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Welcome to this edition of the newsletter, which is the last one to drop through your letter box during the 1990s. Thank you to those who have written in with news; without your contributions, we would have no newsletter.

*Within these pages we are publishing the full list of names of those who are receiving the newsletter and we also have the return of the *Where Are they Now?* section. Please take a look through this and if you know the whereabouts of anyone on the list, and you haven't told us about them before, please do so. If you have already given us an address for anyone on the list, we have tried to contact them but with no result. We follow up all leads provided by you.*

*Featured in this edition is an article by Mr. James Wong Kwok Wai, which was recently published in the *World Journal*, a newspaper magazine for Overseas Chinese readers all over the world. For details see James' entry in the News of Members section. We are also pleased to print [inside the back cover] a message from Ian Corsie concerning a project to help orphaned children in China. Please read this article and support Ian in his work.*

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

AND

ALL GOOD WISHES FOR 2000

NEWS OF MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Jay ALLEN [FAO mid 80s] is now teaching at a small independent college preparatory school in Maryland and sends greetings to all former staff and students. His wife Sue has had to curtail her teacher's course in order to look after her mother, who is recovering from surgery she had earlier this year. Meanwhile, daughter Rebecca has graduated from high school and is studying biology with chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. His son David continues his academic and music [trombone] studies. Jay writes that David worked at a summer camp this year with a number of young people from the UK and had no problem with the language barrier!

Neal ANDERSON [FAO mid 80s] has relocated from Germany back to the United States. Now a Lieutenant Colonel, Neal is living in the Washington DC area.

John BORDWELL [FAO mid 80s] has been promoted to Colonel and is commanding a brigade with headquarters in Hawaii. His battalions are in Korea and Japan, so the job involves lots of travel in the region. His E-mail address is jhbordwell@aol.com if you wish to communicate with him in this way.

Mrs. CHENG Ya Lan [**Mrs. ZHONG**] [Staff] is now back in Rexburg, Idaho after her world travels earlier on this year. The broken wrist she suffered in South Africa has still not fully recovered, but with her indomitable spirit she continues to live life to the full. In July she took a short intensive course in Russian in preparation for starting a second full year of study in September. Next year she may do a third year of Russian, or may do first-year Spanish. Mrs. Zhong enjoys walking for relaxation and likes visiting local scenic spots.

Ian CORSIE [Mandarin late 60s] travelled to the United States this year but an extremely busy schedule prevented him from seeing some of the ex-CLS personnel he had hoped to visit. Ian is now actively involved with a home for orphans in Lijiang [Yunnan Province] which was badly damaged in an earthquake three years ago. Ian has written a short article on the work of a project called 'Rainbow Homes of Hope'; the orphanage at Lijiang is one of these Rainbow Homes. His article appears inside the back cover.

Kevin DOYLE [Mandarin late 70s] is now based in England but his work frequently takes him to Shanghai, which is now a 'boom' city.

John GRIEVE [Mandarin early 90s] is still serving in the Army and between tours of duty in the Balkans is based in the South of England. John has just completed the second year of a degree course with the Open University and has also purchased a flat in London. In finding time for all these commitments, John says he thinks back to the enlightened study regime at CLS, where sufficient time was allowed for consolidation in the working week.

Dave KTTCHING [Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s] is keeping busy in Hong Kong teaching Business English courses for various commercial organisations. He visited Britain during the late summer and it was a pleasure to speak to him on the telephone during his trip.

Ian LIVERMORE [Cantonese early 70s] is still living in Germany for most of the year but has recently moved house.

Richard [Rufus] ORME [Mandarin mid 80s] has relocated from New Zealand back to the United Kingdom and is now living in the West of England. Richard is working in Project Management for the computer industry and would welcome contact with any former staff or students who are able to communicate by E-mail. His address is richard.orme@online.rednet.co.uk and he is waiting to hear from you.

Andrew PEARSON [Mandarin early 70s] attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Gibraltar during the summer. He is Secretary of the UK Branch of the Association.

Mel PETRIE [Mandarin early 80s] has left Hong Kong and is now living in Britain and working as a consultant in China Trade and Business Re-engineering. Mel has been following up one or two opportunities for longer-term work in China-related activities.

Mick ROBERTS [Cantonese mid 70s] has undertaken more Cantonese interpreting for the Guernsey police, immigration authorities and magistrate's court during the year. He also prepared the vufoil briefing notes [in Chinese] for the visit of the Chief of the Chinese Air Staff to Headquarters Royal Air Force Strike Command

during the Spring. He and Kay have made several trips to England and France during the year visiting family and friends.

Alan ROBERTSON [Mandarin late 60s, Cantonese mid 70s] has completed his move to Scotland and is now living to the north of Edinburgh, not too far from his mother, who is enjoying good health. She will be remembered by many former staff and students.

Paul STOKES [Mandarin mid 80s] has completed his training in law and is now a practising barrister with a law firm in the Midlands of England [motto: "No job too small, no fee too large"]. Paul's E-mail address is paulstokesl@yahoo.co.uk and he will be pleased to hear from you.

David SYME [Mandarin Late 70s] escorted a delegation from the Chinese People's Liberation Army around a military equipment exhibition in Chertsey, England during the late summer. Their itinerary included visits to London and Scotland. David found the exhibition work quite demanding; if you are not familiar with the function of a torque converter in English, it is difficult to explain it in Chinese. David suggests that if you close your eyes, it could be another term for 'interpreter' During this assignment, David met with the Marconi Limited representative in Beijing, who is soon to retire and be replaced by Chris KNIGHT, a former CLS student. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows of Chris. After many years, David and Pat have moved out of Edinburgh and are now living not too far away to the south-west. His E-mail address is [wait for it] ni.hao@virgin.net [this is true]. You will recall that his car already has the registration plate NI HAO; he unsuccessfully advertised this plate for sale in this newsletter some years ago.

Matt VAN DER LUGT [Mandarin late 80s] has been in touch from Australia where he has been making a number of enquiries about China-related jobs.

Tom WASHBURN [FAO late 70s] completed a three year assignment as the US Army Attache to the Kingdom of Thailand and was posted back to Washington DC during 1998. He is now serving as the Military Advisor to the US Department of State's Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Mr. James WONG Kwok Wei [Staff] finally completed his article on the relationship between the Channel Islands and Britain, compared with Hong Kong and China under the 'One country, two systems' concept, and during the summer it was printed in the World Journal, a newspaper magazine for Chinese readers published in New York which is distributed throughout Overseas Chinese communities in the United States and in other parts of the world. His article is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. James has travelled to Hong Kong and to Shanghai during the year, although he still lives in Los Angeles most of the time.



Our picture shows Mr. Wong outside Mandarin City in Shanghai, during the summer of 1999.

來香之國——根西島

by

James Wong Kwok Wai

英法海峽上一小島，自 1066 年實行「一國兩制」；根西種乳牛聞名世界。

／郭偉

英法海峽上有兩個較大的島，澤西(Jersey)和根西(Guernsey)。澤西被加上了一個「新」字，成為美國的新澤西州，後者沒有那種運氣，於是不大為世人所知(我的美國朋友知道根西種乳牛，卻不知根西是一個島)。記得徐訐短篇小說「荒謬的英法海峽」，是早年看過的烏托邦理想故事，也沒有提到什麼地名。

我是一九九四年秋去根西探訪好友羅弼時(Mick Roberts)，和他談話中勾起這一點記憶的，不但他無法明白「荒謬」這兩字何所指，我也有同感。羅弼時與我在香港共事，精通中文能說國粵語，對中國文化極有興趣，把他精緻漂亮兩層樓房叫作 China Coast，英國人也像我們一樣願意把寓所取一個表達情意心思的名字，如我們的「寄廬」「隱廬」什麼的。

我在根西住了一個星期，接觸到一些當地居民，也去過澤西和法國聖馬 St. Malo，瞭解到根西這個小島是個很有意思地方，值得報導。根西人也聽說了香港

的「一國兩制」，要我解釋介紹(島上難見中國人到訪)。

我說這是中國處理香港今後政治問題的政策，轉瞬香港回歸中國已是兩年，對你們英國人談香港事情，總不免會有些難以措詞之處，於是簡單的說是：「高度民主」、「港人治港」和「五十年不變」。羅弼時的一位律師朋友聽了我的話，沈思很久慢條理斯地說：「這樣說的話，恐怕我們根西已採用近似這樣的辦法上千年了！」

太奇怪了！我總以為「一國兩制」應是中國發明的才對？

迄今仍效忠英國王室

這位律師接著說：

「我們都記得，從一〇六六年根西就是按照自己民意的獨立自主地方。諾曼第威廉公爵(William, Duke of Normandy)征服英格蘭索塞克斯(Sussex)成為英格蘭王威廉一世後，海峽群島就是諾曼第和英格蘭王國一部分了。一百卅八年後約翰王(King John)失去諾曼第大部分領土，根西仍然效忠英國王室以迄至今。這不是近一千年了嗎？」

原來第十世紀以前，根西一向是諾曼第王國領土，居民在血緣上與法國人同文同種，地理上離諾曼第只四十八公里，離英國最近點威茅斯(Weymouth)一百廿八公里，英語是官方和日常用語，少用法語了。居民平常叫英國「大陸」，是多個世紀來感情、經濟和政治上密切關係連接起來的。儘管數百年來法國曾不斷侵襲根西，總是遭到居民在英格蘭支持下堅強反抗，島上有許多大石建的堅固碉堡屹立至今，表現了反侵紀錄。



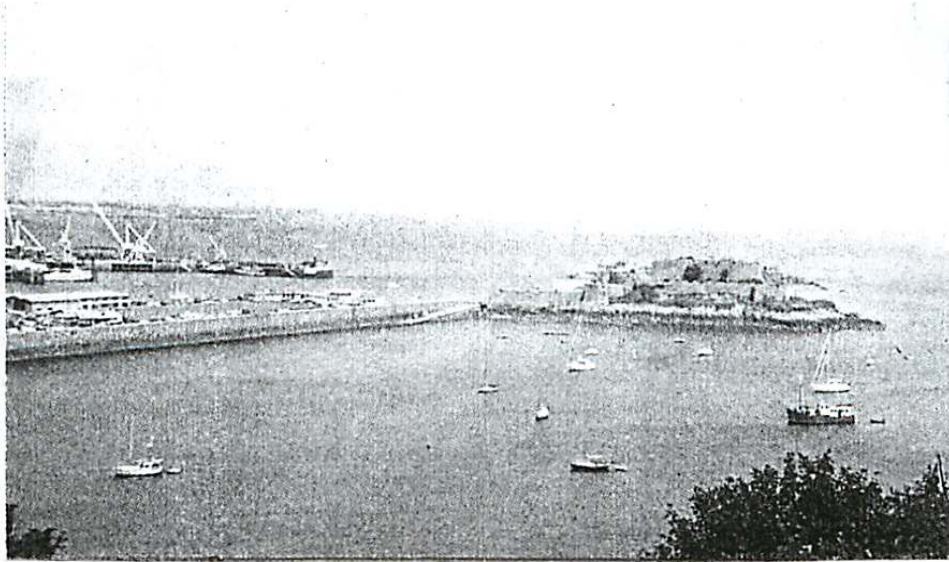
根西全島面

積六十二平方公里，海拔九十米，地勢南高北低，南部多懸崖，平均氣溫華氏十九度，年雨量七百五十至九百毫米，是海洋性氣候少有雪霜，食水除天然水也靠海水淡化。

「一國兩制」有實無名

為什麼根西可以說是實施有實無名「一國兩制」地方？那位律師又解釋道：「我們自豪於效忠英格蘭王室是自己的選擇，不是被征服的，更不是統治者加在我們身上的，反而是威廉公爵征服英格蘭！現在我們的政制是一院制有別於英國的上下二院。所有議員（義務職不受薪）由全民選舉，連行政首長、檢察官、司法官都是居民直選而由英國任命。我們是英國國民，服英國兵役，國防和外交由英國負責，沒有自己軍隊，但有自己的貨幣根西鎊與英鎊同值（不在英國使用），自己的郵票和自己的國旗（不是什麼地方性區旗），與英國米字旗不同，是白底上一個大紅十字內嵌一個較小黃十字，更接近丹麥、挪威或瑞士國旗的設計。

根西平均每一千名居民有一位民意代表（英國十萬人有一名），沒有政黨，自己制訂法律、稅法稅率，不派議員參加英國上下二院。我們是獨立於大不列顛聯合王國之外的英國領土，與蘇格蘭、威爾斯和北愛蘭完全不一樣。雖然英國派有一位副總督但不負責實際行政。我們也有首都叫聖彼得港（St. Peter Port）。」



根據一九九三年的紀錄，根西該年國民生產總值（GNP）八億六千萬根西鎊，一九九一年統計人口數五萬八千八百六十七人。經濟自給自足不需英國資助，主要歲入是金融服務、旅遊、園藝、農業、漁業和小型輕工業。一九六〇年開始個人和公司稅率百分之廿，煙酒汽油稅比美國低得多，不徵遺產稅和資本稅。根西的涉外銀行業、保險業和集資活動受法律嚴格限制和保護，任何人無法知道投資者和在根西註冊的跨國公司的資財機密，加上政治穩定不可能發生任何突然改變，所以吸引大量投資者，一向是世界金融市場重要一環。世界各國五十多個銀行集團在島上發展業務。

一九九四年島上銀行存款額達四百億英鎊，有三百多家投資基金為全世界超過十萬投資者服務，有十二家人壽保險公司可以把利潤付給國外投資者，二百六十多家工業商業集團在根西為自己需要而設立的保險公司（Paptive Insurance）。因此金融服務所得佔根西涉外收入的百分之五十五。根西靠「錢賺錢」的收入

佔國民總產值的百分之十九。

根西的房地產政策有別於他處，法律把房地產分為兩類，目的在控制移民。在公開房地產市場的二千所單位，讓那些負擔得起的人購買或租用，法律上的限制不太嚴。但地方市場的房地產只讓有居民身分的或獲得房地產當局執照的才能購買租用，例如那些人從事的工作對根西很重要而本地人缺乏那種資格，不過價錢便宜多了。房屋經紀人和房地產當局經常公布房地產租售資料給投資人。

根西有一家中國餐館，取了一個純英國式名字 Tudor House Chinese Restaurant，店主是廣東人，住在有「根西比華利山」區的豪宅中，在一小山崗上環境可媲美美國加州的比華利山。聽說根西有近千華人，多從事農業工作，應該都是有居民身分的，生活很好。

被喻「英國的花園」

一個六十二平方公里面積小島有多大？不容易形容，四通八達的道路（不是高速公路），大家出有車，很難說路

程有多遠，正如在美國以時間來表示距離一樣，每程總是十幾二十分鐘左右而已。那幾天中幾乎走遍值得一看的地方，觸目所見田野中姹紫嫣紅五彩繽紛到處都是四季不謝的花圃，芬芳撲鼻如入眾香之國，這個景象是別處難見到的，所以根西被叫做「英國的花園」。

紀錄說：根西每年出產剪枝花一百萬盆行銷各國，英國市場上的小蒼蘭 Freesias 三分之二是根西的，康乃馨佔百分之十，玫瑰佔百分之卅，郵售花卉遍及世界，在路傍當然隨時可買到新鮮便宜各種花朵。櫛比鱗次的永久性玻璃溫室是為種葡萄和番茄而建的，據紀錄佔全島面積的百分之十五，可想像數量之多。海產以螃蟹龍蝦為主，多輸去法國。根西人認為最美味的介殼類叫 Ormer，可惜我沒有嘗過。

根西的牛奶產量可自給自足，由政府經營，只准聞名於世的根西種乳牛在島上繁殖生產，他們不放牛，把牛拴在草地上讓他定量吃草，根西種乳牛原從法國北部傳入，皮色淡黃，奶色帶黃含奶油百分之四點八，每頭年平均產奶九千二百品脫，是世界名種乳牛之一，已傳去英美澳及世界各地。

全島鄉村化不見垃圾

根西的首都聖彼得港在島東岸，有好幾條街罷，大路是混凝土或柏油的，內街還有鵝卵石路，三五層樓的建築是石塊或磚建成，色調偏暗，看不見閃爍發光玻璃幕牆高樓，是一片樸實古老風格，可漫步不宜疾走，遮陽傘下戶外咖啡座優閒安靜，可是樓內卻是操作動輒億計金鎊的銀行和金融機構。

首都以外的十字教區裡都有小規模的商業區，到處是禮品店、飯店、旅館，教堂也不少。碉堡多在沿岸地帶，幾乎每一堡都有一段歷史。田野中像蘇格蘭各地一樣用石塊砌起三幾尺高的矮牆，既是田界也可在範圍內畜豬羊或家畜。

商業區和市鎮及民居錯縱交叉在一起，分不清那裡是鄉間，整個島都是鄉村化，但絕看不見污水坑和垃圾，更聞不到中國鄉村的有機肥料味道。好像是走在一個非常大花園中，只有像根西這樣小島才能有如此景色和氣氛。

參觀過法國作家維多·雨果（Victor Marie Hugo）博物館，白色三層房子，就是一八五五年至一八七〇年他在根西居住十五年的寓所，產權和經營屬於巴黎市政府，這也是頗別致有趣現象。怎可想像如果在中國的白求恩大夫紀念館是加拿大政府擁有的？博物館每年從四月一日開放到九月三十日，我剛好趕上季節。雨果在那裡完成了名著「悲慘世界」（Les Misérables），另一名著「鐘樓駝俠」（The Hunchback of Notre Dome）是他較早作品。

值得一提的還有一座小禮拜堂（The Little Chapel），在樹林中突起一座只三人多高迷你型禮拜堂，是一九〇四年數位教士用雙手以石塊為基和碎瓷片、貝殼裝飾內外慢慢建成的，是世界獨一無二的，到根西的人都要去看看。

是個學習園藝好地方

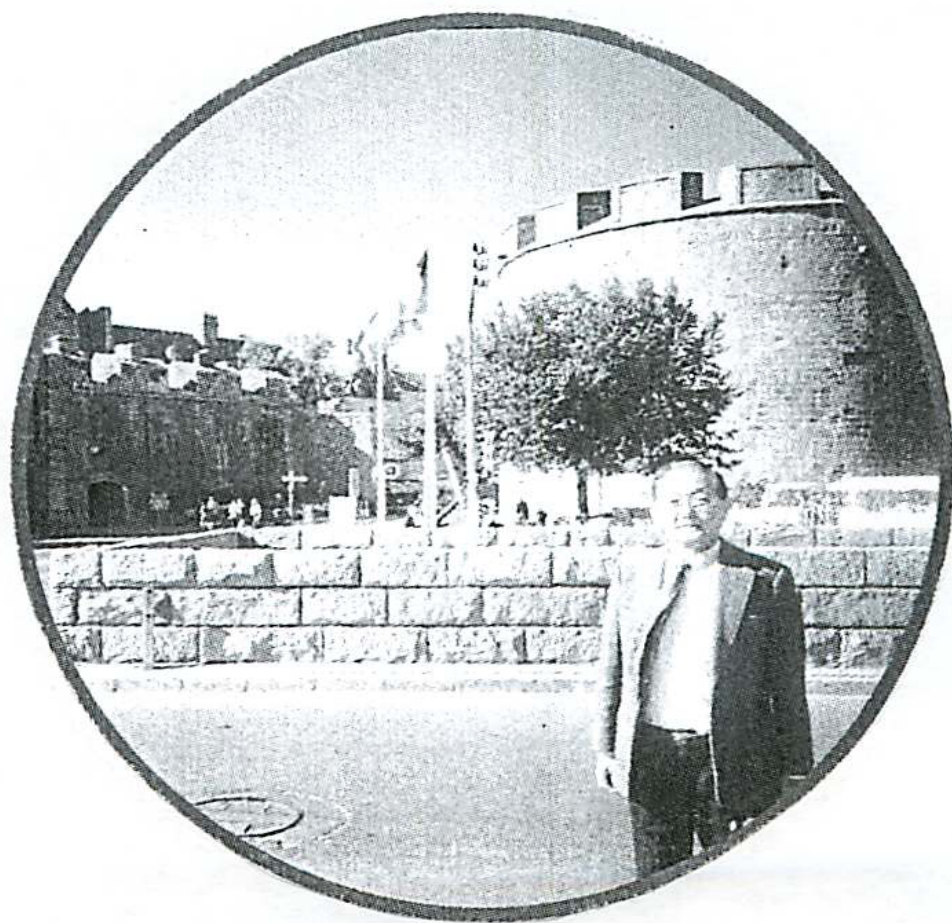
第一次大戰後根西發展旅遊業，島上四邊都是沙灘，每年日照時間比英國多出很多，所以年訪根西的遊艇一萬二千多艘，從英國和西歐各地都有定期航空和遊船往返非常方便。吸引遊客的還是根西溫和氣候，特別是對嗜好園藝的英國人，眾香之國的根西不但是賞心悅目的大花園更是學習園藝好地方，島上經常舉行花卉與農產展覽，也有鮮花綴成的花車遊行。而安靜清潔優閒的環境和氣氛，的確是週末的好去處。

根西人非常重視一九四〇年到一九四五年被德軍佔領的一段歷史，那段時間德軍把根西作為後勤基地和大西洋前沿進攻根據地，築有許多地上地下堡壘、炮位，軍火庫等軍事設施，一個較大面積的地下醫院和軍火庫是開鑿地下石層建成的，歷時三年半，可收容五百傷員，事實上僅在盟軍進攻歐陸後才有不多傷員送到，嚴格說來只使用了幾個星期而已，現在內部還留有些許設備，只是灰暗陰沈潮濕，不甚值得一看，但根西人必介紹給訪者，所以參觀的人不少。

根西人說：當時四萬多居民的三分之一逃去英國，留下的在戰爭末期遭受食品藥物和食水不足的痛苦，這不是他們的恥辱，只是要記得這一段抹不掉的事實。自從一〇六六年根西成為英格蘭一部份之後，法國不斷侵襲都未得逞，戰爭只是歷史的片段，勝與敗何者更重要，恐怕連歷史也難道出其定義和真諦！

政通人和即有好日子

我是在香港居住上半輩子的中國人，香港回歸中國是人人歡欣的歷史大事，承根西島上朋友關心「一國兩制」在香港的前途，看見根西島上居民安詳度日的情景，心中思潮激盪不能自己。他們更強調說，他們今天的生活是經歷數百年順應民意逐漸演變而成的，希望香港也會如此。根西未必是絕對樂土，世上也未必有世外桃源或香格里拉。香港和根西都是蕞爾一小島，把此二地來相比是近乎荒唐的，政通人和就可過好日子，中國也不斷說要在平穩中求發展。香港實行名副其實「一國兩制」將澤及十六億人民的福祉！



RAINBOW HOMES OF HOPE

In the 1970s the Chinese Language School had a link with St. Christopher's, a home for orphans and deprived children in the New Territories. I have good memories of making visits there with a Chinese friend and taking a couple of boys out for the day. I wonder if the link lasted as long as the school?

The plight of orphans in China in recent years is now well publicised as a result of the 'Dying Rooms' and other TV programmes; I now find myself involved with a bold attempt to do something practical about the situation, working closely with local authorities. The project, called Rainbow Homes of Hope, involves establishing a family home in which a relatively small number of orphans can be given the loving care they have never known. The first of these homes has recently been established with 6 children [which could rise to 18] in Lijiang in Yunnan Province [a town that featured in a superb Channel 4 series a few years ago called 'Beyond the Clouds']. There are 'house parents' [a couple from New Zealand - more accurately 'house grandparents!'] and two local staff. The children are from both Han and Naxi [the local minority] peoples. The idea is that many more of these homes should be established, providing a model for others to copy.

If this project appeals to any readers of this newsletter who might wish to participate in financial or practical ways, please get in touch with me at The Shielling, Allerdean Greens, Berwick-upon-Tweed, England, TD15 2TB; tel: 01289 387257; fax: 01289 378157; E-mail: iancorsie@bigfoot.com. Oh, and if you or anybody you know might fancy the idea of going to work as a house parent I would love to know...

IAN CORSIE

