

Inside Story

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'Or to sum it up in a sentence: if you lock it up, it goes away'

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1,251
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Ports may be blocked

By Ed Taylor

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FRENCH fishermen could block three major French ports for two hours tomorrow – including St Malo – as part of the ongoing dispute over fishing rights.

Some of those within the Normandy and Brittany fleets say they are not only angry about the number of licences issued but also the possibility of new 'technical restrictions' that could be implemented by Jersey and the UK on fishermen post-Brexit.

These include, they say, restrictions on some

species that are not currently controlled by quotas.

A notice being circulated amongst fishing committees said vessels were also planning to target Calais – which is used to export the majority of products into the UK from Europe – and Oustreham.

Condor had been due to operate a service to St Malo tomorrow but this has been cancelled – along with crossings over the next two days – due to strong winds expected to begin hitting the islands later today.

Meanwhile, Annick Girardin, the French Minister of the Sea, and other members of

France's government have been criticised after announcing a 40–60-million-euro 'fleet reduction plan'.

If enacted, the scheme would allow Gallic vessels which do not hold a licence and cannot operate profitably without one to sell their boats to the country's government.

The French Senate's European Affairs Committee and its Economic Affairs Committee have questioned whether – a few weeks after announcing supposed 'retaliatory measures' which included potentially hiking the price of electricity to Jersey – the country's government was now giving up.

In brief

JEP calendars still available

COPIES of the JEP's 2022 calendar are still available. The publication includes stunning images of Island scenes, as well as impressive aerial shots of Jersey taken by Mark Le Cornu from B&M Perspectives, the RAF, Colin Griffiths and the JEP photographic team. The calendar is free with any purchase of the JEP, which can be made by visiting the paper's office on the first floor of Le Gallais Chambers at 54 Bath Street between 8.30am and 5pm weekdays.

Presentation on climate

A PRESENTATION on the climate emergency and its effect on Jersey is to be given by a former BBC science department producer on Wednesday next week. Dr Jonathan Renouf, who recently moved back to Jersey from the UK, will use clips from films he made while working for the broadcaster to illustrate how the debate on climate change has changed. Dr Renouf's presentation comes between the recent COP26 international climate conference and Jersey's Carbon Neutral Roadmap, which is due to be published in December before a consultation and States debate in spring 2022. Details of the event – which begins at 6pm at Les Quennevais School – can be found on Eventbrite by searching for 'Climate Change and Jersey'.

Check cars, say the police

THE States police are reminding Islanders to check their tyres and brake lights after finding a number of vehicles with faults during a recent check. In a tweet, they said that during a winter road check with officers from DVS, members of the States police stopped 150 vehicles – 40 of which had issues with their lights or tyres.

Val de la Mare Sexual assaults

(Cont from page 1)

have now and in future years is a similar debate around a new reservoir or increased storage.

If we look at Queen's Valley now, in the context of history, there are a number of summers since 1991 where we would simply have run out of water without it.

Mr Bowden identified Val de la Mare reservoir – the only existing storage facility suitable for expansion – as the company's 'number one option' but acknowledged that it would have challenging implications because the reservoir, which accommodates a third of the Island's water, would have to be emptied while work took place.

He warned that, when existing reservoirs were full, the Island had a supply of only about 120 days' water, compared with between one and two years' storage for a typical water company in the UK. In Guernsey, he added, there is capacity for 365 days of supply.

This year, Jersey Water published a 25-year long-term water resources plan which made 11 recommendations, including additional reservoir storage, to safeguard the Island's water supplies. The plan acknowledged that discussions with the government about the possible use of parts of Gigoulade Quarry for a new storage facility had foundered but left open the question of where additional storage might be provided.

'We haven't been specific

about the storage but there are really two options available,' Mr Bowden said. 'Back in the 1970s the second option, had Queen's Valley not been approved, would have been Le Mourier, but that is unlikely because we would be back to a Queen's Valley debate about the loss of another valley. The other, probably more likely, option is to look at increasing capacity at Val de la Mare, where there are two approaches – to raise the existing dam or to build a new dam downstream of the existing one. Neither of them is easy to do but that is option number one at the moment.'

Under the draft Bridging Island Plan, the company is to work next year with the government on a water strategy for the Island and they will update the data contained in the 25-year plan, to take account of the population levels and the effects of global warming.

But no new facility is likely to be available before 2045, leaving Jersey Water with what it described as the 'interim options' set out in the plan. These include reducing leaks, expansion of the desalination plan and working with the government to address PFAS pollution of St Ouen's boreholes, as well as the possibility of water restrictions during droughts.

'The key message is that water is very precious and foundational to our way of life. We need all Islanders to help us to look after it,' he said.

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were visibly appalled when listening to the [Home Affairs] minister's ongoing responses to the questions around sexual assault and sexual harassment this morning. He displayed a level of ambivalence which is deeply concerning and an insult to the significant numbers of women who have to deal with sexual assault or sexual harassment on a regular basis.'

She added: 'We may have low conviction rates but anyone who asks a handful of women in their teens, 20s or 30s will realise that sexual assault and sexual harassment are so commonplace as to be almost universal.'

Her comments have been backed by Zoe Collins-Fisher, the community engagement officer for Jersey Action Against Rape.

She said: 'It is very commonplace everywhere because, unfortunately, it has become an accepted behaviour. We have a growing waiting list of people who have suffered from all levels of sexual abuse, from cat-calling to sexual assault and rape.'

She added: 'One in four women and one in five men will have been a victim of sexual assault at some point in their life.'

Jersey police statistics show that over the three-year period from 2018 to 2020, 17% of complaints for rape and serious sexual assault cases resulted in the conviction of offenders.

Reports of sexual violence against women have become increasingly prevalent following the MeToo movement and in response to the rape and murder of Sarah Everard by an off-duty police officer.

Deputy Doublet said: 'In my role as a States Member people often disclose

things to me and I have lost count of the number of women who have told me they were raped or seriously sexually assaulted, and either do not have enough faith in the system to report it, or did report it and were failed by the system.'

'It is time for men who hold power in Jersey to step up, speak out and take action against male perpetrators of sexual, violent and misogynistic crimes. Ambivalence and lack of understanding is just not acceptable any more.'

In Tuesday's sitting, Deputy Guida also said that there had been no confirmed instances of drink-spiking in Jersey in the last two years.

He said: 'It may happen and not be declared, but as far as we know it has not happened in Jersey in the last two years – I do not know what else I can say. People have to be careful but this is not a common occurrence in Jersey.'

He added: 'Spiking a drink and non-consensual sex carry a very heavy penalty in Jersey – I do not know which words I am expected to use for this. People are going to spend years in jail for this, so it is definitely not something that is encouraged by anybody.'

Deputy Doublet said that she, Constable Karen Shenton-Stone, Senator Kristina Moore, Deputy Inna Gardiner and Deputy Mary Le Hegarat had 'grouped together' to help tackle the issue.

She said: 'We have written to the minister to follow up and will ensure he sticks to the commitment he made in response to our questions to facilitate a survey which will establish the extent of the problem in our island.'

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