



States of Alderney
Presidents Office

Media Release

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Alderney proudly showcases ‘a special island’ to its Royal Visitors

The Earl and Countess of Wessex received a true Alderney welcome when they visited the Island on Tuesday (May 10th).

Arriving on Braye Common by helicopter, the Royal couple were greeted by the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, Lieutenant General Richard Cripwell CB, CBE and States of Alderney President, William Tate.

Their first visit was to Victoria Street, St Anne, where they were welcomed by Islanders and visitors lining the famous cobbled street where they were escorted by Mr Tate and his wife Gabrielle to the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. They were able to see first-hand the work being done to preserve the Island’s stunning marine and terrestrial species.

Roland Gauvain, AWT’s Chief Executive, and Ramsar officer Alex Purdie demonstrated the GannetCam and PuffinCam which are used to remotely monitor these marine bird colonies and are viewed by thousands across the globe.

From there they travelled by car to the Island Hall for a reception with the Island’s Politicians, Civil Servants, Representatives of the Court, members of the Alderney Covid Operational Group and other frontline representatives, together with the Royal British Legion and Age Concern.

The reception was also a special moment for Alderney’s first female firefighter, Mrs Letitia Flatres, who joined the Fire Service in 2001 and subsequently worked her way to the position of Crew Manager. Prince Edward presented her with the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Their Royal Highnesses then visited the Roman Fort heritage site at Longis (known as The Nunnery) where The Earl of Wessex, accompanied by local archaeologist Dr Isabel Picornell, formally broke ground for the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Archeological Dig.

The President then introduced the Earl and Countess to one of Alderney's tourist highlights when they boarded the Channel Islands' only train service at the restored Platinum Jubilee Station Platform at the Arsenal. The short trip took them to the Railway Station at Braye for their departure from Braye Common.

"Given the immense challenges we have faced in the last two years, this was a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together and play our part in the celebration of the historic Platinum Jubilee Year," said Mr Tate.

"We have always enjoyed a very close relationship with Her Majesty The Queen which reflects our unique position in the wider family of The Crown. This Royal Visit gave us an excellent opportunity to showcase a snapshot of the things that make our island home so very special. I hope we created a lasting impression on our very welcome Visitors."

Ends

NOTE TO EDITORS: A wide selection of images is available for use (with credits as shown) at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alderneyalive/albums/72177720298760127>

Images attached: *The Royal Visitors arrive at the Roman Fort at Longis accompanied by States of Alderney President William Tate (centre), Tourism Officer Caroline Gauvain (second from left) and Mrs Gabrielle Tate (far left).*

The Earl of Wessex greets residents in Victoria Street.

For further information please contact The President's Office by telephoning 01481 820001 or by email to president.alderney@gov.gg.

