



# **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2014 SECTION REPORTS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Logo designed by Brian Johns

# LA SOCIÉTÉ SERCQUAISE

## Annual General Meeting

Friday 27th March at 5.15 pm in the Sark Heritage Room.

1. Apologies.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 28th March 2014
3. **Matters arising.**
4. **Hon Secretary's report.** JB
5. **Hon Membership Secretary's report.** SG
6. **Hon Director's report** on the Room. RA JN
- 7 (a) **Hon Treasurer's report.** Banking arrangements. CE  
(b) **Report on Restoration Account.** RA
8. **Receive Group Reports for 2014.**
9. **Election of officers and council.**

**Nominations for offices and council should be sent to the Hon Secretary in advance of the meeting**, with indication of the nominee's willingness to serve.  
(The Council is made up of (a)+(b)+(c) with power to co-opt.)

Hon Secretary to report nominations received.

The following offer themselves for re-election:

(a) The officers: Jo Birch: Hon Secretary; Sue Guille: Hon Membership Secretary; Chris Elgie: Hon Treasurer.

(b) Room Committee: Richard Axton: Director and Librarian; Jane Norwich: Deputy Director; Susan Synnott: Keeper of Herbarium. (+ Hon Sec).

(c) Additional Council members: Sue Daly, Rosanne Guille, Jeremy La Trobe-Bateman, Andrew Prevel.

### 10. **Section** leaders and contacts.

Currently: Archaeology: Andrew Prevel 832320 & Richard Axton 832570  
Botany: Susan Synnott 832314  
Entomology: Rosanne Guille 832418  
Family History: Jane Norwich 832715  
Geology: Roger Norwich 832715  
History: Richard Axton 832570  
Language: Richard Axton 832570  
Marine: Sue Daly 832175  
Meteorology: Roy Cook 832057  
Ornithology: Recorder: Lynda Higgins 832320

### 11. **Exhibitions** and events. Calendar for 2015. **SARK 450**

Proposals for talks, visits, field work etc.

### 12. **Restoration and conservation projects.**

### 13. **Sark Heritage Room and Cider Barn roster.** Arrangements. SS

### 14. **Spring clean.** Set a date.

### 15. **A.O.B.**

## DOMESTIC REVIEW

2014 has been a notably active year. We completed restoration of the Manoir Barn and took possession of a 20-year lease. Twice as many visitors (1600) as last year came into our museum, thanks to extended opening by record numbers of volunteers. The good health of our finances has, ironically, led some members to neglect their subscriptions – a temporary lapse easily corrected! We researched and prepared exhibitions on Sark Wildflowers, Art and Archaeology, Sark Fishing, World War I, and the Cider Barn, among others. We produced a complex wall chart of Sark Tenements, the result of many years' documentary research, land surveying and digital mapping. We published an official footpath map for Sark Tourism and prepared for Chief Pleas quantities of data in map form relating to land use.

We supported a tenth year of prehistoric archaeology by Sir Barry Cunliffe's Oxford team and hosted visiting scholars, journalists and film makers in many areas of history, in botany, meteorology and linguistics. We supported the junior Wildlife Watch Group in their litter-picks and butterfly walks and history projects.

Our collection of books and pamphlets, photographs and film material continued to grow from donations. We commissioned the construction of two long trestle tables and purchased galvanised steel racking and 64 storage boxes for the mezzanine in the Barn. We began a major reorganisation of our holdings and displays. We held two winter gatherings 'round the fire' in the Barn, with food and drink, seasonal poems, songs and knitting – a revival of the old Sark veillies which looks set to continue.

We continue to welcome new friends and to cherish the memory of old ones. Felicity Belfield will be remembered in a display of Sark rocks at the Cider Barn. Roger Norwich has become leader of the Geology section. Penny Prevel has left a vivid legacy of her biological interests in the articles posted on our website. Lynda Higgins has agreed to take over as Recorder of Birds.

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

### Archaeology. Tenth year of excavations

Andrew Prevel's winter field-walking turned up lots of flint scatter on ploughland above Convanche. Sir Barry Cunliffe confirmed the possibility of it being a Neolithic site worth pilot excavation in 2015. The Society paid for radio carbon dating of three samples from two previous excavations. In June Barry reported that the Gaudinerie site (with the 'ritual' terrace sealed by beachstones) dates from 4300 BC - some 2000 years older than we thought. The Bronze Age occupation of the Tanquerel site lasted from about 1300 to about 900 BC. Much later (from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC), coins from the site (and the Sark Hoard) show it was used for votive deposits. Excavations were made from 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June, with Andrew and me joining the team. Mapping the **Bronze Age settlement** north of the Mill continued with two large trenches in the northern Tanquerel field. Andrew prepared the site superbly, with a tent (thanks to Gavin Nicolle) and a loo (thanks to Ray Lowe). On the 19<sup>th</sup> Barry explained the exposed features to a gathering of about fifty enthusiasts around the sun-baked trenches. The settlement, whose north boundary was located last year, extends to the east further than was previously thought. The Tanquerel site will now be closed for future generations of archaeologists. One subject of future excavations, starting in 2015, is to locate Sark's Iron Age/Roman occupation sites.

**Finds** for 2014 include more copper ingots, many fragments of large earthenware pots (one of them a possible candidate for reconstruction) and carvings in local serpentine: one intriguing piece has been variously identified as 'oak leaf', 'cockroach' and 'Sark Venus'.

The team divided to explore various puzzles around **La Seigneurie**. Three separate small trenches were dug to establish medieval ground levels and to reveal the route of the cobbled (?medieval/Elizabethan) road and gutter running WSW past the end of the Great Wall.

Susan and David Synnott gave a splendid supper party for the team and generous local sponsors.

In **November** Barry returned for a week to study finds and survey fresh projects; Simon made pen drawings of more potsherds and Pippa sifted soil samples for seed content. Emma Durham was prevented by illness from coming to mark the pottery for storage. The large volume of earthenware crated in the Old Hall and in the Heritage Room is destined for the Cider Barn, where storage boxes sit on galvanised steel shelving awaiting Emma's return.

Not all members may be aware that the 2014 excavations were funded by the generosity of a small group of individuals in Sark. By continued and additional support we hope to keep world-class archaeology going in Sark for some years to come.

### **Excavations proposed by Barry for June 2015**

**South of Plaisance near la Coupée.** This is potentially an important neolithic site since Andrew's field walking produced three polished stone rings, one from W. Brittany and one from Normandy as well as a lot of flint. This may be a high status settlement of the same period as the ritual monument at Gaudinerie (near the old cemetery) which we now know to date to 4300 BC

**Clos de la Tour.** Building work by Andrew produced a hearth associated with Roman pottery. Other isolated Roman finds concentrate in the immediate vicinity of **Le Vert** hinting that there may have been a nucleated settlement here in the Roman period. Trial excavations close to Andrew's discoveries would be designed to test the nature and extent of Roman occupation

**The Mill mound.** The mill is built on a considerable mound. One possibility is that there was a pre-existing mound, possibly a prehistoric burial mound in origin, which was attractive to the mill builders. If so it might be associated with the nearby Bronze Age settlement or its Late Iron Age ritual reuse. A trial trench at the southern entrance should be sufficient to test this point.

**Little Sark.** To test if the big standing stone is in its original position and if it can be dated. There were several sherds of prehistoric pottery loose nearby.

**La Seigneurie.** There are some unresolved problems.

If you can help to sponsor the 2015 dig please get in touch with Richard Axton (832570, [raxton@guernsey.net](mailto:raxton@guernsey.net))

### **HISTORY AND CONSERVATION**

The old Guardhouse above the Eperquerie Landing was the focus of our work in autumn 2014. It continues a project begun two years ago to conserve Sark's historic fortifications (repair of the mantlet tower at the Butts and clearing the promontory fort wall for a new footpath).

Armed with saws and sickles, loppers, rakes and brush cutters, the November party removed some ferocious gorse and brambles to reveal the stonework. The brush was stowed in the quarry on the south side of the ruined *garde*. Beside the collapsed chimney is a well preserved lamp nook.

Traces of an oven showed as a grassy buttress on the north side. The whole cliff area between the two benches has now been cleared of scrub, to reveal the socket for the *vraic* hoist mast and the concrete foundations for the cable winch that hauled seaweed from the beach.

The date and original purpose of the building have not been known for sure. It now looks almost certain that it was not part of the French fortifications in 1549-52, but is the only survivor of four guardhouses built in the 1790s, when invasion from France seemed imminent and the island was heavily militarised. Nightly watches were kept by Sark militiamen until Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century French defensive wall used to run across the path and it continues beneath the cannon turning down towards the Landing. Around 1793 this bit of the wall was demolished to provide stone for the new guardhouse. Other precautions included wooden gates in the great wall and cannon around the cliffs. Fear of French invasion kept Sark's militia active on the Eperquerie during the 19<sup>th</sup> century till its Lieutenant Colonel, Seigneur W.T. Collings died in 1882. When the *garde* no longer had a military use, it was lived in.

Peter Guille and I returned after Christmas to excavate further. The floor was only earth. Under heaped stones and rotten timbers, picnic rubbish and gorse litter, we found the base of the walls:

large foundation stones were set on decayed gravel that had been levelled. On the north wall we uncovered the square hearth stones of the original fireplace. Then bits of broken brick (Victorian) and coal began to appear. The right-hand side the fireplace has been narrowed by insertion of a large block of concrete. This must have been done when the original fireplace (intended only to warm the Militiamen on their night watches) was adapted to make a gorse oven for a household. Building a brick oven built into the base caused the original stone chimney to collapse before the rest of the wall.

An old postcard of La Garde in the 1930s shows it thatched and habitable. The Hamon family lived there till the Occupation and their Dorothy Perkins rambler rose flourishes still. The first habitation recorded is in the 1871 Census: a house No.44 ('Eperquerie') occupied by a family of ten. Thomas De Carteret (40, fisherman), his wife Elizabeth Le Sauvage of Guernsey (35), Elizabeth (15, 'housekeeper'), Thomas (11), Mary (9), Nicolas (8), Adolfus (7), John (5) all 'scholars', William (3) and Frederick (1). It makes sense for a fisherman to live so close to the Landing.

In 1901 the Census lists 'La Garde' as house No.38, occupied by Peter Carré (62, farm labourer), his wife Nancy (59, washerwoman), Peter (24, 'sailor seas'), Elan (28, labourer), Henry (20, farm labourer), Hilary (18, ditto), Allan (11, 'scholar'), Stephen (9) and James (6). Seven sons. In the Census of 1911 Nancy (69) was head of household, though not widowed, having had 10 children, five of them still living. Three middle-aged sons Henry, Stephen and James (all farm labourers) were still single, and Nancy had taken in a boarder, a simple 11 year-old lad from Guernsey. Such cramped conditions were common in Victorian Sark: one room of stone and earth with a timber loft for the children to sleep under straw thatch. What was unusual about La Garde is its previous history and its location – remote, beside the quarry and *vraic* hoist above the Landing, but at one of the busy centres of the island's economic activity.

### **German gun emplacement**

Prompted by aerial photographs, Kevin Adams undertook major excavation on La Valette common above Maseline Jetty to reveal the full extent of an anti-aircraft gun emplacement. With the help of Bailey Gill and Flynn Martin from Sark School, Kevin has moved about seventy tons of earth that covered a circular platform, largely paved with dark granite setts, and some small underground ammunition stores. Though Sark was not greatly fortified by the German forces, more has survived than most people realise. This is a spectacular major contribution to the Occupation heritage as we go into the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liberation.

Richard Axton

## **BOTANY 2014**

Even though the Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) can brighten the hedgerows from as early as January, it is discovering the first Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) which is really thrilling, especially when they appear in great numbers, and this year didn't disappoint. At some places, particularly by Pilcher Monument and L'Eperquerie headland, it was hard to avoid standing on some, there were so many.

Two nice sedges were noted in spring also, Spring-sedge (*Carex caryophyllea*), not that common, along a hedgerow at the north of the island, and Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) near the dovecote at La Seigneurie. The latter plant was last seen in 1996 near the chapel at La Seigneurie, and earlier recordings of it were also at the Seigneurie, near the duck pond in 1978 and near the main gate in 1991. It has certainly moved around!

Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora* ssp. *congesta*), recorded near the Spring-sedge, was registered in 1957 by the Uppingham School Field Club. Amazingly, a second plant was found near the old guard house and cannon on L'Eperquerie when Anne Haden was visiting from Jersey. On her visit also a Common Water-starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), not often seen and never recorded there before, was noted near La Ville Farm in a damp area, and Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*) was growing profusely in an abandoned garden nearby. In that area also were Sharp-flowered Fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*) which only occurs occasionally, along with Greater Quaking-grass (*Briza maxima*).

A lovely variety of grasses (*Poaceae*) was found in a field off Rue Lucas during the warm summer, including Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and a Bread Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), rarely recorded; the last was ten years ago near Grand Beauegard. Plenty of Toad Rush (*Juncus bufonius*) was also in evidence.

Edric Baker alerted me to Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) growing at Rouge Terrier where he had never seen it before. It was unbelievable to see so many plants spread over the cliff side, and impossible to count them all. Nature is so strange in the way plants suddenly colonise a place, this time like an invasion. It will be interesting to see if they are there in 2015. On this visit also the Rock Sea-lavender (*Limonium binervosum* ssp. *sarniense*) was thriving just above the landing, mixed with plenty of Golden-samphire (*Inula crithmoides*), giving a nice colour mix with Wild carrot (*Daucus carota* ssp. *carota*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*) and the drying flowerheads of Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) making a splendid rocky garden.

Another plant to have colonised is Moth Mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*) at La Jaspellerie. First seen in 2011 it has spread considerably over the waste ground. Also of interest on that site were Weld (*Reseda luteola*) and Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), the latter first recorded there in 1996. Another plant which used to be fairly frequent but is now only occasional is Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), so it was nice to see a large patch growing in a field near La Genetière, alongside the bright yellow flowers of Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), a rarity for Sark. Tansy was first noted in that field in 1990, and may have been there since, unnoticed because it was mowed.

A visit by Rob Waterman and Carolyn Helyar produced an interesting find, in a triangular field in Little Sark. As it was not in full bloom it was difficult to make out, but final determination revealed a Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) which is very rare. The only other time it was recorded in Sark was in 1988; then it was in a garden and thought to be from bird seed.

Sark now has on Digimap a plant layer of historical and most recent botanical finds. Thanks to Julia Henney for sending the records over from Guernsey, and to Jane Norwich for actually creating a plant layer on Digimap. Plant recordings are now easier with an android phone app, as one can record walking around the island. All this information can be transferred to computer and finally transmitted to Digimap. Important or first records are forwarded to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI).

Early in the year Marie Axton, a wonderful and knowledgeable companion for botanising with her husband Richard when I first arrived in Sark, died peacefully after a long illness. Then just before Christmas Penny Prevel, who was involved in setting up the first Wild Flower Walks for tourism in 2004, passed away too. A sad end to the year for many in Sark, but these walks have continued every year since then, with Penny leading until 2011. She has inspired several people to carry on with the tradition.

Roger Veall has also been very much part of the wild flower walks, but alas, he and Psyche no longer visit the island due to his difficulty in mobility. Roger has retired as BSBI recorder for Sark, a role he has played since 1995, keeping the botanical records meticulously up to date on his visits each year. I have taken over this role and would like to record my sincere thanks to Roger and Psyche for their noble work over many years.

Susan Synnott

## **Digimap Report**

Chief Pleas are continuing to support the work by paying this year's license and we have applied to be included in next year's budget. Our thanks go to Chief Pleas for this. We are now approaching 500 hours of work done since installation of the programme.

Work has been done for DCC, Douzaine, Agriculture, Tourism, Harbours and Pilotage as well as individual requests. The correcting of house names and postcodes has been completed, the results of which will gradually filter through due to the liaising of Guernsey Post and Digimap.

Dr Christopher Young, who is undertaking the initial World Heritage Status report, was provided with layers related to early tenement, *territoires* and the location of sites that would have been familiar to Helier De Carteret. The layout of the early tenement houses, wells and roads were also supplied.

The 450<sup>th</sup> school project of a map of Sark, edged with needlecraft panels is well underway. The central map template was very kindly provided by the team at Digimap based on the work done for the World Heritage Status report.

The Habitat Survey undertaken by Julia Henney has just been completed and is available to view on the computer. It is hoped a hard copy will be available soon. We do not have A1 printing facilities on Sark.

Current work includes Land Use 2015, the Wet Layer and refinements to the historic and archaeological layers. The Cadastre Black Book updating has been delayed due to the WHS work, but hopefully will be complete by the next AGM.

## **Family History**

The usual steady flow of requests from visitors to the Heritage Room and via email has continued as usual this year. The most important part of a request is the period of time we are asked to help with. Pre-1900 is relatively straightforward in that we have the transcribed registers. 1900 onwards depends if they were baptised, married, died or committed a crime!

Looking at the Sark Deportees in preparation of the forthcoming exhibition has been very interesting. In all 60 Sark residents were sent to the camps. Many were UK or American born, but we also had some Guernsey born as well as the Sark born deportees. Tracking down their origins as well as where they lived on Sark has been quite a trail through the archives here, Guernsey and the on-line sites. Family History really is addictive!

Hopefully some more work will be done on the early settlers of the Elizabethan period between now and the early summer to aid the exhibitions for the 450<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Jane Norwich

## **GEOLOGY**

I have taken up the reins of the Geology Section from Felicity. Her shoes will be hard to fill with her local knowledge and enthusiasm.

Through contacts outside Sark I have been working on getting outside speakers and researchers to come to Sark. I am hopeful that one lecturer, currently based in Canada, will over this summer to prepare a paper on the minerals found on Sark. Hopefully there will be the opportunity for some informal but detailed talks whilst he is here, as well as some guided walks.

I am working through Felicity's geological samples and hope to add to the displays available in the room, as well as providing some pamphlets for the residents and visitors alike.

I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead".

Roger Norwich

## ENTOMOLOGY by Rosanne Byrne

A long hot summer aided my first year as recorder in the entomology section for the Société Sercquaise. Having got to grips with the moth trap, I started setting it in early March and continued through until the end of July. According to Roger Long in Jersey I trapped seven firsts for Sark throughout 2014 and many on the list were only seen once or twice before. In mid June Roger stayed at our house (Maison Rouge) where I do most of my trapping. The moths in bold type are firsts for Sark. They are listed from March in order of date captured (before releasing).

Spotted Border	Heart & Dart	Smoky Wainscot
<b>Satellite</b>	Small Angle Shades	Humming Bird Hawk
Early Grey	Small Fan-footed Wave	Coronet
<b>Oak Beauty</b>	Orange Footman	White Arches
Early Thorn	Small Fan Foot	Light Arches
Hebrew Character	<b>Small Yellow Wave</b>	Peach Blossom
Common Quaker	Straw Dot	Orache
Waved Umber	Sandy Carpet	Dot Moth
<b>Twin-spotted Quaker</b>	Buff Arches	The Fan Foot
Pod Lover	Scalloped Hazel	Least Carpet
Red Chestnut	<b>L-Album Wainscot</b>	Rosy Footman
Garden Tiger	White Plume moth	Riband Wave
Clouded Drab	Heart & Club	Common Rustic
Small Quaker	Garden Pebble	Common Wainscot
Emperor	Blue-bordered Carpet	Magpie
Powdered Quaker	Lackey	Jersey Tiger
Marbled Coronet	Setaceous Hebrew Character	Cream Spot Tiger
Muslim Moth	Pale Mottled Willow	Purple Bar Carpet
Silver-ground Carpet	Purple Clay	True Lover's Knot
Brimstone Moth	Burnished Brass	Lancealis (micro moth)
Shuttle-shaped Dart	Shears	Green Silver Lines
Buff Ermine	The Uncertain	Scoparia
White Ermine	Barred Red	Twenty-plume moth
Poplar Hawk Moth	Small Magpie	Marbled Green
Privet Hawk moth	Bright Line Brown Eye	Dark Grey Dagger (agg.)
<b>Jersey Mocha</b>	Flame Shoulder	Four Spot Footman
Lychnis	Small Square Spot	
White-point	Swallow Prominent	
Peppered Moth	Grey Pine Carpet	
Pale Tussock	Common Wave	
Common Swift	Light Emerald	
Ingrailed Clay	Pyrausta despicata	
<b>Broken-barred Carpet</b>	Celypha lacunana	
Marbled Minor	Garden Carpet	
Brussels Lace	Gypsonoma sociana	
Dark Arches	Scalloped Oak	
Large Yellow Underwing	Common Footman	
Common White Wave	Yellow Tail	
Willow Beauty	Brown Tail	
Vine's Rustic	Grey Dagger	
Satin Wave		



An excellent year for butterflies, in particular for numbers of Silver-studded Blues on L'Eperquerie and Hogs Back. The children from Sark School Watch Group went on regular wildlife, bat and bug walks and on one walk they were accompanied by David Wedd from Alderney Watch Group. The children (and adults) spent a hugely enjoyable hour watching the Silver-studded blue butterflies on L'Eperquerie. It is now their Sark Watch group logo.

I set up an open Facebook Group called Sark Entomology at the start of April in 2014 so that records could be shared and members could help with identification. Anyone can join and post their sightings and photos so that I can add them to the Society records.

12<sup>th</sup> April, La Maison Rouge – Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)  
Oil Beetles, spiders and ladybirds started to be seen in the hedges around the island.

17<sup>th</sup> April, L'Eperquerie – Green Hairstreaks.

25<sup>th</sup> April, Le Vallon D'Or – 1 Orange Tip seen (male) (*Anthocharis cardamines*)  
Reported by Mike Fawson

31<sup>st</sup> March, Dos D'Ane – One Peacock seen in road at Vieux Clos, one Brimstone seen at Dos D'Ane. One Brimstone seen at Mill Cottage  
Reported by Dr Richard Axton.

10<sup>th</sup> May, L'Eperquerie – Green Hairstreaks and Meadow Browns.

August/Sept – Maison Rouge – Grayling on wall of house seen several times basking in sunshine.

12<sup>th</sup> August, Top path above Port du Moulin – Purple Hairstreak (*Quercusia quercus*)  
Reported by Innes Henry. Butterfly captured in his bare hands, transferred to a jar at Maison Rouge where there was a positive identification by Innes and myself. Innes also saw Brown Argus.

Ian Hall and Andy Smith from Guernsey travel over to Sark at least once a year to record butterflies. During 2014 they came over on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and the following butterflies were recorded at various locations including L'Eperquerie and Hog's Back. Thanks to Ian who posted his butterfly records to me which dated back to 1988.

Large White	Holly Blue	Red Admiral
Small White	Small Tortoiseshell	Peacock
Green-veined White	Dark Green Fritillary	Speckled Wood
Small Copper	Wall	Grayling
Silver-studded Blue (30+)	Gatekeeper	Meadow Brown
Common Blue	Small Heath	

## 2014 Bird report for Sark

January

February

March

RA 3 wheatears Venus Headland on 29<sup>th</sup>.

RA 2 herons navigating by the Mill on 29<sup>th</sup>.

April

RA 1 Pied flycatcher in Ecluse Valley on 18<sup>th</sup>.

LH 2 Ringed ouzels (pair) above path to Port Gorey on 21<sup>st</sup>.

PG 2 Spoonbills flying over Sark, heading in a northwest direction on 30<sup>th</sup>.

May

1st Cuckoo heard on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

LH 1 Red Kite being chased by Herring Gulls at 12 noon above Le Vallon d'Or on 25<sup>th</sup>.

June

July

August

September

RA 1 Black Kite over Beauregard on 26<sup>th</sup>.

RA 1 Stonechat at Eperquerie on 27<sup>th</sup>.

RA 1 Water rail at Eperquerie on 27<sup>th</sup>.

RA 1 Hobby chasing house martins below Point Robert lighthouse on 27<sup>th</sup>.

October

PG 1 Kingfisher at Eperquerie pools on 5<sup>th</sup>.

LH 4 Pied wagtails on St Peter's Church roof.

November

RA 20+ Fieldfares and redwings on 25<sup>th</sup> (much later than last year (31/10)).

WM 1 Firecrest on 29<sup>th</sup>.

December

LH 1 Kingfisher Seigneurie ponds on 7<sup>th</sup>.

SS 1 Brambling (male) on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Footnotes: The report for 2014 is incomplete. Regretfully there were no recorded sightings of the Dartford warblers either on Little Sark or the Eperquerie. The first cuckoo was heard by Hazel Fry at La Fougeraie on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Buzzards, peregrines and ravens were seen throughout the year but not recorded specifically. We did have one or two rarities; particularly the Spoonbills on 30<sup>th</sup> April. It is hoped that the report for 2015 will be more comprehensive.

Spotters – many thanks, keep up your good work.

ND Nicky Dewe BG Brian Garrard CG Colin Golds GG George Guille JG Jan Guy PG Peter Guille RG Reg Guille AP Andrew Prevel FP Felix Paton AR Annabel Raymond WM Wendy Maitland SS Sally Southern

Any sightings are always welcome. Please phone or text (preferable) Lynda Higgins on 07781 100574, or email details of what, where and when to [le\\_vallon\\_dor@cwgsy.net](mailto:le_vallon_dor@cwgsy.net). Many thanks.

## Marine

Dolphins, both common and bottle-nose, are occasionally seen around Sark but the summer of 2014 proved to be exceptional for dolphins. In early July a group of around forty bottle-nose dolphins appeared and were seen most days until well into the autumn. Their numbers varied, dropping to around twenty after a couple of weeks but then increasing again in September. They often played in the bow waves of boats and seemed particularly attracted to the Isle of Sark Shipping Company's ferries, much to the thrill of passengers and crew. They were seen from the shore from both harbours as well as the island's bays and headlands, accompanied delighted canoeists and I had my most exciting marine encounter ever when I slipped in the water and snorkelled for a few minutes among a large group in early autumn. They have also been seen throughout the winter, although less often, and in the last month have again been delighting ferry passengers. Why are they here? I have no idea although there must be food here for them. Will they be around next summer? I do hope so.

Sue Daly

## Meteorology Report for 2014

The year 2014 saw a mild Winter, a warm Spring and a very warm Summer. Here are a few comparisons from our records:-

**Temperatures** – the mean annual temperatures recorded since 1968 is 11.8°C, in 2014 equal with 2011 it was a record 12.9°C. From 1968 (when temperature records began) to the 1990's it averaged around 11.0°C but since then nearer to 12.5°C which would seem to indicate Global Warming on Sark.

**Rainfall** – average since 1952 (when rainfall records began) to 2014 is 811mm so 2014 with 1030mm was not a particularly dry year; the wettest was in 1960 with 1257mm.

**Sunshine** – accurate records only go back to 1996 and the average since then is 2001 hours a year; in 2014 we easily exceeded that with 2161 hours but the record stands at 2170 hours in 2003.

The attached analysis chart gives details of the past year's weather and herewith some interesting statistics-

Warmest day on 18th July at 26.0°C  
Coldest night on 26th March at 3.1°C  
Wettest day on 12th October with 35.1mm of rain  
Sunniest day on 12th June with 15.1hours  
Air frosts – none  
Ground frosts – 5.

Roy Cook

**LA SOCIETE SERCQUAISE**

**BARN RESTORATION FUND**

**1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2012 – 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

**INCOME**

Grant from main account      5,000.00  
Donations                              27,380.78

-----  
£ 32,380.78

**EXPENDITURE**

Main contractor              13,213.30  
Carpentry                              4,202.42  
Eperquerie Project              3,937.45  
Scaffolding                              3,527.16  
Roof                                      1,964.16  
Insurance                              500.00  
Misc. (Gallery Stores,  
IOSPW, Labour,  
Electricity, Gravel,  
Archaeology)                      1371.01

-----  
£ 28,715.50

Surplus Income £3,665.28

.....  
**C. ELGIE**  
**TREASURER**

.....  
**C. LINDSAY**  
**AUDITOR – RBS, GUERNSEY**

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01/03/2014 TO 28/02/2015

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subscriptions	1423.57	Building	2715.25
Donations & Sales	1556.32	Computers	96.08
		Printing & Post	68.79
		Weather Cards	51.00
		Broadband	50.00
		Gallery Stores	141.82
		Wilts CC...X Ray	515.36
		Carbon Dating	702.00
		Advertising. ..Sark Map	250.00
Excess Expenditure	2024.15	Misc..IOSPW,INS,ELECTRIC	413.74
	<b><u>5004.04</u></b>		<b><u>5004.04</u></b>

## BANK ACCOUNT (£)

Opening balance	4186.36
Excess Expenditure	2024.15
<b><u>Closing balance</u></b>	<b><u>2162.21</u></b>

**Barn Restoration Fund £3665.28 @  
28/02/2015**

**C Lindsay...Auditor RBSI,Guernsey**

**C A Elgie**

**Hon Treasurer**