

# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE NINE



*Inside*

St Peter Port Christmas Lights  
Town Church News  
My Time on the Bin Lorry!  
*and much more...*



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# FOREWORD

## *Hello and welcome to issue 9 of The Townie.*

We hope you will find this new issue a balance of interesting articles reflecting the history and culture of St Peter Port and some of the challenges that all of us have to face to make our Town vibrant and relevant to the changing world around us.

This is an exciting year for the Parish floral team. Building on the great work of the Britain in Bloom Gold medal success last year, it will be aiming for the coveted Champion of champion status in the summer. This should encourage all of us to water our hanging baskets and clear any weeds from our gardens and paths!

This issue includes an article about two Douzeniers who joined the bin and recycling teams and were returned safely!

The Profile Team intends to inject new ideas into Issue 10 and would welcome ideas that are of interest to you or articles that you would like to submit. Please submit your articles to us to consider and we will be happy to work with you. Tell us about your special events that we could put in the next diary or print an article, with pictures, about it.

We are interested in your feedback and have introduced a Parish Matters page so your views on the Town can be discussed and published in issue 10 in the Autumn. [t](#)

### *The Profile Committee members*

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

Issue 9 - April 2017

Townie Sub-Committee:

Keith Pike, Richard Harding, Jacquie Robin, Mary McDermott, Pauline Fath, Lisa Vahey, Tim Bush

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The Constables and Douzaine have no knowledge of the source or credibility of any information given in the articles by guest authors and printed in this issue of the Townie magazine, the information supplied by them is researched of their own accord. The Constables and Douzaine accept the written articles in good faith and do not accept responsibility for any errors, misquotes or misinformation contained within.

Cover photograph: Chris George

### **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



**Dennis Le Moignan** (Constable)

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In office until 31-12-19 as Constable and 31-12-18 as Douzenier. Chairman of Advisory, Moorings and Streams Committees. Member of Island Emergency Planning and Street Lighting Committees. La Mare de Carteret High School Representative. Nominal member of all other committees.

This year is proving to be an expensive one for the Parish. The cost of waste collection and disposal is rising considerably, and the future with the proposed States Waste Strategy is far from convincing. Costs will rise even further as recycling improves, as this will further increase the cost of waste disposal. The cost of recycling at the moment is over £1,000,000 and this will also increase.

We have discovered serious faults in the Candie Cemetery walls which revealed what a dangerous condition they are in. This means some serious rebuilding work and serious money to ensure the safety of the public who walk past them.

Sadly it was necessary to take down the Monterey Pine trees in Upland road. They had become extremely dangerous having dropped very large limbs every year since 2012. Luckily, this has not resulted in injury to persons, but damage has occurred to the conservatory of an adjacent house, with two cars damaged and a crushed van.

We intend to replant with trees more suited to the area, and to this end I have decided we should create a zone of low allergy, insect and bird pollinated trees. The zone will include Candie Cemetery, Cambridge Park and the three areas in Upland Road. This will create a far healthier zone, particularly for people suffering from asthma, other breathing problems and pollen related allergies. The intention is that all future planting should be done in this way and I have requested our Floral Group to take this into consideration when planting anything new in the Parish.

We will be putting some of the lesser work (although important in its own right) on the back burner, as we are very conscious of the cost to our rate payers. 

*The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.*



**Jenny Tasker** (Constable)

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In office until 31-12-17 as Constable and 31-12-19 as Douzenier. Member of Baubigny Schools' Committee, Island Emergency Planning, Advisory, Moorings and Streams Committees. Nominal member of all other committees.

Having written about the walls at the Candie Cemetery in Upland Road for the last edition of the Townie, no doubt you will have been aware that much work has been done since then and with far greater excavation and rebuilding than had been expected. It was most disturbing to be informed that the wall was not solid granite, but merely a granite skin! That has meant more time to carry out the necessary repairs as well as more expense. In due course, further panels (sections) in Monument Road will also need to be addressed.

Several compliments have been received by the Constables about the work our ground staff have carried out at the Brock Road 'garden'. More is planned to be done to ensure that all is safe and its appearance enhances the area.

The Constables and Douzaine have to consider a number of issues regarding waste, as a result of the States' acceptance of the Waste Strategy. Trying to discover what the real costs will be has been impossible, as yet, and that makes life very difficult for us in planning for the future rates which we will need to levy. It is most unfortunate for all our parishioners that the information is not forthcoming.

There is an article later on in the magazine about the U3A. I have been a Convenor for that organisation for Local History and one of the first visits my group made was to see the refurbished Constables' Office. Other groups who have visited are members of the WI, locals and visitors enjoying walks with Guernsey Accredited Guides, as well as various individuals. It is important that parishioners, or other interested Islanders, are able to come and see how the property now looks and we are happy to arrange that - please contact the Office to make an appointment.

We continue to do our best to serve the Parish and are happy to hear of any specific ideas you may have to enhance our beautiful Town. 

# CONTENTS

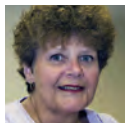
Foreword .....	1
Introduction by the Constables .....	2
Contents .....	3
Your parish Douzeniers .....	4
Your parish Deputies .....	5
What is happening in the office .....	7
Guernsey French phrases you need .....	8
Parish Matters .....	9
What's on 2017 .....	10
Town Church News .....	13
St Peter Port Christmas Lights .....	14
Channel Islands Air Search .....	18
Waste Strategy .....	20
Floral Committee update .....	22
Schools Matters .....	24
The changing face of St Peter Port .....	26
Encouraging in children a love of language .....	28
A message from our Latvian representative .....	30
Dogs and democracy - Standing for the Douzaine .....	32
My time on the bin lorry! .....	34
My time on the recycling bin truck! .....	36
U3A Guernsey .....	38
Deutsche in Guernsey .....	39
Guernsey Civil Protection .....	42
The law regarding hedges and streams .....	45
Archaeological excavations in St Peter Port II .....	46
Le Cercle Français De Guernesey .....	50
Did you know? .....	52

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# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

By Martyn Guilbert, Secretary to the Constables

Jenny, Ann and I are now well settled back in our lovely building in Lefebvre Street and really enjoying the excellent working environment. At the time of writing, we are getting ready for the Spring Parish meeting on 12th April and preparing the figures for the Remede in readiness for producing those dreaded Parish Rate bills. Don't forget, you receive two annual bills, the first issued in March by the States Cadastre for TRP (a property tax) and then your Parish Rates bill issued usually in early May by ourselves. Lots of people confuse the two bills. We really do not want to fine you for late payment!

I thought for this issue I would feature the many and varied work covered by our intrepid team of grounds men, Geoff, Len and Jon. The biggest draw on their time is maintaining the Candie Cemetery. I used to say this is our Forth Road Bridge job, but the painting of the Forth Road Bridge has been completed! Strimming and cutting grass at the cemetery is never-ending, but I hope you agree that the lads do a terrific job of keeping it under control. They are also doing the "hospital job" of straightening head stones and filling in and reseeding dips in the grass - another major task.

You may not be aware just how many other sites around the parish that the team look after, 44 in all. They now take care of most of the public benches around the town, many of which have been renovated with the grateful help of the prison. The public loos at Cambridge Park, surely the smartest public loos in the island, are maintained morning and evening and the whole of Cambridge Park is litter-picked every morning. Goal nets are also put up and taken down for the Saturday Football League matches. Len, as journeyman visits almost all locations every week to see what needs to be done, including the surrounds behind the railings at the Town Church,




Geoff Le Gallez preparing new slats for benches.



The team, Jon Len and Geoff at Candie Cemetery. The new garden of rest created by the team.



Len and Geoff at the Brock Road garden.

the many pumps, lavoirs and abreuvoirs around the parish, the small garden at Brock Road (sorry, it's been closed for a while now for extensive work), the plantations at the Rohais and Upland Road and the offices at Lefebvre Street. The team do take considerable pride in their work and I think it is fair to say that Parish property is some of the best maintained, and also credit to them for doing as much work as possible "in-house". 

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

# GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

## APRIL

**En avril né chitte pas aen fi.**

*Awn abhvreel neh cheet pahhh ah fee.*

**Do not take of a stitch of clothing in April.**

## MAY

**Lé meis d'mai y a l'jour d'la Liberâtiaon, qué "Faot daon s'en ermaette, et célébrai".**

*Leh meee-d meh yaah-l shzour dlahh Leeberr-abhhss-ya(ng), keh "Fow da(ng) s'aw-r matt eee selebraye.*

**Liberation Day is in May, so "Let us therefore remember, and celebrate!"**

## JUNE

**Nou z-est achtaeure au d'meis d'juin et és aotes jours nou pourra s'attaude à vei dé pus laongs jours et dé pus biau tems!**

*Nouz eee abhsh-ta-eer o meee-d shzwa-ee eee eez od shzour nou pourahh s'ahhtawd ahh veee deh pu la(ng) shzour eee deh pu b-yo taw!*

**We are now in June and within the next few days and weeks we can expect to see longer days and finer weather.**

## JULY

**Chu meis nou peut avé du ji au Carniva à la Ville!**

*Shu meee nou puh ahvveh du shzee o Cahrneevahh ahh lahh veel!*

**In July you can enjoy the Town Carnival!**

## AUGUST

**Ch'est achtaeure lé meis des shaos à la caempogne, lé siaon du Su est lé 11 et l'12, pens-ous allai l'vei?**

*Sh'eee abhsh-ta-eer leh meee deee show ahh lahh cahpoyrn, leh s-yaw du Su eee leh ownz eee-l douz, pauss-ou abhlaye-l veee?*

**It's now the month of the country shows, the South's is on 11th and 12th, are you planning on going to see it?**

## SEPTEMBER

**Chu meis au Ptit Rué y éra d'tché écotai les gens tchaer les batchiaos à vitasse s'en rviaune en Guernesî pour reicié.**

*Shu meee o-P tee Rweh yernaah-d cheh eccawtaye leee shzaw chahr leee bahhchow ahh veetass s'aw-r vyawn aw Jehr-nehz-ee pour reeess-yeh.*

**This month in the Little Russell there'll be something to entertain folk as power boats are coming back to Guernsey to race.**

**Learn a little of our Norman language over a drink!**

*- Appernai aen ptit d'giernesiais daove enne veraie!*

The Imperial Hotel (Wednesday 7.00 - 8.00pm).  
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@suremail.gg](mailto:janmarquis@suremail.gg)**

st peter port matters to you... waste collections, recycling, parking, dog licensing, street lighting, hedge trimming, stream clearing, floral presentation of town... your views

# PARISH MATTERS

By Douzenier Tim Bush

St Peter Port matters to us. 20 volunteers who serve as Constables and Douzeniers to help look after Town and make it good place to live, shop, work in and to help along with others make it attractive and a nice place to visit and enjoy.

**St Peter Port matters to you. We would like to hear from you and in future issues of Townie we want to publish the matters that concern you and look at your ideas of how the Douzaine can serve St Peter Port.**


Does the Parish do enough to keep the Town clean and show a commitment to the environment through the recycling schemes? Do you feel you are getting good value for money with the waste collections? Is the balance of kerbside recycling and bring banks about right?

Can the Parish do more to support local businesses? Will online shopping spell the demise of more local businesses? How can the Parish encourage people to shop in town?

Traffic is always a hot potato, do we need more parking? Would a multi storey car park help? Should people be encouraged to use buses or smaller cars more?

Is there enough for young people to do in Town, does the Parish support its elderly enough? Should the Parish be concerned for the vulnerable and how can it work with other agencies to develop this?

This page is for you. If its dog licencing, street lighting, hedge trimming, stream clearing, the floral presentation of town, the amenities of town, and just how people see the role of the Constables and the Douzaine, we want to give a forum for your views.

Write into "Parish Matters" c/o the Constables Office, or email us at [stpeterportparish@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterportparish@gmail.com). Alternatively the Deputies and Douzeniers are hosting regular drop in sessions. Please check the Parish page for details, or subscribe to regular updates by email. 

### Tim Bush

*Tim is one of two new Douzeniers elected in the November elections. If serving the Parish as a Douzenier is of interest to you, please pop into the Constables office where staff will explain the process of standing. Each year, five of the 20 Douzeniers are required to either stand down or seek reelection for a further 4 year term.*



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# WHAT'S ON 2017

We have listed below, many of the events that will be taking place during the period from April to November 2017. Whilst the majority will take place in St Peter Port, there are also a few events outside the parish we would like to highlight, including the various shows and regatta. For further information please go to the web page [www.visitguernsey.com](http://www.visitguernsey.com) or [www.towncentrepertnership.com](http://www.towncentrepertnership.com)

## Public Holidays:

Friday 14th April  
Monday 17th April  
Monday 1st May  
Tuesday 9th May  
Monday 29th May  
Monday 28th August

Good Friday  
Easter Monday  
May Bank Holiday  
Liberation Day  
Spring Bank Holiday  
Summer Bank Holiday

## Parish Administration:

Wed 12th April  
Mon 1st May - Fri 15th September  
Thurs 1st - Thurs 15th June  
Fri 15th - Sat 30th September  
Wed 1st November

Parish Meeting at 19.30, Les Cotils  
Town Scaffold Embargo  
Summer Hedge Cutting Inspection  
Autumn Hedge Cutting Inspection  
Parish Meeting at 19.30, Les Cotils

## Events:

Sat 8th April - Wed 10th May  
Sat 6th May - Sat 30th September

Sun 7th May - Sun 24th September  
Tues 9th May (Bank Holiday)  
Wed 10th May - Sat 13th May  
Fri 12th May

Sun 14th May  
Thurs 25th May

Sat 27th May  
Sun 28th May

Sun 28th May  
Sun 28th May  
Sat 28th May - Mon 30th May  
Sun 4th June  
Sun 11th June  
Mon 12th - Sat 17th June  
Tues 13th - Sun 18th June

Heritage Festival  
There will be Saturday performances in Market Square normally commencing at 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm  
Sunday Concerts in Candie Gardens  
Liberation Day  
Guernsey Literary Festival  
Music Gig, Fermain Tavern for the St Peter Port  
Christmas Lights Charity  
Seafront Sunday - TASTE  
University of Chichester perform Orpheus in the Underworld - St James  
University of Chichester Pops Orchestra - St James  
University of Chichester joint concert with  
Guernsey Concert Brass - St James  
Rock to Rocque Cycle Ride for Les Bourgs Hospice  
Seafront Sunday - GSPCA  
Normandie Market - North Beach  
Seafront Sunday - Arts  
Seafront Sunday - TASTE  
Sure Festival of Comedy in Guernsey  
Herm Real Ale and Cider Festival

Mon 3rd July	Le Viaer Marchi
Fri 14th, 21st, 28th July & 4th Aug	KPMG Castle Nights Guernsey (18.00 - 21.00)
Sat 15th - Sat 29th July	Town Carnival & La Faete d'la Musique a la Ville.
Sun 16th July	Seafront Sunday - Motorsport
Fri 21st - Thurs 27th July	Sure Big Screen, Cobo Bay
Sat 29th July	Rocquaine Regatta
Sat 29th July	Governor's Charities Fete (14.00 - 16.30) at the Governor's House. Free Entry
Sat 29th - Sun 30th July	Torteval Scarecrow Festival
Sun 6th August	Seafront Sunday - TASTE
Fri 11th - Sat 12th August	The South Show
Wed 16th - Thurs 17th August	The West Show
Sun 20th August	Seafront Sunday - TASTE
Wed 23rd - Thurs 24th August	The North Show & Battle of Flowers
Sat 26th - Mon 28th August	Normandy Market, North Beach
Sun 27th August	Seafront Sunday - Marathon
Sat 9th September	Proms on the Pier
Tues 12th - Sun 17th September	Herm Real Ale and Cider Festival
Thurs 14th September	Guernsey Air Display
Sat 23rd Sept - Sun 8th October	Autumn Walking Festival
Sun 24th September	Charybdis Foulon Service (15.00)
October - mid November	Tennerfest
Sun 29th October	Haunted Castle - Castle Cornet
Sat 11th November	Christmas Theme Quiz for the St Peter Port
Sun 19th November	Christmas Lights Charity
Mon 20th - Sat 25th November	Charities' Fayre at Beau Sejour
Sat 25th November	Pop up shop for the St Peter Port Christmas Lights
Thurs 30th November	YBG Santa switch on St Peter Port Christmas Lights
	Tree of Joy switch on ( <i>money for Christmas Parcel Appeal</i> )

### Flag Days:

Sat 22nd April	Multiple Sclerosis Society
Sat 29th April	Parkinson's UK Guernsey Branch
Sat 6th May	Guernsey Arts Commission
Sat 13th May	Samaritans
Sat 20th May	Guernsey Alzheimer's Association
Sat 24th June	SSAFA
Sat 15th July	Lifeboat
Sat 22nd July	Town Carnival
Sat 29th July	Town Carnival
Sat 26th August	Guernsey Voluntary Service
Sat 9th September	Battle Of Britain
Sat 16th September	Battle Of Britain
Sat 23rd September	Les Bourgs Hospice
Sat 7th October	Tumaini Fund
Sat 18th November	St Peter Port Christmas Lights
Sat 25th November	Walk A Mile In Their Shoes
Sat 2nd December	Rotary



# CANDIE GARDENS CONCERTS

Town Centre Partnership presents Candie Gardens Concerts - Sundays in 2017 (3pm until 4pm).

Sponsored by The Guernsey Arts Commission and the Association of Guernsey Charities Lottery funding.

7th May	Glenn Miller Sound
14th May	Lydia Pugh Entertains
21st May	Guernsey Concert Brass
28th May	University of Chichester
4th June	Guernsey Symphonic Winds
11th June	Guernsey Concert Brass
18th June	Kate Kelleway
25th June	Stephanie Coombs
2nd July	Fourtissimo
9th July	Guernsey Jazz Orchestra
16th July	Guernsey Concert Brass
23th July	Jazz Accord
30th July	The Day Trippers with support act (2pm - 4pm)
6th August	To be advised
13th August	To be advised
20th August	Ashleigh Gardener-Wheeler
27th August	Jazz Accord
3rd September	Stormy Monday
10th September	Guernsey Concert Brass
17th September	Alison Castle and the Elastic Band
24th September	Guernsey Welsh Boys Choir

With thanks to Guernsey Arts Commission support.

**ENTRANCE FREE.** *In event of bad weather the Museum service have kindly allowed performances in the Theatre for small groups.*

**Town Carnival** commences on Saturday 15th July until 29th July from 10.30am with the first week dedicated to local entertainment.

# TOWN CHURCH NEWS

By **The Rev'd Matthew Barrett**, Rector of Town Church



It was a real privilege to be instituted as the new Rector of Town Church in November 2016 and along with my new colleague The Rev'd Peter Graysmith, our Mission Priest, we look forward to meeting you and to see how the church and the community can work more closely together.

As most Parishioners will be aware, a small portion of your rates are utilised to help maintain the historic fabric of our beloved Town Church, I have been asked by The Constables to explain some of the important work that has been carried out in recent years.

One of the largest projects carried out in 2015/6 was the overhaul of the harbour-facing window in the Lady Chapel which, although only installed post-Occupation, was showing signs of significant distortion in the leaded panels. With some significant cracking to the limestone window tracery also present it was considered that this window should be the next to be repaired. The stained glass panels were carefully removed and temporarily located to the safety of the workshop of local craftsman, Peter Vivian (Guernsey Glasscraft), which thus allowed careful inspection of not only each panel of glazing but also the stone window frames. Some of the embedded iron fixing bolts had corroded and pushed apart the stonework so stainless steel replacement sections were installed along with crack repairs using modern resin compounds.

The window stonework has now been structurally strengthened and coated with several protection coats of lime wash, and the stained glass repaired, re-leaded and put back.

The oldest stained glass in the church dates back to the Victorian period with most of the larger panels being more modern, the earlier glass

having been lost during a blast in 1944 when the harbour was bombed by the RAF.

Over the past 10 years we have worked on 13 of the 21 windows in the church, prioritising those in most need of repair.

More recently plaster repairs have been undertaken along the exterior walls of the south aisle where these patches are located below ground level and subjected to damp ingress. Specialist lime plasters have now been introduced to prevent the passage of salts through the wall. Some further work along the west wall (taxi rank) is planned for this coming year, where the floor is lower than the pavement outside and salt damage to the plaster will be rectified.

Along with the normal routine maintenance of unblocking gutters, decoration, patch re-pointing, etc the hard work continues...

The Town Church congregation continue to pay for all that goes on inside the church as well as keeping the building heated - which also helps to protect the structure of this beautiful historic building.

As well as our advertised services, the Church is open from 8am until 5pm every day and provides a quiet space, for reflection, prayer and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. I have been amazed by the sheer number of people who call into the church each day to spend a few moments of quiet.

We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you soon. 

For more information please visit our website: [www.townchurch.net](http://www.townchurch.net) or find us on facebook: [TownChurchGsyChurch](https://www.facebook.com/TownChurchGsyChurch)

# ST PETER PORT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By Douzenier Jacquie Robin Chairperson

I have been overwhelmed with the positive response I have received since taking over the Chair of this Charity Committee in October last year and say a very big thank you to all the people who supported us in 2016, whether this was by offers of time, donations (cash, goods or services) or just simply making positive comments to support our cause. You have all made this challenging role much easier, so again **THANK YOU**.

My remit was to raise the profile of the charity and its need for public funding as the Ratepayers of St Peter Port were not in favour of picking up the shortfall anymore.

At the November Parish Meeting our Ratepayers voted to cease any funding for the Christmas Lights from 1.1.17. As I'd only been Chair for a few weeks, I requested they gave me a year to try and turn things around. However, they decided enough was enough. They did request I write to the President of Economic Development requesting the lights funding be taken over by them. This I did, but the outcome was that with ever tightening budgets this was not possible at this time.

During the 13 week period from October to the end of the year, I used every angle and all the media to raise our profile. I gathered much public opinion with the general consensus being that the lights should be funded by either the States of Guernsey or the community of Guernsey as a whole. People



agreed with our Campaign, that if every islander gave a £1 per year, we would solve the continuous problem of 'how to fund the St Peter Port Christmas Lights'.

During this time the Charity managed to raise around £30,000 towards the cost of the 2016 lights through one off donations, Pop-Up Shop takings, profits from our Christmas Themed Quiz and our flag days. This was the most the Charity had ever raised. We also received a £20k donation from M&S Guernsey Plastic Bag Fund. This £20k had to be spent specifically in High Street and Fountain Street for new lights. As there was no infrastructure or electrical supply to

Fountain Street, they agreed that new lights could be purchased for part of High Street and the rest of the monies used to install all needed works in Fountain Street. As I am sure you are aware, although a week late in being switched on, Fountain Street was lit up at Christmas for the first time in many years, some old light arrays being used this time.

Fundraising was very positive during the festive weeks and I am pleased to report that we have broken even, thanks to the generous donations of the two companies who installed the lights' infrastructure in Fountain Street.

## The BIG task now is to raise enough monies for 2017!

With no Ratepayers/Constables underwriting we must now have a minimum of **£39,000.00** in our account by the **1st September** this year.

This also impacts on YBG who arrange the Santa Switch-On Parade, without the Charity putting up the lights, there will be no switch on and no children's smiling faces.

**£39,000.00**  
**1st September**



### Statistical Information

The bulk of our expenditure comes from testing, maintaining, erecting and taking down again the festive lighting and here are just a few things that Event Services do each year;

- Average of 390 hours to install and remove.
- 2 1/2 kilometres of lighting cables to run out.
- 4 types of specialist plant vehicles required with fully trained and licensed operators.
- Due to public safety, the only day available to install and remove the arrays are Sundays.
- Staff need to work every Sunday from October to December and again during January and through all weathers to keep to the schedule.
- All lights have to be tested, checked and maintained each year before installation.
- All wall fixings are regularly tested for safe working loadings using specialist testing equipment.
- All of the kilometres of cables and wires are annually checked and maintained and replaced when necessary.

Event Services are looking forward to working with us again this year. Hopefully we will have replaced the Arcade lights this year and they won't need to lend us theirs again, for which we thank them for ensuring the Arcade looked festive when the others failed last December.

# Charity Name Amendment

As the Charity is no longer part of the St Peter Port Douzaine, as soon as the last account relating to 2016 is paid we will amend the Charity's name by dropping 'The Constables of' and just being '**St Peter Port Christmas Lights**' which will mean that our Facebook followers won't have any difficulties and our website will remain **christmaslights.gg**. The Charity will no longer be made up of only Douzeniers. We will have new blood, which we are sure will help us move forward and all admin will be removed from the Constables' Office staff.

# Storage Issues

The lease on our rented store is due up mid-year and the landlords have advised that they will not be renewing it due to family business reasons and we desperately need to find low cost storage for the lights, preferably which has an area for working on the lights. Size required 70-80 square metres.



# Events Diary

We have booked the **POP-UP Shop** w/c Monday 20th November, *volunteers needed.*

We have another **Christmas Themed Quiz** @ £10.00 pp booked (*Saturday 11th November, team bookings being taken*) and our 2016 sponsors have confirmed their commitment again.

Our **Annual Flag Day** (*18th November, volunteers needed*).

We have been lucky to be chosen as one of the 28 recipients for the **20th Anniversary Saffery Walk** *with walkers to join our relay team being needed.*





# Sponsors and Ideas Needed

The Charity would very much like to hear from any interested parties who can offer sponsorship, volunteering or have ideas which could promote, sponsor or support that might be a solution to the question of:

## 'How to fund St Peter Christmas Lights for years to come'

The St Peter Port Christmas Lights benefit the whole community of Guernsey. Without them our town could suffer a major decline.

The lights are important to keep out town a vibrant place worthy of visiting in December and helping to increase the footfall. They enhance the festive experience for all islanders, whether they are working, shopping, partying, eating out, or just simply visiting during the festive period.

**The Charity needs your continued support please. ☺**

### Contact details:

Email: [jaxr@cwgsy.net](mailto:jaxr@cwgsy.net)

Telephone: 07781 139007



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# CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR SEARCH

By John Fitzgerald Chief Officer, CIAS



Channel Islands Air Search is a voluntary organisation assisting in saving lives at sea. The service's strapline "The Lifeboats' Eyes in the Sky" perfectly sums up their work: often more can be seen from the air than from sea level and this can help spot a vessel or casualty more quickly; their location can then be relayed to Lifeboats or other search services to aid the rescue. Their aircraft works closely with other search assets - in the past including Nimrods, helicopters, Coast Guard vessels, the Royal Navy but most importantly the RNLI. Given Channel Islanders' close connection with the sea, whether for travel, seaborne leisure pursuits like yachting or diving, or even earning a living, Air Search is a service which any member of our community might need to call upon.

CIAS was founded in 1980, originally operating a Piper Aztec. A larger Islander aircraft was acquired in the early 1990s, and their dedicated hangar was constructed at

Guernsey Airport shortly afterwards. The aircraft operates in all weathers, with a crew of five, comprising Pilot, Search Director, and three Observers. The crew numbers 24, all of whom are volunteers from diverse walks of life. The service is on permanent standby 24 hours a day, and even if the airport is closed, can be ready to launch within 25 minutes of receiving a callout.

There have been as many as 40 'shouts' per year, ranging from searches for vessels which have lost communication, to persons lost overboard, or even for those reported missing on land. No charge is made for carrying out searches: the service's advice to seafarers is to call them out as soon as possible in the event of an incident, helping to minimise the risk of a casualty being swept many miles by both wind and tide, or worse still endure the risk of hypothermia.

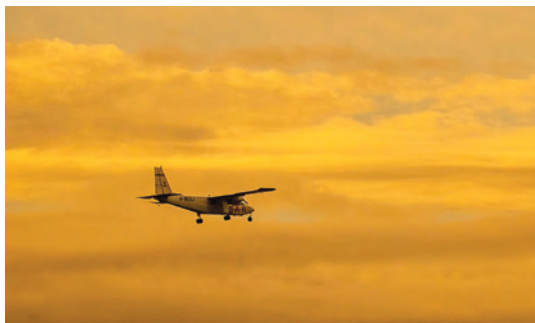
This year promises to be an exciting one for Air Search, with the anticipated arrival in the

summer of its brand new Islander fitted with the very latest search technology, including Forward Looking Infra-Red camera coupled to a mission management computer system, and marine radar. The new aeroplane is a massive investment which will future-proof the service for many years to come. The fundraising goal for the purchase of the new aeroplane has nearly been reached, thanks to the incredible fundraising support undertaken by individuals and businesses throughout the Channel Islands in recent years.

However, although the service is run entirely by volunteers, Air Search still needs to cover annual operating costs of around £140,000. This means the Friends of Air Search are permanently active throughout the Islands, coordinating fundraising and regularly organising and taking part in events. For anyone interested in helping Air Search, there are many ways of doing so: simply making a donation, attending or volunteering at one of their events (where you may also spot their globe-trotting mascot Air Search Ted!), purchasing CIAS merchandise - including golf balls, hoodies and more - or raising funds through your own event or sporting challenge.

There are two very special ways to support Air Search and other local good causes this year - by taking part in 2017's Saffery Rotary Walk, for which CIAS is one of 28 beneficiary charities; and by buying tickets for Le Mont Saint Garage's raffle to win a brand new Fiat 500!

Air Search's latest news, activities and fundraising, or to donate, please visit [www.ci-airsearch.org](http://www.ci-airsearch.org), or follow the service on Facebook and Twitter. Hangar visits and presentations are also possible for interested groups: to organise a visit to our hangar, just email [john@fitzgeralds.co.gg](mailto:john@fitzgeralds.co.gg) with a proposed date. 





# WASTE STRATEGY

By Emilie Yerby

Mont Cuet Landfill Site.



**This article is based on a blog written by Deputy Emilie Yerby ahead of the States' debate on the Implementation of the Waste Strategy on 15 February 2017. It has been updated and is reproduced with permission. Deputy Yerby writes a regular blog on the political issues of the day which can be found at: <http://www.emilieyerby.com/blog>.**

**T**he island's Waste Strategy was agreed by the States in 2012. It seeks to reduce the amount of waste created on-island; to find and re-use useful materials through direct recovery and by recycling; and to establish a cost-effective and

environmentally-friendly solution to disposing of any remaining waste.

At the moment, much of Guernsey's waste is sent to landfill at Mont Cuet, with just under half of household waste being recycled. The island needs to up its game on recovery and recycling, and the States has already agreed to work towards a target of recycling 70% of household waste in future. Mont Cuet is filling up fast, and will reach its peak capacity by autumn 2018 - next year. There is therefore a real urgency to put in place new waste infrastructure, which will boost recovery and recycling and will provide a new solution for dealing with residual waste.

The States approved the infrastructure for doing this in 2014, giving the Policy & Resources Committee the authority to approve up to £29.5m in capital spending on the project. Unfortunately - if unsurprisingly - the costs have risen since then, and the Committees involved had to adjust the plans and come back to the States with a request to spend more, which they did in February 2017. The final cost is now expected to be closer to £33m.

In the February 2017 debate, the States accepted the increase in costs, and gave authority to the Policy & Resources Committee to sign off the final business case and costs. The States Trading Supervisory Board is expected to recover the costs of the Waste Strategy by charging the customer. However, the final charges have not been agreed, and will be debated again by the States before they are put in place - so watch out for that later in the year. It is likely that there will be a fixed charge and a 'user pays' element (the 'black bag charge'), intended to encourage people not to throw away anything they could reuse or recycle. This is expected to add an average of just under £5 a week to household bills. However, any new charges will need to take account of a States' decision made last



November (on an amendment to the Budget laid by Deputy Mark Dorey and Deputy Matt Fallaize), which requires the States not to put too heavy a burden on low-income customers, when it is putting new charges in place.

The Waste Strategy has had a long, sorry history, with the States regularly throwing out planned solutions, and the cost continuing to rise with each year that passes. Many States Members were not altogether happy with the proposals for implementing the strategy - as shown by the five (ultimately unsuccessful) attempts to amend them - and many concerns were voiced during the debate. However, States Members also recognised that a further U-turn on the Waste Strategy would mean that the ultimate cost to islanders would only go up further, and were not prepared to go back on their election-time promise of "no flip-flop government." The plans for implementing the Waste Strategy were therefore approved by the States in February (and can be read online at <https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=105534&p=0>), and most States Members hope that the responsible Committees will now press on with delivering them as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. 🇧🇶





# FLORAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Douzenier Rosie Henderson

2017 is a huge year for Constables and Douzaine of St Peter Port as the Floral Committee are entered into Britain in Bloom's Champion of Champions Competition. We are committed to not only work on a particular project but also to become more involved with Schools and also to continue to maintain projects already done.

We are incredibly fortunate in having a lot of help from a variety of sources such as the Art of Living Volunteers, States Works, La Societe Guernisaise. This year has seen changes in the Committee with new Douzeniers joining and working in co-operation with others.

Our first outing this year saw Rosie at the Little Chapel with the Art of Living volunteers tidying the overgrown undergrowth, while others from Community Services worked like Trojans filling in and distributing large piles of earth. A good morning to work with sunshine and no showers.

Then the Committee at the end of February started work at Brothers' Cemetery on Le Rue des Freres. Working there under the supervision of three of the people who have for five years laboured to bring relaxed order together with managed Biodiversity to the Cemetery. Tanya, John and Philip have been



The Art of Living volunteers at the Little Chapel.

Brothers' Cemetery on Le Rue des Freres.



part of a team of people who have put back together the tombs as well as managing to get huge slabs back on the top, also putting back together slabs which have been damaged by time, and generally making the whole area, a haven of peace. Hedgehogs have been found, slow worms introduced, bird boxes have been placed in trees and log piles and wild flowers have been left to flourish until they have flowered and seeded. There are rare species found in the Cemetery which if not preserved will no longer be seen in Guernsey.

The big project this year will be La Vallette, continuing the work started so dramatically last year. With the help of other sectors we will clear some slopes of the brambles and ivy and try to find ground cover plants that will survive in an area which has salt laden air, partial shade and poor soil - which is also bordered by a busy main road. It would be wonderful to add some colour as well. Any ideas would be welcomed!



We plan this year to do four weekends at La Vallette followed by a weekend returning to a site for maintenance as well as during the week working with Schools such as Melrose, Vauvert, and Beechwood to foster their gardening clubs and keeping the Town Church Garden clean and tidy. 📍

# SCHOOLS MATTERS

By Elaine Ozanne

## A WEEK AT MELROSE

Melrose is always buzzing with a range of 'hands on' learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom, which challenge, inspire and bring learning to life. Here is just a quick zoom around the school to show some of the activities that happened in a typical week.



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Pre-Prep Department spend a great deal of their time learning outdoors through hands on challenging activities. After experiencing the recent cold spell, they spoke about how to stay warm whilst outside. The girls were keen to light a real fire, so after preparation games and discussing fire safety, they collaboratively laid and lit a fire. The girls (aged two and three years) were all very keen to cook their own marshmallows, using their new fire safety skills. They all had a lot of fun, and enjoyed consuming some VERY tasty marshmallows and singing songs round the fire. At the end of their open fire cooking the girls played an equally important role in safely extinguishing the fire and leaving the area safe and clean.



## RED CROSS SURVIVAL DAY

Year 6 threw themselves into a Young Leaders' Course run by the Red Cross which challenged them to solve problems and work in teams in a flood disaster scenario. Challenges included selecting six items to take to the flood scene, building shelters, making games to amuse refugee children, helping blind people across rivers and setting up a new pipeline to carry clean water to the victims of the flood.





## CHALLENGE DAY

As part of our work on developing the Melrose Growth Mindset philosophy, the girls from ages three to eleven years took part in a fun puzzle challenge day. Working across year groups in teams, they had to work collaboratively on a range of tasks designed to stretch and challenge them, encouraging them to be reflective and persevere, with some amazing results.

## INCREDIBLE ICE CREAM!

Year 4 found a whole new way to explore their current Science topic 'States of Matter'. The girls had a fantastic time getting hands on with some everyday materials to make (and eat!) ice cream. Milk, sugar and vanilla essence were secured in a small bag, which was then sealed inside another for extra safety! They filled up a larger bag with ice and nestled their ingredients in the centre - next they added a cup of salt and quickly sealed them up. Safely wrapped up in their smocks and winter gloves, they shook like they've never shaken before! Fifteen minutes later, with aching arms, they picked their way through the numerous layers of bags to find their now frozen ingredients. A very tasty result. The girls really enjoyed observing

the two changes in state. Liquid to solid for the milk and sugar; solid to liquid for the ice. If only Science was like that when we were at school!



## YEAR 1 VISIT TO CANDIE MUSEUM

As part of their History topic Year 1 went to Candie Museum to look at the old toys. They were shown several Victorian toys including a Cobo Alice, a penny wooden and a clockwork dog. They all had a turn with the Helter Skelter marble game. One of their favourite toys was Archie, the acrobat. They were also able to play with some old toys in the discovery room and were so inspired that they came back to school and made some hand puppets and some thaumatropes. 🎪



# THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

*Rob Grant has kindly selected four photographs showing the changes that have taken place around the parish over the last century or so. We hope you enjoy them.*

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



This old black and white image was taken in 1847, before the harbour changed beyond recognition in the 1850's. Back then there were still buildings in front of the church, which were subsequently demolished in 1913 to make way for the widening of Fountain Street. The slipway also changed direction following the harbour development.



Although College Street does not look too different since the earlier photo was taken in 1866, the area below it has changed beyond recognition. The large property at the bottom of College Street, 'the Old Court House' was demolished to make way for the new road, 'St Julians Avenue', which was built in the 1870's.







The whole area around Charotterie has changed since the older photograph was taken in the 1970's. The old Charotterie and Phoenix Mills on the left of the photograph were demolished to make way for the Sir Charles Frossard House and for a large housing development. While to the right of the photograph (and out of the photograph) a row of houses, reached by steps, were demolished and eventually replaced by modern houses.



When the earlier photograph was taken in 1965, Collivet yard housed several families next to the Albert Arms (on the left) which was later renamed the Drunken Duck.

All of these houses were demolished in the early 1970's, when a new row of maisonettes were built. In the older photograph a young Tony Grant peers quizzically over the railings.



# ENCOURAGING IN CHILDREN A LOVE OF LANGUAGE

By Anna Lisa Detassis

**Encouraging in children a love of language at an early age prepares them well for school and for life!**

Guernsey has a very diverse population, in fact there are people from many nationalities moving here every year enriching the cultural diversity already present on the island. Like in many parts of the world, people move abroad for many reasons, although probably the main one is for a better or different job opportunity. For many people, moving to Guernsey is no different and they recognize the advantage of being able to speak different languages. They want to adapt to the new place but also retain their national identities. Therefore, when they have children, many try hard to raise bilingual children.

It is not an easy job especially if a couple is of mixed nationalities. When the children



start going to school it becomes even more difficult as they are immersed all day in the local language and they don't want to be different from other children.

Despite all the great emotional, practical, educational and cultural benefits, bilingualism is not a guarantee of happiness, success or intelligence. Also it would not be fair to say that bilinguals always outperform monolinguals in all areas of life. There's a lot of monolingual people who are certainly smart, creative and successful.

But we always want to give our children something extra to enrich their experience, to equip them better for their professional and personal life, to prepare them better for their journey. Learning another language can be a great tool for developing one's child's full capabilities.

Children's brains are highly active and what all children have in common is a natural

curiosity and an innate ability to learn. Our brains are dynamic and constantly active, and a baby's brain is the busiest of all. Research has shown that babies begin to understand language about twice as fast as they actually speak it. By exposing children to other languages at an early age, they are given the opportunity to tap into their natural ability to hear and distinguish the sounds of other languages, and their capacity to make sense of what they are hearing rather than be 'culturally-bound' later on in life.

At Accent Language School we teach from birth to 100 years old and we use special programs developed for children at different ages and of different abilities (Bilingua Sing, La Jolie Ronde, La Petit Ecole Française and more). With a balance of adult-led and child-led activities and age-appropriate resources, such as stories, songs, rhymes, games, arts and crafts, and dance-and-movement activities, we can give young children exposure to the language.

Children aren't afraid to play with languages. They are drawn into the magic of rhymes and songs. They hear and experiment with the beat of a song; they enjoy mimicking the pronunciation of new and strange words and they play with rhyming words through



repetition, even inventing their own examples.

When we expose children to an additional language at an early age, they reap the benefits of experimenting with that language as a natural part of their development. Their progress isn't stifled by a fear of getting it wrong, which is sometimes the case with us as adults; very young children are simply working their way towards getting it right. The long-term benefits of learning another language go beyond being able to communicate with others. Learning languages develops listening, observation, problem-solving and critical thinking skills. These are transferable skills that are of life-long benefit, both personally and professionally. [📌](#)



**10% Discount on adult or children's classes on presentation of this voucher!**

T's & C's Offer not valid for schools-based language classes. Voucher limited to one per person. Valid until 31st July 2017

## A message from our **LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE**

By **Lilita Krūze**, Honorary Counsul of Latvia to Guernsey



Following the referendum held on 23 June 2016 in the United Kingdom, 52% of votes cast were in favour of leaving the EU. Consequently the UK Government intends to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.


Latvia became an EU member in 2004 and since then Latvian nationals have travelled freely in the EU and found employment in all 28 EU membership countries. Readers may recall from previous articles that the first Latvians came to Guernsey in the 1980's.

Today cooperation and relations between the Republic of Latvia and the United Kingdom are getting increasingly closer. On 9th February 2017 in London, the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edgars Rinkēvičs, had a working lunch with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson.

The ministers recognised the excellence of the century-long relationship between the two countries which is growing increasingly closer on

the basis of similar interests in the strengthening of Euro-Atlantic Security, economic and trade turnover, tight people-to-people contact and close partnership in international organisations. Latvia and the UK are close partners in NATO and contribute to enhancing security across the globe. Both officials exchanged views on the rights and status of Latvian nationals after the UK leaves the EU. "The UK is currently hosting the largest Latvian diaspora - 100,000 Latvian nationals, who provide an overall positive contribution to the British economy and culture, and also to Latvia's economy. In light of this", Minister E Rinkēvičs emphasised, "we expect that people who are legally residing in the UK will not be subject to any discrimination."

The question is - would the UK's withdrawal from the EU affect those Latvian nationals who live in Guernsey? The answer is - yes. Since Guernsey is subject to UK Immigration and Nationality Laws, the Guernsey States will need to understand wherever the UK exit agreement will impact on the EU (non-UK) diaspora communities (including Latvian) in Guernsey and ensure understanding of any commitment by the UK regarding non-discrimination between nationals of different EU member states.

On top of that there is another aspect for Latvian nationals in Guernsey to think about - the new Population Management Law which will come into effect on 3rd April 2017. To assist understanding of the new Law a bilingual meeting (with voluntary translator, Elina Steinerte) between the Latvian community and Housing Control was set up in December 2016. Director of Housing Control Esther Ingrouille gave a talk on how the new population regime could impact the lives of those who live on short-term licenses and in Open Market shared houses. According to the Guernsey Annual Electronic Census Report 2016, there were 981 Latvian nationals (or 1.6 % of the population) living in Guernsey. 



Lilita Krūze with grandchildren Kairo-Lee and Charli-Maria.



# LATVIEŠI GĒRNSIJĀ

By **Lilīta Krūze**, Latvijas Republikas Goda konsule Gērnijā



**P**ērnā gada 23. jūnijā 52% Apvienotās Karalistes iedzīvotāju nobalsoja par izstāšanos no Eiropas Savienības (ES). Tā radās BREXIT. Šis sešu burtu salikums dotajā brīdī katra pilsoņa dzīvi saviļņo kā pašums un bēgums Gērnijas krastos. Tas nāk un iet, nesot jaunus pagriezienus, daudz nezināmā un cerību. Cerību uz to, ka politiskie spēki spēs atrast katrai pusei izdevīgu risinājumu.

To arī šā gada 9.februārī apstiprināja Latvijas Republikas ārlietu ministrs Edgars Rinkēvičs, Londonā tiekoties ar AK izstāšanās no ES jeb Brexit ministru Deividu Deivisu (David Davis): "Latvija respektē Lielbritānijas pilsoņu izvēli izstāties no ES, taču sagaidām Latvijas valstspiederīgo, kuri likumīgi uzturas AK, tiesību ievērošanu arī pēc Brexit." Viņš turpināja: "Pirms uzsākt sarunas par Lielbritānijas izstāšanos no ES, visām pusēm ir nepieciešams skaidri iezīmēt tās intereses un principus, kas noteiks izstāšanās sarunu ietvaru. Divus gadus ilga sarunu posms starp Lielbritāniju un 27 ES dalībvalstīm var sākties tikai tad, kad stāsies spēkā Lisabonas 50.panta procedūra."

Šā gada 9.februārī E. Rinkēvičs Londonā tikās arī ar Lielbritānijas un Ziemeļīrijas Apvienotās Karalistes ārlietu ministru Borisu Džonsonu (Boris Johnson) un Apvienotās Karalistes starptautiskās tirdzniecības valsts ministru Lordu Praisu (Lord Price). Abu valstu ārlietu ministri atzina, ka Latvijas un Apvienotās Karalistes 100 gadus ilgās attiecības ir lieliskas un kļūst vēl ciešākas, pamatojoties uz līdzīgajām interesēm eiroatlantiskās drošības stiprināšanā, pieaugošajām ekonomiskajām interesēm un tirdzniecības apgrozījumam, iedzīvotāju tuvajām saitēm un ciešajai partnerībai starptautiskajās organizācijās. E.Rinkēvičs aicināja Lielbritāniju līdz Brexit noslēgumam uz aktīvu iesaisti ES tirdzniecības politikas veidošanā, norādot, ka risinājumi Lielbritānijas dalībai ES tirdzniecības līgumos ar trešajām valstīm pēc Brexit nedrīkst kavēt ES tirdzniecības līgumu īstenošanu. Ministrs uzsvēra Latvijas intereses pēc Brexit saglabāt preču, personu, kapitāla brīvību, jaunu muitas tarifu un kvotu neesamību, kā arī savstarpējo dokumentu atzīšanu un sertifikāciju.

Lielbritānijā atrodas lielākā Latvijas diaspora - 100 000 cilvēku. Viņi nes pozitīvu ieguldījumu abu valstu ekonomikā un kultūrā. Boris Džonsons uzsvēra vēlmi,



David Davis, UK Secretary of State for Exiting the EU and Edgars Rinkēvičs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

lai Lielbritānijā latviešiem paliktu atvērta arī turpmāk. Viņš uzsvēra, ka tas lielā mērā būs atkarīgs no tā, kādu vienošanos Lielbritānijai izdosies noslēgt ar pārējām 27 ES dalībvalstīm. Tikmēr Lielbritānija ir palielinājusi darbinieku skaitu savā vēstniecībā visās trijās Baltijas valstīs. Tas esot saistīts ar Brexit sarunām. Pārējās 27 ES dalībvalstis līdz šim ir bijušas vienotas, sakot, ka pieceja Eiropas kopējam tirgum būs tikai tiem, kas atzīst ne tikai brīvu preču, pakalpojumu un kapitāla, bet arī brīvu darbaspēka kustību. Latvijas valstspiederīgajiem pēdējā ir īpaši svarīga.

Kā Brexit ietekmēs to Latvijas pilsoņus, kas dzīvo Gērnijā? Domāju, ka šodien drošu atbildi uz to neviens nezina, neskatoties uz to, ka Džo Rīvs (Jo Reeve), Gērnijas Starptautisko attiecību un konstitucionālo jautājumu direktors ir sacījis, ka ES (tātad arī latviešu) piensums salas ekonomikā un sabiedrībai kopumā ir neatsverams. Kā zināms, 2017.gada 3. aprīlī Gērnijā stāsies spēkā jaunais Likums par iedzīvotāju pārvaldību. Lai izprastu likuma komplicētos līkločus, pērnā gada 11.decembrī organizēju latviešu kopienas un Mājokļu kontroles tikšanos. Tajā direktore Estere Inguille (Esther Inguille) ar mūsu kolosālo tulku Elinu Šteinerti izskaidroja aspektus, kas varētu iespaidot pārmaiņas to cilvēku dzīvēs, kas pašlaik dzīvo Atvērtā tirgus mājokļos, kā arī atrodas šeit uz īstermiņa dzīvošanas atļaujas pamata. Pēc elektroniskajiem datiem, kas atrodami page.egg, redzams, ka 2016.gada 31. martā Gērnijā dzīvoja 981 Latvijas pilsoņi. 🇹



# DOGS AND DEMOCRACY - STANDING FOR THE DOUZAINE

By Douzenier Richard Harding

The first time I stood for the Douzaine back in late 2012, it was pretty straightforward. I filled in a form at the Constables Office, found a proposer and a seconder, both of which had to be on the electoral roll, and when nominations closed I was told that as the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies I was duly elected. At the Parish Meeting we were asked to introduce ourselves to everyone. As a presenter on Island FM, I'm used to speaking to thousands of listeners but I still get slightly nervous standing up in front of audiences in the flesh. Parish Meetings attract a regular group of parishioners who are usually very passionate and knowledgeable about local issues but the challenge is to attract more people to come along and have their say. I felt very proud to belong to the Douzaine which is far older than the States itself. According to Darryl Ogier's superb book 'The Government and Law of Guernsey', St Peter Port Douzaine was mentioned in a document from 1444, but may have its origins in the thirteenth century.

I served my four year term and found it rewarding if sometimes very challenging as the Douzaine was rocked by public controversy on several occasions. You have to develop a thick skin! The Douzaine serves the Island's capital and as such is subject to more media coverage than the other parishes. A decision was taken to start posting redacted minutes of our monthly meetings on the Constables' website which I personally welcome; we publish the Townie Magazine twice a year and our activities and decisions are widely discussed on social media. In my first four years I've learned an enormous amount both



about this lovely parish but also about the States. Town deputies attend the first part of our monthly meetings and we have a chance to question them and give our views on items in the billet and other matters of local concern.

Towards the end of last year I had to decide whether to re-stand and, after much thought and discussions with my partner Bev, decided to stand again. This time there were seven candidates for five seats and parishioners decided at the parish meeting that a full election should be held complete with two polling booths at Beau Sejour and the Constables' Office. We were given two minutes to stand up and make a short speech on the night. I had prepared one but decided this time to ad-lib. We were told we could spend up to £600 on our campaign. In the end I decided to produce a simple A4 leaflet, spent £40 on photocopying and delivered it from door-to-door. It was good to meet people in person and issues raised ranged from wheelie bins through the Christmas



lights to hedges. I had expected dogs to sometimes snap my hand putting the leaflet through letter boxes (which they did but happily missed) but I hadn't expected so many letterboxes to have brushes fitted which virtually destroyed many a leaflet before it hit the doormat! I work full-time but tried to get around as much of the parish as possible in the evenings and weekends but I apologise if I didn't reach you...

Election Day came and I made sure I was outside the Constables' Office in plenty of time for the 10.00am opening, carrying my 'Vote Harding' sign and some spare re-written leaflets. I was joined after a while by the two successful new candidates Adrian Gabriel and Tim Bush. After a hastily eaten snack Adrian and I headed up to Beau Sejour. On two occasions a prospective voter left us to look after their dogs while they went in to cast their ballot! You can never tell for sure if people have voted for you but try to guess - if they rush past or fail to make eye contact it's probably not a good sign... I stayed at Beausie until the polls closed at 8.00pm before going home for something to eat. Less than an hour later, I returned to the Constables' Office to

wait nervously outside with the others for the count to finish and the doors to swing open. We were invited inside the entrance hall and although I hoped to scrape in, I was astonished and humbled to have topped the poll! I feel this time I have a proper mandate from parishioners that only a full election can give, although I wish the turnout were far higher than 5% of parishioners on the roll. A few weeks later I joined the other returning and new douzeniers to be sworn in by the Bailiff Sir Richard Collas at the Royal Court.

Douzaine elections are unlikely to ever match the States General Election for turnout and media coverage but we need to try and reach more people. We are your Douzaine and are recognised by the States as being the 'grass roots level of government'. Should island wide voting be introduced in the States, the douzaines will be even more vital in maintaining that personal connection with people. If you would like to throw your hat into the ring there are usually a couple of elections a year so why not stand yourself? Here's to the next four years! 🇮🇪



# MY TIME ON THE BIN LORRY!

By Douzenier Jacquie Robin

Friday Night 14th October 2016 just when most people were going to bed, around 1am (or had probably been in bed a while) my husband dropped me off half way down Candie to meet the guys collecting our Parish bin sacks that evening.

Driver Alan welcomed me and says that they were expecting to pick up around 3,000 black sacks during their shift, around seven and a half to eight tonnes. However on a Monday it would be around four to five thousand due to the weekend rubbish. They work six nights a week doing seven hour shifts, ending each shift at the tip each morning to drop off our rubbish off. At the moment the weather is dry but Alan informs me, that rain is expected which makes the job take longer, bags heavier and obviously them damper!

With Alan tonight is Trevor as his usual team mate (Kevin) is off sick. There are many hazards that Alan and his fellow collectors come across regularly in their job. Hazards include, glass, nasty liquids, hidden sharp objects as well as very heavy bags and Friday night revellers. Trevor says if a bag is over heavy they have to leave it due to Health & Safety as the way to get the bags into the rear of the vehicles is to throw them up. Over weight bags get left where they are and when someone phones up to complain, they are told why their bag wasn't picked up, the person has to divide the bag into two for the next collection. Note: we are only permitted two bags a week, one on each collection night or two bags on one.

Other items that must be left are tins of paint, lawn trimmings, electric fires, lamp shades and settees to name a few. We can call Bulk Refuse





to arrange a collection of larger items, they will collect up to 5 items for £15.00. Electrical items and half full tins of paint can be taken free of charge to the Longue Hougue Recycling Facility. Bags must be left out by 8.00pm but collections do not start until 1:00am and if someone runs out with a bag because they hear the truck, Alan and Trevor are at liberty to refuse to take the bag.

I ask Alan if he enjoys his work, he replied that he loves working at night. He's done the job for years, likes the quiet roads and the tranquillity at night except if they are confronted by an unhappy sack owner or someone worse for wear after a night in the pub, but he takes it all in his stride! As time goes by, I watch Trevor loading the green bins, onto the special loaders at the rear of the vehicle and then we meet up with the little rubbish vehicle that collects from all the narrow little back streets and alleyways. Trevor explains that they have to meet up regularly so that the little truck can be emptied into their big truck.

Manoeuvring the truck around some of the badly parked cars caused some delays (note to all of us: spare a thought for our rubbish collectors and please park sensibly around our town keeping well within the parking signs).

About an hour and a half into my time with the

guys It starts raining and I could sense that I was becoming more of a hindrance to them, they wanted to get on not spend time talking with me, so I offer to ring my husband who picks me up. I bid a fond farewell and much to the relief of the guys I go home to my nice, warm, dry house and get into my warm bed, but a little while later I stir - what woke me? Why it was the guys picking up my black sack from outside my gate. I smiled and thought of Alan and Trevor who said they'd be as quiet as possible from now on when they came round my way to collect my black sacks!

By the time I wake up, the guys have unloaded at the tip, gone home and, I expect, gone to bed. I hope they slept well after a hard night's graft.

Thanks to Alan and Trevor for their time and patience. 🇮🇪

**SWD contact details: [www.gov.gg/statesworks](http://www.gov.gg/statesworks) or telephone: 246263**

**Bulk Refuse contact details: [bulkrefuse@gov.gg](mailto:bulkrefuse@gov.gg) or telephone: 231234**

**Longue Hougue Recycling Facility:  
[www.gov.gg/recycling](http://www.gov.gg/recycling)**

**St Peter Port Constables Office: 720014**



# MY TIME ON THE RECYCLING BIN TRUCK!

By Douzenier Pauline Fath

I jumped into my car late on Friday night (21st October 2016), armed with a selection of freshly baked sausage rolls. I made these earlier as an ice-breaker offering to the Guernsey recycling team, whom I hoped would appreciate a warm treat at this late hour. I made my way down to the Halfway where I was due to be collected by them.

A little after midnight the bin truck pulled to my side and I jumped aboard. The truck was being driven by Adrian Verdier while his colleague Gareth Le Vallee mans the loading of the recycling bags from the rear of the truck. You can see that they know their jobs and do them well, their progress is steady and efficient as they work through their collection route. I was pleasantly surprised to see them perky and upbeat. For some reason, unbeknown to me now upon reflection, I was genuinely expecting to find them a little resentful and low in spirit during their shift, but it was clearly not the case at all and I saw more enthusiasm in them than I witness in many office workers!

Absorbing the scene, I can appreciate how there is something very relaxing and somewhat quixotic about working nights as Adrian and Gareth do. There's no racing around, constant gear shifting and clutch riding while trying to navigate road works and slow moving traffic. They pretty much have the roads to themselves. Adrian and Gareth are providing a service that is absolutely essential to the island and it is evident they take great pride in being able to accomplish a task that has an immediate effect on the wellbeing of your fellow man and the environment around you.

As we meandered through the narrow streets, I had the opportunity to strike up some conversation with the lads and I couldn't resist asking whether they have had any weird encounters during their shifts? "Nothing too dramatic," said Adrian, "apart from a few encounters with late night punters, who sometimes bizarrely offer to help us collect the bags, I imagine they do this in the hope that we might let them press the big red button that activates the compacting mechanism!"





I also asked them what they thought about recycling in general and whether they were personally environmentally challenged or is it just a job? To which Adrian responded quite frankly; “While I take great pride in my job and the work we do, if people stop recycling, I’m going to lose my job!”.

When recycling we often only think about the impact on the environment and this is one of the main reasons I personally recycled. However, I now understand that there is a vast economy behind waste. When living in Guernsey we must understand that waste management does provide work, and it provides work to a lot of people, not only the collection of waste but also the sorting. 47% of household waste was recycled in 2015 thanks to all of the people working together to collect and sort.

## RECYCLING TIPS:

- To help make the process more efficient it can be helpful to give recycling material a little rinse before putting the item into the correctly coloured bag, one can easily understand sorting out dirty cans of beans at 6am in the morning is not the most pleasant task to undertake.
- Another tip is to always leave your plastic bottles open when placing them in a blue recycling bag - this helps avoid unwelcome explosions of compressed air when they are compacted!

After a couple of hours work, we took a quick break for a cuppa tea, I thought this was the perfect time to present my sausage rolls to the

hungry workers, but to my disappointment, it appears that it’s not actually something you really fancy eating in this line of work at 2am in the morning!

This brought a close to my short shift with Adrian and Gareth, I jumped off the truck and left the guys to their important work. It was great to get to know the guys, spend a little time getting to know their roles and outlook with this vital environmental endeavour.

Just a reminder that recycling bags are available free of charge from most local supermarkets in exchange for a voucher. To request a voucher go on to: [gov.gg/recyclingbags](http://gov.gg/recyclingbags)

Many thanks to Adrian and Gareth for being both welcoming and conversational during my visit. 🇮🇪

More info: [gov.gg/recycling](http://gov.gg/recycling)

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



# U3A GUERNSEY

By Pat Child

The Guernsey University of the Third Age established in October 2015, has in excess of 500 members and is one of about 1,000 local U3A groups in Great Britain, which has approximately 380,000 members in total. Individual U3As are affiliated to a national organisation, The Third Age Trust, which provides support and advice to local groups.

The word 'University' in the title is a misnomer. It simply means a place where people with an interest in enjoyable lifelong learning can meet together. There are no examinations and no qualifications involved!

The U3A encourages people in the 'Third Age' to enjoy life, after the 'First Age' of education/dependency and the 'Second Age' of employment/parental responsibility. Recent research shows that being a regular member of a social group after retirement can help people to live longer and feel better.

At U3A Guernsey, members enjoy excellent company and fellowship. It's a good reason for getting out and meeting like-minded people

whilst gaining physical and/or mental stimulus at the same time.

Members meet to pursue an interest in common with one another. For example: Gardening, Singing, Photography, Walking, Tai Chi, Tap-dancing, Foreign Languages, Musical Instruments, Bridge, Local History, etc. A full list of all the present U3A Guernsey interest groups can be viewed on the U3A Guernsey website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/guernsey](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/guernsey). There is no limit to the subject matter that people might choose to learn together.

Most activities are organised in small groups. The group leaders are known as 'Convenors' and by sharing knowledge, skills and experience, members all learn from each other. Varied social programmes are organised throughout the year, including: Speakers, Lunches, Quizzes, Hog Roasts and Cream Teas.

In essence, the U3A movement provides life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities to retired and semi-retired people. 📞

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# DEUTSCHE IN GUERNSEY

By **Chris Betley** Honorary Consul,  
Federal Republic of Germany



## Famous Germans in Guernsey

“I woke up. The old house was silent. I was eleven years old, this was my first morning in Havilland Hall, I had never been to Guernsey before, but I knew I had come home.”

Livia Blücher arrived in Guernsey at the age of 11, on the death of Princess Wanda, her great grandmother, and continued the Blücher love affair with an island that remains her home.

For whilst our island boasts a vibrant and enthusiastic German community that has included many colourful and well known individuals, there is little doubt the most eminent Deutsche family to have made Sarnia Cherie its home are Livia’s ancestors, belonging to a famous aristocratic German family, the Blüchers.

In fact, it was Guernsey’s little sister, Herm, that first attracted descendants of Livia’s great, great, great, great grandfather, the mighty Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, First Prince von Wahlstatt and victor over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo (where the arrival of the Prussian army, under Blücher’s command, at the end of a long and hard-fought day, played a decisive role in the final allied victory).

Field Marshal Blücher’s great grandson, Prinz Gebhard Gustav, had a passion for islands so when the particularly special island of Herm was brought to his attention by his bank, the West Bank Liegnitz of Silesia (who had astutely purchased the island’s lease from the British Government in 1889), the Prince eagerly entered into agreement with the bank and became sub-lessee of his own Paradise Island.



Portrait of Prinz Gebhard Gustav Blücher von Wahlstatt,  
Hatton Gallery, St Peter Port.

This news caused some consternation with the French Government at the time, which feared Herm might be used in a military way against the exposed French coastline, whilst some rumours even suggested the Kaiser wanted Herm as a naval base!

That couldn’t have been further from the truth, as the Prince, who took up residence in 1891, set about making his new island home a worthy addition to his existing empire of sprawling estates (his properties stretched from East Prussia to Finisterre).



Livia Blücher, descendant of Field Marshal Blücher.

Indeed, Prinz Blücher's tenancy resulted in considerable change, to the betterment of Herm, where he introduced pine and spruce groves, surrounded the Manor House with tropical plants and eucalyptus trees, laid two railways and restored St Tugal's chapel.

One of the most interesting stories relates to the Prince's extraordinary introduction of wallabies to Herm, where he had such success (between 60/70 in number, by some accounts) that aristocratic visitors reputedly came from far and wide to see these unusual family pets, part of Blücher's exotic zoo/menagerie.

One sorry anecdote recalls how his chef and butler took advantage of the Prince's absence on one occasion and, fuelled by alcohol, arranged their own private shoot where they managed to decimate all but two of Herm's strange marsupial inhabitants. Their hangover included a month's hard labour for their crime - sadly, the island's colony of wallabies never recovered.

Whilst Prinz Gebhard and his third wife, Princess Wanda, made the Manor House their home, his heir, Count Lothair (a son from Prince Gebhard's second marriage), lived in the White House with his wife, Princess Lulu Radzywill, Princess Wanda's sister. The private walk created for the sisters is still used today by guests of the Hotel - the Princess Radzywill Walk.

Sadly for the Blüchers, WW1 saw the family forced to leave their island home as the States of Guernsey won a legal battle to oust the tenants from a Crown lease and subsequently



Livia Blücher (2nd on the left) and colleagues on the committee of the Guernsey Literary Festival.  
Photo by Guernsey Press.


proceed to purchase Herm to ensure ongoing ownership.

Despite having renounced his Prussian passport, and having children who opted for British citizenship, the stateless Gebhard was still regarded as an enemy alien.

Between the wars, Lothair and Lulu returned and bought Havilland Hall in Guernsey, but Lothair sadly died in Switzerland from TB before he was able to live there.

Princess Lulu and her sister Wanda lived in Havilland Hall during the Occupation, which provided the odd juxtaposition of having occupying German forces proudly recognizing the military heritage of their ancestor-by-marriage, whilst one of Lulu's sons died in action in North Africa fighting for the British.

Wanda's death in 1966 brought her great granddaughter, Livia, into contact with Guernsey, and the love affair began.

Indeed, it has continued to the current day, where Livia (Countess is a title she rarely uses) has combined her love of Guernsey with her love of writing as a founder member of the Guernsey Literary Festival, where she heads the 'Poems on the Move' project, which puts poetry on our buses and helps bring the community's literary talent to a wider audience. 

*This year's Guernsey Literary Festival takes place from 10-14 May 2017.*

*Acknowledgements - 'Guernsey People', L. James Marr; 'Pirates and Princes', Cheryl Lee Latter; Livia Blücher.*



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# GUERNSEY CIVIL PROTECTION

By Dave Hodge, Civil Protection Officer



The name Civil Protection conjures up different images to different people. You may have seen us directing traffic around the quays when the high tides coincide with poor weather or perhaps on Liberation Day running alongside the cavalcade. But did you know that our remit extends far further than the old Civil Defence persona which was originally established during the pre-Cold War era? Guernsey Civil Protection has evolved over many years and changed its name in 2004 to better reflect our new mandate. Over the years, the faces may have changed, our training has increased and the jobs we undertake have become far more varied, but we are still all volunteers on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Any Emergency Service or States Department can request our assistance anywhere in the

Bailiwick, but Guernsey Police are by far our biggest 'customer' and no two jobs are ever the same. Amongst other things, Guernsey Civil Protection can be called to direct traffic and provide lighting for road traffic collisions, undertake searches for missing people, transport Community Nurses and Meals on 'Wheels' volunteers during poor weather conditions, assist with setting up temporary respite centres for people evacuated from their homes due to unplanned events or act as marshals for the numerous events we see annually. Of course, there are also the more adrenalin pumping jobs such as working alongside Guernsey Police and the Royal Navy when the WW2 bomb was found in 2013 at Bluebell Woods.

Guernsey Civil Protection is made up of around 35 Team Members including a Civil

Protection Officer, a Deputy Civil Protection Officer and four Coordinators, and is overseen by the Emergency Planning Officer. Our numbers are restricted and we meet every Wednesday evening in order to ensure that everyone receives full training in areas from first aid to equipment maintenance, from water pumping operations with Guernsey Fire & Rescue to traffic management with Guernsey Police and everything in between.

With such a wide remit, our members come from all walks of life and have a variety of day jobs, each one bringing their own speciality skills and knowledge which is so important in such a complex organisation. Company Directors, Childcare Workers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Finance Workers and Homemakers work alongside Transport Specialists, Ex-Military Personnel, and





Retirees. Whilst every Team Member can do almost any job, naturally some specialise in the areas of their expertise. In this way we have found the organisation can operate at a moment's notice, or we can plan for an event in several months' time.

So why do we do what we do? Why does anyone volunteer? Primarily to give something back to the community and yes, of course, because we enjoy it. Yes, it can be dirty (and we frequently get very wet!), we do get shouted at and being called out at 4.00 a.m. on a Bank Holiday can be disheartening but in return we get to work alongside some extremely talented people, in situations some can only dream of. To our volunteers it is not just a hobby but a passion. 🇬🇧

Photographs by Tony Rive



# THE LAW REGARDING HEDGES AND STREAMS

## HEDGES - by law must be cut by 15th June and 30th September

Hedges bordering a public road must be cut back in declivity (sloping away from the road - see diagram below) between 1st and 15th June and between 15th & 30th September of each year, so that they do not overhang.

Trees and hedges need to be cut back to a minimum height of 12 feet. There are lorries higher than 12ft, so please remember to cut your trees higher than this if you do not want them damaged.

Hedges are inspected by the Douzaine. Property owners with uncut trees and hedges following re-inspection are reported to H.M. Procureur for prosecution.

It is the responsibility of the hedge owner, according to the Law, to ensure that all hedge and tree cuttings are cleared up the same day.

## STREAMS - by law must be cleaned by 15th June and 30th September

Most of the streams in the island are inspected twice a year - after 15th June and 30th September.

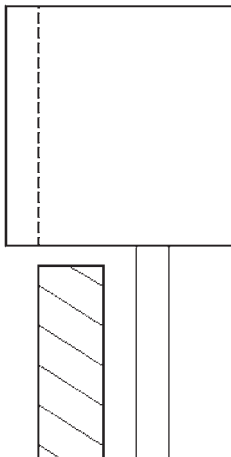
Property owners must therefore ensure streams are free from over-grown vegetation, growth in the stream and anything that prohibits the free flow of water.

Following inspection by the Douzaine, property owners with uncleaned streams are reported to the States Public Services Department who in turn report to H. M. Procureur for prosecution.

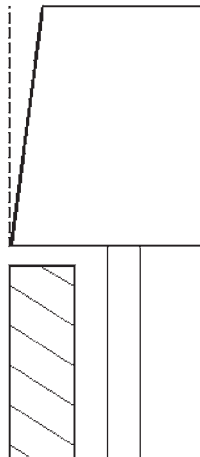
*The Profile Committee express their thanks to the Parish of St Sampson for the above article, the wording and the diagram are taken from their Parish Information booklet.*

## “Declivity”

### Incorrect



### Correct





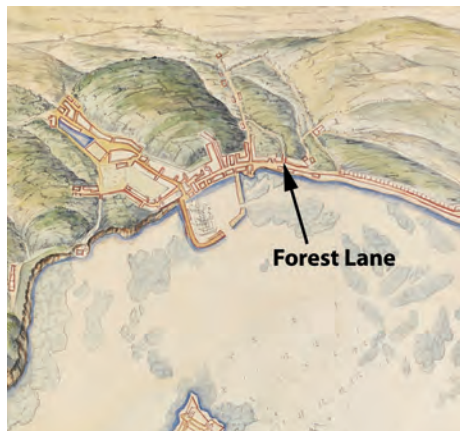
# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN ST PETER PORT II (or a load of old rubbish)

By **Tanya Walls** Archaeology Assitant, Guernsey Museum

*Over the last fifty years parts of St Peter Port have seen considerable development and several of these development sites have been archaeologically investigated. In the autumn 2016 issue I began a series of articles with a site dug in the Bordage in 1975-6. I continue with three excavations which all took place in 1978. The sites were domestic rubbish pits, because in the past there were no rubbish collections and so people disposed of their own waste, usually burying it not far from where they lived.*

## Forest Lane

This is a narrow ancient way linking Le Pollet to the top of Smith Street. It probably originated as a route up the cliff and is shown on the Legge Survey (1680). It is tempting to imagine that it was known as 'Forest Lane' because the route was once wooded, but it is more likely to be named after the surname 'Forest', which existed in Guernsey in the medieval period. The older buildings in the lane have their origins in the 15th - 17th centuries. In the summer of 1978 No.2 Forest Lane was being redeveloped and subsequently became the office of The Samaritans. During the works one of the



Extract from the Legge Survey (1680). Forest Lane curves up from Le Pollet to meet Smith Street.



Stoneware beer mug c1520, Germany. Found in Forest Lane.

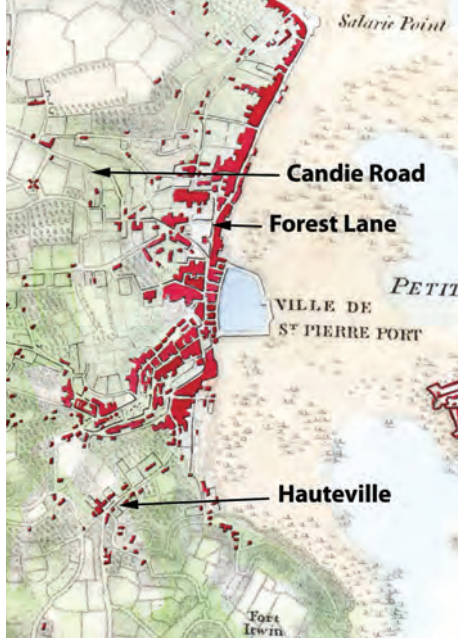
builders noticed a quantity of early-looking pottery and informed La Société Guernesiaise. The Archaeology Section, led by Bob Burns, made visits to the site to investigate and recover the pottery; it proved to be coming from early rubbish pits which ran beneath the walls of the current building and therefore pre-dated it.

Over a hundred sherds of pottery were recovered and it was possible to reconstruct

two of the vessels. The pottery falls into three main periods: the earliest being 12th - 13th century; the second group 16th century and the third 18th century. Other finds include: two liards (French coins, one being of Louis XIV 1643 - 1715), a tiny enamelled bronze shield, a horse shoe, a small brass hinge from a box or book, and buttons of metal and animal bone. People were clearly living on, or very near this site by the 12th century and their rubbish pits had then been built over, probably in the 17th or 18th centuries. Most of the pottery, both medieval and later, is from Normandy, demonstrating the strong trade links with France despite Guernsey's political links with England.

## Candie Road

This road cannot be seen on the 1680 map although it probably existed by this time. A century later the town was spreading into this area and on the 1787 Duke of Richmond Map two houses are shown with gardens abutting Candie Road. The tenants of these houses were Abraham Le Mesurier and James



Extract from the 1787 Duke of Richmond map showing the three sites.

Le Roy. In August 1978 a house on Candie Road was being redeveloped and during the works Bob Burns noticed a large pit cut into the natural soil. He could see from the contents that it was a rubbish pit of some age, so he sought permission to excavate.

The site of the Candie Road pit.

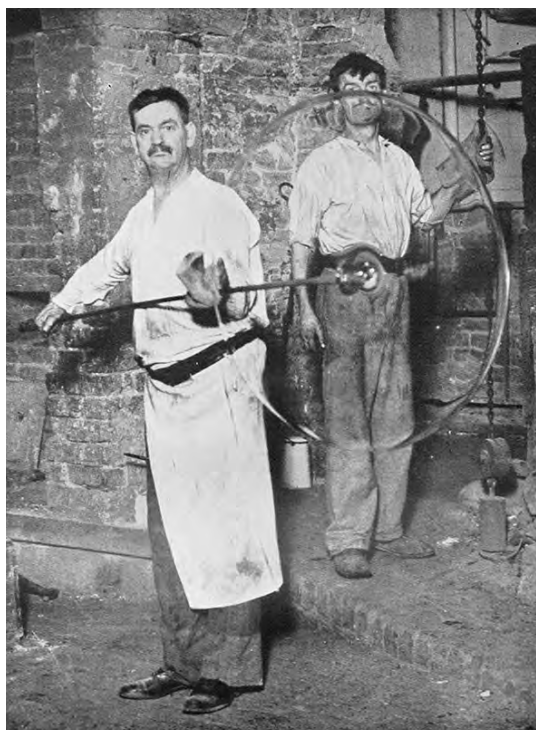


The pottery showed that the pit was being used around 1795 and the position suggests it was originally in the garden of the house occupied by James Le Roy. The pit had been built over when the area was developed in c1830.

The 'rubbish' was that of a modestly prosperous and fashionable household. There were both kitchen and table wares, including tea cups, tea bowls, a teapot, tankards, bowls and dishes. The earthenware, which was either lead or tin glazed, is earliest in date and was in smaller quantities; this would have been replaced by finer creamware and pearlware ceramics, developed in the English Potteries in the later 18th century. Most of this pottery was imported from England rather than France, in contrast to the earlier site at Forest Lane. There was also a large quantity of crown window glass; this was made by spinning out a large disc of glass and produced in England from the late 17th century. The best glass was that cut from the thin outer parts of the disc, while the thickened centre, or 'bull's eye', was a cheaper product. There were also fragments of clay pipes, butchered animal bones, a bone spoon and a number of metal objects including a cut-throat razor with an ivory handle. It is interesting to speculate what else may have been thrown away which did not survive, but of course organic materials such as paper and wood could also have been burned.

## Hauteville

This site is at the top of Hauteville, just downhill from the Havelet road. Like Candie Road, this was an area into which the town was expanding by the 18th century and the earliest houses here are 17th - 18th century. By 1787 there was a house with a walled garden on the corner between Hauteville and Havelet. By 1898 part of this garden had been

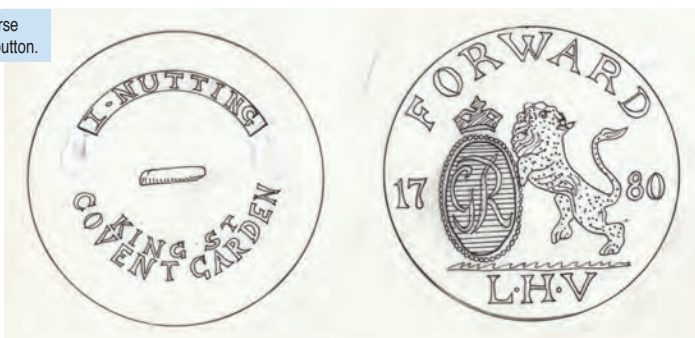


The production of crown window glass.

built over, but to the north-east of the house, fronting onto the road, an area remained open. It is still open today. In 1978 the building adjacent to this open area was being rebuilt and another early domestic rubbish pit was found. This was slightly later in date than that in Candie Road and the rubbish appears to have been dumped into a coal cellar or water cistern. This brick and stone structure ran underneath the modern pavement, suggesting that the road had been widened, and this was probably why it went out of use.

Again the material collected was mostly pottery, much of which was in large pieces. It dates from 1800 - 1830 and as at Candie Road there were many creamware and pearlware table vessels. There were also parts

Drawing of Light Horse Volunteers military button.



of five lead-glazed earthenware chamber pots. Again this pottery was almost entirely English in origin and was that of a fashionable middle-class household. Adhering to one of the sherds was a corroded decorated metal button. This proved to be from the uniform of an officer of the London and Middlesex Light Horse Volunteers, a unit formed in London in 1780 as a response to the Gordon Riots. The regimental records show a Guernsey

connection: Le Marchant Thomas (yes this really was his name - his mother was a Le Marchant) enrolled in 1824 and was quite possibly the owner of the button; he later bought La Haye du Puits. [T](#)

*If you would like to read more about these sites, see [La Société Guernesiaise Report and Transactions 1978](#) and [The Review of the Guernsey Society 1978 \(Winter\)](#).*

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

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# LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS DE GUERNESEY

By Geoffrey Mahy

In the article I wrote for Issue 4 of this publication I described the history of our group dating back to 3rd October 1946 when 100 or so islanders gathered in the Guille-Allès Assembly Room and decided there was a need for a group to foster the use of the French language as well as knowledge of French culture. The local newspaper hailed it - wrongly - as an attempt to purify the language used here, since Guernsey Norman French was at the time perceived as 'bad French'. In fact members of Le Cercle Français have always included a proportion fluent in both our patois and in modern French. Eighteen months or so ago a speaker from Caen University, Catherine Bougy, came to give a talk to Le Cercle on Norman French, upon which our own patois - and those of other Channel Islands - is based. Le Cercle has links with *L'Alliance Française de Jersey* and *La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche* both based in St Helier.

Le Cercle also arranges book prizes and gift vouchers for certain winners in the Eisteddfod French Section. In the 1990s groups from Le Cercle were entertained to guided tours of both the nuclear reprocessing plant at Cap de la Hague and the Flamanville nuclear power station, complete with a sumptuous lunch in both cases! Le Cercle has close links with *La*



(left to right) Cynthia Lenormand, Cercle vice president, Geoffrey Mahy, president, Odile Blanchette, French Honorary Consul, Yves Letournel, Embassy attaché and Marie Hugo, direct descendant of Victor Hugo.

*Maison de Victor Hugo* whose administrator, Hon. Consul Odile Blanchette is our Honorary Vice President, the Bailiff being our Honorary President. We are also visited from time to time by officials of the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in London.

Our most recent lectures, all in French, have included one by Angela Fauci on her three round the world voyages, one by Bryan Morris on the French singer *Serge Lama*, one by Megan Pullum, Q.C., H.M. Procureur on the role of the Law Officers and one by Father Moore, Vicar of St Stephen's Church, on the refugee crisis. So we now celebrate 70 years of non-stop activity! 🇫🇷

# LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS DE GUERNESEY

By Geoffrey Mahy

Dans l'article que j'ai rédigé pour la 4ème édition de ce magazine j'ai raconté l'histoire de notre groupe qui remonte au 3 octobre 1946, jour où se sont rassemblés une centaine d'iliens dans la Salle d'Assemblée Guille-Allès. La décision a été prise de créer un Cercle qui devait encourager l'usage du français et de faire connaître la culture française. La presse locale a applaudi ce mouvement en disant - avec tort - qu'il s'agissait de purifier le langage parlé des iliens - cela puisque la langue normande guernesiaise était à cette époque perçue comme 'du mauvais français'. Par contre il a toujours existé depuis lors une proportion des membres du Cercle qui parlent couramment

et notre patois et le français moderne. Il y a 18 mois nous avons reçu une conférencière de l'Université de Caen, Catherine Bougy, qui nous a parlé au sujet de la langue normande, dont elle est spécialiste, et laquelle est la base de notre patois et de ceux des autres îles. Le Cercle a des liens avec *L'Alliance Française de Jersey* et *La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche* les deux à Saint Héliier.

Le Cercle arrange des prix de livres ainsi que de bons pour certains lauréats de la section de français de l'Eisteddfod. Au cours des années 1990 des groupes d'entre nos membres ont été reçu pour des visites guidées de l'usine de retraitement nucléaire au Cap de la Hague ainsi que l'usine d'électricité nucléaire à Flamanville, tout en recevant un déjeuner somptueux aux deux usines! Le Cercle a de forts liens avec *La Maison de Victor Hugo* dont l'administratrice et Consul Honoraire Odile Blanchette est notre Vice Présidente d'Honneur, le Baillif étant notre Président d'Honneur. Nous recevons par ailleurs des visites de temps à autre de hauts fonctionnaires ou attachés du Service Culturel de l'Ambassade de France à Londres.

Nos conférences les plus récentes, tous en français, comprennent celle d'Angela Fauci sur ses trois voyages autour du monde, celle de Bryan Morris sur le chanteur français *Serge Lama*, celle de Megan Pullum, Q.C., Procureur de Sa Majesté sur le rôle des Officiers de la Reine et celle du Révérend Père Moore, Vicaire de l'église Sainte Étienne sur la crise des réfugiés. Nous célébrons donc 70 années d'activité non-stop! 🇫🇷



Visit of Catherine Bougy, of Caen University (second from left) accompanied by her husband Patrice (left) with Elizabeth and Geoffrey Mahy, Candie Gardens.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## *The parish of St. Peter Port owns the following properties:*

Constables' Office, Lefebvre Street.

Cambridge Park.

Blue Mountains Viewing Point.

Two car parks with rented spaces at L'Hyvreuse and Bruce Lane.

Four cemeteries at Monument Road, Rue Des Freres, Green Lanes and three sections grassed over at Upland Road, (Stranger's Cemetery).

Le Bordage Pissoir.

Four plantations at Brock Road, Rohais, Mont Arrive and Rosemary Lane.

Ruette Braye Lavoir.

Five Abreuveurs at Rohais, Pont Vaillant, Les Hubits, La Ramee and Route Des Coutanchez.

Grass roadside verges in Green Lanes.

Well Road - granite arch at old water pump site.

Vauvert - granite arch and water pump site.

17 wooden cased water pumps at St. Julian's Avenue, Mount Durand, Mansell Court, La Couperderie, Market Street, Mount Row, Rohais, Doyle Road, Lefebvre Street, Park Street, Rue De Pre, L'Hyvreuse, Church Square, Hauteville, Smith Street, Bruce Lane and College Street.

Three old pump sites in Union Street, Paris Street and Upper Mount Durand.

We have a toilet block and a workshop/store at Cambridge Park and a large store in Candie Road.

We also lease a shed in Colborne Road, which will not be needed in the future as the Christmas Lights have been handed over to a new charity, and will be handed back to the owner.



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