

Language level: **BASIC**

The Isle of Sark

A Step Back in Time

Aunque está más cerca de Francia que de Inglaterra, la pequeña isla de Sark es británica. Con una espléndida naturaleza, forma parte de las Channel Islands.

Are you tired of the frantic pace¹ of modern life? If the answer is yes, then you should visit the Isle of Sark and take a step back to a time when cars didn't fill our streets. Sark, the smallest of the Channel Islands, is the last independent feudal state in Europe.

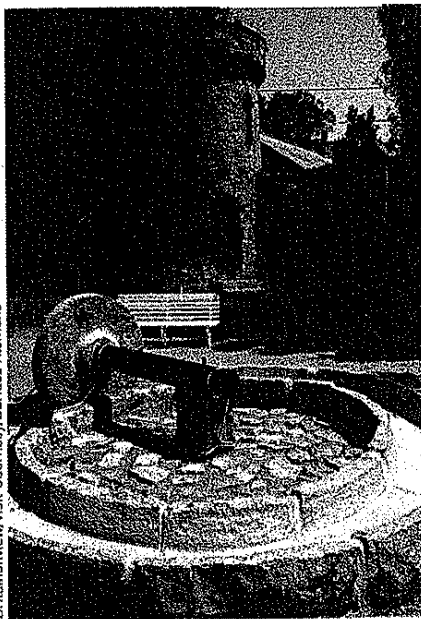
HEAVEN ON EARTH

The island is a paradise for nature lovers, rambler² and, above all, birdwatchers. There really are no cars here: visitors can travel around the island on horse-drawn carriages³, on foot, or hire bicycles. The island offers miles of wonderful coastline with sandy⁴, almost deserted beaches. There are many inlets⁵ and bays where you can spot puffins⁶, dolphins and rare anemones. Sark has attracted tourists since the 18th century, and now many of its inhabitants depend on tourism, though there are traditional cottage industries such as knitting⁷, pottery⁸ and glass-blowing⁹.

ELIZABETHAN TIMES

The type of government in Sark has hardly changed since 1556, when Elizabeth I leased the land to the Governor of Jersey, Helier de Carteret. The island, the property of the English monarchy, was once the site of a monastery, but in the 14th century became uninhabited because of the Black Death¹⁰.

Sark became a refuge for pirates and the French threatened to claim it¹¹. So



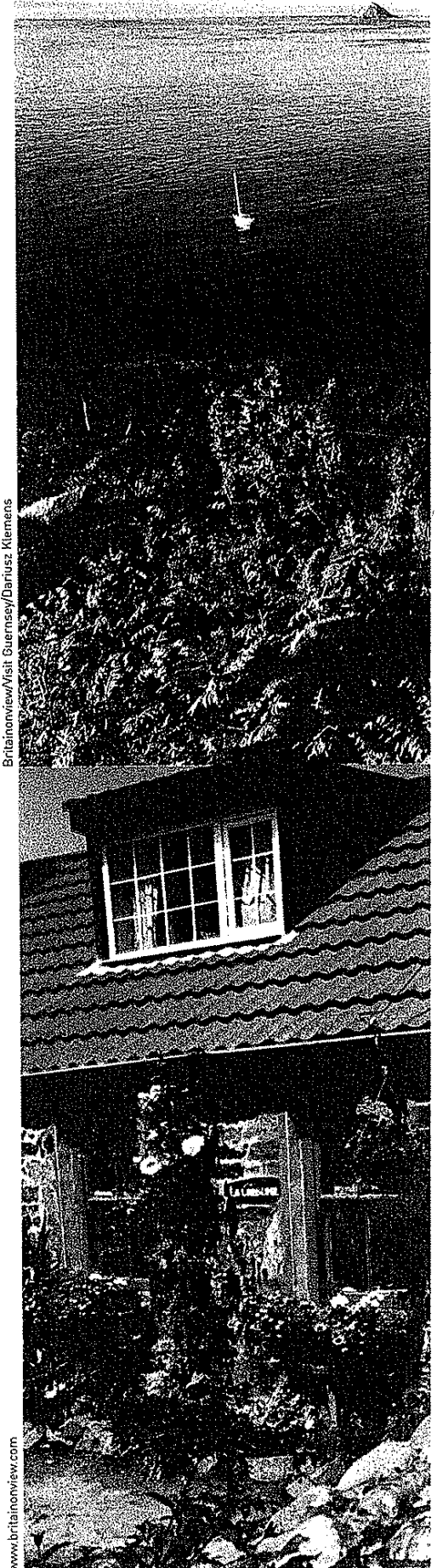
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Queen Elizabeth appointed Carteret the island's feudal governor, or Seigneur, on condition he brought 40 families to colonise and defend the land.

Today the island is still governed by a Seigneur, Mr Michael Beaumont. Recent changes in the island's constitution will see an elected government take over¹² this year.

GLOSSARY

1 FRANTIC PACE: ritmo frenético
2 RAMBLER: excursionista 3 HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE: coche de caballos 4 SANDY: arenosa
5 INLET: cala 6 PUFFIN: frailecillo 7 KNITTING: labor de punto 8 POTTERY: alfarería 9 GLASS-BLOWING: soplado de vidrio 10 THE BLACK DEATH: la peste negra
11 THREATENED TO CLAIM IT: amenazaron con reivindicarla 12 TO TAKE OVER: tomar el poder



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