

THE TRUST  
Newsletter

No. 79 Spring 2026



Preserving Guernsey's heritage  
for future generations

[nationaltrust.gg](http://nationaltrust.gg)

# Gazette

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### Online Newsletter

Would you prefer to receive an Online Newsletter rather than a printed copy?

Our Online Newsletter often includes additional information and photographs and is published on our website after the printed publication reaches Members. Please scan the QR code to submit your answer.

Membership cards will be sent by post.

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# President's Report

If there is one topic guaranteed to start a heated debate around the Bailiwick, it is the lack of housing and the connected issues of the increasing urbanisation of our Island and the reduction of our green spaces.

The law establishing the National Trust of Guernsey in 1967 included amongst its objectives and provisions:

- a.** The Preservation and enhancement of natural Beauty...
- d.** The provision, upkeep and improvement and use of open spaces...
- f.** The consideration of Island planning and the planning of towns...

It is clear from this that the States, when they drafted our governing law, clearly envisioned that the Trust had, and would continue to have, a role in all aspects of planning. As you can imagine, the Trust has a delicate line to tread with balancing the often-conflicting demands of providing more houses and the need to preserve our green spaces. Members will quite rightly hold differing views of the relative importance of these two priorities. I well remember at an AGM several years ago, a Member stating that in their opinion the Trust should object to all and every application to build additional housing.



NTG President Mike Brown


On another occasion, a member of the public criticised me on social media when I commented about developers clearing sites prior to submitting a planning application, saying it was alright for me, a house owner, to object to more housing when their children couldn't get onto the housing ladder. Clearly, we cannot please everybody, whatever we do.

So, what are we to do? I will try to articulate the Trust's current thinking and would encourage Members to contact me with their thoughts to enable us to reflect the wishes of the Membership.

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*The Island needs a comprehensive Nature Protection Law.*

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The Island has an overarching plan, the Island Development Plan (IDP), which was arrived at through the democratic process.

This designates certain areas as “Urban Development Areas”. In general, while retaining the right to make exceptional representations, the Trust does not object to applications to build in these areas. On the other hand, we do regularly object to applications to develop sites outside these designated areas. We also engage actively with the States on proposed changes to the IDP, to ensure that green spaces are protected as far as possible.

On a more granular level, we will continue to review every application submitted to the planners and comment or object where we feel appropriate. This will, in the majority of cases, relate (for example) to the conversion of agricultural land to domestic curtilage and the removal of hedges to be replaced by either walls or fences. It will very rarely relate to the design of a property, as we realise this is a matter of personal taste. Many of you, however, who are of my generation, will remember fondly the days of Tom Ogier, who regularly rejected applications which, in his opinion, were not in keeping with the surrounding properties; so perhaps more consideration should be given

to the surrounding buildings and the impact a design has on the urban landscape.

We will continue to maintain a dialogue with both the planning department and the environment committee to seek to influence their thinking to protect the island’s environment, natural beauty and biodiversity. There are voices that say we are wasting our time; that the States are just saying what they think we want to hear, whilst having no intention of delivering meaningful change. I do not believe this to be the case, and I consider it important that we continue to seek to influence States’ policy where we consider it appropriate. The Island needs a comprehensive Nature Protection Law. Amongst other things, the Trust would wish to see legislation limiting the use of artificial grass to sports fields and see its removal from some domestic settings. Dear Reader, you may be relieved that lack of space in this printed publication precludes a longer list of ‘wants’.

Your Council remains committed to the ideals set out in the Trust’s founding charter, and we will continue to work for the protections necessary for the betterment of the Island.

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# Estate Management

With Spring 2026 upon us, we are pleased to bring you the latest news from across our heritage properties. From exciting restoration work to forthcoming events and activities, it is shaping up to be a busy and rewarding season for the Trust.

## Storm Damage Across Our Properties

Like many properties across the Island, a number of Trust buildings were affected by Storm Goretti at the start of the New Year. Fortunately, we are grateful to report that the damage across our property portfolio was relatively minor and that our buildings generally stood up well to the challenging weather conditions.

The issues we encountered most frequently were fallen roof tiles, broken windows, damaged signage and minor roof damage to smaller outbuildings. Thanks to prompt inspections following the storm, these issues were quickly identified, allowing us to take early action to prevent further deterioration.

Storm events such as this highlight the importance of ongoing maintenance and regular condition monitoring across our properties. By investing in preventative care and responding swiftly when issues arise, we can help ensure that our historic buildings

continue to be resilient in the face of increasingly extreme weather.

We would like to thank staff, volunteers and contractors who responded quickly in the aftermath of the storm.

## 26 Cornet Street: Major Roof Restoration Project

Our flagship property, 26 Cornet Street, is set to undergo essential roof repairs and associated building works in 2026. The scope of works includes comprehensive roof repairs to address significant water ingress that has been affecting the building from the top floor downwards.

The project will involve stripping existing roof coverings, repairing and treating timber work, rebuilding sections of masonry and chimneys and re-laying both salvaged and new clay pantiles. Dormer windows will be refurbished and new insulated breather membranes installed.

Our architects, CCD Architects, are currently reviewing the proposed roof construction to ensure optimal thermal performance. We are working towards finalising a start date as soon as possible and will keep members informed as the project progresses.

## A New Chapter at the Shop

We are delighted to welcome Liz Torode as the new Shop Manager at our Victorian Shop and Parlour, having officially taken up her role on 1 January 2026.

Liz has spent time shadowing her predecessor, Caro Drake, since September 2025, allowing for a smooth and well-supported transition. During this time, Liz has become familiar with the day-to-day running of the shop, its much-loved traditions and the wide range of products that make it such a popular destination. Liz has already embraced the role with great enthusiasm, energy and a genuine warmth that visitors will no doubt recognise.

The shop continues to offer a wonderful selection of goods, including its ever-popular quarter of traditional sweets, carefully weighed out on our old-fashioned scales; a nostalgic experience enjoyed by visitors of all ages. Alongside this, there is always something new to discover, whether you're looking for a thoughtful gift or a small treat.

We encourage Members and visitors to pop in and say hello to Liz, explore the shop's charming range and experience the welcoming atmosphere Liz has helped to foster. We are confident that under Liz's stewardship, the shop will continue to thrive and remain a much-loved part of Cornet Street.

### **Fermain Tower: A Truly Unique Coastal Retreat**

The Fermain Tower was closed to the public from the end of February to the end of March for internal and external redecoration and general maintenance works. We're now open for Spring and Summer! Have you booked your stay yet?

Fermain Tower is one of Guernsey's most distinctive and atmospheric properties. This beautifully restored historic tower offers a rare opportunity to stay somewhere unique, where heritage, seascape and seclusion come together in spectacular fashion.

Originally built as part of Guernsey's coastal defences, the Tower has been sensitively adapted to provide characterful accommodation while retaining its remarkable sense of place. Thick stone walls, curved interiors, and carefully considered details all speak to its history, while modern comforts ensure a cosy and memorable stay.

Staying at Fermain Tower is not simply a holiday, it is an experience and one that guests rarely forget - in a good way! Please make your reservation through our welcoming agents at La Barbarie Hotel - email: [reservations@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:reservations@nationaltrust.gg) / Tel: 01481 235217.

### **Les Caches Farm: Events and Future Development**

Les Caches Farm continues to be a vibrant and much-loved venue, hosting a wide range of events and activities throughout the year, reflecting the versatility and charm of this unique historic setting.

Upcoming events include wedding blessings, filming projects and traditional weaving courses led by Claire and Max Gaudion which celebrate and preserve important local craft skills. We are also pleased to welcome back Faybelline Events who offers popular seasonal markets.

We are also very pleased to confirm that our wonderful team of volunteers will be returning to welcome visitors to the property from Wednesday, 6th May until Sunday, 27th September 2026. Les Caches Farm will be open to the public between 10.30am and 12.30pm, on Wednesdays through to Sundays, unless a private event is taking place. Any closed dates will be listed on our website in advance.

With its historic character and beautiful rural setting, Les Caches Farm offers a truly special place for a wide variety of occasions. Whether you are planning an intimate celebration, a creative project, a workshop or a community event, the site can be tailored to suit your needs.

If you are interested in hiring Les Caches Farm for your own special event, please do not hesitate to be in touch. For further information or to discuss availability, please contact me at [emc@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:emc@nationaltrust.gg)

### **Les Caches Farm: Cart Shed Development Progress**

We are delighted to confirm that CCD Architects will be commencing the planning application for our new traditional cart shed in early 2026. This exciting project is designed to provide much-needed storage and display space for our agricultural collection, allowing us to better preserve and showcase historic carts, tools and farming equipment that are an important part of Guernsey's heritage.

The construction of the cart shed is scheduled to commence no earlier than 1st April 2027, giving us ample

time to ensure careful planning and to focus our resources on priority works at 26 Cornet Street during 2026. This phased approach ensures that both projects receive the attention they require, maintaining the high standards of care and conservation our properties deserve.

Once complete, the new cart shed will not only provide secure and weather-protected storage for our agricultural artefacts but will also create opportunities for enhanced public engagement and interpretation, giving visitors a closer insight into traditional farming practices and the Island's rural heritage.

### **Ivy Gates: Protecting a Historic Treasure**

We are excited to share an update on Ivy Gates, one of our important protected monuments. We are currently awaiting tenders from three specialist stonemasons for the restoration of the arches, which will include carefully removing overgrown vegetation and carrying out essential stonemasonry repairs.

CCD Architects are overseeing the project to ensure the work meets the highest conservation standards. The restoration will tackle water penetration and safeguard the monument's core structure, helping to preserve its historic character for future generations.

### **Property Condition Surveys: Looking After Our Buildings**

Our programme of property condition surveys continues this Spring, forming a key part of our proactive approach

to caring for Trust buildings. These surveys allow us to assess the overall condition of each property, identifying emerging issues at an early stage and planning maintenance works in a structured and cost-effective way.

Each survey involves a thorough inspection of the building fabric, including roofs, walls, drainage, joinery and internal spaces, with particular attention paid to any signs of wear, weathering or water ingress.

The findings are recorded and used to inform our maintenance and conservation planning.

By undertaking these surveys, we can prioritise remedial works appropriately across our property portfolio, helping to protect the long-term condition of our historic buildings and avoid more costly repairs in the future.

### **NTG Quiz 2026: A Huge Success!**

Our annual quiz took place on Friday, 6th February at St Martin's Community Centre and was once again a tremendous success with another sell-out event! We are enormously grateful to CCD Architects for their generous sponsorship of the quiz, which helps ensure we can continue this popular annual tradition. Thank you also to all the businesses who kindly donated a wonderful array of raffle prizes!

The evening was filled with laughter and friendly competition. Thank you to all our teams for their enthusiastic participation and support.



Team CCD Architects at this year's Annual Quiz.

## Lé Viaër Marchi 2026: Save the Date!

Lé Viaër Marchi 2026 will take place on Monday, 6th July. Planning is well underway. We are thrilled to announce that this year's event will be sponsored by Ravenscroft Capital, whose generous support helps us celebrate and preserve Guernsey's unique traditions and vibrant community spirit.

This much-loved annual event brings the Island's history to life, celebrating Guernsey's culture, crafts and culinary delights in a fun and family-friendly setting.

Whether you're a long-time fan or a first-time visitor, Lé Viaër Marchi promises discovery, delight and local flavour – a true highlight of Guernsey's cultural calendar!

We very much look forward to welcoming you to this cherished annual event and will share more details in the coming months.

## Dates for your diary

Looking ahead to 2026 we invite you to mark these important dates in your diary:

**Lé Viaër Marchi** – Monday 6 July

We very much hope you will join us for these enjoyable and sociable occasions!

## Thank You for Your Continued Support

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our Members, volunteers and friends of the National Trust of Guernsey. Your commitment and support are at the heart of all our work, helping us to care for the Island's historic buildings and natural landscapes.

Every contribution, whether through Membership, volunteering, or attending our events, plays a vital role in ensuring that Guernsey's heritage is preserved for the future. From maintaining iconic properties to supporting conservation projects and community programmes, your involvement allows us to protect and celebrate the Island's unique history.

We are constantly inspired by the dedication, energy and passion of our community. It is thanks to people like you that the Trust can continue to thrive, creating meaningful experiences for visitors, educating future generations and safeguarding Guernsey's heritage for years to come.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Your support not only sustains the Trust today but ensures that the stories, traditions and beauty of our Island will be cherished for generations to come.

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Estate Manager and Coordinator*

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# Lands

This is my sixth Newsletter article and the final one during my current three-year term of office as Lands Manager. In that short period, there have been two severe winter storms, Ciaran and Goretti. Fallen trees have provided much of the material for the Spring Lands Report, and unfortunately this year is no exception.

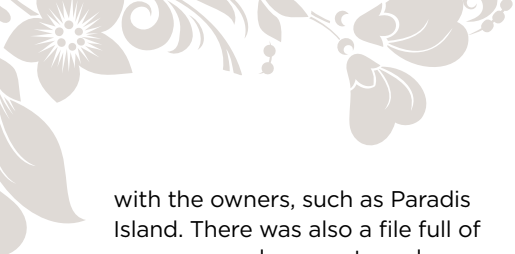
The Island's woodland includes several areas planted with Monterey Pine. Many of these majestic evergreen trees are aging, losing branches or toppling over during winter storms. Storm Goretti caused substantial damage to the Trust's pine forests at Talbot Valley, Le Catiaroc and Pleinmont, whereas the deciduous trees fared much better. Where significant gaps appear, the Trust is replanting with oak and other native species. However, there is scenic benefit and ecological value in maintaining some quiet grassy glades within the wood.

Although it is sad to see these giants fall, it is the collateral damage, cost and disruption that grieves me most. For example, the mature oaks at Ron Short Walk were not damaged by the wind during Storm Goretti, but by the weight of falling pines. Similarly, the root plate of a large pine has destroyed a short section of the path up from the Ron Short Car Park. By the time this newsletter is published, our gardening contractor Adam Dorey and tree surgeons GTS will have cleared the public road and paths and trimmed the broken branches. Path reconstruction may take longer to complete.

As global trade brings new diseases and climate change affects weather patterns, we need to consider which trees will best survive in the future. Native elms have been reduced to short lived saplings by the elm bark beetle, ash trees are subject to fungal attack by Chalara; oaks, horse chestnuts and hawthorns are dying of new diseases too. Planting a diverse selection of native trees and naturalising species is our best defence against both climate change and disease.

**On joining Council, the instruction was to be proactive in managing Trust land. Identifying and taking control of all Trust owned land. This Lands Strategy has proved to be a major project.**

Much of the information gathered by various volunteers over a period of 30 years, has been lost in personal memory or personal files and phones. The most comprehensive information was provided by a six-page annual TRP invoice which lists every plot of land owned by the Trust. However, this invoice does not include land leased or maintained by agreement



with the owners, such as Paradis Island. There was also a file full of conveyance documents and some information on Digimap.

One spin off from the audit of our land was a Review of Agricultural Fields to establish the current user, agree a formal lease with conditions and appropriate rent for each field. This Review is now approaching completion, which will allow Council to regain control of its fields.

It is important to capture this information both on paper and in electronic form as a management overview for Council and future Lands Managers. It will have taken us three years to identify and learn about the sites and investigate some of the issues arising. For example, one field owned by the Trust has been absorbed by removing hedge boundaries to amalgamate several fields which are now farmed as one larger field. Our title to this smaller field is disputed by the occupier. Even now there remain 5 cliff edge furzebreaks which are

listed by Cadastre but not shown on any map; I understand there are 140 of these plots in the Forest parish for which records are missing.

**Our paths are open for public enjoyment throughout the year but structural maintenance is occasionally essential to maintain safe and comfortable walking.**

The paths at Pleinmont between the Vaux du Monel car park (off Rue de la Mare) and Rue du Portlet are scheduled for repair this Autumn. As a Site of Special Interest, our plans have been notified to the Development and Planning Authority. I acknowledge with grateful thanks assistance from Architects CCD Ltd who turned my sketch into a proper location plan. The repair work will be funded by a generous donation of £20,000 from the Blue Diamond Group, owners of Le Friquet Garden Centre.

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*By Colin Gaudion, Land Manager*  
*E: [lands@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:lands@nationaltrust.gg)*

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Clearing Rue du Talbot of trees fallen from Ron Short Walk. *Colin Gaudion.*

# Nature

## Abundant. Biodiversity. Rare.

*Abundant, biodiversity, rare* are three words that are commonly found in writing on conservation or nature. It is a goal of nature organisations to have abundant biodiversity, but sadly, such abundance is rare. The National Trust of Guernsey certainly seeks to preserve biodiversity and, where the opportunity exists, tries to increase it. But what is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of living things on Earth and how they interact with each other. It is the whole range of species from soil microbes, plants, insects, birds and animals (including humans) and their inter-relationships. There is the obvious predator/ prey relationship, but other inter-relationships can be complex and not fully understood. Their inter-relationships are further influenced by climate, the lie of the land, availability of water, the underlying soil and rock. The interaction of these elements creates varying habitats where different flora and fauna thrive. In Guernsey, there are 36 defined habitats. As a consequence, there is a greater abundance of species here than might be thought.

From Guernsey's State of Nature 2024 report, the following numbers have been recorded: 1,585 plant species, 1,337 moth species, 333 bird species, 90 bee species, 30 butterfly species and 19 mammal species.

Within these lists, there are the rare and the abundant. Top predators will always be fewer in number than their prey, so there will always be a rarity factor. The population size of species is important, as is the variety of species, as this indicates the health of the habitat. If nature is left to its own, it is good at self-regulation, ensuring over time that no one species dominates, and biodiversity is maintained.



Cinnabar Moth. Photo credit: Butterfly Conservation Dorset Branch by Mark Pike.

The same report identifies the threats/drivers of change impacting biodiversity. – These include: climate change, invasive non-native species, development and land use change, pollution, commercial and recreational fishing and harvesting, and land management. The fragility of biodiversity can be illustrated by the fact that a number of moth and butterfly species rely on one plant for the food source for their caterpillars. Species such as the Cinnabar moth require the Ragwort plant for their caterpillars, the Glanville Fritillary butterfly requires the Ribwort Plantain plant, and for the Purple Hairstreak butterfly, oak trees are essential. Lose the plant, which could be due to one or more of the drivers of change, and you lose the butterfly or moth, reducing biodiversity. Breaking or disrupting these inter-relationships causes imbalances which, depending on the extent and magnitude, will impact or endanger the life of other species...

The National Trust of Guernsey has long been active in preserving rural land, undertaking land management, making representations on development and planning, and working to remove invasive non-native species. In land management, actions such as changing the grass cutting regime or selective removal of scrub enable a variety of plant species to flourish, in turn supporting a variety of insects and other inter-relationships and increasing biodiversity. When non-native trees, such as Monterey Pine, fall, the gaps created are infilled with native tree saplings such as oak, beech and ash.

These areas do not have to be big, 3 metre by 3 metre squares being sufficient to create a different habitat to their surroundings.

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*Protecting and expanding these habitats and landscapes is not just conservation – it is safeguarding the Island’s living future.*

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The three-metre by three-metre square is the standard unit used by the what3words app, which divides the world into precisely mapped locations identified by unique three-word combinations. One such square is named *abundant.biodiversity.rare* – though I cannot, of course, verify the ecological richness of that particular spot. The broader ambition, however, would be to nurture and create many genuinely biodiverse three-metre squares across Guernsey, gradually contributing to a richer, more nature-abundant island overall.

Through the National Trust of Guernsey’s land holdings, we have a foothold supporting abundant and rare species. Together, these weave resilient habitats where biodiversity thrives. Protecting and expanding these habitats and landscapes is not just conservation – it is safeguarding the Island’s living future.

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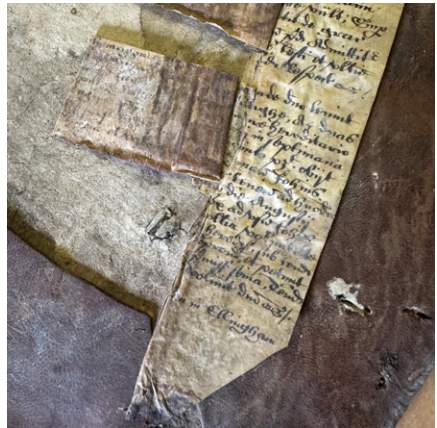


# The Folk and Costume Museum

As we prepare to reopen for the 2026 season, it is a good moment to reflect on some of the projects and events that have taken place, as well as what's planned for the months ahead. During the Museum's closure, the team has been busy caring for the collections and planning a programme of events, ensuring there is always something engaging for visitors to enjoy.

Behind the scenes, careful attention continues to be paid to the Museum's collections. Every object, whether on display or in storage, receives dedicated care to preserve its condition for future generations. One particularly remarkable project involves a Plantin Bible once owned by Marguerite de Moulpiéd (1833-1882) of Le C che Farm in St Martin, generously presented to the Museum by her grandson, Lucius Thomas Martin. With the support of a specialist book restorer in England, the Museum is stabilising the Bible, ensuring it can be explored and appreciated for years to come while also revealing the lives of these remarkable Guernsey families and the part they played in the Island's story.

A highlight of last season was the annual Christmas Market, which returned in all its festive glory. Despite the wet weather, visitors enjoyed the stalls and the friendly, seasonal atmosphere that makes these events so special. We are grateful to everyone



Fragments found hidden within the back cover of the Plantin Bible.

who attended, traded, or volunteered, helping to make the day a memorable occasion for all.

Looking ahead, the Museum's spring programme offers plenty to enjoy. On Sunday, 29 March, the Guernsey Vintage and Classic Tractor Club returns to the Museum courtyard for their first run of the year. Tractors will



Spinning demonstrators visit the Folk and Costume Museum. Pat Tickner, foreground.

arrive from around 9am, giving visitors a chance to see them up close before they set off on their journey around the Island at 10am. This popular event attracts fans of all ages and promises an enjoyable day for everyone.

During the Easter half-term, the Museum will host its first Spring Artisan Market on Sunday, 12 April. Following the success of the Christmas Market, the event will feature local makers, craftspeople, and producers, offering a relaxed setting in which to browse and shop. Teas, coffees, and – importantly – cakes will be available, with all proceeds supporting the National Trust of Guernsey.

From April through to September, excluding August, visitors can once again enjoy spinning demonstrations every Thursday between 10am and 12pm. These demonstrations are always popular, offering a fascinating insight into traditional skills and crafts, and adding an extra layer of life and activity to the Museum experience during the summer months.

This year also brings another first for the Museum. On Monday, 1 June, we will be hosting a wedding. We are delighted that the Museum has been chosen for such a special occasion, and we kindly ask visitors to note that the Museum will be closed to the general public on this day. It is wonderful to see the space being used in new ways while remaining rooted in its historic setting. If you're interested in using the Museum or its grounds for a special event, please get in touch to find out more.

We are looking forward to welcoming visitors back for the new season when the Museum reopens on 31 March 2026. Whether you are exploring our new costume exhibition, enjoying a quiet moment in the park, or returning to the Museum shop for more of its popular chocolates, we are grateful for your continued support.

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## 2026 opening times

Tuesday 31 March to  
Sunday 1 November  
10am - 5pm seven days a week  
(closed on Liberation Day).

Free entry and access-friendly.



# SPRING MARKET

**SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISANS**

The Folk & Costume Museum Courtyard  
Saumarez Park

**SUNDAY  
12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026  
10AM - 4PM**

Artisan stalls  
Cakes, bakes, tea and coffee,  
Courtyard games for children  
Free entry and fun for all ages

All proceeds support  
The Folk and  
Costume Museum



# Costumes

I was at the Folk and Costume Museum at the beginning of January with Ann Segers, talking through plans for the new exhibition, when I found myself standing in front of the *League of Gentlemen* display. I was suddenly struck by just how incredibly proud we felt of that exhibition.



Costume Curator Caro Drake and Exhibition Designer Ann Segers.

Being able to tell stories of bravery – of men who are well remembered, such as Major General Wilfred d’Auvergne Collings, and those who are forgotten, or perhaps never previously discovered, like Ebenezer Keates – felt hugely important. To all of them, we owe an enormous debt. Without the countless ‘forgotten’ individuals, the remembered would never have had the opportunity to perform the acts of courage that placed them in the history books.

Costume exhibitions about men don’t happen very often, so I do hope you managed to see it and were as moved by the stories as we were.

I should also clear something up: I am *not* retiring! Having handed over the reins at The Victorian Shop and Parlour to Liz Torode, I now have the luxury of focusing on my role as Costume Curator and on my particular areas of specialism – sewing and historic fashion.



That passion probably began with the brilliant textile teachers I had at Ladies' College: Mrs Sweet and Miss Rayer – the latter very well known to many of us here at the Folk and Costume Museum as Margaret, who has been with the Trust since the 1970s. As for Mrs Sweet, she must have cursed the day I decided I absolutely *had* to design and make a pair of silver jersey evening gloves. Quite when I thought I would ever wear them, I have no idea, but that project both terrified me *and* has affected my relationship with overlocker sewing machines, ever since.

So you can perhaps see why this year's exhibition, Inside Out – The Hidden Craftsmanship of Victorian Dress, has me so excited. It's very

much a passion project, made possible with the wonderful support of Ann and Sara – without whom the exhibition simply wouldn't be displayed or explained. We think it will be incredibly beautiful, but perhaps not in the way you might traditionally expect. The beauty lies in glazed cottons, ghost darts revealing how women's bodies changed, and hand-stitching so fine and precise that it's often hard to tell whether it was done by hand or machine.

We really hope you'll find the exhibition fascinating, even if you're not a sewer, because at its heart this exhibition is about engineering, construction, invention – and the lives of women, both rich and poor. Whether you're drawn by fashion, history, or simple curiosity, this is an exhibition that rewards a closer look. Take your time, lean in, and discover the hidden ingenuity stitched into every seam. There's something here to surprise and delight everyone.

And with that, "The Seamstress has left the room" – all of which will make complete sense when you visit the exhibition!

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*By Caro Drake, Costume Curator*

*T: +44 (0)7781 145041*

*E: [costumecurator@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:costumecurator@nationaltrust.gg)*

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**Audio Tour Available:** Please bring your smart phones and ear pods to enjoy a full audio tour of all exhibition cases. The detail is fascinating!



# Art at The Park

We ended the 2025 season with Charlie Buchanan's *Swimmers and Other Stories* exhibition along with the U3A's Pastel Group exhibition over the Christmas season. Charlie's Preview was very successful, with over 70 people attending. Her bold and graphic art style wowed the viewers, and her cards almost sold out on the first night!

Her new passion for cold water swimming has resulted in a new body of work focused on swimmers. The deep, intense colours and beautifully managed movement of waves within the paintings were much appreciated by all who viewed her exhibition.

The opportunity to host the U3A Pastel Group exhibition was particularly rewarding, as we like to support all aspects of education on the Island, especially allowing retirees the opportunity to develop new skills. Seven people took part in the exhibition, each with a small selection of their work from the year. It brightened the Festive Season's walls and was a lovely contrast to the Christmas vibe!

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***The Art at The Park Gallery is a hive of creative activity, and its success and popularity are extremely rewarding for the National Trust of Guernsey, all thanks to Guernsey's talented creatives.***

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Alongside the exhibition, we once again welcomed Blue Ormer with a selection of locally written publications. A new selection of Tim Babbe's pottery was available, just in time for the Christmas present buying season, and proved very popular. We supported a young teenage entrepreneur in his first venture into selling with his Christmas 3D printed coasters - very striking, high quality and attractive. We were glad to say that he sold out! The Guernsey Tartan display joined us in the Gallery to allow people to order items from Katy Barrett. The Art at The Park Gallery is a hive of creative activity, and its success and popularity are extremely rewarding for the National Trust of Guernsey, all thanks to Guernsey's talented creatives.

While our closed season doesn't have any exhibitions, the process of checking and cataloguing the Museum's artwork collection is underway. The meticulous nature of this work on an important section of Trust artefacts cannot be rushed. Frames are cleaned, and as much conservation work as possible takes place, including research into the

paintings themselves, the artists where possible and previous owners where available. We have begun with the pictures and paintings - this includes embroidery and samplers. The Museum also has a vast collection of photographs that are in the process of being sorted, scanned and archived prior to cataloguing. Being a cavernous and hugely interesting subject, a whole magazine could be dedicated to the photographs and accompanying material which have been scanned so far. We endeavour to share this material with you and a wider audience as time allows.

The Gallery itself has been spruced up with new paint in small areas, and the plinths have had a coat of paint too. Everything will be ready for our first new exhibition at the end of March.

*So, once again, a busy and varied year with a variety of media on show, and it is lovely to see more men showing their artistic skills!*



Tim Babbé's ceramics are available to buy throughout the year at the Art at The Park gallery.

Without further ado, here is an outline of the order of exhibitions for 2026:

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**31st March - 1st May**

Bozena Pollock and Sally Cokeley's 'Pink Granite, Wildflower'- abstract oils and detailed botanical drawings based around Port Soif.

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**6th May - 5th June**

Bridget Spinney - nature art.

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**8th June - 3rd July**

Caitlin Gruppung - life drawing in mixed media.

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**7th July - 31st July**

Rosanne Guille - land and seascapes in oils.

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**3rd August - 4th September**

Georgina Smart - various subjects and media.

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**7th September - 2nd October**

Mark Naftel - hyper realistic creatures in black and white.

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**5th October - 30th October**

Wendy Griffin - pastels and oils.

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**Christmas**

**17th November - 19th December**

Max Gaudion and Family - willow weaving and woodwork.

So, once again, a busy and varied year with a variety of media on show, and it is lovely to see more men showing their artistic skills!

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*By Bridgette Pallot, Museum Coordinator*

*E: [museumcoordinator@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:museumcoordinator@nationaltrust.gg)*

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# The Victorian Shop and Parlour at 26 Cornet Street

Hello Everyone, I'm Liz Torode.

I've been encouraged to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. I wouldn't be here at all had it not been for the fact that an article in the Guernsey Press last April *instantly* caught my eye – The National Trust of Guernsey were looking for someone to take over from Caro Drake as Shop Manager later that year. I could barely control my excitement when, following an interview with the lovely Jemma and Sara at Les Caches Farm in May – one of those classic “perfect days” – I was offered the job. I'd been a customer for many years, and now I was going to find myself on the other side of the counter – at first a daunting prospect. My confidence grew when, from September 2025, I joined the team as a part-time member of staff and enjoyed a lot of support.

Caro's were big shoes to fill, and many hats to wear too. Of necessity, the role calls for a broad range of skills, from staff management and stock control to facilities/site management and cleaning. Caro is very tolerant of my Hilda Ogden impression, but she

knows I love the place and like to show it off in all its glory.

Who'd have thought that such a job could also have dangerous elements? Such as the time I was emptying the sweet jars after the shop had closed in October, ready to wash them all, and managed to cut myself on a fragment of not glass, but an unwrapped Chocolate Lime which had escaped the manufacturer's wrapping process and stubbornly stuck to the bottom of the jar. Sheer determination was called for as I picked away at the sticky fragment, before I realised the exercise had drawn blood!

The official opening of the Christmas Shop in November is always a special occasion, marked as such by the presence of our Patron, Sir Richard Cripwell – who obviously enjoys the ceremony and our sweets (his choice is still a State Secret).

My goodness, we were so busy with late-night opening each Thursday in December and didn't the complimentary mince-pies and mulled wine go down well with the customers!



Caro Drake and new manager Liz Torode at The Victorian Shop. Photo credit: Peter Frankland

During February, having completed our stock-take and placed some orders, our new stock started to arrive, and we started readying the shop to welcome all of our customers when we open on Monday, 16 March.

Caro – who remains with the Trust in her other role as Costume Curator – has shown the utmost patience as far as training me is concerned, for which I'm so grateful. We both recognise that I've had the steepest learning curve, having never been involved with this sort of work previously, but hopefully my enthusiasm and passion for things local and traditional will make up for what I lack in retail experience.

I look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces to the lovely Victorian Shop and Parlour at 26 Cornet Street.

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**Liz Torode, Shop Manager**  
**The Victorian Shop and Parlour at**  
**26 Cornet Street**

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**E: [26cornetstreet@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:26cornetstreet@nationaltrust.gg)**

**📍 [26\\_cornet\\_street](#) 📘 [26CornetStreet](#)**

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## 2026 opening times

Monday 16 March  
to Saturday 3 October  
10am - 4pm

Closed over Bank Holidays but  
open on Liberation Day.

# Member Visit

## UK National Trust Visits - a local's perspective...

Making the most of free entry to National Trust properties in the UK, member Bridgette Pallot - also our Museum Coordinator - visited several stately homes during a recent holiday. Here, she describes her visit to Little Moreton Hall.



### *Little Moreton Hall - A Tudor Gem*

Set back from the A34 roadside, you could easily miss Little Moreton Hall. Building began in 1504 and took about 100 years to complete - additions being made by successive

inheritors. Surrounded by a scenic moat, the twisted and tumble-down architecture of the black and white building defies logic.

There is an off-road carpark with plenty of parking at a sharp 90-degree turn - warning for the

unwary – it is easy to miss the entrance. This is much better than the old parking arrangements that basically meant abandoning your car on the roadside!

Once parked up, there is a lovely flat path that leads up to the bridge over the moat and into the impressive courtyard. Those of an ‘unstable on their feet’ disposition, be careful, as the flagstones are original and could easily catch out an unwary visitor, especially as there is so much ‘looking up’ to do once there. Carvings and the beautiful black and white construction timbers, quirky windows and steep, narrow staircases abound. Can you find the Elizabethan dog kennel?

In several rooms, there are costumed Living History guides who are very knowledgeable about all aspects of the building, the history of the family and daily life in Tudor times. Being shown carved ‘protection’ marks within the wooden structure put there to ward off evil sends you back into Tudor days and marks just how different lives were then!

Follow the route through the rooms, up and down quirky, twisting stairways, and do not miss the long gallery – a marvel of modern engineering! You would never believe that an invisible modern steel ‘cradle’ has been constructed to hold it all together. You *can* see the ‘wonky’ fireplace, however, which becomes even more fascinating once you realise that it is actually the only plumb straight object in the building – an optical illusion caused by the warping of the wood.

Wrapping all around the building is a moat and gardens. Out in the Elizabethan knot garden, you’ll find herbs and medicines used by the family, which makes me thank my lucky stars that we have modern medicine and doctors.

Finish off with an ice cream in the walled garden (as we did – fending off ducks who clearly like ice cream too...) or coffee and cake in Mrs Dales’s Tea Room that has table service, and a log fire should you be travelling in colder weather. We spent some time watching lazy dragonflies and damselflies flitting among the flowers in the borders.

For those who have visited before, you’ll be glad to know that there are now loos on site. Accessibility is limited to the ground floor, and the Little Tea Room is accessible for a wheelchair.

While it is only a tiny site, you can easily spend hours here. It is one of the sites I try to visit whenever I’m in Cheshire!

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*By Bridgette Pallot*  
*NTG Member and Museum Coordinator*

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# Cartier Exhibition, V&A

## November 2025

Diamonds, perhaps more than any other object, occupy that curious territory where beauty, wealth and power converge. They have adorned monarchs, marked dynasties, sealed alliances and served as discreet yet potent symbols of global affluence. This exhibition gathered an extraordinary concentration of such stones – breathtaking in craftsmanship and historical interest – yet it also prompted a quieter question: when admiration fades, what exactly are we looking at – artistry, status, or something rather more complex?

### **Power. Possession. Posturing.**

This was, without question, a powerful exhibition. Anyone interested in the history of Cartier, the extraordinary craftsmanship involved, and the sheer logistical feat of assembling such a collection would find much to admire. The curators plainly spared no effort, and the result was technically superb.

The opening moment is undeniably arresting. A single tiara<sup>1</sup> occupies its own dimly lit vestibule. It glitters with almost theatrical intensity, a constellation compressed into a single object. One could easily feel a catch in the throat at the sheer beauty of it: not merely sparkle, but poise, proportion and an elegance

that transcends fashion. As exhibition design goes, it is a masterstroke.

Subsequent exhibition rooms and galleries confirm what experts already know: diamonds are rarely the icy white clichés of happy-ever-after advertising. They flicker with subtle warmth, hints of colour and flashes of life, all enhanced by exquisite platinum or silver filigree. By contrast to the usual dark display case, against pale backgrounds, diamonds remain luminous, almost unbelievably so. Beauty – albeit in the eye of the beholder – is not in short supply here.

Yet admiration gradually gives way to something more complicated. Many pieces belong, predictably enough,



Manchester tiara: Cartier Paris 1903.  
Commissioned by Consuelo Montagu, Dowager Duchess of Manchester.

to royal houses, historic dynasties or famous figures. That sits comfortably within our understanding of history. But increasingly one notices the discreet label: *private collection*. And then another. And another.

At that point (for me), the exhibition subtly changes character. It becomes not merely an aesthetic experience but an encounter with the giddy

heights of extreme wealth. We are no longer looking solely at inherited regalia or cultural artefacts; we are glimpsing the possessions of individuals whose resources place them in an almost invisible global elite.

One could describe the collection as priceless, but perhaps it is more comprehensible to say that untold millions of pounds' worth of stones

sit within these exhibition cases. The cumulative effect is astonishing, but also faintly disconcerting. Beauty and craftsmanship remain, but an increasing and unmistakable sense of assertion of power creeps in.

*Somehow, quietly, there exists a network of experts capable of sourcing such wonders on demand – a reminder that this world, though largely unseen, is very much alive.*

Diamonds have always signified status; that is part of their cultural language. Yet, travelling through the exhibition, the message sometimes feels less about artistry and more about accumulation – wealth concentrated so intensely it risks becoming abstract. One cannot help wondering how often such pieces are worn, and in what circles. They seem destined for rarefied gatherings where influence, not simply admiration, is the currency exchanged.

This is not a criticism of the exhibition itself, which is magnificently executed. Rather, it is the inevitable reaction to the subject matter.



Patiala Necklace and Choker Necklace, commissioned by Sir Bhupinder Singh, Maharaja of Patiala.



Sir Bhupinder Singh, Maharaja of Patiala.

*Each jewel carries a biography: stones reset across generations, treasures migrating through revolutions, fortunes made and remade.*

The sheer profusion becomes, paradoxically, exhausting. “Less is more” has seldom felt so apt.

I found myself recalling the reported “no tiaras” preference at the recent coronation of King Charles III – a small but telling nod towards restraint in an age wary of overt display. After gallery upon gallery of coronets, necklaces and the occasional bejewelled snake, one recalls the wisdom of understatement.

None of this detracts from the intellectual fascination. Each jewel carries a biography: stones reset across generations, treasures migrating through revolutions, fortunes made and remade. Somewhere, quietly, there exists a network of experts capable of sourcing such wonders on demand – a reminder that this world, though largely unseen, is very much alive. And, of late, we’ve seen more than we ever imagined, of unseen worlds ‘in plain sight’.

What struck me most was not envy, nor even disapproval, but astonishment. This is a level of wealth most people never encounter directly. It tends to remain behind closed doors, surfacing only occasionally in museums, state occasions or carefully managed social appearances.



L-R: Collier de Perles Le Maharajah. The Al Thani Collection | Star of the South Bracelet 128.48-carat diamond, Private Collection.

Leaving the exhibition, I felt both pleased to have seen it and oddly relieved to step back into ordinary life. The diamonds will, for the most part, return to darkness – safes, vaults, private collections – awaiting their next moment as symbols: of affection, certainly, but also of influence, hierarchy and possession.

In the end, perhaps that is their enduring significance. Not merely beautiful objects, but silent declarations. Power, possession, posturing – expressed through facets of light.

*By Sara Lampitt*

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**Author's Note:** Did you also visit the exhibition or wish you had? If there is interest, I would be happy to organise a small presentation and discussion group around the Cartier exhibition, together with insights from a particularly illuminating lecture I attended the evening before my visit. The exhibition prompted a number of mixed and thought-provoking reactions, and it would be interesting to explore these together. Please email: [admin@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:admin@nationaltrust.gg)

<sup>1</sup> Manchester tiara: Cartier Paris 1903. Commissioned by Consuelo Montagu, Dowager Duchess of Manchester; diamonds, gold and silver; the C-scroll at each end set with glass paste. Accepted by HM Government in lieu of Inheritance Tax and allocated to the V&A, 2007.



Olive wreath tiara: commissioned by Princess Marie Bonaparte, great grandniece of Napoleon Bonaparte, on the occasion of her 1907 marriage to Prince George of Greece.

# News in Brief

## **Council Updates - Thank You & Farewell**

We were sorry to see Olly Brock step down as Planning Officer on Council and remain extremely grateful for the time, expertise and thoughtful insight he brought to the role. We are really delighted that he will remain with us, helping with the Mowlem's Granite Industry exhibition, mentioned below.

We also bid a fond farewell to Richard Green, who joined us as a general Council Member last year. We wish him a long, happy and well-earned retirement - and we're delighted that his team clinched victory at the recent NTG Quiz!

## **Over 30 years of Quiz, Commitment and Friendship**

Outstanding thanks go to Margaret Rayer, who continues to help at the admin end of the NTG Quiz - an annual fundraiser she established over 30 years ago. Margaret is undoubtedly one of our most enduring volunteers having been with the Trust since the '80s. She remains a remarkable source of knowledge on all things National Trust of Guernsey and is not only a valued colleague, but our own National Trust Treasure.

## **Mowlem's Granite Industry Museum**

Invaluable research by Peter Stewart and Rob Batiste is progressing well, with enough information and imagery now gathered to begin planning the exhibition layout and artefact placement. A small NTG team is working hard to assess and source

suitable museum display cabinets and equipment, to create an engaging and well-designed exhibition in this small and steeped in history building.

## **Creve Coeur**

Without wishing to put the hex on this three-decade long matter, we are cautiously optimistic that the land will be conveyed from the States to National Trust of Guernsey very soon. You won't be able to miss the news as, when, or if, this happens.

## **Social Media Content Creator**

2025 saw a noticeable rise in high-quality social media content from visitors to Guernsey. Fermain Tower in particular benefited from wonderful coverage by local sea swimmer Indi (@diaryofaseaswimmer). Indi plans to visit more of our properties and share further content, so do keep an eye on our social channels.

## **Working on an educational programme for 'Inside Out' costume exhibition**

Melissa Hardwick recently contacted us about the educational potential of our upcoming 2026 costume exhibition *Inside Out*. Previously involved with a London health and arts charity, she collaborated with Royal Opera House costume designers on creative recycled-materials projects for families. We very much hope she'll work with the Museum team to develop engaging educational programmes - hopefully for adults as well as children!

**Year of the Normans 2027**

Planning for Year of the Normans 2027 is well underway. Two events have been submitted for Millennium Labelling with Région Normandie, and we're developing links with Normandy organisations around traditional costume, potentially leading to a small exhibition at the Folk and Costume Museum.

We're delighted that Association La Loure (Music and Oral Traditions of Normandy), alongside Normandy musicians Lihou and Guernsey's James Dumbelton, will perform both at a special courtyard concert and as a major musical feature of Viaër Marchi 2027 (Monday 5 July). More Normandy-inspired events will be announced nearer the time.

**Traditional Victorian Fun and Games – Viaër Marchi 2026**

The children's area at Lé Viaër Marchi will expand this year, with plans for traditional entertainment including jugglers, stilt walkers – and ideally a Punch and Judy show. As always, we prioritise local talent where possible, and early responses for juggling and stilt walking have been encouraging. If you know of a Punch and Judy performer, do let us know!

**Fermain Tower**

As of February 2026 there are a couple of curious gaps in the Fermain Tower booking calendar – notably in June and August. If you fancy a coastal escape during some of our best summer months, now might be the perfect time to book... unless someone has a long-range weather forecast they haven't shared with us!

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*By Sara Lampitt, Vice-President*

*E: [admin@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:admin@nationaltrust.gg)*

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# Looking Forward

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## **The Folk and Costume Museum**

Tuesday 31 March – Sunday 01 November.

Open seven days a week. 10am – 5pm

Free entry, nearby parking and access-friendly.

### **Costume Exhibitions**

**Ground floor: Inside Out – The Hidden Craftsmanship Of Victorian Dress.**

**Costumes Preview for National Trust of Guernsey Members.**

Monday 30 March 5pm – 7pm: guided tour by Costume Curator Caro Drake of “Inside Out – The Hidden Craftsmanship of Victorian Dress.”

This beautifully curated and deeply researched exhibition invites you to look closer and discover the unseen artistry, skill and everyday stories stitched into every seam. A must-see for sewing and historic textile enthusiasts.

This runs simultaneously with an art exhibition preview of ‘Pink Granite, Wildflower’ by Bozena Pollock and Sally Cokeley also open to National Trust of Guernsey Members and artists’ invitees.

**First floor: From Cobblestones to Catwalks – 1970s High Street and high fashion**

(in its last year)

### **Art at The Park Exhibitions**

Exhibitions run throughout the Museum year. Member Previews 5pm – 7pm will be held for artist exhibitions on the following dates:

30 March, 5 May, 8 June, 7 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October and 13 November

## **Spring Market**

Sunday 12 April 10am – 4pm

Artisan stalls, cakes, bakes, tea and coffee, courtyard games. Free entry and fun for all ages.

## **Heritage Craft Spinning Demonstrations**

Always on a Thursday, 10am – 12pm: 16 April, 28 May, 18 June, 16 July, 17 September

## **Dementia Friendly Concert**

Organised by Dementia Friendly Guernsey, hosted by NTG. Saturday 5 September 12pm – 5pm

A gentle, joyful afternoon of music, connection and shared moments. Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be available.

**How to find us:** Saumarez Park, GY5 7UJ  
Perry’s guide: 15G2 | Bus routes: 41 and 42

## **The Victorian Shop and Parlour at 26 Cornet Street**

Monday 16 March – Saturday 3 October.

Monday to Saturday 10am – 4pm

**How to find us:** 26 Cornet Street, St. Peter Port, GY1 1LF | Perry’s guide: SPP 5L8-M9 | Bus routes: any bus route ending at St. Peter Port terminus.

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## Les Câches Farm

Open for 2026 on Wednesday 6 May –  
Sunday 27 September

The farm buildings at Les Câches Farm are open from Wednesday to Sunday 1030am-12.30pm unless there is a private event taking place. \*Please check the website for details. The grounds of Les Câches Farm are open for everyone to enjoy all year.\* Free entry with blue-badge parking. Access-friendly for wheelchairs around some areas of the property. Assistance up and down some steps may be needed.

**Perry's guide:** Page 28, D4

**Location:** Les Villets, Forest, GY8 OHN

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## Lé Viaër Marchi

Monday 6 July, 5pm – sunset at Saumarez Park

A lively and atmospheric evening celebrating local food, crafts and island life. Always a friendly, relaxed atmosphere with plenty to discover. Known as the event that truly heralds the start of the island's summer, Lé Viaër Marchi is the perfect way to enjoy a summer evening with family and friends. Heartfelt thanks to Ravenscroft Capital for sponsoring our major annual fundraising event. If you are interested in volunteering or supplying a Corporate Volunteer Team, please get in touch. Your help is enormously appreciated. E: [emc@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:emc@nationaltrust.gg)

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## AGM

Wednesday 7 October, 6pm at Les Câches Farm

Members and those interested in the work of National Trust of Guernsey are warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting. Parking is available and there are onsite facilities. Limited Blue Badge parking is available. Assistance up and down some exterior steps and the tourelle staircase is highly recommended for those with mobility issues. Refreshments will be available.



# Membership Benefits

## Home

### Member Events

Please see full details earlier in this Newsletter.

### Discounts for Members

10% booking discounts for Members and Corporate Members at Fermain Tower. Regrettably this cannot be combined with a 10% discount for repeat bookings unless you or your Corporation have Donor status\*.

### Existing Discounts

- 10% discount for repeat bookings at Fermain Tower (\*see above).
- 10% discount for Members booking Les Caches Farm or the Courtyard at the Folk and Costume Museum.
- 20% discount for Corporate Members at both of the above.

To view all properties available to hire please visit [www.nationaltrust.gg/holiday-and-hire](http://www.nationaltrust.gg/holiday-and-hire)

## Away

### Reciprocal Arrangements

Members enjoy free access to an expansive global portfolio of properties, although parking charges may apply. These modest charges contribute towards high maintenance costs of all heritage properties. For details of participating organisations, please visit:

[www.nationaltrust.gg/support](http://www.nationaltrust.gg/support)

Please always take your membership card and where applicable, your car sticker too.

Replacement membership cards and car stickers can be obtained by contacting:

**Jenny Gallie, Membership Secretary**

**E: [membership@nationaltrust.gg](mailto:membership@nationaltrust.gg)**

**M: +44 (0)7781 108805**

## Cost of Membership

Individual	£30 per annum
Joint	£50 per annum (+£5 per child)
Corporate	£300 per annum
Joint Life	£900
Individual Life	£500

## Booking Online

If making an online booking to visit a National Trust property in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (NTEWNI) or at any of the International National Trust Organisation sites, we are advised that our members should input the word INTO in the box where your membership number is requested. This should enable you to complete your booking. Your National Trust of Guernsey membership card will need to be provided at point of entry.

## Online Newsletter



If you would prefer to receive future copies of the Trust Newsletter online, rather than a printed copy, please scan the QR code. Membership cards will be sent by post.

# See more world heritage more easily

Membership from £30 pa

National Trust of Guernsey Members enjoy free entry to all National Trust properties in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and many International National Trusts Organisation heritage places worldwide.

Parking charges will apply. Membership is your chance to support us and enjoy some of the world's finest heritage properties and places.



[nationaltrust.gg](http://nationaltrust.gg)

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