



**EASTER MEETING of CHIEF PLEAS  
to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 at 5.00pm in the ASSEMBLY ROOM**

**AGENDA**

1. MATTERS ARISING from the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
2. MATTERS ARISING from the Budget Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
3. MATTERS ARISING from the Extraordinary (Special) Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.
4. MATTERS ARISING from the Christmas Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2025.
5. QUESTIONS Not Related to the Business of the Day.
6. To CONSIDER a Report with Propositions from the AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE entitled **"Amendment to the Cutting of Hedges (Sark) Ordinance, 2009"**.
7. To CONSIDER a Report with Propositions from the AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT and SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE entitled **"Scallop Licence Fee"**.
8. To CONSIDER a Report with Propositions from the DOUZAINÉ entitled **"Recycling/Rubbish & Sewage Charges"**.
9. To CONSIDER a Report with Propositions from the EDUCATION COMMITTEE entitled **"Funding for 13+ Education"**.
10. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled **"Financial Statements"**.
11. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled **"Allocation of Prescribed Person Status"**.
12. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the POLICY and FINANCE COMMITTEE entitled **"Amendments to PDG Remit"**.
13. To CONSIDER a Report with Proposition from the TOURISM COMMITTEE entitled **"Change to Mandate"**.
14. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the DOUZAINÉ entitled **"Relocation of Public Works to Les Lâches"**.
15. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the DOUZAINÉ entitled **"Sewage System"**.
16. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the DOUZAINÉ entitled **"Recycling and Waste Disposal"**.

17. To CONSIDER an Information Report from the TOURISM COMMITTEE entitled "**Tourism Committee Update**".
18. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: To elect Conseillers to Committees as required.
19. COMMITTEE and PANEL ELECTIONS: To Elect Non-Chief Pleas Members and Panel Members to Committees and Panels, as required:

P M Armorgie  
Speaker of Chief Pleas

9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

NOTES:

1. Anyone wishing to see any of the Reports and Supporting Papers may do so at the Committee Offices, Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm; copies may be obtained from the Committee Office. The Agenda, Reports and Supporting Papers may also be seen on the Sark Government Website at:  
[www.sarkgov.co.uk](http://www.sarkgov.co.uk)

**AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SEA FISHERIES**

**Report with Proposition to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**AMENDMENT TO THE CUTTING OF HEDGES (SARK)  
ORDINANCE, 2009**

Section 1. (1) of **The Cutting of Hedges (Sark) Ordinance, 2009** requires that

***Cutting of hedges.***

*1. (1) Every occupier of land bordering a public road or, if the land is unoccupied, the owner thereof, shall between the 1st day and the 15th day of June and between the 15th day and the 30th day of October in each year, cut away such parts of all hedges as overhang any public road up to a height of 12 feet from the road surface, and shall immediately thereafter remove from the public road all material cut from the hedge.*

The subject of altering the cutting of hedges ordinance due to environmental considerations was raised with the Douzaine. Historically, the Douzaine has taken the view that Environmental matters should be referred to the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee, and this was done with Douzaine approval and agreement. Although this legislation comes under the mandate of the Douzaine, the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee is of the opinion that due to its timing, the June cut of trees and hedges is detrimental to both wildlife and Island tourism and seeks, with the approval of the Douzaine, to amend the Ordinance as detailed below.

The bird nesting season on Sark stretches from early February until the end of August, and cutting trees and hedges during this period destroys nests and habitats. Late spring is also an important time for hedge flowers and the formation of fruit that sustains wildlife through the summer and early autumn.

Moreover, the cutting of hedges in June presents an unattractive aspect along the lanes for visitors arriving in the summer. The very close cutting of banks and verges also damages the vegetation and encourages the growth of “thug” plants.

Having considered the situation, the Committee believes that if the timing of the cuts was changed to a single main cut in October, with a summer maintenance cut of verges in June, the impact on wildlife, and tourism, would be lessened. This will require an amendment to **The Cutting of Hedges (Sark) Ordinance, 2009**, for which the proposition seeks the permission from Chief Pleas.

The Committee proposes the following revised wording:

***Cutting of hedges.***

*Every occupier of land bordering a public road or, if the land is unoccupied, the owner thereof, shall trim their all hedges, tree growth and other vegetation as overhangs any public road according to the following schedule:*

**Annual Cut**

*Between the 15th day and the 30th day of October in each year, they shall cut away such parts of all hedges and tree growth as overhang any public road up to a height of 12 feet*

*from the road surface, and shall immediately thereafter remove from the public road all material cut from the hedge.*

### **Summer Maintenance**

*In addition, they shall between the 1st day and the 25th day of June, trim banks and verges to no shorter than 10cm (4") and shall immediately thereafter remove from the public road all material cut.*

### **Protection of Wildlife**

*For the purposes of the above, hedges and tree growth must not be cut back between 1st February and 31st August except where it overhangs the gutter line at the road's edge, in order to protect wildlife.*

This revised 'Verge and Hedge Cutting Policy' for Sark is designed to promote safety, biodiversity, and sustainability while aligning with Guernsey's updated policies and other similar initiatives in the UK and elsewhere. By adopting these measures, Sark will safeguard its natural beauty, improve public safety, and contribute to broader environmental goals.

Roadside verges and hedges are vital habitats for many species, including pollinators, birds, and small mammals. Cutting at the wrong time or year, or cutting too closely can destroy these habitats and sometimes even the animals or birds themselves.

Research has shown that reduced mowing and selective cutting can significantly increase wildflower abundance, supporting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators crucial to the ecosystem. Sark's landscape, renowned for its natural beauty, can become a model for conservation practices that support local wildlife.

Guernsey has recently updated its verge cutting policies, reducing mowing frequency, and prioritising biodiversity. By aligning with these practices, Sark joins a growing movement across the British Isles to combat biodiversity loss. Sark's adoption of this policy reflects its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

This policy ensures continued visibility and easy passage of vehicles along public roads while also allowing nature to thrive in less critical areas.

Scheduling the main cutting in late October, with trimming of trees and hedges along the roads prohibited from February through mid-October, protects the nesting season for birds and breeding seasons for other wildlife, minimising disruption to wildlife while maintaining safe passage for residents and visitors. Ideally during the October cut, the hedges and trees will be cambered back from the roadway rather than cut vertically to ensure that the cut lasts and that light and rain reach the base of hedge.

A further trim of banks and verges only in June will maintain the banks and help to keep the gutters clear of leaves and other debris. By cutting no closer to the ground than 4" / 10cm, delicate native windflowers are allowed to grow, while thugs such as hogweed, Yorkshire fog grass and other strong growers are discouraged.

In conclusion this 'Verge and Hedge Cutting Policy' presents an opportunity for Sark to protect its natural environment, ensure public safety, and align with broader conservation initiatives in the UK and Guernsey. By implementing these measures, the island secures its future as a haven for wildlife and a model for sustainable living.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly approve this policy for adoption and commit to regular reviews to ensure its continued success.



**Proposition –**

**That Chief Pleas directs the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee to speak with the Law Officers of the Crown to draft an amendment to ‘The Cutting of Hedges (Sark) Ordinance, 2009’ to bring about the change detailed in this Report.**

**Conseiller Helen Plummer**

**Chairman, Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee**

**AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & SEA FISHERIES**

**Report with Proposition to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**SCALLOP LICENCE FEE**

In order a person may take scallops from Sark waters they need to have first applied for, and been granted, a 'licence to take scallops', the licence having been issued to them by the Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee, under **The Scallops (Sark) Ordinance, 1998**.

In addition to the closed season, and that only hand-dived scallops may be taken, the number of Scallop Licences that the Committee issues each year, acts as a control against overfishing. For 2025 12 Scallop licences have been issued. A report on the total Scallop catch for the year is presented to Chief Pleas, by the Committee, as part of its Annual Report.

Under section 5(1) of the 1998 Ordinance, the Committee may require that for it to issue a Scallop Licence, a fee shall be paid. For 2025 the fee is £100 and was set at this figure at the Christmas Meeting in 1998. The Committee feels it is time that the fee is reviewed, and it is suggesting that for 2026 it should rise to £125.

**Proposition –**

**That Chief Pleas approve the increase in the Scallop License Fee, to £125, for 2026.**

**Conseiller Helen Plummer**

**Chairman, Agriculture, Environment & Sea Fisheries Committee**

**DOUZAINE**

**Report with Propositions to Easter Chief Pleas, 30 April 2025**

**RECYCLING/RUBBISH AND SEWAGE CHARGES**

Public Works collects and processes domestic recycling (blue and clear bags) and burnable rubbish (black bags), for which a charge is made. Charges are also levied on commercial waste and extras plus sewage per load collected. Charges were last increased effective of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The Douzaine feel that a regular increase, in line with RPI, is preferable to a sudden increase every 3-5 years.

The Guernsey RPI figure for the year to 31 December 2024 was 4.6%.

The Douzaine is therefore proposing to increase the charge for domestic Rubbish/Recycling from the current £27.40 per (adult) per quarter, to £28.66 per (adult) per quarter. The Douzaine is further proposing to increase the charge per load of sewage from the current £22.67 per load, to £23.71 per load. Both of these increases are in line with the (Guernsey) RPI since the previous increase.

There is no proposal to increase the (domestic) 'black bag' charge, which will remain at the 2024 level of £1.50 per 50l bag (blue sticker) and £3 per 100l bag (yellow sticker).

A detailed review of commercial rubbish charges is still being finalised to try to simplify the basis on which these charges are calculated and to recover fully the cost to the island of collection and disposal. The final output will take into account the long-term solution to Sark's Recycling and Waste Disposal which is still under investigation and the subject of a separate information report.

Until this review is completed and laid before Chief Pleas, the Douzaine is proposing to increase the charges for commercial rubbish disposal by 4.6% RPI, across the current range of charges. This increase being in line with the increase being proposed for domestic waste.

The detailed "Extras" list is classified as 'Commercial' although used for Domestic waste items on that list as well. The Douzaine proposes to increase Extras by 4.6% RPI rounded up or down to the nearest 10p as per the attached list.

If approved, these increases will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

**Proposition 1 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the Rubbish/Recycling collection to £114.64 per person, per year (£28.66 per quarter).**

**Proposition 2 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charge for the sewage collection to £23.71 per load.**

**Proposition 3 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charges for commercial rubbish collection, by 4.6%.**

**Proposition 4 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the increase to the Sark Public Works charges for Extras collection, by 4.6% rounded to the nearest 10p.**

**Conseiller Mike Locke  
Chairman, Douzaine**

## Extras list

classified as "Commercial" even though used by [Inflation \(RPIs and HCIs\) - States of Guernsey](#) 4.6% RPI for year end to Dec 24

	current set 1 Feb 24	plus 4.6%	proposed 1 May 25 rounded to nearest 10p
Armchair	£3.70	£3.87	£3.90
BBQ (metal - large)	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
BBQ (metal - small)	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Bed & Mattress	£9.87	£10.33	£10.30
Bike	£4.94	£5.16	£5.20
Boiler	£30.85	£32.27	£32.30
Burnables - Link Box	£15.43	£16.13	£16.10
Burnables - Trailer	£30.85	£32.27	£32.30
Catering Fridge/Freezer/Oven	£18.51	£19.36	£19.40
Cylinder	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Electric car	£24.68	£25.82	£25.80
Electrical Goods (Small)	£3.70	£3.87	£3.90
Filing cabinate (metal)	£24.68	£25.82	£25.80
Garden Chair (metal)	£2.47	£2.58	£2.60
Garden Waste - Ton Bag	£9.26	£9.68	£9.70
Garden Waste - Ton Bag to Les Laches	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Garden Waste - Trailer	£18.51	£19.36	£19.40
Garden Waste - Trailer to Les Laches	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Glass - Trailer	£30.85	£32.27	£32.30
Glass - Link Box	£15.43	£16.13	£16.10
Ground Trailer	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Hoover	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Mattress	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Metal - Bin	£18.51	£19.36	£19.40
Metal - Link Box	£37.02	£38.72	£38.70
Metal - Trailer	£74.04	£77.45	£77.40
Metal BBQ - Large	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Metal BBQ - Small	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Metal Filing Cabinet	£24.68	£25.82	£25.80
Metal Garden Chair	£2.47	£2.58	£2.60
Microwave	£9.87	£10.33	£10.30
Mixed - Link Box	£24.68	£25.82	£25.80
Mixed - Trailer	£49.36	£51.63	£51.60
Oil Drum (Full)	£4.94	£5.16	£5.20
Oil Tank - Metal	£55.53	£58.08	£58.10
Oil Tank - Plastic	£30.85	£32.27	£32.30
Oven	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Patio Doors	£18.51	£19.36	£19.40
Plasterboard - Link Box	£74.04	£77.45	£77.40
Plasterboard - Trailer	£148.08	£154.89	£154.90
Plasterboard - Ton Bag	£30.85	£32.27	£32.30
Radiator Large	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Radiator Small	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Sewage Call out 4pm Fri to 8am Mon	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Sewage Call out Bank Holiday	£24.68	£25.82	£25.80

Skip - Asbestos	base charge £246 (+ processing charges)	£257.31	£257.30
Skip - Metal	base charge £246 (+ processing charges)	£257.31	£257.30
Skip - Plasterboard	base charge £246 (+ processing charges)	£257.31	£257.30
Slaughter House Animal Waste	£43.19	£45.18	£45.20
Sofa	£10.00	£10.46	£10.50
Tractor Battery/Radiator	£4.94	£5.16	£5.20
Tractor Tyre/Wheel - Large	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
Tractor Tyre/Wheel - Small	£3.70	£3.87	£3.90
Tv	£9.87	£10.33	£10.30
Wardrobe	£6.17	£6.45	£6.50
White goods (fridges etc)	£12.34	£12.91	£12.90
Window - Plastic	£8.64	£9.04	£9.00
Window - Wooden	£4.94	£5.16	£5.20

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Report with Propositions to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **FUNDING FOR 13+ EDUCATION**

#### **Introduction**

Following its information report to the Midsummer Meeting of Chief Pleas in July 2024, the Education Committee has continued to consider ideas for reforming the structure and funding of post 13 education for the children of Sark.

The existing legislation (The Education (Sark) Law, 2001 and The Education (Sark) Ordinance, 2003) requires us to provide formal education for children aged 5-16, but gives us considerable latitude to decide which schools we fund, where such schools are located, how much we pay and to whom.

Sark School currently teaches children aged 5-13 (years 1-8). Although we are not required to provide education anywhere except on island, since the REAch2 Review of 2017, education for Sark children aged 14-16 (years 9-11) is only provided off island unless children are home schooled, with costs funded by Chief Pleas. While this suits some children, it does not suit others. There are also significant financial implications.

We undertook extensive consultation with parents of current Sark School children in October 2024 and March 2025 to understand their priorities for their children's education. We also consulted with our education advisors and the Sark School Board of Governors. Key messages from this consultation included:

- A desire for continuing the off-island secondary offer, especially for children who had grown up on the island, including both a Guernsey day and UK state boarding offer;
- Support for an on-island offer using an online school, especially for children new to the island or those who do not wish to leave;
- Support for continuing the existing part-parent, part-Chief Pleas support system for funding secondary education, but with an acknowledgement that some increase in the parent contribution levels may be necessary; and
- Concern about "education tourism" and the current requirement for Chief Pleas to provide off island funding regardless of how long a child has been on Sark or whether they have attended Sark School for any length of time.

As a Committee, we believe that our priorities should be to continue to provide high quality education to age 16 for all children living on Sark while at the same time making best use of

Sark's limited financial resources. Therefore we propose to make some changes to how post-13 education is delivered, which are as follows:

### **On Island Education**

We plan to create an on island offer for years 9-11 (ages 14-16) in a Sark School setting using a quality online provider. The final choice of provider will be made in consultation with our education advisors, Sark School teachers, Sark School Board of Governors and parents. Whichever provider is chosen the cost per child will be less than the cost of off island education, especially as there will be no accommodation costs.

The Board of Governors is also considering introducing some formal online teaching using the same provider for years 7 and 8 within Sark School to improve the range of subject choice and provision for these years. This will have a cost implication, and more details will be brought back to a future meeting of Chief Pleas. See Appendix One.

### **Off Island Education**

We will continue to support off island education, but we will put some restrictions on this funding and in particular on how it may be used.

The amount of financial support will be based, as now, on the cost to Sark from Guernsey of tuition at Les Beaucamps High School (£9,033.00 in '24-'25), and the cost to Chief Pleas of accommodation for term time hosting in Guernsey (current maximum £4,313.21 with an additional parent contribution), with funding given on a sliding scale based on years spent at Sark School.

However, we will limit this support to children living with approved Term Time Hosts on Guernsey (attending either a state school or a private Guernsey day school) and those attending a state boarding school in England.

Where a child lives or stays off Sark with a parent or guardian resident in a jurisdiction that offers free state schooling such as Guernsey or the UK, the parent will be expected to enter the child into school themselves without further funding from Chief Pleas, unless custody or safeguarding dictates otherwise.

There will be no support for private schools in England or elsewhere than Guernsey, whether boarding or day.

### **Other Limits on Support**

At present, Chief Pleas must fund off island education for children even if they have only just arrived on the island and have never attended Sark School. Subject to the establishment of an on island secondary offer, no support will be provided for off island education where a child has attended Sark School for two or fewer years.



These changes will apply from 1 September 2025 unless a funding agreement has already been agreed with parents. This means the changes only apply to children in year 6 and below and those who may come to Sark in future.

## **Financial Implications**

We are conscious that children's education is literally priceless as there is never another opportunity to repeat the childhood years. However, it is also the case that the current system is extremely expensive. It can cost Chief Pleas over £13,346 a year per secondary school child, not to mention a parental contribution of at least £4,313 for a child for term time hosting or boarding and up to £5,500 in additional parental tuition costs for one of the Guernsey private schools

The exact financial implications of our proposals are difficult to calculate as not only do numbers of children in secondary school vary from year to year, but parent choices will also vary depending on the options available.

Nonetheless, we consider that there will be overall savings from the proposals, and we hopeful that in future an uptake of the online school and changes in parent choice will lead to more savings in conjunction with an improved range of parent choice.

The policies will be reviewed in 2028 as we better understand future parent choices and can measure the success of the online school offer.

## **PROPOSITION ONE –**

**That Chief Pleas Agrees to the creation of an on island secondary offer for years 9-11 (ages 14-16) in a Sark School setting using a quality online provider.**

## **PROPOSITION TWO –**

**That Chief Pleas agrees to fund any off island tuition for years 9-11 using the current funding model based on the cost to Sark from Guernsey of tuition at Les Beaucamps High School.**

## **PROPOSITION THREE –**

**That Chief Pleas agrees to fund off island accommodation with Guernsey term time hosts and at UK state boarding schools using the current model of costs shared with parents based on a sliding scale of time spent at Sark School.**

#### **PROPOSITION FOUR –**

That Chief Pleas agrees to limit tuition and accommodation support to children living with approved Term Time Hosts on Guernsey (attending a state school or a private Guernsey day school) and those attending a state boarding school in England.

#### **PROPOSITION FIVE –**

That Chief Pleas agrees that children living with off island relatives or other guardians will not be eligible for Chief Pleas education funding, and that these parents or guardians will be expected to enter the child into the local school system themselves, unless custody or safeguarding dictates otherwise.

#### **PROPOSITION SIX –**

That Chief Pleas agrees that there will be no support for private schools in England or elsewhere than Guernsey, whether boarding or day.

#### **PROPOSITION SEVEN –**

That Chief Pleas agrees that subject to the establishment of an on island secondary offer, no support will be provided for off island education where a child has attended Sark School for two or fewer years.

#### **PROPOSITION EIGHT –**

That Chief Pleas agrees that these changes will apply from 1 September 2025 unless a funding agreement has already been agreed with parents.

#### **PROPOSITION NINE –**

That Chief Pleas agrees that the Education Committee should instruct the Law Officers to make any changes necessary to the Education (Sark) Ordinance to implement these changes.

**Conseiller Jolie Rose**  
**Chairman, Education Committee**

Sark School Board of Governors

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

Education Committee

Re: Online education for years 7 and 8.

Dear Jolie, Scott, Ben, Carol and Mary,

At our meeting last night, Jolie was able to share with us some details of reports, possibly with propositions, which will be brought to the Easter meeting.

We discussed at some length the concept of online education for students in Yr 7 and 8 taking place in Sark School. The Board, which includes the Headteacher, broadly supports this idea, recognising that the way of delivering education in most locations changes when children move from primary phase to secondary phase at the end of KS 2, year 6. We feel that receiving more subject-based education from an online provider would be helpful to our children, regardless of what families choose to do from the end of Yr 8. However, to maintain the ethos of the school, we would like to explore whether a hybrid model is possible with children in those academic years following some of the curriculum online with other aspects taught by their teacher and, possibly, with other children of a different age in class three. This would need further discussion and consultation with school families when we see which online provider is selected.

The Committee will be pleased to hear that The Headteacher confirms that the School will be able to embark upon working with online provision quite promptly by some reorganisation of working spaces and existing staffing. It is probable, though this will need to be checked, that the technology will be adequate. It is likely that all this can be achieved at no extra expenditure other than the cost of the online provider which, obviously, will require additional funding. Subject to some details being sorted out, agreed and finalised, we believe that educating our yr 7 and 8 pupils online could commence quickly. As stated above, The Board supports the idea.

In our meeting this inevitably, this led to some conversation about the possibility of pupils in yrs 9 and above receiving online education in Sark School. Currently the education of children in yrs 9, 10 and 11 is outside the remit of The Board of Governors so the policy was not discussed other than to observe that this would be a considerable change to the dynamics, use of space, pastoral care, IT use and possibly staffing. Should this policy be agreed by Chief Pleas then the Board and the school staff would require an accurate timescale giving as long as possible to plan. We expect that The Board, Headteacher and the teaching staff would be heavily involved in practicalities. However, again, The Board is generally in support of this way forward and will be happy to work towards it with the Headteacher and school staff. School families have endured uncertainty about post 13 education for far too long and this way forward will enable them to plan well in advance.

We are content for The Committee to share the above information with other Conseillers and more generally when the papers for the Easter meeting are in the public domain.

Best regards,

Jan Guy (for The Board of Governors).

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Report with proposition to Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**2024 Financial Statements**

The Policy & Finance Committee presents the Financial Statements of the Island of Sark for the year ended 31 December 2024. They have been audited and signed by our independent auditors, Perkins Group, as required by The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008.

2024 results show a surplus of £47,710 compared to the surplus budget of £3,098, which is a positive variance of £44,612.

It is important to note that while a surplus was achieved this year, income for the Island was £120,665 down on budget. Property Transfer Tax, an income stream that has averaged over £147k annually for the last 3 years, fell to £28,766 in 2024. Impôt fell below budget by £76,438 in 2024 and was £42,615 lower than 2023. This highlights the importance of diversifying Sark's revenue streams to bring stability, as well as guaranteed surpluses to provide for future infrastructure plans.

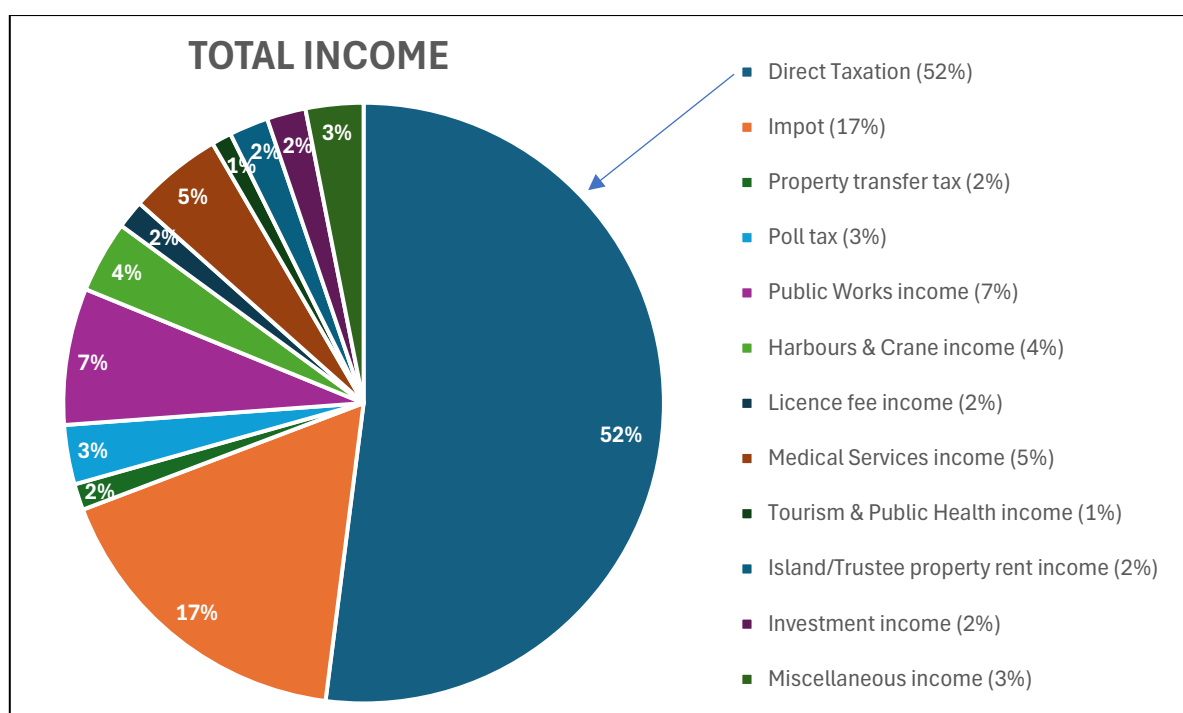
**REVENUE ACCOUNT – page 5**

**Income:**

The total income for the year was £2,036,394 which is £24,471 lower than the total income in the previous year, and £120,665 lower than budgeted.

Please see the attached Appendix 2 for details of the comparison of 2024 income to budget, and Appendix 3 for comparison of 2024 income to the prior year.

The pie chart below shows the percentage split of the Island's income streams for 2024 (chart reads clockwise from arrow starting point).

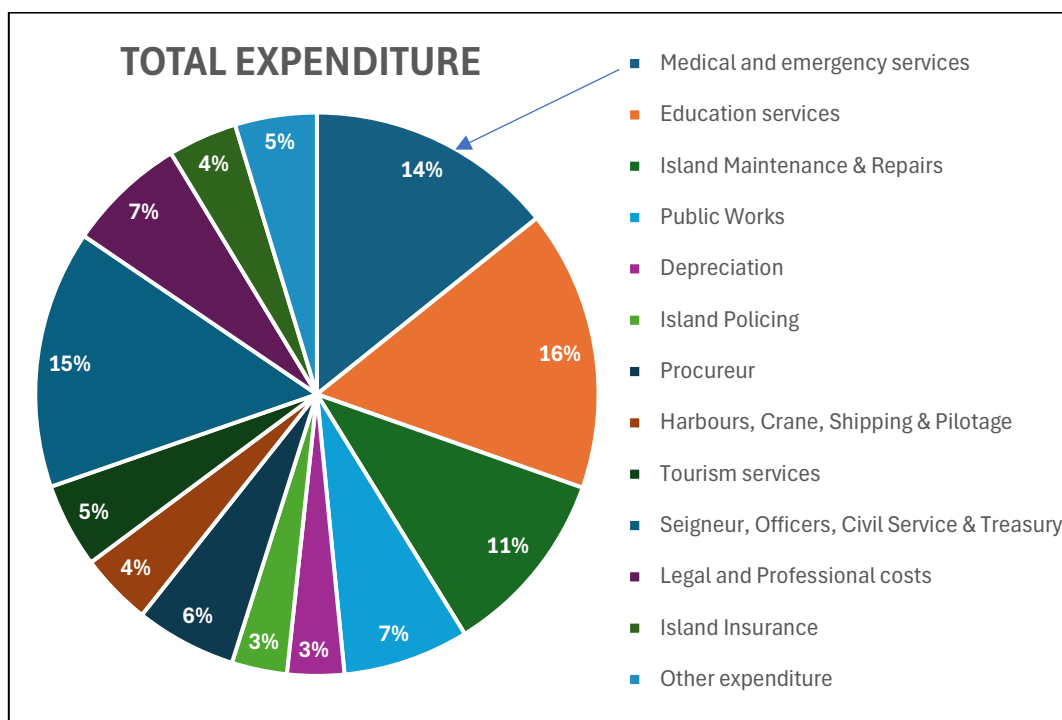


### **Ordinary expenditure:**

The total expenditure on ordinary activities was £1,988,684 for the year, which is £140,277 lower than budget and £3,829 higher than the comparative figure for the previous year.

Please see the attached Appendix 2 for details of the comparison of 2024 expenditure to budget, and Appendix 3 for comparison of 2024 expenditure to the prior year.

The pie chart below shows the % split of the Island's total expenditure for 2024 (chart reads clockwise from arrow starting point).



### **Unforeseen revenue expenditure:**

There was no unforeseen expenditure during 2024.

## **STATEMENT OF BALANCES – page 6**

### **Tangible assets:**

The movements in tangible assets are detailed in Note 25 on pages 14 and 15 of the financial statements. They show total additions in the year of £138,666.

The capital expenditure budget was £13,000 for 2024 and £34,046 was actually spent during the year. The additional spend was for an emergency generator for the Island and a new fuel bowser for transferring fuel to the North End. In addition, Chief Pleas approved the design phase budget of £175,000 for the Electricity Project, and £104,620 was spent during 2024. This is held under fixed assets on the balance sheet as WIP.

£185,620 of assets were disposed during 2024 most notably the Grove Crane, which after shipping costs made a £914 gain on disposal. All disposed assets had a zero net book value.

Depreciation provided in the year was £65,100.

### **Investments:**

The cost of Chief Pleas' investment in Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited ("IoSS") remains at £720,054 at the end of 2024. This investment comprises £451,000 share capital, and a long term loan to the company of £269,054. This loan repayment date is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026. No capital repayments have yet been made. Interest on the loan is charged annually, and £6,054 was charged in 2024. Net assets of IoSS as shown by its latest accounts to 30 September 2024 were £1,106,794, an increase of £65,919 on last year's figure of £1,040,875 – reflecting the reported profit of the same for the year. The balance of the £170,000 NatWest loan taken out to fund the purchase of the Corsaire stood at £45,962 as at 30 September 2024.

### **Net current assets:**

The Island's net current assets have decreased in the year by £21,661.

Bank balances, including short term bank deposits stood at £979,727 at year end – an increase of £16,518 in the year as shown in the cash flow statement on page 7 of the Financial Statements.

Current debtors, including prepayments were at similar levels to 2023, having only increased by £941 in the year. Total creditors have increased by £39,120, of which £24,056 relates to accruals made (provision for costs incurred, but for which an invoice had not been received by year end) and £10,585 increase in deferred income levels (income received in 2024 relating to 2025).

### **Accumulated fund:**

The accumulated fund (being the Island's general reserves) has increased by £48,963 from £3,418,403 to £3,467,366. This increase is from the surplus for the year of £47,710 and from £1,253 being transferred to the accumulated fund from the 'Old Hall' fund following the disbandment of the Old Hall special committee during the year. It is important to note that whilst the Island's total reserves stand at £3,467,366, liquid reserves (cash and those assets that are easily converted to cash) were £1,183,857 at year end (total current debtors less prepayments).

### **La Ville Roussel fund:**

The fund has assets, mainly bank balances, of £112,987 and accumulated reserves of the same figure. The fund is under the control of the Trustees of La Ville Roussel Trust for the benefit of the Island.

### **Funds held on behalf of internal organisations:**

Various funds are held by the Island, which are to be used for specific purposes or projects and therefore do not part of the Island's general reserves. The total value of these funds was £74,945 at year end. The income and expenditure of each fund for the year can be seen in note 35.

### **IN SUMMARY**

The Financial Statements have been signed by the Treasurer and Chair of Policy & Finance, with the approval of the Policy and Finance Committee, and are presented to Chief Pleas for adoption.

### **Proposition –**

**That the Financial Statements of the Island for the year ended 31 December 2024 be adopted.**

**Conseiller John Guille**  
**Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee**



**Island of Sark**

Financial statements

**Year Ended 31 December 2024**



## Island of Sark

### Statement of responsibilities

Chief Pleas are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year, in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 and Section 62 of The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of compliance with The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008.

Chief Pleas is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on Chief Pleas' website, and for the preparation and dissemination of financial statements. Legislation in Sark and the Bailiwick of Guernsey governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



John Guille  
Chair  
Policy and Finance Committee

Date:

01/04/25



Sarah Hudson  
Treasurer  
on behalf of Chief Pleas

Date:

01/04/25

## Independent auditor's report to the Chief Pleas of the Island of Sark

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Island of Sark (the 'Island') for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Revenue Account, the Statement of balances, the Cash Flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the accounting policies set out in note 1 and section 62 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Island's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 and section 62 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008;

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Island in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Chief Pleas' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Island's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Pleas with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Pleas are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which we have agreed to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Independent auditor's report to the Chief Pleas of the Island of Sark (continued)

### Responsibilities of the Chief Pleas

As explained more fully in the Chief Pleas' responsibilities statement, set out on page 1, the Chief Pleas are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Pleas are responsible for assessing the Island's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

#### Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- enquiring of management, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the Island's policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
  - discussing among the engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including IT specialists, regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud; and
  - obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in which the Island operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the Island. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008.

#### Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;



## Independent auditor's report to the Chief Pleas of the Island of Sark (continued)

- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls: testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

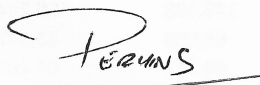
We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Chief Pleas, as a body, in accordance with Section 63 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Chief Pleas those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Chief Pleas as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Perkins

Chartered Certified Accountants  
Guernsey

2nd April, 2025

## Island of Sark

## Revenue Account

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Total 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>				
Direct Taxation	2	1,059,435	1,047,308	994,435
Impot	3	350,305	426,743	392,920
Property Transfer Tax		28,766	136,000	122,038
Poll Tax		65,080	66,000	58,499
Public Works income	4	149,721	124,270	123,829
Harbours and Crane income	5	78,827	75,600	72,308
Licence Fee income		31,034	31,500	30,868
Medical Services income	6	102,447	90,374	97,660
Tourism & Public Health income	7	21,832	25,500	30,487
Property rental income	8	42,989	43,631	44,452
Investment income	9	42,628	41,270	37,134
Other Income	10	63,330	48,863	56,235
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,036,394</b>	<b>2,157,059</b>	<b>2,060,865</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Medical and emergency services	11	283,435	291,115	331,152
Education services	12	320,858	344,091	335,664
Island Maintenance and Repairs	13	215,045	211,566	193,030
Public Works	14	143,830	148,193	136,284
Depreciation	25	65,100	65,053	63,347
Island Policing	15	63,103	68,317	63,462
Procureur	16	115,154	201,524	148,121
Harbours, Crane, Shipping and Pilotage	17	82,539	82,062	76,830
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries	18	16,197	19,942	18,123
Tourism services	19	96,567	98,370	98,805
Seigneur, Officers, Civil Service and Treasury	20	294,785	300,409	263,019
Legal and Professional costs	21	135,942	152,780	113,728
Island Insurance		79,010	77,317	69,943
Donations and grants to other organisations	22	13,750	13,500	18,000
Miscellaneous expenditure	23	63,369	54,722	55,346
<b>Total Ordinary Expenditure</b>		<b>1,988,684</b>	<b>2,128,961</b>	<b>1,984,854</b>
<b>Surplus on Ordinary Operations</b>		<b>47,710</b>	<b>28,098</b>	<b>76,011</b>
Unforeseen Expenditure	24	-	25,000	-
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>47,710</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>76,011</b>

## Island of Sark

## Statement of balances

As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Tangible assets</b>	1 & 25	<b>1,552,302</b>	1,478,736
<b>Investments</b>	1 & 26	<b>720,054</b>	720,054
<b>Long term debtors</b>	27	<b>63,129</b>	66,071
<b>La Ville Roussel fund</b>	28	<b>112,987</b>	107,542
<b>Funds held for internal organisations</b>	1 & 29	<b>74,945</b>	70,416
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	30	307,769	306,828
Short term bank deposits		500,000	500,000
Bank balances		479,727	463,209
		<u>1,287,496</u>	<u>1,270,037</u>
<b>Liabilities falling due within one year</b>			
Creditors	31	155,615	116,495
		<u>155,615</u>	<u>116,495</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>1,131,881</b>	1,153,542
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u><b>3,655,298</b></u>	<u>3,596,361</u>
<b>Funded by</b>			
Accumulated fund	34	3,467,366	3,418,403
Funds held for internal organisations	35	74,945	70,416
La Ville Roussel fund	36	112,987	107,542
<b>Reserves</b>	37	<u><b>3,655,298</b></u>	<u>3,596,361</u>



John Guille  
Chair  
Sark Policy and Finance Committee

Date: 01/04/25



Sarah Hudson  
Treasurer  
on behalf of Chief Pleas

Date: 01/04/25

The notes on pages 5 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

## Island of Sark

## Cash Flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>111,642</b>	<b>(145,687)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire fixed assets	(138,666)	(344,445)	
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets	914	145,197	
Investment income & interest received	42,628	37,134	
		<b>(95,124)</b>	<b>(162,114)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Movement in cash in the year</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16,518</b>	<b>(307,801)</b>

<b>1 Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the year to operating activities:</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) from Revenue account:</b>	<b>47,710</b>	<b>76,011</b>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	65,100	63,347
Movement of 2011 FA to expenditure	-	5,915
Gain on disposal of fixed asset	(914)	(3,285)
Transfers from funds held for internal organisations	1,253	-
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	2,001	(99,268)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	39,120	(151,273)
Investment income	(42,628)	(37,134)
	<b>63,932</b>	<b>(221,698)</b>
<b>Net cash (used) / provided by operating activities</b>	<b>111,642</b>	<b>(145,687)</b>

<b>2 Cash balances as shown in the balance sheet</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>At the beginning of the year:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	463,209	1,271,010
Short term bank deposits	500,000	-
	<b>963,209</b>	<b>1,271,010</b>
<b>At the end of the year:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	479,727	463,209
Short term bank deposits	500,000	500,000
	<b>979,727</b>	<b>963,209</b>
<b>Cash (used) / gained in the year</b>	<b>16,518</b>	<b>(307,801)</b>



## Island of Sark

### Notes forming part of the financial statements

#### 1 Principal accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements of the Island of Sark ("the Island") :

##### *Basis of preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 62 of The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 and the accounting policies detailed below, as selected by the Policy and Finance Committee of Chief Pleas. They have been prepared on the historical cost basis and on a going concern basis. The budgeted revenue income and expenditure figures have been included for illustrative purposes only.

##### *Revenue Income*

Income is included on the accruals basis.

##### *Revenue Expenditure*

Expenditure is included on the accruals basis.

##### *Tangible assets*

Tangible assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

##### *Depreciation*

Depreciation is provided for Island assets, although no provision is made for depreciation of Maseline Harbour or Island property (with the exception of the new Island Abattoir) as it is the Island's policy to maintain these assets in good condition to prolong their useful lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis to write off those assets over their estimated useful lives. The principle rates of depreciation are:

Abattoir building	2.50%
Cranes	6.7% to 10%
Maseline fendering	10%
Tractors	10%
Trailers	10%
Incinerators	10%
Rollers	10%
Stone crusher	10% (fully depreciated)
Borehole pump	10% (fully depreciated)
Sewage system	10% (fully depreciated)
Water bowser	10% (fully depreciated)
Water treatment	10% (fully depreciated)
Sewage tanker	10% (fully depreciated)
Boilers/Bathrooms	10%
School and Office furniture	10%
Abattoir equipment	10% to 20%
Emergency services equipment	10% to 20%
Rubbish skips	20%
Lawnmowers	20% (fully depreciated)
Island Finger signs	20%
Generators	33.33%
Constables equipment	33.33% (fully depreciated)
Medical equipment	33.33%
School computers	33.33% (fully depreciated)
Office equipment	33.33%



## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

**1 Principal accounting policies (continued)***Investments*

Unquoted investments are stated at cost.

*Funds held for internal organisations*

Funds are held on behalf of the Sark Ambulance & CFR funds, Mobility Scooters fund, Hathaway Trust fund, School fund, FoSS fund, Playground fund and Tourism Shop fund as these organisations do not hold accounts of their own.

*Procureur expenditure*

Procureur expenses are recognised on an accruals basis. Any assistance given in the form of repayable loans is shown as a long term debtor on the balance sheet.

	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Budget 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
<b>2 Direct Taxation</b>			
Property Tax	571,648		541,669
Personal Capital Tax	506,241		466,641
	<u>1,077,889</u>		<u>1,008,310</u>
Less: Discount for payment in full before 28th January	18,454		13,875
	<u>1,059,435</u>	<u>1,047,308</u>	<u>994,435</u>
<b>3 Impot</b>			
Tobacco	113,825		131,913
Beer	87,379		95,074
Wines	73,321		80,773
Spirits	59,890		67,443
Cider	27,229		30,493
Oils	720		799
	<u>362,364</u>		<u>406,495</u>
Less : Collection charges	12,059		13,575
	<u>350,305</u>	<u>426,743</u>	<u>392,920</u>
<b>4 Public Works income</b>			
Rubbish/recycling	102,405	81,860	85,721
Sewage collection	33,844	28,500	26,395
Sale of black bag stickers	13,472	13,910	11,713
	<u>149,721</u>	<u>124,270</u>	<u>123,829</u>

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

	Total 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>5 Harbours and Crane income</b>			
Crane hire	33,201	28,000	25,750
Harbour services	38,256	37,800	36,041
Harbour dues	5,660	7,000	7,648
Harbour rents and sundry income	1,710	2,800	2,869
	<u>78,827</u>	<u>75,600</u>	<u>72,308</u>
<b>6 Medical Services Income</b>			
Doctor & Nurse consultancy fees	80,775	68,600	77,273
Dispensing fees	21,672	21,774	20,387
	<u>102,447</u>	<u>90,374</u>	<u>97,660</u>
<b>7 Tourism &amp; Public Health Income</b>			
Brochure & Website Advertising	2,750	5,000	12,636
Income from moorings and scooter hire	8,514	8,500	5,300
Catering & Accommodation Permits	6,788	7,000	7,047
Water testing	3,780	5,000	5,504
	<u>21,832</u>	<u>25,500</u>	<u>30,487</u>
<b>8 Property rental income</b>			
Island property rent and ground rent	7,589	7,331	7,189
Trustee property rental income	35,400	36,300	37,263
	<u>42,989</u>	<u>43,631</u>	<u>44,452</u>
<b>9 Investment income</b>			
Bank deposit interest	13,253		21,604
RBS fixed deposit interest	23,321		9,924
IoSS Loan interest	6,054		5,606
	<u>42,628</u>	<u>41,270</u>	<u>37,134</u>
<b>10 Other Income</b>			
Abattoir income	5,421	6,000	5,920
Parental contributions to Guernsey Accommodation	4,078	7,013	3,543
Court and registration fees	1,280	1,800	1,961
Hotel and public house licences	7,808	7,250	7,490
Share of CI Lottery profit/import duties	13,100	12,000	16,028
Development control application fees	2,104	1,800	1,479
North End electricity income	15,889	12,000	14,518
Sundry income	12,736	1,000	2,011
Gain on sale of Grove (Kato) Crane	914	-	3,285
	<u>63,330</u>	<u>48,863</u>	<u>56,235</u>

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

	Total 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>11 Medical and emergency services</b>			
Medical Practice salaries	163,278	155,927	132,606
Locum & Paramedic cover	54,669	70,000	131,127
Safeguarding	23,698	24,008	24,187
Other surgery costs	30,834	26,680	31,508
CFR Service	2,941	4,500	3,608
Fire Service	8,015	10,000	8,116
	<u>283,435</u>	<u>291,115</u>	<u>331,152</u>
<b>12 Education</b>			
<b>Sark School</b>			
Salaries, including pension contributions	184,741	188,058	178,388
Recruitment and relocation	102	-	14,609
CPD, training & expenses	3,118	4,500	6,607
Pupil resources, stationery, equipment and IT	17,239	9,144	9,933
Repairs, maintenance and heat/light	5,347	7,800	11,463
	<u>210,547</u>	<u>209,502</u>	<u>221,000</u>
<b>Secondary education</b>			
Off Island Tuition, accommodation and travel	99,830	100,089	100,363
Home education	1,363	1,500	1,687
	<u>101,193</u>	<u>101,589</u>	<u>102,050</u>
<b>Educational Support / advisors</b>	<u>9,118</u>	<u>33,000</u>	<u>12,614</u>
	<u>320,858</u>	<u>344,091</u>	<u>335,664</u>
<b>13 Island Maintenance and Repairs (Douzaine)</b>			
Island work programme	18,149	23,650	23,560
Maintenance of Island Roads	44,447	48,565	35,323
Machinery repairs & maintenance	33,941	27,194	25,788
Maintenance of Cliff Paths	26,791	27,300	24,883
Toilets and harbour stores	19,638	18,073	17,905
Douzaine office administration costs	46	184	46
North End electricity provision	42,753	42,000	42,570
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance of Island properties:</b>			
Heat and light	9,519	6,000	4,321
School houses	4,213	5,000	3,347
Medical Centre	4,822	2,000	774
Committee office and fire station	(254)	600	864
Court/assembly room	401	600	289
La Coupee	4,377	2,000	-
Visitors Centre	26	2,400	1,789
Other Island property	6,176	6,000	11,571
	<u>215,045</u>	<u>211,566</u>	<u>193,030</u>

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

	Total 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>14 Public Works</b>			
Rubbish collection & handling	55,262	41,167	38,343
Off Island recycling & rubbish disposal	29,046	33,100	24,766
Incinerator operation	16,227	39,846	41,641
Sewage collection & processing	30,794	21,143	19,202
Administration	12,501	12,937	12,332
	<u>143,830</u>	<u>148,193</u>	<u>136,284</u>
<b>15 Island Policing</b>			
Island Constables	41,393	44,607	40,778
Constables office costs	6,710	8,710	7,684
Guernsey Police/Customs support	10,000	10,000	10,000
Guernsey Prisoners support	5,000	5,000	5,000
	<u>63,103</u>	<u>68,317</u>	<u>63,462</u>
<b>16 Procureur</b>			
Procureur's office	6,813		6,488
Medical insurance premiums	46,391		77,063
Medical costs and care workers	23,415		23,469
Cash grants	25,349		22,693
Fuel assistance	11,741		13,275
Other Costs	1,445		5,133
	<u>115,154</u>	<u>201,524</u>	<u>148,121</u>
<b>17 Harbours, Crane, Shipping and Pilotage</b>			
Harbour maintenance, salaries and training	65,280	66,928	57,130
Crane operation, repairs and maintenance	17,259	15,134	19,700
	<u>82,539</u>	<u>82,062</u>	<u>76,830</u>
<b>18 Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries</b>			
Slaughterhouse management	12,896	13,855	14,130
Agriculture & Environment	106	2,500	972
Preventative measures	651	1,000	907
Sea Fisheries	2,544	2,587	2,114
	<u>16,197</u>	<u>19,942</u>	<u>18,123</u>
<b>19 Tourism Services (including Public Health)</b>			
Advertising, printing, production & distribution	41,941	43,510	39,660
Tourism officers	39,103	39,060	37,483
Website costs	383	500	7,779
Public Health costs (Permits & Water testing)	2,388	3,250	3,353
Office & other costs	12,752	12,050	10,530
	<u>96,567</u>	<u>98,370</u>	<u>98,805</u>

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

	Total 2024 £	Budget 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>20 Seigneur, Officers, Civil Service and Treasury</b>			
Seigneur	44,924	45,150	42,155
Island Officers	68,092	68,092	63,421
Civil Service	112,563	131,187	108,254
Treasury Service	51,480	51,480	49,029
Recruitment, relocation & training	17,726	4,500	160
	<u>294,785</u>	<u>300,409</u>	<u>263,019</u>
<b>21 Legal and Professional Costs</b>			
Guernsey Law Officers	78,927	78,780	73,764
Electricity Price Control Commissioner	10,746	20,000	11,290
Lieutenant Seneschal & court costs	2,595	12,000	1,674
Legal Aid	27,000	27,000	27,000
Other Professional costs	16,674	15,000	-
	<u>135,942</u>	<u>152,780</u>	<u>113,728</u>
<b>22 Donations and grants to other organisations</b>			
Island Hall Trustees	5,000	5,000	10,000
St John's Marine Ambulance Fund	5,000	5,000	5,000
St Peter's Church	2,000	2,000	2,000
Methodist Church	500	500	500
Floral Sark	-	-	(250)
RNLI	1,000	1,000	650
Island Games	250	-	100
	<u>13,750</u>	<u>13,500</u>	<u>18,000</u>
<b>23 Miscellaneous expenditure</b>			
Tax administration	8,938	7,937	7,560
Audit/Review fees	14,096	9,000	7,917
Meetings, Travel, Licences, IT, Stationery etc	30,226	29,970	34,024
Digimap licensing	3,383	3,365	3,175
Hansard recordings	2,421	1,750	1,536
Civic entertaining	3,466	1,200	577
Reciprocal Health Agreement	839	1,500	552
Sark Census	-	-	5
	<u>63,369</u>	<u>54,722</u>	<u>55,346</u>
<b>24 Unforeseen expenses</b>			
Unforeseen expenditure	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>



## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

25

Tangible assets

	Cost				Depreciation				Net book values			
	At 01.01.24		Additions		Disposals		At 31.12.24		At 01.01.24		At 31.12.24	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Maseline harbour	61,329	-	-	61,329	-	-	-	-	61,329	61,329		
Land												
Les Laches	516	-	-	516	-	-	-	-	516	516		
La Maseline	413	-	-	413	-	-	-	-	413	413		
Harbour Hill path	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1		
	930	-	-	930	-	-	-	-	930	930		
Property												
Ivy Cottage	118,731	-	-	118,731	-	-	-	-	118,731	118,731		
Teacher's houses	98,295	-	-	98,295	-	-	-	-	98,295	98,295		
Fire station	82,335	-	-	82,335	-	-	-	-	82,335	82,335		
Assembly room/new offices	101,528	-	-	101,528	-	-	-	-	101,528	101,528		
Visitor centre	34,217	-	-	34,217	-	-	-	-	34,217	34,217		
Crane shed	26,803	-	-	26,803	-	-	-	-	26,803	26,803		
Creux Harbour shelter	15,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000		
Greffe and committee offices	10,350	-	-	10,350	-	-	-	-	10,350	10,350		
Medical centre	27,100	-	-	27,100	-	-	-	-	27,100	27,100		
Vieux Clos	2,055	-	-	2,055	-	-	-	-	2,055	2,055		
Prison improvements	1,702	-	-	1,702	-	-	-	-	1,702	1,702		
Harbour Quarry shed	33,243	-	-	33,243	-	-	-	-	33,243	33,243		
La Coupée toilets	38,190	-	-	38,190	-	-	-	-	38,190	38,190		
Harbour Café	22,364	-	-	22,364	-	-	-	-	22,364	22,364		
	611,913	-	-	611,913	-	-	-	-	611,913	611,913		
Electricity Project (WIP)												
	21,833	104,620	-	126,453	-	-	-	-	21,833	126,453		
Carried forward	696,005	104,620	-	800,625	-	-	-	-	696,005	800,625		

Certain properties held by the Island Trustees are not included in tangible assets until such times as their values can be ascertained.

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

25	Tangible assets - continued		Cost				Depreciation				Net book values			
			At 01.01.24	Additions	Disposals	At 31.12.24	At 01.01.24	Provided	Disposals	At 31.12.24	At 01.01.24	At 31.12.24	At 01.01.24	At 31.12.24
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abattoir	Abattoir Building		334,742	-	-	334,742	26,437	8,369	-	34,806	308,305	299,936		
	Abattoir Equipment		31,868	-	-	31,868	12,272	2,857	-	15,129	19,596	16,739		
<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>														
	Cranes		452,104	6,906	(168,308)	290,702	168,308	19,361	(168,308)	19,361	283,796	271,341		
	Maseline fendering		50,656	-	-	50,656	11,166	5,066	-	16,232	39,490	34,424		
	Tractors		67,812	-	-	67,812	48,317	3,899	-	52,216	19,495	15,596		
	Trailers		25,575	7,139	-	32,714	9,847	2,302	-	12,149	15,728	20,565		
	Lawnmowers		853	-	-	853	683	170	-	853	170	-		
	Stone crusher		8,947	-	-	8,947	8,947	-	-	8,947	-	-		
	Rollers		34,851	-	(6,835)	28,016	22,249	2,802	(6,835)	18,216	12,602	9,800		
	Boilers/Bathrooms - teachers houses		30,475	-	-	30,475	7,619	3,047	-	10,666	22,856	19,809		
	Visitor Centre Boiler		3,749	-	-	3,749	47	375	-	422	3,702	3,327		
	Constables equipment		1,100	-	-	1,100	1,100	-	-	1,100	-	-		
	Harbour Hill Resurfacing		24,776	-	-	24,776	1,239	2,477	-	3,716	23,537	21,060		
	Incinerators		83,848	-	-	83,848	77,694	3,077	-	80,771	6,154	3,077		
	Rubbish skips		26,489	-	(8,637)	17,852	17,707	2,836	(8,637)	11,906	8,782	5,946		
	Sewage tankers		13,498	-	-	13,498	13,498	-	-	13,498	-	-		
	Sewage system		9,750	-	-	9,750	9,750	-	-	9,750	-	-		
	Water treatment		5,288	-	-	5,288	5,288	-	-	5,288	-	-		
	Borehole pump		1,169	-	-	1,169	1,169	-	-	1,169	-	-		
	Emergency services equipment		12,387	-	-	12,387	7,215	646	-	7,861	5,172	4,526		
	Water bowser		4,397	-	-	4,397	4,397	-	-	4,397	-	-		
	Medical equipment		784	-	-	784	784	-	-	784	-	-		
	Generators & Fuel Bowser		14,536	20,001	-	34,537	7,119	4,670	-	11,789	7,417	22,748		
	School computers & printers		11,729	-	-	11,729	11,729	-	-	11,729	-	-		
	School furniture		2,017	-	-	2,017	605	202	-	807	1,412	1,210		
	Island Finger Signs		2,183	-	-	2,183	1,274	436	-	1,710	909	473		
	Office furniture		1,114	-	-	1,114	1,045	36	-	1,081	69	33		
	Office equipment		23,635	-	(1,840)	21,795	20,096	2,472	(1,840)	20,728	3,539	1,067		
			1,280,332	34,046	(185,620)	1,128,758	497,601	65,100	(185,620)	377,081	782,731	751,677		
<b>Total</b>			1,976,337	138,666	(185,620)	1,929,383	497,601	65,100	(185,620)	377,081	1,478,736	1,552,302		

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

<b>26</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<i>Unquoted</i>		
	Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited:		
	Ordinary shares of £1 each	<b>451,000</b>	451,000
	Long term loan	<b>269,054</b>	269,054
		<b>720,054</b>	<b>720,054</b>
	Isle of Sark Shipping Company Limited ("IoSS") is a Guernsey registered company, wholly owned by the Island of Sark. As at 30 September 2024 the net assets of IoSS were £1,106,794 (2023 - £1,040,875).		
	The long term loan bears interest at the variable HMRC (UK) rate for beneficial loans (currently 2.25 % p.a.). The current loan agreement came into force on the 1 September 2021 with a term of 5 years and is repayable on 31 August 2026.		
<b>27</b>	<b>Long term debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	
	Repayable Procureur residential care assistance loans	<b>63,129</b>	66,071
<b>28</b>	<b>La Ville Roussel Fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Debtors	<b>418</b>	294
	Bank balances: Deposit	<b>111,359</b>	106,039
	Current	<b>1,210</b>	1,209
		<b>112,987</b>	<b>107,542</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Funds held for internal organisations</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Bank balances:	<b>74,945</b>	70,416
<b>30</b>	<b>Debtors due within 1 year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Accrued income	<b>174,834</b>	193,536
	Prepayments	<b>102,799</b>	79,982
	Trade debtors	<b>19,798</b>	30,810
	Other debtors	<b>10,338</b>	2,500
		<b>307,769</b>	<b>306,828</b>



## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

31	Creditors due within 1 year	2024 £	2023 £ restated
	Trade creditors	71,725	78,183
	Accruals	36,135	12,079
	Deferred income	31,530	20,945
	Other creditors	16,225	5,288
		<u>155,615</u>	<u>116,495</u>

## 32 Contingent liabilities

Chief Pleas has guaranteed overdraft facilities granted to IoSS up to a maximum of £150,000 (2023 - £150,000). Chief Pleas has also guaranteed loan facilities granted to IoSS up to a maximum of £350,000, of which £170,000 was drawn down (2023 - £170,000). As at 30 September 2024, the loan balance was £45,962. The Island will only be liable to honour those guarantees in the event that IoSS defaults on repayments in relation to the overdraft or loan. At 31 December 2024 the contingent liability arising from those guarantees was £nil (2023 - £nil).

## 33 Financial Commitments

As at the 31st December 2024 the Island had no capital commitments (2023 - £nil).

34	Accumulated fund	2024 £	2023
	Balance at 1 January	3,418,403	3,342,392
	Surplus for the financial year	47,710	76,011
	Transfers from funds held for internal organisations	1,253	-
	Balance at 31 December	<u>3,467,366</u>	<u>3,418,403</u>

35	Funds held for internal organisations	2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers to Acc Fund £	2024 £
	Ambulance and CFR funds	12,255	23,213	24,597	-	10,871
	Medical scooters fund	2,018	2,036	600	-	3,454
	Hathaway Trust fund	18,642	-	-	-	18,642
	Old Hall fund	1,253	-	-	1,253	-
	Tourism shop fund	14,135	4,031	2,354	-	15,812
	School fund	6,272	6,591	7,451	-	5,412
	Playground fund	9,856	1,637	1,420	-	10,073
	FoSS fund	5,985	8,578	3,882	-	10,681
		<u>70,416</u>	<u>46,086</u>	<u>40,304</u>	<u>1,253</u>	<u>74,945</u>

## Island of Sark

## Notes forming part of the financial statements - continued

<b>36</b>	<b>La Ville Roussel fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<i><b>Income</b></i>		
	Bank interest	<b>5,320</b>	4,638
	Rent	<b>125</b>	125
		<b>5,445</b>	<b>4,763</b>
	<i><b>Expenditure</b></i>		
	Repairs	-	-
	Bank charges	-	-
		-	-
	<b>Balance at 1 January</b>	<b>107,542</b>	102,779
	Surplus for the financial year	<b>5,445</b>	4,763
	<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>112,987</b>	<b>107,542</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Reserves</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	
	<b>Balance at 1 January</b>	<b>3,596,361</b>	3,517,071
	Increase in accumulated fund	<b>48,963</b>	76,011
	(Decrease)/increase in funds held for internal organisations	<b>4,529</b>	(1,484)
	Increase in La Ville Roussel fund	<b>5,445</b>	4,763
	<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>3,655,298</b>	<b>3,596,361</b>

**38 Ultimate Controlling Party**

The ultimate controlling party is the Chief Pleas of the Island of Sark.

**39 Post Balance Sheet Events**

There have been no material subsequent events up to the date of approval of these financial statements other than referred to in the notes above.

## COMPARISON OF 2024 RESULTS TO BUDGET

## APPENDIX TWO

	2024 RESULTS COMPARED TO BUDGET			COMMENTARY
	Actuals	Budget	Variance	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Direct Taxation	1,059,435	1,047,308	12,127	Income from Direct Taxation was £12k over budget for the year.
Impot	350,305	426,743	(76,438)	Impot was below budget, partly reflecting the decrease in staying visitors during the year. The budget was set based on prior year forecasts. This was artificially high due to timing differences of Q4 2022 Impot not being finalised till 2023.
Property transfer tax	28,766	136,000	(107,234)	2024 saw a total slowdown in the property market since the 2024 budget was set. There were only 8 transactions during the year and most of these were lease surrenders.
Poll tax	65,080	66,000	(920)	Finished the year just under £1k under budget. £59k was from Sark Shipping passengers, and £6k from Manches Iles, Allied Coasters and '12 and unders'.
Public Works income	149,721	124,270	25,451	Charge rates to customers were increased by 23% from the 1st February 2024 and this was an unbudgeted increase. There was also a noticeable increase in 'Extras' charges during the year compared to budget.
Harbours & Crane income	78,827	75,600	3,227	Harbour income was £2k down on budget, mainly attributed to lower than budgeted Harbour dues.
Licence fee income	31,034	31,500	(466)	Just under budget for the year for licences.
Medical Services income	102,447	90,374	12,073	Since Dr Jenkins and Nurse Davies have started there has been a marked increase in Surgery income. We have ended the year £12k better than budget.
Tourism & Public Health income	21,832	25,500	(3,668)	Income for advertising on the website, catering permits and water tests were under slightly under budget for the year. Moorings & Scooter hire income came in on budget at £8.5k.
Island/Trustee property rental income	42,989	43,631	(642)	Just below budget for the year, taking into account the 1mth rent holiday for one property.
Investment income	42,628	41,270	1,358	Income from cash balances and investing in 3 monthly fixed bank deposits, along with Sark Shipping's loan interest came in just over budget for the year.
Miscellaneous income	63,330	48,863	14,467	Electricity income was over budget by £3k and an unbudgeted £10k ex gratia payment was also received during the year. The sale of the Grove crane brought in an unbudgeted £1k after shipping costs. Parental contributions towards Term Time (TTH) host costs were £3k down on budget as only 1 TTH was used for most of the year compared to the budgeted 2. Most other income streams were slightly higher than budgeted.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,036,394</b>	<b>2,157,059</b>	<b>(120,665)</b>	
<b>ORDINARY EXPENDITURE</b>				
Medical and emergency services	283,435	291,115	7,680	Savings of £8k against budget have been made during the year with the new model of Dr Jenkins and Nurse Davies, as Locums & Paramedics were not required from June onwards. There were over/underspends on other budget lines but these zeroed out.
Education services	320,858	344,091	23,233	Overall Education budget was £23k underspent. Sark school ended the year £1k over budget. Savings were made on Cover teachers, Caretaker, training and oil costs. But Pupil resources, stationery & equipment were £8k over budget. Off Island Secondary education was came in on budget at £101k. Educational support was £24k underspent. There was no School Inspection budgeted at £8k. Only £6k of the £10k Gsy SLA was spent, and only £3k of the £15k support consultancy budget was spent.
Island Maintenance & Repairs	215,045	211,566	(3,479)	Labour costs were £10k under budget for Island works and Roads programme as more hours were allocated to Rubbish collection (see PW) in the year. Machinery maintenance was £6.7k over budget, the mid year repairs to La Coupee and survey at year end were £2.3k over budget. There was also an unbudgeted new oil tank installed the Medical Centre.
Public Works	143,830	148,193	4,363	Costs came in £4.4k under budget for the year. Overspends on Sewage plant repairs/reports and Commercial/Extras rubbish collection costs were negated by the savings made from not using the incinerator.
Depreciation	65,100	65,053	(47)	On budget for the year.
Island Policing	63,103	68,317	5,214	There was an underspend of £5.2k on the Constables budget because one Assistant Constable position was vacant for part of the year, and their expenses were £2k underspent, as training has been postponed to 2025.
Procureur	115,154	201,524	86,370	The Procureur budget was underspent by £14k during the year, but a £72k repayment of assistance received was receipted in the year (this was not a long term loan amount)
Harbours, Crane, Shipping & Pilotage	82,539	82,062	(477)	Harbour costs were slightly under budget and Crane costs slightly over, but the committee costs came in just over budget for the year.
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries	16,197	19,942	3,745	The £2k lime subsidy was unspent in the year, and because of the reduced number of animals that went through the abattoir, cost savings were made of £1.7k.
Tourism services	96,567	98,370	1,803	Savings were made on digital and printed advertising which negated the overspend on additional printing of maps/brochures. Water test costs were under budget reflecting the reduced income seen above.
Seigneur, Officers, Civil Service & Treasury	294,785	300,409	5,624	While costs of recruitment of the new SEO/SOO were over budget by £13k, savings on salaries were £18k as posts were unfilled for part year, resulting in an overall saving of £5.6k.
Legal and Professional costs	135,942	152,780	16,838	Savings of £9k on EPCC legal fees and £10k on Seneschal court costs, but 'Other professional fees were £1.6k over budget due to the Old Island Hall lease review.
Island Insurance	79,010	77,317	(1,693)	April 24 renewal invoices were £185 over budget for the year & additional cover was taken out during the year.
Donations & grants to other organisations	13,750	13,500	(250)	Small overspend.
Miscellaneous expenditure	63,369	54,722	(8,647)	Audit review fees were £2k over budget for 2023 at £10k, so a £3k additional provision has been made this year. Costs such as Civic Entertaining (unbudgeted Royal visit in Guernsey), pushed overall costs £8k over for the year.
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,988,684</b>	<b>2,128,961</b>	<b>140,277</b>	
Unforeseen Expenditure	0	25,000	25,000	No unforeseen expenditure during 2024
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>47,710</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>44,612</b>	

## COMPARISON OF 2024 RESULTS TO 2023

## APPENDIX THREE

	2024 RESULTS COMPARED TO 2023			COMMENTS
	2024	2023	VARIANCE	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Direct Taxation	1,059,435	994,435	65,000	Increased tax rates for 2024. The Minimum tax went up by £25, the Domestic Quarter rate by £0.80, The Tourist & Commercial Quarter rate by £1.80 and the Net Asset Factor by 0.04%
Impot	350,305	392,920	(42,615)	2023 figures included £32k of 2022 late declared Impot, and 2024 saw a drop in staying visitors compared to 2023, hence the negative variance.
Property Transfer Tax	28,766	122,038	(93,272)	2024 saw a total slowdown in the property. There were only 8 transactions during the year and most of these were lease surrenders, compared to 12 sales in 2023.
Poll Tax	65,080	58,499	6,581	Rates were increased from £1.31 to £1.40 for 2024.
Public Works income	149,721	123,829	25,892	Charge rates were increased by 23% from the 1st Feb 2024, resulting in an additional £26k of income. This was the first increase in over 5 years, and equated to the RPI increase in that time.
Harbours and Crane income	78,827	72,308	6,519	2024 saw a 5% increase in rates harbour services, crane charges and harbour dues, bringing in an additional £6.5k of income 2024 compared to 2023.
Licence Fee income	31,034	30,868	166	Similar levels to 2023.
Medical Services income	102,447	97,660	4,787	Increase in patient numbers during the year, and the reintroduction of Practice Nurse position in September 2024 also had a positive impact on income.
Tourism & Public Health income	21,832	30,487	(8,655)	There was no income from advertising in the brochure and map during 2024.
Property rental income	42,989	44,452	(1,463)	Similar levels to 2023.
Investment income	42,628	37,134	5,494	Investing in 3 month fixed deposits started July 2023, hence the increase for 2024 despite a slight drop in rates.
Other Income	63,330	56,235	7,095	Proceeds received from Import duties and the Lottery were £3k lower than 2023, and a £10k ex gratia payment was received 2024. All other income streams were comparable with prior year.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,036,394</b>	<b>2,060,865</b>	<b>(24,471)</b>	
<b>ORDINARY EXPENDITURE</b>				
Medical and emergency services	283,435	331,152	47,717	Whilst the Practice salaries were higher in 2024 by £31k, costs of Locum and Paramedic cover were lower by £76k saving £45k compared to prior year.
Education services	320,858	335,664	14,806	Savings of £10k in 2024 compared to prior year for Sark School. Salaries increased by £6k (RPI), but there was no recruitment during 2024 saving £14k. Pupil resources, IT, stationery & Equipment costs were £7k higher mainly due to curriculum changes, but CPD & training were £3k lower, and repairs/maintenance £6k lower (school adaptations were expensed from Fixed Assets in 2023). Secondary education costs were similar to 2023. Educational support from Guernsey and other external advisors were £3.5k lower than prior year.
Island Maintenance & Repairs	215,045	193,030	(22,015)	The Road Contractor budget was increased by £10k to £25k for 2024. An additional £8k was spent on machinery repairs in 2024 compared to 2023, a reflection on our aging tractors. A new oil tank was installed at the Medical Centre, repairs and survey of La Coupee, and repairs to the emergency generator added additional expenditure during 2024.
Public Works	143,830	136,284	(7,546)	Whilst £25k was saved using open pit burning rather than incinerators, rubbish sorting labour and disposal costs increased by £21k, clearing backlogs of refuse at the quarry. Sewage costs were £11k higher than last year, with £5k spent on plant repairs and £6k on a replacement system survey.
Depreciation	65,100	63,347	(1,753)	Small increase in depreciation charge for the year.
Island Policing	63,103	63,462	359	Similar levels to 2023.
Procureur	115,154	148,121	32,967	Changes to the accounting policy relating to Medical Insurance premiums in 2023 (prepaying costs into the year in which they relate) saw 2023 spend artificially lowered by £25k. This coupled with the £72k repayment of Procureur support, and reduced general assistance in the year means an overall saving of £33k compared to prior year.
Harbours, Crane, Shipping & Pilotage	82,539	76,830	(5,709)	Increased costs of Harbour repair work and cliff survey costs seen in 2024 compared to 2023.
Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries	16,197	18,123	1,926	Slaughterhouse animal numbers were down by 20 in 2024 compared to prior year, hence the £1.9k difference.
Tourism services	96,567	98,805	2,238	All costs at similar levels to prior year when RPI is taken into account, but £7k was saved on the Website, with hosting and updates now done in house.
Seigneur, Officers, Civil Service & Treasury	294,785	263,019	(31,766)	Approximately £12k relates to RPI increases, and £17.7k was spent on recruitment of the SEO and SOO during the year (zero cost in 2023).
Legal and Professional costs	135,942	113,728	(22,214)	The cost of Guernsey Legal resources increased by £5k RPI. £16.7k was spent on 'Other Professional' fees (zero in 2023). This including costs for the Water Quality survey, consultancy services for the Corsaire re-engining, and the Old Island Hall lease review.
Island Insurance	79,010	69,943	(9,067)	Renewal premiums in April 2024 increased by 8%, & there was additional cover taken out for the crane in 2024.
Donations & grants to other organisations	13,750	18,000	4,250	Support for the Island Hall was reduced by £5k for 2024.
Miscellaneous expenditure	63,369	55,346	(8,023)	Costs for the 2023 audit were provided for at £8k, but the actual cost was £10k. This difference is included in 2024 costs, and £12k has been provided for this year's audit. Civic entertaining costs were £3k more than 2023 due to the Royal visit in Guernsey. Savings made compared to prior year on IT costs and other expenses.
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,988,683</b>	<b>1,984,854</b>	<b>(3,829)</b>	
Unforeseen Expenditure	0	0	0	There was no unforeseen expenditure during 2023 & 2024.
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>47,710</b>	<b>76,011</b>	<b>(28,299)</b>	

## **ITEM 11**

### **POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Report with proposition to Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **ALLOCATION OF PRESCRIBED PERSON STATUS**

The Housing (Control of Occupation) (Commencement and Prescribed Persons) (Sark) Ordinance, 2014 states in Section 2(b) that *‘A person is a prescribed person for the purposes of section 5(1)(b) of the Law if he is for the time being employed by the Chief Pleas in a particular capacity, and the Chief Pleas have resolved that a person who, from time to time, is employed by them in that capacity shall be a prescribed person for such purposes’*

The Policy & Finance Committee would like to propose that the Senior Executive Officer and Senior Operations Officer roles be designated as “prescribed persons” as described in The Housing (Control of Occupation) (Commencement and Prescribed Persons) (Sark) Ordinance, 2014.

#### **Proposition 1 -**

**That the roles of the Senior Executive Officer and Senior Operations Officer be designated as “prescribed persons”.**

**Conseiller John Guille**  
**Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee**

## **ITEM 12**

### **POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Report with Proposition to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

#### **AMENDMENT TO THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP REMIT**

At its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Policy Development considered its Remit and discussed any amendments that needed to be made to bring it up to date. Changes that were agreed to were:

- that the Chair's term of office would be extended to 2 years plus they could be re-elected.
- the addition of a Deputy Chair.
- that members could attend remotely.
- that remote attendees were able to participate in votes.
- that the role of 'Senior Administrator' would be changed to Senior Executive Officer and Senior Operations Officer.
- That the remit would include relaying information cross-committee.
- That the remit would include reviewing forthcoming legislation.

The Policy & Finance Committee asks that Chief Pleas approves the amended Policy Development Group Remit (see Appendix One of this report).

The Constitution and Operations of Chief Pleas Committees document will also need to be amended to reflect the change in the Policy Development Group's remit (see Appendix Two of this report).

#### **Proposition 1 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the amended Policy Development Group Remit.**

#### **Proposition 2 –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the amended Constitution & Operations of Chief Pleas Committees document.**

**Conseiller John Guille  
Chairman, Policy & Finance Committee**

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

### **REMIT**

#### **CONSTITUTION:**

- A Chairperson who shall be a sitting member of Chief Pleas and shall be elected at the first meeting of the PDG after a General Election to serve for a term not exceeding two years, with the opportunity for re-election.
- A Deputy Chairperson who shall be a sitting member of Chief Pleas and shall be elected at the first meeting of the PDG after a General Election to serve for a term not exceeding two years, with the opportunity for re-election.
- All sitting members of Chief Pleas shall be members of the Policy Development Group.
- A quorum shall consist of 50% of the sitting members, plus one, rounded down.
- Remote attendance is permitted and shall be subject to identity verification by mechanisms to be approved at each meeting and any policy approved.
- Remote voting is permitted and shall be subject to identity verification by mechanisms to be approved at each meeting and any policy approved.
- The Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and Senior Operations Officer (SOO) shall be members *ex-officio*.
- Other officials of Chief Pleas and others identified as Expert Volunteers may be invited to attend.

#### **REMIT:**

- (a) To identify areas for policy development and implementation on behalf of Chief Pleas.
- (b) To prioritise according to need policies to be developed and implemented on behalf of Chief Pleas.
- (c) To appoint informal PDG working groups operating within PDG with a specific brief, clearly defined remit and timeframe, serving as a preliminary step before the formation of Special Committees.
- (d) To relay information cross-committee.
- (e) To review forthcoming legislation as the Policy Development group may see fit including, but not limited to, Bailiwick and UK legislation to be brought before Chief Pleas.
- (f) To consider, when appropriate, any matter not related to the business of the day.
- (g) All meetings are conducted under the Chatham House Rule with all agreements recorded.

- (h) The Policy Development Group will vote to determine decisions to be published on the government website by majority vote, with consideration for confidentiality and sensitivity.
- (i) The Chairperson to be the point of contact for any relevant matter that falls outside the mandate of any existing committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

All elected Members of Chief Pleas  
Senior Executive Officer (SEO)  
Senior Operations Officer (SOO)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## THE CONSTITUTION AND OPERATION OF CHIEF PLEAS COMMITTEES

As amended consequential upon amendments made to the 2008 Reform Law  
by the Reform (Sark) (Amendment) (No. 2) Law, 2010.

Approved by Michaelmas Chief Pleas on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 and further approved,  
as presented to Chief Pleas on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015,  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (coming into effect on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, less for Rule 5  
(1) & (2) that shall be effective from the 4th January 2019), 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 and 19th March 2025.

### 1. Constitution

Prescribed by Resolution of Chief Pleas with the following provisions, except where contrary provision is made -

- (a) by any enactment;
- (b) by any subsequent resolution of Chief Pleas.

### 2. Definitions

In these Rules the expression -

“Chief Pleas Committee” means any body constituted either by enactment or by Resolution of Chief Pleas, whether it be styled Committee, Board, Authority, or otherwise. This excludes the Policy Development Group.

“Standing Chief Pleas Committee” means any permanent Chief Pleas Committee.

“Special Chief Pleas Committee” means any temporary or *ad-hoc* Chief Pleas Committee charged with the execution or investigation of a particular matter.

“Sub-Committee” means a temporary or ad-hoc Committee of a Standing Committee charged with the execution or investigation of a particular Standing Committee matter.

“Ex-Officio Member” means any Committee member by virtue of their office (i.e. Medical Officer, Constable, Vingtenier or Harbourmaster etc.) Unless otherwise provided for, *ex-officio* members shall not have a committee vote.

The “Policy Development Group” is a group, consisting of all Conseillers, whose purposes are to identify and prioritise the work streams of Chief Pleas, to appoint informal working groups, to relay information cross-committee and to review forthcoming legislation. Non-Conseillers can also be members.

### 3. Size

- (1) Standing Chief Pleas Committees, less the Douzaine and Policy and Finance Committee, shall consist of four Conseillers, unless Chief Pleas specifically resolve to have a larger or smaller size committee; a minimum size shall not be less than three Conseillers.
- (2) A sub-committee shall consist of three Conseillers.

- (3) The Policy and Finance Committee shall consist of six Conseillers.
- (4) The Douzaine: The Douzaine shall consist of seven Conseillers, unless under Section 43 of The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 Chief Pleas resolve to have a larger or smaller size (such number to be at least 3 but no more than 12).
- (5) A sub-committee of the Douzaine shall consist of not less than three Conseillers.

#### 4. Non-Chief Pleas Committee Members

At the request of a Chief Pleas' Committee, Chief Pleas may elect up to three non-Chief Pleas members onto a Committee without voting rights. (Also applicable to special purposes committees and sub-committees.)

#### 5. Chairman

- (1) The Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee shall be elected by Chief Pleas in a secret ballot, with the Greffier acting as Returning Officer, nominations are to be proposed and seconded and given to the Greffier a minimum of 5 working days before the meeting at which the election is to take place. The person so elected shall have a mandate to speak to the outside world on behalf of Chief Pleas.
- (2) The Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee shall be elected by Chief Pleas using the same election procedures as the Chairman.
- (3) Other Chief Pleas Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman from amongst those persons on that Committee who are Conseillers. The Speaker of Chief Pleas [the Speaker] must be informed within seven working days of the appointment/s or any changes thereto.
- (4) The Chairman of a Chief Pleas Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman the member who presides at a meeting of such a Committee, shall have an original vote but not a casting vote.

#### 6. Members

- (1) To be eligible for election to membership of a Chief Pleas Committee as a non-Chief Pleas member a person should be, but does not have to be, a person normally resident on the Island.
- (2) A person in the role of the Seigneur, the Speaker, the Seneschal, the Prévôt, the Greffier, the Tax Assessor or their Deputies may not serve on any governmental committee.
- (3) There shall be no restriction on the number of Chief Pleas Committees on which a Conseiller may serve.
- (4) Conseillers shall not be co-opted to membership of any Chief Pleas Committee.

#### 7. Term of Office of Committee Members

Conseillers shall serve their Conseiller term of office on committees but may resign their membership at any time. A member whose term of office has come to an end shall be deemed to have resigned from their Committees, including Special Committees, at midnight of the day before the new Conseillers are sworn in and, if re-elected to Chief Pleas, shall be required to

be elected to committees.

### 8. Term of Office of Non-Chief Pleas & Ex-Officio Committee Members

- (1) The term of office for non-Chief Pleas Committee members shall be for the duration of the project or work to which they are contributing.
- (2) Ex-officio members' term rests with the length of their original office.

### 9. Removal from Committee

Chief Pleas may, by Resolution, remove a person from any committee, including the Douzaine.

### 10. Resignations

Any Conseiller or non-Chief Pleas member of a Chief Pleas Committee wishing to resign before their term of office has expired, shall inform the Speaker and the Committee Chairman of their resignation from the specified Committee(s).

### 11. Motions of No Confidence

Motions of no confidence cannot be made against the Chairman or other member(s) of that Committee in Committee.

### 12. Nominations of Candidates for Election to a Committee by Chief Pleas

Conseillers shall be eligible for nomination from the floor of the Assembly on the day of election, less for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, see 5 (1) and (2) above. Where a person is nominated as a non-Chief Pleas member of Chief Pleas, the Committee shall provide the Assembly with a verbal report containing background information of the candidate and the reasons for his name having been put forward. The committee must have had the prior consent of the proposed candidate for his name being put forward.

### 13. Quorum

- (1) The quorum of any Chief Pleas Committee, less the Douzaine, shall be three Conseillers or such larger number of members as the Chief Pleas may, in respect of a specific committee, resolve.
- (2) The quorum at a meeting of the Douzaine shall be half the number of Conseillers elected to the Douzaine rounded up to the next whole number, but never less than three.

### 14. Declaration of Interest

Where a decision relating to an agenda item has a direct pecuniary impact either positive or negative upon any member of that Committee, then that member shall remove himself from the debate and decision-making process for that agenda item.

### 15. Human Rights Compatibility

Every Chief Pleas Committee shall be cognisant of the need to review their existing legislation together with the associated policies, procedures and practices with human rights compatibility.

### 16. Presence of Officers, etc. at Committee Meetings

- (1) Any Committee meeting (where there are enough members to be quorate) shall be attended by a CSO and minuted fully.
- (2) In addition to the CSO, the Senior Executive Officer or Senior Operations Officer shall attend all meetings of the Policy & Finance, Douzaine, Education and Medical & Emergency Services Committees.
- (3) The Senior Executive Officer or Senior Operations Officer shall attend the meetings of all Committees at least once annually also when requested by the Chairman.

### 17. Special Chief Pleas Committees

- (1) Except for those parts which refer solely to standing Chief Pleas Committees, the principles set out above shall be followed in the constitution and operation of all Chief Pleas Committees including Special Chief Pleas Committees.
- (2) Such Special Chief Pleas Committees (i.e. the members thereof) shall continue in office until –
  - (a) they have fulfilled their task, and
  - (b) any legislation designed to give effect to such recommendations of the Committee as Chief Pleas may have resolved to adopt has been presented to Chief Pleas, approved and registered.

### 18. Sub-Committees

- (1) A sub-committee is formed by resolution of Chief Pleas at the request of a Standing Committee.
- (2) Members are elected by Chief Pleas.
- (3) A sub-committee reports directly to its Standing Committee.
- (4) A sub-committee is disbanded by Resolution of Chief Pleas at the request of the Standing Committee.

### 19. Policy Development Group

- (1) Except for those parts which refer to standing Chief Pleas Committees, the principles set out above shall be followed in the operation of the Policy Development Group.

### **20. Douzaine**

Other rules for the Douzaine are contained in Section 43 of “The Reform (Sark) Law, 2008” as amended. Where any rule herein contained is at variance with Section 43 that Section takes precedence.

### **21. Committee attendance**

(1) Attendance at Committee meetings (including Special Committees and Sub-Committees) is to be recorded and published on the Chief Pleas’ website.

(2) A failure by a Committee member to attend in person or online three consecutive Committee meetings (including Special Committees and Sub-Committees) without a valid and justifiable reason (for example, but not limited to, bereavement, medical emergencies) is to result in that member’s dismissal from the Committee concerned. After the second such absence, the Committee’s chairman, or if not available the Committee’s deputy chairman, is to provide a written notification to the member concerned, namely that failure to attend the following (third) meeting will result in that member’s dismissal from the Committee concerned.

## **ITEM 13**

### **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

**Report with Proposition to the Easter Meeting of Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **CHANGE TO MANDATE**

The current constitution of the Tourism Committee includes the Senior Visitor Officer as an ex-officio member, meaning that they should be present for the whole of every meeting. The Tourism Committee however feel that, on occasion, it may have discussions that would not be necessary for the Senior Visitor Officer to attend. For this reason, the Tourism Committee would like to ask Chief Pleas to approve the removal of the Senior Visitor Officer as an Ex-Officio member and for the mandate to instead say *'The Senior Visitor Officer, and other members of the Visitor Centre staff, shall be invited to attend meetings, as deemed relevant and necessary by the Committee.'*

A copy of the amended mandate is attached to this report.

#### **Proposition 1: –**

**That Chief Pleas approves the changes to the Tourism Committee mandate.**

**Conseiller Natalie Tighe  
Chairman, Tourism Committee**

# **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

## **MANDATE**

### **CONSTITUTION:**

- Four members who shall be sitting members of Chief Pleas, two of whom shall be selected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman by their fellow Committee Members.
- Up to 2 non-voting members who shall not be sitting members of Chief Pleas but who shall be elected by Chief Pleas.
- The Senior Visitor Officer, and other members of the Visitor Centre staff, shall be invited to attend meetings, as deemed relevant and necessary by the Committee.
- A quorum shall consist of three voting members.

### **MANDATE:**

1. To advertise the amenities and the attractions of the Island both with the object of encouraging visitors to the Island and in the interests of such visitors and the inhabitants of the Island as a whole.
2. To inspect and issue the necessary permits for tourist accommodation including campsites.
3. To make recommendations to the Policy Development Group, from time to time, as to any legislation which may be necessary for the fulfilment of the duties set out in this section.
4. To work to the requirements of the Tourism (Sark) Law, 1982 and The Tourism (Amendment)(Sark) Law, 1986
5. To attempt to resolve and settle formal complaints
6. To appoint and dismiss Visitors' Officers and any other personnel.
7. To oversee a panel of Inspectors for the inspection of tourist related accommodation, catering premises and outside events.

### **LEGISLATION**

See **Appendix 1**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Laws**

- The Tourism (Sark) Law, 1982
- The Tourism (Amendment)(Sark) Law, 1986
- The Tourism (Sark)(Amendment) Law, 2012
- The Tourism (Sark)(Amendment) Law, 2014
  
- The Catering (Sark) Law, 1988

### **Ordinances**

- The Tourism (Sark) Law, 1982 (Commencement) Ordinance, 1983
- The Tourism (Fees)(Sark) Ordinance, 1988
- The Tourism (Accommodation Permits)(Fees)(Sark) Ordinance, 2008
- The Tourism (Accommodation Permits)(Fees)(Sark)(No.2) Ordinance, 2008
- The Tourism (Sark)(Amendment) Law, 2012 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2012
  
- The Catering (Sark) Law, 1988 (Commencement) Ordinance, 1988
- The Catering (Transfer of Functions) (Sark) Ordinance, 1992

### **Conventions**

### **Agreements**

(30<sup>th</sup> April 2025)



**DOUZAINE**

**Information Report to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**RELOCATION OF PUBLIC WORKS TO LES LÂCHES**

At the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 (Item 11) the Douzaine informed Chief Pleas it had been looking to relocate the incinerator/burning facilities from the Harbour Quarry to Les Lâches.

A subsequent small rockfall at the Harbour Quarry site led to an inspection by the Geomarine team. The result of this inspection is that the Douzaine has closed off an area within the Harbour Quarry for the protection of its workforce, and members of the public.

While a solution to the Harbour Quarry is still being sought, some work tasks have been moved to the Les Lâches site on a 'temporary long-term basis'. This has included open burning of rubbish.

The Douzaine is appreciative of the cooperation it has had from the workforce at this difficult time and would wish this to be noted.

The situation at the Harbour Quarry is ongoing, and is the subject of a separate report.

**Conseiller Mike Locke**  
**Chairman, Douzaine**

**DOUZAINE**

**Information Report to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**SEWAGE SYSTEM**

At the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 (Item 10) the Douzaine informed Chief Pleas that the sewage handling facility at Les Lâches was not functioning as expected and, consequently, raw effluent was being discharged.

Regrettably, the situation continues.

However, a great deal of investigation has been carried out and we are moving toward a solution. The Douzaine has held meetings with the States of Guernsey's Office of Environmental Health and Pollution Regulation, the States Analytical Laboratory, and Guernsey Water.

This has led to suggestions of a suitable testing and sampling regime similar to that for Guernsey's effluent outfall. Similar to Sark in that they discharge untreated sewage into the sea but different in that it's via several hundred meters of undersea pipe.

Further, we have had extensive correspondence with the Guernsey Agent for the current treatment fluid, Ensol (Biomagic), and the manufacturer in New Zealand. The system was converted to use this fluid somewhere between 2008 and 2011. The then Guernsey Agent assisted the Douzaine in this project at the time. He, Alan Le Cheminant, is now retired but has offered to come over and look at the situation on site when he is back from holiday.

Thanks to all of them for all the help and information they have supplied so far. There has also been a lot of information supplied by those who worked on the system to convert it to Ensol (Biomagic) use and a design for a replacement set of tanks for the same method from a previous member of the Douzaine. Thanks go to them also.

Work has also been done to fix the dosage pump and system – although, since there are no holding tanks currently in use, there's no time for the Ensol (Biomagic) to do its job so it has been turned off to save waste.

We have investigated the repair of the existing system by splitting an unused tank to scope the work needed for a proper refurbishment. The leaks appear to be coming mainly from the connections to the pipework and the join between the two halves of each tank. Fixing these and refurbishing the fibreglass interior where necessary appears to be well within the competence of local contractors. This would include new plumbing and valves to connect up the tanks.

There are other items which could improve the general operation of the system such as a proper screening and compaction filter for the intake and an unloading ramp to ensure the tanker is high enough up to be able to fill a holding tank simply by gravity.

Chief Pleas may recall that a new type of treatment plant was costed at over £750,000 which was considered unrealistic.

Work to find a solution suitable for and affordable by Sark continues. This includes:

1. finalising a suitable testing regime and carrying it out. This may be in conjunction with Agriculture, Environment and Sea Fisheries Committee and we are fortunate to have Douzainiers who serve on that Committee.
2. confirmation with the Guernsey expert how best to bring the Ensol (Biomagic) system back into full operation.
3. comparison of the fix / refurbish / replumb cost with the new set of holding tanks already investigated and costed.
4. costing an updated filter screen and compaction unit.
5. costing an unloading ramp.
6. Conseiller Mary Nicolle has taken on the task of looking at alternative systems such as reed beds and other sewage plants already in use on Sark.
7. Investigating a Guernsey-style seabed outflow.

We plan to finish all this work in time to bring reports to Midsummer Chief Pleas.

Should further information be available for Easter Chief Pleas, a verbal report will be given.

**Conseiller Mike Locke**  
**Chair, Douzaine**

**DOUZAINE**

**Information Report to Easter Chief Pleas, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**RECYCLING AND WASTE DISPOSAL**

At the Michaelmas Meeting of Chief Pleas, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 (Item 09) the Douzaine informed Chief Pleas that both incinerators were out of action and that the options were to purchase a replacement incinerator able to cope with the increased amount of burnable domestic rubbish or to continue with open burning in some form or other. The Proposition directing the Douzaine to further investigate such acquisition was carried.

The situation became more complicated due to the small rockfalls at the Harbour Quarry which means a restricted work area, temporary open burning at Les Lâches, and an uncertain future.

I would like to thank current and former members of the Douzaine and staff both in and out of the office who have had to deal with the current restrictions on their work and taking the time to investigate suitable solutions.

The current situation is that some temporary open burning is taking place at Les Lâches. This can only happen when wind and weather conditions permit. At other times, open burning takes place under restricted conditions at the Harbour Quarry. Open burning is not an acceptable long-term solution for residents impacted by the smoke and smell, or for visitors and users of the harbour and harbour café – quite apart from the health risks for the workforce and general negative impact on our environment.

Following the rockfalls at the Harbour Quarry, Geomarine inspected the site and recommended some restrictions and a larger exclusion zone there which does allow some work on that site. Their longer-term mitigation plan has now been received but they would not be able to carry it out until September at the earliest.

Therefore a medium-term plan to get us through the season is being investigated. That is likely to involve repairing the open burning pits to allow two pits to be operated. This allows the ash in one to cool sufficiently for handling while the other pit is being filled with burnables for that week's burn.

As for a longer-term solution, the Douzaine has held discussions with Guernsey Recycling Group, with whom Sark already has a contract for recycling waste, Guernsey Waste and Alderney Waste. Public Works staff have also come up with ideas, for which many thanks.

We now see the current options as:

1. Open-burning with a 2-pit system as before. This is the least favourite due to the issues given earlier. And, were it to be at the Harbour Quarry, some form of screening would be advisable to improve the appearance for visitors.
2. An island-designed concrete incinerator also allowing 2-pit operation – but enclosed and with chimney. This is being investigated.
3. Purchasing a new incinerator. Previous work by the Douzaine and CSO has identified a range of incinerators of various throughputs varying from 100kg/h at £30,000 up to 450kg/h at £285,000. Plus of course the cost of diesel to run them.

4. Shipping all rubbish, recycling, commercial and builders' waste to Guernsey. This would require some baling and compacting machinery, and some shipping containers. Costs and practicalities of this are still under investigation but we note that this is the solution used by both Herm and Alderney.

In addition, we need to consider whether to carry out the full mitigation of rockfalls as recommended by Geomarine later in the year or to move Public Works in its entirety to Les Lâches. There would be significant costs – into 6 figures - and difficulties with either option so it will take some time to arrive at recommendations suitable for Sark to bring to Chief Pleas.

Over the years, 4 skips have been scrapped as no longer serviceable which puts a big strain on the recycling system. We have ordered 4 new ones of a suitable specification and these will be in operation soon, if they aren't already, and this will ease the transshipment of recyclables to Guernsey.

In addition to this we are looking at ways of encouraging more recycling, particularly from commercial premises, and reviewing the Commercial Waste Charging structure accordingly. A report will be brought to Chief Pleas when this review has finished.

We plan to finish all this work in time to bring reports to Midsummer Chief Pleas.

The Douzaine is appreciative of the cooperation it has had from the workforce at this difficult time and would wish this to be noted.

Should further information be available for Easter Chief Pleas, a verbal report will be given.

**Conseiller Mike Locke**  
**Chairman, Douzaine**

## **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

**Information Report to Easter Chief Pleas Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **TOURISM COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Tourism is a vital part of Sark's economy, providing income for local businesses, supporting jobs, and helping to sustain our unique way of life and preserve what makes Sark special.

Sark's newly populated Tourism Committee are excited to be working together with the island's Visitor Centre to enhance the principle driving force of the island's economy by augmenting the visitor experience, supporting local businesses, and protecting Sark's natural beauty while promoting responsible tourism.

Our aim is to increase awareness of Sark as a unique island and hope to achieve this by way of destination marketing and promotion: improved digital campaigns, social media growth and press and media collaborations. Improvements to the visitor experience, existing infrastructure and public amenities are additional aspects that we would also like to address as well as expansion of the events calendar and an exploration of opportunities for off-season visits, such as stargazing retreats and wellness weekends.

The team will be focusing on trying to ensure that there are seamless travel connections for visitors and residents alike and hope to engage with ferry operators to optimise timetables for better connectivity. The committee welcomes feedback from the community and is keen to strengthen collaboration with local businesses and residents. We hope to grow tourism in a way that benefits everyone - residents, businesses, and visitors - whilst maintaining our island's beauty and tranquillity.

#### **1. The Current State of Tourism in Sark**

Whilst visitors love Sark's charm, beautiful landscapes, and peaceful atmosphere, there are many challenges that we face:

- Seasonal tourism – most visitors come in summer, leaving businesses potentially struggling in the off-season.
- Transport issues – ferry schedules and bad weather can deter visitors.
- Competition from other destinations.

#### **2. Our Vision for Sark's Tourism**

Our goal is to increase the benefits of tourism while keeping Sark's charm and protecting our environment. We would like to attract those who appreciate Sark's beauty, history, and nature - and ensure tourism benefits the whole community.

- Define the overarching vision for Sark's tourism industry.
- Emphasise sustainability, preserving Sark's natural beauty, and enhancing visitor experiences.
- Align with the island's identity (e.g., a peaceful destination with stunning landscapes and rich history).

### **3. Key Strategies to Improve Tourism**

#### **A. Developing cultural experiences and highlighting the historical significance of Sark's Norman roots and original language and their potential to shape the island's tourism narrative. (See Appendix One)**

Benefits include:

- Tourism Enhancement: A distinctive, place-specific cultural identity attracts heritage tourists, literary tourists, and those seeking immersive travel experiences.
- Cultural Preservation: Increased visibility of Sarkese and Norman traditions supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- Environmental and Experiential Tourism: Promotion of the Dark Sky status complements heritage themes with eco-awareness and aesthetic wonder.
- Economic and Social Cohesion: A shared narrative strengthens local identity and encourages collaboration across sectors such as education, the arts, and hospitality.

#### **B. Supporting Local Businesses**

- Encouraging overnight stays by promoting multi-day experiences and multiple destination breaks by facilitating island hopping.
- Supporting local food and craft businesses by promoting Sark-made products.

#### **C. Marketing Sark Effectively**

- Improving our online presence - more social media, and digital marketing by creating engaging content highlighting Sark's unique selling points (dark skies, tranquillity, nature).
- Collaborate with travel influencers, media and tourism boards in Guernsey and Jersey to reach more potential visitors.
- Promoting off-peak visits (autumn/winter).
- Guernsey's marketing campaign targets couples, families, and solo travellers aged 35+ seeking short breaks in the UK and island holidays, focusing on cities like London and Paris. Insights indicate a similar audience profile in the UK and France, with a continued emphasis on inter-island connectivity for 2024.

#### **D. Improving the Visitor Experience**

- Better information for visitors – improved signage, accessibility.
- Develop thematic trails (historical, nature, photography walks).
- Promoting the wellness market, which was valued at \$814.6 billion in 2022, with a projected compound annual growth rate of 12.42% from 2023 to 2030: outdoor wellness experiences, such as coastline walks and wild swimming, are becoming increasingly sought after for stress relief.

#### **E. Expanding Events & Attractions**

- Introducing island-wide events/niche festivals (e.g., wellness retreats, photography weekends).
- Food provenance is gaining importance in travel, emphasizing local sourcing and minimal food miles, with events like food festivals highlighting these trends.
- Developing cultural experiences – Sercquaise signage, stargazing events, establishing the Fief Day as a public holiday.



#### **F. Transport, Accessibility & Infrastructure**

- Working with ferry operators to discuss scheduling and affordability.
- Exploring options for increased transport connections with Jersey, Alderney and France.
- Improve visitor facilities (public restrooms, information access).

#### **4. How Will This Benefit Sark's People?**

- More tourism means more income for local businesses (hotels, restaurants, shops, guides).
- Creating more job opportunities for residents, particularly younger people.
- A stronger economy means more support for community services and infrastructure.
- Encouraging responsible tourism that respects our way of life and natural environment.

#### **5. What Happens Next?**

- Improve Sark's official social media and digital marketing.
- Work with ferry companies on connectivity.
- Strengthen ties with our French neighbours including twinning.
- Visitor profiles: data collection in order to analyse who currently visits Sark (demographics, origin, seasonality, length of stay).

**Conseiller Natalie Tighe**  
**Chairman, Tourism Committee**



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+44 7781 137862 (SQ)  
info@bonjhur.net  
www.bonjhur.net

ELLEN GROVES

Conseil en communication

Spécialiste des îles anglo-  
normandes

# I'Sérčê

Sark Norman Language Codification Project  
Media impact update March 2025

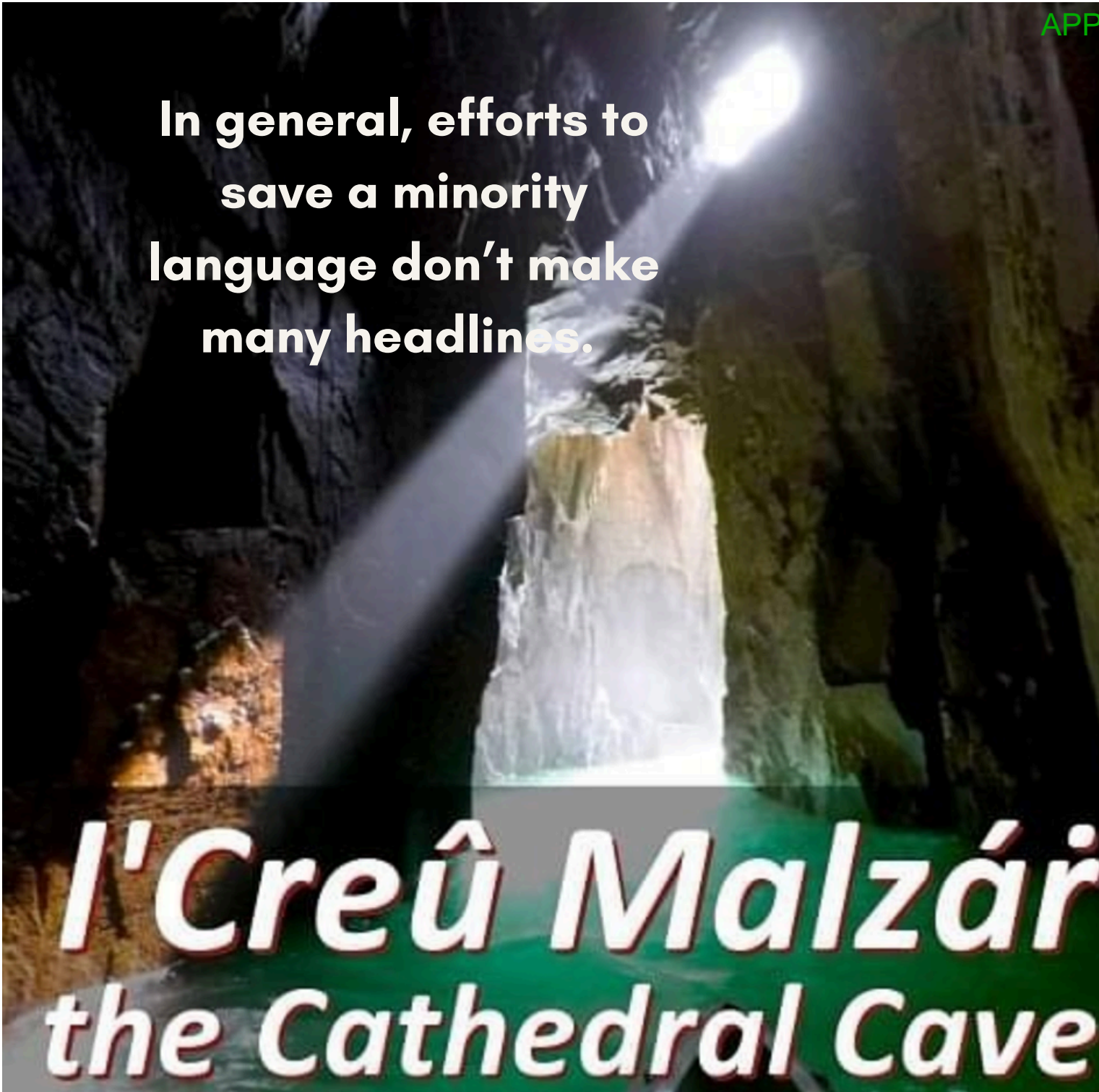
R



# ‘òċeun tâm’

**Around the world,  
another indigenous  
language disappears,  
every 40 days.**





**In general, efforts to  
save a minority  
language don't make  
many headlines.**

***I'Creû Malzár***  
***the Cathedral Cave***

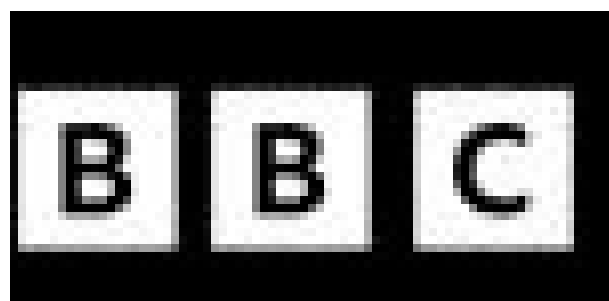


**Sarkese is different.**

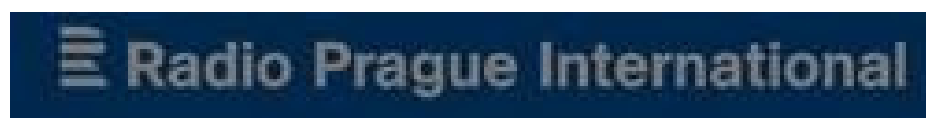
***Tintajeu***  
***the Tintaqeu***



Combined  
audience of est.  
50 million+



✕ JERSEY EDITION ✓





D'tute Izile; i'chuézit Sér...

Of all the islands; he chose Sark.



# SARK NORMAN LANGUAGE CODIFICATION PROJECT

Realized with the support of Charles University, La Société Sercquaise, the Wikitongues, Erasmus and the family of the Lord of Sark


Classes · Lésôn

About Us · Antûre nû

Weekly Vocab

In the Media

Support



**Bonjhûr! Let's speak Sarkese!**

It all started in 2015 when Dr. Richard Axton, MBE, a great Englishman with the heart of a true Sarkee, came across a request by Martin Neudörfl, a Czech student with an interest in Norman languages, who wanted to study & preserve a minority island language....



# J'sî mañifike

## 2015-2025

### 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### from the oldest Sarkees...to the youngest

Esther's 101st recording session with Martin and her 95th birthday! Bêvon á la santé d'sa gôrje!

Raise your glasses with us and let's "drink to the health of the throat", as the traditional Sarkese toast goes, on the occasion of two remarkable anniversaries, as one of our principal consultants and key team member who has been directly and continuously involved in the preservation of the ancient Norman language of Sark for the past seven years, Mrs Esther Perrée (Éstér Pèrê),... **En voir plus**



Martin came to Sark for the first time in 2016 to learn and document the Sark Norman language, l'Sérčê in Sarkese, with the help of the **four last native active speakers, Mrs Esther Perrée, Mr Bas Adams, Mrs Margaret Toms and Mrs Joyce Southern** and several other semi-speakers or so-called rememberers who have been involved in the project ever since, f.e. **Mrs Suzette Adams, Mr Dick Adams and Mr Phil Perrée and many others.**

[www.bonjhur.net](http://www.bonjhur.net)

# J'sî mañifike

## 2015-2025

## 10 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT from the oldest Sarkees...to the youngest

Our primary goal was to reach such a level of understanding that Sarkese may be learned and passed on again, as well as taught in a modern, professional and (most importantly) responsible way. In 2019, we were finally able to start passing our knowledge onto the new generations of the Sarkese via regular Sarkese **classes for children at the Sark School**, introduced that year. In 2021, we started our online weekly **courses for adults**. [www.bonjhur.net](http://www.bonjhur.net)

### Sarkese classes for adults

The next online class for beginners takes place every Tuesday at 7pm UK time (8pm EU time) via Teams. La préchéne léson ssa l'márdi ki vent, é cûme d'abitude á sêt eure pár Teams.

To get the link for joining online sessions please get in touch with Martin ([info@bonjhur.net](mailto:info@bonjhur.net)) 😊

### Everyone is most welcome to join us!

Our evening classes are open for public and they are for free! Anyone interested is most welcome to join us. The only condition is the interest and the will to preserve the linguistic heritage of the island of Sark 😊

### Students breathe new life into Bailiwick languages

Traditional Channel Island languages have been ringing out at Beau Sejour this week.

Published Mar 8, 2024 | Last updated Mar 8, 2024



Sark School pupils told the story of St Magloire in Sercquiais. (Picture by Peter Frankland, 33032141)

*"Are you a rememberer?"*

*"A language survives as long as it is actively spoken,  
cherished, and evolving."*

Martin Neudörfl

Two much-loved Sarkees, Bas Adams and Esther Perrée, two of the four last native speakers have died since the Sark Norman Language Codification Project began.

Yet by choosing to spend hours of their remaining years recording with Martin, the last of the Sarkese speakers left this world knowing they are leaving behind them a language that can live.

The patois differs in pronunciation in each island but it is still fundamentally old Norman French. Both my sister and I were brought up to speak this as well as modern French.

...Then, as now, I could speak the island patois - a mediaeval French incomprehensible to any but the Channel islanders.

*Dame of Sark*  
Sibyl Hathaway  
1961

**La Section de la Langue Jèrriaise**



It's the closest living language to the Norman conquerors...



It gave 300 million French speakers a different word for octopus "pieuvre" with a messenger called Victor Hugo...



It's the language of the land, and the sea, a window into another time, like the island of Sark itself.



*"It is almost a music...  
and it is indeed a language.  
Not a patois.  
Rather a Norman dialect of the sea."*  
Olivier Clerc, Ouest-France



## REPORTAGE. Ce jeune Tchèque au chevet d'une vieille langue normande

Martin Neudörfl est linguiste. Tchèque, il s'est pris de passion pour les langues de l'anglo-normand. Particulièrement pour celle de l'île de Sercq, gravement menacée de disparition faute de locuteurs.

Ouest-France  
À Sercq (îles anglo-normandes), Olivier CLERC.  
Publié le 02/05/2023 à 05h45

Abonnez-vous

LIRE PLUS TARD

PARTAGER



AUDIENCE: MAY 2 2023

On most-read back page of 52 local editions of the most-read paper in France.

Cover of the Normandy editions:



Mardi 2 mai 2023

REPORTAGE

# Le jeune Tchèque réveille une vieille langue normande

Martin Neudörf est linguiste. Tchèque, il s'est pris de passion pour les langues de l'anglo-normand. Particulièrement pour celle de l'île de Sercq, gravement menacée de disparition faute de locuteurs.



« Le sercquiais n'a plus que trois locutrices sur l'île. Et la plus âgée a 94 ans. »



Martin Neudörf, devant la Seigneurie de Sercq, une île qui jusqu'au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle appartenait au duché de Normandie avant de basculer du côté anglais. (Photo: Gaëlle Huet)

Sercq (Îles anglo-normandes). De notre envoyé spécial

C'est une langue oubliée de presque tous. Une langue belle et douce, agréable à l'oreille comme le serait un parler elfique sorti du Seigneur des anneaux, une langue comme tout droit sortie de la nuit des temps, tracée en runes antiques sur des pierres polies par les âges. C'est presque une musique et c'est bien une langue. Plus un patois. Plus un dialecte normand du large. Jersey à la sein. Guernesey aussi et pareil à Aurigny. Partout dans l'archipel anglo-normand.

Dans cet éparpillement d'îles, Sercq et ses quelques cinq kilomètres carrés fait figure singulière. Son expression originelle, le sercquiais (serkye, comme on dit là-bas), a des points communs avec celles de ses cousines voisines. L'archaïsme en plus. « C'est même si archaïque que cette langue est sans doute ainsi conservée depuis le XI<sup>e</sup> siècle, avant que le linguiste Martin Neudörf. On y trouve des terminaisons verbales typiques de cette époque. »

La rareté, aussi : « Elle n'a plus que

trois locutrices sur l'île. Et la plus âgée a 94 ans... »

Le jeune Tchèque balaise du regard les récifs qui hâssaient les abords du confort vert aux falaises abruptes gris-bleues des macarons moines et autres pingouins fonda. Il les présente l'un après l'autre de la main. Nomme chacun des cailloux écumants en noms chantournés d'ici, dans une mélodie aux accents plus trépidants que toniques, aux « r » ourlés plutôt que roulés, livrant d'improbables traits communs avec le bretonnel et le québécois.

Ce qu'il fait est précieux. Martin Neudörf a 32 ans, arrive de Prague, à plus de 1 500 km de là, alourdi d'une mission : entretenir le sercquiais vivant si possible. Et tant qu'il l'est, vivant, enregistrer sa mémoire. « Quand j'étais petit, je parlais déjà anglais et français, j'ai aimé l'histoire de ces deux pays et l'anglo-normand me fascinait », explique-t-il, dix langues à son registre (dont le catalan et la langue de la forêt de Bohême méridionale), sans compter des bases néoindigènes en breton, islandais, japonais.

« J'ai découvert le sercquiais pen-

dant mes études en Angleterre, maité-t-é, et j'ai demandé à mon directeur de thèse de travailler dessus. Puis, j'ai écrit à Richard Adton, professeur à Cambridge qui était secrétaire de la Société sercquaise. Deux jours plus tard, il me répondait que mon aide serait la bienvenue. »

« Le gardien du sercquiais »

Il n'en fallait pas plus. En 2016, un voyage initiatique le propulse sur l'île aux 500 habitants, à un jet de pierre du Cotentin, de l'autre côté du passage de la Déroute. Le linguiste découvre les sonorités obscures du langage autochtone déjà en voie de disparition. Tombé en amour. Entre en lutte, s'appuyant sur des centaines d'heures d'enregistrements réalisés dans les années 1970, qu'il conçoit à enrichir.

« Une langue se perd si elle ne sert pas. Et toute la culture qui l'accompagne disparaît aussi, c'est dommage », observe Josephine Birch,

l'actuelle secrétaire de la Société sercquaise. Anglaise, comme désormais la majorité des habitants, débarquée toute petite à Sercq, elle se souvient que, alors, « les vieux la parlaient encore, au pub », mais sans produire l'effort de s'y mettre.

« C'est compliqué pour les adultes, notamment à cause des quarante-sept phonèmes (sonorités) et des nombreuses diphtongues (voyelles complexes, dont le timbre change graduellement en cours d'émission) que recèle cette langue », excuse Martin Neudörf. Alors, il a pris son bâton de pèlerin, proposé aux autorités un programme charpenté autour de cours dispensés depuis 2019 à distance aux enfants de l'école primaire.

« Avant qu'il n'arrive ici, la langue aurait complètement disparu en dix ans », constate Paul Amrogio, lui aussi anglais, speaker du parler local et propriétaire d'un gîte hôtel de l'île. Mon gendre est de Sercq. Sa grand-mère parle couramment, son père encore un peu, lui pas du tout. En deux générations, c'était fini. Son fils a suivi les cours de Martin, mais il est parti pour le collège à Guernesey, où il n'y a pas cet

enseignement. »

Pour autant, le « gardien du sercquiais », tel que le linguiste se définit, ne se décourage pas. Il entretient la flamme auprès des enfants, creuse son sillon. « Je suis optimiste car c'est extraordinaire d'avoir des résultats, d'enseigner à l'école, de trouver des gens qui s'intéressent », assure-t-il, attaché à donner une orthographe fonctionnelle aux mots en s'appuyant sur les travaux du linguiste français spécialiste en dialectologie normande Patrick Bessière.

Il s'attelle à la rédaction d'un dictionnaire et d'un précis de grammaire, à la réalisation d'une carte internet de l'île en sercquiais, relève que la langue a infusé chez les voisins, le gaël anglais vient du gém sercquais (prononcer « à gém »), et souligne que « le monde entier connaît un mot de cette langue ».

Impensable ? Que nenni. Victor Hugo, en exil à Guernesey, a séjourné à Sercq « et s'y est inspiré pour Les Travailleurs de la mer. Il a emprunté au sercquais le mot « pœuvre », qui n'existait pas ailleurs, et l'a écrit « pœuvre »... »

Olivier CLERC.

## Repères

### Mariage anglais

Une des explications à la disparition de la langue sercquaise est la renouveau progressive des habitants purement originaires de l'île. Sur les quelques 500 habitants qui la peuplent aujourd'hui, seules une trentaine de familles sont « de souche », et la tendance n'est pas près de s'inverser : « Pourquoi se marier entre nous, entre copains d'école qui se connaissent depuis toujours ? » interroge Elsie Courtney. Septuagénaires, elle constate que « la plupart des mariages se font avec des Anglais et des Anglaises, ce qui explique la perte de la langue ».



### Victor Hugo, le passeur

« J'ai passé quelques jours sur Sercq pour prendre des notes pour un futur roman », Victor Hugo, en exil à Guernesey (1855-1870) après son bannissement de France par Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, visite l'île en juin 1857. Il assiste à une scène inspirante : son fils Charles se baigne dans une grotte et est poursuivi par un poulpe. Son guide local lui parle de « pœuvre », le mot de sercquais qui désigne l'animal. Ni une, ni deux, l'écrivain s'en empare.

Il en francise l'orthographe et décrit l'animal, « le monstre » comparé à « l'hydre » qui s'en prend à son héros Gilliat – un pêcheur guernesiais – dans son roman Les Travailleurs de la mer publié en 1866. Le mot est vite adopté par George Sand et Guy de Maupassant.

La galerie d'Art for Guernesey organise, jusqu'au 20 mai au cœur du quartier de Saint-Peter-Port, une exposition du Russe Oleg Mikhalov et de l'Anglais Daniel Hosage consacrée à l'œuvre de Victor Hugo sur l'île.



(Photo: Gaëlle Huet)

“It is a language forgotten by almost everyone.

A beautiful and soft language, as pleasant to the ear as an elven language from the Lord of the Rings, a language as if it had come straight out of the night of time, traced in ancient runes on stones polished by the ages.”

ouest  
france

2 million+  
70 million online



## AUDIENCE:

+5 million listeners

the most listened to

radio station in France



France Inter presenter Claude Askolovitch gets up at 3am to review more than 60 newspapers.

France's leading journalists start the day listening to his press review.

In the words of one former NYT journalist «*making it into Askolovitch, in France, is the equivalent of making the front page of the New York Times.* »

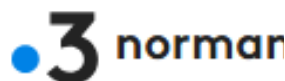


## THE EXTRACT

Ouest-France encore me raconte Martin Neudörfl, jeune tchèque qui ravive une langue qui serait douce comme le parler elfique du seigneur des anneaux, une langue anglo-normande le sercquiais, de l'île de Serqc, qu ne compte plus sur cette île, que trois locutrices, dont une dame de 94 ans...

**"Ouest-France also tells me about Martin Neudörfl, a young Czech who is reviving a language as soft as the Elvish language from Lord of the Rings, an Anglo-Norman language, Sercquiais, from the island of Serqc, which now has only three speakers, including a 94-year-old woman..."**

France 3 expressed  
interest in coming to  
report.



AUDIENCE: - 1.3 million



**olivier clerc** · 1er

Journaliste - chef de rédaction chez Ouest-France

Cherbourg, Normandie, France ·



Martin Neudörfl received “at least 2 days worth of emails to reply to” of both media and project collaboration interest, including in Normandy.

And a surprise visit in his hometown from Jacques Haebig of the French ministry of commerce and a speaker of Cotentin Norman. L’Nôrmândê.



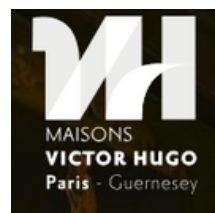
**Bonjhûr** - Let's speak Sarkese est à Český Krumlov.

12 mai 2023 · Český Krumlov, Bohême-du-Sud, République tchèque ·

L’Nôrmân, une vrê lange internâsyûnale! 😊 Believe it or not, but Norman and Sarkese were spoken on Wednesday in Český Krumlov, a town which is some 1200 km or 750 mi away from Sark! Mr Jacques Haebig, from the French Ministry of Commerce and a speaker of Cotentin Norman, l’Nôrmândê, as we would say in Sarkese, came over to see Martin and discuss the Sark Norman language and our projects 😊



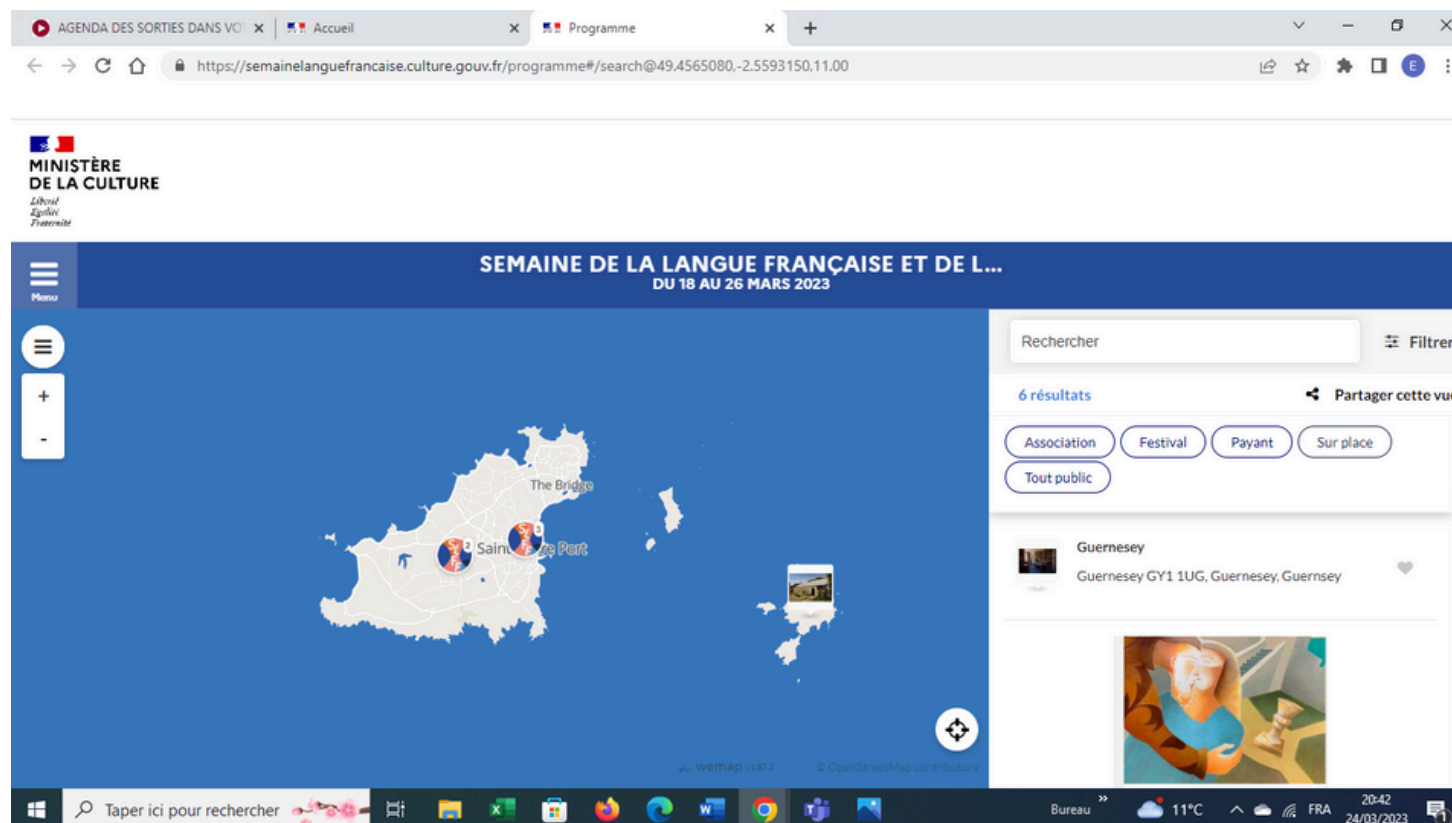
Head of Maisons Victor Hugo Paris Guernesey - Gérard Audinet congratulated the “defense of Sarkese”



Circulated in highest influence - whatsapp groups - a high-earning Paris-based luxury executive shared the story



# PUTTING SARKESE ON THE MAP



A FREE invitation from the regional branch of France's Ministry of Culture the Drac Normandie to join in France's national culture days.

Sarkese event listed on Ministry of Culture dedicated site for the week of French language in 2023.

One listing then resulted in exposure for Sarkese on 5 more French government sites:

- Ministry of Education
- CampusFrance (for students)
- [www.jeunes.gouv.fr/](http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/) (for young people)
- marsfrancophonie,
- <https://mondes-nouveaux.culture.gouv.fr/fr/agenda>

**AUDIENCE:**  
+monthly 1.5 million

# ALL FROM ONE NIGHT IN SARK

APPENDIX ONE

**PRESS TRIP - APRIL 2023**

**ORGANISED & ACCOMPANIED BY ELLEN  
GROVES**

**SUPPORTED BY VISIT GUERNSEY, CONDOR  
FERRIES FRANCE, STOCK'S HOTEL, SARK  
TOURISM, SOCIETE SERCQUIAISE IN SARK**

**& WITH PARTICIPATION OF VICTOR HUGO IN  
GUERNSEY SOCIETY & ART FOR GUERNSEY IN  
GUERNSEY**

**TRIP INSPIRED BY THE BLUE ORMER BOOK  
LAUNCH OF SARK SAYINGS AT THE CIDER BARN.**

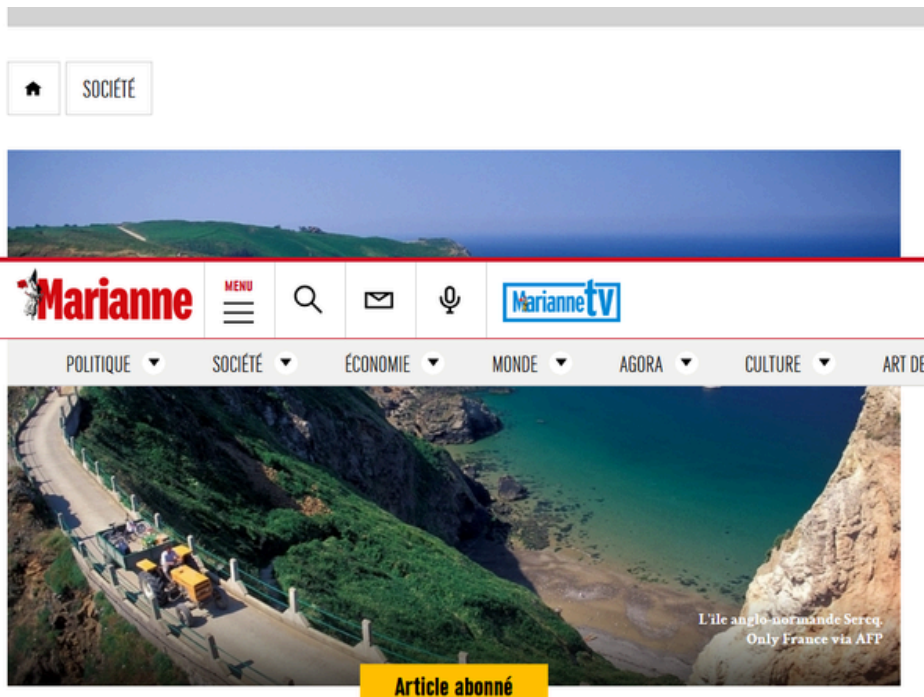
**Sark Sayings was Compiled by Mari C. Jones  
and Martin Neudörfl and beautifully illustrated  
by Martin Remphry.**

**Olivier interviewed and toured the island with  
Martin, & met Elsie from tourism, Jo Birch at the  
heirtage centre, Paul Armorgie (& a friendly  
Guernsey couple of guests) at Stock's...in  
Guernsey - Dinah Bott, David Ummels & Jock  
Petit**

**PARTICIPATION IN FRANCE'S CULTURE  
DAYS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE  
INVITATION VIA THE BUREAU DES ILES  
ANGLO-NORMANDES, GUERNSEY ARTS &  
THE DRAC NORMANDIE**

**LOGOS TO COME HERE**

Audience 1.2 million print  
Web 7.3 million visits March



## **Refuge de pirates, relations britanniques, guerre... L'insubmersible île anglo-normande Sercq**

Par Frédéric Pennel

“

Frederic Pennel, author and freelance journalist, summers in Granville - pitched a story on Sark in summer 2022 to leading titles Liberation, Figaro..) but found no takers....

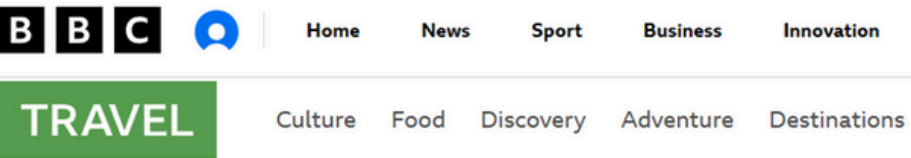
Enter Sarkese...

with added Sarkese heritage storytelling, journalist Frederic Pennel finally found a taker for his Sark destination story, which was published in May edition of Marianne magazine.





One of the world’s most visited websites ran a story on Sarkese...



Sarkese: Britain's archaic Norman language



(Image credit: Uwe Moser/Getty Images)



APPENDIX ONE



and then the language made the list of the top 10 words and phrases that BBC reporters had learned in 2024!



Bonjhûr - Let's speak Sarkese  
5 janvier · 🌐

Wow!! Sarkese made it onto the list of the top 10 words and phrases that the BBC's reporters had learned during their travels around the world in 2024! The list includes 10 different languages and minority varieties, for example Korean, Bengali, Pennsylvanian Dutch or even Antarctic Research Base English and our Sarkese. The Sark Norman language is represented with the phrase "Cûme ċi'k t'ê?" for "How are you?" which we use when we ask the question while being informal and ad... En voir plus



# PART OF CULTURAL TOURISM OFFER

Sark  
Saerk  
Serk  
Sér  
Sercq



# TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## **Bonjhûr! Cûme čí'k t'ê?**

Esther's 101st recording session with Martin and her 95th birthday! Běvon á la santé d'sa górze!

Raise your glasses with us and let's "drink to the health of the throat", as the traditional Sarkese toast goes, on the occasion of two remarkable anniversaries, as one of our principal consultants and key team member who has been directly and continuously involved in the preservation of the ancient Norman language of Sark for the past seven years, Mrs Esther Perrée (Éstér Pèrè),... **En voir plus**



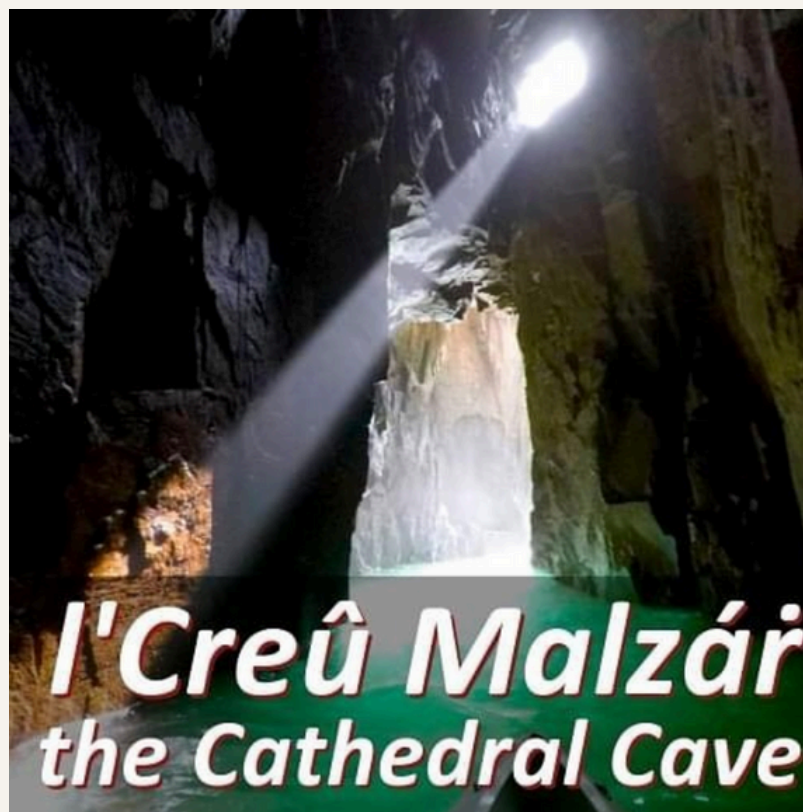
Like other island,  
Norman languages and  
minority languages,  
Sarkese was long  
considered more lowly  
than English or French.

## Pride in the language of our lives

*When the teenager serving  
behind the counter is asked  
if she speaks Sarkese...she  
breaks into song.*

Sark Island hall - August 2023 -

# THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE OF THE LAND



bonjhur01 A fantastic breakthrough achieved last week thanks to our SNGO map, an interactive map of Sark in Sarkese, containing more than 700 authentic Sark Noman place names, and the insight of our volunteer @eddd.stone who had offered to help us fill remaining blank spots on the map. After several years of uncertainty, we may finally confirm that the Sarkese name of the "Cathedral Cave" is indeed "I'Creû Malzár", meaning "the Cave of the Morning Sun" or "the Sun Pillar Cave" #sarkese #sérçê #bonjhur #sark #bonjhûr

Modifié · 33 sem Voir la traduction

**A Sark resident today - may not think they speak a word of Sarkese, yet knowledge of the land & sea, helps reveals ancestral names...**

# Sarkese speaks to...the 'culturally curious' French

*Recognised while out and about, by a group of French visitors, they tell Martin they had come to the island after reading about Sarkese.*

July 2024

6.2 MILLION  
"CULTURALLY  
CURIOUS"  
FRENCH  
PEOPLE  
TOURISM IRELAND

French visitors saved an otherwise lacklustre 2023 season according to anecdotal feedback from a no. of Sark accommodation providers

*Overheard asking about Sarkese in the tourist office, a visitor directed to the Heritage centre turns out to be a linguist, in the island to learn more about Sarkese.*

*Sark Heritage centre, august 2024.*



## WAYFINDING IN SARKESE ANSWERS FRENCH DESIRE FOR OWN LANGUAGE WHEN VISITING

"The French are keen to have information provided in their own language when in Britain."  
VISIT BRITAIN

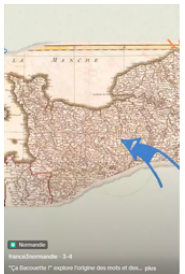
# Sarkese speaks to...la Nŕrmandî

## Le Normand, une langue "sérieusement en danger" selon l'UNESCO

A revival in interest in Norman, classified as an endangered language by Unesco. Estimated 20,000 speakers

### ONGOING NORMANDY INTEREST

- MEDIA Current media projects include a documentary on islands native languages by a French documentary maker



France 3 - doing series on origins of Norman words across social channels : Ça Bacouette ! | TikTok

- LANGUAGE GROUPS & COLLABORATIONS FOR NORMAN INCLUDE THE ISLANDS -they hold café normand, Norman games
- FB group for Normandy languages has 1.4k members

### POTENTIAL TO BOOST REPEAT VISITORS

Growing interest in preserving the Norman languages, particularly from Normandy, makes Sarkese a reason for repeat visits among linguists, and also potential shoulder month appeal people studying the language don't only need to come in season.



MCIS Language Solutions

11 359 abonnés

1 an(s) •

+ Suivre

#Sarkese: One of the most archaic Gallo-Romance languages still in existence; A #language with only three native speakers left.

<https://hubs.ly/Q02IYfZ30>

#languagematters #languagevitalization #languagepreservation

Afficher la traduction



Sarkese: Britain's archaic Norman language

bbc.com

## Sarkese speaks to...Bretons



**REVIVAL OF BRETON LANGUAGE**



# Sarkese speaks to...the sister isles

## Ġérnezý

APPENDIX ONE



Ellen Groves • Vous  
Journalist and writer  
1 an(s) •

It's the closest living language to the Norman conquerors. It gave 300 million French speakers a new word for octopus "pieuvre," with a messenger called Victor Hugo. A window into another time like the small Channel Island of Sark itself, merci Olivier Clerc at Ouest-France for this brilliant report about the guardian of Sarkese: the Czech linguist, Martin Neurdörfel who is teaching the island's schoolchildren their native language in a bid to revive l'Sérçè and save the culture that is lost if we lose a language.

#sark #sercq #languages #langue #iles #iles anglo-normandes



olivier clerc • 1er  
Journaliste - chef de rédaction chez Ouest-France  
1 an(s) • Modifié •

L'histoire belle et incroyable de Martin Neurdörfel, linguiste tchèque, qui se porte au chevet du sercquiais, ce parler normand exclusif et archaïque de ce confetti d'île qu'est Sercq, menacé de disparition et d'oubli publié dans [Ouest-France](#)

Mardi 2 mai 2023



### REVIVAL & GREATER FINANCING OF GUERNESIAIS



#### Guernsey Language Commission

19 h •

Tchiques Ditaons - Some Sayings... [En voir plus](#)



Guernsey People Have Your Say!  
All-star contributor Marc Winn • 3d •

#### Rediscovering Indigenous Wisdom Through Our Local Sayings

Language shapes the way we see the world. Our additional Guernsey sayings—Tchiques Ditaons—carry wisdom that has guided generations. But as life accelerates, have we lost sight of this timeless guidance?

Arrête pour d'aoutes, arrête éenne achie.  
They who wait for others, wait an age.

C'est qui sra pas fait ogniet, sra fait d'moin.  
That which is not done today will be done tomorrow.

Ne aen pas ogniet et l'aoute demoïn.  
Do not go a step today and another tomorrow.

Ne prend ni caonte ni taille.  
He takes no notice (count nor tally).

AUDIENCE 3000+ impressions on  
Linkedin post including interactions  
from Guernsey and Sark

# Sarkese speaks to...the sister isles Jêrý

APPENDIX ONE

where Sarkese originates

Sark was colonised by 40 families from St. Ouën, Jersey, in the C16th. Sèrtchais is therefore a development of Jèrriais even though Sark is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey

ANY ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF INTEREST  
FROM JERSEY.

Publication de Blue Ormer



Blue Ormer

3 mai 2023 · 🌐

Martin Neudorfl has hit the headlines in Ouest France with his efforts to revitalise Sercquiais.

Martin is co-author of "Sark Sayings", published by Blue Ormer.



L'Office Du Jèrriais ▶ LANGUE NORMANDE

L'Office Du Jèrriais · 2 mai 2023 · 🌐

"Une langue belle et douce et agréable à l'oreille comme le serait un parler elfique sorti du *Seigneur des anneaux*, une langue comme tout droit sortie de la nuit des temps, tracée en runes antiques sur des pierres polies par les âges. C'est presque une musique et c'est bien une langue"  
<https://www.ouest-france.fr/culture/histoire/reportage-ce-jeune-tcheque-au-chevet-dune-vieille-langue-normande-fc896e88-d301-11ed-9078-c96e51806d43>

LOCAL MEDIA LOVES THE SARKESE  
STORY - ITV, BAILIWICK EXPRESS, GP,  
BBC

# MOSTLY UNEXPLORED ASSET IN LOCAL TOURISM



Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd

19 h · 🌐

It's time for our Sercquiais saying of the week!

Un jhva ki n'a pâ jhamê manjîb d'avéne ne s'an va pâ avě grânt'yère  
 "A horse that hasn't eaten his oats isn't going to be very quick."

☀️🌟 What fuels you to prepare for the week ahead, the thought of booking your holiday in Sark perhaps?..

#SarkIsland



Isle of Sark Shipping Company Ltd

2,8 K J'aime • 3,1 K followers

Nous contacter

Suivi(e)

Message

## LOCAL TOURISM POTENTIAL FOR WRITTEN SARKESE

### ♥ Using the language

A language survives as long as it is actively spoken, cherished, and evolving. In today's world, however, one of the many aspects of a language being truly alive is its visual presence and use in public. Sarkese, in order to survive in the new era has to retake its rightful place as the native language of the island not only via education, but also through its open use by the community, which at the moment, represents the island's completely unexplored asset in local tourism – written Sarkese, on signs, leaflets, souvenirs or menus, be it simple words, phrases, names or texts, automatically attracts the attention of tourists, interested in local heritage, for its exotic nature and direct connection to the history, past and Norman identity of the island. We provide translations and consultations for the community.



**2025** REPUBLICATION OF *TOILERS OF THE SEA* **April 2025**  
 Puts Sark at the heart - *reclaim the octopus.*

**2026** 160th ANNIVERSARY OF *TOILERS OF THE SEA*  
 Puts Sark at the heart

As the story long told itself, Hugo used the Guernésais word for octopus 'peuvre.' But it's Sarkese "pieuvre."

Chance for Sark to both reclaim the octopus and celebrate the stories of its caves.



**2027** YEAR OF lê Nۆrmān  
 Puts Sark at the heart

Martin suggested immersion experiences in the closest living language to the Norman conquerors...the most archaic form of medieval French.



Alderney tapestry

***Sark is the heart  
of the islands.***

***Sarkese  
is the soul.***

# *“Man non ê Ellen”*

Guernsey-born, Paris-based communications professional with two decades of experience across culture, lifestyle, travel, music and beyond.

Cultural & press relations specialised in the îles anglo-normandes.



ELLEN GROVES

Conseil en communication  
Spécialiste des îles anglo-normandes



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Mérsî ben dê fê, é á bĕtô!



