



## **Mission Statement**

‘To act as custodians of those properties of cultural heritage and natural beauty held in trust and maintain them for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe as a legacy for future generations’.

NATIONAL TRUST OF ZIMBABWE  
HERITAGE NEWS  
VOL 1 OF 2019

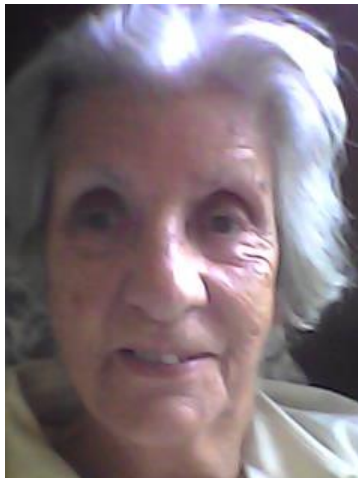
**As it has been a long while since we were able to get a newsletter out to our members, this is something of ‘bumper issue’.**

It is with deep regret and much sadness that we announce the death of our long-standing and most dedicated member, Helen Hyslop, on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Our thoughts and condolences go to her two sons, John and Charles, who themselves are long standing members of the NTZ and of the NTZ Executive Council.

TRIBUTES TO HELEN:

### **Helen de Barsy Hyslop**

### **A Tribute to a Wonderful Person – June 2019**



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Helen joined the NTZ in 1993 and became a member of the Executive Council in 2003. She was Chair of the Rhodesia Association of University Women (1970 -1980). One of her major local achievements, at that time, with other groups was the lobbying for separate assessment for tax of female spouses in 1977. Helen was a regular member of International Federation of University Women's Council in Geneva, promoting graduate women's and feminist rights over that period. The University was established in 1919 and nearly 100 years later it continues to advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment through the access to quality secondary and tertiary education and training up to the highest levels. The goal is for 100% of girls and women worldwide to achieve an education beyond primary school. Helen was an alumnus of University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

#### **Tribute from David Scott – Chairman of The National Trust of Zimbabwe**

We shall miss Helen terribly, but her memory will remain with the NTZ Councillors and particularly Shirley and I forever.

Helen was very passionate about The National Trust. She was an incredible source of knowledge and her logical/practical/worldly wise common sense positively influenced all our Council meetings and activities. Helen, with the support of her sons, selflessly helped develop NTZ over many decades through some very tough times.

Helen gave me, personally, tireless support and encouragement in my capacity as Chairman of NTZ, especially at the outset when I first joined NTZ. Helen always made sure we were doing the right thing at NTZ, when we ventured down a new path!! We spent many hours on the phone before and after Council meetings, discussing various matters and “chewing the cud” together. I was always confident that Helen would have some great advice and suggestions to any challenge we faced. I shall miss her wisdom and experience but will recall “what would Helen do” when dealing with issues into the future!

Helen was an amazing human being who committed herself to the wider community over her entire life, without thought for herself. Shirley and I thoroughly enjoyed our (all be it too short) time with Helen.

Rest in peace dear Helen.

#### **Tribute from Sharon Waterworth – Deputy Chairperson The National Trust of Zimbabwe**

May Helen rest in peace. I extend my deepest sympathies to Helen's family at this very sad time.

Helen volunteered and worked for the Trust for over 26 years during which time her contribution was significant and she was instrumental to its success. Helen was dedicated to the Trust and she also chaired the sub-committee for Heritage Houses which was another of her passions.

I had the very real privilege of working with Helen over the past decade or so. It was actually Helen that introduced me to the Trust and invited me to join the Executive Council, which I fortunately did. Helen is an inspirational lady whom will be deeply missed for her professional input and wisdom. Always an active member Helen helped to steer the Council in the right direction.

Upon reflection it was so fitting that on World Heritage Day in 2018 that the Trust honored Helen's enormous input to the Trust and in recognition by unveiling a plaque at Worlds view (a Trust property) in Nganya close to where Helen enjoyed many family holidays. I attended the celebratory event along with other NTZ Councilors which took place on a

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kopje (hill) at an altitude of over 2,000 metres, one of the highest points in Zimbabwe, where the escarpment drops 600 metres to the plain below. Fittingly, Helen's plaque sits proudly above the clouds and birds flying.



As you can see the view from the plaque is one of peace and of extreme beauty and it seems endless. In addition to the plaque Helen was also given the honour of a Protea flower being named after her, both will be a constant reminder of a very special lady and of her contribution to the Trust.

#### **Tribute from Edone-Ann Logan personally and on behalf of the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition and it's Committee**

The loss of Helen is a tragic loss to the National Trust of Zimbabwe, and in particular to the Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition (Rhodes Museum). From the start of the 'upgrade' of the museum Helen gave the Committee encouragement, and with her practical common sense, advised on many matters. Her passion and vision for the work was infectious! We hope that her valuable knowledge and experience has not been lost as Helen was a good teacher throughout her life, imparting her knowledge freely to so many.

Helen was an absolute gentlewoman and an excellent example of the best of our older generation of women in Zimbabwe who developed the country in past years to its highest standards. She will be greatly missed by many but certainly not forgotten.

Our most sincere condolences to John and Charles, who have been tremendously supportive to their mother. May the Lord be with them in their loss.

Sincerely, All RNHE members and their families.

#### **TRIBUTE FROM FIRA BACHE, COUNCIL MEMBER**

I shall miss Helen terribly as she more or less took me under her wing when my husband and I joined the Trust. She was so knowledgeable and ready to share that knowledge with us all.

To me she was truly inspirational, and I remember well the long chats on the phone when we discussed all things pertaining to the Trust and to life in general. Helen was an amazing woman with many attributes but most of all a very kind heart.

My deepest condolences to her family, she will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace dear Helen.

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### **Tribute from Gill Honeyman and the World's View Team**

So many years of wise words, advice and support from a very fine lady.

Will always be remembered by us all at World's View for her kindness and generosity through good times and hardships. We shall miss Helen so much and have been privileged to have had her friendship over the many years that she has given of her unstinting support for all our projects and future goals.

Much love to John and Charles at this sad time from Gill, Matirina, Luke and Arthur.

### **Tribute from Lin Goncalves, Council Member**

I will always remember Helen for her great enthusiasm and her vision for the National Trust. She remained an active and keen member of the Committee and was always encouraging with her views and ideas for the projects she foresaw for the Trust. It was a great honour to have been able to work alongside Helen with her undaunting stamina for all matters 'National Trust' – her passion.

My deepest sympathy go to her two sons John and Charles.

### **Tribute from an NTZ member Janet Dawson**

What a sad loss to the National Trust of Zimbabwe and of course to her family. Despite never meeting her, I believe that she was a truly dedicated member and will be sorely missed by all

Sincerely, Janet

### **Tribute from an NTZ member Sian Brown**

Her signature on our very unique membership cards will be missed!! Both have caused much interest, curiosity and enthusiasm by National Trust staff at different properties my husband and I have visited with our privileged membership in Wales and England over quite some years!

In the world of chip and pin, fingerprints, face recognition and bar codes, our unique "signed" old fashioned looking cards seemed so different to the rest of the world's countries in partnership of the National Trust.

It was obviously very intriguing to those manning lovely properties in the UK that sometimes, on more than a few occasions other staff had to be "called" to come and see them along with our seemingly different and somewhat quaint selves, from a far away ex colony! It was a great platform to connect, and chat, and so I really hope they are retained.

Many thanks for all her faithful signatures. A fine memorial to Helen, thank you!!

### **Tribute from Innes Grainger**

Thank you so much for sending me information on the National Trust and also for letting me know about the sad news of the passing of Helen Hyslop.

I knew Helen through her activities during my early years in Zimbabwe while I was engaged at the University of Zimbabwe and we were active promoting the Zimbabwe University Women's Association. I remember her from our several encounters later on and I knew her because of her voluntary activities in several other Organizations. Indeed, she is a great loss to the country and to us all who followed her example and inspiration.

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Please, give our condolences to Charles and John. We have them in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Ines Grainger and David Pilbrough

**Tribute from Greg Langlois**

Sorry to hear that news, such a sad loss, condolences to family Sincerely, Greg Langlois  
.....

Our Committee member, Fira Bache, gave a power-point presentation to the Pioneer Society in May, at Chisipite Junior School.

These presentations and talks continue to interest the public and attract new members.

**\*\*\*Don't forget that your membership in Zimbabwe gives you reciprocity (free entrance) to all other National Trust properties overseas.\*\*\***

Our Chairman, David Scott was recently attending the INTO Conference in Bermuda. Here is an excellent account from him on the highlights.

***INTO Bermuda – March 2019***

***A personal perspective by David Scott (NTZ Chairperson)***

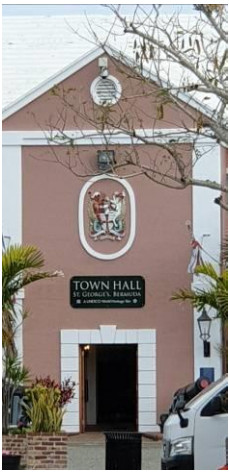
I was very privileged and lucky to be able to attend another INTO conference in the exotic location of Bermuda (especially for someone all the way from Africa and it is a very long way there and back!!).

Sincere thanks must go to Catherine Leonard and INTO, along with the Bermuda National Trust for the very generous sponsorship that made this trip possible, without which, NTZ would not have been represented in Bermuda.

The conference was a resounding success in all respects. It was another opportunity for me to meet the INTO family and renew acquaintances and also make new friends, discuss matters and swop/share ideas and experiences affecting INTO members globally.

We also learnt a lot of the history, heritage and culture of Bermuda. We undertook trips to various areas of the island which included the World Heritage town of St Georges (the original capital of Bermuda).

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UNESCO World Heritage status

Very brightly coloured buildings all over the island!!



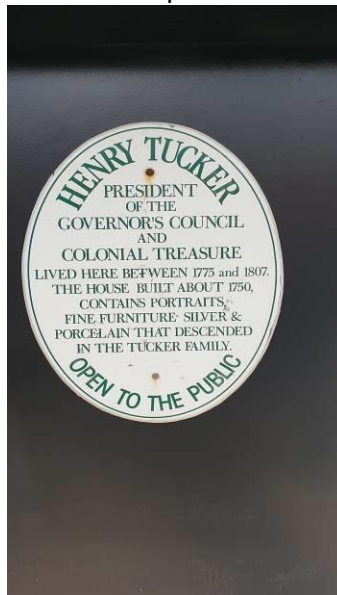
A typical St George's street scene:

Bermuda National Trust manages many sites on the island (nearly 80 if I recall correctly!!):

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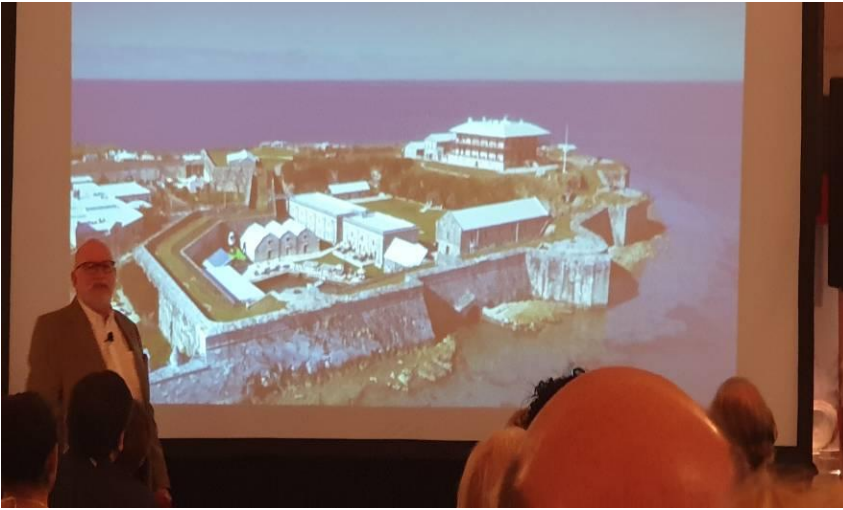
Bridge House and another example – Tucker House:



We visited the historic Naval Dockyards on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day at which the original Governor's Mansion is perched on a rise next to/above the dockyards (which are now a Heritage Site & museums). See an illustration below with the very prominent first Governor's Residence:

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An item of interest to Africans would be the rain water harvesting mandatory requirement by all residences and public buildings. The roofs are all painted white with a special paint (every 2-3 years) and rain water is channelled into reservoirs built under all the houses. There is no fresh water supply (rivers) on the island!! So all water requirements are from rain water (other than reverse osmosis systems which are very expensive and inefficient in hotels etc)!!



Bermuda is a British Protectorate. We were hosted on the first evening by the Governor at his beautiful residence with spectacular views.

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Before the conference started, I was privileged to be able to join some of the delegates on a boat trip to visit “Non-such”, a small island off the north eastern coast of Bermuda, that is the breeding ground of the 2<sup>nd</sup> most endangered sea bird in the world, the “Cahow”, please see the poster below (I hope you can read the text?!!):

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NONSUCH ISLAND  
NATURE RESERVE

## The Cahow



The Cahow is a member of the Gadfly Petrel family, which are related to Albatrosses and Shearwaters. They are long-winged seabirds which are fast and agile fliers, living on the open ocean, never visiting land except to breed.

The Cahow or Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*) is endemic to Bermuda and has been listed as a globally endangered species.

The Cahow spends most of its life on the open ocean, returning in November to 4 tiny islets in the Castle Harbour Islands Nature Reserve and Nonsuch Island to nest in deep crevices and artificial burrows. A single egg is laid in early January, with downy chicks hatching in early March, after a 53-day incubation period. Chicks are fed squid and fish gathered by the adult birds on foraging trips that can span thousands of miles.



Chicks fledge to sea in late May and early June at about 90 days of age, not to return to the breeding sites until they are 3 to 5 years of age.

Due to extensive hurricane erosion and overwashing of the small nesting islets, a project to establish a new nesting colony on the larger and more elevated Nonsuch Island was carried out from 2004 to 2008. Eventually 102 chicks were translocated from the original nesting islets to a complex of artificial nest burrows constructed on Nonsuch. In 2008, the first of these translocated birds began to return to Nonsuch.



Newly hatched Cahow chick

In 2009, the first Cahow chick called "Somers" hatched on Nonsuch and fledged to sea 3 months later. By 2011, 28 translocated Cahows had returned to Nonsuch, with 7 new pairs incubating eggs. In 2012, the total population of Cahows, nesting on Nonsuch and the original nesting islets, broke the 101 pairs. A fitting tribute to mark Bermuda's 400 year anniversary.



Translocated Cahow chick being fed Anchovy

For further information please contact the Department of Conservation Services  
(441) 293-2727 or visit our website:- [www.conservation.bm](http://www.conservation.bm)

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On our way we also experienced sightings of whales on 3 occasions, what excitement on board the boat that day!!

On the Sunday after the conference had ended, a few delegates undertook a walking tour of the capital of Bermuda, Hamilton, a very enlightening, amusing and enjoyable morning with the official “Town Crier”!



The connections of Bermuda are very close from slave trade times and Boer war prisoners:

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The people of Bermuda are very kind and extremely hospitable. For example, the delegates were hosted in private homes one evening for a dinner. My group was a party of 26 people all dining in a private home of members of the Bermuda National Trust!!



All in all a truly memorable and successful conference for me and. I believe, all the delegates, thanks you INTO & the Bermuda National Trust.

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**WORLDS VIEW**

To repeat a previous posting – the National Trust Committee members and members from Nyanga gathered at Worlds View last April (2018) for the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to Helen. After the unveiling of the plaque Helen was also given the honour of a Protea flower being named after her.



**Figure 1 - The Helen Hyslop Kopje**

**RHODES NYANGA HISTORICAL EXHIBITION**

Our dedicated Chairman, Edone Ann Logan has retired. After many years of hard work and enthusiasm, she and her husband Aubrey are moving to Harare. Edone was co-author of the booklet , ‘Nyanga’s Rich Heritage’ with Rob Burrett, and instrumental in the involvement of schools, through the RNHE, in projects which enabled a vast number of local school children to learn about culture, history, traditional crafts and the importance of the preservation of our rich and diverse heritage.

We welcome Guy Cary, the new Chairman, retired teacher and Nyanga resident. With his enthusiasm and vast knowledge of history and education, Guy will be a great asset to the Committee. Assisted by Naboth Machopa as Vice-Chair, Josephine Machopa as Treasurer and Merle Moore as Secretary, the future development of the RNHE is assured.

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The Exhibition continues to receive donations for the display, so there is always something new for the visitors to see - the latest being the arrival of the Portable Steam Engine. This handsome machine was towed up from South African by a span of oxen in 1903 to work in the Bindura area. Come and see her and learn more about her history!

A wardrobe has been added to the Victorian display in the Loft, and period clothing packed into the shelves. Aubrey Logan has made a useful and attractive bench on the frame donated by the Hyslop family; a plaque expressing appreciation for all the advice and support the Hyslops have given RNHE since 2011, has been attached. The display depicting the history of Nyanga's rich heritage of Churches and Missions has been expanded and improved, with further research undertaken and photographs added.

*With thanks to Guy Cary – the following is reproduced from the John Gault Gazette of April/May 2019:*

Picture this: 120 years ago the rolling downs of Nyanga were almost treeless – no forests of pine or wattle. Views of distant mountains and rocky outcrops were uninterrupted, attracting a wealthy Englishman visiting from South Africa. He ordered a house to be built for himself on a low rise overlooking the Nyangombe valley. His name was Cecil Rhodes. A stone bungalow with wide verandas and an imposing flight of steps up to it was constructed. Comfortable oak furnishings were brought up on wagons from the distant Cape Colony.

Nearby, and even larger stone building was created to provide stables for horses, and accommodation for the coachmen. Above the stables a hayloft was installed, reached by an outside ladder.



But Rhodes was a sick man and did not live long enough to enjoy his new home to the full. When he died in 1902, he left his Nyanga property to be used for the benefit and education of the people of this country.

Some years later, Rhodes's house was extended and turned into what was to become the Rhodes Nyanga Hotel. The large stone barn and shed, used by the hotel as a dumping ground for empty bottles and other rubbish, fell into disrepair.

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In the 1970s Mr Dick Petheram visited Rhodes Hotel and formed a vision of a more constructive use for the abandoned stables and adjacent living quarters. He and another member of the National Trust, Mr Mike Kimberley, approached the Trust with a view to establishing a museum within these premises. And so, what is now the flourishing 'Rhodes Nyanga Historical Exhibition' was established – the only museum controlled by the National Trust of Zimbabwe.



The recent developments are largely due to the tireless work since 2011 of Dick Petheram's daughter, Edone Ann Logan, her husband Aubrey, and a strong supporting committee. Today, Rhodes Museum – reflecting the cultural diversity of Zimbabwe and its rich history – is appreciated by many Zimbabwean and international visitors; hundreds of school children use it as a unique educational centre. There are now exciting plans to further enhance this jewel in Nyanga's crown.

## **LA ROCHELLE**

And here's what happened in 2018 at La Rochelle:

### **The Tea House:**

The La Rochelle Tea House has officially opened. Guests can now taste a range of our organic herbal teas - fresh from our farms where we grow some 120ha of organic herbs!

The tea house also offers different packages for high-teas in the garden with a selection of sweet and savoury treats that can be enjoyed with a gin and tonic, champagne, herbal teas or leading local coffees.

### **The Spa Upgrade:**

Our Spa upgrade is complete and has allowed us to now offer a wider range of products, including the Tip 2 Toe (La Rochelle Signature Treatment) which is a luxurious 90-minute treatment using pre-blended aromatherapy oils to massage the entire body. This treatment offers a mixture of Swedish Massage integrated with Hot Stone Massage, Pressure Point Massage and Indian Head Massage techniques. (just what the doctor ordered for the stressed out Zimbabwe businessman and woman today!)

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### **The Menu:**

Over the last few months we have had two leading chefs visit La Rochelle to help with our foodie offering from better sourcing of the abundant local produce (**Annabel Hughes-Aston of SavannaBel** fame) both on our farms and in the surrounding areas, to better presentation and new cooking techniques (**Tjaart Walraven of The Great South African Bake-Off** fame!). In a recent review a guest commented that "The highlight of our stay was definitely the food. The dinners were delicious." We certainly hope you will 'taste the difference' during your next visit!

### **The Virginia Cottage:**

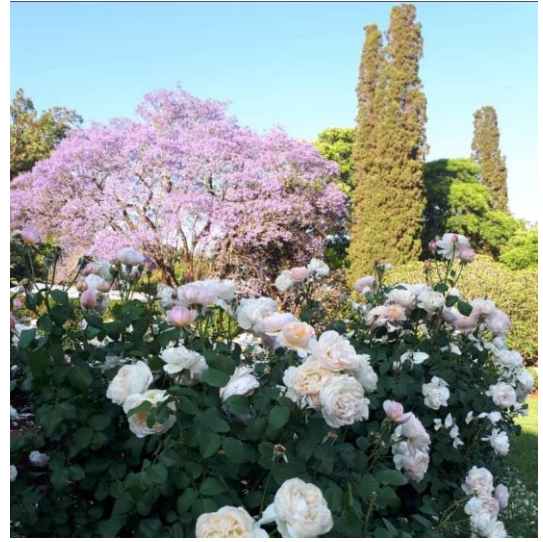
For those of you who prefer the self-catering option and generally longer stays we have upgraded the Virginia Cottage which is perfect for a family with young kids and even the odd dog!

### **Gift Shop:**

We have been working with new partners on expanding our range of high quality local and regional arts and crafts in the La Rochelle gift shop. We are excited to be working with some of Zimbabwe's top crafts men and women who will be transferring their skills to local women in the valley as was the tradition in the Courtauld era with Lady Virginia's Craft Hall! We will be relaunching the shop in the first quarter of 2019.



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### **Other News:**

During the course of last year La Rochelle hosted many conferences, strategy sessions, team building events as well as a wide range of specialized workshops from Art and Craft to Meditation and Mindfulness with **bestselling author David Michie**.

**Organic Herbs and Product Range:** Our Organic herb farms are now producing a wide range of products using 30 different herbs, including petal crops such as Calendula and Safflower in the winter to the five species of mints, Melissa, Lemon Grass, Chamomile, Dandelion, Stinging Nettles, Anise, Thyme and more recently Ginger and Turmeric. Many of our guests opt to take a guided tour of our trials where they get to smell, feel and taste our organic production.

We have also begun holding **workshops and training sessions on sustainable and organic** farming which will be expanded in 2019. Please DO consider La Rochelle for your next training session too!

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## Looking Forward

During 2019 we are looking forward to the filming of '**Stephen & Ginnie**' - a documentary on the life of the Courtaulds which is a project being taken on by The National Trust of Zimbabwe together with a Zimbabwean film studio. The film will also focus on their time at La Rochelle and the couple's linkages with the development of arts and crafts and incredible philanthropy in Zimbabwe from the building of the National Gallery to many of the city theatres and even Speciss College.

During April well known author Louisa Treger will be publishing her book '**The Dragon Lady**' about the exotic/adventurous life of Lady Virginia Courtauld which will hopefully include a 1950s themed weekend at La Rochelle with a reading by the author. We hope to have some of you join us for this unusual event.

There are plans to build **more rooms** and self-catering cottages in 2019. We will keep you posted on this.

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**MABUKUWENE – Nothing to report**

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