



A Life in The Year of Les Cotils

ANNUAL REPORT
2025



Introduction

Les Cotils is a unique and treasured place — one that means something different, yet deeply important, to everyone who walks through its doors. It is more than a building or a venue; it is greater than the sum of its parts. Les Cotils has become a sanctuary — a place of comfort, hope, compassion, love, and home for so many.

It has grown into a vibrant community hub, where no two days are ever the same. Over 50,000 people visited last year — for conferences, training sessions, funerals, christenings, weddings, or simply a coffee with a friend. This truly stands as a testament to how important Les Cotils is to our island community.

2025 was another exciting year for us. The Princess Royal visited on 9th May, we opened The Swallows Cafe, welcomed the beautiful bronze sculpture Serenity, and hosted our very first evening air show event. At the end of 2025 Fiona Naftel retired as managing director after thirteen years and without her heart, energy and determination Les Cotils wouldn't be the place it is today.

I can safely say that we have some of the best staff anyone could wish for, and I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such amazing individuals.

As we move through 2026, with new ideas and initiatives, working with new clients and our community café finding its feet, we look forward to the opportunities and experiences that the year ahead will bring.

Erin Cutter
Managing Director



Sponsors & Partners

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our charitable partners and sponsors. Their contributions make it possible for us to continue supporting a variety of initiatives and strengthening our work within the community.

We sincerely appreciate your support:

THE SWALLOW TRUST (2018)
FIONA WILLIS AND PETER HARRISON
DAVID AND JANE SWIFFEN
INVESTEC
LES COTILS SPONSOR CLUB
REVEREND JAN LE BILLON
THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS
BAILIWICK TRUST
C.H.O.W

KEN AND LINDA ACOTT
FRIENDS OF LES COTILS
SIR RICHARD COLLAS
OGIER LAW FIRM
PETER CHERRY
NICK CHADWICK
NED FORUM
SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND
WAITROSE



Making a Difference

Les Cotils is fundamentally a charity, dedicated to using its resources for the benefit of the island community. This work takes many forms. Opposite, you will read about our key projects, supported by our many charity partners.

In addition, Les Cotils provides assistance to people in a whole range of ways from providing temporary emergency accommodation if a room is available, discounted use of events rooms, and catering and equipment hire for third party charities.

Also, our extensive grounds, and in particular our Peace Garden, offers a place of calm and tranquillity for those who need time and space to reflect and take time out from the stresses of daily life.

Being a place which is imbued with Christian values we have a strong link with the religious community of the island. Prayer meetings are held each morning through the week, including Saturday, and on Sunday various fellowship groups meet.

In 2021, we established a charity partnership to help guide where our charitable initiatives should be focused within the community. We meet quarterly to discuss upcoming initiatives and priorities.

This collaboration ensures our efforts are directed where they are most needed and helps avoid duplication of support. The opening of our community café has further strengthened this partnership.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

ST PETER PORT DOUZAINÉ

WIGWAM

GUERNSEY WELFARE

AMHERST PRIMARY SCHOOL

MENCAP GUERNSEY

CHILDRENS SERVICES

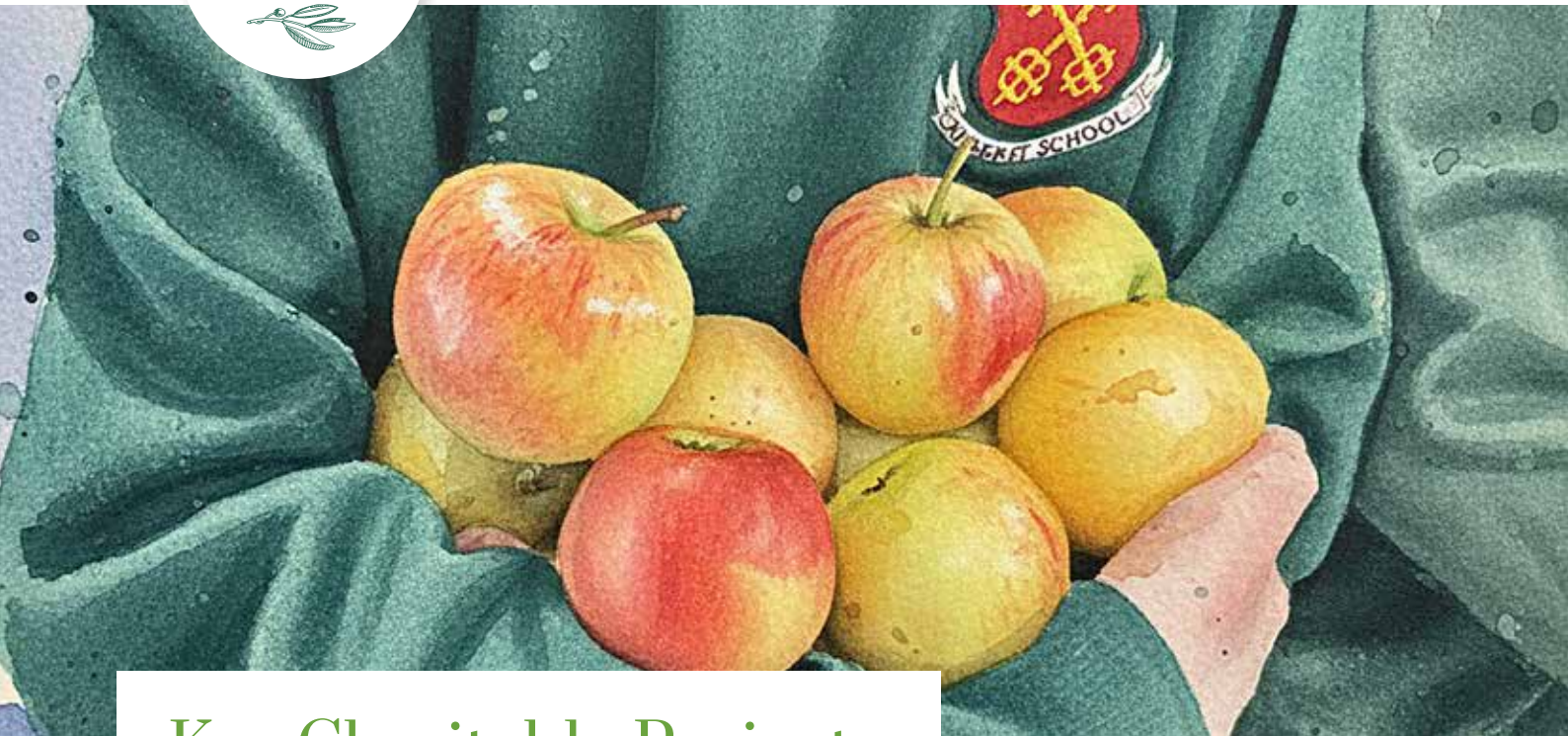
KINDRED CENTRE

GUERNSEY EMPLOYMENT TRUST

HOME-START

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

VAUVERT PRIMARY SCHOOL



Key Charitable Projects

Food For Families

Under this scheme exists a number of activities; free lunches; family fun days; Boxing Day lunch; support for one-off family needs. People who benefit from these initiatives are referred by a variety of support agencies.

Within this framework operate the following services:

Fruit For Schools

Providing fresh fruit to school pupils each week during term time.

Community Café

As a result of the construction of the conservatory, a community program is being developed to use the cafe outside of commercial hours. Sue Le Friec, who for many years ran the Guernsey Welfare Service, has been recruited to develop this throughout 2026.

It will include activities such as the provision of meals for families referred by support agencies.

In addition, the café will be available for evening use by other charities.

Supported Employment

This provides work for those who are looking to move back in to mainstream employment. Under this scheme seven people have been employed during 2025.

Work To Benefit (W2B)

Through an arrangement with the Department of Employment and Social Security, Les Cotils as a host employer provides a 13 week work and training placement.

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2025 Highlights

Visit Of The Princess Royal

There is no greater testament to what Les Cotils represents than the fact that members of the Royal Family have visited three times in the past four years.

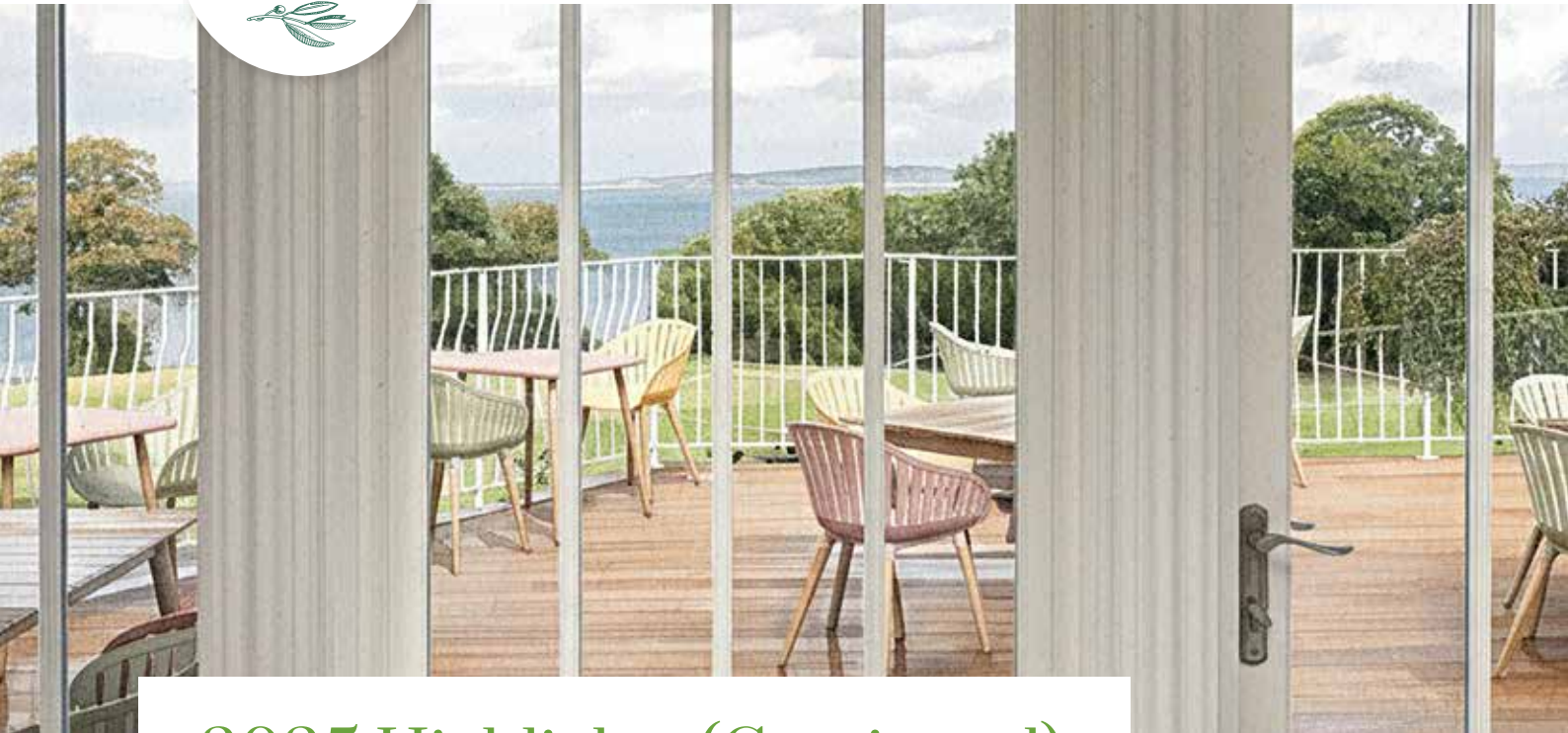
In 2024 Les Cotils was the venue for His Majesty The King and Queen to meet with Sark and Alderney representatives on the eastern lawn, and two years previously Les Cotils had hosted a dinner for The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

In 2025 Les Cotils was chosen to host a dinner for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, on her visit to Guernsey on May 9th, the 80th anniversary of the Liberation. Our kitchen team, led by Moustafa Rahmo, provided the Princess Royal and guests with a meal fit for a princess.



LIBERATION
1945 80 2025

Photographs courtesy of Chris George



2025 Highlights (Continued)

Conservatory

We now have a superb new conservatory. Our old conservatory, used as a well-loved café run by Pauline, had been in need of attention for a number of years. We were lucky enough that the Swallow Trust (2018) thought the same. They have provided the bulk of the funds needed to see the demolition and rebuilding of the structure. Two other private donors, and Les Cotils itself, provided the remainder of the funds needed. The conservatory's café is now run by Norberto and Rosita Alves who, after many years running Village East in Town, decided to take on this new challenge and are making a great success of it.

Serenity

September saw the installation of Serenity, a bronze sculpture by one of Britain's leading contemporary sculptors, Simon Gudgeon. The sculpture depicts an ibis and has been situated in a prominent position on the east lawn. The sculpture is one of a limited number, the most well known being in Hyde Park, London, near the Diana Memorial Fountain.

The bronze sculpture is the very generous gift of Ken and Linda Acott who, on selling their property in Hampshire, decided to donate it to Les Cotils, in part so that they could continue seeing it now that they live in Guernsey.



Photograph courtesy of Guernsey Press



Don't Take Our Word For It

“Just thought I'd say what a superb lunch you provided today. Beautifully fresh & delicious food with very good choices.

Personally enjoyed everything & so did all those around me.

Thanks again. ”

“Les Cotils is a wonderfully peaceful place to stay, with stunning gardens and lovely views. Our room was clean, comfortable, and full of charm.

The staff were friendly and welcoming, and breakfast was relaxed and enjoyable. A perfect spot for a quiet, refreshing break. Highly recommended. ”

“We just wanted to thank you so much for yesterday. We had the most incredible day and have had so many compliments on how well the day ran and the food! The staff were incredible. We couldn't have had a better day. You were amazing from start to finish and made the whole process so much easier for us.”

“Another lovely meal last night. The Mango & Avocado salad was very light & refreshing and the Lamb dish & vegetables were delicious.

Didn't hear any complaints from anyone.

Please pass on our thanks to all staff concerned. ”

“Just wanted to say we had the most amazing day. Everything was perfect and we recognise you were the hub of the spoke that held everything together. Although I've no doubt you would succeed in any role, you are perfect for this and we will always be grateful you were at the helm.

Billy was also an absolute legend, for the 30 hours I was there he made me feel incredibly special at every moment and many guests (that didn't know our connection) commented how fantastic he was.

So many people said it was the best wedding they've been to and wanted me to know that was a genuine comment and to pass along their feedback to the team. They loved the setting and raved about the food and the attentiveness of the staff. Please do congratulate the wider team and kitchen staff on a fantastic effort.

Heart felt thanks to you all. ”

“Just to say a massive thank you to you and the team at Les Cotils.

We really appreciate you all. My family can't stop talking about how great the guys were at the hotel.

You really all topped off a beautiful day, we can't thank you enough.

All of our guests said how beautiful the day was. ”



Fiona Naftel

At the end of 2025 Fiona Naftel stepped down as managing director of Les Cotils, where she had arrived thirteen years previously.

In those thirteen years Fiona has transformed Les Cotils to what it is today: a vital island institution through which all island life passes, a place of calm and peace, a refuge for some, a place to meet friends, a venue for celebration, and an example of what a difference one person can make.

Fiona has created a place which has become a centre of island life. Of course it is not just Fiona, as she would be the first to tell you. It is also the staff, the directors, and all those who support what happens at Les Cotils. But all have been brought together by Fiona; she has been the guiding light, the vision of what Les Cotils could be and has become.

A turning point during those thirteen years was the covid pandemic. Till then Fiona had been focussed more on the commercial side of Les Cotils than the charity side. However, once covid arrived she realised the charitable potential of Les Cotils. With people locked down, and many not able to work, some families were struggling to feed themselves properly. Les Cotils had idle kitchens so it started to cook hot meals for those that were in need, and a team of volunteers delivered four days a week.

Post covid this programme has continued through to today, offering cooked meals to those who are referred to Les Cotils by its partner charities and States agencies. On the back of the Food for Families initiative Fiona has also developed Fruit for Schools, where, every term-time week, one thousand five hundred pieces of fruit are delivered to primary schools around the island to help ensure that all children are able to have a balanced diet.

As well as that Fiona has developed a Supported Employee scheme to assist those who are in the process of re-entering mainstream work, and, in conjunction with the Department of Employment and Social Security, Les Cotils takes part in its Work to Benefit scheme welcoming people on work placements for up to thirteen weeks at a time.

Fiona, though, remains involved with Les Cotils, working on special projects, being involved in some of our charity work and as a trustee.



A Little Bit of History

The land of Les Cotils was bought by John Elisha Tupper, a wealthy local merchant, in 1803.

The original house was built somewhat to the east of the present building. Sometime in the mid-1800s Henry Tupper, who was born at Les Cotils in 1809 and bought the property from his elder brother, knocked down the original house and built the house we now know, albeit that it has been substantially added too over the decades.

Henry was a key figure in the public life of Guernsey during the nineteenth century, becoming a Jurat, acting as Vice-Consul for France, being involved in moves to enlarge the harbour, and having a vital role in the construction of Les Hanois lighthouse.

Henry died at Les Cotils at the age of 67 in 1875 and by the early 1890s no Tupperes were living in the house.

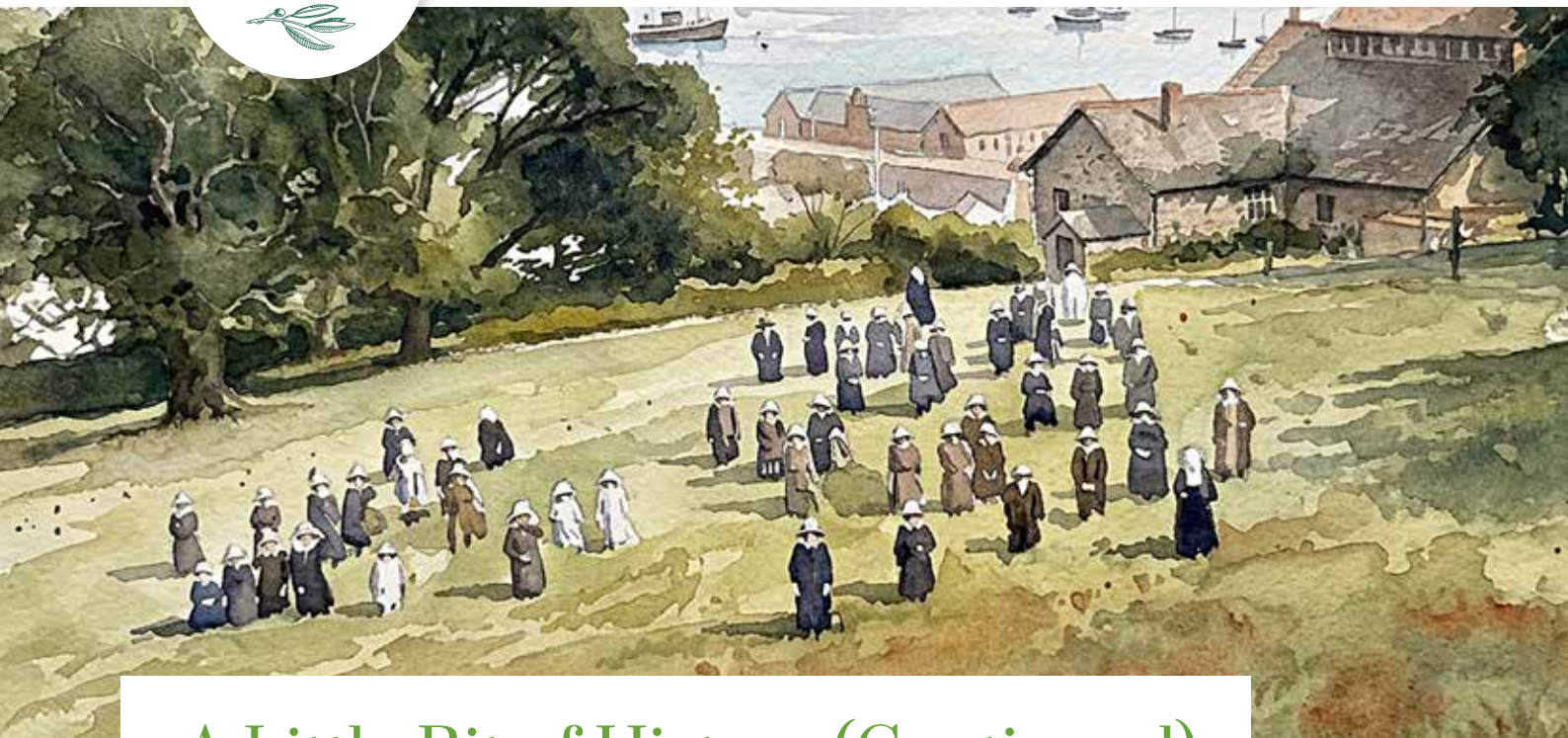
In 1904 the family sold the property to a teaching order of nuns, the Sisters Of Mary Of The Presentation of Broons, who were seeking refuge on the island after fleeing antireligious laws being enacted in France at the time.

And so Les Cotils became a convent and a boarding school for girls, initially from France and subsequently for local children as well.

This is the time when the house was substantially added to. Work on the extension to the left of the main house started in early 1905, and was finished in 1907.

The nuns also built a chapel (now known as The Russels) and ran a farm to make them as self-sufficient as possible.

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A Little Bit of History (Continued)

During the war most of the children were evacuated and, initially, the nuns ran Les Cotils as a care home. However, the Germans requisitioned the property for the remainder of the war, wanting Les Cotils for its strategic vantage point and placing batteries along the seaward perimeter. Remnants of the German occupation can be seen around the grounds. After the war the nuns returned and ran the house as a geriatric hospital until the early 1980s. They then decided to convert the main house into an ecumenical centre for retreats, conferences, counselling and hospitality for groups and individuals.

However, ecumenicalism was slow to develop and Les Cotils became financially unviable. Les Cotils was eventually bought by a private couple, David and Jane Swiffen. In the late 1990s an extension on the northern side of the main building was created, which contains the Harry Bound and Carol Hinds rooms as well as accommodation rooms on the first floor. Linked to this project was the creation of a separate block of residential apartments for the over 55s (de Hubie flats).

This is the building that we know today.

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Thank you for
your continued
support

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