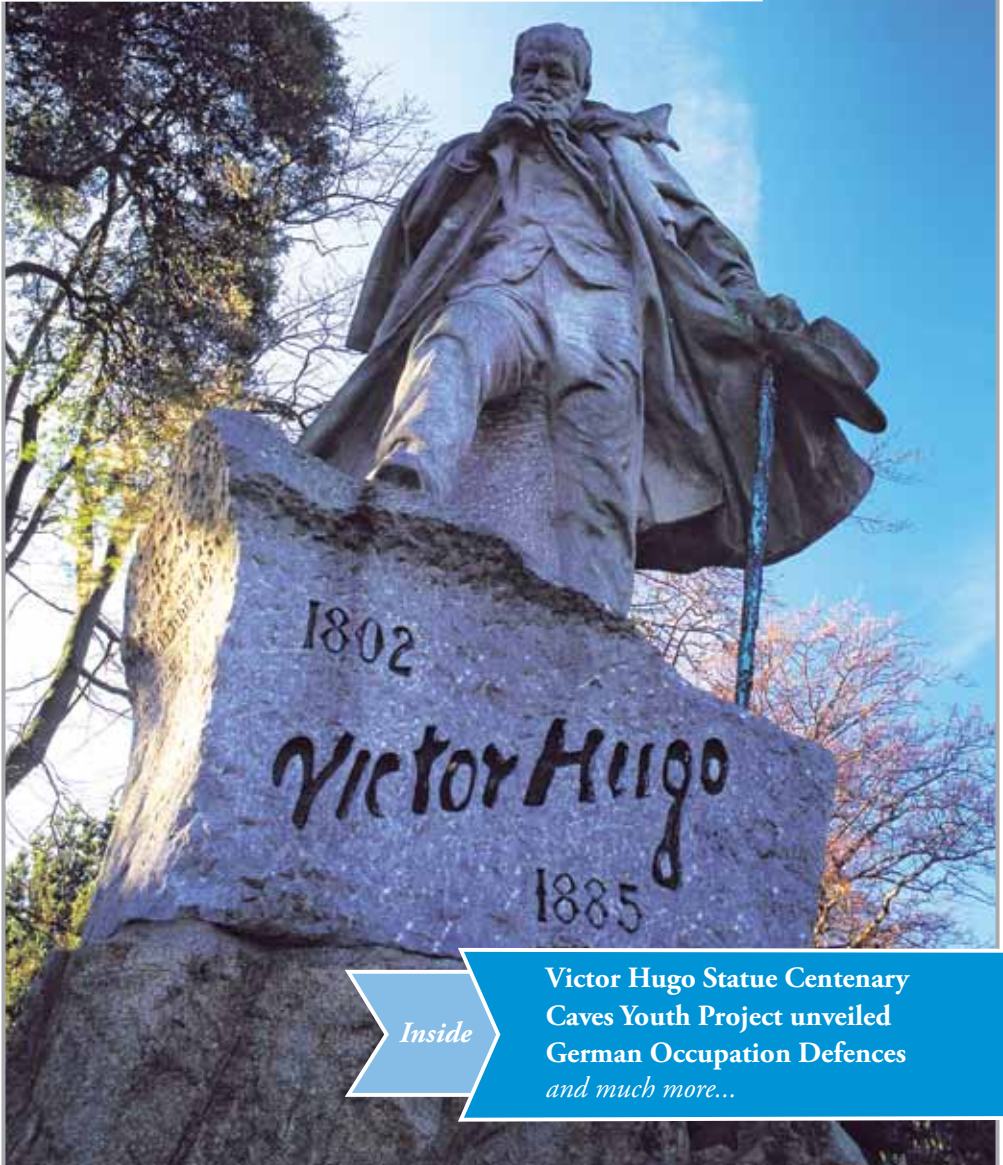


# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE THREE



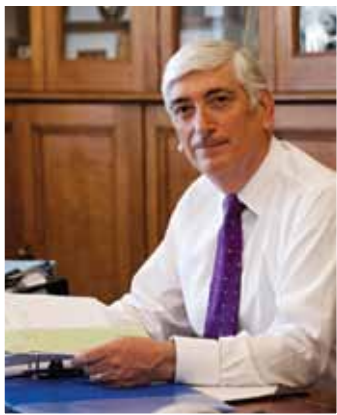
*Inside*

Victor Hugo Statue Centenary  
Caves Youth Project unveiled  
German Occupation Defences  
*and much more...*

# Do you have a question?

## QUESTIONTIME WITH THE DEPUTIES

At the Grammar School, Tuesday 17th June, from 7pm until 10pm



For further information  
contact Rob Grant on:  
[robbertgrant@hotmail.com](mailto:robbertgrant@hotmail.com)

Written questions should  
be submitted to the  
Constables Office  
New Jetty, White Rock  
St Peter Port, GY1 2LL

By: Wednesday 11th June 2014

Join us for an opportunity to raise any issues with the parish Deputies and to be involved in discussions on the night.

The evening will be in the form of the BBC's Question Time show, with questions put forward by members of the public.

The panel will be chaired by **Sir Geoff Rowland QC** with the following Deputies on the panel:

**Richard Conder**  
**Elis Bebb**  
**Michelle Le Clerc**  
**Allister Langlois**  
**Jan Kuttelwascher**  
**Roger Domaille**  
**Rob Jones**

PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

# FOREWORD

It is now a year since we first launched the all-new St Peter Port parish magazine, 'The Townie', and here we are with edition 3. Since its launch in April 2013, the Profile committee of Douzeniers Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Neil Forman and Richard Harding have now been joined by new Douzenier Jacqui Robin. We hope to continue to bring you a parish magazine that is both informative, interesting, and helps to give us all a greater sense of community. As a committee, our goals are to continue to raise the profile of not only the Douzaine but also the profile of the parish itself, and to help show what a great place we are fortunate enough to live in.

2014 is a big year for various reasons, starting with the centenary of the raising of the Victor Hugo monument in Candie gardens, which is highlighted on the front cover and covered in depth inside with an article by Helen Glencross. In August this year we will also be commemorating the start of World War I, which had such a massive impact on so many families in the island, and in future editions we aim to bring you some interesting articles from local authorities on the period.

Once the renovation of the Constables office has been completed, and it has re-opened we will be



Photo by Richard Lord

**Profile Committee** (from left to right): Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacqui Robin, Neil Forman and Richard Harding

holding an 'Open Day', so that members of the public can look around the building, and also see what the Douzaine is doing on your behalf.

We are also organising a 'Question Time' event, in the format seen on the BBC show, where a number of our parish Deputies will be invited to take part in a panel, chaired by Sir Geoff Rowland, to answer questions put forward by members of the public. Further details of this event are included later in this magazine.

And of course a big-news story for the parish this year, as we take part in Britain in Bloom for the first time, we as a committee will be offering our help to the Floral Team in preparing for this great opportunity to showcase our parish's charms.

Finally, we would very much appreciate any feedback, good or bad. Do you like the magazine, is there anything we could do differently, and of course, do you have any articles or notes you would like to contribute? We hope you enjoy this edition. [T](#)

## Profile Committee

# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 3 - April 2014

Profile Committee: Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacqui Robin, Neil Forman, Richard Harding

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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 Priaux Library for their support.

# INTRODUCTION BY THE CONSTABLES



**Barry Cash, Constable**

Victoria Cottage, Brock Road,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1RB  
Tel: 727072 E-mail: cash@guernsey.net



**Dennis Le Moignan, Constable**

Flat 4, Le Mont de Val, Vauvert,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1NJ  
Tel: 725030 E-mail: dennis@cwgsy.net

**A**t last, we have signed the contract, and the contractor is on-site. We're pleased to report that, after several years of planning, work has begun on refurbishing the Constables Office, with a completion date just before Christmas 2014. Following the Parishioner's agreement, we have sold a small strip of land which, we're pleased to say, will fund about half the development costs, so it's onwards and upwards!

For those of you who have not found our new offices yet, we are at the Northern end of the New Jetty; about 100 yards past the White Rock Café. Although it is a short walk from Town, we do have some convenient disabled parking and a spot for short stay callers.

At last year's Parish meeting, we gave an overview of the parish and some of the plans we have in place to improve the community. This Year we wish to expand on that and ask our keen and dedicated subgroups to give you a taste of the challenges and successes they had in the last year. Plans will also be revealed for the year ahead, so please come to the Parish Meeting on 16th April and see what is happening within your parish.

During 2013, refurbishment of our toilets at Cambridge Park was completed, bringing them up to a modern standard. The work was done by our fantastic team of Groundsmen and Handymen. We also had the main driveway leading up to the toilets resurfaced. The ancient pebble gutter alongside part of the driveway was also re-laid, as was an extra section of this gutter, which was exposed as the old driveway surface was removed.

During the year, we took on the lease of a store in Candie Road; this enables us to store new benches for the town also space for refurbishment of benches needing general maintenance. We purchased a Fiat Doblo truck early last year for use by our groundsmen. It is used to carry equipment to various sites owned and maintained by the parish, it's parked in the store when not in use. The sleigh used by Father Christmas when he visits St. Peter Port each year to switch on the Christmas lights is also stored there. Maintenance of the walls at Candie Cemetery continued, with all the loose capping stones being re-laid, and a further 6 wall panels being repointed. **T**

*The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.*

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## DOUZENIERS



### **John Roper (Dean)**

Tel: 724182 E-mail: fjroper@aol.com  
In office until 31-12-14. Member of Finance and Flag Day Committees.



### **Christine Goodlass (Vice Dean)**

Tel: 728847  
E-mail: goodlass@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-17. Member of Street Lighting and Flag Day Committees. Amherst and Vauvert Primary Schools Representative. Deputy Douzaine Council Representative.



### **Rhoderick Matthews**

Tel: 729642 E-mail: rhodmat@aol.com  
In office until 31-12-16. Member of Finance, Street Lighting, Waste Management and Town Amenities Committees. St. Sampsons High School Representative.



### **Ann Outram**

Tel: 700111  
E-mail: annoutram@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-14. Member of Finance, Streams and Town Amenities Committees.



### **Peter Wilson**

Tel: 713441  
E-mail: pjw2003uk@yahoo.co.uk  
In office until 31-12-15. Member of Street Lighting and Town Amenities Committees.



### **Katina Jones**

Tel: 725103  
E-mail: katina.jones@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-16. Coordinator of Floral Group. Member of Flag Day and Floral Committees, Amherst and Vauvert Primary Schools Representative.



### **Keith Pike**

Tel: 07781 121391  
E-mail: kpike@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-17. Member of Island Emergency Planning, Streams and Profile Committees.



### **John Sarre**

Tel: 07781 137566  
E-mail: john.sarre@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-14. Member of Streams, Waste Management and Christmas Lights Committees.



### **Rob Grant**

Tel: 711966  
E-mail: robbertgrant@hotmail.com  
In office 31-12-15. Member of Floral, Waste Management and Profile Committees.



### **Richard Lord**

Tel: 700688 E-mail: sealord@me.com  
In office until 31-12-15. Member of Island Emergency Planning and Waste Management Committees.



### **Lester Queripel (Deputy)**

Tel: 729399 (home) and 07781 400239 (mobile)  
E-mail: lesterqueripel@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-15.



### **Neil Forman**

Tel: 723696  
E-mail: neil.forman@aol.com  
In office until 31-12-16. Member of Waste Management and Profile Committees.



### **Richard Harding**

Tel: 07781 439218  
E-mail: richardhenryharding@hotmail.com  
In office until 31-12-16. Member of Waste Management and Profile Committees.



### **Pat Johnson**

Tel: 701544  
E-mail: patjohnsongsy@gmail.com  
In office until 31-12-14. Member of Finance and Floral Committees.



### **Danielle Sebire**

Tel: 713530  
E-mail: daniellesebiregsy@gmail.com  
In office until 31-12-17. Member of Street Lighting.



### **Pete Burtenshaw**

Tel: 07781 129 171  
E-mail: petejb@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-17. Guernsey Douzaine Council Representative. Member of Street Lighting, Streams and Christmas Lights Committees.



### **David Falla**

Tel: 713722 E-mail: dfalla@falla.com  
In office until 31-12-17. Member of Town Amenities Committee.



### **Jacqueline Robin**

Tel: 239007 E-mail: jaxr@cwgsy.net  
In office until 31-12-15. Member of Town Amenities and Profile Committees.

## DEPUTIES (NORTH)



### **John Gollop**

Flat 3, 32 Upper Mansell Street,  
St Peter Port GY1 1LY  
Tel: 07781 144878 or 07839 111909  
E-mail: johngollop@gmail.com



### **Richard Conder**

Iceni, Fosse Andre,  
St. Peter Port GY1 2DX  
Tel: 729717  
E-mail: richard.conder@gmail.com



### **Michelle LeClerc**

Dulwich, Upper St Jacques,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1SR  
Tel: 710853  
E-mail: michelle.leclerc@deputies.gov.gg



### **Lester Queripel**

Flat 11, Maison Haro,  
Mon Plaisir, Green Lanes,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1TG  
Tel: 729399  
E-mail: lesterqueripel@cwgsy.net  
E-mail: lesterqueripel@hotmail.com



### **Peter Sherbourne**

Primula, Rue du Gele,  
Castel, GY5 7LW  
Tel: 235726  
E-mail: sherbs@cwgsy.net



### **Martin Storey**

Apt 1, 3 Choisi Terrace,  
Les Gravees, St Peter Port, GY1 1RP  
Tel: 736917  
E-mail: martin.msci@cwgsy.net



### **Elis Bebb**

Roseneath, Footes Lane,  
St Peter Port, GY1 2UF  
Tel: 254514  
E-mail: elis.bebb@gmail.com



### **Barry Brehaut**

Sainte Noyale, 5 Hartlebury Estate,  
Steam Mill Lanes, St Martin, GY4 6NH  
Tel: 232914  
E-mail: bazol@cwgsy.net



### **Roger Domaille**

Summer Days, The Dell Close,  
Le Foulon, St Peter Port, GY1 1YS  
Tel: 727796  
E-mail: roger.domaille@deputies.gov.gg



### **Peter Harwood**

La Maison du Carrosse, Kings Road,  
St Peter Port, GY1 1QB  
Tel: 723143  
E-mail: peter@harwoodguernsey.com



### **Robert Jones**

Le Debut, New Place,  
St Peter Port, GY1 1ND  
Tel: 07781 420450  
E-Mail: rob.jones@rob4deputy.com



### **Jan Kuttelwascher**

L'Hyvreuse House, L'Hyvreuse,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1UY  
Tel: 726312  
E-mail: jan.kuttelwascher@deputies.gov.gg



### **Allister Langlois**

Top Flat, 77 Hauteville,  
St. Peter Port, GY1 1DQ  
Tel: 714777  
E-mail: allister.langlois@odl-group.com

# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

Opening times: **8.30am - 4.00pm**  
**Monday - Friday** (open through lunchtime)  
Contact number: **720014**  
Email: **constables@stpcons.com**

**PARISH MEETING**  
Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm  
Harry Bound room, Les Cotils

**D**uring the period prior to moving from the Constables Office in Lefebvre Street, the office staff worked extremely hard. They coped admirably with their normal daily activities plus sorting and packing files, also other items from cupboards and shelves. A job well done, as on moving day, everything was ready for an immediate and flawless transfer of the computer and telephone systems to the temporary offices at the New Jetty. 📍



**Ann Jennings**  
*Assistant Secretary  
to the Constables*

**Jenny Bullock**  
*Accounts Administrator*



**Martyn Guilbert**  
*Secretary to the  
Constables*



## Groundsmen:

Jonathon King, Geoff Le Gallez and Len Bullock, pictured left to right.



## Roger Cowley

Roger Cowley worked as a groundsman for the parish for approximately 11 years. He was a man well liked and respected and after his retirement would stop and talk with our present groundsman passing on hints and tips regarding maintenance of certain areas of the parish properties. A suggestion was made that it would be a nice gesture to commemorate his contribution to the parish by installing a bench with a name plaque on it on Cambridge Park. We thought this a good idea and one day last year some of Roger's family, our three groundsmen and myself, gathered halfway up the driveway on the park where an old bench had been removed. The new bench complete with plaque saying 'In memory of Roger Cowley, groundsman of this parish' was unveiled and I said a few words of dedication.

**Dennis Le Moignan**



# AGE CONCERN GUERNSEY

By Deputy Lester Queripel



'Age Concern Guernsey' is currently administering a Fuel Poverty Fund for any pensioner in the island who is struggling to pay their fuel bills. A one-off payment of up to £100 is available through the scheme, which the association are trialling for a 6-month period up until June 2014. The fund covers the purchase of electric, gas, oil, coal or even logs. So if you are a pensioner who is struggling to pay your fuel bills or you know a pensioner who is, then please call the Fuel Poverty Fund Chairman, Deputy Lester Queripel, on **729399** or **07781 400239**, and arrange for him to deliver an application form to your door. The application process isn't too intrusive. We want to encourage applicants, not deter them. So all we ask is basic information: name, address, date of birth, proof of identity etc. We then take the form away, verify the information provided with Social Security, discuss the application amongst our four person committee and do our best to make a decision in 48 hours. If the application is successful we then post the

applicant a Fuel Fund Voucher. It's as simple as that. So please don't shiver, call us now.

The Fuel Fund committee are committed to Data Protection compliance and therefore can assure you that all information supplied by applicants will not be shared with anyone else outside of the committee. Also, all the information supplied by an applicant will be returned to the applicant once the application has been processed.


The Fuel Fund committee consists of:

**Chairman: Deputy Lester Queripel**

**Vice-Chairman: Age Concern committee member Mike Hawley**

**Age Concern Treasurer: Anna-Marie de Cruz**

**Age Concern Secretary: Lisa Morrison**

To conclude: if the applicant should want me to do so I am more than willing, in my capacity as a Deputy, to work on behalf of applicants to determine whether or not they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to from Social Security. 

# WHAT'S ON April to November 2014

We have listed below, many of the events that will be taking place during the period from April to October 2014. Whilst the majority will take place in St Peter Port, there are also a few events outside the parish that we would like to highlight, including the various shows and regatta. For further information please go to the web page [www.visitguernsey.com](http://www.visitguernsey.com) or [www.towncentrepartnership.com](http://www.towncentrepartnership.com)

## Public Holidays:

Friday 18th April	Good Friday
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday
Monday 5th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 9th May	Liberation Day
Monday 26th May	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 25th August	Summer Bank Holiday

## Events:

Every Friday	Fresh local produce market in Market Square
April - September	Saturday Randall's Brewery Tours
April - September	Tuesday Herm Island Garden Tours
12th April - 18th May	Heritage Guernsey Festival
16th April	Parish Meeting
17th - 20th April	Carlsberg Easter Hockey Festival
18th - 21st April	History Festival, Travels in Time
19th - 26th April	GADOC Easter Musical - Oliver
22nd April	Open Day, National Trust Museum
26th April - 4th May	Spring Floral Festival Week
30th April	Art Fund Guernsey presents; Pugin, Barry & Houses of Parliament
3rd May	Healthspan Spring Walking Week
4th May	Hafenschloss (Castle Cornet)
5th May	44th World Aid Walk
8th May	Specsavers Liberation Tea Dance & Hangar Ball
9th May	Liberation Day
9th - 11th May	Normandie Markets
10th May	Loafers Wall Celebrations
10th May - 27th September	Saturday Concerts in Market Square
11th May - 28th September	Sunday Concerts in Candie Gardens
13th - 19th May	Herm Real Ale Festival
15th - 18th May	Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay
16th May	La Nuit Des Musees / Museums at Night
21st - 27th May	The Gondoliers, by Gilbert & Sullivan (St James)

30th May - 7th June

14th June

14th June

17th June

21st June

5th - 13th July

6th July

7th July

11th, 18th, 25th July & 8th August

14th - 15th July

17th & 27th July

19th - 26th July

26th - 27th July

2nd August

8th - 9th August

13th - 14th August

17th August

20th - 21st August

24th - 26th August

24th August

6th - 14th September

11th September

20th - 28th September

1st October - 10th November

11th - 25th October

4th November

Sure Festival of Comedy

Queens official birthday. Castle Gun Salute

Guernsey Classic Vehicle Show

Question Time - St Peter Port Deputies panel

Party in the Park

Summer Floral Festival Week

Centenary of Victor Hugo's Statue

La Viaer Marchi

KPMG Castle Nights

Parish Floral competition judging

Burnt at the Stake

Town Carnival & Faete d'la Musique a la Ville

Torteval Scarecrow Festival

Rocquaine Regatta

South Show

West Show

Fete D'Etaï - Summer Festival

North Show

Normandie markets

Vale Earth Fair

Autumn Walking Week

Guernsey Air Display

Autumn Floral Guernsey Festival

Tennerfest

Nerine Festival


Parish Meeting

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## Loafers Wall Celebrations

On 10th May 2014 at 6pm. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Air Marshal Peter Walker will officially unveil a plaque and commemorative wild flowers on the Loafers wall to mark the start of the Great War. The wall was built by the States of Guernsey and is 100 years old this year.

Following the ceremony, the Town Centre Partnership are holding a reception at the Guille-Alles Library for a maximum of 100 people at 6.30pm. At 7.15pm the Lossiemouth Pipe Band will perform The Beating the Retreat in front of invited dignitaries and the public, including the lament and last post.

At 7.45pm the attendees at the formal Inner Street dinner will be called for an 8pm sit down. It is hoped that there will be 180 people attending (uniforms or black tie), and there will be professional cabaret after the three course dinner. The tickets for the dinner and reception are £60 with the reception £10, on a first come first served basis and can be obtained through [jackhoneybill@hotmail.com](mailto:jackhoneybill@hotmail.com) and [silvester@cwgsy.net](mailto:silvester@cwgsy.net). The Lossiemouth Pipe band members will be present at the dinner, and all profits of the dinner will be given to the Allied Aircrew Memorial Fund. Cadets will also be collecting in the Town on the day of these events. 

# THE CENTENARY OF THE UNVEILING OF THE VICTOR HUGO STATUE

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

**V**ictor Hugo is renowned worldwide both as a writer and public figure, he is the most famous person to have lived in Guernsey. During his time here he produced most of his most famous works, in particular 'Les Misérables' (1862), and 'Les Travailleurs de la Mer' (1866).

In recognition of the time, he spent in Guernsey, a statue of Victor Hugo was unveiled in Candie Gardens on the 7th July 1914. This year marks the centenary of that event.

## The Statue

The statue of Victor Hugo is the work of the eminent French sculptor Jean Boucher. Born near Rennes in 1870, Boucher trained as a sculptor in Paris. In 1898, he joined the Bleus de Bretagne, an organization which promoted liberal values and some of his work was controversial. However, it was Boucher's political and anti-clerical views which led to him being commissioned to depict the liberal hero Victor Hugo.

In 1906, the King of Portugal had visited Paris and appointed Boucher to create a statue of Hugo for the town of Lisbon. Permission for the statue was later withdrawn due to political unrest. Instead Boucher presented the statue at the Salon des Artistes Français in 1908, and the work was highly praised. The French government bought the statue for 30,000fr (£1,231) and with the Victor Hugo Society, approached officials in England and Guernsey for the statue to be erected on the island.



Jean Boucher

The limestone statue stands on top of a large granite pedestal. Hugo is portrayed in a dramatic stance on a rocky outcrop; stick and hat in hand, his coat and scarf flying in the wind, his right hand tugging at his beard and his head down. Brooding over his exile or seeking inspiration by the sea the statue is an impressive image of the man.

On the north-east side of the limestone block is a representation of Victor Hugo's signature, with the date 1802 above the first name and 1885 beneath the second. On the west and south faces of the base are inscriptions. Interestingly, these inscriptions differ from those reported at the time. Also, the plan for a fourth inscription to be added later, with the names of those present, was never carried out.

## Preparing for the Unveiling

In August 1913 Lée Claretie, the President of the Committee of the "Société de Victor Hugo" visited the island to present the statue to Guernsey. While on the island, Claretie spoke to the authorities and a local committee was created to arrange for receiving the gift. The unveiling was the result of nearly twelve months of planning and great effort was made on both sides of the Channel to make sure the event was a success.

Many sites were suggested for the statue, including the Castle Emplacement, the top of Smith Street and the bonded stores. On February 24th, 1914, Monsieur Haniau, Jean Boucher and Monsieur Le Sage, the architect,



La Giraffe

had an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor, the Bailiff and the States Committee. The French representatives reported that they had inspected the Candie Grounds and considered it an ideal position for the statue. On April 29th the proposal came before the States, who unanimously granted the site.

As soon as Candie Gardens were accepted preparations for the foundations of the statue begun almost immediately, and enormous granite rocks were taken from La Jaonneuse, L'Anresse to form the pedestal of the statue.

The statue was transported from Paris to Cherbourg by train. It was shipped to Guernsey aboard the steamboat "La Giraffe" and arrived in Guernsey on the 4th June 1914. The heavy statue, in a large wooden case, was brought ashore by a party of Engineers and men from the Royal Garrison Artillery. It was lifted off the boat and onto a 12 ton gun carriage. The following day a steamroller was used to drag the statue to Candie Gardens. Many people visited Candie in the hope of seeing the statue, but it was still in its case and a man was left to keep watch all night. It took another full day to bring the statue into the gardens and lift it onto its pedestal. It was unpacked and swiftly covered in canvas.

Unfortunately, when placed on the pedestal, it revealed the base of the statue was too large. Photographs were posted to Paris. Le Sage, then had to advise on what to do. One of Boucher's sculptors, A. M. Trochu, came from Paris and under his direction local workmen chipped away the overhanging edges of the statue so it fitted

the granite base. At the end of June, Messrs W. Newbury and H. Bisson and Son, inscribed and gilded the base.

A military guard was stationed nightly at Candie Grounds until the unveiling. A corporal and three privates were on duty from 7pm until 7am. The Yorkshire Regiment and the Royal Artillery took guard on alternate nights.

### The Unveiling

On the morning of the 7th July St Peter Port was adorned with Union Jacks, Tricolours and bunting for the event. There was an impressive continuous line of Chinese lanterns from Castle Cornet, along the piers to the Salerie. The White Rock was decorated with poles draped in red, white and blue. A series of large decorated arches were erected at the bottom of St Julian's Avenue. Over the main arch was written "Vive l'Entente Cordiale". A Venetian Fête was organised for the harbour in which decorated and illuminated sailing, rowing and motor boats took part.

Candie Gardens were decorated with colourful pennants. Queen Victoria's statue was covered with crimson roses and around the base were bamboos, palms and other pot plants. The base of the veiled statue of Victor Hugo was decorated with ferns and ivy. The platform, erected for the speakers, was draped in national colours and surmounted with the Union Jack and the Tricolour.



The archways at the bottom of St Julian's Avenue



At 10am the French representatives arrived aboard the armoured cruiser the Dupetit-Thouars, escorted by two torpedo boats. The English delegation arrived shortly after aboard the battleship H.M.S Russell. The visitors were received at an official reception at the White Rock.

People began to congregate in Candie Gardens from midday. Around 1,200 chairs were provided and arranged in circles around the statue to create an enclosure for invited guests. Entrance to the enclosure was from the lower gate which was draped in large flags. Soon after 1pm the 1st Regiment, R.G.L.I., marched into the grounds. They lined the enclosure and the path from the lower gate to the statue. One company formed a guard of honour, under the command of Capt. M. Jones. The Brigade band played a selection of music to entertain the waiting crowds.

The official guests met at the Royal Court at 1.30pm and left in procession shortly after 2pm, preceded by the Band of the 25th Line Regiment. It was an impressive sight with many of the officials wearing Court or diplomatic dress, colourful uniforms and robes. The route was lined with garrison troops, members of the Royal Guernsey Artillery and the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.

His Excellency Major-Gen. H. M. Lawson, C.B., William Carey, Bailiff, Right Hon. Earl Beauchamp, K.G., K.C.M.G, Henry Giffard, K.C., Sir Almeric Fitzroy represented Guernsey and the British Government while M. Victor Augagneur, M. Gauthier, Minister for the French Navy, represented France.

After the unveiling by Mr Julius Bishop, States Supervisor. Victor Margueritte, President of the Victor Hugo Society, formally handed over the statue to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor as representative of His Majesty the King. His Excellency accepted the statue and handed it to the Bailiff, as head of the civil community. The Bailiff spoke of the “beautiful



The unveiling

gift of France” that would “embellish our Island, and render it impossible to forget the memory of the illustrious poet who lived among us for fourteen of the best years of his life”.

After many speeches Gustave Simon, representing the Hugo family spoke. He thanked His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bailiff, for the homage they had paid to the great poet and whose memory would be perpetuated in one of the most beautiful public places in the Island. He thanked the French Government for having acquired the statue, and he spoke of Hugo’s love of Guernsey and the inspiration he had found on the island.

Garlands were placed on the statue by the Society of French Poets, the Society of Musical Authors, Composers and Editors, Société des Mussetistes and the Friends of Camoëns. Poems by Victor Hugo were read by members of the Comédie Française.

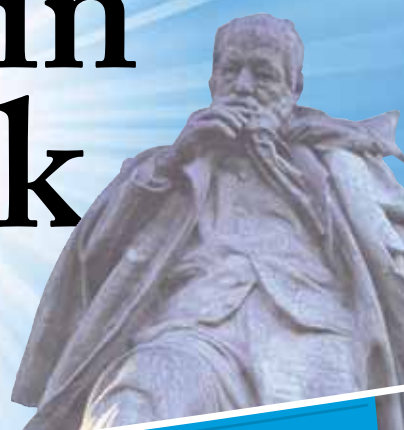
Following the unveiling, there was a programme of events. These included concerts by the French military and Militia Brigade Band, a reception for guests at Hauteville House and a banquet hosted by members of the Victor Hugo Society. And a banquet at Gardner’s Royal Hotel for over 200 people. Heavy rain spoilt part of the evening and the torchlight tattoo along the seafront was cancelled. However the grand firework display from Victoria Pier, the White Rock, the Castle Emplacement and boats in the harbour was enjoyed by the thousands of people in St Peter Port that evening for the celebrations. 🇫🇷

The Constables & Douzaine of St Peter Port



# Party in the Park

Saturday 21st June 2014  
Cambridge Park



Food Stalls  
&  
Licensed  
Bar

Best Floral  
Decorated Hat  
Competition  
for children

Evening screening of  
**Les Miserables**  
in association  
with SURE  
"Big Screen"

Arts  
&  
Crafts

Fun  
Family  
Races

Bouncy  
Castles

Free  
Children's  
Refreshments

Free  
Mini  
Fairground  
Stalls

Free  
Horse  
& Cart  
Rides

Punch  
& Judy  
Show

## A message from our **PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE**


By Elvio Pires



### **Easter in Portugal, beautiful festivals to suit all tastes!**

**A**s I have only little space to write, I will refer to my two favourite national holidays; Easter in Madeira Island is one of the most important religious events of the Archipelago. This year, Easter will take place on 20th of April. This is a season full of traditions and customs, and lived with great intensity by the Madeiran population. In rural areas of Madeira, is made an enactment of Christ's death. The extras enact the journey of Jesus to carry the cross, a symbol of pain and suffering. Also watch the processions and Masses that occur in almost all parishes.

Besides these, other fundamental aspects is its delicious cuisine. The Easter menu, presents tasty and succulent delicacies. After the fasting of Lent, do not miss the opportunity to taste the culinary specialties. Juicy lamb stew with wine and cinnamon in Ponta do Sol, the "Carnes Santas" of Porto Moniz and The roasted lamb in Funchal are our suggestions! Besides the religious traditions and its unique and unrivalled cuisine, the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo have equally allusive games this season. The most important, we highlight the game "Balamento" and "Spinning the pivot". Celebrate our traditions and the mild weather that spring of Madeira and Porto Santo have to offer!

Another one of my favourites are In São Brás, they organise one of the most beautiful Easter celebrations in the south, the Feast of "Tochas Floridas" every Sunday of Easter St. Brás gets filled with flowers to celebrate the return to life of the son of God. The path of pilgrimage, about one kilometre long, is all decked with a long, colourful and extremely beautiful carpet of flowers, through which the procession moves forward. In addition to the ground, the procession also makes many torches adorned with flowers and embellished a party of colour, smell, beauty and resurrection. The ancient accounts tell that this party started when many fraternities, for lack of funds to purchase large candles that accompanied the pilgrimages began using sticks painted and ornamented with flowers that had only a small lighted candle on top. Some fraternities have become extinct and others may even have the money today for the candles, but the truth is that this tradition is there to stay. The colours are a multitude of torches which reflects the old banners and takeover of the members. Nowadays this is probably the Easter festival that attracts more people in the Algarve, with many thousands to move in to São Brás to see the flowering torches and the beautiful rug created with more than 3000 tons of flowers. 

## A message from our **PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE**

By Elvio Pires



### **Páscoa em Portugal, belas romarias para todos os gostos**

Como só tenho pouco espaço para escrever, vou referir a minhas duas preferidas; Na Madeira a Páscoa é um dos eventos religiosos mais importantes do Arquipélago. Este ano, a Páscoa terá lugar no dia 20 de Abril. Esta é uma época repleta de tradições e costumes e vivida com muita intensidade pela população madeirense. Nas zonas rurais da Ilha da Madeira, é feita uma encenação da morte de Cristo. Os figurantes encenam o percurso de Jesus Cristo a carregar a cruz, em símbolo de dor e sofrimento. Assista também às Procissões e às Missas que ocorrem em quase todas as Freguesias. Para além destes, outros dos aspectos fundamentais é a sua deliciosa gastronomia. A ementa da Páscoa, na Madeira, apresenta iguarias saborosas e suculentas. Depois do Jejum da Quaresma, não perca a oportunidade de saborear as especialidades gastronómicas. O suculento cabrito guisado com vinho e canela à maneira da Ponta do Sol, a carne santa do Porto Moniz, o cabrito assado do Funchal ou o borrego assado são as nossas sugestões! Além das tradições religiosas e da sua única e inigualável gastronomia, a Ilhas da Madeira e do Porto Santo possuem igualmente jogos alusivos a esta época. Dos mais importantes, destacam-se o jogo do “Balamento” e o “Jogo o Pião”. Viva as nossas tradições e o clima ameno que a Primavera da Ilha da Madeira e do Porto Santo têm para oferecer!

Em São Brás de Alportel fazem uma das mais belas celebrações pascais no sul do país, a Festa das Tochas Floridas, todos os domingos de Páscoa São Brás de Alportel enche-se de flores para celebrar o regresso à vida do filho de Deus. O trajeto da romaria, com cerca de um quilometro de extensão, é todo ele enfeitado com um longo, colorido e extremamente bonito tapete de flores, através do qual a procissão vai avançando. Além do chão, a procissão também se faz de muitas tochas enfeitadas e embelezadas com flores numa festa de cor, cheiro, beleza e ressurreição. Os relatos antigos contam que esta festa começou quando muitas confrarias, por falta de fundos para adquirirem as grandes velas que os acompanhavam nas romarias, começaram a usar paus pintados e ornamentados com flores que tinham apenas uma pequena vela acesa no topo. Algumas confrarias foram-se extinguindo e as outras até podem ter hoje em dia o dinheiro para as velas, mas a verdade é que esta tradição veio para ficar. As cores das tochas são uma multiplicidade que reflecte as antigas opas e estandartes dos confrades. Hoje em dia esta é, provavelmente, a festividade pascal que mais pessoas atrai no Algarve, com muitos milhares a deslocarem-se até São Brás de Alportel para ver as tochas floridas e o belo tapete de um quilometro criado com mais de 3000 toneladas de flores. 🇵🇹

**T**he Caves Youth Centre was designed for young people by young people.

It's a safe, warm, vibrant place where young people in Guernsey can come and take part in a huge spectrum of activities, workshops, work experience, courses and training or, simply "hang out and chill". The vision of The Caves manager, and board of directors, is for the building to be used by young people, or young people supporting agencies as much as possible. This will ensure young people can develop their skills and reach their full potential. The Caves is also a place that enables the development of good quality relationships between young people and their peers, as well as between young people and adults, but it is also respectful of individuality.

### Ground Floor

The ground floor was designed to function as a youth café. This is an alternative, much cheaper, friendlier environment where young people can engage in many activities. Whether it's learning barista and waiting skills, gaining positive self-lifting work experience, or simply engaging in fun, alternative activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. Those that are looking for that "hang out and chill area", can make themselves comfy on a sofa and play board games. They can also use Facebook and Twitter, play on the X-box, watch TV, or relax over a movie with access to Lavazza hot drinks and amazing Frappes.

### First Floor

The first floor is for those that may be a little more active. There is a huge open space that can be used for various exercise classes, such



The Caves Boxing Initiative

as Zumba, Step, Yoga, Circuits, Boxercise and much more. It's perfect for those with a little more energy. As well as an open space being available for hire there is also scope to use this part of the building for meetings, courses and training or young person centred events. This section can also be used as a youth club like area. There is a choice of rolling out a pool and table tennis table as well as having a relaxing, comfy beanbag area situated around a 70 inch TV.

### The Caves Boxing Initiative

The Caves will run a new anger management and boxing programme for a six-week duration. It will incorporate a wide range of strategies to overcome anger issues and provide a hobby that can channel anger and aggressive behaviour.



Boxing is a highly disciplined sport that requires huge amounts of controlled aggression. It is a great way of learning how to deal with wild and aggressive behaviour, and has been used as an intervention technique in anger management for decades.

“Boxing encourages discipline, integration and respect, can help combat obesity and promotes anti-bullying messages, which works for pupils. I know - it worked for me.”

*Amir Khan*

This course is available to any young person (aged 11-16 yrs) and there is no cost as Nicky Jenkins (Course Instructor) is kindly offering her time for free.

### **.b Mindfulness**

Mindfulness has been shown to improve mental health and well-being and can help young people to cope with stress, change in their lives and improve concentration.

.b stands for “Stop, Breathe and Be!” This simple act of mindfulness provides the kernel of the nine session .b mindfulness course for schools. Written by three experienced classroom teachers and mindfulness practitioners, Richard Burnett, Chris Cullen



and Chris O’Neil, .b is carefully crafted to engage everyone, including the most cynical of student audiences. It is taught with striking visuals, film clips and activities that bring mindfulness to life without losing the precision, expertise and integrity of classic mindfulness teaching.

### **The Caves - Fitness and alternate exercise classes**

The Caves will also be running alternate exercise classes for young people that may not have access to gym facilities or memberships. A variety of new self-confidence building classes will run from The Caves on a Wednesday afternoon between 16:00 and 19:00, and Saturday morning between 10:00 and 12:00. All classes will run from our first floor, and will be run by instructors who have years of experience and knowledge in their fields.

Young people ages 11-18 will be able to take part in the following classes for free - ZUMBA, YOGA, BOXERCISE, KICKBOXING, PILATES, KUNG-FU, BREAKDANCE, STREETDANCE.

To get involved and sign up to these classes, please visit our Facebook page - The Caves Youth Centre OR drop in at The Caves to sign up.

### **POP-UP Cafés at The Caves**

What is a POP-UP Café? - A Pop-Up Café is a temporary exhibition that will showcase and up-skill young people interested in gaining qualifications or experience in the hospitality industry.



The general public are welcome to young people run Pop-up cafés. Which are run by Charities such as Action for Children. In future, we hope to create partnerships with other young people supporting agencies so we can run as many pop-up cafés as possible.

These pop-up cafés rely on local businesses as well as neighbours, the more people that come in, the more realistic the work experience will be. So next time you get a flyer or see a poster promoting a pop-up Café at The Caves, please pop in and support Guernsey's young people. Traditional Youth Clubs.

Many youth clubs are set up to provide young people with activities designed to keep them off the streets and out of trouble, as-well as providing them with positive new activities. Youth clubs will be running most days of the week and will be targeting all young people, here is a breakdown of the nights and opening times:

Monday - **The Shed Youth Club** (11-18 yrs)

Open: 15:15-17:30

Tuesday - **General Public Café**

Open: 8:00-13:30

Wednesday - **Fitness Classes**

Open: 16:00-19:00

Thursday - **General Public Café**

Open: 8:00-13:30

Thursday - **The Caves** (11-16 yrs)


Open: 18:30-21:00

Friday - **The Caves** (11-16 yrs)

Open: 18:30-21:30

Saturday - **Youth Drop-In**

Open: 12:00-17:00

All clubs will get the opportunity to use outside professional agencies to attend their evenings, as well as having access to the ground floor and first floor. These offer a huge range of activities and chill out spaces. 

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



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# GEOCACHING

By Jacky Fry



Worldwide interest is surging in Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt for all ages. There are over 2.3 million geocaches and more than 6 million geocachers worldwide. There are plenty of opportunities to play the game in the Channel Islands and there are now more than 200 live caches in Guernsey, with many more in Herm, Sark and Alderney.


What is Geocaching? It is a treasure hunt that combines the pleasure of the outdoors with the latest in technology. There are caches hidden all over the world. Usually they take the form of a small Tupperware box filled with swappable goodies. Their location is recorded on the geocaching.com website in the form of co-ordinates which can easily be tracked with a GPS or any smart phone using the geocaching app.

Load up the co-ordinates then off you go in search of the cache. They are never buried, but sometimes camouflaged, and your hunt often takes you to the most interesting places. All the family can join in, too.

When you find a cache, you sign the logbook then log your find on the geocaching.com website. That way, all activity can be tracked and the site automatically tots up your visits.

It is amazing how many tourists geocache. Looking at the logs one can see that no sooner have people arrived on cruise liners than they go and look for a geocache to add to their tally.

As your interest develops, you may wish to start setting your own caches. Provided they are not within 500ft of another cache and they are not on private property, place your cache in an interesting spot and submit it for review and approval. When your cache is published you will be notified automatically about successful or unsuccessful visits.

There are many other twists to this absorbing game. There are tutorials on the excellent website at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) where you can sign up for free. For a small annual membership fee you will have access to a wider range of facilities and to extra 'premium' caches. 



# ST PETER PORT IN THE STUART ERA 1603-1830

By Dr Gregory Stevens Cox

*Dr Stevens Cox, author of 'St Peter Port 1680 - 1830, The story of an international entrepot', gives us a fascinating look at the parish in the 18th century.*

St Peter Port experienced mixed fortunes in the seventeenth century. A succession of difficulties challenged the townsfolk. Plague continued to visit the town, inflicting mortality crises in 1606, 1615, 1626, and 1629-1630. An act of the Royal Court of 26 August 1629 ordered that those suffering from the plague should be lodged at the Maladrie by the lands of Jean de Quetteville, at Rocques-es-Chevres. And that corpses of plague victims should be interred at the Cimetiere des Freres, at the time used as a garden by Thomas Blanche. In isolating the living victims and using plague pits for the dead victims, the Guernsey authorities were following strategies well tested in many European cities from the fourteenth century onwards.

The Tudor strictures about begging, drunkenness, and fornication were repeated in 1611. There were measures to deter foreigners settling on the island; residence needed the permission of the Governor. Butchers, fishmongers, bakers, and tavern-keepers were carefully controlled. Householders in Town had to clean the street or lane abutting their property on a Wednesday and Saturday.



The harbour in 1680

The northern sections of the harbour were not completed until the 18th century. It was only in the 19th century that the outer harbour was built and it linked Castle Cornet to the mainland. Reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Court

Gambling was frowned upon, an ordinance of 1613-4 provided for the return of losses greater than 60 sous.

There were some urban improvements. In 1625, Jean de Quetteville was instructed to bring 'un paveur' to St Peter Port, to pave the streets of St Peter Port. Unplanned building of houses and shops in the town had created some problems. Therefore, an ordinance of 1628 required anyone in town to seek permission from the Constable and six members of the douzaine before starting a building project.





M. de Sausmarez

A merchant who organised the sale in Paris of large quantities of woollen stockings knitted in Guernsey

The authorities were eager to promote Protestantism. In 1614-15, there was a hunt to unearth any Papist books that remained in people's houses. They were to be destroyed. Sunday was to be kept holy; taverns, dancing, and racy songs were forbidden (1635; 1653).

There was friction between the islanders and English government officials. Contrary to

English legislation, the islanders grew their own tobacco and this soured relations. The English wished the islanders to smoke taxed tobacco from their American colonies. The islanders for their part were disgruntled that the English authorities did little to check the Moorish pirates who harassed shipping in the Channel, disrupting trade.

When the English Civil War broke out in 1642, the islanders were divided in their loyalties. Support for the Parliamentary party came from some prominent families, and Guernsey declared for Parliament. Castle Cornet, however, was held by Royalist forces. There was consequently a local civil war, castle versus town. A great many cannonballs were fired from the castle at St Peter Port. The townsfolk took defensive measures. States meetings were moved from the Plaiderie (within range of the castle guns) to Elizabeth College area (outside the gun range!). The bombardments created some physical damage but apparently only two people were killed - one of whom supported the king! Eventually



Castle Cornet prior to the explosion

In December 1672 a shaft of lightning struck Castle Cornet, hitting the chamber where gunpowder was stored. There was a vast explosion and the keep was blown to pieces. This depicts the castle prior to the explosion. The keep was not restored.



the Parliamentary forces in England emerged triumphant. They quickly subdued the island of Jersey, which had supported Charles I throughout, and then compelled the surrender of Castle Cornet.

On the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Charles II graciously pardoned Guernsey for having sided with the enemies of Charles I. From this time onwards the economic fortunes of Guernsey steadily improved. Guernsey merchants became involved in the international trade that centred on St Malo. St Malo was enjoying its golden age. The Malouins made fortunes in Cadiz, trafficking in silver. There was also an extensive trade between St Malo and England. Textiles, lace, oil, soap, port, hemp, cordage, and honey were exported from St Malo to England; in return the Malouins imported draperies, tin, lead, coal, slate, hides, beef, herring, sardines, and tallow. The Malouins distrusted the English and Guernsey merchants looked after much of the shipping for them.

The seventeenth century saw improvements to the harbour. In 1680 Colonel Legge reported that the town 'hath a small Peere that is not as yet finished that will hold about 20 or 30 saile of small vessels which lyes drye every tyde the water flowes 36 foot up and downe at spring tides. There is a very great conveniency of making it a very safe harbour by joyneing some of the rocks one to another by works fit for that purpose and taking in Castle Coirnett for the better defence of the said harbour.' In fact, the linking of harbour to castle was not effected until two hundred years later. 📍

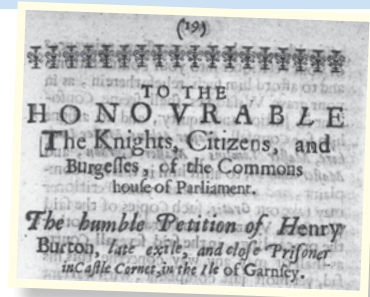
## Bibliography

D.M. Ogier - *Reformation and Society in Guernsey, 1996*

A.J. Eagleston - *The Channel Islands under Tudor Government, 1949*

## Duties of the constables

- to set the watch at night;
- to make search for stolen goods;
- to take an account of all strangers who come;
- to receive from the vintanniers all taxes;
- to visit all taverns and to taste 'the beer, cider and wine';
- to take care that none go wandering about begging
- to visit bakers and see that bread be of such weight as by law it ought to be.



## PETITION for the release of Henry Burton from Castle Cornet

Henry Burton was a puritan divine who attacked Anglican bishops in a sermon (he called them 'anti-Christian mushrooms'). He was arrested and punished. On 1 November 1637 he was sent to Guernsey, where he arrived on 15 December and was shut up in a cell at Castle Cornet. Here he had no books except his bibles in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French, and an ecclesiastical history in Greek, but he managed to get pen, ink, and paper, and wrote two books, which were not printed.

On 7 November 1640 his wife presented a petition to the House of Commons for his release, and on 10 November the house ordered him to be sent to London. The order arrived at Guernsey on Sunday, 15 November and Burton embarked on the 21st.

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# FLORAL ST PETER PORT

By Katina Jones and Ann Jennings

Floral St Peter Port will represent the Bailiwick this year in the RHS Britain in Bloom, and we are asking for your help. As 2014 is 50 golden years for the RHS, they are asking everyone to plant gold coloured flowers such as sunflowers, which children love to plant, but there are many others as well.

As it is also 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, planting poppies and cornflowers would be a lovely way of showing respect, as the French soldiers wore cornflowers in their lapels.


“Friends of St Peter Port” are asking for more sponsors and sponsorship. It is a great way of getting company logos onto our planters for advertising. Please contact Helen Storey on 736917 for more information.

The Parish Floral Competitions will take place in July, so please fill in the form in this magazine and send it back to the office. The



awards evening date will be decided after this magazine has been delivered, but all will get an invitation in the post to our own end of entry at Castle Cornet.

Please get in touch with us to update your contact details as data was lost recently due to a computer disaster.

If you can help in any way or would like more information, please contact Katina on 725103 or email [Katina.jones@cwgsy.net](mailto:Katina.jones@cwgsy.net) 





## *Have you ever wondered how much work goes into a floral entry?*

The floral group work hard behind the scenes for many months on different projects before being judged each year, some of which can take a long time to come to full bloom. You may have noticed a distinctive yellow glow around the parish this spring which is due to daffodils being planted in various locations over the years.

The Sunken Garden, Rue Margarite and Val Des Terres all needed an uplift so thousands of daffodils have been planted in these neglected areas creating colour, diversity and hopefully putting a smile on everyone's face as they drive in and out of our town.

Last year we added daffodil bulbs to the mound of waste ground in the Salerie car park which is now in full bloom and have been delighted with the amount of butterflies and other insects that have been feeding there. It is good to know that even a car park helps insects if planted with flowers.

Part of our biodiversity plan is to increase the pollinator areas in our town, creating an added dimension not only to our floral displays but to encourage others to participate as well. The Petanque area has been a success story as it was well used by a great variety of bees all summer, adding to the honey pots all over the island.

Children were also asked to plant bee friendly flowers and plants and many schools took part in this initiative, adding to flower beds and planters, supporting the bees and providing bee hotels for them to dine in.

So as you can see, the task is on- going within our parish and we now have support from different sub committees within the Douzaine. We all work together to make St Peter Port sustainable and enjoyable for all who use it. 🌱



# THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

*In this edition of the Townie Douzenier Rob Grant has selected four photographs from very different parts of the town, to see the changes that have taken place over the last 100 years. We hope you enjoy them. Old photographs courtesy of the Carel Toms collection at the Priaulx Library.*



Two photographs taken exactly 100 years apart, February 4th 1914 and 2014. The old photograph shows the buildings which formerly stood in front of the Town Church, and which were demolished in 1916 during the widening of Fountain street. Our modern comparison shows a very different view, although the Albert statue and the old fountain have not changed.



Cornet street in the early 1930's, before all of the buildings on the right were pulled down during a massive slum clearance programme. Also demolished was the building directly in front, behind which remains the National Trust shop.







The area around Trinity Square in the early 1950's was dominated by Stanley Noel's garages. Apart from the building on the immediate right nothing now appears to remain from the earlier photograph, although the Town Mills building shown top left is still there, now hidden behind the new large finance house building.



In the early 1930's an orchard in Upland road was transformed and the old Strangers cemetery was removed. Our early photograph, taken in Spring 1934, shows the road being laid out. Three years later the Regal (later Odeon) cinema was built here. Since then the cinema has gone and houses have been built all around what is now a car park.

# A MEMORIAL TO ALLIED AIRCREW

By Mike Snelling and Simon Hamon

## *A Memorial to honour those Allied aircrew who died in Bailiwick waters during WWII*

If you were asked “How many allied aircrew died around the Bailiwick during WWII?” Apart from “Don’t know”, what would you guess? Maybe a dozen? Well the current answer is 139. This comes from research carried out over the last thirty years by John Goodwin, the archivist of the Occupation Society. The other remarkable thing or, maybe not so remarkable when you think of how many nations were in the allied cause, is the variety of nationalities. The majority, around 90, were from the USAAF. The other casualties were from the RAF, including Polish and Czech crews, the RAAF, the RCAF and the RNZAF.

Flying in action during WWII was hazardous and uncomfortable. The aircraft were primitive and difficult to operate. They lacked the safety systems we are now used to. No ejection seats - just a manual bail out so if you were below 700ft, it was a crash landing or ditching. That is if you were lucky enough still to have control of the aircraft.

Aircraft were unpressurized and largely unheated. A long trip at altitude would be very cold so you would need to wear a huge

amount of kit to stay even faintly warm. The tail gunner of a Lancaster would freeze whilst the navigator would cook because that was the way the heating was. The waist gunners of a B17 looked out for attacking fighters through open hatches - very draughty. The flight time for these “heavies” could be up to 7 or 8 hours. So it was not only noisy, cold and uncomfortable but, when the opposition turned up, very frightening.

Remember, you were probably sitting surrounded by several tons of petrol.

Oh and you had to go and do it all again the next day.

Despite this high level of adversity and risk these men “pressed on” to use the phrase of the time and around the island 139 of them did not return to base. They died to give us the freedom

we now enjoy. Right now there is no local memorial but there soon will be. In September 2015, during Battle of Britain week, this memorial, being designed and built at the airport, will be unveiled. 🇬🇧

**Please help by making a donation to the Allied Aircrew Memorial fund at RAFA, Fosse Andre, GY1 1XZ**



# JAROSLAVA NOVÁKA

By John Goodwin

On 14th May 1943, an Allied air attack took place over St Peter Port. The raid, named 'Roadstead 2', was laid on as an anti-shiping strike against reported E-Boats off St Peter Port harbour. The attack took place at 20:30 hours with 23 attacking Spitfires from both 312 and 313 Squadrons approaching Guernsey at wave top height.

The Germans saw the aircraft approaching. The alarm was raised, the anti-aircraft Flak guns defending the harbour put up a huge wall of Flak in defence. It was all calibres and colours, including machine gunfire. Despite this, the aircraft pushed home their attack on a convoy consisting of twelve boats, claiming four hit, with three damaged and one probably sunk, they, in fact, did not sink any. They had also fired in retaliation towards Bréhon Tower. Later reports showed that one crew member died, and another was badly wounded.

The pilots described the action that evening as complete hell. With flak bursting all around the aircraft which made it difficult in manoeuvring because of flying so close together. They couldn't go higher, as the flak was bursting above them, they couldn't go lower, because they felt their propellers were already too close to the waves. So they bunched together and were stuck flying in a narrow corridor, banking over to make the attack.

One pilot was 27 year old Flight Officer Jaroslava Nováka (shown as Jaroslav Novak in RAF records) 117370 of 312 Czech Squadron. Novak's aircraft was a Mk Vb Spitfire EP539 with the squadron code DU - C. It received a hit in the starboard side of the engine which immediately billowed with thick black smoke;



his starboard wingtip was also shot off. So he turned his aircraft away from the harbour heading south east with three other aircraft in his flight following.

Novak radioed to say he was going to try to parachute out, but he could not get the Spitfire to climb any higher than the 100 feet that he was at. He decided to make an emergency crash landing on the sea. He jettisoned his canopy, just after that his engine stopped. He glided down, well away from the coast, trying to avoid the flak from the coastal batteries which had now joined in shooting at them. His comrades knew he could not avoid the crash and radioed him, "Goodbye Yardeskie and good luck". He replied "Goodbye boys give my best wishes..." the message cut off. His last words were no doubt intended to his young wife, whom he had married just a few weeks earlier. He struck the water at speed; the sea was rough that day. Only the red, white and blue stripes on his tail fin were visible to his comrades as they circled overhead. Novak was no doubt killed on impact; his body was sadly never recovered. T

# THE GERMANS DEFENCES OF ST PETER PORT

## Part 2 - The Beach Defences (North)

By Paul Bourgaize

*Paul Bourgaize, of Festung Guernsey, looks at the impact of the German occupation on the parish.*

During the next few articles we will be covering the various options open the Festung Kommandant (Fortress Commander) should an enemy assault take place. This article will focus on the beach defences, which by the nature of the St Peter Port coastline were nowhere near as extensive as those on the west coast with its flat sandy beaches ideal for an amphibious landing.

The coastline was divided into coastal defence sectors, and a series of Stützpunkte (strongpoints) and Weiderstandsnests (resistance nests) were built. These groups of bunkers were designed to be mutually supporting, and while the main focus was

from the direction of the sea, in some cases where large flat inland areas were present, weapons were engaged to counter possible airborne troops landing behind the defensive front line.

Mined underwater obstacles were laid along the width of Bellegreve Bay ending at Salerie Corner, and again across Havelet Bay. These would be set at the half tide mark and with the addition of a teller-mine would be extremely effective against landing craft. These obstacles would be either concrete or steel tetrahedra or Czech hedgehogs which were simply crossed sections of heavy steel angle.

At the top of the beach would be an impenetrable line of barb-wire fixed to steel posts filling the gaps between the various fortifications.



Infantry strong-points and resistance nests (Festung Guernsey Archives)





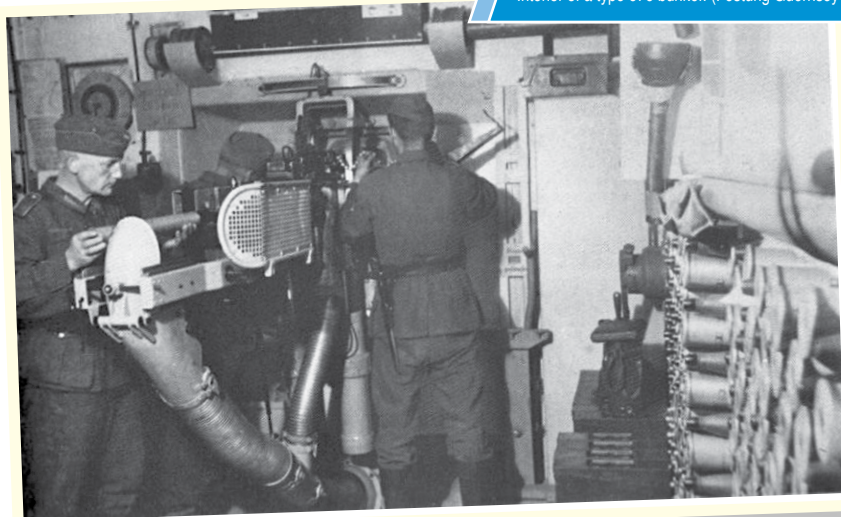
Czech hedgehog left and tetrahedral

The main armaments used in the beach defences were both weapons that had been captured in large numbers as the German forces moved through and occupied countries across Europe.

The Czechoslovakian made 4cm Viz 36 anti-tank gun was a fortress weapon fitted in a heavy steel embrasure, and these were removed to equip the fortifications along the Atlantic Wall.

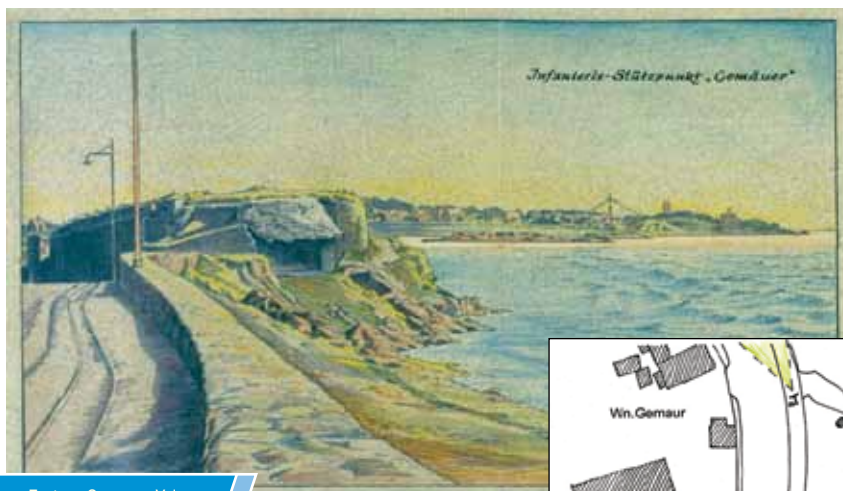
Re-designated the 4.7cm Festungspak 36(t), the (t) standing for Tscheche (Czech) the German engineers found this to be a very capable and reliable weapon. They made one modification and fitted a 100mm thick armoured plate in front of the embrasure that could be raised and lowered from inside the bunker. Spent shells from both the main gun and the machine gun would be directed into a pit outside the embrasure or below the gun room in the larger bunkers via flexible steel tube. Initially the guns were fitted into small rudimentary shelters, but these were soon superseded when the Organisation Todt arrived to commence the fortification construction programme proper. Two standard designs were used, the 676 and 631b.

The 631b had its own crew accommodation, ventilation room, entrance defence and ammunition room, and these were employed on the prime landing beaches on the west coast. The 676 is the structure we find on

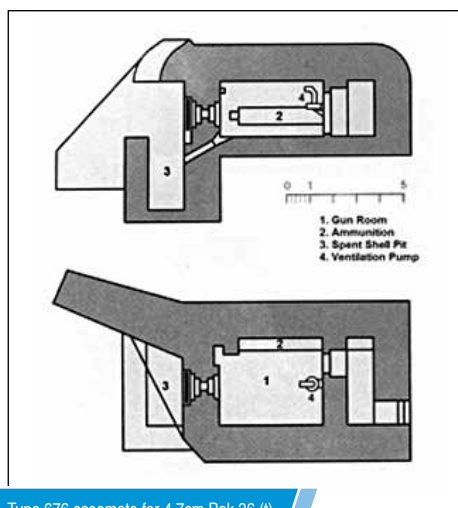
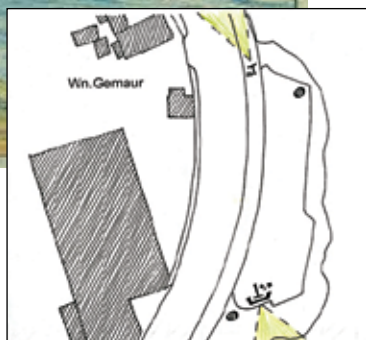


Interior of a type 676 bunker. (Festung Guernsey Archives)





Sketch from Festung Guernsey Volumes



Type 676 casemate for 4.7cm Pak 36 (t)

the east coast and contained all the required elements in one room and a small rear lobby. The crew would have no doubt have been billeted in one of the many houses nearby. The only example to found in St Peter Port is at Hougue a la Perre, a disused gun battery where the Germans constructed the resistance nest they named Wn.Gemaur. This small

defensive position lists a crew of 1 NCO and 10 men, and a Naval crew of 2 Petty Officers and ratings at Alarm stage 2.

Besides the 4.7 Pak with its integral ZB machine-gun, the position also included a 3.7 Pak gun in a granite and sand bagged emplacement covering the bay as well as the rear approach from the direction of the Red Lion. Two MG 34 machine-guns in tobruk pits, and two defensive flamethrowers. The base of one flame thrower is still visible built into the outer face of the sea wall.

The next resistance nest we encounter is at Salerie Corner, named Wn.Peterseck. This was manned by 1 NCO and 10 naval ratings under combat conditions, but under normal circumstances a skeleton crew of 1 NCO and 3 ratings. Weapons here consisted of two 2cm Flak guns, two 7.5cm machine-guns and a machine-gun in a French tank turret.



3.7cm Pak 36 anti-tank gun below and above, MG34 machine-gun in Tobruk pit. (Festung Guernsey Volumes)

It was tasked with supporting its neighbouring positions at Gemaur and Havenreserve at the base of St Julian's Avenue.

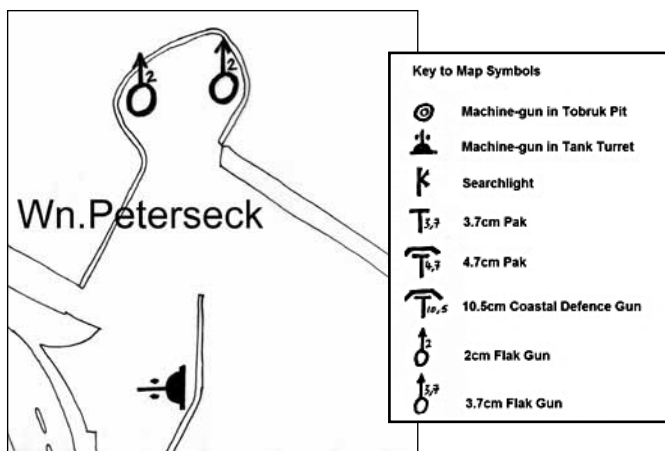
Unfortunately all German construction at this site was removed shortly after Liberation. With the exception of a few traces of concrete on the granite flag stones and some cut off barbed wire stakes on the wall behind the recycling bins no other traces remain. Having studied wartime aerial reconnaissance photos taken by the RAF it is possible to see a number of weapon positions built against the



Photo taken by Major Rice after Liberation of a type 676 bunker for 4.7 Pak viewed from the front showing the spent shell pit and armoured shield in the raised position. (National Archives)

outer walls. While the position of the tank turret is fairly clear, we have not been able to confirm the exact locations of the flak guns.

We would welcome any information that readers may have on what was to be found here. [T](#)



A message from our

## LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE

By Lilita Krūze



Easter is the peak of the Christian Church year. Everything has one goal, preparing Christians for Easter celebration. Latvia, however, is a country where almost every feast encompasses Christian and Pagan traditions. Easter is also time for celebrating the spring solstice, when, according to Latvian traditional beliefs and rituals, people try to help the soil wake up and become fertile, by encouraging its benevolence. Traditional Easter activities include painting eggs with natural colours, egg rolling, egg battles and swinging in the highest place in the surroundings.

Jāņi is a Latvian festival held in the night from 23 to 24 June to celebrate the summer solstice (Midsummer), the shortest night and longest day of the year. Those days are public holidays, and people usually spend them in the countryside. The festival's eve Jāņu vakars is held in the evening of 23 June and goes on all through the night Jāņu nakts, where people Līgo (sway) into the following day.

Jānis is traditionally the most common male name. Everybody with the name Jānis holds a special honour on this day and wears an oak wreath. There are more than 2000 Dainas about Ligo. Traditional home decorations are birch or oak branches, and flowers as well as leaves. Women wear wreaths made from flowers. Young couples traditionally search for the fern flower.


Another important detail is fire: a festival fire must be kept from sunset until sunrise. Usually these are bonfires, which traditionally people jump over to ensure prosperity and fertility.

Traditional food during Jāņi is a special type of cheese with caraway seeds, and the traditional drink is beer.

On 4 May 1990, the Supreme Council of the Latvian SSR adopted the Declaration "On the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia" and renewed the 1922 Constitution of Latvia. The entering of the USSR army in Latvia on 17 June 1940 was declared an international crime against the Latvian state. The Supreme Council declared Latvia an independent and democratic state and set a transition period for restoring Latvian rule de facto. The Constitution was fully restored by the first assembly of the fifth Saeima, and this fact was subsequently announced to the administrations of the USSR and other countries.

The Independence of Latvia was proclaimed on 18 November 1918 at the Latvian National Theatre. This day in Latvia is a public holiday. Various events take place across the country throughout the day. In Riga the celebration begins on the first half of the day with a parade and laying of flowers at the Freedom Monument with participation of the President of Latvia and other important government officials. Public transport is free of charge.

Although far from home, Latvians who live and work in Guernsey, closely monitor the developments at home. During Easter and Christmas time we hold church services in Town Church in Latvian language. Very popular are Latvian National Day celebrations on 18 November.

More information available at the Facebook page Guernsey Latvian Association and [www.draugiem.lv](http://www.draugiem.lv) subgroup Latvieši Gērnzijā (Latvians in Guernsey). 

# LATVIEŠI GĒRNZIJĀ

By Lilita Krūze



Šajā rakstā pievērsīsimies pavasara-vasaras svētkiem. Latviešu tautas tradīcijās Lieldienas iezīmējušas pavasara punktu, kad diena kļūst garāka par nakti. Svarīgs svētku priekšdarbs latviešiem allaž ir bijusi tīrība gan mājā, gan laukā. Telpas izrotāja ar pūpoliem, plaucētiem bērzu un lazdu zariem, krāsotām olām. Lai iemantotu veselību, laudis cēlās pirms saules lēkta un steidzās mazgāt seju tekošā ūdenī, kas tecēja pret rītiem. Pēc sejas mazgāšanas gājuši modināt vēl gulējošos, šaustīdami viņus ar pūpolu un izplaucētu bērzu zariem, sakot: „Pūpol, pūpol, apaļš kā pūpols!” Šaustītājus pēc tam cienājuši ar plāceņiem un krāsotām olām.

Olu krāsošana, ripināšana un šūpošanās ir galvenās tradīcijas, kas saglabājušās līdz šodienai. Visgarākās rindas ir pie šūpolēm, jo jebkurš vēlas izšūpoties, lai vasarā nekostu odi. Ļoti svarīga loma Lieldienās ir olai. To rotā ar dabas materiāliem- ietin sīpolu mizās, bērzu lapās, zāles stiebrus, aptin ar audumu un vāra.. Šādā veidā katra ola iegūst unikālu rakstu. Olai tiek piedēvēts auglības un dzīvības spēks.

Vasaras saulgriežos, kad visgaŗākai dienai seko visīsākā nakts, latvieši svin Jāņus. Tagadējā kalendārā īstā Jāņu diena ir 24.jūnijā. Jau labu laiku pirms Jāņiem dzirdamas dziesmas ar piedziedājumu “Līgo”. Šo svētku svinēšanai ir vairāk nekā 2000 daīnu. Zāļu diena, kas ir pirms Jāņiem, ir lauku ziedu un zāļu vākšanas laiks. Sievas pin ziedu vainagus un liek galvā, vīri pin ozollapu vainagus. Jāņus sagaidot, pušķo ēkas.. Pušķošanai lieto ozola zarus un vainagus, bērza meijas, lapas,ziedus un zāļu pušķus. Kad visi Jāņu priekšdarbi padarīti, ļaudis pošas uz Jāņu svinībām, kuŗu galvenās norises ir: Jāņu mielasts ar Jāņa daudzīnāšanu, Jāņa ierašanās sētā, aplīgošana, Jāņu bērnu uzņēšana un Jāņu uguns dedzīnāšana. Jāņos dzer alu un ēd sieru. Kad saule nogājusi, apkārtņē viena pēc otras iedegas jāņugunis. Līgošana pie Jāņu uguns


turpinās visu cauru nakti. Tradicionāla ir lēkšana pāri ugunskuram un papardes zieda meklēšana. Līdzās tradicionālajiem svētkiem Latvijā svin valsts svētkus.

Ik katru gadu 4.maijs ir valsts svētku diena - šajā datumā 1990.gadā Latvijas PSR Augstākā Padome pieņēma deklarāciju “Par Latvijas Republikas neatkarības atjaunošanu” un pēc gadu desmitiem Padomju Savienības sastāvā Latvija atkal kļuva par brīvu un neatkarīgu valsti. Šajā dienā notiek dažādi pasākumi: ekumeniski dievkalpojumi, svinīga Latvijas karoga pacelšana,

1918.gada 18.novembrī Latvijas Nacionālajā teātrī tika pasludināta neatkarīga Latvijas valsts. Šī diena Latvijā ir svētku diena. 18.novembrī visas dienas garumā notiek dažādi pasākumi visā Latvijā. Rīgā, Latvijas galvaspilsētā, svinības sākas dienas pirmajā pusē ar svinīgo gājienu un ziedu nolikšanu pie Brīvības pieminekļa, tajā piedalās arī Latvijas valsts prezidents un citas valsts augstākās amatpersonas.

11.Novembra krastmalā notiek svinīgā Nacionālo bruņoto spēku parāde, vakarpusē pilsētā notiek lāpu gājiens. Svētku diena Rīgā noslēdzas ar krāšņu ugunošanu virs Daugavas. Šajā dienā sabiedriskais transports Rīgā ir bez maksas.

Kaut arī tālu no dzimtenes, latvieši, kas dzīvo un strādā Gērnzijā, cītīgi seko līdzī notikumiem mājās un svin svētkus. Pilsētas baznīcā Lieldienu un Ziemassvētku laikā notiek dievkalpojumi latviešu valodā. Ļoti populārs ir 18. novembra valsts svētku pasākums, kas pulcē gan latviešus, gan cittautiešus.

Vairāk informācijas varat lasīt Facebook lapā Guernsey Latvian Association, kā arī [www.draugiem.lv](http://www.draugiem.lv) grupā Latvieši Gērnzijā. 

# WASTE COMMITTEE UPDATE... KERBSIDE RECYCLING

By Douzenier Neil Forman

**M**arch 10th saw a new beginning in Guernsey's refuse collection. Recycling is now being collected from your door along with your normal household refuse.

Everybody should have now received their recycling kits, these consist of clear bags, blue bags, information booklet and a spinning wheel which shows where all other items should be taken for recycling. On the back of this wheel is a calendar showing which bags will be collected on which days. If you have not received your kit, please contact Public Services on 234699.

## Why recycle?

Mont Cuet is expected to be full by 2022, this is our last landfill site and our refuse will then be sent off island. The more we can recycle, the less it will cost us to ship our rubbish. It also saves our resources, recycling old products

is cheaper and reduces the need to use natural resources. The kerbside recycling trial is free until 2016, after that we will be paying.

## When do I recycle?

St Peter Port households will still have two black bag collections each week. The recycling bag will be collected on one of these days, the bag colour will alternate weekly. The recycling day is shown in the yellow circle on the front of the booklet you received.

## What goes into the bags?

**Clear bag:** Paper and cardboard only, including old newspapers, magazines, envelopes and shredded paper. (Items must be clean and not contaminated with food).

**Blue bag:** Tins and cans, aerosol cans (including plastic lids), aluminium foil, take away containers, bottle tops, can lids, plastic bottles, tubs, trays and pots. Food packaging





and packaging from drinks, cosmetics, toiletries and cleaning products. Plastic bottle caps, food, drink, soup and milk cartons. (No black plastic, please make sure all items are clean and food containers have been washed).

**Black bag:** Food waste, black plastic, film from ready meals or meat packaging. Crisp packets, contaminated paper and cardboard, nappies, plastic coal sacks and any other plastic items other than packaging.

The Constables, Waste committee along with Matt Polson of Integrated Skills Limited, have

also set up a website detailing collection days with a calendar. It also shows what goes in what colour sack.

The link for this site can be found on the St Peter Port Constables website: [www.stppcons.com](http://www.stppcons.com). It also contains a link to the recycling service website.

In case you have lost your booklet, or do not have access to the internet, we have provided the collection days for recycling. (It is important to note that this is a trial period, some collection days may change, this information is correct at time of printing).



[www.stppcons.com](http://www.stppcons.com)

By entering your address, details of your waste collection will be shown, as in the example below

Mon Evening	Tues Evening	Wed Evening	Thu Evening	Fri Evening	Sat Evening	Sun Evening
		Residual waste - Wednesday evening 12 March				
	Cans and plastic - Sunday evening 16 March					
		Paper and card - Sunday evening 23 March				
10 Mar	11 Mar	12 Mar Residual waste	13 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar	16 Mar Residual waste Cans and plastic
17 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar Residual waste	20 Mar	21 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar Residual waste Paper and card
24 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar Residual waste	27 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar Residual waste Cans and plastic
31 Mar	01 Apr	02 Apr Residual waste	03 Apr	04 Apr	05 Apr	06 Apr Residual waste Paper and card
07 Apr	08 Apr	09 Apr Residual waste	10 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr Residual waste Cans and plastic

## These are the collection days, please put the sacks out the night before.

**Mondays:** Collings Road (including Clairval, Valnord and Mahaut Gardens), Fosse Andre (La Couture to Maurepas), Le Foulon, Les Gravees, Green Lanes, Lower Vauvert, Maurepas Road, Millbrook Estate (La Couture to Guelles Road), Queens Road, Rohais, Rozel Road, St Jacques, Upper St Jacques, Valnord Lane, Ville au Roi, La Vrangue (Couture to Balmoral Estate), York Avenue (JDe Beauvoir to Stanley Road), Valnord Hill ( not Valnord Private Estate), Highfield Estate, La Couture & Choisi.

**Tuesdays:** Anns Place, Belmont Road, Berthelot Street (take to nearest junction), Church Square, Cordier Hill, Coronation Road, La Couperderie, Court Row, Courtil St Jacques, Les Croutes, Doyle Street, Elm Grove, Forest Lane, Fosse Andre, La Gibauderie, Gravees du Sud, High Street, Hirzel Street, Kings Road, Le Marchant Street, Lefebvre Street, Mount Durand, Mount Row, La Plaiderie, Le Pollet, Richmond Avenue, Rocquettes Lane, Les Rocquettes, Rosaire Avenue, Rouge Huis Avenue, Route Isabelle, Rue a L'or, Sir William Place, Smith Street, Stanley Road, Le Trochot, Valnord Private Estate, Le Vauquiedor, La Vrangue (Mont Arrive to Guelles Road), Water Lanes, York Avenue (Bottom section), Les Vauxlaurens, Clifton Steps, Commercial Arcade Flats (take to Market Steps), Constitution Steps, Pierre Percee (off Prince Albert Road), North Plantation (flats only), Dalgairns Road, Hospital Lane, Ivy Gates, Market Steps, Market Street (flats only), New Street.

**Wednesdays:** Allez Street, Cliff Street, Clifton, Colbourne Road, College Street, Croutes Havilland, Fermain Road, Fort Road, George Street, George Road, La Grange (Sausmarez Street to Havilland Street), Hauteville, Havelet, Havilland Road, Havilland Street, Havilland Vale (to

parish boundary), Rouge Rue (from St Johns Road down), Rougeval, Sausmarez Street, South Esplanade, St James Street, Union Street, Upland Road (Grange to Monument Road), Les Vardes, Vauvert, Arculon Lane, Damouettes Lane, Fermain Lane, Little St Johns Street, New Place, Strand.

**Thursdays:** Burnt Lane, Bouillonne Steps, Bouillon Lane, Mont Hermon, Valnord Road, Back Street, Les Banques, Le Bordage, La Charroterie, Contree Mansell, Cornet Street, Fountain Street, Gategny Esplanade, Grand Bouet Estate, La Grange (upper, above Havilland Street), Ivy Castle Lane, Lower Hauteville, Mansell Street, Mill Street, Oberlands (to hospital entrance), Les Ozouets (Collings Road to Water Lanes), Park Lane, Park Street, Pedvin Street, Prince Albert Road, Rue des Pres, Ruettes Brayes, St Georges Esplanade, Tower Hill, Trinity Square, Upper Mansell Street, Vauvert (lower Victoria Road to Trinity Square), Victoria Road, Victoria Terrace.

**Fridays:** North Esplanade, Paris Street, New Paris Road, Bruce Lane, Roseville Estate, Les Cotils, Les Amballes, Arsenal Road (Fire station flats only), Les Baissieres, Bosq Lane, Cambridge Park Road, Les Canichers, Route des Coutanchez, Footes Lane, l'Hyvreuse Avenue, Neuve Rue (including Couture Clos & Courtil Bris), Les Ozouets (Water Lanes to Les Baissieres), Piette Road, Pitronnerie Road, Pont Vaillant, La Ramee, Rouge Rue (top section, Mont Arrive to St Johns Road), St Johns Road, St Julians Avenue, St Clements Road, Upland Road (Monument Road to Candie).

**Saturdays:** First Tower Lane, Les Hubits, Amherst, Arsenal Road, Becquet Road, Bouet, Brock Road, Candie Road, Doyle Road, Fort George, Gas Lane, Grand Bouet, Guelles Road, Guelles Lane, Mont Arrive, Monument Gardens, Monument Road, Norman Terrace (Maurepas Road), Rue de Putron, Village de Putron.

# THE BIODIVERSITY OF BELLE GREVE BAY

By Jessi Jennings, Marine Biology Section, La Société Guernesiaise

In the summer of 2013, a survey was undertaken to create a biotope map of Belle Greve Bay. The aim of the study was to map the various biotope habitats depending on the energy level, the substrata and the species recorded in the area. Forty biotopes were identified during this study, ranging from LS.LMu (littoral sand, littoral mud) to SS.SMp.SSgr.Zmar (sublittoral macrophyte-dominant communities on sediments, sublittoral seagrass beds, *Zostera marina*/angustifolia beds on lower shore or infra-littoral clean or muddy sand).

The JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) classification guide gives a list of species that are found in each biotope, which was used to give an idea of species richness. However this list is of typical species found, so is not exhaustive of species that may be found in these biotopes at Belle Greve.

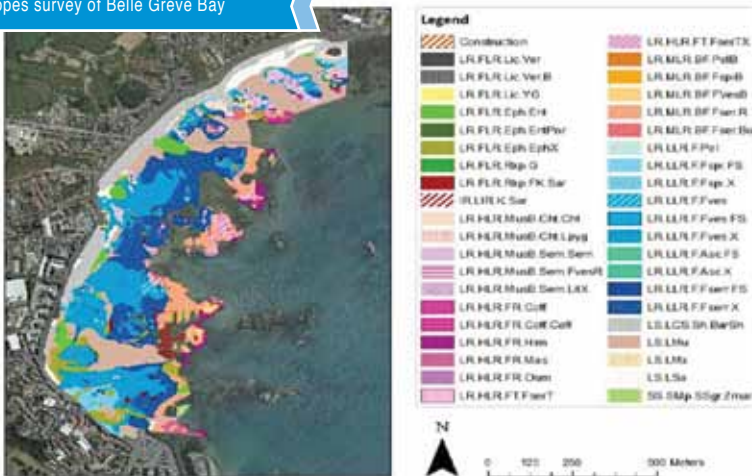
A number of non-native species were identified at Belle Greve Bay; these included *Sargassum muticum* (Japanese wireweed) and *Watersipora subtorquata* (bryozoan).

Belle Greve Bay experiences many natural and anthropogenic disturbances and pressures, which have impact upon the various biotopes in this area. Further investigation would be required to assess the damage to the area resulting from these ongoing disturbances and any potential development.

The full report, Belle Greve Bay Biodiversity Survey by Elise Gaborit-Schlosser, is available on request to members of La Société Guernesiaise.

For more information on anything in this article, or the Marine Biology Section of La Société Guernesiaise, please contact Jessi Jennings at [marinebiology@societe.org.gg](mailto:marinebiology@societe.org.gg)

Intertidal biotopes survey of Belle Greve Bay



La Société Guernesiaise, Figure 9 Belle Greve Biodiversity Survey, 2013

# ST PETER PORT CHURCH

By Rachel Meinke

*We are grateful to Rachel Meinke for providing the following fascinating article on this important town feature.*

This is not a scholarly historical treatise, merely encouragement to visit and perhaps come to love this wonderful place as I do. Many who pass by this ancient, historic heart of our Town, have never been inside. Please take time to visit, to sit, reflecting on the peace, beauty and atmosphere. Many stories are told within!

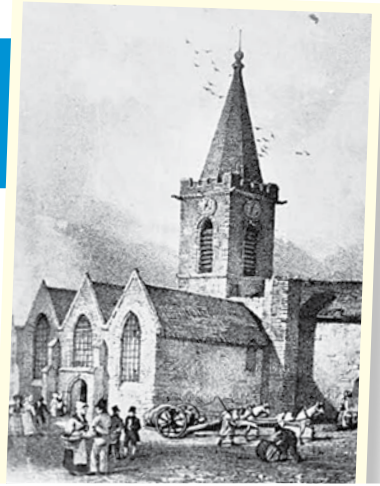
This Church features in the Guinness Book of Records! One of several gargoyles on the North-East corner which is only inches away from the Albion House make it the closest Church to a pub in the British Isles!

Even before the Romans arrived this wooded valley leading to the sea was blessed with fresh water streams, fish for the taking, animals for hunting and wood for building materials, shelter from prevailing winds - and a natural harbour.

Early people would have thrived and in their awareness of the numinous beauty of this place, would have worshipped here. Since earliest times this was a trading post with what is now France, Britain, and further afield. The Romans worshipped many Gods and there may have been a shrine near the streams from (now) Fountain and Mill Streets.

After the visit of Sampson in about 551 AD Christianity grew and little is known of life in this time. There was probably a place of worship here, perhaps of wood.

The first record of a Church on this site is a Deed in 1048 when Duke William of



St Peter Port Church in the late 18th century

Normandy (later The Conqueror) assigned all churches in his half of Guernsey to the Benedictine Abbot of Marmoutier, near Tours. Some other Island Churches remained in the care of Mont St Michel. After King John lost his lands in France in 1204, the Channel Islands remained English. A Papal edict granted neutrality and curtailed the French freedom of the seas. In 1496 the Islands were transferred to the See of Salisbury.

Look up to the steeple on the seaward side, which bears the inscription of Crossed Keys and the words: *Thou art Peter, and on this Rock will I build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.* It is dated 1721 and contains several historic Guernsey Family names.

On all sides the Church was crowded with shops, market booths, inns, houses, a Water Mill, public Lavoir, cemetery as far as Quay Street, and fish market to the south. Cow Lane, Church "Square", (anything but) was where imported cattle were swum ashore, butchered on arrival and sold on the spot. Gory consequences were washed away at each high-tide. Some outer buttresses were fitted out as urinals! Fountain



Street was a narrow venelle down to the Seafront. The Pillory stood in Rue du Pilon, now Quay Street and there was plenty of muck about to throw about!

Near the North Porch in Church Square is a Memorial Plaque to Major General Sir Isaac Brock, Guernseyman who led (and died in) the battle at Queenston Heights, Canada, (1812) preventing Canada becoming American territory. The Porch Arch bears two carved hares, adopted as a symbol of resurrection, or Easter, possibly “borrowed” from earlier pre-Christian religious fertility/eternity symbolism.

Stonework from the 13th and 14th centuries is in the wall of the West Door. Outside the North-Aisle, where the Font stands, is chamfering cutting off the corner for ease of traffic in narrow streets.

In the 15th century, the crossing, the Tower and its support pillars were constructed. The Nave, Tower and Chancel are actually out of alignment!

Above the North or Lady Chapel, rededicated to Major General Sir Isaac Brock, was the

Ecclesiastical Court. Though this room is now gone, the supports are still visible on the pillars. Here were also kept the fire pumps and hoses.

Near the Purbeck Marble Font were kept the arms and ammunition of the local Militia. The thick stone walls and sturdy doors provided refuge in times of Pirate and French raids. These and the fire equipment were removed as Architect John Wilson who effected some repairs 1823-36 and also built the first market (meat, Les Arcades) and developed Fountain Street nos. 1-22.

With the advent of a Calvinism after the Reformation the sun, moon and stars painted



Buildings in front of the church, which were demolished in 1914





The old Carey house, which was demolished to make way for the Bonded Stores

on the roof's barrel vaulting in the Chancel were plastered over and other decorations removed.


Last built was the South Transept, with its wonderful century-old glass window, a riot of colour in the afternoon sunlight. My children played among brilliant dappling as it painted their hands and each other's faces. Restored in 1961, this oldest existing window survived Allied bombing in WW2, which wrecked most others. This largest Transept, in the now slightly wonky-shaped cross form, was the only area

where expansion was possible, into the old Churchyard.

Damage was done by Cannon shot in the Civil War, when the Town was "Roundhead" and Castle Cornet Royalist.

The Bishop's Throne sits left with Crook, inside the sanctuary. (Diocese of Winchester.) Some standards hang in the Chancel, representing Militia and Regimental colours, some very ancient.

On walls and floor are Memorial Tablets of so many Famous Guernseymen. Admiral James Saumarez is remembered, with his remarkable life story (though he was buried at Catel Church). So much history from the past 500 years is too much to mention here. Take time to read these outstanding lives at leisure.

There is so much more to tell, but alas, no more time or space! Besides, I am sure you will soon make your own discoveries too. 



St Peter Port Town Church Interior 1900's

# THE SOUTH SHOW

By Christine and Terry Guerin

In its heyday, the Show fields in Blanche Pierre Lane were alive with the sounds of horses, cows, hens and all sorts of other furry and feathery friends. Many of you will remember the old wooden swinging boats, roll a penny, the smell of hot dogs and candy floss as well as many top entertainers from the UK. We also had the unique attractions of the Bonny Baby Show, and Miss Guernsey, which really drew the crowds in and was the highpoint of the summer for many people.


Sadly, many local events were cancelled in 2001 following the foot and mouth scare. This, combined with a decline in farmers in the parishes, a shortage of volunteers and financial problems because of a few years of bad weather, resulted in the South Show having to down size to survive. For the next few years, it was held at St Martin's School. However, thanks to the small but dedicated committee and the continued support of exhibitors, the Show fought back, it is currently held at the Professor Shaw Centre and in the large adjoining field.

We have welcomed several new committee members over the last few years, who with the more experienced members, dedicate their time and efforts into improving the Show year on year. The number of entries in all classes from fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and pot plants, cakes, sloe gin and jams are growing each year. There is also an expanding arts and crafts section for both adults and children. The show jumping and other horse events continue to be popular



and are held at a different venues, usually the week before the main Show.

The Show offers excellent value family fun. In 2013, we saw the return of the Bonny Baby Contest, which proved popular. Vets 4 Pets run their annual Fun Dog Show and the Island Dog Club put on a great display of canine talent. We are also pleased to welcome several local charities, craft and food stalls and have introduced children's activities including Fancy Dress, Arts 'n' Crafts, a Decorated Hat competition and much more.

The 2014 South Show will be held on Friday August 8th and Saturday August 9th. The schedule for the Show will soon be available on our website, [www.thesouthshow.com](http://www.thesouthshow.com) with other general information. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. So, if you live in St Peter Port or any of the other parishes mentioned above. And would like to enter your baking, produce and/or crafts, or if you would like to volunteer some time and/or sponsor the show, please contact us through our website [www.thesouthshow.com](http://www.thesouthshow.com) 

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



# THE CARTOGRAPHER IN GUERNSEY

By Roy S. Perry

*Roy Perry, who first introduced his well-known local maps back in the 60's, has kindly provided some notes on the history of mapping in Guernsey.*

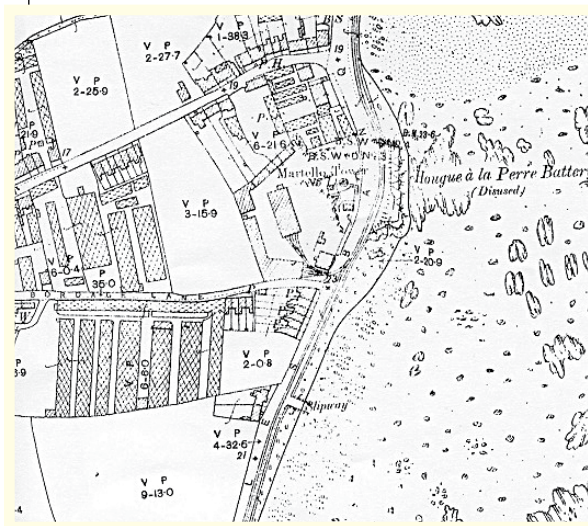
There have been several precise and useful maps prepared for Guernsey. In the 18th century, it was important to map the island for military and defensive purposes. The Gardner Map took a long-time to research and to engrave on to copper plates so it could be reproduced. The first official survey was carried out by the UK Ordnance Survey in 1898. This was when the New Town in St Peter Port, the Guernsey Railway and the drained Braye du Valle were still a curiosity. Surveys were later carried out by the Field Division RE and produced by The Directorate of Overseas Survey. This work is now carried out on the island by Digimap.

The UK Ordnance Survey grid does not cover the Channel Isles, so these maps used their own grid and, of course, longitude and latitude. Nautical charts were also engraved frequently. Many of these showed the approaches to St Peter Port Harbour from inland, and it was on these charts that landmarks and principal road names were inscribed. Certainly, The Grange, Glatigny Esplanade, The Quay and High Street have appeared.

Ward Lock started to include plans of St Peter Port and the Island in their guides around 1910. For the public, a plan of St Peter Port was about the only street map available up to 1940. The most popular was one produced

for Tozers, the Guernsey Press also had one on sale. Modern English map-makers paid scant interest in the islands until the 1960's but then realised there were thousands of British Railways employees using discounted sea travel for their summer holiday.

Aerial photography made it easier for Bartholomew's, Geographia, George Philip and Geographers Map Co (Publishers of the A-Z series) to produce island maps with some town plans. The first sectional map of Guernsey was produced around 1950; I have a feeling that Carel Toms was involved in its production. Once again details of road names in outlying parishes were limited. Historian Marie de Garis tried to help matters by



1898 OS Map at Halfway showing Guernsey Railway






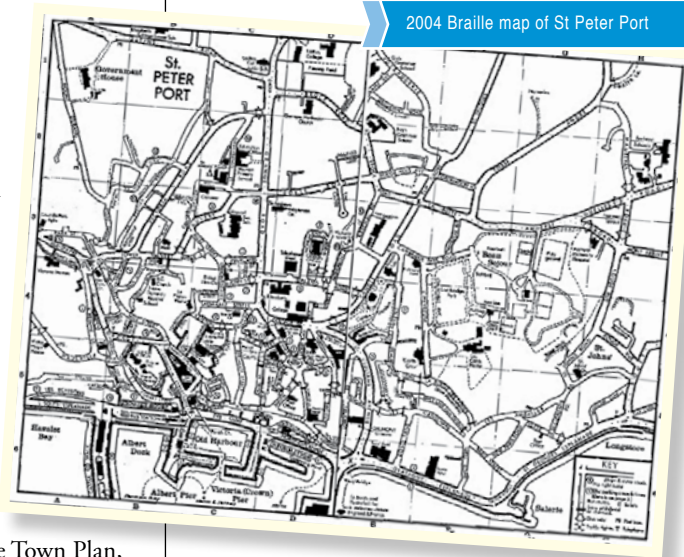
1920 Ward Lock Town Plan. Spot the changes!

creating an index of Guernsey place names in her well researched Guernsey-English Dictionary.

The fact the island has a central rating authority (Cadastre). Made it easier for parish officials, the police, court officers and developers to gain knowledge of road names for inclusion in land title deeds. It was not until I started my careful and lengthy research in the 1960's that everyone could benefit from the publication of a concise, indexed road map. I am so pleased that successive publishers have kept these maps up to date, and the cartography is of a high standard.

For the record, readers may like to know there are braille versions of Perry's Guide. These are available from the Guernsey Blind Association. They helped me produce a braille Town Plan,

one side of which is reproduced here. Now we have 'Google' available on the Internet. Until we have a reliable 'walking sat-Nav', the map will always be needed, and there is simply no substitute for a printed map for archivists and public record offices. 



2004 Braille map of St. Peter Port

# LE PLATON HOME 1914-2014

By John Ashby, Secretary to Trustees

This year marks the foundation of Le Platon Home. On the 14 May the home will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a care home. It is the oldest residential home in the island and was established by Miss Magdalen Mary Edith Renouf MBE. (Known as Miss Edith Renouf).

Edith was born in London in 1864, and is the daughter of the eminent Old Elizabethan Sir Peter Le Page Renouf and his German wife, formerly Fraulein Brentano. Her father was a renowned Egyptologist. Her mother was of the eminent Brentano family.

From the information available Miss Renouf, at the age of seven was taken on holiday to Paris, this was during the period of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871. At such an early age Edith was moved by the suffering of the wounded returning from the war. This experience was to shape her future life and on growing up she devoted her life to the care of incurable invalids.

It was Miss Renouf's charity that moved her to open her home as a place of shelter and care. Miss Renouf did not confine her charity to the home. The Guernsey Press reported on 24 June 1924, that she had presented her father's library to the newly built University of Louvain. The person in charge of receiving the gift on behalf of the library referred to the Renouf gift as "a priceless gift of inestimable worth".

Not a lot is recorded on Miss Renouf's formative years. She was privately educated, was a linguist, artist and had medical knowledge.

From correspondence it is known that Miss Renouf entered the London School of medicine for women in the winter session 1899-1900 at the age of 35, having been previously at Newnham College Cambridge. Records show



that she completed and passed parts 1 & 2 of the Apothecaries Hall examination in 1900 and 1901. Her attendance record does state that she was in attendance at the Royal Free until 1904. There is however, no record of her having qualified as a doctor.

Edith could speak several languages, and after assisting her father in his work for some years, she moved to Guernsey to live and took up residence at Le Platon. On inheriting the property, she opened it as Le Platon Home – Patron Saint St. Petronella as a home for the incurably sick on the 14th May 1914.

Initially she had only three patients, her plan was to develop the home for invalid females of all ages. Religious persuasion was not an issue for Miss Renouf whose main focus was in helping those in need. At first it was intended that no charge would be made for their care, and up until the 1960s patients were asked to pay only what they could afford.

In the early days, Miss Renouf had the assistance of some Irish Sisters of Mercy but since 1921 the home has been staffed by Sisters of the Spanish religious order, The Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



How did the Hospitallers Sisters come to Guernsey? Somehow, Miss Renouf had heard about them and visited their home for invalids in Paris. The visit moved her to ask the Sisters if they would come to Guernsey and take on the running of Le Platon Home.

This was agreed and on August 6th 1920, the first Sisters arrived at the home.

At one time there were fourteen of them. In addition to providing care, the Sisters worked in the extensive gardens and cared for a variety of animals in order to provide food for the home. The Sisters still have a presence at Le Platon Home with five serving Sisters.

This year also marks the centenary of the death in Dinan on 24 April 1914 of St. Benedict Menni, Founder of the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is not thought that the two ever met. What draws them together is their love of humanity and their life of poverty. Miss Renouf's words: "Truly, I was born rich, I lived poor, and poor I want to die". This could also apply to Benedict Menni, whose family was comfortably off, but not rich.

In 1927, Miss Renouf placed her home and all her funds in a perpetual trust so that the good work could continue. She also owned property in London which she donated to the religious order of Sisters who had assisted her in her work at Le Platon. The Sisters continue to run a care home from this property, as well as other homes in the Midlands and Surrey.

During and following the occupation years the home began to take elderly residents, this was at the request of the States of Guernsey. Le Platon Home, and a house at the top of Constitution Steps became occupied by elderly patients in private rooms, whilst the chronically sick, who represented two thirds of the residents at the time the home celebrated its golden anniversary, were accommodated in the then new block at the rear of Le Platon. This was opened in 1953 by Sir Phillip Neame, the then Lt-Governor.



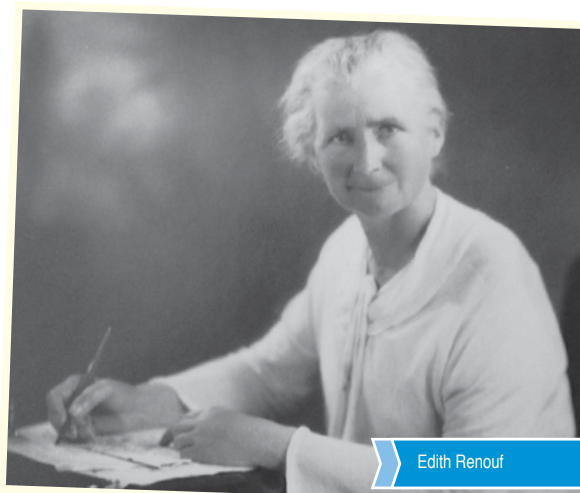
On opening the wing, Sir Phillip paid tribute to the "noble and selfless work which Miss Renouf has carried out through a great part of her life. She has devoted her great abilities and her worldly fortune to the case of crippled and incurable invalids"

Edith Renouf, was deservedly awarded with an MBE in 1952, she was then an elderly lady and what better place to be cared for than the home she had created. Miss Renouf died in October 1956 at the age of 93. She was buried at Le Foulon Cemetery, and at her request shares the grave with three of her former patients.

The home remains her perpetual memorial. The work has changed since those early days, elderly ladies and men reside there but Miss Renouf's spirit and the work of care continues and today provides residential care and support to 25 people of both sexes.

After her death a Management Committee, as specified by Miss Renouf in the Trust Deed, took over the running of the home assisted by the Sisters and care staff.

The home is a registered charity both with the UK Charity Commission and with the Guernsey Income Tax Authority. [🔗](#)



Edith Renouf

# GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

## May

**Ch'est chin l'meis du jour d'la Liberâtaion, et coume nou dit, 'Faot daonc s'en ermaette et célébrai!'.**

*Sh'ei shaee-l mei du jour d'la Liberraaiaion, ei caum nou di, 'Fao daon s'au-r-maet ei célébrai!'*

**This is the month of Liberation Day, and as we say, 'Let us remember and celebrate!'**

## June

**Au cmoshement du meis d'juin nou s'attend a vée, a-n-aen caop, les pus laongs jours et dé pus biau tems!**

*O cmaushmau du mei-d jwaee nou s'atau a vei, a-n-ae cao, lei pu laon jour et dé pu bio tau!*

**At the beginning of June, we expect to soon see the longest days and finer weather!**

## July

**Au Carnival d'la Ville ch't'onnaïe y éra toute sorte dé tché pour écottaï les gens qu'y vaont.**

*O carnival d'la Vil sht aunai yerra tout sort dé ché pour eccautai lei jau ki vaon.*

**At the Town Carnival this year there will be all kinds of events to entertain carnival goers.**

## August

**Ch'est qu'au meis d'aout nou vé la caochie plloine d'batiao en visite, et la Grànd Rue plloine d'visiteurs.**

*Sh'ei-k o mei-d ou nou vé la caoshi plloin-d batyao au visitt, ei la Grae Ru plloin-d visiteur.*

**During August, the harbour is full of visiting boats, and the High Street is full of visitors.**

Photo's courtesy of Richard Lord



## September

A la mié-s'tembe les jours et les niets s'enter semblle.

*Ala myé-staub lei jour ei lei nié s'auter saub.*

**During mid- September days and nights are of similar and equal length.**

## October

**Raonbilläi pas qu'i faot arriérieur vos ôloges par enne hæure lé 26 dé chu meis ichin!**

*Raonbiyai paa k'i fao arrierriyé voz oloj par enne acir lé 26 dé shu mei ishaae!*

**Don't forget to put back your clocks by one hour on 26th of the month! 🕒**

**Learn a little of our Norman language over a drink!**  
**- Appernai aen ptit d'giernesiais daove enne veraie!**

The Imperial Hotel & The Dorset Arms  
(Tuesdays 7-8pm and Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm)

Informal language lessons aimed at adults, and centred around having a go at speaking in small, friendly groups.

Lunchtime lessons at Candie Museum and Art Gallery, contact Jo Dowding on 747264 or email: [Josephine.Dowding@cultureleisure.gov.gg](mailto:Josephine.Dowding@cultureleisure.gov.gg)

Translation service also available, from house names and T-shirt slogans to branding for local businesses and products.

**Please get in touch with Yan on 07781 166606 or email: [janmarquis@cwgsy.net](mailto:janmarquis@cwgsy.net)**

If you would like to submit an article for a future issue of 'The Townie' magazine please contact the Constables Office on 720014 for more information.

**THE TOWNIE**  
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



# THE LIFEBOAT IN GUERNSEY

By Captain Peter Gill

The 'John Lockett' in 1875



In 1803, the St. Peter Port Douzaine asked the States of Guernsey to “build and bring from England a lifeboat of recent design to give assistance to vessels in distress constructed in a fashion to resist the strongest tempests without danger to its crew”. The lifeboat, to the design of Henry Greathead, duly arrived and cost £170. The need was clear. In the half century before 1826, it was reported that there had been about 100 vessels totally wrecked, 138 stranded or damaged and a further 147 broken up. Little is recorded of these early days, but in response to the ‘Barque Boadicea’ driven onto Tautenay in the Little Russel in 1857 ‘The Comet’ witheringly reported that the old lifeboat lay ‘rotting and unused’. Gustavus Carrington and Richard Peake, local merchants and ship-owners, arranged a public subscription to procure

a new boat. Within a week, £115.19s.10d had been raised and ‘The Rescue’ arrived in July. It was agreed that the lifeboat should be made over to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and that a committee be set up to manage the RNLI affairs locally and in 1861 the RNLI took charge of the local lifeboat station.

In 1879, the inability to provide crew from the Vale prompted re-location of ‘John Lockett’ to St. Peter Port and by 1881 a Lifeboat house at Castle Emplacement was built at a cost of £155 and the Castle slipway now known as the Old Lifeboat Slip was constructed.

Although this remained the official launch site until 1929, keeping the lifeboat ashore and using a horse drawn launching carriage





The 'Arthur Lionel'

was costly and complicated. Experiments were made to keep the lifeboat afloat in the Harbour and it became increasingly common to do so.

The night of February 14th 1895 'Isabella Helen' with five on board, was in distress. The 'Vincent Wilkinson, Kirk Ella' under Coxswain Fred Rich went to her assistance, becoming the first recorded rescue by a Guernsey based lifeboat.

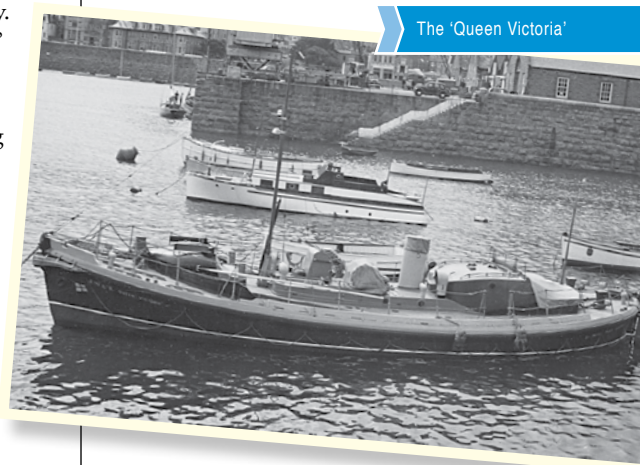
1896 saw the introduction of rocket Maroons to call out the crew. These were to last 91 years. Previously, crew were summoned by runner and word of mouth. Two years later, the States Telephone Service came into operation, an advert for the Lifeboat service printed on the front cover of its Directory. 1898 saw the loss of the 'Channel Queen' near Port Grat in thick fog. 12 of 50 passengers and 5 crew drowned. The lifeboat was towed round the coast by tug and the press fuelled speculation as to whether it would have been quicker to have towed her by horse and carriage on the roads. This was eventually tested out and the decision soundly vindicated.

In 1912 the French steamer 'St Malo' was seen to turn turtle and founder to the North of the Island. Unbelievably, this remained unreported for two hours. Unfortunately, the lifeboat had

been damaged earlier that day and was not launched due to both damage and weather. This tragedy was the cause of much wrangling between States of Guernsey, French Authorities, Coast Guard, Admiralty and RNLI. Arguments made by the Bailiff for a powered lifeboat, were rejected as the 'lifeboat station history does not warrant it and the funds being raised locally are insufficient'. The argument continued and in 1928, the States resolved to contribute £300 as a voluntary gift on condition that a power driven lifeboat be stationed in the Island. Today's fundraising, by comparison, is the envy of many.

The following year, the 'Queen Victoria' arrived, costing £11,500, capable of 8.5 knots, with two 60 horsepower petrol engines and fitted with Wireless Telegraphy.

28th June 1940 saw a terrible day. Known as the 'Tomato raid', the 'Isle of Sark' was strafed whilst alongside in St. Peter Port, 67 injured and 34 killed. The dead included PC Cliff Bougourd whose son Peter went on to become the Coxswain of the St. Peter Port lifeboat. The relief lifeboat 'Alfred and Clara Heath' was strafed en route to Jersey. Harold, son of coxswain Fred Hobbs, was killed in the attack.



The 'Queen Victoria'






The lifeboat remained in Guernsey during the war, used by the German forces as a patrol boat and then scrapped.

After the war, it was decided that the Castle Emplacement was an inconvenient location from which to embark and in 1946 a new headquarters was built to the east of St Julians Emplacement. This remained the 'shed' until 1992 when it moved to its present location on the top deck of the New Jetty.

The St. Peter Port station has always been innovative and in 1966, they persuaded the RNLi to permit the fitting of a radar set to the boat, quite a radical step for such a small craft.

Lifeboat design was changing and such was the esteem with which the local station held, that in 1971 it was chosen as the testing ground for the prototype 'Arun' design and then 'Sir William Arnold'. Named after the deceased Bailiff, and affectionately known to the crew as 'The Willie', this was probably the most successful lifeboat ever to be stationed in Guernsey, completing over 600 services. Many of her crew were decorated for gallantry.

In 1977 Maroons were abandoned in favour of callout using radio 'Bleepers'. The following year, the oil rig 'Orion' ran aground at Grandes Rocques, the rescue was partly captured on TV. This rescue was also unique in that many re-boarded the rig at low tide and had to be rescued again the following day. By this time, the station history and success warranted a permanent display and a room at Castle Cornet was set aside for lifeboat related memorabilia.

During its proud history, there have been at least 40 different lifeboats on station in Guernsey, launched more than 1,290 times, saving more than 582 lives and assisting a further 1548 persons. Many crew have been decorated for gallantry including two RNLi Gold Medals, the 'Lifeboatman's Victoria Cross'. Their ongoing commitment and bravery remain an inspiration to us all. 

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