



**STATES OF ALDERNEY**

**GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012**

## **GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

2012 has been my sixth year as Chairman of the General Services Committee. As always, it has been another busy and challenging year for the Committee. In its role as Alderney's infrastructure, or "nuts and bolts" government department, GSC has a very broad mandate, covering the majority of the everyday services that most of us take for granted. The GSC Annual Report can only give a brief overview of the matters with which GSC has been involved in 2012. Details of resolutions made by the Committee can be found in the monthly minutes, which are available on the States website.

As Chairman of GSC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the States Members who have served on the Committee this year for their individual contributions and their teamwork. I would also like to thank the civil servants who have provided support and advice to the Committee in 2012, often under great pressure.

At the January States meeting, the following members were re-elected to GSC: Myself, as Chairman, Mr Kelly, who serves as Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Mr Beaman, Mr Tugby, Mr Berry and Mr Arditti. This year the States resolved to add a seventh member to General Services and we were joined by Mr Allen. The GSC Members have brought their individual strengths to the committee and performed well in their allocated responsibilities.

The reports from the various departments of GSC that follow, show that much has been achieved during 2012 and, although much remains to be done, demonstrates the committee's strong commitment to delivering adequate and appropriate "General Services," on behalf of the States, to the Alderney community.

Bill Walden, Chairman.

### **Members' Specific Responsibilities**

For several years it has been customary to allocate areas of specific responsibility to individual States Members. These are not executive or ministerial roles but require the Member to keep a watch on these areas and, when appropriate, to make reports and recommendations to their Committee. Within the GSC mandate, the areas of specific responsibility held by Members in 2012 were:

- **Bill Walden:** Environment, Wildlife and Burhou etc.
- **Boyd Kelly:** Civil Emergency Working Party, Fire Brigade and Cliff Rescue; Police Liaison (local); Harbour and Fisheries.
- **Pete Allen:** Alderney Maritime Trust; Agricultural and Open Areas
- **Paul Arditti:** Traffic Advisory Group member
- **John Beaman:** Sewerage and Water Advisory Group member; Agriculture and Open Areas
- **Raymond Berry:** States Properties; Transport (Roads and Railways); Waste Advisory Group member; Traffic Advisory Group member.
- **Ian Tugby:** Recreation, Campsite and Island Hall (Functions only); Dumps and Derelicts; Waste Advisory Group Chairman; Traffic Advisory Group Chairman; Sewerage and Water Advisory Group Chairman.

### **Sub-Committees of GSC**

#### **Traffic Advisory Group (TAG)**

As with all sub-committees, TAG does not have its own regulatory powers. It researches and considers traffic matters and brings proposals and advice to the full GSC.

The main point addressed by TAG in 2012 was the parking and traffic flows through the eastern end of Le Banquage. A consultation document was issued to all the effected properties asking for their opinions on four proposals. The outcome of the consultation was for the eastern access to be reopened to traffic; this was put to GSC who approved a six month trial.

During 2012 TAG considered parking in town and the car parks; new property accesses and new road lines.

#### Sewerage and Water Advisory Group (SWAG)

SWAG liaises closely with the Water Board manager, States Works and Engineering Department on matters concerning the collection and supply of drinking water and the drainage and sewerage network.

Detailed report under States Works Department.

#### Waste Advisory Group (WAG)

WAG has responsibility for research and consideration of recycling and the disposal of the Island's solid wastes. It liaises closely with the States Works supervisor and recycling staff.

Detailed report under States Works Department.

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### **CAPITAL PROJECTS – COMPLETED AND IN PROGRESS**

#### **Water Phase 3 – New Storage Tanks**

By the end of 2011 the project had progressed with:

- the completion by J F Main of the reinforced concrete base for the tank's, this was completed on the 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- States Works Department constructed the stub walls and steel work on which the tanks are built, this was completed on the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Then in early Jan 2012 the Balmoral Tank erectors arrived on site as programmed and commenced the erection of both GRP sectional tanks, the tanks were completed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Whilst this work was ongoing the last section of the carriageway pipe network was being laid by Tugby Contractors along the Murette track whilst the Water Board installed the ductile iron pipe work and valves to the new tanks.

Filling of the tank's commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> March and took four days as we had to maintain the existing supply to the Trigale tank at the same time.

We did experience some minor leakage on both tanks but with the assistance of the Water Board and Balmoral we successfully sealed the tanks.

The new pump station has been built by the States Works Department. The pumps arrived on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and were positioned in the pump station; the Water Board then completed the pipe work from the tanks to the pumps.

J F Mains completed the permanent track across the site, Tugby Contractors landscaped the area and the States Works erected the boundary fence and gates.

All the major construction for the project was completed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The Law Officers have attempted to locate the living relatives of Mrs Gaudion who was the last owner of one half of the Phase 3 site but without success. The Law Officers have reviewed the cost of tracing any relatives against the cost of the land and have decided to suspend any

further investigation, they recommended waiting for a relative to contact the States of Alderney.

Alderney Electric `s site feed was made live around the 19<sup>th</sup> June, Ken Croxton then installed the tray work, stand by generator and the wiring for the pumps.

The pulsar units which form part of the telemetry that control the new pumps need to be fitted but this involves draining the tanks and is due to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The new tanks are not yet in use as it was advised not to risk using the existing Battery Quarry lift pumps to fill the tanks on a daily basis. The existing pumps are around 30 years old and may not cope with the additional load pumping water to the new site. The Project Board took the decision not to risk losing the Islands water supply by using the existing pumps.

Three new lift pumps are on order as part of the Phase 4 project but due to significant delays on the manufacturing side the two main lift pumps haven't been delivered and are not due till the end of November.

Once these new pumps have been installed and tested then the switch over from the current La Trigale tank to the new tanks can be undertaken.

#### **Water Phase 4 – Renewal of Water Mains etc**

This years' Water Phase 4 project has involved the renewal of five existing water mains, the replacing of the Battery Quarry lift pumps and the laying of two new sections of pipe as part of the island ring main.

The project has been split into eight sections and a summary of each section is detailed below:

##### Section 1 – Battery Quarry lift pumps

The order for the three new pumps was placed back in April with an expected delivery in August, due to delays in their manufacture the two main pumps will not be arriving till late November; the small Isoglide pump arrived at the beginning of October and will be installed soon.

Ken Croxton has completed the installation of all the electrical panels associated with the current and new pumps.

##### Section 2 – Whitegates to Hammond Memorial

The new 90mm diameter pipe has been laid by Tugby Contractors with the Water Board assisting with the pipe welding.

The pipe is still to be flushed, tested and connected to the existing network.

##### Section 3 – Les Pourciaux to Les Boufresses

This section of new pipe was laid to connect up the Longis Common area with the Lighthouse area, so that in the event of a leak water can be feed to the properties from both directions.

The pipe has been laid using the States Works Department labour with the Water Board welding the pipes.

The main connections, testing and flushing have been carried out and the effected properties changed over to the new pipe line.

##### Section 4 – Nunnery to Les Pourciaux

The new 90mm diameter pipe has been laid by the States Works Department with the Water Board carrying out the pipe welding.

The new pipe line from Les Pourciaux to the Tate`s residence has been flushed, tested and the properties switched to the new main.

The remaining section of this new pipe line has been flushed and waiting testing. Once connected to the existing network the ring main around the East end will be completed.

#### Section 5 – Broken Bottle Alley

This section was placed on hold as it was decided that the work required would cost considerably more than the estimated cost approved on the initial GSC list.

#### Section 6 – Crabby to Braye Road

This section creates a new link between the Crabby area and the Newtown area, before the link the Water Board had no way of supplying water through a secondary route if a burst occurred.

The pipe has been laid by the States Works Department and has been connected to the existing supply at the Newtown end.

The pipe has been flushed through and tested; the final connection outside the Fire Station is still to be carried out along with one house supply once the main is live.

#### Section 7 – Hammond Memorial to Fort Corblets

The new 90mm diameter main has been laid by Tugby Contractors with assistance from the Water Board.

Once the main connections at Whitegates and the Lighthouse have been carried out this line can be flushed and tested and the service connections can then be carried out.

#### Section 8 – Bonne Terre

The new 180mm diameter main has been laid by the States Works Department with assistance from the Water Board.

Testing of the road section in Rue de la Saline highlighted some leaking welds which have now been repaired, the service connections to the four properties have now been swapped over.

Testing of the field section will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

#### Section 9 – Fort Corblets to the Lighthouse

The new 90mm diameter main has been laid by Tugby Contractors with assistance from the Water Board.

Once the main connections at Whitegates and the Lighthouse have been carried out this line can be flushed and tested and the service connections can then be carried out.

All the tarmac reinstatement for each section has been carried out by Ronez during this years' visit.

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### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

The General Services Committee has responsibility for the States Works Department, The Water Board, The Fire Service, The Harbour & Fisheries and Alderney's Ramsar Site which incorporates the Burhou Project. I have attached the reports for each of these below.

### **STATES WORKS DEPARTMENT**

One impact of the creation of the Alderney Housing Association was that in 2012, the income stream from rent was substantially reduced. This required the States Works Department (SWD) to earn income from other works to cover the wage bill. This has been achieved by undertaking some elements of capital projects such as Waterboard infrastructure replacement and campsite renovations alongside external contractors.

SWD is also undertaking a programme of refurbishment and upgrading of States assets and properties. The secondary positive effect of this larger scale work is that it does lead to an increase in morale with the workforce as they see a finished product for their efforts.

### Labour & Office

Two employees have been replaced in the 2012; one on the Projects team, who has since trained as a plant operator, and one in the Waste team who has started as labourer on the Dustcart.

There have been medical absences following one non-work accident and two convalescences after surgery. To overcome this we have utilised the "Labour Bank", this being made up of unemployed individuals with particular skills, as well as hiring services where necessary.

Slaughtering –the new slaughterhouse is now operational and SWD provides an assistant to the private slaughterman. SWD continues to dispose of and burn waste and offal.

The set up and change over to the Sage Accounting System for consistency with Treasury was a major piece of administrative work this year. The Butes layout has been improved including the stores and relocating the office space close to the entrance. The part-time input clerk left in September and her replacement is in post.

### Vehicles & Equipment

In 2012 we disposed of three vehicles and bought two. Whilst this limits flexibility, it is manageable with the planned replacement programme followed. This replacement period varies from vehicle to vehicle, from a 3 year cycle for the dustcart to a 10 year cycle for the sewer cart.

The decision to purchase a second hand air curtain burner for spares in 2010 has allowed us to keep this key equipment operational with regular maintenance.

The green waste shredder is beyond economic repair, as reported by the manufacturers' engineer. The cost of refurbishment is prohibitive and does not guarantee a worthwhile extension of its viable life. The cost of replacement with suitable equipment is high and the second-hand market is limited with most options already approaching end of life.

A recurring theme in recent years has been the effect of plant breakdown; this has improved over the last 12 months.

### Waste Disposal & Recycling

Waste management remains SWD's biggest single cost and we continue to look for ways to improve our processes and reduce costs. Some major factors are outside our control, however, including gate charges at Mont Cuet landfill in Guernsey, shipping costs, and volumes of waste produced on island. A review of our waste strategy was undertaken by AMEC earlier in the year.

The scrap element cost of our waste disposal has been steadied following arrangements put in place with Guernsey Recycling in 2011, whereby they take all scrap (except refrigeration equipment, TV tubes and monitors) irrespective of quality, plus our recyclables on a 'no cost-no charge' basis, with shipping also being their responsibility.

Plastic has also been an issue this year. Previously, mixed plastics didn't meet the recycling standard, and so some were sent to landfill. Ongoing efforts to segregate with additional manual sorting has produced an acceptable product and minimised the quantity to landfill.

In 2011, around 200 tonnes of all grades of scrap was sent to Guernsey Recycling. In the first 6 months of 2012 a total of 189 tonnes were shipped, which includes a clearing a backlog.

Projected Quantities shipped for 2012 based on 31<sup>st</sup> October figures

Waste Product	2011	2012	
		Projected	Change
Municipal waste	748	825	77
Cardboard	135	150	15
Paper	100	98	(2)
Plastics	26	44	18
Cans	0	5	5

There is an apparent increase after five consecutive years of reduction in municipal waste and relatively constant recycling quantities for the past three years.

SWD is replacing three compaction containers for shipping black bag waste to Mont Cuet. Eight containers purchased in 2004 have been continually repaired, however five have now been taken out of service as they are no longer fit for purpose. The replacement units, of an improved design, are on order for delivery in December.

Alderney has an in principle agreement to ship waste to Jersey's Waste to Energy Plant, and SWD is awaiting the gate fee figure which will be set as part of the Guernsey rate. It is hoped that this may prove to be a more cost effective route for our black bag waste once it is fully operational.

#### Training

Some training has been undertaken this year jointly with the Waterboard including manual handling. We also ran a course for two new machine operators and updates for two existing.

#### Work for other Departments:

*Water Board* – With the Water Board continuing their phased upgrading, SWD has been undertaking work on various schemes, including fencing and plant room at the New Water Tanks and laying 1.7km of new water pipe.

*New Connaught Care Home* – Further external works were passed to SWD to complete including the "Grasscrete" road and a concrete drop off point. A flight of steps between Sidney Herival House and the NCCH was constructed.

#### Day to Day General Services

*Butes Toilets* –were completely refurbished, but unfortunately were subject to vandal/fire damage in November.

*Butes Playground* – Ongoing replacement and repairs have been undertaken in accordance with insurers' annual report.

*Impot* – Continued with concreting areas at the Impot for the safety of operatives and the public.

*Recycling Site* – Efforts continue with keeping the site tidy which also minimises wind-blown debris.

*Longis Toilets* – The portacabin has been repositioned and a “log cabin” structure is under construction.

*Corporation Inert Fill Quarry* – This area will be secured with fencing either before the year-end or early in the new year.

#### Road Contract

Major road works were tendered as a capital project with bi-annual visits of a more significant value (£250,000) to enable a realistic programme of works to be undertaken. Tenders were received from various contractors, and Ronez offered a robust and competitive bid, and were selected to undertake the work for 2012, 2014 and 2016.

In autumn 2012, Ronez undertook resurfacing, reinstatement of road surfaces and remedial treatment, as well as trench reinstatements for utilities. They also extended the footpath by the Moorings/Braye Street junction to improve pedestrian safety there.

A review of the project will be undertaken but it is clear that their work was disrupted by late delivery of stone and very heavy rain. These factors meant works took longer than anticipated. Consideration will be given to a spring visit in 2014.

#### Main Drains and Sewers

Banquage & Braye Pump Stations. Both stations are being fitted with alarms linked to mobile phones following pump failures out of working hours and resultant discharge onto Braye Common.

Braye Lane – Persistent issues in this area relating to the failing pitch fibre pipe with a backfall, and flooding when there is a high number of holiday visitors are to be resolved by a pumpstation which should be completed by the year end.

Mouriaux to Platte Saline Mains drainage scheme – existing cesspit surveys were completed prior to the design work, and this project is due to commence on site in 2013.

Carriere Viront/ St Martin’s – Complaints over recent years of foul odours from the drains in this area have resulted in various remedial works, however the problem remained. A thorough survey was undertaken this summer and it indicated that one main contributing factor was the existence of a pumped sector serving a group of properties. It is planned to resolve the issue within the proposed Mouriaux to Platte Saline main drains scheme.

#### Conclusion

The workforce currently consists of 24 full time employees, two apprentices, a part time employee, and the Agricultural section. Seventeen members of staff are in routine roles dealing with day to day matters from waste disposal, agriculture, public gardens, sewerage and mechanics. The remaining members of staff deal with all maintenance and repair, project work and are required to cover for sickness and holiday. Long term sickness has been an issue this year but has been overcome by utilising the “Labour Bank”.

Our involvement in housing maintenance has reduced. While it was intended more labour would be allocated to public buildings (the church and court building) and projects such as the ongoing repair and improvement of the main drainage system, in 2012 the Waterboard &



Campsite have been higher priority particularly with the need to earn an income from capital projects.

Continued change and refinement of our waste management have ensured our costs have again remained constant. Future improvements are more likely to cost more rather than save money. Much of the equipment being use was purchased in 2004/05 for what was intended to be a three year interim arrangement, hence the need to invest in replacement shipping containers. The biggest cost elements are outside our control particularly the gate cost, shipping and road haulage in Guernsey to Mont Cuet.

T.J. Birmingham  
Superintendent of Works

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## **AGRICULTURE**

### Labour

This is the first year that this section has employed and trained an apprentice. We have seen a major change to our weekly routine with direct involvement with the provision of a slaughterman having ceased. There remains some involvement at both a management and disposal level.

Towards the end of the year the agric team has been heavily involved in tree surveys as a result of the concern regarding "Ash Die Back".

The growing season this year seems to have been never ending and the levels of rainfall in the autumn unprecedented.

### Plant

We have suffered some disruption with plant which lead to the routine cutting regime falling behind, compounded by above average growth. The replacement of the verge cutter and the recent overhaul of the ride-on mower should stand us in good stead for the spring.

## **Summary of Work undertaken by the section**

*Mowing* – All flat areas, verges, public gardens, cemeteries, church yard, campsite, cliff paths, Water Lane, the railway tracks, scramble course, Essex Hill, Peter May, Stenham's, Pauline Gladwell and all other paths and walkways.

*Hedges* – All evergreen hedges have either been trimmed or reduced.

*Planting* – All public gardens, church yard, various plant troughs and planters at the Island Hall and the Court Office.

*Clearances* – Church yard compost heap; general green waste and rummage cleared regularly; Fort Tourgis ahead of annual Hill Climb; campsite for drainpipes; Braye Lane for water pipes; Airport access gates; various kerbs and gutters; car park wall ahead of Mason's repair; the tombs in the T/C cemetery; anywhere ahead of Ronez and other sundry locations where required.

*Projects* – Clearance and re-instatement of the bank at the Harbour; Water Lane tree removal; the ongoing ash tree survey and the remedial work on the NCCH grasscrete road.

*Tree Work* – Fallen tree in Church Street; large limb removed in Water Lane; two trees in the Val removed; several removed for the Water Board projects; dead palms on Braye removed; dead tree in T/C cemetery removed and two flowering cherry planted; large limb in Braye Road removed; several large limbs by Blanchards removed; heavy pruning of a tree at Timber Row after lightning strike; removal in the Grande Rue ahead of Ronez; several broken limbs removed at the Nunnery and by the Golf Course ahead of the verge cutter.

*Overhanging branches* – At various locations Island wide.

*Spraying* – Because of the inclement weather, we were unable to complete the Spraying programme. However large areas were completed around paths and gutters. Over the winter months we shall be clearing lower walls, paths and gutters of silt so that we can cope more easily with the weeds when they emerge next year.

*Ragwort* – 2012 was a bumper year but large areas of States land were cleared.

*Others* – Various fire related issues; courses, meetings & college days; assisting the mechanic; various maintenance issues regarding machinery or tools; assisting with Alderney Week; the Royal visit and Diamond Jubilee; litter picking and other sundry requirements including requests from other departments.

Graves x 13

Slaughtering – Steers x 50, Pigs x 83, Goats x 2

Cull x 3

Dog bins cleared weekly

*Infestations*

Bees/Wasps x 5

Mice x 2

Rodenticide – All bait stations cleaned and serviced regularly. No surface infestations reported however slight increase in bait consumption in colder weather.

### Conclusion and aims for 2013

It is intended through the winter months to clear gutters and verges to minimise the opportunity for growth in the gutters and hopefully reduced spraying and weeding as the season progresses.

We continue to review our cutting regime with representatives of the Alderney Wildlife Trust wherever possible to avoid cutting back any rare plants. We are confident that in certain areas our cutting regime assists with ensuring conditions suitable for smaller plants to proliferate.

The extent of cutting of walking paths and tracks is, on occasion, misunderstood by the public as many places that can be walked unhindered are in fact in private ownership. In clarification of this, an overall Island Plan will be drawn up showing the States areas of responsibility. This should give the opportunity to discuss with landowners the opportunity to improve accessibility on some paths.

R Laband

Agricultural Foreman

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## **Water Board Annual Report 2012**

**This report relates to the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

During this time 51,829,000 gallons of potable water have been pumped to meet Island demand compared with 53,366,000 gallons during the same period of the previous year.

### Raw Water Input – Resources

#### *Bonne Terre Surface Water Catchment*

The Bonne Terre stream has provided 26,679,000 gallons of water to the Battery Quarry reservoir this year compared with 29,183,000 gallons for the previous 12 months. The catchment station contains 2 stainless steel rapid gravity sand filters that pre-filter the water prior to pumping to the reservoir. This stream is at present supplying 1,128,000 gallons per week compared with 300,000 gallons supplied during the same week of last year.

#### *The Valley and Ladysmith Raw Water Surface Catchments*

The Ladysmith catchment has provided 2,055,000 gallons of water to the Quarry Reservoir whilst the Valley catchment has provided an annual yield of 1,656,000 gallons to storage.

### Water Lane Springs

The Water Lane springs have yielded 13,912,000 gallons of water compared with 15,346,000 gallons for the previous 12 months.

### The Bore Holes Ground Water Catchments

The Bore holes have been used rather extensively over the past few years and have produced 10,701,000 gallons of water this year compared to 9,882,000 gallons for the previous 12 months. From the start of last December and until the last week of March this year, the boreholes were rested. This was to help ease electrical supply problems on the eastern side of the Island.

### Rain Fall on Island

The Water Board staff recorded average weekly rainfall on the Island from 2 ground water rain gauges which are located far across the Island from east to west. The total average rainfall measured in the last 12 months reads 939mm. October 2012 proved to be a very productive month for rainfall and it is interesting to note that 25% of the past 12 months rainfall was recorded within this month. The total average rainfall during the same time of the previous 12 months was 636.85mm.

### Corblets Quarry

This reserve has maintained a full datum within the past 12 months. At present the level rests just inches below the old pumping station ruin and there is approximately some 27ft of water beneath this point. At present both pump and pontoon is in dry dock having been re-serviced.

### Battery Quarry Reservoir

It is rather pleasing to advise that the Battery Quarry's level is at present full to datum compared with a deficit from the top datum of 14ft 7 inches some twelve months ago. The long term average is for the level to be approximately 19ft from top datum at this time of the year.

The Water Restriction order imposed at the end of March 2006 was lifted completely as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2008 but may be re introduced again in future if the level within the Battery Quarry falls to an unacceptable level.

Complete lifting of Water Restrictions in 2008 also included the very long established law on the total ban of sprinklers used on Island and to date this part of the restriction order has not been re-implemented. Alderney Water Board (AWB), however, still considers sprinklers as a significant detriment to consumer supply if they are not policed vigilantly. At this stage in time, AWB monitor the distribution system and try to advise consumers accordingly on when to operate sprinklers.

#### Water Quality

After several consultations on the Island during 2006, proposals for Water quality improvements from Mott MacDonald Bentley Limited were accepted by The States of Alderney. These Water Treatment Specialist Engineers introduced much more on and off Island sampling requirements for the Water Board staff to carry out. On average 33 samples per month have been submitted to the Guernsey Analyst Laboratory over the past years.

Results from the information gathered led preference for plans of the Membrane Filtration Plant at the Battery Quarry to be designed. The sample regime introduced by Mott MacDonald has proved to be expensive, however, following the full acceptance and commissioning of the Centralised Membrane Filtration plant in March of last year, a large reduction has resulted in the frequency of submitting samples whilst still complying with the United Kingdom Drinking Water Regulations.

Following first phase recommendations from Mott MacDonald, Electrical Analyser Boards along with Chlorinator skids have been installed at the Trigale Tank, Battery Quarry Station and Bonne Terre Treatment Works.

These works have proved of great benefit to the Water Board team. Specific chlorine, along with turbidity measurement allows for a set disinfection point to be maintained and chlorine is automatically added in accordance with current water flows. A Siemens service engineer visits the Island as part of a twice yearly maintenance programme.

#### Siemens Membrane Filtration Plant (Water Phase 2 Project)

The Membrane Filtration Plant arrived on Island on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2010. The principles employed are very basic and so effective that an absolute barrier to bacteriological contaminants in potable waters is provided. The 2 new filters are housed within a 40 foot container. The membrane filters are manufactured from Polyvinylidene Fluoride and are hollow fibres with porous walls of a nominal diameter of 0.04 microns. When in service, feed water on the outside of the fibre walls passes through the pores of the membranes to the centre of the fibre. Any particles larger than 0.04 micron are left on the outside of the feed side surface. To prevent particular contaminants fouling the filter membranes, each unit performs a backwash at a pre-set time interval. Both units carry out backwash cycles every 30 minutes. All procedures are automated and are carried out using two charges of stored compressed air. The control air is vital to the operational functions of the pneumatic valves that control flows through the plant. The process air provides air for backwashing purposes to free debris from the membrane walls prior to a clean water flush. An electronic machine interface controls the scheduling of the plant and provides access for AWB staff to operate and interrogate the functions. AWB staff also carries out the annual servicing of the air compressors.

To date, the Membrane Filtration Plant has produced wholesome drinking water that complies with U.K Drinking Water Regulations, however, the plant has proven to have its running faults and these faults have, to date, been corrected by Siemens engineers. Siemens also provide an annual maintenance contract that has been accepted by the States of Alderney.

## Maintenance This Year

### Leakage

During the past twelve months, 42 leaks have been repaired compared with 31 during 2011. 1 of the leaks was accountable to a third party and therefore charges were implemented accordingly. The nature of leaks can vary vastly depending on the diameter, operating pressures and pipe material. Typical leaks can therefore range from 15mm copper service lines up to 180 mm asbestos cement mains.

### District Area Service Valves

3 district area control valves have been replaced this year and 4 more have been fitted to the distribution network system in order to ease the impact of water outages at different locations.

### Service Connections

This year 4 new service connections have been made. 2 of these new services have been required to have a meter fitted.

There have also been 2 service renewals along with 13 consumer stop valve renewals this year, the size of these valves ranging from 20mm – 32mm.

### Meters

There have been 2 consumer meter renewals carried out this year. 1 district meter was fitted on the eastern side of the Island distribution network in order to clarify for high usage or leakage this year.

### Pump maintenance and installations

A new submersible abstraction pump was installed in the Battery Quarry reservoir this year to replace a very old existing model that had suffered mechanical failure caused by wear on the drive splines that connect the pump to the motor. As the Battery Quarry is now a centralised pumping site, it is paramount to have a duplicate arrangement of duty/assist pumps to provide raw waters to the new membrane filters.

A new paddle mixer was replaced in the Battery Quarry Treatment station following a motor burn out. The mixer unit blends calcified chlorine tablets into sodium solution prior to chlorine dosing.

### GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) Signalling Telemetry System

Three essential Water Board sites are equipped with GSM signalling. Alarm system shut down warnings can close down the new Centralised membrane plant if certain stages of filtration production are unable to be carried out due to faults within the plant. GSM alarm messaging now alerts the AWB team mobile phones if such a fault is evident and so enabling staff to correct the faults and maintain service to supply at all times.

GSM signalling has also been installed between the Battery Quarry pumping station and La Trigale main service reservoir at Allee es Fees. The telemetry signalling allows for automatic pumping operations to be carried out from the Battery pumping station to La Trigale service tank when a demand for filtrate flow supply is called for. These electrical works have been carried out by a local electrical contractor and are proving to be of great benefit to the Water Board team.

### Staff

This year, upon completion of his apprenticeship, Sean Maloy received a certificate in recognition of qualification involving all aspects of water mains and services installations.

The rest of the team remain the same with all 3 are qualified in various trade disciplines ranging from plumbing, mechanical engineering and motor engineering. All staff are versatile, work well together and are a good team.

Paul Rose  
Water Board General Manager

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## **FIRE BRIGADE**

The number of responses and services attended by the Brigade was 35 as detailed here:-

Property Fires	3
Gorse Fires	1
Car Fires	1
Road Traffic Collisions	2
Domestic Floods	2
Non-emergency Special Services	1
Fire Cover for Special Events	3
Automatic Fire Alarm	12
Airport Emergency	2
Beach Rescue	1
Exercises	4
Boat Incidents	3

## **Establishment**

The present establishment of the Brigade is as follows:-

Chief Fire Officer	1
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	1
Watch Commander	1
Crew Commander	3
Fire-fighters	4
Total	10

## **Vehicles**

The vehicles presently used are:

RED 3            Land Rover Defender            1998

This vehicle is now 14 years old and will be due for replacement in 4 years time.

RED 4            Iveco Cargo Tanker            1998

This vehicle is due for replacement in 2014 as part of the longstanding agreement between the States of Alderney and the States of Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service.

RED 5            Iveco Daily Compact Water Tender            2010

This vehicle was purchased new in 2010 and should give many years of service.

RED 6            Ford Cargo Tanker            1991

This is our back up water tanker and will be retired from service when Red 4 is replaced in 2014.

## Equipment

### *Breathing Apparatus*

We received our new breathing apparatus (BA) this year which replaced our old sets that were no longer useful. The new sets are made by Sabre and they operate with 300 bar cylinders which will give us a working time of approximately 60 minutes. These sets are identical to those used by Alderney Airport Fire Service and Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service. This means that there are cost savings in respect of training and the purchase of spares. Fire-fighters Derrick Williams and James Vizard have undertaken a BA maintenance course which is a statutory requirement. These BA sets have a working life of approximately 12 years.

### *Cliff Rescue Equipment*

In October we received our new cliff rescue equipment and 7 crew members undertook and passed a week long training course on line rescue delivered by an instructor from the UK. The second part of the training will be in 2013 when approximately 3 crew members will become instructors themselves. This will enable us to train new recruits in house.

## Fire Services (Alderney) Law

Alderney Fire Brigade took over the administration of inspections from July 2012 resulting in a planned programme of inspection of premises that fall under the Fire Services (Alderney) Law 2002, in addition to those already being inspected on behalf of tourism. This includes rented accommodation, social clubs/societies, States operated/owned properties, commercial and retail premises. Over 100 inspections have been made since April 2012.

## Conclusion

I would like to record my special thanks to Fire-fighter Derrick Williams who not only carries out his maintenance duties for the Fire Brigade but who has also taken on the majority of the administration work for the Fire Law including organising the visits by the Guernsey Fire Consultant and managing the Fire Brigade Budget. As always my thanks go to all my crew, their employers and their families for their continued support.

Paul Moore  
Chief Fire Officer

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## **HARBOUR & FISHERIES**

### Commercial Freight Activity

Both Alderney Shipping and Huelin Renouf have both continued to supply a regular shipping link to the islands with both typically visiting Alderney twice a week.

Alderney Shipping have the exclusive rights to transport cargo between Alderney and Guernsey and in conjunction with their sister company Channel Seaways provide a weekly general cargo delivery from Poole. They have continued to carry out this service over the last year with the charter of 75mt vessel MV Valiant, in addition to cargo Alderney Shipping also offers a passenger service carrying 186 people to date.

Huelin Renouf continues to offer a freight service supplying UK links to Southampton and our fellow Channel Island Jersey. The company have replaced their two previous vessels the Huelin Dispatch and the Huelin Endeavour with one new vessel which is also named the Huelin Dispatch. The use of the new ship was forcibly delayed when the vessel grounded on the rock Pierre au Vraic whilst on its maiden passage to Alderney, and consequentially spent several

weeks in dry-dock for repair in Falmouth. Service was resumed using the charter vessel MV Verity which measured a similar size of 91 meters. The Huelin Dispatch returned to service more than five weeks later.

Total number of cargo sailings (including bulk and hydrocarbons) number 186 to date. It is anticipated that by the end of the year this total will be 214. If combined with Victor Hugo sailings this amounts to more than four sailings a week (around 4.4) these figures are consistent with last year's number. This demanding commercial shipping schedule has proved difficult to meet with 51% of all ships to date arriving either before or more commonly, long after standard operational hours have ceased.

#### Commercial Passenger Activity

Manche Iles once again resumed their fast ferry service between Alderney, Guernsey and Dielette. Although just 12 sailings were made this year 1423 passengers visited the island via not only the Victor Hugo, but also the Marin Marie visiting Braye Harbour on one occasion. The most regular transport links through the spring, summer and early autumn came through the returning RIB ferry Fundi of Vedettes du Cotentin and from Fast-Cat type ferry Bumblebee. Fundi made 79 recorded passages carrying 621 passengers to and from Dielette with Bumblebee making 129 and carrying 871 passengers to and from Guernsey. The Cruise Ship Island Sky visited Alderney on two separate voyages carrying 263 passengers; all those who came ashore are reported to have had an enjoyable experience.

#### Leisure

The number of visiting yachts has been reflective of what has been a very poor summer with regard to weather conditions, visiting yacht nights were reduced from 4414 in 2011 to 4185 over the recent season. As is consistent with previous years if we don't have the weather then we don't get the visitors, so in that respect a fall in yacht numbers is not surprising. Another factor in this reduction could of course be due to the rather large distraction caused by the Olympic Games in London which took place right in the middle of the yachting season; one presumes this may have persuaded many British yachtsmen to stay home! This notion is supported by a breakdown of this year's yacht statistics which shows that the fall in numbers is proportionately due to the fall in the amount of visiting British yachtsmen.

Braye Harbour has become an increasingly popular destination for Sail Training Vessels with 45 visiting this year (several of them being Tall Ships) resulting in 855 people visiting the island. This is a huge increase on last year's figure of 18.

The Water Taxi Contract was once again awarded to Mainbrayce who continued to provide a dependable service to both visiting and local boat owners. Unfortunately the current owners are moving away from the Island and have subsequently sold the business; we hope to continue a good working relationship with the new owner.

Harbour staff attended the Southampton Boat Show representing Alderney on the Channel Islands stand. This stand is also manned by Harbour and Marina staff from Guernsey and Jersey. The Southampton Show continues to be well attended with the stand also sharing representation with staff from nearby French marinas (Cherbourg, Dielette and Carteret). Positive feedback was received about the welcome and service received upon reaching Braye Harbour with many people promising to return next year.

#### Coastguard

Alderney Coastguard have dealt with 41 SAR related incidents to date (20<sup>th</sup> November) during the year. These incidents have required the launching of RNLI Lifeboats on 24 occasions which is already on a par with last year's total. The remaining 17 incidents were dealt with successfully involving the use of the Harbour Staff. This figure only further cements the need for all Harbour Staff to have a very wide qualification base and skill set.



### Developments

*Crane Replacement* – After the failure of the Kobelco Crawler Crane in August of this year a rental crane was brought in from AGD to carry out Harbour operations. This however is not a finite solution and so the process has now been set in motion for the order and purchase of a Harbour specific model from German manufacturers Sennebogen. Delivery date thought to be the third quarter of 2013.

*Harbour Office* – The demolition of the current building and the construction of the replacement Harbour Office has been an issue of some debate over not just this year, but for the past few. With the current building in very poor condition it is hoped that recent progress on the subject can be further advanced to ensure that we can continue to comply with port control regulations and guarantee the Health and Safety of all working inside the building.

*Revetment* – The rock armour placed at the south east corner of the commercial quay has proven insufficient thus far and so steps have been taken to provide further reinforcement. Work is forecasted to begin on the revetment in the coming spring months.

### Fisheries

*Commercial Activity* – After much deliberation and negotiation the law has now been passed to make the Bailiwicks waters a licensed fishing ground. The 03 to 12 mile British Sea Fisheries limit around the Bailiwick has historically been the only area within British fisheries that has remained unlicensed, allowing access by any British fishing vessel for any method of fishing.

The Harbour Authority under the banner of the Bailiwick of Guernsey is pleased to announce that "*The Sea Fish Licensing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2012*" shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2013. This law demands that all vessels wishing to fish within the 0-12 mile sea area must apply for a license from the Commerce and Employment Department by the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2013.

All applicants for the Bailiwick of Guernsey fishing vessel license must prove that they have commercially fished within the 3-12 mile limit of Bailiwick waters between the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2010 inclusive. In addition all fishing vessel owners/operators must hold a valid fishing vessel license issued by the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or an equivalent license issued by the Fisheries Authorities in Scotland, Wales or Northern Island.

The full time local fishing fleet remains at 6 vessels.

### Leisure Activity

Alderney continues to remain popular with visiting Charter Angling Vessels', encouragingly the number of nights spent in Braye by these Sport Fishermen has increased this year with a total of 216 nights spent on Alderney. Between the months of April and August it is not unusual for 8-12 angling boats to be moored in Braye Harbour at any one time, the Charter Angling Vessels continue to provide a very welcome boost to local tourism. The 1861 anglers staying on island frequent the local bars and restaurants, having a positive effect on the local economy.

### Environmental Monitoring

The marine radiological monitoring program is administered on behalf of the States by the Harbour staff. Numerous set sizes, weights and quantities of shellfish, weed, sediment and sea water samples are collected on a quarterly program processed and forwarded to CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) at Lowestoft. The samples are analysed for radioactivity concentrations. Samples have shown that radioactive concentrations

within the marine environment around Alderney are too low to be able to ascertain whether the concentrations are from natural or manmade sources.

#### Staff

The retirement of the former Harbour Master resulted in a shuffle in personnel with Nigel Shaw now fulfilling the position of Deputy Harbour Master and Adam Rose that of Assistant Harbour Master. As a result of the succession, a Public Service Employee (PSE) position became available and was filled in July by a locally based applicant leaving us with a full quota of staff once again.

I am pleased to report that as a department we have a remarkably clean bill of health. The total sick leave for all Harbour Department employees in 2012 has been just 4 and half days (to end of November).

The increase in shipping has increased the amount of time spent on cargo handling operations, with this operation very often taking place at increasingly antisocial hours. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Harbour Team for their commitment, high work ethic and the sacrifices they all must sometimes make throughout the year.

Mark Gaudion  
Harbour Master