

## PRESS RELEASE

### Inter-Island Environment Meeting 2015 (IEM2015)

#### Alderney

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October

The very first IEM meeting was held 15 years ago in Guernsey. Conceived as a way of creating better links between the different government and non-governmental organisations working to protect and manage the Channel Islands' environment, these meetings have grown in size and scope, expanding to accept delegates from outside of the Channel Islands. 15 years later the meetings now include attendees from Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Isle of Man, Isles of Scilly and the UK, with representation from France and even Gibraltar.

This year's meeting will see over 60 delegates coming together on the most northern of the Channel Isles, Alderney. Topics range from the designation of marine protected areas and how to build an underwater survey camera, to monitoring the state of Jersey's butterflies and how to manage an island's landscape using volunteers.

The IEMs are always collaborative affairs but in organizing the 2015 event in Alderney the level of involvement between Government, voluntary and corporate (sponsors) sectors has been greater than ever. IEM2015 is being hosted by the States of Alderney, co-ordinated by the Alderney Wildlife Trust and has been made possible by the generous support of the Insurance Corporation, Stenham Trustees and other private sponsors.

The event will be hosted over 2 days in the convivial setting of the Georgian House Hotel in St. Anne. In addition to the 24 presentations, delegates will also take part in a commemorative walk on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alderney's Internationally Important Wetland (Ramsar) site. There will also be a special sunset dinner in Cambridge Battery (Fort Tourgis), before delegates immerse themselves in Alderney's 'Dark' skies for an evening of stargazing.

The IEM Organizers are especially delighted to welcome a number of new delegates including:

- **Joan Edwards**, Head of Living Seas, The Wildlife Trusts
- **Dr. Tom Appleby**, Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of the West of England and Member of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum Council
- **Bernard Warden**, Director of the Environment Directorate of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
- **Richard Grogan**, Head of Conservation Isle of Wight and South Hampshire; Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

The meeting will be opened by the President of the States of Alderney, Stuart Trought and Andrew Mills, Business Manager of the Insurance Corporation.

**Stuart Trought, President States of Alderney, said:**

*"That this meeting is taking place in Alderney is a reflection of the seriousness with which Alderney takes environmental matters. Alderney was the first island within the Bailiwick of Guernsey to obtain Ramsar site status for our unique wetlands, and is a prime example of cooperation between Government and NGO's as evidenced by the sterling work being carried out by both the Wildlife Trust and Living Islands. Whilst everyone is here it is also a tremendous opportunity for us to learn from the accumulated experience of the delegates while they are here. I sincerely hope that this forum continues to thrive to the benefit of all concerned."*

**Roland Gauvain, Manager of Alderney Wildlife Trust, said:**

*"The UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories harbour a disproportionately large part of Britain's Biodiversity and we, the custodians, need to work together to ensure its preservation. Therefore having a forum through which each of our island's environmental communities can communicate, despite their geographical and political boundaries, is vital"*

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Interviews can be arranged with the AWT and other speakers by arrangement and press are welcome to attend sessions of the IEM by arrangement. Photos from the meeting can be made available on request.  
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