

THE SARK NEWSPAPER

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IS SARK SEEING THE
FIRST SHOOTS OF AN
ECONOMIC RECOVERY?

INITIATIVE TO REPOPULATE THE ISLAND SHOWS PEOPLE ARE WAKING UP TO JUST HOW UNIQUE SARK IS IN A TROUBLED AND OFTEN DANGEROUS WORLD

Further to the national and international coverage of local resident Swen Lorenz's campaign to increase the number of Sark residents, this publication can report that Sark Estate Agents in the Avenue has been inundated with enquiries from individuals requesting information about relocating to Sark. Could this initiative be the catalyst for the beginning of Sark's long-awaited economic recovery? All indications are that this is not just another of the numerous false dawns that have come and gone in recent years. This has all of the hallmarks of the real deal.

However, one man's opinion, regardless of how persuasive, cannot be solely responsible for the current surge in optimism that is to be found in many quarters both on and off Sark. The prospect of Sark moving from a decade of economic decline toward a period of economic growth has been on the horizon for some time now. The bold actions of one Islander, Swen Lorenz, in going out and spreading the message far and wide has awoken in the people of Sark a belief that we really are on the cusp of a long-overdue economic revival that will attract a whole new generation of Islanders to Sark.

Lorenz has, in many ways, been very fortunate. He has seen the opportunity and seized the moment. The coronavirus pandemic highlighted much of what is unique about Sark. The Island



simply closed its borders to the rest of the world and kept the virus at bay. As a result, Sark did not have a single infection of COVID-19, let alone a death. We live in a troubled and often dangerous world, a world that has far from seen the last of coronavirus. Sark has proven that it offers a safe haven for individuals looking to shelter themselves and their families from the current pandemic, as well as any number of as yet unknown dangers that may lie ahead. Swen Lorenz could not have had a greater launch pad for his initiative to attract 500 new residents to Sark.

His initiative has been greatly helped by receiving the endorsement of Sark's Seigneur, Major Christopher Beaumont. Since his succession in July 2016, he has been an outspoken advocate of the need to repopulate the Island, stating his views publicly on several occasions. As early as December 2017, whilst addressing the Sark Chamber of Commerce, he expressed a view that, in respect of population numbers:

"It would be better for all of us if we were between 750 and 800. I don't think that we could sustain more than about 1,000. I don't think that we have got enough water on the Island, but there is no reason why it shouldn't get higher. It would be good for all of us."

Christopher Beaumont has been a great promoter of engagement and inclusion since his arrival on the Island. As a result, many are looking at Sark through a fresh pair of eyes, acknowledging

many of the challenges ahead, whilst at the same time focusing on the many positives that are slowly but surely materialising. It is not hard to see how Swen Lorenz has come to the conclusion that there could be no better time than now to launch his repopulation initiative.

Land and property values in Sark are at a historic low. It

Possibly Western Europe's best jurisdiction to live in

Sark is the small island I call home.

It's located in the English Channel and famous for a whole number of things, including (but not limited to):

- Smallest independent state of the British Commonwealth.
- Independently governed as a "Crown dependency" since 1565.
- A democratic government that is run by a local parliament.
- Hereditary head of state, the Seigneur.
- Only 5.5 square kilometres.
- Just 400 residents.
- Cars are banned.

<https://www.swen-lorenz.com/blog/sark-a-unique-lifestyle-opportunity/>

is estimated that in real terms prices have dropped by in excess of 40% over the past decade. However, all indicators are that prices have finally bottomed out. There may never be a better time than now to invest in land or property on Sark; a point that Lorenz misses no time in highlighting to his prospective incomers.

The opportunity to buy in at the bottom of the market will last for only a very short time. Land reform will shortly be enacted, perhaps as early as the Michaelmas meeting of Chief Pleas on the 30th September 2020. This will create a huge stimulus for the morose Sark housing market. Legal advice and analysis sought by this publication confirms that:

'The key change which the Land Reform (Sark) 2019 Law introduces is the right of the owner of an existing Sark tenement or freehold to sub-divide his or her land and either sell that portion of land or gift it by will.

Until now this has not been possible, surprising as that might seem. The original reasons were historical and everything to do with populating and defending Sark in ways which are no longer relevant. The right to sub-divide land will take effect in Sark law when the 2019 Law comes into force, which will require an ordinance from Chief Pleas. It is this ordinance which will probably flesh out how the new system is to work, for example how sub-divided portions of land are to be identified and how other rights relating to land are to be dealt with; but this is detail.

It is implicit that the sub-divided tenement, or freehold land, becomes freehold land in its own right, with all the rights and obligations which go with ownership of freehold land.

The other key change is that you will also be able to borrow money on the security of Sark real property. It is implicit that this includes the ability to borrow against newly created freehold land holdings.'

Land reform is set to be a key enabler to Sark's economic recovery, but it is far from being the only one.

The advent of coronavirus has set in motion a whole new approach to traditional working patterns. Having been forced to work from home, many are questioning why they need to commute to and from the office each day when they can work just as well, and, in most cases, more efficiently from their own homes. Indeed, many major companies are now positively encouraging their employees to stay at home and never return to the office.

Sark has excellent broadband speeds making living and working from a home on the Island as much of a practicality as that of living and working from a home anywhere in the world. We have a wholly reliable 24 hours a day, 365 days a year electricity supply, something that most small islands could only dream of.

The recent purchase of a new passenger ferry by the Island's 100% state-owned Isle of Sark Shipping Company will see the current journey time between Guernsey and Sark reduced by some 35% to a little over



30 minutes. In any other jurisdiction such an improvement in connectivity would be heralded as a quantum leap, here in Sark, up until recently, the subject has barely been commented upon. You can be sure that the ever-improving sea links is something that Swen Lorenz will have lost no time in highlighting to his subscribers.

There are other key indicators that all point to the fact that Sark's years of economic decline are set to come to an end and, indeed, the rebuilding of the economy is underway.

The Island's dairy project has now moved from the drawing board and is underway with a ceremonial 'breaking of the bank' last Saturday, see full coverage on pages 8 and 9.

An application to build a golf course on Le Grand Beauregard is imminent, see pages 6 and 7.

Sark is set to get a new private members club, see page 7.

The largest municipal contract in years, a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse, is on target for completion by the end of the year. This will deliver a much-needed facility for Sark's farmers and will ensure that livestock will be reared and grazed across Sark for generations to come.

Each of these on their own may, to outsiders, appear of be of little economic benefit to Sark, but on an Island of less than 390 year-round residents they represent the green shoots of a potential economic recovery. Once underway that recovery will only be sustainable if Sark comes together to repopulate the Island along the lines set out by Swen Lorenz and endorsed by our Seigneur, Major Christopher Beaumont.

A NEW ORDER VIEW OF LIFE IN SARK IN 2020

The *Sark Society* initiative launched by resident Islander Swen Lorenz and endorsed by Sark's Seigneur Major Christopher Beaumont has continued to gather momentum. In doing so, it has created more positive publicity for Sark in the past 10 days than the Island has received in the past decade. Lorenz presents Sark as 'The European, English-speaking microstate where you can live free from excessive taxation and government regulation, without fear of violent crime or terrorism, but instead with beautiful scenery and people who share the same old-fashioned values.'

He lists on his website many of the benefits of being a Sark resident; an annual one-page tax declaration form, no income tax, no capital gains tax, no inheritance tax and no welfare-driven third-world immigration. It may, on the face of it, sound too good to be true. However, on Saturday morning two recent arrivals to Sark spoke to BBC Radio Guernsey's Rory O'Reilly to explain why they chose to relocate to the Island and how they have found the reality of life on Sark.



Rory O'Reilly

Andrew Boast who runs a conveyancing company used the service to relocate from the UK in October with his wife Claudine. He says there isn't a huge amount of information out there for people making the move by themselves."



Andrew Boast

value for that for someone that is going to move home.

"A Berkshire couple who've moved to Sark through a new relocation service says that there is a lack of readily available information about the island. German entrepreneur Swen Lorenz has set up 'Sark Society', a website which offers personalised portfolios, with information on moving to the island, from utilities to schools. Andrew Boast who runs a conveyancing company used the service to relocate from the UK in October with his wife Claudine. He says there isn't a huge amount of information out there for people making the move by themselves."

"Originally, before asking each one of my questions, I tried Googling it. I am a fairly tech-savvy, online entrepreneur and I couldn't find it readily available and some of the websites aren't up to date, whereas having all of the information in one area, indexed with his own little Sark mini-Google; I can see a huge

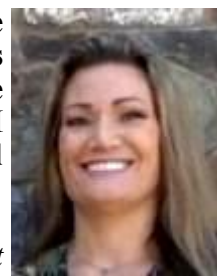
I was based in Berkshire, in a little village called Ascot and I run an online business. We help clients to move home, offering a conveyancing service through SAM Conveyancing. It is in essence, an online business with a 'bricks and mortar' call centre to help all of our clients."

"And when did you first hear about this 'Sark Society'?"

"Well, I'm lucky, because Swen was a friend. So, the Sark Society was being built using us a guinea pigs, because he was our friend. So, the 250-page document to help people move over here, I kind of just had it on tap from Swen. But it's so invaluable to have had because none it was written down anywhere else, that I could easily find. So, it made my life super easy. I don't really have the time for all the nitty-gritty detail. Swen filled in all the gaps for us."

"And Claudine tell me, were you ambivalent or were you sceptical of the service or even the idea, of moving to a relatively unknown island in the middle of the English Channel?"

"Well, I was until I came here and saw how beautiful it was and, after we had been out here a couple of times on holiday, I could picture us being here, and the rest of it came together."



Claudine Boast

"And, Andrew, talk to me about the actual service and this 250-page binder; what's in it? What does it actually include?"

"So, I can only really comment on the knowledge that I know that Swen has, on the logistics of moving here. I actually didn't get a ring binder or pay Swen for this service. So, all I know is that, when I moved here, back in October, I had every base covered. But I had that via Swen being my friend and being able to tell me, all the different things that I needed to do when I moved into being a resident here on Sark."

"So, you were basically the free trial before he actually rolled it out?"

"Yes, I can imagine that he was busy making

notes because I'm the perfect FAQ. There are questions when you move house because I answer these questions for my clients in my business. But the logistics of moving home to an overseas, smaller island where the utilities are different, the community's different, the commute is different; having an inside track into that, is invaluable!"

"And obviously, Swen's service works because you are his first success story. When did you first move over to Sark and what were your initial impressions? Now I know you had obviously been on holiday there but what were your impressions from a standpoint that this is your move, this is your home now?"

"So, let me start with this one, because I was slower to come on board, Claudine loved the idea. The house we are in is beautiful. We overlook the sea. I've moved two or three times in my life, and I like to nest in and grow roots and get comfortable. So, the first few months for me were an adjustment. But it's like anything, and then what we see and where we are, since the beginning of March, since COVID-19; the horrific circumstances that outside our Bailiwick have been in. How lucky we've been, and how well managed it's been in the Bailiwick for our health. All that we never knew before we came to Sark. So, we feel very, very lucky, and also now, I've fallen in love with Sark. It's like my roots are well and truly dug in."

"Claudine, so what's the reception been like from the locals? I mean, it's not every day that a young couple moves across to the island. Did they welcome you with open arms? What was it like?"

"Well, initially, I think that we were perceived as visitors, because we were just visitors. Once the community realised that we were here, and here to stay, and they saw us out every day, jogging the paths and trail running, enjoying the beautiful aspects of Sark, and popping in and out of the coffee places and things like that; then they were incredibly welcoming. They were interested in why we'd moved. There's a really fantastic sense of Victorian England community here, where, once your face is known, if you don't have your purse with you that day, you can pay for your coffee tomorrow. It's just a really, really beautiful, trusting community, which I didn't feel I had back in the UK."

"No doubt; a different world entirely. Finally, what sort of advice would you have for anyone thinking of giving 'Sark Society' a go and looking into the idea of relocating to Sark?"

"Well, first of all, I'd say come and visit the place! If you don't fall in love with it, I would be surprised, but enjoy the views, come and speak to the people, have a look at Swen's website. I say that because there is so much information about what's available here and make the move! Take the leap!"



Sark Estate Agents, established in 1970, offers an unrivalled wealth of experience in all aspects and types of property purchase within the island. We are resident on the island to help with every facet of your island move and aim to provide all the information and contacts necessary for a long and successful relocation.



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APPLICATION FOR GOLF COURSE ON LE GRAND BEAUREGARD IMMINENT

Further evidence that Sark is seeing the first shoots of an economic recovery comes with news that, 20 years after having first being approved, work to the Le Grand Beauregard Golf Course is set to commence this winter.

Development & Control

Alan Blythe (Chairman)
Simon Couldridge (Deputy Chairman)
Paul Williams
Christopher Drillot

An application will be submitted to the current Development & Control Committee in early October, with a view to works getting

underway once the application is approved. It is difficult to see how this will be anything more than a formality given that the plans and specifications will be very similar to those passed in 2000 by the Development Control Committee which was, at the time, chaired by the late Seigneur Michael Beaumont. This is an initiative that is supported by his son, the current Seigneur of Sark, Major Christopher Beaumont. When asked publicly for his views on the course he declared:



"I think that it's a brilliant idea; any draw for people additional to the natural beauty and the surroundings of Sark is a good thing because not everyone wants to sit on the coast and go 'ooh, that looks nice', all of the time, so I am in favour. I believe that there is planning permission? There is planning permission; all you need to do is build it!"

Le Grand Beauregard golf course was the brain-child of the late Lawrence de Carteret and his close friend Colin Teers. 20 years on from their successful application to build the course attitudes have changed a little, particularly in respect of environmental concerns. The new application will make allowances for this by ensuring that the entire course remains available for the grazing of sheep, ensuring that a minimal of pastoral land is lost in the building of the course. The construction of the course will take full advantage of the natural contours of the land across Le Grand Beauregard tenement. All work will be undertaken using local Sark labour, giving a much-needed short-term boost to the Island's building / landscape gardening sectors.

There is nothing new in the concept of a golf course for Sark. In 1967 the Island of Sark com-



The Beauregard Golf Course as approved in 2000 by the Development Committee chaired by the late Seigneur, Michael Beaumont.

missioned the Jellicoe Report. Jellicoe, a prominent architect at the time, determined just what the Island needed to do to maintain its cultural landscape, the health of its environment and its attractions as a tourist destination. He recommended, amongst many other things, that an Island-wide plan be agreed and that these measures be taken to safeguard the future of Sark's tourism:

- A new hotel of international standard adjoining Beauregard and overlooking Havre Gosselin is suggested.
- A nine-hole golf course between the Pilcher monument and Dixcart Bay, is debated.

Barring any obstructions from the Development Control Committee, the course will be opened in June 2022. In the meantime, a website will shortly be launched to allow prospective members of Le Grand Beauregard Golf Club to purchase an option to join the club. A new golf course always attracts huge interest from the golfing fraternity, with very high monetary values placed on low digit membership card numbers such as 001 and 007 to name just a few. It is only a matter of when, not if, residents and visitors alike will be playing golf in Sark. For current Islanders and the new wave of incomers, that day cannot come soon enough.

SARK CAN EMULATE THE SUCCESS OF OTHER ISLAND GOLF CLUBS

Golf clubs that take every advantage of the natural terrain without impacting on the local wildlife or fauna are far from uncommon in Island communities. The Isle of Harris is a prime example of how a golf course can bring economic prosperity, whilst at the same time maintaining the Island's natural beauty. The club's website spells out the benefits it brings to the Island:



'The Isle of Harris Golf Club plays an integral part in promoting the island of Harris as a top quality holiday destination for golfers and non-golfers alike. The natural surroundings are breath-taking and this coupled with the extensive birdlife, wildlife, unique culture, music, language and arts makes Harris a much sought after destination for the discerning tourist.'



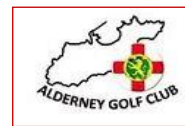
<http://www.harrisgolf.com/>



Our own neighbouring Island of Guernsey has several golf courses, foremost of which is the 18-hole L'Ancrese course. Founded as an artisan golf club in 1895, it takes full advantage of the scenic coastal views and undulating natural beauty of the environment. In common with the proposed Grand Beauregard golf course, parts of the land at L'Ancrese is grazed by sheep ensuring that the pastoral landscape exists in unison with this much valued Guernsey asset.



<http://lancresegolfclub.com/>



Our smaller neighbouring Island of Alderney also has its own 9-hole golf course offering the opportunity to play whilst enjoying impressive views across the Channel and Braye Beach.

<https://www.alderneygolfclub.com/>

A PRIVATE MEMBERS CLUB FOR SARK

The Sark Newspaper is reliably informed of plans to open a private members club in Sark. Premises have been identified by the founder members and an approach has been made to the owners of the property with a view to taking occupation later on in the year. The founder members are believed to currently be in the process of formulating a general overview of how the club will be run, a dress code, opening times and terms and conditions of membership.

This publication understands that the club will follow the tradition of private members clubs in London and further afield and will insist on members booking in advance before visiting the club, whilst at the same time providing details of any guests that they wish to bring along. Membership will be subject to being nominated and accepted by the club's chairman and committee members. Membership fees are yet to be agreed.

PRIVATE CLUB
Members & Guests Only

A dress code, although not overly formal, will be enforced to uphold the spirit of the club and members will be expected to be suitably dressed at all times. Members of staff will prohibit access to the club to any member or guest who is unsuitably dressed.

The founding members claim to be seeking to create a high-end club where members can relax and enjoy a tea or coffee or a drink from the bar in an elegant five-star luxury environment. The bar is expected to be stocked with a selection of fine wines and spirits. A heated and covered designated smoking area is thought to be a priority, allowing members to enjoy a cigarette or a cigar in comfort.

An announcement from the founding members, providing full details of this new private members club, can be expected in the coming weeks.

SARK DAIRY TRUST SET TO PLAY ROLE IN BUILDING: 'A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SARK'

RICHARD AXTON

'Breaching the bank' last Saturday marked the start of work to build a dairy farm in Clos du Milieu (aka 'Horseshow Field'). The new field entrance from Rue de la Moinerie will become the cows' crossing into their pastures south and west of the lane. Saturday's simple earth-moving ceremony also marked the first anniversary of Sark Community Dairy Charitable Trust. This was set up, after two years research and planning, to secure the future of sustainable dairy farming in Sark. More self-sufficiency will benefit the community and make the island more attractive to holidaymakers in a competitive world.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown up the urgent need for enterprise projects to stimulate a stalled economy and to develop a sustainable network of employment. The Trust's project is showing the way.

WHY DO WE NEED A DAIRY?

Till three years ago, for over 30 years Sark had a viable commercial dairy. Lack of secure land tenure, family circumstances, obsolete facilities, decline in visitor numbers, subsidised milk imported from Guernsey – all these factors contributed to the closure. It soon became clear that a new dairy would need private funding and a new kind of co-operation between farmers and land-owners. Conditions shifted favourably as Guernsey's withdrawal of dairy subsidies raised the cost of milk imported to Sark. Then, when Sark adopted new food hygiene regulations post-Brexit, this opened up the possibility of dairy-based exports and made a new dairy business more viable.

WHY DO WE NEED A TRUST?

Sark has meagre reserves and little tradition of public investment for the future. It's greatly to the credit of the Chief Pleas that it had the vision to fund a new abattoir: a state-of-the-art facility built by local tradesmen, that will enable Sark-reared meat to be exported in the bailiwick and



beyond. This is an important expression of confidence in the future of animal husbandry in Sark. Rearing cows and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry – all need supportive infrastructure: a public facility that covers its running costs. Visitors expect local produce and that's a great story for Sark's tourist economy.

Plenty of experienced dairy farmers, responding to a BBC podcast, wanted to live in Sark and run an artisanal dairy selling direct to local customers. But none could afford the capital costs of the set-up. Returns from a dairy business that served Sark's needs could not repay that amount of debt. But, if a

Trust shoulders the capital cost of land and buildings, securing dairy production for the future by owning the farm on behalf of the community, there will always be farmers keen to run the dairy business as tenants.

Rent paid to the Trust, over and above its maintenance obligations, can be used to support Sark farming more widely and to preserve a unique historic landscape. There is no question of running subsidies; this is an investment in valuable infrastructure

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

The Trust has secured from the Seigneur a central 'home site' and three fields on a 50-year lease. Land totaling 40 acres has generously been pledged on peppercorn rents by a further four public-spirited owners; this is just enough acreage for a starter herd of 16 milkers. Some fields are already growing feed crops for the new herd. Calves not needed for dairy can be reared in Sark's beef herd by swap arrangements such as Sark farmers have used for years. Working together, all the participants benefit, more job opportunities are created, and the landscape is revitalized. Visitors will realise there is more to Sark than a couple of beaches and the Avenue. The story of self-sufficiency strengthens the story of independence.

PEOPLE

Finding the right people has been key to everything. Among 80 applicants worldwide Jason and Katharine Salisbury stood out. After meeting in Cambridge, where Katharine studied veterinary medicine and Jason managed the University dairy herd, they settled in Suffolk, managed and then bought a small herd of Guernseys, to create their own dairy business on a derelict pig farm. Their prize-winning herd of 16 grew five-fold to support their delicious and highly regarded 'Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses.' With 20 years' experience and two teenagers in further (agricultural) education, the Salisburys are still under 50. They already know Sark. They'll bring passion and a well-founded belief in the future of small-scale dairy farming.

In January the Trust got planning permission for a timber-clad farm building to house animals, milking parlour and dairy processing areas. Technical plans have been drawn up by consulting engineer John Robinson, working *pro bono publico* (as he has for Sark's new abattoir). The specialist skills learned by Sark builders on that project will be applied in construction of the dairy processing.

BUILDING

Tenders for the work from Sark builders are currently under scrutiny. Excavation of the site in Clos du Milieu is planned to begin by September 2020, so that the shell building can be up by November and fitted out by April 2021 for hand-over to the farmers. In spite of delays and difficulties thrown up by the pandemic, the tenants' hand-picked Guernsey cows will arrive to calve from the end of May 2021 and there will be daily milk and cream for sale during most of the visitor season.



The 'breaching of the bank' which took place on Saturday 15th August 2020.



An impression of how the dairy building will look.

THE IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE FUNDING

Once excavation starts, we need to drive forward without interruption. The project needs £480,000 in total, of which a quarter, £120,000 has been pledged before going to appeal. Planned fundraising events have been disrupted, so we made a short video with animator Luke Maitland. You can view the video on the website www.sarkdairytrust.com developed for us by TPA Guernsey. There are details of the project and the people involved, the costs and timetable, and there are suggestions how you can help. I shall be delighted to discuss the undertaking with anyone at any time by phone (01481 832570 & 07781 463987), email raxton@guernsey.net or by meeting up.

The Trust's account is with HSBC. You can donate by BACS or through JustGiving (search 'Sark Dairy') or by cheque to Sark Community Dairy Charitable Trust, c/o The Treasurer, La Petite Rondellerie, Sark GY10 1SF.



Sark is open for business

"Our little island has experienced some trials in recent times. I believe that this project will stir islanders' hearts, strengthening their resolve to return to self-sufficiency."

The plan is to create a sustainable dairy that contributes to the economy as well as the spirit of the community. A dairy that Sark can be proud of.

We need to raise a sum of £480,000 to complete the project. As you read our website please consider how you can help.

Sark is up and running, it's open for business. Our island has a history of producing the absolute highest quality dairy products - so this project is good for you and it's good for Sark."

Major Christopher Beaumont
Seigneur



TOURISM



SARK'S PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC DRIVER

**29,279 DOWN TO DATE ON LAST SEASONS'
OVERALL VISITOR NUMBERS OF 57,162**

2019 SEASON

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO SARK
UP TO SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2019**

41,023

**AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF
PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO SARK
UP TO SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2019**

313

Figures are based on Sark's tourist season which last year ran from the beginning of the Easter school holidays -Wednesday 10th April 2019 through to the end of the Autumn half-term school holidays -Sunday 3rd November 2019.

2020 SEASON

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO SARK
UP TO SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2020**

11,744

**AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF
PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO SARK
UP TO SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2020**

153

Figures are based on Sark's tourist season which this year was delayed until the opening up of the island's borders on Monday 1st June 2020 and will run through to the end of the Autumn half-term school holidays -Sunday 1st November 2020

IoSS

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

2,095

Manche-îles

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

316

IoSS

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

1,758

Manche-îles

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

0

Total

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

2,411

Daily Average

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

344

Total

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

1,758

Daily Average

**Passengers to
Sark this week**

251

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES!

In the space of the last 48 hours, a public forum has been announced by the directors and management of Sark Shipping and an Extraordinary meeting of Chief Pleas has been called to, amongst other things, *'Consider a Report with Propositions from the POLICY and FINANCE*

COMMITTEE entitled "Isle of Sark Shipping Company". Both the forum and the Extraordinary Chief Pleas meeting have all the hallmarks of the current board of directors 'off heads, on cabbages' school of management of one of Sark's most important assets, its shipping company.

The 'forum' is to be held on Monday evening at the Island Hall.

What is it that can be so urgent that the board, Paul Burnard, Andrew Cook, Mark Dunster, Peter Gill, Richard Graham and Yan Milner, see fit to summon Islanders to a 'public forum' with less than a few days' notice at the height of the tourism season? Most hospitality owners and their staff will be far too busy to attend. Could it be that they will see an opportunity to address a 'home crowd' of non-critical, non-economically active Islanders who will be guaranteed to give them an easy ride?

Could it be that the 'forum' will be a softening up exercise in advance of the 'Report with Propositions' that Chief Pleas will address at an Extraordinary meeting the following evening? Worryingly the agenda for Tuesday evening's meeting, which was only publicly announced yesterday afternoon, declares: *'The Report and supporting papers will not be available until PM Tuesday 25th August.'*

Islanders should prepare to batten down the hatches in preparation for the latest update from what has been the worst board of directors in the Isle of Sark Shipping Company's long and often troubled history.

THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON SARK'S 2020 TOURISM SEASON

Had we not entered the coronavirus lockdown Sark's tourism season would have begun with the commencement of the Easter school holidays - 4th April 2020 and would have run through to 1st November 2020 - the end of the Autumn half-term school holidays

LOCKDOWN ON SARK

With a year-round resident population of under 390, Sark stays coronavirus-free throughout the whole crisis, with not a single confirmed case on the Island.

LOCKDOWN ON GUERNSEY

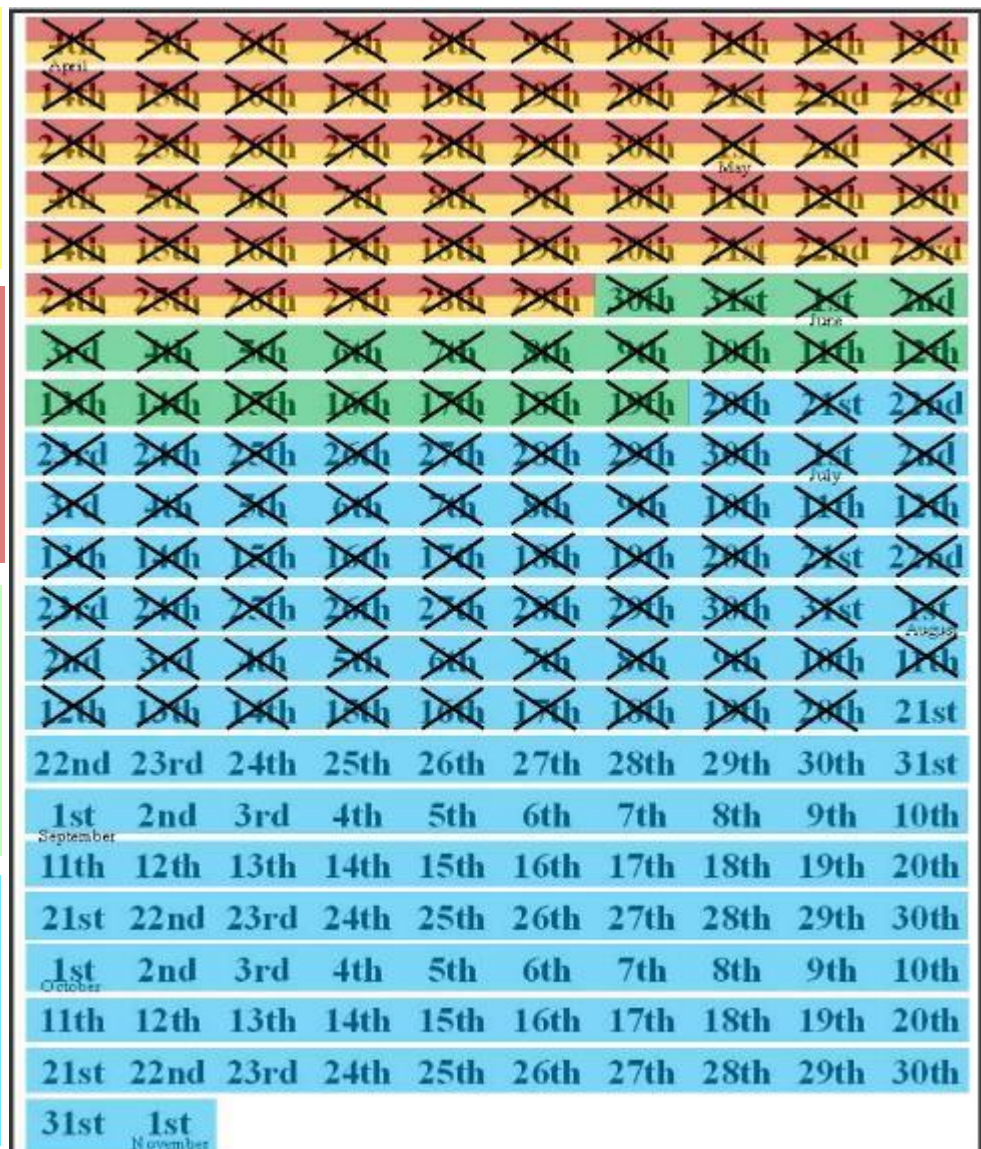
Sark's sister Island, with a population of over 67,000 residents, suffers more than Sark, with 250 cases of coronavirus. A policy of hunting down the virus delivers rewarding results.

LOCKDOWN ENDS

Bailiwick restrictions on movement and interactions relaxed. Sark opens its borders to tourists from within the Bailiwick. 'Staycations' on Sark and inter-Island travel positively encouraged.

ALL RESTRICTIONS END

All social distancing measures end. IoSS vessels free to operate at maximum passenger capacity. Pubs, restaurants, cafés bars and shops, hotels, guesthouses, self-catering units and campsites return to normal trading.



SERVING THE PEOPLE OF SARK FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

HOLDING THOSE IN
POWER TO ACCOUNT

EXPOSING A CULTURE OF
BULLYING BY THE STATE

SPEAKING OUT FOR
THE UNEMPLOYED

GIVING A VOICE TO THE WEAK
AND THE VULNERABLE

FIGHTING HARASSMENT OF
INDIVIDUALS BY THE STATE

PROTECTING THE RIGHT
TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

STANDING UP TO
STATE CENSORSHIP

DEFENDING
THE INNOCENT

THE
SARK NEWSPAPER

BULLYING

The Sark Newspaper's readers are once again reminded that if you are being bullied, intimidated or harassed in any way and wish to seek support, help or legal advice, please do not hesitate to call, write or e-mail me at *the Sark Newspaper's* address. What you say will be in the strictest confidence unless you give your consent otherwise.

Kevin Delaney



Channel Islands

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime

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