

THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE 15



Photo courtesy of Jackson Chambers Photography

Inside

Guernsey Welfare Service
Classic Car Ownership
Mental Health and Wellbeing
and much more...

FOREWORD

What a strange time we have had since March 2020, when we were working on the 2020 April issue (No. 15) of the Townie Magazine! That did not happen, of course, nor did the usual October one because of the advent of Covid 19 in the Island. The current Committee, comprising the Constables, myself, Neil Forman, Tim Bush, Rosie Henderson, Michael Garrett and Odette Duerden were deciding on a meeting for the 2021 editions, when the new lockdown came into being, so that had to be arranged on Zoom!

We agreed that a magazine had to be produced and therefore, for April, it would be on-line – a new venture for us, but one which would allow us to publish, before printers may be available. Many people beyond the Town, to whose households the magazine has been posted previously, will be able to access it via the Parish website. Were there to be any members of our Parish who were unable to use the necessary technology, then a few copies, perhaps, could be printed in house, but we would not expect that to be many.

It has been interesting putting the magazine together, ensuring that there is a mix of subjects

to communicate with parishioners, inform and amuse. Thank you to those who have been kind enough to write articles and provide photographs for this edition.

‘When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away your ticket and jump out. You sit still and trust the engineer.’ (Corrie Ten Boom.) We have been so fortunate in Guernsey to have strong leadership throughout the pandemic and that also applies to the Constables, Douzaine and both indoor and outdoor staff. We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Townie and please let me know of any information/articles you would like to see in future and any comments on whether having the magazine on-line is a good idea. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Tasker

Chairman, St. Peter Port’s Townie Committee
Email: jenny.tasker@stpeterport.gg

DISCLAIMER

The Townie Committee accepts the written articles in good faith. The accuracy of the information contained therein is the responsibility of the author.

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Issue 15 - May 2021

The Townie Committee:

Jenny Tasker, Neil Forman, Tim Bush,
Rosie Henderson, Michael Garrett, Odette Duerden,
Dennis Le Moignan and Zoe Lihou

Design/Production: Stuart Duquemin - HS Design

Cover photograph: Jackson Chambers Photography

THANKS

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

INTRODUCTION BY THE CONSTABLES

This past year has been very unsettling, to say the least. How lucky we are to have been living in Guernsey during the Covid 19 pandemic. Even so, where the Parish is concerned things continue to go on.

Our hard-working office staff worked from home during both lock-downs, with just one person going to the office each morning to do things which were necessary and not able to be done at home. There has been a change of staff in our office due to retirement, with new member Fiona Malley taking over from Martyn Guilbert. We are also assessing the way of working within the office, in order to make us more efficient. As from 1 January 2021 we have a newly elected Constable, with Zoe Lihou joining the team in that position. Zoe has plunged into work very quickly by working with staff to install a more efficient IT system which will make life much easier for everyone to use, and at a cheaper annual cost.

Our outside team have been working hard to improve some of the Parish properties, such as the traffic island at the bottom of Mont Arrivé. This area was constantly used as a rubbish dump, with our staff clearing 10 – 20 wine bottles a week from it. A strange place to dump empty wine bottles! With the daisy bushes removed, gravel laid down, new flower planters and tree trunk slices placed as edging to the site, it has since remained clean with no dumping taking place.

The team have also begun to place tree trunk slices around the flower beds at Cambridge Park, which makes them more attractive and prevents the bark chippings from blowing away. The wooden fence of the Green Lanes



Constables Zoe Lihou and Dennis Le Moignan

Cemetery was rotten and the team have erected a more substantial fence which should be in place for many years to come. They are also repairing the brick topping of the low wall outside the fence and the brick fence pillars.

In Candie Cemetery, many of the grave-stones tilt during the winter months and the team have done an excellent job straightening many of them into an upright position. They have also spread gravel along the stretch at the bottom end of the cemetery and planters have been put on it ready for planting.

Parishioners, please stay safe and stay well. 

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ST PETER PORT PARISH PROCUREUR

The position of Procureur of the parish is an ancient and historic appointment, the origins of which can be traced back to 1597. It is affiliated to, but not part of the Constables and Douzaine – being entirely independent and only accountable to the people of the parish. The position is filled by nomination and public vote at an open parish meeting, with the candidate being elected to the office for a period of two years.

Historically, in times long before the creation of the local welfare system in 1937, parishes were required to deal with matters of poverty, deprivation, debt and hardship within their own boundaries. This fell to an officially elected individual called the Procureur des Pauvres (Procureur of the Poor), who was often a businessman and/or a person who had influential connections within the parish. As no government or public funds were provided, one of the Procureur's responsibilities was to garner financial support from parish sources, primarily businesses, wealthy individuals and benefactors, so that those parishioners in emergency, short-term or one-off financial need, could be provided with assistance. Parochial Outdoor Assistance Boards were set up and in St. Peter Port, there were six elected Overseers, who worked with the States to agree funding and/or that claimants should seek employment by providing possible job situations.

Since the formation of the welfare system – known locally as Public Assistance, now

Social Security – most instances of public need are covered by the extensive benefits system, which in the main serves the island community very well. There are however, and always will be instances whereby individuals do not fulfil the criteria enabling them to claim support, or those for whom the delay in processing their claim causes immediate, short-term hardship. However, it is not only the ability or otherwise to claim support that results in families or individuals finding themselves in unforeseen predicaments, it can be a whole range of reasons and situations beyond their own control. It is in circumstances such as these that the parish Procureur is often contacted in the hope of being able to help.

If you or someone you know within the parish, is in need of short-term support and, having explored all the options and services available from the States of Guernsey official sources, feel you have no other avenues open to you, then consider contacting the Procureur – he may be able to help.

Likewise, if you feel you are generously able to contribute to Procureur funds, then all donations are gratefully received. 📞

**The current Procureur is
Mr Martin Harris.**

He can be contacted by email on:

procureur@stpeterport.gg or by

mobile telephone on: **07781 406844**

CHURCHES IN ST PETER PORT

Church of England (Anglican)

Town Church (St. Peter)	720879
Holy Trinity	724319
St. John the Evangelist	720879
St. Stephen's	722018

Church of Scotland 257345

Baptist

Spurgeons 727974

Methodist

Wesley 720358

Roman Catholic

St. Joseph & St. Mary	720196
Notre Dame du Rosaire	720196

Other

Eldad Elim	723078
Society of Friends (Quakers)	254788
Christian Science	
Reading Room	720965
Kingdom Hall	
(Jehovah's Witness)	711820
Green Lanes Gospel Hall	265037

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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**BUILDING
CONTRACTORS**

Les Cornus
St. Martin's, Guernsey



T: 01481 239034

E: admin@fwatson.co.uk

LOVES ME / LOVES ME NOT ARE YOU IN AN ABUSIVE SITUATION? WHERE TO GET HELP

By Sue Hollwey

PROMOTING HEALTHY ATTITUDES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Like a number of other Soroptimist clubs, Guernsey has also used the 'Loves me/ Loves me not' cards, bookmarks and posters in a number of ways and over a number of years to help get the message across about abuse. People sometimes do not realise that they are in an unhealthy relationship, if they do, they do not always know where to get help.

Soroptimist International is an organization working to improve the lives of girls and women Worldwide. This is one such piece of work. We are very aware that men and boys also suffer from abuse and fully support them, too.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE WITH THE CARDS AND BOOKMARKS AND POSTERS?

They are given to Safer - our local domestic abuse support charity. Other charities have also requested them, such as Action for Children.

They have also been distributed to GP surgeries, the Medical Specialist Group and the Hospital. Some doctors and nurses give them out to appropriate patients.

They are used in schools by the SHARE (Sexual Health and Relationship Education) nurses as part of their programme. We have recently done a reprint of 3000 cards for them.

We gave out cards in town on International Day Against Violence Against Women, we make it clear it is against violence against anyone. At that event a lady working in a nearby shop was curious about what we were doing and when I explained she asked for four sets of cards to give to specific friends. The local vicar also asked us to leave cards in the church for people to take.

We take every opportunity to publicise them: a parent related how, as soon as her teenage daughter read the card, she finished with her boyfriend.

We have done lots of work with the Youth Commission.

We are aware that domestic abuse is a significant problem in older people as well. The Guilles Alles Library put bookmarks in their books, to especially target this group.

During the first lockdown there was evidence that abuse problems increased. After Guernsey opened up, we distributed copies of the poster, (which we have updated), to be displayed.

The response, so far, has been very positive - hopefully, you will see the posters in various places around the island.

Now we are free once more to move around the island, we are keen to continue to provide more posters and cards to anyone - individuals or organisations - who requests them. [T](#)

(The Constables' Office has one of the posters in the entrance hall.)

GUERNSEY WELFARE SERVICE



Established in 1896 by local churches as a response to poverty on the Island, the Guernsey Welfare Service is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Over this period of time, the activities it has been involved with have changed but its primary aim to respond to those living lives poor, either in financial terms or in social connection, remains.

Today the Service is best known for its foodbank, which helped 560 different households last year, a sharp rise on the previous year because of the effect of the Covid pandemic. People seeking the help of the foodbank visit the Welfare Office, based at Trinity Church, meet with a friendly Welfare Worker, have a chat about why they are seeking help, receive a listening ear and assistance with food. In addition, for specific households eg those with dependent children, we are able

to help with vouchers for essential costs such as heating. We can't help in big ways but we know that when people are struggling, every little helps and just knowing that there is someone there to listen and provide some emergency supplies, makes a big difference.

We are always particularly busy in the lead up to Christmas, last December we helped 376 households with essential items and Christmas treats. We partner with Rotary Tree of Joy in nominating almost 150 children to receive gifts.

The Service receives a grant from Social Security to help with staffing costs but apart from that runs purely on donations from individuals, businesses, churches, trusts, other organisations and the work of our fundraising team. Last year

we estimate we gave away approx £160,000 worth of food which was mostly donated, again by individuals, churches and organisations. Last year was, of course, very unusual, during lockdown then and again recently, we quickly changed our operation to become a telephone and delivery service and because of the restrictions surrounding supermarkets etc we had to purchase most of the food which we gave away during those periods. This part of our work involves 30 volunteers who regularly collect, sort and stack our store cupboard and pick up our 10 weekly supermarket food waste collections.



Although our storage space is only suitable for small items, we also match people up with offered or donated household items, large and small, which helps people setting up home or replacing broken items.


The Service also runs several other projects:

Life Skills courses - In January 2019 we began running courses to help, particularly the people we meet through the Welfare Office, where learning a new skill would improve their and their family's life. Our Life Skills Co-Ordinator, with the help of experts where appropriate, has run courses such as budgeting, cooking, first aid and sessions including how to entertain your children on a budget.

Linking Lives - This scheme seeks to match volunteers with older isolated folk (Link Friends) who appreciate a weekly or fortnightly visit. Volunteers and Link Friends enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and sometimes a drive or outing. Some strong relationships have been forged in this way and the visit is an important part of the week for both Link Friend and volunteer. Most Link Friends are referred to the scheme by Social Services though family referrals are also welcome. We are desperately in need of more volunteers in this area and would be interested to hear from anyone who would enjoy spending an hour or so, weekly or fortnightly, visiting in this way.

Parent Empowerment Programme (PEP) - This programme is a group for parents with pre-school

children who meet weekly for a time of fun with their children and an opportunity for the children to be looked after for a while so that they can have the space to explore some of their feelings and concerns with the group facilitators. PEP is for those families travelling from a bitter to a better place and families may be referred by Social Workers or self refer. The group is designed to be small so that parents and children feel safe and welcome. We do have some space in the group at present.

Though we are supported by and help people of any or no faith, the charity retains its Christian roots and we are inspired by our faith to offer a listening ear and helping hand wherever we can. 



If you think you could benefit from one or more aspects of the Service or would like to volunteer as a Link Friend, please contact:

GWS Co-Ordinator Sue Le Fricc
on: 07839 724300 or
email: guernseywelfare@cwgsy.net

You can also find us at
www.guernseywelfare.com or
on Facebook as **Guernsey Welfare Service**

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH WINDOWS

By Tony Kaines

In cathedrals and churches around the world you will find many examples of the 'Tree of Jesse' in their stained-glass windows, but did you know that here in St Peter Port we have a unique Tree of Jesse window designed by William Morris which is situated in St Stephen's Church?

In all St Stephen's has 13 windows by William Morris and many more by other famous stained-glass manufacturers.

In 2015, the 150th anniversary of the opening of the church, the building was fully rewired and re-decorated and it was noticed that the Tree of Jesse window was in a very poor state of repair. Being trustees of such a unique work of art we felt we needed to save this for the Island and launched an appeal to raise the necessary funds.

Within a very short period of time people both on and off the Island generously responded and we were able to commission Holy Well Glass to commence the conservation work. This they did last year when they came over and removed the window and transported it back to their workshop in Wells.

Having meticulously cleaned, repaired and conserved every individual piece of glass and leadwork it was reinstated at the end of last year in its full original glory and was re-dedicated by Bishop Trevor Willmott in October.

So, if you are passing by (chose a bright day for the full effect) do come in and take a look (the church is open every day). The windows at both ends of the church are by Morris but to see the



The tree is completed at the top with Mary and Jesus above Joseph.



Jesse is shown reclining at the bottom of the centre light with the tree emanating from him. This is the universally accepted position for him.

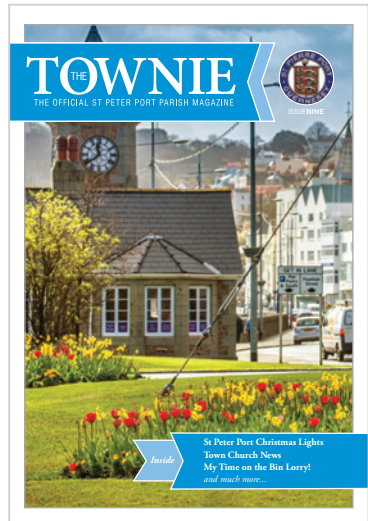
Tree of Jesse window you need to walk halfway down the main aisle and turn to look over the organ balcony at the west end. These are fine examples of the resurgence of Pre-Raphaelite art

which Morris sought to promote back in the 1860s. [T](#)

(The Tree of Jesse is a depiction in art of the ancestors of Christ, shown in a tree which rises from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of King David and is the original use of the family tree as a schematic representation of a genealogy.)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

By States of Guernsey

Although for most people the COVID virus and lockdown was something that just had to be dealt with, this isn't true for everyone. Many people struggled with loneliness, mental wellbeing/health issues, personal struggles, financial difficulties and other challenges.

There is help and support available when you need it.

This document details help and support that is available. Starting with information on how you can help improve your mental wellbeing, moving through the various routes available for support, along with what to do if you are faced with a mental health crisis.

There are some things you can do that may help, such as staying in touch with friends and relatives on the phone or by social media. Some people have found it useful to re-connect with a hobby or learn a new skill through an online course. There are also lots of resources you can use to keep you well.

Here are some suggestions:

- Go for a walk outside in the fresh air (unless you are self-isolating) or try a home workout - Please do not leave your accommodation if you are self-isolating
- Try not to be glued to the news
- Think about how you can adapt your daily routine and set new goals
- Borrow an e-book from the Guille-Allès Library's online selection

- Learn how to meditate
- Listen to a new podcast such as “Feel better, live more” with Dr Rangan Chatterjee, “Happy Place” with Fearné Cotton, Bryony Gordon’s “Mad World” or perhaps the TED Radio Hour Podcast
- Experiment in the kitchen with some new recipes
- Challenge yourself with a sudoku
- Pick up an instrument or new craft to help focus your mind and pass the time
- Try a free online course from Future Learn

If you feel your mental wellbeing is suffering, there are a number of organisations that can provide advice and support:

Every Mind Matters

Tips from the NHS on looking after your mental health.

GET.gg

CBT self-help therapy resources, including worksheets and information sheets and self-help mp3s.

Mind

5 Ways To Wellbeing from the leading mental wellbeing charity.

Action for Happiness

A movement aiming to help people take action for a happier and kinder world.

If you, or a member of your family, have serious concerns regarding their wellbeing, in the first instance you can call your GP for advice and support. Your GP will have a good knowledge of your history and your circumstances. They will be able to identify changes in your mood and suggest appropriate resources or treatment to help you.

Depending on your circumstances, they can also refer you to the following organisations for support:

- **Healthy Minds**
- **Philippi**
- **Bereavement counselling**
- **MIND**
- **Private counselling**
- **Secondary Mental Health Services**

Healthy Minds offers short-term therapeutic interventions for adults who have mild to moderate anxiety and depression. Healthy Minds was previously called the Primary Care Mental Health & Wellbeing Service.

The primary aim of the service is to enable people to learn healthier coping strategies to improve their wellbeing and to manage their difficulties themselves.

You can self-refer to Healthy Minds by calling 707744 or emailing healthyminds@gov.gg
More information can be found here:
<https://gov.gg/healthyminds>

The following are services provided by the States of Guernsey. If an urgent referral into these services is needed, staff will be on call to carry out the necessary assessments.

The Duty and Intervention team is the gateway to secondary adult mental health services. They receive referrals from GPs, the Emergency Department, Prison, Police and wards at the PEH. This team will provide an assessment within 24 hours for emergency referrals.

Probation services will continue to work with offenders on release from prison. They also run domestic abuse programmes for convicted and non-convicted people.

The Community Drug and Alcohol team (CDAT) work with people over the age of 18 who are dependent on alcohol and or drugs.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide comprehensive assessments and treatments for children and young people with mental health problems.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and already receive support from secondary care mental health services, please contact your keyworker or the staff member providing cover for them, or attend the Emergency Department at the PEH.

If you are not receiving care and support, other than social support, talking therapies etc and are experiencing a mental health crisis you should contact one of the following:

<i>Service:</i>	<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>Opening Hours:</i>
Action for Children	01481 700218	9:00am to 5:00pm
Community Advice and Listening Line (C.A.L.L)	0800 132737 Text 'help' to 81066	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Childline	0800 1111	9:00am to midnight
Guernsey Police	01481 725111 controlroom@ guernsey.pnn.police.uk	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Papyrus/ Hope Line UK	0800 068 4141 0786 003 9967 (text only) pat@staging.obscure- seminar.flywheelsites.com	9:00am to 10:00pm weekdays 2:00pm to 10:00pm weekends/bank holidays
Samaritans	Free call 116 123 01481 711030 guernsey@samaritans.org jo@samaritans.org	Mon 8:00am to 10:30am and 6:00pm to 10:30pm Tues 8:00pm to 10:30pm Wed 10:30am to 10:30pm Thurs 3:30pm to 10:30pm Fri 8:00pm to 10:30pm Sat 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Social Services Assessment and Intervention Team and Multi Agency Support Hub (Swissville)	01481 723182 multiagencysupporthub@gov.gg	8:45pm to 4:45pm Monday to Friday
The Youth Commission, including The HUB	01481 756099 info@youthcommission.gg	34 hours a day, 7 days a week



Who can help you?

Seen hornets?

224567 asianhornets@gov.gg

Loose Cobbles?

223400 traffic@gov.gg

Meet the Douzaine?
Come to a drop in

Something suspicious?
0800 555 111 **Crimestoppers**

Blocked stream or douit?

720014 constables@stpeterport.gg

Replacement bags/caddies?

720014 constables@stpeterport.gg

Join the Douzaine?

720014 constables@stpeterport.gg

Bored?

720392 ga@library.gg

Road block?

223400 traffic@gov.gg

Uncollected Waste?
221234 recycle@gov.gg

Tourist information?

223552 enquiries@visitguernsey.com

Do something different?

226565 careersguernsey@gov.gg

SCHOOL MATTERS

By Headteacher Lee Collier

Le Murier - what have we been working on since we last met?

Learning outside of the classroom and Duke of Edinburgh Award

Le Murier is now in its 30th year of Duke of Edinburgh delivery and in that time the number of students accessing and completing the award has grown significantly - including some of our students with complex learning difficulties and disabilities. The Award is inclusive and therefore it is wonderful to be able to adapt and tailor the requirements accordingly so that more and more students are able to achieve.

'The Big Picture Curriculum' has afforded us the opportunity to further promote learning outside of the classroom as well as embedding a range of academic and life skills. Elements



Duke of Edinburgh



Sailing sessions supported by The Sailing Trust

of learning such as resilience, critical thinking, team work, reflection and independence feature heavily and students gain a real feel for these valuable skills that they all need for their future challenges in adult life.

We have continued with the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and undertook the Bronze expedition on island in the autumn term of 2020 due to the Covid travel restrictions. All completed despite doing their overnights during storm Alex!

The Sailing Trust supported exhilarating sailing sessions last term as part of the Outdoor Learning programme. Again these promoted motor skills, teamwork and communication. One of our students won the trophy for 'endeavour' which was an excellent achievement and recognition of their progress.

World of Work, Enterprise and community matters

The hugely successful termly Enterprise events embed numeracy and literacy as well as communication and social skills. Our last Christmas Enterprise saw students making a range of items to sell including cakes, biscuits, magnets, frames, bacon butties and tree decorations. Students' entrepreneurial skills develop each term as well as their confidence in manning their stalls. Half of the monies raised from these events are given to the student chosen charity for that term, which at Christmas was the Salvation Army. The remaining money is used by the students in school to purchase an item for school use and is chosen via the School Council.

Students have also had the opportunity for work experience placements within the local community and for some, extended placements. The skills development and feedback from employers has been excellent and some go on to get Saturday jobs from these opportunities.

Being a part of the local community and supporting charities is important to all of us at Le Murier. Students have again this year visited a number of local care homes and enjoyed singing Christmas carols.

Guernsey Press 'Design an Ad' BTEC ICT showcase

Fantastic designs were submitted for this competition (part of BTEC Entry Level 3 ICT accreditation) and Le Murier students gained several prize positions for their ad designs.

Guernsey Sovereign Foundation Art Award

Congratulations go to some of our current and past art students for receiving both Merit and Highly Commended certificates for their entries last academic year. The interpretations and creative expression through the medium of art on themes including Africa and Pop Art were fantastic. [📌](#)

Guernsey Sovereign Foundation Art Award



HERB TROUGHS - Site of the old Strangers' Cemetery Upland Road

By Douzenier Jax Robin Floral Co-Ordinator

This project carried out by our Parish Groundsmen and myself on the site of the former Strangers' Cemetery is now ready to be enjoyed by all.

First, a little history; This land which was purchased on 27th April 1780 at a cost of 5 quarts of wheat rente per verge (2 verges purchased) for the burial of soldiers from the Garrison and strangers generally.

'A stranger was anyone who had not acquired the right of domicile in the Town or Parish of St. Peter Port, hence the name Strangers' Cemetery'.

In 1928 care of the cemetery was transferred to the Constables and Douzaine of the Parish and the area was turned into a garden with trees, shrubs and pathways. Up until 1933 there were still gravestones in both sections. In 1950 due to their poor condition, many gravestones were removed and destroyed, except for Sgt. MacDonald's which has been kept in good order by the 79th and 93rd Highland Regiments, the Edinburgh Sutherland Association and most recently in the late 1990's by the Guernsey Church of Scotland and can be viewed in the grassed area of the northern section.

Last year we gained planning permission to install a stepping stone path leading down to two planters that our groundsmen have upcycled from old containers with a built in reservoir and with the help and advice of Nigel Clarke, Queux Patio Plants, we planted up with herbs in peat free compost. The rest of the area has been spruced up and



These pictures show the Parish Groundsmen placing their upcycled planters and Nigel Clarke of Queux Patio and myself after we had planted them out.





six Rowan trees planted. Due to the site's proximity to the school and our current planting policy we have worked with Nigel's Green Legacy Project and are making the site as allergy friendly as we can.

The aim of this project is to encourage the public to walk down the path, read the information board, which is on the front of the herb planters about the site and pick some herbs to use.

In addition a Pollen Pollution Trap Hedge between the existing planting in front of the electricity sub-station has been added using low energy native plants. Now planting is complete in the near future I'd like to install a couple of benches to further encourage more use of the area. 📍



ROAD RIDDLE - THE AMHERST WAY

By Zoe C C Lihou

What is one way - ah sometimes but not always?

Has on street parking - ah not always only between certain hours?

Is walked by but not on several people 5 days a week?

Parked in by anyone who chooses to and poses a serious credible risk to our mini parishioners?

Answer? Well It Depends!



It's no surprise folks are getting confuzzled. Strap in and see what you make of this... Above is the sign you see as a road user and below is the explanation of the rule from Strategy & Policy Traffic and Highways Services.

“The section between Maurepas Road and Guelles Lane is two-way at all times. Therefore, anyone leaving a property/business along that road can exit in either direction at

anytime. However, at certain times (between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday) there is a restriction, through signage, forcing all traffic exiting Guelles Lane to turn right only.”

At the other end of Guelles Road we have this...



No wonder road users in the Amherst vicinity are so confused by what is allowed and what isn't.

This might explain why so many car owners choose to park at the top between the restricted hours of the day on the school run - despite Beau Sejour Car Park being a shorter and much safer walk away.

Moreover, any driver finding time to read the conflicting sign is possibly less focused on the road ahead.

So once the illegal parkers are removed and the others who know when to come up the one




way - 'some of the day - one way' adhere to the times on the road signs - then we should have a safer walk to drop off and collect our mini parishioners - right? - Sorry to break it to you Townies - but no.

Our minis are at risk. Risk of injury because they are not able to be clearly seen. Now is it the speeding cars using this narrow road as a short cut, or perhaps the illegally parked cars blocking line of sight, or the drivers who clearly misunderstand the purpose of a yellow line and think it's an aspirational parallel parking aid versus a clear message of do not park here?

Well possibly a combination of all the above and more. In the last two years there has been a significant increase in urban residential properties along Guelles Road and lower down past the school-with more properties in the pipeline causing an increase in vehicles residing in the area.

With more developments approved, concerns have been raised by your Douzaine to the relevant States Departments. Given the increase in the number of vehicles it would make sense to the average Townie to introduce traffic calming measures. Could be a speed bump or two, removal of 'one way'- only some of the day one-way traffic, permit holder

parking only for the residents. Maybe more ticketing as a deterrent?

At the time of writing Townie can confirm that progress of sorts has been made. The States of Guernsey Traffic and Highway Services confirmed it aims to work with all primary schools to enable Travel Plans. Travel studies have been carried out at Amherst School and the results of parents/carers and staff surveys are pending, after which the range of options and actions which are appropriate and proportionate following the studies and surveys will be discussed with the schools. 

For information on travel plans please visit: www.gov.gg/travelplans



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WHERE HAVE ALL OUR PUBS GONE?

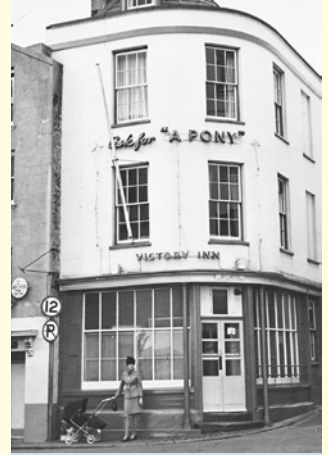
By Rob Grant



Miss le Briseur's public house 1950's



Miss le Briseur behind the bar of her public house in 1950



Victory Inn, 1968

Pubs were first introduced to Britain by the invading Roman army, who built taverns along the roads they constructed throughout the country, to quench the thirst of legionary troops with wine. Britons quickly adapted this to serve the more traditional ale.

Over time pubs have become a place to socialise, relax and have a drink. They often form the focus of community life in villages, towns and cities.

But across the UK traditional pubs are closing at a rate of 18 a week, (2019) largely due to increased taxes, which make the cost of drinking out too expensive, but also partly due to the number of younger people actually drinking less than previous generations. Despite this, the Campaign for Real Ale, (CAMRA), note that pubs contribute around £23.1 billion to the British economy each year.

Guernsey too has seen many pubs come and go over the years, not always due to government taxes, although this is an ongoing and ever-increasing cost, but also due to other factors over the years, including the smoking ban introduced in 2006, and the clampdown on the anti-social problem of drink-driving. There have of course been other reasons, including changes to location, where pubs have been demolished to make way for building projects, and changes to industry, for example the decline of the stone industry in the north of the island, which saw a corresponding decline in public house trade.

In this short article we look at some of the pubs which have come and gone over the last 200 years, and some that are still with us.

A look through the Almanacs at the Priaulx library lists many pubs of bygone days and we include here a number of photographs of many



White Hart before it was demolished in 1972



English and Guernsey Arms, 1964

pubs that are no longer with us.

As the stone trade thrived in the north of the island so too did the public house trade, and in the Vale and St Sampson's from the mid 1800's we had, amongst others;

The Castle', 'Cognon', 'North Star', 'The Vale', 'Weigh Bridge', 'Hope & Anchor', 'St Sampson's Tavern', 'Ship Nelson', 'Freemason's Arms', 'English & Guernsey', 'The Maritime', 'Omnibus Inn', 'Trafalgar Inn', (often referred to

as the Parrot due to the large, foul-mouthed bird that the landlord kept on the bar), 'London House', 'Mariners Inn', (all of these latter three still going strong), 'Coq du Nord', 'St Sampson's Inn', 'Victoria Inn' (burnt down in 1914 and still derelict in 1938), and 'Vale Tavern', (which became a private dwelling in 1933).

Dave Moriarty has told me the story of how the 'Trafalgar Inn' on North Side became known as 'the Parrot'. In the early 1950's his uncle,



Crown pre-war



Dukes Arms, Charotterie



Farmers Bar, 1966 (A.E. Barrasin)

Jim McCord, was the landlord of the Trafalgar and used to keep a large parrot on the bar. This parrot was the most foul-mouthed bird around, picking up every swear word imaginable. Jim retired many decades ago and the bird was taken on in a private residence, but the pub is still referred to as 'the Parrot' even now after all these years.

St Peter Port has also seen many public houses through the years, particularly around the quays when commercial ships plied their trade in and out of the harbour and the army were garrisoned at Fort George.

Quayside pubs include: 'Queen Charlotte's Tavern', (Which sat just above the old Cow Lane on the Coal Quay and is shown in a 1800 painting), 'Brixham Tavern', 'Commercial', 'Francais', 'Shipwright's Arms', 'Hants and Cornish', 'Maritime', 'Baltic Tavern', 'Home once More', 'Pier Tavern', 'The Sussex', 'The Ship Inn', 'White Hart', 'New Brunswick Arms', (later to become the 'Harbour Lights'), 'Kosy Korner', 'Kentish Arms', 'St Julian's Bar' and the 'Crown Tap'.

Other pubs that have existed elsewhere in St Peter Port include: 'Kolapore Arms', 'The Cutter', 'Vrangue Inn' (at No 4 the Vrangue), 'The Neptune', 'Victory Inn' near the taxi rank, (later to become the 'Guernsey Labour Club', and now La Petite Bistro), 'Market Arms', 'Duke's Arms', 'Grafters' (at the Savoy), 'Traveller's Joy', (demolished to make way for the Ville au Roi estate), 'King's Head', 'Taylors Long Bar', 'Golden Lion', 'Belgrave', 'Kentish Arms' in Cornet Street, (which later became the 'Helmsman'), 'The Salarie Inn', 'West End Bar' (formerly the 'Royal Oak'), 'Wellington', 'the Chestnut', 'Red Lion', 'Prince of Wales' and the 'Coal Hole', 'Fleur de Lis', 'Fort Inn' at Tower Hill, 'Clarence' (in Cornet Street), the 'Hurry Inn', 'Cambrai Arms' (in George street), 'Pickled Onion' at the bottom of St Julian's Avenue, 'Thomas de la Rue' (which was still a stationary shop in 1965), 'Caves de Bordeaux', 'Britannia' and 'Albert Arms'.



King's Head, Fountain Street



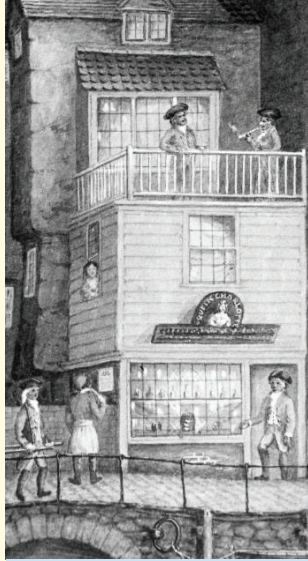
Traveller's Joy, 1937



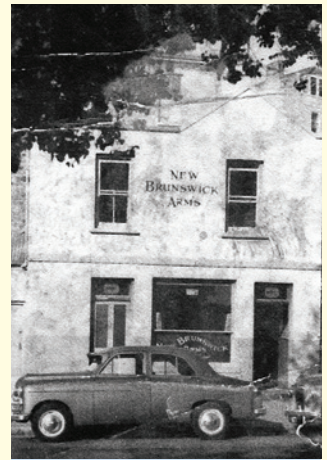
Salarie Inn, 1987



Hangman's Inn advert, 1950



Queen Charlotte Inn, c1800



New Brunswick Arms, 1950's
(Now the Harbour Lights)

There was also a pub called 'The Temperance', run by a Mrs Watson in Church Square, although we are not sure what they served, or how popular the venue was!?

And in the Pollet there was Miss le Briseur's public house at No.12, reputed to be the only pub in town without a name. Carel Toms notes that the interior 'was unprepossessing, dark, rather uncomfortable and had stone slabs on the floor'. It was bought in 1951 for £5,200 and demolished to make way for a soft furniture store.

In 1938 three town pubs were run by the Zabiela brothers, with A. Zabiela running the 'Brunswick Arms' at the South Esplanade, E. Zabiela landlord of the 'White Hart' at the other end of town, and T. Zabiela at the helm of the 'Sussex' roughly in the middle.

Later, in 1970, we had C. Travers as landlord of the 'Yacht Inn', James Travers running the 'Prince of Wales' and 'Coal Hole', and J. Travers in charge of the 'Fontaine'.



Ship Inn, 1953 (with model ship in case above the door)



Vale Tavern, 1930

Bill McCann was particularly proud to be the only publican in Guernsey with his name above two establishments, as the former 'Cambrai Arms' (which closed in 1972) still had his name above the door after he had taken over the 'West End Bar' in the same year, (and is still there to this day).

So, history shows us that pubs continue to come and go, but sadly these days we lose far more public houses than ever, and in the last twenty years alone we have said goodbye to, amongst others; 'The Wellington', 'Farmers Bar', 'Pickled Onion', 'West End Bar', 'The Helmsman', 'Caves de Bordeaux', 'Duke's Arms', 'Grafter's', 'Beehive', 'Pieces', 'Taylors', 'St Saviours Tavern', 'Hangman's', 'Vazon Bay', 'Lanresse Lodge', 'Salerie Inn', and, most recently, the 'English & Guernsey' on the Bridge and the 'White Hart in town'.

There are doubtless many other public houses not mentioned, we would be interested if any reader has stories or photographs of the pubs mentioned and any other old local pubs.

To quote Hilaire Belloc:

'Change your hearts or you will lose your Inns and you will deserve to have lost them. But when you have lost your Inns drown your empty selves, for you will have lost the last of England'. 📍



Sussex Arms, 1953



Wellington Inn, Fountain street



Couture Inn, 1950's



Mermaid Tavern, 1950's

CANDIE GARDENS CONCERTS

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16th May	Mancini and Me #
23rd May	Music Centre Jazz Groups
30th May	Guernsey Glees
6th June	Guernsey Welsh Male Voice Choir
13th June	Guernsey Concert Brass
20th June	Guernsey Symphonic Winds
27th June	Guernsey Jazz Orchestra
4th July	The Accidentals
11th July	Stephanie Coombs #
18th July	Guernsey Concert Brass
25th July	Western Valley Swing
1st August	Mariposa Strings #
8th August	Kim Reece-Sheerin #
15th August	K B Project
22nd August	Swinging Statins
29th August	Lee Ann Hawkes #
5th September	Lydia Pugh
12th September	Kate Kelleway #
19th September	Guernsey Concert Brass
26th September	Fourtissimo #

TACKLING GUERNSEY'S ASIAN HORNET PROBLEM: THE STORY SO FAR

By **Francis Russell** *Project Coordinator for the Asian Hornet Strategy*



The first records of Asian hornets nesting in Guernsey are from 2017 when two nests were discovered in the autumn months, one in Torteval and another near beehives at the Longfrie in St Peters. Although every effort is being made to locate and destroy their nests, we now expect that hornets will arrive each spring, extending territory by spreading across the sea from the French mainland. It is estimated that a fertile queen hornet makes the crossing to Guernsey in around 4 hours (even less with an easterly tail wind). Typically, the islands closer to France receive greater numbers of Asian hornets.

Why we needed a strategy?

In 2019, the States of Guernsey gave their

full support for the Asian Hornet Strategy, which aims to control the numbers of hornets each year and prevent populations from establishing. These highly invasive non-native pests are well suited to our climate and present a serious threat by preying on a wide range of pollinating insects and honeybees. They also pose a health risk to humans as hornets will defend their nests aggressively if they are disturbed. Each year there are reports of one or two fatalities in Portugal, Spain and France attributed to hornet attacks, where individuals have been overcome by stings.

Based at Raymond Falla House in St Martins, the Asian Hornet Team (AHT) work closely with colleagues in Alderney, Herm and Sark to coordinate the control programmes and provide expertise to chemically treat and remove hornet nests. This is highly specialised work, requiring detailed knowledge of hornet behaviour and expertise in equipment and personal protection. A standard beekeeping suit offers scant protection against the 6mm long sting of an Asian hornet.

Is the Asian hornet strategy working?

In early March the AHT will be rolling out the 'spring queening' programme for the third year running, asking volunteers at set locations across the island to look after one of our specialised traps. We believe that catching queen hornets in the early spring soon after they arrive on the island, has significantly reduced the number of nests found later in the year.

Guernsey's hornet numbers	2017	2018	2019	2020
Confirmed positive sightings of hornets	20	70	15	6
Queens caught	0	4	10	3
Primary nests	0	0	1	0
Secondary nests	2	8	2	0
Total nests - found & destroyed	2	8	3	0

So far, the data is encouraging. When reviewing the Asian hornet sightings and the number of nests across the Bailiwick in 2020, there is a noticeable drop in the figures compared to previous years.

Throughout the summer months we promote 'Track don't trample' where we ask people to report possible sightings, sending in photos to confirm identification. By tracking worker hornets, we can locate and destroy the nests, which are usually, but not always, up in the treetops.

To understand the consequences of failing to control Asian hornets and to emphasise why it must remain a priority, we don't have to look too far. Since 2013, hornets have spread across the entire Cotentin peninsula. Between

April-December last year, the Departement La Manche found and destroyed over 4,000 nests.

The importance of staying vigilant
The threat from Asian hornets remains ever present. We are determined to build on the success of the last four years in raising awareness of this highly invasive insect. Maintaining the vigilance and cooperation of the public in noticing and reporting possible sightings is the most vital aspect of our Asian hornet control programme.

Thank you to everyone who have contacted us - please keep sending in your suspected sightings to asianhornet@gov.gg, Facebook [asianhornetguernsey](https://www.facebook.com/asianhornetguernsey) or contact 07839 197082. 📞



THE CARNATION REVOLUTION – *25 April, 1974 now known as Freedom Day*

By Isabel de Menezes

Portugal had been governed since 1933 by the ‘New State’ (see article in last issue). Independence movements began in the African colonies of Mozambique, Angola, Portuguese Congo and Portuguese Guinea. The unrest forced the Salazar and Caetano regimes to spend more of Portugal’s budget on colonial administration and military expenditure, and the country became more and more isolated from the rest of the world. During the war, Portugal faced increasing dissent, arms embargoes and other international sanctions.

The war became more and more unpopular in Portugal due to its length, cost, loss of life, the worsening of diplomatic relationships with other United Nations member states, and its role in perpetuating the ‘New State’ regime. Many left-wing students and anti-war activists were forced to leave Portugal to escape conscription, imprisonment and torture by government forces.

In February 1974, Prime Minister Marcelo Caetano decided to remove General António de Spínola from the presidency in light of Spínola’s increasing disagreement with the promotion of military officers and the direction of Portuguese colonial policy. This occurred shortly after the publication of Spínola’s book, ‘Portugal and the Future’, which expressed his political and military views of the Portuguese Colonial War. Several military officers who opposed the war, including some who had fought pro-independence guerrillas in the Portuguese colonies, formed the MFA (Armed Forces



Movement) to overthrow the government in a military coup. The movement was aided by other Portuguese army officers who supported Spínola and democratic civil and military reform.


The coup had two secret signals. The first was the airing at 23.55 on 24 April of Portugal’s entry in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest, a song entitled ‘And after the goodbye’ which alerted the rebel captains and soldiers to begin the coup. The second signal came at 00:20 on 25 April, when a radio station broadcast “Grândola, Vila Morena” (a song by an influential political folk musician and singer who was banned from the Portuguese radio at the time). The AFM gave the signals to take over strategic points of power in the country. Six hours later, the Caetano government fell. Despite repeated radio appeals from the “captains of April”, as named by the people, advising the population to stay home, thousands of Portuguese took to the streets, mingling with, and supporting, the military.

A central gathering point was the Lisbon flower market, then richly stocked with carnations (which were in season). Some of the insurgents put carnations in their gun barrels, an image broadcast on television worldwide, which gave the revolution its name. Although no mass demonstrations preceded the coup, spontaneous civilian involvement turned the military coup into a popular revolution 'led by radical army officers, soldiers, workers and peasants that toppled the senile Salazar dictatorship, using the language of socialism and democracy'.

The military-led coup returned democracy to Portugal, ending the unpopular Colonial War and replacing the 'New State' regime and its secret police (which curbed civil liberties and political freedom). These changes evolved during (and after) a two-year transitional period known as

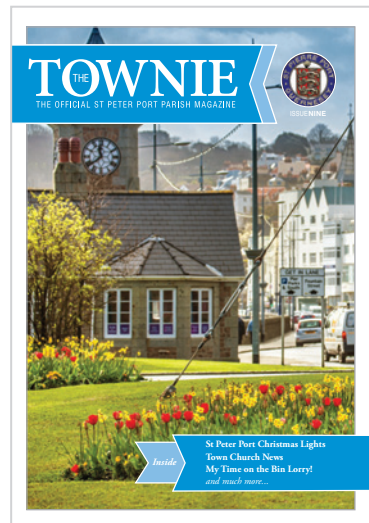
Ongoing Revolutionary Process, which was characterised by social turmoil and power disputes between left- and right-wing political forces.

Although PIDE (the 'New State' political police) killed four people before surrendering, the revolution was unusual because the revolutionaries did not use violence to achieve their goals. Holding red carnations, many people joined revolutionary soldiers on the streets of Lisbon in apparent joy and audible euphoria.

I was 17 and walking to work when I saw the first tank loaded with soldiers holding their guns with red carnations in the barrel. I had no idea what was happening but they were smiling and cheering and I knew that change had finally arrived. 

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



BARD AT BAY

By Richard Fleming

The granite sea-wall retains heat
so here I choose to pause and watch
the bead-bright fishing-boats at rest,
or bathers, by the slipway, splash,
dive in and scream and reenact
the antics of last year's warm days.
I try to count the fish that shoal
in hundreds down below the wall:
young mullet, camouflaged and swift,
uncountable, a multitude.
This north coast bay where I've washed up,
as flotsam does, is changeable:
tide hastens in, then tide retreats
and coloured boats, like fairground rides,
prance, then lie still, then dance again.
The distant islands, Herm and Sark,
slip in and out of white sea-mist,
and were I painterly, each hour
at Bordeaux surely would surprise
with some fresh image to record.

Now here I sit, the June sun sweet
as kisses on my upturned face,
the granite's heat a remedy
for old bones nothing else will soothe.
This pleasing warmth, so comforting,
is transitory, gone too soon.
Time speeds away yet still I cleave
to this old sea-wall, granite-rough,
but, hour by hour, its heat will fade
and night will follow soon enough.

THE KITE

By Richard Fleming

That truant day, I slipped away
to the Cave Hill with makeshift kite.
Fourteen years old, escaped from school,
my uniform in disarray,
absconded, not at all contrite,
I fled with mooring-string and spool,
a headstrong, heedless, wayward boy,
to fly my home-made pride and joy.
Beneath me, grey, the city spread
like scattered jigsaw pieces spilled.
Above me, hot, July sun burned
down on my bare, uncovered head.
The kite rose up with warm air filled.
I steadied it as I had learned.
It sailed, breathtakingly, above,
free, yet restrained: somehow like love



OCCUPIED FILM

By Alexander Bates



Since its inception, writing, directing and producing the short film *Occupied* has been an exciting and strange journey. I graduated from the Northern Film School early last year and, like many other local students, was sat in Guernsey twiddling my thumbs. My dad told me that his friend, David Malledent from Guernsey Armouries, collects war-time artefacts and vehicles, so immediately ideas started forming about making another film. Around the same time, I got my hands on V.V. Cortvriend's excellent book, *Isolated Island*, which details her experiences in the occupation. I was only a couple of chapters in when I started reading about the horrific 1940 White Rock bombing and at that point I knew I had found my story.

I was and am shocked by the enormous

impact this event had on the history of the island I grew up on. The more digging I did, the more I realised the short film had to be made to preserve this rarely discussed story. My next move was to find out more information: I researched at the Priaux Library, met with the German Occupation Museum's Richard Heaume and spoke to those who were directly impacted by the event. It was truly humbling to hear people's personal accounts, which only solidified to me how important it was to ensure that historical accuracy was at the core of every decision myself and the crew made. So, the hunt was on to put together a cast and crew large and talented enough to achieve this ambitious project.

I'm very lucky to know a multitude of talented, creative Guernsey people. Very early

in the project, Matt Stockreiter was on board as the cinematographer, Dana Jungerius the production designer, Jaike Smith the sound recordist, Jamie Mills the script supervisor, Elliott Cockett the drone operator and Phoebe Hazzan, who co-produced with me. David Malledent (our technical advisor for weapons and vehicles) and Russell Doherty (our military consultant) have worked tirelessly with me to ensure that the film is as authentic and engaging as possible. Casting was also a huge hurdle; many actors in Guernsey are trained in stage acting, which is a different ball game to screen acting, so we had to be careful to select people with the correct skillset. We ended up with an excellent cast: Sapphire Brewer-Marchant, Dan Le Fricc, Harriet Billington, Harry Giubileo, Dave Hyett and Steve Molnar, as well as countless locals who selflessly gave up their time to stand in the cold all day being extras! The sponsorships received from the Guernsey Arts Commission and Clameur Du Cinema, as well as the online donations from generous individuals, also went a long way towards making this project possible. Films are not cheap! The scale of *Occupied* has snowballed since we started working on it thanks to the enormous amount of help and media attention we've received; I'm massively lucky to be working on a project like this as a 21-year-old filmmaker.

After many months, we were finally ready to start our seven days of filming in early January. All of our locations were in place: Salerie Corner Car Park to act as the White Rock, my granddad's house to act as a wartime home, Les Petils Bay to act as a German fortified beach, and many more. Thankfully, the weather was perfect for us; whenever we were filming outside it was dry and whenever we were inside it rained! It was bitterly cold throughout but this did nothing to dampen our spirits. We had some



incredible experiences throughout the shoot, but I'll focus on the filming of the bombing scene. The likes of Richard Heaume, David Malledent, Roy Burton and Nick Gee were kind enough to provide their period trucks and horse-drawn vehicles for the day, which lent the scene a massive amount of authenticity. The States of Guernsey were also very helpful in closing off a section of the Salerie Corner Car Park and allowing us to cover it in sand, debris and tomatoes. Upwards of 20 extras, 21 crew and four cast were present that day, so it truly was a military operation trying to organise and feed everyone. There were a massive number of people to costume and our head costume designer, Caitlyn Le Patourel, and her helpers, did an amazing job of making everyone look the part.


I'm certain I'll always remember this as one of the most fun and rewarding (and stressful!) weeks of my life. The amount of hard work everyone put in cannot be understated; it was gruelling at times but we've loved every second of it. We are now part way through editing and will be screening the 20-25 minute film at Beau Sejour on Thursday the 13th of May. More details will follow on the *Occupied* Facebook page. [T](#)

NEW NETWORK INSPIRES GUERNSEY WOMEN

Have you ever considered becoming a Douzenier? Don't know where to start?

Guernsey now has a new support network to inspire women to stand for a wide range of roles in public office, including Douzenier and Constable.

'Women in Public Life' launched in January 2020 and its Chair, Shelaine Green, says the group has had a lot of interest from women who want to know more about contributing to their parish community. "One of the main misconceptions is that you have to wait to be asked to join the Douzaine. Not true - when an election is coming up, just pick up a form from the Constables Office or download one from the parish website and ask two people who live in the parish and are on the electoral roll if they'd be willing to nominate you".

The group has researched 15 different roles in public office and put all the information on its website including the time commitment, skills needed and training offered. Shelaine adds, "We also send out regular news about current vacancies to people who have signed up for our mailing list or followed us on social media. The broad variety of public office roles, some in the public eye, but many behind the scenes, means there is something to suit everyone." 

To find out more about becoming a Douzenier or Constable or 13 other roles in public office in Guernsey, visit www.WomenInPublicLife.gg

Women in Public Life



Photo by Paul Chambers Photography



Photo by Nicole Bromley

HAVELET BAY

By O. L. Duerden



Photo by Simon Campbell, sc.photo

Some years ago, when I told my mum that I was swimming in Havelet she wrinkled her nose - “You wouldn’t catch me swimming there.” Why? Because it was smelly and dirty and next to the harbour. For many of her generation this whole area had a bit of a bad reputation, it was a slightly raggedy end of town with memories of the bawdy houses on Cornet Street, the brewery, the abattoir. How times have changed. The surrounding neighbourhood has gone through

a refurb and our water quality is consistently rated ‘Excellent’ by Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services*.

I can happily confirm that I did persuade my mum to swim at Havelet - many times - and she loved it!

Havelet is vital to so many. For Paul Montague of the Guernsey Rowing Club, Havelet is the nursery slope where novice crews learn the ropes and the paddock where

they eye up the competition before a race. It's the arena where they try to outpace, outmanoeuvre and outwit each other, the finishing line and welcome embrace at the end of a long race.

Very few would learn to sail in Guernsey if it weren't for Havelet. Youngsters progress from the Model Yacht pond into Havelet to get their first taste of sea sailing. The Little Russell with its fierce currents, fishing boats and ferries, crab pots and cargo ships, cruise ships and speed boats is no place for beginners. In Havelet, they can safely learn all they need to before they venture out into the fray.

And the water is warmer as well. Anna Rivers, Commodore of the Guernsey Yacht Club explains 'Castle Cornet and the huge Castle Emplacement wall provide enormous shelter, but because they are both made of granite they absorb and then radiate back the warmth from the sun's rays in a continuous process'. But watch out for 'Havelet Harry' little gusts of wind funnelled across the mouth of the bay ready to catch rookie sailors unawares.

Of late it has become a hugely popular centre for sea swimming, wild swimming, open water swimming - whatever you like to call it. In the summer when the water is a 'toasty' 16° from dawn till dusk there are squadrons of crawlers doing laps of the bay, bevies of breaststrokes gracefully going through their paces, tombstoners testing their nerve off the wall, scuba divers trailing bubbles and floats.

But it's the all-season swimmers in the bay that are so striking - particularly when the temperatures begin to fall. On any given day you can count 30 to 40 of them. You'd think it would take a certain type to swim - come rain or shine - in water that drops below 8°C, but Havelet's year-round swimmers probably wouldn't agree. Apparently, anyone can do it, even you or me. The sea is not exclusive -



everyone is welcome for a bit of one-on-one thalassotherapy, no membership fees or fancy equipment needed.

So, what's the attraction? Some do it for exercise and others for medical reasons, but most are drawn to it for the camaraderie and "to feel alive". The cold water absolutely demands your attention and takes you straight into the moment. It's deeply, thrillingly pleasurable and dissolves the day's stresses. Not only does it make you feel better, both physically and mentally, but it also brings you into contact with the most fantastic community of like-minded people, where no-one stands on ceremony and everyone is a friend. And why Havelet? Apart from its sheltered position and acres of glistening sand, for many it's the accessibility. As Mark Torode put it, 'Where else can you leave your desk at 12 and be back at 1 having been for a dip in a pristine bay and still had time for a chat and a sarnie on the warm slabs?' [📍](#)

**Of the 13 bays that have weekly checks during the summer, Havelet is one of only two (Port Soif is the other) to have attained an 'excellent' annual rating for each of the last four years published online and in the weekly ratings in each of the last two years published, 2018 and 2019.*



GERMAN TRADITIONS, IN GUERNSEY

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

There's no place like home. Or 'Zuhause ist es am schönsten' ('Home is best'). And whilst you can take the person away from their home country, you can't take their 'Heimat' away from the person.

So what are the German traditions, customs or foods that 'Deutsche in Guernsey' miss most, but still enjoy away from home? I asked for some feedback and was impressed at how many familiar (and unfamiliar) things were part of daily life abroad.

The first day of primary school is important for every child.



Fresh fir and cones. Preparing for Christmas.

In Germany, Schultüte is a large gift cone, given to your child to celebrate their first day, filled with sweets and little presents for the start of school. And for younger siblings, a



1st day of school is a special occasion to be celebrated.



Advent candles are lit in the 4 weeks leading to Christmas.

The sweet smell of Christmas - preparing the Gingerbread.



The traditional Gingerbread house.



Nikolaustag on 6th Dec, when children awake to find sweets and goodies in their shoes.

smaller version is often provided, to help keep the peace! The Schultüte plays an important role in celebrating the start of school life, even, it seems, in Guernsey.

Germany is truly the land of tradition, particularly around 'Weihnachten', where visitors flock to famous Christmas markets such as Berlin, Cologne, Dresden and Hamburg to 'smell and taste' what Christmas is all about.

It seems that these same tastes and smells are familiar to many households in Guernsey, where pine, ginger and fruit combine in December to create decorations, door wreaths and Advent candles, to be lit on the 4 Sundays before Christmas.

The traditions of St. Nikolaus on 6th December, Nikolaustag, the pre-cursor to Santa Claus, sees young children excitedly leaving shoes and boots outside their doors, and awakening on 6th December to find them filled with delicious goodies.

And of course, there are all the German Christmas cookies (Weihnachtsplätzchen), Stollen, Lebkuchen and gingerbread which help make this time of year so special.

Gingerbread houses perhaps best reflect the festive season, where German families tend to celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve (Heiligabend) with a traditional meal, such as potato salad, sausages and mulled wine, and when the Christkind brings the presents, and a little bell announces that the Christkind has been!

Then there is Silvester/New Year's Eve, which for many wouldn't be the same without watching the classic comedy 'Dinner for One' (ironically, a British film which has become a cult favourite abroad but which is virtually unknown in the UK) before the night skies burst into colour from an explosion of fireworks, to see in the New Year in spectacular style.

Easter is also celebrated in traditional ways, where the Easter Fire, or Osterfeuer, is seen as a symbol of light in the darkness and can be as simple as lighting a candle, or as big as the bonfires which are lit all over Germany on

the Saturday evening before Easter (as fire is a symbol of renewal, it is meant to signify the end of Winter, and the arrival of Spring).

At home, decorative eggs adorn the branches of trees and painted, hardboiled eggs are hidden in gardens, to be hunted by children to find treats left behind by the Easter Bunny.

Food is certainly a common theme that continues to be celebrated abroad. 'Kaffee und Kuchen', for example, is taken very seriously at family get-togethers, and which has also become popular in Guernsey at places such as Anni's 'Hideaway', at Moore's Hotel, Manuela's 'Beach Café' at Fermain and Franz's Coffee Shop, at the Jerbourg Hotel.

And for the best Currywurst outside of Berlin, Richmond Kiosk provides the perfect Guernsey version – delicious streetfood, on the beach!

And of course, Thomas (German Head Chef at Moore's Hotel) provides a taste of home each month for 'Deutsche in Guernsey', who 'meet and eat' every first Monday.

Other celebrations recognised in Guernsey include 'Tag der deutschen Einheit', the



Traditional Easter decorations include decorative tree hanging eggs.




Enjoy currywurst and a view at Richmond Beach.



Kaffee und Kuchen on the terrace at The Hideaway.

day of German Unity on 3rd October, and Volkstrauertag, the Day of German Mourning and remembrance, held two Sundays before the first day of Advent, which commemorates members of the armed forces of all nations, and civilians, who have died in armed conflict.

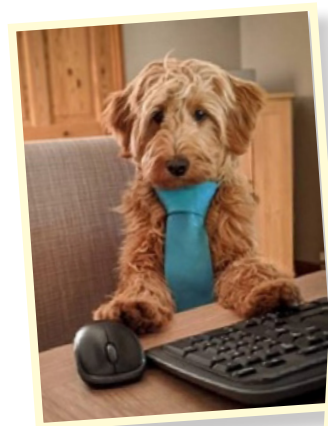
It's clear that most Germans enjoy many of these traditions, which vary depending on the different region of origin. Indeed, I know of one family no longer in Guernsey whose garage was a living homage to the homeland, packed to the brim with a variety of essential goods (long life milk, flour, sausages for the freezer, etc) brought back from Germany on regular trips with the car.

Which makes me think – is home really where the heart is, or does the stomach have a greater say? 



Volkstrauertag is remembered at the Military Cemetery, Fort George.

NEW YEAR - NEW IDEA? PARISH POOCH COMPETITION




Constable elect Lihou took the concept and combined the fun of a pooch competition launched 3rd December 2020 with the serious business of reminding Parishioners that dog tax of £10 is due by 31 January annually. Steve Byrne from GSPCA kindly offered to judge the pooches and the winner rewarded with a generously donated portrait and print by Paul Mariess Photography.

With over seventy entries it was clear to us all how much you love your pooches. Introducing Flo the lovely goldendoodle and winner of St Peter Port's first ever Parish Pooch competition. Owner Richard Cranch was delighted when he got the news back in January that Flo had won.

Thank you to BBC Radio Guernsey and Guernsey Press for helping promote the competition. Word got out - as we had folks from other parishes trying to enter. Some parishioners who had lapsed on prior years' tax saw it as an

opportunity to sign up again - which is great news.

As a result of lockdown our offices have been closed to the public, however you can still call us on 720014 to provide details and obtain your dog tax. Going forward we are changing the administrative process slightly to ensure no one forgets. The parish accounting system has moved to Xero cloud-based accounting - aside from cost benefits of monthly subscriptions (a saving to the Parishioner), we can now consider invoicing people directly for tax with the document acting as proof of taxation once paid and even better if you provide us with your email address and consent to email you in future, saving more time, cost, paper, postage etc etc.

We hope that this will be the first of a number of initiatives designed to get St Peter Port talking and joining in on parish activities. So it goes to show you can make serious changes which benefit all - yet still have some fun doing it. 

THE PROS AND CONS OF CLASSIC CAR OWNERSHIP

By Martin Harris, GCVC member



Thinking about buying a classic car? The reality of owning one can be different to admiring one you see driving past you on the street or at a classic car show.

There is however, something fantastic about owning a car that, at best, maybe only a few other people have, or that brings back nostalgic memories of your childhood.

Whether it's an Aston or an Austin, a Wolseley or a Wartburg, a British old-timer or an American muscle-car, each classic has its own personality, and the satisfaction that can be found searching for and hopefully finding the perfect car to suit you, can be very exciting.

Owning a classic car can invoke a strong emotional connection that can be hard to

explain. Many owners love the style, feel and smell of their car, which represents a particular era, often having an attraction to a specific make or model. Whatever the reason, you really can't put a price on the enjoyment it gives you, with most owners spending many hours of tinkering, spit 'n' polish and a fair bit of their hard-earned cash, keeping them in tip-top condition!

How much you spend on your purchase is very much down to what make and model you are looking for, and in what condition you are happy to take one on. Are you a competent, amateur enthusiast looking for a project or will you need to employ the expertise of one of our local classic car specialists? Are you someone who wants an original or maybe, an already restored

example? Of course basic maintenance of classics is far easier than on today's modern cars, but it can be a frequent task and often comes at the least expected and most inconvenient time! However, it's not so bad if you're only taking yours out for an island spin - considering an off-island trip does require a bit more thought and preparedness though.

Then of course, there's the old chestnut of 'what constitutes a classic?' That will depend on who you speak to, and also where you live. In the UK, DVLA considers a vehicle that's over 15 years old as a 'classic' for registration purposes, but many insurance companies consider that a vehicle needs to be over 40 years old to be a 'classic'. However, there is no definitive answer, with specialist insurance companies readily accepting a vehicle over 20 years old as a 'classic' - and in some cases younger vehicles. Here, we're not too fussy. It's a matter of opinion and preference - as long as it has some age and it's your pride and joy, then we're happy.

There are several classic and vintage car clubs on the island, and you can often see members

out and about in their little beauties! Regular meetings take place around the island, with the Guernsey Classic Vehicle Club holding meetings on the Albert Pier on the last Sunday of each month. We also hold our very popular annual classic vehicle show at Saumarez Park, and have recently managed to secure the use of Market Square for a once-a-year display and the courtyard at the Folk Museum also for a once-a-year display. Details of the club's events can be found at www.gcvc.org.gg or on our Facebook page.

If you see us at any of these locations, come and say hello, and have a look at our cars - we're a friendly bunch. We're always happy to chat, and chat, and chat! If it's information you're after or just a social natter, you won't find us backwards in offering useful advice. If you already own a classic, no matter what type or condition, think about joining our club. Even if you're not a member, but you have a little gem hidden away somewhere, get it out and feel free to join us at our monthly meet up. We look forward to seeing you.

Happy classic motoring! 🇹🇷





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