



CEO's Annual Report to Members

2025-2026

Introduction

Next year, the Alderney Wildlife Trust turns 25. It's a remarkable milestone for an organisation which was built on the belief that Alderney's wildlife matters and that our community has both the power and the responsibility to protect it. We began with the meeting in the Island Hall with a handful of members, a great deal of enthusiasm, and a mission: to study, champion and protect Alderney's wildlife for future generations. Today, with over 600 members, a skilled staff team, and campaigns delivering real change at an island scale, I can say with genuine pride that this organisation has grown into something to be proud of.

Everything we have built, every reserve managed, every survey conducted, every child who has spent a morning discovering our woodlands and beaches, has been in service of one of the principles that Alderney's natural environment is a shared inheritance, and that our generation's responsibility is to pass it on in better shape than we found it. As we approach the quarter century that responsibility to future islanders feels more urgent, and thankfully also more achievable, than ever.

Our two strategic goals set out in the AWT's 2030 strategy are the compass for everything we do:

- **30 by 30** — at least 30% of Alderney's natural environment protected and thriving for wildlife by 2030.
- **1 in 4** — at least one in four residents and visitors feeling informed and empowered to act for nature.

This year's CEO report sets out how our campaigns are delivering on those goals.

Putting Nature into Recovery

This campaign ensures every action we take is informed by the best available evidence, and that the evidence we build is useful to the whole community, not just to us.

Alderney State of Nature

The Alderney State of Nature (ASoN) project is, to our knowledge, a first in the Channel Islands: a comprehensive list of key species and habitats built jointly from rigorous scientific method and systematic public feedback. Nearly 2,000 hours of field research, 55 survey types, and extensive community consultation have gone into its creation.

Crucially, ASoN now allows us to examine trends in species, not just snapshots. We can track changes in population sizes and habitat health at an Alderney level over time, moving from observation to informed action. This evidence has already helped to deliver two significant milestones: the publication of the five-year strategies for both the Alderney Ramsar site and AWT's Reserves and Sites, both directly shaped by ASoN's.

The Alderney Biodiversity Centre (ABC), is now live and part of a pan-Channel Islands Biological Records Centre, makes this information accessible to residents, businesses, visitors, and government. If you haven't already logged on and created your own account so you can both upload and view the more detailed findings perhaps now is a good time [Welcome | Alderney Biodiversity Centre](#). Usage is growing, with a 500% increase in records between 2023-2026 and we are committed to making it richer still.

I would like to offer particular thanks to Charles Asprey for his continued and generous support towards securing the long-term sustainability and protection of Alderney's waters. Thanks to Charles' support we have created new links with marine protected areas in Brittany which is expanding the opportunities to create a more realistic and sustainable approach to protecting Alderney's marine resource for the future.

Reserves and Sites

Our Reserves and Sites Team and their volunteers deserve enormous credit. Despite challenging weather, the loss of trees, and the constant demands of a substantial portfolio, they have pressed on, steadily integrating ASoN knowledge into practical management and focusing effort where it matters most.

The scale of what this team maintains is worth appreciating: over 16% of Alderney's landscape managed in partnership with the States of Alderney and private landowners, including bird hides, signage, benches, steps, and over 20km of footpath giving public access to much of the island.

I want to be honest; we do need more hands. To deliver on the new strategy and secure the funding to grow the team, we need volunteers willing to commit a little of their time. If you have ever thought about getting involved, please do get in touch.

Alderney Community Action for Nature

If Putting Nature into Recovery is the science, ACAN is the heart — connecting our community with the natural world, listening, engaging, and creating opportunities for islanders of every age and background.

Wilder Learning

The Wilder Learning Programme now touches islanders at almost every stage of life: weekly early years sessions at Bumps Pre-School, Forest School, Wilder Beach, Youth Club, Duke of Edinburgh, work experience, and adult learning woven through our wider volunteering and research.

These are the future residents, landowners, and decision-makers of Alderney. The relationships they build with the natural world now will shape what they choose to protect later. We are extremely grateful to the Sue Rousse Trust, and to Robin Whicker, the generous support of Wilder Learning and the wider ACAN campaigns.

THE HUT

The transformation of the former Scout Hut at Saye into THE HUT has been one of the year's most exciting achievements. Led brilliantly by Abigail, working alongside Nigel and the volunteers (you know who you are!), with enormous community support including help from Saye Campsite amongst others, THE HUT will be opened as a community hub on the 30th May. The AWT's focus through the hut will be on learning and discovery, with the opportunity to act as a base for outdoor education, volunteering sessions, workshops, and events, with much more to come.

Public Activities and Nature Talks

Demand for our public programme, walks, talks, and tours, continues to grow. In 2026 we have launched monthly nature talks which offer a regular, informal opportunity to hear directly about a wide range of topics both on and off island. Please do come along we would love to see you there.

What we are becoming increasingly aware of is that the AWT's activities programmes is one of the few staple offerings to visitors and whilst income from the programme is huge, the value of this work talks more to the sustainability of our community at a trying time, and impacts multiple business. We need your help to keep up this effort so if you enjoy being outdoors and sharing enthusiasm for Alderney's wildlife, history and culture, we would very much welcome a conversation.

Nature is the Solution

This campaign translates ASoN evidence into large-scale, long-term action for our community, bridging our PNIR and ASoN campaigns and demonstrating the practical, economic, and community value of protecting and restoring natural habitats.

Once and Future Woodland

Receiving a soft launch at the end of 2025, this project which aims to harness Alderney's Rapidly changing environment since WWII, undertook the planting of the Homecomers Woodland on the 80th anniversary of the liberation. The Once and Future Woodland recognises the rapid return of woodland across wide areas of Alderney is positive but often consists of a few less dynamic species including sycamore and the possibility that by re-introducing the species which used to make up Alderney's woodland cover of old we can help to create a naturalise, wildlife rich woodland that provides for both our community and wildlife. Thanks to the generous support of **Penny Hayworth**, we will be able to launch the project fully this coming autumn with the goal of planting 25,000 native trees by 2030. The trees will be chosen for their ecological value and their resonance with Alderney's ancient landscape, a moment of real symbolism and practical progress.

We are delighted that Once and Future Woodland has been **shortlisted in all categories of the Channel Islands Conservation Awards, including the People's Choice Award**. Please get out and vote — every voice counts.

Natural Barriers

Our Natural Barriers project, protecting and restoring Alderney's sand dunes as wildlife habitats and natural sea defences, is now in active delivery by both establishing the extend and health of all our sand dune systems and then, grounded in ASoN evidence, targeting key actions. Work at Saye in 2026 will focus on tackling the growing threat of invasive species such as Sour Fig to dune stability: unglamorous but essential, and another example of science and community effort working together.

AWTE — Supporting the Work

Alderney Wildlife Trust Enterprises, our wholly owned environmental consultancy, continues to grow as a resource that flows directly back into the Trust's charitable work. The past year has seen genuinely exciting developments that are moving us towards meaningful actions for Alderney's wildlife at a scale not previously possible. We look forward to sharing more in due course.

Legacies — Investing in Alderney's Future

We were deeply grateful to receive a generous legacy from **Brian Bonnard**, left specifically to help conserve an area of importance to Alderney's wildlife. This coupled with the Waters legacy in 2019, which enabled reserve refurbishment and supported staff costs, helps to highlight how significant a contribution this sort of contribution can be to our long-term goals. Legacies of all sizes make an extraordinary difference, allowing us to plan ahead, protect land, and sustain the programmes on which Alderney's wildlife depends.

If this is something you have considered, we have produced an updated guidance leaflet which we have shared in our latest mailing and which is available on our website.

Membership — Thank You, and a Welcome

Thank you to everyone who has responded so generously to the membership review and the increase in membership dues which it led to. If you have not yet updated your subscription, we would be extremely grateful if you could check as this does make a real difference.

We are also delighted to welcome Bellereve Group as the first formal corporate member of the AWT in 2026. We hope this marks the beginning of a wider engagement from our business community as we approach our 25th anniversary.

Looking Ahead

As we approach our quarter century the AWT is coming into its maturity; more capable, more connected, and more ambitious than at any point in our history.

Alderney's natural environment is not simply a backdrop to island life. It is one of the most powerful arguments for the island's future sustainability, attracting international interest and investment, as well as giving us standing to challenge developments in neighbouring waters that threaten our key species and habitats. We are also succeeding in drawing a spotlight on what makes Alderney such a special place, drawing media attention and goodwill that no marketing budget could buy.

None of this is the work of one person or one team. It is down to all our members, volunteers, staff, board, funders, and partners. Thank you; your support is the foundation on which everything else rests.

Roland Gauvain

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