

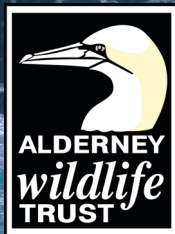
# Alderney Wildlife

## **COP26; BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY**

Learn what it was like to be at the 2021  
United Nations Climate Change Conference

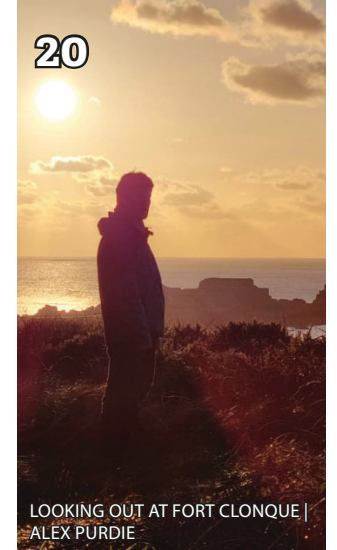
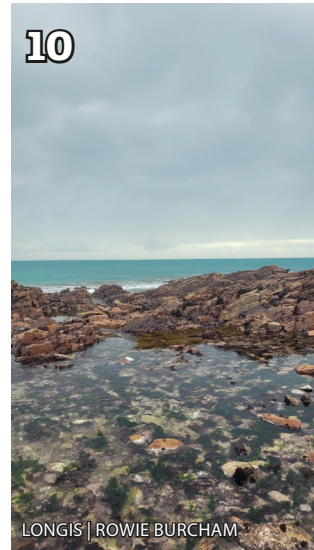
## **OUR SEABIRDS IN CHANGING TIMES**

Alderney's seabird colonies are vulnerable to  
climate change - what does the future look like  
for them?



**Winter 2021/22 | Climate Change  
Action**

**Protecting Alderney's wildlife for  
the future.**



## Editorial

### A Reflection on the Year Gone By



As we all know, Winter is the coldest of the seasons and often a quieter time of the year for wildlife due to their need to survive the months ahead. However, although this period appears delicate,

there is also an underlying strength when recognising the ways many animal species endure the harshness of it. Additionally, there is beauty in the way that the leaf-bare trees uncover a Dunnock creating beautiful songs and the muted tones of the season are suddenly disrupted by the dash of a Great Tit flying by.

We are now in the middle of a climate change crisis and like many animal species during the Winter, we cannot escape it and

are unaware of what the future holds for us and our environment. Furthermore, before we leap into Spring, we must reflect on the year that has just gone by.

Towards the end of 2021, a popular topic of news was COP26 and the results that came out of it. As an island, Alderney is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Therefore, we should ensure we take every measure possible to meet the pledges that were made. Changes to help the environment do not just need to occur on a governmental or national level, but also on an individual level. It's a new year and time to make changes and break bad habits, including those that may not benefit the planet. Reducing our usage of single-use plastic comes to mind.

When the masses form together at a local community level, that's when corporate businesses and governments start to hear.

This magazine issue is going to draw your attention to climate change and the way it may impact Alderney in the future, what's

being done to prevent it and how you can help the environment.

By Rowie Burcham, Outreach Officer

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# Manager's Report

## The Past and The Future



2022 marks twenty years since a group of residents and States Members came together to found a local charity dedicated to *Championing, Studying and Protecting Alderney's wildlife.*

Many of those who sat in the room on that first day have stayed with us on the journey over the last two decades, but we are delighted to have been joined by many more. Today we are supported by over 750 members with more joining us each year in the campaign to ensure Alderney's wildlife truly plays a valued and sustainable role in addressing our island's future, especially the daunting challenges created by the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.

Over the years the Alderney Wildlife Trust's volunteers, staff and members have achieved much. Our island is now rightly recognized, both within the Channel Islands and internationally, for its wildlife. We are proud to have worked with government and residents to establish not only an internationally important marine area (Alderney's Ramsar site) more than twice the area of Alderney, but also two nature reserves and the Community Woodland with a total of more than 15,000 trees planted. We have carried out scientific studies widely recognized on the international stage, have created bird hides,

information centres and educational programmes which have reached tens of thousands of students.

This year we hope to celebrate our past but also look forward to the challenges of our future and in doing so focus on what makes our island truly special. We will be building new relationships with partners, both local and international. You will see the brilliant Pollinator Project reach our shores and be able to take part in the Jubilee Tree Planting both at home and on the Community Woodland. You can join us in the challenge to reach 'Zero (Carbon) by Thirty' and even step on board a Global Challenger racing yacht with the Tall Ships Youth Trust to discover new ways to experience our seas. We are grateful to the Georgian House which is joining us as an Anniversary Partner and we will be working more closely still with many of our island's businesses, aiming to launch a new Membership Advantage card so that those of you who have supported us by becoming a member will be able to get discounts from a number of our business members.

Most importantly for all of us at the Trust our commitment in 2022 is to focus on listening to our community and to support it in meeting the challenge to see our island thrive both as a close knit society and as one of the most beautiful and diverse places you could wish to live.

By Roland Guavain

# The Alderney Wildlife Trust Wants You

**Have you got some spare time on your hands and would like to help make a positive difference to Alderney? Sounds like you should join the Conservation Volunteers (CV's)!**

The CV's have been helping the AWT since we first began and the group is full of good-natured people who get involved with various projects and jobs across the island. The tasks can include:

- Bird-hide maintenance
- Footpath clearance
- Invasive species removal
- Moving our conservation grazing herd

By joining the CV's, you will benefit from spending time outside in nature, working as a team, meeting new people, and knowing that you are helping build a better future for Alderney. Everyone is welcome to join, no matter how much time

you have to give – even if it's one session a year!

During my first week on Alderney, I joined in with the CV's and helped with some hedge maintenance. I was instantly welcomed into the group, and we had a very productive afternoon full of laughter. Now, each week I look forward to finding out what tasks are going to be undertaken.

The volunteer sessions take place every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon and are run by our ever-friendly Conservation Officer Ellen.

To get involved please contact Ellen at [conservation@alderney-wildlife.org](mailto:conservation@alderney-wildlife.org)

By Rowie Burcham



ELLEN AND DAN CONDUCTING REED MANAGEMENT | ROWIE BURCHAM



SOUR FIG REMOVAL | LORNA WEST



DOOR CONSTRUCTION AT MANNEZ BIRD HIDE | ROWIE BURCHAM

# WILD NEWS

All the latest news from Alderney Wildlife Trust

## New Recruits



Over the past few months, three new members of staff have joined the team! They all have a keen interest in the natural world and conservation and each individual has a unique working background. Alex Purdie, our new Ramsar Officer, has recently worked for the Sea Watch Foundation in West Wales and has a MRes in Marine Biology from Swansea University. Ellen Smith, the new Conservation Officer, has joined us from the Dartmoor National Park Authority and prior to that gained a BSc in Environment and Development

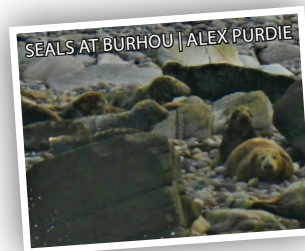
from LSE. Finally, Rowie Burcham the new Outreach Officer, recently returned from volunteering on Skomer Island in South Wales and has a BSc in Zoology with Conservation from Bangor University. The new team is extremely excited to get involved with the community and help protect the island's incredible wildlife.

## Carbon Audit

Our Conservation Officer has recently formulated a carbon audit and reduction plan for the AWT. This involved using methodology from the central Wildlife Trusts to identify our key emissions and will be consistently updated as our organisation moves forward.

The goals that came out of the assessment are:

- To reduce our emissions wherever possible
- To use renewable energy sources instead if reductions cannot immediately happen
- To ensure the areas we manage are also ideal carbon sequestration sites (whilst helping biodiversity and serving the local community)
- To share our knowledge and experiences with the public, businesses, and policymakers



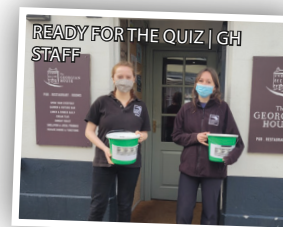
## Seal Surveys

Even in the cold winter, our team is out and about conducting surveys on Alderney's wild-

life. Recently, they've been on our workboat Sula to record the number of seals hauled out on the reefs behind Burhou. In order to create a larger data set, the research is carried out within the same time frame as groups across the Channel Islands and France and then integrated together.

## Quiz Nights

In December, we hosted our first Charity Quiz Night at the Georgian House! It was a great night full of laughter and merry debates. We will continue to run these quizzes on the last Sunday over the next few months.



## The Big Sour Fig Survey

We have completed an island-wide survey of the invasive species Sour Fig to establish the spread around coastal areas. This has allowed us to target removal areas effectively, and we will contribute towards the proposed Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Policy for Alderney. We will continue to host volunteering removal sessions – keep an eye out for updates!



## Top Sightings this Winter...

At the end of January, approximately 13 Bottlenose Dolphins were spotted at Frying Pan Bay – the incredible moment was caught on camera underwater by a diver!



This Yellow-Browed Warbler spent a week at Essex Farm last November. Varying numbers pass through the UK each Autumn. Their traditional wintering area is South-East Asia.



Purple Sandpipers are a very rare winter visitor to the Bailiwick. Recently, there have been less than 5 individuals annually and amazingly 4 were spotted together this December at Longis Bay.





# COP26; Both Sides of The Story

The AWT's very own Ellen Smith attended COP26 in Autumn 2021, and here's what she had to say about her experience there.

## What is COP26?

COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties', and is the largest climate change conference in the world. Led by the United Nations, leaders from almost every country across the globe come together to discuss how to address the climate emergency.

**The impacts of climate change are well documented; COP26 was an opportunity to announce our enhanced ambitions to avoid climate catastrophe.**

Held in Glasgow in late 2021, it also gave the UK the chance to broadcast the work we are doing to mitigate climate change. It is now imperative that we deliver on the promises made last year, to ensure that we can restore our damaged environment.

## What were the successes of COP26?

The summit delivered on its primary goal of sustaining the Paris Agreement's aim to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, which means global emissions must fall by 45% before 2030. However, the success of these commitments relies heavily on pledges for future action, rather than immediate changes. We should instead look for opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the immediate future.

## And what were the failures?

Whilst some progress was made, many organisations believe the goals were not set high enough and did not sufficiently target the fossil fuel industries responsible for the vast majority of our emissions. There is also a shortfall in climate finance to assist developing countries with their green transition. The Adaptation Fund, which was established to finance this, received \$356 million at COP26- The UN Environment Programme estimates it will require \$70 billion per year.

## For what reason did you end up going to COP26?

Being one of the most globally important events for the fight against climate change, I knew this would be a chance to hear some key voices in the movement, and to show my concern for the state of our environment.

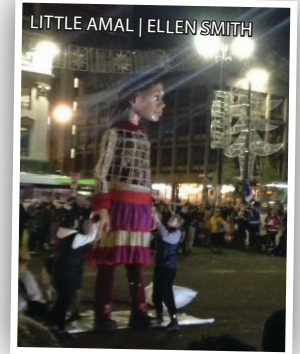
## What was it like?

I was lucky enough to attend 'The People's Summit', which was a fringe event to the official COP, but which was attended by major names in the environmental movement, such as Greta Thunberg and Caroline Lucas, as well as representatives from countries all around the world. Here, I had the opportunity to hear from people whose lives were already severely impacted by climate change; a member of Parliament from Tahiti, a small Pacific Island, spoke about the rapid sea-level rise and extreme weather events which they are experiencing. And a leader of a tiny tribe in the Amazon

spoke about deforestation, as well as their efforts to reforest their communities.

## What was a highlight for you?

I was part of the crowd of people welcoming Little Amal, an 11 feet tall puppet which had travelled 8000 miles from Syria to Glasgow, highlighting the fact that climate change disproportionately impacts women and children.



## What can we learn from this?

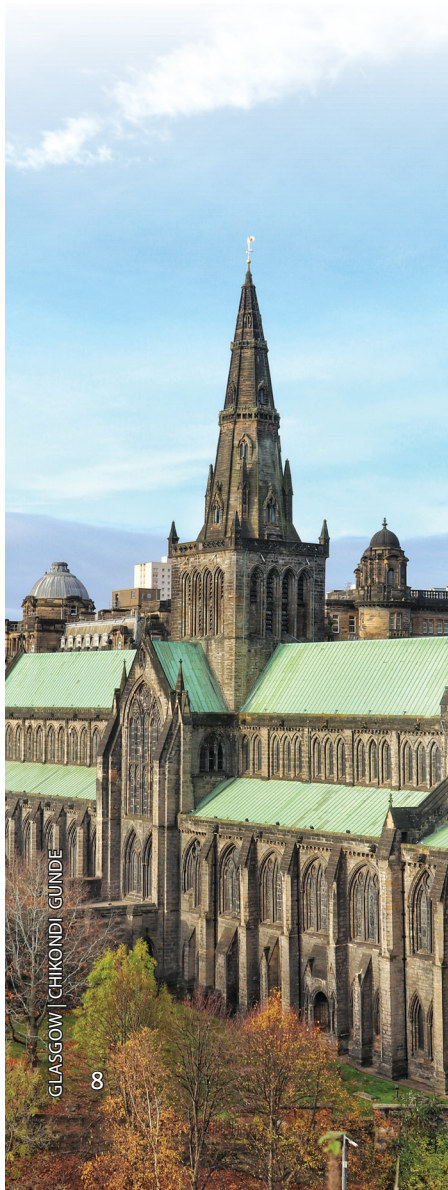
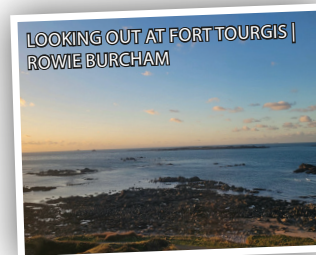
It is perhaps only through hearing these personal accounts of climate change that we can appreciate the severity of the situation, and the importance of acting now.

In the face of massive environmental

**The atmosphere at the People's Summit was driven by these voices, which were alarming and scary, but also energising and uplifting.**

change caused by global powers, we could hear stories of grassroots efforts to restore nature and reduce our contribution of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. As an island community that is highly susceptible to these environmental changes, we have a huge incentive to join this movement by making commitments to sustainability wherever possible.

By Ellen Smith



GLASGOW | CHIKONDI GUNDE

# Marine Habitat Solutions to Tackle Climate Change: What is *BLUE CARBON* Anyway?

COP26 last year provided a short but sweet platform for delegates to address the impact of climate change upon our oceans, at a global level. The outcome of Cop-26 saw countries, such as the UK, make pledges to initiate a series of 'Ocean Actions' which aim to help reduce marine-based global climate change impacts. The UK's Ocean Actions consist of setting up funding opportunities to help developing countries protect important marine ecosystems (such as coral reefs), develop an alliance to drive investment into coastal natural capital, and establish a new UK *Blue Carbon* Evidence Partnership. But what is *Blue Carbon* and is it something we should be looking at 'over ere on little ole' Alderney?

## Let's Re-cap!

Carbon is a chemical element and is the fourth most abundant in the universe. It can bizarrely form numerous stable bonds, polymers and compounds at Earth's temperatures. As such, it is considered a primary component for all known life on Earth. When combined with Oxygen, it forms Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which is found in Earth's atmosphere and dissolved in all water bodies, such as rivers, icecaps and seawater. Natural sources of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> include volcanoes, forest fires and geysers, and it is obviously a key component within the carbon cycle (a biogeochemical process

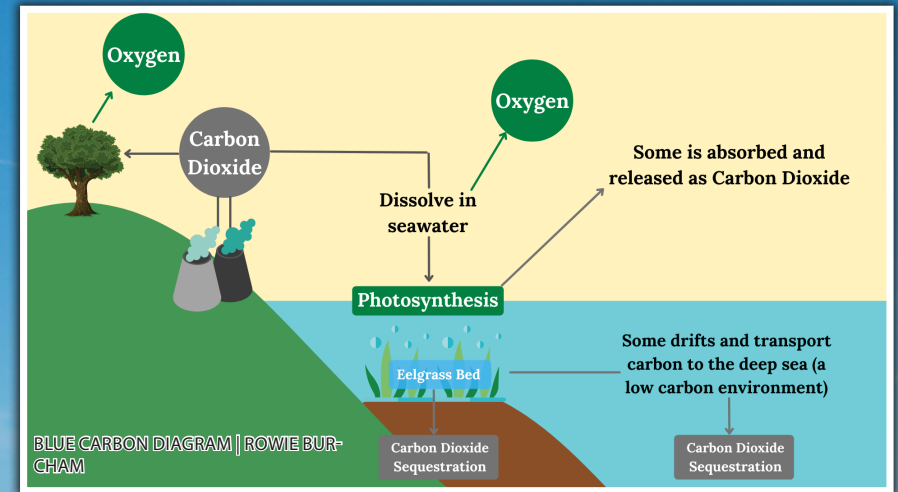
whereby Carbon is exchanged across the biosphere, pedosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere). The process of capturing and storing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere is defined as Carbon Sequestration. In natural habitats, this involves CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere being converted into organic Carbon (such as plant matter) and stored there as a 'long-term' stock.

## So What is *Blue Carbon*?

In terms of *Blue Carbon* there are several in-depth definitions but in general it can be described as organic Carbon (converted CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere) stored within marine habitats/ecosystems such as: Mangroves, Salt marshes, Kelp forests and Eelgrass/Seagrass beds. Not only can the organic Carbon content for these marine habitats be considered the plants themselves (i.e. leaf/roots/plant matter) but also stored within the sediments below.



EELGRASS | LORNA WEST



## What is Known About *Blue Carbon*?

Presently, in-depth, quantitative *Blue Carbon* estimates and the processes involved for its sequestration within the marine environment are still, largely, unknown. For example, in the UK, knowledge of the full extent of all known Eelgrass beds is uncertain and accurate sequestration rates estimates are highly variable. In addition, the *Blue Carbon* stock within an Eelgrass bed can vary significantly compared to another; due to differences in Eelgrass species type, water quality and sediment. Despite this current lack of knowledge and variable *Blue Carbon* estimates from a global-local level, many significant organisations (including government bodies, NGO's and scientific groups) all recognise the importance of *Blue Carbon* marine habitat as a nature-based solution to reduce Climate Change impacts. More importantly, it is widely accepted that the disturbance and/or loss of *Blue Carbon* marine habitats may release stored carbon back into the atmosphere. As such, there is a recognised need to assess, protect and conserve *Blue*

*Carbon* marine habitats, to help combat climate change for the long term.

## And What is Happening on Alderney?

The AWT's Living Seas Programme undertakes field-based surveys to assess *Blue Carbon* marine habitats, such as Eelgrass beds within Alderney's territorial waters. Our Eelgrass surveys aim to assess Eelgrass presence, extent and species community composition, with citizen science volunteers and AWT staff members. For 2022, this includes a new assessment supported by the States of Alderney and the Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project, to investigate the environmental impact of traditional boat moorings upon the Eelgrass beds within Braye Bay. Understanding and protecting our own *Blue Carbon* habitats, such as Eelgrass beds at a local level, may also help at the global level.

By Dr. Mel Broadhurst-Allen

# How You Can Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

We can only beat this carbon crisis if everyone takes responsibility for their carbon footprint. Here are a few easy steps you can take to reduce yours:

## Reduce the Amount You Drive

A normal car will emit 4.6 Tonnes of Carbon per year on average. This striking figure is only exacerbated by the harmful particulates and vast quantities of microplastics released from cars each year.

For a small island, we have a lot of cars. A quick drive into the town often seems much more appealing than a walk or a cycle. However, when we look at the consequences for driving on the environment, our health and our wallets, other alternatives seem much more appealing.

The next time you have to pop into town, consider using a different form of transport. What's more, when we walk we can appreciate our surroundings more than we would when driving, such as kingfishers, dragonflies and even a hedgehog or two!

## Eat Vegetarian a Few Times a Week

For many people, myself included, meat is the delicious centrepiece to a meal. However, growing vegetables produces significantly less carbon than rearing livestock and as a society we must cut our meat consumption. But that doesn't have to be a chore. Eating a few vegetarian meals a week will make a significant reduction to carbon footprint. Vegetarian meals can taste great too, meals like vegetable lasagne and mushroom pie are delicious and easy to make.



## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

You just have to visit the Impot to see the vast quantities of waste we produce. Creating new produce requires a huge amount of carbon, and processing the waste releases CO<sub>2</sub> and noxious chemicals into our atmosphere.

Try cutting down on buying throw-away items like fast fashion and single use plastics. Importantly cut down on food waste. By saving your seconds for later, and composting any excess, no energy will be going to waste, you will reduce your carbon footprint, and save money too!

## Buy Local

In the modern world, many of the items we buy may have been produced halfway across the world. This causes significant carbon emissions and can harm the environment where it is created. The two main

culprits of this are food and fashion.

The fashion industry releases more Carbon Dioxide every year than the aviation and shipping industries combined. Furthermore, 'fast fashion' items are not made to last and quickly end up in landfills. If you fancy a new outfit, why not pop into a charity shop or jumble sale. Alternatively, the AWT have hosted clothes swapping parties at The Georgian House - keep an eye out as we may organise more in the future!

There are a number of people on the island who produce a wide range of produce. If the food you are after isn't grown on Alderney, try searching on the other Channel Islands.

Additionally, by buying local you will not only significantly reduce the impact you have on the environment, but will also support local businesses.



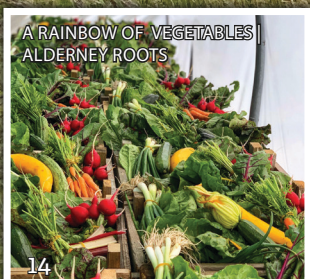
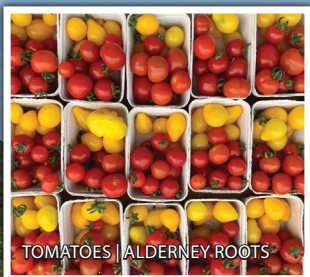
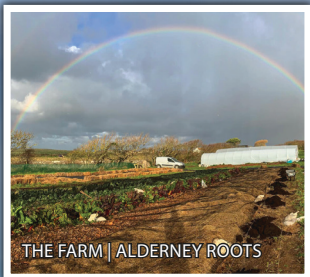
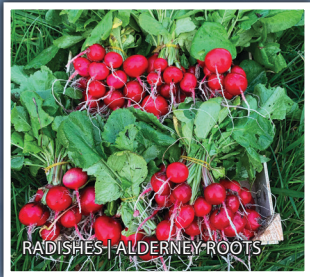
## Every little helps, but we need a lot of help.

Make no mistake, we are in a dire situation, and everyone needs to pull together to help. Following some of these steps is a good start, but there are many more. For more information on ways to cut down your carbon footprint, please pop into our Wildlife Information Centre on Victoria Street.

By Alex Purdie



# How Food Production and Environmental Goals Can Work Together in the Channel Islands



*This is a contributed article by Samuel Pycroft of Alderney Roots.*

On September 23 the UN published data showing the huge impact that industrialised agriculture is having on our environment, food systems, and biodiversity. The numbers are staggering and have further added to the ongoing conversation about how we tackle sustainable and eco-conscious food supply around the world, without having catastrophic effects on the planet. The report published at the UN food systems summit proved that, stating: "Agriculture contributes to a quarter of greenhouse emissions, 70% of biodiversity loss and 80% of deforestation."

As a comparatively small group of islands clustered within the Channel it could be easy to overlook the impact we can have on our community; even worldwide biodiversity through sustainable food production and wildlife conservation, the two do not have to be at odds. Furthermore, we have the opportunity to sidestep environmentally

unfriendly food by producing much more across the Bailiwick whilst supporting our unique wildlife and offering organic, fresh, and nutritionally dense products. An economist Luanne Lohr has demonstrated that organic farms "contribute more to local economies through total sales, net revenue, farm value, taxes paid, payroll, and purchases of farm inputs and repair and maintenance services. They also have more committed farmers and give more support to rural development with higher percentages of resident full-time farmers, greater direct to consumer sales, more workers hired, and higher worker pay".

If we look at the amount of unused farmland across the Bailiwick it seems only natural we make a concerted effort to grow high-quality, organic fruits and vegetables on the island. The amount of land needed could easily be made available with some coordination between communities and government, as well as conservation groups like the Wildlife Trust. Market gardens like Ten Mothers Farm in the US produce 210 veg boxes a week on one acre of land (not including shop and restaurant sales), whilst growing consciously and implementing regenerative practices. Scaling up mixed crop production like this would be a significant game-changer and see a plethora of benefits moving forward.

Throughout the islands, we host numerous important species like nesting and migratory birds as well as marine life and land mammals. With this in mind, it is crucial that whatever agricultural development we make is implemented and planned with biodiversity in mind. The Drawdown Project highlight how practices such as conservation agriculture (which implement cover cropping and minimum tillage practices) have been documented to aid biodiversity and be a significant part of tackling carbon emissions. This in turn severely reduces the use of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides that are known to be damaging to insects and soil, as well as our own health.

It is more than possible to add more diversity within the agricultural sector of the Bailiwick. We would be aiding human health and food security, reducing our carbon footprint, and conserving important ecologies, biodiversity, protected species, and much more.

By Samuel Pycroft





# Our Seabirds in Changing Times

ORTAC GANNET COLONY | JACK BUSH

With the world's climate in turmoil, an increasing body of research indicates that climate change is impacting birds across the world, with a range of responses.

In November last year, a new report was published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for COP26. Using data from its long-term monitoring schemes together with peer-reviewed articles from the scientific literature it assessed how UK birds would respond to climate change. Importantly the report also examined the impact of our mitigation measures against climate change such as the development of offshore wind farms and the planting of trees for carbon capture. It also highlighted how climate change has already begun to impact UK birds.

The work revealed that the UK's internationally important seabird populations and unique upland bird assemblages would be negatively affected and most vulnerable. Overall, about a quarter of species would respond negatively, a quarter positively and the rest would be apparently unaffected. However, significant gaps remained in knowledge about some species, particularly wintering birds.

Notably, they reported that the timing of breeding and migration has got earlier by one to three days each decade. There has also been a poleward shift in the distribution of species at a rate of change exceeding 11 km per decade and as much as 3 km per year for some of our commoner species.

Alderney has important colonies of breeding seabirds, a group already identified as most vulnerable to climate change. So, what does a future in a warmer world hold for our seabirds; and how might their abundance and diversity be impacted by the changing climate and the actions we take to respond to it?

Well, of all Alderney's breeding birds, perhaps the most well-loved species, the Puffin, is also one of the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, as the effects of climate change on the sea unfold, the long-term predictions for Britain's more southerly colonies of Puffins are not good. Under a climate change scenario where carbon emissions remain high, the UK Puffin population is predicted to decline 89% by 2050. Our grandchildren could well see the last of these lovely birds here.

Warmer seas are disrupting marine food webs and allowing a different suite of zooplankton species to spread north into our waters. These species require less lipid to cope with the cold and are therefore less nutritious to eat than their more northern counterparts.

One consequence of this is that the pelagic fish that feed on this zooplankton and form the prey of Puffins and other seabirds have become less nutritious too. Warmer seas have also changed key life-history events of Sand Eels, which are the principal prey of many seabirds. This creates a mismatch between the timing of when they are most abundant and when the birds' peak energy demands occur such as during chick feeding. As a result, Puffins are struggling to raise their young and, the chicks that do fledge are underweight with a lower chance of survivability. Growing competition for fish stocks between us as well as other seabirds just compounds the problem, making the fish that are already poorer quality harder to find as well. Alderney's other seabirds will suffer too for similar reasons. For example, research has shown Guillemots more frequently skip breeding in years with higher sea surface temperatures. Shag annual survival rates are also lower when the waters are warmer. In general, the proportion of seabird species experiencing widespread and frequent breeding failures has increased over the last decade and warmer seas are likely a key factor responsible.

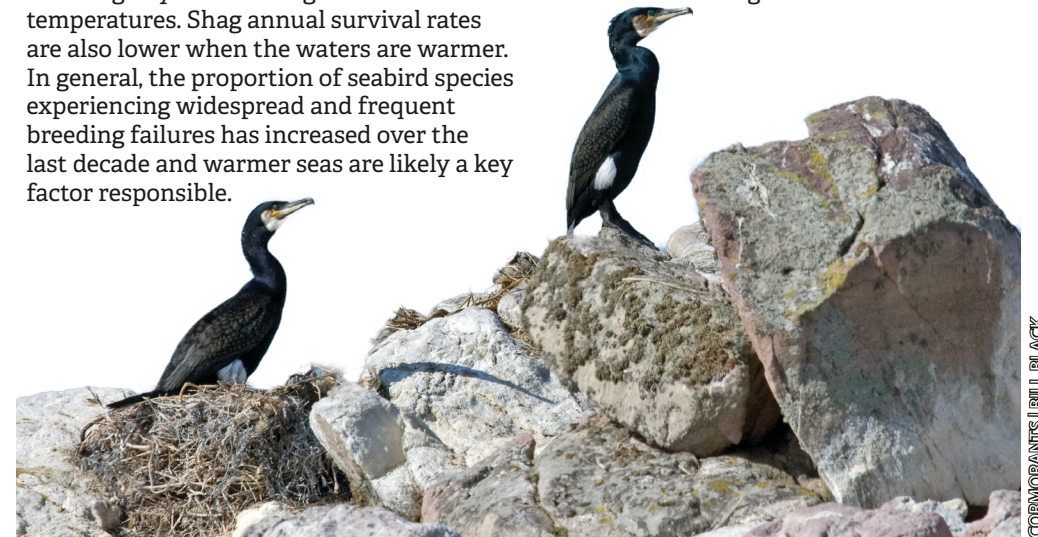


PUFFIN | PAUL MARSHALL

Another effect of climate change has been to increase the severity and frequency of stormy weather. Growing evidence indicates that short-term extreme weather events harm seabird populations.

Just last year, stormy weather in May washed away many of the Gannet nests on Ortac, and caused a catastrophic level of breeding failure. This was especially tough on the Gannets because it occurred late in the spring when most of the birds had eggs close to hatching, and it was too late in the season to relay and try again. If the Gannets have to endure seasons like that more frequently their numbers will surely fall.

Extended periods of stormy weather over winter also have an impact on seabird survival. Notably, all the auks (the Guillemots, Razorbills, and Puffins) but also Shags and Cormorants are especially vulnerable. Mass mortality of adults from these species causes long-term harm to their populations because they are generally long-lived and produce few young each year. Therefore, it can take many years for their populations to recover from large losses in number.



CORMORANTS | BILL BLACK

Just like Alderney's Puffins, the Fulmars, Gannets, Guillemots, and Razorbills that nest here do so near the southern edge of their breeding distributions in the NE Atlantic. Therefore, the predicted northward shifts in distribution may well see some of these species eventually become extinct in the Channel Islands and also England. However, the rate of change will be slow as adults are very site



A GUILLEMOT CHICK FEED | JUSTIN HART

faithful and few young birds disperse to nest elsewhere. The declines will occur only gradually due to poorer recruitment rates; whilst adults die off, increasingly fewer young will survive to maturity as time goes by.

Local extinction may not be inevitable though. The long-term prognosis is not yet clear-cut for all our seabirds and some species may find a way to cope. Interestingly, the BTO reported that impacts of climate change on marine food webs show strong regional differences. For example, the effects of climate change on the seabirds' food supply in the North Sea are greater than seen in the Celtic and Irish Seas as well as the English Channel. The reason for this is unknown, but more research is being undertaken to determine why.

However, it could be that seabirds that are able to exploit other equally nutritious fish (which emerge in the food chain) can

adapt to the sea changes that lie ahead. It is also heartening to know that scientific modelling shows significant differences in species distributions predicted under various climate change scenarios. For example, the BTO reported that the range reduction of Fulmars could be either 34% under a high emission scenario or 17% under a low emission scenario. This is important as it shows even small decreases in our carbon emissions can have beneficial effects for conservation. So if we act now we can make a difference.

In addition, where some seabirds will be lost, others will colonise as species from further south move north.

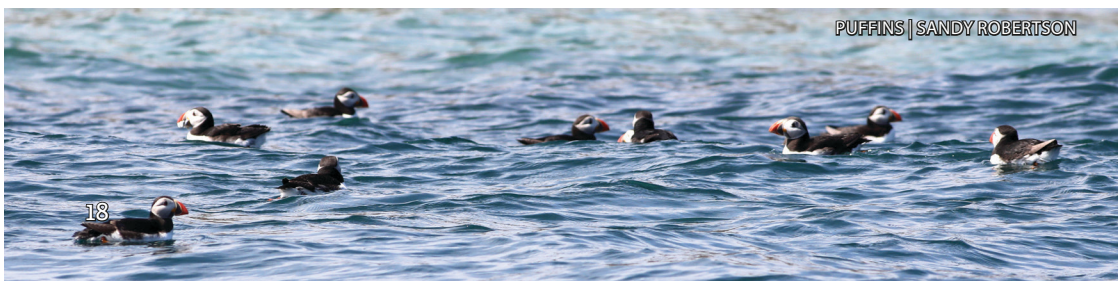
Have you ever heard the nighttime calls of the Cory's Shearwater or Barolo Shearwater? Well, you may soon.

Whatever the future holds, scientific evidence will be needed to make inciteful and appropriate decisions to maximise win-win solutions for climate change, adaptation, and nature. Long-term monitoring will ensure such interventions can be successful and will remain at the forefront of AWT strategy in the daunting times ahead.

By Justin Hart



SHAGS | JUSTIN HART



PUFFINS | SANDY ROBERTSON

# Alderney's WEBSITE

Since 2007, Alderney has contributed to the British Trust for Ornithology Webs Counts. These are a count of all the waders, gulls, ducks and terns that use the many bays and beaches around the island once a month. Simple. The clever thing about Webs though is that all across the UK people are out doing the same counts on the same weekend. So the BTO is able to calculate the number of birds that are using these wetland habitats throughout the year, feeding into population trends and government policy.

Through this survey, we know when to expect the arrival of migrants, where they will be and how many are likely to turn up. So far 37 species have been recorded during these counts, ranging from a Garganey (a duck that winters in Africa) at Mannez

Quarry, to a Kingfisher that spent a few weeks at Fort Doyle. These rarities, whilst a nice surprise for the counter, are not the main bread and butter of these counts. The two most abundant birds are Oystercatchers and Herring Gull with peaks of between 300 to 400 each during late summer. Amongst these throngs, other species like Ringed Plover, Sanderling and Mediterranean Gull are usually well represented as they move to and from their breeding grounds. Others like the Little Egret aren't numerous but a dozen or so will be scattered across the bays and rocky shore.

The beauty of Webs is that anyone can get involved and the time commitment is small. Even your local stretch of river or coastline is worth counting and there are lots of resources to assist new volunteers.

If you are interested in taking part here on Alderney or elsewhere in the UK please email: [ecologist@alderneywildlife.org](mailto:ecologist@alderneywildlife.org).

By Daniel Whitelegg



OYSTERCATCHERS | VIC FROOME

# How to Stay Positive During a Climate Crisis!

There is no shortage of bad news on the state of our environment. From the rising sea levels, to the increasing number of extreme weather events, it can sometimes feel as though we are without any hope. This can make us feel helpless, and you would not be blamed for wanting to give up. However, it is possible to build resilience to these feelings, and turn your passion into something positive.

We hope that these five ideas can help you to feel a bit less alone and a lot more empowered:

## There Are A Lot Of Very Intelligent, Passionate, Experienced People Who Are Not Giving Up Yet

If the people who know the most about climate change aren't losing

hope and are continuing to fight for a healthier planet, then we don't need to either. The recent events at COP26 are evidence of this; leaders from around the world are taking action. On a smaller scale, communities and individuals are continuing to protect the environments around us.

You can learn about these people who are making positive changes, through various media outlets. For example, James Rebanks is a Lake District Farmer who asks 'Could I regenerate my farm to save the planet?' Check out his show on BBC Radio 4 to feel inspired!

## Join A Local Environmental Group

These are spaces of solidarity,

where people who truly care about nature come together to work on solutions. Many of these can be practical, outdoor activities which achieve direct benefits for nature and yourself, we highly recommend! Perhaps there is a friendly Wildlife Trust in your area...

## Think Long-Term

The climate change crisis can't be solved overnight. Much like the racial justice movement, we now realise that we can't simply fix the issue and that we have a responsibility to keep committing to making positive changes for the foreseeable. The climate crisis is much the same, the process will be slow but every little change we make is creating a better world for future generations.

## The Movement Is Growing

A few decades ago, we weren't even aware of the impact greenhouse gases have on our planet.

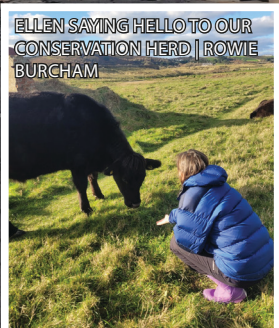
Now, it is a prominent topic in mainstream and social media. The momentum of our climate change action is snowballing; government, businesses, technology, communities are all making commitments of increasing scale and vision. Rapid developments in clean energy and electric vehicles are just some ways in which we are actively solving the issue.

## Do One Mindful Activity Every Day

If your thoughts are spiralling, and you aren't sure where to start, simply step back and take a breath. It isn't possible to achieve everything at once, in fact feeding the birds or having a vegetarian meal is more than enough in a day! Remember we can only do one thing at a time, so next time you are feeling stressed, have a stretch in a field or on a beach...we don't care how strange it looks!

By Ellen Smith

BACKGROUND: LONGIS BAY | ROWIE BURCHAM



ELLEN SAYING HELLO TO OUR CONSERVATION HERD | ROWIE BURCHAM



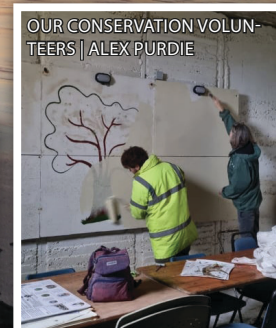
ENJOYING A SOUTH COAST WALK | ALEX PURDIE



VOLUNTEERING SESSION | LORNA WEST



TAKE A BREATH | ALEX PURDIE



OUR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS | ALEX PURDIE



ROCKPOOLING | ALEX PURDIE

# Watch

Before Christmas, the children of St. Anne's School participated in an anti-wet wipe jingle competition! The winners would get the chance to record their jingle for our local radio Quay FM, to inform members of the public of the damage that wet wipes can cause the environment.

Even though the impacts single-use plastics have on marine wildlife are well-known, wet wipes are still used regularly and disposed of incorrectly. Just six months ago, approximately 6,000 wet wipes were collected during the 2021 Great British Beach Clean. On Alderney last year, the States Works dedicated two whole days to clearing a blockage in Longis sewer outlet, which was caused mostly by the inappropriate flushing of wet wipes down toilets. How many of these wipes passed through the system before the blockage occurred?

The participants of the jingle competition created some snappy and memorable tunes to express their concern for Alderney's environment. This included:

*"Wet wipes are made of plastic, so please don't do something drastic!"*



*"Wet wipes kill fish and birds and they make our beaches much, much worse!"*

We look forward to hearing one of the several jingles on our radio soon!



THE STUDENTS WITH THEIR POSTERS | AWT STAFF

# Visiting a UK Reserve

Skomer Island is (as the name suggests) an island located less than one mile off the Pembrokeshire coast in South-West Wales. With a land area of just over a third of Alderney, Skomer is home to a vast array of fauna and flora and I was lucky enough to spend the past summer volunteering on the island. Here, I spent most of my time conducting wildlife surveys, exploring the island and providing information

and Pembrokeshire coast.

The island is rich in wildlife, but it is especially well known for its seabirds with approximately half of the world's population of Manx Shearwater nesting on the island. One of the largest colonies of Puffin in southern Britain is also present along with thousands of Guillemots, Razorbills and many other species. Later in the year, grey seal pupping season begins and many individuals can be seen relaxing and swimming along the coast. Skomer is also home to an endemic sub-species of bank vole, appropriately named the 'Skomer Vole'.

If you ever choose to holiday in Pembrokeshire, I would recommend jumping on the short fifteen-minute boat ride over to Skomer. Trust me, it's worth it!

By Rowie Burcham



THE OLD FARM | ROWIE BURCHAM

Historically, human settlements existed on Skomer up to

5,000 years ago and The Old Farm (which is still present) dates back to mid-19th century. Farming ended on the island in the 1930s and it was bought by the Countryside Council for Wales in 1959. Since then, the island has been a National Nature Reserve.

The northern part of the island is slightly flatter, covered in bluebells during the spring and is a great place for cetacean watching, while the slightly rugged south-side is seabird central during the height of the season. The land in between is full of slopes and ruins from past settlements with picturesque views of the sea



A SEAL HAUL OUT | ROWIE BURCHAM



PUFFIN COLONY | ROWIE BURCHAM

Thank you

Your support is vital for protecting Alderney's wildlife  
[alderneywildlife.org/donations](http://alderneywildlife.org/donations)

FRONT COVER: WAVES CRASHING IN THE RACE BY FORT HOUMET HERBE | CHRIS LEVETT  
BACK COVER: LES ETACS DURING STORM EUNICE | LORNA WEST

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