

# Sark News

No. 17 Pre-election Special  
November 2008

## WHAT IS THIS ELECTION ALL ABOUT?

**It is about Sark's economy; jobs, investment, tourism, the business community and, last but not least, the future of Sark Shipping. Today Sark has no sustainable economy. Without continued new investment there can be no tourist industry and, indeed, no long term employment on the Island.**

### IT IS TIME NOW FOR THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE IN WHICH DIRECTION THEY WANT THEIR ISLAND TO GO

What is immediately striking is how many new faces have appeared in the list of election candidates, which is very welcome. Sark needs to move on from the old brigade and choose new politicians for a new Sark era. Those who led Sark into conflict with its largest investors, who neglected Sark's infrastructure, who have jeopardised the future of its only publicly owned transport link and who have let Sark autonomy be eroded do not deserve either to be elected, in the case of former tenants, or to re-elected, in the case of Deputies now wishing to become Conseillers.

The Sark electorate has a real choice; an opportunity to choose those who genuinely deserve to be Conseillers based upon their past achievements in Chief Pleas and those who deserve to be given the opportunity to serve in Chief Pleas for the first time based upon their track record outside of Chief Pleas.

Sark News urges the voters of Sark to vote with their heads. The angry passions of the last few years should be put to one side

and reason allowed to prevail. The Barclay Manifesto published on 21<sup>st</sup> November is an eminently reasonable set of proposals for Sark. Anyone seriously opposed to the overall thrust of those proposals is not likely to act in Sark's best interests if elected. Find out where any given candidate stands on the Manifesto. Sark's best interests lie in making peace with its island neighbour and both cooperating with, and encouraging the only individuals willing to invest millions per annum in the Island.

### FREEDOM TO VOTE

The election will be conducted by secret ballot. Any elector is entitled to vote for any candidate. Sark News is the first to respect and promote democratic rights – *without reservation* we might add.

Equally we are fierce supporters of press freedom and the right to free expression. It is in that context that Sark News publishes the complete list of candidates and then identifies 12 of the 57 who we say, and believe, are wholly unworthy of your vote; but you must make up your own minds.

## THE CANDIDATES

**Here is the complete list of all the candidates, proposers and seconders:**

	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
1.	<b>Armogie, Paul</b>	Rang, Christopher	Magell, Helen
2.	<b>Atkinson, Ann</b>	Pamela De Carteret	Perchard, Isabel
3.	<b>Audrain, Christine</b>	Sheila J. Guille	Terry, Betty
4.	<b>Baker, Diane</b>	Plummer, Helen	Pollard, David
5.	<b>Baker, Edric</b>	Care, John Philip	Carré, Marilyn
6.	<b>Bateson, Christopher</b>	Robins, Christopher	Carré, June
7.	<b>Bird, David</b>	Guille, Colin	Tighe, Natalie
8.	<b>Bird, Fiona</b>	Carré, Philip James	Southern, Kristina
9.	<b>Burgess, Paul</b>	Southern, Harry	Shuker, Jonathon
10.	<b>Carré, Philip James</b>	Nightingale, Christopher	Furness Nicolle, Mary
11.	<b>Char, Kaye</b>	Laws, Kevin	Leaman, Andrew
12.	<b>Cocksedge, David</b>	Evans, Norwyn	Falle, Christine
13.	<b>Cole, Bertha</b>	Langford, Caroline	Bateson, Christopher
14.	<b>Cole, Peter</b>	Baker, Edric	Robins, Caroline
15.	<b>Cook, Andrew</b>	Alfred, Roy	Fry, Hazel
16.	<b>Couldridge, Simon</b>	Gill, Rebecca	Cole, Amanda
17.	<b>Criak, Natalie</b>	Gill, Rebecca	Williams, Paula
18.	<b>Dance, Javie</b>	Tonks, Peter	Southern, Kristina
19.	<b>De Carteret, Rossford</b>	Archer, Yvonne	Adams, Suzette
20.	<b>Delaney, Kevin</b>	Spence, Duncan	Elgie, Christopher
21.	<b>Dewe, Elizabeth</b>	Hunt, John	Godwin, Joanne
22.	<b>Dewe, Richard</b>	Williams, Paul	Baker, Jennifer
23.	<b>Donnelly, John</b>	Lancaster, Jean	Guille, George
24.	<b>Doyle, Belinda</b>	Carré, Sabrina	Carré, John Philip
25.	<b>Doyle, Michael</b>	Lanyon, Joan	Lancaster, Jean
26.	<b>Dunks, Antony</b>	Teer, Mary	Langford, Caroline
27.	<b>Elmont, Simon</b>	Elgie, Christopher	Mann, Julie
28.	<b>Gibbins, Leigh</b>	Le Lievre, Tony	Armogie, Paul
29.	<b>Gomoll, Stefan</b>	Armogie, Paul	Henry, Stephen
30.	<b>Guille, Colin</b>	Carré, Philip James	Guille, Keith
31.	<b>Guy, Janet</b>	Kiernan, Wendy	Guille, Adrian
32.	<b>Henry, Stephen</b>	Williams, Sandra	Armogie, Jane
33.	<b>Hunt, John</b>	Langford, Caroline	Nigbur, Lisamarie
34.	<b>Kemp, Roger</b>	Adams, Richard	Roberts, Lawrence
35.	<b>Laws, Kevin</b>	Criak, Natalie	Fleming, Barbara
36.	<b>Le Lievre, Tony</b>	Baker, Edric	Rang, Christopher
37.	<b>Magell, Helen</b>	Guille, Stephanie	Hodge, Samantha
38.	<b>Maitland, Charles</b>	Beaumont, Mary	Guille, Adrian
39.	<b>McCusker, Mini</b>	Baker, Jennifer	Tighe, Natalie
40.	<b>Melling, David</b>	Olsen, Roger	Byrne, Peter
41.	<b>Nightingale, Christopher</b>	Jackson, Isabel	Baker, Ann
42.	<b>Parsons, Bob</b>	Armogie, Paul	Tonks, Peter
43.	<b>Perreé, Michelle</b>	Leaman, Aaron	Perreé, Benjamin
44.	<b>Plummer, Helen</b>	Courtney, Elsie	Robins, Caroline
45.	<b>Pollard, David</b>	Hunt, John	Elmont, Elizabeth
46.	<b>Prevel, Andrew</b>	Adams, Simon	Aldridge, Rosemary
47.	<b>Raymond, William</b>	Guille, Adrian	Byrne, Rosanne

48.	<b>Southern, Bernard</b>	Southern, Lorraine	Toms, Margaret
49.	<b>Stisted, Peter</b>	Kiernan, Wendy	Cook, Andrew
50.	<b>Strachey, Susan</b>	Adams, Basil	Guille, Keith
51.	<b>Swanson, Jamie</b>	Cowell, Charles	Dance, Alfia
52.	<b>Tighe, Natalie</b>	Crowther, Terry	Carré, Natasha
53.	<b>Tonks, Cheryl</b>	Stokes, Veronica	Hunt, John
54.	<b>Tonks, Peter</b>	Rang, Phyllis	Rang, Theodor W.W.
55.	<b>Ventress, Anthony</b>	Davies, Christine	Gill, Curtis Hazel
56.	<b>Williams, Paul</b>	Williams, Linda	Henry, Jane
57.	<b>Williams, Sandra</b>	Henry, Stephen	Robb, Robert Cleghorn

## THOSE WHO DON'T DESERVE TO BE ELECTED

We pick out 12 of the 57 candidates who we say should not be elected to the new Chief Pleas; either because of their previous track record in Chief Pleas or because of the way they have carried on outside Chief Pleas. Sark News says that any one of these individuals is dangerous to Sark's future taken alone. The larger the number of them that you elect, the greater the harm they can inflict. If all 12 were elected, they would only be 3 votes short of a majority and therefore control of Chief Pleas. Sark would be set on the road to disaster; you might as well flick the switch off at Sark Electricity and leave on the Bon Marin, if it's still running.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER...

After identifying the 12 from the list of 57, a number of common features began to emerge as follows:

- 1) Only 1 of the 12 is a true Sarkee, none of the rest were born on Sark, one has only been in Sark for two years. This doesn't stop a large proportion of the 12 complaining about outside influences on Sark.
- 2) Very few of them have real jobs, even fewer have jobs which depend upon Sark's economy.
- 3) They have all demonstrated extreme animosity towards Brecqhou, to the extent that they appear willing to destroy Sark's economy and future rather than reach any kind of accommodation with the only individuals capable of supporting the economy and revitalising the Island as a whole.
- 4) Each of them would damage Sark through their wrong-headed views of what is best for the Island and its people. The more of them that get into Chief Pleas the more harm they can do.

## THE SARK NEWS LIST OF CANDIDATES WHO CANNOT SAFELY BE ENTRUSTED WITH SARK'S FUTURE:

### 1. BAKER, DIANE

A former tenant member of Chief Pleas, hailing from the Valleys, where a warm welcome is assured. Wholeheartedly supported the incomplete and flawed Sark Reform Law. Allied with the old Sark establishment and anti-all things Brecqhou. Mrs Baker is never likely to reach agreement with Brecqhou but has no answers of her own to Sark's problems, let alone the wherewithal to produce those solutions. We say that hers is precisely the kind of blinkered, stubborn, bloody-minded attitude which is so damaging to Sark and its future. Diane Baker is the kind of candidate who is willing to shoot herself in the foot - and everyone else's at the same time. Keep her out of Chief Pleas for everybody's safety.

### 2. BAKER, EDRIC

Another former tenant member of Chief Pleas and husband of Diane. A true Sarkee and the only one in our list. But, and it is a big BUT, he works hand in glove with the old guard and would sooner undergo major surgery without the benefit of anaesthetic than compromise with or cooperate with Brecqhou; an attitude which is disastrous for the future of Sark if the Island is to have a vibrant economy and outlook. Mr Baker can also be criticised for his decisions on the Planning Committee, which do not sit easily with his close connection to the Société Sercquaise. Inappropriate buildings have been built, significant buildings have been lost. Recently Mr Baker took full (and unbecoming) advantage of changes to the laws of defamation under the Reform Law to launch an unwarranted attack on one of his fellow tenants in Chief Pleas; whilst at the same time refusing to reveal whether he actually ever paid treizième himself on a certain property transaction. Mr Baker is unlikely to support

inward investment. We have mentioned it before, he is a feudal fundamentalist, unhelpful to Sark's future as he is more likely to lead Sark down the dark alleys of the past. Don't vote for him.

### 3. COLE, BERTHA

Bertha is so hostile to Brecqhou and anything to do with it that her presence in Chief Pleas would be a disaster. She spits rivets whenever the topic is raised. She wears her heart on her sleeve and will let anyone willing to listen know just how hostile she is. At the same time her manifesto proudly claims she is a member of the defunct Sark Association of Corporate Administrators. She says she wants to put past divisions behind her but quite frankly we don't believe her. This woman's hatred for Sark's principal investors is so deep-seated that we think she is absolutely incapable of moving on. This is a woman who will gladly chop off the branch she sits on while cutting off her nose to spite her face. The trouble is, she now wants to do it on behalf of Sark as a whole. Bertha wants to re-reform the Reform Law to take away the citizen's rights of individuals such as Sir Peter Miller and Christopher Harris, even if they are not standing this time around. She wants to dismantle the Island's system of landholding. She wants to introduce expensive medical insurance and a retirement home, presumably all at public expense. How is that to be funded? Particularly with a broken economy if she succeeds in seeing off the only really substantial investors Sark has. Don't vote for Bertha. She has never been a member of Chief Pleas before and shouldn't be now.

### 4. COLE, PETER

Former Deputy, but only until he resigned in a fit of pique at the failure of his personal hopes for the Reform Law. He is unfit to be re-

elected if only on the basis that he let down the people of Sark who had selected him for office. That, combined with his extraordinary management of the Christopher and Hilary Sanderson affair, makes him unfit to be elected again. Furthermore, he is another implacable Brecqhou hater, who wrecked the attempts to reach agreement with Brecqhou but has no solutions of his own, let alone any he can deliver. Not satisfied with ruining the economy if his views on Brecqhou prevail, he also appears to want to reduce the population whilst sharing his wife's plans for medical insurance and land ownership. He doesn't seem to want a rest home though but, - .... what is this? He wants to look at the "creaking" tax system to "look at systems that more readily reflect a person's ability to pay". Are you proposing to introduce income tax Mr Cole? In short, don't vote for Sark's would-be Napoleon.

#### **5. COOK, ANDY**

Not a former member of Chief Pleas in any capacity. No manifesto at the time of writing. Mr Cook appears to be a man of leisure, spending his days sailing, diving or idling. With the possible exception of his knowledge of the sea, this man has nothing to offer the new Chief Pleas and can only damage Sark through his hostility to all things Brecqhou. His role as seconder of Peter Stisted confirms his politics. As we have already said, birds of a feather flock together – don't vote this particular bird in.

#### **6. GUY, JAN**

Former Deputy member of Chief Pleas who quit at the same time and for the same bad reasons as her close confederate, Peter Cole. But Ms Guy is no stranger to amateur dramatics. Her performance as King to Ms Hammond's Queen in last year's pantomime was memorable; but Sark's political future is no joking matter and this over-earnest but misguided candidate will do great damage to

Sark. There is a socialist streak to this candidate's politics which is completely at odds with Sark's best interests. Another would-be tax reformer, she wants to "provide the maximum tax income from those who benefit most from the island's tax situation" according to her manifesto. She would have done well under Old Labour and Denis Healey, don't let her make the pips squeak. Don't vote for Ms Guy.

#### **7. MAITLAND, CHARLES**

Mr Maitland has no experience as a member of Chief Pleas and not a great deal more experience of Sark, having lived on the Island for all of two years. His manifesto says he wants a quiet life, well, we suggest you try harder Mr Maitland! Mr Maitland's CV makes for strange reading. He goes to the trouble of studying law at Oxford and qualifying as a solicitor but then gives it up to follow in the footsteps of Del Boy or Arthur Daley when he claims to have been a "serial entrepreneur" trading rugs and antiques, although we do not doubt for a moment Mr Maitland's probity and honesty. We note Mr Maitland's experience with retirement homes and perhaps he can assist Bertha Cole with the realisation of her vision, but from outside Chief Pleas please. Mr Maitland is plainly allied with the old guard and anti-all things Brecqhou. He too wants to destroy Sark's system of landholding. He wants to introduce employment legislation, the beginning of the slippery slope. He takes a swipe at Brecqhou in his manifesto; but if this man has his way the only jobs likely to be created on Sark will be in his new coffee shop, but unfortunately there will be no tourists because the rest of the island will have gone to rack and ruin. It is still unclear what is going on with the Seigneurie and its grounds, but Mr Maitland might be able to assist in this regard at least. His involvement in Chief Pleas, however, would lead to a scorched earth policy for Sark's economy and small businesses and inward investment would suffer.

## **8. RAYMOND, WILLIAM**

A former tenant member of Chief Pleas, although there was a curious interlude when Mr Raymond swapped hats with his wife, or rather his wife wore the hat and Mr Raymond wore the trousers. We are not sure that we have got it right even now; but Mr Raymond left Chief Pleas only to return some weeks or months later, and stayed strangely silent, unless positively required to speak on any given issue. Mr Raymond has now left Isle of Sark Shipping and must take a large share of the responsibility for its insolvent state. He persuaded Chief Pleas to commission the building of the Viking when he knew the end of the Brecqhou freight contract meant that there was no commercial case for that vessel. Meanwhile he carries on with what is left of the Sark Lark. It was a surprise to Sark News to see Mr Raymond's last minute nomination; we wonder whether he even truly wants to be a Conseiller. Don't give him the benefit of the doubt. Don't vote him in!

## **9. STISTED, PETER**

Another person with no previous experience of membership of Chief Pleas and another splenetic hater of Brecqhou with no solutions of his own, certainly none he can deliver, at least not with the backing of substantial investment. Mr Stisted's chief claim to fame is leaving the Island's fishery protection vessel in an unsheltered position at Masseline Harbour in advance of a well-publicised warning of northeasterly strong wind. Rumour has it that M&S bags were found in the wreckage of the rib, but that may just be idle gossip. Peter's partner is Jo Birch, another person not noted for her love of Sark's island neighbour. One puzzle is the appearance of a canon on his manifesto, and we note it is pointed at the head of Mr Stisted. Perhaps it is a subliminal impression of his own prospects and those of Sark, should he be elected. Who knows? Let's not find out. It is a risk Sark can't afford to take.

## **10. VENTRESS, TONY**

We don't believe Mr Ventress has any experience of membership of Chief Pleas but he will surely tell us if we are wrong. Mr Ventress is very fond of publishing his opinions, and in particular his strong hatred for anything to do with Brecqhou. He is fond of signing himself off as "Revolting Sark Peasant" and "Ignorant Sark Serf". While disputing that this man is a Sarkee or a peasant or a serf, we are happy to allow him his other self-awarded titles. This is a man who displays childlike tendencies and despite setting himself up as "the elder statesman of Sark" who, as he says, enjoys "*a refreshing pint or two*" at the Island Hall, he will stop at nothing to offend Sark's biggest investors by far. He is a liability and should not, under any circumstances, be elected to Chief Pleas.

## **11. WILLIAMS, PAUL**

A former Deputy with fingers and thumbs in so many pies we wonder if he only has 10. This man does a lot for the island, perhaps too much. There is a feeling that being in Chief Pleas is almost a part of what he regards as his personal career. Is he really working for the greater interests of Sark or feathering his own nest? At the same time he is intensely hostile to Brecqhou and all the consequences that brings for the Island. His antipathy was clearly demonstrated in a very poorly judged speech against the organic farming proposition at the last meeting of Chief Pleas. Mr Williams is President of the Avian Flu Committee, but if you vote for him we fear you will catch a cold - vote for him and you'll come to regret it.

## **12. WILLIAMS, SANDRA**

Another former Deputy seeking re-election as a Conseiller. Ms Williams, bizarrely, became President of the Finance and Commerce Committee after the departure of William Raymond. Anyone who witnessed her

performances in that role in Chief Pleas meetings can have been left in no doubt as to her fitness for any responsible or complex Chief Pleas office. Our Sandra is simply not equipped for the task; but worse than that, she is another blindly hating member of the shoot yourself in the foot brigade. There is no doubt she would be a liability in the Chief Pleas.

## ON PROBATION

The father and daughter combination of Richard and Lizzie Dewe have caused the Editor some difficulty.

Dewe senior used to be a fully paid up member of the anti-Brecqhou brigade and was blinded by the light of all things Guernsey whilst taking that famous walk down the St Peter Port corridors of power, watching doors opening before him. He also very publicly threw his toys out of the pram at one Chief Pleas meeting and did not make good on his promise to quit as a Deputy. He came and

went as Chairman of GP&F and then GP&A quicker than repeated doses of salt.

But, towards the end of the last Chief Pleas Mr Dewe appeared to be waking up to reality and common sense. He began to smell the coffee. He began taking a more independent line and voting more thoughtfully. He became someone with whom it was possible to do business.

Mr Dewe has a great wealth of knowledge and experience of Sark and Sark politics. He still has a great deal to offer, but we would like to know where he stands on the Brecqhou manifesto.

As for Dewe Jnr, the jury is very much still out. She has showed herself to be a passionate member of Chief Pleas with a voice of her own; but then again, we doubt whether she should support the Brecqhou manifesto. Would she work with or against the Island's biggest investors?

## TO CONCLUDE

**The manifestos of the 12 candidates we list contain many noble notions but deliver no solutions for how to convert these notions into reality. In particular, they put forward no ideas for how to create a stable, long term economy on Sark. They have no idea how to obtain the considerable amount of capital Sark needs in order to update its tourist industry, upgrade its crumbling infrastructure and keep its lifeline, Sark Shipping, afloat. Their ideas are instead focused on raising taxes and introducing regulation.**

**On 10<sup>th</sup> December, we hope that the electorate of Sark will elect to Chief Pleas 28 individuals able to think intelligently, reasonably and logically about the many issues facing Sark; individuals who are able to carry on in a statesmanlike way, able to work with Sark's neighbours and would-be allies by supporting its investments and its manifesto. We hope the electorate will choose 28 able and dignified Conseillers who will do their utmost to protect and promote the Island of Sark by acting in its true best interests, rather than carrying on a spiteful feud with those who have invested so heavily in the Island.**

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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