

THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE 14

SIR ISAAC BROCK

Born October 6, 1769

St Peter Port, Guernsey

Died October 13, 1812



Inside

Interview with Lord Digby Jones
The Guille-Allès Library
Action For Children
and much more...

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FOREWORD

Without the articles you kindly produce there would be no issue. Thank you also to our readers, who we hope will enjoy reading the contents of this Issue 14 of The Townie.

In November there will be a Parish meeting - it has been said that Parish Meetings are not advertised appropriately. The Gazette Official in the Press, Facebook on St Peter Port Parish and sometimes on Island FM. Any other suggestions that will not cost the Parish (you) anything please contact us and we will try to incorporate your suggestions.

Each year 5 members of the Douzaine come to the end of their 4 year term of office. At the November Parish Meeting 5 replacement Douzeniers are elected, plus any seats which are empty due to resignation may be filled. This year there are six seats to be filled due to the resignation of Richard Harding due to ill health. The other Douzeniers whose terms are up are: Chris Blin, Rosie Henderson, Christopher Meinke, Jacqui Robin, and Jenny Tasker.

Of course each individual may stand for re-election and will tell the people gathered at the meeting what they have accomplished during

the time they have been in office. The duties which go with the position are not onerous. Each Douzenier should attend the meeting held on the last Monday of each month, they must be ready to attend the election of Jurats (10 members must attend); they should attend events during the year within St Peter Port when the Douzaine is seen by the Island, such as Remembrance Sunday and Liberation Day. Most Douzeniers are on Committees which may take a little time up per year - other than that there is little else which is mandatory - however, if you want to carve out a job there is plenty which can be done around the Parish, it's not flashy and the work is sometimes hard, but it is rewarding.

Richard has been on The Townie Committee for several years and supported several Chairmen - his worth has been inestimable. He is sorely missed. Richard could be counted on to provide copy when needed and make the article amusing and light hearted. Also a keen photographer his picture of boats in the inner harbour last year was taken by him, the article about the Town Bellringers - Campanologists was written and created by him; one of the few in the Committee tall and strong enough not to decorate the bell loft ceiling. I understand the back swing can be quite ferocious.

Rosie Henderson *Chairman The Townie Committee*

There will be a Parish Meeting Wednesday 6th November 2019 - 7pm at Les Cotils. Please consider attending - it's your Parish - your Rates PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY!

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Issue 14 - September 2019

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Zoe Lihou, Jacqui Gallienne

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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: Courtesy of Guernsey Museums & Galleries (States of Guernsey)

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.

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NEWS FROM THE CONSTABLES

Following comments made to us by Parishioners at Parish Meetings and by members of the Douzaine regarding the cost of floral displays in St. Peter Port, (over £120,000 per annum), we did not elect a Floral committee for 2019. We decided to do a complete review of all our floral baskets and planters requesting Douzenier Jax Robin to do this with assistance from the Constables, then present a report on her findings along with her recommendations to the Douzaine.


One of the main things coming out of the report was that we had numerous floral containers decorating States owned land. This meant our parishioners were in effect paying rates a second time, because we were doing work States Departments should be doing. The upshot is the Douzaine have voted to reduce the number of planters in certain areas of the Town, thereby considerably reducing the cost to our parishioners. As plants for each year are ordered well in advance, the reduction won't happen until next year.

The Constables have received a few invitations this summer to take part in plaque exchanges on cruise liners and Jenny Tasker has been onboard to perform this duty. Along with Sonia Taylor of Bailiwick Estates and Jack Gervaise-Brazier proprietor of The Golden Lion, we had discussions with Roads and Traffic Departments over a long period of time regarding the relaying of the Market Street road surface and received superb co-operation from both States Departments. Although this was a big inconvenience to shop owners in the area, the result is superb and will aid our aims

to increase footfall through the area which hopefully will be of great benefit to them.

In the centre grass area opposite the Bank of Canada in Upland Road, two planters have been installed and planted with herbs and edible flowers for members of the public to pick and enjoy with their meals. An entrance has been made in the low wall surrounding the grass area, enabling people to access the site from the Upland Road pavement and stepping-stones laid creating a pathway to the planters.

Following our policy of caring about the health of the public, also encouraging insects and birds by installing only low allergy-causing plants, we have planted several Sorbus (Mountain Ash) trees in these areas of grassland and are constantly looking at our other areas where sympathetic planting can be achieved. The unused area at the bottom end of Candie Cemetery is one, where we have planted an assortment of allergy-friendly bushes which will attract birds, bees and insects.

We have begun work on the fountain which is on the east side of the Town Church. This entails dismantling it, laying a concrete base, then rebuilding it again. We are also hoping to replace some railings which originally went from each side of the structure back to the church wall and railings. We believe these were removed during the Second World War and we have obtained some old railings which we will convert to fit where the originals stood. 

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

By Martyn Guilbert, Secretary to the Constables

It has been another busy summer for the Lefebvre Street office and for the Parish grounds team. The introduction of waste charging in February has kept the office staff busy dealing with numerous enquiries. Add to this the production of 9,000 Rates bills in early May and then receiving the payments has kept the team on their toes. The Grounds team have kept up well with an extremely busy workload made heavier by a wet spring and a hot summer which has brought the grass (and weeds) on in the cemeteries and other sites.

The process of implementing the new waste strategy was never going to be easy and the introduction of charging in early February has been challenging for both the States departments and the Parish office, It is fair to say that the vast majority of parishioners have engaged well and made every effort to put the right items out on the right night with the right payment, but there is a small (but messy!) minority who have not, and we see evidence of this all over our streets, especially when attacked by our large gull population.

I would urge everyone to take extra care with their refuse and recycling. Here are a few tips:

- Check on our website www.stppcons.com to establish what to put out and when. Just click on the refuse & recycling tab and enter part of your address.
- Download the free app Bin2Day on your smartphone or tablet
- Enquire by phone to our office on 720014.
- Put waste out after dusk so seagulls have

less opportunity to break into the bags.

- If seagulls are a problem, double bag your black sack waste or if you have room, leave your black sack in a bin (not your recycling please).
- If something is missed, please phone as early as possible to either the Constables office on 720014 or Guernsey Waste on 231234.
- Put the right payment sticker on your residual waste sack, £1.40 (orange) up to 50L and £2.50 (green) up to 90L.



New recruit, Dillon Indge

Thanks to our staff, Geoff, Jon, Len and now Dillon who do such a great job looking after the sites and Jenny and Ann, my colleagues in the office who all go the extra mile for the benefit of the

Parishioners. I am pleased to welcome Dillon Indge to our grounds staff. Dillon has many years of experience in grounds care and comes to us from States Works.

Finally I would like to add my congratulations to all involved in making St Peter Port a stunning visual floral treat this summer. A superb example of co-operation between States, Parish and volunteers! 🇮🇪

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

Monday - Friday (open through lunchtime)

Contact number: **720014**

Email: constables@stppcons.com

RAISING OUR PROFILE



Your Douzaine is trying to raise its profile so that the people we serve, that is the people living in St Peter Port know who we are and that we take our commitment seriously. St Peter Port's Douzaine is made up of 20 individuals, all of whom serve for a term of 4 years before either standing for re-election or deciding against remaining in the Douzaine. Some believe that there are too many Douzeniers in St Peter, Port, but this came about with the Canton system, which had 5 people looking after each Canton. These people were much more "hands on", looking after any and all problems of the people within their area of responsibility. The one everyone knows - hedges and trees obstructing either pavements or roads - is there to try to prevent flooding, noxious weeds and dangers to both pedestrians and drivers.

With the demise of the importance of the Canton came the demise of the immediacy of contact. This leads us to today when although we might see Deputies walking in the Town and be able to talk to them face to face; we have become more isolated from our



government. Recently, by our own choice Island Wide Voting will commence and Deputies will no longer have any responsibility to the Parish and further separation will occur. The Douzaine therefore, has been appearing in Town on the second Saturday of each month between 10 a.m and 12 noon. During the summer months we have been outside under a gazebo, however, on windy days (and a lot of our Saturdays have been windy) it is hard to retain the Gazebo whilst trying to talk to a Parishioner. We are therefore, trying it without the Gazebo but still with a table and banners. So come and talk to us if you've a problem, or if you just want to air your views about anything that effects your Town. It has to be said that most of the talk has been about rubbish removal and fly tipping, but we have dealt with a few people with other complaints. The intention is to continue to be there for anyone to talk to - complain to - ask for help from - just come and have a chat. If it's raining we'll be inside the church and in the Winter you'll find us there too. We'll invite Deputies too although whether they decide to attend is not up to us. [T](#)

NORTHERN TRUST CRISP PACKET RECYCLING



Not a day goes past when images of plastic bottles polluting the oceans, or tragic pictures of sea creatures being snared with the plastic from four packs of drinks fills our TV and social media screens. Initiatives to slow down the amount of plastic being put into the waste system are increasing, ranging from stopping handing out bottled water at the Rotary Round the Island walk, to the massive Glastonbury festival stopping the sale of plastic bottled drinks on site, a decision commended by Sir David Attenborough when he addressed the festival in June.

Crisp packets made from plastic film have been an issue in their own right, however, Terracycle, in association with Walkers Crisps, have put in place a recycling process for empty film based crisp packets. Terracycle have a process where these empty crisp packets are recycled into picnic benches, watering cans, and flower pots amongst other things. Five and half million packets have been recycled across 13,200 locations across the UK and Ireland, since the scheme was put in place last December.

It is understood that the first firm in Guernsey to have linked up with this initiative with Terracycle is St Peter Port based financial services company Northern Trust.

Scheme co-ordinator at Northern Trust, Jane Le Tissier said: "Northern Trust is committed to supporting the communities in which its employees live and work. The Terracycle project provides a place for employees to dispose of their crisp packets in an environmental way, resulting in them being converted into useful items rather than filling our landfill."

Northern Trust, which employs 250 people locally, is a long term supporter of environmental projects. Globally the company enables all its employees to take two paid days out of the office to participate in a local volunteering initiative.

In time, Walkers will supply crisps in biodegradable packaging, but in the meantime linking up with Terracycle can make a big difference, and it is encouraging to see a local firm taking the lead in joining this project. [T](#)

TOWN CARNIVAL

By Jack Honeybill

Executive Officer Town Centre Partnership

The Town Carnival took place between 13th and 27th July this year with a budget of £50,000 covered from sponsorship of Acts, performance areas (gold members) donating £1,000 each, silver members £500 each and bronze members £300 each. In addition, we were again fortunate to receive two anonymous donations totalling £7,000. The Event is a truly Community event with no exceptionally large sponsor and with the support of a grant from the Guernsey Arts Commission plus generous support from the John Ramplin Trust and the Sarah Groves Foundation together with the fantastic Guernsey public donating £8,000 in our buckets we managed to cover costs. We were also delighted to have subsidised travel from Condor Ferries and subsidised accommodation from Sarnia Hotels at Les Rocquettes Hotel.

This year there were some changes in the line-up of Artists with the Red Carnation group sponsoring Western Valley Hot Club a fabulous quartet, Ravenscroft Stockbrokers sponsored Il Destino the two popular Tenors and Creaseys again sponsored Punch and Judy, which is a winner with all children both young and old; coupled with the Clowns Sonny and Silkie sponsored by the Little Big Hotel Company, we also had The Lady Godivas, a String quartet and the Sound of Steel-Steel Band. The following local entertainers were involved as the first week of Carnival was dedicated to local talent which we have in abundance. Guernsey Majorettes, Lydia Pugh, Olivia Younger, Andre and Kim Reece-Sherin, Mancini and me, Carly Tucknott,




Lee Ann Hawkes, Ivy Botzenhardt, Rachel Dawson, James Morvan, Imogen Hayman, Erin Vaudin, Kirsty Dempster and George Russell, Ashleigh Gardener-Wheeler, Michel and Davide, Nicolle Wyatt, Sammie Denning, Aimee and Scott, Jaikie Smith, Katie Gough, Mick Le Huray, Jay Taylor, Mariposa Strings, Kiya Ashton, Emmelie Wright, Izzie Lees and Rebecca Philp, Jo Stoller, Steve Falla, Graham Dawson, plus the staff at the Guille-Alles Library reading to the children before the first two Punch and Judy shows.



In all, we covered 8 performance areas during the fortnight commencing around 10.30am and finishing at 3.30pm. There were three Punch and Judy shows every day. A team of people were involved in the organisation of Carnival which we consider was a great success this year coupled with the brilliant weather. Our team of myself, Andrew Pouteaux, Claire Dawson who undertook the scheduling of acts brilliantly, Peter Harwood, Julie Madeley, John and Eileen Silvester, Chris Brock, Eric Caplain, Peter Falla, Rosie Henderson and other volunteers on a number of occasions made it all tick along nicely with a lot less lifting for yours truly.

Gold members were Liberation Group, Specsavers, Fuller Developments Limited, The Terrace Garden Café, Collette Jones, Northern Trust Limited, the Sarah Groves Foundation, and Silver members were Healthxchange clinic, Martin and Martin, Muse, Source Recruitment Specialists and Feel Unique Limited and also there were 15 bronze members.

We also ran a farewell party at the Guernsey Yacht club attended by 125 people entertained by the Western Valley Hot Club, and The Lady Godivas and Il Destino plus the newly crowned Street Entertainer of the year Sammie Denning who was presented with the Sir Geoffrey Rowland trophy. We were indebted to 32 retail /hospitality Town businesses who provided Tombola prizes.

As I am retiring I will help a potential organising person who is considering carrying on the event in the future. Once a decision has been made there will be publicity but nothing is definite at this stage. If any of your readers would be interested in supporting the event next year either by sponsoring a local artist, performance area or a professional entertainer they should contact me initially - email: jackhoneybill@hotmail.com 

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Based inconspicuously in the heart of St Peter Port, Action for Children's Guernsey Youth Housing is a vital service that each year supports over 200 young people typically aged 16 to 25 facing challenges with accommodation, substance misuse and finding work.

Originally established in 2001, the service's primary aim was of tackling and preventing youth homelessness. At that time there were many reports of young people sleeping rough, in their cars, in public toilets and even cemeteries. As soon as we started working with the young people, it immediately became clear that homelessness was never an isolated issue and there were always other factors and challenges involved. We knew that simply providing accommodation alone would never solve their problems so instead we supported them in the areas of their lives they found most challenging and equipped them with the skills they needed to survive and thrive.

Kareena Hodgson from the service said: "This is an ethos that has shaped the service. Whether a young person is struggling to find somewhere to live or combat issues with drugs and alcohol, we know in the majority of cases these are symptoms stemming from other pressures in their lives - we always look at the whole picture."

She added: "If we can offer the right help at the right time, these difficulties can be overcome, and young people can go on to lead happy, healthy, purposeful lives - their challenges need not define them or their future."



So how does Guernsey Youth Housing work?

- We provide a drop-in service, where young people can talk to staff, do their washing, have a shower and hot drink.
- We will help young people explore their accommodation options, which may include supporting them and their family, and perhaps mediating so they can all remain living together.
- If a young person has nowhere to stay that night, we will help them find somewhere safe to stay, this might include access to Nightstop, an emergency accommodation service provided by trained volunteer families in the community.
- Young people can find out about drugs and alcohol, and work with staff to reduce their use and stay safe.
- If young people are struggling with employment we can help them discover what kind of jobs they are most suited to, help them identify and overcome any barriers to employment and prepare them

By providing the support and skills young people in Guernsey need.



for the next step on their employment journey.

- Young people can also receive support with practical life skills such as shopping, and budgeting.
- We have seven training flats where young people can learn and practice these skills in an environment where they have some independence and a safety net of support. This is a stepping stone before finding a more permanent place to call home.

This is not an exhaustive list!

What we do is obviously important, but how and why are even more so. At Action for Children, we believe that every young person should feel safe, every young person should feel secure, every young person should have opportunities, and every young person should have a childhood.

Growing up now young people and their families experience challenges that were not around even a generation ago. Life is full of pressures and opportunities, change is

constant, and keeping up can be exhausting - it's no wonder some young people stumble along the way.

When we asked young people to describe how we have helped them, a common theme is that we gave them hope - hope that things could be different, hope that what has happened in the past does not need to dictate the future, hope that things could be better. And we have been told on a number of different occasions that this hope has quite literally been life-saving.

Here's what one parent said "The support you gave us was absolutely amazing - you gave us hope that things could be just a little bit better, at a time when we were feeling pretty hopeless and desperate. You helped all of us see through the "fog" of the situation we found ourselves in, treating us with respect, empathy and kindness. You do an amazing job - thank you!"

If you or someone you know could benefit from our support call us on 700218. If you would like to get involved and support the work of Action for Children, please call us on 700218.

THE GUILLE-ALLÈS LIBRARY

By Beth Brown



The Guille-Allès Library has nestled at the heart of St Peter Port, lending to the public since 1888. Many islanders still regard the library in this way - a quiet building that dispenses books - but it has become so much more. Messrs Guille and Allès opened the library on the premise it would evolve to fit the needs of its community, to act as a hub for culture, learning, and community life - and it has.

One of the most notable areas of transformation is the Children's library,

refurbished last year following two years of fundraising. It's now a magical interactive space where children can cosy up in one of many hidden book nooks and climb high up to a castle area above the shelves. Visitor numbers from January to June have risen by 10% compared to the year prior and book issues have shot up by 7%. Our Children's library also has a lively schedule of events too, ranging from Baby Bounce sessions and Rhyme Times to Saturday Storytimes and author visits.

The library doesn't only cater to young ones - reading group sessions, write-ins, and a whole host of other free events run throughout the calendar year for teens and adults. Events that went down really well with the public were our Game of Thrones quiz nights. House Banners hung from the Hayward balcony, staff dressed as the characters, and a homemade Iron Throne even made an appearance.

Besides the fun had out of library hours, there are several free services running weekly to support islanders. We provide an IT Drop-in and an online proofreading service to give our users an extra level of support they wouldn't have access to elsewhere. We are particularly pleased





with our Reading Well collection of books, nationally recommended by health experts and those living with health conditions - both physical and mental.

A challenge for our library is being accessible to as much of the island as possible - this is why our outreach services are something we strive to develop constantly. We have four community libraries based across Guernsey, which are at La Nouvelle Maritaine, Rosaire Court, St Saviour's Community Centre, and The Salvation Army at the Bridge. These are a great help to those who lack mobility or the time to visit the Guille-Allès, yet still want to borrow from us. For those who are restricted

when leaving the house due to age or disability, we provide a home delivery service for books, DVDs, and puzzles, all tailored to the borrower's tastes and times of availability. An audiobook postal service is also available to blind members of our community.

Borrowers of all ages and abilities can benefit from our online collections of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and comics - all of which can be opened on a phone, iPad or laptop.

We are the Guille-Allès Library - and we can open the door to your imagination. [T](#)

GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

OCTOBER

Au meis d'octobre nou s'apperchet qué les jours aont reide racouochi, et daove l's ôloges qui sé rtage par éinne haeure, nou n'a qu'arrêtaï qué l'ivaer viaune.

O mey-d awktawb noo sahh-pehr-sheh keh ley j'hoor ang raïd rahh-cwosbee, eh dowv-l z-o-loj'h kee seh-r tabhj'h par en ah-eer, noo n'ahh k'ahh-ray-tye keh l'evah ..r v'yaawn.

In October you notice that the days have got a lot shorter, and with the clocks going back by an hour, we can do nothing but await winter.

NOVEMBER

Au meis d'novembre i'y en a q'aont coutume dé faire laeu houichepottes dé Noué!

O mey-d nawawb y awn abh k'ang cootuhm deh fehrr lah-ee weeshpawt deh N'weh!

During November some people normally make their Christmas puddings!

DECEMBER

Chu meis il est temps dé pensaï és persents et d'aote tché d'Noué, et pis dé souhaitaï tous aen Bouan Noué!

Shu mey eel ey taw deh pawssye ey perr-zaw ey d'owt cheh-d Nweh, eh pee deh soo-etye too ah .. B'waw Nweh!

This month it's time to think about presents and other Christmassy things, and then to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

JANUARY

Nou vous souhaete éinne Bouanne Nouvelle Aunaie pllôine d'Paix et Prosperitaï!

Noo voo swat en B'wawn Nooveyl Awnye P'yoyn-d Pey ay Prawss-Pehr-ree-tye!

We wish you a Happy New Year full of peace and prosperity!

FEBRUARY

Au meis d'février i s'peut qu'i faeche fré et qu'i tcheise d'la née étou.

O mey-d feh-verr-ree-eh ee s'puh kee fash freh ey kee cheyss d'lahh nee ettoo.

In February it may be cold and it may also snow.

MARCH

Ch'est q'l'ernouvé s'ameune tchaer nou vé les fleurs qui s'déniche par sus les fossais.

Shey-k l'err-nooveh s'abhmuhn chah ..rr noo veh ley f'yubr kee s'deneesh par su ley fawssye.

Spring is on its way as you can see flowers appearing on the hedges.

To learn a little of Guernsey's Norman language! -

Pour apprendre aen brin d'guernesiais!

Please get in touch with either Yan on 07781 166606 or email: janmarquis@suremail.gg or Jo Dowding on 747264 or email: Josephine.Dowding@gov.gg

A free translation service is also available, from house names, T-shirt slogans and tattoos, to branding for local businesses/products. Please email: info@language.gg (translations sponsored by Martin & Martin Jewellers).

GUERNSEY SALSA SCENE

The Fun and Friendly Way to Keep Fit Socialising!

By Heidi Salsa Almonte, ISTD



Music and dance have been a part of many different cultures for centuries, and always been a part of celebration, ritual, exercise, communication and pleasure plus the health benefits are enormous!

Salsa dancing originated from African slaves to help keep their spirits alive, transforming in Cuba in the 1920s, New York in the 1950s, then with its hot Latin vibes contagiously spread around the world.

Heidi Almonte introduced Salsa to Guernsey in 2002 after living in the Dominican Republic for a couple of years, dancing 80 hours per week! Already a qualified dance teacher, Heidi was excited to introduce Salsa dancing to Guernsey.

Guernsey Salsa dancers have appeared at Town Carnivals and Liberation Day events, encouraging famous teachers and visitors to return to meet their fellow 'Salsaros'.

Salsa is not only lively and exciting but brings many benefits for mind, body and soul, which is why it's becoming one of the most popular dances around the world.

Bachata style Salsa, an easier form from the Dominican Republic, can also be danced to a wide variety of music, with a slightly slower vibe, Bachata is fast increasing in popularity.

While dancing makes for a fun night out, it's also a great way to get fit & healthy. The best part of it is, it doesn't feel like exercise because you're having so much fun!


Health benefits of dancing Salsa

- Improve the condition of heart and lungs
- Increase muscle strength and tone
- Stronger bones and reduced risk of osteoporosis
- Increase stamina, balance and fitness
- Assists weight management
- Improve coordination and flexibility
- Improve brain and memory function (especially for men who are in charge on the dance floor!)
- Increases energy levels
- Release happy hormones reducing stress and depression
- Improve social skills and relationships
- Slows down the ageing process

The Guernsey Salsa scene includes Bachata, 'Salsa Linea' danced in a line and Cuban Salsa danced in circular motions, often in a group circle known as 'Ruedo or Casino' (like a casino wheel), where at the call of different names of moves, astoundingly everyone swaps

partners at the same time - partway through the move!

Salsa is a very social dance, where dancers mix partners of all levels, helping and nurturing each other along just as if they are a happy family, all thriving to learn new moves with passion and joy. Learning to dance with the Guernsey Salsa scene, with an experienced, patient teacher, at the correct level for good foundations is paramount. Classes start by 'shining' - dancing separately to learn the basics and feel the rhythm, before partner dancing, thus generally avoiding toe stomping.

Guernsey Salsa runs classes from New Beginners to Advanced Dancers, where a mix of fun-loving ages join together with a passion, in a safe environment and socials between classes held on Mondays and Tuesdays at The Albion to practice and enjoy the latest new moves and turn patterns. 

More information can be found on www.GuernseySalsa.com or FB Heidi Salsa Almonte or tel 722798



DEUTSCHE IN GUERNSEY

By **Chris Betley** Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany



There are always a mix of new and familiar faces at the monthly German meetups. (Photo: Anna Brehaut GP)

THE STORY OF TWO FRIENDSHIP GROUPS IN GUERNSEY

STORY ONE; ‘Deutsche in Guernsey’ - Für Leute die sich gerne treffen und schnacken. For social Germans in Guernsey!

Calling out any Germans in Guernsey... You may not know this, but many of the German community meet regularly for an informal ‘Deutscher Abend’ at Moores Hotel, where Head Chef Thomas Rickauer, himself from Bavaria, always prepares a delicious menu selection. A taste of home, in the company of others who appreciate it!

The first ‘Deutsche in Guernsey’ gathering took place on German Unity Day, 3rd October 2011.

That was 8 years ago, when 40 people enjoyed





the special celebration and the start of a regular 'meet-up', or Stammtisch. Since then, on the first Monday of every month (except October, when we meet on whichever day Tag der Deutschen Einheit falls), anywhere between 15 and 30 people get together.

"The nice thing is there are always new faces, or those who come along periodically, as well many regulars who form the heart of our group," says Chris Betley, German Honorary Consul.

"When I became Honorary Consul, I wanted to know if the idea for a regular meet-up would be welcomed, or avoided... So I ran a small ad in the Guernsey Press, asking for the opinions of any Germans living in the island, to gauge a feeling.

Interestingly, there was great support, with lots of different views about the format, frequency and make-up of the meeting - some wanted to meet at each other's homes, whilst others wanted to include regular talks and hold craft evenings.



Für Leute die sich gerne treffen und schnacken!



The first Deutscher Abend was held on German Unity Day, 3rd October 2011.



Thomas Rickauer, Head Chef at Moores Hotel.

The majority, though, simply wanted a regular venue in Town, on a regular date & time, that offered a ‘taste of home’, at a reasonable price.

So I approached Ani Bichard at Moores Hotel, who introduced me to Head Chef, Thomas, and they kindly agreed to open up ‘The Hideaway’ for our use on each ‘first Monday’ of the month.

And the rest is history...”

STORY TWO; ‘Guernsey Friends of Biberach’ - looking to the future

Can you possibly help? If you are interested in Guernsey’s history, in helping forge closer ties with Europe - not less! - and shaping the future course of an important Guernsey story, this might be of interest... We’re looking for enthusiastic, younger members to get involved.

For over 20 years, the Guernsey Friends of Biberach have worked closely with their German counterparts in Biberach to encourage and facilitate continued friendship and reconciliation between two communities that became indelibly linked when the horrors of wartime Occupation saw 1,200 residents of Guernsey and Sark interned in Camp Lindele, near Biberach, from 1942-1945.

Many who experienced captivity in Camp Lindele then became actively involved in the subsequent acts of reconciliation, some years later.



BBQ at L'Anresse with the St Martins' Boy's Choir from Biberach, and their Guernsey hosts, in Aug 2016.


Gloria Dudley-Owen and her brother, David Skillett, for example, were both born in Biberach. Gloria is now Chairperson of the Guernsey Friends of Biberach, whilst David remained close to his German 'Milch Bruder' (Milchbruder), Heiner Koch (who was born on the same day), until his death in 2014, and is also an active committee member of the Guernsey Friends.

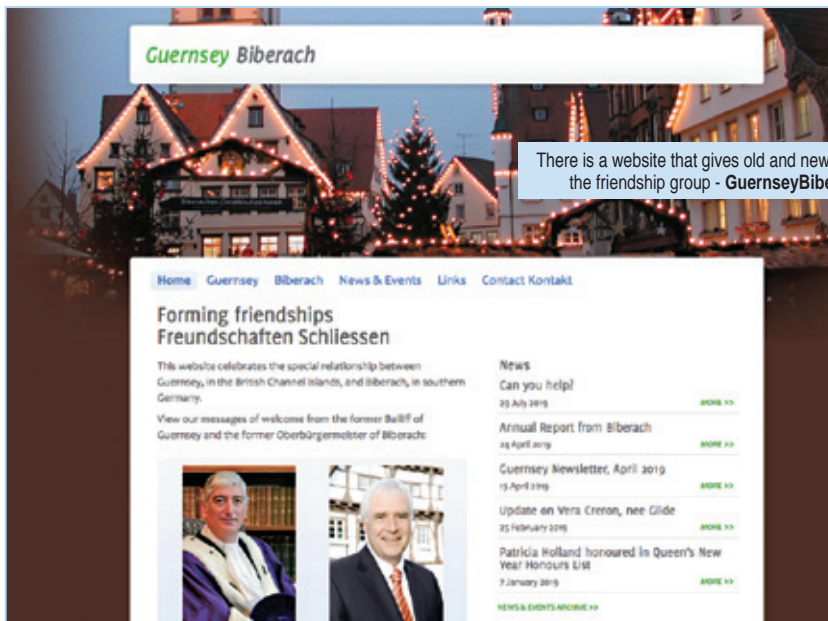
Today, the Guernsey Friends work closely with their German counterparts - a large and active friendship group - in organising student exchanges (such as the Guernsey Young Ambassadors), music visits (such as the many choir and orchestral events that have taken place, including Bel Canto and the St Martin's Boys' Choir) and reciprocal trips (such as the group of 30x visitors from Biberach who came last year to participate in Liberation Day).

Having direct connections through supporters such as Gloria and her brother certainly help to reinforce the importance of the Guernsey

Friends of Biberach as a small but friendly - and influential - friendship group, but there is a desire to encourage much greater involvement from a younger membership, and the committee is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming involved. In particular, there is an important (and vacant) role of Secretary that would suit someone efficient, enthusiastic and, ideally (but not critical), who is able to speak German.

Importantly, the Guernsey Friends are keen that this part of Guernsey's history is remembered & kept alive - as well as involving younger generations to look towards the future with new friendships and shared visions.

If anyone would like to find out more about the Guernsey Friends of Biberach, and how they might help, please contact either Gloria Dudley-Own (gdudleyowen@cwgsy.net) or Chris Betley (st-peter-port@hk-diplo.de). 



DEPRESSION & I

By Douzenier Rosie Henderson

It's been about 8 or 9 years since I broke down in my doctor's office and bless him he realised that I was really ill and got me in to see someone at Castel that afternoon. I didn't realise it at the time, but I was assessed and eventually I saw a doctor who prescribed medication. They also thought "talking therapy" might help.

Unlike many I liked Castel Hospital - loved the grand sweep of the stairway and could imagine beautiful women in long dresses sweeping down the stairs, one gloved hand gliding down the wooden bannister. Parts of yesteryear abound around each corner. It may have been inconvenient for the professionals but the grounds were wonderful - the house majestic and with the help of some talented designers could have been glorious, well built and beautiful. Instead of using foresight and imagination the current Oberlands was built, costing, I understand, 26 million and from the start unfit for purpose. Instead of a site to stretch the imagination, it is a source of irritation, from lighting that doesn't work and isn't suitable, to flooring which is either laid incorrectly or intended to drive anyone with OCD into hysterics.

For almost a decade I have had bad days, really bad days, days I had to fight myself not to use my chosen method of obliteration, interspersed by the occasional day I could tolerate being me.

I found that by keeping busy I had no time to think, no time to consider why I was unhappy and very slowly I actually started to enjoy what I was doing. During this time also my Doctor - a doctor who has now been here more than a year and doesn't call herself a locum - had been increasing my medication, trying new things to

find out whether I tolerated them. I had a blip when I felt good enough to stop taking some of the pills and took months to acclimatise myself to reduced dosages, only to find that I nose dived into despair again.

Then, I wish I could say, suddenly, I thought I could make myself useful. I started writing letters to the Press, got angry about Politics, and injustice and I joined things. But most of all I began asking if friends needed a hand - needed some paint stripping done, some gardening done, a hedge demolished, a fence put up - anything and everything within my power and some of it borderline impossible for a person of my age and stature. I started becoming myself again.

I've reconciled myself with the fact that I will always have to take the pills - for me a huge reconciliation as I don't like being dependent on medication. I don't suppose I'll ever get my self-confidence back and lose the defensive hard layer and the (?) clever snap back laugh. Smiling and laughter is the best defence, how can anyone imagine you are depressed when you are laughing and smiling? It saves one from the "how are you?" question. I laugh inwardly when people say "oh you are so confident - I envy how you can cope with everything". I think "All the world's a stage. And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances. And one man in his time plays many parts" Shakespeare too must have suffered from depression.

And so today, I'm nervous of boasting, frightened of admitting and resentful of having to say the medication seems to be working, and I'm feeling better. I'm not crying so often, I'm enjoying my dogs, have a routine of jobs needing to be

done. I've made new friends, apologised to old friends that I've ignored, told myself to get a grip (you are allowed to say that to yourself). I am tenuously looked at a future beyond next week.

The only negatives that I now experience are probably side effects of one or another of the pills and since they keep me on an even keel - well it's a small price to pay. I'm told that my label is "a recurrent depressive" - at 71 there can't be many more cycles and this in and of itself is good news.

If anyone feels that they need someone to talk to, if work you have done routinely becomes too onerous and starts taking longer than usual; if your temper is getting the best of you and you are snappier than usual; if your nearest and dearest gently directs you to a doctor; if your mind continually dwells on things you'd rather forget and crying becomes a normal event. These are all some of my "triggers", I doubt they are unique to me if you experience any or all of them

go to see your GP. Try not to be embarrassed, try to explain how you are feeling. So many people feel embarrassed or shy about illnesses of the mind, why? If you look at it logically - if your eyes are streaming, your nose blocked up and you've got a temperature you may have a cold or the flu. You go see a doctor - they give you something (if it's the flu) and after a time it gets better. Illnesses of the mind take a while longer to sort, are in my experience, harder to diagnose but they react in the same way; importantly both sufferer and onlooker should react to them the same way.

In all of this I speak only of a small proportion of Mental Illnesses, my expertise is only in Depression with a side order of Anxiety, and it has been hard-won. I write these essays to try, by revealing myself, to say there are many kinds of illnesses, a lot of them have no physical symptoms. 🇹

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MORRIS CHEVAUCHÉE

By Merise Videlo



Dawn, 1st of May and Morris dancers all around the country were dancing to welcome the summer sun. Everywhere that is, except here. The fates were against us this year.

However, Guernsey Morris Belles and Broomsticks were determined to do something to mark the season. It was decided to make a day of it on the 6th May Bank Holiday Monday. We set our selves the challenge to dance in each parish in one day. To travel from Parish to Parish in effect a Morris Chevauchée.

Thus all ten parishes of Guernsey were treated to some traditional Morris dancing to the accompaniment of our band on fiddle,

accordion, melodeon, sousaphone and drum to mark the start of May.

Starting at 10 o'clock in the morning we "killed two birds with one stone" by taking advantage of the fact that Petit Bot Bay is partly in St Martin's and partly in the Forest. After 7 hours of dancing and travelling between Parishes we finished at the Liberation Monument in St Peter Port. We travelled at a fairly leisurely pace, and managed our full itinerary for the day which was:

Petit Bot - St Martin's and Forest
Guernsey Clockmakers - St Andrew's
St Peter's Post Office - St Peter's
The Imperial Hotel - Torteval, (lunch stop)
Fairfield - Castel, (where we joined in the


Donkey Day celebrations)
Driftwood Hotel - St Saviours
(refreshments stop)
The Bridge - Vale and St Sampsons
Liberation Monument - St Peter Port

Each place visited we received appreciative audiences and warm applause. The herd of heifers at the Vauxbelets, however, seemed somewhat bemused.

John Gillson is the “Squire” of Belles & Broomsticks. The “Squire” is the leader or organizer of the group or “side” as it is also known. As with many organizations, new sets of words prevail. Seemingly to add a little mystery to the proceedings. Morris dancing dates back a long way in English history, the first mention of it appearing in financial records with a payment of 7 shillings in 1448.

When asked to comment about the recent “Chevauchee”, John said “In previous years we have actually danced on 1st May, at sunrise, which is the oldest Morris tradition, this year we decided to make a day of it by dancing in

every parish. We had a great day and chose some spots that gave us two parishes in one stop; at Petit Bot, where we entertained a hardy group of bathers warming up with hot drinks from the tea room after their swim. Then on to the Bridge where we danced on North Side, Vale; then processed along the road to South Side, St Sampsons where we danced much to the amusement of passers-by. A thoroughly good time was had and we all vowed to do it again next year. A start to a new local tradition? Morris Chevauchée, we hope so.”

Belles & Broomsticks are a mixed Cotswolds and Border Morris dancing side. We practice most Mondays at 7.45 at St Martin’s Community Centre. New members are always welcome and anyone that thinks they might like to give Morris a go as either a musician or dancer should contact the Belles at bellesandbroomsticks@gmail.com or via our Facebook page Belles and Broomsticks Morris. Further details may also be found on our website www.bellesandbroomsticks.com. 

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

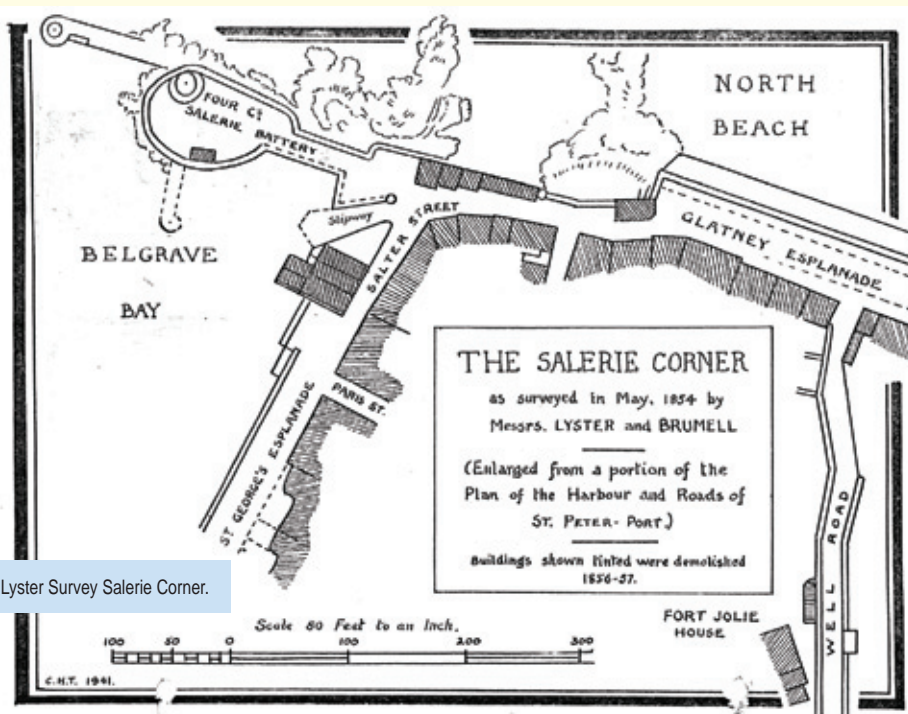
THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

We have selected some photographs showing the changes that have taken place around the parish over the last century or so. This issue we focus on the Salerie Corner area. We hope you enjoy them.

Photographs courtesy of the Priaux Library.



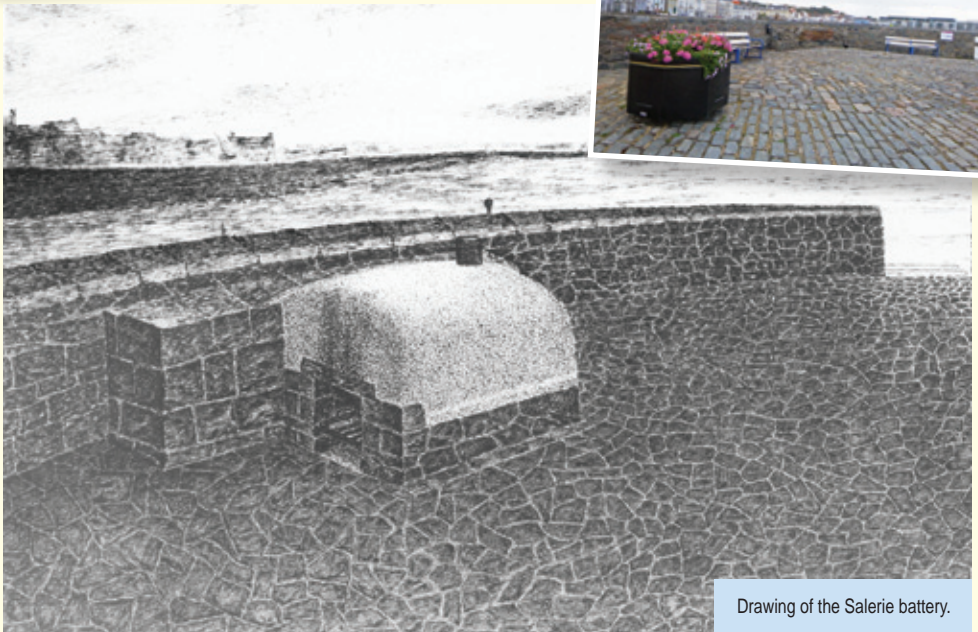
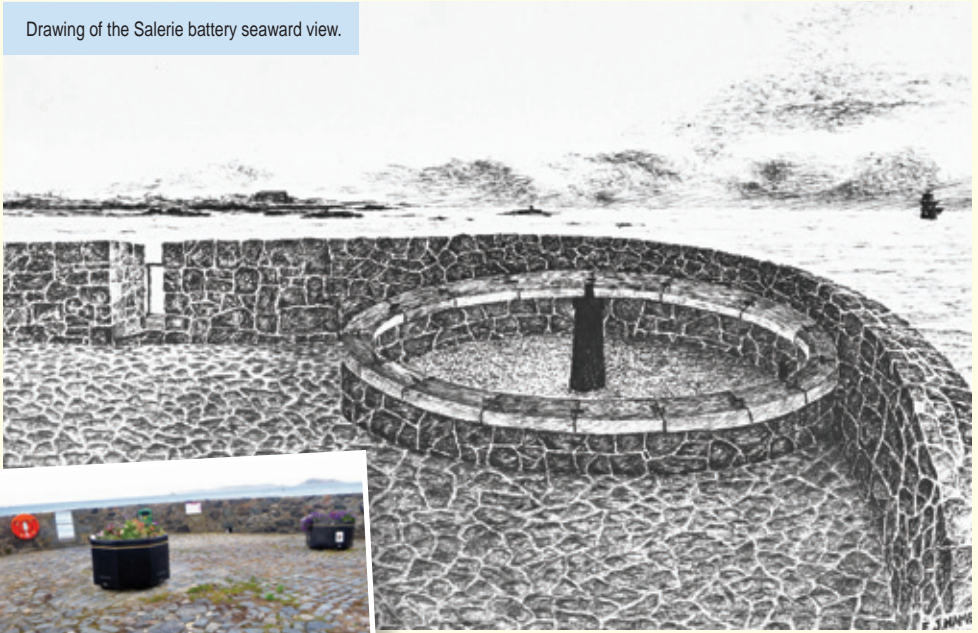
Lyster Survey Salerie Corner.



House on Salerie Corner



Drawing of the Salerie battery seaward view.



Drawing of the Salerie battery.

THE DARK DAYS OF PORTUGAL'S RECENT PAST (Part 1)

By Isabel de Menezes

It is well known what the Fascist Regime did in Spain but somehow many people are oblivious to the fact that Portugal too was under a ruthless regime, which lasted for 28 years. In that time our people were imprisoned, silenced and often sent hundreds of miles away to a prison island where they were tortured and often killed for either having an opinion or just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Heading it, Álvaro Salazar, the Prime Minister.



Prime Minister Álvaro Salazar

The Estado Novo (New State) was an authoritarian regime with an integralist orientation, which differed greatly from fascist and clerical fascist regimes by its lack of expansionism, lack of a fanatical leader, lack of dogmatic party structure, and more moderate use of state force. However, Salazar was a Catholic traditionalist who believed in the necessity of control over the forces of economic modernization to defend the religious and rural values of the country, which he perceived as being threatened. One of the pillars of the regime was the PIDE, the secret police. Many political dissidents were imprisoned at the Tarrafal prison in the African archipelago of Cape Verde, or in local jails. Strict state censorship was in place.

Executive authority was nominally vested in a

president, elected by popular vote for a five-year term. On paper, the president was vested with sweeping executive and legislative powers, making him a virtual dictator. In practice, however, the real power was held by Salazar. While opposition candidates theoretically could stand for office after 1945, in practice the system was so heavily rigged in favour of the official party, the National Union, that they had no

realistic chance of winning.

The Estado Novo enforced nationalist and conservative Roman Catholic values on the Portuguese population. The whole education system was focused toward the exaltation of the Portuguese nation and its five-century old overseas territories. After 1945, the main *raison d'être* of the regime became resistance to the wave of decolonization which swept Europe after the end of World War II.


The Legião Nacional (National Legion) was a popular militia similar to the Italian Blackshirts. For young people, there was the Mocidade Portuguesa (Portuguese Youth), an organization similar in organization to the Hitler Youth of Nazi Germany, but not in ideology. The Estado Novo made an effort to avoid racism and anti-Semitism. These two organizations were heavily supported by the

State and imposed a martial style of life.

Salazar suffered a stroke in 1968. As it was thought that he did not have long to live, the then President replaced him with Marcelo Caetano, a reputed scholar of the University of Lisbon Law School, statesman and a distinguished member of the regime. Salazar was never informed of this decision and died in 1970 reportedly still believing he was prime minister.

Most of the people hoped Caetano would soften the edges of Salazar's authoritarian regime and modernize the already growing economy. Although Caetano was fundamentally an authoritarian, he did make some efforts to open up the regime. Soon after taking power, he rebranded the regime as the



“Social State”, and slightly increased freedom of speech and the press. But real change would not arrive until 1974... 



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LORD DIGBY JONES

By Douzenier Rosie Henderson

Lord Jones was for several years a very successful Corporate Lawyer and in this guise met, and made friends of many people in high places both in industry and in politics. In 1998 he joined the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) and swiftly became its first Director-General. In 2007 he was appointed Minister of State for Trade and Investment; as he was not a parliamentarian and although asked to join the Labour Party had failed to do so, he was placed on the 2007 Honours List and became a Life Peer. He took his seat in July of that year as Baron Jones of Birmingham. It was said at the time that he would be the Labour Whip in the House of Lords. In actuality, he sits as a Crossbencher in the House of Lords.

The first question, “Why Guernsey? What drew you to the Island?”, Lord Jones started with what I thought to be a tangent by saying that he felt that Corbin’s party had fallen into tribalism. The party (Labour) had forgotten its roots and was now placing itself at the top, pulling the strings of the people. A political party which not so long ago saw David and Ed Milliband, the children of Jewish refugees, fight for leadership of the Labour Party, now that same Party are accused of anti-Semitism. Asked if he felt there was truth in the accusations he confirmed that he feels there is an anti-semitic undercurrent. When asked whether Corbin himself was sympathetic to the view, he said that he felt, had Corbin wanted to eradicate the accusations, he would have publically expelled openly anti-semitic MP’s thereby laying the accusation to rest. As this had not been done it would appear that Corbin



is sympathetic to anti-Semites. Lord Jones told me of a Jewish friend who was actually keeping a packed suitcase “under the Stairs” he was so apprehensive about the atmosphere of hate in the UK. It was very sad to find that in today’s world so much hate was being promulgated. This can also be seen in the anti-Zionist movement in America, which although not the same was still indicating a movement towards hate and violence which was to be deplored.

Guernsey, on the other hand, is still a place in which people feel safe and secure. The first time he and his wife viewed the house in which they now live, they were told that the owner would leave a key on a flower pot. Expecting to find the key hidden under the flower pot, they were surprised to find it in plain sight. Subsequently, Lord Jones spoke to other acquaintances who

told him that it was quite usual for people, especially in the “high” parishes, to leave their doors unlocked. Another indication of a different mindset, the “Filter in Turn” a system popular in Guernsey and which works, will only succeed if drivers are courteous. In this Island one can still forget a handbag; drop a wallet and go into the Police Station and find that it has been handed in. Guernsey exudes decency - we have little violent crime and full employment. Full employment means people feel more relevant, they have aspirations and hope for the future.

Asked for suggestions, “off the cuff” of things Guernsey could do to continue to progress ethically and without spoiling the good things that we have. Lord Jones said that in conversation the subject of a University came up and he had suggested, rather than an undergraduate campus which might prove difficult for many reasons, perhaps it would be better for a specialist graduate College. Since Guernsey is an Island, slightly warmer than the UK, it would be perfect for a graduate school studying feasibility and functionality of renewable energy.

On the same theme, Lord Jones talked of Guernsey being the ideal location for electric cars. The States have invested in a few charging points and some hotels have also installed which is proactive and should be applauded, however, more should be done to promote the use of electric vehicles. Perhaps the States should declare that in 10 or 15 years no petrol or diesel domestic vehicles will be allowed on our roads. Exceptions could be made for vintage cars on their way to Exhibitions. Perhaps in the meantime parking anywhere in the Island could be charged in some way unless electric cars were used. I mentioned Hydrogen-powered cars, Lord Jones pointed out that this technology was not as advanced as electric, however, the project could be tied in with the post-graduate university idea

and give Guernsey another arrow to its bow.

One could not leave such august company without mentioning Brexit and whether Lord Jones had views on the effect Brexit will have on Guernsey. The first comment was on the Referendum in which the UK voted to leave the EU. I was delighted to hear Lord Jones say that a Referendum had been held, the votes cast and the decision had been made. In his view, a second referendum would be a betrayal of all those that voted to leave. He said he found it insulting that politicians and others have said the people didn't understand the issues. He went on to mention several countries that had been allowed to join the EC, but that did not have the fiscal stability and did not meet the agreed criteria. It had weakened the EU and he felt that it was possible that the UK's leaving would damage the EU far more than it would damage the UK.

Lord Jones said that he thought, now that Boris Johnson had declared that the UK would leave without a deal, that the EU would come up with a solution. The UK contributes 8% of Germany's GDP and 12% of tax paid. It is not in their interest to allow the UK to leave without a deal. It is unfortunate that during a negotiation politicians and the media continually criticise them thereby destroying any grounds with which to negotiate. It is relatively obvious that Mrs May never had a chance at an agreement under such pressure, even if she had been an excellent negotiator.

In closing Lord Jones again stressed that he felt that Guernsey has “decency” at its very core and that we and the States should cherish and protect that inherent quality that the people of Guernsey have. Lord Jones feels that he and his wife have found a permanent home and they feel privileged to be able to live here. I, on the other hand, had the great privilege of meeting and talking with an intelligent, articulate man unimpressed with his station and unafraid of giving his opinions - a true mensch. 🇮🇪



Isabelle Vets

www.isabellevets.co.uk



*Celebrating
100 years*

There are very few businesses in Guernsey, or for that matter the world, that have stood the test of time and reached their centenary year. Isabelle Vets is proud to count itself in that rarefied group, a part of the history of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Our story started in 1919, at the end of the First World War, when Eustace Laine returned to Guernsey and founded our Practice in premises at the top of the Grange in St. Peter Port. This is probably a good point at which to highlight the fact that 100 years' ago Guernsey was a very different place with the Island's economy firmly based in agriculture, maritime trade and fishing. At that time, there were several hundred dairy farms on the Island (today there are sadly just fourteen) and anyone with more than six cows was considered a wealthy farmer. Obviously, a healthy cow held great value, and their health was all important. Equally, the horse reigned as the primary form of transport, if you could afford one. Tractors were still in their infancy and outside the reach of most Guernsey farmers who relied on heavy horses to plough the land, thresh the crops and pull the wagons.

Against this backdrop, vets such as Eustace Laine were essential and their skills much sought after. They would work any time of any day and probably every day of every year, thankfully without the pressures of modern life, mobile phones and the expectations of today.

Records become a little sketchy during WWII, but we believe Eustace lived and

worked on Guernsey throughout the war, providing care and compassion to the animals who played a crucial part in being able to sustain the remaining population's need for transport, milk and meat.

After the war, Eustace Laine expanded his practice by employing Pierre Blampied, a local man who had served in the Royal Veterinary Corps. Pierre was a modernising influence on Isabelle Vets, at a time when post-war attitudes and affluence had changed, and the population started having dogs and cats as true pets. Pierre realised the need to open a companion animal surgery, which he promptly did in the basement of his home on Queen's Road.

Sadly, in 1951, Eustace Laine passed away after serving the island for 32 years. The busy Practice had to find a replacement for Eustace, which it eventually did in the form of another Guernseyman, David le Cheminant, who joined the Practice and eventually became Pierre's lifelong business partner. These two excellent vets drove the Practice forward, initially employing a couple of support staff, and over time, two further veterinary surgeons. But by the late 1970s, they realised that their facilities were becoming inadequate for the ever-increasing number of pets and rapidly improving technology and equipment. They took the decision to design and build the first Route Isabelle Veterinary Surgery, which opened in 1980. The surgery was significantly ahead of the majority of the UK veterinary practices in design and facilities at that time.

Over the subsequent years, there have been numerous rebuilds, extensions and re-specifications made to the Route Isabelle surgery, as well as the opening of a second surgery in L'Islet in 1996. In 2017 the L'Islet surgery was moved 50 meters up the road to a new modern, state of the art building, providing additional facilities for clients in the North of the Island.

Which neatly brings us 2019, where the Practice now employs over forty people with ten veterinary surgeons, a similar number of veterinary nurses, hydro-therapists, administrators and receptionists to supply 24-hour service, 365 days per year. Whilst we are still a community practice we have vets with advanced qualifications, and vets servicing the equine and farming communities. Companion animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, etc.) are approximately 90% of the Practice's work nowadays. We care for several hundred animals per day at our surgeries. However, as a traditional and independent, privately owned veterinary practice, we take great pride in maintaining a personal touch with our clients and our independent status allows us to better provide for local requirements and to offer a unique, personal but highly professional service.

We presently have three vets with advanced qualifications, including surgery; we bring in European specialists in cardiology, surgery and ophthalmology and have access to all other principle facilities through close contact to national referral centres in the UK.

The Practice subscribes to a Specialist Telemedicine facility in the UK which allows our vets direct access to Specialist Veterinarians in all disciplines, from a radiologist for the C.T. to an oncologist or a feline medicine specialist for instance.

We continued to invest in modern facilities and the highest quality equipment, including

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- **New computerised laboratory**
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GARDEN DIARY

By Richard Fleming

*(Published for the second time as part of the poem
was omitted in error)*

The ancient granite wall is high:
my ladder feels precarious.
Up here, I combat vertigo,
fix nesting-boxes to hard stone
with fingers, winter-wounded-cold,
claw-hammer, last year's rusty nails.
Below, the bird-table is strung
with nuts in cages, fat-balls, seeds.
The parish beech trees all seem dead,
my garden tools are stained with rust.
Wood-smoke, soft dew, birdsong, light,
this mellow January day,
awake my hibernating heart
as high above, jet trails on blue
chalk out their simple geometry.
The hours hang long in the chill air.
Damp earth within the new-tilled yard
smells like dank cemetery soil
that sucks away without return.
Today I knelt to plant small bulbs,
each squat shape pressed into the loam
like buttons on a telephone:
their planting, one long number dialled.
Down wires of weeks, green life will hum,
till springtime, when these mended hands
may pluck, from softly yielding ground,
bright blooms like syllables of sound.

LITTLE CHAPEL

By Richard Fleming

On full-moon nights the Chapel glows
with Holy light. No tourists now,
with cameras or summer clothes
or catalogues to tell them how
the Chapel grew, how earth and shards
created, like a house of cards,
this tiny masterpiece that stands
here in a valley far from Town;
how loving, dextrous human hands
raised it, from soil to spire and crown,
through faith for spiritual reward,
so long ago, to praise the Lord.
Only the barn owl, hunting low
over the meadow, and the shrew
crouching immobile, eyes aglow,
in the accumulating dew
of the amazing full-moon night
bathe in its spreading, mystic light.

GOOD FRIDAY IN ST PETER PORT

By **Richard Fleming**

Sun warms the rooftops of the old town,
flows between close-built houses like liquid honey
and, in the tiny, unkempt gardens slipping down
the hillside, gathers interest like bankers' money.
Gulls stand like weathervanes to face the bay
from chimney-pots and leaning chimney-stacks.
Swallows scythe like scimitars from break of day
till evening when, with rounded backs,
finance workers ascend the hill, evolving, as they do,
into the dour wife, weary father, wayward son.
With laptop, iphone, suit and tie askew,
they hurry homeward, overtime undone.

Sun beats upon my shoulders as I climb
these narrow streets, unburdened, heart astray,
no cross to bear except the Cross of Time
whose crushing weight steals youthful strength away.
On granite steps I pause to mark the view
of painted boats that scorn the castle's gun,
the sea, around the islands, unremitting blue,
the distant, crooked rocks where foreign currents run,
then, towards the airy summit of this prideful town,
set off, ascending, liberated, free,
through layers of stillness soft as eiderdown,
content, this hallowed day, to simply be.

Higher and lighter, the heart, of hope, bereft:
so many yesterdays gone and few tomorrows left.

BALUNAR

By: Lyndon Queripel

Someone once said the moon was a balloon
But I hope that is not the case
For a satellite is off course tonight
And gone out of control in space
A red state emergency's too late
The computer's failed to stop it
This event anticipated no accident
If it hits the moon I'm afraid it will pop it

NOT SO CLEVER AFTER ALL

By: Lyndon Queripel

People who pretend to be clever aren't really clever at all.
Really clever people will make you feel ten feet tall.
So beware of people who try to make you feel small.
What is so clever about trying to impress?
All these people really do is leave you in distress.
They criticise and ridicule.
Try to make you look a fool.
The way they treat people is downright cruel.
So beware of people who try to make you feel small.
Really clever people will make you feel ten feet tall.

FOCUS ON THE CURE NOT THE SYMPTOM

By: Lester Queripel

Far too much emphasis on the symptom
Not enough emphasis on the cure
If people were really concerned they'd consume less not more!
But very few people want to consider that
It would all take far too much effort
People would have to forfeit a large part of their comfort
So they continue the charade and pretend to be concerned
But it's all empty words: a predictable pretence
The truth is most people are happier 'sitting on the fence'
So if you're serious about saving Mother Earth, don't keep asking for more
Forget the symptom and focus on the cure

ODE TO THE GUERNSEY LILY

By: **Maurice Redvers Sangan**

Nerine of South African birth
Nurtured, bred by solar rays.
Gathered up, taken forth
On journey destined incomplete.

Cargoed North for Holland field,
Shipwrecked in Channel waters
Floated on to Sarnian sand
In year of 1645

Harvested by shoreline gleaners
Nerine Sarniensis, saved
Cape Province your motherland
Safe now in Manor garden

Growing tall, ever slender,
Pointing skyward, on straight
Honest stem. Spreading
Beauty, all to wonder

Aglisten in soft falling rain
Placid in pink hue, startling red
Meet high sun face to face
Grace our homes with lustre.

Be proud, your colours splash
Brighten Autumn your colours fade.
Let your lily petals shine
On these toilers of the sea.

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH COMMITTED TO MAKING AND GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

By Jon Honour, Vicar



On the 5th July 1789, Trinity Chapel was opened in Trinity Square for 'Divine Service' and originally could seat 646 people. Trinity Chapel at that time was looked after by the Rectors of St Andrew and St Pierre du Bois and in time became known as Holy Trinity Church with the first vicar being appointed in 1847.

Holy Trinity is part of the Church of England and is known locally as a 'Vicarage Parish' which means that we raise all our finances for buildings, staff and activities from the Trinity church community and a few grant-making bodies.

We are very fond of our church buildings

though we think that the real church is primarily about a gathering of people who follow Jesus Christ and we are a church community of several hundred adults, teenagers and children gathered from across the Island. We meet on Sundays in 4 different congregations and also in smaller groups during the week. Our 4 congregations are very different and include traditional, family-friendly and informal styles of service most Sundays. Anyone is welcome to attend any of our services whether they believe in God or not, have doubts or are just searching for something beyond themselves.

As a church community, we want to bless the Island and build a larger commonality,

so that we may run activities open to all - for toddlers, children, teenagers, young adults and seniors - to name but a few. As a Church congregation, we seek to work for the common good, and to always express our Christian faith in both words and deeds.

Two local charities, Guernsey Welfare Service and Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders, are based at Trinity and are both initiatives of Guernsey churches working together in partnership.


Trinity church and centre are normally open 7 days a week and provide workspace and a base for 16 paid staff and approximately 200 volunteers. Various things take place at Trinity throughout the week including a food bank, community cafe, parenting courses, kids clubs, youth work, exploring Christian faith courses, community lunches and times of prayer.

Our faith is our fuel as we serve others and work for the common good and we believe that when we put our trust in Jesus



Jon Honour - Vicar

Christ, and seek to follow Him, we come into a loving relationship with our creator God and that this is good news! As a church community, we want to grow in our relationship with God, share this good news with others and be a blessing in Guernsey and beyond!

Do take a look at our website for more details www.holytrinity.org.gg or come and visit - we look forward to meeting you! 

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A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR AN OLD CEMETERY

By Phil de Jersey

On Monday 1 July the gates of the Brothers' Cemetery, in the Rue des Frères, were officially reopened by the former Bailiff, Sir de Vic Carey. The re-opening of the cemetery marks the culmination of a long campaign of restoration, carried out by a small group of volunteers operating under the auspices of La Société Guernesaise.

On weekdays between 9am and 3pm, from April to September it is now possible to visit the oldest surviving cemetery in St Peter Port without a visit to the Constables beforehand to arrange access. Most importantly, it's also safe to walk around for the first time in almost fifty years.

The Brothers' Cemetery was part of the land occupied by Franciscan monks until the early 16th century, which also included some of what is now the Elizabeth College site. They left the island in the 1530s and their land seems to have changed ownership several times before the parish began to take an interest in it, about one hundred years later. The existing parish cemetery - to the south of the Town Church, including what is now the Terrace Café - was already overcrowded and so a 'new' space for burials was sorely needed. The Brothers' Cemetery, at that time on the outskirts of town, fitted the bill, and from around 1660 or 1670 it became a parish cemetery, used intensively for the next two hundred years. Burials decreased sharply in numbers in the late 1800s, following the opening of the Candie and Foulon cemeteries, and in the early 1900s there were only one or



(Photos: Mike Deane)

two per year; the final interment took place in 1951.

No exact record of the number of burials is available. No register was kept until 1847, and unlike Candie or the Foulon, there was never a map or plan of the location of the tombs. But judging from the register, and from earlier newspaper reports, there must be many thousands of burials here. The current appearance of the cemetery, with plenty of



open green space, is therefore very misleading. What happened?

In early 1954 the Constables of the day seem to have decided that the best way to ‘tidy up’ the cemetery was to destroy almost all of the headstones. The image below is a photograph taken from the air, probably from above Candie Cemetery, on 15 May 1951. At the top of the photo is St Julian’s Avenue, with the public toilets visible and the distinctive entrance to Hospital Lane near the top right. Look closely and you can see that the Brothers’ Cemetery is absolutely crammed with headstones, dotted amongst the vaults. All but three of them were demolished in 1954, the broken pieces thrown into the vaults.

Despite this clearance effort, it seems that maintenance of the cemetery declined through the 1960s, and sometime around 1970, it was locked up and more or less abandoned. It suffered from vandalism and the 130 or so surviving vaults fell into disrepair. At the end of 2011, the Constables applied to the Ecclesiastical Court for permission to clear all but one of the vaults. Several of us opposed this application and the Court refused permission, but we felt a

responsibility to actually try and improve the situation. Some seven years later and after more than 3,000 hours of voluntary work, we have completed the restoration of the tombs, and in the last couple of years have begun to make efforts to enhance the biodiversity of this special place. That’s why, if you visit, you’ll find the top part of the cemetery mostly left to nature, thriving with almost a hundred species of plant, and full of birds, bees and other insects - not to mention a healthy population of slow-worms. Please come or check out the website at brotherscemetery.wordpress.com for more information on the cemetery and its occupants. 📍



(Photo: Mike Deane)

ASIAN HORNET UPDATE

By **Francis Russell** *Project Coordinator for the Asian Hornet Strategy (Agriculture, Countryside & Land Management Services)*

In the April edition of the Townie magazine we introduced the “Spring Queening Project” as part of our Asian Hornet Strategy. Spring Queening was the name of a project to coordinate the trapping of queen Asian hornets right across this spring, as queen hornets emerged from winter hibernation. The goal of this project was to catch these queens in specially modified, baited traps whilst they were out searching for food and before they built their nests. Every queen caught during this critical time means one less nest containing thousands of hornets developing later in the year.

In order to optimise the chances of capturing queen hornets, we decided to attempt complete island coverage by placing traps approximately 500m apart as the majority of foraging takes place between 350-700m from the nest.

We set to work in the spring, distributing traps and finding willing volunteers who were able to monitor these every day and release any beneficial insects such as wasps that became unintentionally trapped. Between the end of March and early June, we had a total of 263 traps being monitored across all parishes (95% coverage).

Members of the public have become increasingly aware of the Asian hornet problem as we continue working hard to inform people about the risks these invasive hornets pose to the island’s biodiversity and public health. Since the start of the year we

have logged and responded to 120 reported sightings received via our email asianhornet@gov.gg or telephone **234567**; don’t forget to include a picture and location of your record.

Combining the figures received for Sark, Herm, Jethou and Guernsey we can confirm 27 positive sightings of Asian hornet this year (at the time of writing Jersey had recorded 89). In total, we caught 10 queen hornets on Guernsey throughout April, May and June; the traps accounting for 7 of these. While 2 had entered properties presumably looking for a place to nest, the other queen was taken at its small primary nest on May 8th from a front door porch off Vale Road; this was the first recorded primary nest for Guernsey. There may be more out there so please check your sheds and outbuildings, usually near the apex of the roof and about 7ft off the ground.

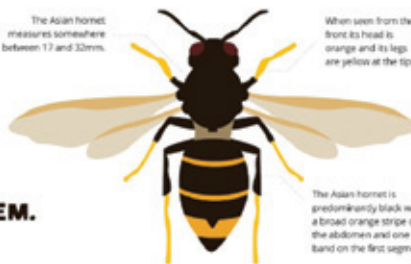
If space permits and the queen decides the location is secure enough, the primary nest



TRACK DON'T TRAMPLE

**ASIAN HORNETS ARE IN GUERNSEY
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND THEM.**

The Asian hornet
measures somewhere
between 17 and 32mm.



When seen from the
front its head is
orange and its legs
are yellow at the tips.

The Asian hornet is
predominantly black with
a broad orange stripe on
the abdomen and one yellow
band on the first segment.

Email - asianhornet@gov.gg

Website - gov.gg/asianhornet

Phone - 01481 234567

continues to develop through the spring with new workers taking over the duties of nest building and feeding young. Typically the primary nest is abandoned and a new secondary nest is built somewhere close by. These large nests can be in trees 32-50ft /10-15m off the ground but as we are learning, they may just as likely set up home in hedges, bushes, bramble patches and occasionally buildings. Nests can vary from the size of a football to an oval shape 2ft/60cm long Asian hornet 'primary' nest (4-5"/10-13cm across) which may easily hold up to 5,000 workers.

Water is really important for hornets as the nest is constantly being expanded. Hornets seek out fence panels, sheds and posts; using their jaws to collect wood shavings which they convert to papier-mâché by pulping it with saliva and water. This is then shaped with their mouthparts to form the nest structure. With this prolonged spell of warm weather, we are encouraging everyone with a pond or water feature to have a close look to see if any hornets are calling in for a drink. Please contact the Asian Hornet Team if you notice this or similar behaviour in your gardens or out and about.

Hornets will investigate anyone approaching within 5 metres of the nest and will sting if alarmed. After stinging they emit an alarm pheromone which attracts more workers to continue the attack. Our advice to those gardening, tree surgeons or grounds maintenance contractors is that you should always check undergrowth, hedges and trees for these nests before undertaking any clearance work. Spending a few minutes surveying the vegetation will usually indicate the presence of nesting hornets as they have distinctive markings and a make different sound to our normal bees and wasps. For most of us, being stung is a painful experience and causes localised swelling but someone who is allergic to the venom would require immediate emergency treatment.

So, has Spring Queening been successful? Whilst it is too early in the year to draw any firm conclusions on the success of the project, the early indications have been promising although we will have to wait until the end of the autumn to see how many Asian hornet secondary nests have been found. This will help us to evaluate the impact that trapping the queens in the spring has had on the

hornet population overall. The challenge in controlling hornet numbers is further compounded by the continual influx of hornets from the French mainland and other islands. This is more likely when the winds are favourable (E/SE), so it looks to be an ongoing battle. We all have to remain vigilant and know what to do if an Asian hornet sighting is suspected.



Look out for the posters and flyers advertising our 'Track Don't Trample' campaign. Everyone is encouraged to submit suspected hornet sightings which are followed up the same day we receive them. Importantly, we ask you to watch the direction the hornet

flies - and not kill it! Information about the direction the hornet flies in is helpful for the Asian Hornet Team who can then start tracking worker hornets back to their nest which can then be safely treated and taken down.

If you attempt to kill an Asian hornet you risk aggravating it and being stung, and if you misidentify the insect you may wrongly dispatch a harmless and valuable pollinating insect, such as the hornet mimic hoverfly. We are doing all we can to minimise the risk to the public and to protect our pollinators, which are so important for maintaining our biodiversity. [📍](#)

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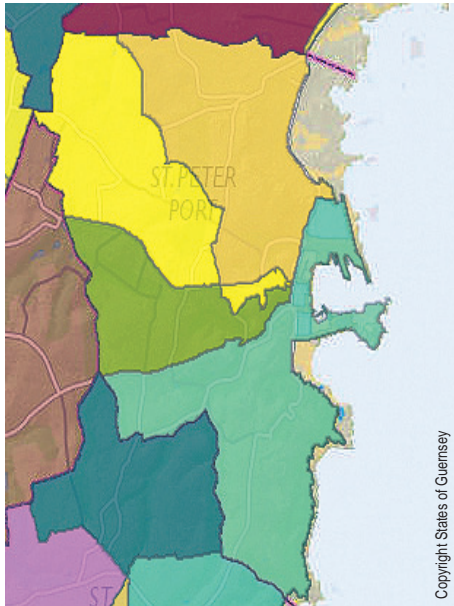
CANTONS OF ST PETER PORT

By Douzenier Rosie Henderson

There are four “Cantons” in our Town, since Canton is an unfamiliar categorisation perhaps it would be an idea to explain the word; this is one definition “a political region or local government area in some countries”. Here is the definition of the Cantons of St Peter Port copied from the St Peter Port web site (www.stppcons.com)

Canton 1 or North Canton:

This commences at the bottom of the North Pier Steps, crosses High Street at Le Grand Carrefour, ascends Smith Street, St. James Street and the Grange, turns into Doyle Road, continuing by Fosse André as far as the southwest angle of Caledonia Place, passing by La Roussallerie, St. Catherine’s Farm



and La Ramee. All properties on the right hand side of the above roads and streets are included in Canton 1 and those on the left in Canton 2.


Canton 2 or Canton of the North-West:

This commences at the bottom of the Central Steps, crosses High Street, the right hand side of Berthelot Street, going up Lower Clifton, Sausmarez Street, turning into Union Street, Allez Street, Vauvert to the Grange, the right side of the Grange from Doyle Road to Choisi, Les Rocquettes and Rohais to the extremity of the parish near Frogmore House. All properties on the right hand side of the above roads and streets are included in Canton 2 and those on the left are included in Canton 3.

Canton 3 or Canton of the South-West:

This commences on the Quay near the steps of the passage north of the Town Church, divides the Market Place and continues up Mill Street, Mansell Street, Mount Durand and Mount Row to the parish boundary - following the stream which crosses Le Foulon and Rohais. All properties on the right of the above streets and roads are included in Canton 3 and those on the left in Canton 4.

Canton 4 or Canton of the South:

This commences at the passage north of the Parish Church and includes all properties on the left of the boundary line of Canton 3, taking the Markets, Mill Street, Mansell Street, Mount Durand and Mount Row to the extremity of the parish near Le Vauquiedor. All properties on the right of the line are included in Canton 3. 

PIEUVRE

By Douzenier Tim Bush

Well that Octopus does not look very menacing. I should hope not, its my young grandsons.

However, if you read the 1866 French novel “Les Travaillleurs de la mer” by Victor Hugo you will encounter a much more menacing cephalopod. No more spoilers, if you have not read the novel (translated to English as *Toilers of the Sea*) you should. It is set in and the seas around Guernsey and the dedication to the noble people of Guernsey is inscribed in the statue to Victor Hugo at Candie gardens, and now in the new slabs outside of the market building.

An interesting fact is that up until this book was popularised in French during the late 19th century the predominant word for Octopus in French was “poulpe” which originated from the Greek, but as result of *Les Travaillleurs de la mer*, the word “Pieuvre” became the

common word for Octopus in the French language.

As far as I can tell, this is the only example of a word from Guernesiais becoming a word in mainstream French. Mainstream



French dictionaries when they explain the etymology of the word credit Victor Hugo and his references to Guernesiais.

Jules Verne picked up the theme of “Une Pieuvre géante” in his *2,000 leagues under the sea* novel which is presently the theme of an exhibition “Le Mondes de Jules Vernes” at the Saline Royale d’Arc-et-senans.

Furthermore, the Italian word for Octopus is also derived from Pieuvre. The Italian “piovra” developed out of the use of Pieuvre and Italian dictionaries explain the etymology of piovra as coming from the “dialettale normanna” (Norman dialect) pieuvre.

Popular culture has taken “La Piovra” as the title of an Italian television drama series all about the mafia which ran from 1984 to 2001.

Quite interesting, which you think of the flexibility and long reach of an Octopus with its eight arms or limbs (not technically tentacles but it is what springs to mind) that the very word used by Guernsey fisherman in the 19th century has found its way into two major European languages, and into literature and television. 📍



ST PETER PORT VOLUNTEERS

By Douzenier Rosie Henderson

St Peter Port Volunteers started again in January and this time the weather was good and kind to us, January 2018 it was rain, sleet or very heavy rain and high winds. However, wrapped up warm and with masses of help both from the Pollinators and Community Services the gun emplacement was tidied up and sheathed in turfs specially imported from the UK. This Spring should see the mounds bursting with solitary bees and wildflowers.

During February Community Services did St Peter Port proud the (mostly) young people work really hard and well to create order out of chaos. First at the bottom of La Vallette near the Bathing Pools. There is an area of grass and weeds bordered by a low granite wall, the area was created when the steps up to the platform above which overlooks the pools, the bay and Castle Cornet, were moved to make them wider and safer away from the edge. The low wall had been cannibalized by someone so I asked if anyone knew anything about dry stone wall building, and one of the young men said yes! By the end of the day, not just one wall but two were rebuilt with granite procured without further damage. As well as that, areas were weeded to get a start on the Spring growth. These people think, talk, walk and chew gum at the same time!

The Sundial (?) on the upper level near Octopus got a complete makeover, this time with assistance and plants donated from Grow Limited; the mound was weeded and planted and looked really good. Unfortunately, the mound looked edible as well and the rabbits



Lying down on the job!

decimated it during the night. Curiously they ate neither the actual flower heads nor the leaves, just the stems! And early in the morning it still looked pretty until one got close enough to view the decapitation first hand. Specsavers' Julia also got involved with the planting and it was wonderful to have the help of a young woman interested in planting and arrangement of plants. She was also cheerful about the "intermittent" showers.

March and April did seem to be making sure the reservoir was full enough to last a dry summer - but even if drizzly Community Services were once more stars of the show. Visit Guernsey also chipped in and we had Town Guides helping weed. La Vallette is lucking out with groups of people coming together to work keeping the public places clean and tidy. The wonderful thing is that one can put faces to the names you know well and meet people just as excited about Guernsey as you are.

May brought real excitement with a trip out to the wild Western Parish of St Saviours and an overgrown meadow which had been mown but not raked up. In glorious sunshine and with the help of St Saviours Floral and Art of Living Volunteers as well as Guernsey Water, whose land it was, we raked and piled up the biggest haystacks ever seen - totally useless as fodder because full of brambles but still a real achievement. During the morning a family or two of ducklings were seen jumping around the stream running through the field - mum and dad stayed hidden but the kids weren't shy. It's really good working with St Saviours, they are so appreciative of any help and very complimentary about cake.

The Hydrangea bed got a weed with St P.P Volunteers assisting Art of Living Volunteers and replacing more Hydrangeas. It is not an easy bed for them it seems and the failure rate is high.

And then in June the piece de resistance! The zig-zag path - organized by Art of Living Volunteers, Land Management organized water on-site and donated the sand, Annandale donated the granite dust, Art of Living bought the cement and volunteers, even a Deputy in the States donated time! Community Services came up trumps yet again and provided much-needed help with mixing barrow loads of cement and others laid it down on the path. Without them, it would have been impossible. Over two weekends the old broken up hoggin was chiselled out and the new surface was laid. The zig-zag will still require a "proper job" done in the fullness of time but a bandaid has been put down for the time being and the path is safe again.

A new project with Community Services help has been started and that is the repainting of the railings. Difficulties abound as in some places the railings are quite a lot higher than

the road and to abrade them, knock the rust off etc, one has to lean over the road. Health and Safety prevent Community Services doing the work without a platform and that, of course, means a road closure. Possible but not in high Summer. The Art Display also puts off other areas until the end of August - I'm sure it will get done, but slowly.

In the meantime, the weeds still grow and there is lots of maintenance to be done in all areas of La Vallette. Town Church garden needs attention and Brock Road also could use some time.

The problem all the time I believe is one of land and man-management. States Works, or Parks & Gardens or whatever the people doing the actual work on the land the States hold for the people of Guernsey; just do not have adequate manpower to tend to all the areas under their control. So we all need volunteers, and volunteers seem to be mainly older folk - while I can I will, but there will come a time when I can no longer work as hard. I'm not looking forward to that day, but have to be pragmatic. 📍



On the 5th October 1893 a game of football was played in Guernsey - 5th Battalion Royal Fuseliers vs Rangers. That game (lost by Rangers) started a new club which has survived 2 World Wars and countless changes but has continued to provide a game of football for anyone wishing to compete.

In February 1894 the Army and Rangers decided at a meeting to form the GFA. They also decided to play for a Cup which several members donated money towards. As the person who put the most in was Jurat Prialux it was named the "Prialux Cup".

Today the Club caters for all ages and works with KG5 so that whatever the weather the ground is ready for a good game. For the Guernsey Rangers rain does not stop play! Guernsey Rangers are reputed to have one of the best "Mini's" facilities in the Island and cater for

both girls and boys at the earliest stages of play. Safety for the children in their care is a priority with the club insisting on all coaches being FA Level 1 qualified. The club grounds in St Andrews are at the end of a long drive and the pitch secure with surrounding netting providing security to both young players and neighbouring houses.

After mini's the club offers games and training each Saturday for Youth, "Railway", the prestigious Prialux League team and Veterans. They are also looking into "Walking Football" for those that can kick but not run.

The clubhouse is well equipped and can be hired for parties and barbecues and the club organizes occasional "social" events, fundraising evenings etc. All in all, Rangers offers football for ages in secure environments where children of all ages can compete and enjoy de-stressing activity. 📍



*New season starts 9am Saturday 7th September at KGV Astro.
Subs are £70 for the year. Fun, friendship & football for all.*



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KEY STAGE 1 PLAYERS ESPECIALLY WELCOME



FOOTBALL FOR ALL
TAUGHT BY FA LICENCED COACHES

STARTS: 7TH SEPTEMBER 2019

We play every Saturday come rain or shine on
all-weather 3G pitch at KGV Playing Fields.

Fun sessions for players of all abilities!

AGE: RECEPTION TO YEAR 5

TIME: 9AM - 10.30AM

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES EMAIL:

guernseyrangers@gmail.com

ONLY
£70
PER SEASON

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