

Sark



News

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## THE LINK BETWEEN POLITICS AND OFF-SHORE ACTIVITIES ON SARK

### Sark's Achilles Heel

Yes, there is a strong connection between many of the most vociferous and prominent spokespersons for 'Option A': the "directorship business". A quick trawl through the websites of Companies House in London, Guernsey's Financial Services Commission and Panama's company register reveals that this form of business is a local industry amongst the few, some of whom are members of Chief Pleas and various committees and many of whom are people of influence in the community. It is, as we know, an activity that does little for the island's economy in general since it does not require the employment of staff. Nor does it generate any income for the community in the form of tax. The only thing the "Sark Lark" has done for the island is to give it a reputation internationally as a place of shady dealings, whilst, of course, providing a few of its inhabitants – 'the club' - with a very comfortable living.

The problem is first of all that those who take part in the "off-shore business" and also sit on committees etc., thereby taking part in the island's decision-making process, do not declare their interest. Doing so would be standard democratic procedure due to the obvious possibility for conflict of interest.

On Sark, apparently, a different route is taken. When Guernsey, issuer of licenses for fiduciary businesses via the Guernsey Financial Services Commission (GFSC), seeks to legislate for and regulate Sark business, those involved take the easy option and accept

whatever Guernsey is presenting. A smooth relationship with Guernsey will ensure the continuation of their fiduciary licenses, which is their ticket to a comfortable income free of social costs and responsibilities. They are beholden to the GFSC. This seems to be more important to the people involved than Sark's dwindling independence.

What is it that these people have in common apart from making money and not paying tax? Most of them are not "indigenous Sarkees". They are mostly people who have arrived on Sark in recent years. Of all places, why Sark? And now, a large number of them are deeply involved in the island's politics and finances with strong views on how Sark's future should be shaped.

Wendy Kiernan and William Raymond are major players. Robert Boerenbeker (who might be joining the Finance Committee), Bertha Cole, Patricia Falle, Simon De Carteret, Julie Elmont and Jaqueline Lloyd, for instance, are all taking part in this particular industry.

Mr & Mrs Michael Beaumont appear prolifically involved, with the records in Panama showing them as having been directors or officers of some 300 companies and currently holding some 50 current directorship between them.

Below is a list of names, found on the internet, of companies naming Sark residents as current directors. This is but the tip of the iceberg; it is merely an indication of what is going on. Further information is no doubt to be found by digging deeper in Panama and checking the company registers of the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Madeira, Bermuda etc. etc.

**Directorships in the UK register with a Sark address:**

Name	Current	Past	Past, dissolved co's
Boerenbeker, Rob.	3	8	8
Brannam, Jonathan	5	50+	50+
Cole, Bertha H.	11	16	29
Croshaw, Belinda	4	26	50+
Croshaw, Philip	0	0	2
De Carteret, Simon	5	43	41
Diplock, Marilyn	1	1	1
Diplock, Philip R.	4	2	1
Falle, Patricia L.	6	12	29
Gibson, Helen L.	2	5	28
Gibson, Raymond	4	50+	50+
Gill, Sheridan R.	0	37	50+
Guille, Betty Ann	1	0	0
Guille, Colin F.	2	5	0
Guille, George C.	0	3	17
Guille, Stephanie	0	2	0
Hamon, Trevor	0	0	2
Kendall, Trevor B.	0	1	4
Kiernan, Wendy	0	2	1
La Trobe Bateman, Lorrie Ann	3	0	0
La Trobe Bateman, James	3	3	0
Magell, Alexander	1	1	1
Magell, Helen	1	0	0
Mann, Julie	0	1	14
Melling, David	0	2	0
Wallace, Bruce W.	1	0	1
Willis, Donald V.	2	8	50+
Willis, Loic John	3	50	50+

**UK companies having one or more Sark address directors:**

Allstar Agents Ltd  
 Caron Properties Ltd  
 Cuisine Furniture Ltd  
 De Vernon Group S.A.  
 De Vernon Secretaries S.A.  
 Eltham Services Ltd  
 Highleaze Worldwide Ltd  
 Independent Consulting Ltd  
 Infosale Ltd  
 ITP Consultants Ltd  
 Kostlare Ltd  
 Lion Corporation Ltd  
 Lyra Arts & Music Ltd (till Dec. '07)  
 Manho Consultants Ltd  
 Muchelney Restoration Ltd  
 Oriole Services Inc.  
 Overseas Professional Investments Ltd  
 Qualityprint Ltd  
 Roseoak Properties Ltd  
 Toplawn Management (No 2) Ltd  
 Toplawn Management (No 3) Ltd  
 Toplawn Management Ltd  
 Transnational Currency Transmitters  
 Vectar Investments Ltd  
 Widelake Properties Ltd  
 Yardglobe Ltd

**The following Sark residents have taken the step of having their details suppressed from the on-line UK register. (This can be done by applying in writing, stating the applicant's "special circumstances".) In the time-honoured Sark tradition, their dealings are therefore shrouded in secrecy:**

Beaumont, Diana Mary  
 Beaumont, John Michael  
 Curtis, Peter Francis  
 Elmont, Julie Louise  
 Guille, Deborah Anne  
 Guille, Peter Bernhard  
 Guille, Sheila Jean  
 Guille, Stephanie Louise (1 of 2 reports suppressed)  
 Rountree, Diana L.  
 La Trobe-Bateman, Charles Jeremy  
 Peters, Samantha  
 Willis, Ian Simon

**In Panama, current directorships only:**

Name	Company
Beaumont, Diana Mary	1. 1Alsac Investments Inc.
	2. Andromeda Securities Inc.
	3. Arvimex Inc.
	4. Beauvan Holdings Inc.
	5. Darnley Properties Inc.
	6. Einstein Holdings Inc.
	7. European Hotel Reservations Inc.
	8. Fassomat SA
	9. Financiera Badria SA
	10. International Trade & Financial Services SA
	11. Kalco International Trading and Consultancy Inc.
	12. Kamu Enterprises SA
	13. Kelgan Investments Inc.
	14. Madison Associates SA
	15. Mopion SA
	16. Mulberry Investments Inc.
	17. Odin Marketing and Development SA
	18. Rent-a-Safe (Holdings) SA
	19. Teronbridge Holdings Inc.
	20. V.O.G. International SA
Beaumont, John Michael	1. 1Alsac Investments Inc.
	2. Andromeda Securities Inc.
	3. Cocosud International SA
	4. Colibri Associates Inc.
	5. European Hotel Reservation Inc.
	6. First Metal Investments Inc
	7. Garwood Inc.
	8. Gremlin SA
	9. Halomet International SA
	10. Hoopeo International SA
	11. Kalco International Trading and Consultancy Inc.
	12. Kali International SA
	13. Kamu Enterprises SA
	14. Kingfisher Investments Inc.
	15. Maho Investments Inc.
	16. Medusa International Inc.
	17. Muller SA
	18. Nuthatch Investments SA
	19. Ourek Holdings SA
	20. Penbrook Inc.
	21. Samra Holdings SA
	22. Scenic Holdings Inc.
	23. Sceptre Enterprises SA
	24. Shuto Associates Inc
	25. Sradli Holdings SA
	26. Stonar International SA
	27. Teronbridge Holdings Inc.
	28. Turandot Corp.
	29. Valerian Enterprises Inc.
	30. Van Widbord Corp.
Brannam, Jonathan C.	1. Arvimex Inc.
	2. De Vernon Group SA
	3. Financiera Badria SA
	4. Odin Marketing and Development SA

De Carteret, Simon B.	1. Madison Business Associates Corp
Diplock, Marilyn	1. Sunleigh Investments Inc.
Diplock, Philip R.	1. Sunleigh Investments Inc.
Gibson, Helen Lucy	1. Madison Business Associates Corp
Gibson, Raymond T.	2. Cocosud International SA 3. Colibri Associates Inc. 4. Gremlin SA 5. Halomet International SA 6. Madison Business Associates Corp 7. Muller SA 8. Sceptre Enterprises 9. Sceptre Holdings Inc. 10. Sradli Holdings SA 11. Stonar International SA 12. Valerian Enterprises Inc.
Guille, Deborah A.	1. Lucian Investments Inc.
Guille, Bernhard P.	1. Lucian Investments Inc.
Martin, John R.	1. First Metal Investments Inc. 2. Garwood Inc. 3. Penbrook Inc.
Rountree, Diana L.	1. Turandot Corp.
Rountree, Francis R.	1. First Metal Investments Inc. 2. Garwood Inc. 3. Penbrook Inc.
Willis, Ian	1. De Vernon Secretaries SA 2. Wallace International Inc.
Willis, Donald Vernon	1. Beauvan Holdings Inc. 2. Darnley Properties Inc. 3. De Vernon Group SA 4. De Vernon Secretaries SA 5. Einstein Holdings Inc. 6. Fassomat SA 7. International Trade & Financial Services SA 8. Kalco International Trading and Consultancy Inc. 9. Kelgan Investments Inc 10. Madison Associates SA 11. Mopion SA 12. Mulberry Investments Inc. 13. Rent-a-Safe (Holdings) SA 14. V.O.G. International SA 15. Wallace International Inc.
Willis, Loic	1. De Vernon Group SA

**Do you really think you can trust these people to make un-biased political decisions on your behalf? Is the future independence of Sark safe in their hands?**

## **THE DIRECTORS' SECRET SOCIETY**

The whole set-up of the Sark off-shore “business”; wheels within wheels within wheels within wheels is constructed to deter anyone from finding out what is really going on. You find companies owned by companies owned by companies owned by companies, and then the trail ends with some anonymous Spanish names on the Panamanian company register, the same names again and again and again. Secrecy and smokescreens are the names of the game. Shouldn't the GFSC have a look in, not to mention the UK authorities and the taxmen of the EU?

De Vernon Trustees Inc., for instance, is a company listed as a “Fiduciary Lead Licensee” on GFSC's website with a Sark address. Although it seems generally acknowledged that William Raymond and Wendy Kiernan are running this business, the Greffe's register of company directors does not even show this company name, let alone who the people responsible for it are. If this is a legitimate business, why such secrecy? Rather than declare their interest to Chief Pleas, are Mrs Kiernan and Mr Raymond doing their utmost not to be openly linked with the “off-shore business” so that they can feign impartiality in Chief Pleas?

Also, how can somebody holding 30 directorships possibly comply with the legal and moral rules and responsibilities that a proper directorship entails? It certainly does not inspire confidence.

Why does Sark condone non-residents' use of a Sark address for “business” purposes? (As is the case with the two La Trobe-Batemans in the UK list, as well as Jonathan Brannam, who appears on both lists.)

There can be no doubt that this business needs closer scrutiny. The

participants, though, are doing their utmost to avoid the implementation of an independent fiduciary register on Sark. Once again, in the tradition of secrecy. However, such a register might just be the way forward. Some degree of transparency is needed in order to persuade the world at large that Sark is not the treasury of the world's dirty money.

In the context of politics, it is high time the participants in this game declare their interest when related matters are discussed and decided on in Chief Pleas and its committees. It is also high time they put something back into the island's economy. They are actively undermining Sark; the credibility of its politics, the viability of its economy and the continuation of its autonomy.

## **GUERNSEY AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

The US State Department has, according the Times (21<sup>st</sup> March), told Britain to tighten money laundering controls. It has named Britain, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man as being amongst the world's most favoured money laundering places alongside countries like Afghanistan, the Cayman Islands, Liechtenstein and others. It is estimated that £15bn of criminal profits gets processed through Britain alone each year.

**Being thus named, perhaps Guernsey should tidy up its own act instead of throwing stones at Sark.**

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