

Sark News

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SAY NO TO GUERNSEY LEGISLATION!

The loss of independence

Top of the list of principles set out by the Common Sense Alliance is “*keeping Sark independent*”. Mr Richard Dewe, if planning to stand for election, will presumably say no such thing on his manifesto. It is clear from his proposition to Chief Pleas, item no. 9 on the Chief Pleas Agenda for the imminent meeting, that true to form he has no qualms when it comes to adopting Guernsey legislation.

Being a mere amendment to an already adopted Guernsey law, this particular proposition is not in itself a threatening issue but there is no doubt that it forms part of the creeping control the States of Guernsey is gaining over Sark – aided and abetted by Richard Dewe and other members of the Chief Pleas who speak quite openly about their willingness to be governed by Guernsey -and no doubt sanctioned by HM Procureur Nik van Leuven, Michael Beaumont and Reg Guille. If they can't have feudal rule, they would apparently prefer to be ruled by Guernsey; not because this offers Sark a better future but out of vindictiveness towards those who oppose them.

If Sark is to retain any form of uniqueness, Chief Pleas has to throw out this proposition signed by Richard Dewe. By once again voting in favour of such a proposition, its members will be abusing and squandering the jurisdictional integrity of the island of Sark; pledging its future to the States of Guernsey without consulting the people.

DOES MR DEWE MAKE COMMON SENSE?

Principle number six on Common Sense Alliance's press release is the commendable (but still unspecified) pledge to encourage inward investment on Sark. So what has that got to do with voting down Richard Dewe's proposed Guernsey legislation?

Any Guernsey legislation will have the effect of stifling inward investment on Sark. If Sark continues implementing Guernsey legislation anyway, thereby destroying its autonomy, what could possibly be the advantage in investing on Sark? Nobody in their right mind would do it – an investor might as well take the easy option and invest in Guernsey!

Why destroy the single most important feature distinguishing Sark – its autonomy?

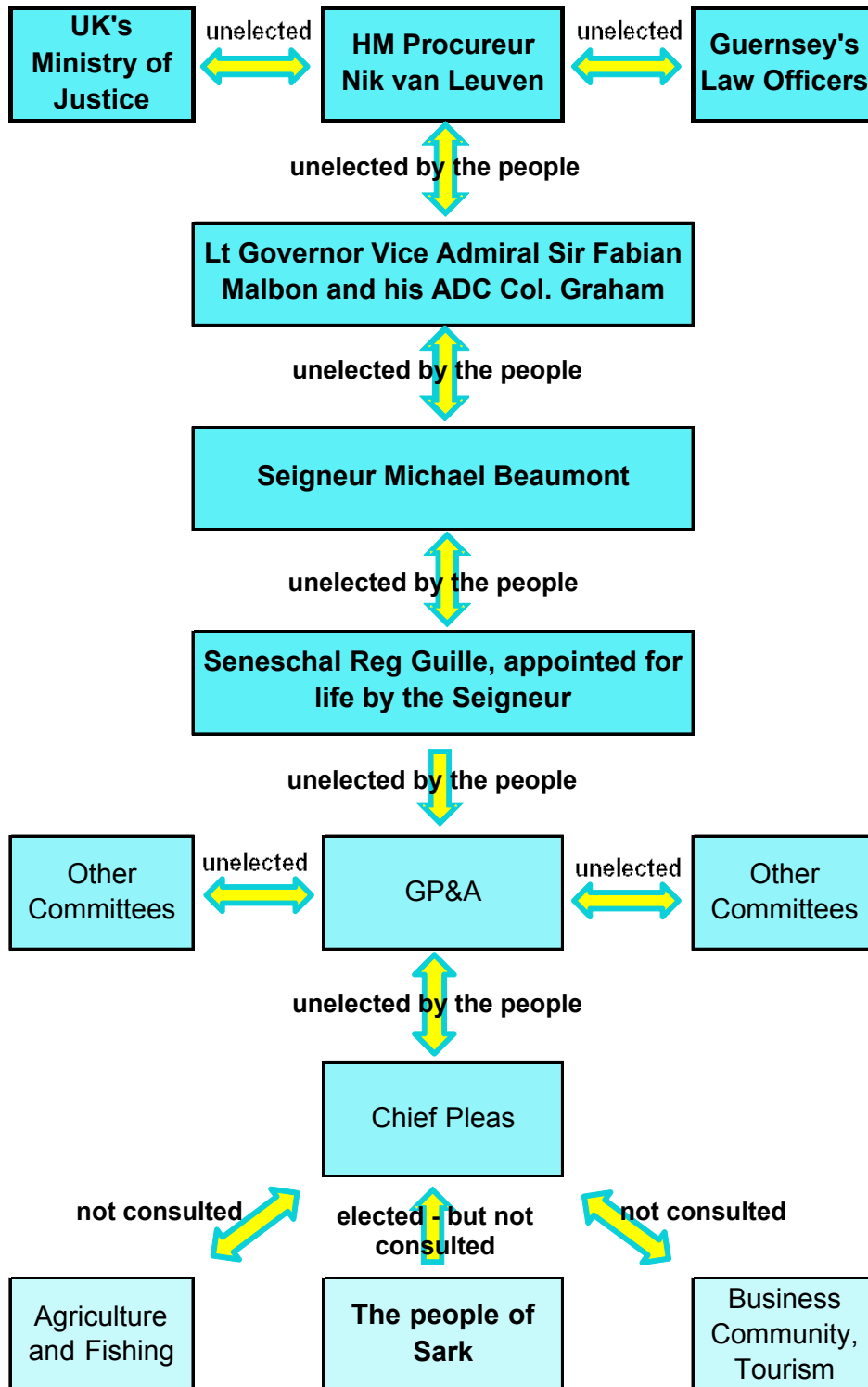
**No to Mr Dewe's vision of
Sark's future!**



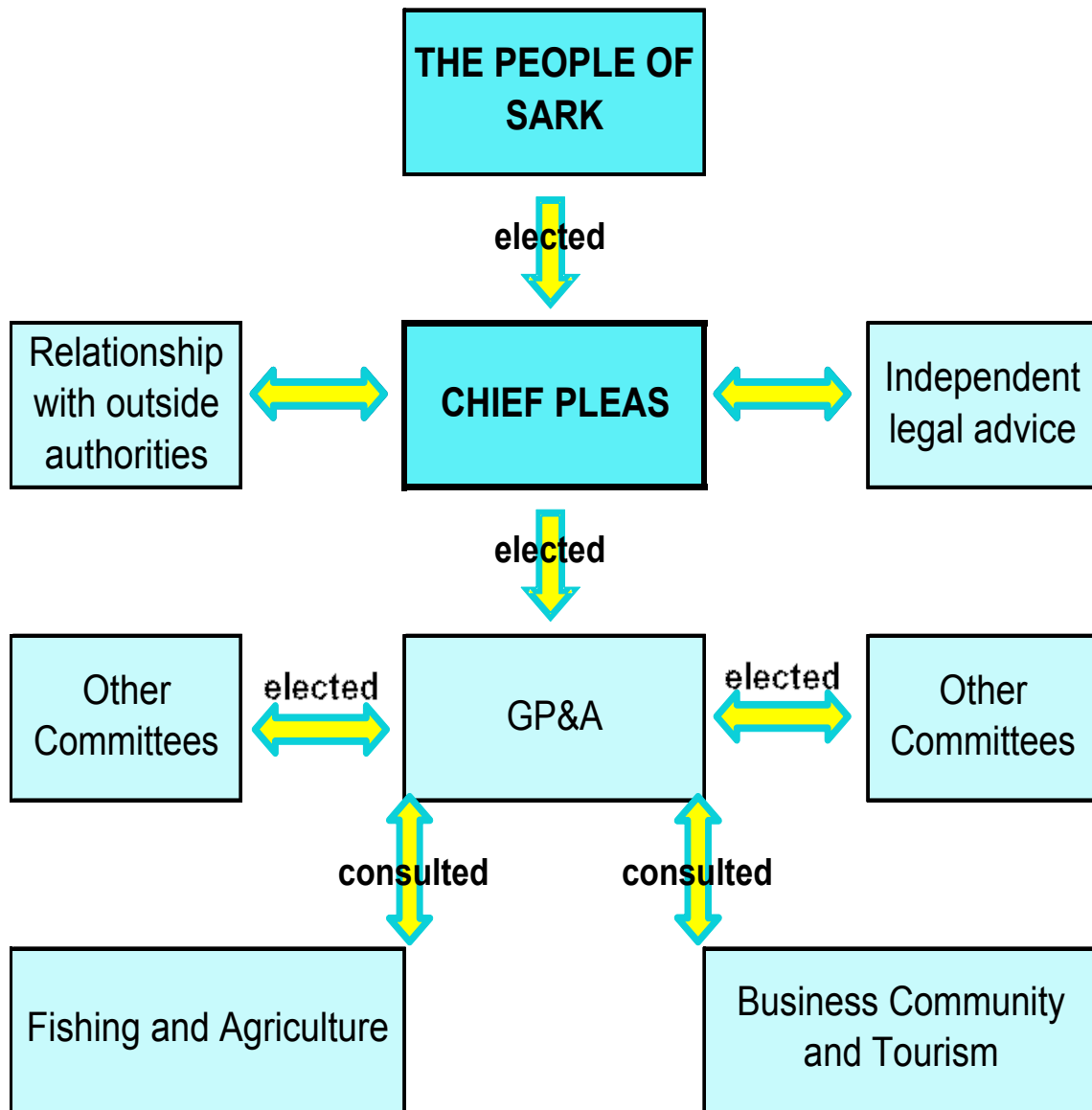
WHO CONTROLS SARK?

Does Mr Jack Straw know?

Despite a so called democratic law reform, supported by the Ministry of Justice and Lord Chancellor Jack Straw, it is clear that the control will not lie with the people of Sark. We let the illustrations below speak for themselves:



FULLY DEMOCRATIC LAW REFORM SHOULD INSTEAD BE IN THIS FORM:



Did you think we had given up?

Sark News has been busy continuing its research, the results of which prove, yet again, that this particular form of off-shore activity is still going on. Despite attempts at regulation, despite reassurances to the contrary and flying in the face of “common belief”, this cloak and dagger business is alive and well, to the detriment of Sark’s independence and international reputation.

Why detrimental? Guernsey, the UK, the EU the IMF and perhaps even the US will concern themselves with Sark’s affairs. Guernsey and the UK are, as we all know, already heavily involved in putting their stamp on the island’s legislation and it would be naive to think it will stop there. The Sark Lark makes the island stand out on the radar of any official body in the whole world that aims to combat **financial fraud, money laundering, the financing of terrorist organisations and tax evasion**. It draws unwanted attention to Sark which threatens its autonomy while taking cynical and full advantage of the lack of transparency and accountability that is the hallmark of Sark’s affairs.

The Sark Lark is lucrative for a few, but contributes absolutely nothing to the island’s coffers. Furthermore, it makes a laughing-stock of a Chief Pleas claiming to be capable of self-government and self-regulation when prominent members of the island community continue to rent out their private addresses and/or phone lines to the highest bidders or sign the dotted line as company directors for outside companies, no questions asked. These people employ other others, of whom nothing is known, as fellow directors and company officers. Who are these unknown directors? **It is quite clear that ways have been found to evade the current regulations.**

Sark residents appear as directors of companies that exist under various permutations of the same name in all of the

jurisdictions where we have been able to check; the same shareholders are listed again and again. What do these companies do?

Many are mere shell companies with no net reserves, registered but with no apparent business activity. The usefulness of a shell company lies in the fact that it can operate bank accounts from such places as Panama and therefore be used to move money around - money of unknown origin.

Many of the companies are there, as Mr Beaumont can testify, for a short term only. This would support the theory that they are established for a specific transaction and then dissolved, which does not, on the face of it, inspire confidence and trust in the *bona fides* or commercial reality of any given transaction.

The trend amongst the more recent companies is not to list individuals as their directors but rather other companies. Why the subterfuge? They must be making money on it, but how? Does the GFSC know? Would any of our readers like to enlighten us?

Our findings are, as before, the mere tip of the iceberg. There are numerous jurisdictions where all such information remains well hidden, places, for instance, such as the Cayman Islands, the BVIs, Nevis, and Madeira.

Only one thing is for certain when it comes to this mysterious web of shady dealings dubbed the Sark Lark: It is a real threat to the island’s autonomy. The only way to avoid unwanted interference from outside authorities is to STOP IT!



The Shore lark

Local variety to be re-named

Off-shore Lark

Photo courtesy of Terje Kolaas

THE FEUDAL LORD DIRECTS THE WAY

Still the tip of the iceberg, of course, Sark News here presents a list of Michael Beaumont's known directorships, past and present, as an example. We are aware that this hardly gives the full picture but taking into consideration the fact that these names are taken from only **two** off-shore jurisdictions (Panama and the Isle of Man) and does not contain any of his approx. 300 past appointments in Panama, it is highly illuminating:

1Alsac Investments Inc.	Kalco International Trading	Sentinel LimitedShrewbeck
Allendale Investments Limited	and Consultancy Inc.	Investments Limited
Anchorage Limited	Kali International SA	Shuto Associates Inc
Andromeda Securities Inc.	Kamu Enterprises SA	Skilbeck Limited
Audion Limited	Kingfisher Investments Inc.	Snowberry Limited
Beerar Limited	Kingsey Properties Limited	Space Maker Technology
Benwick Limited	Kingsworth Limited	Limited
Birch Meadow Limited	Lucean Investments Limited	Spareton Limited
Blackhorse Limited	Lynchfate Limited	Springdale Properties Limited
Blondel Limited	Maho Investments Inc.	Sradli Holdings SA
Blue Danube Limited	Mamelon Limited	Stanfield Investments Limited
Brindlepatch Limited	Manda Limited	Stelfox Investments (IOM)
Carr Investments Limited	Mankman Investments	Limited
Cocoasud International SA	Limited	Stonar International SA
Colebrook Investments	Mascade Limited	Sunbridge Limited
Limited	Medusa International Inc.	Sundial (Holdings) Limited
Colibri Associates Inc.	Muller SA	Talbot Securities Limited
Color Company Holdings	Nartim Limited	Tantar Limited
Limited	New Minster Holdings Limited	Technology Management &
Cranford Investment Limited	Northcroft Limited	Consultants Limited
Dohle (IOM) Limited	Northern and Shell	Teronbridge Holdings Inc.
Empery Limited	Investments Limited	Tewoh Limited
Esac Limited	Nuthatch Investments SA	Thornborough Properties
European Hotel Reservation	Onpneur Limited	Limited
Inc.	Oriente Limited	Trans- Euro Pacific
First Metal Investments Inc	Ourek Holdings SA	Management Limited
Flogefi Limited	Overdale Investments Limited	Truproduct Trading Limited
Gainley Limited	Oxenbury Limited	Tudorway Investments Limited
Garwood Inc.	Palson Limited	Turandot Corp.
Gem Phonic Design Limited	Peasemore Limited	Valerian Enterprises Inc.
Gremlin SA	Penbrook Inc.	Vamerton Limited
Halomet International SA	Plura Investments Limited	Van Widbord Corp.
Hango Limited	Poinciana Limited	Vermilian Limited
Hanworth Limited	Pounce Investments Limited	Watkiss Trading Limited
Hendale Limited	Quail Limited	Wedmare Limited
Honey Investments Limited	Ramas (IOM) Limited	Wedmore Limited
Hoopeo International SA	Redburg Limited	Whinchat Limited
Hornbeam Limited	Ridgebond Limited	Whinfell Limited
Ilex Interface Lintied	Rite Limited	Willesden Limited
IMC Limited	Rubycon Limited	Windborn Limited
IMC Limited	Samra Holdings SA	Winvale Shipping Limited
Ironwood Limited	Scenic Holdings Inc.	Winwood Limited
Jacobriar Limited	Sceptre Enterprises SA	

Other prominent names that appear in the Sark Lark Hall of Shame are, amongst others, Mrs Diana Beaumont, Bertha Cole, William Raymond, Don Willis, Loic Willis, Stephanie Guille, Simon Boyd de Carteret, Mr & Mrs Magell, Pat Falle, La Trobe Batemans, to name but a few.

TIME TO ROCK THE BOAT!

While the people of Sark, the company's true shareholders, are still waiting to see Sark Shipping's accounts for 2007, the company has now, with a whole 6 days notice, called its "shareholders" in for another meeting on 25th September.

It is expected that William Raymond and Adrian Guille will announce their resignations as directors of Sark Shipping at this meeting.

Reportedly, the financial necessity for selling the Sark Viking will also be announced. This will be a humiliating moment for all those who promoted the commissioning of the vessel and have mismanaged the affairs of the company ever since. Sark News reminds its readers that it was made absolutely clear to Chief Pleas before the vessel was ordered that Brecqhou had withdrawn its freight contract. The vessel was not needed then and it is not needed now.

Unexpectedly, the public will be allowed to attend the meeting. Not unexpectedly, the public can, like good children, be seen but not heard. How outrageous! The "shareholders" are not the members of Chief Pleas but a very few individuals who hold them on behalf of the people of Sark as a whole. Who makes up these bogus rules and with what authority?

Whose lifeline is it, anyway?

It could all have been avoided

William Raymond, sometimes member of Chief Pleas, substantially contributed to persuading Dr Spencer to give Sark Shipping the monopoly on the Sark – Guernsey link. It must be questioned whether the company is now keeping their end of the deal. Was it not stipulated that in return for this monopoly, the company would have to prove itself to be financially viable as well as capable of providing adequate service?

How did it come about?

It would seem that Dr Spencer did not pay enough attention to the company's balance sheet, its lack of management expertise and the importance of the Brecqhou freight contract for the financial viability of the company.

Mr Raymond, in addition to his personal involvement in the Shipping Review, also actively contributed to Sark Shipping turning down the opportunity to reach a long term freight agreement with Brecqhou. It is worth recalling that from 1994, for a period of over 10 years, Sark Shipping was a profitable company due to the £3.2 million freight contract with the Island of Brecqhou. Once that contract came to an end, caused mainly by the lack of good will on Mr Raymond's and his fellow directors' part, Sark Shipping has been operating at a considerable loss. How big a loss will presumably become clear at the coming meeting.

It's not too late to put it right!

It should be glaringly obvious to all concerned that Brecqhou can be an integral part of Sark's future; to its economy, its shipping and its independence. Sark should embrace this remarkable opportunity represented by Brecqhou. It should not follow the lead of those who control and dominate

island politics; the feudal few who consistently oppose and offend the one family willing and able to make an enormous investment in the island. When enough people on Sark realise that, they will find a **willing and cooperative neighbour**. The people of Sark must now take the matter into their own hands and ensure that those they propose to elect to Chief Pleas realise this too.

THE TREASURER

It has been recommended to Chief Pleas that Mrs Wendy Kiernan, a leading Sark Lark activist along with William Raymond should keep her job as the island's Treasurer.

Before once again being handed the reins of the island's finances, should not Mrs Kiernan, along with all others who seek election or government office, be required to declare her vested interests?

ABUSING THE NAME OF SARK

A curious item appeared in the Guernsey Press on 17th September; an appeal for photographs of the convicted American fraudster Philip Morrel Wilson, owner of the fictitious Bank of Sark. Although a legally registered company, this "bank" did not in fact have any assets. It was originally a company set up by the son of a Sark resident with the aim of selling car insurance, of all things. Since the venture was unsuccessful, the company was sold on and ended up in the ownership of the enterprising Mr Wilson. The name of Sark has, it seems, a way of attracting some rather dodgy characters.

Two questions beg to be asked: Firstly, can anybody just go to the Guernsey register and start up a "bank", no questions asked? Since it is some 30 years since the Bank of Sark scam, it is probably safe to presume that the GSFC now has put suitable regulations in place.

But secondly, and more importantly, should not the island of Sark have some say when it comes to companies wishing to register names that have the appearance of "official" island companies?

Sark Renewable Energy is a case in point. Despite being wholly unconnected with Sark and its residents, this company appears, because of its name, to have *carte blanche* licence to market itself as the body in charge of tidal power for Sark. Nothing could, we hope, be further from the truth.

NEW SHIPPING DIRECTORS

Although it could be termed hopelessly optimistic, maybe new directors can now be appointed who are capable of pulling this sinking ship that is Sark Shipping off the rocks. Sark News proposes a possible nationwide advertising campaign:

Advertisement

URGENTLY NEEDED:

Captain and Mate for ship in distress

QUALIFICATIONS:

**Good vision and strong hands
(Those blinkered or blinded by their
own prejudices need not apply)**

APPLICATIONS TO:

**Ship & Flee, Guernsey,
soonest**

WOULD YOU PASS YOUR GFSEs?

(Guernsey Financial Services Exam)

This fictive exam would, following the pattern of UK's GCSEs, undoubtedly consist of multiple choice questions. We invite our readers to find out how they would fare:

1. On discovering that a private residence on Sark has 23 telephone lines, the Guernsey authorities would:

- a) Rush out and buy shares in Cable & Wireless
- b) Consider this to be normal, after all Ms X is known to talk a lot
- c) Seek to impose regulation to close it down

2. On being made aware that a private residence on Sark is receiving letters addressed to 168 different companies, the Guernsey authorities would:

- a) Jump with joy because this means increased income for the Guernsey Post Office
- b) Say "good for you", business must be blooming on Sark, which is great for the economy
- c) Seek to impose regulation to close it down

3. On realising that many Sark residents still operate directorships in a way that breaches current regulations, the Guernsey authorities would:

- a) Pretend they don't realise what is going on, it's none of their business
- b) Congratulate the feudal regime for making the most of it while it lasts
- c) Come down on it like a ton of bricks by imposing further regulation and stricter control

4. When finding out that Sark residents act as directors for companies that

exist in seven different offshore jurisdiction under 77 different permutations of the same name, the Guernsey authorities would:

- a) Think that these people on Sark must travel a lot
- b) Congratulate the Seigneur on opening so many bank accounts before he is ousted
- c) Seek through regulation to stop this lark

5. On becoming aware that a certain Sark resident has 691 directorships in the BVIs, the Guernsey authorities would:

- a) Think that gosh, she must be rich! And really clever too, knowing what all those companies are up to!
- b) She must be a friend of Mr Beaumont's
- c) Seek through regulation to stop this once and for all

How did you do? It is simple to calculate:

Mostly option a):
you are obviously a wildly optimistic character who always looks at the bright side of life.

Mostly option b):
Sark News is pleased to have found a feudal friend!

Mostly option c):
A** ! But don't get a big head, it didn't really take the brains of Einstein to work that out, did it?

Sark News is more than happy to print any response to articles in Sark News. We cannot guarantee to publish all responses and reserve the right to edit pieces both for length and content.

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