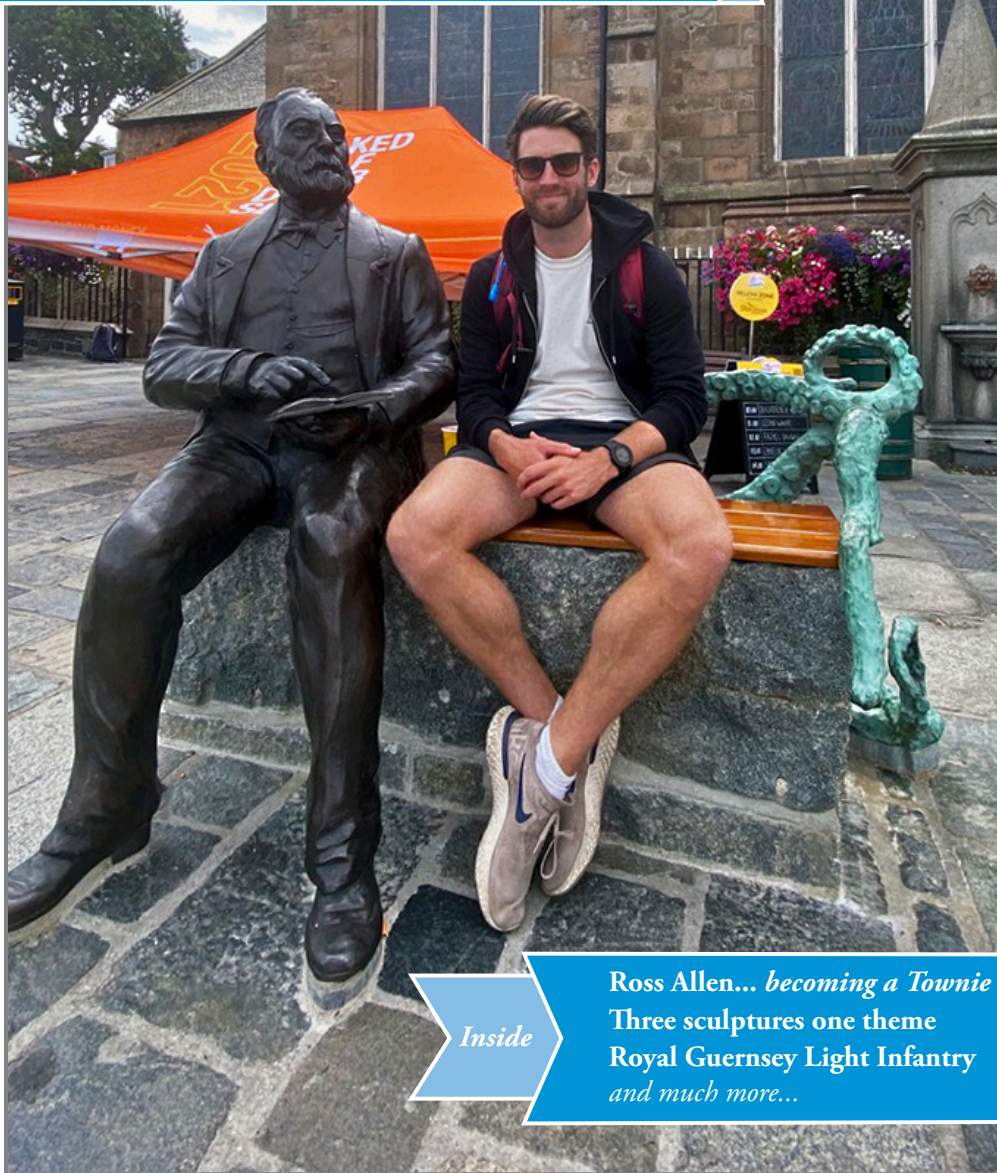


# THE TOWNIE

THE OFFICIAL ST PETER PORT PARISH MAGAZINE



ISSUE 16



Inside

Ross Allen... *becoming a Townie*  
Three sculptures one theme  
Royal Guernsey Light Infantry  
and much more...

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# FOREWORD

Since our last edition, the Island has opened up to the outside world and we have welcomed visitors, who have commented on the beautiful floral displays around the Town. It is always a pleasure to hear positive comments from both those spending a short time with us as well as the 'locals'.

We are again producing the Townie online, but intend to return to printed and distributed copies for issue 17 in April, 2022. I have been interested to know that residents of other parishes have taken the opportunity to read our Magazine now that it is online. Don't forget, however, that if you are a parishioner who wishes to have a printed copy, please contact the Constables' Office where Fiona, Constables' Secretary, will be able to print one for you.

I am very grateful to those who have written articles for us on such a range of topics this time. We are always looking for items with local interest and information that provides ideas, assistance and perhaps something different about our Parish. Please contact me if you would like an article published. The Committee, comprising of the Constables, Neil Forman, Tim Bush, Mike Garrett

and Odette Duerden, as well as myself, have worked hard to consider the content and ways of making the Townie more diverse and appealing to all areas of our community. We need to further this in the future, not only with articles from the Schools but also from other young people, those of all other ages and diversity!

The Parish elections are to be held in November and there will be places on the Douzaine to fill - please see the article about dates for nominations and perhaps consider that you would be the person to bring something to the Douzaine and thus St. Peter Port generally. The Douzaine is important in fulfilling its place within the Guernsey system of government and the roles of Constables and Douzeniers are the foundations on which that is formed.

We are living with Covid and will have to do so, probably forever, but Guernsey continues to provide a beautiful environment and the freedom to enjoy life in a manner that many throughout the world would love to do. We must be thankful for what we have and do our utmost to protect it.

**Jenny Tasker**  
*Chairman, St. Peter Port's Townie Committee*  
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## DISCLAIMER

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

**THE TOWNIE**  
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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 Priaulx Library for their support.

## ROSS ALLEN




Ross Allen is a household name to anyone who follows local football – however, what is less well known is the fact he moved to St. Peter Port a year ago. Ross kindly shared his thoughts with us about becoming a Townie.

I spent most of my life in the Castel area and after living in Wellington for two years, which has more of a town vibe than a city vibe, I thought it would be great to experience something like that over here. I've always been out west, so it's nice to mix it up and be on the east coast, which brings some definite benefits. It's been really enjoyable to maximise being close to the cliffs and to go for early morning walks, runs and swims down Fermain, and then be able to go for a lovely coffee somewhere in the town area before work.

I've been surprised at how much goes on in town during the week, things you don't always appreciate unless you live here and take the time to explore at different parts of the day. The Street Festival was a great example, with live music going on all the time. I always come into town for a Cock and Bull Irish night but never knew there were so many other fantastic things - jazz events, Castle Nights and other stuff - which has been so enjoyable to discover. When I was in Wellington, I was in 'traveller's mode' so to speak and I think if you bring that attitude to town, you can discover new places and new little hideaways that you've maybe never gone to before for a drink or a bite to eat. It's very rewarding if you put in that bit of work and research.

It's nice to come around town at different parts of the day. In the morning after a swim or a run, Taylor's and Coco are great for a coffee, or at the weekend catching up with friends. It's good to try different places as well and there's some great little spots to eat and drink all over town, even up Mill Street or down around the Pollet. I actually work out of town, which is really nice because it means any time I spend in town is my leisure time. I can still make the effort to head out west occasionally for some evening sun and then it's really cool to come back into town as night falls, that's when things start happening. Even a lovely relaxing evening stroll around town is great, on a mild summer's evening it can almost feel like you're on holiday in Portugal or somewhere else. I love to wander around and maybe grab a quick drink before heading home.

I love the new Victor Hugo bench, it's good to celebrate him as he's such a staple of Guernsey tradition. I've just started reading 'Toilers of the Sea' as my housemate bought me it for my birthday. The bench is a great piece of art and it's another fantastic spot for tourists to have a photo.

It's brilliant to see tourists around again, their support helps keep everything busy. It's good to look at this place through a tourist's eyes too, for example when I walk down Havelet and you've got the sun rising over the islands and Castle Cornet, I really appreciate how lucky we are to live here. Living in and around town has been a really fantastic new experience for me in so many ways, and hopefully I can stick around this side of the island for a while longer. 

# WELCOME TO THE DOUZAINE... WHAT NOW?

By Ben Nicholls

Looking at recent Douzaine elections, I have seen candidates expressing a desire to hit the ground running if they were elected into the position. To me, this felt like a misunderstanding of the role. There isn't a tonne of documentation to dive into, or hundreds of meetings to attend straight off the bat. During my first year, I listened... a lot. I listened at meetings to what the Douzeniers around the table said. I listened to the people that offer me advice and those who pushed me to take on responsibilities. Above all listened to parishioners at the drop-ins. Honestly, by the end of the first year, I wasn't sure what I had done to help. Sure, I had done the Hedge and Streams inspections and attended most of the community drop-ins. I even put myself forward for the vice-chair position on a committee that gave me a few extra tasks. Reflecting on my first year, it was hard to list my contributions and achievements. I understand this is not unusual.

My interest in joining the Douzaine was down to the beauty of St Peter Port. I have lived in the parish since arriving on the Island 5 years ago and have always been impressed by the presentation of town, from the clean streets to flowers and from bunting to the Christmas lights. It was clear that the people who live in St Peter Port took great pride in keeping the place looking its best... and I wanted to help. So when the opportunity came up and Douzenier Tim gave me the annual nudge to apply, this time I was in a better position to work it around my job, so I went for it.



At my first official event, my role was to serve drinks at the New Years Day reception and present flowers to the Governor's wife. At first, I thought this was hazing or a bizarre initiation ceremony but turns out it is the tradition. I also remember this day mostly as it was when I received my favourite possession - the St Peter Port Douzaine Badge (it is a fancy badge and I tell most people this is the reason I signed up... maybe some truth to that).

At my first meeting, keen to be active, I volunteered to attend the February Parish Drop-in, where I became fast friends with fellow Douzenier Mary and met some of the regular contributors to the Drop-in note book. Obviously, some of our activities were curtailed by lockdown, but we did our best

to carry on. The drop-ins started up again once restrictions were lifted. Towards the end of the year, probably on the back of the Deputy elections, the Douzaine had an influx of candidates. This was an exciting time and really helped me to understand how people perceived what our role was.

By the start of the second year, I knew where the gaps were and how I could help fill those gaps. I now chair the IT Group, with the aim of better utilising technological facilities available to us. Coming from a background in hospitality, I took the lead on reviewing the Constables' approach to alcohol licensing. This has been very fulfilling and included a boat trip to Herm to inspect the Shell Beach Kiosk prior to granting them a license.

I now walk through St Peter Port with a different outlook, noticing areas where something could be improved, taking pictures of problems and sending them to the brilliant office staff, who, along with the St Peter Port grounds staff, promptly get it sorted.

I've made great friends on the Douzaine, and many more opportunities have opened up to me on the back of my association. I am still attending the monthly drop-ins, which continue to be the backbone of finding out where we can help and how we come up with ideas to improve the work of the Parish.

To expand on my opening statement, to be willing is all that is required. 🇮🇪



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# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOINING THE DOUZAINE?

By Fiona Malley, Constables' Secretary

The role of Douzenier is a varied and fulfilling one and with the the next Parish Meeting on Wednesday 3 November 2021, and six douzenier positions up for contention, now is the time to see if you can help your Parish by joining the Douzaine.

Douzeniers are representatives of the parishioners and are responsible, with the Constables, for the vision and direction of the Parish and the transparency of its affairs. The Douzaine comprises a diverse group of people each with their own skill sets and talents.

There are number of misconceptions surrounding who is eligible to stand. You don't have to be locally born, you don't have to follow a certain faith, you don't have to work in finance, and you don't have to have English as a first language.

The key criteria required to stand for the parish of St Peter Port are:

- **you must be over 18 years old**
- **you must reside in the parish**
- **you have been a resident of Guernsey for a period of two years**
- **you must be inscribed on the electoral roll**
- **you must not have been sentenced for an offence by a court in the UK, Channel Islands, or the Isles of Man to imprisonment for a period of six months or more (whether suspended or not). After that what you choose to bring to the table is down to you.**

You will require a proposer and a seconder

who both reside in the parish of St Peter Port and are listed on the electoral roll. The forms for this purpose are available from the Constables' Office in Lefebvre Street or by downloading them from our website [www.stpeterport.gg](http://www.stpeterport.gg)

The nomination forms must be completed and handed into the office no later than 4pm on the Monday a week prior to the Parish Meeting. The dates for 2021 will be Monday 25 October for Wednesday 3 November.

At the Parish Meeting you will be required to speak for two minutes outlining your reasons for wanting to become a member of the Douzaine.

At this stage you should try to find points that make you stand out from the others. What is it about St Peter Port that that you want to protect, develop, or change? Do you have ideas through which these plans can be actioned? Most importantly remember to be yourself. A personable approach is often the best.

If the election is contested (more candidates than vacancies) it is likely that those who are attending the meeting will vote for a deferred election. This takes place two weeks after the initial Parish meeting, again on a Wednesday.

Candidates are permitted to spend up to £700 on campaigning. This money is not refundable, but the Constables will request a declaration of all receipts. A copy of the electoral roll will also be available to all candidates from [anne.cann@gov.gg](mailto:anne.cann@gov.gg)

The term of Douzenier is four years, unless you are filling the role of a douzenier who has vacated their post during their term of office, when you will carry out the remainder of that term.

Following your election as a Douzenier, you will be sworn into office. This takes place at the Royal Court. You can choose whether to take the oath (religious) or the affirmation (secular).

You do not immediately take office. This will commence on the 1st day of the New Year. However, Douzeniers elect can still get involved with the Parish prior to this.

Douzeniers elect will also be invited to attend the November and December Douzaine meetings as observers. Each new douzenier will be allocated a mentor who will be an existing member of the Douzaine and will assist during the handover. [T](#)

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

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# GUERNSEY POLITICS: A STUDENT'S INSIGHTS

By Caroline Carter



Youth engagement in politics is crucial in Guernsey, just as it is anywhere in the world. Yet in the States elections of Deputies young people are generally the least represented age demographic, indicating that a significant proportion of young people are politically disengaged. This is something that needs to be changed. With this in mind, I recently decided to find out a little more about Guernsey politics via work experience and The Youth Forum.

In July, I was fortunate enough to spend a work experience week alongside Deputy Lindsay De Sausmarez, President of the Committee for Environment and Infrastructure. My experience consisted of accompanying Deputy De Sausmarez as she performed her duties, going to meetings, attending States debates and following the day to day activities of deputies and others working for the States. Deputy De Sausmarez was an obvious choice for me to work with as I am very focused on the environment and issues relating to sustainability;

matters that Deputy De Sausmarez focuses on heavily.

During the week I undertook a variety of interesting and informative activities, covering a wide range of topics and I am grateful that many of the deputies I met took time to share their perspectives and policy views with me.

A particularly interesting briefing was given by the Asian Hornet Team, during which I learnt all about the work being done to protect the island from many non-native invasive species (not just the hornets), which I knew very little about prior to meeting the team. Fortunately, I managed to pick a unique week for my work experience! I got to watch a States session full of thought-provoking and varied topics, such as the suspension of a deputy, the continuation of the debate on education and the ever-important discussion on proposed changes to legislation on abortion. The sheer range of topics I encountered during the week emphasised to me the need to keep informed about the activities of

the States and to understand their decisions, which ultimately greatly impact my future.

In addition to my work experience, I also attended a parliament day organised by The Youth Forum, a body of elected young people, aged 13 to 18, representing the voices and opinions of Guernsey and Alderney youth. The primary task of the parliament, held in the States Chamber, was to agree the focus of the forum for the upcoming year. Three potential priorities were chosen for debate based on the feedback received from a questionnaire completed by Guernsey and Alderney secondary school pupils, which sought to identify areas of concern. These priorities were 'The Environment', 'Healthy and Active Lifestyle' and 'Inclusion'. Speeches were made by forum members backing their respective priority, which was followed with debate from the forum and finally a vote concluding that Inclusion will be the forum's focus for the forthcoming year.

My experiences have encouraged me to become more actively involved in Guernsey politics and I also gained insights into a variety of related organisations and schemes, for example, Women in



Public Life, which particularly encourages women of Guernsey to stand for roles within public office.

I am very pleased that I participated in The Youth Forum debate and worked alongside a Deputy; I would encourage other young people to do the same and to become engaged in the politics of Guernsey specifically and the world more generally. This is your future, so get yourself involved as soon as you can! [📍](#)

**More information about The Youth Forum can be obtained from [info@youthcommission.gg](mailto:info@youthcommission.gg)**



# FROM KINSHASA TO ST PETER PORT: *a reflection on island life*

By Sandra Duerden

I was born in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. When I was two, my family left the country as political refugees and moved to Brussels. After a few years, we moved to northern France. Growing up in Europe, I always lived in big cities. I loved taking trains from one European town to another. That was partly why I chose to attend university in Germany and later in England. I enjoyed the hustle and bustle, large spaces and vast cultural and entertainment options. But mostly the diverse population. I noticed this particularly in London. I stayed in a house where everyone was different. It was like an Auberge Espagnol (a melting pot): Brendon was from Australia, Steve from England, Margharita from Brazil, Alex from Sweden, Guillaume from Brittany, Claire from Texas and Hana from Algeria. Meeting new people who have had very different life experiences than mine is both refreshing and enriching. It gives me new perspectives and teaches me respect for other cultures, beliefs and political views.

It was with a cosmopolitan and open mindset that I moved to St Peter Port, Guernsey in late 2004. Guernsey was a place like no other I had seen before. There was something enchanting about the place. The vast majority of people I met were very friendly and most welcoming. The scenery was stunning. St Peter Port was clean. It had good facilities and great restaurants. I did not find everything I needed in the local shops and I had to travel to London or France to find a hairdresser who could style my natural hair. That said, town



always felt very safe compared to the big cities that I lived in.

Within a few years, I qualified as an Advocate of the Royal Court. I recall a retired judge congratulating me on joining the bar and becoming its first representative of the African continent. My qualification caused surprise and confusion to some. I was once told that I could not be “a black woman” and “a Guernsey Advocate”. My difference certainly felt unwelcomed at times. I learned to dampen

aspects of my personality and presence to fit into my local environment, to make people more comfortable.

However as businesses continued to grow in Guernsey, change became relentless. I started seeing more individuals who looked like me. The local expat community continued to increase beyond the borders of the UK/ Ireland to other Commonwealth countries and continents. Whereas almost all of the black people I encountered in cities seem indifferent to my race, in Guernsey I became more familiar with the Nod (which British author Musa Okwonga described as a swift yet intimate statement of ethnic solidarity amongst minorities). We shared our experiences. All were enjoying life on the island. We talked about world cuisines, make-up and exchanged tips on where to find black skin products in St Peter Port. We talked about our work life in town. Many felt that they could not be their authentic selves. Some felt they had to work twice as hard and their difference meant that they were being passed over for promotions in favour of less experienced white co-workers. One black woman shared that her changing hairstyles attracted so many questions and co-workers touching her hair (often without asking). She fully understood the curiosity and appreciated the compliments but nonetheless felt like the office pet at times. All agreed these were sensitive subjects to raise. They create an uncomfortable feeling and can be met with a defensive attitude.

In my personal experience, it's gotten much easier. There is an increased acceptance that the island has evolved and a growing recognition of the tangible benefits of diversity, beyond genders. A diverse talent pool increases performance and productivity. Professional firms are now seeking to embed

their leaders and employees with defined values about diversity and inclusion. In my workplace, we strive to make all employees feel that they belong, encourage diverse perspectives and support people to be the best they can be. I see the same values coming into life in St Peter Port at events such as last year's Black Lives Matter rally or Pride celebration (which my employer sponsors) which were amazingly well attended and brought so many different strands of the island together. I truly enjoy seeing so many ethnical and cultural backgrounds coming together and I very much hope the island continues its efforts to recognise and accept diversity. We should always promote talent regardless of gender, ethnicity or identity. [T](#)

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# ROYAL GUERNSEY LIGHT INFANTRY - from Commemoration into Culture

By Chris Oliver



Lt Ingrouille May 1917 - depositing the new RGLI colours in the town church which is where they can be seen today.

Our connection to France is strong than we think with the Parish twinning with Masnieres, France here in Guernsey during November 2019. Whilst recent events have prevented us from more than making a virtual connection with our French colleagues, it's been a good time to reflect on how we got here and where we are going as lockdown on both sides of the Channel begins to ease. But first to remind ourselves of how we came here, we need to reflect on Guernsey's commitment and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1916 Guernsey's then Lt Governor, General Henry Meyrick Lawson, lived at Government House which at the time was Number Two, Eaton Place, in the Gravee. He asked the States

to form a regiment using the name of Guernsey to represent the island in World War One.

The States were happy to approve the offer to the War Department and local men who had already volunteered and were serving in other regiments, were tracked down together with using the fitter local men from the Royal Guernsey Militia. And so, the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry was born, serving as a light regiment of the British Army. These transferring and returning Guernseyman came home to join what was to be one of the last 'Pals' battalions of the war.

After months of training around the island at the old familiar Militia sites, they formed up in late May 1917 at L'Ancrese Common, near to



RGLI trustees; Chris Oliver & Lt Col Colin Vaudin at the Les Rues Vertes RGLI memorial, with the cottage in the background.

the seawall, to receive their colours, bugles and drums. You can see these colours which hang in the town church today, near to the memorial that commemorates their departure in June 1917 and return in May 1919.

On 1st June 1917 amongst a great celebration and in their finest clothing it seemed like the whole population of Guernsey, some forty thousand at the time, congregated at number six birth on St Julian's Pier to watch and wish over a thousand men well as they stepped aboard the cross-channel ferry the SS Lydia. Pulling away from the quay with castle Cornet in the background the Lydia took them to England and onward to the European battlefields of France.

The Guernseyman, calling themselves the 'Norman Ten Hundred', served in the line at Passchendaele and other notorious battlefields and it was here that they suffered their first casualties. However, It was not until November

1917 that the real test of the Sarnian's came.

The RGLI were in the second wave of the grand Allied assault on Cambrai using a new weapon that would change the world, the tank. As the assault came to a halt and the General's consolidated the new ground gained, the Allied regiments were preparing themselves for the counterattack. The German army was already known for how quickly it could recover and fight back.

It came to the RGLI just ten days after the Allied assault had begun, on 30th November 1917, in the small peaceful rural town of Masnieres at a place just south of the Albert Canal called Les Rues Vertes. The onslaught of Bavarian troops was almost overwhelming.

For three days the RGLI held the line whilst all the other Allied forces retreated around them, leaving them isolated in a thumb shaped pocket that prevented the German advance.

There was horrendous hand to hand fighting, artillery shells at close range simply blew men up without a trace, there were terrific losses but still the men held firm. Despite all of this and on the third day they only withdrew under direct orders to straighten the line. Quite rightly the battle has been called "Guernsey's Finest Hour".

They went on to again take their place in major battles, never quite fully regaining the full strength of Guernsey men in the regiment. Their last battle was during the Battle of Lys, the last German offensive of the War, where again the RGLI were holding the German advance withdrawing strategically to hold the Allied line. This time, over several days of planned withdrawal movements under fire, the losses were so significant that when the Commanding Officer called the Roll on a quiet railway line siding at the end of April 1918, only 54 officers and men were left to answer the call.

On the 100th anniversary of the Battle at Les Res Vertes, the newly formed Royal Guernsey

Light Infantry Charitable Trust placed a mémorial on the site of A Company's stand, it was attended by a number of Guernsey and French families and officials.

The following year the sister memorial was placed in St Paul's Garden, St Anne's Place (The Sunken Garden) again on a 100th anniversary, this time the Battle of Lys. Now, each year on 30th November the authorities, families and representatives gather at the respective memorials at the same time and hold a commemorative and wreath laying service in remembrance of the men of the RGLI and their service. In Les Rues Vertes the French raise the Guernsey flag which has been sent to them as it will have flown next to the RGLI colours in the town church for the previous twelve months.

As the events of the 100th anniversary of World War One drew to a close, the Trust wanted to move from the commemorative into the cultural. To do this one of the principal legs of this activity was the agreement to twin St Peter Port with Masnieres in a lasting reflection of remembrance and peace from our shared experiences of the horrors of World War One. In a special ceremony attended by the Bailiff, Constables, Douzaine members and the mayor and officials from Masnieres and the French government, the signing of the twinning document was undertaken in the Salon at Hauteville House, courtesy of the French Honorary Consul Mme Odile Blanchette.

Delayed by global events, the Trust has a number of core activities planned for 2022 which is stimulated by its governance group representing all parties. These include the annual motorbike ride to Masnieres which takes place each May, called the RGLI Memorial Ride, it is made up of several ex-service personnel and those islanders interested in local history. In addition to this Rob O'Brien and his team at Blanchelande are working on a set of regular cultural exchanges between themselves and the four schools that are in Masnieres, which serve the wider community there. From the Parish perspective



Road sign on entry to Masnieres detailing the twinning with St Peter Port.

we are expecting to meet the team at Masnieres next May for a series of workshops around all the above and the continued activities of the commemorative events that take place each year.

The ambition of the Trust is to embed the memory of Guernsey's own regiment into the culture of both communities, across a wide band of people with ownership to ensure that our shared history and heritage are not lost or forgotten.

The largest goal, stimulated by many families and friends who have kindly donated to the cause, is to purchase the small cottage and garden immediately behind Les Rues Vertes memorial for the island. Making this a focal point with information and museum quality interpretation to tell the story of the RGLI and also somewhere that is available to people who want to visit the battlefields of Northern France and remember the men of the island who were unable to return and for who, today, there remains no known grave. [T](#)

**If you would like to get involved or have further details on the work of the Trust and the events, including St Peter Port's involvement, please go to: [www.rgli.org](http://www.rgli.org)**

# ENHANCING SALARIE BATTERY

By Douzenier Jenny Tasker



The Constables and Douzaine of St. Peter Port, who maintain the appearance of the Salarie Battery with floral arrangements, sought to find a 'new' boat to enhance the area, after the previous one was no longer usable. Fortunately, Douzenier Rosie Henderson was able to do this from the Guernsey Sea Scouts, and eventually, the Parish Groundsmen were able to refurbish the 16 foot fibreglass boat and fill it with flowers.

A competition was held in the Parish Primary Schools to name the boat, which resulted in many amazing and imaginative suggestions being sent in. Dean of the Douzaine, Christine Goodlass and Geoff le Gallez, head groundsman chose the winner, Emile Fallaize, from Vauvert Primary School. He and his mother came along to the unveiling on Thursday, 15 July to carry out the naming ceremony, watched by Geoff Le Gallez's daughter, Douzeniers



Henderson and Tasker and groundsmen Jon Morris and Chris Inder. Jon and Chris had carefully placed the name on the boat and covered with ribbon, which Emile removed easily. Then we saw the name: **Grow, Grow, Grow Your Boat** – a very appropriate one for the floral vessel!

Thank you to all those who took part in the competition, particularly the children who were runners-up: Eva Poat (Splash), Jessica Ozanne (Seaflower), Jack de Moulpied (Lisia), Edie Marquand (Sarnia Cherie) and Archie Stone (Saltwater) as well as to those who made possible the complete replacement and decoration of the new boat. 🇹🇷



# GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE



## HIKE OR BIKE FRIDAYS

HIKE or bike Fridays have been introduced at the Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre and have already influenced staff and students to take a more sustainable route to school.

It is the brain-child of teachers Chris Bentley and Chris Taylor and it has seen the bike racks filling up more regularly, particularly by our younger students.

‘The idea at the moment is to encourage students to take a more sustainable mode of transport to school on Fridays, with the long term aim of making it a habit,’ Mr Bentley said.

‘It’s important that everybody at the school, not just the students, recognise the small steps they can take to make a difference to the environment and their own health.’ As well as saving petrol money and reducing CO2 emissions, students

have recognised the mental and physical benefits of walking or cycling.

‘You come in with a breath of fresh air and a sense of achievement,’ said one student. Mr Taylor said that, as a parent, there are some concerns that road etiquette is not quite up to scratch yet, but with time and as more people walk or cycle, it will hopefully become the norm and young people and their parents will feel more safe on the roads.

## DESIGN AN AD

Many of our younger students took part in this year’s Guernsey Press Design an Ad competition and attended the awards ceremony which took place in June at St Pierre Park Hotel. Numerous students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were winners of various awards for their fantastic designs, and were presented with prizes. We were also



delighted to receive Second Place in the School of the Year competition and for one of our Year 7 students to win the overall Senior Designer of the Year Award for his advertisement for Norman Piette!

## YEAR 7 - 10 PRIZES

In July we celebrated the individual successes of students with recognition of attainment for the highest attaining students and endeavour (consistently demonstrating effort, determination and focus) in subjects and for outstanding achievement in sport, drama and music. We were delighted to welcome our Guest of Honour, Island FM DJ, part time athlete, actor and singer and former Deputy Head Boy, Josh Gabriel, who presented the awards and delivered an inspirational address. Congratulations once again to our many prize-winners on their achievements this year.

## EXTENDED STUDY PROJECT

The Extended Study Project is open to students from Year 7 to 10, alone or in a group, and allows them to investigate a topic of personal interest, developing their skills in research and presentation. Every student or group has both a teacher mentor and a Year 12 mentor who supports them and offers guidance. This year, one project even exhibited a live chicken!

## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT WEEK

Throughout the final week of term we gave students as many opportunities as possible to learn beyond the classroom. Due to the restrictions we have all had to live with this year, we were not able to run as many trips and visits as we would usually offer. Therefore, students took part in the following Curriculum Enrichment days:

**Year 7** visited St Peter Port, Castle Cornet and the Guille Alles Library (Geography, History and English).

**Year 8** commemorated Bastille Day (Languages, Art, Technology and PE).

**Year 9** undertook a Mystery Mega History Tour of the island's less frequented historical sites.

**Year 10** spent a day doing Science Fieldwork at L'Ancrese Bay.

**Year 12** took part in Futures Week, preparing for university or employment. 📌



# THREE SCULPTURES, ONE THEME

By Mark Cook

Sculpting Matilda



## Matilda and Foal

In 2011 Trevor Wakefield approached me to be technical advisor on a crazy idea he had about bringing a Donkey parade to Guernsey. As the plans unfolded, we decided that it would be great to place a permanent bronze donkey as its centre piece, but time and money meant this was not going to be possible within the time frame we had available. However, we were determined it would happen.

I had already designed the sculpture and all we needed to do was raise the money. We knew this would be hard, but we hadn't realised quite how hard this would be. So, to make sure it came

about and also because it was being created to help publicise the *Guernsey Adult Literacy Project*, a Charity which helps adults with reading difficulties on the island, we both gave our time for free. After overcoming many obstacles, in 2015 Sir Richard Collas unveiled the donkey outside the Market building.

But by the time of its unveiling, this statue had become part of a bigger vision, which was to create three statues each to represent a facet of the Guernsey character. Matilda and foal symbolise the passing on of tradition, education and continuity (hence the family group). Victor Hugo; hospitality, openness and creativity and what was going to be an evacuation statue to

represent, fortitude, strength and stoicism. As it was, events would change the evacuation statue into the liberation statue but the theme remained the same.

All three original sculptures were made on island but needed to be transported to UK foundries for casting into bronze. This was done using the lost wax process and involved a number of processes;

**Mould Making:** A series of silicon mould sections taken from the master sculpture. These pick up all the details from the original and each is supported in its own fibreglass case.

**Wax Impressions:** Wax sections are made from each of these moulds, which when released from the mould give you thin replica sections. Wax 'risers', which resemble long tubes are attached to these and they will become funnels for air to escape during the casting process.

**Ceramic cases:** All the wax pieces are then encased in separate ceramic blocks from which the wax is then melted, leaving hollows.

**Casting:** Molten bronze is poured into these hollows and then when solid and cold the ceramic case is removed.



Sir Richard Collas unveiling the Donkey



Me and Matilda and Foal on the unveiling day

**Cleaning and joining:** All the bronze pieces are joined and fitted back together.

**Patination:** Using chemicals the bronze is given its final colouring.

Since the donkey has been unveiled some people have said to me it's 'just a donkey'. But for me it's more than that. Cai Guo-Qiang, the world-renowned Chinese artist, said during a talk when he visited the island a few years ago, that you can't impose public art; you need to create works that are relevant to the place. Then with the right works you will be able to plant a seed which will grow an understanding of its importance for the future.

I knew that the donkey could be a catalyst for this idea the day after it was unveiled, when I saw a young child's imagination sparked as they feed it an invisible carrot. For that child for that second art was not something for others but something that they owned, and I hope that that feeling will be remembered for the rest of their lives. Without doubt, without Matilda and Foal, Victor Hugo and the 75th Liberation Statue would not have happened and I hope it will be the vanguard which allows other artists to create works in the future.

## Past, Present, Future

I was approached just after the 74th anniversary of Liberation and asked if in my role as lecturer of Creative and Digital Arts at the College of Further Education, would I be happy to be seconded onto a project to create a bronze sculpture for the 75th anniversary celebrations.

I was to be given less than a year - a ridiculous timetable but I said yes. In the background Natasha Keys and Colin Thorburn would sort out the logistics, meaning I could concentrate on the making.

The project brief was simple; design a statue that was a celebration of what liberation has come to mean to the modern generations of islanders whilst respecting the past. So, I decided to depict the one emotion that all generations experience, especially those who through a variety of circumstances are compelled to spend time away

from home; the yearning and need to be with the ones that we love. In hindsight this became more relevant with the arrival of Covid.

I decided the best way to do this was by depicting a family group, who would represent all families no matter what form they take. To me the group is specific to Guernsey but hopefully anyone from anywhere will understand its message. If you look carefully the final piece has nods to the past and the present, but I wanted to talk about the future as well. This is why it was made to be interactive; in a sense I was creating an unfinished sculpture, because for it to be truly complete it needs other families to hold hands with it. Each time this happens they create a unique sculpture and experience for themselves.

The go ahead to start making the sculpting wasn't given until September and it had to be sent to the foundry by the middle of December to have any chance of being installed on time,





The Lieutenant-Governor His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE CB and Sir Richard Collas at the unveiling of Past, Present, Future

so something that would normally take a long time was done in little more than three months. Looking back on it, I was mad to attempt something so complicated in such a short time frame, but I'm glad I did. The statue came back during the first lockdown and went straight into its own bubble in Beau Sejour. But thankfully it's now out there for people to enjoy.

## L'espace créatif

Originally Victor Hugo was meant to be installed last year too but like Past, Present, Future, arrived back during the first lockdown and was thankfully stored within the museum's services depot. I have to thank the staff for allowing this to happen.

Victor came about after discussions I had with Trevor about 'people on benches' he'd seen around the world and how it would be great if Guernsey joined the club. The sculpture went through many design changes along the way, but the idea of Victor Hugo with the Octopus stayed



The original sculpture of Victor after it had arrived at the Foundry

the same throughout. Having had difficulty raising the money for Matilda and Foal, I again decided that I would donate my time for free, just to give it a chance of happening. Hopefully with the success of these pieces more donors will come forward and help support a wide variety of artists create more public art.

Victor Hugo, like the other three statues can be read very literally. But it too has its own underlying story. For me the statue is about that moment of creativity when an idea is born, hence the title *L'espace créatif*. The octopus, which is taken from a key moment in *Toilers of the Sea*, represents the awakening idea for the novel. As it creeps up on Victor, he points to his notebook in which he has drawn two of the main characters on which he will hang the story.

The statue was originally designed to go on the level but due to planning restrictions in the area it had to be placed on the slope, hence the

sets under his feet and the Octopuse's tentacle. Thankfully Lyndon Fox and his team at Granite Le Pelley did an amazing job with the granite base and solved this issue for me. The granite slab is a recycled part of the old harbour which adds an extra layer of heritage to the piece.

As with the other two, this statue is designed to be interactive and will hopefully create another Instagrammable moment that will promote this beautiful island and its history to the world and prompt people who have not done so, to read *Toilers of the Sea*, Victor's Homage to Guernsey.

Finally, I would like to thank all sponsors and private individuals who through their generosity made Victor Hugo and the Matilda and Foal statues possible and my colleagues and others who also supported me. But mostly I'll like to thank Trevor who was the catalyst for this ten-year journey. 📍

*All photos courtesy of Amanda Cook*

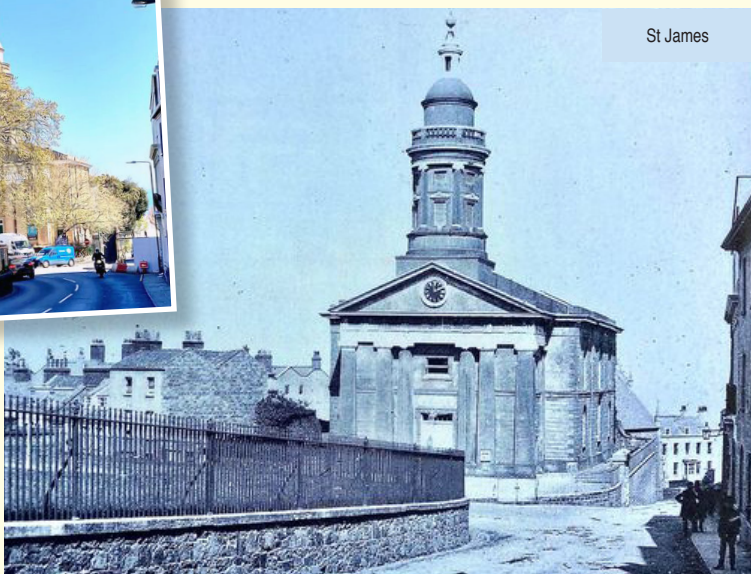
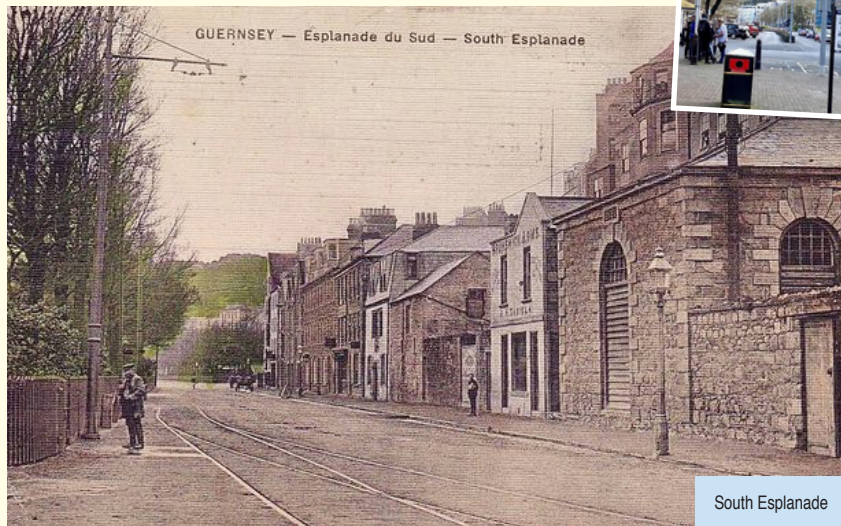


Lady Corder at the unveiling of the statue, the man in the waist coat to the left Mike Rowe was the model that the statue was based upon



# THE CHANGING FACE OF ST PETER PORT

*We have selected four photographs showing the changes that have taken place around the parish over the last century or so. We hope you enjoy them. Photographs by Marco Tersigni.*





First Tower



Ann's Place

*Finne's Place, Guernsey.*

*Tel. No. 172.*



# HOW I SETTLED IN GUERNSEY

By **Lilita Kruze**

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Guernsey



It is the morning of May 8, 2001. I say goodbye to my husband, my seventeen-year-old son, my two daughters, eight and five years old, to my mother, to my three sisters, and their families. I am going a long way from my native village in Latvia to unknown Guernsey. I have previously tried unsuccessfully to find this island on the world map. All I know is that it is between France and England.

My journey starts at five in the morning with an hour-long car ride to Riga International Airport, from where a plane to London Heathrow will depart very soon. At the airport, I find myself in a group of thirty Latvian women who will go to work in the hospitality sector. Arriving at London Heathrow, we find that we'll have to take a bus to London Gatwick. It's pleasantly warm outside, 15 degrees. While waiting for the flight to Guernsey, there are no conversations between us - we do not know each other. Learned during Soviet times, we do not speak with strangers!

We arrive in Guernsey in the evening and our new employers are waiting for us at the airport. I hear a tall man calling out my name. One of the women in our group is already standing next to him. The three of us leave the airport together. We drive along the waterfront and the turquoise blue waters of the English Channel seem infinitely attractive with their white waves hitting the granite wall. As we approach La Grande Mare Hotel, Iveta and I are both a little excited. Our new workplace looks impressive.

The owner, Simon Vermeulen, takes us inside and kindly shows us around the hotel and we are served dinner. It's late at night when I am taken to my new place of residence, a guest house nearby. An endlessly talkative Irishwoman takes me up the

stairs to the second floor and shows me the room I will live in for the next nine months. As I know very little English, the hours since my arrival have been a blur.

The first month has passed. I am a waitress. A new, unusual place, no family or friends around. Although I am used to working, including physical and strenuous work, the long hours on foot make me feel extremely tired. I work ten to twelve hours a day. After each shift, I return to my room tired, my legs hurt from constant walking and my hands hurt from carrying heavy plates. I despair at my very incomplete knowledge of English. Iveta has already gone back to Latvia. I catch myself thinking: "Why do I need all of this? Maybe I, too, should go home?" And then I remember the reason for my arrival. It is quite sobering - to earn and send money to my family in Latvia, to give them a better standard of living.

This is how I remained the only Latvian in the foreign Grande Mare environment for a while. My new colleagues were wonderful people from Portugal, France, Spain, Germany, England and, of course, Guernsey. The hotel guests and diners were always kind, smiling, asking how I was and where I was from. (Even today, I continue to explain that Latvia is not the same as the Soviet Union or the Russian Federation!)

To improve my English, I started studying at the Guernsey College of Further Education in my spare time. Gradually, I fell in love with this island, which is so different from my beloved Latvia. Walking became a passion and, while out and about, I got used to every turn of the road greeting me with daisies, oak, birch, spruce and pine, all frequent reminders of dear Latvia. Even today, living here for twenty one years, I admire the

tastefully created backyard gardens and well-kept lawns. The whole island of Guernsey is like one big, beautiful garden!

Gradually, I settled in Guernsey and the idea arose to try to unite the local Latvian community. This laid the foundation for the Guernsey Latvian Association, which was founded on June 5, 2006. Connections started to be developed with the States of Guernsey, the Anglican Church, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in London, Latvian organizations in England and Latvia and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Great Britain. Over the years, many musicians from Latvia have visited Guernsey, we have celebrated our national festivities together and many exhibitions have been organised to bring a taste of Latvian culture to the island.

Today, as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia, I am proud of my compatriots who bring Latvia's name to the world. Latvians on the island of Guernsey have always shown themselves to be a hardworking, cultural nation. Whilst at the end of the 1990s, Latvians could only be found in horticulture or agriculture here, today, in 2021, several have proven themselves as successful entrepreneurs in food and beauty, home and office cleaning, horticulture, construction, building, paving, international transportation and other industries. In particular, infinite thanks are due to all Latvians who, through Covid-19 times, work tirelessly in the service sector, in the Guernsey hospital and in the many local care and nursing homes.

Times of great change lead to uncertainty and can be challenging, especially in the unprecedented circumstances represented by Covid -19. Changed rules and regulations following Britain's new relationship with Brussels have affected the UK's economy, impacting trade and deepening labour shortages, and we, sadly, see that happening also in Guernsey. Post Brexit, EU workers, including those from Latvia, are no longer automatically eligible to work in Guernsey unless they have previously

worked on the island and been granted Settled Status. New employees must obtain a UK visa and receive a Population Management permit. There is much work to be done globally and locally. This said, I am confident that with a "can do" approach and encouraged by the optimistic "Guernsey Together" slogan, we can do it and continue the successful partnership relationship between Guernsey and Latvia that has been developed over the last 20 years. 🇹🇷

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## Mans ceļš uz Gērnšiju un dzīve tajā

**I**r tālais 2001. gada 8. maija rīts. Es atvados no sava vīra, no septiņpadsmitgadīgā dēla, no abām meitiņām, kurām ir astoņi un pieci gadiņi, no savas māmiņas, trijām māsām un viņu ģimenēm. Es dodos tālajā ceļā no sava dzimtā ciema Latvijā uz Gērnšiju. Iepriekš esmu neveiksmīgi mēģinājusi atrast šo salu pasaules kartē. Zinu tikai to, ka tā atrodas starp Franciju un Angliju.

Mans ceļš sākas piecos no rīta ar stundu garu vieglās automašīnas braucienu uz starptautisko lidostu "Rīga", no kuras jau pavisam drīz izlidos lidmašīna uz London Heathrow. Lidostā mēs esam trīsdesmit latviešu sievietes, kas dosies darbā viesmīlības sektorā. Ielidojušas London Heathrow, atklājam, ka jādodas uz autobusu, kas mūs aizvedīs uz London Gatwick. Tā mūs sagaida ar patīkamu siltumu; ir plus 15 grādu silts. Gaidot lidojumu uz Gērnšiju, sarunas mūsu starpā nevedas - mēs viena otru nepazīstam.

Gērnšijā ielidojam vakarā, un lidostā mūs sagaida nākamie darba devēji. Dzirdu liela auguma vīru izsauca manu vārdu. Blakus viņam jau stāv viena no mūsu grupas sievietēm. Trijātā izejam no lidostas un iesēžamies melnā džipā. Mēs braucam

gar krastmalu, un Lamanša tirkīza zilais ūdens šķiet bezgala pievilcīgs, tā baltajiem viļņiem atsitoties pret granīta mūri. Kad tuvojamies La Grande Mare Hotel, mēs abas ar Ivetu esam mazliet satrauktas. Mūsu jaunā darbavieta izskatās grandioza. Hotela īpašnieks, Simon Vermeulen, ievēd mūs iekšā un laipni izrāda visas telpas, padod vakariņas. Ir jau vēls vakars, kad darba devējs aizved mani uz jauno dzīvesvietu. Bezgala runīga iriete uzved mani pa kāpnēm otrajā stāvā un ierāda istabu, kurā dzīvošu nākamās deviņus mēnešus.

Ir aiztecējis pirmais mēnesis. Esmu viesmīle. Jauna, neierasta vieta, nav ne ģimenes, ne draugu apkārt. Kaut arī esmu radusi pie darba, pat fiziski smaga, garās stundas uz kājām liek sevi manīt. Dienā strādāju desmit, divpadsmit stundas. Pēc katras maiņas mājās pārrodos nogurusi, kājas sāp no nemitīgās staigāšanas, savkārt rokas sāp no smago šķīvju nešanas. Traucē nepilnīgās angļu valodas zināšanas. Iveta jau ir devusies atpakaļ uz Latviju. Pieķeru sevi pie domas: "Kam man šis nepieciešams? Varbūt tomēr braukt prom?" Un tad es atceros iemeslu manai atbraukšanai. Tas ir gluži banāls - pelnīt un sūtīt naudu ģimenei uz Latviju.

Tā es paliku uz kādu laiku vienīgā latvietē svešā vidē. Mani jaunie darba kolēģi bija brīnišķīgi cilvēki no Portugāles, Francijas, Spānijas, Vācijas, Anglijas un, protams, Gērnijas. Restorāna apmeklētāji laipni, smaidoši, vienmēr apvaicājās, kā man klājas, no kurienes esmu. (Izskaidrojošais darbs, ka Latvija nav tas pats, kas Padomju Savienība vai Krievijas Federācija turpinās vēl šobaltdien!)

Lai uzlabotu savas angļu valodas zināšanas, no darba brīvā laikā uzsāku mācības Guernsey College of Further Education. Pamazām es iemīļējos šajā salā, kas tik ļoti atšķiras no manas dzimtās Latvijas. Ejot pastaigā, ievēroju, kur aug katram latvietiem tik mīļais ozols, bērzs, egle vai priede. Vēl šodien, nu jau divdesmit pirmo gadu šeit dzīvodama, apbrīnoju ar labu gaumi izveidotos piemājas dārzus un koptos zālājus. Visa Gērnijas sala ir kā viens liels, skaists dārzs!

Pamazām iedzīvojos Gērnijā un radās doma apvienot latviešus. Tas arī lika pamatu Gērnijas Latviešu Asociācijai, kas tika dibināta 2006. gada 5. jūnijā. Uzsākās sadarbība gan ar Gērnijas valdību, gan anglikāņu baznīcu, gan Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu Ministriju, gan Latvijas Republikas vēstniecību Londonā, gan latviešu organizācijām Anglijā un Latvijā, gan Latvijas evaņģēliski luterisko baznīcu Lielbritānijā. Gērnijā ir viesojušies mūziķi no Latvijas, kopīgi svinēti valsts svētki, organizētas izstādes, dievkalpojumi. Šodien, kā Latvijas Republikas goda konsule, lepojos ar saviem tautiešiem, kas nes Latvijas vārdu pasaulē. Latvieši Gērnijas salā vienmēr sevi ir parādījuši kā strādīgu, kulturālu tautu. Ja 1990. gadu beigās latvieti varēja sastapt tikai dārkopībā vai lauksaimniecībā, tad šodien, 2021. gadā, vairāki sevi ir pierādījuši kā veiksmīgi uzņēmēji pārtikas nozarē, skaistumkopšanā, māju un ofsu uzkopšanā, dārkopībā, celtniecībā, būvniecībā, bruģēšanā, starptautiskajos pārvadājumos un citās nozarēs. Domāju, ka mums visiem ir jāsaka bezgala liels paldies tiem latviešiem, kas šajā, Covid-19, laikā, nenogurstoši strādā gan apkalpojošajā sfērā, gan slimnīcā un aprūpes namos.

Lielu pārmaiņu laiki rada nenoteiktību un izaicinājumus, it īpaši bezprecedenta apstākļos, kurus pēdējos gados radījis Covid-19. Apvienotās Karalistes jaunās attiecības ar Briseli ir ietekmējušas pirmās ekonomiku, tirdzniecību un padziļinājušas darbaspēka trūkumu. Diemžēl, to izjūtam arī Gērnijā. Pēc Brexit Eiropas Savienības darba ņēmēji, tostarp no Latvijas, vairs nav automātiski tiesīgi strādāt Gērnijā, ja vien viņi iepriekš nav strādājuši salā, un viņiem ir piešķirts pastāvīgā vai pagaidu iedzīvotāja statuss. Jaunajiem darbiniekiem jāsaņem Apvienotās Karalistes vīza, kā arī iedzīvotāju pārvaldības atļauja. Globāli un lokāli ir daudz darāmā. Esmu pārliecināta, ka ar pozitīvu attieksmi un optimistiskā saukļa "Gērnija kopā" mudināti, mēs to varam izdarīt un turpināt veiksmīgās partnerattiecības starp Gērniju un Latviju, kas ir izveidojušas pēdējo 20 gadu laikā. 🇹



# DEUTSCHE IN SARK

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



Portrait of Prinz Gebhard Gustav Blücher von Wahlstatt, Hatton Gallery, St Peter Port

**T**he Islands of Guernsey's Bailiwick have held longstanding affairs with memorable German residents.

Herm, for example, attracted the attention of Prinz Gebhard Gustav, great grandson of the mighty Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, First Prince von Wahlstatt and victor over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo (where the arrival of the Prussian army, under Blücher's command, at the end of a long and hard fought day, played a decisive role in the final allied victory).

So enamoured with Herm was Field Marshall Blücher's great grandson, Prinz Gebhard, that he was convinced by his bank (who had astutely bought the lease from the British Government in 1889) to become sub-lessee of his own Paradise Island, where he lived until the first World War with his wife, Princess Wanda Ratzivell.

Descendants of his family remain in Guernsey to this day, where the love affair continues.

Another love story started during WW2, when one of the occupying forces, medical orderly Werner Rang, began a six month tour of duty in Sark, where he encountered and fell in love with young Sarkee, Phyllis Baker. The couple were married in 1948 and lived a long and fulfilled life in the Island, a love story that is beautifully brought to life in the book by Richard le Tissier, called 'Island Destiny'.

Werner may well have smiled to know that another fellow countryman has now fallen under the spell of his beloved Sark in a major way – financial advisor and fund manager, Swen Lorenz.

Indeed, Swen's love affair with his new home is credited with single-handedly growing the Island's population by more than 20%, in the space of only a year.

Mr Lorenz explained, 'I always loved islands, and even back in high school I obsessed reading about quirky jurisdictions. After moving from Germany to London in 1998, I visited Sark in 2004 out of sheer curiosity. Before I knew it, I had picked up a cottage



Werner & Phyllis Rang

that I renovated. Following stints elsewhere, such as my four years in the Galapagos Islands in the early 2010s, I moved all my belongings to Sark in 2017. I have been a full-time resident since. Obviously, looking back at the time since early 2020, I feel that it was a case of lucky timing! I can genuinely say there

is nowhere in the world I'd rather be at this particular time. Sark feels wonderfully safe and relaxed even during these difficult times the world is going through.'

It was this love for his new found home that made Swen concerned enough about the Island's falling population for him to write a book called 'How (and why) to move to Sark', and set up the Sark Society – a private initiative aiming to attract new residents and double Sark's population.

'I am just a resident of Sark who had the know-how and the network to start a one off campaign to bring fresh blood to the Island', said Mr. Lorenz.

With the support of Sark's Seigneur, Christopher Beaumont, Swen is understandably proud of how his relocation campaign has so far successfully resulted in 87 adults and 20 children moving to Sark, where the mix of nationalities is significantly tilted to German but also includes French, Spanish, Belgian, Danish, Finnish, Austrian, Swiss, Croatia, Polish, Ukrainian, Canadian,



Swen Lorenz - very much at home in Sark



Newly arrived 'Deutsche in Sark' - Günter, Ilona and family

Chinese, Singaporean and Korean.

The benefits to Sark of an increased population are not insignificant.

Swen's calculations suggest that an influx of 100 new residents would take Sark's population from around 400 to circa 500 – an increase of 25%. If these new residents were to spend an average of £1,000 per month on groceries, restaurants and other local services, this would equate to £600,000 of added income for local businesses each year.

How well Sark's political system and infrastructure will be able to support this growth is another matter, though, with the Island's lack of housing stock one area of

concern, although Swen is upbeat about the future.

'It's evident that now is the time to let things settle for a bit. I have stopped selling my relocation service package for now, and merely accept registration of interest. For now, it is important that new residents integrate properly and join in with the Island's existing residents.'

Swen has certainly created a positive buzz about Sark.

Let's hope the love affair continues to flourish with a rewarding romance.

For more news on 'Deutsche in Sark', watch this space! [!\[\]\(e1c624d4757f08486e89482c18364c17\_img.jpg\)](#)



# GUERNSEY'S INSECTS ARE IN TROUBLE - AND YOU CAN HELP



**Y**ou might have heard of the Pollinator Project and thought who are they and what do they do? We are a group of ten Guernsey people who have been switched on to the plight of our local pollinators: bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies, moths and other insects.

These insects are in trouble. Climate change, urban growth and the overuse of pesticides have all been devastating for them and two thirds of our butterflies and moths are in long-term decline. Across Europe 38% of bees and hoverflies are also in decline. Why is this important? One out of every three mouthfuls of our food depend on pollination by insects taking place. Without pollinating insects we won't have any flowers here or any of our

fruit, nuts and vegetables. It is impossible to overestimate how important pollinators are.

But it's not too late and you can help out pollinators by stopping using pesticides, like weed killers and bug spray, planting for pollinators and creating wildlife-friendly 'wild' areas.

## Planting for pollinators

Urban and domestic areas can support a diverse range of insect habitats, these are becoming increasingly important for many species of pollinators, when managed properly. Just thinking about St Peter Port it's easy to spot a number of areas with even greater potential to provide food for pollinators.

These include Candie Gardens, the Brothers' Cemetery and even the Weighbridge Roundabout.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity is in our own gardens. Planting pollinator-friendly plants and flowers can make a real difference as well as looking good.

Island-wide 1700 of our island's 6300 hectares of land is designated as gardens; this is a massive untapped resource for biodiversity. If we only "set aside" 10% of it for pollinating insects, this would add over 150 hectares to the 'natural' habitat of island – the equivalent of over 200 football pitches. We're asking people to allocate 10% of their gardens to pollinators.

## Education

Just as important to us is how we can bring people closer to the insects, plants and habitats

that our natural systems and biodiversity depend upon. Developing local knowledge at a community level about the bee and butterfly species we have in Guernsey and what plants they depend upon for their survival is just one of our ambitious programmes. We've worked with nearly all of the local schools on the island including Elizabeth College, Ladies College and Notre Dame in St Peter Port to set up pollinator patches, give talks and let young people really experience nature first-hand. So far over 4000 pupils and teachers have listened to our talks and presentations. There is no doubt they've taken that message back home as well.

We also work with community groups, businesses and private individuals to help them create "patches" on their land. Following a talk on pollinators to all the islands' Floral Guernsey groups, we are now establishing partnerships with individual parish groups





to enhance areas for these insects. In fact, the “Pollinator Patch” we worked on with the Forest Parish Group as part of their Wildlife Spot, featured in their “Britain in Bloom” submission. We established another patch at the Brothers’ Cemetery restoration in town and have extended it, which had some lovely praise last summer.

The States are very supportive of our work too, after all, we are putting their ‘Strategy for Nature’ into action. We have “Pollinator Patches” on sites owned by Guernsey Water, State’s Electricity, the Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services and Guernsey Museum Service, we hope to link them up with a trail in 2022. It’s good progress but there is still much more to do.

## Pesticides harm pollinators

From the outset we have tried to discourage the use of pesticides in gardens and other open spaces. Evidence continues to grow about the negative impact caused by the various chemicals we use to manage our land, both to our own health and to the environment on which we ultimately depend. So, we’ve been researching the alternatives and they are out there. Manual methods and white vinegar spray (or acetic acid) are proving effective.



But we can’t do this by ourselves, we are just ten people. So we hosted two forums at Les Cotils and over 100 people attended, including Deputies and civil servants, representatives from utility companies, NGOs, landscape contractors, groundkeepers from sports clubs, garden centres, and members of the public who wanted to learn more. Following on from that we are discussing with the Environment and Infrastructure Committee how to move these alternatives forward. We introduced a “Pesticide Amnesty” this year, so that gardeners and businesses could dispose of unwanted chemicals safely and could get advice on alternative solutions. Longue Hougue recycling centre takes most types of modern pesticides if you would like to get rid of yours.

So we ask you to consider bees, butterflies and moths in your St Peter Port gardens – through action we can hopefully maintain or revive their populations, ensuring our food supply stays intact.

Or come and join us and get involved. We’re on Twitter @pollinatorproj, Instagram and web via [pollinatorproject.gg](http://pollinatorproject.gg) and on Facebook as Pollinator Project Guernsey. 

# GUERNSEY FRENCH PHRASES YOU NEED

By Jan Marquis

## OCTOBER

N'raonbillai pas qu'il est d'métchier dé r'targier vos ôloges chu meis!

*Ranbee-eye pahh keel ayd meh-cheh derr tabhr-sh'z-yeh voze oh-lawsh'z shuu mee.*

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

## NOVEMBER

Av-ous fait vote houichepotte à Noué acouere?

*Abhv-oo feh vawt weesh-pawt abh Nweh abh-kwor?*

**Have you made your Christmas pudding yet?**

## DECEMBER

Nou vous souhaete tous aen Bouan Noué et éne Maunifique Bouanne Aunaie!

*Noo voo swat ah.. B'waw N'weh ey en Mawneefeek B'wonn Awnye!*

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful Happy New Year!**

## JANUARY

Vlà l'c'menchement d'l'aunaie et nou z-est à jé n'sait tchi qu'a s'en va nous aumnaï? Mais i'y a éne affaire qu'nou sache, faot arrétaï qué d'veie!

*Vlahhl k'mawsh-mawd lawn-eye ey nooz ey abh sh'izen seh cheek abh saw vahh nooz aumn-eye? Mey yahh en abhferrk noo sabhsh, fow arreyt-eye kehnd vey!*

**It's the beginning of the year and we're wondering what it's going bring us? But there's one thing that we know, we'll have to wait and see!**

## FEBRUARY

I fait fré assai pour j'laï enter haome et faume au lliet!

*Ee feh feh abhss-eye poorr sh'lye awterr owm ey faum oh yeh!*

**It's cold enough to freeze between a husband and wife in bed!**

## MARCH

J'sais pas s'vous accordérai daove mé, mais i m'est avis qué les jours ralaonguent aen miaon, tchi qu'vous en créyai?

*Sye pahhh s'vooz abhcorr-derr-rye doww meh, mey ee meit abhvee keh ley sh'zoorr rahhlang ah.. m'yang, cheek vooz aw crey-eye?*

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

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

***Pour apprendre aen brin d'guernesiais!***

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

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

# ST JAMES THEN AND NOW

By Kate Swan



The distinctive tower of St James standing out against the St Peter Port skyline is one of Guernsey's most recognizable landmarks. Now the island's premier cultural venue, St James has stood above the top of Smith Street for over two hundred years and owes its existence to one of Guernsey's greatest sons, Admiral Sir James de Saumarez. While the thousands of visitors who come to enjoy the impressive range of events on offer there may not be aware of the history of this magnificent church or how it has evolved, the story of St James is in fact a perfect illustration of the way that St Peter Port has managed to adapt over time to remain the vibrant town that it is today.

This is not lost on those now responsible for keeping St James going. "We think of St James as having both a link to the past and an eye to the future" says Stephen Ainsworth, chairman of the company that runs St James. "It is wonderful to see this historic building still being at the heart of island life in the 21st century".

St James first opened its doors in 1818, in order to provide services in English for the soldiers garrisoned at Fort George. They were dissatisfied with the Town Church not only because they could not understand its French services, but also because of the rather unpleasant smells coming up from the vaults underneath the church. The Town Church clergy on the other hand often complained





about the behavior of the soldiers during services and also about the women who were usually waiting for them outside. Sir James de Saumarez saw the need for a new church from both sides and he was instrumental in raising the funds needed to build it and also in providing a suitable plot of land.

However, when he laid the foundation stone, Sir James could not have foreseen that the decrease in the size of the congregation and the deterioration of the fabric of the building would result in St James being scheduled for demolition in the 1970s. This might have been the end of the story, but for a group of determined islanders who led a campaign to repair the church and turn it into a concert venue. With the support of some forward-looking States members, their campaign succeeded and in 1985 the Duke of Kent officially reopened a renovated St James as a concert and assembly hall.

Ever since then, St James has been the venue of choice for all types of performers from within the island and elsewhere. Initially the



focus was on classical music, but more recently this has widened to include anything from rock to reggae and non-musical events such as comedy nights and performances from the Globe Theatre Company. According to Executive Director Jon Bisson, “At St James we are mindful of the need to keep adapting to meet the needs of the community as they evolve. This can be challenging but it is also very rewarding”.

One of the attractions of St James has always been its wonderful acoustics, but it now also offers rehearsal studios, an art studio and a sound system that is second to none, not to mention a revitalized café space with unrivalled views.

As with all venues that provide live events, the pandemic has been a challenge for St James, but it has nonetheless managed to emerge from lockdown in a healthy position. It is good to know that whatever other challenges may lie ahead, the story of St James is set fair to continue for many years to come. 📍

# A HOUSE THROUGH TIME

## 26 Cornet Street

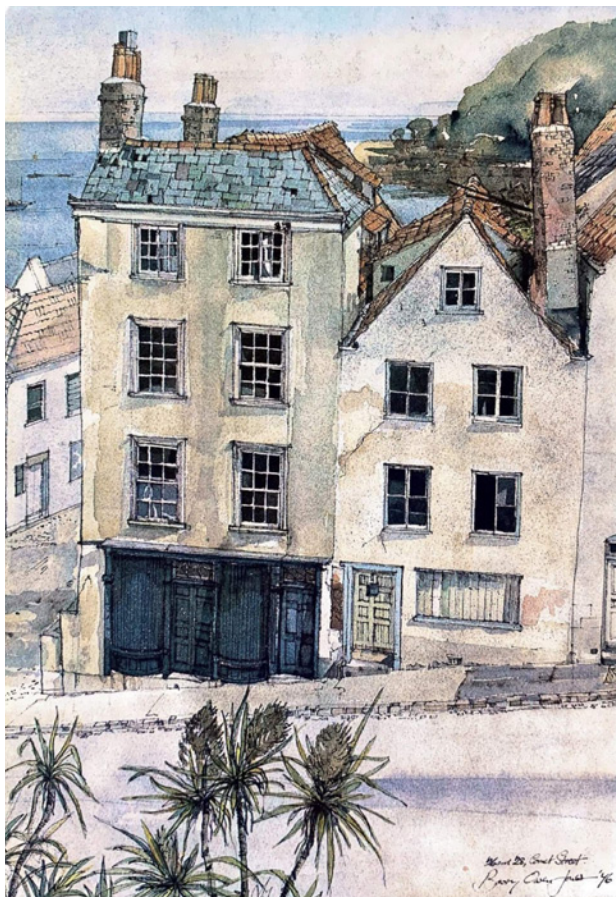
By Odette Duerden

By telling the story of one house, the critically acclaimed BBC television programme *A House Through Time*, tracks the history of British cities buffeted by the forces of war, industry, disease, and transportation. It describes the shifts in fortunes of neighbourhoods by tracing the journey a single house can take from elegant dwelling in a fashionable district to a tenement for society's rejects and back again.

If David Olusoga were to turn his attention to 26 Cornet Street - the beautifully restored National Trust Victorian Shop & Parlour, what would he discover?

Bounded on either side by a blend of well-kept private homes and businesses, 26 Cornet Street faces landscaped terraced gardens on a peaceful street below the Mignot Plateau. But was it always so agreeable?

If we peel back the layers of time, we discover that 26 Cornet Street followed much the same trajectory as those of the programme - a fluctuating pattern of decline and decay with the odd reprieve before eventual redemption in the hands of the National Trust.



Picture by Barry Owen Jones

In the 1300s Cornet Street was a desirable place to live and continued to be a prestigious address for several centuries. But, by the 1800s, Cornet Street had gone from preeminent neighbourhood where the wealthy

and powerful had their homes to one of St Peter Port's dirtiest and most unhealthy districts - an overcrowded slum and home to hundreds of impoverished occupants.

Cornet Street was an embarrassment to the authorities but what had brought it down so low? In common with many similar streets across Britain, Cornet Street's fortunes nose-dived as the well-to-do migrated out of their medieval and Tudor dwellings up the hill to grander, more spacious Georgian and Victorian mansions to escape the noise and smell of the busy and prosperous harbour.


As a globally renowned entrepot, the island's economy was booming, and the island's population soared as immigrants escaping war, starvation, poverty and persecution sought sanctuary and employment in the peace and prosperity of the island. The garrison at Fort George also helped to swell the number with soldiers and their families who they housed nearby.

26 Cornet Street and its equally grand neighbours were sold on, rented out and slowly dragged under, converted into tenements and cheap lodging houses, brothels, and bars. Multiple poky rooms were shoehorned into once elegant parlours. Not having been designed for multiple occupancy, the residents had no choice but to share water supplies and privies and conditions were unavoidably insanitary. Indeed, according to the 1861 census Number 26 had 18 residents: their trades including hawker, bootmaker, shoemaker, dressmaker, and nurse. It's a well-

proportioned house but sharing it with 17 other people must have been challenging for even the hardest soul.

As both a port and a garrison town, St Peter Port was bursting with unfulfilled male sexual desire and so as night follows day women would have been there to service this need. 18th and 19th century newspapers made much of the goings-on in Cornet Street and nearby Rosemary Lane with particular attention being paid to the fallen women or Corneteers, as they were known. To my eye, this says more about the narrow-mindedness of the age and the melodramatic nature of the reporting by unregulated newspapers operating in a feverishly competitive market, than the women who, in desperate circumstances took desperate measures to survive.

Another exile who had sought refuge in Guernsey, Victor Hugo, lived further up the hill at 38 Hauteville the house he acquired in 1856. Hugo was a fierce human rights activist and a champion of the poor and oppressed. Hugo realised how precarious the lives of the poor were and was deeply moved by the plight of the residents of Cornet Street. He instigated weekly meals at Hauteville House which started with 8 children but eventually fed 40 a week.

The fate of Cornet Street was decided in 1927 and the north-east side of the road was condemned, and the houses pulled down in 1929, never to be replaced. Number 26, mercifully, survived the demolition process, but many of its neighbours did not. 



# SGF VAL DES TERRES EVEREST CHALLENGE

By Gary Hooks, SGF Val Des Terres Everest Challenge founder

On the 1st January 2018, I was looking for a new style of endurance challenge away from my normal cycling endeavours and didn't want to over-complicate things which would inevitably see me either getting bored or simply just giving up as there would be no tangible target to work towards.

I love walking, I love a challenge, and I particularly enjoy being motivated daily by seeing numbers either increase or decrease and the simple attraction of tracking events always has a certain draw. This is why there are so many successful Apps on the market today used by athletes and fitness enthusiasts at all levels, tracking and data is a strong motivator and where it's at nowadays.

The SGF Val Des Terres Everest Challenge has a certain romance about it and in the world of cycling there is currently a challenge available where riders climb the equivalent of Mount Everest in a single climb in one solitary ride, record it, and become overnight heroes having completed the extraordinary. It's a very niche and select group of human beings that belong to the Everest Challenge cycling club worldwide.

The great mountain stands at a mightily impressive 8849 meters above sea level which equates to 115 summits of our very own grand climb here in Guernsey, known as the Val Des Terres.

So a few weeks before 1st January 2018, I came up with the idea of walking the challenge, managed to band together a group



of like-minded friends, and we all took our first steps on what's now widely known as the "SGF Val Des Terres Everest Challenge".

I gave myself one month to complete the challenge and during the walking it was evident that this challenge could really be something people could get involved in, doing so either alone or as part of a team. To date, over 1400 have participated in the challenge and the general feedback is how people just love the simplicity of walking, fresh air, fitness, and achievement. Every single circuit

is extremely meaningful as you see your total increase and the amount of circuits remaining decrease. This is such a motivating factor during the month of January where most people are looking to either improve their lifestyle or shift a couple of pounds due to the festive excesses. It's fun, challenging, and hugely rewarding upon completion when entrants reach "The Summit".

As an ambassador for the Sarah Groves Foundation, we are all extremely proud of the Everest Challenge event and the growth has been at a phenomenal rate over the past few years. This growth is expected once again to increase as many local companies realise the



Team Imperium Trust

benefits of being involved in such an event that builds great camaraderie, competition within, and allows those taking part to get outdoors and click up a few circuits on their lunch breaks.

So far over £70,000 has been raised on the event and hopefully in 2022 that figure will push through the £100,000 barrier. The SGF kindly makes a donation to a charity of their choice and so far the Prialux Premature Baby Foundation, Guernsey Mind, Guernsey Youth Commission, and the Guernsey Sports Commission, have all benefited from the SGF Val Des Terres Everest Challenge. The 2022



Team Redwood

challenge will be supporting the Guernsey Down Syndrome Group.

We hope to see you out on the circuit next January and hitting the summit inside the allocated 30 days. You can begin the challenge anytime from January 1st until February 1st.

Extended thanks to the Sarah Groves Foundation Committee for assisting with all the organisational duties, the Dorset Arms for allowing use of facilities and providing water when required, and mostly to the hundreds of Sherpas who make this wonderful challenge possible. [T](#)



Team BDO



# States of Guernsey

## Traffic and Highway Services

### Where to direct your query...

- Queries regarding Roadworks closures, Diversions, Traffic safety issues, Parking and anything to do with Signs & Lines (including Traffic Mirrors), please email the Traffic section at Bulwer Avenue - [traffic@gov.gg](mailto:traffic@gov.gg) or phone **243400** & ask for Traffic Services.

Traffic & Highway Services, PO Box 145, Bulwer Avenue Office, St Sampson, GY2 4LR

- Queries regarding Resurfacing, Potholes, Damage to roads, Road drainage, Road cleansing (including fly-tipping on roads), Weeds and Green Lanes, please email the Highways Section at Raymond Falla House - [highways@gov.gg](mailto:highways@gov.gg) or phone **234567** & ask for Highway Services.

Traffic & Highway Services, PO Box 459, Raymond Falla House, Longue Rue, St Martin, GY4 6HG

- Any queries regarding Coastal Car Parks & Footpaths should go to Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services (also at RFH) - [aclms@gov.gg](mailto:aclms@gov.gg) or phone **234567** & ask for ACLMS.

ACLMS, PO Box 459, Raymond Falla House, Longue Rue, St Martin, GY4 6HG

OCTOBER						
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31						

NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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# NOTES BY THE CONSTABLES

2021 has been hugely challenging but most rewarding. I wanted to become Constable to better serve the Parish and add value and learn. But what does that mean? What have I and my colleagues been up to?

Videos were made for the remede and I chaired a Parish Meeting. The rates' letters were updated with pertinent information, the Parish accounts were migrated to Xero cloud accounting, digital signing of letters was introduced, increased efficiencies saved parish pounds, the opening hours of the Office were changed, staffing levels were reviewed and where our processes needed to be more robust to be compliant with best practice, they were identified and progressed.

A Parish Pooch competition was organised and congratulations to 'Flo'. The Constables' cup was awarded to Geoff Le Gallez for his Liberation Day display. Geoff has since retired after ten years of service. We wish him well in his retirement. The Salerie boat-naming competition went ahead, with Emile Fallaize's entry 'Grow, Grow, Grow Your Boat' chosen as the winner. We have continued to host Drop-ins to better understand the needs of our parishioners.

Our reach has been extended on social media platforms. Facebook now boasts 1,323 followers Twitter has 784 and Instagram has 125. We may be able to do more to be as accessible as possible. Two of our grounds-staff have been sworn in as special constables - evidence of their parish spirit and a wish to do more.

We of course had lockdown version two - however the whole team worked incredibly hard to ensure we were 'business as usual'. We managed all meetings on Zoom whilst we could not meet face to face and extended this modern way to sub-committees as well.

The usual course of parish business has continued in 2021, licencing of premises has been educational. In keeping with election promises of collaborative working, I continue to adopt the following: "If I learn something new, I share that knowledge with my colleagues." Data protection knowledge was extended to other parishes as well.

More recently the introduction of the alcohol-free zone in the Town Church area has been a particular triumph. You may have heard it mentioned once or twice in media.

I cannot leave this reflective article without mentioning what a giddy delight it was to spend some time with Jackie Weaver, CO of Cheshire Association of Local Councils. Her common-sense approach to parish life was insightful and great fun.

It seems fitting to consider the last ten months as the newbie Constable. It's not easy being the new girl, with a month later lockdown and a month after that finding myself flying solo. As I come to the end of my first year as Constable, I appreciate my family's and the Douzaine's support throughout. 📍

*Zoe Lihou, Constable*

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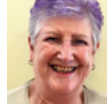
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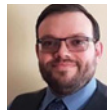
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