has occurred regularly and this year produced a second brood in September, something not known in UK. The beautiful white satin moth has increased greatly in numbers, with the showy caterpillars to be found on sallow. Species common on the mainland but new to Alderney in 2010 have been purple clay and white pinion-spotted. Other discoveries, about which we shall write in later editions, have entailed the separation of Channel Islands species from their mainland forms. The most noticeable of these is Alderney's strong population of *Conisania andalusica*, local but widespread on the Continent, which is clearly different from UK's closely-related Barrett's marbled coronet. As with the but-



Oak Processionary



Splendid Brocade



Conisania andalusica



C andalusica



White Satin larva

terflies, migrant moths have appeared in brief spells when the wind has swung to the south and east. Although we have had no convolvulus hawk-moths yet, there have been plenty of humming-bird hawks, which have bred well on the swathes of lady's bed-straw occurring all over the island. Starting on the night of 18th June we saw a remarkable influx of Rannoch looper moths. Last year at the end of May two came to light here – and this year eleven! On 22nd August Anna LeLong, who always finds interesting insects in her visits to the island, recorded the first example of oak processionary moth seen in Alderney since 2006.

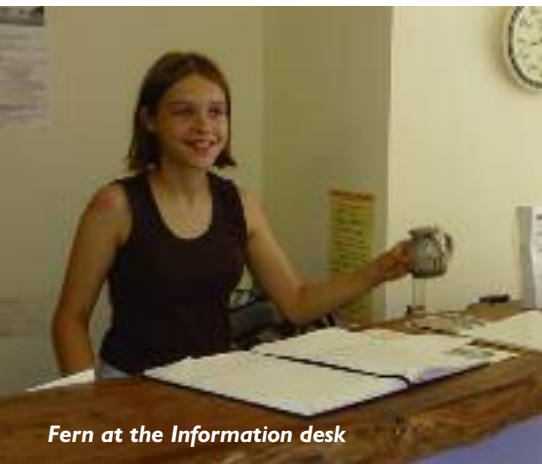
It has been a fine summer for dragonflies, thanks greatly to the States improving our water system so that the ponds have remained full. Our 18th species has been recorded, with several examples of willow emerald damselfly *Lestes viridis* seen in the Longis reserve during the summer. Since there are several rather similar species, a specimen has been kept as proof that Alderney does indeed have this interesting damselfly, which has recently appeared in UK as well.

In a year of many pluses, one minus is encouraging. After last year's plethora of invasive Harlequin ladybirds, a total of just one up to the end of August gave hopes that the cold winter had cut their numbers savagely. Five more discovered by Braye beach on 3rd September, however, may denote an end-of-season upsurge – we can only hope not! DW



Willow Emerald

THE YOUNGER GENERATION



Fern at the Information desk

The small size of the island, the lack of road traffic and the absence of petty restrictions mean that wildlife activities for young people in Alderney can take place with a degree of independence that would be surprising elsewhere. Most of the Trust's events during May's Wildlife Week and both Alderney Week and the Wildlife Weekend in August cater for all ages, but in this summer of brilliant weather we have also been able to arrange plenty of events mainly for children.

June 21st to 27th was National Insect Week, but our activities involved much more than insects. On Wednesday 23rd the Ormer House pupils spent an afternoon at Trois Vaux, watching the gannet colony and learning about flowers and insects on the cliff-tops. On Thursday 24th Year 6 from St Anne's spent a hectic day walking half-way round Alderney with nets and notebooks, picnicking en route at Essex Farm, and following the south coastal path to Mannez quarry and the bird hide before returning to school by a more northerly route. The statistics they collected on all aspects of natural history were interesting and informative, and the enthusiasm shown by the children and their teachers made the day very worthwhile. Some of their charming accounts appeared in the local press.

In July Sarah went with the senior pupils from Ormer on a boat trip round the island, with Dave Prince at the helm of Voyager. In two hours they watched seabirds galore, passing close to both gannet colonies, and saw ten seals, following this enjoyable outing with a picnic in the school grounds and a visit to the fairy garden, where they launched paper boats on the stream. On 20th and 21st July Keris and Sarah organised activity days at the Community Woodland site for more than 80 pupils from St Anne's. The emphasis was on the biodiversity and benefit of woodland, and the sessions covered a wide area, culminating in a novel quiz, with the youngsters rushing to and fro to find questions discreetly tied to newly planted trees. The older children also did a great job of clearing out the bunker on the site and had lots of ideas for its future renovation and potential use.

Art-work at St Anne's always reaches a very high standard, witness the superb exhibitions the school puts on, (and on a smaller scale the delightful thank-you cards that sometimes follow Trust activities!) With the plaques the children have produced for the new Sapper Onions Peace Garden the school and its remarkable art teacher Marcus Cowling have excelled themselves. If you haven't seen the garden yet, don't take my word for it but judge for yourself. Without doubt the young soldier who died while defusing mines in Alderney soon after World War II, and after whom the garden is named, would have felt proud.

On a totally different subject, throughout the year some Alderney youngsters have been operating light-traps at week-ends for the Garden Moth Scheme, keeping careful records and producing valuable data for a project which covers trap-sites throughout UK and Ireland. Henry has not missed a week of recording in the two years since the Channel Islands joined the scheme and 7-year-old Liam, who started this year, is the youngest trap-operator in the whole Scheme. It is encouraging that during the summer various resident and visiting families have begun to share their enthusiasm. DW



Woodland Day



MothCount



Peace Garden plaques

My Five Months in Alderney

by Sarah Edwards

My brief time with the Alderney Wildlife Trust has been so busy I didn't even know where to begin when David asked me to write a summary of my time here. However, I suppose I should start with my first project, the small mammal surveying. Having surveyed small mammals in both the UK and Africa I knew how intensive live trapping could be, as traps need to be checked regularly to ensure any critters don't die in them. As the whole of Alderney hadn't been formally surveyed before I needed a method that would let me cover the entire island (something that couldn't be done using live traps), so I decided to use bait tubes. These consist of a small piece of drain pipe with a piece of cloth covering one end so there is only one way in and out for the small mammal to go. Bait is placed in the tube and the aim is to collect the faeces that the small mammal leaves whilst entering the tube and eating the bait. By rotating the three sets of bait tubes around the island I was able to have a bait tube transect in every square kilometer that makes up Alderney. At the moment I am still waiting for the National Small Mammal Scheme (NSMMS) to process the DNA from the faeces I collected which will tell us which species had been in the tubes. I also ran four live-trap transects using Longworth traps across the island. Each transect involved three days of getting up at 5:30am and checking the traps throughout the day.

During my time live trapping I only caught woodmice and not a single shrew! However once I had finished my formal survey I put some traps out for our Nocturnal Nature event during Wildlife Week and can you believe, only then did a very tiny greater white toothed shrew appear. It just goes to show wildlife never does behave!

Another area of work that I have enjoyed immensely has been the bat work. After being kindly lent an Anabat Bat Detector that can be left out all night recording bat activity, Keris and I have been using it regularly. On only the second night of putting Anabat out we discovered a *Nathusius pipistrelle* at Corblets, a species which hadn't been formally verified for the island before. Other than the one *Nathusius* we have been recording lots of Common and Soprano pipistrelles in various locations. The enjoyment we got out of learning more about bats whilst using Anabat led to our starting weekly bat walks, which have been a lot of fun as well as excellent experience. It really is very rewarding to see the excitement people get from listening to bats through bat detectors and learning about the lives of these incredible animals. I have also completed two bat surveys for the Bat Conservation Trust.

One of my main interests is herpetology and I was keen to start looking at the amphibian life on the island. I contacted the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS) who informed me they believed Alderney had the smooth newt, yet people on island told me we had the palmate – so I decided to investigate further. After writing a piece on the problem for the press I had a few



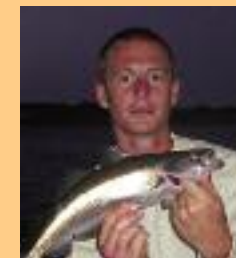
responses from people with newts in their ponds sending photos or inviting me to go and have a look. After finding several palmate newts I was able to send my photos along with those I have been sent to NARRS, who confirmed yes they were palmates and promptly changed their records for Alderney.

One aspect of the job that I have really enjoyed is the public events and being out with the school children. If you'd have told me when I came I would be going out on a boat with the Ormer kids and telling them about seabirds and actually enjoying it, I wouldn't have believed you! But passing on my knowledge to others has been hugely satisfying. I have also really enjoyed events such as Longis Live (even spending four hours at Kiln Farm with Roland making the burgers), the Wildlife Week and running the activity day at the Community Woodland with Keris and David. Also working with the conservation volunteers twice a week has been huge fun and I have really learnt a lot about land management (although just an hour of ragwort pulling would have been enough, really it would!). My week just wouldn't be the same without some form of path cutting or building whilst listening to the banter of Bill, Lynn, David, Keris and Roland.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making my time here so special, and I have no doubt I shall look back on my time in Alderney with warm and fond memories. I shall always remember Alderney for some of the completely insane situations I have found myself in – for example watching Roland getting kitted up in full scuba gear to go and put a new mooring in at Longis only to find it was covered by an inch of water! I am leaving a little earlier than planned to take up a position doing an Environmental Impact Assessment on Brown Hyena for De Beers Diamonds in Namibia. After previously having lived in Namibia I am excited to go back to a country I adore, however I shall definitely miss Alderney, the people and all the experiences I have had here.



Staff update



Chris Tozer
Reserve Officer

Chris joined the AWT at perhaps the hardest time of the year, Alderney Week, and in doing so proved himself adept at the management of tasks, situations and people. His background, growing up on a small-holding in Leicestershire, ideally suited him to taking on the Trust's most practical jobs. Coupled with this, his degree in Forestry from Bangor University, his pragmatic approach and friendly nature have placed him at the heart of the AWT team from day one. Chris also has an intense interest in fishing and shoreline ecology. RG

The Alderney Wildlife Trust Interview

No15: John and Anne Beamen talk to Robin Whicker



As a Yorkshireman by birth, John, what did you do before you came to Alderney and what brought you here?

Anne and I were both teachers and then I worked in educational liaison for Stoke City Council. We ran a small sheep farm in the Peak District. It's a beautiful area, so when we decided it was time to retire it was not easy to find a place where we'd rather be. We started looking at islands but none of them were right until a work colleague asked if we'd tried Alderney. At first we didn't really like it much but by the end of the week we'd decided to stay!

What decided you?

First of all, it wasn't just a tourist island. There was something going on here. It was more down to earth. I went into a pub and immediately the people were friendly and also honest about the difficulties as well as the pleasures of living on an island. Then we enjoyed the walking, didn't we, and the cycling. And we thought, 'That's it!'

How did you expect to spend your retirement, Anne?

Well, walking and cycling! Gardening. But I applied for and got the job that was going at the lighthouse and I did a lot of research into that. I also enjoy working in the Information Office. And our son has married a Russian girl, so I'm also learning Russian. John didn't plan to join the States but friends said he should and he put his nomination in at the last minute.

So, John, did you become a member of the Wildlife Trust before or after joining the States?

After. I thought it was worth supporting. The States as a body are very supportive of the Trust, which does a lot for the island: footpaths and land management, puffin cam, wildlife week, all sorts of attractions for tourism. It's a symbiotic arrangement.

Aren't there conflicts of interest, over Braye Common for instance?

You can't please everybody. Some want the whole area cut short for tidiness and as an area for games, some want wildflowers, some want a hay meadow, but at present the States don't have the equipment for collecting hay and a wildflower meadow needs careful management. Perhaps the answer lies in a compromise, such as we are attempting at Platte Saline, where we are cutting with the advice of the British Wildflower Association.

What are your own particular wildlife interests?

I'm a former farmer, so I find the absence of animal predators interesting. I enjoy gardening and the quite different range of trees and plants that will grow here - or that grow wild, like viper's bugloss, broomrape and so on. And we enjoy watching the gannets, the puffins and other seabirds that we simply didn't see inland, as well as other familiar birds like curlews and lapwings.

What do you see as the principal challenges facing the Trust?

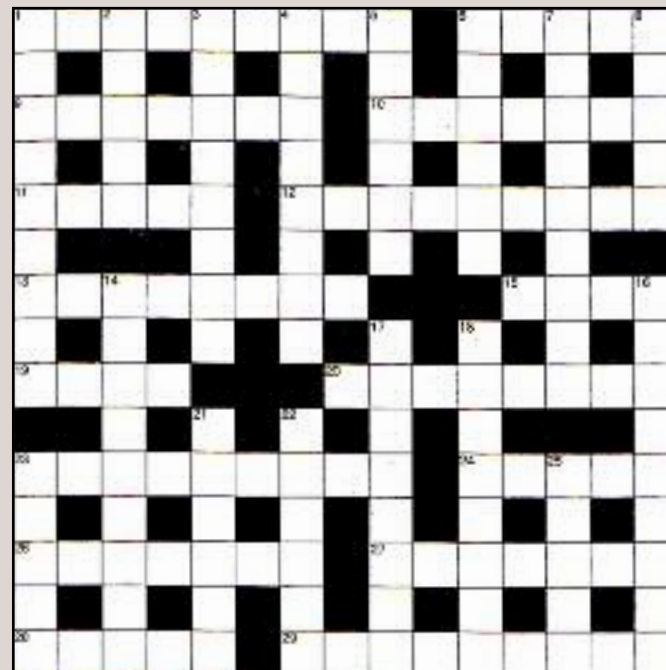
The Community Woodland project - that's a task of immense value to the island. Conservation of Alderney's history as well as its wildlife. The States are already signatories to a number of controls for the protection of wildlife and the Trust needs to work with the States in establishing the importance of Environmental Impact Assessments and carrying them out.

And finally, what is your favourite part of the island, outside your own garden?

Like many people, Longis Bay to the lighthouse - the sea ever changing, Houmet Herbe, the wildflowers and grasses, the variety of insects and birds. But we enjoy the unexpected corners too - Cachaliere, Water Lane, Gauvain's Row, Pont St Martin. And we had great fun in the glass-bottomed kayak!

WILDLIFE CROSSWORD NO.4 Answers in Issue 28

We were pleased to be able to award a prize for the first correct solution to Crossword Puzzle No 3. For this puzzle we are again offering a prize; if you are reluctant to cut the completed grid out of your magazine, a photocopy is perfectly acceptable provided that you submit only one! Don't forget to attach your name and phone no. As before, each word is defined once or twice by the clue.



ACROSS

1. We may hear rude term for this! (9)
6. Perhaps potato or pea - for pudding? (5)
9. Fish swallows lead in big apple (7)
10. A prize for waste (7)
11. Put down better sort of broadcast (5)
12. Hard rocker to rock! (9)
13. Enter at a crisis for pangolin, maybe (8)
15. Put together a reservation for neighbour - touching! (4)
19. Cheerful greeting for bad weather (4)
20. Way speed can be only middling (8)
23. Bird has a 21 before talking (9)
24. Old Possum (5)
26. They may weave and disperse endlessly in confusion (7)
27. Chemical compound may well be called 'a journey in the dark' (7)
28. Return of non-U river fish produces vegetables (5)
28. Plant organ with intelligence (9)

DOWN

1. Male bird, fish and insect (9)
2. Bird river left behind (7)
3. Animal, animal and unknown part of animal (8)
4. Send back up to former pensioner? (3,5)
5. Fierce lady becomes insect before fly, flower after snap (6)
6. First sign of silver lock of hair reveals pressure (6)
7. European level of acid or bismuth - a plant (9)
8. Herb said to be measured by 4 perhaps (5)
14. I throw in stale fossil (9)
16. Attention from ant and termite - not !! (9)
17. Mess up count in drug carry on (8)
18. Flying associate of I3? (3,5)
21. What emerald moth and laccaria amethystia have in common? (6)
22. Not foxy - though soundly pursued (6)
23. Fibre is evident in girl's diminutive form (5)
25. Topping reason for 19 (5)

Calendar



SEPTEMBER

18th Beachwatch

28th Visit of Garden Moth Scheme organiser

The carline thistle is in flower; Spanish carpet and beautiful gothic moths are on the wing and the new generation of ivy bees appears

OCTOBER

18th Inter-islands Conference (Guernsey)

The autumn bird migration is under way. Fungi are at their best and multi-coloured berries and seeds are everywhere. Conkers and sloes are ripe for picking. Hedgehogs are feeding up prior to hibernation.

NOVEMBER

The ponds fill up. Orange fruits of gladdon or stinking iris brighten the banks in the Valley. Red admiral butterflies cluster on ivy flowers and at night male winter moths are on the wing, searching for the wingless females. Make sure your bird-feeders are full!

DECEMBER

4th Community Woodland
Phase 2 tree planting

26th Boxing Day Walk

The berries of butcher's broom are a striking red and the wonderfully fragrant winter heliotrope is beginning to appear. At night the stars are brilliantly clear.

Protecting Alderney's Wildlife for the Future

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