

## A SARK LARK UPDATE

Since our last edition, the activity known as the Sark Lark seems to be continuing unabated – despite the considerable international political pressure that offshore jurisdictions, including Guernsey, are under to clean up their acts. Sark residents continue to sign their names to companies that appear to have no legitimate commercial activity; companies that on paper are worth nothing, sell nothing and produce nothing.

According to the on-line Panamanian company register, none of the Sark residents listed as directors of Panamanian companies in Sark News Issue 7 have resigned from their appointments.

Some Sark residents even appear to have stepped up their level of activity; the database at Companies House in London reveals that Bertha Cole, for example, has taken on 10 new directorships in the UK alone since Sark News last checked in March 2008. This brings the total of Mrs Cole's current UK directorships to 20, with 46 previous appointments also registered (see full list on pages 3 and 4). Of the 46 previous appointments, 29 were held at the time of the dissolution of the relevant company. The majority of these dissolved companies had only been in operation for an average of 2.5 years.

The companies with which Mrs Cole has recently signed on as a director are:

1. Apache Creek Trading Company Limited
2. Athena Limited
3. Bluefort Properties Limited
4. Carbonate UK Limited
5. Nateforce Limited
6. Neo Trade and Technology Limited
7. Obelisk UK Limited
8. Participay Limited
9. Surfunder Limited
10. Wistaria Investments Limited
11. Yardhold Limited

Nateforce Limited, number five on the list above, is, on the face of it, by far the most interesting. Although her present co-directors are Guernsey-licensed companies, two of its former directors are rather more colourful:

Marie Francis of the same address and surname as a Justin Robert Francis, a man who in 2008 was struck off – disqualified from being a director – for 144 months until January 2020

And

Mr Alastair Matthew Cunningham, one time resident of Sark, now of Nicosia, Cyprus. In the UK register alone, Mr Cunningham’s record shows him to have or have had a total of 573 – five hundred and seventy three – directorships.

Although Mrs Cole’s name has not been found on the Panama register, the Isle of Man lists her as current director of Redwood Consultants Limited. There are 44 registered companies with variations of the “Redwood” name (such as Redwood Consulting Inc., Redwood Business Inc., Redwood Assets Inc. etc.)

The very reason for the activity dubbed the Sark Lark is to ensure the anonymity of the real owners of the companies involved as well as the nature of their business. Secrecy is the name of the game and, as Sark News has said before, what we are able to prove is but the tip of the iceberg. Panama and the UK have publicly accessible databases but well known offshore jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, St Kitts & Nevis and the British Virgin Islands do not disclose any registry information at all – a fact which will, of course, be exploited to the full by many, many unscrupulous companies. It is therefore difficult to understand how Guernsey Financial Services Commission can possibly control the offshore operators that they license.

Bertha Cole is the wife of an elected politician, Peter Cole, who is an influential member of the GP&A, Sark’s most powerful and important committee, as well as Chairman of the vital Shipping Committee. Bertha Cole’s predecessor as Mrs Cole, Ms Jan Guy, also a politician, is Chairman of Sark’s Harbours Committee.

Full list of Bertha Helen Cole's UK registered directorships:

**Current Appointments**

Company	Company Name	App.Type	App.Date	Resign Date	Dissolved Date
02822076	TOPLAWN MANAGEMENT LIMITED	Director	29/07/1993		
03117846	TOPLAWN MANAGEMENT (NO 2) LIMITED	Company Secretary	26/10/1995		
FC019287	MUCHELNEY RESTORATION LIMITED	Director	05/07/1996		
01627257	INFOSALE LIMITED	Director	31/03/2001		
04338324	TOPLAWN MANAGEMENT (NO 3) LIMITED	Director	11/12/2001		
02992911	LION CORPORATION LIMITED	Director	21/02/2003		
02738328	CARON PROPERTIES LIMITED	Director	05/01/2004		
02688920	ROSEOAK PROPERTIES LIMITED	Director	11/07/2006		
03815420	MANHO CONSULTANTS LIMITED	Director	19/04/2007		
06006385	SURFINDER LIMITED	Director	24/09/2008		
04840152	NATEFORCE LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
03171427	OBELISK UK LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
06179038	NEO TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
06435211	APACHE CREEK TRADING COMPANY LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
04837001	YARDHOLD LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
05427404	ATHENNA LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
04822426	BLUEFORT PROPERTIES LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
05442447	WISTARIA INVESTMENTS LIMITED	Director	01/10/2008		
06744233	CARBONATE UK LIMITED	Director	07/11/2008		
06814677	PARTICIPAY LIMITED	Director	10/02/2009		
02749639	WIDELAKE PROPERTIES LIMITED	Director	20/11/1992	01/01/2008	

**Previous Appointments**

FC019287	MUCHELNEY RESTORATION LIMITED	Previous Director	05/07/1996		
04338324	TOPLAWN MANAGEMENT (NO 3) LIMITED	Previous Director	11/12/2001		
02749639	WIDELAKE PROPERTIES LIMITED	Previous Director	20/11/1992	01/01/2008	
02822076	TOPLAWN MANAGEMENT LIMITED	Previous Company Secretary	29/07/1993	30/11/2001	
02206928	MEDWORTH INVESTMENTS LIMITED	Previous Director	05/02/2001	13/02/2003	
02921285	SBS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED	Previous Director	30/06/2003	06/03/2006	
04345340	NEVVILLE HOMES LIMITED	Previous Director	13/02/2004	14/12/2004	
04793652	SECURITY RESEARCH ADVISORS LIMITED	Previous Director	31/03/2004	08/06/2007	
04173048	VECTAR INVESTMENTS LIMITED	Previous Director	12/05/2004	08/06/2007	
05011047	GEMANA ENERGY SAVING LIMITED	Previous Director	01/06/2004	08/06/2007	
03878084	INDEPENDENT CONSULTING LIMITED	Previous Director	01/07/2004	03/11/2008	
04557711	ELTHAM SERVICES LIMITED	Previous Director	21/07/2004	08/06/2007	
04192722	ENOLA SERVICES LIMITED	Previous Director	01/09/2004	24/03/2005	
05380787	ABBEVILLE CONSULTANCY LIMITED	Previous Director	02/03/2005	08/06/2007	

05456562	RADIOMARINE LIMITED	Previous Director	19/05/2005	08/06/2007
05737247	WIDEFILL LIMITED	Previous Director	09/03/2006	08/06/2007
04951164	ITP CONSULTANTS LIMITED	Previous Director	22/06/2006	08/06/2007

**Appointments at time of Dissolution**

02101101	ARCHITECT DESIGN COMPANY LIMITED	Director	02/10/1990	08/12/1992
01474872	PETER SLADDEN LIMITED	Director	31/12/1990	12/05/1992
01955626	AXLE CARE LIMITED	Director	01/01/1991	06/07/1993
01956083	DARROS LIMITED	Director	04/01/1991	01/12/1992
02177946	TECHNIMODA LIMITED	Director	27/03/1991	30/03/1993
02079899	ANYSOURCE LIMITED	Director	27/03/1991	28/09/1993
01866355	QUARTSTAR LIMITED	Director	05/05/1991	20/10/1992
01794267	DEVOPARK LIMITED	Director	05/05/1991	13/10/1992
01890510	TESTBLAKE LIMITED	Director	04/06/1991	27/07/1993
02096787	GULFBOOST LIMITED	Director	04/06/1991	27/07/1993
02086787	POLARHAVEN LIMITED	Director	04/06/1991	27/07/1993
02086819	STOCKWEALTH LIMITED	Director	04/06/1991	20/07/1993
02199024	BREMA TRADING LIMITED	Director	11/07/1991	18/05/1993
01766206	DAWESFORD LIMITED	Director	05/08/1991	21/07/1992
02127322	V S P TECHNOLOGY LIMITED	Director	20/08/1991	13/10/1992
02131423	AMSTEL SHIPPING LIMITED	Director	03/09/1991	24/01/1995
01932422	NORTHERN EUROPEAN CONSULTANTS LIMITED	Director	12/10/1991	10/02/1998
02196713	CAVENMAN LIMITED	Director	31/10/1991	08/06/1993
01497341	UNITED PETRO-CHEMICALS LIMITED	Director	21/11/1991	02/03/1994
01960949	ALLSEAS GINA LIMITED	Director	29/11/1991	12/10/1993
02599658	IRWIN BLADE CO. LIMITED	Company Secretary	09/04/1992	10/01/1995
02092533	LEVELMILE LIMITED	Director	26/04/1992	05/10/1993
02017738	HALBERT MARKETING LIMITED	Director	02/07/1993	06/06/2000
01858749	METROHOLD LIMITED		01/11/1994	21/11/1995
01539934	NORCROFT LEASING LIMITED		01/11/1994	15/01/2002
02977063	PRIMEVALUE LIMITED	Director	16/11/1994	16/07/1996
03178840	SOFTIME LIMITED	Company Secretary	27/03/1996	07/01/2003
02826399	SERVAN PROPERTIES LIMITED	Director	30/06/2003	14/09/2004
03620117	PANORAMA PROJECTS LIMITED	Director	30/06/2003	31/08/2004