GERALD DURRELL WEEK
23 – 30 JUNE 2018, JERSEY
A note from

LEE DURRELL

Gerald Durrell Week is a magical and fascinating experience for anyone who has been inspired by Gerald Durrell’s books. It is a gathering of like-minded people who follow in Gerry’s footsteps, visiting the places he wrote about, meeting the animals he loved and reminding each other of the important legacy he left the world.

The first Gerald Durrell Week was held in Corfu a number of years ago. It became an annual event, one so successful that we now offer a similar experience in Jersey, where Gerry eventually settled.

I do hope you will be able to join us for the Gerald Durrell Week Jersey!

Lee Durrell
OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

Led by our Honorary Director, Lee Durrell, this week-long course will introduce you to the headquarters of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, showing you just how Gerald Durrell’s work lives on in the organisation he created to save species from extinction. During the week you will get to know our expert staff, who will show you behind the scenes in the animal departments and explain how the work we do here at Jersey Zoo supports our projects around the world. You will also learn about our major conservation programmes in Madagascar and the impacts they are having on species, wild habitats and people.

There will be field trips to our Jersey-based projects to see how we are contributing to wildlife conservation in the Island. You will learn about Jersey’s fascinating natural history from local experts, and you will visit places of historical and cultural interest around the Island.

All this will allow you to discover the Jersey that became Gerald Durrell’s home for more than 35 years.

We will be joined by tutors from Gerald Durrell Week Corfu, www.geralddurrellscorfu.org, eminent natural historians who will talk about their work in Corfu and elsewhere.
COURSE OVERVIEW

The whole week will be an informal mix of talks, walks, visits, readings from Gerald Durrell’s books and special behind-the-scenes access to parts of Jersey Zoo normally not open to the public. We will also explore some of the highlights of Jersey’s natural scenery.

SATURDAY 23RD JUNE
Arrival and welcome
Arrive in Jersey and welcome dinner at Durrell, hosted by Lee.

SUNDAY 24TH JUNE
Menagerie Manor and the Durrell Legacy
An introduction to Gerald Durrell’s legacy and a tour of Jersey Zoo led by Lee. Experienced staff will take us on detailed tours of some of the animal sections and other departments within the Zoo. There will be a talk about Corfu and its spectacular natural history, which so inspired the young Gerry.

MONDAY 25TH JUNE
Stationary Ark – What Durrell is doing in Jersey
We will spend the day in Jersey Zoo, visiting behind the scenes at the Organic Farm, then spending time with senior staff behind the scenes in the Veterinary and Herpetology Departments. We will also find out about birds in Jersey and some of the work that Durrell is doing for them.

TUESDAY 26TH JUNE
Ark on the Move – Durrell’s Field Programmes
We will learn about Durrell’s conservation activities around the world, particularly in Madagascar. We will tour further animal sections and other departments within the Zoo not seen on the first day. The afternoon will be spent exploring more of Jersey’s natural areas, including a visit to the spectacular Quaisné Common, home to some of the rarest amphibians in the British Isles.

WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE
Old Friends – Dingle and Eric
In the company of some of Jersey’s finest natural history experts, we will continue to explore the Island, observing Jersey’s rich bird life and visiting Durrell’s reintroduction programme for the red-billed chough on Jersey’s north coast. In the afternoon, we will visit the internationally-famous Eric Young Orchid Foundation.
COURSE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY 28TH JUNE
Biodiversity – a word Gerry never used but said often!
We will go on expedition with local natural history experts, visiting some of Jersey’s best insect- and plant-spotting sites and carry out some informal research of our own on rare plants and animals. In the evening, we will experience a special Gerald Durrell-themed Corfiot meal, and then explore the nocturnal world of bats, moths and glow-worms, on a unique out-of-hours twilight tour of Jersey Zoo.

FRIDAY 29TH JUNE
Jersey’s Coasts and Castles
We will discuss and explore some of Jersey’s marine life in the company of local marine biology experts. Subject to weather, we will take a low-tide walk to explore Jersey’s internationally important and spectacular intertidal marine zones. In the afternoon, we will visit the famous Mont Orgueil Castle and learn some of its human and natural history. It is a stronghold for one of the only populations of wall lizards in the British Isles. We will wrap up the week in style with a Durrellesque feast and reflect on the Week’s experiences.

IN ADDITION TO THE ACTIVITIES ABOVE, THERE WILL BE INFORMAL EVENING SESSIONS TO INCLUDE TALKS AND CLASSIC GERALD DURRELL FILMS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE COURSE OUTLINE MAY BE SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES.
Dr Lee Durrell

Lee is Honorary Director of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, taking on the mantle when her husband, Gerald Durrell, passed away in 1995. Lee gained a PhD in zoology from Duke University in the US with a dissertation on animal vocalisations in Madagascar, where she lived for two years in the early 1970s. She married Gerald in 1979 and worked with him on books and television series about nature and conservation over the next decade. Lee established and ran the Trust’s conservation programme in Madagascar from 1983 to 2001, the first project being for the recovery of the critically endangered ploughshare tortoise, earning her the nickname ‘Grandmother of the Tortoise’ in Madagascar. In 2000 she acquired her first light aeroplane and flew animals to and from their breeding programmes in Jersey and various British and European zoos for the next ten years. In 2011 she was awarded the MBE for services to conservation.

Dr David Shimwell

David graduated from Durham University with degrees in botany and vegetation ecology and had a lifelong career lecturing in botany, biogeography and environmental conservation at the universities of Hull and Manchester. He is best known in international academic circles for his book, *The Description and Classification of Vegetation*, and as an author on the six-volume series, *British Plant Communities*. The ecology of European vegetation, particularly of the Mediterranean region, is one of his specialisms. He first visited Corfu in 1975 to collect beetles for the Manchester Museum from the habitats described in *My Family and Other Animals*. It was at this time he became an acolyte of Gerald Durrell and he has led on botanical and vegetation conservation topics on the Gerald Durrell Corfu Week since 2010. He has recently completed a catalogue of the archive of cookery books and recipes of Louisa Durrell, with a view to publishing a cookbook in her name. He is a lifelong friend of his mentor, David Bellamy.

David Ashcroft

David was the Managing Director of The Durrell School of Corfu which ran from 2002 to 2014. He is a strong supporter of compassionate farming, originally trained in agriculture, specializing in genetics, at Lancaster University. He managed several commercial farms before taking up the reins of running the largest city educational farm in London, The Mudchute. His farming career led him to take his family back to Cornwall in order to fulfil his life’s aim and run his own farm. David now lives in Corfu and spends his time between renovating houses, enjoying the wildlife and planning and running Gerald Durrell Week Corfu with his wife, Alexina.
COURSE LEADERS

Anne Binney
Anne has chaired the Landscape Advisory Committee at Durrell for many years and is a keen gardener. She is a founder Durrell Gardien, and has raised over £600,000 for Durrell by putting on opera performances in her garden for the last 30 years. In 2015 she joined Gerald Durrell Week Corfu which she loved, and as a result felt that a Gerald Durrell Week in Jersey was a great idea. She has been very involved in putting the programme together and planning the logistical aspects of the week. She will be available throughout the week to help ensure everything runs smoothly. In 2017 she was awarded the MBE for services to Wildlife and the Arts.

Francis Binney
Francis grew up on Jersey and has always been fascinated by the sea. Since he first donned a SCUBA tank aged 12, he has wanted to study and work in the marine environment. Gaining a degree in Marine and Freshwater Biology, Francis spent some time working in Indonesia and Sri Lanka before returning to Jersey where he now actively participates in the Marine Biology Section of the Société Jersiaise. The Section’s work has focused on recording, mapping and protecting the diverse flora and fauna along the coasts and in the shallow seas. Francis has studied a variety of subjects ranging from the habitats of rare molluscs to the huge blooms of Ulva spp. on Jersey’s beaches and the impacts they have on local wildlife.

Mike Stentiford
An enthusiast of Jersey’s natural environment since the mid 1970s, Mike continues to be actively involved in local nature conservation. As local group leader of the Young Ornithologists Club and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, he received the RSPB Presidents Award in 1991. In 1978 he was instrumental in setting up the Jersey Conservation Volunteers and was countryside interpretation officer with the States of Jersey until his retirement in 2000. Mike was President of the National Trust for Jersey (2008-2011) and is currently Chairman of the Trust’s Coastline Campaign. He received an MBE in the Queen’s New Year Honours List in 2000.
VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The course will be held at Durrell Conservation Academy in Jersey, Channel Islands.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Durrell) was established by the world renowned naturalist and author Gerald Durrell in 1963 with the primary aim of saving species from extinction. We now run 46 projects in 14 countries worldwide and have played a pivotal role in the recovery efforts for several species.

Durrell Conservation Academy is located at the Trust’s headquarters, Jersey Zoo. In 1984 Gerald Durrell formally established the International Training Centre (now known as Durrell Conservation Academy) on Jersey as a form of “mini university” designed to equip conservationists from across the world with the animal management and critical thinking skills required to bring species back from imminent demise. Since this time the academy has taught over 5,500 people (both conservation practitioners and conservation students) from 142 countries.

Our facilities include a 54 seat purpose built lecture theatre, two libraries, a computer lab and a classroom. There is 24 hour access to our computers and free Wi-Fi is available throughout.

Most course participants choose to stay at our YHA accredited hostel, which is immediately adjacent to Durrell Conservation Academy. You will stay in shared rooms in our hostel-style residence right next to the Zoo. The residence includes a TV lounge and dining room, where meals are served for course participants.
COST AND BOOKING INFORMATION

The course fee is £575 per adult and £1035 per couple. A limited number of places are available for accompanied children (minimum age 12) for a fee of £400 per child.

The on-site food package is £92.50 per person which should be booked at the same time as places on the course. It includes 4 lunches at £7.50 and 5 dinners at £12.50 per head.

Durrell Wildlife Hostel offers B&B accommodation for £32 per person per night (shared room). A limited number of single rooms are available on a first come first served basis, please enquire for occupancy rate(s) and availability.

If you choose to stay elsewhere, you are responsible for booking your accommodation, and for arranging your own transport to and from the Zoo.

Please note that we plan to have several café/pub lunches while exploring Jersey during the week, but the cost of these is not included in the package. There will be several walking excursions, so participants should come suitably equipped with walking shoes and waterproof jackets. Do bring binoculars if you have them.

Travel to and from Jersey, as well as appropriate travel insurance, are the responsibility of the participant. Minibus transport will be provided for excursions during the week.

For further information or to book a place, please contact +44 (0)1534 860037 or email academy@durrell.org