

WILDER ISLANDS CONFERENCE 2019



The Inter-Islands Environmental Meeting - IEM2019

What role do the Islands of the British Isles and Overseas Territories have to play in a world where ecosystem collapse is seen as increasingly inevitable? Often Islands lack the economic or political resources to have a voice on the global environmental stage and they face many of the same pressures on their environments - over-population, development, economic insecurity and resource scarcity – and often have even scarcer resources to protect - yet they are uniquely positioned to help future wildlife recovery. Could our islands act as biodiversity lifeboats, refuges for the unique endemic species they host and as shelters for habitats and species under increasing pressure elsewhere?

The Wilder Islands Conference combines the annual Inter-Islands Environment Meeting with an additional day of talks and discussions, the aim being to enable representatives from not only the Channel Islands, but also from across the British Isles and its Overseas Territories and the wider scientific community, to discuss the role of islands as biodiversity hotspots in a future response to global environmental decline. The Wilder Islands Conference aims to bring scientists, conservationists and policy makers together to focus on what steps these communities might take for a Wilder Future for their islands.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 26-27th SEPTEMBER

IEM2019 – A combination of presentations, opportunity for debate and field visits, hosted in a selection of venues making the best of Alderney's historic and rugged environment. The IEM has been running since 2000 and this year we are looking to discover more about how the islands of the Crown Dependencies, Overseas Territories and wider British Isles are responding to the growing threat to island/regional ecosystems.

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Wilder Islands Day - We are delighted to be able to offer attendees this additional conference day, chaired by Dr. George McGavin and with Tony Juniper, Bryce Stewart and Rob Stoneman (see Guests) attending. We envision this as a day of talks by inspirational speakers who have detailed knowledge of the importance of island biodiversity and the threats faced by our unique communities. There will be the opportunity for discussion around each presentation, with an emphasis on how islands can secure their environment against a trend of global decline, and the very important role that islands play in retaining biodiversity on a national and global scale.

We'd be delighted if you would join us for all 3 days so you have already let us know you are attending please confirm if you will be staying for this exciting days discussion – wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org

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Guests

Alongside our delegate speakers we are delighted to say that we have the following additional guest attendees, with more pending confirmation:

- **Tony Juniper**, environmental campaigner and renowned journalist, Tony is hoping to join the Wilder Islands Event. Having just stepped into the role as CEO of Natural England we are sure he will bring a whole new perspective to the Conference. His previous roles include President for The Wildlife Trusts and Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- **Dr. George McGavin**, renowned entomologist and TV presenter, has been the Alderney Wildlife Trust's patron since 2007. George's extensive experience of island ecosystems and life-long studies makes him an ideal Chair for the Event
- **Dr. Bryce Stewart** is a marine ecology and fisheries biologist based at the University of York. His work has covered fisheries management, the promotion of sustainable seafood and, since 2016, he has been involved with assessing the effects of Brexit on UK fisheries and the marine environment.
- **Rob Stoneman**, having just stood down after 15 years as CEO of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has now taken on a challenging role as Rewilding Area Coordinator, for Rewilding Europe.
- **Jean-Luc Solandt** is the Principal Specialist for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at the Marine Conservation Society. A marine biologist who has led on the international protection for the basking shark and MPAs.
- **Dr. Samuel Turvey**, is Senior Research Fellow of the Royal Society University Research Fellowship, Institute of Zoology. His work encompasses both past and present human impacts on biodiversity, from research into the magnitude and dynamics of extinctions during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene, to science-based conservation management of some of the world's most highly threatened species.

ATTENDANCE

The IEM2019 and the **Wilder Islands Conference** have received generous support from a range of sources including the Insurance Corporation and the States of Alderney. As a result, there will be no attendance charge for delegates, though there will be some small charges towards the cost of food for delegates. We are preparing information on accommodation and travel arrangements for delegates and will accept applications for a limited number of grants to support attendance (please contact us at wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org).

Outline Programme

The draft programme is currently in draft pending full confirmation of key speakers and confirmation of presentations.

Wednesday 25th September – early arrivals and ice breaker evening

- **Airport meet and greets organised all day**
- **Afternoon options for exploring Alderney:**
 - o **Alderney Bird Observatory Trust** – the ABOT will be offering tea and cakes at the Nunnery from 1400-1530.
 - o **Seabird boat** - trips out to the Les Etacs Gannetry (approx. 6,000 pairs) and the Burhou Seal colonies (weather dependant). Tours available through the afternoon (10 pax. per trip).
 - o **Flora and Fortifications Tour** - a guided walk through the Longis Nature reserve with its unique mix of Iron Age, Roman and Victorian Fortifications and biodiversity, 2hrs from 1530.
 - o **Kayaking exploration** – a gentle 3 mile paddle up Alderney's south coast to visit a number of little explored sea caves with our marine team (places limited, weather dependant). Starts 1500
- **Ice Breaker** – all delegates already on island are invited to an evening BBQ at Battery No 3, Fort Tourgis. This 19th Century fort commands stunning views of Alderney's Ramsar site and provides one of the most scenic locations to enjoy the setting of the sun. The BBQ will consist of locally sourced food, and guests will be offered an opportunity to take a tour of this historic site, as well as the option of a bat walk. The event will

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commence at 1800 hours with transport available to bring you to the site and return you to your accommodation.

N.b. There will be no charge for delegates attending any of the arrival day events or activities

Thursday 26th – IIEM Day One

0630 – 0745 **Early Morning Walk** – start off the day with a walk with Justin Hart our Avian Ecologist, looking out for autumn migrant birds and enjoying the early morning.

0900 – **Registration**

0945 – **Conference commences** – talks and presentations

1300 - **Lunch**

1400 - **Afternoon Field Trips** – This year the delegates are invited to take part in an island wide bioblitz. We are calling on delegates' expertise to help us shed more light on our island, whilst giving them a chance to explore some of the seldom-visited parts. Locations for the Bioblitz will include:

- Victorian and WWII Fortifications
- The Clonque Bay intertidal area, the heart of our Ramsar site with more than 180 species of marine algae recorded so far
- Alderney's south coast sea caves explored on Kayaks (weather dependant)

1630 – **Workshop sessions.** Short sessions dedicated to specific topics, building on the tradition of hosting an annual Ramsar Workshop. Delegates are invited to suggest workshop topics, dedicated spaces will be provided for each workshop.

1800 – **Day one concludes**

1930 – **Conference Dinner** – *Costs to be confirmed, estimated at no more than £15 per person.*

Friday 27th – IIEM Day Two

0900 – **Day two commences** – talks and presentations

1300 – **Island reception**, delegates are cordially invited to attend a locally prepared lunch in their honour attended by members of the island community, including government.

1430 – **Talks and presentations continue**

1730 – **Day two concludes**

1900 – **Evening talk by special Guest Speaker**

Saturday 28th – Wilder Islands Day

0930 - **Wilder Islands Day Commences.** The morning will focus on a number of seminars, followed after the break by an open debate on the role of islands in the future response to global climate change and biodiversity collapse.

1300 - **Lunch**

14.00 – **Further talks and debate**, discussions around the main theme

1600 - **Closing session**, conference conclusions/summary

1630 – **Airport and Harbour transport**, runs for those leaving that day

Sunday 29th – Wind Down Day

A variety of tours and activities will be available for delegates wishing to stay the extra day including a trip out to the spectacular island of Burhou by boat and round island tours, details T.B.C.

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IEM2019

Presentations

The theme 'Wilder Islands' is not restrictive but please consider it as a guide to the tone and intent of any presentation you might give. Presentation slots will as usual be limited to 20 minutes unless you specifically request a longer session i.e. joint or interactive presentations; please feel free to request a shorter slot. Obviously we are restricted on the number of available slots so we would be grateful if you could let us know if you would like to present and a title of your talk as soon as possible and we will follow up for more details once we have a better idea of numbers and topics.

Please contact us to confirm if you want to give a presentation by 28th June, including an outline title and concept to – wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org

Please note there will be a review panel made up of the existing hosts and previous hosts who will shortlist the speakers for inclusion, should there be more presentations than time allows.

We will be asking all selected speakers to please let us have your titles and abstracts confirmed by the 28st June - wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org

Posters

We are intending to have a dedicated poster and digital display area for the event this year and also to publish contributions online.

Again space is likely to be restricted so if you have an idea for a poster or digital display please let us know so we can provisionally reserve a space by the 28th June, with the outline title and concept –
wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org

Schools

We intend to link in with the Island's school as part of Wilder Islands, with some students invited to attend talks and produce posters. We are interested in streaming sections of both IEM2019 and the Wilder Islands Conference for schools so if you have school links and think there might be an interest in this please get in touch.

REGISTERING AN INTEREST

For all those wanting to attend we need you to please get in touch and answer the following questions as we have limited space in the venues and accommodation. We will be in touch with all those who have booked in with the accommodation and travel options.

So to help us with our planning and getting the best deals please could you let us know if:

1. You would like to attend and which days you plan to attend
2. If you are prepared to travel by sea and/or air, let us know your preference
3. If you would like to give a presentation, and if so an outline title so we can begin to structure the meeting
4. If you think you would like to display a poster or a digital display in the form of a short video

Contact us at - wilderislands@alderneywildlife.org or by calling us on 01481 822935 and asking for Roland, Claire or Lindsay and please feel free to forward this email to others who you feel might be interested in attending or speaking.

Many thanks for your time and we hope to see you in Alderney later in the year.

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