

INSIDE TODAY

Island News	3-7, 9, 11 & 12
Horoscopes	7
Family Notices	8
Noticeboard	13
Opinion	14
Bushfire Crises	15
Arts	16 & 17
World News	18
Coffee Break	19
TV & Radio	20 & 21
Business	22
Classifieds	23-30
World Sport	31
Sport	32-36
La Gazette Officielle	35

WEATHER

IN DETAIL: PAGE 13

TODAY

Sunny spells and scattered showers, with the risk of hail and thunder, mainly in the morning. Showers merging into a longer spell of rain overnight.



TOMORROW

Sunshine and showers.



DON'T MISS



PETER GILLSON
TOMORROW

TOP JOBS



Insurance Broker

Chef De Partie

Shop Assistant

For details on these positions and more jobs, see today's classifieds

70% of adult islanders read the Guernsey Press at least once a week
More than six out of 10 households usually buy the paper
Source: Island Global Research survey: February 2017

Sea Donkey eyes last Oceans Seven swim

by **Zoe Fitch**

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SEA SWIMMER Adrian Sarchet has announced his intention to attempt the final Oceans Seven swim to complete a rare challenge that only 20 people have achieved so far.

With it, he will also be raising money for special equipment to be installed at Beau Sejour.

Mr Sarchet, also known as the Sea Donkey, is scheduled to swim the Cook Strait – the 16 miles from North Island to South Island in New Zealand between 1 and 6 March this year.

It marks the final leg of the marathon challenge of swimming seven open water channels and, if successful, means Mr Sarchet will be one of just three Brits to complete the Oceans Seven.

Although Cook Strait is not the longest leg, it presents some of the most uncertain and unpredictable currents.

The challenge was devised in 2008 and is often referred to as the swimming equivalent of the Seven Summits mountaineering challenge.

'As much as the rankings are a nice incentive, this was a challenge I set myself 10 years ago now so I am determined to get it done,' he said.

The Cook Strait is renowned for its chilly waters, strong currents, jellyfish and relatively common shark sightings.



Adrian Sarchet aims to attempt the final Oceans Seven swim – 16 miles from North Island to South Island in New Zealand between 1 and 6 March this year to complete a rare challenge that only 20 people have achieved so far.

'We've been waiting for the go-ahead on this for three years and I got confirmation of the date I could swim just before Christmas. It's a very difficult swim to get into because there's only one man in charge of it and only a handful of swimmers get to do it a year.

'I'd love to say I've been in shape ready to go at the drop of a hat for three years, but my team and I just maintained a base level of

fitness and then I was actually due to swim from Guernsey to France in September but couldn't due to high winds, so I was already in pretty good shape for that.

'Cook Strait is a very difficult stretch of water, a lot of swimmers get stung by jellyfish and 15 to 20 swimmers a year see sharks.

'I suppose there's always fear when you're sea swimming but I'm excited to give it a go and de-

termined to get it done.'

However, his swim is not just a test of strength, bravery and endurance – he is swimming to raise money for Guernsey Disability Swimming LBG in support of the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre's 'Poolpod Appeal'.

The Poolpod Appeal hopes to update the centre's existing pool hoist which is used to lift swimmers with mobility difficulties into and out of the pool.

The current hoist is coming to the end of its lifespan and rather than simply replacing it with an identical substitute, Beau Sejour would like to take advantage of the revolutionary equipment which was developed for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

As a director of the Guernsey Disability Swimming charity, Mr Sarchet knows first hand how valuable the new equipment would be, how much more dignity it gives to swimmers with mobility restrictions and how it can provide opportunities for many more people to get involved with swimming locally who might not be able to at the moment.

'Although this is a solo event, it's a team pursuit and none of this would have happened without my training crew, support crew and all those integral people who have supported me over the years, so thank you,' he said.

■ To donate visit www.seadonkey-film.com/charity-fundraising.

Comment Page 14

Education will release info in full 'if Scrutiny promises not to publish'

by **Helen Bowditch**

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DEPUTIES are being urged again to support a full and frank inquiry into a controversial appointment at Education, or 'allow the credibility and reputation of the States to be destroyed'.

Attempts to hold a Scrutiny inquiry have reached an impasse after politicians and civil servants from both Education, Sport & Culture and Policy & Resources submitted redacted information due to data protection concerns.

Key figures in the dispute have not given their consent for their information to be handed over, which has halted the investigation.

The Scrutiny Management Committee will ask the States later this month for £150,000 for a tribunal of inquiry, which can cut through data protection, examine documents in public and compel witnesses to attend.

In September last year States members narrowly rejected plans for this type of full-blown inquiry

and instead Scrutiny was left to deal with it under its existing powers.

Scrutiny president Chris Green is insistent that only a tribunal of inquiry will get to the truth and put a stop to claims of a cover-up.

Deputy Green wants the States to learn from the experience and get recommendations to stop it happening again.

'We consider this is a matter of urgent public importance because of the significant amount of public and media comment on it – but it's more than that, it is the reputation of the States at stake ultimately, and its reputation in terms of the procedural fairness of appointment processes.

'The States owes it to the community that it serves to try to thrash out exactly what happened, get to the nub of the facts and circumstances of what happened,

and learn from that and move on.'

Education, Sport & Culture became embroiled in allegations of political interference in the civil service over the appointment to the post of head of curriculum and standards.

A local primary head teacher initially accepted the job, but pulled out when it emerged that the recruitment panel had gone against the wishes of politicians. Eventually the candidate favoured by politicians was given the role.

The situation became public only when someone blew the whistle on alleged malpractice and political meddling and leaked a smoking gun email to the Guernsey Press.

Since the September vote, Deputy Green believes the dynamic in the Assembly has changed.

'I've had specific members of the States who spoke against the proposition in September say to me that they would now support it,

I detect that there's been a movement.'

In response to the latest statement, ESC president Matt Fallaize said they have long wanted to submit all the documents with nothing redacted.

'We submitted all documents to the Scrutiny Management Committee a couple of months ago.

'They contained some redactions, mostly of personal data, because at that time that was what was required by the law.

'In January, a new regulation was made and we received legal advice that it is now lawful to provide the SMC with all material relevant to the review in un-redacted form.'

However, Deputy Fallaize says that Scrutiny must first promise not to make the material public before Education will release it.

Deputy Green has pointedly called this 'the second and final' attempt to commission a tribunal of inquiry.

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