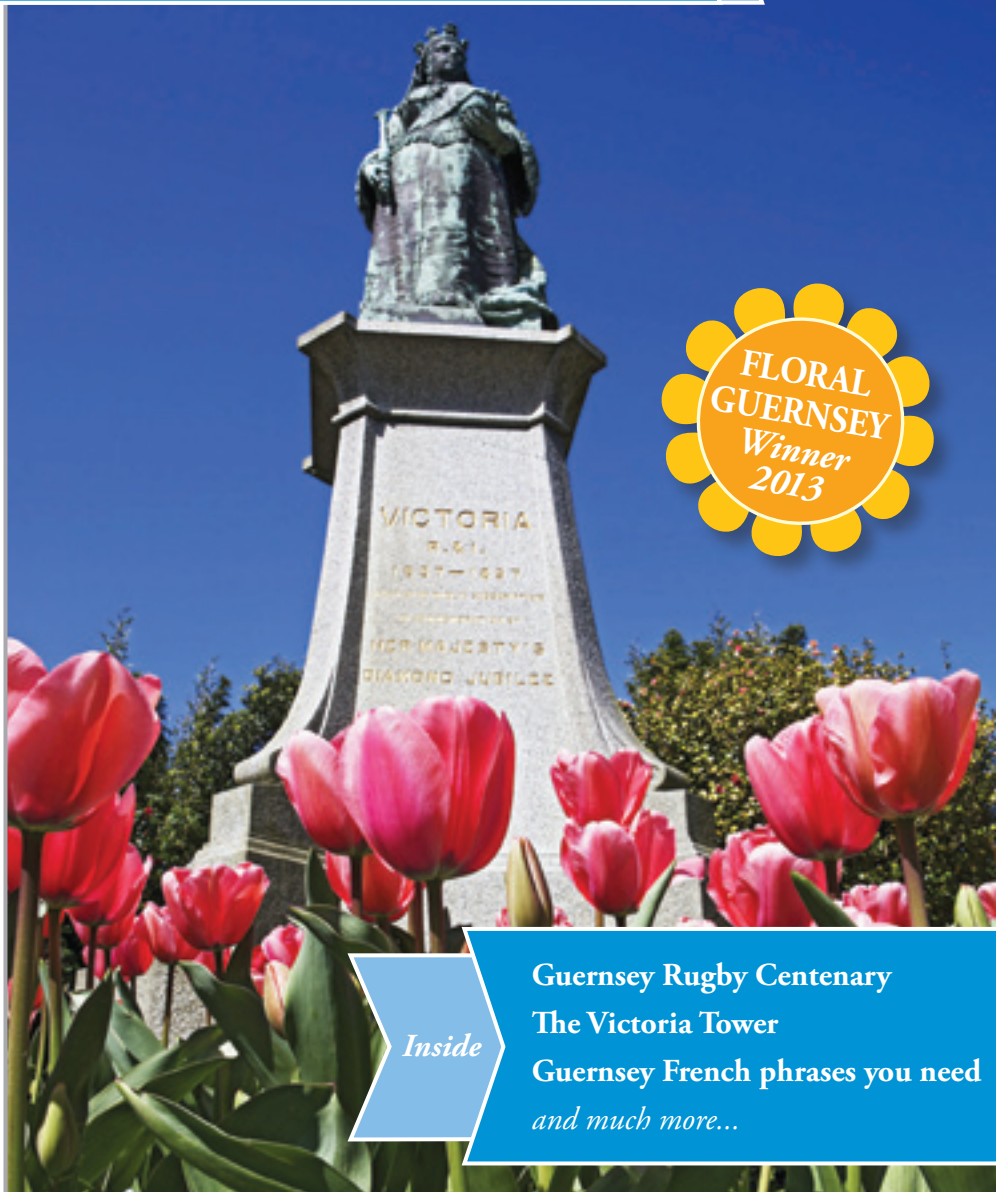


THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE TWO



Inside

Guernsey Rugby Centenary

The Victoria Tower

Guernsey French phrases you need

and much more...

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FOREWORD

By Richard Collas, Bailiff

I have great pleasure in writing this Foreword to the autumn edition of *The Townie*. I congratulate the *Townie* team on producing a magazine which provides important information for parishioners as well as articles about matter of general and historical interest which will appeal to and be read by other islanders and visitors alike. The written word remains a powerful and enduring means of communication even in the modern era of internet communication and social media.

Sitting in the Bailiff's Chambers in the Royal Court building, I am conscious that the parish and town of St Peter Port is at the heart of Island life and that this building in particular, being the seat of the Island's courts as well as the States of Deliberation, is where many of the most important decisions are taken that affect the lives and wellbeing of our community and its residents.

St. Peter Port is a worthy capital of which we can be proud and I am especially proud



that the Royal Court is housed in such a magnificent building. There can be no finer view than St. Peter Port viewed from the sea on a sunny morning, a view which greets many thousands of cruise passengers each year, or in the evening when returning from a trip to the surrounding islands.

In conclusion I commend the Constables and Douzaine, all of whom serve in an honorary capacity, for their hard work in the day-to-day administration of the parish and for providing and maintaining the beautiful floral displays that are enjoyed by all of us.

Richard Collas
Bailiff

THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 2 - November 2013

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THANKS

We would like to thank all those who kindly contributed articles also the Island Archives and Museums services and the Prialux Library for their support.

INTRODUCTION BY THE CONSTABLES

We are all committed to making our parish a place of which we all feel proud. Six months on and here we are with another issue of 'The Townie'. Our thanks go to our hard working Profile Committee. The first issue was a resounding success and I am sure you will enjoy this one just as much.

Your parish owns a number of sites in St. Peter Port, all of which need constant maintenance to keep them in good order, including Cambridge Park and toilets, cemeteries, plantations, grass areas and verges, a viewing area, parish pumps and benches. We have a great team of groundsmen/DIY experts who do an excellent job for us and we would like to welcome Jonathan King who has just joined our team.


You will have noticed that another section of the Candie Road Cemetery wall has been re-pointed. It was sad that we had to lose the St Peter Port daisies but the work was necessary to protect the wall in the years to come. This work will be continued in the coming years as well as work on the Eastern wall of the Rue des Freres Cemetery.

We are pleased to say that ownership of most of the benches in Town is now the responsibility of the Parish, having been handed over from various States Departments. We are sure that you would have noticed the reappearance of the Victorian style benches on the Crown Pier. Some old ones were located, rebuilt and painted for us by prisoners at the States Prison. We are most grateful for the superb job they have done for us and I am sure will be appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

We recently paid a visit to our counterparts in Jersey where we met Simon Crowcroft the Constable of St Helier, the Town Centre Manager and their Finance Director. Whilst St Helier have a larger budget and a correspondingly



Constables Barry Cash and Dennis Le Moignan at the St Peter Port Coronation Party in the Park in June.

larger portfolio of responsibilities, there were considerable similarities in the problems we both face although the solutions did differ. This was an extremely useful exercise and we are grateful to their team for giving us the opportunity to see their operation. Hopefully, they will make a reciprocal visit in the future. 

The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.

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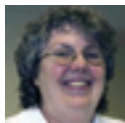
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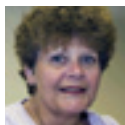
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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

Opening times: **8.30am - 4.00pm**

Monday - Friday (open through lunchtime)

Contact number: **720014**

Email: **constables@stppcons.com**

At the Coronation Party in the Park in June, the permanent staff were kept very busy with organising the event and also, along with members of the Douzaine, ensured the day went brilliantly and our intrepid photographer, Richard Lord, was on hand to capture them in action.



Ann Jennings

Assistant Secretary to the Constables

Ready to hand out those much sought-after medals.

Jenny Bullock

Accounts Administrator

Taking a break and enjoying the day with granddaughter Tia.



Martyn Guilbert

Secretary to the Constables

Seen here explaining the intricacies of the 'egg & spoon race'.




We also have a new addition to our hard-working team of groundsmen. Jonathon King has recently joined Geoff Le Gallez and Len Bullock, pictured left to right.

Elections and Parish Meeting

A number of Douzeniers will come to the end of their four-year term at the end of the year and while some will be standing for re-election, some will be standing down after serving the parish so well.

The role of a Douzenier is integral to the smooth-running of the parish. If you live in St Peter Port, are on the electoral role and would like to serve the parish, we would ask that you put your name forward. Forms are available from the Constables office from 11th October.

The next parish meeting is going to be held at the Cambridge Room at Beau Sejour, at 19.30 on Wednesday 6th November.

This is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the parish, air your concerns and find out who is standing for election. Tea and coffee will be available, so please come along. 

Do you like a good Quiz?

The Friends of the Priaulx Library are holding their annual quiz at the Western Community Centre (Styx) in St Peters at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th November.

Teams of 6 are invited to take part in this challenge, which will test your local and general knowledge.

Never a dull moment as you pit your wits against some of the best teams in the Island and others who just enjoy an evening of good fun and a challenge.

There will be a raffle, with some fantastic prizes and the members of the winning team will each receive a prize and be presented with the winning cup to keep for the next year.

The cost of taking part in this great evening is £10 per person, which includes a Ploughman's supper.

There will be a bar and parking at the venue.

Secure your team's or individual entry today, just email Eric Grimsley at: e.grimsley@cwgsy.net or you can send an email to: info@friends.org.gg



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A SMALL GRATE MYSTERY

John David, of the 'Friends of the Priaulx Library' has raised an interesting question. If anyone has any suggestions we would be delighted to hear them.

On both sides of Fountain Street there are little gratings, about 4 inches square, in the paving stones outside the shops - probably one to each shop. They seem to occur nowhere else in Town. It would seem that not all of them are in their original positions, probably because the stones they are let into have been moved around and so whatever their purpose was they no longer fulfil it.

But what was their purpose? [T](#)



CORONATION FUN DAY

By Dennis Le Moignan

Following the 2012 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, held on the 2nd June at Cambridge Park and the 3rd June at Les Cotils Christian Centre we received many thanks and requests to repeat both successful ventures. We decided to repeat them again this year to celebrate the Jubilee of Her Majesty's Coronation.

On 1st June the Douzaine held a Coronation Fun Day. The weather was warm and sunny and an estimated 2000 people attended throughout the day. We had beef burger, hotdog, doughnut and ice cream stalls, and we also had food stalls selling candy floss, hog roast, Hungarian food, milk shakes, teas, coffees and soft drinks.

The Douzaine also supplied free sandwiches, cakes and soft drinks for children and a




bar was available for the adults to purchase alcoholic refreshments.

The huge number of children who attended enjoyed bouncy castles, Punch and Judy, mini fairground stalls, arts and crafts for the children, balloon art, face painting and family fun races, such as three-legged, wheelbarrow, egg and spoon and mixed adult and child



relay races, and we had special medals for the race winners. During the afternoon, horse and carriage rides around the park proved to be very popular. First Aid cover was kindly provided by the St John Ambulance Voluntary Service.

The Senior Citizen's Tea Party at Les Cotils held on 2nd June was again a great success. The sandwiches and cake went down a treat and the Loyal Toast was made using sparkling champagne. Entertainment was provided by the screening of the 1953 Coronation, two ladies playing popular 1950's music as a duet on the piano, a local politician telling jokes, and finished with the Senior Constable and Chief Minister leading community singing. Buses belonging to Age Concern were used to transport the Senior Citizens from their place of residence to Les Cotils and the return journey to their homes.

We hope that all who attended found it a fantastic and hugely successful weekend. 



Photo's courtesy of Richard Lord



ST PETER PORT IN THE TUDOR ERA

By Dr Gregory Stevens Cox

Dr Stevens Cox, author of 'St Peter Port 1680 – 1830, The story of an international entrepot', continues his series of articles with a look at the parish in Tudor times.

NEUTRALITY, PLAGUE, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF PROTESTANTISM 1485-1603

'A little towne built with a long and narrow street, well stored with warlike munition' Camden.

From the late 15th century until the late 17th century Guernsey enjoyed neutrality. This was thanks to a Vatican edict that carried the papal seal. The Latin for 'seal' is *bulia* and so the document is regularly referred to as a 'papal bull'. The value of the edict was that it forbade fighting in Channel Islands waters. The effect was that St Peter Port enjoyed a favourable status as a trading port, particularly during wartime. The Tudor historian Camden observed, *'lawful it is for Frenchmen and others, how hot soever the warre is, to have repaire hither to and fro without danger, and to maintain entercourse of trafficke in security'*.

Although the island enjoyed the status of neutrality, there was a continual anxiety that St Peter Port was vulnerable to attack. For that reason Castle Cornet was well maintained. In the Tudor era major improvements were made to the castle fortifications. New architectural features were introduced, principally to defend the castle from the challenge of guns and artillery, the new military technology.

The population of St Peter Port was in the region of 1,000 - 2,000 for much of this period. There were, however, considerable fluctuations. At intervals there were outbreaks of plague and rates of death reached 'crisis mortality' level.



Castle Cornet.

In October 1546 an *ordonnance* was issued forbidding plague victims, and those dwelling in plague-ridden houses, attending places of public assembly, such as churches. There was a high level of mortality in 1580 and 1583. In 1590-1591 there were so many deaths in St Peter Port that the authorities found it impossible to register the burials properly.

There was constant vigilance surrounding foreigners entering town and the island. There was a mixture of reasons. A foreigner might be a French spy. Or he might be poor and become a liability to the community. An *ordonnance* of 1537 directed the Prevost du Roy to superintend the arrival of vessels from Jersey, Normandy, and other parts; to keep a record of the names of passengers disembarking and to keep an eye on them until they left. The *ordonnance* also required that strangers living in Guernsey for more than a year who could not subsist without begging were to leave or risk being whipped.

During the reign of Queen Mary three women were sentenced to death for continuing in heresy. Guillemine Gilbert and Perotine Massey and their mother Catherine Cauchés were executed on about 18th July 1556. As they were being consumed by the flames of the fire, Perotine gave premature birth. The bailiff plucked up the newborn baby and cast it into the flames, on the fallacious pretext that it was a heretic.



The memorial plaque.

This horrific episode deeply harmed the Catholics of Guernsey and the islanders enthusiastically embraced Protestantism during the reign of Elizabeth I. The island churches came under the Anglican diocese of Winchester but in practice were run on a Presbyterian system that owed a great deal to the teachings of Calvin. The authorities suppressed Catholicism. Pilgrims were fined. An *ordonnance* of 1571 banned 'choses superstitieuses' on the 1st of November. That was All Saints' Day, a holy day of obligation for Catholics, a time for remembering those in heaven. The theology was disliked by reformers such as Calvin.

The town reflected the religious ethic of the time. Some houses sported religious texts above the front door, inscriptions such as - *Que la paix de Dieu soit cians* (May the peace of God be within). There were strict injunctions against singing and dancing.

There were several witchcraft trials during the reign of Elizabeth I. The punishments inflicted were carried out in the town parish. (See table.)

The authorities did their best to stamp out sexual immorality. Adultery was punished severely as it threatened the sanctity of marriage. An *ordonnance* of 1581 prescribed a punishment of three weeks in prison for adulterous men. Each Saturday of that prison term the culprit would be exposed in the cage in town from 9am until

sunset. Having emerged from the cage, the culprit was whipped at the 'quarrefours de la ville', receiving 24 lashes. On the final Saturday the whipping was to draw blood. Females were sentenced to 24 lashes at the beginning of their sentence, and to three Saturdays in the cage. The cage was a wooden structure, somewhat like an enormous parrot cage. Those placed inside the cage were exposed to humiliation and verbal abuse from the crowd. Saturday was a day on which some country folk came to town and so the crowds were potentially larger then. The punishment was an expression of a shame culture and was arranged to deter others from sinning.

Pre-marital sex was discouraged. An *ordonnance* of 1577 forbade fiancés living with their fiancées before the marriage was solemnized. It is relevant to observe that such cohabitation was not uncommon in many parts of Europe in the early modern era. In general it was not a manifestation of promiscuity. Marriage was the societal structure for begetting children. A childless marriage was feared and as far as possible avoided. A pregnant fiancée was a welcome guarantee that a younger generation would emerge to look after the parents in decades to come. It was accepted by rural society in Dorset as late as the 19th century that an engaged couple would romp together.

The authorities were keen that rank should be properly observed. There was sumptuary legislation. An *ordonnance* of 1572 forbade servants wearing velvet, silk, silver, and various ornaments.



Tower Hill steps. The site of the burning of the Protestant martyrs.



Houses at the bottom of Berthelot street in 1956.

Elizabeth College was founded in 1563. The school hours were from 7am to 11am and from 1pm to 5pm in the summer, from 8am in the winter. There were six forms. The curriculum centred on the teaching of Latin; Greek was started in the third form. An interesting feature of the curriculum in the 4th form was the study of a Greek author alongside a similar Latin author - Hesiod alongside Vergil, Pindar parallel with Horace. The 5th form studied oratory - Isocrates and Cicero - and the 6th form read historians - Thucydides, Herodotus, Sallust, and Livy. The statutes saw translation from French into Latin as an important technique for mastering the classical language. (French, not English, was the vernacular language of the town.) The Principal of the College was required to be a man of good character and could be removed if guilty of 'theft, homicide, perjury, heresy, fornication, adultery, drunkenness, or gluttony'.

Bibliography

D.M. Ogier *Reformation and Society in Guernsey* Boydell and Brewer, 1997, is essential reading for this period.

J. Le Patourel. *The Building of Castle Cornet Guernsey*, 1958, is a detailed examination of the Tudor building works.

Both these books contain bibliographies useful for further research.

Things to see

Castle Cornet - see the Mewtis Bulwark in particular.

Houses at the bottom of Berthelot Street.

The JT building in High Street. Has been much restored and renovated over the centuries but it gives an impression of the Tudor style of building. The text above the door (dated 16 October 1578) is a reproduction; the original is to be found in the Guille-Allès library.

Several buildings overlooking the harbour have cellars dating back to this era.

A memorial plaque to the protestant martyrs, near the site of their execution, can be found on Tower Hill steps.



Witchcraft trials

November 19th, 1563. Gracyene Gousset, Catherine Prays, Collette Salmon, wife of Collas Dupont, condemned to death and the Royal pardon refused.

December 17th, 1563. Françoise Regnouff, Martin Tulouff, condemned to death and the Royal pardon refused.

December 22nd, 1563. Collette Gascoing - this woman was found guilty, and the Royal pardon being refused, she was whipped, had one of her ears cut off, and was banished from the island.

July 30th, 1570. Jeannette Du Mareesc was banished for seven years.

October 27th, 1570. Michelle Tourtell was banished from the island.

November 3rd, 1570. Coliche Tourtell, James de la Rue, both banished from the island.

November 10th, 1570. Lorenche Falezé, wife of Henry Johan, banished from the island.

November 17th, 1570. Thomasse Salmon, Marie Gauvein, wife of Ozouet - both these women were whipped, had each an ear cut off, and were banished from the island.

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THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



St Peter Port Floral Committee ENHANCING OUR PARISH

By Katina Jones and Ann Jennings


The team have had a busy summer preparing for the Floral Guernsey Community Competition and the Parish Floral Competitions, both of which received excellent results.

They coordinated the floral enhancement of town by attaching baskets and mangers to the buildings in the main town areas. The planters were fed by an automatic watering system and many weeks were spent encouraging owners to have the parish watering system attached to their buildings. It was a huge task and this venture has been the talk of the island and the gorgeous results much appreciated by visitors and locals alike.

The judging route for Floral Guernsey started off outside the Royal Court House with several of the team dressed in old Guernsey costumes. They walked down Smith Street with its stunning displays and continued to the markets via the Commercial Arcade now enhanced by spectacular displays. Constable Dennis Le Moignan showed off the old markets and many other eye-catching exhibits. The judges marvelled at all the fantastic floral sights along the seafront and at the Information Building and North Plantation. Arriving at the beautifully planted Weighbridge roundabout, they walked over to the newly created Petanque area to see the various plantings and colourful flowers. Driving up St Julian's avenue their attention was drawn to the old petrol pumps at bottom of Candie now adorned with flowers. At Candie they walked up though the gardens, taking in all the spectacular plantings and met a lady and gentleman dressed in Victorian costume. They moved on to Les Cotils, where they were given a tour of all the wonderful, secret, floral places.



From Fosse Andre and Ilex Lodge, they met the children at Amherst School who told the judges all about their gardening club and answered questions with confidence. A short PowerPoint presentation followed.

The Parish Floral Competitions had 48 entries and an awards evening was held at Amherst school with the children also receiving their gardening certificates that evening. Everyone was delighted when St Peter Port won a gold medal in the Floral Guernsey Community Competitions, then to be the overall winners was amazing. St Peter Port will now represent the Bailiwick in the Britain in Bloom Competition in 2014. 

BRITAIN IN BLOOM... *We need your help*

By Rob Grant

By winning Floral Guernsey this year, St Peter Port has now also won the opportunity to take part in next year's Britain in Bloom competition, when we will be up against towns throughout the UK and also possibly St Helier.


This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for our community to show to visitors and the world outside, what a beautiful, thriving parish we live in, and we would like to ask all of you who have a pride and passion for your parish to help us win this prestigious award.

How can you help?

Many parishioners already work extremely hard at making their gardens and businesses look beautiful, as we see at the Floral St Peter Port competition in the summer, and we would like

to ask anyone who does not already take part in this competition to consider entering next year. We also need small communities/clos/ neighbours to get together and make your areas look great by planting out, tidying up, etc.

We would also like to ask people to help the Floral Committee in preparing the parish for judging next summer. It is a big job, and the more volunteers we have the easier it would be, and the better are our chances of winning and raising the profile of the parish.

If you would like to help, or to enter next year's Floral competition, please contact the Constables office, or get in touch with Katina Jones, Floral co-ordinator, on 725103, or email Katina.jones@cwgsy.net 



Photographs courtesy of Richard Lord and Rob Grant

THE FIRE BRIGADE COMES TO GUERNSEY

By Keith Pike

In the second of his series of articles on the emergency services, Douzenier Keith Pike looks at how the early fire brigade evolved.

After the Great Fire of London in 1666 precautionary measures were taken in the matter of equipment and in the form of insurance against loss by fire. Each of the four districts had to provide 800 buckets, each parish was to have two squirts of brass, pickaxe sledges and shod shovels, besides 50 assorted ladders. Every householder was obliged to provide a bucket and be ready to pass them from hand to hand.

The Fire Office, earliest of its kind, was organised in 1667 furnished with watermen in livery with badges. The several offices devised metal signs; these, now known as Fire Marks, were affixed to the property insured. No house was secure unless and until the mark had actually been fixed upon it.

The Parish of St Peter Port did not lag far behind. The narrow streets and alleys of high overhanging houses in a very densely populated area made the outbreak of fire a most dreaded disaster. In October 1683, the States ordered that no house in the Town should continue to be covered with thatch (glui).

1768. First engines bought by the parish. They were kept in the north aisle of the east transept of the Town Church (where the Brock Chapel is now), a wide doorway being made for them in the gable wall. Here they were kept until 1822.

John Bristow, Engine Maker, London, May 26th 1768. To operate the pump, there must be 18 or 20 men to throw the water 48 yards, those on



Early Fire Engine

the treadles work by their feet, must lift up their leg when the men rise the handles and press down their feet on the contrary side, pulling up with their hands by the rails.

1776. Another fire engine and several other articles, those they had not being sufficient. It was agreed to purchase 12 'Crochets à feu' and 150 buckets. The 'crochets' were no doubt hooks to pull thatch or to enable ascent of the roofs in emergencies.

1786. St Peter Port ordered a new fire engine for the Town and was to be properly painted, with the words St PIERRE PORT and the year. At the same time 140 of the best leather Fire Buckets were ordered, to be painted with the letters St PP and the year in white, and numbered from 1 to 140.

1833 and 1834. Two new Fire Engines ordered from Messrs W J Tilley of Blackfriars Road, the accounts being paid by the Constables. Each fire station was provided with two portable lanthorns and a portable ladder (15ft). Pay for the Assistants, was 5/- for attending with the



The Guernsey Fire Brigade 1907



Engines at a Fire for 6 hours, 10/- for more than that time.

1871. Demolition was ordered of the old fire station in the Bodge. It had been erected in 1808.

1872. A salary of £25 to the Superintendent (raised to £30 in the following year) and £5 each for the Conductors.

1873. This morning was landed a new fire engine for the Guernsey Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Before the formation of the Brigade in 1909, 20 men were attached to each station, one in the Truchot, just below the main entrance to the Town Hospital, the other in Upland Road, the whole under the direction of Mr E T Robilliard of Victoria Road, at a salary of £50 per annum. Two Conductors, one at each station, received 10/- each time they turned out on duty, or on fire drill which took place at Pont Renier. Each fireman received 5/- and each man who worked the brakes of the engine 1/8. Usually twenty brakemen were employed. When necessary horses were obtained from Mr William Miller's stables in St John Street to drag the engines to the scene of fire or if close to the station the firemen would drag the engines by means of drag ropes.

Provided with a stiff leather helmet and belt. The Chief Officer of the Brigade had a silver crest on his helmet and the Conductors had a brass badge.

The old fire station (Upland Road) became the centre of activities and was practically rebuilt, accommodation provided for Mr William Austin. Manual Fire Engines were still being used and complaints were aired by the Brigade of the great distances they had to run to get their fire extinguishing apparatus in operation. Details were reported of the breathless exertions to get to Upland Road, run the cart and escape down Allez Street and Vauvert, up to Hauteville and Les Vardes.



William Austin

A turn-out to the Hayrick fire near the Rabbit Warren. The Brigade waited twenty minutes for horses to draw their manual. Losing patience, they started to drag the heavy old engine themselves. They got to the top of Candie Road before one horse came. They waited some two or three minutes more before the second horse arrived! I was so greatly amused at the burlesque that I felt I must follow, with about a hundred others, to see what took place. Sympathy went out to the band of firemen who showed so much energy and determination at the delay which they experienced in carrying out the duty to which they were called.

Sarnia I

24th February 1910

The new petrol motor fire engine, a gift of the Royal Court of Guernsey, (£1,552) for the use of the Island, arrived by the S. S. Foam Queen.

13th September 1910

When the engine arrived near Mr Jones' residence, close to the Church schools, the motor bus from St Sampson's was seen coming along. In order to avoid a collision with the bus



the engine was pulled sharply to one side, the front wheels passing over kerb, the jerk tearing off one of the tyres. As the rear wheels of the engine did not pass over kerb, they caused the engine to slew around, with the result that it struck the wall, broke one of the springs and bent the front axle. The engine being thus completely disabled, it was impossible to proceed with it, therefore the firemen hastened to Brock Road, where they found the fire practically extinguished.

The engine was afterwards removed to the Guernsey Railway Company's Works, at Hougue-à-la-Perre, for repairs. 📍



The Sarnia I

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

Pierre Lainé

Pierre Lainé is the Head of Fire Safety for the Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service. He has been in the Service for 15 years starting as a Firefighter and working his way up to his current position. Pierre runs a small team consisting of Legislative and Community Fire Safety Officers.

Pierre spends a lot of his time working in St Peter Port with property and business owners as well as the Parish Constables, trying to ensure that the people who live and work in the Parish are kept safe from fire. You will see him walking around the town carrying out his inspections of shops, offices, restaurants, flats and pubs etc. He is often found appearing from doorways, disappearing up external staircases or down alleyways. This will be brought to your attention as he sets off fire alarms to check that they can be heard throughout the premises.

He assures us it is not a case of him being nosy, just that he is trying to ensure that the community are kept safe and that fire exit routes are kept clear for the residents, shoppers and workers. He reminds us that apart from his team, you may also come across the operational fire crews in a variety of premises, however they are not necessarily dealing with an emergency situation but are out inspecting premises, often late at night when they are at their busiest, again just making sure that the public are kept safe - after all, fire prevention is always better than having to deal with an incident.

Pierre spends a great deal of his time checking the plans of new developments or alterations to existing premises ensuring that the level of fire protection is adequate and that the occupants will have sufficient warning in case of fire. Although the team spend a lot of time trying to ensure the design and the build



is correct, it is extremely important that people check their alarms, not only at work, but also at home. Pierre asked that whilst at home this evening, check your smoke alarm to ensure it is working correctly and also the alarms of any elderly relatives or neighbours. There is only one thing that will wake you if a fire occurs and that is a working smoke alarm. If you do not have a smoke alarm or have any concerns regarding fire safety, you should call the Fire Station on 724491 where a free home fire safety check is offered and

where necessary, smoke alarm/s will be fitted free of charge.

Pierre has a focus this year on 'white goods'. We all have domestic appliances in our homes and last year these were recorded as Guernsey's most prolific cause of fire and it would appear again that this year they are high on the list. The good news is we can do something to try and reduce this statistic. He said that often people have problems with a domestic appliance in that they appear to be overheating or not working correctly. He urges anyone who has such an appliance to have it looked at by a professional or consider replacing it if it is old, this way hopefully the number of incidents will be reduced. He goes on to remind us that often these appliances are working whilst we are out or in bed and therefore fire would not be detected early, which is why it is important to keep them well maintained with filters clean and gaps around the appliance for hot air to escape and if it shows any sign of a fault to leave it off until it has been checked.

Finally he felt it important to remind us that if a fire is detected, Get Out, Stay Out and Call the Fire Service Out. **T**

A message from our PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE

By Elvio Pires



Christmas a family tradition!

Christmas is one of the most important festivities in Portugal, the celebrations are very religious. The influence of Anglo-Saxon countries have also contributed much to the way Christmas is celebrated in Portugal. However, the most important aspect is the prevailing of the family reunion party, opportunity to put differences aside and celebrate with parents, grandparents and other relatives.

In our country, one of the most important aspects of Christmas Eve is the Christmas dinner. On December 24th a special supper is served after Midnight Mass and is usually prepared throughout the day. It is part of a dish of cod, usually cooked with vegetables, to symbolize that abstinence should be preserved on the eve of the celebration of Christmas. However, they are also quite popular, sweets and desserts accompanied with wine, depending on which is more traditional in every region, but as I am a Madeiran man, in this article I will devote more attention to the island of Madeira.

Christmas has to Madeiran people a special attraction and perhaps unique in the world. The holiday parties are not just for Christmas Day it is full of traditions, in which the nobility of ethnography and folklore reveals the history of the soul of Madeira. These traditions are perpetuated in time!

Not content to celebrate Christmas in a simple family gathering. They go beyond! Giving free rein to the Christmas liturgy, in Madeira, everything revolves around the "Party" and the month of December is the most awaited by the islanders. The celebrations of the Feast begin with Masses of the Childbirth, on December 16th, ending on January 15th with the "Santo Amaro". Christmas carols in

the festivities also include St. Sylvester's Day, also known as New Year's Eve, December 31st and the Day of the Kings, on January 5th.

Not happy with just the classic crib, the "lapinha" is also one of the traditional symbols of Christmas in Madeira, the representation of the birth of Baby Jesus in clay figures, they began to call it the "Crib", whose original concept means "a place to gather cattle, corral, barn." The farmers in Madeira, without much time and possessions to make the classic cribs they start the "lapinha."

In the lapinha are placed figures of pastors, the "little lambs", the "ensaião" and "searinhas, the brindeiros" (small loaves for children), bottles of wine and fruit - oranges, apples, custard apples, chestnuts, walnuts. On the table in front of The Baby, who is also put in miniature, the five traditional images of the Nativity Scene - The Baby, Mary, Joseph, the cow and the donkey. Thus unites the crib to the "lapinha".

In the early morning of Childbirth Masses, held days before Christmas, the locals surrender to the ancient tradition of "kill the pig" whose flesh is for the genuine making of the "carne de vinha d'alhos" (meat, wine and garlic). The delicious and known "Bolo de mel" (Honey cake) confectioned with sugar cane honey, dried fruit and spices, also graces the tables.

All of this holiday ambience extends in time and today, some of the above aforementioned traditions are lived in many parishes of Madeira. On the other hand, the celebrations do not end here! After the big party of the "End of Year" is "the 8th of Jesus" (first day of the year) and the "Octaves of Kings" (January 6th), until the day of "Santo Amaro" (January 15th) with 'cleaning the cabinets' there for the sides of the parish of Santa Cruz. **T**

A message from our PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE

By Elvio Pires



Natal, tradição familiar !

ONatal é uma das festividades mais importantes em Portugal, as celebrações têm um grande pendor religioso. A importação das celebrações típicas dos países anglo-saxónicos tem também contribuído para mudar muito a forma como o Natal é comemorado em Portugal.

No entanto, o aspecto mais importante e que prevalece é o da festa da família, oportunidade para pôr as divergências de lado e comemorar com os pais, avós e outros familiares. No nosso país, um dos aspectos mais importantes da véspera de Natal é a Consoada. No dia 24 de Dezembro é servida uma ceia especial depois da Missa do Galo e que é preparada geralmente durante todo o dia. Dela faz parte um prato de bacalhau, geralmente cozido com legumes, para simbolizar a abstinência que se deve preservar na véspera da celebração do Natal. No entanto, são também bastante populares os doces e sobremesas acompanhados com vinho verde ou tinto, dependendo do que é mais tradicional em cada região, mas como sou Madeirense, neste artigo vou dedicar mais atenção à ilha da Madeira. O Natal tem para o madeirense um atractivo especial e talvez único no mundo. As festas natalícias não se ficam só pela semana de Natal são repletas de tradições, em que muito nobilitam a etnografia e o folclore revelando o histórico da alma dos Madeirenses.

Essas tradições perpetuam-se no tempo! Não se contentam em celebrar o Natal numa simples reunião de família. Vão mais além! Dão largas à liturgia do Natal, na Madeira, tudo gira à volta da “Festa” e o mês de Dezembro é o mais esperado pelos habitantes das ilhas.

As celebrações da Festa iniciam-se com as Missas do Parto, a 16 de Dezembro, terminando a 15 de Janeiro com o Santo Amaro. Nos festejos natalícios

incluem-se também o Dia de São Silvestre, também conhecido por Fim do Ano, a 31 de Dezembro e o Dia dos Reis, no dia 5 de Janeiro.

Os Madeirenses não se ficam pelo presépio clássico, a lapinha é também um dos símbolos tradicionais Madeirenses. A esta representação do Nascimento do Menino Jesus, em figuras de barro, começou então a chamar-se o “Presépio”, cujo conceito original significa “um lugar onde se recolhe o gado; curral, estábulo”. O lavrador madeirense, sem muito tempo e posses para armar presépios clássicos, arma a Lapinha.

Na lapinha são colocados os pastores, as “cabrinhas”, o “ensaíão”, e as “searinhas”, os “brindeiros” (pães pequenos para as crianças), as garrafinhas de vinho e a fruta - laranjas, maçãs, anonas, castanhas, nozes. Sobre a mesa, em frente do Menino, há quem coloque também em miniatura, as cinco imagens tradicionais do Presépio, - o Menino, Maria, José, a vaca e o burrinho. Desta forma une o Presépio à Lapinha.

Nas madrugadas das Missas do Parto, celebradas dias antes do Natal, os madeirenses rendem-se à tradição ancestral da “matança do porco”, cuja carne serve para confeccionar a genuína “carne de vinha d’alhos”. O delicioso e conhecido “Bolo-de-Mel”, confeccionado com mel de cana sacarina, frutos secos e especiarias, também enfeitada a mesa por estes dias. Toda a esta ambiência natalícia prolonga-se no tempo e hoje, algumas das tradições acima supracitadas são vividas em muitas freguesias madeirenses. Por outro lado, as celebrações não acabam por aqui!

Após a grande festa do “Fim do Ano”, prologam-se pelas “oitavas do Jesus” (primeiro dia do ano) e pelas “oitavas dos Reis” (6 de Janeiro), até ao dia de Santo Amaro (15 de Janeiro) com “limpeza dos armários”, lá para os lados da freguesia de Santa Cruz. 📍

THE GERMANS DEFENCES OF ST PETER PORT

Part 1 - An Overview

By Paul Bourgaize

Paul Bourgaize of Festung Guernsey has kindly provided the second in our series of articles on German fortifications in the parish.

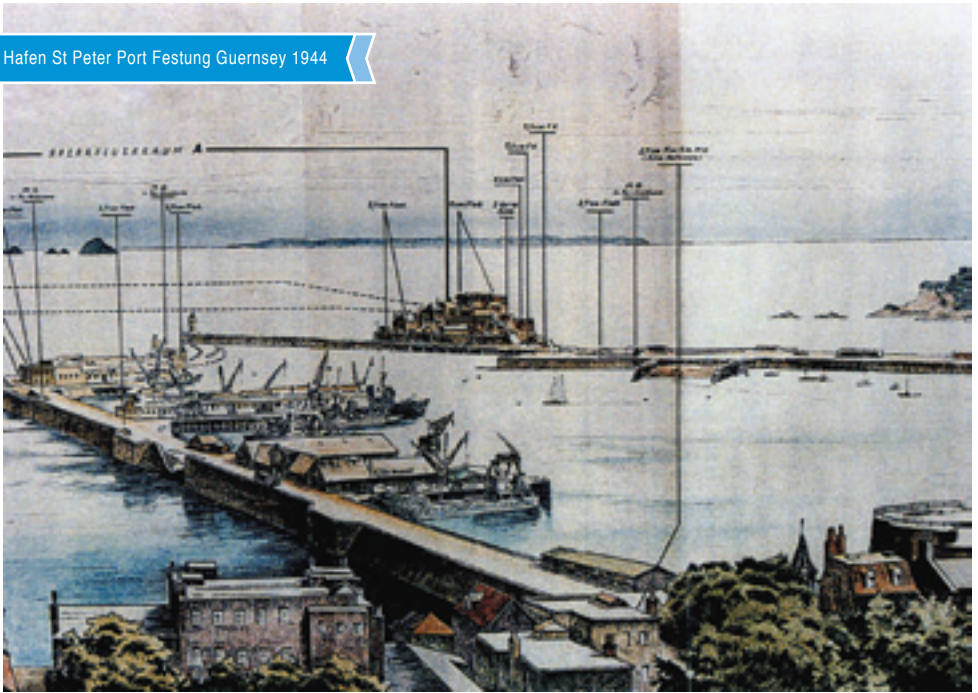
The Parish of St Peter Port like all the other parishes has its fair share of reminders from five years of occupation. You cannot travel far without seeing some form of concrete structure left behind by the German forces when they surrendered in 1945.

With the exception of a large coastal artillery battery, you find an example of every type of defensive work required to protect the island from an allied attack. Firstly, along the shoreline a number resistance nests

and strong points designed to prevent the enemy gaining a foothold on the beaches. Consisting of captured Czech anti-tank guns mounted in steel embrasures which provided highly effective flanking fire along the beaches, coastal defence guns in covered casemates could fire at shipping out at sea. The beaches themselves would be thick with anti-landing obstacles, some of them topped with mines. Minefields were laid in areas such as La Valette and Soldiers Bay.

Further inland at Les Cotils we have Batterie Naumannshöhe, 4 x 10.5cm French coastal defence guns designed to lay down fire on to the approaches to the harbour and the east coast beaches. Adjacent, in the grounds of Castle Carey is Widerstandsnest



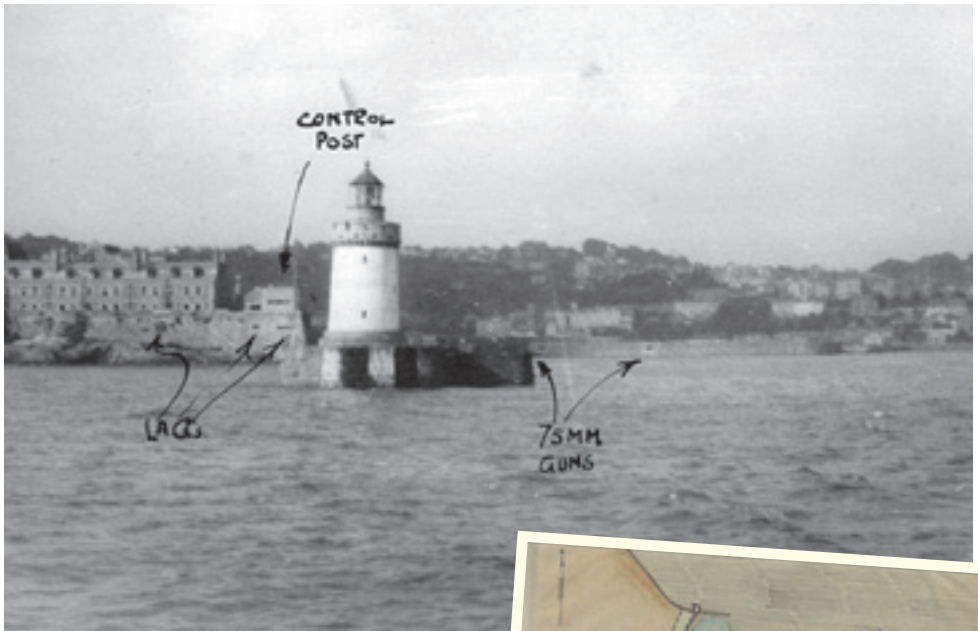


Naumannshöhe, an 8cm mortar battery tasked with laying down fire onto the coast from Soldiers Bay through to Belle Greve Bay. This coming under the command of the aforementioned gun battery.

Another battery of 4 x 10cm Czech field guns was situated in the area of Belvedere House, but later re-located to Havilland Hall. The elaborate granite lined covered trenches, ammunition bunkers and concrete emplacements still remain in and around the grounds of Belvedere House, the observation post adjacent to the car park being the most obvious. Fort George was also fortified with flak guns to protect the Freya radar station, and also boasts an unusual Dezimetergerat bunker built to house a radio/microwave communications device that could reach an identical bunker in Alderney.


The harbour also received the attention of the fortress engineers. Tobruk pits mounting machine guns and tank turrets were constructed on all the piers, along with personnel shelters and yet more flak guns. A large concrete shelter used by the Fisherman's Co-operative was built to protect existing fuel tanks. The mouth of the harbour was protected with an anti-submarine boom, and the jetties prepared for demolition with large French shells.

Castle Cornet, re-named Hafenschloss was also fortified with a 5cm mortar battery and various machine gun positions, shelters, a searchlight and both 2cm and 3.7cm flak positions. All these troops fell under the command of the Festung Kommandant (Fortress Commander) and below him the Befelshaber der 319 Infanterie Division



(Commander of 319 Infantry Division). Their large bunker complex lies just over the border at Les Oberlands, St Martins. However, two more large HQ bunkers can be found on the outskirts of St Peter Port.

The 319 Infantry Division had two infantry regiments on Guernsey, and the 584th Reg. HQ that controlled the army coastal defences in the north of the island was built in the grounds of Beau-Sejour House. A short distance away in the grounds of La Collinette Hotel the German Navy built two large bunkers to house both the Seekommandant (Sea Commander) and his Marine Nachrichten Officer (Naval Signal Officer).

In future articles we'll explore the various defences in greater depth, look at the fortress weapons emplaced, and the equipment used to allow the fortifications to function. 



Hafen Fireplan Festung Guernsey 1944

Christmas

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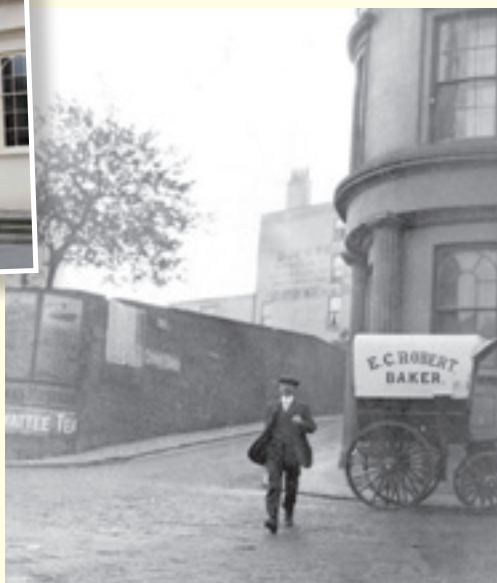
THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

Continuing his series of 'then and now' photographs, Douzenier Rob Grant has picked out two old images of the town, along with two of Herm, (which is included within the St Peter Port electoral district). We hope you enjoy the comparisons.

Old photographs courtesy of the Carel Toms collection at the Priaux Library.



Looking down Fountain street in 1914, the last of the church-front buildings was in the process of being demolished, with Jory's stubbornly holding out till the end, and still selling goods while the other side of the building had already been pulled down. Nothing now remains of these old buildings.



A little way further up and the old junction of Fountain street and Cornet street was being transformed forever, with the addition of steps, a wall and a separate road leading up past what is now a terraced café.





This 1950's photograph shows the area of scrubland that was transformed by Italian builders, brought over by Major Wood in the early 1960's, into the gift shop that has long since graced this part of the path leading to the Mermaid Tavern.

Interestingly, Major Wood's son, Simon, tells me that the little lean-to in the centre-right of the photo, was actually the ladies public convenience back then, fortunately times have changed.



In 1867 the harbour in Herm was still under construction, and the top layer of granite had not yet been laid, with the blocks lying around haphazardly. More striking is the absence of any trees in the older photograph, although the old buildings are still there, including what is now the Ship Inn.

GUERNSEY'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By Neil Forman

Public transport has long been a thorny subject, as Douzenier Neil Forman shows in this interesting article.

Guernsey has enjoyed many forms of public transport over the years and this has come in various forms. Getting to and from the island by sea and later, air was important but travelling around the island was also just as important.

You can trace on island public transport in Guernsey right back to the eighteenth century. The first example of public transport was the horse bus. The first actual timetabled service was run by Thomas Martin, who ran his horse bus around the island three times a week from his stables in Saumarez Street.

The first regular daily service started in 1837 by John Roberts who was based in the Pollet. He offered a thrice daily service between Town and St Sampsons, the cost of a trip was fivepence. Competition on this route was started by J Thomas of Market Street. Both



Horse Bus c.1909

added extra buses to this route and tensions ran high, there were instances of both their drivers trying to run the other off the road in order to get ahead.

Other operators tried to run the same route but did not survive for long, Roberts and Thomas obviously joined together to get rid of any other opposition. They also ran a service to St Saviours a couple of times a week. Thomas went bust in 1849 and Roberts sold his business and emigrated to Australia. Other operators came and went in the following years.

The Sarnian Omnibus Company started in 1869 and ran services to St Sampsons from Town. They even had double deck carriages with ten seats inside and four on the roof.

Even with little traffic on the roads the horse bus was not without incidents. A report in

Laying down a new tramway line 1920





The Star on the 10th March 1913 describes the finding of a horse bus on its side in the Varendes, with the horses furiously trying to get free. The carriage although badly damaged was righted and recovered back to the owner's stables. Why the horses had bolted from Kings Mills was unknown.

There were many proposals for a railway between 1845 and 1877. On the 2nd May 1877 a concession was awarded to Londoner Henry Brady to form a steam powered railway. The Guernsey Steam Tramway Company was formed and registered in London on 29th May 1878. Laying of the tracks started in August 1878 and the first trams rolled in June 1878. The three mile track from St Peter Port to St Sampsons was a single track with passing loops.


Three Merryweather steam engines pulling a closed first class carriage and two open sided second class cars made the journey between Town and St Sampsons in just under twenty minutes. In the first two days of operation they carried 2000 passengers. More trains were added and in 1885 there was a maximum of six locomotives using the line. Trams ran hourly and covered about 72 miles each per day.

Expensive repairs and falling passenger numbers due mainly to the quieter and less smoky horse buses saw the Guernsey Steam Tramway closed on 22nd January 1889.

Services restarted in December 1889 with the company re-registered as The Guernsey Railway Company. This company bought out the horse bus competition including The Guernsey Omnibus Company and imported the first motor driven bus into the island in 1909. This company lasted right up to 1980, when it was taken over by Guernseybus.

The Guernsey Railway Company planned to electrify the line and in 1892 Siemens carried out the work. The first electric tram rolled on 20th February 1892 and was the first road tramway supplied by current from an overhead wire in the British Isles. The line was passed to The Guernsey Railway Company in October 1893. The electrified line was a bit temperamental and breakdowns saw the continual swapping between steam and electric powered trams. The steam trams were finally decommissioned and sold off in 1898.

A depot was built at Hougue-à-La-Perre, you can still see the tramlines in the tramsheds used by Island Coachways today. They start at the entrance along Les Banques and go either side of the original inspection pits.

Declining passenger figures in the early 1930s and costs of running buses against the cost of trams saw the trams withdrawn. The last day of the tram service was 9th June 1934. Two days later track removal started and the rolling stock was sold off. 



COMMERCIAL CRANES IN ST. PETER PORT

By Peter Gill

Photographs courtesy of
Tony Rive and Martyn Stanfield

Outgoing Harbour Master, Captain Peter Gill provides an interesting article on how changing demands have influenced the use of cranes in our harbour.

During the 19th century, it would have been an everyday occurrence to witness square rigged sailing ships discharging cargo in the old harbour, the mainsail yards overhanging the quayside and roadway. The masts, yards, blocks and tackles which carried the sails that powered the ship at sea became the means to load and discharge cargo whilst alongside. Crates, chests, sacks and barrels containing all manner of goods were deposited directly into carts and taken to the warehouses. The Guernsey merchant could watch his fortune being made.

As wooden ships gave way to iron, and sail gave way to steam, tall wooden masts and yards disappeared and cargo handling became more bespoke. Ship's derricks and shore based cranes designed for the purpose began to take over the role. Mechanization of cargo handling had begun.

Records show that in 1838, the old harbour at St Peter Port sported a wooden crane for shipment of cattle. Whether or not this was the first crane is unknown.

The new harbour reflected modern cargo handling, with a mechanical crane erected on St Julian's pier in 1861. Guernsey saw its first mobile steam crane in 1870, which was capable of travelling on the roads. These early



cranes were variously capable of lifting up to 4 tons. Prior to 1910, when a reed type of fog signal was installed as an experiment at the White Rock pier head and at the Castle Breakwater, the approach to St. Peter Port in thick weather had been a very risky affair. On foggy days, when ships were expected, steam would be raised on one of the cargo cranes, to power its whistle to warn the approaching mariner of the proximity of the harbour entrance. One wonders how often a ship had been saved from a watery grave by the sound of a harbour crane whistle.

Steam driven cranes were slow, very noisy and difficult to direct and control. The jibs sometimes interfered with ship's rigging as the tide changed. There were risks with steam and boiler embers and supply of fuel and water was problematic; the motions



except for lifting and slewing could not be combined and the driver could not be brought forward of the engines. All of these drawbacks prompted investigation of electric driven cranes. When combined with the need to improve the turnaround times for the mail steamers, the case for change was clear and the States Engineer J.H. Duquemin toured Avonmouth, Bristol, Fishguard and Southampton to assess their experience with electric cranes. His trip resulted in a 1909 States Billet proposing a range of amendments and improvements to cargo handling including “two 30cwt. electric cranes of medium speed in all motions, with automatic safety devices”; surely the very epitome of modern cargo handling. The Billet also continued the long standing sport of inter island one-upmanship, in mentioning “The Jersey Harbour Board, not being able to avail themselves of electricity, has under consideration, the erection of an elevated steam crane”.

The 1920's saw the weighbridge and clock tower erected at the junction of the North

Esplanade and St Julian's pier, both a means to ensure proper measurement of cargoes landed by crane and collection of dues; a further sign of the commercial health of the port. More electric gantry cranes, built by Stothert and Pitt of Bath, continued to replace old steam powered units. These had a 45 ft radius jib, and ran on 16' 9" rails. Four were 3 ton safe working load and two were 5 tons. At the end of the decade, the harbour boasted seventeen electric cranes of between 1.5 and 8 tons and two hand cranes of 5 and 10 ton capacity.





All this mechanical lifting equipment required considerable maintenance and a maintenance engineer's office was built on the SW corner of Cambridge Berth in 1956 with workshops, adjoining what was then the quarantine stable.

During the 60's and early 70's, cranes were dismantled and moved from one berth to another to meet the changing business need. This culminated in 1975 which saw the introduction of roll on/roll off as a new transport mode. Almost overnight the whole passenger experience and logistic chain was transformed. Cars and other vehicles no longer needed to be hoisted on board ship and the long loved traditional passenger ferries "Sarnia" and "Caesarea" were consigned to the history book and replaced by roll/on roll off vessels similar to those we see today. The cranes on the New Jetty were no longer needed and the change was both abrupt and dramatic. The quantity of lift on/lift off cargo reduced by three quarters and the same decade saw the two 32 ton Henderson scotch derricks installed at Nos. 4 and 5 berths, reflecting the increased scale of transport capability.

By 2007, all the cargo handling cranes were showing their age and no longer met appropriate industry expectations. Notwithstanding the fact that they had been well maintained, concerns for the electrical

wiring and general wear and tear, led to the Board of the Public Services to conclude that it was time to seek replacements and move cargo handling into the new century. On August 1st 2008, the States agreed a tender to refurbish berths 4, 5, and 6 and replace the four existing cranes at 4 and 5 berth with 2 harbour mobiles. A team was put together to develop the project and in 2012, the States voted to approve £13.7M to be spent. A year later, on a very cold and wet February morning, the first new Gottwald harbour mobile crane was rolled ashore from "Terra Marique", a specialised heavy lift delivery vessel.

At the height of the tomato and flower export industry, St Peter Port sported some 21 cargo cranes of varying size and type. The demise of this industry, which coincided with the introduction of the roll-on-roll off mode of transport, saw a rapid reduction in crane numbers down to five and the ongoing crane replacement project will reduce that even further to three. 🇮🇪



DOUZAINÉ WASTE COMMITTEE



£70 please!

That is the cost of an on-the-spot fine for anyone caught throwing cigarette ends onto the streets. In an attempt to keep our lovely parish clear of unsightly litter and to provide smokers with a means to dispose of their cigarette ends, the Douzainé have introduced new pocket ashtrays.

These foil-lined pouches are designed to allow cigarette ends to be safely stored. They hold several cigarette ends and can be kept in the pocket or handbag. They can then be emptied into a dustbin at a convenient time. These pouches are reusable and can be picked up free from the Constables office or at parish meetings.

So please help us to keep the parish clean and tidy, if you have not already got one, please feel free to pick up your pouch.

Eurobin Trial

States Works, of the Public Services Department, does a great job in collecting household waste from each property twice a week and in keeping our streets clean and tidy, but a big part of the problem is that some people are continuing to put waste out at the wrong time, or on the wrong night.

Having spoken to a number of parishioners we have identified areas of particular concern and we are now in the process of putting 1100



litre blue Eurobins at the following locations: opposite Catherine Le Pelley steps at Les Petite Fontaines, by Trinity Church, opposite Le Bouillon steps and near the Guernsey Visitor Centre.

These bins are for household waste only and are on a trial basis. If this trial proves successful we will look to provide further bins elsewhere. If the bins are misused or suffer from fly-tipping they will be withdrawn, so we ask parishioners to please help to monitor their use.

Belle Greve Beach Clean-up

On Sunday 21st July Douzainé Neil Forman took part in a beach clean from the Red Lion slipway to the Longstore slipway gratefully assisted by Douzainé Richard Lord. They were shocked at the amount of rubbish they collected, particularly as this beach was cleaned a month before by RBC Wealth Management. There was another bag collected after this photo was taken. We are planning another sweep shortly. 📍



A message from our **LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE**

By Lilita Krūze



Latvian culture combines traditional Latvian and neighbouring countries' heritage with long-standing and varied historical influences. Latvians have a very rich heritage in traditional folklore, especially folk songs (Latvian Dainas). It is only in fairly recent years that Christmas and other traditional western Christian feasts have been the dominant winter celebrations for Latvians.

Whilst 30 November is now celebrated as St Andrews Day, historically around this time fortune telling was the order of the day. It was also historical custom to knit gloves and place them under ones pillow with the belief that whoever took the gloves would be joined to the glove maker in marriage. In ancient Latvia, Ziemassvetki (Winter Holiday) was a festival celebrated on 25 December. This was one of the two most important holidays, the other being Jani. Ziemassvetki celebrated the Winter Solstice. The two weeks before Ziemassvetki are called Velu laiks, the "season of ghosts". During Ziemassvetki candles are lit and home fires are kept burning until the end when extinguishing signals an end to any unhappiness in the previous year. Nowadays people celebrate Christmas for three days, going to church at 2pm and having a family meal at 7pm on 24 December.

A very popular dish used to be a boiled pigs head with boiled pearl barley. Today, however, the most popular traditional Christmas dish is boiled grey peas with pieces of fried meat and fatty bacon, usually eaten accompanied by rūgšpiens (cultured milk). Superstition suggests that all of the peas must be eaten by the morning, otherwise there will be many tears shed in the new year. Another popular Christmas dish is roast pork with sautéed sauerkraut. Additionally, carp is a must with the fish scales being placed in purses, so that the new year brings the reward of plentiful money. Gingerbreads, honey cake and swiss rolls are very popular Christmas desserts.

According to another Latvian tradition, on the day of festivity one should eat nine meals for the

coming year to be rich, although nowadays this ritual is performed only rarely.

During Christmas very special folk songs (Latvian Dainas) are sung. People decorate their houses with fir trees, fir twigs and ornaments made from feathers, eggs, straw, fruit, and vegetables. At this time of the year folk dress in costumes, with the most popular being as a bear, goat, stork, wolf, cock, haystack, or death. They process to their neighbours and friends, dragging a log and playing musical instruments. When at the last house, everyone joins to burn the log together to get rid of negative energies from the last year.

After the Christmas period, New Year is customarily celebrated by ancient traditions taken from festive days, which were historically thought to represent the beginning of the year. The ancient Latvian belief was that for success a meal with twelve different courses had to be eaten to represent each of the forthcoming twelve months. These courses could include a pie symbolizing the cosiness of home; an apple, beauty; beetroot, hot blood; spare ribs and snout, strength; radishes, good health.

Today some Latvians follow the tradition, but mostly people gather in groups of family and friends, raise a glass of champagne and watch fireworks at midnight. The Christmas and New Year season in Latvia signals the beginning of the cold winter months. These come to an end with new celebrations at the time of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, around this time it was the beginning of the economic year when young men in Latvia left home to start an independent life. The time was marked by celebrations involving games and jokes organized by a key person known as the Ash Goat with food and drink, particularly freshly baked scones.

After these celebrations the economic year gathers real pace and Latvian folk look forward eagerly to the next round of celebrations to mark the late spring and summer festivities. 🇹

LATVIEŠI GĒRNZIJĀ

By Lilita Krūze



Latvijas kultūra apvieno tradicionālo latviešu un lībiešu kultūras mantojumu, veidojot mūs tik atšķirīgus no citām kultūrām.

Andreja dienu svin 30.novembrī. Šīs dienas svinēšanas tradīcija ir samērā jauna. Dažos Latvijas novados ar Andreja dienu beidzas veļu laiks. Šai dienai raksturīgas izdarības, kas saistītas ar zilēšanu. Līdz Andreja dienai jānoada cimdi un pirms gulētiešanas jāpaliek zem spilvena. Kurš sapnī cimdus paņems, būs precinieks.

Senajā Latvijā Ziemassvētkus svinēja 25. decembrī un tie bija vieni no galvenajiem svētkiem. Šie svētki tiek svinēti arī kā Jēzus Kristus piedzimšanas svētki. Divas nedēļas pirms Ziemassvētkiem ir veļu laiks. Tiek dedzinātas sveces. Līdz ar pēdējo dūmu ir pazudušas pagājušā gada nelaimes.

Līdzās Ziemassvētkiem kā sena tradīcija ir saglabājies Bluķa vakars, kas atgādina par senu tradīciju-bluķa velšanu, tādējādi atdarinot saules gaitu. Tradicionāli ļaudis iet no mājas uz māju ķekātās, nesot svētību un aizdzenot ļaunos garus. Ķekatnieki parasti ir ģērbušies maskās- lācis, dzērve, kaza, nāve, zaķis, siena kaudze. Nonākot pēdējā mājā, bluķis tiek sadedzināts, tādējādi tiekot vaļā no pagājušā gada negatīvās enerģijas.

Šodien latvieši Ziemassvētkus svin trīs dienas, ejot uz baznīcu 2os dienā un ēdot vakariņas ģimenes lokā 24.decembra vakarā. Kādreiz ļoti populārs bija cūkas šņukuriņš ar vāritām grūbām, taču tagad tie ir pelēkie zirņi ar speķi un rīgušpienu. Ticējums saka, ka visi zirņi ir jānoēd līdz rītam, savādāk būs jālej daudz asaru nākamajā gadā. Otrs ļoti populārs ēdiens ir cepta cūkgaļa ar sutinātiem kāpostiem. Obligāti galdā jābūt karpai. Zviņas tiek izkaltētas un ieliktas makā, lai nestu daudz naudas nākamajā gadā. Pēc latviešu tradīcijas, ir jāēd deviņi ēdieni Ziemassvētkos, lai nākamais gads būtu bagāts. To gan reti kurš piekopj mūsdienās. Piparkūkas, medus kūka un saldā rulete ir tradicionāli saldie ēdieni.

Ziemassvētkos tiek dziedātas tautas dziesmas, latvju dainas. Mājas tiek rotātas ar svētku eglī un rotājumiem, kas gatavoti no putnu spalvām un olām, salmiem, augļiem un dārzeņiem. Tradicionāla ir ķekātās iešana.

Vecgada vakaru pavadīt un Jauno gadu sagaidīt var ar dažādām seno latviešu piekoptām tradīcijām. To elementi aizņemti no Ziemassvētkiem un Meteņiem, jo arī šīs dienas agrāk uzskatīja par jauno gada sākumu. Seno latviešu ticējumos katram mēnesim tika piedēvēts savs ēdiens. Lai nākamais gads būtu veiksmīgs, ir jāēd divpadsmit ēdieni. Pīrāgi simbolizē mājīgumu, āboli- skaistumu, bites- karstas asinis, dzērvenes- sātus vaigus, rutki- veselību.

Šodien latvieši seko šai tradīcijai, taču lielākā daļa sagaida Jauno gadu ģimenes un draugu loka, pacelot šampanieša glāzi un vērojot uguņošanu pusnaktī.

Meteņi svinības izbeidzas ar Pelnu dienu. Tā bija saimnieciska gada atnākšana, kad puīši devās no mājas prom līst līdumus un uzsākt patstāvīgu dzīvi. Līdzī viņi ņēma pelnos ierušinātu uguni. Mājīnieki meta pelnus pakaļ aizgājējam, lai aizietu visas nelaimes un slinkums. Galvenā persona šajā dienā ir Pelnu āzis, kas organizē jokus un spēles. Pelnu dienā cepa pelnu plāceni. Šajā dienā arī jāvaktē pelni. To dara tā -istabas vidū ieber pelnus un bedrītē ielej ūdeni. Vaktētājs paņem rokā bērza žagaru un apsēžas tā, ka pelnu kaudzīte ir starp kājām. Kas nāk klāt, tam uzdod ar žagaru. Bet zinātājs no tā nebaidās, saķer sargātāju aiz kājām un pievelk šūku pelnu bedrītei klāt.

Līdz ar to arī noslēdzas rudens-ziemas svinības un pavaras ceļš pavasara- vasaras svētkiem. 📍

VICTORIA TOWER

By **Helen Glencross MA**, Historic Sites Curator,
Guernsey Museums & Galleries

*“A monument of which the inhabitants may be justly proud, not merely as a memorial of their love and loyalty towards their Sovereign, but as a work of art and a public embellishment.”
The Star, 16th April 1857.*

Victoria Tower is possibly one of Guernsey’s most iconic structures; it looms over St Peter Port, dominating the skyline. Built in the mid 19th century, it symbolises the island’s links to the British monarchy. This year marks the 165th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone.

Commemorating a Royal Visit

On 24th August 1846 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert paid an unscheduled visit to Guernsey. The trip was brief but, as it was the first by a reigning monarch, it was of great importance to islanders. Subsequently it was felt that the occasion should be commemorated in some way.

After the visit, a public meeting was held to consider a suitable memorial. The suggestions included a block of granite at the landing place, a statue, a vegetable market and a medal. Two further meetings were held and at the second it was unanimously resolved that a tower should be erected, financed by public subscription.

The Victoria Tower Committee was formed and within months enough money had been raised from public donations for the building work to start. The Committee sought a design that would “unite a solid architecture and good taste”. However, the original design had to be reduced in scale as it was too expensive and even after alterations the Committee had to ask for further assistance from the States of Guernsey to fund the project.



Laying the Foundation Stone

The Laying of the Foundations

The start of the building work was heralded by an elaborate public ceremony on Saturday 27th May 1848, Queen Victoria’s birthday. When the first stone of the tower was laid and the four Infantry regiments of the Royal Guernsey Militia were presented with new colours (flags) which Her Majesty had sent them. Early that morning the island began preparing for the festivities. By 7 o’clock the whole of town and shipping in the harbour were decorated with flags while the route of the procession was decorated with beautiful arches composed of branches, flowers, flags and military emblems. There were especially elaborate arches in Vauvert made by Mr Ralls and at the entrance to the New Ground. Businesses were closed for the day so that everyone could go to the events and as a result a large proportion of the island attended the ceremony.

The four regiments of the Guernsey Royal Militia met at 8 o’clock at various locations. The Artillery met at the Longstore under the

Victoria Tower
nearing completion



command of Colonel Giffard. The 1st and 2nd Regiments of the Light Infantry (Town and North), commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bishop and Colonel Ozanne met on the New Ground, and the 3rd and 4th Regiments (South and West) commended by Colonel Bell and Lieutenant-Colonel Rougier met in Queens Road. From these stations the troops proceeded to the site of Victoria Tower.

At the same time the members of the three Masonic Lodges of the island met at the Assembly Rooms in the market place. Shortly after 9 o'clock the members of the Committee, the magistrates, the clergy and the ladies and gentlemen who had an entree to the viewing platform began to assemble. The 'interior circle' where the stone was to be laid was kept clear by a company of Rifles, from each of the four regiments, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Falla. At 9.30 the Masonic procession, preceded by the Band of the East Regiment, arrived at the site of Victoria Tower, having passed through Fountain Street, High Street, Smith Street, Grange Road and Doyle Road. Crowds had lined the route to see the spectacle of the splendid parade of Masons in their paraphernalia.

At 10 o'clock his Excellency Major-General John Bell, Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by Lady Catherine Bell and attended by

Lieutenant-Colonel Bainbridge, Fort Major and Adjutant and other officers arrived. His Excellency was then addressed by Thomas Carey, President of the Victoria Tower Committee who asked him to lay the foundation stone. Mr Carey then asked Lady Bell to name the structure. She read a short speech which concluded with the words "I name the building now to be commenced Victoria Tower" after which there was much cheering.

General Bell expressed how grateful he was to be part of the occasion and was then given a Masonic apprentice's apron by Brother Colonel Annesley and a silver trowel by Brother Colonel Lane. After this Mr Carey handed him a glass cup containing examples of various coins to be deposited in the foundations. The cup was then placed in a cavity in the lower stone.

A brass plate inscribed with the following was then placed on top:

**The Foundation Stone of this Tower
Erected to commemorate the visit to this Island
Of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria,
And of Her Royal Consort Prince Albert,
On the 24th August 1846,
Was laid on the 27th day of May 1848,
By his Excellency Major-General John Bell C.B.,
Lieutenant-Governor**

COMMITTEE

**Thomas Carey, esq
Sir William Collings, Knt
Frederick Corbin Lucas, esq
Commissary-General Carey**

**John Valrent, esq
Edgar MacCulloch, esq
Robert MacCulloch, esq**

ARCHITECT

William B Colling, esq

SURVEYOR

Richard D P Goodwin, esq

CONTRACTORS

Jacques Tostevin & Co



Arsenal road, late 1800's

His Excellency then spread some mortar on the upper stone with a ceremonial silver trowel and then the stone was lowered to its place. A mallet was then given to the Lieutenant-Governor who struck the stone three times and said “I declare the stone just laid, to be the foundation stone of the tower to be erected in honour of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria”. This was greeted with loud and long cheers.

Reverend Thomas Brock, rector of St Pierre-du-Bois then approached the stone and delivered a prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Once the prayers were concluded a flag was hoisted and a salute of 21 guns was fired by the Artillery and the band struck up “God Save the Queen”. Peter Stafford Carey, the Bailiff and President of the States of Guernsey then addressed the crowd and his speech was met with hearty cheers. The National Anthem was then sung with additional verses for Prince Albert, accompanied by the band of the 1st Regiment.

After the ceremony the crowd moved off to the New Ground in order to witness the presentation of the colours. The four militia regiments were in attendance, totalling about 2000 men. They were presented with new colours by the Lieutenant Governor in Her Majesty's name. A ‘feu de joie’ (fire of joy) was then fired. The proceedings finished about 1 o'clock in the afternoon and from then until well into the night there were many celebrations in St Peter Port.

The Design

William Colling, who was working for the London-based, Scottish architects William Burn and J. MacVicar Anderson at the time, drew up the design for Victoria Tower in 1847. He was possibly inspired by medieval Italian buildings such as the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena and there are also elements of the gothic revival which is often seen in Victorian architecture. It was an ambitious project which was designed to portray the ideas of prominence, majesty and symbolism and represent a queen, her empire and her achievements.

The tower was built on land donated by the heirs of the Peter Mourant. The prominent, elevated position meant that the site had been used before for a windmill and before that a menhir. Local builders Matthieu and Jacques Tostevin were appointed to carry out the work. Inmates from the town hospital were employed to help with the building. The project cost around £2,000 however the contractors were kept waiting many years for the final payments and the Committee had to appeal to the States of Guernsey to help meet the cost of the construction work.

The tower is built of red granite from the Guet quarry at Cobo. It is square in design and stands 100ft tall. The tower sits on a heavy, splayed base which reinforces the size of the tower. The large granite blocks in this bottom section are very rough in their appearance. The decorative arched doorway, framed by ionic columns is in the north elevation. Two similarly decorated windows pierce the west and south walls. A third facing east is actually a blind window which houses a commemorative stone which reads, in French: “In commemoration of the visit to this island by our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, 24th August 1846”.

The middle section of the structure is divided from the base by a simple string course and is defined by smoother, but still textured granite blocks and quoins at the corners of the tower. This is the largest section of the tower and there are windows of two different sizes, one on top of the other, on each side. The lower

smaller ones are framed by quoins and a hood mould, the windows themselves only slightly recessed. The larger windows however are given more emphasis. Decorative columns frame these windows and each section matches its neighbouring quoin stone exactly indicating not only the attention to detail in the construction but also the skill of the stonemasons.

The upper section of the tower can be divided into two; the parapet and the lantern. The stone used in this section differs again with the blocks being smooth, small and regular. The parapet is formed of four angled turrets with embrasures and machicolations giving a sense of the tower being a fortified structure. The viewing platform is at this level. Above this rises the octagonal lantern topped with a coronet which appears to crown the whole structure. It is believed that this is Colling's reference of Victoria herself - the crown of the monarch. The lantern has long recessed windows. Below the base of the coronet are a series of carved heads, each different in its design. Known as gargoyles or grotesques they are based on medieval patterns. Internally the tower is simple in design with no real decoration or embellishment. On the ground floor there is a flagstone floored entrance. On the wall is a plaque which states that the tower was built by public subscription, aided by the States and the Committee are listed.


A stone spiral staircase rises through the building. There are three floors before the viewing platform is reached. It is accessed through an arched doorway in the east elevation. From the fourth floor there is a further wooden staircase which leads to the lantern and then the coronet and flagpole (these areas are not accessible to the public).

More than a Memorial

Victoria tower is probably thought of today as a folly; however it is vital in modern communication on the island. Its height lends itself to housing equipment to transmit radio and telephone signals. However, this is not just a modern use for the building; in fact the tower was used to convey signals across the island.



It was used as a signal station for the Guernsey Militia and the mail boat from Southampton. Storm signals telegraphed from the Meteorological Office were also displayed, as it was a prominent landmark from sea. In 1886 the Lieutenant Governor applied to the States asking for a sum of £5 a year to be paid to the man who hoisted the signals on Victoria Tower announcing the arrival of the Southampton steamers.

The tower is also a popular visitor attraction. The outlook from the tower is spectacular. Visitors can easily see Herm, Sark and even France. It also gives a good vantage point over town and the north and west of the island. The Tower is kept locked but the key can be collected from Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery in Candie Gardens during normal opening hours (terms and conditions apply). 

THE GUILLE-ALLÈS LIBRARY

By Maggie Falla, Chief Librarian

“Libraries are no longer merely buildings where you borrow books..”, we asked Maggie Falla, Chief Librarian at the Guille-Allès library, to give us an introduction to this fantastic public resource.

If you are not a member of the Library, have you ever wondered what lies behind the doors of the Guille-Allès Library in Market Square? A simple question, but one to which there is not a simple answer. I once heard someone say that everyone who uses a library would give a completely different description of it from everyone else who uses the same library! That would mean that there are about 17,000 different ‘Guille-Allès Libraries’ in the minds of our current members.

For one person the Library is the place that they come every day to read a national paper or the Guernsey Press (or even the Jersey Evening Post!); for another a great source of novels to be borrowed and enjoyed; for some, a place to study free from a distraction and yet still able to use their own computer to access the internet via our free WiFi; for others the library is somewhere to access the Internet even though they do not have their own computer. Some people are delighted to be able to borrow material to support their ongoing studies, whether that be to improve their employment opportunities or simply for the pleasure of learning new things or supporting a hobby. Some regularly borrow films on DVD, music CDs or audio books; others enhance their holiday planning by

borrowing guidebooks and background information from our wide-ranging collection. The list goes on and on but space does not allow me to list 17,000 different options!

The beginnings of the Library

The story of the Guille-Allès Public Library began in earnest in 1882 when Thomas Guille and Frederick Mansell Allès purchased the Assembly Rooms in Market Square from the States of Guernsey together with some adjacent land on which they built a significant extension to the original Georgian building. The result was the building which still houses the Library service today. Guille and Allès’ vision was to provide a library which was accessible to as many of the people of Guernsey as possible so the subscription to use the Library was set as low as possible.

The evolution of the service

The Library, together with the Museum which used to be housed on the top floor, was a great success for many decades but by the middle



Photo courtesy of Richard James



Family story sessions

of the twentieth century was experiencing some financial difficulties. It became apparent that it would not be able to survive without a serious injection of funds. After negotiations with the States' Education Council, it was agreed to enter into a partnership with the States of Guernsey to provide a free library service to the whole community. The free service was launched in August 1981, a major development in the history of the Library which was entirely in keeping with Guille and Allès' original vision. Membership jumped in just a few months from 2,000 to nearer 20,000 - and has remained almost as high ever since.

Recent developments

Since the beginning of the free service, the stock of the Library has increased both in number and range. We now have 100,000 items available to borrow including audio CDs, DVDs, music CDs and jigsaws as well as a vast selection of fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children.

At the time of the development of the free Library service, the building underwent a

major renovation with funds provided by the Hayward Foundation. By the beginning of the second decade of this century it was apparent that much of the internal furnishing installed at that time was in serious need of upgrading. This has been our big task for the last few years, beginning with the transformation of the entrance-hall in 2011. This involved opening up the whole area to reveal the full glory of the Victorian tiled floor, the installation of automatic glass doors and of self-service kiosks.

This summer we have further improved the experience of using the Library by replacing shelving and furnishings in a new layout which makes better use of the available space: one of our ongoing challenges is to find the best ways of running a twenty-first century library service in a building dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

A range of services

Libraries are no longer merely buildings where you borrow books. As already noted, you can borrow all sorts of other items. Free WiFi is available throughout the building and we have

PCs which you can use at no charge, logging in with your library membership card.

Some of our services are available outside of the building and of our normal opening hours. On our website you can search the catalogue, renew your loans, request books and other items, check our latest news and more. The aim for the future is to increase our online services.

There is a reading group for adults which meets once a month, giving an opportunity to share your reading experiences with others and to discover new authors.

Children and young people

We also run a range of activities and events for children and young people including pre-school story sessions throughout the year, family story sessions on Saturdays and reading groups for older children. A major event through the summer holidays is the Summer Reading Challenge, part of a national initiative which encourages children to read six books during the holidays - they receive a sticker for each book and, if they complete the Challenge, a medal & certificate. Numbers taking part grow each year and this year have topped 1,200, well exceeding our aim of reaching 1,000!

Easy to join - and completely free


Membership of the library is free and for all residents of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, (aged from 0 - 100+). All that you need is proof of address, such as a driving licence, household bill or bank statement. Under 16s will need a parent or guardian to sign their application.

Everybody welcome

Despite all the changes of recent decades, we are confident that Guille and Allès would recognise this as the Library which they established and would be pleased that



it has evolved as Thomas Guille intended when he wrote in the constitution of the Library in 1896 that it was ‘founded for the general welfare, advantage and culture of the whole community’ and that it should have ‘such elasticity of adaptation as shall enable it to grapple with the changing necessities and varying requirements of succeeding generations as they pass.’

This article gives just a flavour of what is available behind those doors in Market Square. If you do not use the Library, please visit us and see for yourself. Remember, this is **your** public library, provided in partnership with the States of Guernsey for the **whole** community. I look forward to welcoming you through those doors, you will find an informal relaxed atmosphere and staff keen to help you make the best of this great community service. 

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Minimax Chemical Fire Extinguisher December 1908 - The Star

Jurats, members of the Douzaine, and the Chief fire officer were left impressed by an eventual demonstration of a new form of fire-fighting, as the Star of 1908 shows.

17th December 1908 - The Star

A demonstration of the Minimax chemical fire extinguisher was to have been given by Mr Cakebread this afternoon on the lower lines, Fort George, where a wooden shed had been erected for the experiment. But orders were given to remove it forthwith and the shed was taken to pieces and re-erected on the Fort Field. As the shed was of a flimsy character, the wind blew it over and it collapsed. It is hoped that the fire extinguishing demonstration will take place on the Fort Field tomorrow at 3pm.

22nd December 1908 - The Star

On Thursday last we mentioned that the demonstration by Mr A Cakebread of the Minimax fire extinguisher at the Fort Field was postponed owing to the shed which had been hastily erected having collapsed. The

materials were afterwards removed to a disused quarry in Rouge Rue where the demonstration took place yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the presence of several Jurats of the Royal Court, the Constables of St Peter Port, the Town Douzaine, Mr W Austin, Chief Officer of the Fire brigade, etc. After an explanation had been given how the fire extinguisher was manipulated, the instrument being very simple affair, a light was set to the wooden shed, which was covered with combustible preparations. The shed was soon ablaze, the heat being so great that the spectators had to stand back a considerable distance. Mr Cakebread then broke the glass of the phial contained in the Minimax, the fluid mingling with another preparation, and turned the nozzle of the extinguisher upon the flames, which were extinguished in less than two minutes. As a spectator said, the fire had no chance of living when under the influence of the extinguisher. Two other experiments were made and were equally successful. Mr Cakebread also showed how to refill the extinguisher. A gentleman who has extensive sheds in connection with his business was so pleased with the results of what he had seen that he straightaway placed an order with Mr Cakebeard for half-a-dozen of the Minimax fire extinguisher. 🔔

YOUTH REPORT

By **Wayne Bulpitt**, Vice Chairman of the Youth Commission and founder of Guernsey Youth

Wayne Bulpitt, Vice Chairman of the Youth Commission and founder of Guernsey Youth, has very kindly provided us with this article on youth activities within the parish.

Myth Busting

“Young people today have it easy”, or, “they don’t know how lucky they are”, are just two of the often heard comments used to describe our young people by those who see only the negative side and who complain about them congregating in Church Square, the High Street or elsewhere. There is, of course, another side to be found if you venture beyond the headlines - success and fulfilment for those given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

The Youth Partnership, soon to be Youth Commission, was established several years ago to provide just such opportunities for all young people in Guernsey and Alderney and

burst onto the scenes in January 2013 when it took over the responsibility for running the Youth Service in a forward thinking partnership with the States Education Department.

Of course, formal education (school, college etc.) is a key part of enabling young people to achieve but in reality, they spend only 15% of their time in school. What they do with the other 85% of their time is vital in building their character, soft skills etc. Referred to as non-formal education, this is achieved through youth clubs, Scouts, Guides, Cadets and many more and usually delivered through volunteers supported by a small number of staff.

So, how do these fit together and what’s available for the youth of St Peter Port?

As mentioned, the Youth Partnership is the umbrella organisation that aims to co-ordinate



The HUB, The Bordage



The Caves Youth Cafe, Trinity Square

this work, support others and through the Youth Service also run the Les Ozouets Centre, (formerly St Peter Port School campus) which offers regular youth clubs, holiday play schemes and other activities through partners such as the Sports and the Arts Commissions.

St Peter Port is well served by uniformed organisations with Scouts, Guides and Air Cadets offering activities most evenings and weekends. Army and Sea Cadets and the Boys Brigade also offer opportunities from their headquarters elsewhere in the island.

All of these provide structured activities with a less obvious educational purpose to develop a variety of skills such as team work, leadership and self-confidence as well as teaching values and other social skills.

Talking to young people, they often say that in addition to these and activities like sports and the arts, they want somewhere to go to

relax with friends and meet others for an occasional coffee in a great atmosphere - but not be chased out when they don't buy more - in short, a "non-commercial Dix-neuf". It is this simple objective that lies behind the concept of "The Caves" youth café in Trinity Square. Designed by young people, it aims to do just that and a little bit more.

In a non-threatening way "The Caves" also provides opportunities for young people to access advice and information in whatever way suits them such as online, from the trained staff and volunteers or from the professional staff and volunteers of The HUB, Action for Children and other States agencies that attend regularly.

In addition, several churches offer youth clubs from their halls and meeting places, particularly Trinity, Wesley, Eldad, St Stephen's and St Joseph's.


The HUB also offers a support service from their facilities in The Bordage and

was established in 2012 by Young People Guernsey who employ Barnardo's to run the service for them. Through their professional staff and volunteers The HUB aims to offer a safe space where 11-16 year olds can access up to date information and advice from trained listeners about anything and everything that's going on in their lives.

Action for Children provides support to young people aged 16+ experiencing housing difficulties or other related issues, as well as offering specialist advice and school sessions around drugs and alcohol. Additional support is provided by agencies such as the police, social workers, the youth justice team, etc.

The Youth Partnership's Area Youth Work Managers also work with schools to provide non-formal education to those whose needs are not fully met by the formal education system or perhaps require additional support on a short term basis whilst they deal with

other challenges in their lives. Youth work and the support services also take place outside, referred to as 'outreach work'. You will see staff and volunteers where young people congregate, whether on a 1 to 1 basis or working with others such as the Sports and Arts Commissions engaging young people through structured activities. This is particularly so in town when large numbers of young people come in for special events, e.g. Christmas late-night shopping, Liberation Day and Seafront Sundays.

Don't always judge a book by its cover, instead step back and think what might be achieved by a little helping hand. 

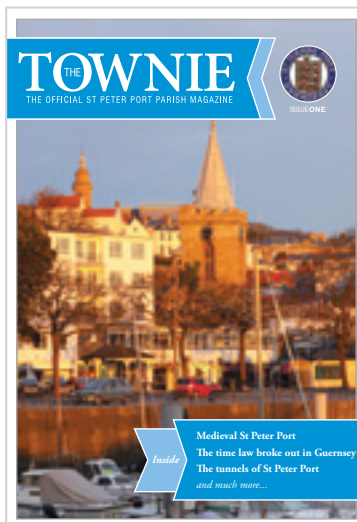
If you would like to help or learn a little more, why not visit www.yoof.gg or email me at info@yoof.gg.

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If you would like to advertise in the next issue of 'The Townie' magazine please contact the Constables Office on 720014 for more information.

THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



AMENITIES COMMITTEE

By Ron Le Cras

The Amenities Committee consists of Chairman Ron Le Cras, Dean of the Douzaine John Roper, and Douzaine members Ann Outram, Keith Pike and Rhoderick Matthews.

Our purpose is to improve the town area in small ways for users of St Peter Port. Two of the projects that we are currently working on are wall-mounted cigarette bins and information boards, known as ‘You are here boards’.

The wall-mounted cigarette bins are available from the St Peter Port Constables office to any company or Public House where people are likely to throw cigarette ends on the ground. The purpose in providing these bins is to endeavour to keep the town clean of cigarette ends, which are unsightly and considered to be litter.

We currently have two ‘You are here boards’ in place, one at the Liberation Monument



and one at the bottom of Market Steps. These boards have been of great value to locals and visitors alike; being a map of the town they are able to locate many points of interest in and around the town area. Due to the success of these boards three more are now being installed at the following locations; the triangle at Trinity Square, St Paul’s sunken garden at the top of Smith Street by the War Memorial and on the railings to the East of the Town Church. The reverse side on some of the boards shows a pictorial history of the area where they are situated, which is helpful for locals and visitors to our town enabling them to find places of historical interest.

We are always interested to hear suggestions from the public as to small ways we can improve the town for pedestrian use. Should anyone have any ideas that they wish to put forward they must be submitted in writing for consideration by the Amenities Committee, who can be contacted through the St Peter Port Constable Office. [T](#)

Photo’s courtesy of Rob Grant



GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

Jan Marquis has kindly provided us with a few Festive phrases, and others, that we think you might like to know.

Pens-ou faire aen boudloe pour la Seraïe Boudloe?

Pawss-ou ferr ae boud-law pourr lah Serraye Boud-law?

Are you planning on making a boudloe for Bonfire Night?

Av-ou fait vote houichepotte dé Noué acouore?

Av-ou feh vawt weeshpawt deh Nweh acworrr?

Have made your Christmas pudding yet?

Nou-z-est au c'moshement d'énne novèle onnaïe, qué j'vous souhaete éenne Bouanne Onnaïe, plloïne d'paix et prosperitaï.

Nou z-ey o-k mawshmau d'enne nouvel awnaye, keh j'vou souaett enne Bwawn Awnaye, pyoin-d pey ey prawsperreetaye.

We're at the beginning of a new year, so I wish you a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

I fait fré assai pour jlaï enter haome et faume au lliet!

Ee feh freh ahssaye pourr shlaye awterr aom ey faum o yeh!

It's cold enough to freeze the space between a husband and wife in bed!



J'sais pas s'vous accorderai daove mé,
mais i m'est avis qué les jours ralaongue
aen-p-tit, tchi qu't'en cré?

*Saye paa s-vouz acorrderrayei daove meh, mey
ee m-eyt ahvee keh ley jourr rahlaong ae-p tee,
chik t-aw creb?*

**I don't know if you'll agree with me, but
it seems to me that the days are getting
longer, what do you think?**

**Mardi gras vous éraï des rats, et mé j'éraï
des craepes!**

*Maardi graa vouz erraye dey raa, ey meh
shierreh dey crae-eep!*

**Shrove Tuesday you'll have rats, and I'll
have pancakes! 🇹**

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GUERNSEY RFC CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

... How it all began in 1913

By Debra Thompson, Press Liaison Officer

This year the Guernsey Rugby Club celebrates its centenary and Debra Thompson, Press Liaison Officer, has provided us with a brief history of the club.

It is a fact, the older the Guernsey Rugby Club becomes, the bigger and better it gets. Reaching 100 has not been easy, far from it in fact and today's grand surroundings at Footes Lane and the first XV plying their trade as high as National Three is quite remarkable. Rugby was being played in the island well before organised football, in the late 19th century but it was not until 1913 that the Guernsey Rugby Club was formed and in truth, even then little happened within the club until after the Occupation.

The Guernsey Rugby Club was founded one February evening in 1913. In the beginning they had just one ball and if you wanted to use it for practice, best pop into town and borrow it from a committee member's shop. He had the key. There were times when the sport barely survived.

For a start, no sooner had it been founded than the Great War came along and rugby struggled its way through the 1920's and 30's before, of course, another war came along. In fact had it not been for the effervescent and highly popular Freddie Nash, it might not have survived at all.



In the 30's it was he who revived the club and even when it unknowingly reached its 50th birthday, the Press report of the annual meeting highlights a club still struggling and even coming in for criticism from its own members.

It has been a wonderful hundred years and the club can proudly boast that it finds itself in fine fettle, to an unimaginable extent for those founders of the club who, as rugby lovers, we must all take our proverbial hats off to.

It is worth taking a brief look at how it all started in the Chamber of Commerce rooms on a bleak February day in 1913. Under the headline 'RUGGER - enthusiasts form a new club', the Guernsey Press reported that while it was a new club, the sport



already had history on the island. Mr G. C. Guilbert, the founding secretary, reminded everyone present that rugby was here in the island before football and in setting up the Guernsey Rugby Club there was no intention to clash with the already established Guernsey Football Association. In his opinion there was room for both games. 'Many of those who had played rugby would like the (island's) youngsters to have a chance', he told the gathering. He wanted a purely amateur club and his vision was that English teams might come across for games.

Straight away the club colours were agreed upon, ones that we are familiar with a century on, green and white hoops, two and a half inches in width.

Behind the scenes, the club's money was deposited in the Capital and Counties Bank and the club was up and running. 📍

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS APPEAL

By Richard Harding & Rob Grant

Christmas is coming up fast and already people are thinking about getting out the decorations and dusting them off, or looking to stock up on new Christmas lights to make the house look festive, both inside and out.

And for the St Peter Port Douzaine we have the same sort of concerns, although for us it is about lighting up our town and making it look and feel festive in the lead-up to Christmas.

Did you know it costs at least £40,000 a year to keep St. Peter Port's Christmas lights shining?

It is a large sum, and the money comes from donations from businesses and members of the public, but we like to think that it is

worth all the money and hard work that goes into making our parish look so vibrant and festive.

This year Island FM have teamed up with the Douzaine to try and raise funds for this important part of our year, and the Grand switch-on with Father Christmas will be on Saturday 30th November, and Island FM's Carl Ward and Richard Harding will be there!

The whole island benefits from St Peter Port's Christmas lights as we all shop in town. We really do need your help if we are going to 'light up' the town. 📍

If you'd like to make a contribution, contact Douzenier John Sarre on 07781 137566 for more information, or email him on: john.sarre@cwgsy.net

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