

# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUETEN



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# FOREWORD

## *Hello and welcome to Issue 10 of The Townie.*

As the new Chairman of the Profile Committee, I would firstly like to express my thanks to my predecessor who has stood down from the Douzaine having moved to another Parish.

Pauline Fath did a sterling job with Issue 9 and blended some of the current aspects of St Peter Port with some historical articles about the Town. Pauline has laid a foundation of new ideas for the Townie and my hope is that we can build on this for future issues of the magazine.

During the autumn months, the Parish will learn whether it has been successful in the RHS Champion of Champion events after the judging in the summer. A lot

of effort was put in by the present Floral team to get the Town fit for judging, and being in the Champion of Champions means that this follows the legacy of the former Committees in their continual success.

This edition will throw the spotlight on the night life of St Peter Port and the efforts of a group of volunteers who endeavour to help people have a safe ending to a night in the pubs and clubs of town.

As ever, the Profile Committee would like to hear from you and if you have any articles or ideas of interest please do let us know. It is a magazine for the Parish. Enjoy Issue 10 of The Townie. 📖

**Tim Bush** *Chairman, Profile Committee*

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

Issue 10 - October 2017

Townie Sub-Committee:

Keith Pike, Richard Harding, Jacquie Robin,  
Mary McDermott, Lisa Vahey, Tim Bush, Adrian Gabriel

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### **DISCLAIMER**

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Cover photograph: **Mary-D Carberry**  
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### **THANKS**

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

# INTRODUCTION BY THE CONSTABLES



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



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Since the last edition of The Townie, there has been the regular work carried out by the Constables: liquor licences, both new ones for some premises and changes of designated official for others; reporting the results of the hedge and stream inspections to the relevant authorities; contacting owners about broken walls and States' Departments, where necessary, regarding roads, paths and refuse. Setting the Parish Rates for the year is an annual task to be decided upon and we try to ensure that the lowest rate possible is arrived at - explanations of the figures are given at the Spring Parish Meeting and after agreement is reached, the Royal Court then gives its assent for the Rémède to be levied. The Office Staff work hard to prepare and send out the accounts to all the occupiers of premises within the Parish. Without payments being made expeditiously, we would be hard pressed to pay our accounts on time. There continues to be some misunderstanding by a few occupiers of the difference between the Parish Rates and the States' Cadastre account, for some send their Parish Rates to the States and others come into the Office to pay their Cadastre bill! Perhaps we have such busy lives that we do not always look at correspondence as carefully as we ought.

Invitations to be present at the commemoration of the RGLI's departure for France in WW1, the Church Service the same day, unveiling the memorial stone to John Saville on the Castle

Emplacement walkway were accepted and the Constables and Members of the Douzaine were in attendance at them. It is important to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom and you will find articles about these events later in this issue.

The maintenance of the Parish properties, Cambridge Park, the cemeteries, plantations and pumps is carried out by our efficient groundsmen and they continue to inform us when action may need to be taken. For example, where there are trees which need attention or road names that have to be replaced. The Brock Road Garden has been refurbished and further information about that can be found in the Floral Report. All the hard work which went into the Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions has resulted in many favourable reports on the appearance of Town from visitors and locals alike. It is a real pleasure to see the floral displays and hear comments about how clean the Town is in comparison with other places. However, the curse of the cigarette butt does not go away! We certainly hope that those who smoke will act more responsibly about the litter they drop, consider the problem of cleaning the streets where cigarette ends proliferate and therefore use the bins provided or acquire the personal 'ash trays' that are available at the Constables' Office, as well as other outlets. 

**Constable Jenny Tasker**

*The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.*

# DOUZAINÉ SOCIALS

By Douzenier **Jacquie Robin**, Profile Committee

For some time now the Profile Committee had discussed having a few social events so that we could get to know better our fellow Douzeniers, and for some socials, our Deputies in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Well, we've finally managed it. We had a Petanque match between us and our Parish Deputies. Deputy Lester Queripel was a natural, Deputy Peter Ferbrache definitely had previous experience which fared him well and Deputy John Gollop surprised us all, as well as himself, as to how quickly he picked up the technique. It might not have been quite the right technique but it certainly was a winning one! Who won we hear you ask? The Deputies!

There will be a return match later this year and we hope the Douzeniers have been practising. It was a most enjoyable match and we look forward to the next.



Our next social was only for Douzeniers, due to the group number limitations. Two groups of us had enjoyable and educational visits one May Sunday to Hauteville House and Garden, home of Victor Hugo.

As Hauteville House will be closing for much needed restoration/refurbishment works during 2018, we felt that we must visit now and remind ourselves before and then revisit when it reopens to see the work that's been done.

Most of us agreed, that no matter how many times you visit Hauteville House, you learn something new each time as you are shown round by the expert guides. It is a beautiful house and gives a clear insight into how clever and creative Victor Hugo was, not just in his writing but in his furniture and decorative design as well. You have to wonder where he got all his inspiration from.

We look forward to our next visit in 2019. 



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# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OFFICE

By Martyn Guilbert, Secretary to the Constables

Another summer nearly over and at the time of writing, the weather wasn't being particularly kind. Here's hoping that we might get an indian summer to make up for it. Though there has been a shortage of sunshine, town still looked stunning with all the floral displays. Good luck to our Floral Committee in the Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions judging!

The office and ground staff have had a busy summer keeping up with the usual parish business and looking after the park, cemeteries and other sites. I am pleased to report that the small garden in Brock Road has now been completed and is looking very smart indeed with newly refurbished pergola and railings and new gravel laid. Signs banning the drinking of alcohol may be put up in an effort to cut down on littering and misuse. The small garden next to the Dog House in the Rohais has also had a smarten-up with all the weeds cleared, a membrane laid, new gravel laid and a new bench installed. Well done to the team for doing all this work in-house.

The office staff, Jenny, Ann and myself, have been busy since May issuing the 8,000 Rates bills and then processing the flood of payments. Fortunately more and more of you are paying by direct credit which makes it much faster to process. At the moment there are still a number of payments outstanding, so Ann and Jenny have been busy chasing these debtors by telephone. Just a little further information for those that don't look too closely at the Remede (budgets) which we publish in the Guernsey Press every April; about 80% of the domestic Rates is for refuse collection, the remainder being spent on property

Photo by Mary-D Carberry



maintenance, street lighting, office and staff costs. Businesses do not pay a Refuse Rate as we do not provide refuse collections for them.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the new Waste Strategy is due to be introduced next year and the system of charging for waste disposal will change. We have already received many telephone calls from concerned parishioners who were not clear about how these changes will affect them. I do not have the space here to go into detail except to reassure parishioners that you will be kept fully informed by both the States of Guernsey and the Douzaine when all arrangements are fully in place. There will be a major media campaign in due course. In the meantime, please carry on recycling as much as possible - the surest way to keep costs to a minimum. [T](#)

Opening times: **8.30am - 4.00pm**  
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# SIBLING RIVALRY

By St. Helier Constable, Simon Crowcroft



Recently I was asked to give a speech at the Jersey Chamber of Commerce lunch; instead of choosing to talk about St. Helier, as might be expected, I chose as a title 'Sibling Rivalry' - which of the Channel Islands capitals is a better place in which to live, work and do business? St Peter Port is almost always described as prettier, or 'nicer' than St. Helier, and at first sight it seems to have a geographical advantage over us. Built on a hillside instead of on a marsh, its houses rising in neat rows above the harbours and the sea which is deep enough to attract cruise ships (another advantage). Guernsey's capital has not been spoilt by the ugly rock-armour that surrounds our modern land reclamation, nor by a sea-front incinerator, and tourists from France step ashore with added enthusiasm as St. Peter Port hosts the Maison Victor Hugo, a fascinating museum to the great writer who made his home there, having been expelled from Jersey in 1853.

Voter equity may not immediately spring to the minds of people when they compare our towns, but Jersey does have a problem with unequal representation, and this is particularly true in the capital, St. Helier whose voters have less influence over their government than the voters of the other parishes in Jersey; in St. Peter Port, however there is voter equity, the town Deputies numbering 11 out of the 38 members of parliament. As I understand it, Guernsey as a whole enjoys voter equity, which is why I was so disappointed when the States of Jersey recently missed the latest opportunity to introduce 'super constituencies', or voting districts larger than individual parishes.

Another difference between us is that my opposite number, the recently re-elected Constable Dennis Le Moignan, has a 'Junior Constable' to assist him in his work, and there is also a Douzaine of twenty elected 'townies' who provide a layer of local government that is missing in St. Helier. Guernsey's Constables do not have an automatic right to sit in the Guernsey States, but there's nothing to stop them standing in the General Election; in fact, it's Jersey's desire to retain the right of all 12 Parishes Constables to have an ex officio seat in our parliament that makes it so difficult to achieve voter equity.

In spite of these and other favourable remarks I made to Jersey's Chamber about Guernsey's capital, I had no real difficulty in nailing my colours to St. Helier's mast by the end of the talk. The geography of our town may make us less attractive when viewed from the sea, but it offers us space, which is what makes our town centre the more enjoyable place to spend time and money in: St. Helier has the breadth which a town built on a hillside cannot offer, while land reclamation over time has added to its area, making room for a number and variety of retail, hospitality and cultural offerings that are probably unrivalled, not only in the Channel Islands, but in any town with a comparable population in Europe. Not that challenges don't exist; they do, particularly in terms of maintaining the quality of life of the residents who live in our busy, successful Parish. As for St. Peter Port, it is a place which I am sure Jersey people can continue to learn from, share ideas with and enjoy visiting - and visiting St. Peter Port is a special treat for me as it has a proper second-hand bookshop, which St. Helier lacks. 

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

# PARISH MATTERS

By Douzenier Tim Bush

In Issue 9 of The Townie we invited you to contribute items or matters of concern about the Parish that you would like the Constables and Douzeniers to take on board.

One St Peter Port resident, commented on the issue of parking. Their view is that the present car park at Frossard House is a waste of space, and points out that the area there is large enough to accommodate a multi-storey car park which could take nearly one thousand cars. This would include all of the staff at Frossard House with hundreds of spaces left for public parking.

It is pointed out that if there was a charge for parking here, it would alleviate some of the

cost. Civil servants working there would have guaranteed parking at a reduced rate, and the public would have long and short term parking at a modest charge.

Airport style buses could run a circular route from there to the bus station or even as far as the Weighbridge dropping off and picking up passengers at agreed stops along the route. 

Do you have issues or matters of concern that you would like to raise? Please write into "Parish Matters" c/o the Constables Office, or email us at [stpeterportparish@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterportparish@gmail.com)



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# SCHOOLS MATTERS

By Douzenier Jacquie Robin

## LA MARE HIGH SCHOOL

*(All information taken from School Newsletter April 2017)*

### SCHOOL PRODUCTION HAIRSPRAY

Review by Lucy-May de Carteret  
LMDC Waves Reporter

The musical, Hairspray, is about a trouble maker called Tracy Turnblad and how she has fallen in love with the handsome Link on the Corny Collins TV Show. It has been her desire to dance on the show alongside him. One of the key songs of the show is 'You Can't Stop the Beat', sung by Tracy and Link, which made me want to dance in my seat! One performer, year 7's Orlagh Reid, stood out as Little Inez, with her clear, amazing voice.

### YEAR 7 LIHOU TRIP

Miss McKeown, DoFE Co-Ordinator

24 students, accompanied by Mr. Cleal, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Heaume and Mrs. Batchford, took part in a teambuilding overnight residential visit to Lihou Island. Starting the weekend with rock hunting on Lihou headland, activities were to include an island walk, games, orienteering, a scavenger hunt and beach art, all outdoors. Once across the causeway, they were introduced to the island and the house by the warden, Richard Curtis, who delighted them lots of interesting stories and information.

Unfortunately, high winds and rain meant remaining housebound for the evening, but the students were well entertained with a range of activities, culminating with the 'Lihou's Got



Talent' show. Saturday morning brought some sunshine so they were able to take part in the outdoor activities.

The group worked really well together, were extremely helpful when it came to the necessary tasks of helping to prepare meals, tidying up and cleaning the house for departure, demonstrating brilliant teamwork.

### THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME LIHOU TRIP

Miss McKeown, DoFE Co-Ordinator

Students completing their Bronze DoE Award were invited to spend an evening on Lihou carrying out training and route planning for the Expedition Section of the award. Ten students and three staff (Miss McKeown, Mr. Cleal and Miss Din), travelled across the causeway on a blustery Friday afternoon to cover elements of the award training - tent pitching, camp craft, stove training, orienteering, route planning and risk assessing. In spite of the strong wind and cool temperature, seven of the boys opted to camp in the garden and they appeared to thoroughly enjoy the experience. The staff felt privileged to have worked with the students in training them to be ready for the expedition.

## LMDC RADIO STUDIO

Mr Furness, HoD Performing Arts

Mr. Furness reported that LMDC Waves Radio had arrived and was preparing to go live over the summer. A professional standard Myriad SR4 Radio Studio was installed at La Mare. The first of its kind in Guernsey, it is hoped it will be used by every student at the school, whether as a listener, or as a learning tool. Students have shown incredible interest and have utilised their Music and Drama lessons to learn how to present and host shows. Already, over 30 different shows have been produced, ranging in content from Music based, from the regularly updated Library, to Sports with coverage of teams and fixtures as well as music to work out to. The Health and Well Being Fair, Hairspray and Daily School Bulletins have also been covered.

Training sessions have enabled students to gain Radio Production skills ready for the external broadcasts soon, information about which will be on the La Mare website. More shows and content have been planned before the September Live launch, including a Political Show, Breakfast Club, RE Debates, Drive Time and Lunch Time Variety Shows. Current favourites in development have been 'Breaking the Waves' show, hosted by Year 7, Zander Hamon, JLT Live and the Nerd Massive Live Show, both hosted by Year 11's. The first Loose Women Agony Aunt column took place with Elodie Bigeard and Olivia Hockey. Special guests were planned for the Pod Cast roll out with President of Policy and Resources Committee, Deputy Gavin St. Pier and Robin Banks, former Virgin/Kiss presenter, winner on Dragons' Den and voice behind the Discovery Channel programme, Mythbusters.

Projects to share content and programming have been developed with schools as far away as the Falklands, a series of acoustic ensembles performed as part of Red Nose Day events, a



'Live Lounge' was broadcast from the Learning Resource Centre and professional LMDC Jingles have been heard.

It was a privilege in the opening week to do a Syncro-Broadcast with BBC Guernsey on their 35th birthday show. Students were live ON AIR for the FM Broadcast and introduced the School's Radio Project.

Coverage of Sports' Day, Activities' Week with the Portable Studio, as well as the cross-curricular English and Performing Arts project of a series of Radio Plays, a particular highlight being Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' performed by Year 9 Drama students are further examples of the broadcasts being undertaken.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

For the second year, LMDC students participated successfully in Global Language Challenge, a world-wide online competition for language learners. 246 students entered, which put LMDC in the larger category of medium schools of up to 500 students, but the school still managed to come third in the French competition out of over 60 schools. An excellent result! 🎉

# TOWN CARNIVAL 2017

By Jack Honeybill, Executive Officer Town Centre Partnership

The Town Carnival took place between 15th and 29th July this year with a budget of £50,000 covered from sponsorship of Acts' performance areas: gold members £1,000, silver £500 and bronze members £300. In addition we were again fortunate to receive two anonymous donations as well as an anonymous sponsor for the Clown, Sunny. The Event is a truly Community event with no exceptionally large sponsor. With the support of a grant from the Guernsey Arts Commission, plus the John Ramplin Trust, covering 160 hours of local entertainment, together with the fantastic Guernsey public donating £6,000 in our buckets, we managed to cover costs. We were also delighted to have subsidised travel from Condor Ferries and subsidised accommodation from Sarnia Hotels at Les Rocquettes Hotel.

This year there were some changes in the line up of Artists with the Red Carnation group again sponsoring Classy Cool, the fabulous string quartet, Ravenscroft Stockbrokers sponsored Il Destino, the two well liked Tenors and Creasey's again sponsored Punch and Judy, which is a winner with all children young or old. A new group, the Western Valley Hot Club wowed the crowds with their act, with the Sound of Steel-Steel Band, Stanley's Dixie street band from the Czech republic and the Clown completing the remainder of the Company of 21 professionals. The following local entertainers were involved as the first week of Carnival was dedicated to local talent which we have in abundance: The Day Trippers, Guernsey Majorettes, Belles and Broomsticks, Mancini and me, Lydia Pugh, Chris Taylor, Olivia Younger, Charlie Cosnett, Carly Tucknott, Kate Kelleway, Lee Ann Hawkes,



Annie Blin-Bolt, Ivy Botzenhardt, Rachel Dawson, Lee Ann Hardwick, Imogen Hayman, Matt Nichols, Erin Vaudin, Kirsty Dempster and George Russell Ashleigh Gardener-Wheeler, Michel and Davide, Nicolle Wyatt, Sammie Denning, Aimee Queru, James Dumbleton, Jaikie Smith, Mick Le Huray, Sophie Duncan plus the

staff at the Guille-Alles Library reading to the children before the Punch and Judy shows. In all we covered six performance areas during the first week and 9/10 the second week commencing around 10am and finishing at 3.30pm. There were three Punch and Judy shows every day. A team of people were involved in the organisation of Carnival which we consider was a great success this year despite two days of doubtful weather. Many of the artists performed in the evenings at various venues and our team of myself, Andrew Pouteaux, Julie Madeley, John and Eileen Silvester, Peter Harwood and other volunteers on a number of occasions, made it all tick along nicely.

Gold members were Liberation Group, Specsavers, Fuller Developments Limited, The Terrace Garden Café, Collenette Jones, Northern Trust Limited, the Sarah Groves Foundation and Silver members were Healthxchange clinic and

Source Recruitment Specialists and there were 14 bronze members.

We also ran a Black Tie Cabaret dinner at the Duke of Richmond Hotel attended by 145 people and entertained by professional and local artists in the company of the Lieutenant Governor Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder and Lady Corder. We were indebted to 32 retail / hospitality Town businesses who provided Tombola prizes. The evening made £4,000 towards the cost of Carnival.

Details of next years event can be found on our web site [www.guernseytowncentre.gg](http://www.guernseytowncentre.gg) and the dates are 14th to 28th July 2018 with again the first week dedicated to local talent. We already have some sponsorship for next year from the Red Carnation Group, Ravenscroft Stockbrokers Limited, Creasey's Limited, Les Rocquettes Hotel and Condor Ferries Limited. 



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# ST. PETER PORT PARISH TEA PARTY

2nd July 2017

By Constable Jenny Tasker



On a sunny afternoon, Les Cotils was once again the venue for the Tea Party for those who had lived or worked in the Parish and were now 'of an age'! Many were able to make their own way, either with their own transport or by being dropped off by family members, but there were three mini-buses used to pick up those who were not able to do this. Martyn Guilbert, Joe Mooney and Keith Pike were the drivers who followed the detailed directions and routes, worked out by Constable Dennis Le Moignan, to collect these ladies and gentlemen from their homes.

Once everyone was safely seated, the sandwiches and pots of tea (or coffee) were delivered to the tables by the very obliging staff, who kept the tea topped up. A delicious cake, and a gluten free one for those needing it, had been made by

Rosalyn Le Huray to follow the sandwiches and this was really enjoyed by all.

With a glass of bubbly for those who wanted one, the singing started and everyone joined in with the well-known songs of the past - it was so good to see the smiles on faces as former times were remembered during the singing and in conversation.

Everyone had a raffle ticket by their place at the tables, the prizes being three DVD's of the Royal Family. Although the counterfoils had not been brought to pick out the winning tickets, three of the Douzeniers present called out a number each to decide who would take a DVD home, which worked very well!

Home time came and after a very pleasant afternoon, everyone went home, some people having met old friends and others making new ones. 📍



## GLASTONBURY 2017

By Douzenier Tim Bush

For a few days at the end of June, a tranquil farm in Somerset transforms into the Europe's largest outdoor music festival. Glastonbury will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary, and has grown to a festival attracting 180,000 people, young and old, and each year the Island has good representation in terms of locals who are lucky enough to get tickets.

For me it was my second Glastonbury. In 2016, it was one of the muddiest ever held at Worthy Farm, but the line up was sensational with Muse, Adele and Coldplay headlining the Pyramid stage. 2017 had much better weather and although I did not see all main headline acts (I opted for some motown in watching the Jacksons over the Foo Fighters) the five days went by too quickly. It was necessary to access BBC iplayer and revisit the acts I saw (to see if I could see myself in the crowd) and to watch the epic set of the Foo Fighters which I missed live. Never mind, what's done is done.

With over 100 stages there is something for everyone over the festival: from watching the House Gospel Choir on the Sunday morning, to being at the front of the crowd for the Celtic punk sounds of the Dropkick Murphys, from



disco band Chic, to headlining Ed Sheeran. There were bands that performed at festivals in Guernsey in past like the Kaiser Chiefs and Biffy Clyro, and Guernsey's own Mura Masa was performing on the Sonic stage. Glastonbury was an amazing eclectic range of music as varied as the age range of Glastonbury festival goers (I was by no means the oldest!)

A scene from a Hollywood movie was filmed while I was there starring Bradley Cooper. With a bit of luck I might find myself in the Crowd!

Five nights of camping in a crowded noisy field with quite indescribable toilet facilities and cans of warm cider to drink, does not sound like everybody's idea of fun, but there is certainly an atmosphere at Glastonbury and finding and keeping in touch with other Glastonbury festival goers you realise you have been part of something memorable. The music's great, the atmosphere of being part of the Festival was amazing.

Next year there is no festival as every few years there is a fallow year to let the farmlands recover. Roll on 2019! 🍷

# GYCT PRESENTS THE YORK MYSTERY PLAYS

By Douzenier Lisa Vahey

*“From the Creation of Heaven and Earth to the Entry to Jerusalem... it is the story of good versus evil, of life and death, and of love, loss and hope; all based on a best-seller.”*

This was the intriguing opening line from the press release that was sent out to promote the summer production of the York Mystery Plays by Guernsey Youth & Community Theatre. 20 years ago Margaret McDonaugh and Martin Cordall were talking about a televised performance of the Mystery Plays by the National Theatre. At that time they discussed the possibility of a Guernsey production of the plays by Guernsey Youth Theatre. However, it was not until both of them had retired from the teaching profession that they started working on the production, this time as a community Theatre project with Guernsey Youth & Community Theatre.

The Mystery plays would have been performed all over Europe in the Middle Ages. They told



the stories of the Bible in a way that all people could understand (the Church services at that time were all held in Latin, a language that the ‘common folk’ would not understand).

These plays were financed, organised and produced by the city’s Craft Guilds, representing various trades and skills. They were real community projects, something that Margaret and Martin wanted to reproduce. Guernsey Youth & Community Theatre based their production on the York Mystery Plays which have been adapted by Mike Poulton (Chichester: Uncle Vanya; RSC: Wolf Hall). The last time the plays were performed, before 20th century revivals, was in 1569. Guernsey just took a little longer to catch up!

The performances were held on 11th and 12th July and were what are known as promenade productions. This means that the audience moves around the performance space to where the action is taking place. Audience members were invited to bring cushions and there were also limited seats available for those with mobility issues.

I attended the first night on 11th July and not knowing entirely what to expect, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Having been a former member of the Guernsey Youth Theatre (now Guernsey Youth & Community Theatre) I knew many





members of the cast and crew. That being said, as this was more of a community project there were also plenty of fresh faces to be seen too.

If I'm being picky, my only gripe would be that the performance was a little too long. The first act started at 7:30pm and ended at about 9:30pm, with a 20 minute interval, and the second act finishing at 10:30pm. For those promenading, with or without cushions, the first act in particular was a little arduous. This takes nothing away from the performance itself.

There were some lovely moments. Dave Hyett as Lucifer falling from heaven was achieved with some acrobatic silk work, the building of the Ark using just wooden blocks and planks of wood. The animals coming in two by two, played by Primary school children with face paints and hints of animal costumes put a smile on everybody's faces.

There were some wonderfully comic moments too. A rather camp Herod played by a man more used to office work than performing, was highly entertaining, as was the conversation between three shepherds gazing upon a bright



star from their field. The mix of seasoned performers and those taking their first steps into the acting world worked so well, there was a real sense of togetherness. The staging of the show was done very simply making skillful use of the lighting in St James to create the wonderful atmosphere of the stories. And the sound from the choir was stunning, almost angelic.

Even the audience got to get in on the act. There was a traditional Guernsey dance at the start of the show and towards the end, a conga line that took us out of the theatre and back in again! And yes, I did join in with both! Overall the project, started by Martin Cordall and Margaret McDonough, was a resounding success and I look forward to the second instalment, which should be staged around Easter 2018. 📍

# GUERNSEY STREETLIFE PASTORS

By Douzenier Tim Bush

*Deborah Setters (Team Leader) answers questions from Douzenier Tim Bush.*

**C**an you introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about *Streetlife Pastors* and your role in it?

My name is Deborah Setters and by day I am a teacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENco) at Vauvert Primary School. By night, at the weekends, I am a team leader of a group of 20+ Street Pastors, made up of volunteers from local churches of all denominations across the Island. Our Street pastors are male and female, with a wide variety of life experience who range in age from early 20's up to late 70's.

**What do the *Streetlife Pastors* do and when do they do it?**



Deborah Setters (Team Leader)

We give pastoral support to people on the streets of St. Peter Port between the hours of 11pm and 3am. Our teams of volunteers are on hand to look after, listen to and talk



The Streetlife Pastors Team



Being presented with a community award

with all people involved in the night time economy. In a practical way, we give out lollies, bottles of water and flip flops (to ladies who can no longer walk in their best high heels)! You will also see our pastors sweeping up broken glass, picking up litter and giving basic first aid as necessary.

### How long has this been going on in Guernsey?

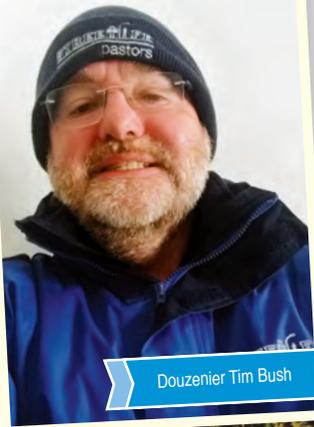
We began doing this in May 2012. Initially, we provided support on a Friday night only as we wanted to make sure that we could sustain what we were doing and be a very reliable presence, before increasing to Saturdays as well. About a year ago, and following many requests from those working in the night time economy and from pub

and club goers themselves, we restructured our teams in order to provide volunteers to cover both Friday and Saturday nights.

### **Pubs and Clubs have door security staff and there are Police patrolling the streets; what difference do you think the *Streetlife Pastors* make?**

Our purpose is to help create a peaceful and safe Town environment by being a practical and positive influence on all those around us. Our volunteers are sometimes present in volatile situations, often fuelled by alcohol, and it is reported that we help to diffuse situations, with our friendly and good humoured approach.

In February of this year, Streetlife Pastors received a Certificate of Recognition for the



Douzenier Tim Bush



The trolley dollies with the lollies!

‘voluntary service provided to Bailiwick Law Enforcement and the wider community.’ At the Police Awards ceremony, it was said of our pastors that ‘they have a hugely positive impact whenever they are out in the public domain, bearing witness to their faith through this valuable work within our community.’

### What sort of reaction do you get from people toward the *Streetlife Pastors*?

It is very rare for our volunteers to receive

any sort of abuse. Over the years we have built up fantastic relationships with door staff, take-away establishment staff, police officers and pub/club goers. Street pastors have great respect for all those who work in the night time economy and this respect is reflected back on us, wherever we go.

Sometimes, when people receive a free bottle of water, a lolly or a free pair of flip flops, you might think we had given those a million pounds and we are often called ‘Angels’ or ‘Life-savers’!

### If all you give out is free, how is *Streetlife Pastors* funded?

Streetlife pastors rely on the financial support of several local churches who generously donate money to buy water, lollies and flip flops. Over the years, we have received specific donations which have been used to buy our practical, weatherproof jackets. Sometimes, pub/club goers cannot believe we are giving things out for free and will insist on giving us a donation. If this happens, we use the money to buy more supplies.

### Finally, Why do these unpaid volunteers give up many unsociable hours, in all weathers, to look after people in our town of St. Peter Port?

Every volunteer is a Christian who is a regular member of a local Island church. We aim to put our faith in Jesus into practical application in a non-judgemental way. Sometimes, people can have rather stereotyped ideas about what the church is like and what Christians are like and we aim to dispel this image. We love what we do and it is a privilege to serve our community in this way. 🕊

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# FLORAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Committee Chairman Rosie Henderson

The privilege of the St Peter Port Floral Committee participating in Britain in Bloom's Champion of Champions, is as a result of having achieved Gold more than once in the Royal Horticultural Society's competitions. This is the culmination of the efforts, over the last ten years or so, with input from Pat Child, Katina Jones, Martin & Helen Storey, Pat Johnson, my team and all our supporters. This resulted in St Peter Port being judged on 8th August by RHS's Jim Goodwin and Roger Burnet, alongside Aberdeen, Elswick, Harrogate, Hillsborough, Oldham, Portishead and ourselves.

Floral Committee have worked hard this year. The Town is well served by floral efforts from Nigel Clarke from Queux Plant Centre, Colin Falla from Northbrook Nursery and States Land Management, as well as the efforts of the St Peter Port Floral Committee. The Mast Roundabout this year is again spectacular and our Judges commented on the juxtapositioning of Peonies, Chrysanthemums and Begonia as well as the taller flowers and shrubs towards the centre, which draw the eye upwards to the Mast which is an iconic symbol of Guernsey.

The La Vallette was started, we selected an area from the bottom of the Val de Terres to the first lawned area on the first level. We have cleared, planted and cared for a small part of La Vallette and this area will continue to be worked upon for the following year. There is Vinca Major, or Periwinkle (donated) on the top of the cistern, over 100 Lavender plants have been planted on the fingers of the zig zag path and variegated ivy everywhere, as well as



Day Lilies which were donated by La Grande Jaoniere Guest House. The First Guernsey Sea Scouts, Beavers and Cubs helped enormously during the summer with boys coming to scrape off the moss, help clearing the Agapanthus plants and also planting the Day Lilies.

The Lower Vallette was part of our work through the Spring and Summer months, but we also worked higher up the hill between

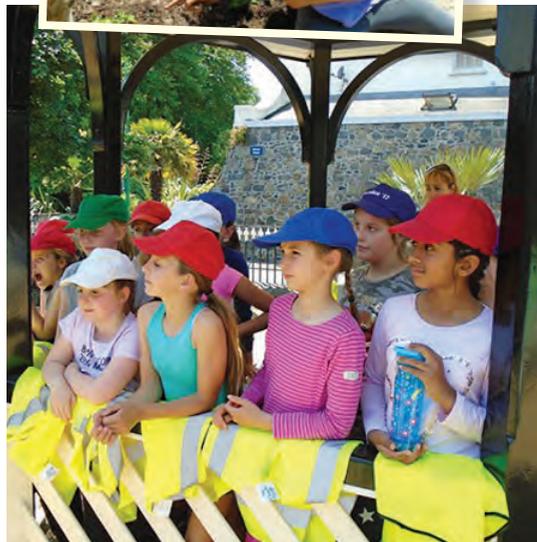
the archway leading from the bottom of Belvedere Field to the path down to the top of the zig zag. We were assisted in this work by the States of Guernsey Probation Service who sent up to 18 people at a time who were carrying out their Community Service sentences. These, mainly young people, worked extremely hard felling saplings which had self-seeded, taking light from other trees. They also cleared brambles and ivy from trees. Piles of timber have been created which will harbour bugs, hedgehogs and other fauna during the winter and also age the wood. At the end of next year we hope to invite the people of Guernsey to remove the wood to feed their fires.

The paths have been widened and the drains are cleared - all this hard work courtesy of the Probation Service and the people with whom they work.

Maintenance work at Victoria Tower Gardens and Brothers' Cemetery continued, although infrequently. We were however, at the Brothers' Cemetery when Vic Froome put up bird and bat boxes with Elizabeth College students helping and learning about the birds that might occupy the boxes.

Another project for the team commenced this year. We imagined a Communal Herb Garden, planted with culinary herbs for anyone to pick. Brock Road Gardens are the site of this initiative, opened after a year's refurbishment of the railings and the garden shelter, the herbs being planted by Melrose students from their "Forest School". It must have been the hottest day of the year but the children had fun and remained polite, friendly and all in all nice people to get to know. We hope that the garden will be used and useful.

Throughout the year we have been helped by organizations and individuals who have made our work easier and much more enjoyable. Andrew Pouteaux and his Art of Living Volunteers have worked with us



in Victoria Tower Gardens, Brock Road Gardens, The Brothers' Cemetery and at La Vallette. Without these wonderful people we could not have completed as much. Norman Piette donated 15 ton bags, which have been incredibly useful. Mister Shifter also, after a shaky start, gave us bags to use and was very kind in moving bags of rubbish. The States of Guernsey Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Service have been very supportive, giving us some of the plants used at La Vallette, as well as helping with advice.

The Floral Committee look forward to a winter working outside and helping, where we can, to make St Peter Port a beautiful place in which to live and work. 

# A message from our LATVIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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



## 18 November 2018 - Latvia's Centenary

Latvia's 100th birthday is next year with the occasion observed from 2017 to 2021. Anyone who calls Latvia home or feels a sense of belonging is invited to participate in the celebration of this historically unique event.

Latvia is created by our thoughts and deeds, through our daily contributions to Latvia's prosperity. 'I am Latvia' is the central message of the centenary celebrations and the participatory theme 'I create Latvia. I make Latvia' permeates the many events. This message reminds us that Latvia's greatest resource is our people; those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, those who have dedicated their lives to the creation and maintenance of an independent state, created our present reality with the work they do on a daily basis, and, together with the new generation, are laying the foundations for our future.

The Centenary celebrations also come into being when we all work together. The celebration programme defines the overall goal and guiding message for the celebrations, encouraging each and every person loving Latvia to contribute their ingenuity and good deeds as gifts for Latvia's 100th birthday.

Five interlinked and complementary Centenary celebration themes have been defined:

- 1) Honouring Latvia's founding mothers and fathers
- 2) Appreciating the road to Latvian statehood
- 3) Thanking Latvia's friends and neighbours
- 4) Adorning Latvia and preparing gifts
- 5) Celebrating Latvia's birthday and opening presents

Each year of the Latvian Centenary Celebrations has a key word in remembrance of the events of 100 years ago, significant to the foundation and continued existence of our great nation:

**2017 is the Year of Will.** In 1917 the will of the people, which had evolved over the centuries, was given form.

**2018 is the Year of Birth.** 1918 was a year of great change, when the new countries of Central and Eastern Europe were created from the ruins of former empires.

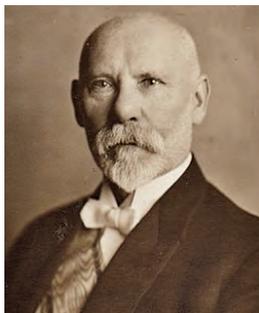
**2019 is the Year of Courage.** The Republic of Latvia was established, even as the freedom fighters were surrounded by the German-led

Baltic Territorial Army and Russia's Bolshevik troops and in 1919 we won the Latvian War for Independence.

**2020 is the Year of Freedom.**

Latvians became free, adopted Parliamentary Procedure, and in 1920 elected the Constitutional Assembly and the first Latvian President.

**2021 is the Year of Growth.** In 1921 the Republic of Latvia was finally recognised and was accepted into the greatest political organisation of the day, the United Nations.



Jānis Čakste - 1st President of Latvia

The Latvian Centenary Celebrations Abroad Programme will combine Latvia's international cultural programmes and public diplomacy projects. The "Story Quilt" for example will be made by Latvians abroad who are asked to create a square, using various techniques, which will be sewn together to create a quilt. The quilt will be gifted to Latvia on its 100th birthday.

Latvians in Guernsey started Latvia's Centenary Celebration on 4 May 2017 with a new tradition called White Tablecloth. 4 November promises to be an event with a difference when we will celebrate the National Day of Latvia.

Dear readers/friends, I welcome your ideas on how in Guernsey we can celebrate Latvia's Centenary. Please write to [lilita@cwgsy.net](mailto:lilita@cwgsy.net) 

# LATVIEŠI GĒRNSIJĀ

By Lilita Krūze, Latvijas Republikas Goda konsule Gērnijā



## Latvija 100

“Mēs būsīm lieli tik, cik mūsu griba,” tā 1911.gadā Rainis rakstīja lugu “Indulis un Ārija”. Šī atziņa caurvijusi veselu gadsimtu ar priecīgiem brīžiem un postu, iznīcību un atjaunotni, Latvijas valsts dibināšanu un valstiskās neatkarības atjaunošanu, kodolīgi paužot mūsu valstsgribu, ticību saviem spēkiem un vēlmi būt brīviem. Arī šodien mums pa spēkam ir viss, kam ticēsim. Tāpēc tā nav nejausība, ka Raiņa citāts izraudzīts par ceļa vārdiem lielākajam notikumam mūsaiķu Latvijas vēsturē.

2018.gada 18.novembrī kopīgi svinēsim Latvijas valsts simtgadi. Ir pamats to sagaidīt godam, cienīgi un lepmi. Ikviens, kurš Latviju sauc par mājām un jūtas tai piederīgs, ir aicināts piedalīties plašajā pasākumu klāstā, kas notiek no 2017. līdz 2021. gadam.

Latviju veido mūsu domas, mūsu darbi, mūsu katra ikdienas ieguldījums tās attīstībā un labklājībā. Valsts simtgades svinību galvenais vēstījums skan „ES ESMU LATVIJA”, un to caurstrāvo līdzdarības motīvs „Es radu Latviju. Es daru Latviju”. Šis vēstījums atgādina, ka Latvijas galvenā vērtība ir tās cilvēki. Tie, kuri ziedojuši savu dzīvi un dzīvību neatkarīgas valsts tapšanā un pastāvēšanā. Tie, kuri ar ikdienas darbu veido tās tagadni un nākotni. Tie, kuri kopā ar jauno paaudzi liek pamatus rītdienai.

Simtgades svinības top, darbojoties visiem kopā, un programma piedāvā kopīgu virsmērķi un vēstījumus, rosinot ikvienu Latvijas iedzīvotāju dāvēt valstij dzimšanas dienā savas iniciatīvas un labos darbus. Ikviens ir aicināts jebkurā brīdī pievienot savu iniciatīvu atvērtajam simtgades pasākumu kalendāram digitālajā platformā [www.lv100.lv](http://www.lv100.lv).

Katram Latvijas simtgades svinību gadam ir dots savs atslēgās vārds, atceroties notikumus pirms 100 gadiem, kas bija nozīmīgi neatkarīgas valsts dibināšanai un pastāvēšanai:

**2017.gads - Griba.** 1917.gadā Latvijas valstsgriba, kas veidojusies cauri gadsimtiem, ieguva konkrētas aprises.

**2018.gads - Dzimšana.** 1918.gads bija pārmaiņu gads, kad uz bijušo impēriju drupām Centrāleiropā un Austrumeiropā radās jaunas valstis.

**2019.gads - Varonība.** Latvijas Republika tika dibināta Baltijas landesvēra un lielinieku karaspēka ielenkumā un 1919.gadā izcīnīja savas Brīvības cīņas.

**2020.gads - Brīvība.** Latvija tika atbrīvota un apguva parlamentārismo pieredzi, 1920.gadā ievēlēja Satversmes sapulci un pirmo Latvijas Valsts prezidentu.

**2021.gads - Augšana.** 1921.gadā Latvijas Republika ieguva gan de iure, gan de facto un tika uzņemta tālaika lielākajā politiskajā organizācijā – Tautu savienībā.

Gatavojoties dzimšanas dienas svinībām, mēs katrs veicam sava veida rituālu – uzošam māju, gatavojam mielastu, saפוšamies paši, ielūdzam viesus, saņemam dāvanas, kavējamies atmiņās. Visus šos posmus izdzīvosim arī Latvijas dzimšanas dienas gaidās. Šis ir laiks, kad godināt Latvijas valsts dibinātājus, aktualizēt Latvijas vēsturi un padziļināt izpratni par valstiskuma un nacionālās identitātes veidošanos, veltīt daļu svētku norišu saviem draugiem un valstīm, kas iestājušās par Latvijas valsts suverēnu pastāvēšanu, kopt un pilnveidot Latvijas dabu un kultūrtelpu, radīt paliekošas 21.gs. vērtības jeb dāvanas Latvijai. Ir tapuši jaundarbi visās mākslas jomās, filmas Latvijas simtgadei, top Nacionālā enciklopēdija, tiek izveidota sakārtota kultūras un sporta infrastruktūra, top jaunas tradīcijas.

Arī Gērnijā dzīvojošie latvieši un mūsu draugi, cittautieši, ir uzsākuši Latvijas simtgades svinības, šā gada 4. maijā svinot Baltā galdauta svētkus kopā ar mūziķiem Lustīgais Blūmīzeris no Latvijas. 4. novembrī svinēsim Latvijas Neatkarības proklamēšanas 99. gadadienu kopā ar grupu Brūģis.

Sadarbībā ar Sena Klēts un Gērnijas muzeju top latviešu tautastērpu izstāde. Paredzēts ir arī trijo Nix koncerts un simtgades filmu cikls. Kā jau iepriekš sacīju, Latvijas simtgadi svinēsim kopā, tāpēc aicinu ikkatru nākt klajā ar idejām un praktiskiem risinājumiem, rakstot uz [lilita@cwgsy.net](mailto:lilita@cwgsy.net) 

# GUERNSEY REMEMBERS

By Liz Walton

In June 2017 two important events in our Island's history were commemorated in St Peter Port.

The Royal Guernsey Light Infantry was formed in December 1916. By this stage hundreds of Guernsey men had already volunteered to fight in the First World War and more than 500 had lost their lives. Many small communities that had formed "Pal's Battalions" had been seriously affected by the loss of a generation of young men on the Somme earlier in 1916. But despite all this, the Lieutenant Governor of the day Sir Reginald Hart put pressure on the States of Guernsey to introduce conscription. He felt there were too many "shirkers" despite the rate of volunteering being one of the highest in Britain. He also wanted there to be a unit carrying Guernsey's name fighting at the Front.

The Bailiwick's special relationship with the Crown means that no Guernseyman can be called up to serve overseas except to ensure the safety of the monarch or to recapture the British mainland. This centuries old right was overturned in November 1916 when the Royal Court registered an Order in Council allowing for conscription into the newly formed RGLI. It went further than the English law in that there was no allowance for conscientious objectors.

After training in various places around the Island, the first contingent of about a thousand men left amid great ceremony.

On 31st May 1917 there had been a grand display and presentation of flags and drums on L'Anresse Common. The following day the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI marched through Town to the White Rock and left for England. After training in Kent they returned for a final leave, then in September they sailed for France.

Almost immediately they were sent to work alongside more experienced troops to learn about the realities of trench warfare. Various front line skirmishes and some accidents resulted in a steady stream of casualties. But on 20th November they were sent to Cambrai, their first big battle. Initially, the Allies appeared to be gaining ground with relatively small losses. However, on 30th December the Germans launched a major counter attack which was to have devastating effects for the Bailiwick.

The RGLI were ordered to hold the village of Les Rues Vertes near the small town of Masnières. The Star of December 17th 1917 stated that the German advance was so rapid that they got within 200 yards of Brigade headquarters, so "signallers, cooks, officers' servants and clerks turned out and joined in the battle". Les Rues Vertes is described as "a smoking ruin, littered with German dead," with soldiers fighting "from house to house, up and down the streets, through alleys and outbuildings, in cellars and on broken stairways". Despite holding the village the RGLI were surrounded on three sides by the enemy. That position could not be held and

they were forced to retreat. They had lost 125 men with hundreds more injured or taken Prisoners of War. The Bailiwick had never experienced losses on this scale, with almost every street and family affected in some way.

100 years after the departure of the RGLI, a commemorative parade took place through the streets of St Peter Port. It started from Fort George (the RGLI HQ in 1917) and came down through Town to the White Rock where a Drumhead Service was held. A donkey representing Joey, the Battalion mascot 100 years ago, preceded the parade.

The band of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, dressed in their scarlet uniforms, led the parade. They were followed by representatives of Island schools and youth organisations, including the Boys' Brigade Band. The Guernsey Military History Company were dressed as RGLI soldiers would have been in 1917. The Guernsey Army Cadet Force (RGLI), who now are entitled to wear the badge of the RGLI, formed part of the parade along with air and sea cadets. Members of the Royal British Legion as well as present and ex-service men also marched in the parade.

They all lined up along St Julian's Pier where they were inspected by the His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff, official representatives from France and other dignitaries. The Dean of Guernsey conducted a very moving service with many references to events a hundred years ago. It included several hymns accompanied by the bands, an address from the President of the Conseil Général of the Manche region of Normandy and a reply from our Bailiff. The service ended with everyone singing the National Anthem and the Marseillaise before the parade marched around the pier then dispersed.

At 2.00 p.m. the same day there was a service in the Town Church where a memorial plaque to the RGLI was unveiled by Mrs Brenda Bougourd. This was the first new plaque to go into the church in 80 years. Mrs Bougourd's father, Private Frederick Mahy, was severely injured at Cambrai but survived the war.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Guernsey and attended by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff, senior States members and representatives from France. Relatives of men of the RGLI were also present at the service which was open to the public.

The involvement of so many islanders in these two events shows that Guernsey has not forgotten the sacrifices of 100 years ago and the new memorial will be a reminder to all who visit the Town Church in future. [📍](#)

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# Finding your stairs difficult?

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## Maintaining access in your home?

St John is the new official local supplier and installer of Stannah stairlifts.

A stairlift can overcome the difficulties facing the elderly or unwell by enabling people to carry on living in their cherished family home, especially in the case of houses of more than one storey.

A Stannah Stairlift installed by St John can really make a difference to people's lives. It overcomes the problems of climbing stairs, enabling people to retain access to upstairs rooms - assuring continuity of lifestyle in a familiar and homely environment.

Stannah is the UK's leading independent supplier of lift products,

loading systems, Microlifts, platform lifts, home lifts and, of course, stairlifts.

Stannah have curved and straight stairlifts and a range of chairs to suit your taste and desired level of comfort that fold up towards the wall to look neat and tidy. There are different fabrics and finishes used in the making of the chairs and nothing is left to chance as each project is rigorously tested prior to dispatch.

St John is an integral part of the Guernsey community. All monies generated from stairlift sales and maintenance are ploughed back into St John to help continue providing all of the services which we so easily take for granted.

**For full information on the Stannah range and for a consultation call St John on 729768 or email [SJHCS@stjohnn.gg](mailto:SJHCS@stjohnn.gg)**

# MAISON DE LA NORMANDIE ET DE LA MANCHE

## The regional embassy of Normandy in the Channel Islands

By Xavier Souris, Director

Since 1995 the aim has been to promote Normandy in the Channel Islands and facilitate exchanges. The institution is at the crossroads between the chambers of commerce, tourist offices, culture and represents Norman institutions.

### INSTITUTIONAL:

At the initiative of the Bailiff of Guernsey Sir Richard Collas, the President of the County Council of La Manche, Senator Philippe Bas went to St Peter Port in June to attend the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry ceremonies commemorating the participation of the Guernsey battalion during World War I alongside Lieutenant-Governor Sir Ian

Corder. Many tributes were paid to them by Mr. Bas on this occasion.

Jonathan Le Tocq and Sir Geoffrey Rowland were inducted into the Friends of Maison de Normandie et de la Manche on July 14, 2017 during the French Festival in Jersey to reward their strong ties with Normandy and our institution.

The 3rd Summit with the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey, the Normandy Region and La Manche County Council will take place in Caen on 6 October. A look at all aspects of cooperation will be carried out on this occasion.

Les amis de la Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche.



## BUSINESS:

Maison de Normandie et de la Manche has helped facilitate the links with the Guernsey-based company “Waves” which offers an innovative service of air links from Guernsey to the Channel Islands, the south of England and the North of France. A visit to the airports of Caen and Cherbourg has allowed a better understanding of local issues and will hopefully allow the company to open soon new lines to Normandy.

## VICTOR HUGO:

As part of Le French Festival held in Jersey, Maison de la Normandie invited Gérard Pouchain to lead a guided tour around the island in the footsteps of Victor Hugo. This highlights the links between Guernsey, Jersey and La Manche where the famous “proscrit” has spent time.

## MEDIA:

An article by Geoffrey Mahy was published in July in the Jersey’s French newspaper, “Le Rocher” (The Rock). This newspaper in partnership with the Jersey Evening Post is the only French newspaper in the Channel



Xavier Souris with Nick Magglochetti (Waves) in Caen airport.

Islands. I am confident that the Guernsey Press will follow this initiative soon.

## EDUCATION:

Guernsey lawyers have Normandy connections going back many years as the Advocate’s training involves the study Norman law in Caen. It will soon be possible for Guernsey students who have passed their A-Levels to continue their studies in France at the University of Caen in the subjects of their choice. If they are able to follow the curriculum directly, registration is free! If necessary, Carré International also offers year-long French improvement courses for about £2,600. An agreement should be signed between the States of Guernsey and the University of Caen in 2018. Watch this space...

I will be coming to St Peter Port on Thursday 9th November to give a presentation to Le Cercle Français about La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche, its achievements and its links with Guernsey. It’s at 8pm at the Frossard Theatre at Candie and admission is free. 📍

[www.maisondenormandie.com](http://www.maisondenormandie.com)

# LA MAISON DE LA NORMANDIE ET DE LA MANCHE

## L'ambassade régionale de la Normandie dans les îles Anglo-Normandes

Par **Xavier Souris**, Directeur

Son but est de promouvoir les territoires normands dans les îles depuis 1995 afin de faciliter les échanges, cette institution est à la croisée des chemins entre chambre de commerce, office de tourisme, centre culturel et représentant les institutions normandes.

### INSTITUTIONNEL:

À l'initiative du Bailli de Guernesey, le Président du Département de la Manche, le Sénateur Philippe Bas s'est rendu en juin dernier à St Pierre Port, aux cérémonies du Royal Guernsey Light Infantry pour commémorer la participation de cette troupe de Guernesiais lors de la Première

Guerre mondiale aux côtés du Lieutenant-Gouverneur Sir Ian Corder. De nombreux hommages leur ont été fait par M. Bas à cette occasion.

Jonathan Le Tocq et Sir Geoffrey Rowland ont été intronisés aux Amis de la Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche le 14 juillet 2017 lors du French Festival pour leurs liens forts avec la Normandie et notre institution.

Le 3ème Sommet quadripartite aura lieu à Caen le 6 octobre, en présence des bailliages de Jersey et de Guernesey, la Région Normandie et le Département de la Manche. Un état des lieux des coopérations sera réalisé à cette occasion.

Groupe ayant fait la visite guidée sur les pas de Victor Hugo à Jersey.



Sir Ian Corder with Philippe Bas.



### **BUSINESS:**

La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche a permis de faciliter les liens avec l'entreprise Guernesiaise « Waves » qui propose un service novateur de liaisons aériennes au départ de Guernesey vers les îles Anglo-Normandes, le sud de l'Angleterre et le Nord de la France. Une visite de l'aéroport de Caen et de celui de Cherbourg ont permis une meilleure compréhension des enjeux locaux et permettront nous le souhaitons d'ouvrir prochainement de nouvelles lignes vers la Normandie.

### **VICTOR HUGO:**

Dans le cadre du French Festival qui s'est tenu à Jersey, la Maison de la Normandie a convié Gérard Pouchain pour réaliser un tour guidé autour de l'île sur les pas de Victor Hugo à Jersey. Il y a donc des coopérations possibles sur ce thème entre Guernesey, Jersey et la Manche où l'exilé a passé du temps.

### **LE ROCHER:**

Un article de Geoffrey Mahy a été publié en juillet dans le journal français de Jersey, « Le Rocher ». Ce journal fait en partenariat

avec le Jersey Evening Post est le seul journal en Français des îles Anglo-Normandes. J'ai bon espoir que le Guernsey Press suivra cette initiative prochainement.

### **EDUCATION:**

Les avocats de Guernesey ont ouvert la voie vers un lien avec la Normandie il y a de nombreuses années en allant étudier le droit Normand à Caen.

Il sera bientôt possible aux étudiants guernesiais ayant passé leur A-Level de poursuivre leurs études en France à l'Université de Caen dans la matière de leur choix. Ils pourront directement suivre leur cursus et l'inscription est gratuite ! Si besoin, le Carré International offre aussi de suivre une année de cours de perfectionnement pour £2600 environ. Un accord devrait voir le jour entre les Etats de Guernesey et l'Université de Caen en 2018. A suivre. Je vous donne rendez-vous le jeudi 9 Novembre au Cercle Français à St Pierre Port pour une présentation de la Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche et de ses liens avec Guernesey. 🇫🇷

[www.maisondenormandie.com](http://www.maisondenormandie.com)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche**  
71 Halkett Place, St Helier,  
Jersey, JE2 4WG

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**Telephone:**

01534 280 110

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**Facebook:**

[Facebook.com/MaisondelaNormandie](https://Facebook.com/MaisondelaNormandie)

# GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

## OCTOBER

**A la fin du mois d'octobre ch'érait L'Halloween, et nou verra énn amâ d'paompaon fachounaï en faches éffreyâblle par les câmps.**

*Abh labh fah-ee-d awk-tawb shehreh- Halloween, ay noo vair-rahb en abh-mahhh-d pan(g)pan(g) fahhsh-oon-eye aw fahhsh ehfray-abhhh pahhr lay cah....*

**At the end of October it'll be Halloween, and we'll see lots of pumpkins made into scary faces around and about.**

## NOVEMBER

**S'en all-ou à ènne Serraïe-Boudloe à Fouaïe ch't'ounaïe?**

*Sawn-abhhl-oo ahb en Sair-rye-Boodlaw ahb F'wey sh'tawnye?*

**Are you going to Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night Party this year?**

## DECEMBER

**Av-ou vaeu les Væus dé Noué à la Ville? Ch'est d'tché bael à vei!**

*Abhv-oo vah-ee lay Vah-ee deh N'web ahb labh Veel? Shay-d cheh bahl ahb vay!*

**Have you seen the Christmas Lights in Town? They're lovely to see!**

## JANUARY

**Enne Bouanne Nouvele Aunaïe à tous nos lliésaeus!**

*En B'wawn Nouvail Awnaye ahb too no yehzub!*

**A Happy New Year to all of our readers!**

## FEBRUARY

**Au mois d'février i s'peut k'i faeche fré assaï pour jlai à pierre fende!**

*O may-d fehvair-ree-eh ee s'puh k'ee fash freh abh-sye poor jh'lye ahb p'yair fawd!*

**In February it can be cold enough to split stone!**

## MARCH

**Ch'est au mois d'mar ké nou c'menche à vei saegne d'l'ernouvé!**

*Shay o may-d mahhr keh noo-k mawsh ahb vay sah-éen-d l'air-nooveh!*

**In the month of March we begin to see signs of spring!**

## Learn a little Guernesiais! - Appernai aen ptit d'giernesiais!

The Imperial Hotel Wednesdays 7.00-8.00pm and lunchtime lessons at Candie Museum and Art Gallery - all levels.

Informal language lessons aimed at adults, and centred around having a go at speaking in small, friendly groups.

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

**Please download the free Guernesiais App from your App Store: @Digital Greenhouse Guernsey, go to the Warro! section.**

**Please get in touch with Yan on 07781 166606 or email: [janmarquis@suremail.gg](mailto:janmarquis@suremail.gg)**

# CAMPAIGNING, CONTESTING AND CULTURE

By Douzenier Adrian Gabriel

I have always wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and serve the people of St Peter Port parish, by volunteering to become a douzenier.

To become a douzenier, there first has to be a vacancy; either an existing douzenier retiring; moving out of the parish; their four-year term expiring; or in rare cases dying while in office. I started researching the role by enquiring at the Constables' office and reading up on the literature the full-time staff gave me. I also spoke to existing douzeniers, Mike Garrett and Richard Harding, and St Peter Port Deputy John Gollop about the roles and its responsibilities. I also spoke to my father about his time as both a douzenier of St Peter Port and a Deputy.

If there are no other candidates standing to be a douzenier, then the role is filled by default at the bi-annual parish meeting. I was soon to discover that there was to be contested election as there were seven nominees for five seats.

I planned my campaign using the medium of Facebook, as it is a great vehicle for distributing one message to a large amount of people. I created a page for my douzaine profile and invited friends, acquaintances and colleagues to like it and share it. Prospective douzeniers can spend a maximum of £300 of personal funds on their campaign. I was glad I'd chosen to use Facebook; if I'd put a small advert in the Guernsey Press it would have used up most of the budget.

The Home Department make available a printed copy of the electoral roll to candidates, which is free of charge. I used this to check the list of 6,000 St Peter Port registered voters against



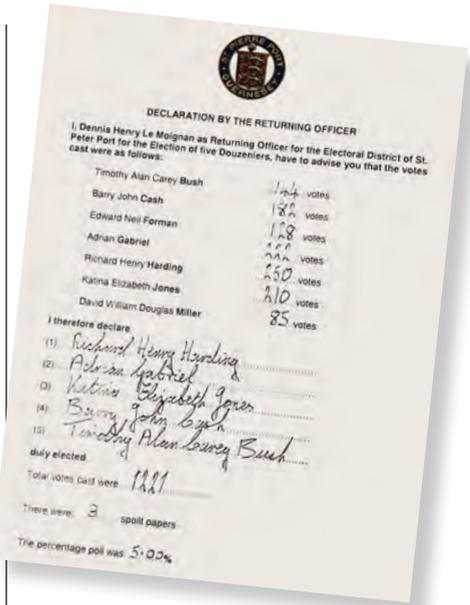
friends, colleagues and acquaintances. I then sent them messages via Facebook, linking them to my prospectus on my Candidate Facebook page and engaged with them directly online.

I was surprised to learn from conversations, either online or in person, that a large proportion of people my age hadn't voted before; some weren't even on the electoral roll. There were concerns with the infrastructure of the island and despair at the current States of Deliberation. There were also people who didn't realise that part of the role of douzenier is to act as a conduit for parishioner's views to be communicated to Deputies.

Polling day came around very quickly. There are strict rules of conduct the candidates have to adhere to; I was allowed into the Constables' office to cast my own vote but then I had to wait outside until invited back in again when the results were in. I took a half day from work and spent the afternoon chatting away to voters outside the polling station, on occasions holding shopping or dogs while people went inside. My family and I were thrilled to hear I had

placed as the highest new candidate, second overall with 222 votes, some 28 behind poll topper Richard Harding.

My first eight months as a St Peter Port douzenier have been interesting and enlightening. I am on several committees including Waste, Streams, Emergency Planning and more recently, Profile. I didn't realise how much time some of the Deputies spend interacting with members of the public; really listening to emotive and sometimes controversial views on so many topics. The Constables work hard to keep the engines of the Parish working smoothly: from street lighting to flowers; residential bin collections to communal areas, cemetery maintenance to licensing applications. I am enjoying being part of this machine; giving back to a Parish and community that means so much to my family and my grass roots. 



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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN ST PETER PORT III

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

*Over the last fifty years many parts of St Peter Port have seen considerable development and several of these development sites have been archaeologically investigated. In the autumn 2016 issue I began this series of articles with a site dug in the Bordage in 1975-6 and continued with three excavations carried out in 1978. In November 1980 work began at 18-20 Le Pollet:*

1979 air photograph showing the positions of the three trenches.  
(courtesy of Digimap)



In 1980 there were plans to refurbish Numbers 18 and 20 Le Pollet and extend the buildings over the gardens behind. This area was part of the medieval town and archaeological excavations at nearby Forest Lane (1978) had revealed pottery and other artefacts dating back to the 12th century. Bob Burns, then the Assistant Curator of Guernsey Museum, obtained permission to dig test pits behind 18 and 20 Le Pollet to establish whether there were surviving archaeological deposits.

To begin the excavations, two exploratory 3 x 3 metre trenches were laid out: Trench 1 was located immediately behind Number 16 and Trench 2 on the north side of the gardens. Below the modern ground surface Trench 1 contained only 19th century material and so was quickly abandoned. Trench 2 was much more productive: beneath the modern level there were three post-medieval layers, a medieval one containing residual Roman and prehistoric material and below this, a purely prehistoric layer dating back to at least



The excavation of the well. (FW Tipping)

the Bronze Age (c. 4,000 years ago). The excavation tools were stored in an outhouse at the back of No.18 and one very rainy day when the team were prevented from digging outside, they began to excavate the floor of this building. This excavation became Trench 3 and eventually took up the entire floor area. The focus of interest was a well discovered beneath the floor. It was hidden under a flagstone floor and sealed by large flat stones. Scaffolding was erected around the well and ladders were secured so that it could be explored. It was dry and the sticky dark soil at the bottom was removed to reveal a clean yellow soil at the base. It was 6.7 metres (22 feet) deep. In the soil at the bottom were large pottery sherds from a small number of broken plates and a large jar. These date from the first half of the 18th century and we might imagine they were household vessels accidentally dropped down the well - or perhaps deliberately dropped to hide the evidence of breakage. The soil surrounding

the well was similar to that found in Trench 2, with three post-medieval layers overlying a medieval one, the medieval layer included a section of wall and residual early medieval, Roman and prehistoric material.

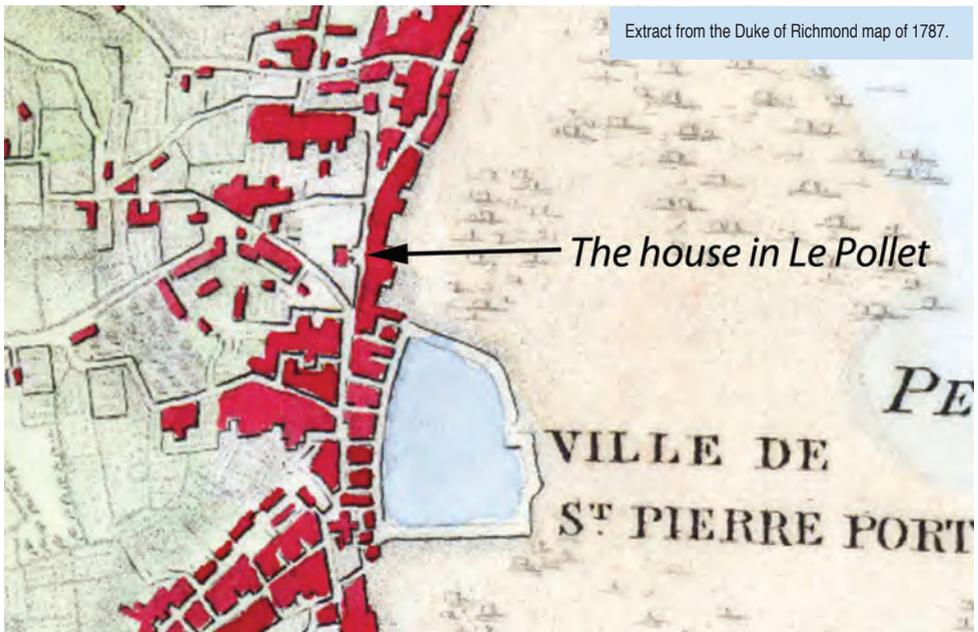
The excavation supports evidence from other sites that this part of town has been occupied since prehistory. It was probably a small settlement of timber houses associated with the island's best natural harbour. The discovery of Roman pottery was particularly important, because although it had already been discovered in the harbour, this was the first recorded in the town itself. The subsequent discovery of the Roman ship (1982), excavations at La Plaiderie (1983) and at the Bonded Store (from 1996) confirmed this Roman connection. It is now thought that, from around the first century BC, there was a trading settlement concentrated in the area between the markets and La Plaiderie. Two sherds of pottery of 6th - 8th century date were also recovered and these are very

important due to the scarcity of evidence from this period, a time often referred to as the 'Dark Ages'.

In the medieval period the limits of the town were marked by a series of 'barrière' stones; the five barrière stones seen today replaced earlier ones and were put up in 1700. The extent of the medieval town extended from Cornet Street in the south, along High Street and the upper portion of Le Pollet; the northern extent is marked by the stone outside Christie's Restaurant (41 Le Pollet). At this northern extent was La Plaiderie (the court) and a fortified tower known as La Tour Gand. On the east side of Le Pollet the land ran down to the seashore and there were probably no substantial buildings.

On the 1787 map of the island a solitary building is shown in the area of the excavation, it appears to have a courtyard in front of it which opens onto Le Pollet.

Although this map is very accurate for its time, it does not attempt to show all of the buildings in town because of the density. However, the 1680 Legge Survey shows a similar building and it is likely that a large house stood on or very close to the site of the excavation in the post-medieval period. It had gone by 1898, when the Ordnance Survey map shows the houses subject to the 1980 renovations and still extant today. The section of wall uncovered in Trench 3 may relate to this earlier building. The well, dated by the pottery found inside it, was built before the middle of the 18th century and so could have belonged to the large residence seen on the 1787 map. Its construction is typical of 18th - 19th century wells: the stones spiralling upwards and laid in such a way that it was possible to remove one without the others falling. A skilled task. In the 19th century wells were usually covered by slabs with a pump fixed nearby. Many of these pumps still



18-20 Le Pollet today. (Tanya Walls)

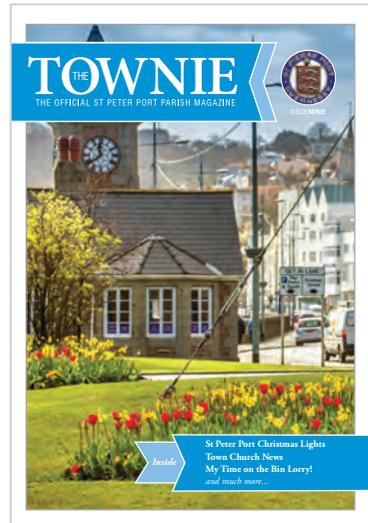


survive in the gardens and courtyards of larger town houses.

Probably due the pressure of work created by the discovery of other important archaeological sites in the early 1980's, the excavations at Le Pollet have not been properly analysed or published. For this article I have only taken a cursory look at the excavation records and the finds, which are held at Guernsey Museum. There are a large quantity of finds from these three, relatively small, trenches: more than 5000 sherds of pottery alone. It would be very useful to spend time on the finds from this site, particularly to establish just how much material there is from the earlier periods. Pottery is very useful for this because it can be dated by type, whereas material such as bone or shell requires costly scientific dating. There are no less than nine boxes of pottery from the site so this would be quite a lengthy process - a winter project for the Archaeology Group perhaps? [T](#)

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**THE TOWNIE**  
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# THE FROGS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

By Dennis H Le Moignan

*'Twas Christmas Morn and all was still  
The Robin's song was heard quite shrill  
And snow was laying all about  
When all of a sudden came a shout  
of, "Look there's one", and to be sure  
Over the snow so white and pure  
A frog, from pond, went hopping  
This way and that, like he was bopping*



*Hoppity hop, away he went  
Webbed footprints in the snow he left  
Over the stones and mounds of earth  
He was oblivious to our mirth  
Meanwhile, another frog appeared  
Then another, how we cheered  
They played and hopped about the snow  
Quite an entertaining show*



*The robin looked on quite amazed  
Thought frogs and us were surely crazed  
The frogs were simply having fun  
We drank mulled wine and ate a bun  
Then took a walk, short but brisk  
Over frost and snow all crisp  
What a start to Christmas Day  
Fun and laughter all the way*



# DARE TO SAY YES!

By Ella Mauger, Guide Leader

This quote was passed onto me by a very wise Girlguiding leader and has led me to experience a variety of amazing, challenging and exciting opportunities in Girlguiding. I have been involved in the movement since I was five years old starting off as a young and eager Rainbow. Rainbow units meet all over the Island and take girls aged five to seven years old. Rainbows are messy, exciting, friendly and lots of fun.

Every Rainbow Unit recently visited Herm for the day to celebrate Rainbows 30th

Birthday. Over 150 girls and leaders had a wonderful day having fun completing activities together and exploring the island. Rainbows have a programme of activities to follow which allow the girls to learn whilst having fun and building their self-confidence. The Rainbow Units do a range of activities from Geocaching, treasure hunting to beach Olympics and making gifts for family members.

After Rainbows I moved up to Brownies. These are units run for girls aged seven to ten years old, the meetings tend to be longer and

Photograph by Chris George



there may also be residential opportunities, within the year for the girls. Brownies enjoy an adventurous journey that girls take with their friends. The Brownie programme allows the girls to develop new skills and to explore the world around them. Brownie units in Guernsey take part in a variety of activities including visiting the Viaer Marche, gaining the First Aid Badge and trying their hand at learning golf!

Guides follow Brownies and this section is for girls aged 10-14 years old. I currently run a Guide Unit in the Vale and I love volunteering and having fun! Guides encourages the girls to challenge themselves whilst making a difference in their community. The Guide programme allows the girls to choose and plan their activities more than the leaders. There are always activities and trips organised outside the meeting place and opportunities for indoor and outdoor residential experiences. Guides in Guernsey



are lucky to have opportunities to visit the UK for a BIG GIG, which is a Pop Concert solely for Girl Guiding, International Camps such as West Sussex Jamboree or to complete the Baden Powell Challenge by visiting a





Girlguiding Activity Centre for a weekend of activities.

After Guides there are more opportunities for girls. Currently we have The Senior Section, although all of the sections are having a major programme renewal ready for September 2018. The Senior Section may even have a new name and identity! The Senior Section is for girls aged 14 to 25 years old. Girls can choose to go to a Ranger Unit and attend meetings weekly where they will complete challenging activities and can work towards qualifications. Rangers in Guernsey have attended International Camps in Ireland and Inter-railed Europe. They have also completed Duke of Edinburgh Qualifications and the Queens Guide Award, which is the highest award a girl can achieve. Or they can be a Young Leader and work within a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide Unit. As a Young Leader they become part of the Unit leadership

team and help to implement the termly programme. They can choose to work on the Young Leader Qualification or if they are 16 years old they can start to work on the Leadership Qualification. By volunteering as a Young Leader girls can count this as part of their Service when completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It is also useful to gain skills, qualifications and experience for careers working with children and young people.

Back to that quote to conclude “dare to say yes”. If you know any girl who would like to be in Girlguiding then contact us via the website below. Similarly if you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities in any unit, then what are you waiting for the answer is “Yes I can do that!” I promise you lots of laughter, fun and amazing experiences! You won’t regret it! 📞

Website: [www.girlguiding.org.gg](http://www.girlguiding.org.gg)

# THE PETIT TRAIN



In May of last year, the Petit Train started operating in St Peter Port and is now a familiar sight around the Town. It's amazing just how many people, young and old, stop to wave as the Petit Train passes by.

It took a fair while to arrange the necessary permissions and set everything up. Finding a suitable train was quite a challenge. Having unsuccessfully scoured the UK and much of France, unbelievably, we found our Petit Train with a company based just across the water in Dinard. You just might have already seen the Petit Train on the streets of Dinard or Dinan. As well as the normal tours that start daily from the Albert Pier, the Petit Train now has a Sunday route that includes a journey down Smith Street and the High Street.

We now have a licence to run some early evening tours and we have just had our first tour giving a quirky and folklore history of St Peter Port. This takes about 1½ hours. The commentary is live

and provided by the extremely knowledgeable, interesting and entertaining accredited guide, Lesley Perchard.

We are already looking forward to our Christmas Lights tours which will run for three weeks leading up to Christmas on Sundays through to Wednesdays. We only hope that it doesn't rain quite as much as it did last year. 🌧️



# THE GUERNSEYMAN AND THE CANADIAN

By Constable Dennis H. Le Moignan

## MAJOR GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK

**S**t. Peter Port has strong links with Canada. A baby boy born on 6 October 1769 in a house in our High Street, became the world famous Major General Sir Isaac Brock. He was named Hero of Canada after leading what became a successful attack which defeated the invading forces of the United States in 1812.

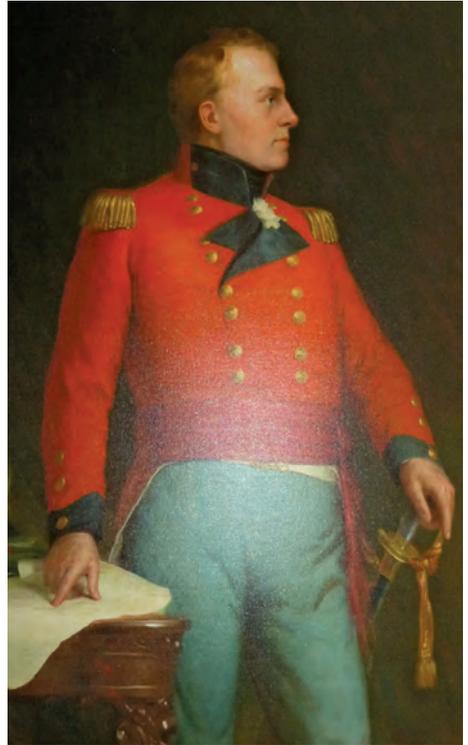
He began his military career in 1785, securing his first promotion in 1789. Although his career was interrupted when he became seriously ill, on recovering he restarted his career and in 1798 he became the Commander of the 40th Regiment of Foot.

The following year he saw his first combat, distinguishing himself at the Battle of Egmont-op-Zee where he was struck in the throat by a musket ball, but recovered quickly to continue leading his men.

In 1801 he and his men were aboard HMS Ganges commanded by Captain Thomas Freemantle and were present at the Battle of Copenhagen. They were not needed in the wake of Lord Nelson's victory, but Brock and Freemantle celebrated the victory with Nelson.

In 1802 Brock was ordered to Canada with the 49th and was initially assigned to Montreal, where he dealt with one of the primary problems in Canada, desertion. He also quelled a mutiny at Fort George, Ontario. After a period of leave, 1805-1806, he returned as a Colonel, temporarily in command of the entire British army there.

Relations between the United States and Britain were deteriorating and war finally broke out



in 1812. In response to the threat of invasion, Brock set about strengthening the Canadian defences. In 1807 he was promoted to Brigadier General and in 1811 promoted to Major General. He was posted to Upper Canada giving him full charge of both the military and civilian authority.

When in early 1812, following repeated requests from Brock, permission was granted for him to leave for Europe, he declined the offer, believing

he had a duty to defend Canada against the United States.

Brock was involved in various successful encounters with attacking forces, during which time he met Tecumseh, leader of the 1st Nations who impressed him.

Early in the morning of 13 October 1812 the Americans crossed the Niagara River and proceeded to advance up Queenston Heights. They routed the British artillery, but Brock and his men who had marched the 11 miles from Fort George, moved up to the artillery battery forcing the Americans to beat a hasty retreat.

Fearing the Americans would move the rest of their troops across the river, Brock ordered an immediate attack on their position, leading the attack on foot. He ordered one of his Provincial Aides-de-Camp, Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell, to push ahead with the York Volunteers to the left, while he led his party to the right. He was struck by a musket ball on the wrist of his sword arm but continued to press home the attack. His great height and energetic gestures, along with a gaudy sash given to him eight weeks previously by Tecumseh, made him a conspicuous target. An unknown American stepped out of a thicket and fired at a range of barely 50 yards. The musket ball struck him in the chest and he fell. Following Brock's death, his Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell became the senior officer and while leading another attack up the hill on horseback, his mount was hit by a musket ball causing it to rear and twist around. Another shot hit him in the back causing him to fall and he died early the following day.

The battle was finally won when General Roger Sheaffe arrived with reinforcements.

A small cairn at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment marks the spot where Brock fell. In 1824, Brock's and Macdonell's remains were moved into Brock's Monument, which overlooks Queenston Heights.

## FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JOHN WALTON SAVILLE, RCAF



He was born in Idle near Leeds in 1910 and was taken to Vancouver, Canada, when his family emigrated there in 1911. John grew up as a Canadian, enlisting on 10 February 1941 and was selected to serve as either a pilot or observer. On 22 April 1941, John was sent to the initial Training School in Regina, Saskatchewan, then on to complete basic training at Thunder Bay, Ontario. He then moved on to No.11 Service Flying Training School at Yorkton, graduating on 7 October as a commissioned Pilot Officer.

John initially remained in Canada and during this time served as a Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command, also attending the Junior War Staff Course at Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

In 1943, 123 Squadron was one of six Canadian based fighter squadrons to be sent overseas, arriving on 27 December. Unit 439

was changed to a Fighter Bomber Squadron and all were based at Wellingore, where it became known as Tiger Squadron. John was appointed as Commander of 'B' Flight.

In late May 1944 during the build-up of Operation Overlord, known as the Normandy 'D-Day' Landings it was seen as imperative to knock out the long range German radar installations in the close vicinity and Guernsey was one such location where Freya and Würzburg radar units were installed at Fort George.

The job of destroying these units was given to 439 Squadron and on the morning of 3 June John Saville led his flight of eight Typhoons in an attack on the site. Photographic evidence of the raid suggested that only 75% of the radar had been destroyed and the RAF ordered another attack to finish the job. Bad weather prevented an attack on the 4th, but at 08.20 on the morning of the 5th, John Saville and his flight took off for another attack on this highly defended target. They descended in a long dive from 11,000 feet to 3,000 feet in two bomb runs, first from the north east, then across the target in an easterly direction. All sixteen bombs appeared to burst on or near the target. However, during the second run, a large explosion was seen offshore and was believed to be a bomb until it was discovered that John was missing. The flight circled the area searching for wreckage, coming under intense flak, before returning to Hurn, where they were based. A flight of four aircraft were dispatched to search the area but no sign of any wreckage was seen.

In the 1960's, diver Richard Keen found the wreck site and in the 1970's it was re-discovered by Mick Peters, leader of the Guernsey Nautical Archaeology Team (GNAT). The dive team surveyed the site to obtain proof that this was indeed Typhoon 1b, MN210 and the last resting place of Flight Lieutenant John Walton Saville. The team, of which I was privileged to be a part, kept

a watchful eye on the site until it officially became registered as a war grave.

At this time, the Museum Services intended to place a small plaque on the south wall of nearby Castle Cornet, but this never happened, so in 2014 after discussions with remaining members of GNAT, I arranged for an Information Memorial Board to be erected on the Castle Pier wall, donated by the St. Peter Port Constables. A small service was held on the morning of the 5 June, the day of John Saville's demise and the Board was unveiled by the late Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency Air Marshall Peter Walker.

Since that day, every 5 June, a small group has gathered there to hold a service of remembrance for John and all who died during the WWII conflict. In June 2017, the Constables donated a stone Memorial Plaque, which was erected on the wall next to the Information Board. It was unveiled by the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency Sir Ian Corder, in the presence of the Bailiff Sir Richard Collas, the Deputy Bailiff Mr Richard McMahan, members of GNAT, the Douzaine, representatives from other military associations and members of the public. The Bailiff read the poem entitled 'High Flight', wreaths were laid and Reverend Matthew Barrett led the group in prayers. A Memorial Service will be held there each year on 5 June.

Our link with Canada began with Isaac Brock being successful in his final battle, so how was this strengthened with the death of John Saville?

My analogy is this, in 1812 a Guernseyman, Major General Sir Isaac Brock, led an attack on Canada's enemy, the United States and was killed leading his men in battle and in 1944 a Canadian led an attack on Guernsey's enemy, Germany and died here leading his men in battle. 

# SARNIA ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB

## *...still thriving after 93 years*

By Liz Potter



Anyone strolling along La Vallette Walk on 20th June this year could easily have been forgiven for thinking they had stepped back in time. The Victorian Promenade which has been so splendidly regenerated by the team led by Floral Guernsey was playing host to The Sarnia Arts & Crafts Club's Plein Air Painting Competition. It was a scorching hot day but nonetheless artists were out in force along the whole area from Octopus Restaurant to Clarence Battery capturing the spectacular views and although the sweltering conditions presented its own set of challenges (with paint drying quickly and both artists and their mediums melting in the midday sun!) the results were spectacular and the judges deliberated for a long time before declaring Jenny Mahy's Mixed Media painting of a view through the archway leading to Clarence Battery the winner.

The Plein Air painting competition is just one of the many events which Sarnia Arts & Crafts



Club president Sara Serafin, Plein Air Competition 2017.

Club organise throughout the year. The club is Guernsey's longest running arts club and was founded in 1924 by the then Bailiff Sir Havilland de Sausmarez and two ladies of German extraction, the Misses Von Berg.

After a distinguished career in the Colonial Service in Zanzibar, Egypt and China Sir Havilland returned to Guernsey in 1921 aged 60 and was appointed Bailiff the following year. During his time overseas, Sir Havilland had developed his hobby of drawing and in founding the Sarnia Arts & Crafts Club he declared that the purpose of the club would be 'to discover artistic talent in Guernsey which was perhaps hiding its light under a bushel and also to promote fellowship among those of similar tastes'. 93 years on this mission statement remains at the heart of the club.

The first Club Exhibition was held on June 3rd 1924 in rooms above Bishop's shop, No.15 High Street (now part of Creaseys). Club membership at that time was reported as between 30 and 40 although this grew steadily over the years



Member Lynne Wood, Plein Air Competition 2017.

with exhibitions being held annually until 1940 when the German occupying forces banned all gatherings. In 1946 a meeting was called to discuss the revival of the Club and with 54 members and £32 in the kitty the club was soon back in business. As the Press reported after their first post war show 'Members are still keen and their hands have not lost their cunning'. Some 70 years on, a flick through the visitor's book for this year's exhibition held at Elizabeth College in July confirms that current Sarnia Arts & Crafts Club members are every bit as enthusiastic and talented as their predecessors and on opening the exhibition this year, Lady Corder said that she was 'blown away' by the standard of the work on display. Exhibits included paintings, ceramics, hand painted silk items, glassware, wood turned items, cards, textiles and much more all hand-crafted by club members.

But the Sarnia Arts & Crafts Club is not just about exhibitions and competitions - although there are plenty of opportunities throughout

2017 Plein Air Competition winner Jenny Mahy.



Exhibition 2017 opening night.



Exhibition 2017 silks.

the year for members to compete, exhibit and sell their work. Primarily, just as Sir Havilland intended, the club offers its members the opportunity for like-minded people to enjoy the company of other artists and craftsmen. The club's committee headed by President Sara Serafin organise a full programme of events and activities throughout the year including regular social meetings, a weekly painting group and visiting artists from the UK and beyond give demonstrations and workshops. Members also receive regular newsletters and discounts on art supplies from many local retailers. Most importantly to the just under 200 current members, however, is the opportunity for anyone, of any artistic ability, to meet new people, share ideas and learn new tips and techniques whilst having a lot of fun along the way. 📍

For more information:  
[www.sarniaartsandcraftsclub.co.uk](http://www.sarniaartsandcraftsclub.co.uk)  
or contact Liz Potter: 01481 725004

# DEUTSCHE IN GUERNSEY

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



## GUERNSEY, SARK & BIBERACH - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

An enjoyable part of the Honorary Consul's role has been to experience the acts of friendship and reconciliation that have developed between Guernsey, Sark and the town of Biberach, in southern Germany, a place that became the involuntary home for many island residents during the dark days of the Occupation.

September 2017 celebrates the 20th anniversary of the first official acts of friendship between these two communities, so it seemed appropriate to spotlight this special occasion.

I can't recall having heard much about Biberach before taking on my honorary German position in 2008. But then, the name of the German



David and Gloria, brother and sister, born in Biberach, share their story with visiting students.



Longstanding supporter and Chair of the Biberach Friends of Guernsey, Rotraud Rebmann, pictured in Guernsey on one of her many visits.

town probably didn't mean much to many in Guernsey or Sark until September 1942 (and again in February 1943), when orders were given for 1,003 mainly English born men, and their families, to be deported and sent firstly to Dorsten, in Germany, before finally around 700 ended up at Lager Lindele, an internment camp in Biberach, which became their home for the duration of the war (and for whom Liberation Day remains 23 April 1945, when they were freed by French forces).

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

Tom Remfrey was just a young boy who ended up spending his formative years in Biberach. He later established, and continues to Chair, the Guernsey Deportees Association.

Gloria Dudley-Owen and her brother, David Skillett, were both born in Biberach. Gloria is now Chairperson of the Guernsey Friends of Biberach, whilst David remained close to his German 'Milch Bruder' (Milchbruder), Heiner

Koch (who was born on the same day), until his death in 2014, and is also an active committee member of the Guernsey Friends.

Their stories, along with those of so many others, are simply too long and important to give proper credit to now, but they epitomise the background



Biberach's Flute Choir performing at Candie Gardens, with conductor Andreas Winter wearing his Guernsey flag tie.

to the activity that took place in 1997 with the Week of German Reconciliation, organised by Guernsey's Council of Churches, following the 50th anniversary of the Liberation. An invited group from Biberach came to Guernsey that week, and the following year, Peter Lane and Rosemary Jagger returned their visit with a party of deportees.

It is important to mention similar efforts being made in Biberach at the same time. In particular, those of a determined German lady, Frau Marianne Sikora-Schoeck. Gloria Dudley-Owen explained, 'During a visit to Jersey in the early nineties, Frau Sikora visited the museum there and saw an exhibition concerning the deportation and internment of islanders. On her return to Biberach, she learnt of the deep friendship between Frau Maria Koch and my mother, Gladys Skillett, which had started at the birth of their sons in 1943, in Biberach Hospital, and made contact with Gladys.

In 1995, Marianne told Gladys she intended to visit Guernsey for Liberation Day. She wanted to meet the Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Graham Dorey, and give him an official letter from Mayor

Thomas Fettback, who wanted reconciliation between Biberach and the Guernsey Deportees. Gladys arranged this meeting'.

In 1999, a larger group from Biberach came to Guernsey, again hosted by the Guernsey Deportees and Council of Churches.



St Martin's Boys' Choir in full voice at the Town Church.

This led to another trip to Biberach, before Oberbürgermeister Thomas Fettback then invited Guernsey's Bailiff to visit them as well. As Herr Fettback later commented, 'From the initial, hesitant visits between official representatives, a deep wish to engage more people from both sides became stronger, and real friendships were formed'. He himself was later recognised by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an Honorary OBE.

The momentum continued with the support and enthusiasm of many, many individuals from both sides, culminating, as it did, with the formation of the Guernsey Friends of Biberach, under the charismatic leadership of Chris Day - who sadly died earlier in this anniversary year - and the Biberach Friends of Guernsey, led by the irrepressible Rotraud Rebmann. Both were steadfastly supported by Irene Harvey, who provided a pivotal point for shared information between the two groups.

What has particularly impressed me is the diversity of support shown by so many people, in so many ways, to help celebrate this reconciliation, be it through music, student

exchanges, official invitations and events or simply personal friendships, across all ages. Christine Anthony, for example, has taken her celebrated Bel Canto choir to perform in Biberach on several occasions, whilst the Guernsey Music Service has established its own firm links with German musicians over the years, helping to organise many return visits by the Biberach Flute Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Quintet and Knabenchor (St Martin's Boys' Choir), where Richard de la Rue in particular has provided invaluable support.

The visit of 24 Biberach students from the German War Graves Commission in 2015 was particularly poignant when they brought with them a symbolic Linden 'Tree of Peace' and planted it amongst the 111 buried German soldiers at the Military Cemetery, in Fort George, before a moving service of remembrance and thanksgiving, presided over by Guernsey's Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas.

The tree flourishes in its new home!

Guernsey's own Young Ambassadors have made several visits to Biberach under the inspirational leadership of former headmaster (and German teacher), Ken Wheeler, who has done so much himself to nurture continued links, through language and student experience.

For me, these ongoing initiatives have provided living proof of the power individuals have in



Chris Day, receiving the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany from the German Ambassador, Georg Boomgaard, (centre), accompanied by Biberach's Mayor, Thomas Fettback.



Sir Richard Collas adds the Guernsey flag to the Line of Flags from the German War Graves Commission visit to the Military Cemetery at Fort George.



The Linden Tree of Peace, from Biberach, now flourishing in Guernsey.

shaping friendships and developing special relationships that are so important in making our island, and world, a better place. This seems particularly apt in the current climate of far right rhetoric that has been heard, more and more, in recent months.

September 2017 in Guernsey will have witnessed the celebration of 20 years of friendship and reconciliation. May this continue to flourish and grow.

Or, in the words of another ardent supporter, Sir Geoffrey Rowland - who was involved personally, as the then Bailiff of Guernsey - when he declared, 'I pay special tribute to citizens at all levels in Biberach and Guernsey who have seized the opportunity and demonstrated that reconciliation can be achieved. Long may reconciliation flourish!' 🇹🇷

For more information on the special relationship between Biberach and Guernsey, visit the website [www.guernseybiberach.com](http://www.guernseybiberach.com)

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