

Fifth Annual General Meeting

# Jersey Biodiversity Centre



13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Société Jersiaise 13:15 to 14:30

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Minutes of the previous AGM
- Financial accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- Chairman's report
- Jersey Biodiversity Centre Manager's report
- Election of officers
- Any other business



# Welcome

# Apologies

# Minutes of the previous AGM

# Minutes of the Fourth AGM

## 1. Attendees

Michelle Gray MG (JBC Manager)

**Officers of the Charity (Committee)** - Anne Haden AH (Chair), Nina Cornish NC (Secretary),

**Elected Members of the Charity (Committee)** - David Tipping DT, Glyn Young GY (virtual via Zoom)

**General Members of the Charity** - Kevin McIlwee, Richard Perchard, Neil Singleton ND, Ruth Urben, Ian Everson, Tim du Feu.

## 2. Apologies

Alli Caldeira, Sarah Maguire, Jon Rault (Elected Members of the Charity (Committee)), Simon Swain, Liz Walsh, Hilary Grant, Sheena Brockie, Bob and Jill Tompkins, Clare Cornick, Liz Corry tried to get onto zoom but couldn't find a quiet area at the zoo.

## 3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGE were accepted

Proposer Neil Singleton

Secunder Dave Tipping

# Minutes of the Fourth AGM

## 4. Treasurer's report

Financial Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

- Michelle Gray presented the 2019 accounts
- Funding healthy
- Commercial work and income has increased
- AH queried the Current Assets Debtors entry
  - > MG to investigate and sort out with Claire Cornick
- Societe Jersiaise continue to support JBC through office space provision, administration and HR management
- Need to try to secure longer term government support

The 20019 financial accounts were accepted

Proposer Nina Cornish

Secunder Dave Tipping

## 5. Chair's report 2020

Anne Haden presented her report. JBC is organisationally and financially strong

- A difficult interim period after Amy Hall (Pervious Manager's) resignation and with Covid
- Unfortunately Jon Rault has resigned from the committee. Big thanks to him for all his support and time. This will free up another vacancy on the committee
- A big 'Thank you' to Sarah Maguire for holding the fort
- A warm welcome and thanks to Michelle Gray for taking over as Manager
- Thanks to Simon Swaine for updating records, to Nina for continuing as Secretary
- Positive collaboration for joint CI biodiversity recording with Alderney and collaboration with Guernsey anticipated.

# Minutes of the Fourth AGM

## 6. JBC update and report 2020

Michelle Gray presented her report (see attached)

- MG looks forward to working with all
- Presented a summary of the bio-diversity records held by JBC –14,438 records submitted in 2019 total 400,000 records from 500 registered users, most from direct entry on the JBC website; others from other compatible/linked (Indicia cloud storage) monitoring surveys; under-representation of some species groups
- KM queried why the presentation did not show data from Seasearch entries – a long standing query since 2011
- NS asked how it was possible to know what bird records were held
- MG explained about the automatic record linkage between surveys using the same Indicia ‘warehouse’, that Seasearch use a different and incompatible data entry and storage system and that she is keen to get all data in and available
- DT offered to work with Seasearch to try to remedy the data system deficiency
- MG summarised the JBC education activities with schools and the public
- Her focus will be to improve data coverage and representativeness, increase engagement with the public to build up awareness of biodiversity (and JBC) and its importance



# Minutes of the Fourth AGM

## 7. Election of Officers

Nina Cornish facilitated the election

## 8. New 2020-21 committee

Chair        Anne Haden  
Vice-Chair   Dave Tipping  
Treasurer   Liz Corry  
Secretary    Ruth Urben  
Ordinary 1   Glyn Young  
Ordinary 2   Kevin McIlwee  
Ordinary 3   Vacant

## 9. Any Other Business

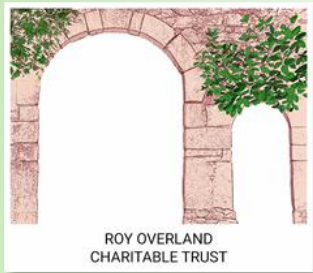
- AH thanked all for coming
- NS commented that he had not noticed the contribution that bird records made to the JBC records
- DT had offered to assist the Societe Ornithology group to develop their data base to be Indicia compatible and so automatically linking with that of JBC. So far the offer has not been taken up. Indicia is used by National Bio-diversity Network, is secure and used by other environmental organisations
- TdF queried what message he should take to DoE/Government to assist with securing future funds
  - > TdF to present JBC's case to States/Government

# Financial Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

# Financial Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Income and Expenditure

Grants	Countryside Enhancement Scheme	£18,600.62
	Ecology Trust Fund	£0.00
	Co-Op Eco Fund	£1,000.00
	Roy Overland Charitable Trust	£20,000.00
		<u>£39,600.62</u>
Other income	Commercial work	£4,612.87
	Donations, Education and Outreach	£5,481.36
		<u>£10,094.23</u>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<u>£49,694.85</u>
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	Wages and Social Security	£31,016.18
	Admin expenses	£130.00
	Other expenses (Website support, website hosting, event expenses)	£5,156.22
		<u>£5,286.22</u>
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>£36,302.40</u>



# Financial Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

<b><u>Adjustments</u></b>	Net adjustment to previous year Debtor	£0.00
<b><u>Net Income 2020</u></b>		<u>£13,392.45</u>

## **Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020**

<b>Current Assets</b>	Bank and Cash	£67,466.70
	Debtors	<u>£4,950.72</u>
		<u>£72,417.42</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>	Creditors	<u>£1,413.50</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>£71,003.92</u>
	Jersey Biodiversity Centre Funds brought forward	£57,611.47
	Net Income 2020	£13,392.45
<b>Jersey Biodiversity Funds 31st December 2020</b>		<u>£71,003.92</u>

# Commercial Work

- Environmental Consultants request data for a fee prior to decision making
- Searches include Protected Species for a radius of 1km, and Bats for a radius of 3km from a specific set of coordinates
- Annual breakdown:

Year	Commercial Searches
2016	50
2017	73
2018	46
2019	52
2020	62

- Total commercial work income for 2020: £4,613

# Chairman's Report

# Jersey Biodiversity Centre Manager's Report

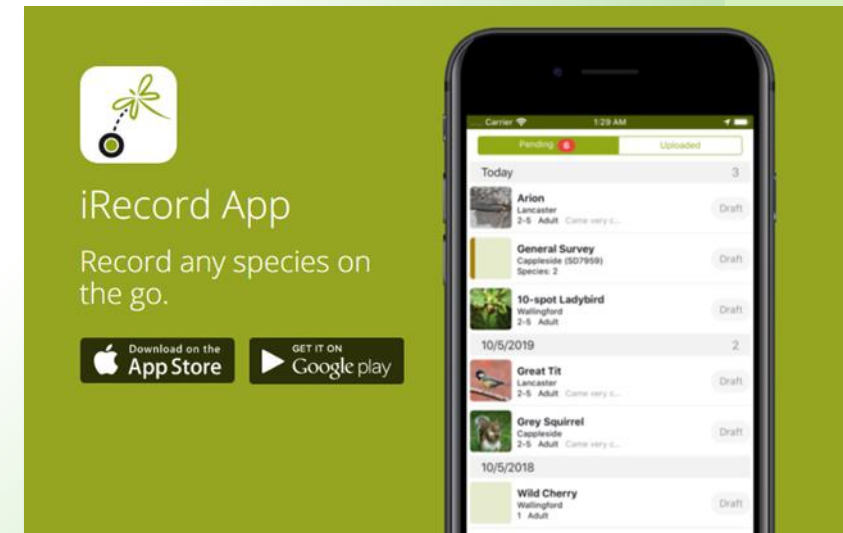
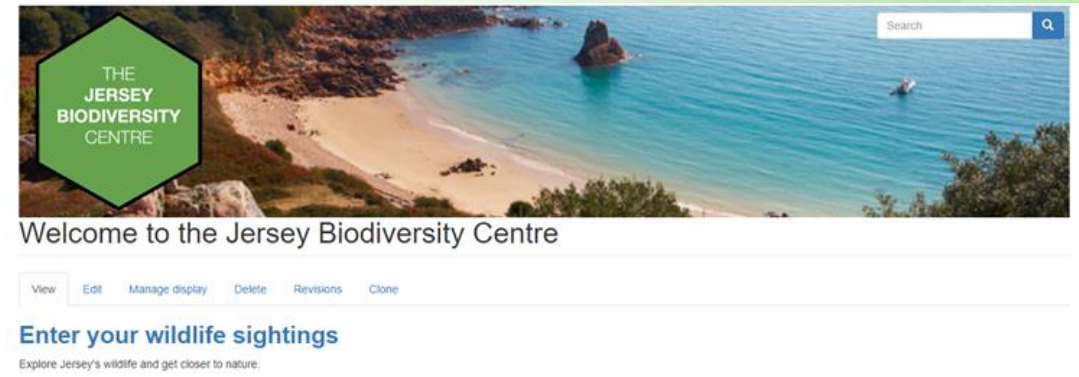
# Jersey Biodiversity Centre Summary

- A not-for-profit organisation providing biodiversity information and education
- Collates, manages and disseminates biological records for species within Jersey's terrestrial habitats and the surrounding territorial waters
- Two part time members of staff:
  - Michelle Gray – Manager
  - Sarah Maguire – Education and Outreach Officer
- Committee comprised of 7 elected members



# Jersey Biodiversity Centre Summary

- Data can be submitted a number of ways:
  - Website recording form
  - Specific activity forms
  - iRecord app (and associated species apps)
  - National Plant Monitoring Scheme
  - UKBMS online recording
  - Spreadsheets
- Records are verified by local experts to ensure accuracy
- Records are used by ecological consultants, environmental decision makers and researchers

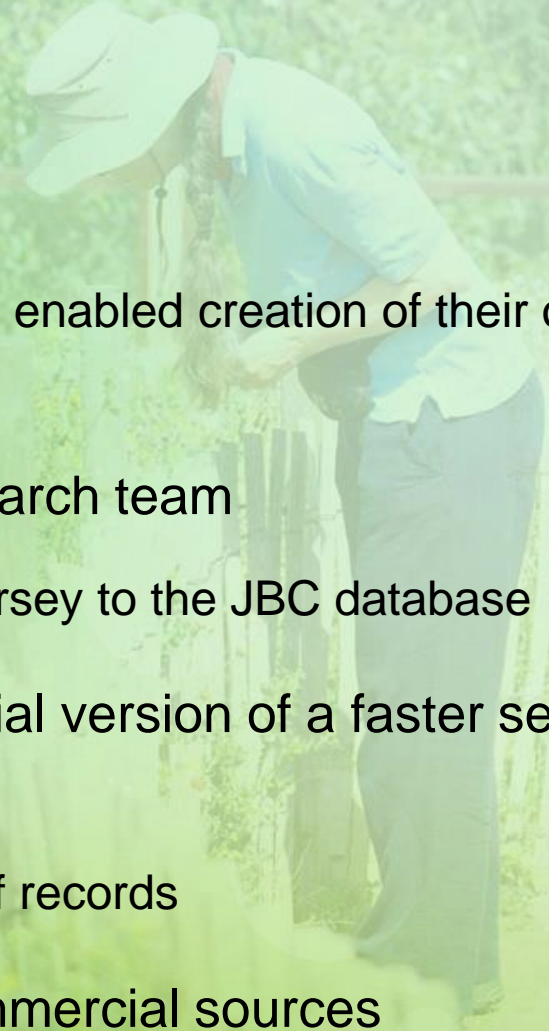


# Database 2020

- 20,827 records were submitted into the database in 2020
- 15,061 of these were sightings from 2020
- Total records within the database at the end of 2020: 426,962
  - Butterflies are the most recorded group (Large White 1246)
  - Western common toad *Bufo spinosus* (761), and the West European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* (587) were the only non-butterflies in the top 10 submissions
  - Most sighted bird: Goldfinch (117) - higher than the Robin (96) and Magpie (95)
  - Palmate Newt *Lissotriton helveticus* (132) much higher than the widely recognised Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* (65)

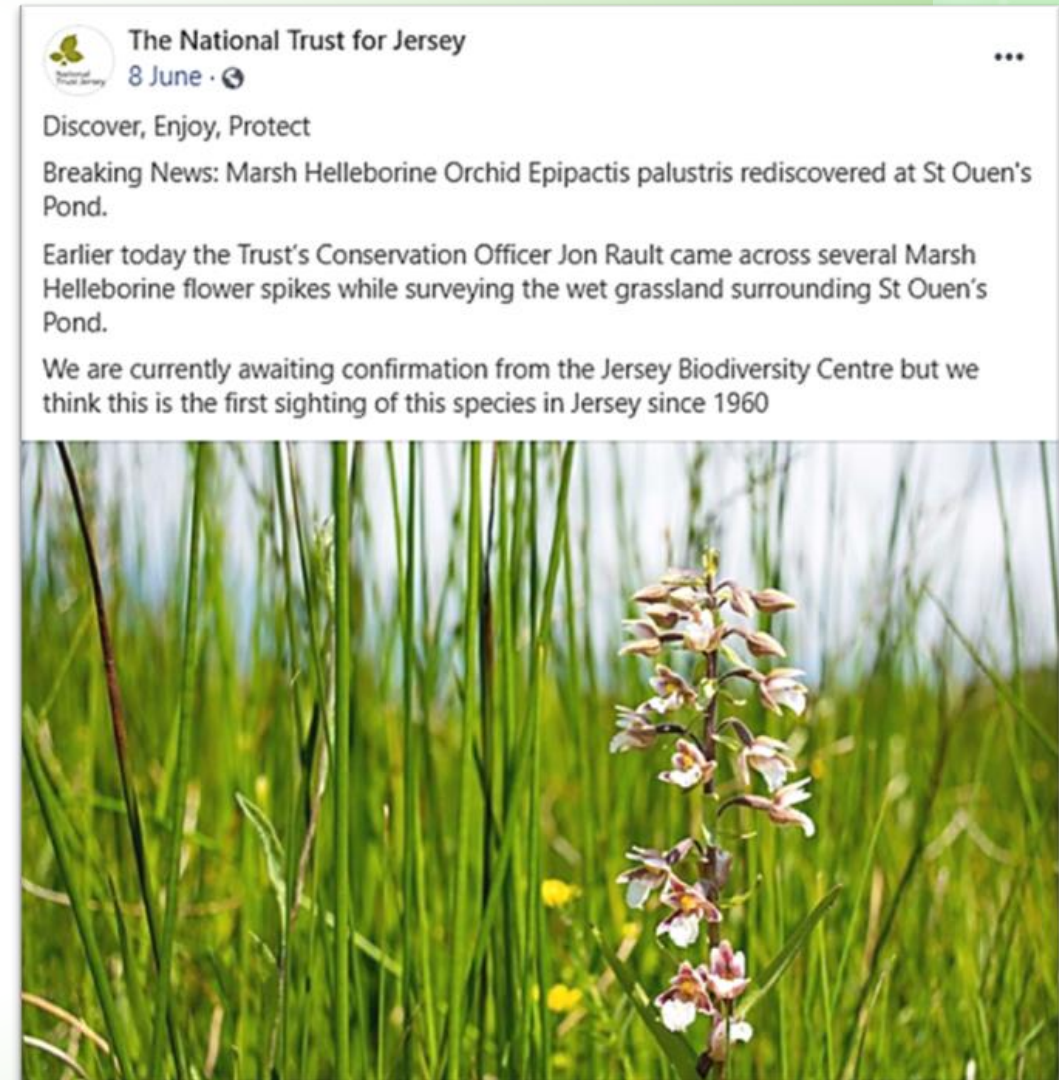
# Database 2020

- Collaboration with Alderney
  - Virtual tutorials and ongoing support from the JBC have enabled creation of their own biological recording database
- Collaboration with representatives from the UK Seasearch team
  - Measures put in place to transfer all past records for Jersey to the JBC database
- Upgrades to the Indicia database platform include a trial version of a faster search mechanism
  - Ensuring greater accuracy and efficiency for each set of records
- Records were requested 14 times in 2020 by non-commercial sources

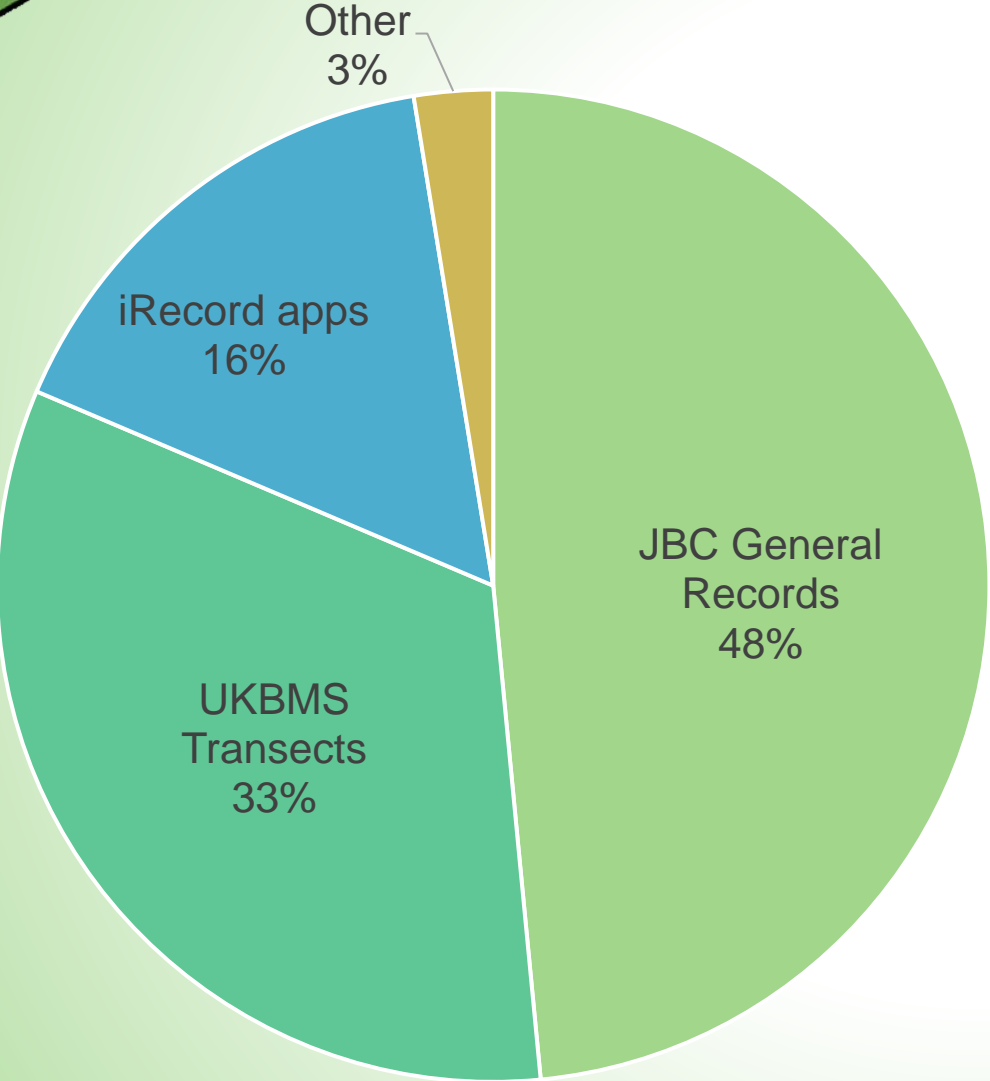


# Database 2020

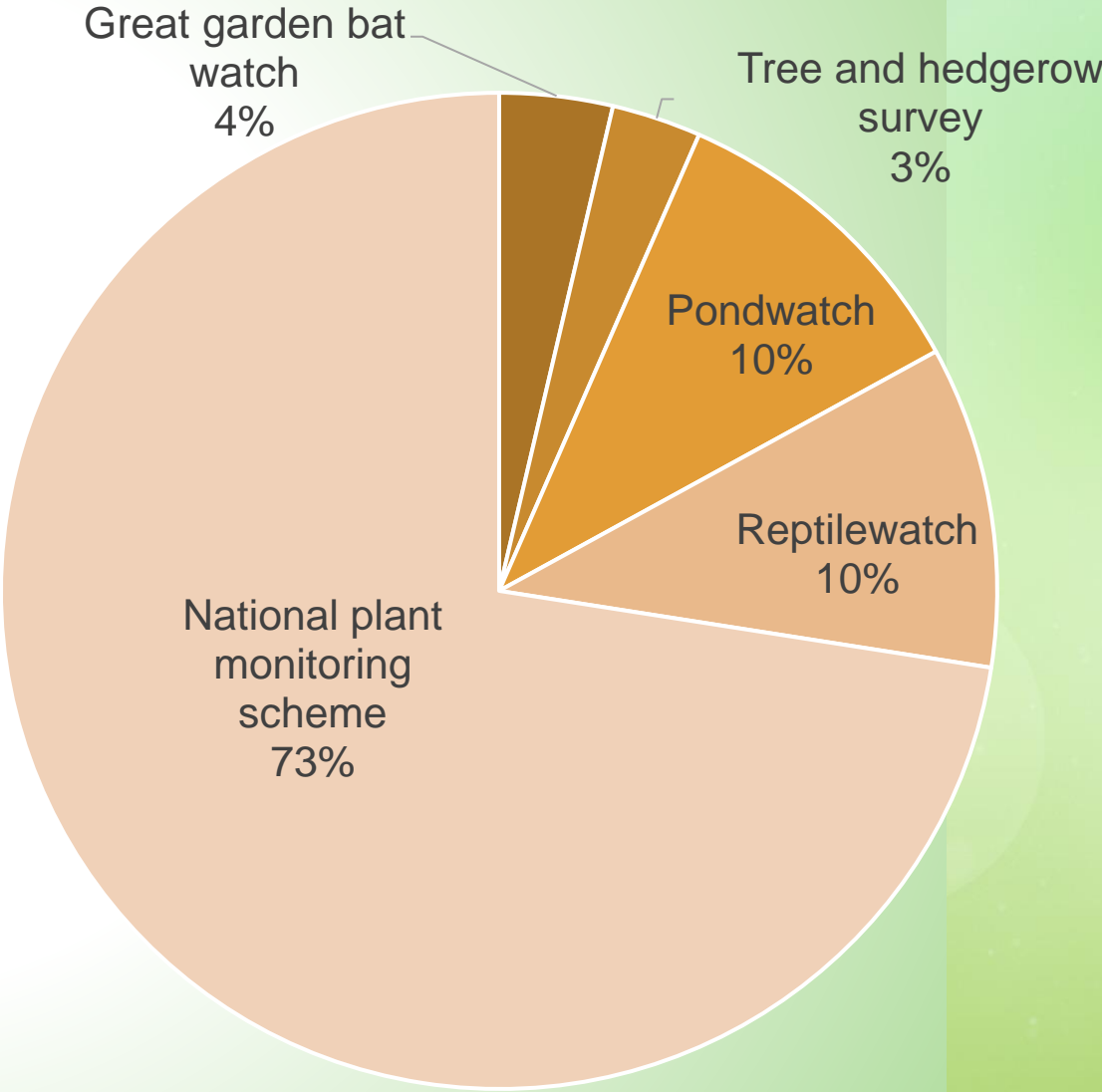
- An orchid species *Epipactis palustris*, not recorded in Jersey since 1960 discovered in June by the National Trust
- A new fly species *Limnophora obsignata* was recorded in Jersey for the first time by a member of the Entomology group
- New species are added to the species lists to hopefully be recorded on future occasions
- These discoveries and re-discoveries highlight the importance of the JBC database to enable such findings to be monitored



# Data Sources 2020

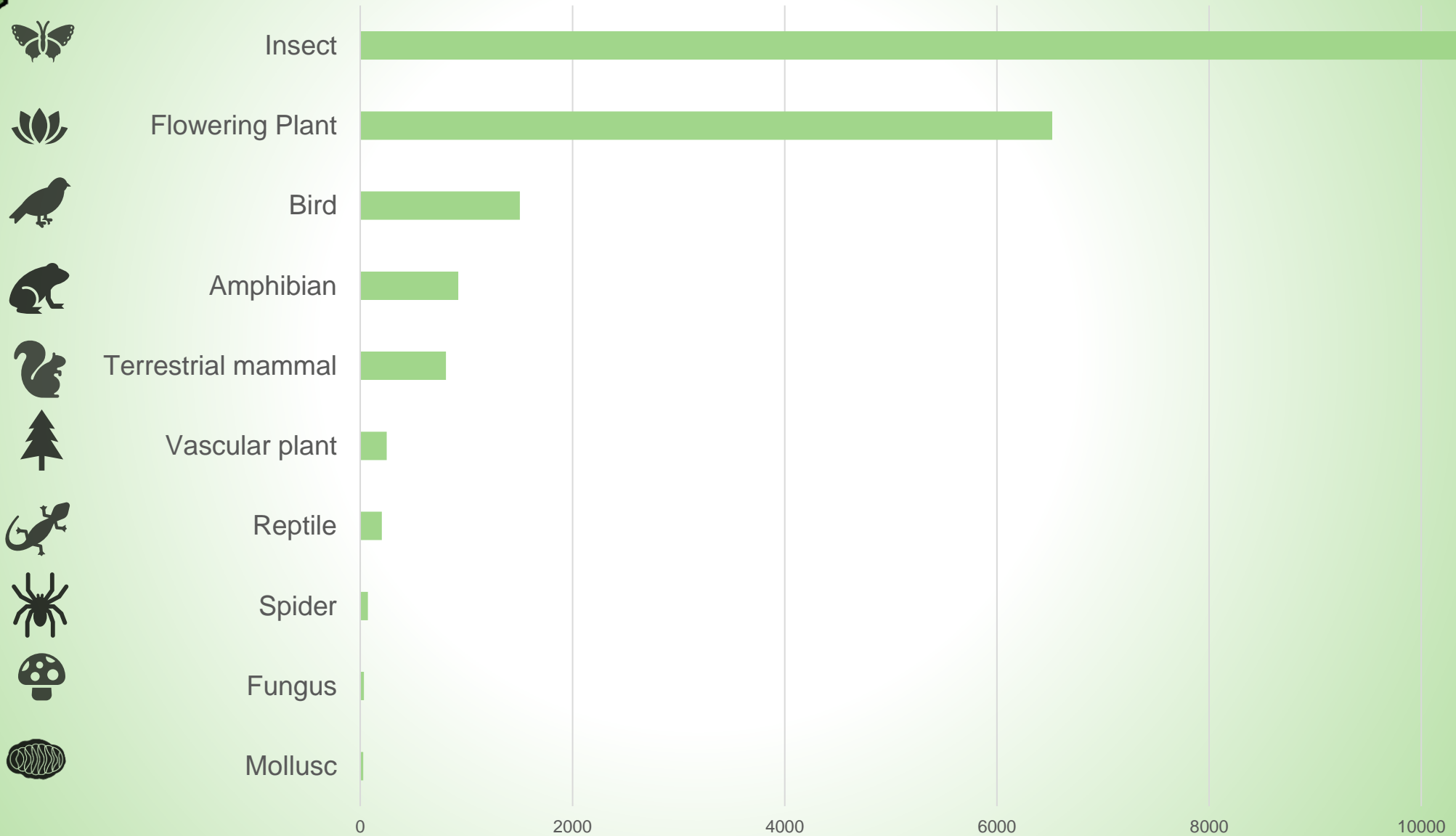


Sources of submitted records 2020



Breakdown of Other records 2020

# Data Groups 2020



# Education and Outreach 2020

- Difficult year for events due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Some planned school visits were successfully carried out prior to restrictions
- A number of events had to be cancelled
- Many events were quickly redesigned for online delivery
  
- Social Media engagement continues to increase
  - JBC Facebook page reached 1,155 likes by the end of 2020

# Schools and Community Groups

- School ponds for Grouville, St Georges and Les Landes were visited to create Pondwatch Level 1 videos for the classes to keep students updated on their pond's development
- Worm biology talks were carried out remotely for St Luke's Cubs, Plat Douet and St George's Prep
- These video lessons succeeded in connecting students to nature during an uncertain period, and they will also be utilised for future talks or training





# Online Education

- Attracted many attendees from Jersey and around the world including USA, Europe, England, Ireland and Pakistan

Event name	Tickets reserved
Ponds and Amphibians in Jersey	56
Reptiles in Jersey	40
Jersey Bat project	52
Pollinator Surveys	42
Bug Hotels	80

***“We have loved your zoom presentations and are so happy that our small garden is flourishing and starting to attract visitors. Thank you for all your information and advice”***

*Feedback from zoom attendee, July 2020*

- Due to lockdown and the ease of being able to attend from home or work, these talks reached a more diverse group of people

# Taxonomic Training

- August: Two-day pollinator identification course at Jersey Zoo
- Limited to 8 attendees due to restrictions (Sold out)
- Sponsorship from the CES allowed the JBC to run this course at a discount to the attendees
- Day 1 participants were shown how to safely catch the bees to allow accurate identification and differentiation between males and females
- Day 2 focused on other important pollinators



# Taxonomic Training

- September: Beginners Guide to Spider Families workshop.
- 9/10 tickets sold
- Attendees learnt to identify 12 common species by body form, web and ecology
- Although limited by Covid-19 restrictions the course was well attended
- When restrictions allowed, participants from the course were invited to attend Spider Group field trips specifically for spotting spider species, helping to progress their knowledge and skills

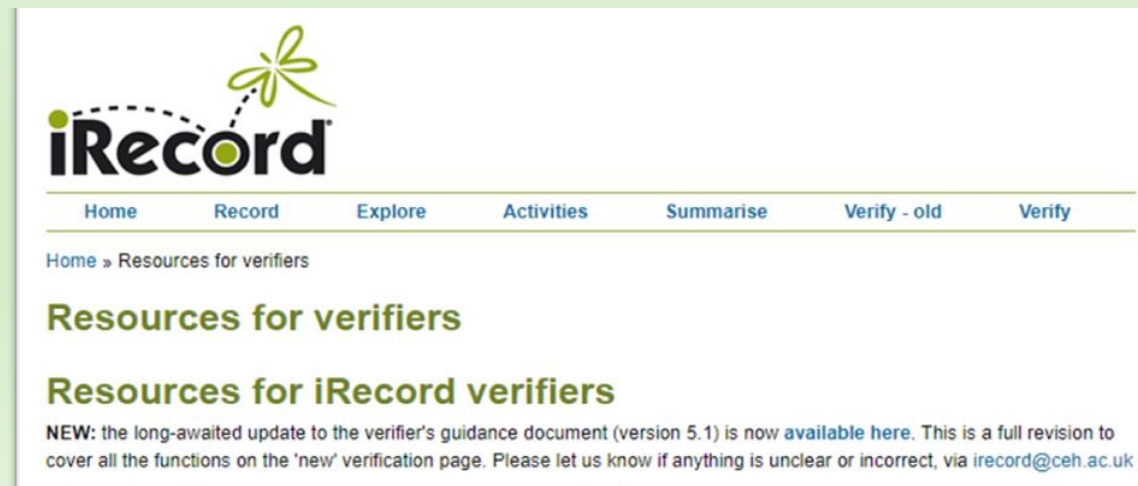
# Teacher Training

- Several teachers attended the JBC's first professional development afternoon on pond life
- Educators advanced their knowledge and practical skills for pond environments
- Presentation, safe pond dipping techniques, and methods to link pond learning to the curriculum
- 6/8 tickets sold



# Verification Training

- Training for new and existing iRecord verifiers
- Held both online via Zoom and in person
- The new iRecord verifier page replaces an older version so this was vital to ensure verifiers can continue without any issues
- Changes include page layout, new feature options, and a greater ability to tailor the verification page to the user's preferences



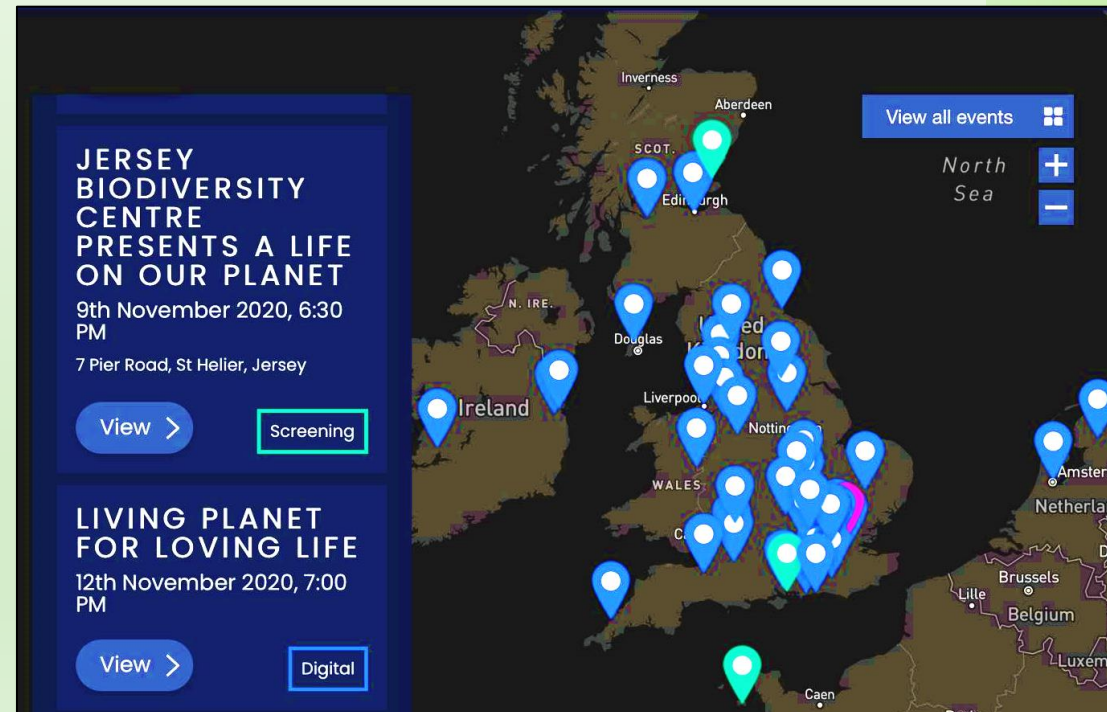
# Corporate Event

- Ogier corporate partnership as part of their CSR commitment
- Eight Ogier staff members spent the afternoon building bug and bee hotels to make the Société's urban garden a better habitat for wildlife
- The group also planted lavender and other bug friendly plants
- JBC's first corporate partnership – encourages awareness of the importance of pollinator patches around the island



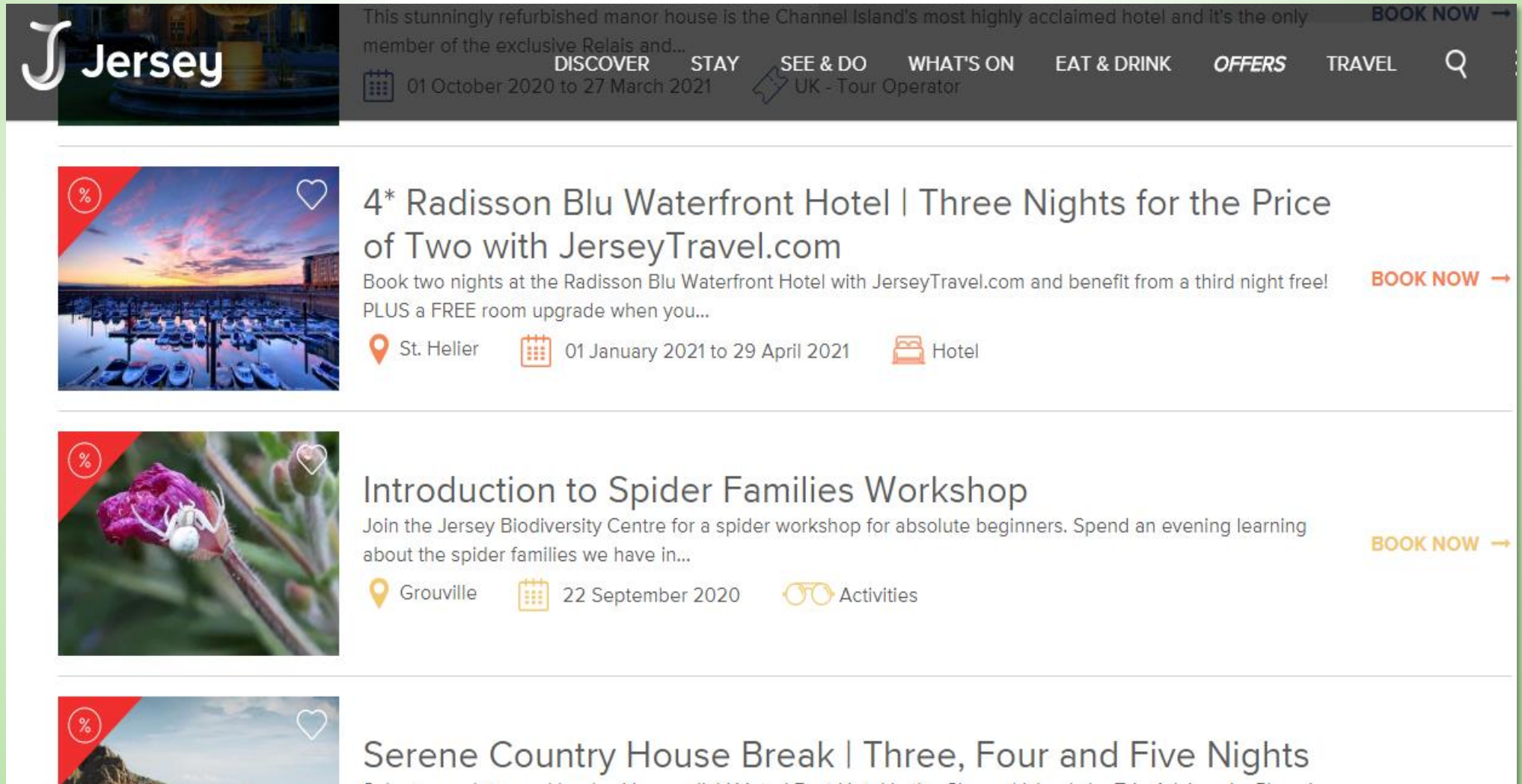
# Raising Awareness

- Events designed to appeal to a wider audience
- Social media engagement increased substantially following these events
- Beetle and Bee embroidery evening
  - Using specimens as inspiration
  - Maximum 10 attendees. Sold out
- A Life On Our Planet David Attenborough screening and discussion evening
  - Part of a global event with guest speakers from local environmental groups
  - Maximum 25 attendees. Sold out



# Raising Awareness

Selected JBC events are now included on the Visit Jersey website



The screenshot shows the Visit Jersey website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'Jersey' logo on the left and menu items: DISCOVER, STAY, SEE & DO, WHAT'S ON, EAT & DRINK, OFFERS, TRAVEL, and a search icon. A 'BOOK NOW' button is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there are three event listings, each with a thumbnail image, a title, a description, and a 'BOOK NOW' button.

**Event 1:** 4\* Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel | Three Nights for the Price of Two with JerseyTravel.com. Description: Book two nights at the Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel with JerseyTravel.com and benefit from a third night free! PLUS a FREE room upgrade when you... Location: St. Helier. Dates: 01 January 2021 to 29 April 2021. Category: Hotel.

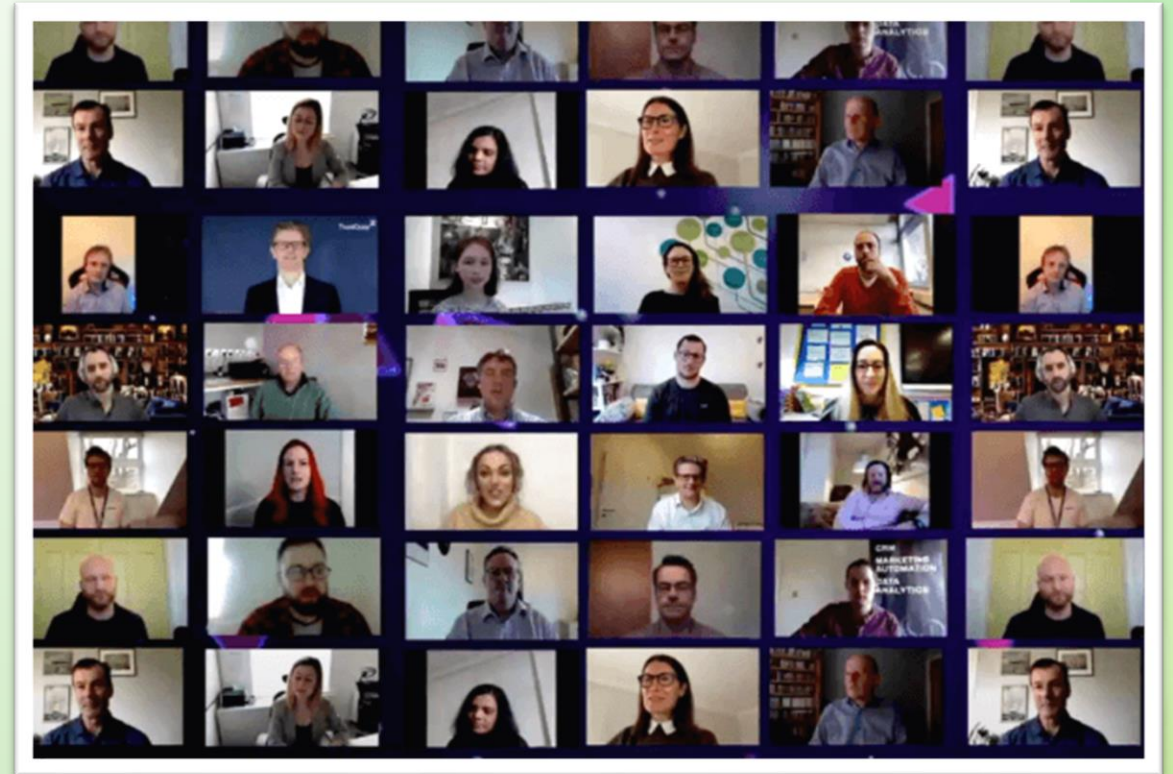
**Event 2:** Introduction to Spider Families Workshop. Description: Join the Jersey Biodiversity Centre for a spider workshop for absolute beginners. Spend an evening learning about the spider families we have in... Location: Grouville. Date: 22 September 2020. Category: Activities.

**Event 3:** Serene Country House Break | Three, Four and Five Nights.



# Awards

- Jersey Tech Awards 2020
- JBC was shortlisted for Best Use of Technology for Sustainability
- Attended a virtual awards ceremony hosted by Gary Burgess



# In the Press

- New monthly JEP article written by Sarah Maguire

## Happy return for Liberation anniversary



In this month's feature on the Island's natural environment and wildlife, **Sarah Maguire**, education and outreach officer at the Jersey Biodiversity Centre, focuses on the return of a butterfly for the 75th anniversary of Liberation

WITH Jersey celebrating the 75th anniversary of Liberation, it seems fitting that a butterfly that arrived during the Occupation but since became locally extinct has returned to the Island.

It is a wonderful example of how Jersey's natural history is influenced by historic events and how the return of a species of butterfly can be a sign of hope and renewal in difficult times.

Our fascination with the environment and natural history has been a growing trend since the Victorian era. Today our interest in natural history has not ebbed but moved to a digital age in which photographs are the 'new' collector's item.

Biological recording in Jersey has been documented since the 1800s and the Jersey Biodiversity Centre, a hub for all things natural history, holds these biological records on a database. Working closely with the Société Jerseyaise members, who volunteer their time to record Jersey's wildlife, the Jersey Biodiversity Centre works to increase and expand these bio-



■ The large chequered skipper in Jersey with wings folded and open (below) © CLARE MORGAN



■ The large chequered skipper butterfly, not known in Jersey before 1845, breeds locally on purple moor-grass (Molinia caerulea).

The unconfirmed theory for this species' arrival in Jersey is that during the maritime occupation of 1840-45 hay was imported by the German military authorities from France to supplement the feeding of horses, as their use increased with fuel becoming scarcer. It is believed that those butterflies had arrived as eggs, pupae or caterpillars within the hay and established breeding in the few sheltered and damp areas with purple moor grass.

The butterfly population numbers fluctuated over the next 80 years and it was officially declared locally extinct in 1960, due to lack of management of their breeding sites, as butterflies require specific food plants on which to lay their eggs. Locally extinct is the term used when a species is no longer found in a region or space but can still be found in the wild elsewhere.

Fast-forward to July 2020, when a single adult male feeding on bramble flowers on boatland in Trinity was recorded by

Mike Smith, a local wildlife photographer. With the help of social media, images were posted on a local Facebook Channel Islands listed site prompting much excitement in the local butterfly community. The first confirmed sighting of this butterfly in Jersey for 50 years sparked an island-wide search for more.

Tim Rousson, chairman of the entomology section of the Société Jerseyaise, said: "On this 75th year of the Liberation of Jersey from the Occupation it is perhaps pertinent that a rare butterfly first seen during that time is re-found in this anniversary year, especially when there seems to be so little other positive news around this year!"

He went on to explain: "Since the rediscovery of this butterfly a significant amount of surveying, consisting of hundreds of hours of searching by a few dedicated people, has been undertaken."

Members of the entomology section, along with the public, have volunteered



■ The unconfirmed theory for the large chequered skipper's arrival in Jersey is that during the Occupation hay was imported by the German military authorities from France to supplement the feeding of horses, as their use increased when fuel became scarcer. It is believed that those butterflies had arrived as eggs, pupae or caterpillars within the hay



■ Polish horses being used as military transport when captured by the Germans in the Channel Islands

their time to survey sites during summer 2020.

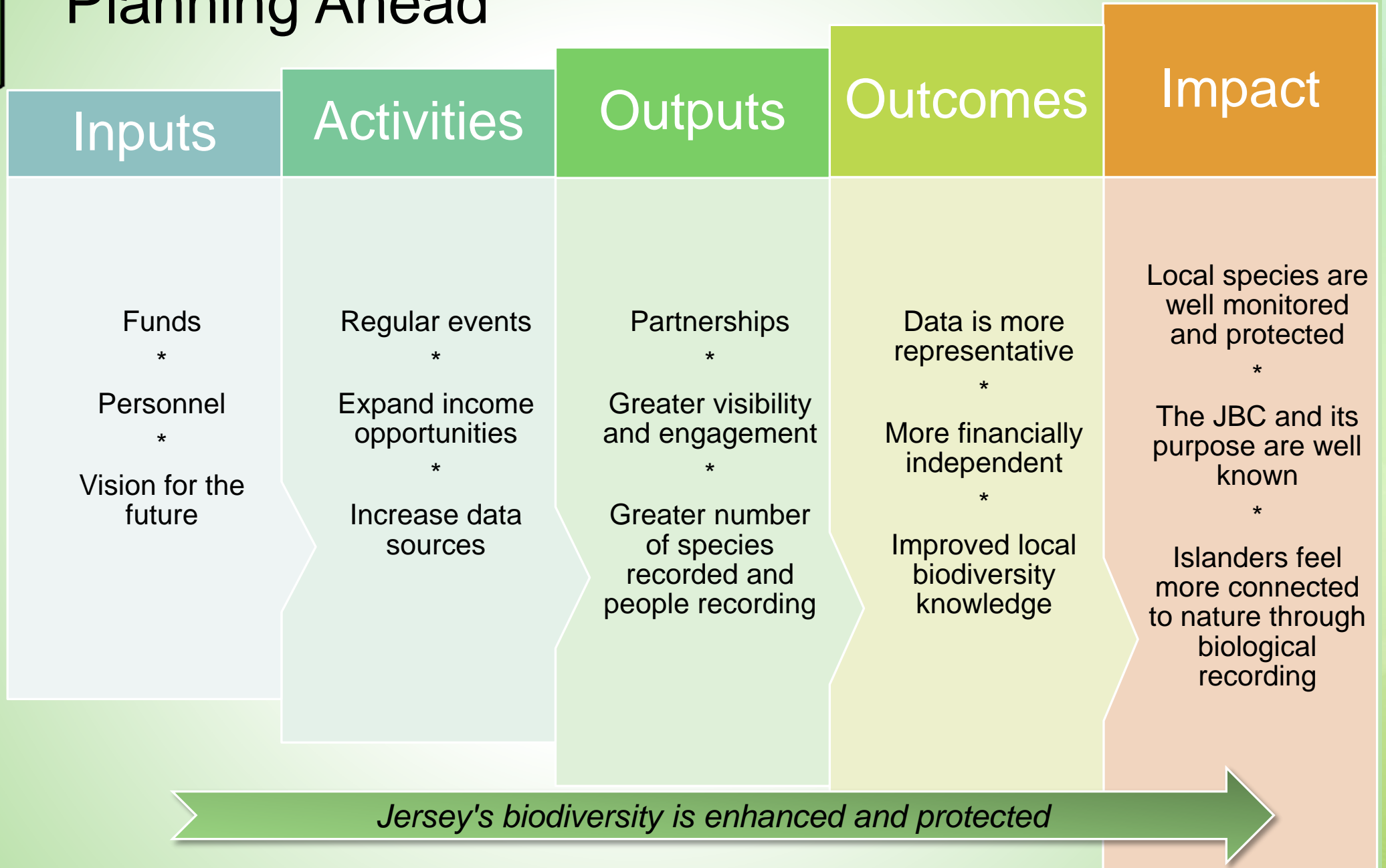
In total 27 adults, consisting of 10 females and 9 males, were found across four sites along the north coast. Breeding was also observed at one of these sites, said Tim, adding: "This was an impressive number to be seen in such a short time and I am grateful for the dedication and

dedication and the return of locally extinct species. The land management carried out over these years has been completed by the Natural Environment Department of the Government of Jersey. This story also highlights the importance of public interest in the natural world, as without our wildlife photographers and enthusiasts this species would have been much

# Planning Ahead

- More representative data including marine species
  - Work on including Seasearch data is underway
- Website development
- Hosting the IIEM 2021
- Sharing data with the NBN to ensure Jersey biological records are more widely available and recognised

# Planning Ahead



**The most important aspect of the Jersey Biodiversity Centre is the community which supports it**

**We welcome your feedback and look forward to working together in the coming year to support nature through biological recording**

# Election of Officers

# Any Other Business

# Thank you

**Upload your wildlife sighting: [www.jerseybiodiversity.org.je](http://www.jerseybiodiversity.org.je)**

Contact us: [jbc@societe-jersiaise.org](mailto:jbc@societe-jersiaise.org)

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