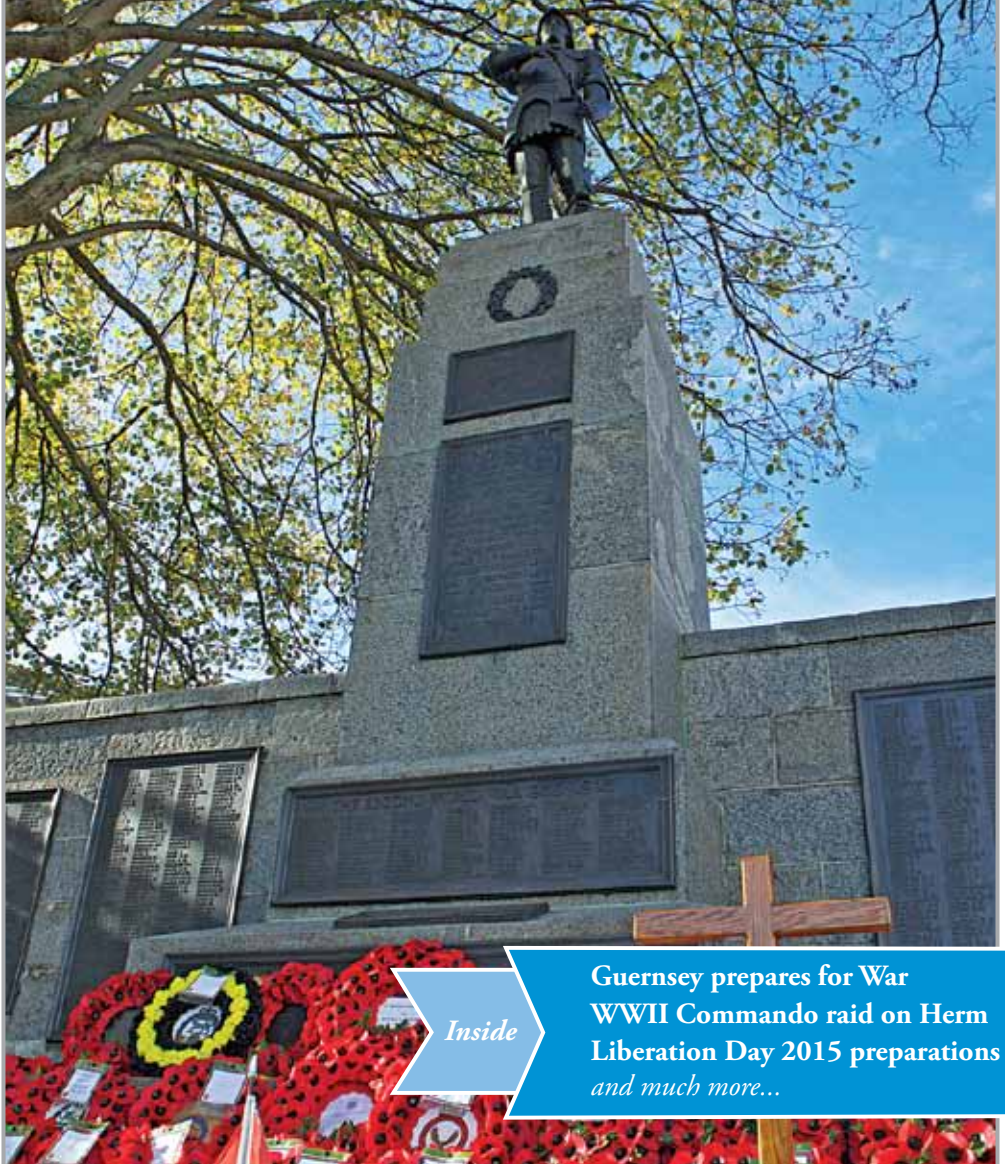


THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE FOUR



Inside

Guernsey prepares for War
WWII Commando raid on Herm
Liberation Day 2015 preparations
and much more...



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FOREWORD

As 2014 draws towards the end we have plenty to think about, particularly as we now commemorate the centenary of the start of World War I, one of the bloodiest conflicts in history, which dragged on for four long years and had such an impact on many of our families.

Our front cover for this edition shows the St Peter Port memorial, as photographed by Douzenier Richard Lord following the Remembrance Day commemorations last year, which stands as a testament to so many local men who laid down their lives in this great conflict. We highlight the effects of the war on Guernsey in two articles in this edition, one by Matt Harvey, who is Social History Curator at the Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, and one by local historian Liz Walton, and we are particularly grateful to them for taking the time to prepare these articles. We hope to continue to bring you other articles of interest over the next few years on this subject.

We also have many other articles that we hope you will find interesting, many provided by parishioners and others, and we would again encourage any member of the public who has an interesting story to forward them to us. We are grateful to all of our contributors.

THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 4 - October 2014

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

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Photo by Richard Lord

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

Since the last edition the Profile team have been busy, not only on the Townie magazine, but also in running a Question Time event with a panel of Deputies, chaired by Sir Geoff Rowland. Although the turn-out was rather disappointing it was felt, by those taking part and in attendance, that it was a worthwhile event, and we hope to repeat the event in the New Year with other Deputies taking part in the panel.

We also include in this edition a flyer for the forthcoming 70th anniversary of Liberation Day, to be held in 2015, and ask for your feedback on what you would like to see and do. This will then be passed back to the organising committee.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report that Barry Cash, one of our longest-serving Constables, decided earlier this year to stand down as Constable of St Peter Port after eight years in office. Barry has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people and parish for those eight years, and his common sense, experience and hard work will be greatly missed. We wish him well.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine.

Profile Committee 

Cover photograph courtesy of Richard Lord

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



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The past few months have been quite busy with several projects taking place. A start has been made to remove chewing gum from the surfaces of town pavements and roads. This has been for a dual purpose, to help make the town look nicer and as part of the clean-up for the Britain in Bloom judging, as St. Peter Port was representing Guernsey in the 2014 competition. Alongside this, the floral team and many volunteers and contractors have worked extremely hard to beautify the town and in particular helped to transform some of the gardens in Castle Cornet.

Work continued at the Salarie Battery, with co-operation between several States Departments and the Constables. The centre piece being a refurbished wooden Guernsey fishing boat, which was a superb achievement and a credit to the College of Further Education students and the States Prison inmates.

Refurbishment of town benches continues, with the first three of ten blue and white Victorian style seats being placed on the upper Castle Pier walkway and one of green and cream placed at the Information Centre.

The refurbishment of the Constables' Office was never going to be an easy matter with an iconic building of that age in an area with challenging access. I am pleased to say despite the unforeseen

challenges from death-watch beetle to faulty guttering requiring complete replacement, our close liaison with Planning and in particular the Heritage Department has allowed us to progress without too much of a delay. The major task of removing an internal load bearing wall has been completed as well as the completion of the lift shaft to allow for disabled access to the upper floors.

We have a sub-group who are working with our architects to ensure the fit out of the refurbished building is in keeping and any modern additions are kept as discrete as possible. I am sure that when the work is completed the Parish will have a building to be proud of and one that will meet the needs of the Parish for the next 100 years. 📍

The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.



Guernsey fishing boat at Salarie Corner

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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

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




Ann Jennings, Martyn Guilbert & Jenny Bullock

The staff at the Constables Office have had a busy summer in their temporary offices at the New Jetty, with the major task of sending out thousands of Parish Rate bills, and receiving the payments nearly complete. Jenny has shown her usual tenacity in chasing the slow payers. Ann has been busy with the many Liquor Licence and Sunday Trading applications, Special Event Licences and Bornements and, with work progressing well at the Lefebvre Street office, Martyn is acting as liaison between the architects, the Constables & Douzaine. There are a multitude of general duties that all staff are actively involved in, and there are never two days the same in this busy office. The new kerbside recycling initiative, whilst being run by Public Services, has proved time-consuming as many parishioners phone the office for advice, or call in for more recycling bags. Geoff, Len and Jon, our intrepid and hard-working grounds staff have also had a busy season, and we have received many compliments that the parish sites have never

looked so good. The major task, the “Forth Road Bridge” of parish property, Candie Cemetery requires considerable effort by the team to keep under control.

Progress at Lefebvre Street Offices:

F Watson and Son are now making good progress on this major refurbishment. The structure of the three storey extension (the former single storey annexe) is nearly complete, including the lift shaft and exterior granite cladding. Openings are now being formed into the main building on the 1st and 2nd floor. The structural alterations to the new Douzaine Room are complete and the flooring is being re-laid throughout the building to include considerable insulation, and underfloor heating on the upper two floors. Windows, which of course are all to be kept in this listed building are all being refurbished. Two rooms on the 2nd floor are now ready for the decorating trade to move into. Subcontractor Meadowcroft is now well advanced with electrical and data cabling and fitting of services. Plans for the decoration and interior fit-out are well advanced, this being guided by a small work group formed by architects CCD, a Constable, two Douzeniers and the parish Secretary. 



Our maintenance team of Len Bullock, Geoff Le Gallez & Jonathon King, hard at work during the Party in the Park

70 years of Freedom

Liberation

Guernsey 2015

*Faout s'en r'maette et célébrair
daove l'ordgeul dé l'île*

*remember and celebrate
with island pride*

With the 70th anniversary of the liberation now only 6 months away, the organisers and parish officials have been extremely busy working to make sure it is a fantastic occasion. But to make this a day that will long be remembered and savoured, by young and old, we need feedback from you ahead of the event. What would you like to see and do on the day?

Please contact the Constables office, or any member of the Profile committee, and give us your feedback.

Volunteers are also needed to help out on the day, so if you are able to give some of your time, again please let us know.

Faout s'en r'maette et célébrair daove l'ordgeul dé l'île. [📞](#)

Photo's by Chris George



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GERMANY AND GUERNSEY A BANK HOLIDAY INCIDENT

Amongst the war fever gripping the island in 1914, as this article unearthed by Rob Grant in the 'Star' newspaper shows, Germany had declared war on Guernsey on the 3rd August 1914.

Few of the "Star" readers are aware that war between Germany and Guernsey was declared on Monday last, Bank Holiday. As is the custom of a good many Guernsey folks on similar occasions, a motor excursion to Herm was planned by a party of five ladies and an equal number of gentlemen. Little did they dream when they left Sarnia's hospitable shores in the morning of the adventures they were to experience in the quiet little islet of Herm, a few miles distant.

It may be well at this period to inform some of the uninitiated that Herm is practically a German possession, as it is leased by the well-known West Bank, and is in the occupation of Prince Blucher Von Wallhstadt. The Prince has made it a rule that persons landing at the Island shall not go beyond high water mark.

The party arrived safely, and bearing the restriction in mind, did not go beyond the mark when they landed. Bathing was suggested, and the ladies decided to bathe in a bay, whilst the gentlemen bathed in another part of the Island. No sooner had the ladies gone into the water than Prince Blucher sent some of his male attendants to bathe alongside them, which caused the ladies immediately to land and dress. When their male friends returned from their "dip", they were greatly enraged at the treatment accorded to their ladies by the "reigning monarch" of Herm.

This was only a preliminary, however, for worse



The Jetty, Herm

treatment was to follow. The party then thought of dinner, and prepared to enjoy this meal on the beach. But they had not reckoned on what was to follow. Their enjoyment of it was soon to be spoilt, as the Prince and his attendants commenced to set the furze alight, which caused volumes of smoke to sweep across the beach and almost suffocate the party.

The head of the landing party determined to put up with the inconvenience for a time, as being a Britisher he would not easily be defeated. The party gamely put up with the suffocating smoke until the hour of their proposed departure had been passed, when they weighed anchor and made for Guernsey, which they reached without further incident.

Treatment of this sort to a holiday party previous to the declaration of war between Germany and England is quite inexcusable, and a "Star" representative was informed by the head of the party that they expected much better treatment from Prince Blucher, attendants, and lady friends, a number of the latter being actively engaged with the Prince in setting the furze alight in nine different places. Evidently Prince Blucher anticipated war, and decided to drive "those detestable Britishers" back to their own Island. 📍

Guernsey and the First World War - 1914

By Liz Walton

We are grateful to local historian Liz Walton, who has kindly provided the first of a series of articles looking at the impact of World War I on the people and Island of Guernsey.

In the early years of the 20th century, Guernsey was a good place to live. Although closer to France it had ties to the British Crown for eight hundred years. However, belonging to neither, enabled Guernsey to develop a valuable economic position. Its wealth was largely dependent on trade with locally grown early flowers and fruit such as melons and grapes earning high prices on the English markets. Guernsey cattle were much in demand to start overseas herds, and Guernsey granite was exported for use on prestigious building in the big cities. Extra workers were needed for these expanding enterprises and by 1911 the population had risen to 40,000. It was an island of almost full male employment and increasing prosperity. Leisure activities were catered for with regular military band concerts and music halls. Film shows were popular too, with the St Julian's theatre advertising "high grade pictures and refined Vaudeville" costing 2 francs for a balcony seat and 1 franc elsewhere. So in general, Guernsey was a thriving and prosperous community.

But things were soon to change. The *Weekly Press* for 1st August 1914, features a swimming competition at La Vallette between teams from Elizabeth College and the states Intermediate School, a cricket match and the Guernsey Race Meeting. Flanking these are pieces about the "troubles in Europe". One mentions the murder of M. Jaures, the French socialist leader, Russian Reservists have been called out and the troubles in Servia (sic). The other States, war had been declared, and the European situation was "serious". The German statesman Bismarck



ENLISTMENTS.	
Statement of men enlisted since August, 1914, for the Regular and New Armies up to the week ended Sept. 2, 1914:—	
REGULAR ARMY.	
Ex-Soldiers	1
Militia	19
Civilians	153
NEW ARMY.	
Ex-Soldiers	71
National Reserve	60
Militiamen	785
Civilians	590
TOTALS.	
Regular Army	173
New Army	1506
Grand total	1679
Medically unfit	630
E. COWLEY, Lieutenant. Recruiting Officer, Guernsey and Alderney District.	

had said, that if there was to be another war it would start from, "some damn silly thing in the Balkans". He was right. While on a visit to Sarajevo in June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary and his wife were shot by a student, Gavrilo Princip. In mid-July Austria-Hungary accused Serbia of supporting Princip and from then things escalated rapidly. On 28th July Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia. On 1st August Germany declared war on Russia in support of its ally Austria-Hungary. France then mobilised its troops in support of its ally Russia. Then on 3rd August Germany declared war on France. It invaded via Belgium which was a neutral country. The following day Britain declared war on Germany in support of Belgium and because of the Entente Cordiale with France.

British Prime Minister Asquith addressed Parliament on the 6th August saying. "With the utmost reluctance and with infinite regret,

His Majesty's Government have been compelled to put this country in a state of war, with what for many years and indeed generations past has been a friendly Power". He concluded "...I do not believe any nation ever entered into a great controversy... with a clearer conscience and a stronger conviction that it is fighting, not for aggression, not for the maintenance even of its own selfish interest, but that it is fighting in defence of principles the maintenance of which is vital to the civilisation of the world." This was to be the Great War for Civilisation, the war to end all wars.

Guernsey has an unusual constitutional position in that it is "...neither a sovereign state nor a part of the United Kingdom. Guernsey is part of Her Majesty's possessions, with an independent legislature, judiciary and an executive of committees answerable solely to the legislature, and not to any authority outside the island". As a 'peculiar of the Crown', it is self-governing in terms of home affairs, but remains under U.K. protection. One effect of this, is that no Guernsey man can be conscripted to serve overseas, except to rescue the King, or to help in the recapture of the British mainland.

Guernsey had a Militia consisting of two Light Infantry Battalions, one recruited in town and the second from the 'country' parishes. Militia training was compulsory for all men "à l'exception de ceux qui par la Constitution et l'usage de cette île en sont exemptes". Training had intensified so they were, "as trained as any peacetime part-time force could be." A special edition of the *Gazette de Guernesey* came out Thursday 30th July 1914 carrying the "General Order Embodying the Royal Militia of Guernsey". Written in French and English, it stated that. "Whereas by article 9 of the Ordinance relating to Royal Militia of the Island of Guernsey... it is provided that, in certain special circumstances, the States of the island of Guernsey shall furnish a contingent of Militia, consisting of 2,000 non-commissioned officers and men, to be embodied for such period of active service as shall be prescribed by Royal Proclamation, or by General Order of the Lieutenant-Governor, and whereas in

my opinion such special circumstances have arisen; now therefore in pursuance of the said Ordinance, I do hereby order that 1,000 non-commissioned officers and men, Effectives of the said contingent of Militia, be forthwith embodied from this date until further orders, and further that the remainder of the above said contingent, viz: 1,000 men of Section "A" of the Reserve, be prepared to join their respective Regiments when called upon... (Signed), H.M Lawson, Major General, Lieutenant-Governor and General Officer commanding the Troops in the Island of Guernsey and its Dependencies." They were to undergo regular training, patrolling the cliffs, and erecting fortifications. Barbed wire fencing, machine gun emplacements and trenches were also built at various bays along the west coast.

Guernsey had a substantial French population with over 1400 new arrivals, mainly agricultural and quarry workers, in 1901 alone. Under the "Three Year's Law" all Frenchmen were required to undertake military service that would last in one form or another for the next twenty-eight years. If a mobilisation order was issued, they were legally obliged to report for duty at their regimental depot. This included French nationals living or working outside the country. On August 1st 1914 the Ordre de Mobilisation Générale was posted. It stated that all Frenchmen were required to present themselves at the Consul's office to collect tickets and passports, and be ready to leave the island immediately. Approximately 300 reservists left between 31st July and 4th August on special boats brought in to transport them to ports in Normandy and Brittany. Within a fortnight Guernsey suffered its first casualty when Captain Georges Davy of the 109th Regiment d'Infanterie was killed in action in Alsace. A week later Soldat Jean Gorrec from Park Lane was killed in action in the battle of the Ardennes in Belgium.

As soon as war broke out the British Expeditionary Force was ordered to the continent. Many Guernsey men were already serving in the armed forces and many "old soldiers" immediately re-joined their units.

Others rushed to “do their duty” and enlist. So by mid-August 1914 life in the Bailiwick had already undergone significant changes. Islanders were coming to terms with labour shortages, transport disruption, and exports piling up while imported food was in short supply. Many families were already missing a father, son, husband or brother at the dinner table. The editorial column of Guernsey Weekly Press stated “We are face to face with the most gigantic struggle that the world has ever seen. Seven European countries, including five Great Powers, have drawn the sword. On the one side we have a Coalition formed by Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium and Servia. On the other side is Germany and Austria-Hungary. The outcome of the war no man can foretell. Many modern weapons of destruction will be used in deadly earnest for the first time. We can only pray that the Arms of the Coalition will triumph, that the arrogant “War Lord” of Germany will be beaten to his knees, and that within a short time, the forces of the Coalition will meet in Berlin, to inaugurate a lasting peace.”

There was no way to avoid the fact that there was a war on, but the thing to do, was to carry on as usual, and support the war effort. The French and British went on the attack after the battle of Mons and by November the Germans were back in Belgium. However the first battle of Ypres saw horrific casualties. Longer lists of men killed and wounded in action started to appear in the newspapers together with the news that both armies were entrenched with little real movement for either. Sir Douglas Haig had written in his diary for 4th August “...Great Britain and Germany would be fighting for their existence. Therefore the war was bound to be a long war, and neither would admit defeat after a short struggle.” The soldiers at the front realized that it was going to be different from the patriotic outpourings in the papers too. As winter set in Drummer Albert Cox of the 2nd Royal Warwickshire regiment wrote to his family in Guernsey saying that “...It is now very cold especially at night. If it isn’t snowing it’s raining, and the trenches are full of mud and water.” By the end of 1914 some 69 men with

connections to the Bailiwick had died in places as widespread as South America, East Africa and the North Sea. They represented all branches of the armed forces of several countries. Trooper Samuel Edmonds of the East African Mounted Rifles, a St Peter Port resident, was killed in action in Kenya on 25th September. Alderney based Corporal Walter Last, and Private Patrick Ryan of Cliff Street in St Peter Port, were killed in action at Mons, on 23rd August, and five days later Captain Walter Bowden Smith of the Royal Fusiliers, an Old Elizabethan, died of wounds in the same action.



Nine men serving in the French Army also died in that first year. These included brothers Jean and François Moreau, killed by the same shell. Sergeant Fourrier Roger Bulteau of the 1st Battalion Chasseurs à Pied, whose family owned the Caves de Bordeaux was also killed in action. His twin brother served as a French Army aviator, whilst his mother, and sister became volunteer nurses with the French Red Cross. His



Captain Wilfred Picton-Warlow

father rejoined the 3rd French Colonial Infantry and died in Tonkin on the Indo-Chinese peninsula in 1916.

Autumn 1914 saw the first losses at sea. Leading Seaman George White of Alderney was serving on HMS *Cressy*, which was sunk by a German submarine on September 22nd. On 1st November the German Navy destroyed a weak Royal Navy Squadron, at Coronel off the coast of Chile. HMS *Good Hope* and HMS *Monmouth* were sunk with the loss of all hands, including Leading Seaman James Brehaut, Able Seaman Edmund Le Page, Able Seaman Thomas Lihou, Stoker 2nd Class Thomas Long, Lance Sergeant Stanley Saunders, Able Seaman Albin Skin and Stoker 1st Class Alfred Solley. Another three local men, Leading Seaman James Brehaut, Stoker 2nd Class John Le Millière and Lt Commander Cecil Queripel, died on 26th November when HMS *Bulwark* exploded and sank in dock at Sheerness in Kent, with the loss of all crew. Petty Officer Thomas Martin Guilbert served with the Australian Navy on submarine AE1, which was lost with all hands off German New Guinea on the 14th of September.

The Bailiwick also lost its first airman in 1914. Captain Wilfred Picton-Warlow, an Old Elizabethan took off on December 20th from Calais ferrying a Bleriot two-seater back to England. The enquiry into the loss of the aircraft states that it was of a type recently discarded as been too slow to climb with a full military load. However they were useful as training aircraft and pilots going on leave were allowed,

“As a privilege” to fly them back home. It was presumed that Captain Picton-Warlow got into cloud, lost his way, and ran out of fuel. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Flying Services Memorial at Arras.

A further eleven local men died as a result of the war before the end of that first year, nine of them on the Western Front. Local newspapers were saying that it was “an honour to be in the army”, while publishing letters saying that “... the Germans have got some very bad shells”, and “...there is no rest day or night.” A full page of the *Weekly Press* for 26th December, is taken up with names of Old Elizabethans who had volunteered for active service, including those killed, wounded, or taken prisoner of war. The *Gazette de Guernesey* for the same date carries an advertisement asking “As an employer have you seen that every fit man under your control has been given every opportunity of enlisting?” However Driver Robins of the Royal Field Artillery describes “fearful atrocities”, and Gunner Corbet, of the same unit described the “murder of the modern battlefield.”

Christmas 1914 was marked by both sides agreeing a truce. They exchanged gifts, sang carols, and some claim even played football. All British service men were given a Princess Mary's Gift Box containing a selection of small luxury items such as cigarettes, chocolate and tobacco. But by Boxing Day the Christmas spirit was over and fighting had resumed. The front page of the *Weekly Press* for that day contained a list of “Militia for the Front”, stating “Over 350 volunteers already accepted.” However another sixty Militia men who had not volunteered were selected by ballot, “...to supplement the number of volunteers for the 1915 training.” This was the first sign that the long held right that no Guernseyman can be conscripted to serve overseas except to rescue the King or to help in the recapture of the British mainland, might not hold for ever. 📍

All newspaper images from the Guernsey Weekly Press or Gazette de Guernesey courtesy of the Guernsey Press Co and the Priaux Library, Guernsey.

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JOHN SAVILLE

By Constable Dennis Le Moignon



On the 5th of June 2014, the Lt Governor Air Marshal Peter Walker CB CBE, accompanied by Constable Dennis Le Moignon, unveiled a plaque on the Castle Walk in remembrance of Flight Lieutenant John Saville, who was killed in action here 70 years earlier.

On the 6th June 1944 - D-Day - Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy. Operation Neptune marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

On the 5th June, some 7000 ships and other craft, carrying assault troops, headed for France. German radar had been put out of action by Allied bombing, jamming and decoys, enabling the naval force to cross the Channel largely undetected.

In Guernsey, the Freya radar at Fort George covered an area to the west of the Normandy beaches and was of particular importance. It was attacked by 439 Squadron RCAF on the 3rd June with 75% success, bad weather prevented a further sortie on the 4th June.

At 08.30 am on the 5th June, Canadian pilot Flight Lieutenant John Walton Saville led another successful attack on the radar installation. His Typhoon 1B aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire when making a second run at the target, and he was lost with his aircraft when it crashed into Havelet Bay.

The exact position of the crash site was unknown until it was discovered by Guernsey Nautical Archaeology Team (GNAT) diver Mick Peters during the 1970's. The Saville family asked GNAT to try and ascertain if F/L Saville had remained with his aircraft and after the discovery of a few personal items, the site was declared an official war grave. Following this confirmation, John Saville's sister with a few younger members of the family came to Guernsey and held a private service over the crash site. **T**



Typhoon 1B aircraft, as flown by F/L John Saville on 3rd June raid

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ST PETER PORT WAR SHRINE

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

*Their lives will be examples to follow
for generations to come.*

General Sir Regd. C. Hart, 4th January 1917



The shrine in 1917

This year sees the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. The men who fought and the events of this conflict are being remembered globally by the countries affected.

Guernsey was not isolated from the action and as soon as war broke out many local men volunteered for service in the British Army

and early in 1915 Guernsey sent two Infantry Companies and an Artillery Ammunition Column to join other Divisions. At the end of 1916 conscription was introduced in the Island and for the first time Guernsey men were called up for compulsory military service with the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.

Although these men were fighting on foreign shores they were not forgotten at home and soon efforts were made to commemorate those who lost their lives in military service.

The Original Shrine

A shrine was presented to St Peter Port by Mr J. Smith, a sanitary engineer and Mr E. J. Dene, a sign-writer in 1917.

The Roll of Honour listed the men of the parish who had lost their lives in the war so far. It was inscribed in black lettering on a satin walnut board. It also included the Guernsey coat of arms with laurels in red and gilt with the inscription of the Normandy battle cry “Diex Aie” or “God be with us”.

The frame of the shrine was made of sheet zinc, varnished dark brown, with gold edging and included the words “For God, King and Country”. At the top was a Georgian Crown, and at the base was a bowl for flowers. Reports vary but it measured approximately 3ft by 7ft.

The Unveiling

The shrine was unveiled on Thursday 4th January 1917 at 3 p.m. by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, General Sir Regd. C. Hart, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.V.O.



The lower part of Smith Street and the adjacent thoroughfares were crowded with members of the public, as well relatives of the men listed on the shrine. Special Constables, under the direction of the Constables of St Peter Port, and the members of the Town Police Force, were on duty to keep the area in front of the shrine clear.

The Royal Guernsey Light Infantry formed a Guard of Honour, under the Command of Captain H.A. Le Bas. All of the men forming the Company had seen active service, and a large proportion wore, one, two and even three strips of Russian gold braid on the left arm, as a sign that they had been wounded.

The Guernsey Volunteer Corps Band stood to the right of the Guard of honour and the Volunteers, under the Commandant H. H. Randell, lined both sides of Smith Street. After inspecting the troops His Excellency and Lady Hart were directed by Messrs. Priaulx and Murdoch to a specially erected platform in the doorway of the Le Riche's shop, near the Shrine, which was covered with a huge Union Jack. His Excellency then delivered the following address:

“The Shrine, which I am about to unveil, has been presented to St Peter Port by two of the Townsmen as a tribute of respect to the memory of two officers and 46 men of the Town Parish who have lost their lives in the present war. This is necessarily a religious ceremony, very solemn and very sad.

The Guard of Honour is formed of officers and men who have been to the Front, and many of them have been wounded. They were the comrades of our dead heroes, and shoulder to shoulder they faced death, and all the terrible hardships of the trenches. It has pleased God to spare their lives, but we must never forget the debt of gratitude we owe to those volunteers who answered the call of the King, the Successor of the Dukes of Normandy, and came forward ready to sacrifice all, even their lives, for the sake of King and Country”.

His Excellency then called the Roll of Honour before continuing. He then unveiled the shrine. The Guard of honour presented arms and the Buglers sounded the Last Post. The Union Jack which had covered the Memorial was then hoisted to the masthead above. His



The enlarged shrine - Feb 1920

Excellency then concluded his address. The Buglers sounded the “Reveille”, then the Guard of Honour saluted while the Band of

the Volunteers Corps played the National Anthem concluding the ceremony.

Enlarging the Shrine

Sadly, the war was to continue for another nearly another 2 years.

In June 1918 it was reported that the shrine was too small to accommodate the ever-growing Roll of Honour of St Peter Port, and it was proposed that the shrine should be enlarged to provide space for an additional 250 names.

The shrine was changed from one panel to a triptych by Smith and Dene. The work of remodelling the Shrine cost about £50, and public donations funded the changes.

On the 2nd Feb 1920 the new war shrine was erected. It was decorated with red, white and blue flowers, and attracted considerable attention from passers-by.

Removing the Shrine

In June 1955 the Shrine was removed to allow workmen to paint the Le Riches’ grocery store and tobacco departments. The shrine was in



The shrine in 1935

a poor condition and needed attention. The work was expected to cost around £50 but a St Peter Port Douzaine Meeting on the 21st June 1955 it was decided that the shrine would not be renovated. It was noted that by this time the names on the shrine had been added to the Island War Memorial at the top of Smith Street.

Replacing the Shrine

In November 2001 a wooden copy of the Shrine was unveiled by Lt-Governor Sir John Foley and dedicated by the Very Rev Canon Marc Trickey. This replica can be seen in the entrance of Waitrose at Admiral Park, adjacent to the cafe. Unfortunately there are many errors on this version.

Discussions about erecting a replacement shrine, in its original location, have been underway for several years. The initiative is being led by Keith

Pike (St Peter Port Douzainer), with assistance from Dan Smith, Dennis Le Moignan, Helen Glencross, Kelvin Seeds and Liz Walton.

The original shrine will be recreated in modern materials and around £3000 is required finance the work. The donations collected will also fund a leaflet about the shrine and the men listed on it.

It is anticipated that the Shrine will be in place for Remembrance Sunday this year. If you would like to make a donation or have any information about someone listed on the Roll of Honour please contact Keith Pike.

Further information is also available at:

www.warshrine.org.uk

The history of the shrine is extracted from the editions of Weekly Press and The Star at the Priaux Library which have been transcribed by Keith Pike.



A message from our

PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE

By Elvio Pires



Portugal and the First World War

In 1916, Portugal enters the first world war, which, since 1914, was devastating Europe, and which became known as the Great War. When this ended in November 11, 1918, the old continent had changed its physiognomy, the conflict had put an end to four empires - the Russian, German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman. Portugal decides to participate in the war for three reasons: first, to defend the Portuguese colonies of greed and ambitions of the great powers, particularly Germany. Secondly, the international prestige it would bring to the First Republic, introduced on 5 October 1910, in a Europe dominated by monarchies. Finally, it would contribute to the consolidation of the republican regime, to the extent that participation in the war would be a national goal, which would unite the entire nation. This did not happen, and the entry in the conflict only contributed to further divide the Portuguese.

Decisions resulting from the Government, Parliament or the military withdrawals, with or without support of the people of Lisbon, Portugal entered the first World War and took on Germany in two combat fronts: one in Europe, in France and another in Africa Angola and Mozambique, for which mobilized 146,800 men, 56,400 in France, 49,100 for Africa (Angola 18.400 and 30.700 Mozambique), 13,000 to defend the Islands, India and Timor, and 40,000 to defend the capital. Portugal, had only six million people at this point of history. On April 9, 1918 the German offensive in Flanders, the Portuguese 2nd Division, commanded by General Gomes da Costa, with an approximate workforce of 20,000 men, lost about 300 officers and 7,000 troops, killed, wounded and prisoners, trying to resist the shock of four German divisions, with 50,000 men of the 6th German Army, commanded by General von Quast.

Fighting bravely, the unknown soldiers of La Lys atoned sins of the rulers of the Republic, who dragged the country into a conflict in which human and technological forces at play were far beyond the capacities of the national response. World War I had an overall negative impact on Portuguese economic route. Aggravated an endemic economic crisis, and interrupted the budget balance achieved by Afonso Costa and the Democratic in 1913, inhibiting any possibility of economic progress, medium and long term. Altogether the participation of Portugal in World War I spelled the end of the First Republic. The War laid bare, exacerbating them, all cleavages that had characterized the regime since its inception in October 1910. This participation represented Portugal to the rising cost of living, a crisis of livelihoods and rampant unemployment, successive governments have proved unable to provide not only economic and social solutions, but to the strictly political point of view.

The war as a political act of maximum violence began a decisive phase in the history of Portuguese emigration in France. Portugal's entry into the war in 1916, allied to France and to England, introduced a radical change in the choice of these targets, by sending an expeditionary force to France (in the trenches of Calais in northern France), composed of 20,000 workers, recruited as "hand labour" under an agreement between the two countries. The second great wave of emigration starts after another political event, with devastating consequences for the country's Military coup, which installs in Portugal in 1926 a long dictatorship that will last until 1974. France becomes thereafter, the main destination of Portuguese emigrants. There is today in France, about one million Portuguese, constituting one of the most important and numerous foreign communities in France. 📍

A message from our PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE

By Elvio Pires



Portugal e a primeira grande guerra

Em 1916, Portugal entrou na I Guerra Mundial que, desde 1914, devastava a Europa, e que ficou conhecida como a Grande Guerra. Quando esta terminou, em 11 de Novembro de 1918, o velho continente tinha mudado de fisionomia, o conflito tinha posto fim a quatro impérios - o russo, o alemão, o austro-húngaro e o otomano. Portugal decide participar na guerra por três motivos: primeiro, para defender as colónias portuguesas da cobiça e ambições das grandes potências, particularmente da Alemanha. Em segundo lugar, pelo prestígio internacional que isso traria para a I República, implantada em 5 de Outubro de 1910, numa Europa dominada pelas monarquias. Finalmente, isso contribuiria para a consolidação do regime republicano, na medida em que a participação na guerra passaria a ser um desígnio nacional, que uniria toda a nação. Tal não veio a acontecer, e a entrada no conflito só contribuiu para dividir ainda mais os portugueses.

Das decisões resultantes do Governo, do Parlamento ou dos levantamentos militares, com ou sem apoio da população de Lisboa, Portugal entrou na 1ª Guerra Mundial e Defrontou a Alemanha em duas frentes de combate: uma na Europa, em França, e outra em África, em Angola e em Moçambique, para o qual mobilizou 146.800 homens: 56.400 para França, 49.100 para África (18.400 Angola e 30.700 Moçambique), 13.000 para guarnecer as Ilhas, Índia e Timor, e 40.000 para defender a Metrópole. Portugal neste momento de sua história, apenas tinha 6 milhões de habitantes. Em 9 de Abril de 1918 a ofensiva alemã na Flandres a 2.ª Divisão portuguesa, comandada pelo general Gomes da Costa, com um efectivo aproximado de 20.000 homens, perde cerca de 300 oficiais e 7.000 praças, entre mortos, feridos e prisioneiros, ao tentar resistir ao embate de quatro divisões alemãs, com 50.000 homens do 6.º Exército alemão, comandado pelo general von Quast. Lutando com bravura, os

soldados desconhecidos de La Lys expiaram culpas dos governantes da República, que arrastaram o país para um conflito no qual as forças humanas e tecnológicas em jogo eram muito superiores às capacidades de resposta nacional. A I Guerra Mundial teve um impacto globalmente negativo no percurso económico português. Agravou uma crise económica endémica, e interrompeu o equilíbrio orçamental conseguido por Afonso Costa e pelos Democráticos em 1913, inibindo quaisquer possibilidades de progresso económico, a médio e longo prazo.

No seu conjunto a participação de Portugal na I Guerra Mundial ditou o fim da I República. A Guerra pôs a nu, exacerbando-as, todas as clivagens que tinham caracterizado o regime desde a sua implantação, em Outubro de 1910. A guerra, como acto político de violência máxima iniciou uma fase decisiva na história da emigração portuguesa em França. Até aqui, só um número bastante reduzido de intelectuais e artistas o tinha feito. O principal destino da emigração económica era o Brasil. A entrada de Portugal na guerra em 1916, ao lado de França e de Inglaterra, veio introduzir uma mudança radical na escolha desses destinos, com o envio de um corpo expedicionário para França (nas trincheiras de Calais, no Norte da França), composto por 20.000 trabalhadores, recrutados como “mão-de-obra”, no âmbito de um acordo celebrado entre os dois países.

A segunda grande vaga de emigração inicia-se após outro acontecimento político, com consequências devastadoras para o País. O Golpe de Estado militar, que em 1926 instala em Portugal uma longa ditadura que perdurará até 1974. Os anos 1962-66 conheceram o primeiro grande impulso da emigração portuguesa. França torna-se a partir daí, e até aos anos 80, o principal destino dos emigrantes portugueses. Há hoje em França, cerca de um milhão de portugueses, constituindo uma das mais importantes e numerosas comunidades estrangeiras em França. 📍

TOWN CARNIVAL

By Jack Honeybill

The Town Carnival took place between 19th and 26th July this year with a budget of £40,000 covered from sponsorship of Acts, performance areas and the gold, silver and Bronze membership scheme. In addition we receive annually two donations from sponsors who wish to remain anonymous, support by way of a grant from the Guernsey Arts Commission plus the public donate daily in our bucket collection made at each performance area and by the Artists.

This year we had the following Artists performing with their sponsors named: Imagin Jack - Classical Singers (Ana Leaf Foundation), Punch and Judy (Creasey's Limited), Classy Cool - String Quartet (Old Government House Hotel), Vitae Brass - Brass Quintet (Ravenscroft Stockbrokers Limited). Local Artists (Airtel Vodofone) plus Tropikal Visions - Steel Band, Sonny and Rainbow - Clowns, Fidgety Feet - strolling



jazz band, Streetjazz - Saxophone duo. Approximately 70 local Artists including Guernsey Majorettes, Guernsey Concert Brass, Le Danceurs De L'Assembleia Guernesaise, Lydia Pugh, Chris Taylor, John Byrne, Chloe Le Page, Olivier Younger, George Long, Amy Stenner, Theo Maubec, Ashleigh Gardener Wheeler, Kate Kelleway, Michel et Davide, Nicole Wyatt, Carly Tucknott, Pippe Cordall, Jack Sinclair - Stott, Jesse Byrne, Fourtissimo, Irene Long and Matt Longson.

In all we covered twelve performance areas with the daily schedule often commencing at 10am and running until 3.30pm. There



were three Punch and Judy shows per day plus a circus workshop for children run by Sonny and Rainbow, and the whole event was organised by Jack Honeybill and Andrew Pouteaux with assistance from Lydia Pugh, Julie Madeley, John Silvester and Jay Bynam and other volunteers. Each day electricity and performance boards had to be set up at every venue with a supply of buckets and programmes, plus four gazebos were erected daily.

Performance areas were sponsored by Specsavers, Liberation Group, Collette Jones, Sunshine Nursery and Pre-school, Fuller Group Ltd and Café Emelia, and we hope to extend this sponsorship in 2015. Subject to sponsorship, consideration is being given to extending the Carnival in 2015. All details of this years event can be found on the web site: www.towncentrepartnership.com



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FLORAL ST PETER PORT

By Katina Jones



What a busy few months we have had. Our own Parish competitions went very well, with over 55

entries, many were new ones and we have the promise of more for next year. Results are on the page.

It was certainly an epic adventure judging them all in one day. Our thanks to our Judge Colin Falla and the Constables for helping us in this. Also, our thanks to Amherst School for allowing us to use their school hall for the awards evening.

It was also a pleasure to give the children from their own gardening club their certificates. Well done to all who entered.

After working so hard after we were awarded the Lady Dorey Cup last year by Floral Guernsey, we were ready to show off our parish to the Britain in Bloom judges. The help we had from the community was amazing. All doing their bit to help in different ways.

We also had help from the St Pierre Du Bois floral team, for this we were grateful, as the

evening before judging, we were busy doing last minute paperwork and preparing the display boards for the big day.

We also had some help from some lovely ladies who have helped with litter picking, and dead heading the planters for us.

Some Douziane members also helped us by weeding and picking up the millions of cigarette butts that are left in our streets. We showed off the parish the best we could, and met with many along the way. The Castle was also a floral delight, a lot of hard work has gone into making sure it was ready for us, we are so lucky to have this part of our heritage still in great condition, as the Castle keepers, and others work hard to keep and restore it back to how it was all those years ago.

We also had the privileged of unveiling some interpretation boards at la Salerie corner. The area is now used by so many to sit and to rest. Many visitors from the cruise ships walk this far to read the boards. The boat has been lovingly restored by the COFE and the prison services.


The team from Floral St Peter Port will travel to Bristol for the awards to see how we got on.



Have we done enough for a gold? Time will tell!

We are now making plans for next year and will be making sure our own competitions are well supported, so if you know of any place that could enter, please let us know.

We also gave out sunflowers at the Party in the park. Is yours still growing? We need to find the one with the biggest head so are you a big head?

We will be having a coffee morning after we come back from the awards, and we'll announce the winner that day. So keep watering the sunflowers and make sure the bees have their fair share as we need them to grow big and strong. 



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 Priaux Library.



When the project to enlarge the harbour was started in 1854 the Coal Quay was less than 17ft wide, and Cow Lane was about to be filled in.

It's hard to imagine how 2014 traffic would manage on the old road.



Very little remains of the buildings that stood along the seafront in our 1870 photograph, although No.15, two to the right of (a much narrower) Bosq Lane has not changed too much, and is shown on the 1787 Duke of Richmond map.



St James Street after 1888 court development.



Although the photographs taken from the same spot in 1954 and 2014 contrast nicely, it is the comparison with the older shot taken in the 1890's that shows just how much St James Street has changed. The white building in the centre of the older photo was still used as the police station in the 1954 photo.




PARTY IN THE PARK

By Rob Grant

This was the third time the Douzaine have organised the St Peter Port 'Party in the Park', following the successful events in 2012 and 2013. This year was not only better attended, but we were blessed with fantastic weather. An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people attended throughout the afternoon, with many families taking the opportunity to enjoy the bouncy castles, fun races, horse & cart rides, face-painting, and many other attractions, and our bar was kept busy throughout the afternoon and evening.

The success of the event was helped greatly by the huge support from a number of local companies and individuals. We would like to say a big thank you to the 'Co-Operative Society', for supplying the children's drinks and keeping them all well hydrated. To 'Waitrose' for providing the huge collection of cupcakes, which all vanished as if by magic. St John Ambulance very kindly provided a First Aid point throughout the afternoon, and we are happy to say that we had no serious injuries to report.

Many of the attendees were lucky enough to have a ride along Sir Winston Churchill Avenue on the horse and cart, which the children in particular enjoyed. We would like to say thank you to Mr Dave Lowe, who generously provided this ride free of charge. After the fun and games of the afternoon, we were treated to an open-air screening of 'Le Miserables', a film musical based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, we are grateful to 'Sure' and 'Specsavers' for sponsoring this event, which saw a large gathering of people picnicking in front of the screen. Our thanks go to 'Condor' and 'Cresswell, Cuttle & Dyke', for providing transport and accommodation.

A lot of work went into organising the whole day, but thanks to Ann Jennings, and other staff of the Constables office, and the members of the Douzaine, we think we managed to make it a great day for everyone who attended. Should we do it again, what do you think? 



Photo's by Rob Grant

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GUERNSEY AND THE OUTBREAK OF THE GREAT WAR

How the island and its population rose to meet the challenge

By Matt Harvey, BSc (Hons), Social History Curator

Introduction

Much has already been written about the creation of Guernsey's own regiment, the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. The regiment suffered heavily during 1917 and 1918 and this contributed to the decimation of a generation of Guernseymen. However, much less has been written about the early years of the war, and how the Guernsey population dealt with the impact of this first truly 'global' conflict. The contribution that Guernsey men and women made to the war effort in the years from 1914 to 1916 is often under appreciated.

The States' creation in 1915 of two infantry companies, and an ammunition column of men from the Royal Guernsey Militia is well documented. These were sent to the Royal Irish Regiment, Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 9th Scottish Division respectively. However, entirely separate from this, hundreds and hundreds of Guernsey men joined up on their own initiative. Men from the island went into practically every single British and Empire

regiment in existence. Many also joined the Royal Navy or the merchant service. Without a collective name under which to record these men, it has always proven difficult to quantify their efforts, and hence their contribution has often been overlooked.

The Home Front 1914 - 1916

One of the first things to happen when war was declared in 1914, was that the French Army recalled all of its' Reservists. France operated a system of compulsory military service. After completing his service, a man would return to civilian life. However, he was obliged to be entered onto the list of Army Reserves. This provided the French Government with a backup force of trained men, whom they could call upon in times of crisis. When war was declared in 1914 the French Government recalled into 'active' service all Frenchmen who were in the Reserves.

Because Guernsey's labour force had for many years been bolstered by men from Normandy and Brittany this act had an immediate effect



Soldat August Guegan



Private Peter Le Morellec



Private Thos. J. Way, R.A.M.C



Driver P.M. Tardif, A.S.C



French Reservists for the front

on the island. Hundreds of French Nationals who were working in Guernsey were obliged to respond to the call, and immediately return to France. At a single stroke Guernsey lost a significant proportion of its labour force, and this put a huge strain on the economy. On top of this the British Army garrison, which was stationed in the island, was also recalled to war. In response, the States of Guernsey mobilised the Royal Guernsey Militia to take over the active role of protectors of the island. The militia men had to man the forts and artillery emplacements, patrol the coastline, build trench and barbed wire fortifications, and create machine gun positions to protect vulnerable bays on the North and West coasts of the island. The impact was enormous. Men were taken away from their jobs, and the already strained economy began to falter. Serious discussions were held, and in February 1915 a crisis meeting was held between the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff and Jurats of the Royal Court. In order to try and solve the problem, it was decided that men who



Local volunteers leave for England

were in the Militia Reserves would only be called upon once a month, and some would be released to go back to their jobs. Men were also allowed to go back to their farms at harvest time.

Despite these concessions, the situation only grew worse as time went on. From 1914 to 1916 considerable numbers of Guernsey men volunteered for active service, left the island and went to war. No amount of concessions made to the local Militia could replace these men in the island's labour pool.



Women on the island rapidly found themselves in a society where a significant proportion of the able-bodied men were no longer there. With the economy failing these women were obliged to step into the shoes of their menfolk, and do the jobs that their husbands, brothers, fathers or sons had traditionally done. They became labourers working in greenhouses and in the fields. They took jobs in industry working on production



Girls making non-returnable boxes



Guernsey's first tram conductress Miss Le Tissier collecting fares

lines. By sheer necessity women began appearing in the jobs that had, traditionally, been done by men for decades.

Some women became trained nurses in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Q.A.I.M.N.S.). Others entered the likes of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) where they could also undertake nursing work, drive ambulances or support the work of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. in the field. Some went into service in battlefield hospitals. Others worked in hospitals and recovery homes, both



Nurse W. L. Duquemin



Mrs E. Toms



Ambulance cars from Guernsey

in Guernsey and England, where they cared for the men whose injuries were so serious, they had to return home to recover. Some of the nurses witnessed some truly shocking injuries, and many of these men never returned to war!

The island as a whole undertook numerous fundraising initiatives, collected donations and held 'Flag Days', where women took to the streets to sell lapel 'pins' to raise funds. The money collected enabled a number of motor vehicles to be bought and equipped as ambulances, and sent to help the war effort.



Guernsey shipped horses to the British Army, collected fruit and tomatoes to send to the troops, and posted large amounts of tobacco to the soldiers serving in the trenches.

As well as this, some local men and women went to England, where they worked in munitions factories, producing some of the millions of artillery shells that were fired during the conflict.



Horses for the army

The challenges thrown up by the Great War were enormous, but the island's population rose to meet them in a myriad of ways. As it became apparent that the war would not 'be over by Christmas', almost everyone did what they could to make a difference - large or small.

Future WW1 Projects & Exhibitions

Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery is fortunate in having in its Document Archive, an album of local press cuttings which were collected during the early years of the Great War. Pictures of around one and a half thousand Guernsey men and women, who contributed to the war effort are represented in the album.



Fruit for wounded soldiers and sailors



Packing tobacco at St George's Hall for soldiers at the front



Socks for men at the front

MRS. A. BRIMAGE, OF 4, VANDERVERT, WHO HAS KNITTED 30 PAIRS OF SOCKS FOR OUR SOLDIERS IN 30 DAYS, AND IS STILL CONTINUING THE GOOD WORK



Munition workers "somewhere in England"

A project is currently underway to digitise all these images and the accompanying information. It is hoped that the digital archive thus created will be used during the WWI Centenary years 2014 - 2018.

In 2016 Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery in Candie Gardens will be staging a special exhibition, which will focus on how World War One affected the island. It will look specifically at what was happening on the Home Front, and how local people contributed to the war effort through Nursing and Medicine.

If any readers have any World War One material that they would like to share with the Museum, original objects, photographs, documents or information relating to these topics, or to the war in general then please contact us. [📧](#)

Matt. Harvey BSc (Hons)
Social History Curator
Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery
Tel: 726518, E-mail: museums@gov.gg

ST PETER PORT 1677-1680

By Dr Gregory Stevens Cox MBE

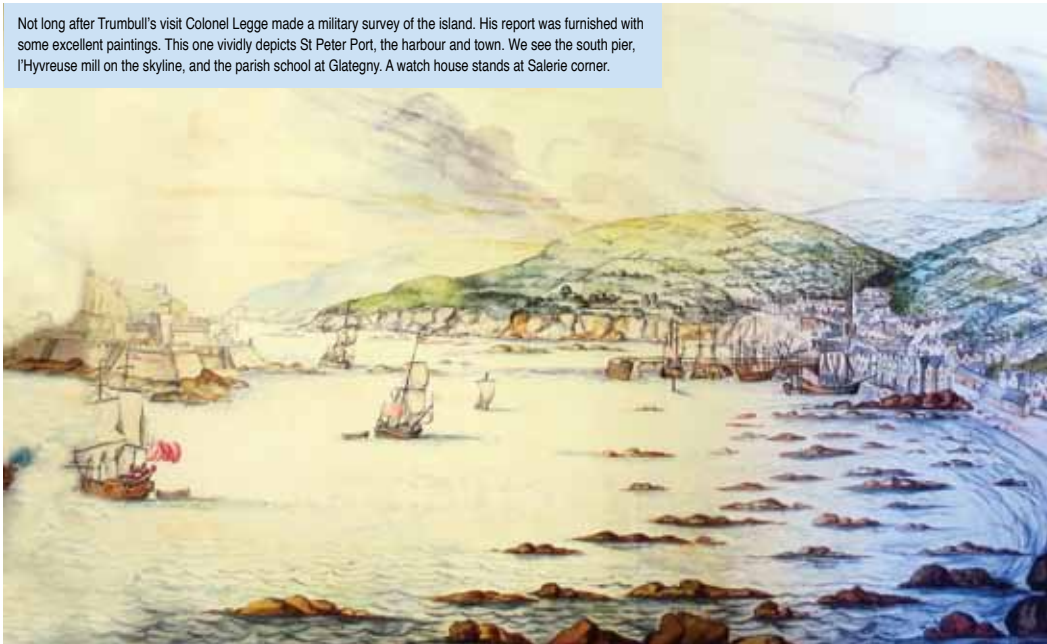
By renowned author and historian, Dr Gregory Stevens Cox, who was recently honoured with an MBE for his services to Guernsey history and culture.

Late in September 1677 Charles Trumbull arrived with friends in St Peter Port. Being asked whence they came 'and it being answered from Jersey, the whole company at the Pier... rudely saluted us with that mock word 'de Jersey' by way of contempt and scorn, which shows that there is no great kindness between the two neighbouring rival islands'.

Inter-insular badinage is far from new! Some historians have dated it to the Civil War era, mid 17th century, when the islands supported different sides. Others date the rivalry much further back, to an era when one island was more Norman, the other more Breton.

Trumbull found the streets of St Peter Port 'excessively narrow... very dirty and nasty'. He considered that there was need of a good quay and that there was scope for constructing vaulted cellars. However, he did approve of the fine pier. That apart, he found the town 'has nothing remarkable in or about it, the houses generally not built for ornament

Not long after Trumbull's visit Colonel Legge made a military survey of the island. His report was furnished with some excellent paintings. This one vividly depicts St Peter Port, the harbour and town. We see the south pier, l'Huvreuse mill on the skyline, and the parish school at Glatigny. A watch house stands at Salerie corner.



but present use, without ceilings and with most untoward chimneys; generally stocked with stocking merchants as they will call themselves, those that buy all the stockings that are made in the Island and barter or sell them away by wholesale in France. The stockings are generally of a finer sort than those in Jersey, some of them so curiously knit and so fine that they may be drawn through a ring, and worth 20 shillings or 30 shillings, which wool they have also liberty to transport from England...'

The islanders were proud of any silver that they possessed - 'I observed abundance of silver drinking plate in most houses, which is a general prevailing ambition among them, and some scarce worth a penny or money to buy bread have £8 or £10 worth of plate, which they take pride in showing upon all occasions'. At this time the merchants of St Malo were bringing large quantities of silver

from Spain and this was probably the source of much of the island silver ware.

At the Town church Trumbull found excellent singing of the French psalms... 'so harmoniously and with such evenness and judgement and with universality that the music of our choirs seems inferior to theirs'. He noticed 'just above the town' a large field that they called a green and employed it to bowl. 🏏

Bibliography

For Charles Trumbull see
 'The Journal of Charles Trumbull'
 By R. Hocart, Transactions of the Soc. Guern.
 Vol xxi, part iv, 1984, pp. 586-591

A modern reproduction of the Legge Report is to be found at the Priaulx Library.



Legge recorded the boats belonging to St Peter Port

<i>John</i>	pink	50 tons
<i>Providence</i>	bark	70 tons
<i>Society</i>	pink	120 tons
<i>St Peter</i>	ketch	40 tons
<i>Robert</i>	pink	60 tons
<i>Palm Tree</i>	pink	100 tons
----	pink	80 tons
<i>Elizabeth</i>	bark	30 tons
<i>Mary</i>	ketch	25 tons
<i>David</i>	double shallop	8 tons
<i>Success</i>	small hoy	8 tons
<i>Hopewell</i>	bark	30 tons
<i>Peter</i>	bark	30 tons
<i>Adventure</i>	bark	15 tons
<i>William</i>	bark	20 tons
<i>David</i>	bark	10 tons
----	bark	18 tons
<i>Charles</i>	ship	----

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AIRTEL-VODAFONE HELPS LICK ST PETER PORT INTO SHAPE

Islanders have been enjoying ice cream and raising money for the Town Centre Partnership thanks to Airtel-Vodafone.


The company's superchilled ice cream van has been parked opposite the Herm Trident office, selling ice creams with such unusual names as Sweet Snowman, Mountain Man and Magical Secret.

They have been sold for just £1.50, although they've been free to Airtel-Vodafone customers, and half of all the profits raised are helping to improve St Peter Port. At time of going to print over 1500 have been sold.

Airtel-Vodafone's Head of Marketing, Peter Zunino, said: "Our ice creams have gone



down brilliantly, not only with our customers but with all islanders. As a business trading in St Peter Port, we recognise the importance of giving people a great experience in Guernsey's capital and I'm pleased we have been able to financially support the Town Centre Partnership while putting a smile on people's faces at the same time."

Town Centre Manager, Jack Honeybill, said: "It is great to see a Guernsey company supporting the town in this way. Airtel-Vodafone's support is really appreciated in making town just that little bit better for everyone." 

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

WASTE COMMITTEE UPDATE...

By Douzenier Neil Forman



Belle Greve Beach Clean

Members of the Waste Committee and other Douzeniers, carried out another clean of Belle Greve Bay on May 4th. It was pleasing to see that there was not as much rubbish collected this time as in previous cleans. Items found included, wheel trims, a push-bike, a length of plastic pipe, and the usual bottles and cans. In total three black sacks were filled. The photo shows Deputy/Douzenier Lester Queripel, and Douzenier Keith Pike with the haul collected.

Chewing Gum Litter

As you may have seen in a recent news reports, chewing gum litter is becoming a problem on the pavements around our town. There was a big clean up before the Britain in Bloom finals, but the chewing gum litter is returning again. Removal is very expensive and time consuming. In order to combat this problem, the Waste Committee has ordered ten Gumdrop bins to install around town, on a one month trial basis.

These bins have been successfully trialed in the UK and Europe. The bins are actually made from recycled chewing gum. Each full bin contains enough gum to produce another three bins. If the trial is successful, we would be looking for sponsorship for these bins. If you would like to sponsor one bin or more, please contact the Constables Office. There is a space for labels to be affixed to the side of the bins. We have spoken to Dan Smith of Smith Signs and can produce stickers with sponsor's logos.



Cigarette Litter

Members of the Waste Committee assisted the Floral Committee with a clean-up of the streets and pavements around town, before the Britain in Bloom finals. Whilst we did find other types of litter, we also found massive amounts of cigarette butts. These were time consuming to pick up and unsightly. It is worth noting that anyone seen throwing cigarette butts on pavements and streets around town are liable to a fine of £70. Please dispose of cigarette ends properly. 📍

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OPERATION "HUCKABACK"

By Simon Hamon

Operation Huckaback was a British Commando raid planned in late 1942. The raid, originally planned for the night of 9/10 February 1943, was to be a series of simultaneous raids on Herm, Jethou and Brecqhou. The objective was to take prisoners and gain information about the situation in the occupied Channel Islands. It was to be carried out by 42 men of all ranks from the SSRF and No. 4 Commando. They would be transported there in three MGB's 312, 317 and 326. This raid was eventually cancelled at the last minute due to bad weather.

Huckaback was resurrected soon after. This time, because of a shortage of personnel, it was only as a commando raid on Herm on the night of 27/28 February 1943. The intention was reconnaissance, to see if artillery could be landed on the island. This would support

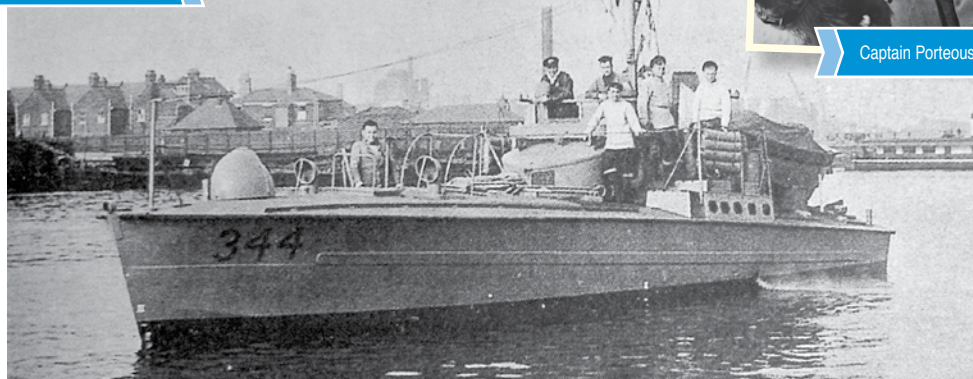
any potential large scale assault on Guernsey. The objectives were to make an artillery survey of the island, take prisoners and obtain information from Channel Islanders. The intelligence at the time suggested there were 12 or 14 Germans billeted on Herm, it was intended that the raiding party should only spend a maximum period ashore of just 4 hours. Ten men of the SSRF under the command of Captain (temporary Major) Patrick Anthony Porteous VC, were selected for this revised raid.

Accompanying the commandos, was Captain (temporary Major) W. Hewitt, Royal Artillery No. 1 Bombardment Unit, his specific job was the reconnaissance of the island, and to assess the practicalities of landing and using artillery in Herm.



Captain Porteous

MTB 344 in Dartmouth



This 11 man raiding party sailed to Herm in the British MTB 344 which was skippered by lieutenant Freddie Bourne of the Coastal Command Forces. MTB 344 sailed from Portland at 1900 hours 27 February 1943 (the local time in the Channel Islands was 1 hour later). They arrived in Herm at 2245 hours, where the tide was running north at two knots, and the visibility was about 2 miles. The craft anchored at this point, which was approximately half a mile from the landing point.

The team transferred into an 18 foot dory which they paddled to shore landing 200 yards (180 m) to the north-west of Selle Rocque (The landing point as indicated on map). The landing was made on a large shingle beach on the South-East coast of Herm at 2300 hours.

As soon as the commanding officer and chief scout were ashore, a reconnaissance of the bay was made. The cliffs surrounding the cove were 100 feet high and slopping, and comprised of soft clay. Three attempts were made to scale the cliffs on the north side of the cove, but were unsuccessful. An ascent was made in the middle of the western cliff, up the bed of a stream. The force commander



Map of Herm showing route of raiding party

carried a rope up this cliff, and pulled the rest up, all reaching the top about 2320 hours. A sentry was left at the top of the cliff, to guide the force back, and watch the dory.

The force then moved up along a wall which runs approximately north from the landing place. The fields were rough pastureland, and on them the going was easy. The force remained on the seaward side of the wall, there was a certain amount of low shrub and brambles, which made movement extremely noisy. The fields here are divided by low stone walls which were easy to climb. The force continued northwards to a small patch of wood due east of Belvoir House, where a reconnaissance was made by the force commander. There seemed to be no sign of activity, and the ground all around the house was overgrown. Lt. Thompson, the second in command and two men took up covering positions around the house. Capt. Porteous and three men forced entry into the house at 2350 hours and searched the building which was deserted and unfurnished. There was no signs of footmarks in the dust which was laying thickly over everything. Whilst the house was being searched Capt. Hewitt, accompanied by one of the men made a



Lt Bourne, skipper of the MTB 344

reconnaissance of Belvoir Beach and the route from the beach inland.

The force then reformed and moved westwards along a wall from Belvoir House until striking the track beside the Manor House. The force moved northwards along the track which is described as being well metaled, and capable of carrying heavy transport. A permanent wire fence had been put up across the road about 100 yards north of the Manor, where the old stocks are found. There were bushes and brambles growing across the road, it seemed as if it had not been used recently. The force continued to the fork between north-west hill and north hill, then along a sandy track across the golf course reaching the northern end of Shell Beach at 0030 hours 28 February 1943. There were no signs of enemy activity in this part of the island, no mines or wire or weapon-pits were seen. The golf course was overgrown with brambles and rushes. The ground was sandy and covered with turf. A decision was made that driving a wheeled, or tracked vehicle across would be possible.

The force then moved southwards along Shell Beach. There is a vertical bank above the high tide level, which is about 4 feet high in the north, rising to 8 feet in the centre and almost disappears in the south. It was decided the bank was made of sand, and so it could be cut out if a landing took place.



Landing bay of the party with Selle Rocque in the centre

Photo by Joe Maloret



The Tower

Photo by Joe Maloret


From the south end of Shell Beach, the force cut across north hill and rejoined the track and returned to the north-east corner of the buildings that surround the Manor at 0100 hours. Lt. Thompson and two men continued along the track and made a reconnaissance of the Old Tower of Herm. The tower is described as follows; *a round stone tower with a doorway 12 feet above the ground, reached by a ladder. The top of the tower could be reached by small blocks of stone set into the outside of the tower in the form of a spiral staircase.* The tower was empty and showed no signs of recent occupation. The remainder of the force under Capt. Porteous carried out a search of the Manor, and its surrounding buildings. These were mostly locked, and showed no signs of occupation. An entry was forced into three of these houses, but nothing was found in them. The Manor itself was entered by a back door leading into a cellar. The whole ground floor was completely empty, except for a large room in the south of the building, which was filled with furniture. This was not examined closely as it was covered with dust.

The staircase leading to the upper storey had been barricaded with furniture and it was impossible to get upstairs.

The only sign of German occupation on the island which was seen was a notice-board in the back yard of the Manor which appeared to place the Manor and its surrounding out of bounds to all troops.

After having searched the Manor and its surrounding buildings Capt. Porteous's party rendezvoused with Lt. Thompson and his party at the track and wall junction 80 yards north of the Old Tower at 0200 hours. As time was getting short it was decided to return immediately to the boat. The route was down the track to the southern most of the two tree hedges, thence diagonally across Big Seagull Field to the cliff top above the landing place.

The cliff was descended by the same route, the force coming down with the aid of the rope. Re-embarkation was completed by 0225 hours. The dory was paddled straight out towards Selle Rocque where MTB 344 was spotted with the aid of night-glasses lying about 300 yards to the north-east. The tide was running north and the MTB was reached by 0240 hours. The force returned to Portland at 0540 hours.

During the movement on Herm, a number of propaganda leaflets were dropped in conspicuous places and the letter "C" chalked on walls, it was concluded that light field artillery could be landed on Shell Beach but apart from that aspect the raid was of little success, except to remind the German's the British could land at any time on the Channel Islands. 

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
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A message from our LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE

By Lilita Krūze



MIDSUMMER SOLSTICE

With such an unusually sunny and hot summer here in Guernsey. I was motivated to experience a real, traditional Midsummer Solstice celebration, so I arranged my annual leave in June and went back home to Latvia. Throughout the nation, men and women, young and old, join in celebrating Ligo on the 23rd and 24th June.

The sight of a wide range of daisies, cornflowers, red clovers, poppies and many other beautiful and colourful flowers, took the breath away. Braided flower head wreaths were individually made for women, and oak leaf head wreaths for the men. Cars were decorated with garlands, and we headed to the cultural landmark of Turaida, where Solstice celebrations would be taking place.

In that special place of Latvian tradition, the whole of the shortest night of the year was spent awake, from sunset to sunrise by the glow of bonfire. Many traditional activities were carried out: the braiding of flower wreaths, caraway cheese making, beer brewing, singing, the burning of last year's wreaths, jumping over the bonfire, morning dew rituals, all culminating finally in the sunrise celebration.



Cheese making in Turaida

In addition to locally brewed beer and fresh caraway cheese, Latvians enjoy another local staple Speķa pīrāgi (bacon rolls). I am pleased to share the recipe that I learned from artist/confectioner Aldis Bričevs, with whom I used to work in my home village of Baldone.

Ingredients:

Dough:

0.5l Warm water
100g Vegetable oil
100g Granulated sugar
2.5g Yeast
500g Plain flour
Salt to taste
Two eggs for brushing

Filling:

500g Bacon
1 Large onion
Ground black pepper



Bacon Rolls

Method:

Dough-dissolve the yeast in the warm water, add sugar and the oil, mix. Gradually add the flour and the salt, stir the mixture till it "bounces off" the bowl. Cover the dough with a towel and let it rise in a warm place for an hour or so. Meanwhile cut the bacon into 3mm cubes, chop the onions as small as possible, add the pepper to taste and mix all together. When the dough has risen, cut out 50g circles, top each with filling and let rise again. When risen, fold upper edge over the bottom edge. Place the bacon rolls on a greased baking sheet, brush with beaten eggs and let rise once more. Bake in the oven at 200c until golden brown.

Bon apetit! 🍴

www.turaida-muzejs.lv
www.baldone.lv

LATVIEŠI GĒRNZIJĀ

By Lilita Krūze



VASARAS SAULGRIEŽI

Esam aizvadījuši tik neparasti karstu un saulainu vasaru! Biju noilgojusies pēc īstas, tradicionālas vasaras saulgriežu svinēšanas, tamdēļ atvaļinājuma laiku speciāli iepļanoju jūnijā. Pašā vasaras vidū, kad visā Latvijā liels un mazs, vecs un jauns 23.jūnijā svin Līgo dienu un 24. jūnijā Jāņu dienu.

Plašas margrietiņu, rudzupuķu, madaru, pārkoņu, sarkanā āboliņa pļavas ne tikai aizrāva elpu. Sapinuši ziedu vainagus sievām un ozollapu vainagus vīriem, ar ziedu un lapu vītņēm izrotājuši auto, draugu pulkā devāmies uz Turaidu.

Līdz pat rīta gaismai notika dažādi rituāli-vainagu vīšana, siera siešana, ugunsroku, lāpu un saules ratu sagatavošana, alus brūvēšana, Jāņu saimes apligošana, sasaukšanās, uguns aizdegšana, sadziedāšanās, pērno vainagu dedzināšana, lēkšana pāri ugunsrokiem, rīta rasas rituāli, saules sagaidīšana.

Kā jebkuros svētkos, arī Līgo, galdā liek spēka pīrādziņus. Lasītājiem piedāvāju recepti, ko savā laikā, strādādama dzimtajā ciemā Baldone, iemācījos no šodien slavenā mākslinieka-konditora Alda Bričeva.



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Ieslēdz krāsni uz 200c temperatūru un pagatavo miklu bez ierauga. Siltā ūdenī izšķīdina raugu, pievieno cukuru un eļļu. Sāli iemaisa miltos un pamazām pievieno maisījumam. Visu labi samīca ar rokām līdz mikla "atlec" no trauka malām. Miklu pārklāj ar dvieli un raudzē siltā vietā stundu, pusotru, ik pa laikam atmicot. Kamēr mikla rūgst, uzdzied latvju dziesmas un sagatavo pildījumu: speķi sagriež iespējami mazos kubiņos, sīpolus sagriež smalki. Abus sajauc kopā un pievieno piparus pēc garšas.

Kad mikla uzrūgusi, griež 50g miklas gabaliņus, izplacina. Katram virsū liek pildījumu un atļauj uzrūgt 20 minūtes. Tad veido pīrādziņus: augšējo malu pārloka apakšējai, labi saspižot kopā. Interesanti izskatās pūsmēnesī veidoti, bet var būt arī absolūti taisni pīrādžiņi. Tos liek uz ar margarīnu ieziestu un miltiem apkaisītu pannu un vēlreiz uzraudzē. Pārziež ar sakultu olu un cep krāsni vismaz 20 minūtes, kamēr zeltaini brūni.

Labu apetīti! 🍴

ST JACQUES - THE OTHER ST JAMES

By Simon Howitt

Long before St. James Church, now the island's finest concert hall, was built in the early 19th century, there was another church in St. Peter Port dedicated to St. James or, to give him his French name, St. Jacques.

The names of areas in Guernsey often survive long after the things after which they were named have disappeared. That is the case with St. Jacques, in the west of St. Peter Port. It takes its name from the chapel of St. Jacques which stood in the area several hundred years ago.

There are three roads with "St Jacques" in their names. The first two, St. Jacques and Upper St. Jacques, were certainly there in 1787, when the Duke of Richmond Map, the earliest to show Guernsey in any detail, was published. The third, Courtil St. Jacques, is a much newer mid-20th century creation.

So, what do we know about the chapel of St. Jacques? We have 19th century historian, and Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Edgar MacCulloch to thank for the knowledge of where it was. Writing in the 1860s or 70s he said:

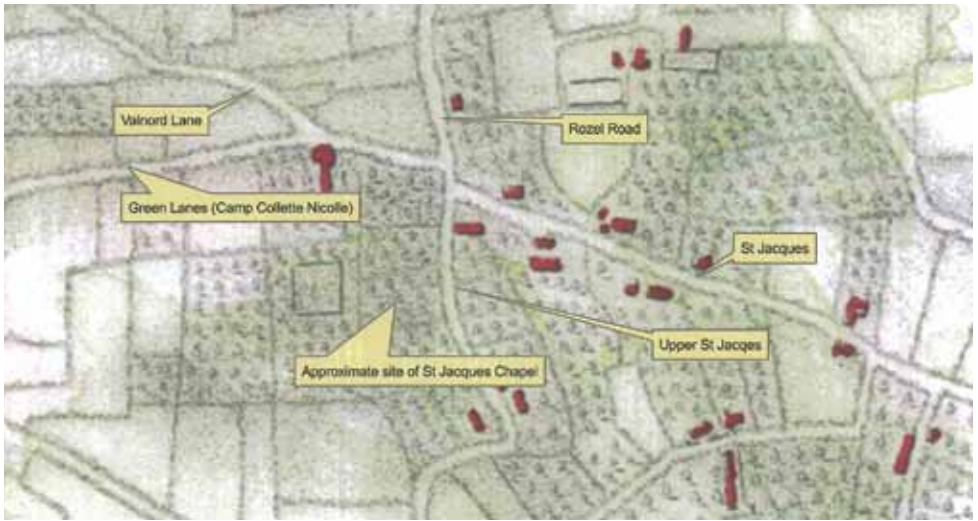
"The site of the Chapel of St. Jacques is well



known, and traces of the foundations were still to be seen till comparatively lately. It was situated in a field on the Mon Plaisir estate, on the right hand side of the lane which leads from the Rue Rozel to the back of the Rocquettes, at the head of the little valley, just where the roadway is at the lowest."

The lane to which MacCulloch referred is now known as Upper St. Jacques. Mon Plaisir, the house where John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, stayed when he visited Guernsey in 1787, is still there, although with a much reduced "estate". The entrance to it is at the junction between St. Jacques and Upper St. Jacques. If we take a walk from that entrance down Upper St. Jacques, stop at the point where the road is at its lowest and take a look to the right, we find a row of 20th century houses and a public pathway (again, constructed in the 20th century) leading from Upper St. Jacques to the States houses of Courtil St. Jacques. Somewhere in this now suburban landscape the chapel once stood.

MacCulloch also said that opposite the site of the chapel, on the other side of Upper St.



Jacques was the chapel's cemetery. At the time he wrote, it was an orchard, but was still called "La Cimetière" (the French for cemetery). He said that "human bones are still occasionally met with when digging". If we stand now in the same spot where Upper St. Jacques is at its lowest and look to the left, opposite the site of the chapel, there are, again, a row of 20th century houses. Behind them are the grounds of St. Jacques House. Under them somewhere are the remains of the congregation of the chapel.

What happened to the chapel? It was confiscated in the 16th century, as part a process of seizure of church property, and sold by the Crown to raise money. Presumably it was pulled down so that the land on which it stood could be used for agriculture. A disused chapel obviously wasn't all that much use. By 1573 the chapel was already being referred to in a *Livre de Perchage* (an official document recording the ownership of land in a particular area) in the past tense ("la place vyde ou la Chapelle de l'ydolle St. Jacques estoit" or "the empty place where the Chapel of the idol St. James was").

The chapel to which MacCulloch referred was obviously a stone building, as it had foundations which were still there by the time he wrote.

What we don't know is how old it was. The only clues are, again, in names, this time of the areas close to St. Jacques which provide a hint of evidence that it might have been a very early Christian church.

To the south of St. Jacques is Les Rocquettes. This name indicates the presence of megalithic standing stones, now long since disappeared. These were associated with pagan worship. Early Christian churches were frequently built on or near such centres of worship. There is much debate over when Christianity arrived in Guernsey, but it certainly appears to have been well established by the 7th century AD. It's very possible that the chapel of St Jacques, or a predecessor to the stone building to the foundations of which MacCulloch referred, dated back to that, or an earlier, time.

To the west of St Jacques is a road now called the Green Lanes but with the alternative, older, name of Camp Collette Nicole. The word "Camp" suggests that this area may have been part of an early open field agricultural system, and that it may have been an early centre of habitation with the chapel of St. Jacques as its church. However, it is unlikely that we will ever know for certain. 📍

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS DE GUERNESEY

By Geoffrey Mahy, Le Cercle President

It was thanks to the initiative of Roger Martin that Le Cercle was formed on 3rd October 1946 at a meeting in the Guille-Allès Assembly Room attended by over 100 interested islanders. Its first president was the Rev. Edward L. Frossard, who was French, Rector of St Sampson and future anglican Dean of Guernsey. The group's first lecture was given by Mr Martin himself on the French composer Maurice Ravel, illustrated by gramophone records. It must be remembered that in the immediate post-war years a significant proportion of the population understood French and could speak it fluently. Indeed French remains today one of the island's two official languages. It is also fair to say that there is now among islanders a greater awareness of the French mainland than ever before. *Le Cercle Français de Guernesey* has flourished over the years under a succession of presidents.

Cercle garden visit

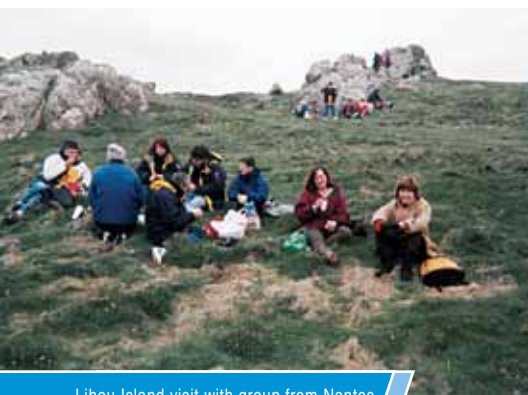


Cercle Dinner line-up 2013

The 40th anniversary was celebrated in May 1987 at the Royal Hotel. Several founder members were present. The 50th was celebrated in 1996 by a reception in the Bailiff's Chambers. Also, a special exhibition was staged at Candie Museum featuring the history of the group. This was opened by Roger Martin in the presence of Didier Savignat, the then Secretary-General of La Fédération Britannique des Alliances Françaises based in London.


In October 2006 the group celebrated its 60th anniversary with events which included the visit of the Chief Cultural Attaché at the French Embassy, and at which the then Bailiff was also present.

In 1975 a number of Cercle members were recruited by film director François Truffaut to take speaking rôles in the cast of *L'Histoire*



Lihou Island visit with group from Nantes

d'Adèle H. - shot on location in St Peter Port - and starring Isabelle Adjani in the title role. The story was that of Victor Hugo's daughter Adèle and her unrequited love-quest for a young British Army officer. This acclaimed film was screened worldwide.

Groups from Le Cercle enjoy occasional visits to locations of interest, sometimes linking in with visiting cultural groups from France. Our lectures are usually in French and on a variety of topics on a monthly basis from October to May. Subjects covered in the past year have included Paris, Brittany, Provence, singer Jacques Brel and Victor Hugo's hobby in early photography. This coming autumn's programme will be published late September and will appear on the notice boards of Tourist Information, the Guille Allès Library and the Priaulx Library. Most meetings are held at the Frossard Theatre, Candie Gardens at 8pm usually midweek. It must be emphasised that, whereas a working knowledge of French is useful, Cercle members include people with a variety of linguistic abilities ranging from French native speakers to francophiles with a limited knowledge of the language. 

TOWN CENTRE MANAGER REVIEW

Following discussions surrounding the appointment of Mr Jack Honeybill as Town Centre manager in early 2014, the Douzaine agreed to a small committee carrying out a review of whether it was felt that such a position would be of benefit to the parish or not, and to put forward proposals at the September Douzaine meeting, with a view to making a recommendation at the parish meeting held in November.

The full report, including any recommendations, will be available on the St Peter Port parish website from the 31st October, and can then be read on-line or downloaded prior to the parish meeting.

Please go to: www.stppcons.com

We would encourage any parishioner or member of the business community that has an interest in this to please attend the parish meeting on November 6th.

GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

OCTOBER

Raombillaï pas qu'i faot arriérié vos ôloges chu meis!

Raombiyai paa kee fow arree-err-ree-yeh voz oloj shu mei!

Don't forget to put back your clocks this month!

NOVEMBER

Av-ous fait vote houichepotte dé Noué acouore?

Ahv-ou feh vault weesh-paunt deh Nweh ah-kworr?

Have made your Christmas pudding yet?

DECEMBER

Nou vous souhaete aen Bouan Noué et enne Bouanne Aunnaïe!

Nou vou souaett ae Bwau Nweh ei enn Bwaunn Aunai!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Vlà l'c'menchement d'l'aunnaie et nou z-est a jé n'sait tchi qu'a s'en va nous annaï? Mais ch'est coume nou dit, 'faot arrétaï qué d'véé!'

Vla kmaush-mau d'l'aunai ei nouz ei a jehn seb chik ah s'au vah nouz aumnai? Mei sh'ei kaum nou dee, 'fow arreitai kehd vei!'

It's the beginning of the year and we're wondering what it's going bring us? But like we say, 'We'll have to wait and see!'

FEBRUARY

Mardi gras vous éraï des rats, et mé j'érai des craêpes!

Marrdee graa vous errai dei raa, ei meh j'erreh dei cra-eeep

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

MARCH

J'saïs pas s'vous accorderaï daove mé, mais i m'est avis qué les jours ralaongue aen-p-tit, tchi qu'vous en créyaï?

Sai paa s'vouz accorr-derrai daov meh, mei i m'eit avee keh lei jourr ralaon ae ptee, chik vous au creyaï?

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

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

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

Punch image from the Star from 19th July 1915



Pride Before the "Fall."

[Reproduced by Special Permission of the Proprietors of "Punch."]

WILLIAM SENIOR: "THERE WILL BE NO WINTER CAMPAIGN. THE WAR WILL BE OVER IN OCTOBER."

WILLIAM JUNIOR: "POOR OLD FATHER! HE SAYS THAT EVERY YEAR."

[In 1914 the Kaiser promised his troops that they should be "back in the dear old Fatherland before the fall of the leaves."]



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS APPEAL

By John Sarre



We are speedily coming up to Christmas and one of the most important features in St Peter Port are.....? The Christmas Lights!

The Christmas Lights put the icing on the cake so to speak. They help to make our town bright and vibrant and beautiful. We hope you agree that there is nothing more magical than going into town for late night shopping or driving through the St Peter Port town area during December and seeing all the festive lights. The Douzaine feel that the Christmas Lights make St Peter Port look quite magical.

The lights take a minimum of 8 weekends to put up which used to be done by a band of willing elves (volunteers) however with today's Health & Safety legislation now has to be carried out by a professional team which the Douzaine employs to create the magical effect for us all to enjoy.


For this magical effect to happen year after year there is an obvious cost and as with everything else this cost has risen considerably over the years. Last year's Christmas Lights cost £22,000.00 just to erect and take down again, along with around £500.00 to keep them twinkling all through the festive period. There

are the added costs of maintenance of the lights as well as a rolling replacement program. In all the cost is a minimum of £30,000.00 each year.

The Douzaine would like to increase the lights displays, when finances allow, up Fountain Street and Le Bordage as we had 15 years ago. This is a huge amount to finance and although the Douzaine do feel that the **WHOLE** of the island should be contributing to our Christmas Lights it falls mainly on the St Peter Port Traders and Parishioners to fund, topped up by a few generous donations, but we need to increase the donations if we are to continue to provide these beautiful Christmas displays.

The Douzaine and I are asking you **ALL**, to please dig deep and help us make St Peter Port town an enchanting winter wonderland this Christmas with its beautiful Christmas Lights and decorated shops for everyone to enjoy for many more Christmases to come.

I thank you for your kind generosity in advance.

Happy Christmas to you all. 

John Sarre - Douzener and Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee

(Donation bucket available at the next Parish meeting)

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