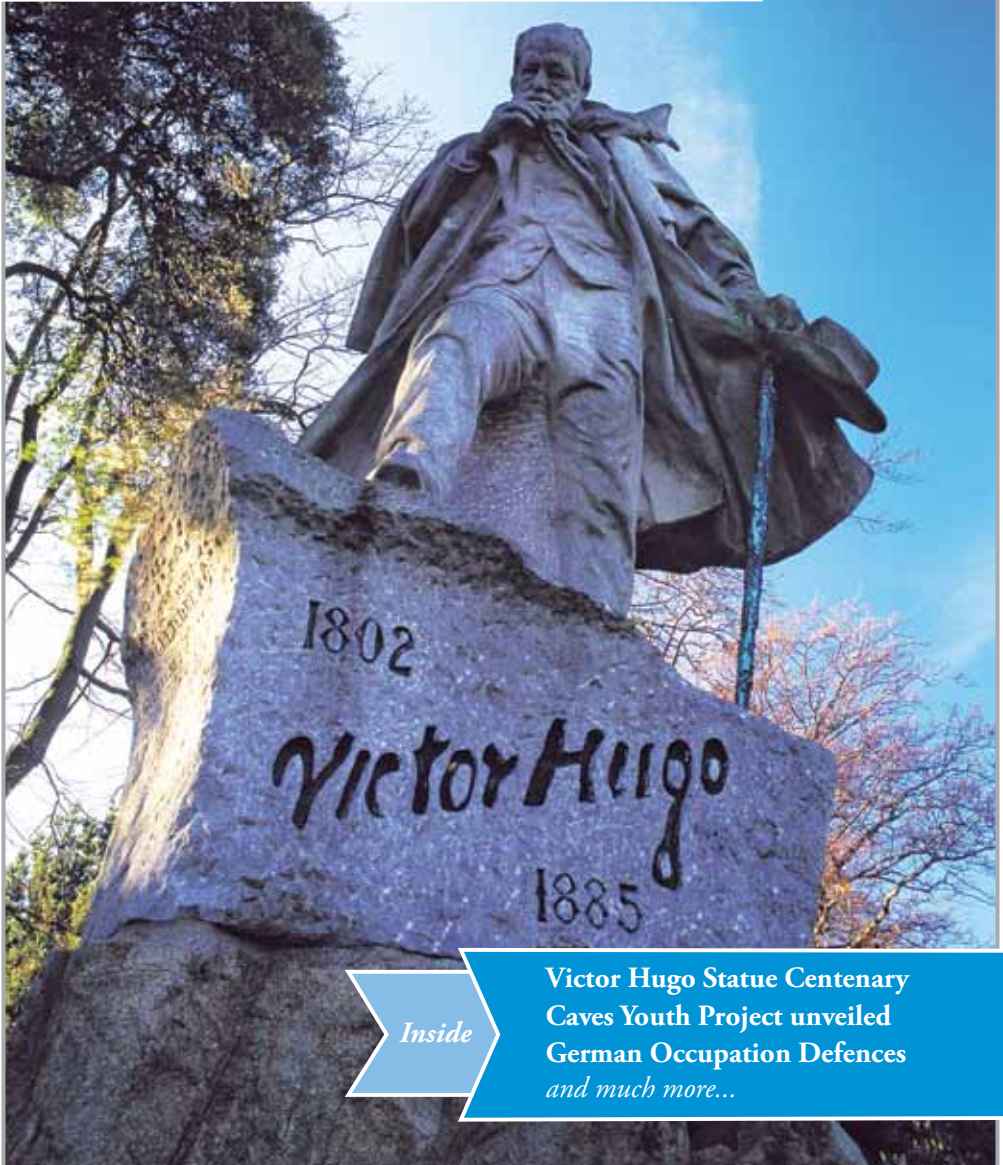


# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE THREE



*Inside*

Victor Hugo Statue Centenary  
Caves Youth Project unveiled  
German Occupation Defences  
*and much more...*

# Do you have a question?

## QUESTIONTIME WITH THE DEPUTIES

At the Grammar School, Tuesday 17th June, from 7pm until 10pm

Join us for an opportunity to raise any issues with the parish Deputies and to be involved in discussions on the night.

The evening will be in the form of the BBC's Question Time show, with questions put forward by members of the public.

The panel will be chaired by **Sir Geoff Rowland QC** with the following Deputies on the panel:

**Richard Conder**  
**Elis Bebb**  
**Michelle Le Clerc**  
**Allister Langlois**  
**Jan Kuttelwascher**  
**Roger Domaille**  
**Rob Jones**

For further information  
contact Rob Grant on:  
[robbertgrant@hotmail.com](mailto:robbertgrant@hotmail.com)

Written questions should  
be submitted to the  
**ROTBCMTGmDF**  
New Jetty, White Rock  
St Peter Port, GY1 2LL

By: Wednesday 11th June 2014

PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

# FOREWORD

It is now a year since we first launched the all-new St Peter Port parish magazine, 'The Townie', and here we are with edition 3. Since its launch in April 2013, the Profile committee of Douzeniers Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Neil Forman and Richard Harding have now been joined by new Douzenier Jacqui Robin. We hope to continue to bring you a parish magazine that is both informative, interesting, and helps to give us all a greater sense of community. As a committee, our goals are to continue to raise the profile of not only the Douzaine but also the profile of the parish itself, and to help show what a great place we are fortunate enough to live in.

2014 is a big year for various reasons, starting with the centenary of the raising of the Victor Hugo monument in Candie gardens, which is highlighted on the front cover and covered in depth inside with an article by Helen Glencross. In August this year we will also be commemorating the start of World War I, which had such a massive impact on so many families in the island, and in future editions we aim to bring you some interesting articles from local authorities on the period.

Once the renovation of the Constables office has been completed, and it has re-opened we will be



Photo by Richard Lord

**Profile Committee** (from left to right): Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacqui Robin, Neil Forman and Richard Harding

holding an 'Open Day', so that members of the public can look around the building, and also see what the Douzaine is doing on your behalf.

We are also organising a 'Question Time' event, in the format seen on the BBC show, where a number of our parish Deputies will be invited to take part in a panel, chaired by Sir Geoff Rowland, to answer questions put forward by members of the public. Further details of this event are included later in this magazine.

And of course a big-news story for the parish this year, as we take part in Britain in Bloom for the first time, we as a committee will be offering our help to the Floral Team in preparing for this great opportunity to showcase our parish's charms.

Finally, we would very much appreciate any feedback, good or bad. Do you like the magazine, is there anything we could do differently, and of course, do you have any articles or notes you would like to contribute? We hope you enjoy this edition. [T](#)

## Profile Committee

# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 3 - April 2014

Profile Committee: Rob Grant, Keith Pike, Jacqui Robin, Neil Forman, Richard Harding

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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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**A**t last, we have signed the contract, and the contractor is on-site. We're pleased to report that, after several years of planning, work has begun on refurbishing the Constables Office, with a completion date just before Christmas 2014. Following the Parishioner's agreement, we have sold a small strip of land which, we're pleased to say, will fund about half the development costs, so it's onwards and upwards!

For those of you who have not found our new offices yet, we are at the Northern end of the New Jetty; about 100 yards past the White Rock Café. Although it is a short walk from Town, we do have some convenient disabled parking and a spot for short stay callers.

At last year's Parish meeting, we gave an overview of the parish and some of the plans we have in place to improve the community. This Year we wish to expand on that and ask our keen and dedicated subgroups to give you a taste of the challenges and successes they had in the last year. Plans will also be revealed for the year ahead, so please come to the Parish Meeting on 16th April and see what is happening within your parish.

During 2013, refurbishment of our toilets at Cambridge Park was completed, bringing them up to a modern standard. The work was done by our fantastic team of Groundsmen and Handymen. We also had the main driveway leading up to the toilets resurfaced. The ancient pebble gutter alongside part of the driveway was also re-laid, as was an extra section of this gutter, which was exposed as the old driveway surface was removed.

During the year, we took on the lease of a store in Candie Road; this enables us to store new benches for the town also space for refurbishment of benches needing general maintenance. We purchased a Fiat Doblo truck early last year for use by our groundsmen. It is used to carry equipment to various sites owned and maintained by the parish, it's parked in the store when not in use. The sleigh used by Father Christmas when he visits St. Peter Port each year to switch on the Christmas lights is also stored there. Maintenance of the walls at Candie Cemetery continued, with all the loose capping stones being re-laid, and a further 6 wall panels being repointed. 

*The Constables are also members of the Douzaine.*

# THE SOUTH SHOW

By Christine and Terry Guerin

In its heyday, the Show fields in Blanche Pierre Lane were alive with the sounds of horses, cows, hens and all sorts of other furry and feathery friends. Many of you will remember the old wooden swinging boats, roll a penny, the smell of hot dogs and candy floss as well as many top entertainers from the UK. We also had the unique attractions of the Bonny Baby Show, and Miss Guernsey, which really drew the crowds in and was the highpoint of the summer for many people.


Sadly, many local events were cancelled in 2001 following the foot and mouth scare. This, combined with a decline in farmers in the parishes, a shortage of volunteers and financial problems because of a few years of bad weather, resulted in the South Show having to down size to survive. For the next few years, it was held at St Martin's School. However, thanks to the small but dedicated committee and the continued support of exhibitors, the Show fought back, it is currently held at the Professor Shaw Centre and in the large adjoining field.

We have welcomed several new committee members over the last few years, who with the more experienced members, dedicate their time and efforts into improving the Show year on year. The number of entries in all classes from fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and pot plants, cakes, sloe gin and jams are growing each year. There is also an expanding arts and crafts section for both adults and children. The show jumping and other horse events continue to be popular



and are held at a different venues, usually the week before the main Show.

The Show offers excellent value family fun. In 2013, we saw the return of the Bonny Baby Contest, which proved popular. Vets 4 Pets run their annual Fun Dog Show and the Island Dog Club put on a great display of canine talent. We are also pleased to welcome several local charities, craft and food stalls and have introduced children's activities including Fancy Dress, Arts 'n' Crafts, a Decorated Hat competition and much more.

The 2014 South Show will be held on Friday August 8th and Saturday August 9th. The schedule for the Show will soon be available on our website, [www.thesouthshow.com](http://www.thesouthshow.com) with other general information. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. So, if you live in St Peter Port or any of the other parishes mentioned above. And would like to enter your baking, produce and/or crafts, or if you would like to volunteer some time and/or sponsor the show, please contact us through our website [www.thesouthshow.com](http://www.thesouthshow.com) 

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



# WASTE COMMITTEE UPDATE... KERBSIDE RECYCLING

By Douzenier Neil Forman

**M**arch 10th saw a new beginning in Guernsey's refuse collection. Recycling is now being collected from your door along with your normal household refuse.

Everybody should have now received their recycling kits, these consist of clear bags, blue bags, information booklet and a spinning wheel which shows where all other items should be taken for recycling. On the back of this wheel is a calendar showing which bags will be collected on which days. If you have not received your kit, please contact Public Services on 234699.

## Why recycle?

Mont Cuet is expected to be full by 2022, this is our last landfill site and our refuse will then be sent off island. The more we can recycle, the less it will cost us to ship our rubbish. It also saves our resources, recycling old products

is cheaper and reduces the need to use natural resources. The kerbside recycling trial is free until 2016, after that we will be paying.

## When do I recycle?

St Peter Port households will still have two black bag collections each week. The recycling bag will be collected on one of these days, the bag colour will alternate weekly. The recycling day is shown in the yellow circle on the front of the booklet you received.

## What goes into the bags?

**Clear bag:** Paper and cardboard only, including old newspapers, magazines, envelopes and shredded paper. (Items must be clean and not contaminated with food).

**Blue bag:** Tins and cans, aerosol cans (including plastic lids), aluminium foil, take away containers, bottle tops, can lids, plastic bottles, tubs, trays and pots. Food packaging



and packaging from drinks, cosmetics, toiletries and cleaning products. Plastic bottle caps, food, drink, soup and milk cartons. (No black plastic, please make sure all items are clean and food containers have been washed).

**Black bag:** Food waste, black plastic, film from ready meals or meat packaging. Crisp packets, contaminated paper and cardboard, nappies, plastic coal sacks and any other plastic items other than packaging.

The Constables, Waste committee along with Matt Polson of Integrated Skills Limited, have

also set up a website detailing collection days with a calendar. It also shows what goes in what colour sack.

The link for this site can be found on the St Peter Port Constables website: [www.stppcons.com](http://www.stppcons.com). It also contains a link to the recycling service website.

In case you have lost your booklet, or do not have access to the internet, we have provided the collection days for recycling. (It is important to note that this is a trial period, some collection days may change, this information is correct at time of printing).



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

By entering your address, details of your waste collection will be shown, as in the example below

Mon Evening	Tues Evening	Wed Evening	Thu Evening	Fri Evening	Sat Evening	Sun Evening
		Residual waste - Wednesday evening 12 March				
	Cans and plastic - Sunday evening 16 March					
		Paper and card - Sunday evening 23 March				
10 Mar	11 Mar	12 Mar Residual waste	13 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar	16 Mar Residual waste Cans and plastic
17 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar Residual waste	20 Mar	21 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar Residual waste Paper and card
24 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar Residual waste	27 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar Residual waste Cans and plastic
31 Mar	01 Apr	02 Apr Residual waste	03 Apr	04 Apr	05 Apr	06 Apr Residual waste Paper and card
07 Apr	08 Apr	09 Apr Residual waste	10 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr Residual waste Cans and plastic

## These are the collection days, please put the sacks out the night before.

**Mondays:** Collings Road (including Clairval, Valnord and Mahaut Gardens), Fosse Andre (La Couture to Maurepas), Le Foulon, Les Gravees, Green Lanes, Lower Vauvert, Maurepas Road, Millbrook Estate (La Couture to Guelles Road), Queens Road, Rohais, Rozel Road, St Jacques, Upper St Jacques, Valnord Lane, Ville au Roi, La Vrangue (Couture to Balmoral Estate), York Avenue (JDe Beauvoir to Stanley Road), Valnord Hill ( not Valnord Private Estate), Highfield Estate, La Couture & Choisi.

**Tuesdays:** Anns Place, Belmont Road, Berthelot Street (take to nearest junction), Church Square, Cordier Hill, Coronation Road, La Couperderie, Court Row, Courtil St Jacques, Les Croutes, Doyle Street, Elm Grove, Forest Lane, Fosse Andre, La Gibauderie, Gravees du Sud, High Street, Hirzel Street, Kings Road, Le Marchant Street, Lefebvre Street, Mount Durand, Mount Row, La Plaiderie, Le Pollet, Richmond Avenue, Rocquettes Lane, Les Rocquettes, Rosaire Avenue, Rouge Huis Avenue, Route Isabelle, Rue a L'or, Sir William Place, Smith Street, Stanley Road, Le Trochot, Valnord Private Estate, Le Vauquiedor, La Vrangue (Mont Arrive to Guelles Road), Water Lanes, York Avenue (Bottom section), Les Vauxlaurens, Clifton Steps, Commercial Arcade Flats (take to Market Steps), Constitution Steps, Pierre Percee (off Prince Albert Road), North Plantation (flats only), Dalgairns Road, Hospital Lane, Ivy Gates, Market Steps, Market Street (flats only), New Street.

**Wednesdays:** Allez Street, Cliff Street, Clifton, Colbourne Road, College Street, Croutes Havilland, Fermain Road, Fort Road, George Street, George Road, La Grange (Sausmarez Street to Havilland Street), Hauteville, Havelet, Havilland Road, Havilland Street, Havilland Vale (to

parish boundary), Rouge Rue (from St Johns Road down), Rougeval, Sausmarez Street, South Esplanade, St James Street, Union Street, Upland Road (Grange to Monument Road), Les Vardes, Vauvert, Arculon Lane, Damouettes Lane, Fermain Lane, Little St Johns Street, New Place, Strand.

**Thursdays:** Burnt Lane, Bouillonne Steps, Bouillon Lane, Mont Hermon, Valnord Road, Back Street, Les Banques, Le Bordage, La Charroterie, Contree Mansell, Cornet Street, Fountain Street, Gategny Esplanade, Grand Bouet Estate, La Grange (upper, above Havilland Street), Ivy Castle Lane, Lower Hauteville, Mansell Street, Mill Street, Oberlands (to hospital entrance), Les Ozouets (Collings Road to Water Lanes), Park Lane, Park Street, Pedvin Street, Prince Albert Road, Rue des Pres, Ruettes Brayes, St Georges Esplanade, Tower Hill, Trinity Square, Upper Mansell Street, Vauvert (lower Victoria Road to Trinity Square), Victoria Road, Victoria Terrace.

**Fridays:** North Esplanade, Paris Street, New Paris Road, Bruce Lane, Roseville Estate, Les Cotils, Les Amballes, Arsenal Road (Fire station flats only), Les Baissieres, Bosq Lane, Cambridge Park Road, Les Canichers, Route des Coutanchez, Footes Lane, l'Hyvreuse Avenue, Neuve Rue (including Couture Clos & Courtil Bris), Les Ozouets (Water Lanes to Les Baissieres), Piette Road, Pitronnerie Road, Pont Vaillant, La Ramee, Rouge Rue (top section, Mont Arrive to St Johns Road), St Johns Road, St Julians Avenue, St Clements Road, Upland Road (Monument Road to Candie).

**Saturdays:** First Tower Lane, Les Hubits, Amherst, Arsenal Road, Becquet Road, Bouet, Brock Road, Candie Road, Doyle Road, Fort George, Gas Lane, Grand Bouet, Guelles Road, Guelles Lane, Mont Arrive, Monument Gardens, Monument Road, Norman Terrace (Maurepas Road), Rue de Putron, Village de Putron.



# THE LIFEBOAT IN GUERNSEY

By Captain Peter Gill

The 'John Lockett' in 1875



In 1803, the St. Peter Port Douzaine asked the States of Guernsey to “build and bring from England a lifeboat of recent design to give assistance to vessels in distress constructed in a fashion to resist the strongest tempests without danger to its crew”. The lifeboat, to the design of Henry Greathead, duly arrived and cost £170. The need was clear. In the half century before 1826, it was reported that there had been about 100 vessels totally wrecked, 138 stranded or damaged and a further 147 broken up. Little is recorded of these early days, but in response to the ‘Barque Boadicea’ driven onto Tautenay in the Little Russel in 1857 ‘The Comet’ witheringly reported that the old lifeboat lay ‘rotting and unused’. Gustavus Carrington and Richard Peake, local merchants and ship-owners, arranged a public subscription to procure

a new boat. Within a week, £115.19s.10d had been raised and ‘The Rescue’ arrived in July. It was agreed that the lifeboat should be made over to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and that a committee be set up to manage the RNLI affairs locally and in 1861 the RNLI took charge of the local lifeboat station.

In 1879, the inability to provide crew from the Vale prompted re-location of ‘John Lockett’ to St. Peter Port and by 1881 a Lifeboat house at Castle Emplacement was built at a cost of £155 and the Castle slipway now known as the Old Lifeboat Slip was constructed.

Although this remained the official launch site until 1929, keeping the lifeboat ashore and using a horse drawn launching carriage



The 'Arthur Lionel'

was costly and complicated. Experiments were made to keep the lifeboat afloat in the Harbour and it became increasingly common to do so.

The night of February 14th 1895 'Isabella Helen' with five on board, was in distress. The 'Vincent Wilkinson, Kirk Ella' under Coxswain Fred Rich went to her assistance, becoming the first recorded rescue by a Guernsey based lifeboat.

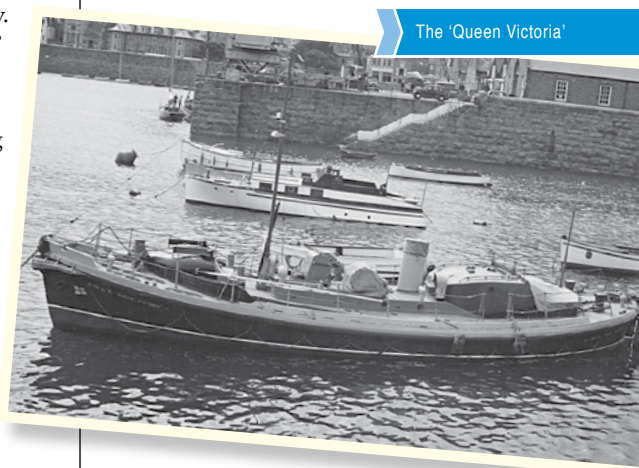
1896 saw the introduction of rocket Maroons to call out the crew. These were to last 91 years. Previously, crew were summoned by runner and word of mouth. Two years later, the States Telephone Service came into operation, an advert for the Lifeboat service printed on the front cover of its Directory. 1898 saw the loss of the 'Channel Queen' near Port Grat in thick fog. 12 of 50 passengers and 5 crew drowned. The lifeboat was towed round the coast by tug and the press fuelled speculation as to whether it would have been quicker to have towed her by horse and carriage on the roads. This was eventually tested out and the decision soundly vindicated.

In 1912 the French steamer 'St Malo' was seen to turn turtle and founder to the North of the Island. Unbelievably, this remained unreported for two hours. Unfortunately, the lifeboat had

been damaged earlier that day and was not launched due to both damage and weather. This tragedy was the cause of much wrangling between States of Guernsey, French Authorities, Coast Guard, Admiralty and RNLI. Arguments made by the Bailiff for a powered lifeboat, were rejected as the 'lifeboat station history does not warrant it and the funds being raised locally are insufficient'. The argument continued and in 1928, the States resolved to contribute £300 as a voluntary gift on condition that a power driven lifeboat be stationed in the Island. Today's fundraising, by comparison, is the envy of many.

The following year, the 'Queen Victoria' arrived, costing £11,500, capable of 8.5 knots, with two 60 horsepower petrol engines and fitted with Wireless Telegraphy.

28th June 1940 saw a terrible day. Known as the 'Tomato raid', the 'Isle of Sark' was strafed whilst alongside in St. Peter Port, 67 injured and 34 killed. The dead included PC Cliff Bougourd whose son Peter went on to become the Coxswain of the St. Peter Port lifeboat. The relief lifeboat 'Alfred and Clara Heath' was strafed en route to Jersey. Harold, son of coxswain Fred Hobbs, was killed in the attack.



The 'Queen Victoria'




The lifeboat remained in Guernsey during the war, used by the German forces as a patrol boat and then scrapped.

After the war, it was decided that the Castle Emplacement was an inconvenient location from which to embark and in 1946 a new headquarters was built to the east of St Julians Emplacement. This remained the 'shed' until 1992 when it moved to its present location on the top deck of the New Jetty.

The St. Peter Port station has always been innovative and in 1966, they persuaded the RNLI to permit the fitting of a radar set to the boat, quite a radical step for such a small craft.

Lifeboat design was changing and such was the esteem with which the local station held, that in 1971 it was chosen as the testing ground for the prototype 'Arun' design and then 'Sir William Arnold'. Named after the deceased Bailiff, and affectionately known to the crew as 'The Willie', this was probably the most successful lifeboat ever to be stationed in Guernsey, completing over 600 services. Many of her crew were decorated for gallantry.

In 1977 Maroons were abandoned in favour of callout using radio 'Bleepers'. The following year, the oil rig 'Orion' ran aground at Grandes Rocques, the rescue was partly captured on TV. This rescue was also unique in that many re-boarded the rig at low tide and had to be rescued again the following day. By this time, the station history and success warranted a permanent display and a room at Castle Cornet was set aside for lifeboat related memorabilia.

During its proud history, there have been at least 40 different lifeboats on station in Guernsey, launched more than 1,290 times, saving more than 582 lives and assisting a further 1548 persons. Many crew have been decorated for gallantry including two RNLI Gold Medals, the 'Lifeboatman's Victoria Cross'. Their ongoing commitment and bravery remain an inspiration to us all. 

The 'Spirit of Guernsey'

