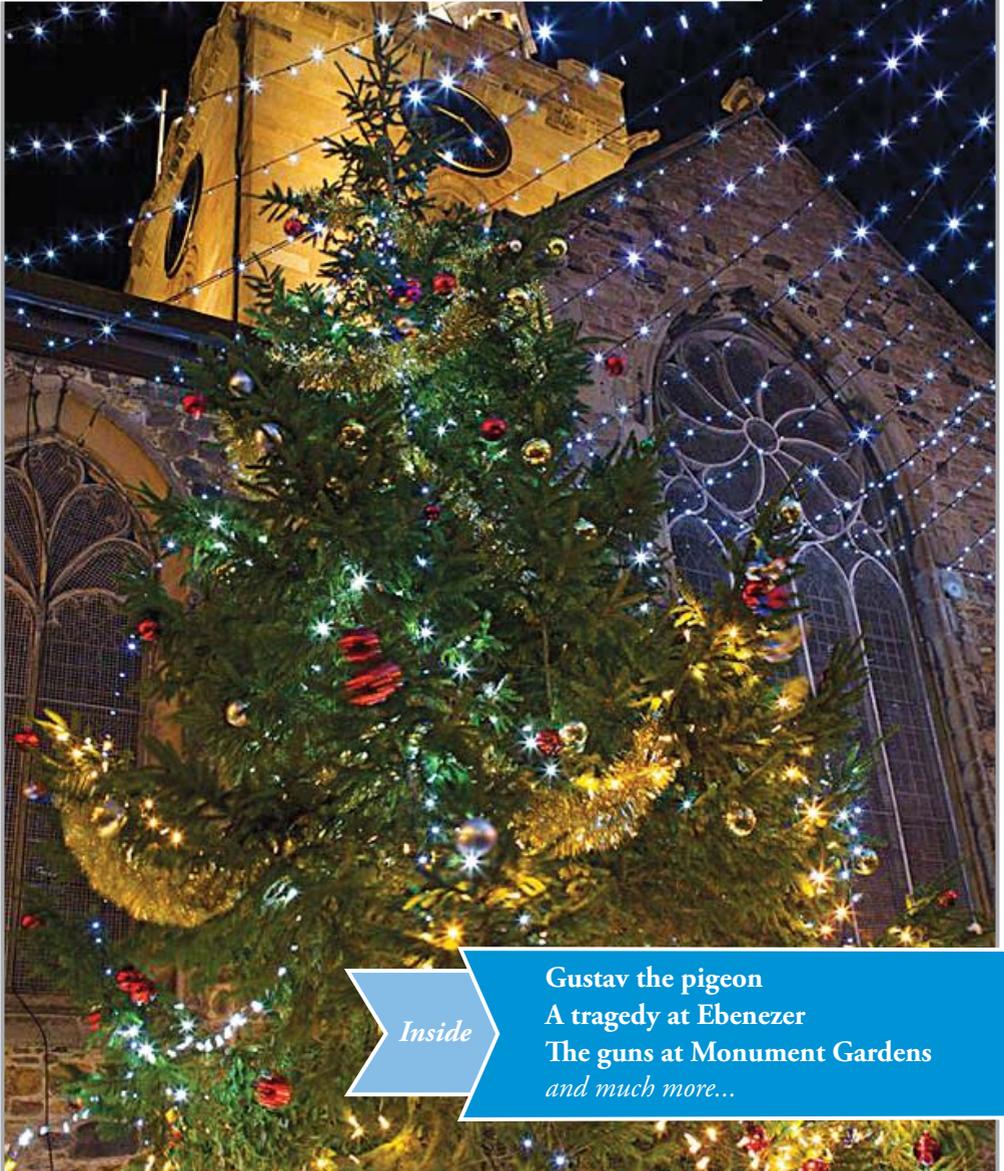


THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUESIX



Inside

Gustav the pigeon
A tragedy at Ebenezer
The guns at Monument Gardens
and much more...

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the latest edition of the Townie, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

2015 has certainly been a very busy year for the parish, and for the Douzaine, with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Liberation Day in May, and the superb achievement in the local floral competition, which saw St Peter Port win the Floral Guernsey award. These events have taken a lot of work and organisation, but each helps to highlight the many positives of our parish, and continues to show what a great place it is to live.

Looking ahead, we are now busy raising money towards the Christmas lights appeal, and inside this edition you will find information for a 60's/70's night being held in October, which we hope as many people as possible will support. In this edition we have also included a children's Word Search competition, with a Christmas lights theme, and would encourage our younger parishioners to take part. The lucky winner will receive a £30 gift voucher to spend at Creasey's toy shop.



Photo by Richard Lord

Townie Sub-Committee (from left to right): Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacquie Robin, Neil Forman and Richard Harding

There are many photographs taken at various parish events by Douzenier Richard Lord, including images in this and other editions of the Townie, and also many which are applied to the parish Facebook site, if anyone would like to purchase a copy of a photograph please contact Richard at; sealord@me.com.

We welcomed new Douzenier Mike Garrett to the Profile team earlier this year, and his knowledge and enthusiasm will be a great asset as we look to continue to raise the profile of our parish.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine, and if you have any feedback, or would like to contribute articles, please contact any member of the Profile team. [T](#)

Townie Sub-Committee

THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 6 - September 2015

Townie Sub-Committee: Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacquie Robin, Neil Forman, Richard Harding

Design/Production: Stuart Duquemin - HS Design

Printers: Melody Press Printers

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 Richard Lord

THANKS

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

INTRODUCTION BY THE CONSTABLES



Dennis Le Moignan, Constable

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This has been a busy few months for the Constables & the office staff in particular as we have moved back to our refurbished building in Lefebvre Street. Packing up was quite a job and we had to close the office for 2 days in order to pack and complete the move. We are well settled in, although the production of the custom built reception desk and large table for the Brock/Douzaine Room was put on hold as our carpenter unfortunately fell ill. We are pleased for him that he is now back at work and happy that he is able to commence doing our work at the beginning of September.

We have received very favourable comments so far on the changes and additions to the building, which is gratifying, as many people have put in much time and effort to make it fit for the next 70/80 years or more.

Once again the parish has won gold in the national floral competition and we now have to consider whether or not to enter the Britain in Bloom competition next year. If we do, this means a lot of work for the floral team and the parish if we enter and want to be successful.



Jenny Tasker, Constable

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We still have 2 big problems in the town. One is of people spitting out chewing gum onto the streets which is disgusting, as well as it causing hundreds of marks on the roads and pavements. Special pink gum bins have been placed around St. Peter Port for gum disposal. The other problem is caused by smokers who throw their cigarette ends down in the streets. They compound this habit when they do this whilst smoking outside premises with a cigarette bin alongside them.

Both these actions are littering offences and we intend to talk to the Police in the near future in the hope that they can do another purge on the offenders and issue some on the spot fines of £70.00 for offenders.

Many people work hard to maintain the town floral displays, also erect bunting in an effort to make Town the bright & pleasant place it is for locals and visitors alike. We ask that everyone thinks hard and gives consideration to the way they behave and use our lovely town. **T**

The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.

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WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

By Martyn Guilbert, Secretary to the Constables



Six staff in the new Douzaine Room, the Brock Room
From left: Jenny Bullock, Ann Jennings, Martyn Guilbert,
Geoff Le Gallez, Darren King and Len Bullock

It has been a hectic year so far for the Parish staff, and I am delighted to be writing this report back in our beautifully restored offices in Lefebvre Street. I am pleased to welcome Darren King to our ground staff. He joined us in June and brings useful skills to the force, as he is a qualified tree surgeon and good all-rounder, so important in maintaining Parish property.

The major event this year is the completion of the refurbishment of the Parish Offices and Douzaine Room at Lefebvre Street, and the move back from our temporary home on the New Jetty. The temporary offices served us well, but it was great to move back into Lefebvre Street which now has modern facilities. Under-floor heating, a lift to all floors and a much larger meeting room. Needless to say all the historic features of this iconic town house have been retained, whilst providing modern comfortable facilities. Visitors are welcome to come and view the improvements.

Routine work of course has had to carry on, Rates bills issued and monies collected, Liquor Licences, Sunday Opening Licences and Dog Licences and the 101 functions that the office carries out all kept up. All credit to Jenny and

Ann for the smooth running throughout the move.

Geoff, Darren and Len, our intrepid groundsmen, have been as busy as ever around the sites, mowing, strimming, cleaning, weed spraying and refuse collecting. They have just completed installing 10 more benches, the beautifully restored “railway” style benches, on the Castle Walk which entailed first forming concrete bases, and then bolting them down so that the benches would not be tossed into Havelet Bay! They are also pushing on with their “hospital job” of levelling the grass and adjusting head stones in Candie Cemetery.

My next task will be to unpack about 70 storage boxes presently sitting in the basement, organise our archive and hang pictures whilst gearing up for the next big event, the Douzaine elections and autumn Parish Meeting in early November. [T](#)

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

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GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

OCTOBER

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

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

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

NOVEMBER

Av-ous fait vote houichepotte et gâche dé Noué acouore?

Ahv-ou feh vauit weesh-pauit ei vauit gaahsh deh Nweh ah-kwor?

Have made your Christmas pudding and cake yet?

DECEMBER

Nou vous souhaete aen hardi Bouan Noué et enne Bouanne Aunnaïe!

Nou vou souaett ae haahrdee Bwau Nweh ei enn Bwaunn Aunai!

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

JANUARY

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

Vla kmaush-mau d'l'aunai ei nouz ei a jehn seh chik ah sau vah nouz amnai? Mei sh'ei kaum nou dee, 'fow arreitai kehd vei!'

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

FEBRUARY

Mardi gras t'éras des rats, et mé j'ërai des craepes!

Marrdee graa t'erra dei raa, ei meh j'erreh dei cra-eep

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

MARCH

J'sais pas s'vous aete d'la maeme idée, mais i m'est avis qué les jours ralaongue aen-p-tit, tchi qu'vous en créyai?

Sai paa s'vouz aet dlah maeem ideï, mei i m'eit avec keh lei jourr ralaon ae ptee, chik vouz au creyai?

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

APRIL

Parfeis aen caop il est méché d'sautai pardessus les fossais pour attrapai les aotes!

Parrfei ae cow il ei mecheh-d sotai parr dessu lee faussai pourr atrahppai leez aot!

Sometimes you have to jump over hedges to catch up with the others.

Learn a little of our Norman language over a drink!

- Appernai aen ptit d'giernesiais daove enne veraie!

The Imperial Hotel & The Dorset Arms (Tuesdays 7-8pm and Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm). Informal language lessons aimed at adults, and centred around having a go at speaking in small, friendly groups.

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

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

Please get in touch with Yan on 07781 166606 or email: janmarquis@suremail.gg



60's & 70's DINNER and DANCE

In Aid of the Christmas Lights

“Buy a Bulb” Appeal

(AGC number 395)

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Email: constables@stppcons.com

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PARTY IN THE PARK *By Dennis Le Moignan*

The parish “Party in the Park” was held this year on the 27th June at Cambridge Park. We were fortunate to have a lovely sunny summer day for this event with an estimated 2000 people attending over the course of the day.

All the attractions were constantly in use and the food and charity outlets generally had a good day. It was unfortunate that the ice cream van developed a fault earlier in the day which was unrepairable and prevented its arrival at the park, but there was a good supply of cool drinks available to help people keep cool.

There was a continual queue of people all afternoon for the very popular horse and carriage rides which took place along the Sir Winston Churchill Avenue.





The bouncy castles, activities for children and face painting in the marquee all had continuous queues and the assortment of games such as 'Splat the Rat' were well attended.

An excellent selection of music was played over the loudspeaker system by Douzeniers Richard Harding and Lester Queripel but the highlight of the afternoon once again were the wacky races conducted by our Profile Committee and three volunteer helpers.

A good day was had by all. 🇹

Photographs by Richard Lord



UNVEILING OF THE REFURBISHED CONSTABLES' OFFICES



On Wednesday 3rd June 2015 the Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas, cut the ribbon outside the refurbished Constables' Offices. A total of 60 invited persons attended, including members of St. Peter Port Constables and Douzaine.

On entering the building, everyone was impressed with the tiled entrance hall which has the St. Peter Port logo depicted in the centre of the floor. The old reception area which comprised of two rooms has been converted into one large carpeted room and was named the 'Brock Room' by the Bailiff, whom on entering said "Wow". The walls are best described as a shade of pale primrose, the carpet a dull red with a large gold ornate pattern and above the fireplace at the far end is a canvas reproduction of the painting of Major General Sir Isaac Brock which hangs in the Royal Court. Permission was granted by the Bailiff to reproduce the painting.



After a short introductory speech by Senior Constable Dennis Le Moignan, he escorted a small party including the Bailiff, Chief Minister and St. Helier Constable Simon Crowcroft through the building. The first room visited was the new reception office, where the party were enthralled with the old wallpaper discovered in an alcove when a large safe weighing in the region of 2.5 tons had been moved out into the reception area. It is believed that the wallpaper dates back to the 1700's and investigations are taking place to discover the production date of this wonderful golden coloured block printed paper, which depicts a variety of differing cherubs and winged dragons.

The next room visited and named by the Bailiff was the 'Le Marchant Room', where a reproduction of a painting of Major General John Gaspard Le Marchant is hung. The Le Marchant Room is wood panelled with heavy



ornate decoration surrounding the two original doors and the panel over the fireplace, plus intricate ceiling coving. It is the most ornate of the wood panelled rooms and is finished with eau de nil panels and white surrounds, also an eau de nil ceiling as it was originally. A new 'secret door' has been added into one of the panelled walls to allow access to the new part of the building.

The party then moved to the De Saumarez Rooms which the Bailiff duly named. The external room of the two is wood panelled and both rooms are finished in beige and white. A reproduction of a painting of Admiral De Saumarez is hung above the fireplace.

Moving up to the 2nd floor the party inspected all the rooms on that level which were finished in beige and white and were to become the offices of the Ecclesiastical Court.

The party also inspected the additional two floors which have been added onto the single storey annex on the west side of the building and where a lift and toilet facilities, including provision for disabled and baby changing, have been installed. They returned to the Brock Room where the Bailiff made a speech, then proposed



the Loyal Toast. Following this, the building was open for guests to inspect the building, with Douzeniers on hand to give them information as required. [T](#)

THE GUERNSEY GUNS

By Simon Hamon

Standing in a quiet formal garden in Guernsey as a silent reminder of war are two German 13.5cm field howitzers. Most people may simply pass them by as they drive or walk past the Victoria Tower and Gardens in St Peter Port. Surprisingly, these two pieces of artillery were not left over from the German Occupation of the islands in the 1940s, but had been, reveals Simon Hamon, presented to Guernsey after the First World War.

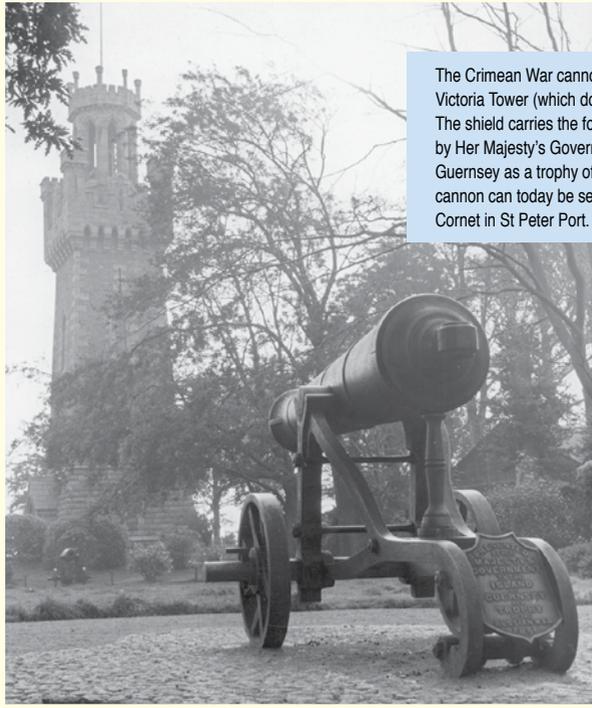
Even as the Battle of the Somme was raging in France, the question of how the authorities were going to deal with trophies and relics seized from the enemy was being raised. In 1916 the War Trophies Committee had been established to investigate the matter further. Acting on the

recommendation of this Committee it was eventually agreed that a general distribution of captured trophies would be made by the Army Council. When the trophies were being allocated, it was stated that the best examples were to be kept for a British National War Museum (later to become the Imperial War Museum), whilst the remaining items would be distributed to the dominion countries. By 15 April 1920, some 3,595 guns, 15,044 machine-guns, 75,824 small arms and 7,887 assorted other trophies had been distributed under the auspices of the War Trophies Committee¹.

No part of the British Empire was ignored, and in 1921 the Channel Island of Guernsey received its share of the Allies' spoils of war. The list of items received included four



The 13.5cm Kannon 09 gun that is on display at the eastern end of the gardens by Victoria Tower in Arsenal Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey.



The Crimean War cannon in the gardens by the Victoria Tower (which dominates the background). The shield carries the following wording: "Presented by Her Majesty's Government to the island of Guernsey as a trophy of the Russian War 1856". The cannon can today be seen on the ramparts of Castle Cornet in St Peter Port. (*Carol Toms Collection*)

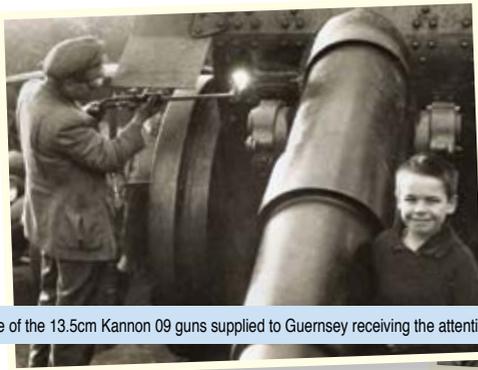
13.5cm Kanone 09 artillery pieces, two trench mortars, two anti-tank rifles, two machine-guns, a gas gong, six steel helmets, two sets of body armour, an entrenching tool, six rifles, three bayonets, twelve 'Pistols Illuminating', three carbines, and a field gun of unspecified calibre.

The arrival of the war trophies however, were unexpected by the islanders. A temporary home was found for the items at the Town Arsenal in St Peter Port, then the headquarters of the Royal Guernsey Militia and now the home of the Guernsey Fire and Rescue Service.

In October 1921, Major F.H.S. Le Mesurier, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of the Royal Guernsey Militia, complained to the States of Guernsey Supervisor that the war trophies were taking up valuable space and preventing the Militia from using their own drill hall. The matter was considered at the

States of Deliberation (being a self-governing Island this is effectively a Parliament meeting) where it was decided to set up a committee to report back on what should be done with these war trophies.

The committee's report was submitted back to the States on 23 February 1922. Amongst their recommendations was the suggestion that the four 13.5cm guns, the two trench mortars and the field gun should be placed on display in the gardens of Victoria Tower. Located on the opposite side of the road to the Arsenal, the gardens already contained two Russian cannons, trophies of the Crimean War. The States Engineer submitted the costing and a plan for how the works were to be carried out which would have seen the guns ringed by railings at a cost of £120. The rifles, machine-guns and other small items were to be distributed among the local schools. However, the memory of the loss of



One of the 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns supplied to Guernsey receiving the attentions of the scrap man in 1938. (Author)

life during the First World War was still very fresh in the minds of some of the islanders, and opposition to the guns being placed on public display soon became apparent. Opposing views were expressed when, on 22 March 1922, the States debated the proposals for displaying the guns. Other counsels however, carried the day when the Lieutenant Governor, General Sir John Cooper, warned that “it was by forgetting the lessons of history that this past war came about”. The States decided to adopt the committee’s suggestion and instructed that the guns should be placed in the grounds of Victoria Tower, though the sum of £70 was saved by not installing the railings.

After two decades of the guns being on display with no maintenance and infrequently damp conditions, particularly at the western end of the gardens which are normally in the shade, the wheels of two guns placed that end of the garden had started to collapse. As children often played with the guns, the potential risk of injury was considered too great and in 1938 the decision was made to call in a local scrap merchant, Mr. Ralph O’Toole, who was asked to dismantle and remove the two western guns.

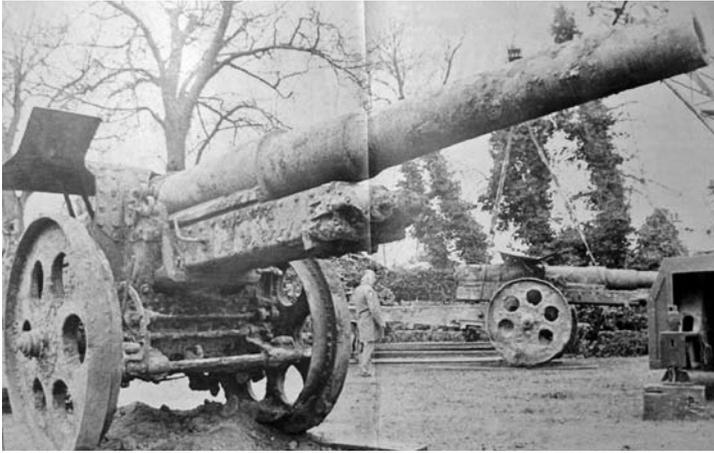
With the swift advance through France of the German forces and following the withdraw of all military personnel from Guernsey on 19 June 1940, the States became concerned that

the two remaining 13.5cm Kanone 09 guns would be seen by enemy aerial reconnaissance aircraft and misinterpreted as active artillery. They chose to hide them by simply burying them, and consequently large sloped pits were dug in the centre of the gardens and the guns pushed into the holes and covered.

Following the liberation of Guernsey on 9 May 1945, all of the German guns from the occupation were removed and scrapped or dumped at sea. The two 13.5cm Kanone 09 guns remained buried and all but forgotten for the next thirty-eight years until the author’s grandfather, Arthur Oswald Hamon, who was at the time Chairman of the Ancient Monuments Committee, approached States member Roger Berry with the proposal that the guns should be dug up and restored.



One of the guns having been placed in the pit dug in the Victoria Tower gardens prior to being infilled. The two 13.5cm Kannon 09 artillery pieces that were not dismantled would remain hidden feet below the surface throughout the German occupation. (Author)



Guernsey's pair of 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns out in the open together for the first time since the German Occupation of the Channel Islands in 1940, standing in the centre is A O Hamon. (Guernsey Press)

This suggestion duly became a subject of the November 1978 States meeting. The States approved the recovery and granted a budget of £2,000 to excavate and restore them. It was decided to replace both guns in the gardens, one at either end. Work was soon underway, the task being completed in December 1978. Exposed to the elements, both artillery pieces were quickly painted with Croda Triple Coat grey paint. This was done not to conform to any military colour scheme, but purely as this was the same paint that was used during the maintenance of the cranes in St Peter Port. The guns still retain that colour scheme today. Still on display beside Victoria Tower, the artillery pieces in Guernsey are believed to be

two of just four complete 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns, from an original production run of just 190 of the type, that have survived worldwide. As such, with the approaching centenaries they provide the visitor with the opportunity both to examine unusual reminders of the role of artillery in the First World War and remember the role of the population of Guernsey in that conflict. [📍](#)

The author would like to extend his gratitude to Ken Tough (Former Greffier) for information supplied to him for this article.

NOTES: 1. HMO, *Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire During the Great War* (HMSO, London, 1922), p. 780.



Wellington: Another surviving example of 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns. Residing at the Botanical Gardens in Wellington, New Zealand, it was restored and placed on public display in 2006.



Uganda: The other surviving example of 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns, is now integrated in a strange monument offered by the 'beloved' President Idi Amin Dada, to the Ugandan people after the Tzahal raid on Entebbe in 1976.

ST. PETER PORT PARISH LIBERATION TEA PARTY

By Constable Jenny Tasker



About one hundred ladies and gentlemen gathered on Sunday, 10 May, in the Harry Bound Room at Les Cotils, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey from the occupying German forces. All had lived through that time, living or working in St. Peter Port or being evacuated. Some came under their own steam, while others had been collected by friends or Age Concern transport.

The room and its tables had been beautifully decorated appropriately for the occasion and the invitees were able to meet up with old friends and make new ones, chatting and reminiscing over a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones, cream and jam and cakes. The cups of tea were needed, not only to accompany the lovely food, but also to whet the whistles involved in so much talking!

After the tea, a sing song was organised, accompanied by CD's. Everyone was provided with the words of the well-known, and some not so well-known, songs of the 1940's. The Constables, Douzeniers and staff went around the tables to ensure everyone was having a good

time. Some of the guests were encouraged, even willing, to sing into the microphone!

The afternoon passed very quickly and soon it was time to wend the way home, some with the balloons and delightful table decorations in red, white and blue. Thanks to Ann Jennings, in particular, for all she did to make the event so successful, to Les Cotils for the good food and to those providing the Age Concern transport.

A selection below of some written comments received afterwards - these were really appreciated:

'Thank you for a wonderful afternoon.'

'Thank you very much for a fantastic day celebrating 70 years of freedom.'

'We had a great time and company.'

'A very big thank you for a splendid Tea Party... sat with people I didn't know but we enjoyed sharing many memories of the war years. You all gave a lot of pleasure to many people.'

'But the main thanks are for all who organised the party and looked after all of us.' 📌



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FLORAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Douzenier Katina Jones



Another very busy 6 months, and we were delighted to have so many entries for our own parish competitions. 50 entries in total, and more new ones again this time. It is a delight to go and visit so many, and talk to all along the way. Our thanks must go to Bob and Phil from States Works, who judged with us, also to parishioner Lesley Perchard who took us on the route to judge them all.

You cannot enter our competitions if it is floral displays that the parish provide. The public buildings were judged by Lesley Perchard and Katina Jones, this way the contractors were not judging their own work!

It took us three days to judge all categories. The weather helped, and showed the displays at their best. Meeting many of you along the way to talk about your entry was also a great way to spend the days. The results are in this mag.

The parish looks amazing, thanks to so many. We also won many prizes in Floral Guernsey. This means we can, if you give us the go ahead, enter into Britain in Bloom again next year. But we need more hands to help. 



The winners of the different parish floral categories were;

Private Gardens - **Tanya Hames**

Hotels - **The Rocquettes**

Café - **Christies**

Public Building - **Royal Courts**

Commercial Premises - **International Law Systems**

Shops - **Bijoux**

Banks - **BNP Paribas**

Special Award - **Deputy Martin & Helen Storey**



RELATE GUERNSEY

Local relationship counselling charity

By Annette Stewart



My name is Annette Stewart I am the centre manager at Relate Guernsey. Where I have worked since 2008, supporting the Counsellors so that they in turn can do their really important jobs of supporting those in need of help with their relationship.

Relate has been supporting relationships for over 60 years in Guernsey. (Not always under the same name, many will remember us as Marriage Guidance before rebranding.) Relationships are really vital for our health and well-being. Our aim is to help couples and families to enjoy healthy relationships. That can mean helping couples at critical times in their lives, times of change. Our work is non-judgemental and confidential and we do our best to ensure you don't meet others by staggering our appointments. We will see all couples whatever their sexuality, married or not and also individuals about their relationships.

How we can help

We can offer counselling to couples considering committing to each other, whether marrying or moving in together it's a huge step and worth treating seriously. Having a baby can be a stressful time for couples and a time when support can really make the difference for parents to stay together. Of those parents who sought our help, for a variety of reasons, over the period April 2013 - March 2014 there were 83 children under 16 years of age. However we are not always focussed on keeping people together in a relationship, if they have decided to split we will also work with them so that they can do that as amicably as possible. It is important when children are involved that parents can meet and talk without bad feeling. It makes a huge difference to how the children cope with the inevitable changes ahead.

A time of change can be when older children leave home to go to University or just grow up

and move away from home. The 'empty nest syndrome' it has been called, leaving us feeling that our main focus in life has shifted. Suddenly couples haven't got the children taking up all their time and energy and they have forgotten how to be a couple. Counselling can help those affected re-focus and find pleasure in being a couple again.

Long term illness

There are other times that catch us completely unaware such as illness. Long term health conditions like Cancer, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's may change your long term plans. Sometimes dreams for the future may have to be changed. It's a form of loss, not unlike bereavement and some find they benefit from talking through with a counsellor. It can be a long road when you're living with a physical or mental health condition, and couple, family and social relationships are a vital part of making the journey better. If we can help do get in touch.

How you can help

If you would like to support Relate we would love to hear from you. We hold annual flag days to raise much needed funds amongst other events. We would be glad of offers of help for an hour or so. We really need Directors for our Board from a variety of backgrounds and with different skills who meet 4 times a year and oversee our governance. We especially are looking for a Fund Raising Director. It can be useful to have a charity Board membership on your C.V to show that you are taking your corporate responsibility seriously. It is also a rewarding and worthy way to use some of your spare time for the sake of others.

You can find more about Relate Guernsey at www.relate.org.gg we have a Facebook page you could 'like' to grow our audience. Our telephone number is 730303 and you can email us at info@relate.org.gg 

SCHOOLS MATTERS

By Mrs Dallas Courtney-Warren

Welcome to our new section in the Townie aimed at our younger generation. Mums, dads, grandparents or guardians please get your youngsters to take a look. Maybe they could ask their school to contribute articles to be included in future Townie issues. Our first article is from Notre Dame Primary School.

NOTRE DAME DU ROSAIRE SCHOOL INFANT LIBRARY

The exciting renovation of our Infant Library is nearing completion. Funding for the renovation came from two sources: the School Building Fund to which parents contribute, and the PTFA who have made this their capital project this year. New carpets and decorating materials came from the Building Fund and labour was kindly given free of charge by parent Remi Naftel. The PTFA footed the bill for new furniture including bookshelves, desks and chairs, and a wonderful circular reading unit. The only things which remain to be done are the murals depicting book characters as far



ranging as the Gruffalo and Red Riding Hood. Artist, Sarah Hubert, will be in residence to complete the project in September.

As a Town school with high numbers of children who have English as a second language, we feel it most important to encourage all children in their reading and to show others, through example, what can be achieved. A fresh and exciting learning space which has given the children access to other times, places, cultures and worlds of the imagination, the Library is a big hit with children and adults alike.

The St Peter Port Constables make an annual donation to all Town primary schools for books. This year, the funding was used for the “Book Sacks Project,” which augmented the range of improvements to the Infant Library,



giving focus to the work in the Library, and the vision for reading within the school. Story Sacks are outstanding resources which help to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

The children of Notre Dame are grateful to all of the help and support which has been given. There are always more things which could be added to enhance the learning environment, and there are future projects planned. All that can be done to encourage the children to have a greater interest in reading, and the world around them is a good thing. 



WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

By Douzenier Jacquie Robin

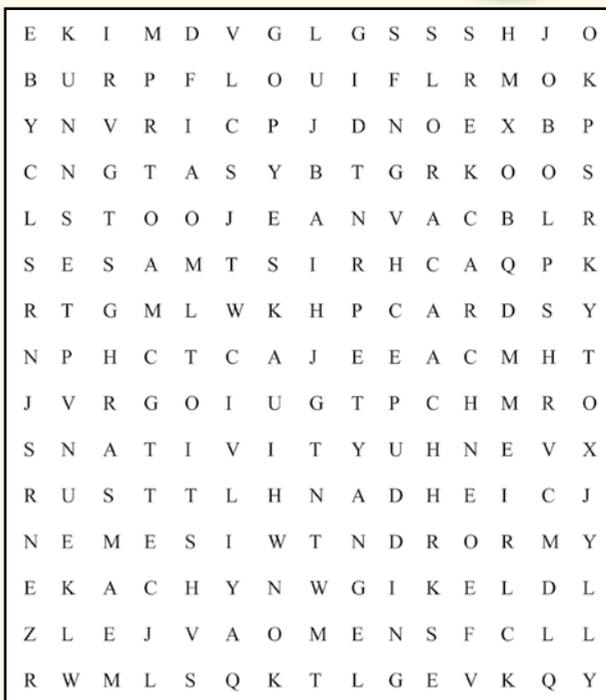
As we are launching our St Peter Port Christmas Lights 'Buy a Bulb' campaign and website www.christmaslights.gg in this issue, we thought we would include a Christmas Wordsearch with the chance to win a **£30 gift voucher** from Creasey's Toy Shop.

Competition is open to all children attending Primary School. Please highlight your answers and return to; The Constables Office, Lefebvre Street, St Peter Port, GY1 2JS making sure you include your name, contact telephone number, address, and school with your entry.

**Closing date for competition is
Friday 4th December 2015**



ANGEL	MINCEPIES
CAKE	NATIVITY
CARDS	PUDDING
CAROLS	SANTA
CHRISTMAS	TOYS
CRACKERS	SHEPHERD
GLITTER	TREE
HOLLY	STOCKING
LIGHTS	WISEMEN



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WASTE COMMITTEE UPDATE...

By Douzenier Neil Forman

Members of the Waste Committee have recently met with PSD regarding kerbside recycling.

Next May, the interim kerbside recycling trial will end. From then on we will be paying for our bags. Initial projected costs are £1.50 - £2.00 per black bag and £0.50 for recycling bags.

There are thoughts about a half size black bag, which will be available at half the cost.

A four week sample taken from a route covering La Ramee, Coutanchez, St Johns Road, Les Amballes, Rouge Rue and the area around Skins Lane, to get a snapshot of recycling levels, this has identified a 72% participation in kerbside recycling.

From the start of the kerbside trial, blue bag recycling has risen from 31 tonnes to 197 tonnes collected in two quarters. Clear bag collections have gone from 146 tonnes to 602 tonnes in the same period.

A recent glass recycling trial was carried out around St Peter Port. Initial feedback rated the service 85% excellent and 13% good. Another 57% stated they were not disturbed or awoken. One complaint was made, the truck used has had no modifications or sound proofing fitted, Environmental Health were involved and a change in procedures has taken care of the problem. (The complainant was being woken by the hopper being operated outside their home). The glass is collected in a reusable bag which is emptied into the truck and then returned for further use.



Website: www.sppcons.com

Mon Evening	Tues Evening	Wed Evening	Thu Evening	Fri Evening	Sat Evening	Sun Evening
17 Aug	18 Aug	19 Aug Residual waste Cans, plastic and cartons	20 Aug	21 Aug	22 Aug	23 Aug Residual waste
24 Aug	25 Aug	26 Aug Residual waste Paper and cardboard	27 Aug	28 Aug	29 Aug	30 Aug
31 Aug	01 Sep	02 Sep Residual waste Cans, plastic and cartons	03 Sep	04 Sep	05 Sep	06 Sep Residual waste
07 Sep	08 Sep	09 Sep	10 Sep	11 Sep	12 Sep	13 Sep

It is hoped that full glass recycling will be implemented next year, and food waste recycling is anticipated to be introduced during 2017.

Once we have further details on the proposals for kerbside collections after the trial period

ends, we will update our kerbside recycling website, showing what days various collections will take place. New to St Peter Port? Our website for kerbside collections can be found by pressing the link on our Parish Website, www.sppcons.com. The kerbside calendar is now available with mobile view. 

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

THE TOWNIE
THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

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



La Plaiderie has changed much over the years, most recently in the early 80's, when the buildings to the front and right of the picture were developed. The building to the front, Vieille Cour, has been a court house, furnisners and finance house.



Not too much has changed in this view of Trinity Square in the last 40 years, although the telephone box is now long gone, as have the old vaults.



The Truchot, like much of St Peter Port, underwent massive changes in the 1970's and 1980's, when many old vaults and warehouses were replaced by new buildings serving the booming finance industry. Our photographs show the area in 1976 and today.



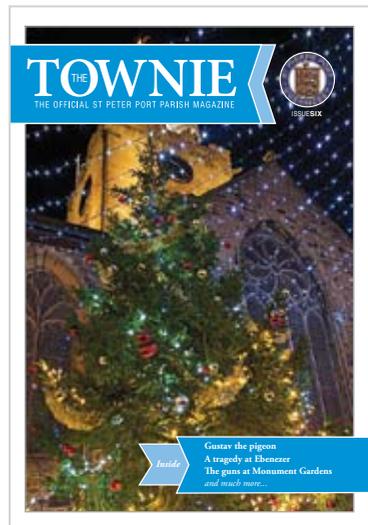
The building on the left in the old photograph was once a pub with no name, run by a Miss Le Briseur, but was demolished in 1951.

While photographing the modern comparison of the harbour from the Blue Mountains for the last editions Changing face of St Peter Port, Rob Grant got into conversation with a lady from Elm Grove, who kindly allowed us to copy an old photograph of St Peter Port that she owned, which was originally photographed from Fort George. Unfortunately trees now prevent us from getting a good modern comparison, but we think it is a fantastic image, showing how this view looked at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. [T](#)



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



PARISH DATES

1st September	Electoral roll open
8th October	Nominations for Douzenier open
15th October	Electoral Roll closes
23rd October	60's & 70's Dinner and Dance, La Grande Mare Hotel
26th October	Nominations for Douzenier close
28th November	Christmas Lights switch on
4th November	Parish Meeting, Harry Bound Room, Les Cotils
2nd December	States of Guernsey by Election
3rd, 10th & 17th Dec	Late night shopping

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A message from our LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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



What a year it has been for Latvia! The six months of the Presidency of the Council of the EU have been successful and all three priorities set - competitive Europe, digital Europe and engaged Europe- fulfilled. The new President of Latvia, Laimonis Vējonis, started his job in office on 8th July. I believe that a better relationship and understanding between countries can be achieved through a greater knowledge of respective cultures. My aim in this article is to introduce readers to two great Latvians.

2015 marks the 150th birthdays of Rainis and Aspazija. Rainis was the pseudonym of Jānis Pliekšāns (11.09.1865- 12.09.1929), a Latvian poet, playwright, translator and politician. He studied law at the University of St. Petersburg. While still a student, Rainis was already collecting folk songs, writing poetry and translating. From 1891 to 1895 he was editor in chief of the newspaper *Dienas Lapa*. The *Dienas Lapa* was mostly a group of young Latvian liberal and socialist intellectuals who became known as the New Current. Rainis began to emphasize socialist ideology and is known as the father of Latvian socialism. It was during this period that he met Aspazija. Because of their social criticism and calls for reforms, the movement New Current was viewed as a seditious movement and was the subject of a Tsarist crackdown. In 1897 Rainis was arrested and sentenced to five years in exile in Russia. It was during this period of internal

exile that Rainis translated Faust into Latvian. Here he produced his first collection of poems, *Far-Off Moods on a Blue Evening*. With the failure of the Revolution of 1905 Rainis, together with his wife Aspazija, emigrated to Switzerland and lived in Castagnola where he wrote numerous plays (*The Golden Horse* was translated into English in 2012).

Rainis and Aspazija returned to independent Latvia in 1920 and received a heroes welcome. They had served as spiritual leaders for the fight for Latvian independence. Rainis resumed his political activities and was a member of the Constitutional Assembly of Latvia and Saicima (Parliament) and of the Ministry of Education Arts department, a founder and director of the Dailes Theatre and a director of the Latvian National Theatre. Rainis continued writing plays, poetry and memoirs. His ambition was to become president of Latvia. He became less prominent in politics when this ambition was not fulfilled. Rainis' most famous plays are: *The Golden Horse*, *Joseph and His Brothers*, *I played, I Sang*, *The Golden Strainer*. Poetry like *The Quiet Book*, *The End and the Beginning*, *Hello, Free Latvia* and his memoirs of Castagnola to name a few.

Aspazija was a pen name of Elza Pliekšāne (16.03.1865 - 5.11.1943), a Latvian poet and playwright. She was born and raised in a wealthy farming family. Her first poems were written at the age of fourteen in German, but first publication was made in 1887 in the *Dienas Lapa*. Under the influence of Rainis she actively participated in New Current. The couple married in 1897. Aspazija followed her husband when he was sentenced to exile in Russia and together they translated into Latvian many works of Goethe. At the age of twenty she wrote her first play *The Avengeress*. Romantic verse tragedy *The Silver Veil*, *The Serpent's Bride* and prose realism dramas *The Lost Rights*, *Goldie* are some of her most famous works. Her poems *Homeland*, *Far in Dreamland*, *My Story* are full of light, joy and fantasy. 14 plays, 11 volumes of poetry, and 4 prose works are fundamental to Latvia's cultural heritage. 



LATVIEŠI GĒRNZIJĀ

By Lilita Krūze, Latvijas Republikas Goda konsule Gērnsijā



2015. gads mums visiem paliks atmiņā kā Latvijas prezidentūras gads Eiropas Savienībā. Izvirzītās prioritātes- konkurētspējīga, digitāla un globāli aktīva Eiropas Savienība ir veiksmīgi izpildītas. Latvijas jaunais prezidents Laimonis Vējonis deva svinīgo zvērestu un stājās amatā 8. jūlijā. Jauni plāni, jaunas cerības. Kaut politikai ir liela nozīme, esmu pārliecināta, ka labāka sapratne starp valstīm rodama caur kultūras prizmu.

Šī raksta galvenie varoņi izvēlēti ļoti īpaša iemesla dēļ. Tieši šogad aprit 150 gadi, kopš dzimis mums visiem mīļais Rainis un Aspazija. Latvijā visa gada garumā tiek svinēts, pieminēts un atcerēts.

Rainis, istajā vārdā Jānis Pliekšāns (11.09.1865.-12.09.1929.) bija latviešu dzejnieks, dramaturgs, tulkotājs, teātra darbinieks, sociāldemokrātiskais žurnālists un politiķis. Studēdams Pēterburgas universitātē, Rainis sāka rakstīt dzeju un tulkot. No 1891. līdz 1895. gadam viņš bija avīzes "Dienas lapa" redaktors. Būdams pretvalstiskās organizācijas Jaunā Strāva aktīvs dalībnieks, viņš tika apcietināts un izsūtīts uz pieciem gadiem uz Krieviju. 1897. gadā viņš salaulājās ar Aspaziju. Izsūtījuma laikā Rainis pārtulkoja J.V. Gētes "Faustu" no vācu valodas. Šajā laikā viņš uzrakstīja arī "Tālas noskaņas zilā vakarā". Rainis bija aktivists 1905.gada revolūcijā . Baidīdamies no vajāšanas, tā paša gada decembrī kopā ar Aspaziju emigrēja uz Šveici, kur sarakstīja lugas "Zelta zirgs", "Indulis un Ārija", "Spēleju, dancoju" un traģēdiju "Jazeps un viņa brāļi".

Kad 1920. gadā abi atgriezās Latvijā, Rainis atkal aktīvi iesaistījās politikā. Viņš bija Dailes teātra līdzdibinātājs, Nacionālā teātra direktors, izglītības ministrs. Šajā laikā viņš sarakstīja vairākus dzejoļu krājumus. Sapnis kļūt par valsts prezidentu nekad nepiepildījās. Rainis stipri pārdzīvoja, kad J. Čakste tika ievēlēts.

Raiņa sieva Aspazija jeb istajā vārdā Elza Pliekšāne (16.03.1861.-05.11.1943.) bija latviešu dzejniece, dramaturģe un politiķe. Dzimušai turīga zemnieka ģimenē, viņai bija labas izglītības iespējas.



Pirmos dzejoļus Aspazija uzrakstījusi 14 gadu vecumā vācu valodā, tomēr tie nekad netika iespiesti. 20 gadu vecumā viņa uzrakstīja drāmu "Atriebēja", taču to neiespieda cenzūras dēļ. 1897. gadā iznāca Aspazijas pirmais dzejoļu krājums "Sarkanās puķes". Aspazija sekoja vīram līdzī izsūtījumā, un kopā viņi tulkoja Gētes darbus. 19.gadsimta sākumā radītā Aspazijas drāma "Sidraba šķidrants" ir viens no spilgtākajiem latviešu garīgās un nacionālās atmodas notikumiem. Kopā ar Raini Aspazija 15 gadus nodzīvoja Šveicē. Šajā laikā Aspazija rakstīja dzejoļus, kopotos rakstus un tulkoja. Aspazija kopā ir sarakstījusi 14 lugas, 11 dzejoļu krājumus, 4 prozas darbus un 6 kopoto rakstu sējumus.

Mīļais lasītāj, dižgara Raiņa sacitais "Pastāvēs, kas pārvērtīsies" arī šodien mūs nes cauri dzīvei un aicina būt radošiem un aktīviem. 🇹🇷

PROTECT - THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Nicola Gibbons

Slowly and painfully a picture is emerging of a global crime that shames us all. Billions of dollars are being made at the expense of countless victims of human trafficking. Children who should be at school are coerced into becoming soldiers, made to do hard labour or sold for sex. Women and girls across the globe are being trafficked for exploitation, forced into domestic labour, prostitution or marriage.

People are not trafficked simply because of bad choices, irresponsible lifestyles or by fluke. More often than not, it's because of damaged relationships, divided families and deferred love. It's because of systemic barriers to education and employment, neglect and early childhood trauma, struggles with self-esteem and mental health - the list goes on. But the real problem is that we have a broken society.

Intervening with human trafficking needs to start before people become victims, before we implement exit strategies from prostitution, before we send a survivor to a rehabilitation program.

It starts with mentoring that teenage girl battling with her self-esteem, or the boy down the street who doesn't have a father. It starts with welcoming foster kids and orphans, single parents and widows, ethnic minorities and immigrants into our homes and communities. It starts by engaging with someone as a person with a heart and a history, not a helpless victim. It's when we see a human, not a statistic.

So, how can such a trade in human beings occur in the 21st century? Simply because it is a low risk/high reward crime. In many countries, either the necessary laws are not in place, or they are not properly enforced.

More than 136 people an hour are kidnapped or sold into slavery and 1.2 million children are exploited in the global sex trade - that's 31,000 times the population of Guernsey.

One woman has taken on a personal crusade to raise awareness of human trafficking and to wake us up to the fact that Guernsey is not immune. South African born Retha Jenkins randomly

Guernsey Youth - 'Freedom is worth Protecting'





2014 Marsh Award Ceremony,
hosted by MP Theresa May

attended a lunchtime talk three years ago in London, about the horror and scale of human trafficking and she came home determined to do something positive.

It was then in 2013 that she founded the Protect Foundation. The charity's primary purpose is to educate and equip as many people as possible in Guernsey with the knowledge of human trafficking. 'Traffickers thrive among communities and individuals who are either unaware or believe they are immune to this injustice,' Retha explained. 'We cannot emphasise enough the importance of simply raising awareness among our friends, family and colleagues'.

'One of, if not the biggest, barrier we face in Guernsey to abolishing modern day slavery, is apathy. Too many people don't care about issues if it doesn't affect their immediate circumstances. It is then when loved ones go off-island uninformed to university, on holiday, to places that are rife with trafficking. In addition, as a registered support agency with the Education Department, we have launched our curriculum in various schools on Guernsey. University students are particularly at risk of false international job offers.'

The work of Retha has not gone unnoticed and she has been nominated by Unchosen, in the Outstanding Individual category for this year's Marsh awards. It is achievements like this that places Protect in the main arena alongside

the other NGO's in Great Britain combating modern slavery. Guernsey is now on the global map because of the work of the charity and Retha is more determined than ever to create a hostile environment for traffickers on Guernsey.

To add to the charity's successes, Kevin Bales, Professor of Contemporary Slavery at the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, is also now Protect's patron.

So as we go about our daily lives, lets not forget that just because we have not had an islander become another overwhelming statistic, it does not mean we're immune to a crime that affects the rest of the world. Retha believes it is imperative that we raise awareness locally, so that every single islander is equipped and can recognise a dangerous situation when confronted with it.

'Being unaware is a major vulnerability, so awareness is our first line of defence,' she said. 'Before people can take action against human trafficking, they need to know that the problem exists.' 

For more information about Protect's latest campaign visit www.pass2protect.com



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ST PETER PORT LIBERATION DAY FLOAT

By **Douzenier Pete Burtenshaw**, Project co-ordinator

The Parish 70th Liberation Day Float was conceived on the 29th January 2015. With a solid team of volunteers on board, we embarked on the project. The theme was a Street Party. The float was to be an education for the children on the importance of the Bailiwick's liberation from occupation. It was agreed to include 12 primary school children from our Parish schools who would participate in the cavalcade on May 9th. We had children from Amherst, Vauvert & Notre Dame.

Time was the key so I formulated a set of clear aims & objectives of the Liberation Day Committee:

Aim: To enter a float in the 70th Liberation Day Parade on May 9th 2015.

Objectives to achieve our aim:

Specific - create a working float

Measurable - reach goal no later than Saturday 3rd May 2015.

Achievable - To build an uncomplicated float within the set out time frame

Realistic - ensure all resources are in place - team, lorry, base, material, time, skill base and money.

Time constrained - create a Project Plan detailing each stage of project supported by photographs and the Parish web site.

Allow for minimal delay days of no more than 1 week.

The team cracked on and slowly and methodically the float started to take on a life of its own. The funding of the float came from the Bailiff's Liberation Day Fund.





The finished float was a testament to the sheer hard work and determination of a wonderful team. Without this team the Parish float would not have been such a huge success. From the period costumes of the team, to the period costumes of the 12 school children, to the fantastic design and art work of the float. Whilst we did not win, it was fantastic to see our float taking part on such a wonderful and memorable day.

On Friday 19th June the St Peter Port Liberation Day Team held a short presentation evening when Deputy Peter Sherborne presented medals, framed certificates and pictures to the 12 school children who took part in the cavalcade. Bouquets were also presented to the three ladies Shirley Crowson, Pat Ferbrache and Phyl Charlton whose tireless, artistic skills

contributed to such a wonderful float. One must not forget the equally amazing and tireless artistic skills of Keith Pike, who is an asset to any project and organisation. [T](#)

A big thank you to the a wonderful project team:

Shirley Crowson
Pat Ferbrache
Phyl Charlton
Keith Pike
Joe Mooney
Neil Forman
Jaquie Robin

A special thank you to the 12 school children from Amherst, Vauvert and Notre Dame.



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ST PETER PORT IN THE GEORGIAN PERIOD

By Dr Gregory Stevens Cox MBE

THE GEORGIAN ERA

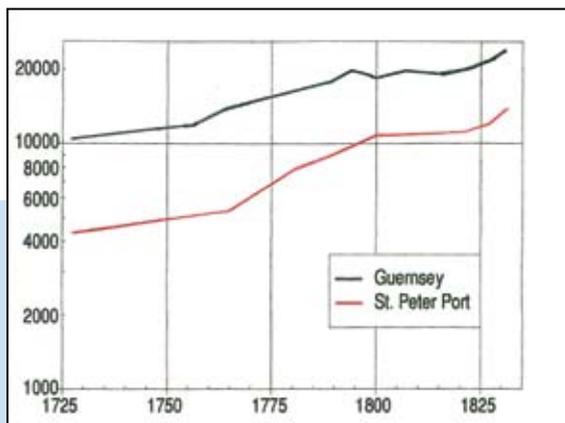
From the seventeenth century through to the nineteenth century England and several other European states practiced mercantilist policies. To prevent the home market being flooded with imports from abroad, high tariff barriers were erected. The merchants of St Peter Port were able to profit from this situation. They created an entrepot and imported large volumes of spirits, wines, tobacco, tea, and other luxury goods into St Peter Port. These cargoes were stored in the town in some thirty to forty large warehouses and were then re-sold to visiting traders. Many of these then smuggled the produce into France and England. The French particularly bought tobacco. The English were keen to purchase tea, brandy, rum, gin, French wine, and many other commodities. St Peter Port acted as a large 'duty free' harbour in the English Channel.

The brisk business at the harbour created a lot of new work and this drew into the town large

numbers of migrants with specialist skills. There was plenty of work for ship-repairers, chandlers, rope-makers, sailmakers, ironmongers, butchers, bakers, and tavern-keepers. By the 1790s there were about six hundred coopers in St Peter Port making the barrels essential for international trade. There were about one thousand people working in tobacco factories, cleaning and preparing tobacco from America for sale mainly to the French.

There were some sixty merchant houses in St Peter Port which engaged in the entrepot business. As the merchants and their families became increasingly wealthy they engaged in conspicuous consumption. They bought expensive and fashionable clothes, ate more lavishly, entertained liberally, and sought amusements and entertainment. Migrants came to St Peter Port to cater to these new habits of luxury. Dressmakers, tailors, cabinet-makers, porcelain-sellers, artists, and hairdressers arrived in the town. Between 1750 and 1800 the population of St Peter Port doubled. 

The population of Guernsey and St Peter Port, 1727-1831, based on contemporary estimates and enumerations. (Semi-logarithmic graph to illustrate the rate of population increase).



TOWN CARNIVAL 2015

By Jack Honeybill

This year's carnival commenced on the 18th July and continued until 1st August inclusive, omitting Sundays. The event was extended to a second week thanks to the support of the Arts Commission of Guernsey, which was dedicated to local performers only. In total we provided 277 hours of entertainment throughout the Town at 9 performance areas and in total we had 32 artists from the UK and Europe and 40 local performers.

We had some £10,300 of sponsorship for the artists by way of The Old Government House (Classycool), The Ana Leaf Foundation (ImaginJack), Creasey's (The Puppetree Company) and Ravenscroft Stockbrokers (Vitae Brass). Five performance areas were sponsored by Specsavers, The Terrace Garden Café, The Liberation Group, Fuller Developments limited and Collette Jones and Co. Condor Ferries kindly gave us subsidised travel and the Rocquettes Hotel provided subsidised accommodation for the Artists. In addition Airtel Vodafone provided 100 hours of local entertainment and we had the financial support of the Arts Commission for the whole event. In addition with over £7,000 of anonymous donations and some 16 bronze members providing £300 each minimum, we met our target of £45,000 for the event which was a very close run thing. The final piece of the jigsaw was the magnificent public of Guernsey who kindly put over £5,500 into our collecting buckets over the two weeks which helped us break even.

We also had the assistance of many Town retailers, we received over 25 Tombola prizes to help raise money at our Classic Black Tie Dinner, which took place on the 22nd July at the Duke of Richmond and was attended by 160 people.



The cabaret entertainment was provided by four of the visiting groups of performers plus four local artists and pre dinner drinks were provided by Bucktrout and Co. The profit from the event will be carried forward to next year's Carnival and we have already had requests for tables.

The Carnival is a massive team effort involving myself, Andrew Pouteaux, Julie Madeley, John Silvester and Eileen Silvester plus other recruited supporting volunteers, ensuring that all performance areas are set up daily with electricity, buckets and gazebos where appropriate. We appreciate all the shops who allow us to use Electricity and often letting us store our equipment overnight after we have taken down each area around 4pm each day. We also had support from the Constables of St Peter Port re a secure room and the Harbour Authority re some temporary parking for artists vehicles.

During the fortnight we had one bad day of weather which cost us in excess of £400 and we

were forced into cancelling all entertainment where there was no cover but the visiting performers carried on to a very limited audience. Thankfully, we made up the loss in the second week. We also had a Children's magician to complement the Punch and Judy shows on the last three days of the first week.

We were grateful to Bailiwick estates in allowing us the use of an empty retail unit in the Inner Street of the market buildings, and Nick Brett Properties for allowing us the temporary use of an empty retail unit in the centre of Town for the storage of equipment, plus the Harbour authority with concessionary parking for the artists and display of banners. Finally a big thank you to Creasey's toy shop, who once again provided entertainment for children in their shop and also various competitions with prizes to keep them occupied in between all the shows.



Next years dates will be 16th July to 30th July with the Carnival Black Tie Dinner on 27th July, subject to confirmation of substantial funding from our supporters. We are looking for more performance area sponsors and sponsors of Artists who could be used for a corporate event. [T](#)

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL REGISTRATION

A new Electoral Roll is being created for the 2016 General Election. This will also be used for the St Peter Port North By-election on 2nd December 2015 and the Parish Elections on November 4th. Any eligible resident wishing to vote in either the By-election or the Parish Elections **must register on the new Electoral Roll by 15th October 2015**. You may register by completing the household registration form sent to every household or online at www.election2016.gg.

Individuals wishing to vote in the General Election in April next year must register by 29th February 2016. If you wish to find out more about registering, please contact the Elections Office on 747580.

YOU MUST RE-REGISTER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

GUSTAV THE PIGEON

By Geoff Le Gallez

Gustav (pigeon)

Gustav, also known as NPS.42.31066, was a pigeon of the RAF pigeon service. He was awarded the Dickin Medal, also known as the animal's Victoria Cross, for bringing the first report of the Normandy Landings to the British mainland during the Second World War.

Military Service

Gustav was a grizzle colored cock pigeon trained by Frederick Jackson of Cosham, Hampshire. In his military service, he was also known by his service number NPS.42.31066. His early missions saw him carrying messages out of occupied Belgium for the resistance.

On 6 June 1944 Gustav was on-board an Allied Landing Ship Tank, having become one of six pigeons given by the RAF to Reuters news correspondent Montague Taylor. Following the Normandy Landings, Gustav was released by Taylor to send news back to the UK with the message: "We are just 20 miles or so off the beaches. First assault troops landed 0750. Signal says no interference from enemy gunfire on beach... Steaming steadily in formation. Lightnings, Typhoons, Fortresses crossing since 0545. No enemy aircraft seen".

Gustav traveled the 150 miles (240km) to his loft at RAF Thorney Island in five hours and sixteen minutes, while facing a headwind of up to 30mph (48km/h), where his handler Sgt Harry Halsey received him. Gustav's message was the first word of the invasion to reach the British mainland, due to the fleet undergoing radio silence at the time. Later that day, fellow pigeon Paddy became the first pigeon released

to return to the British mainland with news of success of the landings.

For this act, he was awarded the Dickin Medal for bravery, considered to be the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. He was presented with his medal on 27 November 1944, by Mrs A V Alexander, the wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty. The citation for his Dickin Medal read, "For delivering the first message from the Normandy beaches from a ship off the beachhead while serving with the RAF on June 6 1944." He was one of thirty two pigeons awarded the medal who carried messages during the Second World War.



Gustav the Pigeon

My name is Geoff Le Gallez and I am part of the Groundsman Team that work for the Constables of St Peter Port. I have a fascination for the second world war, especially the Liberation of Europe, including my beloved Guernsey. Although I was born in 1951 I feel indebted to those who gave their lives in the name of freedom and in the last 10 years have attended the Specsavers Liberation Ball in 1940's attire and have played many rolls from Winston Churchill to a Guernsey Donkey!

This year being the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey I decided to do something completely different and pay tribute to the war animals, namely the pigeons who carried valuable messages from the front lines. There were many used in all theatres of battle and the one I chose to rein-act was called Gustav.



I searched the internet and eventually found a company in China who could make me a Pigeon costume. I wore it to the Liberation Ball and also in the town cavalcade the following day on our float and must say it was a pleasure to pay tribute on a day close to my heart! Long my it continue... [T](#)

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Photo by Chris George

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE “BUY A BULB”

CHRISTMAS NEEDS YOU!

The St Peter Port Christmas lights are in need of some good cheer. We need the residents of Guernsey to help make it happen. Anything you can spare will help us make them twinkle brightly.

The St Peter Port Christmas Lights have the potential to be enjoyed by the majority of our 60,000+ residents, and with the cost of putting them up and down, maintaining and replacing them continually increasing, we feel it is time for an island wide campaign to raise much needed funding to secure the future of the lights, Christmas in Guernsey would not be the same without them.

On September 1st we launched our new website www.christmaslights.gg and our ‘Buy a Bulb’ Campaign. Bulbs cost £1 and there is no limit to how many any one person can purchase.

HOW TO PURCHASE A BULB?

Visit the website and follow the links. Visit the Constables Office, Lefebvre Street where our staff will be happy to help.

Come to the ‘Pop-up Shop’, Smith Street between 12th & 17th October.

Put your money in our Milk Carton ‘Moneybox’ in Market Square from 12th October.

Purchase a ticket for the 60’s & 70’s Dinner and Dance on the 23rd October at La Grande Mare Hotel.

Ring the Constables Office on 720014 or email constables@stppcons.com for more information.

The St Peter Port Christmas Lights Committee is a member of the AGC No 395 and would like to express their thanks to Specsavers for the Website Design & Milk Carton Artwork, Guernsey Dairy for their advertising Sponsorship on the Green 1 ltr cartons commencing in October, as well as Smith Signs and the Media for their support, and all our other supporters in this campaign. 





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AWFUL CATASTROPHE AT EBENEZER CHAPEL

By Douzenier Rob Grant

We often read of events around the world where a panic, or stampede, has caused the loss of life, but it may be surprising to hear that a similar event took place in Guernsey many years ago.

The following is taken from an article in the Star newspaper of Monday 27th October 1834, which carried the news of an awful event the day before at Ebenezer Chapel, in St Peter Port, (the junction between Saumarez street and Union street).

"It becomes this day our painful duty to record the most melancholy and fatal catastrophe that perhaps ever took place in this town or island. We refer to the results of a groundless panic last evening in Ebenezer Chapel, New Town, occasioned by the going out of the gas lights.

The circumstances under which this awful calamity occurred were the following:- The congregation assembled as usual at 6 o'clock in the evening, and was rather larger than on ordinary occasions, - probably about 1,000 persons - owing to the fact that the officiating minister, the Rev Mr Pratten, had at the close of the Wednesday evening's service, after announcing that no less than three members of the Guernsey Wesleyan Society had died within

a few days, signified his intention to preach a sermon on the subject of death, and on the need of preparation for it, on the Sunday evening.

The chapel had been for the last three years lighted with gas. It was perceived shortly after the commencement of the service that the lights wavered and fluctuated up and down, and that in these wavering and fluctuations they went far more under the average height in descending, than they afterwards rose in ascending. The service, however, which was unusually solemn, proceeded without any inconvenience from this cause. The text chosen was 2 Samuel xiv. chapter, 14th verse: "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered up again". A very impressive sermon was preached from it, during which allusion was made to the pestilence that was ravaging this island precisely this time two years...'

The article went on to say that cholera was not now present in the island, and the Reverend continued that;

"Death's thousand doors stood open, - and that for aught the preacher could tell, the winged arrow might be, at that very moment, ready to strike the heart of some within the walls of the chapel"

The sermon was brought to a close, and the preacher gave out the last hymn, reading the first verse as follows;

*"And let this feeble body fail,
And let it droop and die;
My soul shall quit the mournful vale,
And soar to worlds on high;
Shall join the disembodied saints,
And find its long-sought rest,
(That only bliss for which it pants,)
In my Redeemer's breast."*





It was at this moment, the article tells us, that the gas lights started wavering and fluctuating more than ever, then several lights went out, followed by several more, so that over the space of six or seven seconds all of the lights went out. Immediately doors were heard to be opened and several women shrieked.

The writer of the article, who was in the congregation, called for people not to panic, but it was too late, as the sound of glass being smashed by some trying to escape caused many to believe that the noise was that of an explosion. The shouts of 'fire' by some in the congregation, mingled with the shrieks, caused many of the congregation to rush headlong for the doors. The writer goes on to describe horrifying scenes, where men and women trampled over those unfortunate enough to fall, mostly women and children, as they rushed for the exit.

It was reported in the Star that the shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying were so loud as to be heard in St James Church, Market Square, Ivy Castle in the North and Fort George in the South. One lady ran to St James and called for any doctors present to rush to attend the injured. Several present followed.

News rapidly spread that there had been an explosion at Ebenezer, and people flocked to see what was happening, which in turn caused difficulty for those trying to treat the injured. Sadly, amongst the many injured, was the shocking news that seven people had been

trampled to death during the stampede, most, if not all of them, children;

Robert Hill, aged 12
Eliza Gardner, aged 16
Rachel Le Page, aged 16
Esther Mollet, aged 16
Harriet Lake, described as a young woman
Catherine and Harriet Guilbert, aged 11 and 7

The last two had been holding their mother's hands as they made for the exit, but during the crush one of the children was separated from her, and the article goes on to say;

"Mrs Guilbert with the youngest child reached the bottom of the staircase, and thought herself safe, when, hearing the cries of Catherine behind, she looked back to assist her if possible, was overwhelmed by the crowd that rushed on - had the youngest child squeezed to death in her arms - and thus the parental feeling which prompted her to save one child was the fatal cause that made her lose both!, for poor Catherine had now been trampled to death inside the chapel"

It was later ascertained that the cause of the gas lights fluctuating and wavering was probably insufficient pressure being applied to the gas pipe that supplied both Ebenezer and Eldad chapels. The Star noted that "only yesterday most of the churches and chapels in Bath had been left without light, following a loss of gas pressure, and that panic ensued in Walcot church in Bath". The church in Bath was fortunate to have no fatalities, although there were several people injured. [📍](#)



VICTOR HUGO IN ST PETER PORT

By Odile Blanchette

160 years ago Victor Hugo set foot in St Peter Port. It was the 31st October 1855.

“Left Jersey at 7.15 a.m. Arrived in Guernsey at 10 a.m. Heavy sea. Rain. Squalls. Jersey - rock, then cloud, then darkness, then nothing. Difficult landing. Huge waves. Small boats loaded with men and luggage. Crowd on the quay...”

“Parti de Jersey à 7 heures et quart du matin. Arrivé à Guernesey à 10 heures. Mer grosse. Pluies. Rafales. Jersey - rocher puis nuage, puis ombre, puis rien. Abordage difficile. Agues énormes. Petites barques chargées d'hommes et de bagages. Foule sur le quai...”

He had just spent 3 years in Jersey of an exile which had a further 15 years to run. He travelled with one of his sons and he lodged few days at the Hôtel de l'Europe while waiting for the arrival of the rest of the family.

The location of the Hotel which no longer exists (today Marks & Spencer) was perfect and he was amazed before the view from his bedroom as he wrote to his wife on the day following his arrival:

“I write you before a wonderful view. Even in the rain and the fog the arrival to Guernsey is magnificent...”



Victor Hugo, Boats, Ink on paper, Collection Maisons de Victor Hugo Paris/Guernsey



Auguste Vacquerie, Victor Hugo and his family at No.20 Hauteville Street, 1856.
Collection Maisons de Victor Hugo, Paris/Guernsey

*“Je t’écris avec une vue admirable sous les yeux.
Même dans la pluie et le brouillard l’arrivée à
Guernesey est splendide...”*

But this accommodation could only be temporary and he crisscrossed the town to finally find a house to rent on the hills of this South Quay, where the view was no less beautiful. A few days later, he wrote to Hetzel, his editor, while he had just moved to number 20 Hauteville Street, not yet number 38:

*“I live in a seagull’s nest high above the town;
from my window I overlook the entire archipelago
of the Channel...”*

*“J’habite au haut de la ville un nid de mouette;
Je vois de ma fenêtre tout l’archipel de la
Manche...”*

And the poet captures by words and drawings, the contours and the life of St Peter Port:

“I hear voices. Gleams of light across my eyelid.
A bell is tolling at St Peter’s church.
Shouts of bathers: Nearer! further! No, here!
No there! The birds twitter, Jeanne as well.
George calls her. Cock crows. A trowel
Scrapes a roof. Horses pass in the lane.
The swishing of a scythe cutting grass.
Clashes. Confused sounds.

Roofers tramp over the house.
 Sounds from the harbour.
 Whistling of hot engines.
 Military music coming in snatches.
 Uproar on the quay. French voices:
 “Merci, Bonjour. Adieu”.
 It must be late, for here
 Comes my robin to sing near me.
 Din of distant hammers in a smithy.
 The water laps. Sound of a steamer puffing.
 A fly comes in. The sea’s boundless breath.”

*“J’entends des voix. Lueurs à travers ma paupière.
 Une cloche est en branle à l’église Saint-Pierre.
 Cris des baigneurs. Plus près! plus loin!
 non par ici! Non, par là!
 Les oiseaux gazouillent, Jeanne aussi.
 Georges l’appelle. Chant des coqs.
 Une truëlle. Racle un toit.
 Des chevaux passent dans la ruelle.
 Grincement d’une faux qui coupe le gazon.
 Chocs. Rumeurs. Des couvreurs marchent sur
 la maison.
 Bruits du port. Sifflement des machines chauffées.
 Musique militaire arrivant par bouffées.
 Brouhaha sur le quai. Voix françaises. Merci.
 Bonjour. Adieu. Sans doute il est tard, car voici que
 vient tout près de moi chanter mon rouge-gorge.
 Vacarme de marteaux lointains dans une forge.
 L’eau clapote. On entend baleter un steamer.
 Une mouche entre. Souffle immense de la mer.”*

All his Guernsey work; letters, diaries and literature, is full of testimonies of his contentment to live between Town and Ocean, how the closeness of the two entities which go as far as merging are sources of inspiration and help him to revisit the past. “When we see the sea we see Paris” and are reminiscent of Charles Baudelaire’s verse from “Correspondences”.

*“Like prolonged echoes mingling in the distance.
 In a deep and tenebrous unity. Vast as the dark of
 night and as the light of day. Perfumes, sounds, and
 colours correspond.”*



Victor Hugo, Exile, Guernsey, 1858
 Ink on paper, mounted in a copy of the first edition of Contemplations
 Collection Maisons de Victor Hugo, Paris/Guernsey

*“Comme de longs échos qui de loin se confondent.
 Dans une ténébreuse et profonde unité. Vaste
 comme la nuit et comme la clarté. Les parfums, les
 couleurs et les sons se répondent.”*

Hauteville House as well as the estate bought in May 1856, is full of echoes. Souvenirs of his parisian flats mixed with Guernsey furniture and artefacts from all around the world, to build in this ultimate place of refuge a suspended microcosm, a total work of art where “in a deep and tenebrous unity” his humanist, political and artistic ideals correspond. 📍

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Owned Land and Property

Cambridge Park
Terrace Tea Garden, Cornet Street
Constables Office, Lefebvre Street

Plantations

Brock Road
Rohais
Greens Lanes (verges)
Mont Arrive
Rosemary Steps
Upland Road x 3

Cemeteries

Strangers
Candie
Rue des Freres

Pumps

Mount Durand
Park Street x 2
Le Pollet
Couperderie
Church Square
Vauvert
St Julians Avenue
Hauteville
Le Marchant Street
Rohais
Doyle Road
L'Hyvreuse / Cambridge Park
Lefebvre Street
College Street
Mount Row
Bruce Lane
Trinity Square
Contrell Mansell
Drinking Fountain off Victoria Road

Electricity / Telecoms Sub Stations

Brock Road
Rohais

Abbreveurs

Rohais
Hubit des Bas (shared with St Martins)
Pont Valliant (shared with Vale)

Pissoir

Bordage

Land

Tower Hill site
Bruce Lane (Blue Mountains view point)
Well Road (archway)

Car Parks

Les Canichers
Cambridge Park x 2

Benches

Information Centre
Castle Pier
Market Square
Church Square
East side Town Church
Cambridge Park
Arsenal Road
Blue Mountains
Brock Road
Rohais Plantation
Top of Grange
Colbourne Road / Havilland Road
Trinity Square
Crown Pier
Bus Station

GUERNSEY'S EARLY AMBULANCES

& THREE GUERNSEY SPONSORED MOTOR AMBULANCES FOR WWI IN 1915

By Gary Blanchford

In 1877, the St John Ambulance Association was established in the UK by the Duke of Manchester, and the Chapter of St John of Jerusalem, for the purpose of disseminating general information as to the preliminary treatment of the sick and injured among all classes of society.

The Association grew quickly, and soon branches of it were starting throughout the Commonwealth, largely due to the patronage which included many high ranking figures. In 1881 a branch was set up in Guernsey under the presidency of Maj. Gen. Sir RC Hart, the chairman being Dr EL Robinson M.R.C.S., its prime objective being the training of personnel in first aid.

The Association is not to be mixed up with the Brigade, which came much later (in Guernsey 1934) and consisted of groups of people formed into Divisions and based on military lines, who would attend public functions in uniform as a first line of treatment to the sick and injured.

Transport for the conveyance of the sick and injured in those early days was a very hit and miss affair, and even quite seriously injured people would be conveyed home by handcart and a doctor would attend once he could be contacted and get there.

In St Peter Port the Town Hospital possessed a conveyance called the hospital basket, similar to the one shown, and there are a number of examples of people being injured around

the St Peter Port area and the Town Hospital basket being sent for. The person then being conveyed either to their home, or to hospital in the basket.

The Star Friday 4th July 1856

John Daivleu a Private of the 67th depot, fell down drunk at Upper Candie Road and broke his left leg. A.C. Jesse called on Dr Collennette who recommended him to be taken to Fort George Hospital. A.C. Jesse had the Town Hospital Basket and the men of the Hospital to take him to Fort George.

Around the 1880's the St John Ambulance designed their own hand ambulance, it was actually named 'The St John Ambulance', although there were many variations.



A typical hospital basket similar to the one that would have been kept at the Town Hospital. This type had been in use for many years. (Courtesy of St John's Museum, London)

Serious Accident:

The Star, 14 October 1882

We regret to announce that this afternoon as Mrs Copp of Exmouth, about 60 years of age, a sister of Capt. Grace where she was visiting, when stepping out of Mr J Barbet's Fancy Repository, fell and broke her leg. Dr Corbin was near at hand at the time and attended to the sufferer who was carefully removed to Capt. Grace's house in the Hospital basket.

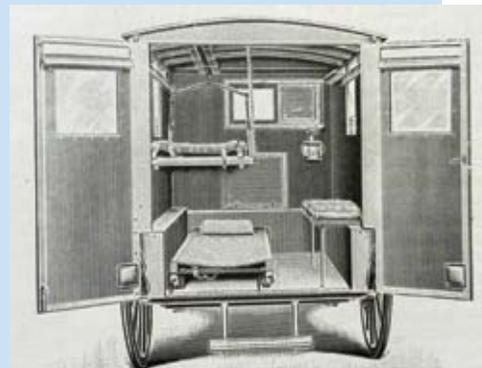
It was about this time that Guernsey decided on its own horse drawn ambulance. The Royal Court fund was used, and a purpose made Horse ambulance ordered, it would be housed at the Town Hospital in a specially constructed building.



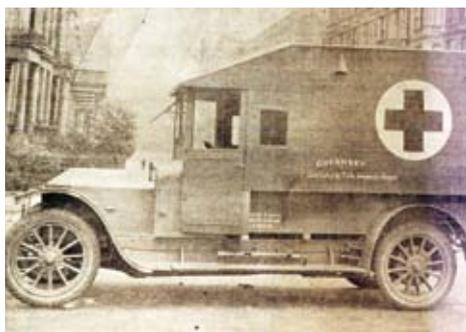
The one above was ordered by Guernsey around 1908, in fact, they ordered three for use around the quarries in the North of the Island. The design had changed very little since the 1880's, and was still being sold by the UK St John Association up until 1939. It was used throughout the First World War. Note the 'St John Ambulance Association' emblem below the canopy. (Cost £16-10s-00)
Courtesy Guernsey Archives.

Motor vehicles were in their early development, and when the World War 1 commenced in 1914 the development and design increased rapidly to feed the necessities of war. Ambulances were in great need on the

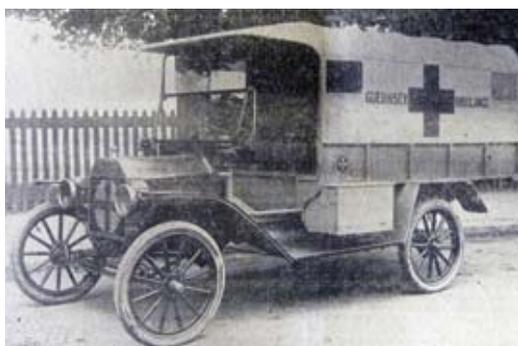
front with the huge number of casualties, and the Red Cross formed a motorised ambulance company. Vehicles were in short supply and the Guernsey St John Ambulance Association, together with the Red Cross got together to organise collections and to sponsor the building of a motorised ambulance. One ambulance eventually became three, and although Guernsey did not have its own motorised ambulance on the island at this stage, it can be said that these were Guernsey's first motorised ambulances.



The two engravings above, were the chosen model from the brochure to be built by the Bristol Wagon & Carriage works. (Courtesy Guernsey Archives). The first patients were carried on 7th September 1908. Payment was at the discretion of the Poor Law Board, but the poor must travel free. Cost of the ambulance was £60.00, rubber tyres and wheels an extra £10.00.



The first was paid for and built in August 1915 by Messrs. Strachan & Brown, High St. Kensington and capable of carrying eight sitting patients or four stretchers. On the side is written 'GUERNSEY, Local Centre of the St John Ambulance Assoc., Guernsey'.



The second (a ford of cheaper design) was paid for and built in November 1915.

A third ambulance was donated by Mr S B Peek, (no photo available) through the local centre of the St. John Ambulance Association and he also offered his services to drive the vehicle. It is not entirely certain if any of these vehicles actually went to Europe as their build was not necessarily to military specifications, but it is known that at least one was allocated to a hospital involved with the injured being brought home from the front, and it is almost certain the others would have had similar uses.

A letter from the St John Ambulance Association in the UK on the 16th Nov 1915, to the then secretary of the Local St John Ambulance Association, Eugene E Carey

showed that one ambulance had been sent to the King George Hospital in Stamford St., London. This was staffed by both St John Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society and that the others were yet to be placed. The aim in the UK was for one hundred ambulances to be produced for home use. He extended his grateful thanks to the people of Guernsey for their generosity.

The cost of the first ambulance was £350.00. The cost of the Ford ambulance was £130.00.

Guernsey was not to gain its own motorised ambulance on the island until after 1919 (research still in progress). 

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