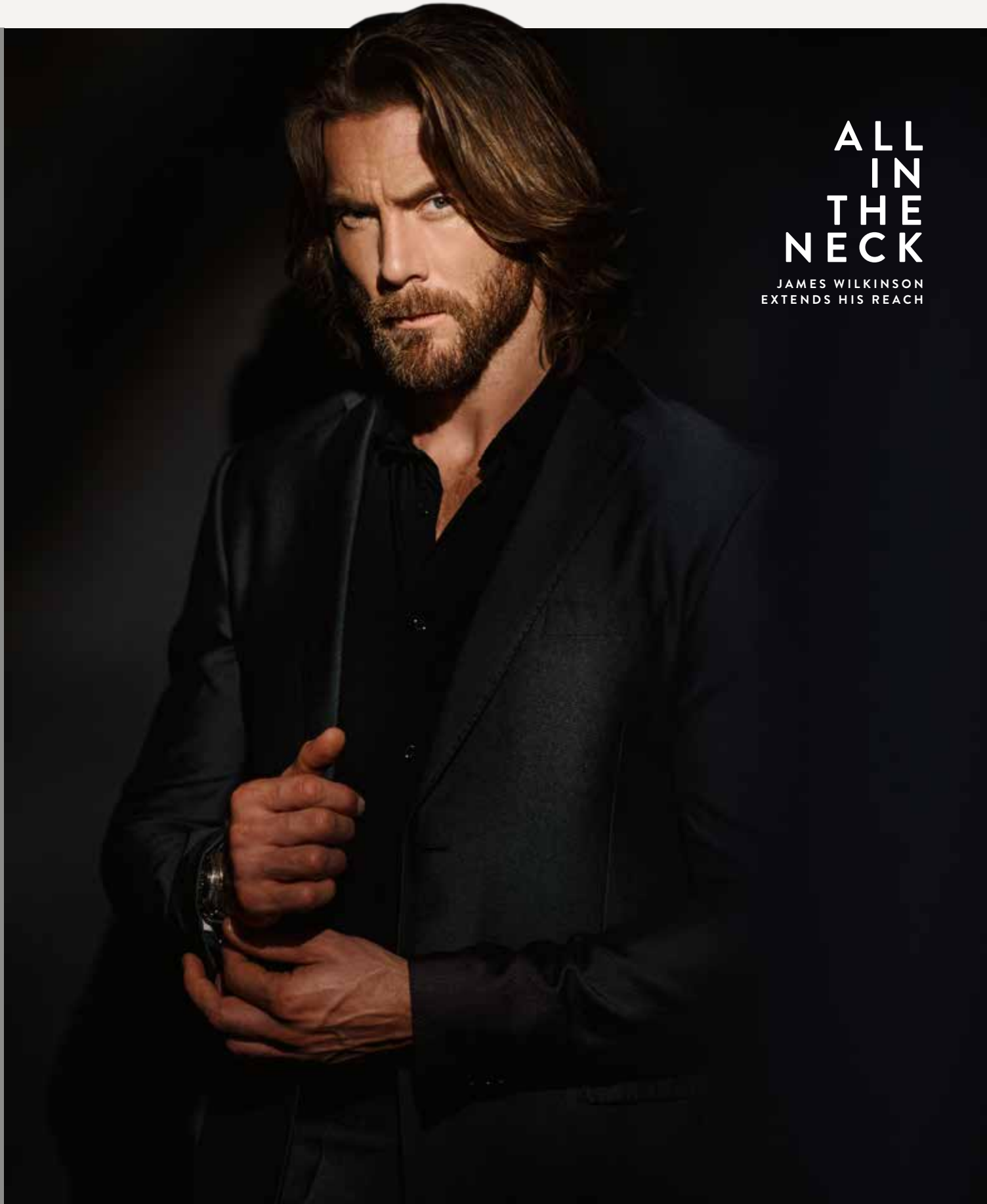
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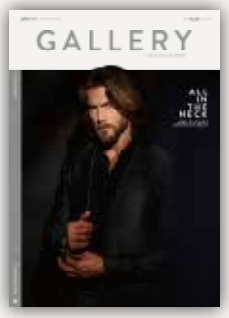
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THE VALUE EDITION



COVER
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by Chris Davis

GALLERY
/ LIFE & STYLE IN JERSEY

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EDITO

Oscar Wilde defined a cynic as someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. As a free magazine, we've only ever had to worry about the second half of that equation. Our price is fixed at nothing, and measured purely by weight, this is the best value Gallery has been all year. At 184 pages, against our usual 100 or so, it could comfortably double as a doorstop, which I'd argue only adds to its value.

This is also our men's issue, and we had no shortage of candidates. Our cover star, Jersey-born James Wilkinson, talks about playing Mekaneck in Masters of the Universe. We also meet other masters of their craft, featuring six who we suited and booted to mark 2026 as their year. Swimmer Filip Nowacki describes breaking a record previously held by his idol, Olympic champion Adam Ramsay-Peaty, and we speak to Will Smith (the one who wrote Slow Horses) about the Emmys. We tour Corey Ceccarelli's studio by day and by night, and meet the Jersey filmmaker whose short, Toilet Boy, was shot over two glamorous days in a sectioned-off school toilet. Man Club, meanwhile, is running a reverse Movember for men's mental health, encouraging islanders to shave off their beards rather than grow a moustache this November.

Not everything in this issue wears a suit. Flo rounds up the best places to eat right now, and Maggie hears from a reader who loves the independence her new partner gives her but worries it means he doesn't care. I hitched a ride on the Catalina flying boat ahead of the air display, Alix Page tells us how she built her matcha business, Blonde, and James Thompson shares the tips and tricks behind photographing the night sky in all its glory. The suits make a comeback in our family law and wealth supplements, always bumper editions at this time of year, and in a new one on the island's consultants, for the skills you'd rather borrow than build in-house.

Of the highest value, though, is always you. You're the people who pose for our pictures, pick up our magazines and send ideas into our inboxes. We love hearing from you. See you when Mariah Carey defrosts.

EP

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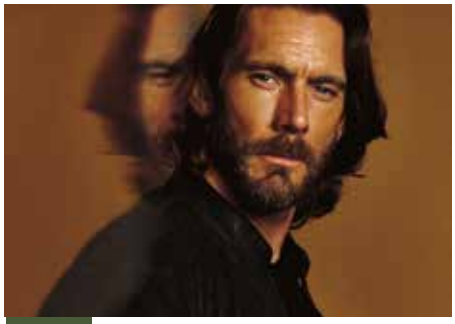
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For the latest news about exhibitions, events & opportunities, head to arthousejersey.je

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#210 CONTRIBUTORS

Words and pictures this issue courtesy of...



ELLA MCCLYMONT,
a teaching assistant at JCG, makes the case for literary matchmaking: maybe young people who say they don't read just haven't met their book yet. *Pg. 74*



MAGGIE MARTIN-ELLIS
hears from a reader who loves the independence her new partner gives her, but worries it means he doesn't care. *Pg. 76*



DANNY EVANS
brings us another great fashion shoot, suiting and booting six islanders to mark 2026 as their year. *Pg. 82*



DAISY TAYLOR
speaks to Jon Shaban of The Shabs, the folk-punk band bringing their live shows to Jersey, about what value really means in music. *Pg. 172*



FLO LEACH
rounds up the best places to eat right now, starting with brunch at Zest and a beachfront fondue. *Pg. 158*



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RYAN THOMAS
once again conveys the collective consciousness of Jersey with his wry illustrations, which are a pleasure to include in our pages. *Pg. 180*

The rundown.

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If you are an artist with work to exhibit, an entertainment organiser with an event coming up, a business with some exciting news or a new product to feature, get in touch. We're keen to feature anything captivating that will be of interest to the good people of Jersey who flick through a Gallery each edition.

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JERSEY AIR DISPLAY VIP EVENT

Elizabeth Avenue
10th September

Jersey International Air Display brought its usual blend of glamour and grandeur to St Aubin's Bay, with VIP guests soaking up the September sunshine from the marquee's front-row seats. Drinks flowed freely as friends and colleagues gathered in their seaside best, florals, tailored linens and statement sunglasses all making an appearance against the bay's backdrop. Overhead, the display delivered an eclectic line-up. The BBMF Dakota and Navy Wings' Seafire and Swordfish opened proceedings, followed by the Black Cats Wildcat, a PBY-5A Catalina, and the thunderous B-17 Flying Fortress. A rare MiG-17F and A-26 Invader added Cold War drama, while Team Raven kept the aerobatics sharp. As ever, the Red Arrows closed the show in trademark red, white and blue smoke, marking another triumphant instalment of Jersey's 70-plus-year aviation tradition.

















REFORMHER X BLONDE

The Gunsite Cafe
22nd August

For any small business hoping to build something real on this island, the goal is to create a community that goes beyond likes and comments, one that actually gets people up and out. It's something ReformHER, founded by Sophia, clearly has the secret to. This summer, almost 100 women mobilised en masse to Gunsite, to take part in a beach barre class, followed by matcha served by Alix from Blonde and sweet treats provided by Aimee from Nourish. It was an inspiring morning of women coming together to support each other and their businesses, drink some fun drinks topped with strawberry foam and get the endorphins running with a session led by Nicole, who didn't let anyone take it easy. Sophia put the whole thing down to momentum. Turnout at their regular classes had been so strong lately that a beach takeover felt like the natural next step, and a good excuse to get all the girls together outside for once. Nicole's take was similar. For her, the whole point of ReformHER is openness and inclusivity, where everyone shows up and does it together. Over at the matcha station, Alix, the 23-year-old founder of Blonde, summed up her outlook as a desire to "keep inspiring people to do what they actually want to do in life." That, plus matcha, working out and staying chic, seemed to be the general mood of the morning.













CASTLE CHASE

Elizabeth Castle

11th September

The Island's only lunchtime beach trail run for a cause sprinted back onto Jersey's calendar, raising money for Jersey Heritage and the charity's work to protect the Island's special history. The 'Castle Chase' relay race, sponsored by TMF Group and supported by Strive and Jersey Water, involved teams of two running out to Elizabeth Castle and back at low tide. A total of 62 runners took part. The winners were from Mourant and Jersey Geopark, and an independent team. The sun came out and the enthusiasm shown by competitors means the 'Chase' should be returning in 2027.













SUPERTRI CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The Waterfront

4th September

The inaugural Supertri Corporate Challenge, presented by UBS, kicked off an exciting Supertri weekend in Jersey, bringing businesses together for an evening of competition and team spirit. Twenty teams took on the run and bike challenge at the Waterfront, creating a great atmosphere throughout the event. Adding to the occasion, triathlon legend Jonny Brownlee presented awards to the winning teams following his recent retirement announcement. A fantastic way to start a weekend celebrating sport and community in Jersey.



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MIND JERSEY FUNDRAISER

St Ouen's Manor
17th September

St Ouen's Manor played host to 'One Wardrobe, Many Minds', a glittering, exclusive fashion show and silent auction in aid of Mind Jersey. Sixty guests gathered in the grand hall to watch a lifetime of designer pieces, donated by Kate Taylor, take to the catwalk. Guests bid on over fifty lots, from statement gowns and designer clothes to unique accessories. The evening was a fantastic celebration of the creativity and generosity that make Jersey's community so special. Every pound raised supports Mind Jersey's vital work for islanders' mental health.








NATIONAL TRUST FOR JERSEY'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & EXHIBITION PREVIEW

Seaside Café, Grève de Lecq
30th July

The National Trust opened their exhibition – the centrepiece being a collage of 90 photos of their members aged 0 to 94. On Thursday, the artwork was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor, Vice-Admiral Sir Jerry Kyd, who also read out a letter of congratulations on the Trust's anniversary, written by its patron, King Charles III, and Queen Camilla. Arranged in the shape of the Trust's elm leaf logo, the 90 portraits were taken by local photographer Ollie Jones. Guests were able to enjoy drinks on the terrace as the sun set and canapés provided by Beresford Street Kitchen.
Photography: Abigail Williams








INSIDE OUT 18: OPENING EVENING

ArtHouse Jersey at Capital House
10th September

ArtHouse Jersey welcomed guests to Capital House to celebrate the opening of Inside Out 18, the annual exhibition of work made by prisoners at HM La Moye Prison. This was the third year the show had been held on Church Street, and it was presented in partnership with the States of Jersey Prison Service. Between 100 and 150 pieces filled the gallery, including paintings, drawings, ceramics, woodwork and poetry. Each piece was a personal account of the artist's experience, reflections and feelings. Guests moved through the space with a glass in hand, and many stopped to read the poems alongside the visual work.

The exhibition shows the part creative practice plays inside prison life. Making art helps people build confidence, pick up new skills and manage their emotions. Evenings like this one also invite visitors to reconsider what they think they know about the people behind the work. It was a thoughtful night, and a reminder of how much creativity can come out of difficult circumstances.

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AIR DISPLAY GOVERNMENT HOUSE WELCOME RECEPTION

Government House
9th September

The reception at Government House was a chance to welcome the crews and participants to Jersey ahead of the Air Display, bringing them together with sponsors, veterans, public figures and members of the Jersey International Air Display team. Invitations were issued by JIAD, with the Lieutenant-Governor hosting the drinks and canapés at Government House. It provided a relaxed opportunity for everyone involved in the following day's display to meet, catch up and enjoy some Jersey hospitality before the main event.

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NATIONAL TRUST "MEMBERS' DAY" - IN CELEBRATION OF 90 YEARS IN JERSEY

Seaside Café, Grève de Lecq
31st July

To celebrate 90 years of the National Trust for Jersey this year, the Trust thanked their members and their continued support by inviting them to an exclusive preview of their 90th anniversary exhibition at the Seaside Café, Grève de Lecq. Members had the opportunity to meet the Trust team to find out more about the work they do across the Island, and discover how their support helps make it all possible. Members were able to enjoy a complimentary slice of cake and a refreshment while they explored the exhibition and jumped in a photo booth provided by Monocle, so they were also able to feel part of the 90 Faces of the National Trust exhibition.
















AIR DISPLAY THANK YOU AFTER PARTY

La Mare
10th September

The evening at La Mare Wine Estate was very much a celebration and thank you following the Air Display. Crews, sponsors, volunteers and others involved in making the event happen were invited to come together after a busy day. It was a chance to chat about the display, meet the crews away from the airfield and reflect on some of the highlights of the day. Inevitably, conversation also turned to the future, with plenty of talk about next year's Jersey International Air Display and what 2027 might bring. It was a lovely, relaxed way to round off the event and thank everyone who had played a part in making the display possible.

Photography: Abigail Williams








SUMMER FÊTE AT THE SEASIDE CAFÉ

Seaside Café, Grève de Lecq
1st August

The public were invited to celebrate 90 years of the National Trust for Jersey at their 1930s-themed Summer Fête at the Seaside Café. There was live music all day from a variety of acts on the terrace, local stalls including preserves, sweet treats, arts and crafts, and of course - plenty of cake! The Trust also welcomed The Jersey Biodiversity Centre and the RNLI, who were able to fundraise on the day. Children enjoyed vintage beach games, a 3 legged race and a sandcastle competition. The public were also able to see the 90 Faces of the National Trust exhibition by local photographer Ollie Jones, featuring 90 Islanders aged 0 - 94 whose stories celebrate the people helping the Trust protect Jersey's natural beauty, wildlife and historic places for everyone, forever.








ONWARD ONWARDS: PRIVATE VIEW

CCA Galleries International
17th September

CCA Galleries International opened its doors on Hill Street for the private view of Onward Onwards, a new exhibition by Kay Le Seelleur Ara. It was a welcome return for one of Jersey's most distinctive contemporary artists.
Since a fall in 2017, Kay has made her work from her armchair and a small studio at her home in Trinity. The new paintings are full of figures, human, animal and somewhere in between, drawn from pop culture, art history, memory and her own imagination. They are funny, tender, bawdy and a little unsettling, and they crowd every inch of the canvas. Kay was not able to attend the evening. She had been clear that she wanted the show to go ahead regardless, and it was a warm, affectionate night in her honour. Guests toasted an artist who held her first solo exhibition at 82 and has gathered collectors around the world since. The show's title comes from her own motto and suited the evening well.

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NEWS IN NUMBERS



US Army Chinooks dropped into Jersey in September. Ports of Jersey called it a "diplomatic" visit, but they are understood to have been part of Donald Trump's trip to Ireland. They had already called in at Land's End Airport, and stopped here to refuel.



bags of ketamine were found on a man who arrived at Police Headquarters to answer bail on a separate matter and was searched on arrival. He was later jailed for one year and nine months for a string of offences, including drug driving and refusing to give police the PIN to his phone.



more Shaun the Sheep figures are looking for a good home after one was taken from Romerils' Battle of Flowers Town Takeover display. His downfall began when both eyes were removed, one at a time, and a hoof and a leg were left behind. The shop will part with the remaining Shauns in exchange for a donation to a local charity.



years of marriage were celebrated by a couple, aged 93 and 91, who met in a chance encounter on a Jersey road and married in 1956. His father warned him that she wasn't a farmer's daughter. They started with £100, built a farm in Trinity, and she learned to drive the tractor in the pouring rain. They now live together in a St Peter care home.



was the cost of a spare key after a construction worker kept the company van and didn't hand back the keys. He agreed to chip in, but a week later, set the van on fire. He then turned himself in, claiming he was owed £3,000 in wages after about two weeks in the job. He was jailed for 18 months.

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FAMILY LAW

A community special containing updates and advice from Jersey's legal professionals working in the sector of family law.

A FAIRER END TO RELATIONSHIPS?

Consultation could be key.



Words: Advocate Chris Hillier, Head of Family Law at Ingram Advocates

Advocate Chris Hillier, Head of Family Law at Ingram Advocates, considers a recent Consultation that may lead to law reform in parts of the United Kingdom.

Discussion of change in family law is afoot in England and Wales, following the recent closure of a two-month Government Consultation. The 'A Fairer End to Relationships' Consultation examined major proposed reforms to modernise both family and inheritance law. The Consultation proposed four core areas -

1. Reforming the law of financial remedies on divorce and dissolution (how property and money are divided when divorcing or dissolving a civil partnership). This included seeking views on further targeted reforms, such as introducing 'qualifying nuptial agreements', which would enable couples to make binding financial arrangements in advance of divorce or dissolution. Presently, Courts view such agreements as 'guiding but not binding.'
2. Reforming the law for cohabitants on separation (for people in live-in relationships who are not married);
3. Reforming the law for cohabitants on intestacy (e.g. if the partner who you live with, but are not married to, dies without a Will), and
4. Evaluating domestic and economic abuse in divorce proceedings (considering to what extent the family court should consider the conduct of the parties where issues such as domestic violence and coercive control are raised, because such abuse restricts an individual's financial freedom).

Purpose

The proposed reforms highlight the old-fashioned legislation surrounding marriage and divorce. The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 is 53 years old; the Matrimonial Causes (Jersey) Law 1949 is 77 years old. Arguably, both require renewal and greater clarity, to help those divorcing couples who rely on the legislation. However, other important principles underpin the Consultation, such as prioritising fair outcomes for children, and protecting vulnerable people who may become more isolated at the end of a relationship.

The final objective of the Consultation is interesting. It seeks to preserve the 'distinct status of marriage' and recognises that protection for cohabitants should be different.

Relevant cases

The Consultation also refers to some well-known case names. These include "big money" cases such as Standish v Standish [2025] UKSC 26 which explored the 'matrimonialisation' of assets, and White v White [2000] UKHL 54, which formalised the starting point for financial division being the "yardstick of equality." It also references Radmacher v Granatino [2010] UKSC 42, where the guiding nature of pre-nuptial agreements was considered by the English courts. Some of these cases have been referred to by the Family Division in Jersey when considering the division of assets, showing the influence of English case law in a separate jurisdiction.

Reform in Jersey

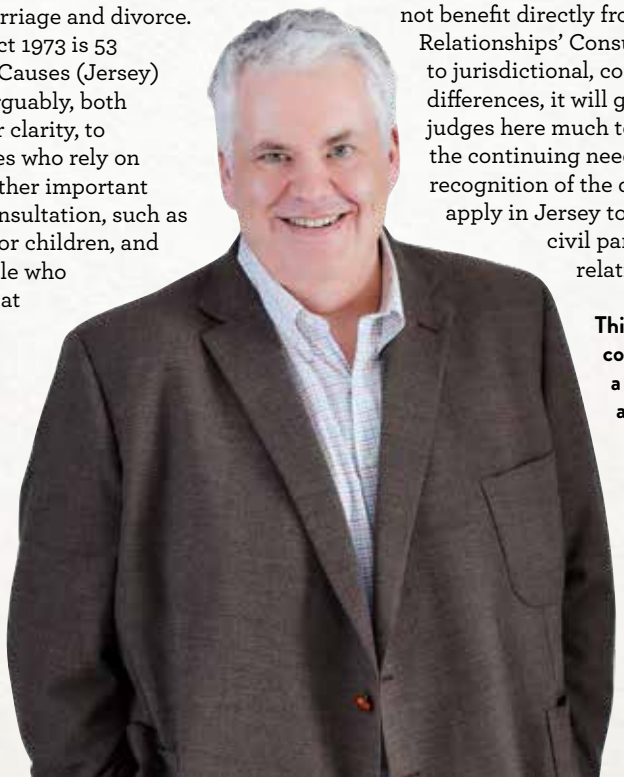
Whilst the Consultation's outcomes will not apply to Jersey, lawyers here will note them with interest. The Island stands on the brink of its own family law reform. In February this year, the States Assembly debated the draft Marriage and Civil Partnership (Dissolution and Separation) (Jersey) Law 202- and adopted its principles. The purpose of that legislation is to reform Jersey's legacy divorce framework into a contemporary, no-fault system. A simple statement that the relationship has broken down, will be sufficient for a divorce to proceed.

Once enacted, parties will no longer have to wait for three years to commence divorce proceedings, and couples can even make joint applications to the Court to end their marriage.

Conclusion

Although divorcees and cohabitees in Jersey will not benefit directly from the 'Fairer End to Relationships' Consultation directly due to jurisdictional, constitutional and legal differences, it will give lawyers and family judges here much to consider in terms of the continuing need for clarity, fairness and recognition of the different challenges that apply in Jersey today when a marriage, civil partnership or cohabitee relationship ends.

This article does not constitute legal advice. For a confidential discussion about family law matters, please contact Chris Hillier on 01534 833 870.



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Silence is Golden (or is it!?)

THE SILENT DIVORCE

Words: Advocate Alexandra Cohen, Cohen Family Law

An increasing trend observed by family lawyers is that the terms 'quiet divorce' and 'silent divorce' are now being used by couples when dealing with the breakdown of their relationship. This trend raises a number of important considerations for couples. However, what is meant by a silent divorce?

There is no commonly agreed definition, but a silent or quiet divorce is characterised by a couple checking out of a relationship without actually separating. The couple remain married. They often continue to share a home and finances, and may even take holidays together, but emotionally they have ended the usual intimacies of marriage and are, to all intents and purposes, leading parallel lives. Friends and family may still think that the couple appear to be together, but in reality there is no emotional or physical intimacy, and they are leading separate lives under the same roof.

Typical signs of a silent divorce include:

Emotional detachment: The couple no longer share thoughts or feelings with the other.
Lack of communication: Conversations between the couple become functional rather than meaningful.
Avoidance of intimacy: There is no longer any physical or emotional intimacy between the couple.
Different lifestyles: The couple spend more and more time apart. They develop new friendships and interests.
Conflict resolution: Either the couple argue more and more, or they simply stop attempting to resolve issues.

Why are couples opting for this?

Financial - in many cases the silent divorce is driven by the cost of living crisis making it extremely difficult for the couple to afford and maintain separate households. For many couples selling the family home is not financially or emotionally viable, there may be tax advantages of remaining married and divorce proceedings are often seen as too expensive and complex. There may be inherited assets or family businesses which make divorce even more complicated.
Emotional - many couples see the silent divorce as a way of avoiding conflict. They wish to avoid difficult legal decisions and the perceived conflict that may well be caused in the family.
Benefits to children - many couples believe that by remaining in one household this avoids emotional stresses for the children and gives stability.
In a nutshell, couples may see the silent divorce as providing a good middle way between remaining married and divorcing.



Are there problems with the silent divorce?

There may well be issues if the couple decide to divorce in the future. During the period of effective separation, the assets of the marriage will have changed. For example, an inheritance may have been received, pension values may have increased, and assets such as property or a family business may have different values from those that existed before the silent divorce. All of these factors, particularly where the silent divorce has lasted for several years, may make the eventual financial arrangements on divorce even more complicated and expensive to negotiate.

It may be extremely difficult to ascertain which assets were accumulated during the marriage and which were not. In any divorce, the date of separation can affect how assets are divided. In a silent divorce, the date of separation is almost certainly unclear and difficult to prove.

If one partner dies, then again, the period of the silent divorce may cause complications. This could apply if the deceased had changed their will, so assets were not left to the surviving spouse. In Jersey what are called rights of dower and légitime may be lost if the couple were separated or divorced but may still apply if it is decided by a court that no such separation has taken place. Many uncertainties may therefore arise on the death of one spouse which are unforeseen.

Perhaps most importantly, prolonged emotional limbo can take its toll, making it extremely difficult for the couple to move forward. The possibility of new relationships can be difficult and may cause tension. Unless there is a clear understanding between them, the couple may have very different interpretations and expectations of the situation.

Despite hoping to avoid upset for the children, they can be left confused and uncertain about what the intentions of their parents are and whether or not they will remain in the home or at the same schools in the foreseeable future.

What can be done?

Anyone in a silent divorce should consider the need to understand the financial obligations of the other and plan future changes in circumstances such as the children attending tertiary education and provision on death in order to avoid some of the potential issues discussed above.

In many cases, it will be wise to enter into a separation agreement that can address living arrangements, financial matters and parenting arrangements without the couple divorcing immediately. Although rare, there is also the option of judicial separation, under which the couple remain married but most of the financial orders available to a court on divorce can still be made.

At Cohen Family Law, we can offer clear advice on these options, including ways of resolving matters amicably through alternative dispute resolution.



PRENUPS:
Romance killer or relationship reality check?

✎ **Words:** Matthew Godden, Le Gallais & Luce

Love and law meet in one of the most awkward, but increasingly common wedding conversations. The dress, the venue, the guest list, the photographer, the cake; wedding planning already comes with a long to-do list. But for more and more couples, another conversation is finding its way onto that list: the prenup.

Prenuptial agreements are not currently automatically binding in Jersey. Instead, if a marriage breaks down, the Family Court will consider whether it would be fair to uphold the agreement on a case-by-case basis.

That position will change. New legislation in Jersey is set to give the Family Court the power to vary pre- and post-nuptial agreements, with agreements presumed valid if they have been properly entered into. In practical terms, this should give couples greater certainty about what would happen financially if they later divorced.

Prenups are also becoming much more mainstream. According to the new Marriage Foundation research, one in five weddings in the UK now starts with a prenup. Recent research also suggests that younger married couples are more likely to have one, with 40% of those aged 18 to 35 reporting that they have a prenuptial agreement.

A prenup is an agreement made by a couple before they marry or enter into a civil partnership. It sets out how they would like their assets to be divided if they later divorce or dissolve their civil partnership. This can include assets bought before or during the marriage, and assets held in either joint or sole names.

Of course, prenups can still feel unromantic. No one wants to talk about the possibility of separating while choosing flowers, outfits and seating plans. But having the conversation does not mean anyone expects the marriage to fail. It can simply be a practical way of being open, honest and transparent from the start.

For many couples, this is not about vast wealth. It may be about a first home, money gifted by parents or grandparents, an inheritance, a family business, savings built up before the relationship, or belongings with sentimental value. For others, it is simply about making sure both people understand where they stand.

With a prenup in place, a couple can decide for themselves how certain assets should be dealt with, rather than leaving everything to be argued over later. If the relationship does end, a clear agreement can reduce uncertainty, cost and conflict at an already difficult time.

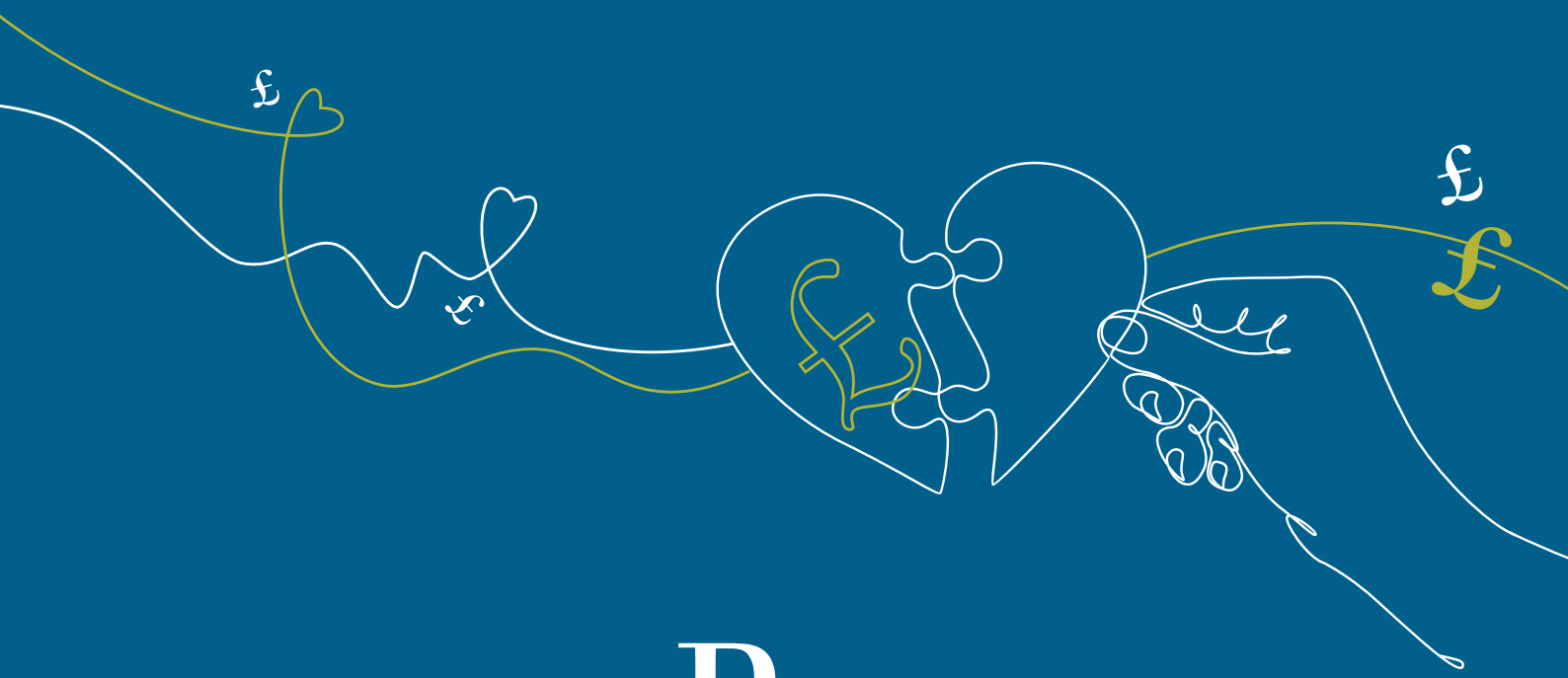
A prenup can cover money, property, personal belongings and, in some cases, even pets. It can deal with assets owned before the marriage, inherited wealth and future assets, such as an expected inheritance. The value does not have to be millions. Sometimes the things that matter most are not the most expensive ones.
If you are thinking about a prenup, here are a few key points to keep in mind:

- *Ideally, you should enter into your prenup at least 4 weeks before the wedding.*
- *You should both take independent legal advice before signing.*
- *The agreement must be entered into freely, without pressure from either side.*
- *Both people will need to be open about their finances.*
- *The agreement should be fair, particularly if children are born.*

A prenup may not sound like the most romantic part of wedding planning, but for some couples it can be one of the most sensible conversations they have.

If you would like to know more about prenuptial agreements, including the fixed fee packages offered by Le Gallais & Luce, or if you have any questions about family law, please contact Matthew Godden by email at family@lgl.je or by phone on 01534 760760.





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SEPARATED, BUT STILL UNDER ONE ROOF:

Proving Separation in Jersey

Words: Advocate Catia Tavares, from Sinels.

When a marriage ends, housing and financial realities do not always allow a couple to move into separate accommodation immediately. In Jersey, continuing to share a home can raise important questions about how separation is established for divorce purposes.

In Jersey, where housing availability and the cost of maintaining two households can present significant challenges, spouses may continue living in the same property despite having decided to end their relationship. This raises an important question: where spouses have separated but remain living under one roof, how can they establish the fact and date of separation for divorce purposes?

Under the current Matrimonial Causes (Jersey) Law 1949, Article 7(2) provides separation-based grounds for divorce. These include where the parties have lived apart continuously for at least one year and the respondent consents to the decree, or where they have lived apart continuously for at least two years. The fact and duration of separation are therefore important elements of the statutory framework.



A shared address does not necessarily tell the whole story of a relationship. Equally, simply declaring that a marriage has ended does not, by itself, establish that the statutory requirement has been met. Where spouses continue to occupy the same property, their circumstances and the nature of their relationship must be considered carefully.

Potentially relevant factors may include whether the parties occupy separate bedrooms, maintain separate domestic and social lives, and have ended their intimate relationship. Their financial arrangements, communications with others, and the reasons for continuing to share accommodation may also be relevant.



For example, continuing to contribute to a mortgage, rent or household expenses may reflect financial necessity rather than a continuation of the marital relationship. The important question is not simply whether the parties share an address, but what their living arrangements demonstrate about the reality of their separation.

There is no simple checklist that automatically determines whether spouses living under one roof are legally separated. Each situation must be considered on its own facts, and the evidence should reflect the reality of the parties' circumstances.

The Importance of a Clear Record

For couples unable to afford separate accommodation immediately, obtaining legal advice at an early stage may help avoid uncertainty. Keeping a record of the date on which the decision to separate was made, the reasons for continuing to share a home, and the arrangements put in place thereafter may be useful if a divorce application is made later.

Separating spouses may also wish to consider a separation agreement. This can record their intentions and arrangements, including the proposed separation date, occupation of the family home, responsibility for household expenses, financial arrangements and, where relevant, arrangements for children.

While an agreement does not, by itself, determine whether the statutory requirement of living apart has been satisfied, it can provide clarity and a contemporaneous record of the parties' circumstances. Its terms should be considered with appropriate legal advice.

Why the Separation Date Matters

Where a couple intends to rely on a period of separation under the Matrimonial Causes (Jersey) Law 1949, the separation date will be relevant to calculating the applicable one-year or two-year period.

It may also be significant when addressing financial matters. Following separation, property values may fluctuate, pensions may accrue, businesses may develop, and new assets or liabilities may arise.

The separation date may form part of the financial history considered when negotiating or determining arrangements, although it does not necessarily operate as an automatic cut-off for the inclusion of assets in the matrimonial estate.

For couples who remain separated but continue sharing a home, understanding the legal position and documenting arrangements can provide greater clarity during a difficult period.

Should you wish to discuss these issues further, or how we can assist you in navigating your divorce, please contact Advocate Catia Tavares at Sinels.

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"Catia Tavares was there every step of the way. When one is stressed, fearful and confused to have a professional clear the way is more than a relief, with her guidance, I quickly began to understand and know what to do with the situation. Nothing phased Catia or the rest of the team at Sinels."

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WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

Words: Clare Woodhouse, Managing Associate at Viberts

Recently, I heard the late Dolly Parton's song D-I-V-O-R-C-E again. It tells the story of a mother going through a separation while watching the impact it is having on her little son, Joe, and wishing she could stop what was happening. Although the song was written decades ago, the question it raises remains one of the first things parents ask when they separate: "What about the children?"

In more than 20 years of practising family law, every parent I have acted for has asked that question at some point. My answer is usually the same: children are resilient and, with the right support, they will usually be fine. However, parents need to do everything they can to help their children navigate one of the biggest changes of their young lives and, if possible, find a way to co-parent.

In the emotional aftermath of a relationship breakdown, that is often easier said than done. Parents are dealing with their own grief, anger, disappointment or even relief, while adjusting to a completely different way of life. Parenting alone can be isolating. Money is often tighter. Suddenly, you cannot rely on the other parent when you are ill or simply need an afternoon to yourself. In other cases, it can be a relief to leave a difficult or abusive relationship, while at the same time being painful to watch your child miss a parent who caused so much hurt within the relationship.



With so much to process, it is easy to become consumed by the emotions of separation. Yet children are often far more aware than we realise. Every harsh word, every sarcastic comment, every angry text message and every attempt to score points against the other parent has an impact. Children love both of their parents. Even when they are not directly involved, they can feel tension, hostility and conflict.

What we know is that children generally do better with parents who are separated but happier than with parents who remain together in a relationship marked by ongoing conflict and unhappiness. Children want to see their parents happy. They also need permission to love both parents without feeling guilty or disloyal, regardless of what may have happened between Mum and Dad.

It is also important to remember that it is not just the divorce itself that affects children. Often, it is everything that comes with it. Financial arguments create stress within a household. Children notice when a parent is struggling financially or worrying about bills. They pick up on the tension when maintenance payments are late or when there are arguments about money. Disputes about contact arrangements, cancelled visits, missed handovers or children being caught in the middle of disagreements can all leave a lasting impression.

As a lawyer, and as a parent myself, I understand that separation can be one of the most painful experiences a person will ever go through. My role is not only to guide clients through the legal process but also to help them keep sight of what matters most. Sometimes that means giving them space to vent. Sometimes it means fighting the battles that need to be fought. Often it means gently reminding them that every decision should be viewed through the lens of its impact on their children.

The best outcome is not simply obtaining a divorce or reaching a financial settlement. It is helping parents get to a point where they can stand together at a school play, a graduation, a wedding or the birth of a grandchild and share that moment without hostility. When children can see that their parents are no longer at war, they are given something every child deserves: the freedom to love both of their parents without fear, guilt or conflict.

If I can help families achieve that, then that is the best outcome of all.



Life's story is full of twists and turns. With the right support and advice, you can write the story you want.

Recognised as the leading family law team in Jersey, we are committed to handling issues in an expert way that minimises conflict and stress. We take a sensitive and discreet approach when dealing with complex family issues, while providing an effective and efficient service.

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SUNSHINE, SEAWATER AND THE FUTURE OF WATER



After Jersey's hottest summer on record, we caught up with Mark Bowden, Head of Water Resilience and Emergency Planning at Jersey Water, to talk sunshine, seawater and why the Island needs to rethink its relationship with water.

This summer may have delivered postcard-perfect weather for beach days and barbecues, but beneath the heatwaves lies a troubling reality. As Head of Water Resilience and Emergency Planning, Mark helps keep the Island supplied with drinking water. This summer showed how much harder that task is becoming as the climate changes.

"This isn't just a challenge for historically dry countries anymore," says Mark. "Climate change is making weather more variable everywhere. We're already seeing that here in Jersey through hotter, drier summers and changing rainfall patterns."

Mark continues: "By the end of July, we'd experienced three record-breaking months back-to-back, leaving reservoir levels more than 10% below the ten-year average for the time of year. At the same time, demand for water went up as we all tried to keep cool."

Jersey uses around 19 million litres of water every day. This can rise up to as much as 25 million litres during hot weather.

More surprising is how little water Jersey can store. Even when all reservoirs are full, Jersey only has around 120 days of water. Suddenly that hosepipe starts to feel a little extravagant.

Mark says: "Whether on mains water or private boreholes, everyone in Jersey is drawing on the same limited source of water. This makes us particularly sensitive to long dry spells and, with them becoming more common, we need a stronger safety net to make sure the Island always has enough water."

The question isn't whether Jersey will need to adapt, but how.



Jersey's salty secret weapon

Looking out over Corbière, Jersey's desalination plant has been the Island's insurance policy against drought since 1970. It might just be the Island's most underrated piece of infrastructure.

Mark says: "La Rosière was the first desalination facility of its kind in the British Isles. It was really innovative and is still a critical part of Jersey's water back-up today."
However, even running at maximum capacity, the desalination plant can only supply around half the Island's current daily water needs. It's also beginning to show its age.
Mark explains: "That's why Jersey Water is planning a major upgrade to the desalination plant, which will increase its output by around 50%. It's an important investment that will help us to keep supplying water, even during droughts."
Subject to planning approval, the company is looking to begin the project in 2027 and have the upgraded facility up and running by the end of the decade.

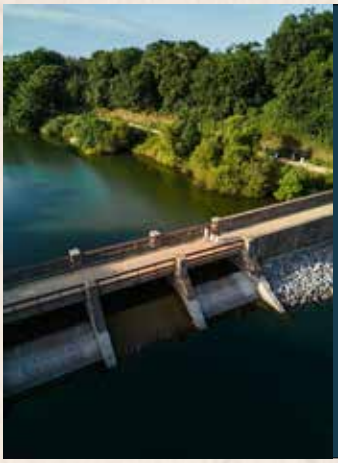
A new relationship with water

Jersey Water's forecasts suggest that the Island could need up to 8.6 million litres of additional water a day by 2035 during a severe drought. Upgrading the desalination facility is just one part of the solution. Mark says the answer also lies in changing our relationship with water: "We've spent decades viewing water as something that just appears when we turn on a tap. But like any relationship, it's easy to overlook it until it's under strain. Water isn't an endless resource, and the more we understand its value, the better position we'll be in for the future.

"The same mindset should apply to how we use energy, manage waste and value the Island's limited natural resources."
He points to countries such as Australia and South Africa, where water-saving habits have become second nature.

"Small changes can have a huge impact," Mark adds. "Cutting three minutes off your shower can save around 30 litres of water. Turning the tap off when brushing your teeth can save up to 24 litres a day. While you don't need to start timing every shower, small changes add up quickly. If every day 100,000 people reduced their water use by just 10 litres that would add up to one million litres."

It turns out the most valuable thing about Jersey's scorching summer wasn't the sunshine. It was the reminder that water deserves a little more appreciation. After three record-breaking years, and rumours of an even hotter and drier summer next year, there's never been a better time to start making changes to how we all use water.



Why not build another reservoir?

When it comes to making sure Jersey always has enough water, upgrading the desalination plant provides a reliable source of water, faster and at a fraction of the cost of building a new reservoir.

5 years to upgrade the desalination plant vs. 25+ years to build a new reservoir
£27m approximate investment vs. £250m+ to build a new reservoir
5.4 million litres of desalinated water a day when needed
Guaranteed water from the sea vs. rainfall needed to fill a reservoir
With climate change expected to bring more dry spells, Jersey needs a source of water that doesn't depend on rain.

















GALLERY RALLY 11
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT JERSEY




















Seagulls, watercolours and sunshine

GALLERYRALLY 11

Planning a charity rally has changed a lot in the eight years since we last applied Galleryrally stickers to the side of cars and headed to Monaco. With a trip to Amsterdam scuppered by lockdown (remember lockdown?!), we'd almost drawn a line under 10 rallies without incident. But, well... what's better than a fundraising adventure?

We dusted off the rally planning playbook and cooked up a route to Cannes that took ralliers old and new 1,350km across France in September. Stepping up to the plate as cluemaster, along with a partner whose dad had cluemastered the last two editions of our rally, meant the standards needed to be high. It turns out they were too high on day one, with most teams failing miserably to decipher our clues.

Thankfully, the scavenger hunt for 300 rubber ducks when we arrived at our first port of call, Château de Savonnières, levelled the playing field. Subsequent days' clues took ralliers across France on some lovely N-roads, taking in the sights and attractions and solving our clues to find, and then clue-hunt at, mystic museums, the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a town with huge Rio-style monolithic statues on rocky outcrops and a smattering of motor museums for the car enthusiasts. Having undertaken ten rallies without anyone falling foul of the gendarmes, we did see one rallier accidentally press a little too hard on an overtake, which resulted in them taking his car. Thankfully, they gave it back after a week! Thirty-four ralliers is actually the average across the 11 events we've done, and our field this year was fantastic, with each team embracing the crazy of having to hunt for plastic seagulls, paint a canvas of their car (at speed) and find a selection of random prizes as part of the last day's scavenger hunt. A picture of your team with a butcher? With a gendarme? With a dog in your car? They all performed brilliantly.



As we arrived in Cannes for our finale meal on the harbourside, we had three possible winners. It was all to play for, with our last bonus seagull worth 50 points and hidden in the hotel pool. Kudos to Pedal Pushers' Chris Clark, who made the dive, pushing them into fourth and ensuring Allez Les Blues stayed at the top of the table, crowned the champions of our 11th rally. The win for all teams was the collective £10,640 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support Jersey.

See our route this year and the clues the teams had to solve, along with some pictures, at galleryrally.com
Keep your eyes open for news of Galleryrally 12!

Our 2026 competitors



Rank	Team Name	Driver	Co-Driver	Car Model	Score
1	**Allez Les Bleus**	**Matthew Robins**	**Isabel Robins**	**2022 Alpine A110**	**651**
2	'75 Crew	Neil Boughton	Karl Moss	2022 Porsche Taycan GTS	601
3	Fast But Feckless	Asa Le Fustec	Callum Langton	2022 Porsche 911 Targa 4 GTS	588
4	Pedal Pushers	Chris Clark	Andrew Shrimpton	2018 Porsche 911 Carrera 4 GTS	536
5	R Late	Darren Amy	Aaron Grandfield	2011 Audi R8	501
6	Hey shag what no Jag!	Andrew Dobber	Colin Diss	Volkswagen Golf	439
7	Nix-on-the-win	Jensen Nixon	Axel Nixon	Aston Martin DB11	437
8	Grüne Tourists	Philip Balderson	Emma Balderson	2026 Porsche GTS Cabriolet	431
9	Stuntman Mike	Philip Burrows	Brandon Burrows	2022 Porsche 911 Turbo S	406
10	Panla	Daniel Harrison	Jodie Carney	2024 Alpine A110s	380
11	Holy Jersey Cow, It's a Lambo!	Christian Francis Rupert Ruellan	Patricia Antoinette Klementowicz	2006 Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder Gated	361
12	Reto Ralliers	Adam Dawson	Sarah Dawson	Porsche 911 Carrera S Cab (now returned)	360
13	Grey Matters	Nigel Hurst	David Hall	2011 Mercedes E63 AMG	337
14	On a bender in a Defender	Robert Pearson	Jane Pearson	2024 Land Rover Defender	332
15	Team Cans	Hugo Butlin	Dane Levee	2004 Bentley Continental GT (Glencoe Edition)	322
16	College Boys	Miguel Angel Zaragoza Gimeno	Christopher Kalinauckas	2003 Porsche Boxster 986	205



GALLERY RALLY 11

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT JERSEY

THE ST GEORGE'S DIFFERENCE:

Where childhood still has room to roam

Set within the historic grounds of La Hague Manor in St Peter, St George's offers something that feels increasingly rare in modern education: a childhood rich in exploration, wonder and possibility.

St George's remains committed to a simple but powerful belief: children learn best when they are given the freedom to discover who they are while being inspired to become all they can be.
Here, education extends far beyond the classroom walls. The Island of Jersey itself becomes part of the learning experience. Children explore beaches and rock pools while studying marine ecosystems, develop environmental awareness through hands-on conservation projects, and gain confidence through real-world experiences that bring learning vividly to life. Across more than 35 acres of woodland and grounds, outdoor learning and Forest School are not occasional enhancements but a valued part of everyday school life.









This connection with the natural world begins from the earliest years. St George's Early Years provision offers a start to education unlike any other on the Island, combining expert teaching with exceptional outdoor environments and a deep respect for the pace and wonder of childhood.

While childhood is treasured, ambition is never compromised.
Academic achievement at St George's consistently exceeds UK national averages, reflecting the high expectations and expert teaching that underpin every stage of a child's journey. Yet success is measured by far more than examination outcomes. The school's purpose is to nurture capable, curious and resilient young people who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world. Children are encouraged not simply to achieve, but to think independently, embrace challenge, show kindness and develop confidence in their own abilities.

Relationships between pupils, staff and families are characterised by kindness, respect and genuine care.

A broad and enriching curriculum ensures that every child can discover passions and talents that may last a lifetime. Specialist teaching begins from the earliest years, with dedicated teachers delivering subjects including science, music, art, performing arts, swimming, physical education and outdoor education. French is introduced from Nursery, with Spanish following later in the school, making St George's the only preparatory school on the Island to offer two modern languages as part of a child's educational journey. Small class sizes ensure every child is known exceptionally well. Strengths are recognised, support is carefully tailored, and pupils are encouraged to reach their full potential. Achievement develops naturally alongside confidence, wellbeing and happiness.

Yet what truly distinguishes St George's cannot be captured by facilities, programmes or examination results alone. Visitors often remark upon the warmth of the school community. Relationships between pupils, staff and families are characterised by kindness, respect and genuine care. There is a strong sense of belonging that runs through every aspect of school life, creating an environment in which children feel valued, supported and inspired to succeed.

It is this balance that makes St George's unique. Academic rigour sits comfortably alongside adventure. Achievement is matched by wellbeing. Ambition exists alongside a determination to preserve the joy and magic of childhood.
There are many excellent schools. What makes St George's different is that it never asks families to choose between a first-class education and a happy childhood.

Here, children are given the opportunity to enjoy both.



Beaulieu student crowned London Designer of the Year at the Junk Kouture World Finals



Beaulieu students winning the Collas Crill Moot.



Sixth Form Beaulieu student speaking at the UK Youth Parliament.

BEAULIEU CONVENT SCHOOL

Celebrating Success, Inspiring Futures

Words: Matthew Burke, Headteacher

At Beaulieu, we talk a great deal about success – and rightly so. But one of the things I value most about our school is that we resist the temptation to define success too narrowly.

Academic achievement matters. We are rightly ambitious for our students. Last year brought another set of excellent examination results, placing Beaulieu in the top 10% of schools in the UK. Those outcomes are particularly significant because Beaulieu is not an academically selective school. We are proud that students with a wide range of starting points can achieve highly, and that our results consistently compare very favourably with schools both in Jersey and further afield. But examination results are only part of the story.

Success can be seen in creativity, sport, music, service and leadership. It can be the student who discovers the confidence to speak in front of others, who represents their peers, leads a team, organises an event, mentors a younger student or takes responsibility within the wider school community. Leadership is not something reserved for a small group or a particular age. We want young people throughout Beaulieu to experience responsibility, to understand service and to recognise that leadership is often about what we do for others.

Our students also benefit from opportunities extending well beyond the Island. Through competitions, partnerships, trips, conferences and wider networks, they are able to take their place confidently in opportunities across Jersey, the UK and beyond. Those experiences broaden horizons and help students see themselves as part of a much wider world.

That breadth has also been recognised nationally, with Beaulieu nominated for an Independent Schools Association award for Visual Arts and Creative Writing – wonderful recognition of the talent, imagination and commitment within our community.

For me, that combination is important. A successful school should be academically ambitious, but it should also create opportunities for young people to discover who they are, what they can contribute and what they might become.

> *Through competitions, partnerships, trips, conferences and wider networks, they are able to take their place confidently in opportunities across Jersey, the UK and beyond.*

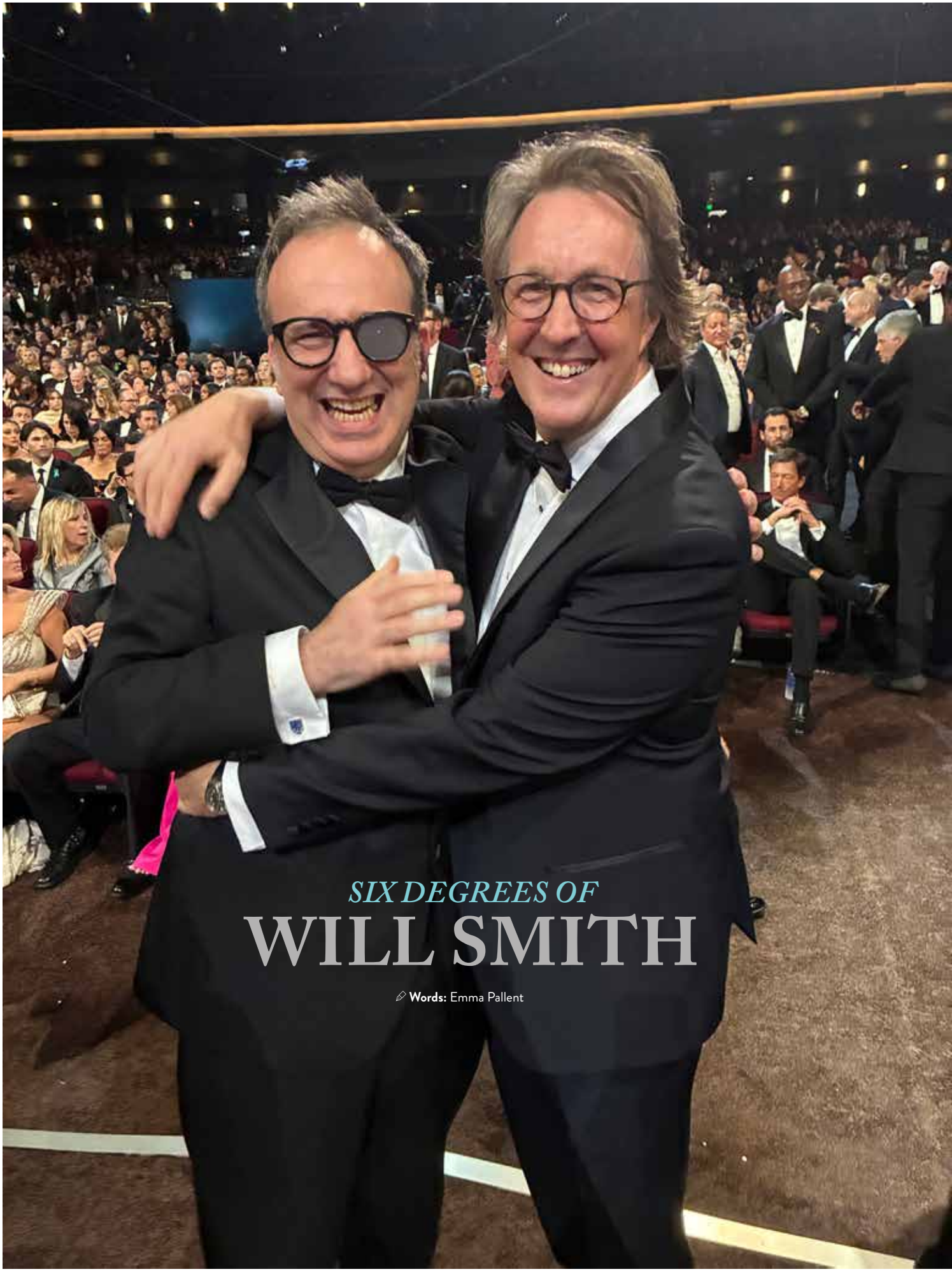
Our forthcoming Sixth Form Options Evening on the 17th November will provide another opportunity for students and families to explore that breadth: strong academic provision alongside leadership, enrichment, creativity and opportunities beyond the classroom.

Success will always look different for different people. Our responsibility is to recognise it, nurture it and ensure every young person has the opportunity to experience it.

For more information, please see bcs.je

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Endless Opportunities

Beaulieu
Convent School Jersey



SIX DEGREES OF WILL SMITH

Words: Emma Pallent

"How's Jersey today? It looks very sunny." It's one of the first things Will Smith says to me, and I admit that I'm not on the island, but on another one, Crete, sitting in the dining area with the blinds drawn so he can't see my relatives behind me, competitively playing volleyball in the pool. "Crete's my favourite," he says instantly (after Jersey, of course). They go there most years, staying near Chania. Within about a minute he gives me a dinner recommendation for the following night, which he's adamant is the best restaurant in the world. Costas's taverna, in a tiny hamlet called Maza, has no menu. Costas tells you what he's cooking, and you choose from there. "I promise you, it's wonderful," he says. "And sometimes he sings as well."

It's easy to forget as we talk that this is the man who wrote and won an Emmy for *Slow Horses* (his third, after two for *Veep*). An Apple TV+ spy drama (and a Gallery office favourite), it's adapted from Mick Herron's *Slough House* novels about a dumping ground for disgraced MI5 agents, ruled over by Gary Oldman's Jackson Lamb. Will also worked with Armando Iannucci on *The Thick of It*, wrote a Jersey-based thriller called *Mainlander*, and credits a large part of his writing career to growing up on the island. A big part of this was his teachers at Victoria College: Colin Benson, who taught him O-level English, and Peter Fekete, who taught him at A-level. "I don't have the career and life that I do without their influence and inspiration," he says.

His close friends at the time played in bands, were in plays, and made films, sketch shows and comedy magazines together. "That was the kind of training ground for me, really," he explains. "It's hard to imagine doing it without Jersey. It felt like that's where my path started, definitely." You might also recognise his brother, Olly Smith, the wine expert from *Saturday Kitchen*. Olly would get involved in Will's projects in the school holidays, and was "always very theatrical". "You look back and you think, yeah, he was probably always going to end up on TV in some capacity," Will says.

He was also at the time, and still is, a huge Bergerac fan. Years later, doing stand-up, he and his school friend Roger Drew, also a Jersey boy, came up with "Six Degrees of Bergerac" for his live act. "I was able at one point to connect any film that the audience could name to an episode of Bergerac in six moves or less," he says, calling it "quite a pointless party piece", and admits he'd be a bit rusty now. In a 2007 Radio 4 comedy, *The Tao of Bergerac*, he navigated life's problems using an audiobook of John Nettles reading the ancient Chinese Tao. Looking back, what he loves about the original series is its extraordinary guest list. "These amazing actors just cropping up in this show set on the island I grew up in," he explains. "It was at the centre of this amazing web of actors and films, and you could just connect it to all these different things that I loved."

On paper, Will's career looks scattershot. He spent nearly twenty years doing stand-up, radio, sketch shows, sitcoms and joke-polishing on films. His comedy background gave him an edge over other drama writers. On *The Thick of It*, where he both wrote and played the hapless Tory researcher Phil Smith, scripts were circulated and everyone rewrote everyone else, with actors improvising. "You lose any sort of territoriality about it, which is healthy," he explains. "It's just about what the best thing is." Performing live gave him confidence with actors, and in the UK, he points out, drama writers are often "siphoned off" and kept away from set, whereas Iannucci always had his writers there. Iannucci's biggest rule was that nothing should ever feel like a joke. "That's what I applied to *Slow Horses*," Will explains. "We're not going to have a line that feels like a joke that is crowbarred in or there for a laugh. It's got to be there because the character wants to say it or needs to say it... *Slow Horses* wouldn't be what it was if I hadn't done all that work with Armando."

In the rear-view mirror, *Slow Horses* is the thread that ties the rest of his career together. The show took five years to go from Herron's books to the screen. Despite the fact that a lot of people liked the idea of producing a show, Will thinks the reason it took so long to convince anyone to make it was because "they were just always a bit confused. It always came down to: is it comedy or is it drama? And are we allowed to laugh within a thriller? I always thought yes, because the books are funny, but they're in the thriller section. And readers like the books, so viewers will like the show." In the end, with the popularity of the books increasing as more were released, he figured "somebody's just going to make a cold commercial decision" to let them adapt it. Luckily, it was Apple, who saw the brilliance of the source material and bought in "very, very quickly, after everyone else scratched their heads".

For Will, the secret of the show is character. "These people have lives outside of their jobs, which you don't normally find in spy thrillers," he says. "It's normally all about the operation and the case. They were just identifiable and really human and fallible. You can have a brilliantly worked-out plot, but if you're just fitting characters into that, then they're doing things because you want them to, to suit the plot. Thomas Hardy said character is fate. And I adapt that and go, well, character is story. What would Catherine feel about this? How would she react? If you know the answer to that, it unlocks the story for you." Writing dialogue felt like "writing down dictation" from the characters in his head. If an actor struggled with a line, he rewrote it, because if it were right, it would flow naturally.

> *'Thomas Hardy said character is fate. And I adapt that and go, well, character is story.'*

None of the characters is as unpredictable and engaging as Jackson Lamb, played by Gary Oldman. He is slovenly, magnificently rude and has one of the sharpest minds in British intelligence, somehow both utterly appalling and absurdly appealing. When I ask Will why it is we forgive him, he says Lamb "calls it like it is". He's softened a little from the books with Oldman's portrayal, but Will has a theory, developed with Oldman and with Herron's blessing, that reveals a tender side to him.



Photography: Jon Holloway

"His haranguing of the slow horses, telling them they're rubbish and should do something else, is kind of an act of mercy," he says. "He's trying to save them from the fate that befell him." Underneath the Bond-like dream of MI5 action is the reality that the career could burn you out and wreck your life, and Lamb is saying, get out whilst you can. "There's an authenticity to him," Will says. "Even though he's always playing games, thinking many steps ahead, there's also a feeling that what you see is what you get."

In interviews, Will often points to the anti-Bond, underdog storyline as the reason why *Slow Horse*s is so appealing to viewers. But what is it about the world that we're living in that means audiences want failing spies over glossy Bonds right now? "I kind of feel like we're going through a slight identity crisis as a nation," Will reflects, "and nothing quite works as well as it should, and we've not got a lot of faith in our leaders or in the direction of travel." *Slow Horses* shows a broken system. "There are some well-meaning people, but there are some idiots and some people who shouldn't be in the job, and everything's slightly compromised," Will continues. "I don't know if it's comforting, but people certainly feel, yeah, that reflects reality."

In 2024, Will won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for "Negotiating with Tigers", the series three episode where River Cartwright has his final showdown with his old rival, Spider Webb. In the books Spider is left in a coma and passes away quietly, but Freddie Fox had been "so amazing as Spider", Will says, that he wanted to give him a proper ending. Herron was fine with it and Fox was delighted. "I was like, let's really ramp up," Will explains. "Let's go opera here." It became "Freddie's swansong".

"It was nuts, because I didn't think that was going to happen," Will says of winning. "I still can't quite believe it. You're in a room with all these really famous people whose shows you've watched and loved, and they're staring at you, so it's quite bizarre."

Leaving the show wasn't really a choice. He couldn't get series six written in time without series five suffering if he tried to do both. "It was a victim of its own success, really," he says. He hasn't watched any of series six yet, and is waiting for all the episodes to be out so he can binge them all at once. In the meantime, he's been busy with *The Siege*, out on Channel 4 next year, his adaptation of Ben Macintyre's book about the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege. Writing about real people turns out to be more similar to writing the fictional characters of *Slow Horses* than you'd imagine, he says. The book is the backstop, and some of the stories are so implausible that people might not believe them anyway. The one that comes to mind is a Pakistani businessman who'd gone to the embassy to meet a friend and was taken hostage. "He annoyed them so much, and then he snored so much, that in the end they let him go," Will says, with a tone of disbelief. "It's just a brilliant character arc that's funny and dark and odd. If I'd come up with that, I think people would go, I don't know... it's the cliché of truth being stranger than fiction."

This September, he went to the Emmys again after being nominated for "Scars", the series five finale of *Slow Horses* and the last episode he wrote. Going back to the Emmys as a nominee after winning is a strange thing, he says. He was nominated the year prior too, so he's been the one who had to get up on stage with his heart pounding, and he's been the one who didn't have to get up. This year, his long-time director Saul Metzstein won the directing Emmy for *Slow Horses* before Will's category came up, and he stopped thinking about it.

"I was like, I don't care what happens. If I win, that'd be great, but I'm still going to be really happy, because Saul won," he says. He didn't win, and didn't mind. "My wife said it's the most relaxed I've been at the Emmys, and she said I danced more than I did at our wedding. Slow Horses were the last to leave the dance floor," he adds, "which is a really nice final memory for me."

CHRISTMAS MAGIC AWAITS AT

JERSEY OPERA HOUSE

As the nights draw in and Christmas edges closer, Jersey Opera House is preparing for one of the most magical times of the year – with festive family fun, live music and plenty to look forward to.



This Christmas, in partnership with The Channel Islands Co-operative Society, **Jack and the Beanstalk** takes to the stage from 18 December to 3 January, promising all the ingredients of a spectacular traditional pantomime. Expect plenty of laughs, larger-than-life characters, music, dancing and, of course, a little panto magic as Jack sets off on an unforgettable adventure up the beanstalk.

This year will also include a dedicated Relaxed Performance on Sunday 3 January at 1pm, designed for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment. With adjustments to the traditional performance experience and greater flexibility around audience noise and movement, it is part of Jersey Opera House's commitment to making live theatre accessible to more Islanders.

For those who want to get even more from their Opera House, Membership offers a great way to support Jersey's historic theatre while enjoying exclusive benefits throughout the year, from priority booking to ticket discounts and special member offers.



Before Christmas arrives, November brings even more music to the stage. **The Shoop Shoop Show – The Cher Collection** celebrates the music and glamour of an international icon from 12–14 November, while **The Magic of The Bee Gees** on the 20 & 21 November brings those unmistakable harmonies and legendary hits to Jersey Opera House.



From nights out with friends to creating family Christmas memories, there's plenty waiting behind the curtain.

OPERA HOUSE
JERSEY

Discover the full programme at www.jerseyoperahouse.co.uk





A Christmas in Neverland.

Don't miss this year's community Christmas Production at The Arts Centre

This December, Jersey Arts Centre will present its 11th annual Community Christmas Production. Over the past decade, these festive shows have become a cherished tradition, enchanting audiences with spectacular stagings of beloved stories such as The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, A Christmas Carol, The Sound of Music, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The creative team returns with something truly adventurous: Wendy & Peter Pan.

Based on the book by J.M. Barrie, Ella Hickson's adaptation of Wendy & Peter Pan tells the compelling story of how Wendy, Tink, Tiger Lily and Peter must work together as they lead the Lost Boys to battle with the dastardly Captain Hook and his pitiful pirates. And there's a Crocodile to navigate, too!

This year's production sees Jersey Arts Centre once again collaborate with ARTcomedia, a partnership that has consistently delivered theatre of imagination and musical charm. The show is produced and designed by Daniel Austin, with a guest director this year, Charlie Flynn, who has recently graduated with a Master's degree in Directing. Charlie will be making his professional debut and, together with a company of talented community performers (with over 90 people auditioning for the roles), Wendy & Peter Pan promises a nostalgic trip back to Neverland for one and all. Expect a production brimming with noise, colour and theatrical invention, one that celebrates both the power of storytelling and the joy of community theatre.

Reviewing the Royal Shakespeare Company's original commission in 2013, The Daily Telegraph wrote: "A gripping account of a ripping yarn – and anyone who says otherwise should be made to walk the plank." WhatsOnStage.com also wrote: "Magical. I laughed, I gasped, I cried. The reworking of the story is masterful."

So, wrap up warm, step into the glow of Jersey Arts Centre, and let Wendy, the Darlings, Peter Pan, and the inhabitants of Neverland transport you into the festive season and a world of wonder!

Adapted for the stage by Ella Hickson, from the book by J.M. Barrie, Jersey Arts Centre's 2026 Community Christmas production plays from 5 – 19 December. An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books. There is also a Relaxed Performance on 13 December and a BSL Interpreted Performance on 16 December.

A Christmas in Neverland at Jersey Arts Centre: An Awfully Big Adventure!
5th – 19th December
Book now at artscentre.je





Make Your Mark:

An Exhibition Jersey Will Create Together

This autumn, Jersey artists and long-time friends Hayley Gibaut and Sophie Harris are taking over ArtHouse Jersey at Capital House. But what happens next will be partly up to you.

Walk into Make Your Mark during its first three weeks and you won't find a conventional finished exhibition. Instead, visitors will be invited to draw, make, respond, experiment and leave something of themselves behind. From Wednesday 14 October, the gallery will become an evolving artwork, continually changing as more people contribute. The exhibition has been commissioned as part of ArtHouse Jersey's New Work Programme, sponsored by Coutts Crown Dependencies, which supports the creation and presentation of ambitious new work by Jersey artists.

The idea feels like a natural progression for two artists whose creative partnership began long before The Stoodio had a name. Harris and Gibaut have been friends since school and, growing up in Jersey, both struggled to find a creative space in which they felt they belonged. Art became a way to communicate, explore and better understand themselves and each other, and eventually they began creating the opportunities they felt had been missing. That journey led to The Stoodio, the community-rooted creative space they co-founded with support from Andium Homes and ArtHouse Jersey, built around personal expression, experimentation and opportunities for people to make and create.

The two artists bring distinct practices to that shared approach. Multimedia artist Sophie Harris works across painting, digital illustration, drawing and printmaking, exploring identity, memory and embodied experience through colour, texture and symbolism. Artist and ceramicist Hayley Gibaut draws on her Madeiran heritage and Jersey upbringing, bringing together Jersey's floral heritage and Portuguese artistic traditions in work exploring life and death across cultures.

With Make Your Mark, that spirit of exploration moves into Capital House on a much larger scale. You don't need to consider yourself an artist to take part: the invitation is simply to come in and have a go. Visitors can take part in the evolving exhibition for free, becoming part of what happens rather than simply observing it.

Alongside the drop-in experience, a programme of artist-led events and workshops will offer even more ways to get involved, from experimental painting, cardboard sculpture and graffiti to movement, sound, fabric and sensory art. Sessions will cater for both children and adults, with many of the resulting creations becoming part of the evolving exhibition.

The making continues until Sunday 1 November. From Tuesday 3 to Sunday 8 November, the completed exhibition will offer everyone, whether they contributed or not, the chance to see what has collectively been created. One thing is certain: the finished work cannot be known in advance. Make Your Mark will become whatever Jersey makes of it.

ARTIST TAKEOVER: MAKE YOUR MARK BY THE STOODIO
14 October to 8 November 2026
ArtHouse Jersey at Capital House, 8 Church Street, St Helier

Participation runs until Sunday 1 November; completed exhibition 3 to 8 November.
Free entry. Everyone is welcome.

Make Your Mark forms part of ArtHouse Jersey's New Work Programme, sponsored by Coutts Crown Dependencies. Visit the ArtHouse Jersey website to discover more about Make Your Mark, explore the programme of events and find out how to get involved.



NINETY FLICKERS

Photography: Ollie Jones **Words:** Emma Pallent

At the start of this year, Dan Turello wrote a New Yorker essay reflecting on two portrait sessions, one with the humanoid robot Sophia, manufactured by Hong Kong company Hanson Robotics, and one with the philosopher David Chalmers, a leading theorist of consciousness.

It's a relatively long one, but I was stuck in last-leg gridlock on the N90 to La Plagne, and as our coach crawled slowly through the Tarentaise Valley, I immersed myself in 'The Robot and the Philosopher'. In short, it includes reflections on consciousness within the frame of portraiture, as Turello talks about the fleeting micro-expressions he looks for in his human subjects when capturing the perfect portrait: the flicker of annoyance in the eye as someone's told to smile, the flash of embarrassment as they correct their posture to sit up straighter, all these split-second tells that, per the psychologist Paul Ekman, last roughly a twenty-fifth of a second and somehow still manage to reveal the soul of the subject in a way a held, composed expression never could. Sophia, by contrast, held the exact same thoughtful, faintly melancholy expression for the full fifteen minutes of the shoot, unnervingly consistent in a way no human sitter ever is. Turello doesn't quite let himself conclude anything from it, he's honest that he has no way of knowing whether she was "thinking" anything at all behind that stillness, or simply executing a preset routine. The essay ends with her being disassembled and packed into a case after the shoot, "any semblance of sentience evaporating the moment the costume came off." The suggestion is left to sit: that it's the flicker, rather than the composure, that gives away a mind.

The difficulty of trying to capture the essence of a person in a frame is a common endeavour for portrait photographers. You want to capture the microsecond that reveals enough about the person to evoke a sense of understanding, but further curiosity. "Who is this person? What is their story?" Ollie Jones asks, reflecting













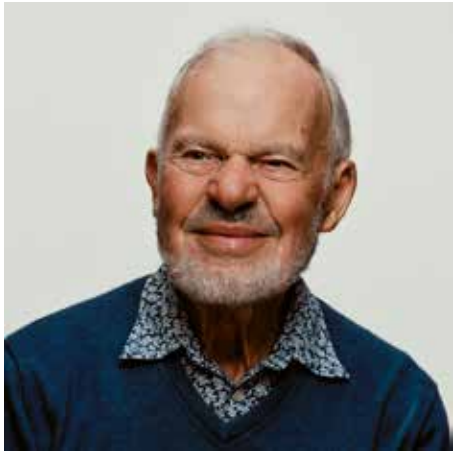














"I never wanted to change or soften the truth of the moment."

on what he wants the public to see from his recent exhibition, 90 Faces, shot in partnership with the National Trust for Jersey. The project saw him meet and interact with over 90 subjects at the Seaside Café at Grève de Lecq, allowing around ten minutes to try and draw out that moment where walls fall down and the essence of a person can be captured. Most of the time was spent helping people feel comfortable, rather than taking photographs, and in the first thirty seconds the camera is totally ignored. Instead, Ollie pays attention to their body language, how they naturally sit, move, hold themselves, ultimately searching for the features or characteristics that make them recognisable as themselves. "Whether it's a studio portrait, a corporate headshot, a personal branding session, or a portrait that will hang on the wall of someone's home for generations, my approach is always the same," he says. "Create an honest photograph that captures who that person really is." The idea was to keep the background, setting and lighting identical between each portrait, to communicate a shared space inhabited by many different people, coming together towards one cause, the National Trust for Jersey.

There are many photos in the selection that stand out. A young boy holding the brim of his cap as if he's sending out a sailor's salute, a ninety-year-old woman grinning ear to ear in a matching bubblegum pink sunhat and sundress. A man with a gold tooth resting his fists under his chin, tattoos across his knuckles and peeking out onto his forehead from his hairline. The photo which stood out from the rest for me was little Bjorn, at the time eleven months old, the youngest of the subjects. Having been born prematurely, he wears an oxygen mask, and is cradled in his mother's arms. At the very beginning of his life, he was already becoming part of the National Trust for Jersey's history. "The oxygen mask wasn't something to hide or remove," Ollie explains, as "it was a part of who Bjorn was at that moment... his mum held him throughout the portrait, which kept him calm and comfortable, and felt like the most natural way to photograph him. I never wanted to change or soften the truth of the moment."

On the other end of the spectrum, the oldest person Ollie photographed was 94-year-old David Barlow, who has supported the National Trust for Jersey as a paying member for 66 years. He was a strong influence in the charity's protection of the land down at St Ouen's Bay, which was threatened by the prospect of constructing tall commercial buildings on the headland in the 1960s. He looks about twenty years younger than he is, most likely due to his active, outdoor lifestyle, and Ollie spent time listening to his stories, watching how he spoke and moved, waiting for the moments in between. "I knew I had the portrait quite early on," he says, "which meant there was no pressure to keep shooting. We simply carried on talking about the Trust, its history and the memories he had collected over six decades. Those conversations were just as important as the photograph itself because they helped me understand the person I was photographing."

If Ollie had to choose a favourite, it would be Mike Stenford. During their session, he shared stories about the many conservation projects he had been involved in over the years, including work to protect Jersey's declining puffin population at Plémont. "Hearing those stories from someone who had played such an important role gave me a much deeper appreciation of the Trust's work... I wanted the photograph to reflect the wisdom, passion and commitment he carries for the island and the Trust. Meeting him left a lasting impression on me, and I know his stories will stay with me for years to come."

The exhibition left Grève de Lecq and moved to The Georgian House at 16 New Street. The building is one that the Trust rescued from near demolition after de Gruchy's used it as a curtain workshop and then abandoned it for twenty years. Longer term, it heads to Le Moulin de Quétivel in St Peter's Valley.

The National Trust for Jersey is, despite what you might assume, entirely independent of its UK namesake. It is a self-funded local charity run by a staff of around twenty, surviving on membership, bequests, venue hire and donations rather than government money. Sophie Gorman, Marketing and Events Manager, is candid about the misconception, where people hear "Trust" and assume it's Jersey Heritage, and there's a government cheque behind it.

It's far cheaper to get a membership here than in the UK: around £35 a year for one person, or £80 for a family of two parents and three children. Student memberships are further discounted to only £10 annually. It's useful to know that membership also grants access to National Trust sites across the UK, so it works just as well on the mainland as it does at home. Money raised goes towards things like the Coastline Campaign, where stretches of the coast are bought back to keep them out of developers' hands, and the hedgerow campaign, which plants hedges across the Island as wildlife corridors, along with new community orchards. As Sophie puts it: "Your National Trust membership really helps protect our Island... become a member, basically just to protect our beautiful island."

"In the first thirty seconds, the camera is totally ignored."



Welcome to the Office

Words: Emma Pallent **Photography:** Charlie Bird

The first rule of Maison de Ceccarelli is that you take your shoes off. The second is not to expect it to look anything like an office. At 4 Wharf Street, the building looks as though it should house a finance firm, so it catches you pretty off guard when you realise it's full of painted mannequins and a man with long hair squeezing in a round of Muay Thai before getting back to work.

Behind the arched window, a green mannequin stands guard whilst a blue one cradles a violin, and somewhere near the back, the kitchen sink is full of seaweed. "This is my version of an office space," Corey Ceccarelli says, grinning. "You want a jungle? You want a little waterfall? Make it happen. That's your office."

His partner doesn't call it a studio but a lair. For a while Corey kept the blinds half-drawn, shy about the street seeing in. Now they're open, and the reactions are in full swing. A man in finance knocked on the glass mid-photoshoot, came in shoeless and moved slowly from piece to piece, asking what each one meant. Two passers-by stopped dead when they caught him training in the window. "It brings out the wonder, the childlike side of people," he says. "Someone's had a hard day at work, they look in, and they just start smiling. And I'm like, there you go. There it is."

His last studio was a two-car garage in Canada, where he parked outside all winter and sometimes shovelled snow for hours before he could start work. After that came a Berlin residency that was meant to last three months but stretched to a year. Jersey was harder, with studio space scarce and expensive, but eventually he found somewhere to set himself up. "I've never had anything like this," he says. "I'm so proud of this space."

When Corey arrived, it was nothing but carpet and white walls. Most of the furniture found him. The chairs came free from Facebook Marketplace, from owners who just wanted them to go to a good home. Everything else he refurbished himself, sanding and repainting, right down to the floor, which he uncovered by stripping out the carpet before sanding the wood and painting it the colour of the sea.



"An element of control and an element of chaos," he says. "I love that."

Blue has been Corey's favourite colour his whole life, and many of the mannequins, more residents than props, are painted to look like moving water. Water has meant more to him since moving to an island, and more again since his partner fell pregnant with their daughter. The way water gives life, down to the amniotic fluid a baby grows in, hit him differently once he became a father. Each mannequin carries its own meaning. Some had spent months outside, rusting, with spiders living in them, and he spent days bringing them back rather than letting them be thrown away. One used to wear a Toronto Raptors jersey until he took it off, deciding they're works of art in their own right. Several are now waiting to be dressed in fabrics he has grown himself.

Corey invited me to put my hands in the sink. It's a seaweed biomaterial he has spent months testing, after his first trials last year grew more bacteria than he'd bargained for. Now it's kept clean with tea tree oil and vinegar, and dyed with anything from beetroot juice to coffee grounds. Dried, one version feels similar to leather. He told me the recipe is as closely guarded as KFC's, and his ideas have travelled too, with university students in Toronto and London developing his concepts as part of their degrees.



In the bathroom, the walls are papered in vintage comics, and a mannequin's hand is fixed above the sink with a towel draped from it. "Love Your Water" is written across the mirror in lipstick, a line he plans to carry into future public installations following Velvet Vibrations: Frequencies for the Sea, a performance about reconnecting with and performing to the ocean.

At night the room changes character. The curtains are drawn and Corey switches on the black light. Fluorescent pinks that blended in with the other hues by day suddenly beam to the surface on paintings and mannequins around the room. The striped painting that dominates one wall holds the same idea of contrasts but on canvas. Its background of lines took forever to measure, while the swirling faces on top took seconds to stencil and splatter on. "An element of control and an element of chaos," he says. "I love that."

Purposely absent from Maison de Ceccarelli is a price tag. When the finance man asked what a piece cost, there was no answer. These days, prospective buyers get interviewed. "Have a coffee, have a glass of wine," he says. "Why do you want it? What does it mean to you?" None of it is made for anyone's approval. To Corey, the artist's job is to create, imagine and stay curious. His advice for anyone wanting to follow suit: "just start," he says. And once you have, "be wild."







The Night Gallery

Jersey photographer **James Thompson** on star trackers, moonless windows and learning to look up >



Words: Emma Pallent **Photography:** James Thompson

I like to think of the sky as a gallery whose paintings are never the same twice. Each day it hangs a new exhibition of impressionistic clouds, the soft gold of sunrise or the brooding, gothic drama of a Romantic-era storm. And after dark, away from the glow of towns, the show changes again. Stars crowd the sky, and on a lucky night the Milky Way appears to the naked eye.

Photographer James Thompson has made this nightly show his subject, capturing not only what we see but what we miss: the detail and colour only a camera can reveal. Night photography, though, isn't easy to get into. Without knowing the technical ins and outs, or how to plan around the weather for clear skies, the perfect shot can feel out of reach. I sat down with James to learn more about his craft, and how to come home with images that truly glisten.

James is 29 and has been taking photographs for 17 years. He first caught the Milky Way in 2017, and admits he "sort of just lucked out". At that time of year the best viewing was around 4am, so he had the beach to himself. That solitude is one of the perks that keeps him coming back. "You're completely by yourself. You can play some music and just chill. It's slow and steady. You're not rushing."

Leave a camera on a tripod for longer than about 25 seconds and the stars start to smear as the Earth turns. Last year James bought a star tracker, a motorised mount that turns with the sky and keeps the stars pinned in place. That lets the shutter stay open far longer without pushing the sensor into grainy territory. The result is brighter and crisper, especially in print.

The catch is that the ground now moves instead. So every final image is really two photographs, one exposed for the land and one tracked for the sky, lined up in Photoshop along the horizon. "It's like a jigsaw," he says.

Entry-level trackers are aligned by eye with the North Star, which requires a precision of movement in his hands that isn't practical for him. His uses GPS instead, and once it's levelled on the tripod, he runs everything from his phone.

His favourite image comes from a summer shoot with Lucy, who posed on a clifftop with her bow drawn, positioned directly beneath the galactic core. Each exposure lasted around 15 seconds. She had to hold perfectly still while the wind came off the sea and up the cliff face, lit by nothing more than a phone torch.

What surprised her was how much she could see unaided. To the naked eye, the core is less dramatic than in photos. It's more of "a dusty streak" once your eyes adjust. "It still looks amazing," James says. "It's just not like it is in photos."

These days, James says, success is "almost all on the planning". The moon is the enemy, bright enough to wash out the stars, so the ideal night is clear, in season and moonless. For the Lucy shoot he found a four to five day window when the moon set around 9pm and didn't rise until 4am.

The galactic core is visible from roughly late March to October. In spring it rises around 1am, and by late July it's up before 11pm. It always sits in the southern sky, so he heads for the south and west coasts. His favourites are La Rocque, close to home, and Grosnez, one of the island's darkest spots. Jersey, he adds, is lucky. Beyond town and the airport, light pollution is minimal, and the orange glow on the horizon can be cooled in the edit.

His advice for first-timers is refreshingly honest. "Be patient with it, because it's going to do your head in." Don't max out the shutter speed, and expect trial and error. "Don't get so drawn into your camera. Actually look up at the sky too."



“ Don't get so drawn into your camera. Actually look up at the sky too.”



Photography: Danny Evans

What is a life **well lived?**

✎ **Words:** Emma Pallent

It's a question I posed to Jason Butler ahead of his upcoming exhibition, Eutopia. We're all familiar with the term dystopia, and its antithesis, utopia, but unless you've taken a deep dive into Renaissance literature it's unlikely that you've differentiated between Eutopia with an E and Utopia without. It's a play on words: Thomas More, taking a cynical view on Utopia, called his ideal society 'utopia', in Greek, meaning 'no place'. The premise comes from the idea that it's impossible to create a perfect society, because one person's heaven is another person's hell. It spurred a chain of literature from then until now focusing on what a perfect society would look like, and whether it's Rasselas, Millenium Hall or Brave New World, every single utopic society descends into a dystopian one.

Eutopia with an 'e' is different. It means 'good place', rather than 'no place', and the idea is a place that is heavenly and good, without the cynicism attached. "Because my good place might be somebody else's bad place," Jason says of the title - a distinction he only landed on partway through making the work, once Eutopia's double meaning revealed itself to him. It's fitting that Jason named his exhibition after this version of the word and not the other, which becomes apparent once you've viewed the collection. Painted in his usual hues of blue mingling with contrasting colours, the feeling of the paintings echoes the Rococo period with a modern day twist. His aim was not to communicate this, or claim some kind of inspiration behind his work, but to paint what felt true to him at the time, and the result is a group of paintings that I interpreted as almost religious in a modern day sense. Each depiction drew out an emotion, but the emotions I felt weren't sad, rather ones of longing, weightlessness and the simple joy of being alive and content in life's good swells.

"I think it's getting to bed every night, looking forward to tomorrow."

Perhaps the essence of the work, without Jason's intent, is a reflection of the way he lives his life. It's nothing particularly complicated, special or glamorous: 5am wakes to swim in the Lido at Havre des Pas, followed by a day of painting in his studio broken up intermittently by quick workouts or pool sessions, climbing ropes hanging off the roof's beams or sitting on a swivel desk chair in the centre of a room pondering what it is that one of his larger pieces on the wall is missing. "I love what I did. I love it," he says. "I wouldn't swap a day in my life in the last 12 years." But every day, despite its similarity to the one before, seems to bring Jason the sense of being in a good place. "I think it's getting to bed every night, looking forward to tomorrow," Jason says, when I ask him what a life well lived means to him. "You don't need to be on a plane, you don't need to be going anywhere... just doing the thing you love every day. I mean, it's pretty special, isn't it?"

Usually when you talk to an established artist on the island, they speak of the days when they were working in a job that didn't suit them and how long it took them to develop the skills that allowed them to take their passion full time. When I asked Jason this, he said that honestly, he's never done anything that didn't make him happy or feel like he wasn't becoming the best version of himself. "It's always giving me hunger - I think it just makes you work even harder," he says of the financial pressure of making a living as a working artist. He's been set on 'living the good life' since he started, and approaches it with his head screwed on straight. Despite being in the art world, he disdains flowery artspeak that tries to explain a painting, over allowing you to actually feel your response, and create your own reaction. "Obviously, they're alive to me. But until you show them... the paintings are kind of dead until they're in front of the audience," he explains. "But then you get people in that are interested, and they really respond to the work - and then, for me, the paintings are alive." Jason places no weight in the way he feels about his work - it's all in what it makes the viewer feel that matters.

His stance allows someone like you or me the opportunity to express how we feel about someone as established as Jason Butler's paintings, without obtaining a doctorate in art history prior. "I don't want to get in anybody's way with it - you've got to make of it what you will," he tells me. At Jason's exhibitions, everyone is invited to be the critic. It's a humility that likely contributes to how refreshing he is as an artist. "I really hope that this work speaks for itself," he says. "I feel like it does." His studio exhibition, Eutopia, opened on 2nd October, and true to it's name, turned out to be a very good place.

Eutopia is open Saturday 3rd October - Wednesday 28th October, 9:30am-5:30pm (Mon-Sat).

Photography: Danny Evans



KUMO

Words: Emma Pallent

In Sami Osman's studio, a boy looks out from the easel. It's a work in progress, his face painted in bruised blues against a vivid coral background. One eye is covered by a patch whilst the other stares straight ahead, and lyrics from Kendrick Lamar's DNA are encapsulated between layers of paint. "He's not very happy, is he?" Sami reflects. "But he's also staring at whatever's coming at him right in the face."

For 18 years Sami has been writing his name on walls as KUMO, and his canvases capture the essence of the graffiti world he's spent his life immersed in. "The whole concept of graffiti is you're writing your name on the wall to say, I am here, this is me, I exist," he said.

That impulse took hold in 1970s New York amongst the burnt-out buildings of the Bronx, where kids with nothing went "all city." They painted their names onto subway trains that carried their identity across the five boroughs, a world captured in the 1983 documentary Style Wars. The culture came with its own hierarchy, where a crown painted above your piece marked you as a king. "If you crown the pieces, you're basically saying, 'I'm the shit,'" he explained. If you were to claim this without earning it, someone would paint over you. If someone "burns your burner," you're publicly declared not a king, and for some, Sami added, "it's worth fighting and dying for."

> "The whole concept of graffiti is you're writing your name on the wall to say, I am here, this is me, I exist."

Growing up in Jersey, Sami had no access to any of this until he went to university in Leeds and began going out alone at night with a can. "It was more vandalism than anything else," he admitted. "I didn't really know what I was doing." It was years before he met people properly involved in the scene, when he moved to Vietnam to teach English. He began playing music at Saigon Outcast, a bar that gave its garden walls to anyone who wanted to paint on them. On Saturdays the city's graffiti writers would turn up, and after a while Sami joined in. A few "old heads" who had been painting since the 1980s took him under their wing.

He came home four years later, and described what he was doing for a while as "just throwing paint at the canvas and seeing what came out." Over time his process has become more intentional. He writes a quote or lyric that sparked the inspiration for a piece across the canvas, then paints the portrait over it layer by layer, until the words only half show through. The colour palette and feel of the pieces are clearly rooted in graffiti. "I want it to be like an attack on someone's senses," he said. Old canvases that no longer feel resonant get painted over. "Why keep something when you can create something new?" he posed.

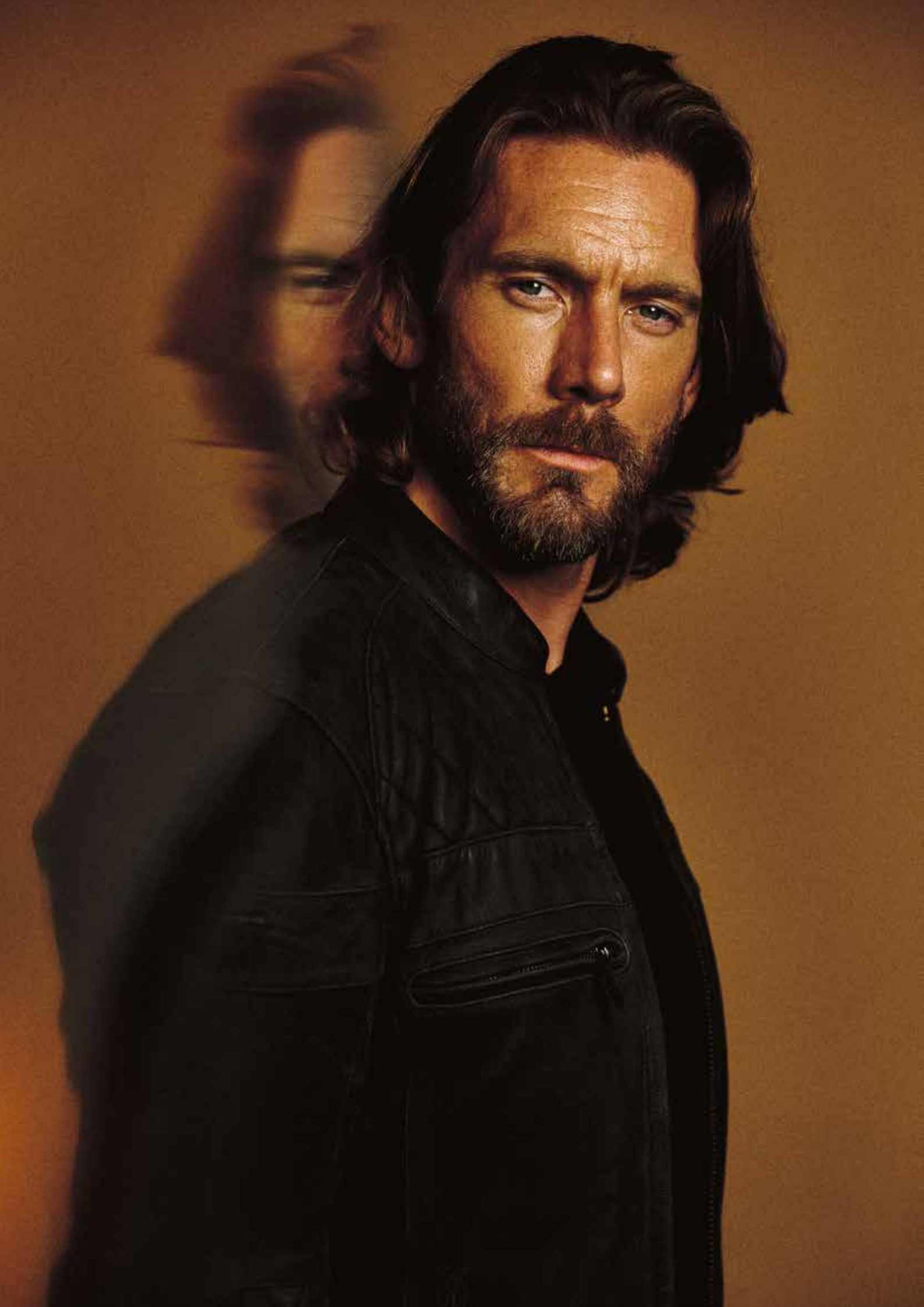
The crowns have made their way into the work, but they mean something different to how they are traditionally used on the street. Interestingly, it's not the first time that the symbol has jumped from wall to canvas. Jean-Michel Basquiat, who started out spraying cryptic slogans around Manhattan as SAMO in the late 1970s, made the three-pointed crown his signature, using it to elevate Black heroes, artists, musicians and writers to royalty. In Sami's work, crowns hover above two of his female subjects, one with a striking cloud of blue-black hair against a yellow background, and another who glances over her shoulder while a crown drifts in the orange haze around her. His use of the crown in these paintings is "more about relating to individual strength and identity."

Sami, who is British Sudanese, decided a while ago to stop painting white faces and concentrate on Black ones, to give them more exposure. "If you grow up black in a white society, you've got to have that resilience in you," he said. He wants people to think about what he's produced, and keeps his subjects deliberately anonymous. A young boxer, seen from behind with his gloves hanging low, stands against the opening lines of Bob Dylan's Hurricane. The painting is a gesture towards the jiu-jitsu and Muay Thai of Sami's childhood, and to Rubin Carter, the boxer who spent 19 years in prison for murders he didn't commit. Foreign Interest, a blindfolded Sudanese Lady Justice with scales and a traditional sword, confronts the war tearing through his father's homeland since 2023.

Our island isn't exactly built for graffiti, lacking "the anonymity of the big city." Instead, Sami and a handful of locals meet at a legal wall beside a housing estate basketball court, creating work that is covered over again within weeks. His Art in the Arches mural at Elizabeth Marina, Where We Arrive, answers the 2026 theme of Safe Haven with a Black guardian figure facing the sea.

"You're chasing that perfection that's in your head, and as soon as you get close enough to that without messing it up is when it's done," he said, when asked how he knows a painting is finished. Beyond that point he leaves it alone, in case he destroys it. "It's that chase of perfection that I think makes an artist," he added. He'd love to paint full time, and a website selling prints is on the way to keep his work accessible. Whether he makes a living from it or not, he'll keep painting. "I'm doing it for me," he said.





ALL IN THE NECK

James Wilkinson extends his reach

Words: Emma Pallent **Photography:** Chris Davis

What do you say to the people who doubted you when you had one bottle of ketchup in your fridge and nothing else? "Now, I'm an actual action figure," says Jersey's James Wilkinson, who played Mekaneck in Masters of the Universe alongside Idris Elba and Camila Mendes.

James calls me on a day off in London, battered from yesterday's wire work in Wales, where he's shooting a Bollywood film as, essentially, the Predator. He has a couple of hours to fetch his motorbike from the garage before driving back.

Mekaneck, for the uninitiated, is He-Man's mate with the telescoping neck. James, at 6ft 6in, is the first person to play him in live action. Mattel scanned the cast with hundreds of cameras, and Smyths now sells a Mekaneck figure for £12.99, the listing crediting Wilkinson's likeness.

He left the island at sixteen, after Mont Nicolle, Les Quennevais and years of school plays and youth theatre at the Jersey Arts Centre. "I just knew that I wasn't able to pursue those things on the island, so I auditioned for a performing arts college," he said. Three years at Bird College of Performing Arts in London led to eight years almost entirely on stage, through musicals, tours and cruise ships. He then moved on to stunts, in live Universal Studios shows across Japan, Singapore and China, including Waterworld, with audiences of three thousand. "All of that taught me the repetitions, and all these increasingly difficult types of stunts, which I was able to practise," he reflected.

It's hard to talk to a Jersey actor about superhero films without raising Henry Cavill, and Wilkinson doesn't mind approaching the topic. "He is so far ahead of where I am. It still seems like a complete impossibility," he said. Still, "every day I work towards a goal, and maybe one day I'll have the chance to work with him."

The road to becoming 'the neck' was unglamorous. He spent the pandemic trapped in Singapore, then came home to the UK with years of experience and no connections. "I ate shit for about a year and a half, where I really, really had to grind," he said. He was personal training and teaching fitness classes, and took every film-set job going. "That doesn't pay well," he added, rather bluntly.

Somewhere after thirty things got serious. "Damn, I'm getting too old for this," was the thought of the hour. "Maybe I should just not do this anymore. I shouldn't be struggling to pay the rent, or choosing whether to eat or go on this next stunt course. It was a real, serious thing. Do I do this, or do I grow up?" He paused. "I decided not to grow up."

What kept him going through the hard times was the people who surrounded him, such as Chris James, the stunt manager in Japan who James says "took me under his wing". Eight years on, Chris's good review landed James a small stunt role in the new Roadhouse. "He's still giving me huge favours," he explained. His measure of success is modest: to be able to keep working, and have no backup job.

What was it that got him picked for the part in Eternia? "They needed somebody big for the role, and I think what paved it for me was how I was able to move, in a way that a lot of other tall people maybe aren't able to." Every day on set was "a big pinch-me moment," with sets built from the ground up, extras in immaculate costumes, and one day of miming a neck whip at someone twenty feet away. "I was just doing a dancing jig in the middle of this very, very packed set, pretending that my neck was extending, which was a bit surreal."

Camila Mendes, he says, has "this incredible work ethic," and the two bonded over neither family being from a performing background. Idris Elba "was really funny" once they'd warmed up, "There's no ego." Under director Travis Knight, "it felt like a family by the end of filming," and he still hangs out with the cast, Fisto and Ram Man included. After the Hollywood and London premieres came a small screening in Jersey. "It was just a nice night out with friends, really."

The price of all this was sacrificing a fixed base. "My intentions were to see as much of the world as I could doing what I loved, and to grow as many skills as I was able to, so that I would become a much more attractive choice for productions in the future. And it's starting to pay dividends now." He also reveals: "I don't have kids at the moment. And that's fine, because I'm too busy for that anyway."

His advice to a Jersey teenager wanting to be part of Mattel's next line of action figures is "find what makes you special. Don't try to be other people. Be the best version of yourself, and you'll be fine."

He's now bringing a short film home, Welcome to the Jungle, written by his friend and fellow stunt performer Will Darling, that has been a year in the works. Jersey-born Tom Dingle asked why they weren't shooting on the island, and the Jersey government agreed to fund it. Without giving away spoilers, "think Mad Max meets Rambo. Big bangs and flashes and gunpowder."

"There are so many amazing creatives, smart people who come from Jersey and have to leave the island to pursue things like that, and I don't think that has to be the case," he says. His advice to a Jersey teenager wanting to be part of Mattel's next line of action figures is "find what makes you special. Don't try to be other people. Be the best version of yourself, and you'll be fine."

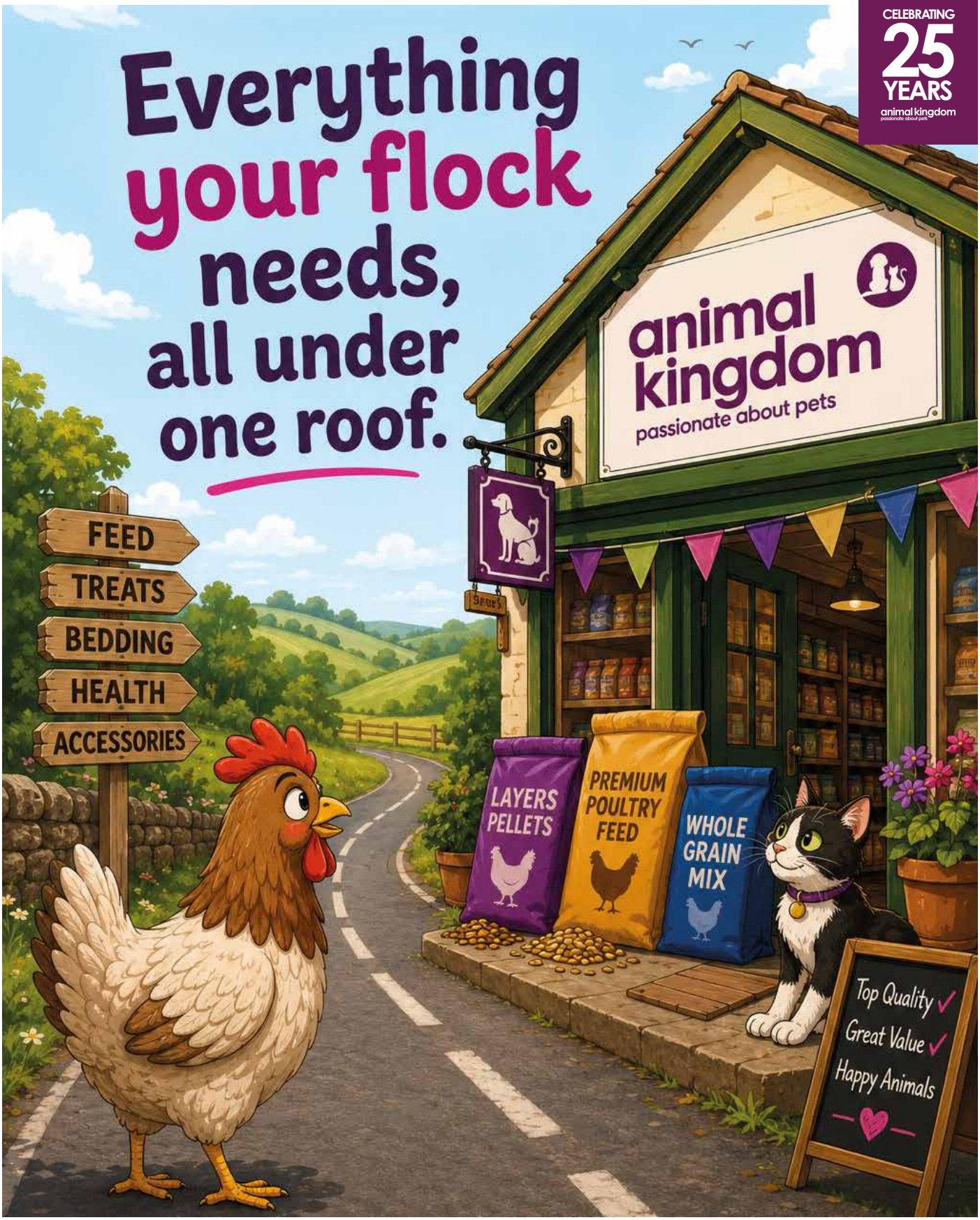
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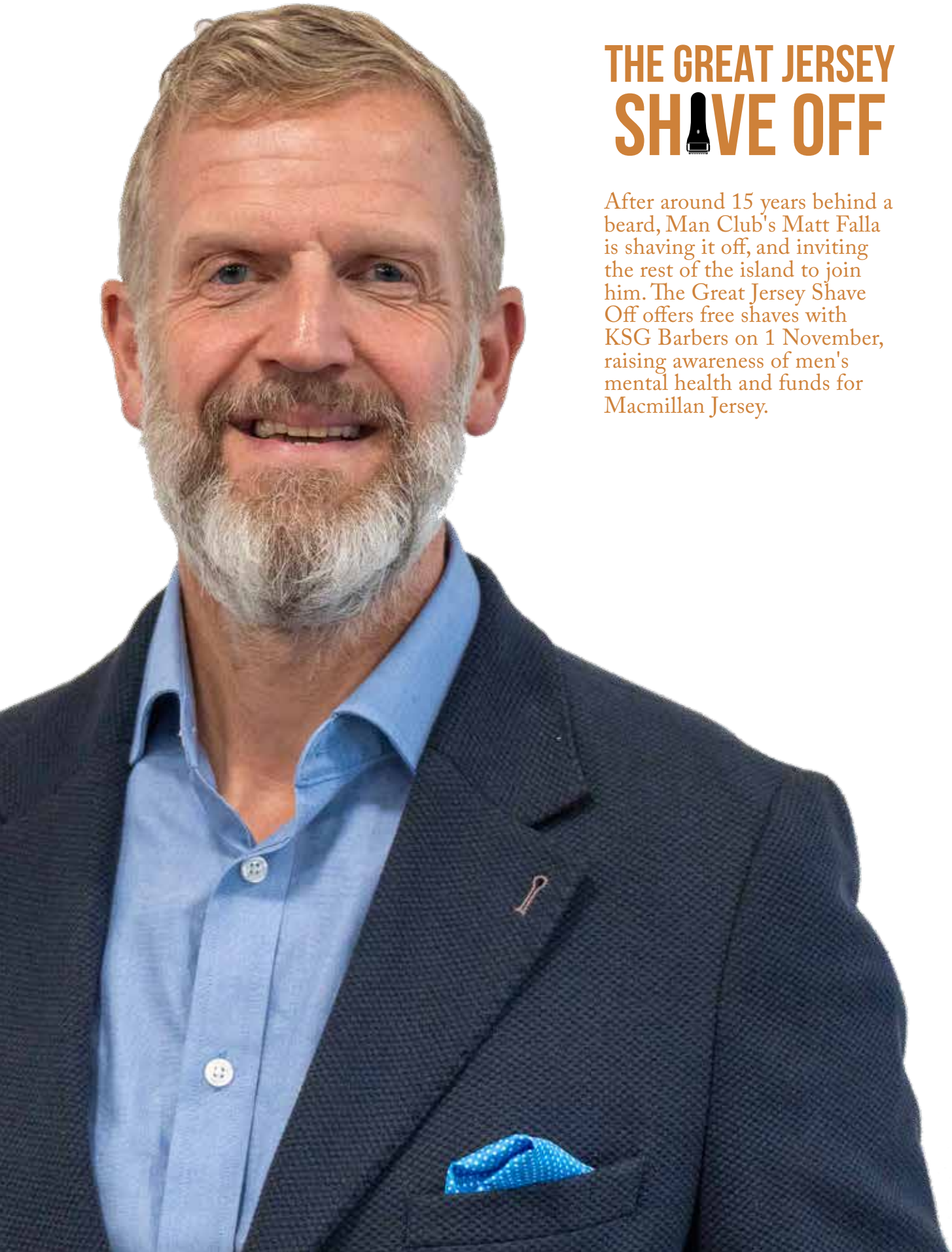


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THE GREAT JERSEY SHAVE OFF

After around 15 years behind a beard, Man Club's Matt Falla is shaving it off, and inviting the rest of the island to join him. The Great Jersey Shave Off offers free shaves with KSG Barbers on 1 November, raising awareness of men's mental health and funds for Macmillan Jersey.

Matt has never quite found the happy medium between full beard and bare chin. For now, he's deliberately growing it longer than usual in preparation for the big day on Sunday 1 November. Flipping Movember on its head, the event asks men to lose the lot, and then keep shaving every day for the rest of the month.

The idea came out of a conversation with Steph and Kat at Macmillan Jersey, who were planning a men's mental health event for November. Movember was the obvious reference point, but look around any room on the island and you'll notice that many men are already sporting some sort of facial fuzz. Growing a moustache isn't much of a gesture when you've had a beard for the last 15 years, whereas taking it off is.

"A beard hides your face," Matt says. "You're literally putting a mask on." His father had a beard for the whole of Matt's adult life. "I've never seen the other half of his face. I've never seen my father's chin. I didn't know what his jawline looked like." When his own mental health was at its lowest, small daily tasks like shaving became a real challenge, and he sees the Shave Off as an invitation for others to step out from behind theirs. On Macmillan's side, there are the people going through cancer treatment who lose their hair in the process.

It's important to note that not everyone at Man Club is being frogmarched to the barber. "There are some very long beards that people are very proud of," he admits, though he hopes plenty will turn up and brave letting the world see the person behind the mask.

The point is that a man who suddenly looks different gives everyone around him an excuse to ask why, and that question might start a conversation that otherwise wouldn't happen. It's something Matt has thought about a lot. When we're born, he explains, who we are and who the world thinks we are is exactly the same: you're a baby, and that's it. Then the layers go on - the job, the house, other people's expectations - and the gap between the person inside and the person everyone sees gets wider. "Inside, you're still the person who's really scared or lonely." The further those two drift apart, the harder it is to find your way back.

Man Club exists to close that gap. Matt first spoke openly about how he was feeling at a Man Club meeting in Guernsey in 2019, in a room full of strangers who'd all made the same effort to walk through the door. The Jersey group now meets every Friday, with around 100 men in its wider WhatsApp group, and there are no targets and no pressure to talk. Newcomers often arrive unsure why they've come, and then it all comes out at once, because they realise nobody is going to judge them.

On 1 November, head down to KSG Barbers if you'd like to remind yourself of what your jawline looks like. Matt's hoping it will be worth the wait.

GET INVOLVED

The Great Jersey Shave Off
Sunday 1 November.
Free shaves with KSG Barbers for anyone brave enough, in support of Macmillan Jersey. Then keep shaving every day through November.

Man Club men's mental health panel
Thursday 12 November
House of Champions.
Panellists for the evening include Matt Falla from Man Club, Murray Norton and Martin George, CEO of Visit Jersey. Beers, refreshments and a Man Club sandwich.

Man Club Jersey
meets every Friday.

Find out more at man-club.org.

Man Club





Toilet Boy

Words: Emma Pallent [o] **Photography:** Danny Evans

Vapes, jibes and a shrink-wrapped rat: this is Toilet Boy, a short film about life as an adolescent boy. Written by Toby Norman and his producing partner Jamie Winslow, it sheds light on the teenage culture of bravado and the drive to be the bigger bear.

Despite the relational bullying that runs between the two main characters, the starting point for the piece wasn't bullying at all. It was vaping. When Toby visited schools in England to research the film, he asked what their biggest problem was at the moment. The answer was smoking, vaping and nicotine pouches, and one figure stuck with him: "something like 60 kids going home absent because they've overcooked it on nicotine." His reaction was, "that's mad, because we were the sort of facilitators of that, our generation." He says his generation even changed school architecture: many schools now have individual cubicles in the same hallway as the classrooms, so only one student can go in at a time, and some, he told me, have chains in the toilets. The toilet pictured in the film is no longer in use, and the school has replaced it with single cubicles.

What's refreshing about Toilet Boy is that, despite this, it doesn't set out to lecture anyone. Calling it a film about vaping, Toby says, would have been "a bit loose". He and Jamie picked up instead on relational bullying, and on how calling someone a mate can become an excuse to say it isn't bullying. They drew on their own experiences and wanted to write about school "whilst it's still fresh". Neither considers himself a writer, and the writing itself "took bloody ages".

Friend turning on friend sits at the heart of the film, and it's rooted in the culture Toby noticed growing up. He places it around Year 9, when "secrets became a thing", then girls, then popularity. "It's only when there's an audience that it really comes out," he says. It happened to him, and to others, and when he watched it happen to someone else nobody stepped in: "it's just a boys thing." The flip side, and the beat that gives the film what I think of as its bigger bear moment, is how quickly it all resets once a teacher appears. Toby's point was that the boys "are mates, and they always will be mates". The teacher himself is "a sort of foil character", there because "we needed stakes".

At the centre of the film is a boy nicknamed Biology Boy, ridiculed by his friend for aspiring to be a biologist, and even more so when it is later revealed he got a bad mark in a recent biology test. Casting boys in the right age range who could carry that dynamic convincingly was a key part of the process. "We got a room in London and got a load of kids to pair up," Toby told me, giving each pair a script where they could go at each other, with a bit of arguing and always a bit of hugging it out. Most were 15 or 16. Then one pair came in and Toby thought, "that kid is literally me." One of them was already a familiar face, with a JD Sports campaign behind him and a part in Toby's favourite music video, and Toby, a fan beforehand, had to set that aside and ask whether he was right for the part. Then it turned out his agent had given him the wrong script, so he hadn't read it and improvised the entire audition. "He's perfect," Toby said, "because he kind of is that in real life." One of the boys had travelled from Buckinghamshire alone, aged 16, to audition in front of "two random guys". The dialogue itself wasn't improvised. Toby says they were strict, because the boys were young, but kept the language recognisable to them.

They had two days to film, because the budget wouldn't stretch further. The first day was incredibly intense. Fight scenes brought in a movement coordinator, Lucy, and a stunt coordinator, and the cast that turned up the following morning felt like a different group entirely, wrecked from the day before. The film was being shot out of sequence, so there was a real risk that the discrepancies between the boys would be too obvious. "I haven't got the experience to sort of know what to do here," Toby remembers thinking. So he tried something on the spot. First assistant director Gabe cleared the room of kit, cameras and crew, and Toby told the boys to go mad. "Pull the doors off the hinges. You can't do this in a school toilet usually. Write on the walls, we'll clear it up." He gave them twenty minutes with no camera running. When he came back they were slightly out of breath, and he thought, "okay, this worked". "I didn't know if that was a good thing to do, but I actually didn't know really what to do. I just thought, let's try this."

Toby is a cinematographer by trade and says directing was "easier than I thought". His strength is visual, and he's "not directed many actors". Max Slater shot the film, "for the love" rather than the money. The production designer, Charlotte, said she had never been in a boys' toilet in her life, yet her team covered the walls in very convincing doodles.

"It's only when there's an audience that it really comes out."

Despite the successes, he's candid about the challenges. "I haven't cracked making one," he says of short films. There's "still so much I would have done differently", and "the story didn't quite come through the way I wanted it to". At just under ten minutes, they made it "quite crunchy, quite quick", setting characters up fast so the audience gets them and, "if you're successful", comes with them. For me it worked: I felt sympathy for Biology Boy straight away.

It's write-what-you-know territory, and he knows its limits: "It's just a safe spot," he says, for now. Next, he'd like to work with a female writer and see how she approaches a character, and to go longer, around twenty minutes, because that "gives you enough time to sit with the character". "I'm only doing 50 per cent of humanity at the moment," he says, and what he wants now is different collaborators.

Who is Toby Norman?

Jersey-born and educated at Victoria College, Toby Norman was one of the few boys doing drama at school. He is a cinematographer by trade, and Toilet Boy is his directing debut. He writes and produces with his housemate Jamie Winslow in London, where he is based. He shot Toilet Boy in a decommissioned toilet block at an old school in Harrow, closed for the reason the film explores. Next up is a twenty-minute short film, which he hopes will bring more perspectives into the light.













We went up in Europe's last flying Catalina, head in the blister window, for the ride of a lifetime.



MISS PICK UP
A BOAT WITH WINGS

Words & Images: Emma Pallent

It would be fair to say that the Catalina boasts a pretty impressive window seat. At the rear of the fuselage are two bulbous windows known as blisters, which bulge out from the body of the aircraft. Back in the war, part of each one could be opened to let a gunner fire from inside. Pop your head into one now, and you're not squinting at the sky through the postage stamp of a passenger window, but properly in it, propellers turning away off to the front, the tail trailing behind. Flying low over Corbière with my head in that bubble was, without hyperbole, the experience of a lifetime.

The Catalina that flew over St Aubin's Bay for the air display is Europe's only airworthy example of her kind. She was built for long-range maritime patrol, submarine-spotting and air-sea rescue during the Second World War, crews sometimes landing her on open, hostile seas to pull downed airmen out of the water. The crew on board referred to her as more of a boat with wings than an aircraft. Her hull sits directly in the water and can handle rough conditions, whereas many other seaplanes balance on pontoons and need a calm day to get airborne again. This particular aircraft, G-PBYA, or "Miss Pick Up" to her crew, began life in 1943 towards the end of the war, built in Canada for the RCAF.

I ended up on the flight courtesy of the RAFA Jersey branch. Seats are usually reserved for sponsors, or the family and friends of sponsors, competition winners, those who help run the display, or those hoping to join the RAF, so I felt a little out of my depth. I'm less fighter pilot and more Phoebe from Friends when it comes to the phonetic alphabet, but even without being an avgeek, it's impossible not to feel a sense of awe looking at the Catalina. She's a beautiful plane from before things became automated, rather like a classic car with no ABS, where you have to modulate the brakes yourself instead of having a computer do it for you.

When we were all strapped in and the engines started, the smell of burning fuel mingled in the air as they were coaxed into life. There's no soundproofing in her at all, no lining, no insulation, because every ounce of that weight would come straight out of her fuel range. So you're looking directly at the bare, vibrating aluminium skin of the fuselage. The engines sit on the wing directly above the hull, and the propellers spin just a few feet away, so the whole cabin acts like a giant metal drum, every roar and thud of the propellers amplified through it. The whole experience was so surreal, feeling like you were in a time capsule, that it felt strange to recognise the same views you get taking off on an easyJet flight to London, just seen through a completely different lens. This one left the runway almost before I'd registered we'd started, and suddenly we were airborne above St Peter..

Roles on the Catalina rotate between flights, and for ours, Captain John Harmsworth was in command with Richie Piper as co-pilot. Alan Bilby and David Legg were our crew chiefs, with the latter sitting with our group at the back. He's been flying the Catalina for 41 years, since May 1985, and is coming up to trip number 1,200. When we reached the right altitude, he helped us make our way to the rear and the blister windows, standing where the gunners would have stood in the war. It was a bit of a scramble getting there while being bumped about by the wind, but once we'd settled in, the views were like nothing I'd ever seen. It felt surreal being able to extend an arm the whole way out of the frame of the aircraft and still not touch the edge of the window. On one side of me stood Elise, a cadet from JCG, who was nominated for the experience by Bevismark Shipping (Jersey) Limited, one of the air display's sponsors. The two of us spent the flight pointing out landmarks as we circled the island's coastline. On the other side was a man who'd loved this specific aircraft since he was a boy; he told me he'd built model Catalinas when he was young, and now here he was, sitting inside the real thing, staring peacefully out of the window at the horizon.

We strapped back in for landing, having been warned not to expect anything elegant from a plane designed to land on choppy waters. All of us, including David, were surprised when we barely noticed the landing at all. It was only afterwards, at the Government House reception for the crew and sponsors, that the Captain admitted the smoothness had surprised him too, and put it down to good fortune. Apparently, landing a boat on a runway is not usually as straightforward a manoeuvre as our flight made it look.



Maybe they just haven't met their book yet_



Words: Ella McClymont

The unconventional notion of literary matchmaking, and being on sheer tenterhooks to know what's going to happen... you should probably know I am unapologetically nerdy in search of some unique rabbit hole. This rabbit hole begins at Jersey College for Girls, where I work as a teaching assistant, attending many an English lesson spanning Year 7 to Year 11.

We have heard the moans and groans everywhere: young people don't have the attention span, and they no longer have the desire to read, which suggests a literary regression. It feels unfair. Maybe it isn't that simple. Maybe they just need a light introduction.

Introducing literary matchmaking

When a young person says they don't like books, it is comparable to saying they don't like music. There is a vast array of genres in literature, just as there is in music. Young people may not yet have an awareness of what their literary preferences are. Maybe we are too quick to assume they already know, but are we asking the right questions to explore this?

The key is essentially knowing the young person. As a teaching assistant who spends her working week in English classes, this becomes easier. I will know that one Year 9 student might absolutely detest literary fiction. Another would happily devour a graphic anime book in an instant, rather than swim through an endless sea of words. Perhaps they are craving a 'Percy Jackson' book, or to be entrenched in the mystery and sinister nature of 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder'. Maybe they want to gain an understanding of four refugees during World War II in 'Salt to the Sea'.

Some young people need a concise synopsis to accelerate them through at 300 miles an hour. Someone else might take delight in meandering over four pages whilst the sun greets their table through an inviting window.

When the match is compatible with the reader

There's a sudden magic when a book becomes compatible with its young reader, so much so that their hands are cemented to the book binding and they just cannot unfurl their heads from inside the pages. Such magic happened for a Year 8 student who loved 'Harry Potter' and then playfully switched to the fantastical 'The Hunger Games' after I recommended it.

When young people begin asking what will happen next, you instantly know it's a match. There is no gentle coaxing to carry them through the book. Instead, they are transported into another world, mesmerised by the words and taking delight in the flicking of pages.

When the match falls flat

A seemingly thoughtful match can fall flat. One student I supported was fascinated by Japanese culture, so I suggested books connected with that interest. They rejected my suggestion. Instead, they charted their own course, choosing a more visual anime book called 'Nana'. In hindsight, I guess the problem wasn't the story but the lack of illustrations, as visual anchors brought the book to life for them.

We need to be mindful that our young people are currently reading in a way that is detrimental to their self-esteem. Their inner dialogue is telling them: I am struggling to comprehend what I am reading, and therefore I must be really bad at it.

There are young people who reach page 74, who give a book a respectable chance and go long enough without saying a word to their teachers for fear of failure. In truth, it has been an uphill struggle, and young people everywhere should know that it is perfectly normal and acceptable to break up with a book. It doesn't necessarily mean you'll never pick it up again, but for the time being it's not compatible and it's falling flat, so let's find the next book.

Adults do it all the time, and yet we don't give young people the same flexibility to savour a few pages. Consequently, recreational reading becomes obligatory. Once a young person has selected a book, they have to trudge through metaphorical mud to finish it, and it saps the enjoyment out of it.

We need to be mindful that our young people are currently reading in a way that is detrimental to their self-esteem. Their inner dialogue is telling them: I am struggling to comprehend what I am reading, and therefore I must be really bad at it.

We need to reassure our young people that this is simply not the case, and that it's more a question of whether the book makes a compatible match with them. If a student came up to me, discreetly, to say they would love to find another book, I would think they are taking ownership of their own literacy.

I go into multiple English reading sessions, year after year, and it has become less a question of 'How do we get young people to read?' It is more a question of sparking their literary curiosity and autonomy, and of them anticipating and wanting to know what happens next.

Message MAGGIE

Words: Maggie Martin-Ellis **Photography:** Oliver Doran

"The guy I'm dating is completely different from my past relationships and gives me a lot more independence. I like it, but sometimes I get scared that it's because he doesn't care."

The beauty of dating is the opportunity to experience different styles of relationships. Not only are you getting to know another person's uniqueness, but you are also learning what works best for you. Your combined energies result in the life force you generate as a couple. Whether it is an easy, similar flow or a yin-yang complementary dynamic is something only you can determine.

Independence within a relationship is an interesting conversational opener. Throw in buzzwords such as co-dependency, losing oneself, and clingy, needy behaviour, and it is enough to put anyone off entering a long-term relationship. However, if you are able to establish areas of independence, then those catchphrases can be avoided.

But seriously — how much independence should we expect or demand to ensure a peaceful equilibrium together? How much is too much, and how much is too little?

For many people, the word 'independence' is usually synonymous with being single. The word itself conveys freedom and self-governance — something we are led to believe we have to relinquish once we enter a relationship. But is this a belief passed down through generations rather than a realistic view of today's relationships?

Coupledom has changed, particularly since the 1950s: the introduction of oral contraception and family planning, shared childcare and household obligations, and more women going out to work. Lifestyle choices became viable as independence evolved, and partnership without the expectation of marriage became more prevalent.

Nowadays, we would consider relationships that deny these choices to be controlling and restrictive of our liberties. Examples include isolation from friends and family, monitoring money spent, dictating what to wear, and tracking whereabouts with constant check-ins — to name a few. Perhaps you have experienced some of these behaviours in previous relationships, and this now feels like freedom.

But what happens when, as in your situation, you feel there is too much independence? Does that really mean he doesn't care?

It is perfectly understandable for you to feel scared, particularly if you have learned to associate control with care. You may well equate independence with indifference. Not necessarily.

Take a look at his words and actions — do they match? Does he keep his word? Does he make time for you? Does he initiate contact and make plans? Does he listen when something matters to you? Does he include you in his life and make you feel chosen? If the answer is mostly yes, his style may simply be different — not uncaring. It is possible for healthy independence to coexist with genuine care.



On the other hand, if your unsettled feelings make you question your partner's intent and you constantly feel unnoticed or left guessing, then it is worth initiating a conversation.

It could start with: "I really appreciate the independence I have in this relationship, and I know I can sometimes misread distance because of my past relationships. Can we talk about what closeness and space mean to each of us, so we're on the same page?" Listen carefully to his words and watch his actions.

Conversations like this are so important, as a feeling of disconnect within an intimate relationship is not uncommon. Believing that chemistry and unseen pheromones are enough to fuel the need for more overlooks the other necessary components of connection. Intimacy is the closeness developed by the sharing of both spoken and unspoken words. A bond is formed, and touch is the essential ingredient for attachment — anywhere from feather-light to deeply passionate. Perhaps you have noticed a sense of emotional distance reflected in a lack of teamwork, making you question whether healthy bonding has even taken place.

And so we circle back, as always, to the need for a safe space where you can both express yourselves. The aim is to clear up any misunderstandings and remove any confusion or self-doubt. Focus on having purposeful discussions and negotiating relationship solutions that satisfy both of you. Understand that nothing in your lives will change until a thought ignites true intention and is followed by action. Independence and care can exist together — and you deserve to feel both. Trust his actions, ask for what you need, and let the answer bring you peace, not doubt.

If you've got an anonymous relationship question you'd like to ask, scan here to send it to us for a future edition >

For Private Consultation at The Mind & Body Rooms, Charing Cross, St. Helier, or Zoom, message Maggie at maggie@barenakedcoach.com or visit barenakedcoach.com



Mobile moments.

Words: Coop Mobile

From chasing waves and capturing sunsets to discovering hidden coffee spots and sharing those island moments, life in Jersey is unlike anywhere else.

There is something about island life that makes the everyday a little more spontaneous. Your morning walk that turns into a swim, that quick coffee which becomes a lunch by the sea, and a sudden change in the weather that completely alters your plans. With so much of Jersey to explore within such a small space, there is always somewhere new to discover, even when you think you know the island inside out.

Whether you're making the most of an early morning low tide or meeting friends in town, your phone helps you get more from every day. From checking bus times and weather forecasts to finding the perfect beach or booking your next lunch spot, everything you need to navigate island life is right in your pocket.

It can be as simple as checking the tide before heading down to St Ouen, finding your way to a new coastal path, or looking up where the sun will set before making the trip up to Corbière. Your phone has quietly become part of how we experience the island - helping us to decide where to go, what to do and how to make the most of the time we have.

Jersey may be a small island, but there's always something happening. A quick message to see who's heading to the beach, a group chat making plans for the weekend or a video call with someone who's moved away, our phones help us stay connected to the people who make the island feel like home. From everyday catch-ups to those spontaneous moments that turn into great memories, being connected means never feeling too far away.

And it is not just about planning ahead. Sometimes the best island moments are the ones you stumble across. A last-minute change of plans, discovering a new swimming spot, meeting friends somewhere different or finding a recommendation for somewhere to eat can all start with a quick search or message.

That's why choosing the right mobile network matters. At Coop Mobile, we keep things simple: flexible plans, no hidden fees, and no long-term contracts. You stay because you want to, not because you have to.

As the Channel Islands' only member-owned mobile network, we're built differently. We're owned by our members and rooted in our local community. That's why Coop Mobile customers also enjoy 10% off a Coop shop every month, giving you even more value from a network that puts people before profit.

It means your mobile can be about more than simply staying in touch. Whether you're coordinating plans with friends, sharing photographs from a day on the coast, checking the weather before heading out or finding your way home after a night in town, staying connected helps island life keep moving.

Travelling beyond Jersey? We've made that simple too, with roaming boosters that can be switched on whenever you're heading away. Because while Jersey might be home, islanders don't stay put. From weekends in France to holidays further afield, your phone travels with you, keeping you connected wherever your plans take you. Whatever island life looks like for you, Coop Mobile has a plan to keep you connected.

Coop Mobile, it's where you belong.

coopmobile.coop

"Whether you're coordinating plans with friends, sharing photographs from a day on the coast, checking the weather before heading out or finding your way home after a night in town, staying connected helps island life keep moving."



YOUR SKIN, ONLY BETTER

Pennyfeathers brings big skin science, and a seriously good glow, to Jersey

Good skin is having a moment. And Penny Downes knows a thing or two about it. This year marks 25 years in the skin industry for Penny, and 19 years of Pennyfeathers. Now, she's celebrating by bringing something rather exciting to Jersey: a new partnership with SKEYNDOR, the Spanish skincare powerhouse that has spent 60 years turning serious skin science into seriously good results.

And honestly? Your face will thank you.

Based at the Lido Medical Centre, Pennyfeathers is where clinical know-how meets proper pampering. Forget the one-size-fits-all facial. Penny starts with your skin, what it needs now, what it might need next, and how to keep it looking its best for the long haul. Think fine lines, loss of firmness, pigmentation, environmental damage, acne scarring or simply skin that has lost a little of its va-va-voom. The treatment is tailored around you.

Meet MEGAN

The real excitement, however, is the arrival of MEGAN, and this is not your average facial machine. MEGAN combines several clever technologies to supercharge your treatment. Dermaboost helps drive active ingredients deeper into the skin, radiofrequency works on firmness, while LED supports the skin's natural repair processes. The aim? Better-functioning skin, not just a temporary surface glow. In other words, this is the sort of facial where you can see the difference, without disappearing into recovery mode afterwards.

Science, but make it lovely

What makes Pennyfeathers particularly appealing is that none of this feels intimidatingly clinical. Penny is warm, personable and genuinely passionate about skin, and after 25 years in the business, she knows that great skin is rarely about throwing everything at it. It is about the right things, in the right combination, for your skin.

That is the thinking behind SKEYNDOR, too: sophisticated formulas, high-performance ingredients and a very definite belief that skincare should be personal. For Penny, the new partnership is a natural next step and a rather exciting one. "I'm so excited to be bringing SKEYNDOR and MEGAN to Jersey," says Penny. "It's about giving my clients access to really advanced treatments while still keeping everything personal and bespoke."

So, whether your skin needs a little repair, a serious reboot or simply some attention, get in touch for some pampering and skin perfecting. Good skin glows.

Pennyfeathers at the Lido Medical Centre, Suite 3.08. Bespoke consultations and SKEYNDOR treatments available now. penny-feathers.co.uk







AUTUMN, BUT MAKE IT FASHION

Forget playing it safe. This season, Manna is all about attitude.

Autumn has arrived with a wardrobe that is anything but predictable. Silhouettes are bigger, textures are richer, layers are longer and dressing well means having a little fun with it. From dramatic outerwear to statement sparkle, these are the pieces that make an entrance.



START WITH THE COAT.

Haute L'Amitié is making a very convincing case for the dramatic belted trench that means business. High-necked, beautifully structured and just a little bit mysterious, it's the kind of coat that transforms whatever you happen to be wearing underneath. Throw it on and suddenly the weather feels considerably more exciting.

THEN COMES COLOUR.

Traffic People delivers that perfect shade of green that feels slightly army, but entirely chic. A silk-look shirt paired with a statement layered fringed skirt brings movement, texture and just the right amount of drama. It's autumn dressing with a little swagger, elegant, but absolutely not predictable.



AND THEN THERE'S SPARKLE.

Munthe's shaggy black sequin number is proof that sequins aren't just for Christmas. A little bit wild, a little bit glamorous and very much made for catching the light, it's the piece that turns an ordinary evening into an occasion. Keep everything else simple and let the texture do the talking.





AND A JACKET

For something with a little more attitude, Essentiel Antwerp delivers. A chic black jacket with short fringe detailing framing its four front pockets adds texture without losing that effortlessly polished feel. It's sharp, wearable and just eccentric enough to make people look twice.

AND THEN THERE'S THE COAT YOU'LL WANT TO LIVE IN.

Samdi brings the autumn vibes with a wonderfully cosy, shearling-look jacket in that gorgeous natural shade, paired with a long tartan skirt that feels very now. Checks, texture, layers and plenty of attitude, it's autumn dressing at its most inviting.



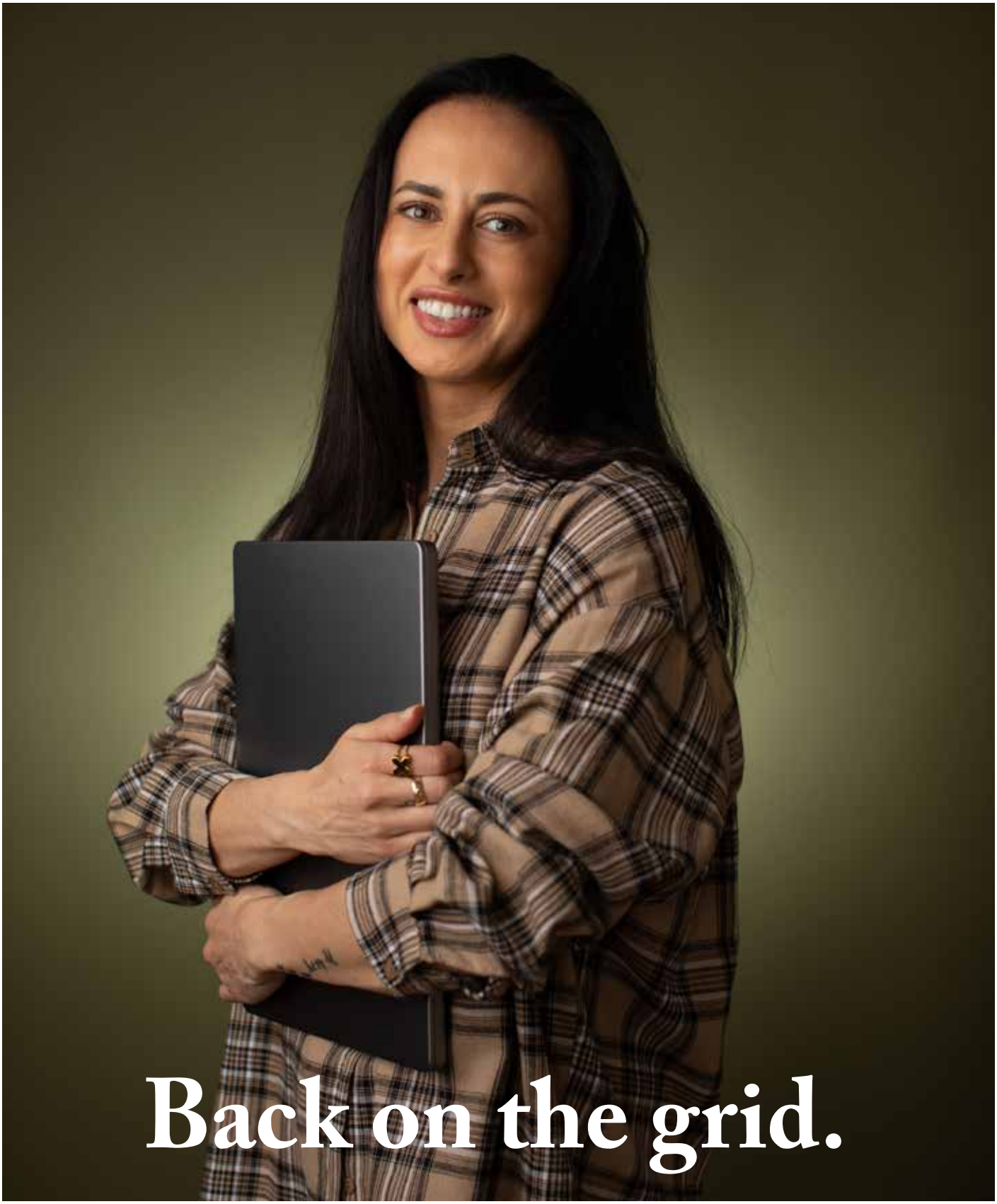
Sometimes, the most memorable looks are the ones that simply lean into the season. There's something wonderfully satisfying about a long skirt brushing against boots, a great jacket thrown over everything and enough texture to make even the greyest day feel like a fashion moment.

SO, WHAT DOES AUTUMN LOOK LIKE AT MANNA?

A little eccentric. A little glamorous. A lot of personality.

There are no rules about choosing just one mood this season. Go dramatic with the trench. Embrace the fringe. Clash texture with tartan. Add some sparkle. Or simply find that perfect oversized layer and let it do the work. The point is to dress like you mean it. Autumn at Manna has arrived.

MANNA



Back on the grid.

Words: Emma Pallent

When you hear 'holistic health shop', it's easy to feel a bit confused about whether you're about to enter an apothecary, an upmarket natural cosmetics shop or a shrine of crystals. Alma Sana, located on Beresford Street, is best explained through the story of its owner. Sophie Anderson is a woman who shamelessly geeks out about researching the brands she stocks, lived off-grid on a mountain in America for two and a half years, consulted on a large-scale cannabis growing operation in the Channel Islands and now assists with ultra deepwater shipwreck mapping including wrecks such as the Titanic.

The collagen she stocks on her shelves is, she says, the only pharmaceutical-grade collagen on the market that has been proven to reach the small intestine, and her supplements support a diet that can never be as healthy as it was a hundred years ago, due to the gradual degradation of the quality of our soil. Far from a trendy shop, Alma Sana provides goods that are researched intensively by someone familiar with the industry.

Sophie set out on this path at nineteen, when her body failed her and nobody around her had the language to explain why. "I had crippling anxiety, clinical insomnia, my nervous system was completely dysregulated. I didn't know that at the time, because no one was talking about anything like that," she said. "I had gut dysbiosis too, but I didn't know enough about it to connect it to my diet." Doctors offered antidepressants and beta-blockers that made things worse. Unable to get answers, she buried it, partying harder to cope, before turning to research. "I started reading, following early wellness people, nutritionists. I got into juicing, fasting, detoxing, and at the same time, Buddhism. I was twenty years old, sitting in Springfield park with The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying in one hand and a nutrition book in the other, trying to find something more sustainable than what I'd been given." The change was undeniable: she started sleeping better, felt less anxious, and had a healing gut and skin that other people commented on. "That's when it hit me," she said. "Nobody's really telling us this. It's on us to educate ourselves."

The desire to learn pulled her to Northern California, "the epicentre of holistic health, alternative medicine and spiritual growth". She lived there for five years, learning from Indigenous friends whose theories held that everything is energy. The deepest chapter of that was two and a half years living entirely off-grid in a national forest, in a basic shed with no electricity, growing her own food and managing the land with her partner at the time. "You're driving two and a half hours off a mountain to get there," she said. "Most of the year it was just the two of us and the wildlife. It completely changes your chemistry, and how you see the world." The isolation brought a seasonal rhythm, with quiet stretches through most of the year and then a harvest push every October when up to thirty people would arrive to help. She'd organise accommodation and logistics for all of them. "It taught me how plant medicine and soil health are completely critical to our survival, and how interconnected all of it is - the fungi kingdom, everything." She built a health coaching business out of it, working mostly with women in their thirties and forties who had gut issues.







"Having energy, loving the people around you, having respect and honour for yourself. That, for me, is wealth."

Back in Jersey, she met an entrepreneur with a cannabis start-up, who heard about her background. "It just landed in my lap," she said of the opportunity. She spent a year consulting on a large-scale growing operation across Guernsey and Alderney, arriving just as the pandemic hit. Alderney felt completely different, remote with rugged coasts, everyone waiting for the boat to bring the food in. "It's like going back in time," she said of the island.

The same entrepreneur turned out to be an oceanographer and sedimentologist by trade, running a deep-water exploration company as his main business. "He asked if I wanted to work for his ultra-deep-water exploration company, and I've been with them ever since, alongside building Alma Sana," she said. Her role there is crewing manager, covering recruitment, HR, immigration, travel and logistics, and keeping a workforce spread across the world together. The standout job has been mapping the Titanic wreck in high resolution to build a 3D model, now being developed into virtual reality experiences. The company has worked on other international wreck sites too.

The most important part of everything, for Sophie, is her health, and she sees it as the truest form of wealth. "When you think about wealth, the instant thing you think of is financial gain," she said. "But you can have all the money in the world and still be sick, overwhelmed, miserable and rigid in your body. What good is that money?" For her, abundance is more of a feeling, "having energy, loving the people around you, having respect and honour for yourself. That, for me, is wealth."



A Cut Above

Given that this is our men's issue, for our fashion shoot we thought we'd bring together six guys who've raised the bar fairly high for having a good year. Between them, we have a Michelin Young Chef of the Year, an island sprint record, the win at Jersey's longest ultra-marathon, a solo crossing of the English Channel and two MBEs handed over personally by the King. Bertie's Suits gave us a hand dressing these guys up to a visual standard that reflects their achievements, and we sat down with them, suited and booted, to hear exactly how they got where they are.

Words: Emma Pallent

"Work your way up there, and if you perform well enough, doors will open."

Breaking the island's 100m record at the Commonwealth Games this year, Jamie Oldham is now officially the fastest man on the island with a PB of 10.41 seconds. Run in the heats in Glasgow, his time shaved 0.07 off the previous Jersey record of 10.48, which had been held by his close friend and training partner Steven Mackay.

He arrived at the Games having been quarantined from the rest of the team after coming down with what he thinks was flu. "I had no expectation of performing that well," he said. "I was ill right before the race, but I had to put that to the back of my mind and just perform." He crossed the line, looked to his coach, then looked at the clock, and couldn't believe it. Whilst his time wasn't enough to progress past the heats, having finished behind Olympic semi-finalist Benjamin Azamati of Ghana, breaking the island record whilst unwell, in a heat full of athletes he grew up watching on television, is certainly a landmark moment.

He describes taking the record from Mackay as bittersweet, knowing how hard his friend worked for it. "It was quite a special moment," Jamie said. "He embraced me, congratulating me for taking his record."

He's off to university this year, and is candid about the gap between Jersey and bigger competitors. He credits the island for backing its athletes fiercely, even without the facilities on offer in bigger sporting nations like the UK or US. "Work your way up there, and if you perform well enough, doors will open," he says.

Completed:
100m record for Jersey at the Commonwealth Games

What's next:
Selection for the Under-23 Championships next year





Photography: Danny Evans

Jamie Oldham


Jason Wyse



“I don't do what I do for a pat on the back. I do it because I love what I do, and I love seeing people get well.”

Jason Wyse was awarded an MBE for his work with Silkworth Group, a charity that helps those struggling with addiction on the island. He's led the charity for the past 18 years, having spent several years in finance before that, a pivot he's never regretted.

Silkworth Lodge is Jersey's only residential rehabilitation facility, running a twelve-week programme built around structure, abstinence and a "continuum of care". Rather than just being a residential house that people get sent to and have no contact with before or after, Silkworth has set up a chain with a communal house and supported flats, so people leave with a runway into independent life. It's a tactic reflected in the success rates, which currently sit at 69%, against a national average of around 37-38%.

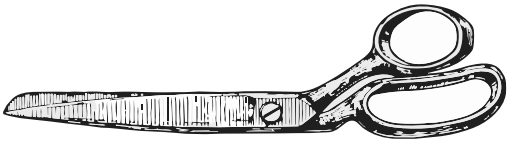
Jason has a refreshing attitude on addiction, resisting easy answers that put everything down to either nature or nurture. There is a genetic and developmental component, he said, pointing towards emerging research on foetal alcohol syndrome, which surprisingly includes the father's role as well as the mother carrying the baby. He notes that plenty of people with stable upbringings end up dependent regardless. In his view what matters is a person's relationship with the substance, whether they can stop and whether they need it to escape. Describing the nature of addiction, he said, "if we were businesses, we'd be multi-million-pound businesses as addicts," commenting on the level to which people are willing to work and manipulate their environments with a one-track mind on their goal.

He found out about his MBE in the street, when the Lieutenant Governor, Silkworth's patron, stopped him for a chat he assumed was about the charity's annual open day. It took him a while to sit with the news, processing it with his wife and children, as he's clear that he's never done this work for recognition. "This is not a job, it's a vocation," he said. "I don't do it for a pat on the back. I do it because I love what I do, and I love seeing people get well." He's set to collect the actual medal at Windsor Castle in late October, alongside his family.

Completed:
MBE for work with Silkworth Group

What's next:
To carry on delivering accessible treatment services to islanders, whilst continuing to raise awareness around addiction.

“It's an honour for the charity. It's a team effort.”



Jersey saw not one but two MBEs awarded, with Mike Haden, former centenier, commended for his work with Hands Around the World Jersey. He's been involved with the charity for around 25 years. They now works in partnership with nine schools in and around Bugarama, in southern Rwanda.

Over the last three years, Hands Around the World has built girls' hygiene rooms in all nine of its partner schools. These private spaces are kitted out with consulting rooms, showers and rest spaces, alongside the distribution of "dignity bags" of sanitary products. Mike credits these packages with keeping girls in education who might otherwise have dropped out.

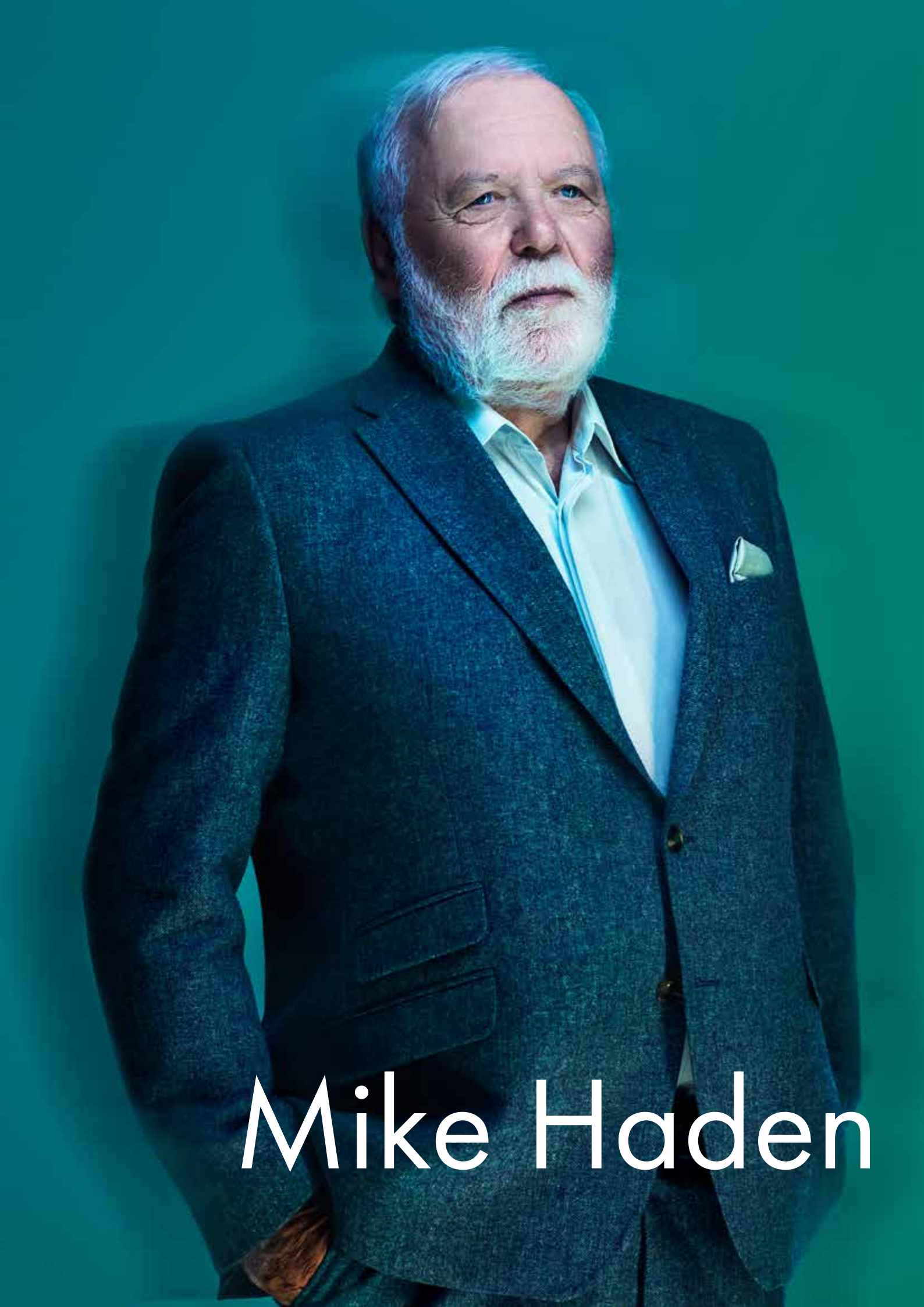
This year's trip to Rwanda, taken alongside longtime fundraiser Dennis Spencer, ran differently to usual because of the ongoing conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. It meant that instead of travelling with their normal volunteer contingent, they were with a group of local teachers and nurses, running training sessions in inclusive education for over 300 local teachers during the summer holidays. This programme was sparked by a Rwandan headteacher who visited Jersey and was blown away by the island's approach to disability inclusion in schools, going home determined to build something similar.

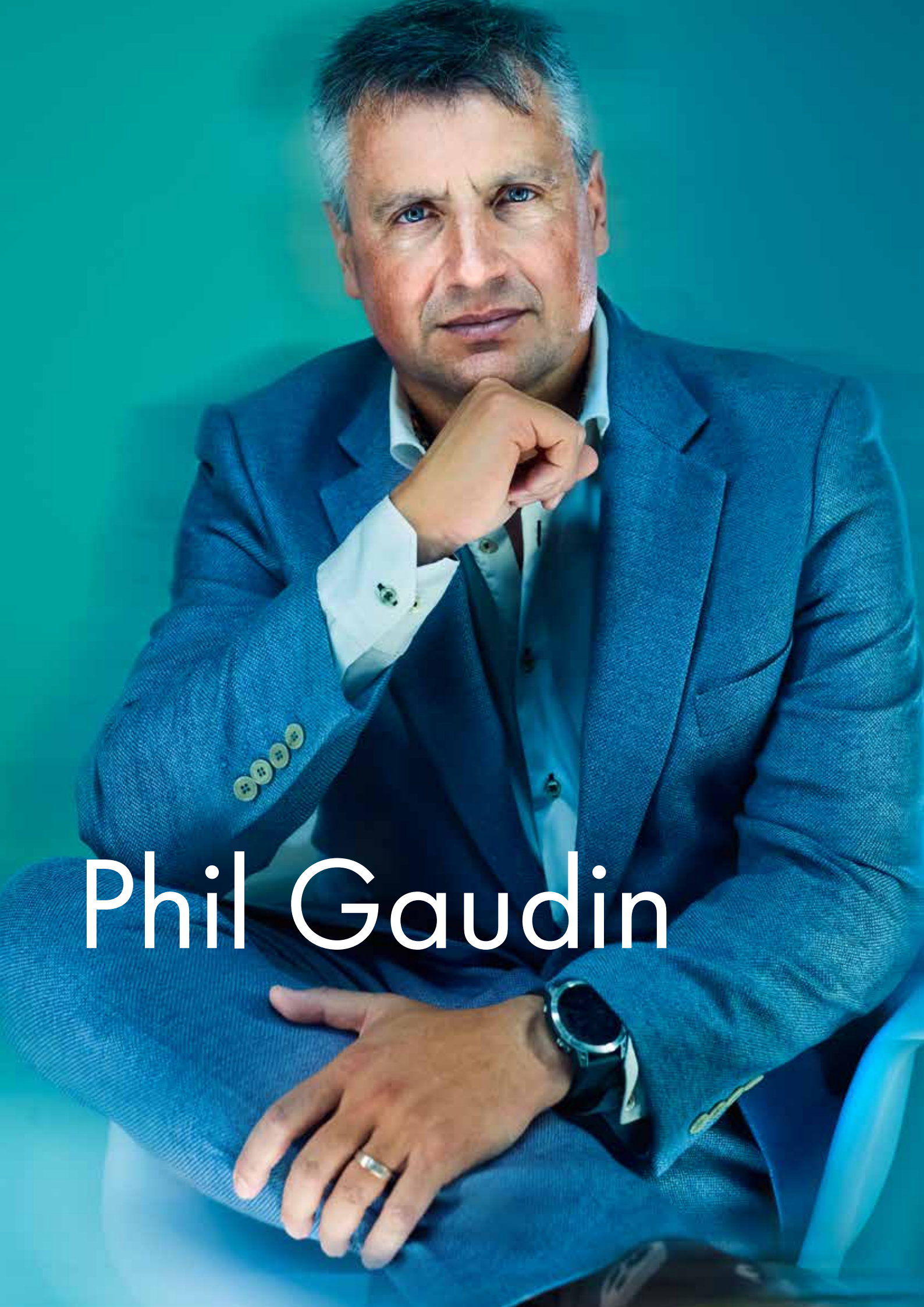
"Anyone who comes and volunteers will be absolutely amazed by the commitment and the friendliness of the local people," Mike said. "It's really staggering." A story he kept coming back to was a boy the charity began sponsoring back in 2010, who's since trained as a teacher and this year completed a sustainable agriculture course at Harper Adams University, which he's now using to help run school feeding programmes back home.

"It's an honour for the charity. It's a team effort," Mike said, seeing the MBE as something jointly earned by everyone on board. Alongside his charity work, he volunteers as a parish police administration officer, and is keen to point anyone curious about the honorary police towards their local parish hall. He's also eager to point out that Jersey's overseas aid instincts run deeper than most people realise, with huge numbers of islanders themselves spending time volunteering abroad, which he believes explains the strength of local support for causes like this.

Completed:
MBE for work with Hands Around the World Jersey

What's next:
Continued support for the charity's new disability-inclusion programme at its partner school in Rwanda


Mike Haden


Phil Gaudin

“There was no way I was not going to finish, once I got to that point.”

Phil Gaudin is a long-distance swimmer who made the trip across the Channel this August, coming ashore at Wissant in France 13 hours and 6 minutes after setting off from Samphire Hoe, becoming the 34th person from Jersey to make the crossing. He's keen to highlight that the vast majority of the fastest and longest-standing Channel-swimming records are held by women, with the youngest and oldest people ever to swim it being in the female category.

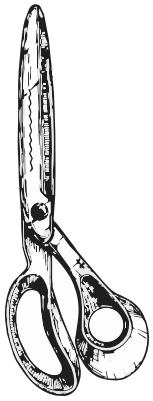
The swim takes serious mental discipline, with bad weather, jellyfish stings and tidal drag all part of the challenge. Phil described aiming for a lighthouse near the end, Cap Gris-Nez, putting his head down and swimming at full pelt in the hope of hitting it before the tide turned against him. Drift off course even slightly at that point, and it can add another one to two hours onto what should be a short final stretch. When asked if he considered giving up once he realised how much longer he'd have to swim, he said, "there was no way I was not going to finish, once I got to that point."

What's most surprising about Phil's story is that he only got into cold-water-swimming about five years ago, when the pools closed during Covid and he needed another way to stay fit. "I'm basically at the start of my journey," he said, "even though I started quite late." A relay Channel swim invitation from a friend in December 2020, with training taking place in eight-degree January water, turned into an obsession. Earlier this year he set the record for the earliest seasonal Jersey-to-France crossing, which he completed in six hours 56 minutes. He was joined partway through by a pod of dolphins that stayed with him for around twenty minutes. "I could hear them squeaking through the water even with earplugs in," he said, "and then all of a sudden they just appeared next to me. It was bizarre.”

He's quick to credit the Jersey Swimming Club, where he's now both a coach and a committee member, with starting him on sea swimming in the first place, and the Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club for keeping him in the water since. He's keen for both locals and visitors to get involved in organised swims regardless of ability.

Completed:
Swimming the English Channel

What's next:
A solo circumnavigation of the island, and the Bristol Channel



“Ultras are the kind of race where you find out exactly how much pain you’re willing to take to get what you came for.”

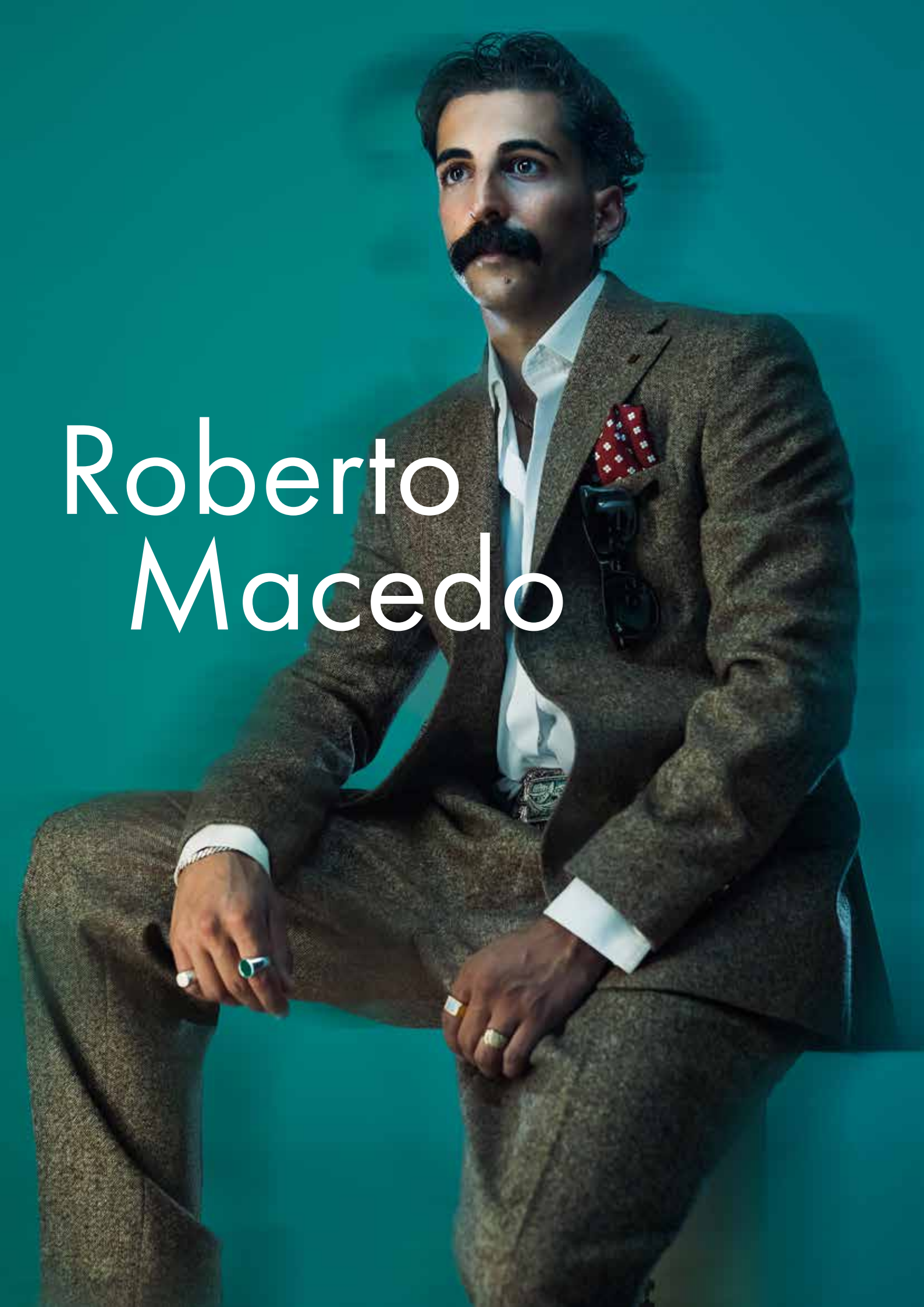
On the other side of the tracks, Roberto Macedo has become the champion of Jersey's longest running race, Round the Rock, which is a 74km ultra-marathon. Having debuted only last year and coming fifth, his achievement is one that has already taken him to the ceiling of the sport on the island.

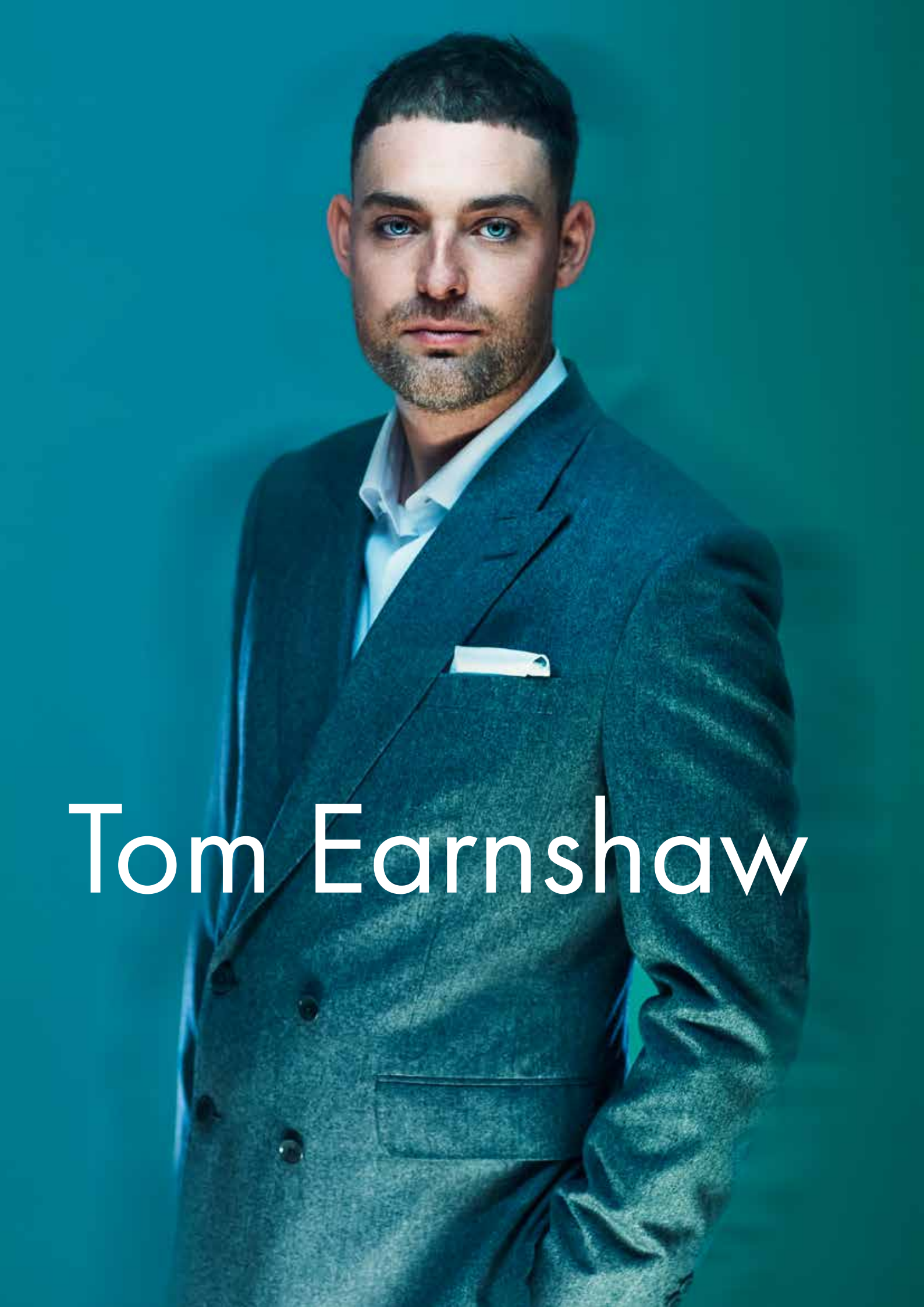
He spent years racing regularly, and puts down his recent improvement to getting a coach, which saved him from having to work everything out for himself through trial and error. "Ultras are the kind of race where you find out exactly how much pain you're willing to take to get what you came for," he said. His least favourite bit was the road section at the start, with the elevation and the trail being where he comes alive. When asked how it felt to be leading the pack, he said he'd rather be chasing than being chased. Coming second means you can watch your rivals ahead of you, whereas leading means never getting to relax. He went into this year's race with a three-minute-buffer that he had to defend the entire way around.

Next on the list is Madeira 115k in April, going back to his hometown. The race has roughly 7000m of elevation gain, which is not for the faint-hearted. His advice to anyone who is intimidated by watching someone else's ultra achievement from the sidelines is not to compare yourself, as everyone has a different life, job and amount of time to give. "Just set a goal, and go with it," he says, rather than going down the pointless road of aiming for someone else's path.

Completed:
Winner of Round the Rock (74km)

What's next:
The Madeira Island Ultra Trail (MIUT) (115km, 7000m+ elevation)


Roberto
Macedo


Tom Earnshaw

“The moment you stop moving forward, you're moving backwards.”

Tom Earnshaw took over as head chef of Bohemia last year, and this year was awarded Young Chef of the Year at the Michelin Guide's Special Awards, alongside a retained star for the restaurant. It's a title awarded to just one standout chef across the whole of the UK and Ireland each year, singled out by Michelin's own inspectors as showing exceptional promise. He landed on the island in a spontaneous manner, after a LinkedIn message from predecessor Callum Graham popped up asking if he fancied being pastry chef. Put plainly, the job description was "can you follow instructions and show up?". After a couple of trial shifts to see if he liked it, Tom took the job.

In under three years, Tom went from pastry chef to sous chef to head chef. Within six months of taking on full responsibility for Bohemia, Michelin awarded him the Young Chef of the Year award and a retained star, a prestigious award that places him at the top of chefs his age in the UK and Ireland. Bohemia has now held its Michelin star for 22 consecutive years, the longest continuously held star in the UK, and Tom at 27 is the youngest chef in Channel Islands history to hold one. "I told myself when I was seventeen that in ten years' time I'd get a Michelin star," Tom says, reflecting on making his achievement with time to spare. When asked what gives him the drive, he explained that he believes "the moment you stop moving forward, you're moving backwards.”

He changed the entire menu on his first day in the kitchen, wanting diners to fully experience his food and influence. "If you try to please the general public," he explained, "I think you're going to be less successful than if you try to please yourself." Before Jersey, he cooked at three other Michelin star kitchens: Moor Hall, Northcote and The Samling. He insists on knowing exactly where his ingredients come from, visiting a Trinity farm to see the entire process behind his beef, from petting the cattle in the field to watching them go through the abattoir. It’s a step further than most would be comfortable going, but he sees it as important, because he wants to be able to answer a diner's question about the meat properly rather than with a vague "it's local." He eats out often, taking mental notes on what works and what could be improved. For the curious, his favourite place to visit on the island is Pêtchi.

Completed:
Young Chef of the Year at the Michelin Star awards, alongside a retained star for Bohemia

What's next:
A second star, an achievement Jersey has never seen



Photography: Danny Evans



"I think that's what Jersey is missing – nobody's really doing that. So I thought, I'm the girl, I can do it."

Words: Emma Pallent

I'm a shameless lover of the Bartleby column of the Economist. Perhaps it's the corporate culture we find ourselves in on this island, but the musings of a writer weary of their middle-management job prove humorous when reflecting on the struggle of writing something original in your colleague's birthday card, the glory of the corporate training video and the books bosses should prescribe to their fresh employees as company reading lists (one of which is 'The Trial' by Kafka). In amongst the satire are musings on how bosses should talk about AI, how to launch a tech product, and, recently, an article on the quality you should most wish for your children. The last of which sprang to mind when I was interviewing **Alix Page**, a Jersey finance girl growing a successful side hustle.

Perhaps you'd most want your child to be kind, or hard working, or passionate enough about something to have the drive to excel in it. What this article found was less to do with character traits in general, and more about mindset. Specifically, they found that people who tend to see success in life have a common denominator: the belief that they have the power to shape the world around them. It's to do with something called a 'locus of control', and people either have an internal or an external one. The former believes that through consistent effort and action, they can change their circumstances to suit them. The latter believes that luck, destiny or other people are what determine their fate, rather than anything within their own control.

As I spoke with Alix at Red House over an iced latte, the conversation turned to locus of control after she mentioned the shift in her mindset that spurred her to start her business, Blonde. Blonde is essentially a matcha x coffee shop on wheels, but prior to starting up the cart, Alix felt like the barrier to entry to her dream - opening her own cafe - was too large. It's no secret that rent on the Jersey High Street is a barrier to entry, and many cafes go under because the profit margins on their products don't supply a sustainable commercial model. Heat, light and power costs, coupled with staff wages, product cost and a high cost of living on our island provide a challenge in coffee culture. One day, she just got sick of it; not sick of the circumstances that seemed impossible, but the attitude that she held towards it. "I kept giving myself excuses," she tells me. "Oh, I can't afford a coffee shop, or I'm stuck at my nine-to-five. Then I hit a wall where I thought, hang on a minute - I clearly really want this, and I need to actually make the steps to get there." One version of what she wanted to do was unattainable, but a spark of motivation caused her to look outside of the status quo and think of alternative ways of at least making the first step in what she wanted to do. Hence, Blonde was born.

"I kept giving myself excuses… I clearly really want this, and I need to actually make the steps to get there."

Blonde, as it currently stands, is a matcha cart that pops up every now and then in town or at events in collaboration with other local businesses. Its success owes largely to Alix's presence on social media, where she established a following and name for herself as the girl in Jersey who goes out and reviews everyone else's matcha. "I've always wanted to be the face behind the brand," she says. "There's almost a personal element to it if you want a business to really work - you can't just be hiding. That's also what gets people through the door." You're either a matcha fanatic who has tried all the different flavours, varying from strawberry, to mini eggs, to salted caramel with a brown sugar cold foam, or someone who tried it once out of curiosity and was severely disappointed that your coffee fix that morning tasted much like soil (don't order it plain with cow's milk). Matcha has taken off in the wellness space because it's considered a healthier alternative to coffee. Made from green tea extract and originating in Japan, matcha gives an energy boost that releases steadily throughout the day, in contrast to the spike and pit a cup of coffee induces. I'm a die hard caffeine girl who would probably request loved ones pour coffee on her grave, but at times when the heart palpitations have become medically concerning, my first go-to replacement for coffee is matcha.

Those who do get the hype are drawn to Alix's matcha cart for many reasons. It's quality, personal, constantly changing the flavours on offer and gets rid of one of the most annoying parts of ordering one: whatever you get, it's one price, rather than watching your 3.70 iced drink turn into a 7.00 drink because you've asked for oat milk and a bit of sweetener. Both her iced coffee and iced matcha stay the same price, 4.75 or 5.75 respectively. "Most places in Jersey charge extra for different milks and syrups," she explains. "With us, it's literally just a flat rate." She's matcha certified having completed a course in Japan, where she imports her matcha from, and where she learned that the art of matcha isn't just in the quality of the drink produced, but the actual experience of going to get one. "I feel like batch-making it diminishes the experience of actually watching someone whisk your matcha and pour it for you," she says. "That's what they do in Japan - it's very traditional. They take you over to the counter and do it right in front of you. It's an experience. I think that's what Jersey is missing - nobody's really doing that. So I thought, I'm the girl, I can do it." For someone into slow living with a wellness mindset, nothing is more addictive than watching someone mix ceremonial grade green tea goodness in a bowl in front of you with a special Japanese whisk, all whilst checking in with you on how your day has been and asking you for details on your favourite pilates class that you're heading to later.

Her eye for what people want, in combination with her established audience of matcha fanatics, meant that Blonde's opening was a wild success. Having bought 50 single-use plastic cups for her first pop-up, expecting that to be more than enough, she ran out of supplies very quickly. "We sold out within two hours," she laughs. "My dad, who's literally my angel, my saving grace - I called him and said, Dad, you're gonna have to bring me more cups and more syrups. He works near a place that wholesales plastic cups, so he brought them straight to the pop-up. We ended up selling 350 to 400 matchas that day." If you do some quick maths, that means that by the end of a day's sales, she'd likely turned over what some people see in a month in one day of revenue. We didn't get into the nitty gritty of profit margins at this stage, but it seems pretty promising.

Provided all goes as well as it currently is, Alix hopes to make enough to sustain a spot in town that she can set up shop permanently. The cart stage of a hospitality business is an important one, where future cafe owners root out market interest for their products. "With the mobile concept, it's fun and it's personal," she says. "When people come up to get their drinks, I actually get to have a conversation with them. If I'd just bought a shop without that personal connection first, it might not have gone the same way." Both Locke's and Mange Tout had their cart stages before becoming successful established hospitality venues on the island, and provided she picks a good location, Alix has the potential to see success when she finally sets up her place. "Everything's panned out the way it should," she reflects. "Starting small means there's always room to expand - whereas if I'd just bought a shop and then thought, oh my God, what do I do now, that's going backwards. At least because I started small, I can only go forward." Regardless of when she makes that move, it's always nice to meet someone doing things a little bit differently. As she puts it herself: "Don't let your inner thoughts win. If you really want something, you need to go out and get it - you just need to do it. There's never gonna be a right time, so whether you start smaller or you start big, you just need to do it."

@blondematchajsy

ASK AN EXPERT

A conversation with Jersey's consultant community



Rising regulation, tight margins and the arrival of AI are changing how organisations buy expertise in Jersey and beyond. For this edition, twelve local consultancies explain what that means in practice.



ASK AN EXPERT

CONSULTING IS GROWING AGAIN. AFTER A FLAT 2024, UK CONSULTING FEE INCOME ROSE 3% IN 2025 TO £21.8 BILLION, ACCORDING TO THE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCIES ASSOCIATION (MCA), THE INDUSTRY'S TRADE BODY. IT EXPECTS GROWTH OF 6% THIS YEAR AND 8% IN 2027. WHEN THE MCA SURVEYED ITS MEMBERS IN JANUARY, 78% NAMED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND AI AS THE MAIN DRIVERS OF DEMAND, WITH CYBER SECURITY, RISK AND COST REDUCTION CLOSE BEHIND.

Behind those numbers is a familiar squeeze. Businesses face tighter margins, more demanding regulators and technology that changes faster than any internal team can keep up with. The obvious answer, hiring, is often the hardest. Specialist skills are scarce, and the MCA reports that more than a third of the industry's own new hires last year were experienced professionals, brought in for skills such as AI, data and cyber. If consultancies are competing that hard for those people, few ordinary businesses can expect to keep them on the payroll.

As a result, the way expertise is bought is changing. Large firms still earn more than three-quarters of UK consulting fees. Alongside them, demand is growing for smaller, targeted and flexible support: a specialist for ten hours one month and twenty the next, an outsourced data protection officer, or an independent review before a major decision. Consultancies are also using AI themselves, with 77% of MCA members saying they have built it into their own systems.

These pressures are sharper in Jersey. Many local organisations are too small to justify a full-time cyber expert, fire safety adviser or compliance specialist, yet they face the same regulators and threats as larger firms. New legislation such as the Cyber Security (Jersey) Law, and the Island's continuing focus on financial crime following MONEYVAL's assessments, mean that expertise is needed now, not next year.

These pressures are sharper in Jersey. Many local organisations are too small to justify a full-time cyber expert, fire safety adviser or compliance specialist, yet they face the same regulators and threats as larger firms.

MEET THE CONSULTANTS

The firms in this feature cover a wide range of specialist needs.

In technology, Focused IT designs, secures and supports IT systems for small and medium-sized Jersey businesses. Adrien Merhet of AM Consultancy provides managed IT services to smaller organisations, around half of them in the medical sector. Chris Clark of Prosperity 24/7 helps the public sector, financial services and charities improve productivity through AI-led digital transformation and change management.

In regulation and risk, Nicola Ingram of Oben Regulatory supports financial services businesses and regulators with investigations, anti-money laundering reviews and compliance work. Paul Byrne is CEO of Propelfwd, a data protection consultancy that acts as an outsourced data protection officer for its clients. Charles Hunt of Ignis Safety Consultants gives independent fire safety advice across the Channel Islands.

In strategy and change, Allam Zia of BDO Consulting helps organisations turn their ambitions into practical plans for growth, technology, governance and regulation. Kenan Osborne of Magellan Consultancy provides hands-on support for business change, relocations and digital transformation.

Completing the line-up, Michael Alfano's ALFA provides flexible administrative and operational support to trust and corporate service providers. Stephanie Steedman of Steedman Planning draws on more than 20 years' experience to help clients, from government departments to householders, secure planning permission. Michaela Swann and Marion Falle of Law At Work, a people and HR consultancy, help employers manage employment issues, stay compliant and develop their leaders. Stewart Rowney of Rowney Sharman provides independent project and cost management for building projects across the Channel Islands, from business case and procurement through to delivery

Their answers to our questions share four clear themes.

AI IS RUNNING AHEAD OF GOVERNANCE

Hardly anyone treated AI as purely a technology question. Focused IT warns that organisations are "adopting AI tools faster than they are considering where company information is being stored." Paul Byrne notes that staff are already putting personal data into AI tools, and that Jersey's existing data protection law applies to that today. Allam Zia calls AI "a leadership and operating model question", while Chris Clark says it is fast becoming "part of the fabric of modern work". Kenan Osborne puts it simply: technology on its own is not enough.

REGULATION IS ARRIVING ON SEVERAL FRONTS

Focused IT is preparing 16 Operators of Essential Services, organisations whose services the Island depends on, for the new cyber law. Nicola Ingram says regulators now expect firms to understand the full network around a complex customer, not just to collect the paperwork. Charles Hunt describes a more formal era of fire safety regulation since Grenfell, but cautions that it does not mean every existing building needs upgrading.

CAPACITY AND INDEPENDENCE MATTER

Many clients have the ambition but not the people. Michael Alfano's team can place a senior professional into a business within 48 hours, and Magellan often helps teams deliver major change while still doing the day job. An outside view is just as valuable. Ignis makes the point bluntly: it does not earn more by finding more wrong with a building, a principle recently tested in a property deal worth around £15 million.

THE BEST TIME TO CALL IS EARLIER

Asked what clients should ask but usually don't, Focused IT and Prosperity 24/7 gave almost the same answer: "Can you help?" Stephanie Steedman urges clients to seek advice before things go wrong, and Allam Zia suggests asking whether they are solving the right problem at all.

The message is consistent. Specialist advice is most valuable, and usually cheapest, before a system is bought, a customer is taken on, a planning application is submitted or a regulator comes calling. The profiles that follow show what that looks like in practice.

Short-staffed, with no time to train new joiners? Ask...

MICHAEL ALFANO
ALFA



WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

The immediate answer? Speed and experience. We are able to "parachute" a senior resource into a client's business at extremely short notice (within 48 hours, subject to capacity) on a flexible basis. Making a permanent senior hire is a three-to-six-month process before they're really productive, and you're committed to their cost whether the workload justifies it or not. What we offer is different: senior-level capability that flexes with actual demand: 10 hours one month, 20 the next, without the overhead of a full-time salary, benefits or notice period if the work dries up. It also means we can come in with a targeted, rather than generic, approach, which will increase efficiency and, ultimately, profitability for the business, as we should be fully utilised. The other piece is systems exposure. We have worked with NavOne, Business Central, Quantios Core and PlainSail, including migrations, from the operator's chair, not the vendor's, so clients get someone who's already made the mistakes on someone else's platform, rather than learning on theirs.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

I want to talk about two separate clients, as the work varied quite significantly between them. The first was an established TCB that required short-term resource for three months while they waited for a new hire to join. The client was winning new business and needed some assistance with onboarding and data integrity, so we were able to ensure onboarding was seamless and that there was complete continuity for the TCB and its clients.

The other was a start-up TCB that required assistance with its operational framework, particularly from a client services perspective. We were able to provide recommendations on FinTech and RegTech and how they should operate from an end-user perspective. As part of this process, we were heavily involved with a new start-up FinTech business, Optifi, and through testing were able to provide constructive feedback on the build of the platform, which has helped shape it into what it is today. ALFA has since partnered with Optifi.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Technology! The gap between "we bought good software" and "we actually use it well" is widening, not narrowing. Firms are investing in platforms, but the return on that spend depends entirely on whether the people using them understand the workflow behind them, and that's usually the part nobody budgets time for. I think a lot of TCSPs are underestimating how much of their compliance risk right now is a training and process gap dressed up as a technology gap.

"ALFA fills the gap and helps you keep the people you've already invested in."

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

What can you really do for us? The ALFA model is a genuinely new concept in the industry, at least in the Channel Islands, and it's clear that businesses don't fully understand what we do and how we do it... yet! While administration is our bread and butter, there is a lot more we can do, from operational frameworks to training and assisting with the onboarding of new joiners.

Imagine this: a TCSP has a vacancy it is struggling to fill, pressure is being put on the wider team, but there is a temporary resource available via ALFA. We fill the spot while the vacancy gets filled. But who then takes on the role of training the new joiner? Usually someone in the team who is already stretched for time and struggles to give the new joiner the training they need, or even to delegate work accordingly. The new joiner feels left to their own devices, with no direction, not valued and unsatisfied. What happens next? They resign and move on to the next thing. ALFA can help avoid this by providing the on-site training and guidance really needed to onboard a new joiner. So, to circle back to the original question: ALFA fills the gap and helps you keep the people you've already invested in.

ALFA LIMITED
A trusted partner providing flexible administrative and operational support to Trust and Corporate Service Providers (TCSPs).

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Flexible help, without the HR headache

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Helping Jersey trust companies take the pressure off their stretched teams with professional, qualified administration support that can hit the ground running.

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michael@alfa.je

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Sensitive data, with no in-house IT team to protect it? Ask...

ADRIEN MERHET
AM CONSULTANCY



WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Many of our clients are small businesses that cannot justify having internal IT staff. Generally, our clients provide highly professional and medical services, and their administration uses IT of various forms to run their consultancy practices. Their own clients have high expectations of organisation but, importantly, want to feel confident that their medical records are kept safe and secure. Our clients come to us for peace of mind: knowing their data is as secure as it can be, and that we are on hand if they ever experience an IT crisis, whether that's a data breach or needing a replacement computer in a hurry. In short, our clients want to benefit from our expertise and common sense in supporting, advising on and managing their IT.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

A financial charity that has to comply with statutory financial regulations. The main considerations were simplifying the IT as a whole, improving resilience and making provision to meet disaster recovery needs.
We moved their key application away from their hosted server to a cloud provider, liaising with the new provider and managing access to the old system so the new hosting provider could take on their core application.

We standardised on laptops as users' main workstations, adding multiple monitors and a quick and easy means of connecting to the office infrastructure. Importantly, moving users from office-based workstations to laptops supported a disaster recovery solution, allowing them to work from home at a moment's notice in the event of a disaster.

"Our clients come to us for peace of mind: knowing their data is as secure as it can be."

To meet compliance requirements, we ensured all systems met IT security standards during the design and implementation phases, which allowed the organisation to achieve cyber security certification. Because we were so involved in the implementation, we could complete their cyber certification on their behalf. Alongside the ongoing developments, we provide daily IT support as and when required, which allows us to work with our client in monitoring the implementation of each phase of change.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Our clients are starting to use AI in earnest, in particular Microsoft Copilot, following Microsoft's hands-on Copilot evaluation period. Users have simply started using it in their daily writing of emails and files. Security is always a major concern for any organisation, and we are finding organisations are applying for cyber certification. Treating cyber certification not just as a "badge" but as a disciplined framework is exactly how forward-thinking organisations successfully mature their security posture. It forces companies to bridge the gap between informal IT habits and strictly documented, repeatable processes.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

We find businesses should be looking at a coherent IT strategy rather than operating their IT on a day-to-day basis, or waiting for something to fail. This will provide a three-to-five-year roadmap with cost estimates over that period. It should include a proactive cyber security review that identifies gaps in protection against cyber attacks and also considers IT best practice within the organisation. A scalable infrastructure should consider the way employees are working: if they're working from home, perhaps laptops connecting to docking stations might be the best solution, which can also work alongside the business's disaster recovery plan. For prospective clients, we offer a free IT consultation, providing a report with considered actions that give a sense of what needs to be done to address their business needs.

AM CONSULTANCY
An IT consultancy providing managed IT services to a wide range of clients – around half of them in the medical sector – from a sole medical consultant to businesses of 80-plus employees.

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Rushing to a solution before understanding the problem? Ask...

ALLAM ZIA
BDO CONSULTING

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

The most useful outside support is independent judgement, relevant experience and the confidence to challenge constructively. Most clients are already busy running their organisations. They bring us in when an important issue cuts across teams, when the answer is not obvious, or when progress has stalled.
A good consultant helps leaders step back from the noise and focus on what matters most. We bring structure to complexity, ask the questions that can be difficult to ask internally and draw on experience from similar challenges elsewhere, while recognising that every organisation is different.

Just as importantly, we work with internal teams rather than around them. The aim is not to create dependency but to help leaders reach a sound decision, build genuine ownership and leave the organisation better equipped to carry the change forward.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

Recently, we supported a growing financial services organisation that was expanding while regulatory expectations and operational complexity were increasing. Rather than addressing individual issues in isolation, we assessed how their operating model, governance, technology landscape and growth ambitions needed to work together. This helped separate symptoms from root causes and focus attention on the areas that would have the greatest impact. We left them with a practical, prioritised plan, clearer investment and change decisions, and stronger alignment across the leadership team.

Most importantly, they had greater confidence in how to scale the organisation while maintaining the levels of control, oversight and service their clients expected. In my experience, that is where consulting creates the greatest value: helping organisations make better decisions and move forward with confidence.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

AI is the obvious shift, and I think many organisations still treat it primarily as a technology-owned drive, whereas the reality is that it's much more a leadership and operating model question.

At the same time, businesses are dealing with tighter margins, rising regulatory expectations and accelerating technology change. Simply adding more people is rarely the answer. Organisations need to simplify how work gets done, make better use of technology and data, and redesign processes around the outcomes they want.

The opportunity is significant, but so is the risk of moving without direction. The organisations that make real progress will combine ambition with proportionate governance, clear ownership and disciplined execution.

Are we solving the right problem, or have we jumped too quickly to a solution?

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

The question clients should ask is: "Are we solving the right problem, or have we jumped too quickly to a solution?"
Organisations often begin with an answer in mind: a new system, a restructure, an automation programme or another hire. But if the underlying problem has not been properly understood, even a well-executed solution can fall short of expectations.

We add most value when we're involved early enough to help frame the challenge, test assumptions and agree what success looks like. From there, the right expertise can be brought together and the work shaped around outcomes rather than activity. That usually leads to better decisions, lower delivery risk and change that is more likely to stick.



BDO CONSULTING

BDO Consulting helps organisations across financial services, family offices, the public sector, utilities, and legal and professional services turn ambition into practical action on growth and operating models, technology, data and AI, governance, risk and regulation.

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Getting ready for the new cyber security law? Ask...

MARK WATSON, SEAN HAMON, JORDAN WRIGHT
FOCUSED IT



WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Most businesses don't need a full-time cyber security specialist, cloud architect, Microsoft 365 expert and IT manager, but they often need access to those skills. Working with an external specialist gives them an entire team of experienced professionals for a fraction of the cost of building that capability in-house.

It also provides exposure to a wider range of organisations and challenges. Our team works with businesses across many sectors, which means we're constantly seeing new technologies, emerging threats and proven ways of working. Clients benefit from that accumulated experience without having to learn every lesson themselves. Ultimately, it allows them to focus on running their business while we focus on making technology reliable, secure and aligned with their goals.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

One area we're currently helping clients with is preparing for the Cyber Security (Jersey) Law, particularly those designated as Operators of Essential Services. For many organisations, the challenge isn't a lack of commitment to cyber security. It's understanding whether existing controls, processes and governance arrangements are sufficient, and where improvements are needed. The law has prompted boards and leadership teams to take a closer look at their cyber resilience and ask important questions about risk, accountability and preparedness.

We are currently supporting 16 Operators of Essential Services through this process, helping them assess their current position, identify gaps and implement practical improvements. By the time we leave, clients have a clearer understanding of their cyber risks, a roadmap for continual improvement and greater confidence that they are meeting both their operational and regulatory responsibilities.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Artificial intelligence is attracting most of the headlines, but the bigger challenge for many businesses is governance and security. Organisations are adopting AI tools faster than they are considering where company information is being stored, who has access to it and how it is being protected.

At the same time, cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated and are increasingly using AI themselves. Businesses that take a strategic approach to security, user awareness and data governance will be in a much stronger position than those focused solely on the latest technology trend.

"Organisations are adopting AI tools faster than they are considering where company information is being stored."

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

The question we'd love clients to ask more often is: "Can you help us with this?"

Many organisations know us for IT support, cyber security and Microsoft 365, but what they don't always realise is that we're often able to help with a much broader range of technology projects and challenges.

Over the years, we've acted as trusted advisers for clients on everything from major system replacements and software selection through to telecommunications, connectivity, compliance, cyber security, cloud services and digital transformation projects. Where specialist expertise is required outside our own areas of knowledge, we can often recommend and work alongside trusted third-party providers to help clients achieve the right outcome.

Technology decisions can be difficult and expensive to reverse. We'd much rather clients involve us early in the conversation, even if the solution ultimately comes from somewhere else. A quick discussion can often save significant time, cost and effort further down the line.

FOCUSED IT

Focused IT designs, implements, secures and supports IT systems for small and medium-sized businesses across Jersey, helping them get more value from technology while reducing risk and complexity.

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Fire safety concerns that need an independent second opinion? Ask...

CHARLES HUNT
IGNIS SAFETY CONSULTANTS

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Fire safety is specialist, but for most organisations it is not a full-time job. Building that knowledge internally is expensive, and it takes years of training and practical experience to get people to the standard you need. Using an outside specialist gives clients access to that experience when they need it. More importantly, there is independence.

We are not selling fire doors, alarm systems or remedial works. We are being paid to tell the client what is wrong, what needs doing and, just as importantly, what does not. A good consultant should challenge contractors, question recommendations and explain where the requirement comes from. Sometimes work needs doing. Sometimes the proposed work simply cannot be justified.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

We recently became involved in a major property transaction where around £15 million was potentially in play, and fire safety had become a significant part of the negotiations. A substantial list of alleged defects and remedial works had been produced. At that level, fire safety is no longer just a technical issue. What gets written in a report can affect valuations, negotiations and the transaction itself. We went back through the fire strategy, surveys, installation records and the building itself, and looked at the technical basis for what was being claimed. Some issues were valid. Others needed challenging or better evidence.

That is where independence matters. Ignis does not make more money because we find more wrong with a building, and we are not trying to win the remedial work afterwards. The client ended up with a clearer picture of the building's fire safety position and something they could rely on when making commercial decisions.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Fire safety has changed enormously since Grenfell. Before 2017, it simply did not get the level of attention, scrutiny or investment that it does now. Today it is being looked at by owners, insurers, managing agents, developers and investors.

When a market grows, more people move into it. A lot of that is positive, but clients need to be careful about where their advice is coming from and whether the person giving it also stands to benefit from the work they recommend. We are seeing the term "non-compliant" used very freely, and that can have consequences far beyond the cost of fixing a defect. Jersey is also moving into a more formal period of fire safety regulation. But more regulation does not mean every existing building suddenly needs to be upgraded to the latest standard, or that everything old needs replacing. It comes back to understanding the building, the risk and what actually applies.

"Ignis does not make more money because we find more wrong with a building."

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

"What do we actually need to do, and why?" Too often we see the process start with a quotation, a survey finding or somebody saying something is "non-compliant". My first question would be: according to what? Where does the requirement come from? What risk are we actually trying to address? And is the proposed solution proportionate to that risk? Those questions can change the conversation.

Fire safety should not be about producing the longest defect list or finding the most expensive solution. Our job is to work out what genuinely matters, explain it clearly and give the client a practical way forward that they can justify.



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Delivering major change while keeping the day job running? Ask...

KENAN OSBORNE
MAGELLAN CONSULTANCY

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

For me, the real value of an external consultancy is having someone independent working alongside you: someone who listens, challenges when needed and helps turn ideas into practical delivery.

I like to think Magellan brings common sense and added value. We are not there to complicate things, but to help clients make balanced decisions, keep projects moving and focus on what will really make a difference. I have seen this first-hand with busy teams trying to deliver change while doing the day job. Often, the most useful thing I can do is bring structure, calm and momentum.

What matters to me is being hands-on, and people and business-focused. I want clients to feel we are part of their team, not consultants forcing change on people. Being based in Jersey helps too. I understand the local market, the pressures organisations face and the importance of trusted relationships. Through Magellan, we combine that local understanding with wider expertise to deliver support that is practical, personal and focused on real results.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

A recent example was Magellan's work supporting a large organisation through a major workplace relocation and technology transformation programme. The programme involved moving employees from multiple sites into a new headquarters, with tight timelines, many moving parts and teams working across departments, suppliers and contractors. Magellan brought structure, pace and calm to that complexity, using several members of our great team. We supported project management, business analysis, change, PMO and quality assurance, while helping connect workstreams and keep decisions moving.

What made the difference was how our team worked alongside the client, helping realise their vision through genuine partnership and joining the dots when pressure was high.

The result was a smooth move into a modern, secure workplace. Technology was ready on time, staff could work from day one, and the organisation delivered something of real benefit to the business and their clients. It was challenging, rewarding work, and our team was genuinely proud of the part we played.

"Technology on its own is not enough. Good consultancy still needs judgement, trust, empathy and the ability to bring people with you."

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE CHALLENGES TO CONSULTANCY IN THE CURRENT MARKETPLACE?

For me, the challenge for consultancy in Jersey is that organisations still need to change, but they are doing so in a cautious and cost-conscious market. Rising costs, skills shortages and pressure on budgets mean clients rightly expect clear value, practical help and visible results.

AI and automation are also changing the market. I see that as a real opportunity, but technology on its own is not enough. Good consultancy still needs judgement, trust, empathy and the ability to bring people with you. At Magellan, we are actively investing in this area, developing our people and looking for new talent. I believe the strongest support comes from combining smart technology with experience, common sense and a genuine understanding of each client's needs.



MAGELLAN CONSULTANCY

Magellan Consultancy helps businesses deliver successful people and business change and operational and digital transformation, including adopting new technologies such as automation, with independent advice and hands-on delivery that keeps people at the centre of change.

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Customers whose risks go deeper than their paperwork? Ask...

NICOLA INGRAM
OBEN REGULATORY



WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

As an external party, Oben Regulatory brings independence, and its team has significant sector-wide experience. We have seen an incredible number of issues and risks that many businesses may not have encountered.

We know what a firm should be doing to demonstrate compliance and how poor conduct can increase financial crime risk. As an example, we've reviewed many files over the last 12 months and have identified more fraud and financial crime than in previous years. This is not necessarily due to a failure by the firm to undertake customer identification measures; it is directly related to the activity and services undertaken by a firm for the clients concerned.

Firms and client service directors do not like to think that their customers are bad actors. Unfortunately, however, it is a numbers game: when firms have a significant number of customers, it is inevitable that one or more will be nefarious. Our reviews have found that firms have unwittingly provided services that facilitated financial crime when, had there been a greater focus on the customer and the work being undertaken, they might have addressed the risks and issues much earlier.

"When firms have a significant number of customers, it is inevitable that one or more will be nefarious."

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

Recently, we supported a regulated financial services business experiencing rapid growth. Regulators had increased their scrutiny of the firm's customer due diligence (CDD) measures and risk classifications. The issue for our client was not just the collation of CDD, but also understanding the wider network around its corporate customers.

The client was under pressure to onboard a complex customer. Although it had some CDD, documentation concerning the wider structure and arrangements was insufficient and inconsistent. We reviewed the file and mapped the entire structure, including the customer's associates and key business transactions. This helped to identify previously overlooked connections, enabling the client to see the real risks presented by this prospective customer.

By the end of the engagement, the client had a clearer view of the customer, a stronger risk assessment framework, improved management information and a documented methodology for analysing customer networks and ownership structures. We and the client were both pleased that, moving forward, the client could evidence a practical, proportionate and risk-based approach aligned with regulatory expectations.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Clients underestimate two things:

The need to focus on the entirety of a customer's ecosystem. This is not a new requirement, but it has come to the fore because MONEYVAL, in its latest round of assessments, has focused on the ability of financial institutions to explain complex matters and demonstrate that they understand the complexity of a customer.

Transaction monitoring. Unfortunately, most clients adopt an approach like that of banks and focus on payments. Most financial services businesses, however, do not undertake a single, straightforward activity such as taking deposits; their services are far more varied, involving loans, transactions and other activities. Therefore, any transaction monitoring focused on payments alone will not be effective. This is one of the most important mechanisms for protecting a firm from financial crime.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

The question should be: "Do we truly understand the extent of the risk presented by our customers and their networks?" Most clients focus on whether they have satisfied regulatory requirements to collate CDD. They collect those documents which might meet financial crime requirements at a basic level. In our experience—and this has not changed for many years—generally firms do not have files which reflect a full understanding of all components of their customers: individuals, entities, jurisdictions and funding arrangements. This weakness presents a significant vulnerability. At Oben, we help clients move beyond a compliance checklist towards a genuine understanding of risk, especially where structures are complex and interconnected.

OBEN REGULATORY LIMITED

Oben handles all aspects of regulatory work, from investigations, contentious matters and acquisition due diligence to governance, compliance, conduct and AML reviews, board support, training and policies, for financial services businesses, regulators, FIUs and other agencies in Jersey and beyond.

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At Magellan, we believe successful change starts with people. Whether supporting a new technology implementation, improving business processes or delivering a complex transformation programme, we take time to understand how organisations operate, listen to the people involved and work collaboratively to deliver lasting results.

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"Many organisations are treating AI as something separate from day-to-day operations, when it is quickly becoming part of the fabric of modern work."



AI arriving faster than people and processes are ready for it? Ask...

CHRIS CLARK

PROSPERITY 24/7

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Pragmatic wisdom (in short). Our "great minds" (colleagues) have ordinarily helped others in a similar way; therefore, we bring certified experience that can mobilise faster to resolve a business challenge. An outside specialist can bring unencumbered focus, objectivity and experience that can be difficult to mobilise quickly in-house.

Clients gain access to deep technical knowledge, proven strategic change management skills and wider industry insight, without placing additional resource pressure on already busy internal teams, who themselves will have deep operational knowledge that may simply need support outside their explicit knowledge domain.

An external perspective can give clients the confidence to make informed decisions, avoid costly missteps and create solutions that are practical, sustainable and aligned to their strategic priorities and ways of working, co-created with their people. The result is strategic and trusted partnerships that can modernise their technology on the one hand, whilst laying foundations for a culture of continuous improvement on the other.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

When we partnered with a critical national infrastructure (CNI) client, our priority was to help define what it means to be "future ready", both in a people-centric way and at a foundational, technology level. The organisation wanted to explore how artificial intelligence, automation and better business processes could support colleagues across different roles and departments, while strengthening the service delivered to their customers and business partners.

We worked closely with their team to turn strategy into action, identifying, at a technology level, where Microsoft 365 Copilot (AI) and targeted process improvements could make the greatest productivity impact. The focus was not simply on introducing new tools, but on embedding digital skills into daily operations so they became genuine enablers of productivity and better decision-making.

By helping staff to reduce routine administrative tasks and reclaim valuable time, the organisation now has even stronger foundations for ongoing change, greater confidence in how AI will be used responsibly, and more capacity to focus on delivering excellent customer service.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the biggest shift of our professional lives – the manifestation of the "fourth industrial revolution" – yet many clients still underestimate the impact on their people, processes and, ultimately, their future prosperity.

We are seeing organisations operate in the "age of the unknowable", where shifts in innovation are happening in weeks, not years. It is changing how organisations operate, make decisions and deliver service excellence. The opportunity is not simply to adopt the latest tool – the greater challenge is understanding where AI can genuinely improve productivity, service and operating insights, while still protecting trust, governance and human judgement. Many organisations are treating AI as something separate from day-to-day operations, when it is quickly becoming part of the fabric of modern work. The businesses that will benefit most are those that take a considered approach now, reimagine the way they work and prepare their people, processes and data for what comes next.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

The question clients should ask more often is a simple one: "Can you help?" They hold off asking for fear of not being able to frame the question effectively, through a historic perception of a "business–technologist" language disconnect. Our senior colleagues receive Chartered Management training to ensure they can translate a client's strategic business challenges into real solutions focused on technology or human change. It is our job to use our broad experience to qualify or disqualify the request, swiftly and in plain English, to help provide the fastest feedback on the challenge they face. The key thing to remember is that successful transformation is rarely about implementing technology alone. Truly impactful transformation depends on whether processes are fit for purpose, whether teams understand the reason for change, and whether new tools liberate colleagues to focus on higher-value work where human relationships are the service differentiator.

At Prosperity 24/7, we encourage clients to look beyond simple "product implementation" and consider how technology can genuinely help their people work smarter, serve customers better and create a culture of innovation. That is where real progress happens, and where businesses can build lasting trust in the services they provide.



PROSPERITY 24/7

Prosperity 24/7 helps organisations across the public sector, financial and professional services and the third sector improve productivity and grow through AI-led digital transformation and strategic change management.

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Early planning advice that gets it right from the outset? Ask...

STEPHANIE STEEDMAN
STEEDMAN PLANNING

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Proposals for development in Jersey are made by a wide range of clients. A few clients who submit planning applications regularly might have in-house planning and environmental expertise; most clients apply for planning permission once in a lifetime.

In my experience, most clients benefit from objective and independent advice, relevant to Jersey's planning system, being provided early on in the design process. Steedman Planning's service is focused on giving the right advice at the right time.

Engaging a planning and environmental consultant at the right time ensures that valuable advice about development strategy can be given before commitments are made to spending time and money on assessments and information, when the outcome of a planning decision is uncertain.

Steedman Planning provides early and objective advice which is bespoke to the client's project requirements.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

A confidential service is a core principle of how Steedman Planning works with clients. Stephanie has been helping clients deliver projects for over 20 years. Working collaboratively and as part of a professional team ensures that Steedman Planning delivers results at the right time.

Professional competence and a deep knowledge of Jersey's planning system enable Steedman Planning to help clients meet critical project deadlines. Ensuring that development proposals can be lawfully started in accordance with the terms of planning permissions is important for demonstrating compliance with the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law.

"Don't wait until things go wrong. Get us involved early and get it right from the outset."



WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

The recent announcement about the Government's shift in approach to regulatory burden doesn't mean that the decision-maker is lowering standards. Delivering excellent-quality development relies on professional competence and experience, and on bringing together the right team for a client's project.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

Asking for advice at the start can save time, save money and prevent costly mistakes. Don't wait until things go wrong, get us involved early and get it right from the outset.

STEEDMAN PLANNING LTD

Steedman Planning provides planning and environmental consultancy, including Environmental Impact Assessment led by competent expert Stephanie, helping the Government of Jersey, commercial clients and householders achieve planning permission efficiently, object to applications through third-party appeals, respond to compliance investigations and manage appeals.

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Prosperity 24/7
Great Minds, Always.

Building projects where the risks show up too late to fix cheaply? Ask...

STEWART ROWNEY
ROWNEY SHARMAN

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

An outside specialist gives clients access to experienced people and proven systems when they need them, without the fixed cost or long lead time of building a permanent internal team. More importantly, independence brings objectivity. We can test assumptions, challenge scope and priorities, and give clear advice on cost, risk, procurement and delivery without being constrained by established internal positions.

Rowney Sharman combines that impartiality with detailed knowledge of the Channel Islands market. We understand local supply chains, statutory processes and the practical constraints of delivering projects in an island environment. We work as an extension of the client's team, transferring knowledge and strengthening governance rather than creating another layer of administration. The result is flexible capacity, informed decisions and clearer accountability from the outset.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU HAVE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

We recently supported a heritage organisation delivering the refurbishment of a Grade 1 listed property in a difficult marine location. The project had public funding, demanding governance requirements and a constrained construction market.
We developed the business case, structured the governance and procurement process, secured and sustained market interest, and provided cost management throughout delivery. Early engagement with contractors and a comprehensive tender information pack helped address the unusual logistical and heritage risks directly. During construction, we maintained disciplined change control and financial reporting. The completed project left the client with restored historic assets, an agreed final account and a governance approach subsequently recognised as good practice by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

WHAT IS SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Clients are underestimating how early delivery risk now needs to be addressed. Affordability, ageing assets, regulatory expectations, constrained local capacity and longer lead times are increasingly interconnected. A project can appear viable at concept stage but become difficult if surveys, approvals, procurement strategy, operational interfaces or future maintenance are considered too late.
Robust business cases, realistic programmes, clear governance and auditable decisions are becoming as important as technical design. Early investment in these areas reduces uncertainty and helps preserve options before commitments become expensive to reverse.

"Robust business cases, realistic programmes, clear governance and auditable decisions are becoming as important as technical design."

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

"What is required for this project to succeed?"
That question moves the discussion beyond a brief, budget and target date. It identifies the decisions, dependencies, information, people and approvals that genuinely determine success. Asked early, it exposes assumptions and clarifies where the client must lead, where specialist support adds value and what evidence is needed at each gateway. Our role is then not merely to administer the project, but to help create the conditions in which sound decisions can be made and delivery remains aligned with the outcome the client actually needs.



ROWNEY SHARMAN (JERSEY) LIMITED

Independent project and cost management consultancy supporting public-sector, commercial and private clients across all sectors in the Channel Islands and the UK. Our services include client representation, development, project, procurement and programme management, construction management, cost and risk management, quantity surveying, and health and safety coordination.

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A gap between data protection policy and everyday practice? Call...

PAUL BYRNE
PROPELFWD

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

Breadth and independence. An in-house data protection officer sees one organisation's problems; we see 30 organisations' problems, and the patterns between them. When a client faces a subject access request, a regulator's enquiry or a supplier contract, the answer is rarely novel to us, we've usually handled the same issue elsewhere in a different guise. There's also the independence point, which is easy to underestimate: the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 expects a DPO to advise without conflict, and that's structurally simpler when the adviser isn't also worrying about their own payroll, appraisal or internal politics. Add the economics, a fractional specialist costs a fraction of a full-time hire, with no training overhead and no key-person risk, and the case for outsourcing tends to make itself for most Jersey organisations below a certain size.

"That gap between the documented position and the lived one is where every enforcement problem we've ever handled began."



TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

A local charity came to us in a position familiar to many small Jersey organisations: entirely well-intentioned, but with no formal data protection framework at all. They held sensitive information about the people they support, relied on volunteers as well as staff, and knew they had obligations under the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018 without knowing where to begin. We started with a straightforward review of what data they held, why, and where it flowed, then built the essentials around that reality: a privacy notice that actually reflected their processing, retention and breach procedures people could follow, and a record of processing that will stand up to scrutiny. Just as importantly, we trained the whole team, trustees included, so that data protection became something everyone understood rather than a folder on a shelf. We left them with a complete, proportionate framework and the confidence to run it themselves day to day, with us on hand when something unusual arises.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

Artificial intelligence, but not in the way people expect. The conversation locally fixates on whether the EU AI Act applies to Jersey businesses. The more immediate issue is that staff are already feeding personal data into AI tools with no governance around it, and the DPJL 2018 applies to that processing today, no new legislation required. Organisations waiting for an "AI law" before acting have misread where the risk sits. Alongside that, subject access requests are growing sharply in volume and sophistication, often deployed tactically in disputes, and most organisations remain unprepared for a genuinely difficult one.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

"What would the Commissioner see if she looked at us tomorrow?" Clients ask about policies, because policies feel like compliance. Almost nobody asks whether their practice matches their paperwork: where the data actually flows, who actually has access, what actually happens when something goes wrong. That gap between the documented position and the lived one is where every enforcement problem we've ever handled began.

PROPELFWD

A data protection consultancy providing compliance projects, training and outsourced data protection officer and manager services to clients of all sizes, across all sectors of business.

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Managers facing employees who've used AI to research their rights? Call...

MICHAELA SWANN & MARION FALLE
LAW AT WORK

MS: Michaela Swann, Senior People Business Manager
MF: Marion Falle, People Business Partner

WHAT DO CLIENTS GAIN FROM AN OUTSIDE SPECIALIST THAT IS PREFERABLE TO BUILDING INTERNALLY?

MF:

An external specialist brings impartiality, objectivity and a fresh perspective. When you're immersed in the day-to-day pressures of a business, it can be difficult to see the wood for the trees. An external adviser can take that step back to provide a bird's-eye view and identify what might be missing.

In HR in particular, making independent judgements can be difficult when you're close to the people and the situation. So working with an outside specialist can add an extra layer of objectivity and reduces some of those internal pressures.

There's also the benefit of time and expertise. Our clients can access the combined knowledge and experience of multiple professionals. We untangle complex situations, ask the difficult questions, provide reassurance and support them through to a solution. Ultimately, it gives clients peace of mind that they have an expert to advise them and someone they can bounce ideas off.

TELL US ABOUT A CLIENT YOU'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY. WHAT WERE THEY UP AGAINST, AND WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THEM?

MS:

We recently worked with a client whose leaders were facing increasingly complex people management challenges and recognised they would benefit from additional support, development and confidence in their roles. The challenge wasn't simply about giving them more knowledge; it was about helping them develop their leadership approach and apply those skills in practice.

Rather than traditional training where people listen and take notes, we delivered a series of practical development sessions designed to encourage reflection, build self-awareness and explore what effective leadership looks like in practice.

We saw those lightbulb moments as the team began to recognise how they could approach situations differently. We're now seeing the impact in their day-to-day work, with leaders demonstrating greater self-awareness, emotional intelligence and confidence, and feeling better equipped to manage their teams effectively.

WHAT'S SHIFTING IN YOUR SECTOR RIGHT NOW THAT CLIENTS ARE UNDERESTIMATING?

MS:

AI is changing the HR landscape faster than many businesses realise, giving employees greater access to information about employment law, workplace policies and their rights.
This presents an opportunity for businesses to strengthen manager capability. Employees may increasingly use AI to explore workplace concerns or help draft grievances, meaning managers need the confidence and knowledge to respond effectively.
AI can be a valuable tool, but it cannot replace professional judgement or a sound understanding of employment processes. Information may be misunderstood, taken out of context or used without a full understanding of the underlying employment principles. Providing managers with appropriate training and support can help ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to navigate increasingly informed conversations, while enabling businesses to make the most of AI as a catalyst for better-informed, more constructive workplaces.

WHAT'S THE QUESTION CLIENTS SHOULD BE ASKING YOU, BUT USUALLY DON'T?

MF:

"What am I missing?"
Clients often focus on solving the immediate problem, but a much bigger issue may lie beneath it. If people are repeatedly off sick, for example, the question shouldn't just be how to manage each absence – it should be: why is this happening?
When you're constantly firefighting, it's hard to step back, take a breath and look at the bigger picture. Sometimes you simply don't know what you don't know. An outside perspective can help untangle those smaller issues, identify what's really going on and find the fairest and most effective way forward.



LAW AT WORK (CI) LIMITED

Law At Work is a people and HR business consultancy that helps clients manage HR and employment issues, stay compliant, develop people and leadership strategies, handle employment tribunals, and access training, coaching and advice on data protection and workplace risk, and is the Channel Islands licensee for DisruptHR.

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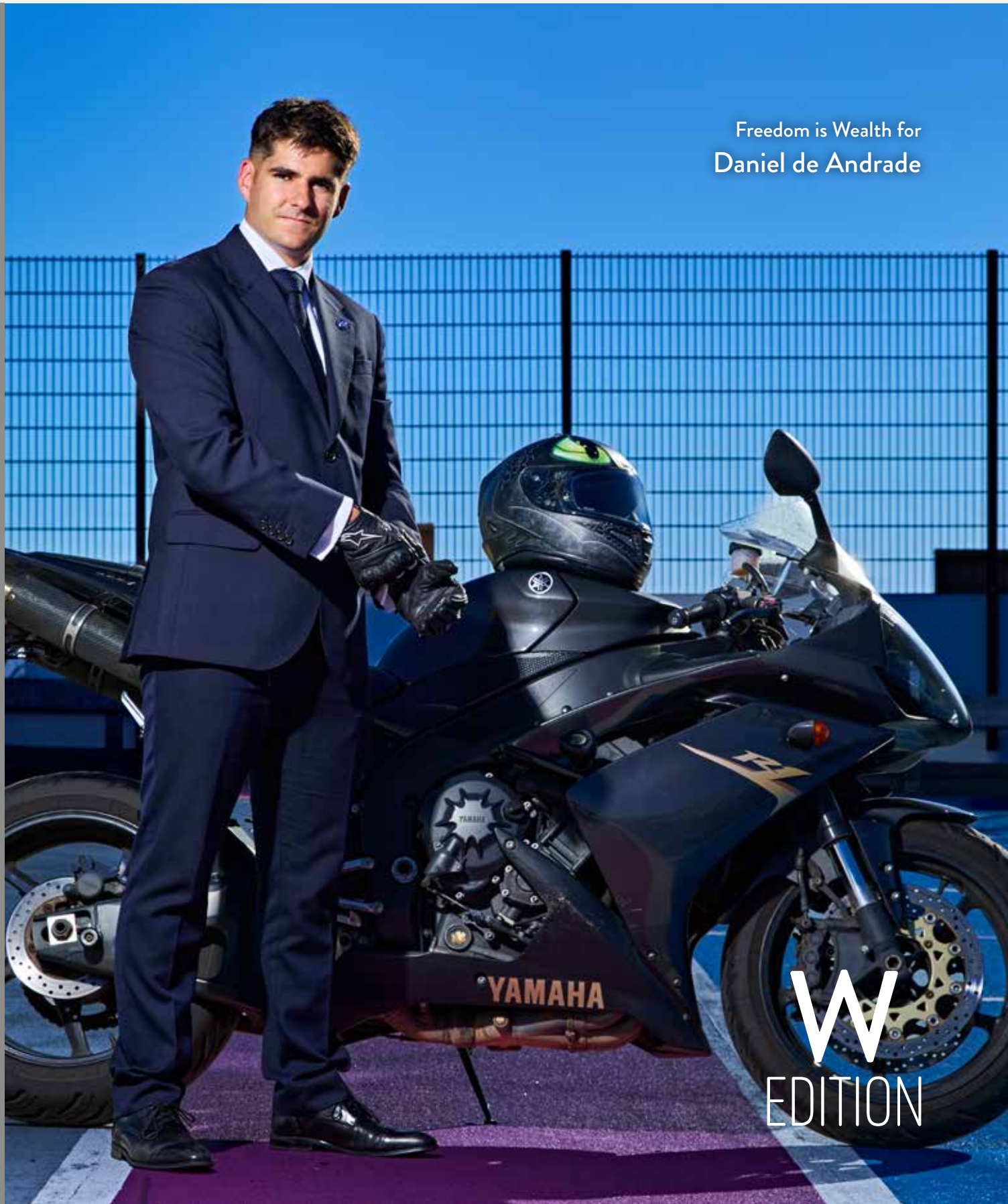
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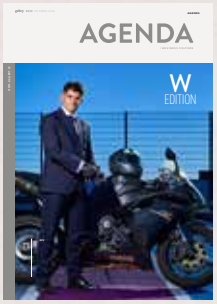
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FACTORY IS A TRADING STYLE OF SIXBYNINE LTD, REGISTERED IN JERSEY NO. 89716

Where wealth meets taste, experience and the art of living well.

In this edition, we look beyond the numbers to the people, places and passions that define Jersey's wealth scene. We begin with the enduring appeal of fine watchmaking, with Hettich taking us inside the world of Patek Philippe, where extraordinary craftsmanship, heritage and precision make a watch far more than a timepiece. For those whose idea of luxury lies further afield, Red Savannah opens the door to exceptional travel, from beautifully considered escapes to the kind of places that become memories for life.

Closer to home, we meet Daniel from Rathbones, photographed with one of his great passions, his motorbike, for a reminder that wealth is ultimately about having the freedom to pursue the things you love. We also look to the next generation of private banking with Laurie and Stephanie from Nedbank, exploring how the expectations and ambitions of tomorrow's wealth creators are changing.

Not every piece of advice needs to follow convention. Lisa from Titan Wealth brings us her Unpopular Opinions, challenging some of the assumptions surrounding money, investing and financial planning.

Then there is the pleasure of investing in the things that surround us. Layzell & Wells share their approach to creating beautifully considered interiors, while Bertie's makes the case for the enduring appeal of a truly bespoke suit, cut specifically for you. And, of course, there is the ultimate expression of considered living: home. Fine & Country takes us inside some of the most impressive properties currently gracing the Jersey market, offering a glimpse into the architecture, design and exceptional spaces available on our doorstep.

From horology and private banking to travel, tailoring, interiors and property, this is our celebration of the finer things, and the people who know how to enjoy them.

Welcome to Wealth.

CB



THE LONG GAME

For Daniel de Andrade, wealth isn't simply about numbers on a screen. It's about people, patience and playing the long game, whether he's navigating investment markets, competing on the volleyball court or heading out on his motorbike. We meet Rathbones' Associate Investment Manager to talk money, risk, ambition and what makes him feel truly rich.

You're working with people's wealth and, ultimately, their future. Does that responsibility change the way you approach your work?
Initially, I was probably quite naïve. I left university with a maths degree, and saw numbers as data points, not knowing better. You don't really connect that to the human element or the story behind it. This changed through various encounters and conversations with clients from all sorts of backgrounds. I realised that this is people's livelihoods, pensions and life savings. Their portfolios may be all they have, all they have worked their entire lives to save for. Seeing how hard my own parents have worked to ensure that my siblings and I are well provided for certainly puts things into perspective and gives my job a lot more meaning.

What have you learned about money since entering the industry that you wish you'd known when you were 18?
I've always been fairly good at saving. I started working part-time at 16 as counter staff at a local pizzeria, so the little income, plus any birthday cash I would receive, would usually go straight into my

savings account. I always had a vague sense that I should invest my money so it could grow, as I was only earning 0.5% interest at the time, which felt negligible.

One important lesson I have learnt is that time is an investor's most powerful tool. It is crucial to trust your judgement and stay the course rather than panic if a share price falls. It isn't uncommon for a stock's market price and sentiment to diverge from its fundamentals, but the important point is that share prices of high-quality companies are generally rewarded in the long term. Secondly, you don't need to be, or employ, an investment professional to invest your own money. But you do need a good understanding of what you are investing in and be prepared to do your homework. Not everyone can pick individual stocks. There's a reason we go through years of qualifications and experience to do this professionally. But the good news is that ETFs and retail investment platforms have made investing far more accessible to everyday savers.

What do you think younger generations misunderstand about investing and building long-term wealth?
I think a common misunderstanding is that investing is about making easy money and achieving quick, risk-free wins. It's always the positions that tripled or quadrupled quickly that get the spotlight. However, these highly volatile positions are very nice to own whilst they're going up, but on the flip side, it's very painful to watch on the way down.

If you could give your 21-year-old self one piece of financial advice, what would it be?
Start investing now, no matter how small. Invest small amounts each month and watch the power of compounding (earning returns on your returns) take effect. My sister is currently at university (and, okay, her main priorities are studying and partying!), but with the little she has saved, I've made sure she invests it in diversified equity funds, as otherwise her savings are being eroded by inflation, especially at a time when inflation has been higher than usual.

What's the biggest financial mistake you think people make?
People waiting for the 'perfect time' to enter the market. I'd rather be on the ship, navigating rough waters, knowing I'll make it to my destination eventually, than standing on the dock, waiting for the perfect conditions to set sail, only to find myself still waiting years later. In the investment world, it's generally about time in the market, not about timing it.

If you had to invest £10,000 today and couldn't touch it for ten years, what would you be thinking about before putting a penny anywhere?
With a 10-year time horizon, I could tolerate significant volatility and take a long-term view, allowing me to invest more heavily in growth assets such as equities, as I have time to weather any setbacks and wait for recovery.

What's one thing about the investment world that you think people completely misunderstand?
I think risk is often misunderstood in investing. Many people view risk simply as the possibility of losing money, yet there are different forms of risk. For example, holding a single speculative company carries a very different risk profile from owning a diversified portfolio of high-quality businesses. In our world, risk isn't something we try to avoid entirely. Instead, we seek to understand, manage, and be appropriately rewarded for it.

You play volleyball at a high level. What does competing at that level demand from you that people perhaps don't see?
I have been fighting off various injuries that occurred at different points throughout the year. I suppose it isn't something people see, nor do they see the hard work behind the scenes in the gym, doing all sorts of rehab to get back into playing shape. Sport teaches you a lot, and definitely builds your mental and physical fortitude.

You've brought along your motorbike, which I'm guessing is something you're rather fond of. What is it about riding that gives you such a buzz?
Without sounding cliché, it is such a freeing feeling.

What was your first bike, and do you remember the moment you realised this was going to become a proper passion?
My first bike was an Aprilia SR 50, a little 50cc moped. It broke down within 30 minutes of me riding it — for the record, that one wasn't my fault! Shortly after turning 17, I attended Jersey's annual motorbike ride-out and I think it was definitely one of the most joyous and wholesome moments. I remember being surrounded by people who love bikes and hearing all the engines roar as we set off (well, not mine!), with people clapping and waving as we went past. It's such an experience!

You spend your working life thinking about risk and managing it, and then you get on a motorbike! How do those two sides of your personality coexist?
Risk isn't black and white; it's a spectrum. Yes, I agree that riding a bike carries risks – it offers far less protection than a car. However, getting on a motorbike doesn't mean I start doing motocross or other very risky, dangerous manoeuvres. The same applies to investments. Technically, everything in the investment world is risky; no return is guaranteed, and there's always an element of risk and the possibility of losing money. However, you take a measured, sensible approach that suits your needs and risk appetite.

When you're not at Rathbones or playing volleyball, where are we most likely to find you?
Once I am done with exams and studying, I really want to start exploring more of the world, maybe travel for a month. I'd like to finally start cracking through my pile of books that I keep ordering.

What are you currently obsessed with?
Golf... It's a sport I picked up later in life. I first started exploring it when I worked at the local range for one summer, and I would stay in after closing to hit a few balls. It's also a good way to spend time with clients!

What does a really good weekend look like for you?
It would revolve around fitting in as many sports as I could. I think the most I've managed to squeeze in on a Sunday was a 10k run for charity at 8 am, followed by an all-day beach volleyball tournament starting at 9 am and finishing around 5 pm. Then head to a 9-hole round of golf to end the evening. Some would say my time management can be questionable at times, but I really like to make the most of every hour I can.

Finally... complete the sentence: "I feel richest when..."
I feel richest when I am helping people, whether it is family, colleagues at work, clients, or even when I used to tutor maths. I think I find sharing my knowledge on any subject and helping people solve problems extremely fulfilling. I like finding creative ways to solve problems and to automate solutions or improve future outcomes where possible.



Stephanie Crolla and Laurie MacRae

PRIVATE BANKING
for the next generation

Private banking has traditionally been associated with established wealth, face-to-face meetings and clients who have already reached a particular stage in life. However, the next generation is beginning to challenge that image.

These days, younger investors are taking a more active interest in their finances. Research from Charles Schwab found that 56% of younger UK investors invest at least monthly, while 38% had increased their investments over the previous three months. For Laurie and Stephanie from the private banking team at Nedbank Private Wealth in Jersey, these changing attitudes present an opportunity to make private banking feel more relevant.

Laurie MacRae, Associate Wealth Adviser:
"I'm a strong believer in the value of financial education from an early age. I'm particularly passionate about helping young people build their confidence in investing and making wealth management more approachable for Millennials and Gen-Zs." With more than 20 years in client service, Laurie has built a career helping people achieve their financial goals through trusted relationships and support.

Stephanie Crolla, Wealth Executive:
"People are becoming financially engaged much earlier on. They are interested in investing, property, building businesses and planning for their future. They may not necessarily describe themselves as wealthy, but they are already making important financial decisions."

Laurie agrees. "There is still a perception that private banking is only for people who are already established and have made their millions. In reality, we speak to people at many different stages of their journey. Some have inherited wealth, while others are still building towards their longer-term goals."

Building wealth, not waiting for it

One emerging group is the so-called "HENRY", meaning "High Earner, Not Rich Yet". The term describes successful professionals who are on the journey to accumulate significant investable wealth.

Regardless of the label, the underlying trend is significant. Many individuals in this group are balancing competing priorities such as buying property, supporting a family, growing a business and investing for the future. They are financially engaged but often value guidance to help them make informed decisions with confidence. "Earning a good income does not automatically make wealth building straightforward," Laurie explains. "The earlier people begin thinking strategically about their finances, the more likely they are to make confident decisions and stay focused on what matters most to them."

Stephanie believes this is why wealth planning should not be viewed as something reserved for later life. "Wealth planning is not just about retirement or passing wealth to the next generation," she says. "It is about making informed decisions at every stage of life. Whether you're buying a home, investing for the first time or growing a business, starting early gives you more time, more flexibility and a stronger foundation for the future. A clear plan can help ensure financial choices align with longer-term goals."

Guidance in a world of information

Young people have access to more financial information than any generation before, via investment platforms, financial news, podcasts, social media and AI tools. "It can become overwhelming," says Stephanie. "And generic information does not equate to advice that is relevant to your specific circumstances." Research suggests younger investors are engaged rather than passive. It also highlights the importance of understanding risk and how financial decisions fit within a long-term plan. Laurie adds: "Our role is not simply to tell someone what to do. It is about asking the right questions from the outset and understanding what they want to achieve and bringing in the right specialists where needed. Sometimes the most valuable thing we can offer is clarity."

Self-service with a personal connection

Digital access is now an essential part of the private banking experience. People expect to manage routine banking conveniently, receive information quickly and communicate securely wherever they are. "Our clients are busy, and they want banking to fit around their lives," says Stephanie. "Digital tools can streamline everyday tasks, whether someone is at home, in the office or travelling."

While Nedbank Private Wealth continues to develop its digital services, Laurie and Stephanie believe technology works best when it supports, rather than replaces, the personal relationship. "When something is important or more complicated, people still want to speak to someone they know," says Laurie. "They don't want to start from the beginning every time or explain their circumstances to another person. Having a relationship with someone who understands the bigger picture can make a real difference." Stephanie agrees: "Younger clients may expect a slick digital experience, but that doesn't mean they don't value personal service. Often, they want both: the convenience of technology and access to a real person when they need it."

Looking at the bigger picture

Modern financial lives rarely fit neatly into one category. Personal banking, lending, investments, property, business interests and family considerations can all overlap.

"What clients value is having someone who can look beyond an individual transaction," says Stephanie. "A borrowing requirement, for example, may be connected to wider investment plans, business interests or family goals. Understanding that context helps us develop the right support."

Nedbank Private Wealth brings together private banking, lending, investment management and wealth planning expertise, while also working closely with other professional advisers. "It is about making the experience as joined up as possible," Laurie explains. "Clients should not have to navigate everything alone. We can help connect the different parts and introduce the right expertise as their needs evolve."

"One emerging group is the so-called "HENRY", meaning "High Earner, Not Rich Yet". The term describes successful professionals who are on the journey to accumulate significant investable wealth."

Changing the conversation

For Laurie and Stephanie, the future of private banking and wealth management is not about abandoning its traditional strengths. Personal relationships, discretion, expertise and long-term thinking remain important. The opportunity is to deliver them in ways that reflect how people build wealth today.

"The younger generations are more financially curious than they are given credit for," says Laurie. "People are doing their own research and asking thoughtful questions. They want to understand their options and be involved in the decisions." Stephanie adds: "Private banking should not feel intimidating or out of reach. It is a conversation, and that conversation can begin at different stages for different people."

As younger investors become more engaged, private banking has an opportunity to build relationships earlier in a person's financial journey. Technology will continue to change how those relationships are delivered, but their purpose remains the same: to understand what matters to each client and help them move towards their goals with confidence. "At the end of the day, people want to work with people," Laurie concludes. "The tools we use may evolve, but trust and personal connection will always matter."

NEDBANK PRIVATE WEALTH

COMPLIANCE AS A CATALYST FOR RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Grounded in regulation, Compliance builds confidence, supports responsible growth and helps protect the integrity of the financial system. Jenna van Doorsen and Jay Curtis explore the profession's evolving role and the opportunities it offers at Standard Bank Jersey.



JENNA VAN DOORSEN

Head of Compliance
Standard Bank Jersey

What role does Compliance play in a modern international bank?

Compliance today is fundamentally about creating confidence. Clients, regulators and stakeholders all want assurance that a financial institution operates responsibly, transparently and to the highest standards. We work constructively alongside the business, providing advice, oversight and challenge so that clients can be supported effectively and risk is managed appropriately. By bringing sound risk management into decision-making, we help the business pursue opportunities responsibly and sustainably.

How has the perception of Compliance changed in recent years?

Historically, Compliance was sometimes seen as a control function operating on the sidelines of the business. While oversight and challenge remain central to our role, we are now increasingly recognised as an integral part of effective decision-making. Compliance is engaged throughout the client journey, helping colleagues identify issues early, assess risk proportionately and explore practical ways to meet clients' needs while protecting the Bank and meeting its regulatory obligations.
Modern compliance teams are catalysts for responsible decision-making and sustainable growth. By engaging early, we help the business navigate complexity and make sound decisions.

Why is Compliance particularly important within Jersey's international finance industry?

Jersey has built a global reputation as a trusted and well-regulated international finance centre. That reputation is one of the Island's greatest strengths, and every financial services organisation has a responsibility to help protect it. Compliance teams contribute by promoting effective governance and transparency and helping to prevent and detect financial crime.
Our challenge is to turn Jersey's high standards into a competitive advantage by applying them with clarity, agility and proportionality.

How does your team support client-facing colleagues?

Partnership is at the heart of how we operate.
Our team works closely with operations, banking, fiduciary and wealth specialists throughout the client lifecycle.
We make the complex feel manageable, helping colleagues see the risks clearly and make confident decisions.
We recognise that behind every process, discussion and decision is a client with ambitions, priorities and expectations. By working collaboratively, we help deliver an efficient client experience supported by robust and proportionate processes.

What makes an excellent compliance professional?

Technical expertise is essential, but it is only part of the picture. The best compliance professionals are curious, commercially aware and excellent communicators. They enjoy solving problems, working with people and understanding the circumstances and risks underlying each situation. There is also a strong sense of purpose in the profession: our work contributes to the integrity of the wider financial system.

What excites you most about the future of the profession?

The profession continues to evolve at an incredible pace, presenting opportunities for growth at every stage of a career.
As financial services become increasingly international and technology-driven, compliance professionals have greater opportunities to contribute to strategic decision-making. The work is varied and intellectually stimulating, with the potential to influence how the industry responds to emerging risks, technologies and regulatory expectations.



JAY CURTIS

Money Laundering Reporting Officer
Standard Bank Jersey

Many people may not know what a Money Laundering Reporting Officer does. How would you describe the role?

A simple way to describe the role is as a key safeguard within the organisation, overseeing its response to financial crime prevention and detection.

In practice, this means making sure the right controls are in place, assessing activity that may require further investigation and ensuring that the business meets its risk management, legal and regulatory responsibilities.

What makes the role interesting? Is it as technical as people imagine?

Yes and no. There is certainly a strong technical element, particularly around financial crime regulation and legislation, but people are often surprised by how important communication and collaboration are. Success depends on building relationships across the business, engaging with colleagues, understanding different perspectives and explaining findings clearly and objectively. The human element is every bit as important as the technical knowledge.

What qualities are most valuable in the role?

Curiosity is probably the biggest one: understanding how things work and being willing to ask questions when something does not immediately make sense. Good judgement is also important, as is the ability to remain objective. While regulations and investigative techniques can be taught, qualities such as curiosity, resilience and sound decision-making are often what distinguish exceptional professionals.

Your career path into Compliance was not entirely traditional. What attracted you to the profession?

That's right – I was initially in a client-facing environment.

The turning point came when I became involved in a project focused on anti-money laundering processes. I enjoyed the investigative, analytical and problem-solving work, which led me into specialist compliance and financial crime roles. I have never looked back.

Why should someone consider a career in Compliance at Standard Bank Jersey?

You are constantly learning, dealing with new challenges and contributing to something meaningful. Working in compliance serves a wider social purpose by helping to ensure that the financial system does not facilitate or reward criminal activity, thereby protecting victims, disrupting financial crime and preserving public trust. At the same time, you gain exposure to different areas of banking, wealth management and fiduciary services. It is a profession that offers tremendous variety and purpose. For people who enjoy that, it offers a rewarding and interesting career path.

What makes the Compliance team at Standard Bank Jersey distinctive?

The breadth of expertise, specialisms and backgrounds across the team is distinctive. Together, we are focused on supporting clients, protecting the Bank and maintaining the high standards that underpin Jersey's success as an international finance centre. This combination of technical excellence, teamwork and shared purpose makes it an enjoyable place to work.

For more information and to start your career with Standard Bank Jersey, please visit www.standardbank.com/international.

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For more info

Standard Bank Offshore



Celestial Sunrise and Sunset Ref. 6105G-001

PATEK PHILIPPE AT HETTICH
THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

There are luxury watches, and then there are watches that become part of a family story.

For Hettich Jewellers, Patek Philippe belongs firmly in the second category. The relationship between the two family-owned businesses began in 1966, when Patek Philippe president Henri Stern met with Hettich's Tony Chinn, making Hettich a Patek Philippe authorised retailer in the Channel Islands. More than half a century later, that relationship remains one of the most significant in Hettich's history.

It is a partnership built on rather more than prestige. Both businesses are independent, family-run and fiercely protective of their standards. Both understand that true luxury is about craftsmanship, discretion, expertise and the confidence that comes from knowing something has been made exceptionally well.

There is a particularly lovely thread running through the story. In the early years, Henri Stern and his family would visit Jersey and spend time with Tony Chinn and the Hettich family. Today, the relationship continues with Thierry Stern, Henri's grandson and Patek Philippe's current president, having also visited the island. The generations have changed; the values have not.

And now, at Hettich's new flagship on King Street, Patek Philippe has its own dedicated space, with the kind of setting and service appropriate to watches of this calibre.



THE SKY, CAPTURED

Celestial Sunrise and Sunset Ref. 6105G-001 (left page)

Some watches tell the time. This one tells you something about the universe.

This is Patek Philippe at its most imaginative: a futuristic 47mm white-gold watch with a spectacular celestial display mapping the night sky as seen from Geneva. It tracks the date, moon phases, the movement of the moon and, wonderfully, the times of sunrise and sunset.

The result is part astronomical instrument, part work of art. Beneath the sapphire dial, a rotating sky chart; above it, the watch's architectural case brings a distinctly ethereal attitude. It took more than five years to develop, with six patented innovations incorporated into its movement. This is haute horlogerie with its head in the stars.

For the collector who loves innovation but also keeping the tradition of fine watchmaking

SOUND ADVICE

Chiming Alarm Ref. 5322G-001 & 5322G-010

An alarm watch sounds wonderfully old-school. Patek Philippe makes it feel anything but.

The 5322G takes the elegant Calatrava silhouette and gives it a surprisingly useful twist: a 24-hour alarm that sounds through a classic gong.

The white-gold case is finished with Patek's signature hobnail pattern, while the dial comes in rich navy blue or green with a dark gradient around the edge. It is beautifully legible and quietly distinctive.

For the ones who love classic timepieces with a little bit more personality

INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Cubitus Perpetual Calendar Skeleton Ref. 5840P-001

Patek Philippe has never been afraid of reinvention and the Cubitus is proof.

This watch takes the collection's bold, square profile and pushes it firmly into grand-complication territory. Encased in platinum, it combines a perpetual calendar with a dramatic skeletonised movement, allowing the mechanics to become part of the design.

Day, date, month, leap year and moon phase are all there, the open worked blue dial gives the whole thing a contemporary, architectural feel. It is technical watchmaking with attitude.

For the collector who likes innovative designs and movements





REMARKABLE TIME

World Time Ref. 7129J-001

If subtle isn't your thing, then there is this beauty.

This is Patek Philippe's World Time complication turned up a few notches: a 36mm yellow-gold case paired with a vivid carmine-red dial, hand-guilloched in an old-basket weave pattern. It is glamorous, confident and impossible to mistake for anything ordinary. Behind the drama is serious practicality. All 24 time zones can be read simultaneously, while a single pusher adjusts the displays together.

For the ones with passion for practicality

CASUAL MEETS STYLE

Annual Calendar Moon Phases Ref. 4946G-001

There is something particularly modern about a watch that doesn't need to dress up.

This timepiece brings Patek Philippe's celebrated Annual Calendar complication into a softer, more relaxed world. Its 38mm white-gold case houses a blue-grey dial with a tactile "shantung" texture, while the matching denim-effect calfskin strap gives it a distinctly contemporary feel. Clever, elegant and wonderfully wearable, this is Patek Philippe without the ceremony.

For the ones who love to wear understated pieces



LESS IS MORE

Golden Ellipse Ref. 5738G-001 & Ref. 3738/100G-014

Some designs don't need improving. They simply need revisiting.

The Golden Ellipse has been part of the Patek Philippe story since 1968, its distinctive proportions inspired by the golden ratio. For 2026, two white-gold versions arrive with the same hypnotic olive-green sunburst dial, but in complementary sizes. The larger Ref. 5738G-001 has the presence of the collection's "Jumbo" format; the Ref. 3738/100G-014 returns to a more compact, traditional proportion. Both are extraordinarily slim at just 5.9mm, powered by Patek Philippe's famously elegant self-winding Calibre 240. There are watches that announce themselves. The Golden Ellipse simply knows.

For the person who understands real style



For Hettich, representing Patek Philippe has never simply been about having one of the world's most prestigious watch names in the window. It is about stewardship. The Chinn family has spent generations building a business around expertise, trust and personal service. Patek Philippe has done much the same in Geneva. That shared independence matters.

Hettich's watchmakers are trained to the highest levels by the brands they represent, including Patek Philippe, reinforcing the idea that exceptional watches deserve exceptional care long after they leave the showroom. More than 60 years after Henri Stern first met Tony Chinn, the appeal of the partnership is perhaps clearer than ever. Two family businesses. One shared commitment to doing things properly.

When it comes to luxury, choosing something beautiful, brilliantly made and built to outlive you is paramount, so handing it down is a natural move.

HOW TO SPEND IT: PROPERTY

From striking contemporary architecture to beautifully restored island residences, Jersey has no shortage of exceptional places to call home. We take a look, with Fine & Country Estate Agents, inside four of the island's most extraordinary properties, each offering its own take on space, design, location and luxury.



Built in 2016, this exceptional 6,000+ sq ft home occupies a private drive with stunning views over St Aubin's Bay. A striking bronze pivot door opens to a grand hallway and sophisticated open-plan living space, with floor-to-ceiling glazing, sleek bar and sun terrace. The Wolf and Sub-Zero kitchen features a marble island and separate butler's kitchen, complemented by a temperature-controlled wine room. Further highlights include a cinema, office, luxurious principal suite with balcony and two dressing rooms, guest apartment, detached gym, triple garage and landscaped gardens. A turnkey option with designer furnishings is available by separate negotiation.

The Hacienda,
Le Mont du Coin, St Brelade

£10,495,000







A meticulously restored Victorian masterpiece sits in the St Saviour countryside. Offering 12,000 sq ft of living space, it features a spacious family living/kitchen area, five reception rooms, a climate-controlled wine cellar, gym, and plenty more. Additional one-bedroom and three-bedroom accommodations provide versatility. The beautifully landscaped gardens, complete with maze hedging and a sustainable home farming area, enhance the property's allure. Sunningdale Manor is a harmonious blend of historical elegance and contemporary luxury, providing a truly exceptional living experience.

Sunningdale Manor, La Rue De La
Vignette, St. Saviour

£12,500,000





FINE & COUNTRY

Properties marketed by Fine & Country. Call 01534 888855







Set on Jersey's east coast, this exceptional detached residence offers tranquil single-storey living, spectacular gardens and views across St Catherine's Bay to the French coastline. At its heart, an impressive open-plan kitchen, garden room and lounge are divided by a striking double-sided fireplace, creating elegant spaces for family life and entertaining. The extraordinary gardens feature ornamental ponds, curated planting, a productive kitchen garden, greenhouse and traditional cider press. Three bedrooms, a study, utility room and potential for a self-contained apartment add versatility, while electric gates, generous parking, carport and integral garage provide privacy and practicality.

La Charrue
La Rue du Flicquet, St. Martin

£3,850,000
SOLE AGENT







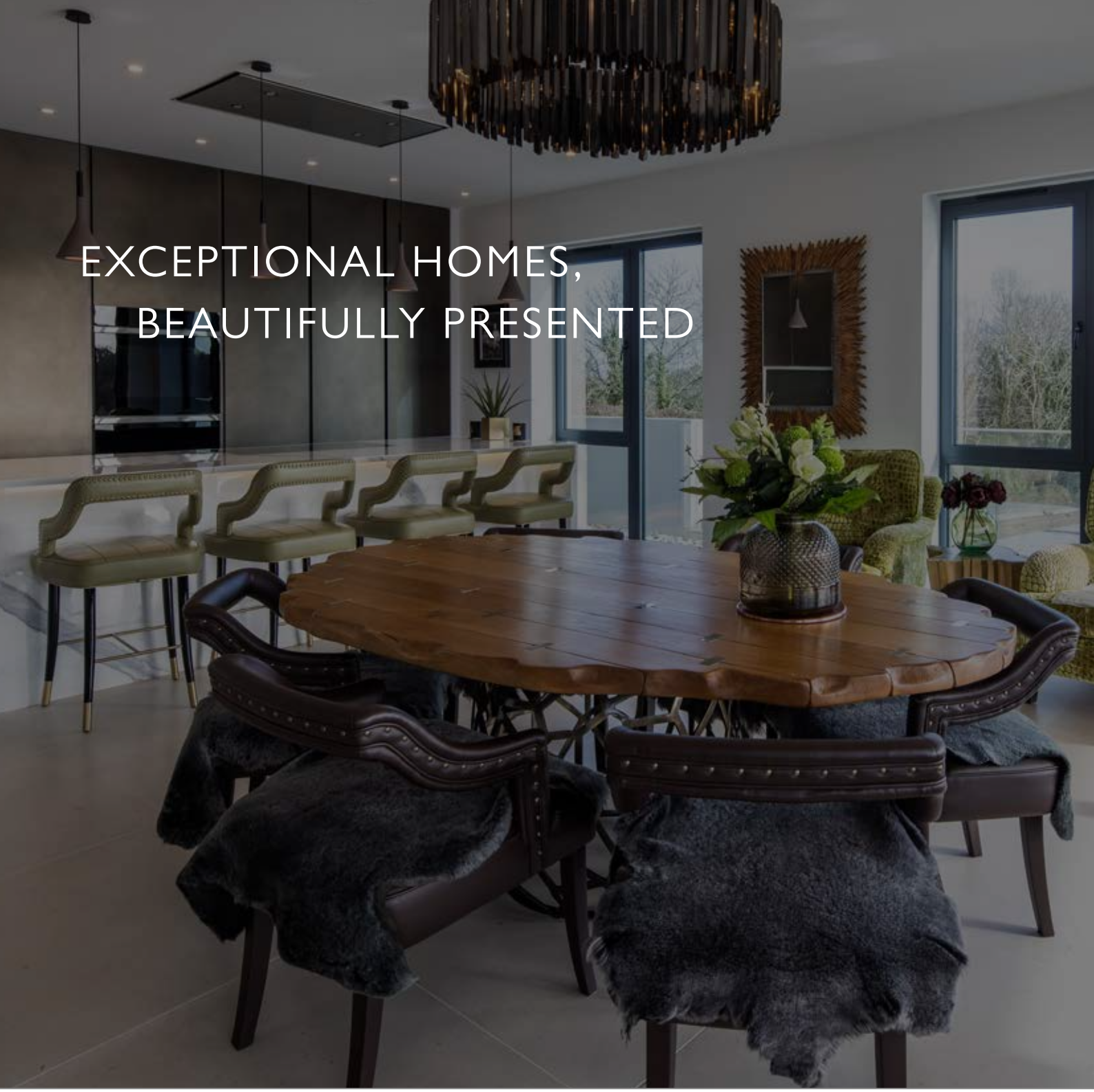
This exceptional five-bedroom Neo-Georgian residence offers approximately 5,000 sq ft of refined family living within an exclusive gated development of just three homes. Combining timeless Georgian proportions with contemporary bespoke design, the property showcases elegant symmetry, high ceilings, abundant natural light and exquisite finishes throughout. At its heart, a stunning bespoke kitchen and family living space creates an inviting setting for both everyday life and entertaining. Five generously proportioned bedrooms provide ample accommodation, while beautifully landscaped, low-maintenance gardens offer effortless outdoor living. A detached double garage and secure gated entrance complete this distinguished residence.

Le Camelia
No 2 Le Catelet La Route De St. Jean, St John

£4,500,000

FINE & COUNTRY

Properties marketed by Fine & Country. Call 01534 888855



Expert insight. Complete discretion

At Fine & Country Jersey, we understand that selling or purchasing a home is about far more than property, is it about timing, trust and informed decisions. We offer a complimentary professional valuation, providing an accurate and up to date assessment of your home, alongside access to exclusive, discreet listings for buyers and sellers who value privacy.

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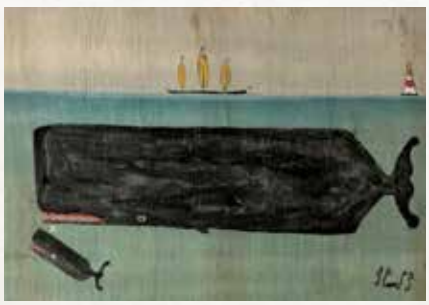












LUXURY IN THE DETAILS

Layzell & Wells is a residential architecture and interior design studio founded by husband-and-wife team Laura & William. Their work is about creating a space where architecture, furniture, materials, lighting and landscape all work together, resulting in a home that feels personal, considered and, above all, good to live in.

The pair met in London 15 years ago, when Laura was working in luxury fashion and William in high-end residential architecture. What began as two complementary careers gradually evolved into a shared design philosophy and the result is some truly wonderful homes. Today, having made Jersey their home, they work across the Channel Islands, London and further afield, offering clients a complete residential architecture and interior design service.

We asked Laura and William to share some of the details, brands and design tricks they return to time and again.

Let's start with bathrooms. What are the secrets to making a tiled space feel luxurious rather than overly busy?
We love using marble and natural stone, and tiles can be a brilliant way to achieve the same sense of texture and materiality without committing to full slabs of stone. We also always ask our tilers to mitre external corners rather than using metal tile trims. It creates a much cleaner, more refined finish. Brands we return to include Starel Stones, Ca' Pietra, Mandarin Stone, Claybrook, which we've just installed in our own kitchen, and Otto Tiles.

Lighting can completely change the mood of a room. How do you approach it, and where should people spend their money?
Lighting is one of our favourite elements to select for a project. The key is to think about how you use a room at different times of day and create layers of lighting to suit each of those moments.

In a living room, for example, you might need good-quality downlights to provide practical illumination when you need it. Depending on the layout, you could also introduce a feature pendant, perhaps aligned with a fireplace or centred over a table, as a decorative focal point. We love this Ferm Living pendant for its simplicity, scale and proportion.

If you have art that you love, consider highlighting it with wall-mounted picture lights, such as these from Corston, or discreet ceiling-mounted spots, which can be directed towards individual pieces. Come evening, we prefer to turn off the overhead lighting and use floor and table lamps to create a softer, more welcoming atmosphere. Rechargeable table lamps are particularly clever as they can be moved around to create little pools of light wherever you need them.

What's your approach to rugs?
Often, a simple and relatively inexpensive jute rug is all you need to define an area and make a room feel more grounded. Some of our favourite rug suppliers, which we use time and again, include Seagrass Story, Kvadrat and Loaf, which is particularly good for well-priced options. We're also waiting for just the right project to use one of the wonderfully whimsical Lucy Williams x Pelican House rugs.

Paint is perhaps the simplest way to transform a room. Which colours and brands do you return to?
Paint is magic. If you're working with a small budget and want to refresh a space, a new colour can be all it takes to make a room feel completely different. The same goes for furniture and joinery. Painting existing pieces is such an accessible and sustainable way to give them a new lease of life. We love using Little Greene and Paint & Paper Library. Both offer beautifully pigmented paints with low-VOC options, which is something we consider when specifying paint. Their tonal colour families also make it much easier to combine complementary shades, particularly if you're less confident choosing colour. Stone II from Paint & Paper Library is a favourite. It's a wonderfully restful neutral that works beautifully in different lights.



Art can make a house feel personal. How can people build a collection without spending a fortune?
Art is one of the easiest ways to give a room personality. In our children's bedrooms, they have gallery walls filled with pieces that mean something to us: paintings by their aunty, artwork from our own childhood and even fragments of wallpaper that we saved from their great-grandparents' home. Art can take so many forms. It might be as simple as a postcard collected on holiday, beautifully framed to give it presence and remind you of the trip. Charity shops, car-boot sales and antiques fairs are also brilliant hunting grounds. Ardingly is a particular favourite of ours, as are local artists and craftspeople.

A friend of ours recently launched Limner, who can frame almost anything. They have a brilliant online configurator and a huge selection of frame and mount options. We're currently using it to plan a gallery wall of family photographs for our dining room. Some of the artists we're drawn to time and again include Steve Camps, Andrew Carr for his beautiful, emotive oil paintings, Nina Brooke for her aerial seascapes, and Tomo Campbell.

And when it comes to the most important piece of furniture in a room: the sofa. What makes a great seat?
Seating is such an important part of a room because it has to do two things equally well: look beautiful and be genuinely comfortable. For a comfortable, lived-in look, we love Howe. We recently commissioned a pair of armchairs upholstered in Gotland sheepskin, which were unbelievably cosy. Sedilia is a London-based favourite. Their design studio and workshop are housed together in an amazing space in Clapham, where their sofas are made.

For a more affordable update, Bemz covers for IKEA sofas are a wonderfully clever hack. They come in everything from simple, tailored designs to more generous, frilled styles, in a huge range of colours, fabrics and patterns. It's a brilliant way to make an inexpensive or existing sofa feel much more individual. For us, good design is about creating homes that feel personal, comfortable and considered. The best spaces are the ones that feel like they belong to the people who live in them.

layzellandwells.co.uk



HOW TO SPEND IT: HOLIDAY EDITION

Access, privacy, rarity and sense of discovery with Red Savannah.

In an age of online booking portals and formulaic package holidays, there's something increasingly precious about having a real expert on the other end of the phone, someone who listens, understands how you want to travel, and then makes it happen.

We've loved discovering Red Savannah, the bespoke travel company that takes the legwork out of luxury travel and replaces it with something far more valuable: expertise, imagination and access. Whether you're dreaming of a private villa in the Mediterranean, a yacht charter in the Eastern Med or a tailor-made adventure halfway around the world, their specialists know how to turn a holiday brief into something genuinely extraordinary.

Founded 15 years ago by George Morgan-Grenville, Red Savannah was born from a desire to bring craftsmanship back to an industry that was becoming increasingly homogenised. Today, it is one of the most respected names in luxury travel, with clients ranging from royalty and diplomats to business leaders and celebrities. The company's handpicked portfolio spans exceptional private villas and estates, alongside private yacht and gulet charters and tailor-made journeys across Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, the Americas, Australasia and Africa.

The Red Savannah trophy cabinet is full. Its credentials are impressive: last year, His Majesty The King approved the Prime Minister's recommendation that Red Savannah should receive the King's Award for Enterprise, this represents the United Kingdom's highest business accolade. This year its villa collections won the coveted industry honour of the Travel + Leisure Award's 'World's Best'. These prizes go on and on, this is a company excelling at what they do. But what really sets Red Savannah apart isn't the sheer breadth of its portfolio. It's the depth of knowledge behind it. Every travel specialist has at least a decade of experience, and, crucially, the instinct to understand what a client is actually looking for. The result is travel that feels personal rather than packaged, with the kind of detail and importantly, access, that can transform a great holiday into an unforgettable one.

So, with 2027 already on the horizon, we asked Red Savannah's specialists where they think discerning travellers should be looking next.

AUSTRALIA: GO FURTHER

Getting to Australia is about to become considerably more glamorous. Qantas' planned non-stop London–Sydney service is set to become the world's longest passenger flight by direct distance in 2027, making the journey itself something of an experience. Then there is the small matter of the Rugby World Cup, which arrives in Australia in October 2027, bringing sporting excitement to cities across the country. Red Savannah's Australasia specialist Rachel Cooper can build an itinerary around the tournament, or use it as the starting point for something considerably more ambitious: from the Great Barrier Reef and the Kimberley aboard True North to the Outback and Uluru, with private guided experiences arranged along the way. Because if you're going to fly to the other side of the world, you might as well make the journey count.

The insider appeal: Make the Rugby World Cup the excuse. Make the Australian adventure the main event.

PORTUGAL: THE ART OF TAKING YOUR TIME

Évora becomes a particularly compelling destination in 2027, when it takes centre stage as European Capital of Culture.

The city itself is a remarkable layering of Roman, Moorish, medieval and Renaissance history, but the programme will look beyond Évora to the wider Alentejo, celebrating its food, craftsmanship, music and deeply rooted rural traditions. Red Savannah's Clare Watkins recommends pairing Évora with São Lourenço do Barrocal, a beautifully restored country estate surrounded by vineyards, olive groves and ancient Neolithic standing stones.

There are vineyard walks, horse riding, farm-to-table dining and, most importantly, time. The Alentejo philosophy of Vagar, the art of slowing down, appreciating space and reconnecting with place, is perhaps the ultimate modern luxury.

The insider appeal: For anyone who has discovered that the rarest thing you can buy is time, the Alentejo makes a compelling case for spending it slowly.



“Seamless”

“We bought and sold through Savills. The entire process was seamless. They had buyers ready to move so our home was sold quickly and discreetly.”

Fiona, recently moved with us

savills

JERSEY

Zanzibar photo credit: Fanjove Private Island



ZANZIBAR: ULTIMATE AFRICAN DOUBLE ACT

Zanzibar has long been the dream ending to a Tanzanian safari. Now, improving connections are making it possible to think considerably bigger. New air links are opening the door to extraordinary combinations across Africa: gorilla trekking in Rwanda and Uganda, Big Five encounters or Cape Town's world-class food and wine scene, followed by several blissful days barefoot on Zanzibar's powder-white sands. For travellers who have already done the classic safari, this is Africa with a more ambitious itinerary: wild encounters, exceptional food, extraordinary landscapes and, finally, the Indian Ocean.

The insider appeal: Think beyond safari-and-beach. Red Savannah can stitch together the very best of East and Southern Africa into one seamless private journey.



EGYPT: THE DESERT, REIMAGINED

Everyone knows the Pyramids. Far fewer travellers have experienced the extraordinary silence of Egypt's Western Desert. That is set to change in 2027 with the opening of Kazazian Siwa, set amid the surreal landscape of Siwa Oasis, where salt lakes, limestone formations and palm groves create a world that feels almost otherworldly. The hotel's spa will draw on Siwa's ancient reputation for healing, with traditional sandbathing and salt therapies, while nearby are the Temple of the Oracle of Amun, the Shali Fortress and Jebel al-Mawta. Red Savannah's Africa specialist Samantha Gordon sees the opportunity to experience Egypt on a grander scale: desert landscapes and Bedouin dinners beneath the stars followed by the sensory intensity of Cairo and the timeless romance of a private journey along the Nile.

The insider appeal: Egypt without the crowds and with the kind of desert experience that most visitors never get close to.



INDONESIA: THE KOMODO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN

An ecosystem where dragons roam volcanic islands and some of the world's richest marine habitats lie just offshore.

Red Savannah's Indonesia specialist Melissa Matthews recommends seeing it properly: by private phinisi, a beautifully crafted Indonesian sailing ship that becomes your floating base for exploring the archipelago at your own pace.

The insider appeal: Wake up somewhere extraordinary every morning, with your own boat, crew and itinerary.



SARDINIA: THE ISLAND OF LONG LIFE

Northern Sardinia may be attracting a new generation of glamorous hotels, but the island's real luxury lies beyond the beach clubs. In and around Arzachena, recently recognised as part of Sardinia's celebrated Blue Zone, where residents regularly reach the age of 100, longevity is less a wellness trend than a way of life. Here, good food, close-knit communities and an extraordinary connection to the land are simply part of the rhythm of life. Add the island's celebrated Cannonau wine and a famously generous table, and it becomes rather an appealing prescription. Red Savannah's specialists can take travellers beyond the polished Costa Smeralda to discover the Sardinia that visitors rarely see: family-run kitchens, ancient traditions, local producers and the communities whose way of life has helped make this one of the world's longevity hotspots.

The insider appeal: Forget a week beside the pool. This is Sardinia through the eyes of someone who knows the island intimately, and can show you the secrets to a long life.



MALDIVES: YOUR OWN PRIVATE ISLAND

For those who believe a truly good beach holiday should involve as few other people as possible, this is quite the proposition. The new sister property to Finolhu is a tiny, spectacular retreat on a sandbar in the UNESCO-protected Baa Atoll, with just seven villas. Two-storey and beautifully secluded, they appear to float between sea and sky, with the extraordinary option of following the sun around your own villa: sunrise on one side, sunset over dinner on the other. All the villas have private pools, generous terraces, shaded dining spaces, hammocks and swings, barbecues and, naturally, a private butler available by WhatsApp. There are water sports for the energetic, from jet skis and kayaking to flyboarding, but the real pleasure may be doing absolutely nothing at all with those you love.

The insider appeal: Seven villas. Your own stretch of sand. A private butler. And not a hotel lobby in sight.

NAMIBIA: SAFARI AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

For seasoned safari travellers, Namibia offers something altogether different. This is Africa on a monumental scale: vast ochre deserts, towering dunes, saltpans, rugged mountains and an Atlantic coastline littered with shipwrecks. Red Savannah's Africa specialist Samantha Gordon recommends going deep into the country, combining Damaraland and the Grootberg Mountains with Etosha and Khaudum National Parks. New lodges from Vestige Collection are opening up some of Namibia's more remote corners, bringing an extraordinary level of comfort to places that feel wonderfully far from civilisation.

The insider appeal: The ultimate safari for those who have seen the Big Five and want something altogether more wild.

Key to the Red Savannah experience is the belief that truly memorable travel cannot be assembled by algorithm. It comes from first-hand knowledge, trusted relationships, thoughtful planning and an understanding that the greatest luxury is not excess but access: to the right place, at the right moment, in precisely the right way.

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Life in Finance 2026

Jersey Finance

Providing local students an opportunity to gain real-life work experience

For more than a decade, our Life in Finance scheme has given sixth form and college students the opportunity to experience Jersey's financial and professional services industry first-hand.

Through placements with local firms, students can explore the wide variety of careers available, gain valuable workplace experience, develop skills and connections to support their future.

This year, we were delighted to see students complete placements across the industry, while giving participating firms the opportunity to meet and support Jersey's next generation of talent.

Life in Finance continues to connect young people with the Island's finance industry, helping them explore the opportunities available, build valuable experience and discover where a career in finance could take them.

Future professionals at work:



Lucas Wild
Hawksford



Amelie Siouville and Sebastian Armata
BDO

Future professionals at work:



Emily Freitas
LGT



Isabella Henriques, Fatima Pardey and Xavier Mezals
RSM



Mia Jude
Crestbridge



Luke Oxenden-Wray
Alex Forbes



Pola Wrobel
Bakers & Partners



Jamie White
Affinity

Life in Finance, in their words...

Scan here to read their experiences

UNPOPULAR OPINIONS OF A FINANCIAL PLANNER

Words: Lisa Davies, Wealth Consultant at Titan Wealth

As a Financial Planner, there are certain things I'm probably expected to say. The trouble is, experience has taught me that money isn't always that straightforward. As someone who's worked in the industry for 20 years, here are four financial opinions that might surprise you.

Retirement is overrated (for some)

I think retirement is often romanticised. For years, people talk about it as if it's the ultimate reward for surviving adulthood. The reality is that retirement isn't the finish line. It's simply the next chapter. For some people that's travel, volunteering, hobbies, family or learning new skills. For others, it's continuing to work because they genuinely enjoy what they do. The biggest mistake is comparing yourself to someone else's version of retirement. This is your time, your money and your life. If you're 70 and still working because you love it, why stop? Equally, if your dream is spending weekdays on the golf course or travelling, that's perfectly fine too.

Some people save too much

One of the biggest financial mistakes people make isn't saving too little, it's saving too much and forgetting to live along the way. That might not sound like something a financial planner would say, but hear me out.

I encourage my clients to aim for a life with as few regrets as possible. Of course, we need to save and prepare for the future, but life does have a habit of throwing occasional curveballs. I've known too many people who have worked hard, sacrificed experiences and accumulated significant wealth, only to never reach or be able to enjoy retirement the way they had planned. I'm not suggesting you drain your savings and book a one-way ticket around the world, but sometimes people become so focused on building a comfortable future that they forget to enjoy the life they're living today.

Most people don't need to be financial experts

When it comes to investing, people often assume the most successful investors spend their evenings analysing stock market charts and reading company reports. Some do, but many don't. So, if your idea of a fun evening isn't reading pension legislation, you're probably quite normal. The good news is that you don't need to be a financial expert to make good financial decisions. A good financial planner understands your goals, guides you through important decisions and becomes your financial coach, giving you peace of mind and helping you strike the right balance between enjoying life today and saving for your future. Research has consistently shown that those who use a financial planner tend to accumulate significantly more wealth over time.

Property is not always the best investment

Property has long been a popular investment, particularly in the Channel Islands. While it has delivered strong returns in the past, I'm not convinced the next 20 years will look like the last 20. With affordability stretched and borrowing costs higher, it seems unrealistic to expect the rapid price increases of previous decades to continue. That's not to say property is a bad investment. Owning your own home can provide roots, security and stability. However, being a landlord is often more expensive and demanding than people realise. There are repairs, maintenance, insurance, compliance costs and tax on rental income, while property is also relatively illiquid compared to other investments. Property can absolutely play an important role in building wealth. I just don't think it deserves the pedestal we sometimes put it on.

FINANCIAL PROMOTION: The value of investments and the income derived from them may go down as well as up and you may not receive back all the money which you invested.



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THE ART OF THE SUIT

Why, when it comes to dressing well, nothing beats something made for you.

There are suits, custom suits and then there are bespoke suits. The difference is surprisingly easy to spot. It's in the way the shoulder sits, the way the jacket falls, the length of the sleeve, the break of the trouser, those small details that make the whole thing look effortless.

And effortless, as anyone who dresses particularly well will tell you, rarely happens by accident.
Step inside Bertie's, in the heart of St Helier, and the experience of buying a suit becomes something altogether more considered. This isn't about grabbing a jacket from a rail five minutes before a meeting. It's about sitting down, having a drink, talking through what you actually need and then creating something that belongs to you.

For the modern businessman, a beautifully made suit is one of those rare luxuries that is both indulgent and entirely practical. It works hard. The boardroom. Dinner. A wedding. A flight to London. An important presentation. A celebration. And, occasionally, simply a Tuesday when you feel like looking rather good.
At Bertie's, the process begins with you: your proportions, your lifestyle, your personality and how you want to feel in the clothes. Then comes the enjoyable part, choosing the cloth, colour, cut and details. Lapels, buttons, pockets, lining. The details might be subtle, or they might be a little more you. The result is something increasingly rare: clothing made around the individual, rather than the individual trying to fit into the clothing.
And once the suit is sorted, there is one final detail that deserves equal attention.
The shoes.

Because however beautiful the tailoring, the wrong pair can undo the whole picture. Berties' custom footwear service, which is coming soon, takes the same considered approach, creating shoes that complement the wardrobe rather than simply filling a gap at the bottom of it.

There is something wonderfully old-school about the whole idea. Being measured properly. Taking your time. Knowing the person curating your clothes. Having something created rather than simply selected.

Perhaps that is the real luxury.
Not having more. Having better. Having fewer compromises. And knowing that when you walk into a room, your confidence will subtly shine.

Riviera

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From our handcrafted collection, Riviera, we present two cocktail rings in platinum and 18ct gold; set with a radiant cut diamond, 3.01ct, on the left, and a cushion cut diamond, 4.01ct, on the right.

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Culture of investment

Words: Connor Spence, Investment Manager, Rathbones.

Over the next few editions of Gallery, I will be sharing a book and podcast recommendation that I believe offer valuable insights into the world of investing. We live in an age where information is more accessible than ever, with news, opinions, and analysis available across countless platforms, websites, and social media channels. While this can be hugely beneficial, it can also make it increasingly difficult to know where to start, whom to trust and what information really matters. My aim is to highlight some of the books, podcasts, and resources that I have found particularly useful and thought-provoking, and which I hope you may find interesting too.

One of the things I enjoy most about investing is that there is rarely a single "right" answer. Nobody can tell you with certainty what tomorrow holds, let alone what the next five years will look like. Successful investing is ultimately about making informed judgements about an uncertain future, which requires gathering information from a variety of sources, challenging assumptions, and continuously refining your views as new information emerges.

There is often a misconception that a career in investments is primarily about maths and numbers. While quantitative skills are certainly important, successful investors come from a variety of academic backgrounds, including subjects such as history, politics, or languages. The reality is that investing often has more in common with these subjects than many people realise. Much like in history or politics, two people can examine the same set of facts and arrive at very different conclusions, yet both viewpoints can be supported by thoughtful and compelling arguments.

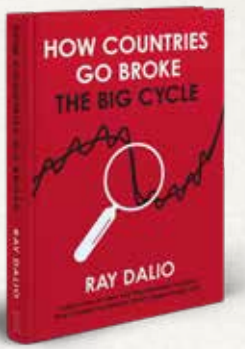
For that reason, I have always believed it is important to seek out different perspectives, learn from a wide range of sources and constantly challenge my thinking. Podcasts, in particular, have transformed access to knowledge by giving listeners the opportunity to hear directly from some of the world's leading investors, economists, entrepreneurs, and academics. Many of these conversations would have been difficult, if not impossible, for the average person to access a generation ago. Today, they are available at the touch of a button.

With that in mind, my first book and podcast recommendations are Ray Dalio's How Countries Go Broke and Chris Williamson's Modern Wisdom podcast.



MY BOOK RECOMMENDATION IS

How Countries Go Broke *by Ray Dalio*



is an easy choice for me because of how relevant it feels today. With many of the world's largest economies grappling with high levels of government debt, rising interest costs and difficult fiscal decisions, the themes explored in the book resonate strongly. More than anything, it highlights that investing isn't just about companies and share prices; it's about understanding the broader forces that shape markets. Dalio explores debt cycles, interest rates, geopolitics, and the changing world order, encouraging readers to look beyond short-term market movements and focus on the long-term trends that drive economies. A recurring theme is that no economic or political power remains dominant forever, with periods of prosperity often followed by complacency, rising debt and increasing internal pressures. Whether you agree with all of his conclusions or not, it provides a thought-provoking framework for understanding many of the challenges facing investors today.

MY PODCAST RECOMMENDATION IS

Modern Wisdom *by Chris Williamson.*

While it is not an investment podcast in the traditional sense, many of the themes it explores are highly relevant to investing. Through conversations with economists, entrepreneurs, psychologists and business leaders, Williamson examines how people make decisions and navigate uncertainty. Human nature has not changed over time, and markets are often driven by emotion, herd mentality, and periods of irrationality. Understanding why people behave the way they do can be just as valuable as analysing financial statements or economic data, particularly when sentiment diverges from fundamentals.

Together, these recommendations reflect what I enjoy most about investing. The profession sits at the intersection of economics, politics, technology, and human behaviour, all of which are constantly evolving. That means there is always something new to learn and no two days are ever the same. Dalio's book explores the macroeconomic picture, while Modern Wisdom focuses on the people and decision-making behind it. Both have influenced the way I think about investing, helping me develop a broader perspective on the economic, political and behavioural forces that drive markets.



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Invest well. Live well.

The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back what you originally invested.

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THE GREAT WEALTH TRANSFER DEBATE:

Changing Values, *Conflicting Priorities?*

Words: Emily Marriott-Trebert, Tax Manager and Mark Savage, Tax Director, BDO

Against a backdrop of tax and political uncertainty, many wealth creators are looking to pass assets to the next generation. The key challenge is creating the right succession framework and timeline to protect wealth and preserve its long-term legacy.

Are your existing structures still fit for purpose?

Many business and family wealth structures were established for specific purposes, whether that be to facilitate growth, protect assets or secure tax efficiencies that were available at the time. However, family circumstances, legislation and tax policies evolve, meaning structures which were once effective may no longer achieve those original objectives.

As succession planning is rarely a single event and typically involves a combination of tax, legal, commercial and family considerations, it is important to periodically review existing arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Obtaining updated professional advice can help identify new opportunities, risks and potential restructuring requirements before a succession plan is implemented.

Transfer of Assets to the Next Generation

The transfer of business interests, investments and other assets can involve significant tax and transaction costs, including potential capital gains tax, inheritance/gift tax, restructuring expenses and professional advisory fees. As a result, succession planning should be approached from a long-term perspective, taking into account both the immediate costs of transfer and the family's future tax and ownership objectives. Early planning can provide greater flexibility and help to ensure that transfers are structured in a way that balances tax efficiency with appropriate control.

Transfer of Influence

For many wealth creators, transferring legal ownership of assets is easier than transferring control. Years of personal investment and control often make it difficult to step back, making careful planning essential.

Consideration should be given to how much control to retain, when successors are ready to assume responsibility, and the timeframe for transition. Providing opportunities for the next generation to gain experience and develop relationships with existing advisors can help ensure a smoother and more successful handover.

Location and Relocation Considerations

In an increasingly mobile world, succession planning can be complicated by the location of those involved. The location of people and assets is key as this can affect tax treatments on the transfer of assets and, in the case of transferring control of a business, the tax residency of the business.
For families considering relocation, this may create tax and regulatory implications in both the old jurisdiction of residence and the new one. The costs and wider impact of relocating, including professional fees, business disruption and effects on family life, should therefore form part of the succession planning process.

Managing Family Dynamics

Open communication involving the next generation in planning discussions is essential and can help align expectations and reduce the risk of future disputes. Some families may benefit from establishing a family constitution to support decision-making.

Successful succession also relies on trusted advisors who understand both the family's objectives and the technical complexities involved. Where assets, family members or business interests span multiple jurisdictions, specialist international tax, legal and corporate finance advice can be invaluable. Introducing successors to these advisors early helps ensure continuity, build trusted relationships and support a smooth transition for future generations.

Successfully transferring wealth to the next generation requires trusted advisers with both local knowledge and global reach. At BDO in the Channel Islands, our specialists work closely with families and business owners to develop tailored succession strategies, drawing on expertise in international tax and cross-border structuring. Through BDO's worldwide network, we can provide coordinated support across jurisdictions, helping clients preserve and transition their wealth with confidence.



BDO

Helping you plan for what comes next.

Change creates both challenges and opportunities. Whether you're growing a business, managing family wealth or preparing for succession, having a trusted adviser is essential.

BDO's Channel Islands team combines expertise across tax, advisory, audit, technology and business services to help clients navigate complexity and make confident decisions.

Together, we help build resilient businesses, protect wealth and support long-term success.

Visit our websites to learn more.

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SRM: Adding Value

Words: Shakera Rolle-Manuel

Value. Perhaps an obvious term for an accountant; certainly one I seem to find in my daily lexicon along with 'cash flow', 'suspense account' and 'please, please do your month-end because it makes my life so much easier'. Although that kind of value is indeed important to us at SRM, some of the things that matter the most to us are less obvious than numbers on a balance sheet.

At SRM, value moves in two distinct directions: the value we provide to our clients, of course, and the value we try to support here in Jersey. When I started SRM, 10 years ago, I wanted to keep working with established businesses while also having the freedom to support start-ups, entrepreneurs and smaller owner-managed companies. Those businesses often need very hands-on help. Sometimes that's tax or year-end accounts. Sometimes it is cash flow, management reporting, a new structure, or getting the financial side of the business into better shape so the owner can make a decision with some confidence.

Solid financial information should answer real-life questions. Can we afford to hire? Is this part of the business actually profitable? Do we have enough cash to invest? What happens if a large customer pays late? Can the team cope if one person is away?

Building SRM while raising my son probably shaped that outlook more than I realised at the time. Running a business can get messy. People are busy. Things get delayed. One unexpected cost can suddenly matter a great deal more than it would in a large organisation. You become quite unsentimental about what is useful and what is not!

The other side of value for SRM is our role in the community. We strongly believe that doing business in Jersey comes with a responsibility to help the island work. We have an ageing population. We talk a lot about skills shortages. Housing is expensive, the cost of living is high and young people have choices about where they build their lives. Underneath all of this is the fairly obvious question: do they see enough opportunity here to want to stay?

That is partly why supporting initiatives such as LEAP at Jersey College for Girls matters to me. As a woman running a female-founded firm on a small island, supporting young women to understand business, money and entrepreneurship feels personal, but it is also economic. We need young people who can picture themselves starting businesses here, or confidently joining local firms and contributing to Jersey rather than feeling that opportunity exists somewhere else.

For the same reason, SRM has sponsored the Channel 103 Customer Service Awards for the past three years. I like the recognition of people and businesses whose work adds value to the community every day, sometimes in ways that are easy to overlook. Good service, reliability, care and pride in what you do all matter on an island this size.

We continue to support the Jersey Junior Golf Academy too. It gives local kids another route into sport, particularly those who may not naturally find their place elsewhere. They learn golf, obviously, but they also learn patience, independence and confidence, and some discover something they are genuinely good at. Again, it is about giving somebody an opening and seeing what they do with it.

"Value, for us, has never really been solely about what something is worth on paper. It's about whether what we do leaves a business, a person or our island with something useful that was not there before."

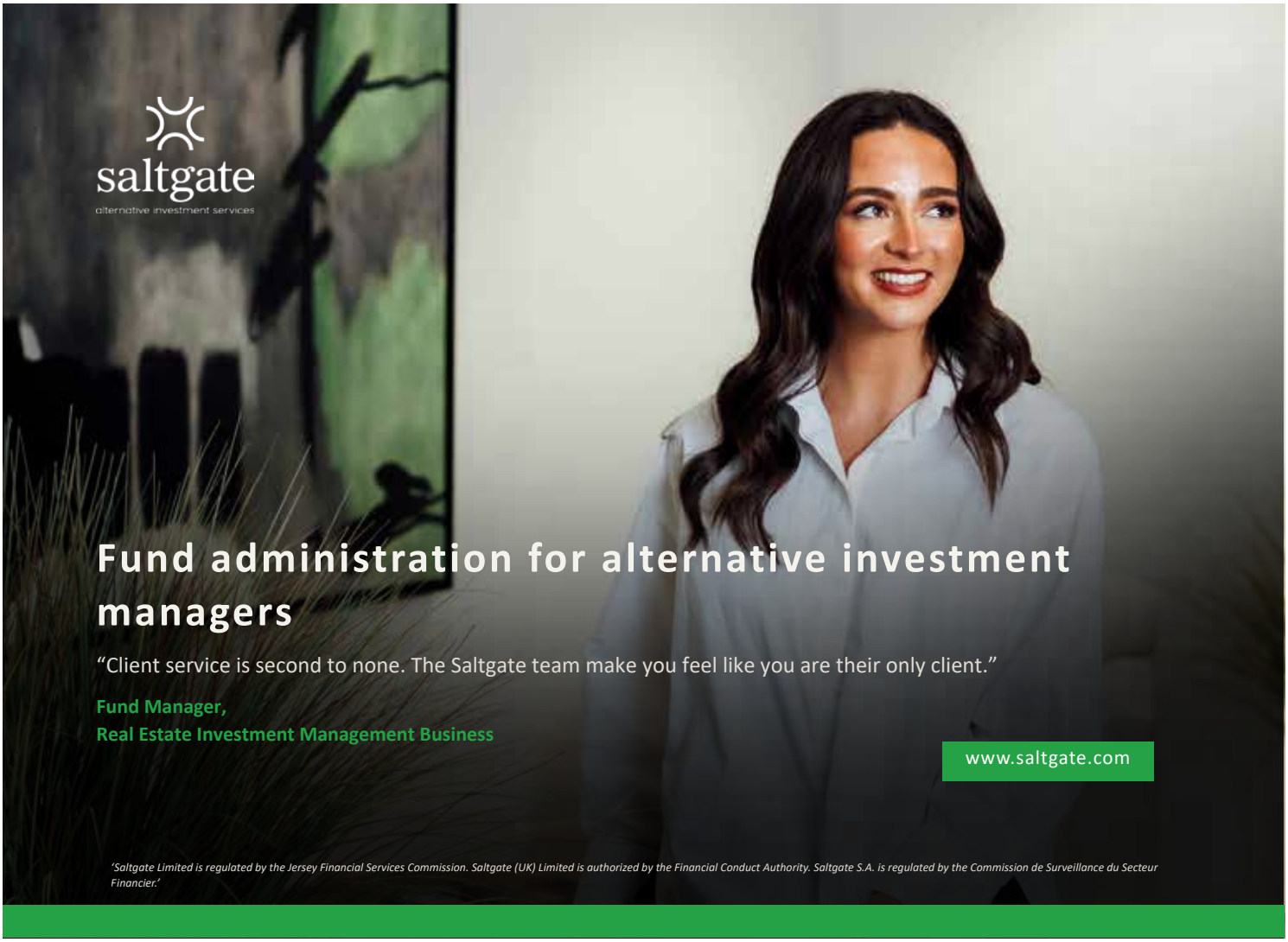
On a small island like ours, community is everything. It gives us roots, purpose and pride. Jersey has given SRM clients, colleagues, friendships and the chance to build something from scratch.

So value, for us, has never really been solely about what something is worth on paper. It's much more about whether what we do leaves a business, a person or our island with something useful that was not necessarily there before.

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The Next Chapter:

Simon Riley on the Evolution of Alternative Investments



From qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in Jersey to helping build Saltgate from its inception in 2007, Simon Riley has spent more than two decades at the heart of the Island's alternative investment industry. He has witnessed first-hand how a once relatively niche corner of financial services has evolved into a sophisticated, highly regulated and increasingly technology-driven global industry.

Today, as Chief Executive Officer of Saltgate, Simon is focused on what comes next: navigating a rapidly changing investment landscape, harnessing the potential of AI, and ensuring Jersey remains at the forefront of international private markets.

We sat down with Simon to reflect on his career, the transformation of the alternative investment sector, Jersey's role on the global stage, and why he believes the future belongs to those willing to embrace change.

How did you get into the world of alternative investments?
I was born and raised in Jersey. After university in the UK (a geography degree), I returned to the Island to train as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte. Shortly after qualifying, I moved into the world of alternative assets. Back then, it was a relatively small but fast-growing part of Jersey's finance industry.

What has changed most in the industry during your career?
The biggest change I've seen is the level of sophistication across the industry.
When I began my career, the focus was on providing efficient services. Today, clients expect more. They want greater transparency, direct access to information, and support navigating an increasingly complex global environment.
Regulation has undoubtedly played a big part in that evolution. Following the global financial crisis, we saw an increase in areas such as anti-money laundering controls, beneficial ownership transparency, and tax information exchange. While that has created additional complexity, it has also helped strengthen confidence in well-regulated international finance centres.
What trends are you watching particularly closely at the moment?
There are a few areas I'm watching closely, but AI is probably at the top of the list. We've spent years talking about its potential, and we're now starting to see real-world applications emerge across financial services. From improving efficiency and data analysis to enhancing client service, there are so many opportunities. I am an advocate that people won't lose jobs to AI – they will lose jobs to people who use AI.

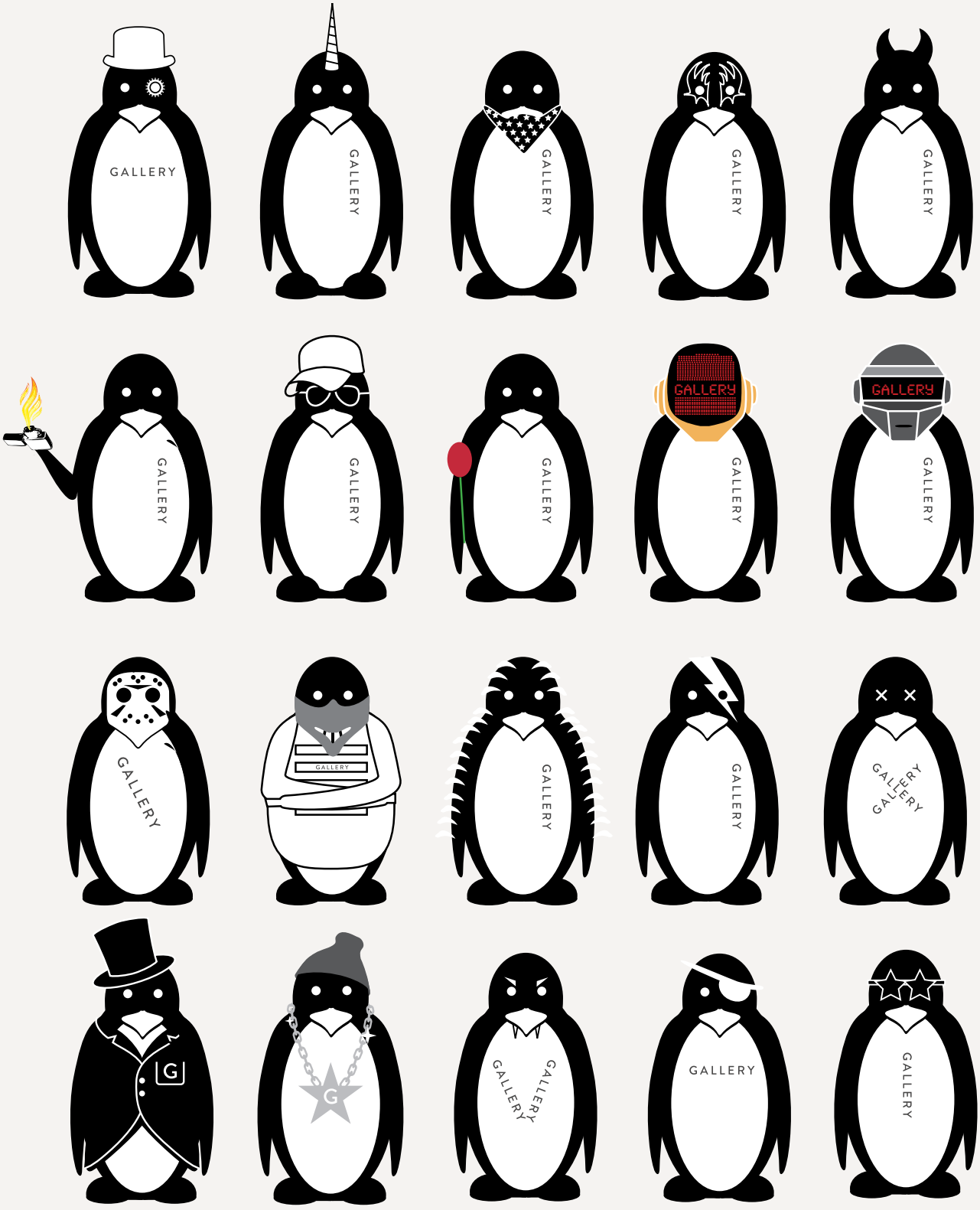
What makes Jersey such an important location for the industry?
I genuinely believe Jersey is one of the most dynamic finance centres in the world. What makes Jersey unique is its ability to connect investors, businesses and capital across multiple markets rather than being reliant on a single domestic economy. Whether it's sustainable finance, private markets or digital innovation, Jersey has consistently shown a willingness and ability to embrace new opportunities and respond to emerging trends.

What do people often misunderstand about private markets?
I think people sometimes underestimate the operational expertise that sits behind private markets. Regulatory requirements, investor reporting expectations and governance standards have increased, making strong execution robust end-to-end processes more important than ever. Functions such as fund administration are not just back-office functions; they play a big role in maintaining trust and supporting investor confidence.

What does a typical day look like for you?
There is no such thing as a typical day! But a large part of my role is focused on growing and protecting Saltgate. I spend a lot of my time identifying new opportunities, reviewing financial performance, monitoring the pipeline of new business and making sure we are delivering a service that clients value.
I also work closely with our teams to ensure we have the right people, processes and technology in place to support growth.

What are you most excited about for the future of the sector?
What excites me most is how the sector continues to evolve and create new opportunities. We're seeing ongoing growth in alternative investments such as private equity, private credit, infrastructure and real assets, which is giving investors more ways to diversify and achieve their long-term goals. Closer to home, I'm excited about Jersey's future role in the industry. The island has built a strong reputation for expertise and high regulatory standards, and I believe it's well placed to support the next phase of growth in private markets and international wealth management.

What advice would you give to the next generation entering the world of finance?
Stay curious. Understanding AI, automation and data analytics is just as important as building strong financial knowledge. Think beyond exams and qualifications, building commercial awareness early on is a game changer. Finally, don't be afraid to put yourself out there. Take advantage of internships, apprenticeships and platforms like LinkedIn to build connections and learn from others. Finance needs a broader range of perspectives, backgrounds and experiences, and the industry is stronger when it reflects the diverse world it serves.



GALLERY

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A DELICIOUS STAYCAY

Your island escape awaits at Dolan Hotels…

Autumn in Jersey has a way of slowing everything down, and this year Dolan Hotels is giving you three reasons to make the most of it. Across Azure at Hotel Cristina, La Brise at the Golden Sands, and Tides at the Somerville, the Delicious Dine Out Festival brings three courses of proper Jersey dining for only £33. From generous pan-European plates, to relaxed beach eats and refined coastal indulgence, whichever mood you're chasing this season, Dolan Hotels has something to offer.

At Azure, hand-dived Jersey scallops arrive in apple and vanilla purée before a proper Irish sirloin takes over, hand-cut chips and all, with a silky strawberry cheesecake to finish. La Brise leans coastal, opening with a duck liver parfait and pear shallot chutney, moving into a baked beef cheek suet pudding in roasted onion gravy, and closing with a Jersey black butter brûlée full of local character. Tides brings pan-seared scallops and a black garlic beignet to the table, followed by an aged sirloin of Irish beef with your pick of sauce, and finishes on the signature Tides mango soufflé, warm, wobbling, and worth the visit alone. Each hotel offers its own version of top-quality, local, seasonal ingredients paired with new and old-world wines and unbeatable views.

Pair your table with a staycation and the evening becomes a whole escape. Rooms start from just £155 per couple, with free upgrades and late checkouts woven in, so there's no rush to leave the ocean view behind the next morning. Whether it's Cristina's easy elegance, the barefoot charm of Golden Sands, or the Somerville's classic harbour setting, each stay has its own personality. Rise refreshed and help yourself to a full breakfast, including both fully cooked & continental options, to start your day's adventures.

And because loyalty deserves a little reward, guests with the Dolan Loyalty App can earn up to 10% back on their stay, turning tonight's treat into tomorrow's return trip. It's their way of saying thank you for choosing Dolan Hotels, and 'we'd love to welcome you back!' These Delicious Dine Out Staycation offers are your pause button. Book this offer today and connect and celebrate Jersey's incredible food and drink offering across our island with Dolan Hotels.

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Book direct with promo code DELICIOUS by visiting https://www.dolanhotels.com/DDO or call 01534 491900. Ts&Cs apply.

TABLE TALK



Look out for Fondue.

This month, I took some friends for a meal at The Lookout, based just halfway down Victoria Avenue. With the restaurant operating all year round, the menu is updated seasonally and I had the opportunity to preview its upcoming autumn and winter menu.

Words: Flo Leach

To set the scene, I arrived just as the beautiful Jersey sun was setting. The tide was high, and it was already beginning to feel like a very special midweek night. It wasn't quite cold enough for the full cosy setup that usually accompanies this dining experience, but I spotted the fireplace ready to go, with wood stacked nearby in preparation for winter. As darkness fell, the lighting became warmer and more intimate. I imagined what it might feel like to sit there while a torrential storm raged outside.

The word *hygge* came to mind. It is a famous Danish concept that describes a feeling of cosy contentment, safety and well-being created through life's simple pleasures. I think that sums up The Lookout perfectly. The staff embody that same warm, welcoming energy, while the isolated seafront building feels almost like a mountain cabin offering shelter to weary travellers.

That sense of alpine cosiness continued through the food. I ate as you might in a chalet overlooking a snowy Swiss town. This was really nostalgic for me, as Switzerland holds a particularly special place in my heart. My family has spent its winters there since I was eight years old, so the meal immediately transported me back.

If you are familiar with Swiss food, you will know that it usually begins with cheese and ends with cheese, all served warm, in the most indulgent and delectable way. My fellow diners and I were presented with a combination of cheese, potatoes and meat. First came the fondue, served in a large red pot over a flame. The melted, bubbling cheese was accompanied by chef's vegetables, new potatoes, salad and warm crusty bread for dipping.

The second helping of cheese arrived as a giant block of raclette, complete with a spatula. It came with charcuterie and more potatoes, salad and bread, as well as pickles and little onions. Tamsin and Ria were appointed the table's raclette experts for the evening, doing a great job of serving the table! Ria said: "The raclette was definitely my favourite. It was all so beautifully presented, and I loved the authentic, flavourful trimmings. The restaurant was really pretty and cosy, with fairy lights everywhere and such a fun, buzzing atmosphere. It honestly felt as though we'd been transported to a little Swiss chalet, and I loved that it was all happening on a Wednesday night!"

"This is not just a dinner, it's a full event!"

Tamsin captured the communal spirit of the experience perfectly: "This is not just a dinner, it's a full event! It's a fantastic way to spend an evening, whether you're celebrating or simply catching up."

I also want to give a special mention to The Lookout's legendary burger, which was a personal favourite. The patty was perfectly cooked and the flavour was incredible. Despite all the cheese and meat, the boys were particular fans of the dessert menu, with Tom wanting people to know to "leave room for dessert, as the cakes were amazing!" and Luca highlighting that "the brownie is a must".

The Lookout has managed to create something that feels like much more than a meal. From the flickering lights and welcoming atmosphere to the bubbling fondue and theatrical raclette, the whole experience felt really comforting and the perfect way to spend an evening.

thelookoutjersey.com











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TABLE TALK

Words: Flo Leach



A brunch with Zest.

This month, I had the pleasure of trying the vibrant menu at the newly opened Zest on Halkett Place. Owner Bex has transformed a formerly shuttered, rather gloomy building into a bright and beautifully elegant restaurant which, in my opinion, is the ultimate autumnal setting.

I was curious about the meaning behind the name. Bex explained that it came from a difficult period in her life, when she was experiencing serious medical issues. She came through the other side, and the name represents bringing light and "zest" back into her life. She also said that each member of staff has a sense of zest about them. This energy carries through everything, from the food and setting to the service.

I met Michael, Zest's head chef, to ask what inspired the unusual brunch menu, which combines breakfast and lunch dishes to offer a more substantial take on the typical morning meal. Much of his inspiration comes from Asian flavours, influenced by his time working at London's *Zuma*. He and Bex wanted to create dishes that didn't shy away from flavour and reflected the kind of food they would cook at home.

I think this confidence is key to a restaurant's success. Many establishments attempt to please everyone and can end up not really pleasing anyone. I get excited when I see a restaurant in Jersey going against this notion, instead focusing on what its team knows and doing it well.

So, what did we eat? I'll start with my favourite: the "Rosti by Nature". This was a potato nest filled with fresh guacamole and avocado hollandaise, topped with a poached egg. The famous saying "you eat with your eyes" certainly applied here. The dish was beautifully presented, and the taste matched its appearance, with crunchy textures contrasting with the softer elements.

Next was editor Emma's favourite: the "Prawn to Be Wild". This was a feast for the senses. Emma commented that "crab or prawn linguines can be bland and underwhelming, but this is richer and more indulgent". I had to agree. It can be difficult to create a real wow moment with a classic pasta dish, but Zest managed it.

"It's a cake roulette that's difficult to lose."

The other dishes we tried were equally enjoyable. The "Adobo Confit", a soy-confit chicken thigh served with an intensely moreish reduction, was another highlight. We also tried the day's special, featuring the classic combination of potatoes, eggs and chorizo. I would describe it as simple food done very well.

Alongside her many other talents, Bex is also an accomplished baker. Each visit to Zest may bring a new surprise, as she creates different cakes every morning according to what inspires her that day. It's a cake roulette that's difficult to lose: everything we tried was excellent. The coffee cake was my personal highlight, although my colleagues back at HQ agreed that the banana bread was the winner.

If you're looking for a cosy, autumnal brunch destination to catch up with a friend, hold a business meeting or treat your mum, Zest is a place that has considered every detail. I particularly appreciated the relaxing atmosphere, the thoughtfully prepared dishes and the satisfying portions that were fairly priced. All in all, Zest delivers value and is well worth experiencing for yourself.

zest.je



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NEXT IN LANE

Words: Emma Pallent

At eight years old, Filip Nowacki watched Adam Ramsay-Peaty win Olympic gold on television. At 19, he's racing him, teaching at his swim clinics and bringing home Jersey's first Commonwealth gold in 36 years.

In the summer of 2016, Filip Nowacki, eight years old at the time in Jersey, saw his idol Adam Ramsay-Peaty, then Adam Peaty, win the 100m breaststroke in Rio. Nearly ten years later, he was standing behind the blocks at the London Aquatics Centre, one lane over from his hero, and this summer the pair were teammates on the GB team at the European Aquatics Championships. "I'd grown up watching him," he said. "It's quite hard to put the feeling into words." That sense hasn't entirely worn off, and on the times he swims next to him, he tries to push the thought out of his mind. The awe has evolved, now that both are on the playing field, with Filip describing the relationship as "rivals and friends". Earlier this year, he signed as an AP Race ambassador, the swim clinic brand Ramsay-Peaty co-founded with Ed Baxter. It means he spends weekends on pool decks in front of rows of children who look at him the way he once looked at the stars on screen. "Being able to demonstrate techniques, and inspire them, is so cool," he said. It's not a bad turnout for a boy who, at five, refused to put his face in the water.

This autumn he arrived at Loughborough to study economics. Freshers' week and a full-time swimming career don't feel particularly congruous, but he's optimistic about finding a balance. "I think I'm going to experience the best of both worlds," he said. He got to campus early for the start of the season, with no big races until December. It's hard not to ask whether there's ever a temptation to drop the degree and go all in on the pool. "Definitely," he admitted. "But I think it's important having a backup plan."

Jersey, surrounded by water, made him a swimmer. "Growing up on an island, I think it was important for my parents to know that I could keep myself afloat," he said, speaking about the start of his journey in the sport. From the age of 11 that became 5:30am starts with Jersey Tigers under coach Nathan Jegou and a 9:30pm bedtime, while his school friends were still on FaceTime. "There were four or five of us that really got on well. Nathan pushed us, and we pushed each other," he said. He's full of praise for the support at home. Jersey Sport is "very good at supporting athletes," he said, but at 16 he left for Millfield, the Somerset boarding school, to be near the Olympic-sized facilities he couldn't get at home. "The biggest thing was not having a long-course pool," he said. "The island's small, and you don't expect a 50-metre pool to be built for you." While the move meant missing family and close friends, it also meant a life lived within the convenience of a few hundred yards. "I was sleeping on campus, training on campus, eating on campus. All my lessons were on campus."

He races under two flags, Jersey and GB, and he revealed that they don't feel the same. "When I race for GB, it's a bit more serious and everyone's a bit more to themselves," he said, putting it down to a senior team full of experience. But when he competes for Jersey, he comes back to a group he's known since he was ten, including a best friend whom he has trained alongside for most of his life. Alongside that team in Glasgow this summer, he won silver in the 100m breaststroke, the territory's first Commonwealth Games medal in 36 years, and then gold in the 200m three days later, finishing ahead of Canada's Oliver Dawson and the Olympic champion Zac Stubblety-Cook. Beating "flags like England and Australia" under Jersey's colours was a truly special experience, though it required a conscious switch-off beforehand, with the BBC, Team Jersey and his own parents all feeling the hype. "It's obviously something I'm very proud of," he said.

LA28 is a while away, but the Olympics feels like something that could be on the cards. He'll be 20, "still younger than my prime," he said, and after Glasgow and the European Championships, it looks like it's on the horizon. "Everyone I speak to says the Olympic Games is just another level," he said, and his ambitions seem grounded rather than giddy. Gaining experience, racing fast and seeing what he can produce is the game plan. His advice for the next Jersey swimmer is simple: "consistency."

Filip in Numbers

8
his age when he watched Ramsay-Peaty win gold in Rio

11
his age when he joined Jersey Tigers
5:30am – Tigers morning training
9:30pm – his bedtime as a result

16
his age when he left Jersey for Millfield

12
years Adam Ramsay-Peaty's British junior 100m breaststroke record had stood before Filip broke it, aged 17, in July 2025

8
gold medals for Jersey at the 2025 Island Games in Orkney

2
world junior titles, in the 100m and 200m breaststroke, 2025

36
years since Jersey's previous Commonwealth medal

2:07.87
his winning time in the 200m breaststroke in Glasgow

2
Commonwealth golds in Jersey's history, in any sport, since 1958

1
European senior title, 200m breaststroke, Paris 2026

20
his age at LA28

Beating "flags like England and Australia" under Jersey's colours was a truly special experience, though it required a conscious switch-off beforehand, with the BBC, Team Jersey and his own parents all feeling the hype. "It's obviously something I'm very proud of," he said.



Filip with Adam Ramsay-Peaty



Photography: Glen Perotte

JERSEY BASKETBALL: A COMMUNITY RISING

An Inter-Island clean sweep, international links, prison sport, wheelchair basketball and a growing community are shaping the future of the sport in Jersey

There are some sporting weekends that do more than produce a set of results. They tell a story. For Skipton International TEAM JERSEY, the 2026 Inter-Island Cup was one of those moments. Across a remarkable series of games against Guernsey, Jersey swept the board, winning across every age category and completing one of the most significant inter-insular performances in the Island's basketball history.

The results were emphatic, but the meaning behind them was bigger still. Jersey's men and women both claimed victories, with the men securing their first inter-insular win for 14 years and both senior teams winning in the same year for the first time in more than two decades. Across six inter-insular fixtures, every Jersey age group beat Guernsey.

For those who have watched the sport grow in recent years, it was not simply a weekend of celebration. It was evidence of what has been quietly, steadily and passionately built.

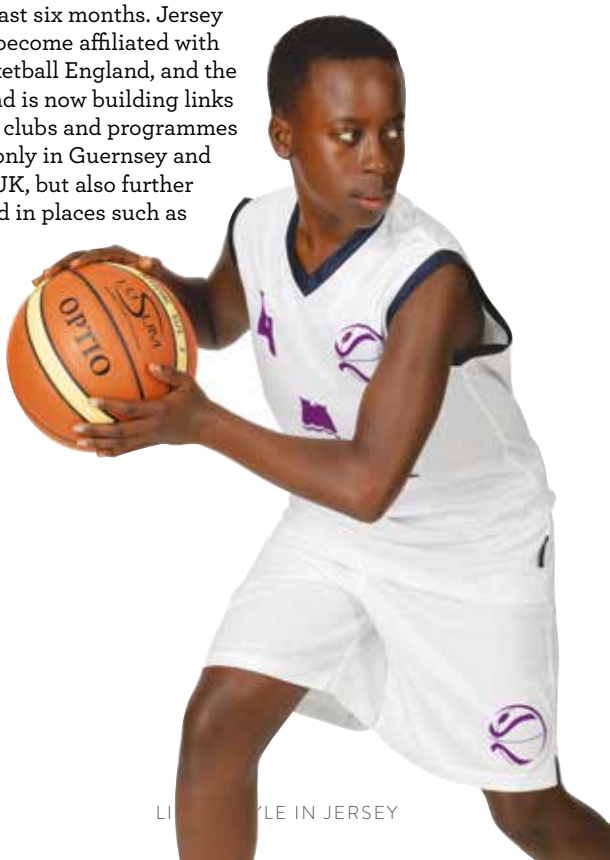
The Inter-Island games also formed part of a wider international tournament hosted by the Jersey Basketball Association, bringing teams to the island from Guernsey, Luxembourg's VIBBALL programme and the UK's Essex Rebels. For a sport that, only a few years ago, was operating largely through goodwill, determination and volunteer energy, Jersey's ability to stage a tournament of this kind marks a major step forward.

It has been made possible by the dedication of the basketball community and by the growing support now behind the sport. Grants, partnerships and sponsorship agreements, including the backing of Skipton International, have helped Jersey Basketball Association (JBBA) begin to think bigger, plan longer-term and create opportunities that would previously have felt out of reach. For Skipton International, the weekend underlined exactly why investing in local sport matters, not only for results on the court but for the confidence, opportunity and community pride it can create.

"Jersey basketball is showing what community sport can achieve when talent, commitment and opportunity come together. The Inter-Island Cup was not just a fantastic set of results, it was a sign of a sport with real energy behind it and a growing place in Island life. "Skipton International is proud to support the senior men's and women's teams, as well as the junior teams, because this is about more than basketball. It is about confidence, inclusion, ambition and giving local people the chance to thrive. We congratulate everyone involved in such a memorable tournament and look forward to seeing the sport continue to grow.

A sport with momentum

That support is vital because basketball in Jersey is no longer a small, niche sporting scene. It has become one of the Island's most dynamic and diverse sporting communities. Today, more than 50 active volunteers help keep the sport moving. More than 200 junior players train every week across 11 different age categories. Participation among women and girls has seen significant growth in the last six months. Jersey has become affiliated with Basketball England, and the Island is now building links with clubs and programmes not only in Guernsey and the UK, but also further afield in places such as



Luxembourg, Latvia and France. The next stage of that growth is even broader. JBBA is set to encompass Jersey Wheelchair Basketball, opening a new chapter for the sport and strengthening the association's commitment to access, inclusion and opportunity. It means basketball in Jersey is not just growing in numbers; it is growing in purpose. But perhaps the most powerful part of the JBBA story is not found in a fixture list or a results table. It is found in the people.

Basketball in Jersey brings together players, coaches, families and volunteers from all walks of life. It is an intensely international community, with teams and sessions involving people from the Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Kenya and many other backgrounds. On court, those differences become part of the game's strength. The sport has become a meeting point: a place where people can compete, belong, learn and contribute.

That sense of welcome has helped fuel the sport's recent growth. It has also created a culture where young players can see a pathway, from their first steps in the game through to junior age groups, Island squads and senior basketball. For two generations of Jersey coaches, Stuart Gilmour, coach of the men's team, and Callum Gilmour, coach of the Under-21s, the change has been dramatic. The recent Inter-Island clean sweep reflects not just a weekend of strong performances, but the result of years of work behind the scenes. Reflecting on the progress made across the sport, senior men's coach Stuart Gilmour said:



"Having been involved in Jersey Basketball for many years, initially at junior level, I've sensed a real change in momentum over the past six to eight years. Junior participation has grown significantly, and giving players the opportunity to compete regularly has been key to raising standards. The recent engagement from schools has also been hugely positive.
"At senior men's level, we now have a fantastic blend of youth and experience. That has contributed to our recent success at the Island Games in Wales and, most recently, in the Inter-Insular. There is real depth in the squad, with the Under-21 players pushing the senior players for places and helping to drive standards even higher.

"The next step is to capitalise on this growing interest by competing off-island as often as possible. It may sound like a cliché, but this really is just the beginning of an exciting period for Jersey basketball. We're attracting interest across all age groups, and I'm delighted for everyone involved. A huge number of people dedicate their time voluntarily to the sport, and this success reflects all their hard work."

At the younger end of the pathway, Under-21s coach Callum Gilmour said the same progress is now being felt throughout the junior programme, with participation, cohesion and competition all helping to build a stronger future for the sport.
"The juniors' performances this year have been incredible. We have enjoyed success across every age category against Guernsey, with increased participation, stronger team cohesion and a collective commitment to working together all contributing to those achievements. "These are the building blocks for a very bright future for an ever-growing junior programme. Every coach has played a vital role in the development of our players, and the strength of the programme will only continue to grow from here.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the juniors and being part of the wider set-up. It has been incredibly rewarding to help develop the next generation of players and contribute to building the strongest teams possible for the future."

The people building the pathway

Much of that transformation began when Paul Milbank came on board as President of the JBBA in 2022. He was shortly joined by Mark Jackson, whose background in media, marketing and commercial development helped raise the profile of the association at a crucial time.
Paul has seen the growth first-hand.

Paul Milbank, President of the JBBA: "Over the last five years, basketball in Jersey has changed beyond recognition. We have gone from a sport that was working incredibly hard just to keep going, to one that now has real momentum behind it. But that progress belongs first and foremost to the volunteers, coaches, parents and families who give so much of their time to the game. People such as Stuart Gilmour and Katy Grady have been central to that, helping to create the standards, structure and sense of community that young players now benefit from every week. The growth at junior level has been especially exciting. To see more than 200 young players training every week across so many age groups is something the whole basketball community should be proud of. What matters most is that these young people are not just learning basketball. They are building confidence, discipline, friendships and a love of sport. My role has been to support that wider effort, but the real credit sits with the people who are there week after week, making sessions happen and keeping the pathway moving. The recent Inter-Island results show what can happen when that pathway starts to come together, but for me the biggest win is seeing so many children and families now involved in the game." That growth has brought opportunity, but also responsibility. As more players arrive, the sport needs more structure, more coaches, more facilities and more sustainable funding.

For Mark Jackson, the commercial development of the sport has been about helping JBBA move from a volunteer organisation surviving on goodwill, to one with the foundations to support long-term growth.
Mark Jackson: "The JBBA has always had something very special at its heart: an amazing group of volunteers, coaches, players and families who give so much of their time because they care deeply about the sport. What we are trying to do now is build the structure around that passion, so basketball in Jersey can grow in a sustainable way. That means raising the profile of the sport, developing stronger commercial partnerships, attracting grants and sponsorship, and creating more opportunities for players at every level. Bringing coaches such as Kristaps Valters to Jersey, building links with clubs and programmes overseas, and hosting international teams here are all part of that bigger ambition. We want Jersey basketball to feel connected to the wider game and to give our young players experiences that inspire them to aim higher."

Raising standards and widening horizons

One example of that ambition has been the introduction of camp-style basketball sessions during school holidays and term breaks. JBBA has brought elite coaching to the island through the Kristaps Valters Basketball Academy in Latvia. Valters, a former Latvian international and professional point guard, played across Europe in countries including Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany and Turkey, and featured in the 2003 NBA Summer League with the Cleveland Cavaliers alongside LeBron James.

Behind those camps is a great deal of volunteer work. Aigars Skrivelis, JBBA's Jersey Basketball Academy Head Coach, has played an important role in helping bring the Kristaps Valters camps to Jersey and making sure young island players can benefit from the coaching, intensity and international experience they offer. >>>>>

Aigars' contribution reflects a wider truth about the association. Much of Jersey basketball's progress has been driven by people who give their time because they believe in what the sport can do. They are not only running sessions and developing players; they are opening doors, creating connections and helping Jersey feel part of a bigger basketball world.

Bringing coaches of that calibre to Jersey gives young players access to new standards, new ideas and a broader view of the game. It raises expectations, sharpens skills and shows young islanders that basketball connects Jersey to a much wider world. The ambition now is to do more of this: to bring more renowned coaches and players to the island, to build links with teams globally, and to give Jersey players regular opportunities to learn from different styles of basketball. The recent international tournament was an important part of that journey.

Basketball as community work

The growth of the women's game has been another important part of Jersey basketball's recent momentum. Much of that progress has been driven by Timea Kraft, whose commitment to developing opportunities for women and girls has helped bring more players into the sport, raise standards and create a stronger pathway for female basketball in the Island. With participation among women and girls growing significantly in recent months, her work has become central to the next stage of the JBBA story.

For Timea Kraft, that progress is already visible in the connection now forming between the junior and senior women's teams, with younger players gaining confidence, experience and a clearer route through the sport. "As coach of both the Under-16 Girls and Jersey Senior Women's teams, I've been fortunate to see the growth of our players and the strength of the pathway between junior and senior basketball. I'm particularly proud of the way younger players have embraced the opportunity to train and compete alongside more experienced players.

"The progress we have made over the past couple of years, reflected in wins against Guernsey in the Inter-Island fixtures with both teams, is a testament to the commitment of our players, coaches and all JBBA volunteers. With a strong culture and exciting young talent coming through, the future of women's basketball in Jersey is bright."





Timea's work also extends beyond traditional club and junior basketball. Alongside Aigars Skrivelis, she has been involved in JBBA's sports initiative connected to the Jersey prison programme, using basketball's structure, teamwork and discipline to support positive engagement in a custodial setting.

For JBBA, the principle is familiar. Sport can create structure. It can give people responsibility. It can build confidence, self-worth and a sense of belonging. Through the work of volunteers such as Aigars and Timea, basketball is beginning to play its own part in that wider conversation about community, opportunity and rehabilitation in Jersey.

It is another example of how the association's influence now reaches beyond fixtures and competitions. JBBA is becoming a community organisation as much as a sporting one: present in schools, active in development pathways, connected internationally, supportive of women and girls, and increasingly involved in inclusion and social impact work.

Legacy, resilience and responsibility

The story of Jersey basketball is also one of resilience. In May 2024, the community was devastated by the death of Guillaume Hoareau, known to everyone simply as G, after he collapsed during an inter-insular match against Guernsey. Guillaume was a star player, a coach, a mentor and a much-loved figure in the basketball community.

His impact is still felt, particularly through the Minis programme, which has given children as young as five the chance to pick up a ball, develop confidence and fall in love with basketball. Today, that Minis programme is one of the fastest-growing areas of JBBA.

The Guillaume Hoareau Legacy Fund was created to remember and celebrate his life, with the aim of supporting the growth of basketball in Jersey, helping talented young people develop, and continuing the work G did to connect the Island's basketball community with others beyond Jersey.

One of the first major projects connected to that legacy is the planned renovation of the Millennium Park basketball court. The proposed design shows a vibrant outdoor facility, full of colour, energy and community spirit. It is not just a court. It is a place for young people to gather, play, learn and feel part of something. It will stand as a tribute to G, while also creating a practical space that can help the next generation discover the game he loved.

JBBA is also exploring how the charity can help support the Minis programme in a more permanent way. The ambition is to match-fund a three-year programme that would allow under-8s to play basketball for free, provided a sponsor can be found. It would be a fitting extension of that legacy: removing barriers, opening doors and giving more children the chance to experience the joy of basketball.

The future is bright

The future of basketball in Jersey is bright. The recent Inter-Island clean sweep showed what is possible on court. The international tournament showed what Jersey can now host. The growth in juniors, women and girls, volunteers and community participation shows that the sport has momentum. That momentum is now moving into new areas. As JBBA prepares to encompass Jersey Wheelchair Basketball, the association has an opportunity to make the sport more accessible and visible to more people across the Island. It is a natural next step for a sport that already prides itself on being welcoming, diverse and community-minded.

With that extra responsibility comes the need for more day-to-day support. JBBA is looking to take on a development officer to help run the association, support volunteers, coordinate programmes, spend more time in schools training teachers, and bring basketball to the wider community. The aim is simple: to maintain the growth the sport is currently experiencing and make sure the structure around it keeps pace with the enthusiasm on court.

In many ways, the only limit now is access to facilities. Demand is high. Energy is high. The appetite is there. What JBBA needs next is the continued support of sponsors, partners, volunteers, parents, coaches and players who can help the sport keep pace with its own growth. Basketball in Jersey has become more than a game. It is a community, a pathway, a welcome, a legacy, a force for inclusion and a future. And for anyone who wants to be part of it, the message is simple: come and play.











RUN, KIDS, RUN

On the morning of 6 September, more than 600 Islanders of every age and ability gathered for RBC Race for the Kids Jersey, taking on the challenge to walk, run, wheel or push their way around the course. With a choice of three distances available – 2.5k, 5k and 10k – there was something for everyone, and the community responded in style as participants laced up their trainers and came together to showcase Jersey's vibrant spirit.

2026's race was a celebration of the island's energy and scenic beauty, as children and adults (and even a few four-legged friends) brought infectious enthusiasm and embraced the inclusive joy of the day, complete with face painters, furry mascots and a special guest appearance from Olympic superstar Jonny Brownlee.

Launched by RBC in 2009, RBC Race for the Kids has grown into a worldwide initiative with 17 family fun runs across the globe, more than 525,000 participants and over £60 million raised for youth charities. Jersey's race is a proud part of that story, raising funds for Jersey Child Care Trust (JCCT), the charity working to give every child on the island the best possible start in life.

This year's event built on a remarkable return to Jersey in 2025 – and across the last two years, almost £100,000 has been raised for JCCT, representing vital funds to support the charity that has a vision to create a transformational Early Years Centre of Excellence.

David Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, RBC Wealth Management, said, "We're incredibly grateful to everyone who took part in this year's event. RBC Race for the Kids is a global initiative, but its impact is felt locally. For us, it's about giving back to the community we call home – raising funds for Jersey Child Care Trust and bringing people together in a way that makes a real, lasting difference for children and families on the island."

"This year's event built on a remarkable return to Jersey in 2025 – and across the last two years, almost £100,000 has been raised for JCCT"

Fiona Vacher, CEO of Jersey Child Care Trust, said, "Days like this remind us what's possible when a community comes together. Every step taken on the day and every pound raised helps JCCT support the children and families who need it most."

Held ahead of the Supertri Pro Series Final, the race has become a standout moment of the Supertri weekend – a celebration not just of sport, but of the community spirit that defines Jersey.

rbcrftkjersey.com





A Bigger, Stronger Active Community

Welcoming AquaSplash to the Active Family

Words: AquaSplash

For existing members of both Active and AquaSplash, this transition opens the door to a wider range of facilities, activities and opportunities than ever before. By bringing together AquaSplash's outstanding aquatic offer with Active's extensive fitness and wellbeing network, we are creating a more connected and flexible experience that better meets the needs of our community and supports our mission to provide islanders with accessible, well-balanced sports and leisure facilities that inspire everyone to lead healthier, more active lives.

For AquaSplash members, joining the Active family means access to a broader range of facilities and activities beyond the pool. Whether it's gym workouts, fitness classes, health programmes or recreational activities, members will now have more choice in how they stay active and achieve their personal wellbeing goals. It is an opportunity to complement regular swimming sessions with new experiences that support overall fitness, strength and wellness.

At the same time, existing Active members will gain significant benefits through access to AquaSplash's aquatic facilities in St Helier. Swimming remains one of the most accessible and effective forms of exercise, suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. The addition of AquaSplash's aquatic offering creates even more opportunities for members to diversify their exercise routines, improve their health and enjoy the social benefits that come from participating in community activities.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of this transition is the introduction of an expanded and more flexible membership structure. Today's members want choice, convenience and value, and the new membership options have been designed with exactly that in mind. Whether you are a dedicated swimmer, a fitness enthusiast who enjoys a variety of activities, or someone taking the first steps on their wellness journey, there will be a membership option tailored to suit your lifestyle and needs.

For new members considering joining Active, there has never been a better time to get involved. The enhanced membership offer provides access to an even greater range of facilities, activities and services, all delivered under one trusted brand. Instead of choosing between fitness and aquatic activities, members can enjoy the benefits of both, providing greater value and more opportunities to stay engaged and motivated throughout the year.

Importantly, this transition is about more than facilities and memberships. It reflects a continued investment in the health, wellbeing and social connection of our community. Physical activity plays a vital role in improving both physical and mental health, and by expanding access to high-quality facilities and programmes, we are making it easier for people to find activities they enjoy and can sustain for the long term.

Swimming remains one of the most accessible and effective forms of exercise, suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels.

As we prepare to welcome AquaSplash into the Active family, we do so with great enthusiasm for what lies ahead. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive and more active community, offering greater choice, greater value and greater opportunities for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming existing and new members alike as we embark on this exciting new journey together.

The future of Active has never looked brighter.

active.je











CORE VALUES
The Pilates Paradox

Words: Amelia Cousins

Pilates has never been more visible, yet the people doing it couldn't be more different. Once associated primarily with rehabilitation and niche fitness circles, Pilates has quietly become one of Jersey's most visible wellness trends. Sit in on a class in Jersey and try to guess why each person is there. You'll mostly be wrong.

At TLC, the person on the next reformer might be coming back from an injury. At Ouen, someone has fitted a class in between meetings and will be back at their desk before anyone notices. At ReformHER, women are there to feel strong and, often, sure of themselves. At Freedom Physiotherapy, the same movements sit inside a treatment plan. And somewhere on the island is someone who has found the only hour in their week when nobody expects anything from them. The Pilates method was built for two of those jobs. Joseph Pilates, a German physical trainer, developed it in the early twentieth century around strength, control and rehabilitation, and some of that work is said to have happened while he was interned on the Isle of Man during the First World War. The tale that he built the first reformer from hospital bed springs is repeated everywhere yet remains unproven. The purpose, however, is not in doubt: getting bodies working again.

Calm, company and confidence weren't in the original brief. Yet ClassPass reported Pilates as its most-booked workout for a third year running in 2025.

My theory is that people sign up for a stronger core or better posture, and stay for entirely different reasons. Pilates has become a catch-all solution to a surprising number of modern problems. Some people find strength; others find routine, self-belief, community or simply a break from being needed. The rest of this article is me testing that theory on Jersey.

Playing the Long Game

Fitness used to sell a different you. Lose the weight, change the shape, look like the after photo. What people are increasingly asking for now is closer to a still-functioning you, but in ten, twenty or thirty years' time.

On an island where the share of over-65s rose from 14.8% to 18.1% in a decade, that question is less abstract than it sounds.

The studios are seeing this too. At Freedom Physiotherapy, posture is usually the first thing to improve, then balance and stability, and their clients now span a much wider range of ages than they used to. Pilates also develops muscles that tend to be neglected in other kinds of exercise, which makes it a useful addition for people who already train. TLC says Pilates is no longer something people only turn to after an injury. They come asking about getting stronger, staying mobile and ageing well. Ouen hears a similar wish for exercise that can keep up as life changes, rather than something people outgrow.

Preservation is a strange thing to sell, because success looks like nothing happening. There is no dramatic before and after, only the absence of decline, and it works only if you keep turning up. That may be why studios talk more about routine than results.

An Hour to Exhale

You would expect an island nine miles by five to have time to spare. In the 2025 Jersey Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, a quarter of adults counted as "very time poor", short of time for family, friends and hobbies. Only 46% of them met the recommended activity levels in a typical week, against 67% of those who felt they had enough. Jersey's short distances don't seem to have bought much slack.

Meanwhile, attention gets fragmented all day: phone, inbox, work, family. Pilates is unusual among things people do to unwind because it can't be done while thinking about something else. If you lose track of your ribs or your pelvis, the movement stops working. For fifty minutes, your attention has one job.

Ouen sees a lot of this. Jersey residents often juggle demanding jobs, family life and full diaries, and Vanessa, who works in both the corporate world and the studio, sees it from both sides. What people increasingly want, Ouen finds, is exercise that feels restorative rather than punishing. ReformHER makes a related point: we are more digitally connected than ever, yet real presence has become rarer.

I wouldn't claim more than that. An hour of full attention is not a treatment for burnout. It is simply an hour that most people no longer get anywhere else.

The New Shape of Wellness

It is easy to file Pilates under Instagram: the aesthetic studios, the coordinated outfits, the sunrise class. Social media surely brought people through the door. Staying is a different matter, because nobody keeps paying for a backdrop.

Presentation does matter, though. ReformHER is clear that its clients increasingly want an experience rather than just a workout, and that atmosphere and setting are part of it. But what they say they want is confidence, strength and wellbeing, not a particular look, and Pilates gives them a challenge they can keep coming back to.

The older, harsher model is worth remembering. Previous eras of fitness ran on transformation and a fair amount of penance: a smaller body for some, a bigger one for others, and either way burn it off, earn it, undo the weekend. It may also have put some people off. In Jersey, only 54% of adults meet the recommended weekly activity levels, so a format people can repeat without dreading it may be a way back in for the rest.

The vocabulary now is energy, balance, sleep, recovery, strength and longevity. The mirror used to be the judge. These days it's more likely to be how you slept, and whether you can get through a busy week.



The Bit Between the Exercises

The sociologist Ray Oldenburg gave a name to somewhere that is neither home nor work: the third place. The pub, the café, the church hall, anywhere you can turn up regularly without an invitation. Many of the traditional ones have thinned out, and in Jersey the share of adults who socialise rarely or never doubled from 6% in 2018 to 12% in 2025.

That is odd on an island where everyone seems to be somebody's neighbour, colleague or cousin. My guess is that being known everywhere is not the same as having somewhere you can simply turn up, without having to keep up appearances.

Studios have started to fill that gap. ReformHER's Beach Pilates events regularly draw large groups, friendships form through classes, and many people find the studio through word of mouth. The plan for a coffee space alongside ReformHER's studio says a lot: the time after class matters as much as the class. TLC's clients value being known personally, the relationships that build with instructors over time, and having somewhere welcoming to turn up without having to be anything in particular.

To be frank, none of this makes Pilates communities special. A running club or a choir could tell the same story. The point is that wellness spaces are picking up social work that used to be done elsewhere.

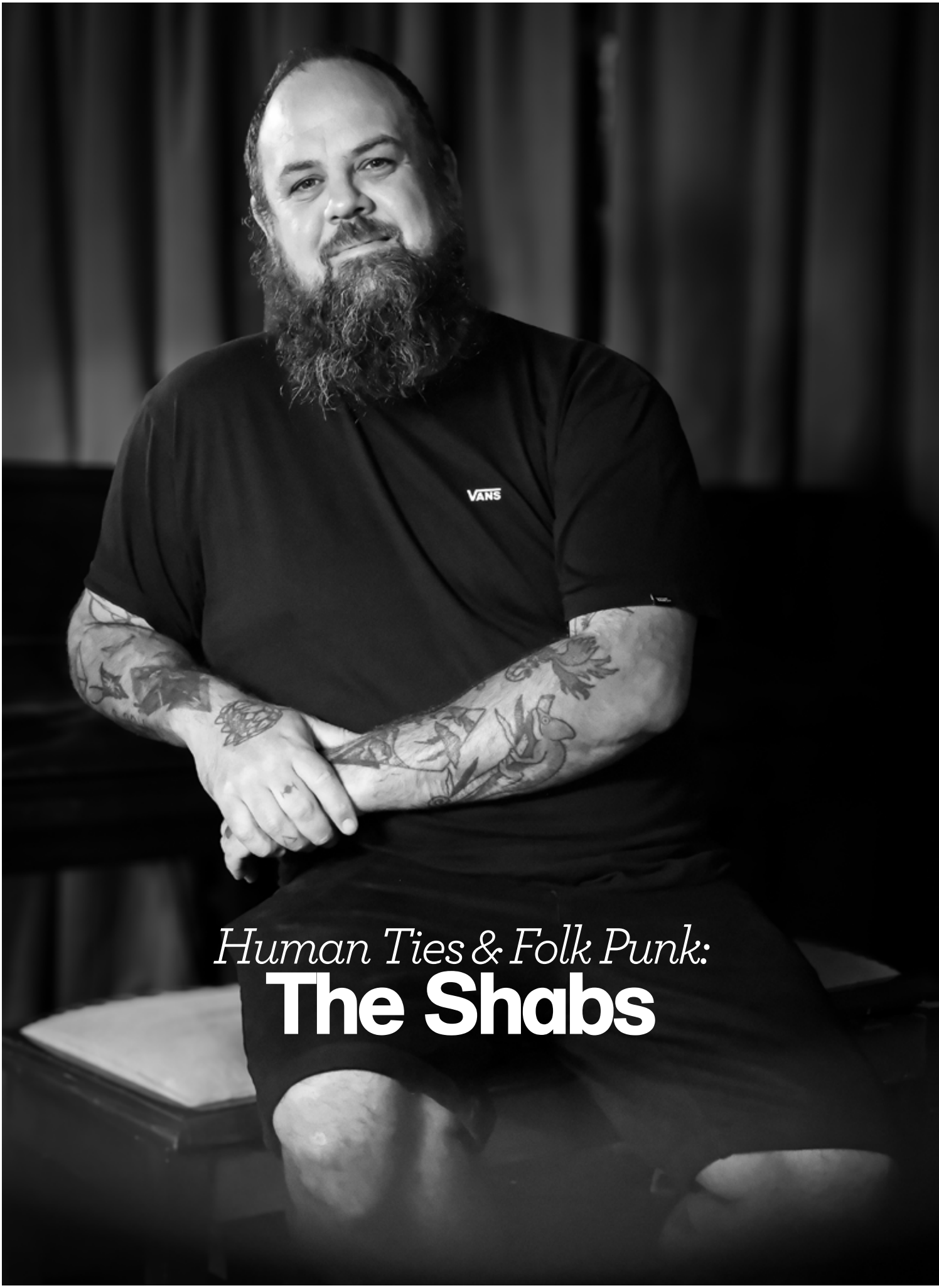
Why Pilates, Why Now?

Pilates works in Jersey because it has never insisted on being one thing. Running promises a 5k and a diet promises a number on the scales. Pilates promises a practice, and each person decides what it's for.

People arrive for rehabilitation, strength, mobility, confidence, calm or company, and often discover that what keeps them coming is not what brought them through the door in the first place.

Which may be why Pilates has settled so deeply into Jersey life. Not because islanders are obsessed with fitness, but because it answers several of the questions modern life keeps asking at once. How do I stay well for longer? How do I improve my health without punishing myself? Where do I find community? How do I carve out an hour that belongs entirely to me?

Pilates is not the only answer to those questions. It just happens to answer all of them at once.



Human Ties & Folk Punk:

The Shabs

Words: Daisy Taylor [o] **Photography:** Kasia Guzik

When I initially considered the theme of 'Value' for this edition of Gallery, I wrestled with the contradiction of subjecting music to being weighed in terms of a numerical value or rating. But that's because I was broaching the theme with the wrong comprehension of how it could and should be applied to music. But when I spoke to Jon Shaban, the lead vocalist of The Shabs, 'Value' felt like one of the most significant themes so far.

Originally hailing from Cape Town, South Africa, The Shabs traverse the folk-punk genre, with the fluidity to perform as just a trio or stacked out as a five-piece outfit. The band is composed of lead vocalist and guitarist Jon, bassist and vocalist Ry, drummer Chris, guitarist Dale, and vocalist Lauren. I spoke to lead vocalist Jon about the story of The Shabs, his career as a music professional, and the value of human connection crafted through music.

Having grown up within Cape Town's alternative rock/punk scene, it only makes sense that The Shabs' sound is derivative of those early alternative influences. Dabbling in live performance, and having started bands in high school, Jon found himself in a band that gigged for twelve to thirteen years, ultimately achieving moderate success at festivals and with radio play. But the biggest success was keeping the connection with bassist Ry, as the pair went on to found The Shabs. Jon outlines that: 'we've been playing music together for 25 years, we lived together and then The Shabs kind of naturally happened after that'. Starting The Shabs over 15 years ago, a large chunk of that time has been spent touring, mainly South Africa, and then branching out into Europe and the UK. Since starting out, the band has faced massive changes and life events, all the while grasping on to what can only be coined as a healthy obsession with making and performing music. After starting out in Cape Town, the band's diaspora now stretches across the UK and the Channel Islands, with live shows frequented in Guernsey, London and now Jersey. Jon speaks about the prospect of live shows in Jersey with excitement, optimism, and eagerness to delve into Jersey's 'brand new market' of fans.

Lockdown was a pivotal moment for the arc of The Shabs. 'COVID happened while we were on tour in Europe, we had to bail out of Germany to get back to South Africa as quickly as possible'. Ditching the rental car on the side of the road, and making the conscious choice to leave behind Ry's upright bass (to avoid travel without a sufficient case), The Shabs made it back to South Africa ahead of an intense lockdown. 'For a year we didn't have the upright bass, which meant the natural progression of the band was that we became more electric- it was the only option we had'. Taking songs that had been written acoustically and rearranging them for electric instruments, not only made a fun progression, but henceforth influenced the course of The Shabs' evolution in the years to come. Whilst still living in Cape Town, Jon ran his own music studio, record label and shop, whilst also working as a sound engineer. With the freedom of a studio at their fingertips, The Shabs utilised lockdown to produce their new album 'Half Dead'. Under a time crunch, as band members started to look at moving abroad, it was crucial to ensure all tracks were laid down while everyone was still in close proximity. In the years to follow there were some major life changes for The Shabs, for Jon the choice was made to pitch the sale of his business to a bigger Johannesburg label that he had previously partnered with. Inevitably this alleviated a lot of the strain imposed by COVID, but also meant that Jon could look at moving abroad, following Ry's move to the UK. And finally, after years of upheaval, relocation and change, the moment for 'Half Dead' finally took hold early this year, with the album officially released on the 11th of April. A long time coming, and yet totally worth the wait.

Since starting out, The Shabs' sound and songwriting has undergone immense waves of evolution. Rooted in the acoustic realms of folk punk, the band's original sound was heavily influenced by Jon's acoustic guitar paired with Ry's upright bass, which he was imminently preparing to study at University. Through additional instruments including drums, accordion and extra vocals, they landed on the sound that comprised their 2016 debut album. As Jon explains, from that point on: 'it just got a bit faster, more punk, as we added in more distortion'. While the sound of The Shabs has continued to shift throughout the years, one thing that hasn't changed is their mindset on songwriting. 'To me the lyrics are the most important part of a song. My favourite music in my life has always been because I relate or resonate with the lyrics, and it hits me in that way'. Therefore, it's no surprise that The Shabs make a conscious effort of crafting lyrics that are emotionally provocative, compassionate, and fuelled by real experience: 'our music is very human, it's raw and it's human and it's honest- we sing about things like mental health, and feeling lonely and trying your best as a person, often people resonate with that'.

I asked Jon if he would consider himself a perfectionist –especially having worked as a music professional throughout the course of his life– and his response was striking to me: 'this might not be a popular opinion among musicians but I don't do this for me, as much as I do it for other people: who am I to decide that my song isn't good?' To me, this acutely exemplifies the inherent meaning of value in regards to music. Value in music is subjective to each individual listener, and every listener absorbs and interacts with music in a different way, forming unique perceptions and connections. For The Shabs the message they aim to deliver isn't just through their recorded music, but more predominantly through their live shows- 'we've always been a band that engages with our fans in a much more organic and natural way, and our live shows are very much the way that we do that'. There's no question that live shows provide an important space for The Shabs to establish a deeper connection with their audience, but I would argue that touring is equally as significant for the band itself, allowing them to reconnect with old friends, forge new relationships, and maintain the sense of community they have worked so hard to cultivate. 'We've always been a band that tries our best to engage with our audience at the shows and after the shows- hanging out, making friends, maintaining relationships'.

The Shabs have spent the last ten plus years weathering the storms of everyday life, and deriving their peace from creating and performing music with their best friends. As a DIY band fuelled by real human emotion and connection, existing in a climate increasingly saturated by AI and an endless stream of content, The Shabs continue to prosper with their morals intact and their purpose held close. And that's how I'd sum up value in music: not in a number or a measurement of success, but instead as the ability to tie people together. As Jon puts it: 'I just know that I can go to sleep at night knowing that what we are saying and doing is bringing positivity into the world, and that will never get old, and never get drowned out. You'll always be able to connect with people on that level. That's the core of why we exist and how we do it. We'll just continue trying our best to try and do that.'



PAPARAZZI
















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Illustrations: Ryan Thomas







Greg had found the perfect shell for listening to the ocean, but the waves at St. Ouen were breaking too loudly to hear it.



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