



For the Trust to achieve its goal of 1 in 4 taking action for nature, it has become increasingly apparent that we must help Alderney respond to the increasing challenges in education. The Trust was founded on the principle of conservation through education and the Wilder Learning project is the cornerstone of the Alderney Community Action for Nature (ACAN) Campaign. Wilder Learning utilises the Trust's extensive early, and school years, educational programmes to provide a much deeper level of educational development. The Project aims to use the Trust's staff and volunteer resources, especially the wide range of experience/skills it contains, to help in the development of vocational skills and opportunities. To this end the Trust has agreed to take on the Scout Hut at Saye to restore so it can be used as a 'learning hub'. We are also in conversations with businesses, charities and other organisations to partner in this effort and help restore some of what has been lost over the last 15 years with the closure of Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, church youth, cadets and even further learning programmes on the island.

I am providing a copy of our 2025 Business Plan and would invite you to get in touch with any thoughts and ideas. Our organisation is strong because of you and will only benefit from your guidance and support.

## **Infrastructure**

Whilst the Strategic Campaigns have been successfully adopted, the last year has provided significant challenges in terms of resources and infrastructure. The economic climate globally, and the local challenges here on Alderney, have certainly impacted the Trust over the last year. The accounts show the reduction in unrestricted grants and donations and this, coupled with delays in finalizing contracts for Alderney Wildlife Trust Enterprises (the AWT's environmental consultancy) and increased staffing costs, have resulted in a significant deficit in 2024.

I would like to reassure the Membership that the Board has been heavily involved in responding to these challenges, and the following actions have been put in place:

- A fundraising strategy focused on demonstrating the value of our actions for wildlife, including enabling those who wish to directly contribute towards our actions that:
  - o Preserve the diversity of wildlife
  - o Increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change on the island
  - o Help reduce those factors which contribute towards climate change
- A review of the cost of Trust membership which will, 23 years on from the setting of the current membership rates, see membership increase in line with that of other Island Charities, although still significantly below that of most UK wildlife trusts.
- Development of new contracts secured by our consultancy

The Trust has also seen major changes in staffing with a move from a complete dependency on on-island volunteers and volunteer interns, and the introduction of several long-term paid staff roles. This has helped the Trust mature as an organisation, providing a depth of skills and continuity which is having a very positive impact. However, in the coming year we recognise that we must find additional infrastructural support in the form of:

- A Treasurer for the Trust
- Administration support ranging from membership management to due diligence, compliance and payroll
- A guide and administrator for developing the Trust's walks and tours programme

We will be advertising these roles over the coming months but if any member has thoughts, or might themselves be interested, please do contact us.

## **Conclusion**

After 23 years of involvement with the Trust I can honestly and proudly say that the organisation has grown, through the incredible support, hard work and dedication of the team, into one of the most impactful conservation organisations in the Channel Islands.

This team is built upon:

- the support, guidance and effort of you, our membership, it is the care and passion you provide that sustains our organisation

- the 30 or more brilliant volunteers who last year dedicated over 16,000 hours of their time to protecting Alderney's wildlife for future generations.
- the amazing team of staff and interns who commit far beyond what should be asked of them and are so passionate, not only about the Trust but also about our island.
- Finally, the Board who quietly meet all the challenges placed before them, provide a depth of knowledge and guidance few larger organisations could call upon and never hesitate to offer their time.

2025 is already a busy year but it is my belief that it will be one of the most important in the Trust's history. Thank you for your support and I would like to offer a personal invitation for any member who would like more information, or who has ideas, or concerns, to please contact me direct.

*Roland Gauvain*

**Roland Gauvain**

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