

Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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Alderney Gambling Control Commission step out of office to help new community initiative

On Monday 12th May, 13 volunteers from the Alderney Gambling Control Commission (AGCC) donated their time to the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) as part of AGCC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

The idea took root after an AGCC staff member attended a successful school-led beach clean in March, part of the Schools Across the Ocean project. Inspired by the children's commitment, the AGCC team stepped up to support AWT's growing youth and community work.

AWT's Wilder Learning Initiative, led by Abigail de Castella, is focused on expanding access to outdoor learning and practical conservation activities. "It's so rewarding to see young people growing in confidence through real-world experiences like beach cleans and tree planting," Abigail said. "It benefits not just the children, but the island as a whole."

One major focus for the team is reviving the former Scout hut near Saye Campsite, once a vital space for outdoor youth activities, now long unused and in disrepair. Thanks to a groundswell of community support, the building is being redeveloped into a multi-purpose hub for informal learning, volunteering, and events.

The AGCC team split into two groups. One tackled much-needed maintenance - clearing brambles, repainting walls, repairing raised beds, and organising outdoor materials. The other took part in a beach clean at Crabby, collecting over 10 bags of waste including marine rope, rusted metal and even a bicycle seat. One of the AGCC employees, John actually used to attend Scouts at this exact site. Talking to him about his experiences and then standing here volunteering he said "Growing up with the Scout Hut greatly enriched my life, teaching us countless useful life-long skills, so to have the opportunity to help restore it is truly wonderful. Hopefully, we can reignite its value as a community base for groups like the Scouts and Cubs for future generations."

The day wrapped up with everyone back at the site, pitching in for a final hour of work. "It's amazing to see people bringing this space back to life," Abigail said. "This building has so much potential. Watching it transform is a real sign of hope for the community and especially the young people who will benefit from it."

Huge thanks to the AGCC team and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!

Background

About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming over 20 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organisations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.

Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT

About The Alderney Gambling Control Commission

The AGCC is celebrating its 25th year of operations in Alderney this year, contributing to community development on the Island since its foundation and is looking forward to supporting AWT in the future.

Notes to Media

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