

## ***Canog* in the Channel Islands, 2019**

A Record in Charcoal, Graphite and Ink

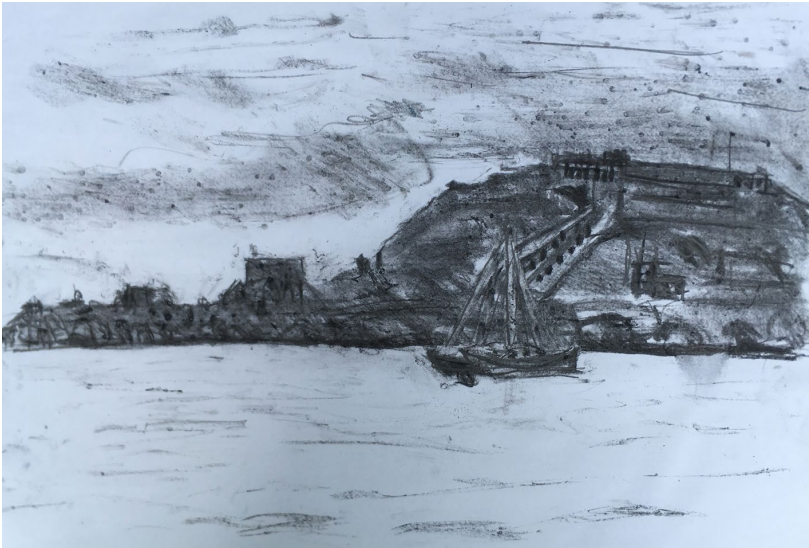
Elizabeth Bierton

My serious cruising nowadays I do as crew with Gillie Watson (RCC) in *Canog*, her Halcyon 27, from Portland Harbour in Dorset. We take about three weeks. I do the anchor work, she does the hard work. As she navigates and frets about the weather, I drink wine and draw, and paint. Ashore, Gillie goes for long walks, and I sit and sketch.

At the southwest RCC dinner, I met Michael Pidsley from *Gas Pirate*. He challenged me to tell the story of our next cruise in art. This is my attempt.

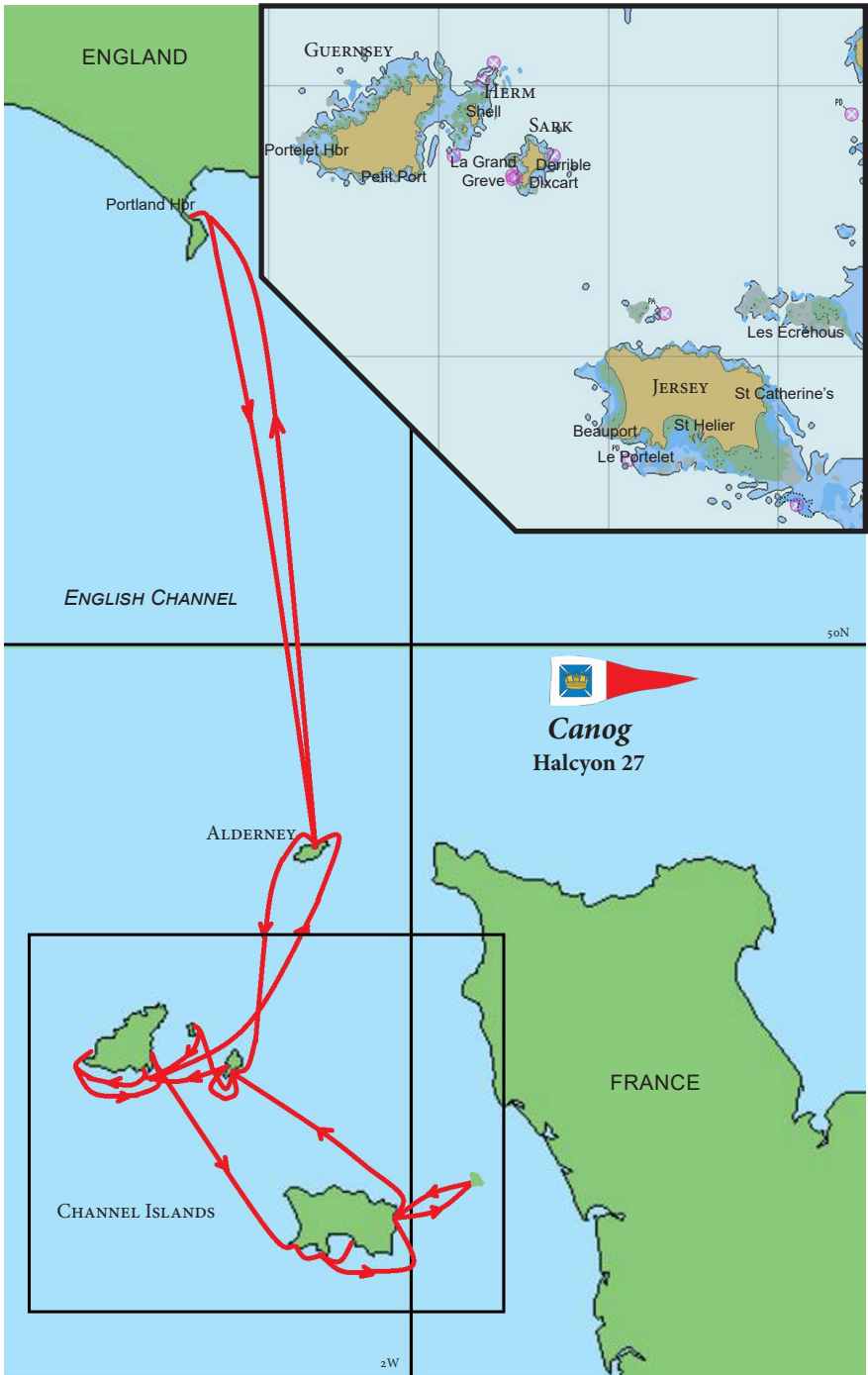
We chose to re visit the Channel Islands this year. We had predominantly E/NE winds, so we were able to go to anchorages that are exposed to west and south. Gillie loves nothing better than to find a titchy dot of an anchorage, with room for one boat, and to navigate in among lots of rocks. She has three books on the Channel Islands, and we use them all.

Dolphins played around us as we sailed passed Portland on 18 June. The crossing was fine, if a bit cool. We anchored close to the old harbour beach, behind Fort Albert. It was a bit cloudy and grey. The spots on the drawing are rain.



Fort Albert, Alderney. 18 June

# Canog in the Channel Islands, 2019



**Elizabeth Bierton**

On 19 June we sailed through the Swinge down to Sark with the tide, occasionally doing 10 knots. All the islands were invisible in the low cloud. We rounded the east coast of Sark to Derrible Bay, on the south. There we anchored close under the cliffs. Sark swells are legendary, and the sound of the tide sucking at the rocks close by kept me half awake all night.



Derrible Bay, Sark. 19 June



Dixcart Bay, Sark. 20 June

## Canog in the Channel Islands, 2019

That night we saved a man's life. He had misjudged getting back onto his yacht in the swell (probably something to do with alcohol levels). By the time we had re-inflated our dinghy, his legs were still in his dinghy, but his top half was in the water. He was holding onto the bottom of the boarding ladder and his head was going under. Another couple in their dinghy appeared as we started sorting him out. We got him onboard, retied his dinghy, told him to strip and get warm, and left him to it. Throughout it all, he was blissfully unaware that he needed rescuing.

We rolled all night at Dixcart Bay and left early on 21 June to round Little Sark for lunch in Shell Beach, Herm.



Shell Beach, Herm. 21 June

From there, we headed down to Petit Port on the south coast of Guernsey for the night. The bay has some sneaky rocks to avoid. We tucked in close, and watched peregrine falcons flying up and down the cliffs.

From Petit Port we headed west the next day, round the tip of the island into Roquaine Bay and up to Portelet Harbour, sailing on leading lines and eyeball navigation. (Line Nipple Rock up - find Nipple Rock - with the middle lump of ... keeping a bearing of...). Lovely little harbour, no other visiting yachts, only local boats. The winds remained in the east, with the forecast suggesting they would grow stronger over the week.

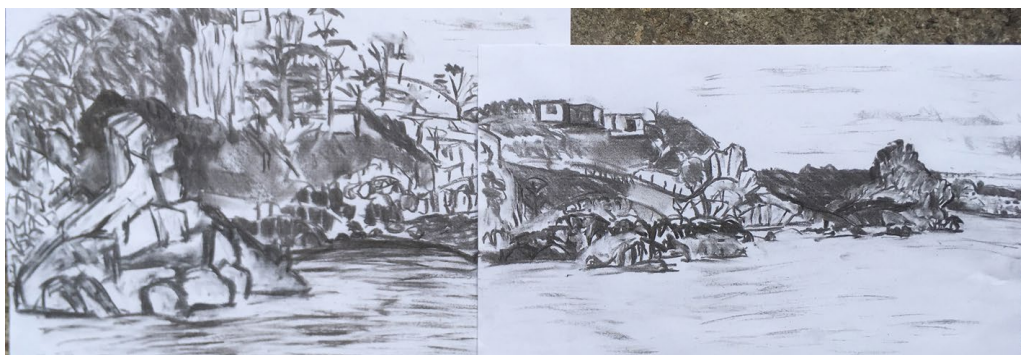
We left early on 23 June to catch the tide back east. After a lunch stop in Petit Port, we headed around to Havelet Bay for the night, ready to catch the tide down to Jersey.

**Elizabeth Bierton**



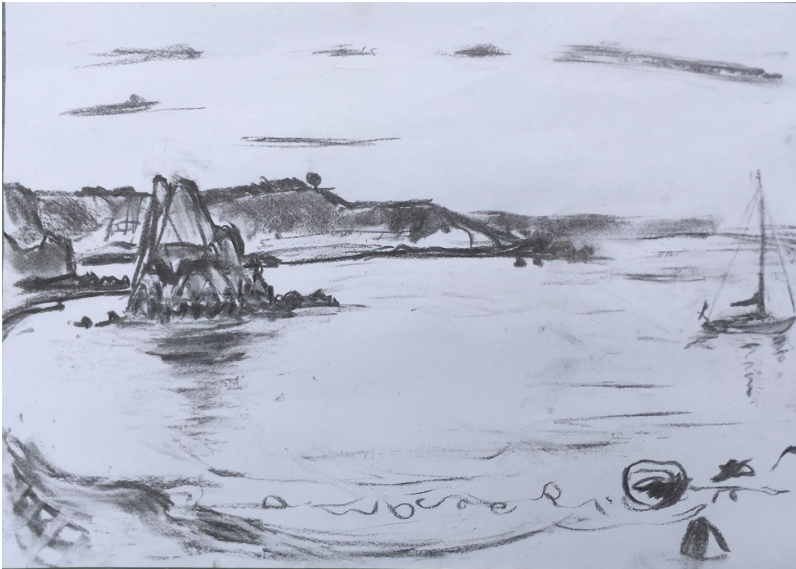
Petit Port, Guernsey. 21 June

24 June was a slow sail-and-motor day in a plague of flies to beautiful Beauport. Beauport is stunning, if busy with speedboats coming around from St Brelade. After lazy day we wanted to try tiny Le Portelet harbour, which has (just about) enough room for one yacht. We anchored very close to Janvrin's Tomb.



Beauport, Jersey. 25 June

Canog in the Channel Islands, 2019



Beauport, Jersey. 25 June



Janvrin's Tomb. Le Portelet, Jersey. 25 June

Strong winds forced us into St Helier for a couple of nights, allowing us to play tourist. We met briefly with Donald and Edward Tew (RCC) on *Nadia*. Edward was planning a visit to les Minquiers, which we were hoping to visit, too. Once the wind calmed down, we returned to Le Portelet to jump off to les Minquiers.

**Elizabeth Bierton**



Le Portelet Beach, Jersey. 28 June



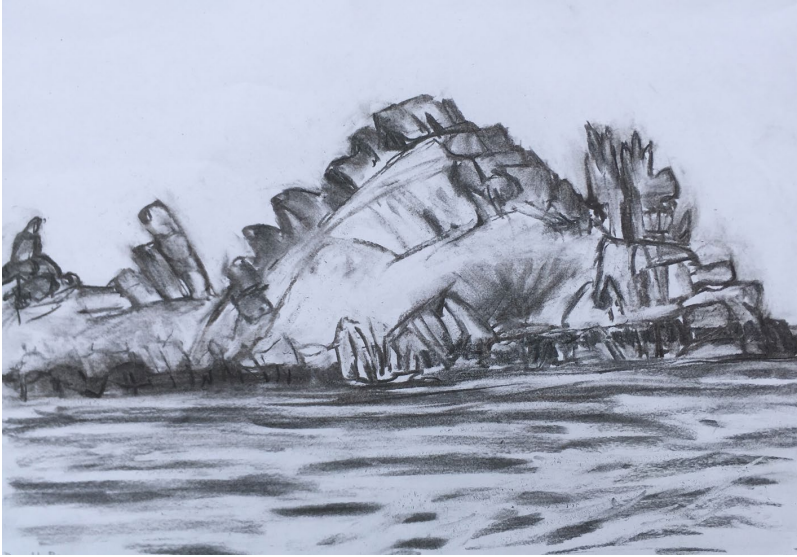
St Catherine's Bay, Jersey. 29 June

Visibility was poor the morning of 29 June, so we abandoned our planned rock dodging in the Minquiers Plateau. We sailed instead to St Catherine's Bay on the east coast to position ourselves for a day trip to Les Écréhous. Sheltered by the long breakwater, St Catherine's Bay was very peaceful. There were only local boats.

## Canog in the Channel Islands, 2019

Les Écréhous is busy on a Saturday. Lots of yachts and motorboats came in from France. We got tired of keeping a watch on all the yachts trying to anchor so close to us, so we went back to St Catherine's Bay and tranquility.

The next day we went north-about back to Sark. The tidal rip off the St Catherine breakwater took us by surprise, and all the north side of Jersey was lumpy that day. It made for an uncomfortable sail.



Derrible Bay, Sark. 1 July

We spent another night in Derrible Bay, where we rolled all night.

To hide from the easterly wind, on 2 July we rounded Little Sark to Port es Saies, within the La Grande Greve anchorage. We rolled all night - again.

We had lunch in Port Gory, Little Sark. We picked up the mooring; there's only one, and no room for another boat. We swam! It was breathtakingly cold.

In the shelter of Little Sark we had no idea how strong the wind had become, so planned a downwind sail under jib alone, nice and peaceful and under control, back to Petit Port, Guernsey. Instead, it was a toe-curling roller-coaster downwind ride with the tide under us. We whipped through the entrance into flat calm and quiet. Definitely an evening for wine.

We made an early start north to Braye, Alderney, on 4 July, trying to avoid the Alderney Race. We picked up a mooring next to the breakwater. The easterly wind made the whole harbour uncomfortable. Another crack of dawn start back to Portland. Arrived to a fantastic sunset.



Elizabeth Bierton



La Grande Bretagne Rock, Port Gory, Little Sark. 3 July



*Canog* in Port Gory, Little Sark. 3 July - Me swimming ashore!

There is a dolphin that loves escorting yachts into the marina and back to the moorings. It rubs itself along the hull and around the buoy as you try to pick it up. It was delightful, and a perfect end to the voyage!