A BIT OF A RANT

I cannot believe it is already that time of year again! We’re counting shopping days until Christmas (which of course will increase as Sunday Trading takes effect). Since last we spoke the big news of course is the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency by the Government. This has very effectively thrown the cat amongst the pigeons, so with the item high on the political agenda we feel our efforts place us well to contribute to its success and a greener future for the island.

The States Government (It’s going to take a while to get used to the change) is working on policy to introduce worthwhile and effective plans for the island to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and a significant part of that should be achieved through environment based efforts. No matter what though, relentless growth within a limited space is impossible, and long before we’re absolutely full to capacity, everything we value will have suffered or been lost, so despite all of everyone’s grand efforts, I have to say that my true fear is of continued population growth on the island. It has already led to almost every square inch of the island being designated or classified; homes, commercial, agriculture etc., and nature is more and more having to fight to squeeze in to whatever is left.

The National Park, if properly constituted, could take the coastline "off the table" and free it from political influence in the future, but we must be aware of the classic National Park dilemma; Being granted a National Park strengthens the argument for compromises elsewhere. Anywhere there are National Parks, there are corresponding areas of total loss of habitat nearby. National Parks become sanctuaries. So, whatever happens we must get our National Park, but not at the cost of our pastoral environments, which need immense support right now or we could end up with no wilderness on the island at all, as with almost all natural spaces now we need a pathway through them to allow us to “appreciate them”, which some of us will do, with our dogs, and probably then not pick up after them.

I know this is contentious. We are at last addressing our environment concerns on an island level, but they will be for nought if population growth isn’t confronted too. It is a balance, and we cannot have it all at on one side of the scales.

And whatever it takes, it will take a brave man* to do it.

Gerard Farnham

*Figuratively speaking of course. Historically many of the bravest men in politics have actually been women.
TREES NURSERY

We are very pleased to be in the process of setting up a tree nursery at The Howard Davis Farm thanks to facilities made available by The Environment Department. We will be using this to grow seeds collected from local native trees with known provenance for use in future planting campaigns.

The beauty of having locally sourced trees is that it affords us a level of bio-security whilst providing a great learning and participation opportunity for our students and volunteers. Also, trees that we cannot import because of disease can be grown here such as Ash, and now Oak from certain areas and should other diseases migrate this way we will be better prepared to deal with any issues.

We will also be able to experiment with some more challenging trees to grow, including some of the most rare species of trees in the Arboretum at Val de la Mare.

The schools have begun seed collections and to make it easier we have produced a Seed Calendar with a basic support pack for education projects, and Seed Collecting bags in a range of sizes. The Seed Calendar can be downloaded from the website and seed bags are available from the office.

AGM DAY

This year we changed the format of our AGM day a little by having the AGM earlier in the afternoon, followed by a guided walk and talk at Val de la Mare Arboretum, and then the barbecue back at the Frances Le Sueur Centre in the evening.

It allowed us to separate the items of interest for members, and for those that stayed for the walk or came for the evening it allowed us more time to prepare.

The walk in the Arboretum went very well. Guided by Nick Armstrong we walked down the centre of the Arboretum to the Amphitheatre site at the foot of the new Chinese section where Glynn Mitchell gave a very interesting short talk on the microbiology of the area and the importance in general of a healthy microbial and fungal ecosystem.
POLLINATOR PROJECT

We have been participating in the Pollinator Project this year helping create more pollinator patches around the island. We left the majority of both Adelina Wood and Val de la Mare un-strimmed this year and created wonderful colourful areas ideal for insects.

IN THE NEWS

You may have noticed our friends at The National Park busy in the news this Autumn as they are now joining us at The Frances Le Sueur Centre, hopefully in making downstairs an Information Centre and Headquarters. This doesn’t affect us and our offices but hopefully it will add to the overall appreciation of the area, the environment and the outdoors in general.

THE CHEAP TREE SCHEME

The Cheap Tree Scheme is active at this time of year with our range of tree and hedging whips broadening and still mostly costing £1 or less. Our planting product range is now entirely biodegradable so mulch mats, spirals and pegs for the mats are all certifiably biodegradable. The cost is a tiny bit higher in materials but it provides a huge saving in labour when it would normally be time to go out and remove and dispose of plastic waste.

As we are buying trays for tree seed germination for the Nursery we will also have included in the scheme “Rootrainers”, extra deep tree germination trays for seeds to grow long tap roots before being planted out.

Details are available on the website.
The Jersey Hedgerow Campaign is now in its twelfth year! and to celebrate we are just planting more than ever! We have also produced maps and posters for general information and our education programme and are enhancing our planting techniques to broaden their effectiveness to suit wildlife.

We are going to be especially needing volunteers this year so if you are interested please watch out for our volunteer days - details will be on Facebook. For more information look at our website where you can see where we’ve planted over the years and what data we are now working with in our current planting plans.

WOODLAND DONATIONS

We have been talking of acquiring woodland to protect and nurture natural habitats on the island and in just a few months we have received several pledges of land for the Association. We are really thrilled with this, it will give us the opportunity to develop and teach woodland management skills as well as planting opportunities and more ways for volunteers and students to participate. As they become available we will reveal more. But a sincere Thank You to those that have made these amazing gestures so far.
Thank You

Good grief - lots of Thank You’s this time: Trevor Lee of ProFreight once again for the very generous help with shipping. Huge thank you to the TMF Group for making us one of their chosen charities for the Island Walk. BNP Paribas for their ongoing incredible support. The Co-op Centenary fund and Eco-fund, Nigel Campbell of Mercury Distribution, The Howard Davis Farm Fund, Lord and Lady Brownlow, Waitrose (twice!) Nigel Blandin and 4Hire The States Eco-fund, Jeremy Johnson (More about Jeremy next time), The Condor Community Fund, and James Averty who ran 800km - a marathon a day across France to raise money for the Arboretum!

WORK EXPERIENCE

We also had Ella join us for two weeks during her college holidays. Ella is studying Environmental Sciences at Greenhead College.

“I had an amazing week with some really inspirational people who were extremely passionate about what they were doing. Meeting and working with these guys really inspired me to follow my passions in environmental sciences. Every day was fun and different, I learnt many new and interesting things, which gave me a new outlook on forests and the wildlife and ecosystems that surrounds me ever day.”

PROJECT TRIDENT

Josh, Moses, and Pearl have all joined us for their Project Trident assignments this year. We try really hard to ensure their experience with us is worthwhile which we think we’ve done, but equally we’ve been really thrilled with the effort and dedication they have all shown in their time with us too.
**VOLUNTEERS:**
*Groups and Individuals*

RBSI 17 Volunteer sessions!
Ogier Volunteer sessions
Rowney Sharman - Hedgerow Campaign
Ports of Jersey - Hedgerow Campaign
IQEQ - Hedgerow Campaign
TFL Open Morning Volunteer Groups
Alex Williams - Hedgerow Campaign

**RUBIS 2020 CALENDAR**

This year, for a change, we are doing something different with the Rubis Calendar. We are using images taken through the year for our “Photos of the Day” so that along with Guernsey Trees for Life we can illustrate our work and projects.

Once again a grateful thanks to RUBiS for partnering with us and Guernsey Trees For Life.

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Christmas Lunch*
St. Brelade’s Bay Hotel
19th December, 1:00pm

**SUPPORTING TREES FOR LIFE**
*Become a JTfL member*

As a member you know you are helping us to carry on the work we do for you for the island.

Individual membership is £30 a year
Corporate membership is £300 a year.

Or, you can pick your own amount and pay whatever you like monthly or annually by visiting [www.jerseytreesforlife.org](http://www.jerseytreesforlife.org), clicking on 'Donate' and simply filling in the Direct Debit form. You can also donate at The Co-op with our share number: 338844.

**POST VANS**
*Have you spotted them?*

You can’t exactly miss them! We sponsored the electric post vans this year to help get our messages out about the environment and raise awareness on some of our projects like wildlife corridors to help bats, birds, small mammals including hedgehogs. Also our squirrel bridges, volunteer days, education programme and work experience opportunities.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Our Christmas Cards are available to purchase through the website or from the Frances Le Sueur Centre. Individual cards - £1.50, 10 pack (5 of each design) - £10.00.

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

In the past some members have offered to help with Christmas raffle prizes so if you can donate we’d be very grateful. Please contact the office.

**HOLLY BERRIES**

Traditions are especially nice at Christmas. We should have some holly berry sprigs available - carefully collected not to destroy winter wildlife food sources.
Membership includes:

- A one hour consultation with Tree Surgeon Mark McCarroll. Mark is an expert in the care of native trees.
- 10% discount on tree surgery labour costs
- A copy of the book Trees In Jersey to help you identify species.
- The opportunity to become involved in tree planting programmes and activities.
- Opportunity to attend events including the AGM and summer barbecue and Christmas luncheon.
- Twice yearly newsletter and email updates with progress reports and items of interest.

And for every donation of £50 or more, JTfL can claim 25% tax back, making your donation even more valuable to us.

Visit our website for more information and to set up a regular payment by direct debit or contact Sue on 857611 or admin@jerseytreesforlife.org

LEGACIES

November marks Jersey Legacy Week; a reminder of how islanders can make a difference after they are gone through donations to the charitable projects that were important to them.

Legacies are a significant income source for charities, enabling them to undertake work and projects over and above the regular day-to-day activities thus really making a difference to the future of the island, its environment, and its residents.

Our projects and activities are growing tremendously now and leaving a legacy to Trees for Life will ensure our work protecting and planting trees and providing an island wide educating programme for all age groups can continue.

If you’d like to discuss leaving a legacy in your will we’d really love to hear from you. Legacies can be anonymous and any discussion about these opportunities will be in the strictest confidence.

ABOUT JTfL

Jersey Trees for Life (JTfL) is a registered charity (formally Jersey Association of the Men of the Trees) providing protection and care for trees in Jersey as well as education regarding their value and importance locally.

JTfL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Chairman: Gerard Farnham  
Vice Chairman: Anna Robertson  
Hon. Treasurer: Greg Bestwick  
Hon. Secretary: Helen Pulley  
Committee members: Joy Carry, Joel Freire, Phillip Le Brocq, Terence Thuillier & Nick Armstrong  
Tree Surgeon: Mark McCarroll  
Senior Community Fundraiser: Beverley Dallas-Chapman  
Education Officer: Karen Painter  
Administration Officer: Sue Harvey  
Outdoor Volunteer Coordinator: Robin Hart  
Groundsmen: Ricky Walklett (Climber) Lee Tucker, & Josh Francis

CONTACT US

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