

Team's diagnosis of Sark 'will be like a trip to the doctors'

Prince's Foundation will start by listening to residents to understand island

AN EXTERNAL team will start diagnosing Sark's problems next week, with the initial visit of people from the Prince's Foundation team being described as like a 'trip to the doctors'.

Architect Ben Bolgar is part of the team coming to the island looking to produce a long-term plan for the island's future.

'We start by listening, which is quite unusual,' he said.

'A lot of people in our sphere have a preconceived idea, and they convince people of their idea, but we describe the processes as a little bit more like going to visit the doctor.'

'By listening to people and taking the temperature we understand the place from their perspective, because they obviously know it incredibly well and we don't.'

Mr Bolgar is the senior director for The Prince's Foundation, a fellow at Oxford University, and was part of the team that visited the island in December 2021.

'My first impression of Sark was quite literally an incinerator, and then after a rather beautiful walk up a lovely lane to an electricity generator,' he said.

'Obviously I'm part joking, but it did feel quite polarised.'

'You turn one way and it's quite idyllic, and then the other and there are

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Ben Bolgar, senior director of the Prince's Foundation

by Andy Brown

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quite dilapidated buildings.'

Four representatives of the foundation will be in Sark next week to listen to islanders' views and assess the feasibility of producing a long-term plan for the island's future.

'They will consider the tenants of sustainability – the natural world, the social makeup of the islands, financial aspects, and the physical fabric of the islands infrastructure and buildings, before compiling a report which they hope to have published by July.'

Mr Bolgar has been involved with the Prince's Foundation since 1988, and has worked on an array of projects across the world including on other islands.

'We actually created a series of island plans in the Galapagos,' he said.

'They were codes for the islands to help them to become more sustainable because they were actually suffering from cheaper tourism. Many of these plans were successfully adopted.'

The Prince's Foundation was established by King Charles to support people to create communities.

It was inspired by his philosophy of harmony – that by understanding the balance, the order and the relationships between ourselves and the natural world, it is possible to create a more sustainable future.

The foundation is hosting a public event in Sark on Monday evening of Monday, as well as smaller, focused workshops, and an open drop-in session for anyone to go along and share their views.

About 500 people live in Sark, a self-governing island which is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Tourism is its a major industry, with the population doubling during the summer.

But the island also faces many challenges, such as expensive electricity bills, affordable education and minimalist healthcare available on-island.



Ben Bolgar, senior director for The Prince's Foundation, will be part of the team visiting Sark next week. (32019998)



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Anzac Day remembrance service to be held at Fort George memorial

A MEMORIAL service to honour Australian and New Zealand Army Corps will take place next week.

For the twelfth year a remembrance service will be held at the Fort George war memorial to commemorate those on the other side of the world who lost their lives.

Guernsey's service originated from a Guernsey-based New Zealander, as it is a national holiday in Australia and New Zealand.

The remembrance day recalls the sacrifices of the Anzac forces at Gallipoli in the First World War on 25 April 1915, as well as those in the Second World War and other military forays abroad. It is still poignant for nationals following the Covid pandemic, as Anzac forces were subject to the Spanish Flu pandemic

upon returning home in 1918.

The growing attendance at Anzac Day ceremonies in each country demonstrate a continuing interest in the significance of this conflict.

A short service will be led by the Dean of Guernsey, the Very Rev. Tim Barker, including readings, prayers of remembrance, a laying of a wreath at the War Memorial, playing of the Last Post and Reveille, cornet played by Jon Bond, the singing of a hymn and the singing of the national anthems.

The Lt-Governor and the Bailiff traditionally attend the service.

■ The service takes place at 8am on Tuesday at the War Memorial at Fort George.

Free tea party in St Martin's to mark King's Coronation

ISLANDERS will be able to celebrate the King's Coronation with a free tea party courtesy St Martin's Parish Church and Community Centre.

The event is taking place on Saturday 6 May from 10am to 4pm at the St Martin's Community Centre. There will be a big screen streaming the coronation and the Henry Goodeve Hall will be laid out with ta-

bles and bunting in a street party style with tea and cake being provided by volunteers. Young islanders will also be able to enjoy Coronation themed arts and crafts.

The event is free but ticketed to make sure catering needs are met.

Islanders looking to reserve a ticket or provide a cake should call 231197 or email claireh@stmartinschurch.gg.