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# Royal Visit



## inthisissue

- p4 Parish Matters
- p5 Get involved in your Parish
- p9 Parish homes and nurseries
- p11 Dates for your diary
- p14 Mr and Miss St Helier
- p17 St Helier fashion
- p23 Views on St Helier
- p26 St Helier Gazette

King Charles II paid a return visit to St Helier during half term week, as Jersey Youtheatre's production of 'The Book of Kingdoms' received its world premiere in the Town Hall's Assembly Room.

The Theatre in Education production is part of the Jersey's commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the gift of the Royal Mace to the island in 1663 and it will be touring the Island's primary schools this month.

During his two periods of refuge in Jersey Charles II stayed in Elizabeth Castle and worshipped in the Town Church.

*Cover image courtesy of Deputy Rod Bryans*

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# Welcome to the Town Crier

Welcome to the March issue of the Town Crier, and what an important month it is going to be for St Helier. The debate on the new police HQ is due to take place in the States in the first week of March, with Deputy Judy Martin seeking to persuade the States that the proposed location in Green Street Car Park is the wrong place, while the Co-Op's proposals for their Charing Cross site will also be challenged by those who believe the demolition of the listed buildings in Dumaresq Street is too high a price to pay for much-needed redevelopment.

Now that the States have approved the referendum proposals put forward by the Electoral Commission (which includes St Helier Deputy James Baker) the campaigns for the different options will gather momentum with the referendum due to be held on Wednesday 24th April.

The Parish's Memorial Bench

outside the Town Hall will have plaques added to it this month in memory of Roads Inspector and Roads Committee member, Keith Shaw; Rates Assessor, Robin Stevenson; and long-time member of staff and Procureur du Bien Public, Paddy Freeley. The Dean will officiate at a short dedication service attended by

family and friends of these three individuals who contributed so much to their Parish.

It will be a busy month for staff and volunteers, especially at the Municipal Services Depot where the new recycling shed will be getting its finishing touches in readiness for its opening in April, while at the end of the month some of our gardeners, joined by members of the Community in Bloom Group, have been invited to visit Rennes in Brittany to share ideas with their French counterparts.

**To contact the editorial team, please call 811821 or email [towncrier@posh.gov.je](mailto:towncrier@posh.gov.je).**



## Electoral reform

'Electoral Reform'; now there's a couple of topical words for you. So, what's it all about then? Do we have to do anything? And can we fit it on one page? Well, let's try.

### Once upon a time...

The last major constitutional reform was in 1948 and it produced the political system that we know today. Over recent years, though, there have been murmurs that Jersey had outgrown it. Gradually, those murmurs continued to grow steadily louder until the States charged an Electoral Commission to make recommendations on how the States Assembly should be structured in the future. The Commission quickly identified the following key points;

- Voter turnout is low, suggesting apathy and disillusionment;
- Too many members sit in the Assembly without having to contest an election;
- Some electors have more votes than others;
- Constituency sizes vary considerably;
- A system involving three types of member is unnecessarily confusing;
- Could the States operate as effectively with fewer members following any potential changes to ministerial government?

Following exhaustive consideration, the Commission came to a preliminary conclusion last October that radical reform was required to produce a fairer, simpler and more democratic system.

### So what are the recommendations?

In the Commission's final report published in January, the following core recommendations were made to the States:

1. The number of elected members of the States Assembly should be reduced to 42;
2. The public should decide whether the Constables should remain as members of the States Assembly;
3. The Island should be divided into six large districts, each electing either seven representatives or, if the Constables remain in the States, five representatives;
4. Those representatives, to be called Deputies, should sit for a four year term of office and be voted in at a general election;
5. The above recommendations should be voted on by the public in a referendum.

### What happens next?

A referendum will be held on 24th April 2013 and you need to be registered to vote by mid-day on Wednesday 3rd April. Contact Daryn Cleworth on 811833 for a registration form or check to see if you're already on by visiting the Do It Online section at [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je).

### Coming up...

In next month's issue of your Town Crier there will be full guidelines on how to vote, where to vote and what you can vote on. Also, coming up in March will be a brand new section on the Parish website that will give you all the information you will need to do your bit in the referendum so check out [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je). In the meantime, if you have any queries on anything mentioned here then contact the **Electoral Officer** at the Town Hall on 811833 or by email at [daryn.cleworth@posh.gov.je](mailto:daryn.cleworth@posh.gov.je).



Above: Daryn Cleworth, St Helier's Electoral Officer





# ParishMatters

## Boules on a roll

A round-up of the latest news and events from the Town Hall, Parish departments and our associated clubs and organisations.

### The POSH

**Pétanquers** played against St Mary towards the end of January and achieved a home draw in a very tight match. During February a match took place against Grouville – although it was found that their home terrain was not for the nervous as boules fly hither and thither and either get stuck in the deep or fly past the cochonnet over the bare patches. POSH Pétanquers are now undefeated in four consecutive matches, but coming up is an away match at St John - and we lost three games to one last time on home terrain. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Tony Allchurch on 767593 or email [tonyallchurch@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:tonyallchurch@jerseymail.co.uk).

**Cleaning up on domestic abuse** January saw the Jersey Women's Refuge 'Sheroes' camping out overnight in Voisins' shop window for 25 hours to raise awareness and funds for the Group, who will be undertaking a

*Below: Three 'sheroes' raising money for Jersey Women's Refuge*



*Right: POSH winning the final game against Grouville in February 2013*  
*Below: POSH Pétanquers - February 2013*

challenge each month throughout the year connected to domestic abuse in an effort to raise awareness of the problems faced by those in or leaving abusive relationships. On 25th February three Sheroes undertook their second challenge when they joined up with the Parish's refuse collectors for a full day's rubbish collection on the vans, street cleaning and recycling. A full report will be given in the April issue. The Parish is not only taking part in the challenge and being a Refuge Hero, it will also be creating a flower bed at La Collette to mark the 25th anniversary of the Refuge first opening its doors.

who are not able to use a standard accessible disabled toilet to apply for access cards which carers can use with their guests and/or members, subject to completion of the application form available as above.

**The third annual Jersey Side by Side Big Gift Sale** took place at Fort Regent at the end of January. Throughout the month people were asked to donate any unwanted Christmas gifts into wheelie bins provided by the Parish of St Helier and located at all 12 parish or public halls and Communicare. The Sale raised £1,230, creating a disaster emergency fund which will enable the group to respond quickly to any future disaster.

### Changing Places toilet

In order for individuals to access St Helier's Changing Places toilet, users are required to complete the individual application form and review the information pack which is available on the Parish of St Helier website: [www.sthelier.je/transport-streets/changing-places](http://www.sthelier.je/transport-streets/changing-places), or by popping into Customer Services at the Town Hall.

The Parish would also like to invite charitable organisations who cater for the profoundly disabled

*We have had a couple of instances recently where people who obviously do not wish to receive the Crier have been leaving large quantities outside the front door at the Town Hall. Unfortunately, because no details are left with these copies, we have no idea which address it is that does not wish to receive them. If you do not wish to receive future issues of the Town Crier, please contact Annie Le Noury on 811821 to arrange for delivery to stop.*





## Parish organisations, committees and associations

There are lots of opportunities for parishioners to get involved in the variety of activities organised in St Helier. For *anyone* interested in becoming involved in these groups, a brief overview and contact details are shown below.

### St Helier in Bloom

St Helier in Bloom is a year round environmental improvement campaign, organised by the St Helier Community in Bloom Group. This group of enthusiastic volunteers support the Parish by instigating and encouraging community initiatives.

**Meets on the last Thursday each month at 6pm at the Town Hall.**  
**Contact Tony Andrews on 811700 or email [anthony.andrews@posh.gov.je](mailto:anthony.andrews@posh.gov.je).**

### St Helier's Honorary Police

The Honorary Police form an integral part of the Parish of St Helier. They work closely with the States Police and parishioners, and provide a service that is unique to the British Isles.

**Contact the Honorary Police Co-ordinator on 811890 or email [kevin.molloy@posh.gov.je](mailto:kevin.molloy@posh.gov.je).**

### St Helier – Avranches Jumelage

Dedicated to facilitating and encouraging the development of relationships between the Parish and France through a twinning association with the French town of Avranches.

**Contact Annabelle Bishop on 07797 762008 or email [annabelle.bishop@googlemail.com](mailto:annabelle.bishop@googlemail.com).**

### St Helier – Bad Wurzach Partnerschaft

A chance meeting on Liberation Day in 2002 led to the twinning of St Helier with Bad Wurzach, where many Islanders were interned during the Second World War. Since that time, the Partnerschaft Committee has developed cultural links between the two through visits and exchanges of information.

**Contact Clive Armstrong on 854152 or email [c.armstrong@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:c.armstrong@jerseymail.co.uk) or Angela Francey on 483675 or [angie.francey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angie.francey@yahoo.co.uk) or visit the website: [sthelierbadwurzachpartnerschaft.com](http://sthelierbadwurzachpartnerschaft.com).**

### St Helier – Funchal Geminação

The Committee's role is to develop relationships between the Parish and the capital of Madeira, Funchal, through activities celebrating the Portuguese language, music and national days.

**Contact Simon Crowcroft on 811821 or email [constable@posh.gov.je](mailto:constable@posh.gov.je).**

### St Helier – Youth Committee

The St Helier Youth Committee works closely with the Youth Service to give help and financial support to various youth projects throughout the Parish. It is also responsible for allocating grants to groups and individuals who live in the Parish.

**Application forms available from our website: [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je)**  
**Contact Sarah Richardson on 07797 732901 or email [sarah2r@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah2r@hotmail.com).**

### St Helier – Battle of Flowers Association

The St Helier Battle of Flowers Association last year took three prizes with its Charles Dickens themed float. It is a welcoming group of people keen to create a community atmosphere. All islanders are welcome to join in.

**Contact Debbie de Sousa on 07700 325381 or [deborahdesousa@live.co.uk](mailto:deborahdesousa@live.co.uk).**

### St Helier Pétanque Group

The St Helier Pétanque Group, now known as the POSH Pétanquers, meets regularly on Friday afternoons at 2pm on the Millennium Town Park terraces. The Group competes in the Inter-Parish League and in the Condor League on the Weighbridge and also participates in Jumelage competitions with the Avranches club. Newcomers are welcome and coaching is provided.

**Contact Tony Allchurch on 767593 or email [tonyallchurch@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:tonyallchurch@jerseymail.co.uk).**

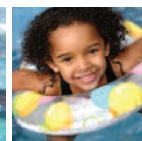
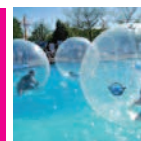


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# St Helier schools



Haute Vallée student Molly Carver was part of the winning U15 Jersey Hockey Team that beat Guernsey in the Inter Insular Hockey game on Saturday 26th January. The Guernsey team came to the Island for the day and it was the first time that Molly has played them.



The Jersey under 15s team hosted the Guernsey teams for the day and Guernsey were soundly beaten with a final score of 2-0.

Molly, who has only been playing hockey for a year said, "Playing makes me feel really good and playing for the Island is great. The crowd really gets you going."

Her success follows hot on the heels of older student Fabiana Lopes De Sousa, whose team of U17s travelled to Guernsey just before Christmas to beat their Guernsey counterparts 4-0.

Both girls love to play hockey and feel that it's taught them a lot.

Fabiana commented, "I'm able to work in a team and meet new people. It's great fun!"

Claire Frost who, along with Polly Hatley, trains both girls at Haute Vallée, said, "I am so proud of them. They are extraordinarily enthusiastic and very dedicated – I'm sure they'll go far!"

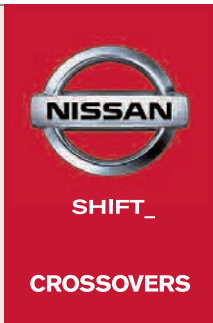
They'll both continue to play as long as they can and Fabiana hopes to move on to the Ladies' team when she can.

Top: Fabiana on the left, Molly on the right



Haute Vallée students are also working with the Parish and Channel Television on producing a TV commercial. With the financial assistance of the St Helier Youth Committee, Year 11 students are once again vying for the right to produce their commercial, with the expert guidance of CTV's Stig Adeler, after undergoing a 'Dragons Den' type experience with Parish Finance Director, Andy Pemberton; Head Teacher, Caryl Lewis; and the Constable, Simon Crowcroft. This year's commercial will be on a theme of safe cycling, and details of when it is appearing on TV will be in a future edition of the Town Crier.

Above: Experiencing the Dragon's Den



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# News from the Parish homes and nurseries



Above: Susan receives her leaving gift from the Constable

**St Helier House** started off the year with a fantastic Burns Night celebration – this started with the bagpipes being skilfully played by Jimmy McGovern, who then went on to pipe in the haggis, followed by the tatties. A party then followed with singer Sandy and a few whiskies thrown in. The Home is now looking forward to its St Patrick's Night celebration on 17th March, which will be a green, white and gold extravaganza.

Sadly Thursday 31st January saw the retirement, after 25 years, of Susan O'Brien, who started at St Helier House on 16th July 1987. As a thank you for her years' service, the Constable presented Susan with an iPad on behalf of the Parish, and Susan has written the following poem in reflection of her retirement:

*Retirement comes to everyone  
And mine has just arrived  
It's been a joy, it's been such fun  
But now a rest is mine.*

*I've loved my job, I'll miss you loads  
The happy times and the sad  
Friendships that will always last  
Of that I will be glad.*

*I'm looking forward to a change  
To run through fields and frolic  
And in the middle of the day  
I'll sip my gin and tonic!*

*I've been to many leaving do's  
It's hard to say goodbye  
I never thought the day would come  
When I would be at mine.*

*Memories I will cherish  
Long hours I will forget  
All the fun and laughter  
Well, how could I forget?*

*The teamwork and togetherness  
These girls have kept me young  
Friendships I will treasure  
In the years to come.*

*I'll miss this solid building  
And the people here within  
These walls could tell such stories  
Of the folk who here did live.*

*The parties and the yule tides  
The troubles and the strife  
Different people all of them  
Characters of life.*

*Saturday is party time  
And we know all the moves  
We'll get on down and do our thing  
You should see us groove.*

*So this is it, it's time to go  
I really must depart  
But I want you to remember  
I'll hold you in my heart.*

Advertisement feature

## There's a new investment opportunity in town!

Islanders can now buy non-qualified Jersey property for rental from as little as £50,000 with a 8% yield

A venture has been launched for Jersey residents who are getting poor returns from their bank and are looking at alternative investments.

It enables Islanders to invest in affordable property with an immediate return.

Mevanna, a property development firm that has managed Jersey accommodation for seven years, is offering non-qualified studios and bedsits with prices from just £50,000 for buy to let.

Chairman James Stratford believes it opportunity will appeal to Islanders.

'There are a lot of people in Jersey with £50,000 or £100,000 sitting in the bank making very little return. A lot of people will see their property solely as a way of getting a better yield.

'There's a lot of talk about Jersey's housing market being depressed, and the value of middle- and top-end properties is certainly falling, but the lower end of the market is both profitable and buoyant, and experiencing high demand.'

The non-qualified studios and bedsits are fully managed by Mevanna and provide a rental return of 8% gross yield. The net yield (after management fees, water, electricity, sinking fund and insurance have all been paid) is 6.16%, and there is an exit strategy, if required.

There are tenants in each of the units, guaranteeing a return from the outset for investors. However, any investor who wants to buy their bedsit or studio for their son or daughter to live in can do so.



**A new friend for Westmount Day Nursery**

The children at Westmount Day Nursery have been very excited to meet their new friend. Her name is Hope and she is a beautiful fluffy white rabbit with honey coloured speckles. The name 'Hope' was chosen in support of the Hannah Johnson Hope Fund, who gave a charitable donation to buy the rabbit hutch, waterproof cover and a travel hutch. The remainder of the donation went to buy books and puzzles. The children love caring for Hope, and having the travel hutch means they can take turns to take Hope home at weekends.

Carole Johnson, parent of Archie who attends the Nursery, gave us lots of help and support to facilitate Hope's arrival at Westmount.

The Hannah Johnson Hope Fund was set up in memory of Carole's daughter Hannah, who sadly passed away from a rare form of cancer 18 months ago, aged just 19. Hannah also attended Westmount Day Nursery along with big brother Charlie! The Hannah Johnson Hope Fund aims to continue to support Hannah's chosen charities, and also to help organisations, individuals and groups who are in need of support.

Monday 18th February 2013 saw Westmount Day Nursery celebrating its 40th anniversary. The children enjoyed a visit from Jepson Bear and an afternoon tea party in the playground, together with a visit from Annie Birbeck who worked at the nursery in 1974 and entertained everyone with fond memories and stories from the past. Many thanks to Louise Venticinque and Lucie Moullin for providing beautiful anniversary cakes and the chefs at St Helier House for the lovely party food.

The sun was shining, the food was good and the cakes were very tasty - a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all!

As part of their 40th Anniversary celebrations the children at Westmount Nursery have made special celebration boards. The artwork has created by the children, aged 2-5 years, and the boards will displayed at the back of the Nursery so the children can see their handiwork every day and will be kept for posterity.



Left: 'Hope' the rabbit



**Avranches Day Nursery** During January children from the Forget Me Not Room at Avranches Day Nursery enjoyed Chinese food prepared by the staff at the Golden Bowl Chinese takeaway to celebrate Chinese New Year.

The role play area was turned into a Chinese restaurant with chopsticks, menus and lanterns and the children made the staff at the Golden Bowl a Happy New Year card to thank them for their food.



Below: Chinese New Year

**90 years young St Ewold's** resident Louis L'Amy celebrated his 90th birthday in style on 1st February, with a gala buffet lunch for all the residents, family and friends. In attendance were his son and daughter-in-law, Malcolm and Jean, both Honorary Police Officers for St Helier, his two remaining sisters and his brother-in-law, together with Constable Simon Crowcroft. Louis said that this was the only way he could thank the staff for the wonderful job they do for him and his wife Muriel. The Parish extends their best wishes to Louis on this milestone of a birthday.



Above: Cake to mark Westmount's 40th Anniversary

Left: Children's artwork



Above: St Ewold's resident Louis L'Amy celebrates his 90th birthday with a visit from the Constable

# Dates for your diary

## March

**Tuesday 5th March** 1pm

### Dedication of Parish Memorial Bench

Town Hall

Contact Martin Roberts on 811824 or martin.roberts@posh.gov.je

**Wednesday 6th March 6.30pm**

### St Helier – Avranches Jumelage Committee meeting

Town Hall

Contact Annabelle Bishop on 07797 762008 or annabelle.bishop@googlemail.com

**Thursday 7th March** 6pm-9pm

### De Gruchy's Fashion Show (proceeds to Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Assembly Room, Town Hall

Tickets cost £15 and can be purchased from Durrells and De Gruchy's.

**Friday 8th March** 10am

### Community Market and Coffee Morning

Old Magistrate's Court, Seale Street

Contact Daphne Bland on 871199 or 07797 719225

**Saturday 9th March** 11am - 3pm

### Mont à l'Abbé School's Special Ladies Event

Mont à l'Abbé School – All welcome

Contact Karen at karennob@me.com

**Saturday 11th March** 7.30pm

### Band of the Island of Jersey Concert

Town Hall

Contact Jane Skelhorn on 811823 or jane.skelhorn@posh.gov.je

**Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th March** 10am to 6pm

### Eisteddfod Spring Festival

All entries available for viewing by the public

RJA & HS Trinity Showground

**Saturday 16th March** 7pm

### Jersey Big Band Dance, Town Hall

Tickets cost £10. Contact Sharon Harmeston on 818457 or

sharmeston@applebyglobal.com

**Tuesday 19th March** 6pm

### St Helier - Youth Committee

Town Hall

Contact Sarah Richardson on 07797 732901 or email sarah2r@hotmail.com

**Monday 25th March** 7.30pm

### Friends of the Millennium Town Park

First Floor Committee Room, Town Hall

Contact Bernie Manning on 07700 356438 or bernie.manning@hotmail.co.uk

**Wednesday 27th March** 9.30am

### Roads Committee (Part A open to the public)

Town Hall Details to be published at www.sthelier.je. Contact John Stievenard on

811845 or john.stievenard@posh.gov.je

**Wednesday 27th March** 7pm

### Parish Assembly

Town Hall, Details to be published five days in advance at www.sthelier.je. Contact

Martin Roberts on 811824 or martin.roberts@posh.gov.je

**Thursday 28th March 6pm**

### Community in Bloom meeting

Town Hall Contact Stephanie Parrott on 811708 or stephanie.parrott@posh.gov.je

**Thursday 28th March to Monday 15th April** Easter School holiday

**Friday 29th March Good Friday / Monday 1st April Easter Monday**

**Wednesday 3rd April** 6.30pm

### St Helier – Avranches Jumelage Committee meeting

Town Hall

Contact Annabelle Bishop on 07797 762008 or annabelle.bishop@googlemail.com

**Wednesday 10th April** 7.30pm

### Fado Evening Town Hall

Contact Isilda de Freitas on 07700 700616 or isildadefreitas@hotmail.com

**Friday 12th April** 10am

### Community Market and Coffee Morning

Old Magistrate's Court, Seale Street

Contact Daphne Bland on 871199 or 07797 719225

## Town matters

Town Centre Manager Richard Mackenzie brings us up to date with monthly events and activities around the streets of St Helier.



## The bump and grind

There are times in your life when bad news seems to come in spades. The retail sector on the Island has seen this in January and February. The newspaper headlines seemed to have daily news of another shop closing or a chain going into receivership; indeed the closures for the town centre over the last three months are the equivalent of the whole of 2012, at 12 shops.

However we currently have 13 shops and restaurants due to open. I am often accused of being over confident about the town centre and I fully realise that retailers are fighting for their existence. Footfall has so far this year increased by 10.3%, which is 12% greater than comparative U.K towns.

We are also working hard to persuade landlords of empty shops to allow them to have temporary tenants such as artists and charities, or simply just to have displays of work by local artists and craftspeople in the windows.

We have an extremely active group of retailer and I have attended several meetings over the last week with retailers talking about how they can make their part of town better.

Work is underway on this year's Fête de St Hélier which, as in previous years, will provide a range of activities in St Helier, including the annual pilgrimage to the Hermitage at Elizabeth Castle. Our sub-committee includes Nigel Blake and Geraint Jennings from the Roads Committee and Deputy Richard Rondel. A new event in the Fête will be the St Helier Street Party which, if permission is gained, will consist of Broad Street, York Street and the Parade being closed and a weekend of music, eating and fun being planned for 20th and 21st of July. It is hoped it will be a showcase for the talent on the Island.

**Richard Mackenzie, Town Centre Manager**

Tel: 07797 824843, Email: richard.mackenzie@posh.gov.je

*Below: Planning is underway for this year's Fête de St Hélier, which will feature street entertainment once more*





# Community Savings extends its opening hours

Community Savings is now opening its Seale Street office four days a week – on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am -12.30pm.

“We know that people’s lives are busy,” says Development Officer, Melanie Cavey, “so we wanted to improve our customer service by offering our customers a greater choice of opening hours by opening on a Thursday as well.” Community Savings is a charity which offers account facilities, budgeting advice and, in certain circumstances, emergency funding to Islanders who are in need of such help. Its head office is in Seale Street, in premises belonging to the Town Hall.

“We remain indebted to the Parish of St Helier for the support it continues to offer our charity,” said Executive Chairman Brian Curtis. “Our central town location is always busy and it makes it easy for people to pop in whilst in town.”

Also new for 2013, and open to Island residents, is the Christmas Savings scheme being promoted by the charity. “Saving a small amount each week can really make a difference towards your Christmas expenses,” added Melanie. “Anyone wishing to open a new account or



start saving for Christmas can just visit our Seale Street office or call 737555 to speak to an adviser.”

Information about Community Savings is also available on their new website [www.communitysavings.org.je](http://www.communitysavings.org.je) which provides details of the services offered and a link to the recent 2013 January newsletter.



## Optimists celebrate 50 years

It was in 1963 when a group of friends had the idea of forming a new club to continue their sporting and social interests. The result was the Optimists Club, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

During 2013, a number of special events are taking place to mark the occasion, including a Vin



d'Honneur, Anniversary Dinner and BBQ. The year starts off with a special open evening at the Optimists' clubroom in Gas Place on Saturday 9th March, with members past and present welcome along with anyone who would like to drop in.

For more details visit the Club's website at [www.optimistsclubjersey.com](http://www.optimistsclubjersey.com).



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## Parishnoticeboard

# Remembering St Helier's ropemakers

Have you something to share with fellow parishioners? Is there an event or activity coming up that you want to tell St Helier about? Let us know at the Town Crier and we can include on the monthly Parish Notice Board. Email short news items and associated photos to [towncrier@posh.gov.je](mailto:towncrier@posh.gov.je) or call Annie Le Noury on 811821.

**French Lane Market and Don Street Market** – French Lane Market restarts on Saturday 2nd March from 10am to 4pm. As yet no start date has been set for Don Street but for further information please contact **Bernie Manning** on **07700 356438**.

**St Helier Sirens WI** – February has been a busy month for Sirens members, including a visit from Vicky Coupland - Scientific Services Manager for the States of Jersey Police - to talk to us about "CSI Jersey". The book club also met to discuss 'The Winter Flame' - which was given 7/10, with the next book on the list being Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8pm on Thursday, 7th March at Church House. For more information contact **Sue Bone** at [liberty@localdial.com](mailto:liberty@localdial.com).

### The Jersey Bowling Club

are offering FREE bowling sessions at the Club on Westmount Hill all day from 10am on Sunday 21st April. All ages welcome. Please contact **Jean** on **07797 776790** for further information.

### The Rope Walk, La Corderie

Thursday 24th January saw a plaque inaugurated by Senator Paul Routier MBE, a former Procureur of La Vingtaine de la Ville and a resident of Rope Walk, commemorating the making of rope for the local shipbuilding industry.

In the 19th century Jersey had a thriving shipbuilding industry, part of which was located in the Vingtaine at Havre des Pas.



### La Pouquelaye WI

2013 has already been a busy start for La Pouquelaye. Having been visited by Sarah Jordan from Project Linus and Grant and Penny Henderson from the Active Chiropractic Clinic, the Lapwings Social Group had a night out with a meal at Café Jac, followed by the hilarious JADC Panto 'D'Artagnan and the Three Centeniers'. At the February meeting Val Nelson visited from the Jersey Museum and showed off some fascinating ladies' underwear from the 1830's to present day, and in March we are looking forward to a visit from Vicky Coupland, speaking about her work as a CSI and forensics analyst.

We are always happy to welcome new members to our meetings at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the La Pouquelaye Community Centre. For more information contact **Gill James** on **722467** or [gilljames527@gmail.com](mailto:gilljames527@gmail.com).

**The Paradise Community Café** at St Helier Methodist Church (a donation-run community café open to paying and non-paying customers) is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2.30pm. All welcome to come along for a hot meal and some company. For further information, contact Louise Hicklin on 877517.

### Town Church events

(for more information visit [www.townchurch.org.je](http://www.townchurch.org.je) or telephone 736734)

The Town Church's Meal Deals are starting up again on a monthly basis on the third Saturday in the month, with the next dates being 16th March and then 20th April.

### St Mark's Church events

(contact Ian MacFeeters for more information on 720595):

Wednesday 13th March at 12.30pm, Wellcome Café Lunch – tasty cooking and friendly chat;

Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st March 10am-11.30am, St Mark's Sparks – singing, crafts and stories for the children, tea and cake for the carers;

Friday 29th March at 12noon – open air service at the Millennium Town Park. Interdenominational and open to all.

### All Saints Church events

(contact Rev. David for more information on 768323):-

All Age Worship Service at 10am on the first Sunday of each month, modern music and traditional songs, drama, children's talks, activities and lots of fun.

**Messy Church**, a monthly family-friendly Church experience that has recently been taking off all over the world, being held on Sunday 30th March from 3pm to 5pm. The theme this time will be Easter and what the Angel saw. All are welcome.

### Moonlight Walk 2013

The fourth annual Moonlight Walk in aid of Jersey Hospice Care takes place on Saturday 18th May 2013. A ten mile sponsored walk, the start (at 10pm) and finish is at St Brelade's Parish Hall and fancy dress is optional. For further information please contact **Lorna** at [lorna@jerseyhospicecare.com](mailto:lorna@jerseyhospicecare.com), telephone **510349** or visit the website: [www.jerseymoonlightwalk.co.uk](http://www.jerseymoonlightwalk.co.uk).



Below: Sirens WI visit Oxfordshire's Denman College during February 2013



**Mont à l'Abbé School**

needs your help The School is currently fundraising for a large project to provide the children with an outside classroom, a wildlife pond that is accessible to all (even those in wheelchairs), a hide to spot the wildlife, sensory gardens and lots more. They are looking to hold a Special Ladies Event on Saturday 9th March at the School between 11am and 3pm, which will be open to the general public. An array of beauty treatments will be available for the ladies to enjoy. **Please contact Karen at karennob@me.com.**

**Bag it, tie it, bin it!**

In the February issue of the Town Crier, we featured an article on the disposal of dog fouling and where to place the bags after cleaning up after your pet. There are not many bins around specifically for disposal of dog fouling, but it is perfectly acceptable to use ordinary rubbish bins for this.

**Fashion show at de Gruchy's**

A dazzling fashion show featuring de Gruchy's



spring collection will be taking place at the Town Hall on Thursday 7th March from 6-9pm, with all proceeds towards the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Tickets cost £15 and are available from both Durrell Wildlife Park and de Gruchy's.

**The Community Market** is back. This popular market will be returning on Friday 8th March in the Old Magistrate's Court from 10am to 2pm, and thereafter on the second Friday of each month. There will be soup and fresh bread, together with the usual stalls selling home-made jams and chutneys, cakes, cards and Fairtrade chocolate etc. For further information please telephone **Daphne Bland on 871 199 or 07797 719225.**

**Fado evening** The St Helier - Funchal Geminação (twinning committee) is organising a concert of English and Portuguese music in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April, to mark the 1st anniversary of the signing of the twinning last year. Performances will include 'fado', the traditional folk song in Portuguese, as well as singers in English, French and Jèrriais. Members of the Parish's French and German twinnings will also be taking part and all parishioners are welcome to attend.



**Band of the Island of Jersey**

The Band are performing at the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 11th March. Originally formed in 1876, the Band has won the Enterprise Awards' 'Ambassador of the Year' prize and has performed in St Helier's twin town, Bad Wurzach. Entry to this concert is free of charge, with a retiring collection in aid of the Band. All welcome.





# New Parish Ambassadors for a new year

Last month the St Helier Battle of Flowers Association hosted awards ceremonies for the three categories of young people chosen to bring smiles, fun and colour to Parish life.



With four candidates for the role of Miss St Helier and two vying for the Mr St Helier sash, the Parish's Miss St Helier competition was probably a nerve-wracking occasion for the contestants, their families and friends who filled the Assembly Room. However, the competition for Miss Junior St Helier in the morning was an even busier affair, the Old Magistrate's Court packed, as no fewer than 19 contestants were interviewed by the judges. Tom Hacquoil (ex-Mr St Helier 2011), Deputy Judy Martin and Steve Webb from the Mayfair Hotel, had the unenviable task of whittling the entries down to a short list of six. They were unable to do so, ending up with a final seven of which one winner had to be chosen, who is Kelly Pontes, a 14 year old student from Beaulieu Convent School.

Kirsty from the Mayfair Hotel was an excellent compère, and event sponsors Jane and Peter Pearce managed to find a gift for the extra shortlisted finalist. Kelly was invited to the evening competition with her parents where she received her crown and sash from last year's Miss St Helier, Carla Gouveia.

The Mr and Miss St Helier Competition began with a three course dinner served by the Parish's Social Committee. The event was hosted by Jess Dunsdon from CTV and the judging panel was Mitch Couriard, MBE, Gwen Blake, Tom Hacquoil and Chair of the Association Debbie de Sousa. Conrad Duckworth was chosen as the 2013 Mr St Helier, and Kelly Ahearn as Miss St Helier, with Marta Camacho the runner-up. The raffle raised over £400 for Shopmobility.

Association Chair, Debbie de Sousa, thanked everyone who had given their time and effort, including the Parish Parks and Gardens team who provided the floral decorations, St Helier House residents who made the flower displays for the tables, Jane and Peter Pearce from Pearce Jewellers, the many local firms which provided raffle prizes, Dave and Jane from the Town Hall, and the Social Committee. Special thanks to Sandra Arbuckle, Lydia da Silva and Bruno Sousa of the St Helier Battle of Flowers Association.

'Here's to a successful Battle!'

*Left: This year's winners, Kelly Ahearn as Miss St Helier and Conrad Duckworth as Mr St Helier*

*Left inset: Miss St Helier and Junior Miss St Helier with winners' bouquets*  
*Above: A packed Assembly Room awaiting the outcome of this year's competition*



# Miss St Helier's fabulous year

When Carla Gouveia passed on her tiara to the new Miss St Helier last month, she was able to look back over an eventful and exciting year as ambassador for the Parish.

**Below:** Junior Miss St Helier judges Tom Hacquoil, Deputy Judy Martin and Steve Webb

**Below middle:** The 19 contestants for the Miss Junior St Helier line up for their competition



*'I have met fantastic people during my year as Miss St Helier and have spent many great evenings and afternoons at events including Liberation Day, various twinning events, the Queen's Jubilee, summer fêtes, the main day at the Battle Parade, the Motor Festival, Parish Christmas lunches – you name it, I was there.*

*I have kept loads of photos, newspaper articles and magazines from over the course of the year which will be great as memories to look back on.*

*Thank you to everyone who has helped me throughout the year – the competition chaperones, the Social Committee, Jane Skelhorn (Parish Events Organiser), the Battle of Flowers Committee, my family and friends. But most of all a huge thank you to my mum and sister who helped me so much in getting ready for and giving me lifts to events and choosing outfits.*

*I hope this year's Mr, Miss and Junior Miss competition winners will enjoy their year as much as I have done. Remember the year will fly by so enjoy it!'*

1



**Above:** Carla with Pudsey Bear

**Below:** Carla assisting with last year's Battle float

**Below:** Social Committee members Patrick Bouchère, Janet Moon, Maureen Norwood, Suzanne Lowman with Jane Skelhorn, Parish Events Organiser





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## St Helier Fashion

## Beautiful boutique buys for Mother's Day

Although many of us flock to the high street year after year to buy traditional gifts for Mother's Day such as chocolates and flowers, there is a vibrant alternative shopping experience on offer in the very heart of St Helier. Hilgrove Street and the surrounding streets are full of 'one of a kind' boutique shops that offer something very different to the larger high street stores.

Boutique style shops are big business right now. In an economy where many giant high street retailers are falling like dominos, smaller stores that offer unique items and a very personal service are surviving against the odds. Even in Jersey where some of our biggest and longest-standing high street stores have shut up shop for good, some of our tiniest retail businesses have managed to weather the storm, in style.

St Helier is full of these hidden gems. A few steps from our busy high street will bring you to some of the Islands most beautiful and exclusive clothes and accessories, perfect if you're looking for something that little bit special for Mother's Day.

"Marccain and Renaissance Studio pride themselves on outstanding customer care," explains Rebecca Belhomme from Marccain. "We will assist you to create your perfect outfit and always offer friendly and honest advice." Rebecca is confident their personal service, treating everyone as an individual, is what keeps customers coming back time and time again. "When looking for a Mother's Day gift in Renaissance or Marccain we would show the customer a range of unique gift ideas and select items based on what would suit the client and their lifestyle."

Carol from Scruples Boutique agrees. "Smaller stores such as ourselves not only offer exclusive ranges, we also provide a completely different shopping experience. Because of their smaller size, boutiques are more intimate and offer a much calmer environment; the complete opposite to the experience of shopping on the high street where everything is noisy, busy and more crowded. And in times when money is tight and people are more careful about what they spend their money on boutiques are perfect because we offer exclusivity." For example Carol only orders one of each size so you can be pretty sure you won't bump into someone wearing the same thing, which in an island as small as Jersey is a big plus.

And exclusivity doesn't always come at a price. Scruples sells several different companies, each with different price tags. "One of our most expensive ranges is 'Save the Queen'," explains Carol. "This is a brilliant collection, very edgy and unique, which would suit all ages, and our Spring-Summer stock has just arrived. However, we also sell a range of French bags which are incredibly popular. One of our most unusual styles is the 'bag within a bag' (£70) which comes in a range of beautiful colours including gold and silver as well as bright vibrant shades. This would make the perfect gift for Mother's day as it's fun, versatile, easy to wear, it would suit women of all ages and is also incredibly practical as you get two bags for the price of one."

Renaissance also offers affordable exclusivity. They sell a collection of beautiful one of a kind jewellery made by Diana Wilson, designed exclusively for the store. "Prices range from just £19 for earrings and £79 for a necklace, so there's something within the range for everyone and every budget," explains Rebecca. "We also sell Temperley candles made from carefully selected scented oils for just £25. Or if you really want to spoil your mum this year our Marccain stylish leopard print heels (£285) can be styled with any outfit and make any woman feel gorgeous."



Top: Just off St Helier's high street are a range of small boutique shops such as Marccain  
Above: Scruples is another, and offers a range of fashion designs  
Inset: A Diana Wilson necklace

## From the Polish community

## A może tak zacząć uczyć się języków obcych?

'Mój polski i tak jest dużo gorszy od twojego angielskiego!' – My, emigranci, słyszymy ten żart tyle razy, że już dawno przestał być śmieszny. Z całym szacunkiem, polski tego angielskiego żartownisia jest żaden, porównując do nawet najsłabszego angielskiego słuchacza tego żartu, który przynajmniej próbuje się uczyć angielskiego.



'My Polish is much worse than your English!' – us immigrants have heard this old joke so many times that it is not even funny anymore. With all due respect let's be truthful, the Polish spoken by the joke-teller is unlikely to match even the weakest English of the Polish listener, who is certainly at least trying to learn English.

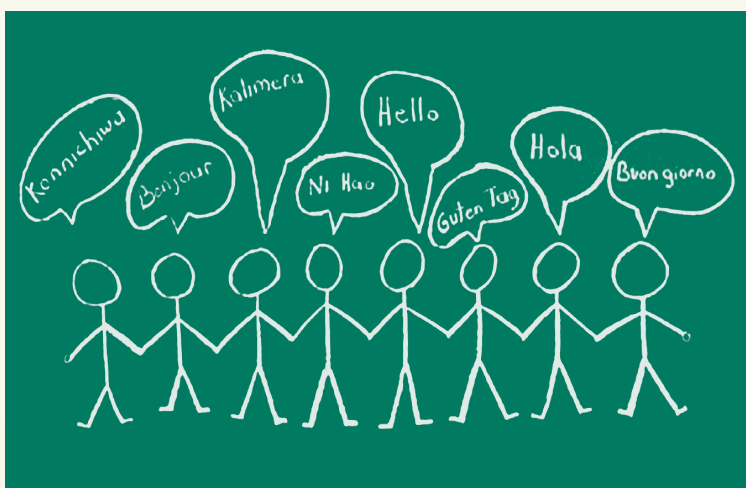
**To dążenie** jest w pełni uzasadnione i zmierza we właściwym kierunku. Jeżeli przyjechałeś do obcego kraju i masz zamiar w nim przez jakiś czas pozostać, powinieneś zacząć uczyć się języka, obyczajów, tradycji i historii tego kraju. Jest to żenujące, jeżeli ktoś przez lata mieszka w UK i nie umie powiedzieć nic po angielsku, nawet tego absolutnego minimum niezbędnego do porozumienia się w biurze lub szpitalu. Na pewno nie przyczyni się to, co powiem do mojej popularności wśród Polonii na wyspie, ale uważam taką postawę za brak szacunku do społeczności, wśród której żyjemy.

Jeżeli zastanowić się nad tym trochę głębiej, nie sądzę, że możecie wyobrazić sobie Ruska, Ukrainca czy nawet Anglika z powodzeniem funkcjonującego w Polsce przez okres dłuższy niżeli parę miesięcy bez znajomości języka polskiego. Spójrzmy prawdzie w oczy, to się wcale nie uda. Wyobraźcie sobie zawsze-na-burmuszoną-z-powodu-tyle-roboty-przez-tych-denerwujących-petentów panią w ZUS-ie i jakiegoś biednego klienta, próbującego załatwić coś w tym „historycznie znienawidzonym rosyjskim” lub „zepsutym mamoną” angielskim języku? Ja bardzo wątpię, że biedny petent ma szansę nawet na cień uśmiechu. Co powie przeciętny polski biurokrata? – „Idź i ucz się Polskiego, jak już tu mieszkasz!” – Bardzo prawdopodobnie po cichu dodając nawet kilka mocniejszych epitetów.

Więc to nie jest tylko angielskie wybrzydanie, jest to obowiązek, drodzy rodacy. I bardzo was proszę, spróbujcie nauczyć się angielskiego, chociaż na tyle na ile pozwala wam czas, a wiem, że jest go bardzo niewiele. Proszę, okazcie tym szacunek do narodu, który pod wieloma względami jest o wiele bardziej tolerancyjny niż nasz własny. To jest jedyna droga, aby okazać i zyskać szacunek!

I może wciąż naiwnie wierząc, że niektórzy Anglicy i obywatele Jersey też czasami czytają te artykuły, jeżeli jesteście pracodawcą kogoś, kto chce się uczyć angielskiego i od was zależy czy mu to umożliwicie, proszę, bądźcie wyrozumiali i zróbcie to możliwym. W końcu to jest właśnie sposób na okazanie wam szacunku.

W imieniu wszystkich Polaków uczących się Angielskiego pragnę podziękować wszystkim pracodawcom, którzy już do tego się przyczynili.



## How about learning languages?

**My** Polish is much worse than your English!' – us immigrants have heard this old joke so many times that it is not even funny anymore. With all due respect let's be truthful, the Polish spoken by the joke-teller is unlikely to match even the weakest English of the Polish listener, who is certainly at least trying to learn English.

But this trying is understandable and the right way to go. If you come to any foreign country and are aiming to stay for a while, you should start by learning its language, customs, traditions and history. It is a shame for those who've been living here for years and can't speak any English at all, even a very essential minimum for communication in an office or a hospital. It will not make me a very popular person with some members of Polish community but I am convinced that not bothering to learn English just shows a lack of respect.

If you think about it a bit more deeply I don't think you can imagine any Russian, Ukrainian or even English person functioning successfully in Poland without speaking any Polish for longer than a couple of months. Let's be honest, it would not be possible at all. Can you possibly imagine the Social Security always-grumpy-too-much-to-do-with-these-annoying-customers lady in Poland trying to help someone speaking 'hateful' Russian or the 'rich and spoiled' English person? I do not think that you have any chance even of getting a smile. What would the average Polish bureaucrat say? – Go and learn how to say it in Polish, if you are living here! – possibly adding a few stronger words under the beard.

So it isn't just an English complaint, it is a duty, my darling nationals. Please, make it possible, learn as much as your little free time lets you. Please, show respect to the nation which in many ways is much more tolerant than our own and learn English. This is the only way to gain and show respect.

And, if it's not too naïve of me to still believe that some Brits and Jersey citizens also read these articles sometimes, if you are the employer of someone who needs You to make this learning process possible, please, be understanding and make it possible. At the end of the day it is just the way this someone demonstrates his respect for you.

On behalf of all Poles learning English I would like to thank you, if you've already helped them with it.

Władysława (Vlada) Mayo



## Constable's Comment

# Toilet talk



Recently I faced criticism for asking parishioners to support the improvement of the Parish toilets in Conway Street. The Parish agreed to buy the adjacent site last year in order for its 'marriage value' and there's certainly been no secret of the fact that I have wanted to improve the Parish facilities at the same time as removing a notorious eyesore at the junction with Cross Street.

Last year the Parish agreed to provide a 'Changing Places' toilet facility in Seale Street behind the Town Hall, which provides a unique and necessary facility for the disabled toilet users and their carers. Of course it's true that rate payers should not be bearing this financial burden alone, nor should we be paying for the other services that are used by all islanders and visitors – parks, street cleaning, litter collection, in particular – without a contribution from general taxation. But surely the refusal of the States, so far, to pay rates on their properties, which would ease our financial burden, doesn't mean that we should stop trying to improve the Parish's provision of public services? Should we stop creating award-winning parks and gardens until the States pay rates? The Diamond Jubilee benches in the precinct are another example of a St Helier initiative which benefits everyone who visits St Helier, not just ratepayers. That these were made by local craftsmen is also important, while the Conway Street project will provide work for local architects, and building

firms, as well as supporting the shops and businesses in the area.

Your political representatives will keep on trying to persuade the States to give St Helier ratepayers a fair deal, but in the meantime I have to do what I can to improve the services that people expect to find in our Parish, at the same time as continuing to take steps to keep Parish rates as low as possible.



**Constable Simon Crowcroft**



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Jèrriais

# Mar martello

S'lon iun d'nos vièrs ditons, quand Mar martelle, Avri coutelle. Auprès tout l'divèrs temps qu'j'avons veu à ches drein ché s'sa à vaie si chu Mar martell'la à nos capuchi d'ssus ou s'i' nos fliatt'ta (même à r'bours-pé). Châtchun bat d'san marté, et ch'la s'peut qu'lé mais d'Mar bat d'un marté à deux mains.

*Right: March is a time for road works to begin*

*Tout coumme y'a tréjous un tas d'martellie par les c'mîns à chutte saison-chîn. Y'a des grands travaux ès routes aue d'la défouithie pour des sèrvices. Nou vaît des machinnes à martéler et à défoui tchi font des grands creux et des r'pathes ès c'mîns assez pour faithe accraithe qu'i' y'a un détou à chèque carre.*

*Dans les clios étout nou vaît des tracteurs et des machinnes tandi qu'lé travas du fèrmyi r'prend san rythme coumme tréjous. Si ch'est bêtchi, froutchi, houetter - dans l'gardîn coumme au clios, y'a du travas à r'graie. I' faut s'y mett' au mais d'Mar.*

*Janmais mauvais ouvriyi n'trouvait bouon ôti. Et les Membres des États sont acou à distchuter coumme tchi copèr l'pâté d'la distribueùthie d'vouaix et d'sièges ès élections. Trop d'couques gâtent la soupe sans doute, et ché s'sait mus d'penser coumme tchi agrandi la pâte ou affètchi la soupe au run d'hèrtchingni tréjous pour la mannièthe d'la cop'thie, ou la mannièthe dé couté ou d'rèch'rèsse. Eh bein, té pid, tel ôti. J'éthons not' chance dé décider l'affaithe quand ché s'sa à nous d'copèr d'court au référendum.*

*Si nou pouôrrait craithe qué nos grôsses têtes font tout à la frouque, y'a acou d's ouvrièrs au-faits tchi gardent not' Ville en allant. Si ch'est atout des touônne-à-gauche, des tournévis, d's aûgouaithes, des pînchettes, des fièrs à soder ou tout aut' ôti, j'avons des gens bein ôtiliyis à r'graie not' machinn'nie et à bâti et graie tout chein tch'est d'mètchi pour nos conmerces et nos siez-nous.*

*Même si Mar martelle, ch'est l'travas d'bouôns gens tchi martelle à flieur dé bras!*

## March hits like a hammer

According to one of the old ditons, when March hits like a hammer, April cuts like a knife. After the sort of weather we've seen recently we'll have to see if this March will hammer us or stroke us (even if it rubs us up the wrong way). Everyone for himself or herself, but the month of March might be using a sledgehammer.

Nevertheless there's always a lot of hammering going on at this time of year. Major road works are underway with digging for services. Mechanical drills and diggers can be seen making big holes and repairs enough to make one believe there's a diversion at every corner.

In the fields tractors and machines can be seen too as farm work picks up again as always. Whether its spadework, forks or hoes, whether in the garden or the field, there's work to be done. You have to get down to it in March.

A bad workman blames his tools. And States Members are still discussing how to cut up the pie of the distribution of votes and seats at elections. Too many cooks no doubt spoil the broth, and it'd be better to think about how to make the pie bigger or thicken the soup instead of always arguing over how to carry out the cutting or what type of knife or ladle to use. Well, manners make the man. We'll have our chance to settle the matter when we cut to the chase at the referendum.

One could believe that the bigwigs are making a pig's ear of things, but there are still some skilful workers who keep our town running. Whether with spanners, screwdrivers, drills, tweezers, soldering irons or any other tool, we've got well tooled-up folk repairing our machinery and building and putting together everything we need for our business and homes.

Even if March hits like a hammer, there are folk at work hammering away like anything!

**Geraint Jennings**



## Historic St Helier

# Colonel Carr Part 2

We continue the story of how a certain Colonel Carr shot some boys in Old St John's Road in September 1841 - a story that lived on in the folk memory of Town residents, turning the 'mad colonel' into a bogeyman within living memory.

We pick up Frank Le Breton's account of the events that followed the shooting. Two of the young lads, George Sinel and Frank Le Breton, ran away and took shelter in a baker's cart in a yard somewhere around David Place during the stormy night that followed. Frank, with a bullet wound close to his heart and losing blood, was looked after by young George. At daybreak the two lads set off towards Gorey. An old woman gave them some food, which George ate, but Frank was too weak to eat or drink. His clothes were soaked with blood. They spent a second night taking shelter within the building site of the unfinished Bree's Hotel.

All this time, the boys' families had been out searching for them. Frank's brother found them and they were brought home where Frank was treated by a doctor. Colonel Carr was arrested, but with Frank in too grave a condition to testify, the 'mad beauty of a Colonel' was let off with a fine, having said that he had only fired in the air. He promised to pay compensation to the Le Bretons, but never handed over the agreed sum.



# Views on St Helier Payn Street

By André Ferrari



Payn Street is a very narrow street, which was once filled with a ramshackle mix of outbuildings and warehouses. The re-development of the old Swanson's Hotel was used to create a showpiece building from a famous name architect. The result is a massive monolith that utterly ignores the intimate scale of the street. It really does look like it was dropped straight in from Manchester.

Part of the public 'gain' from this scheme was to have this section of the street entirely paved in granite. The paving looks great, matching that of the set-back area under the front of the block, and yet... it somehow doesn't quite work. As with much of the waterfront, I can appreciate the architectural intention without actually liking the space it has created around itself. The detailing of the walls is slick, but it is the sheer scale of the thing which bothers me. It is inhuman. I feel like an ant underneath it, with no inclination to linger. I feel no great benefit from the nice paving as I simply want to move on. Perhaps office smokers huddling under the set-back bit are the ones who will appreciate it the most. Indeed the set-back area might just as well have been used to accommodate a bit of road widening. So what do we get out of this trendy bit of development? Yet another incomparably bleak bit of space for our delectation.

Once again this highlights the issue of the scale of the buildings which are being imposed on St Helier. There is no discernible standard or limit within planning laws, and there has certainly been

no dialogue with the residents of St Helier over this. Planning need to take heed.

Dialogue is certainly preferable to the current method of dictat. It is our town, and we are the ones who will have to live in it! A bit of respect please! Shoving in a bit of pointless pedestrian space is not necessarily fair exchange for blotting out the sky.

Finally, there are four curiously shaped bollards at the front end of the scheme, presumably the percentage for art element. What will the man in the street say to this development and the attempt to anticipate his vision of a desirable town to live in? Quite possibly "bollards!"

**Score: 5 out of 10**

*(nice paving, shame about the rest.)*

*Heritage campaigner André Ferrari is author of books on Jersey's lost architecture*



The mad Colonel remained at liberty until he died and was buried with full military honours - a scandalous establishment cover-up. Such, at least, was Frank Le Breton's story as recounted in 1911 - a published account that may have launched or reinforced the legend of the mad Colonel.

The problem with Frank Le Breton's story is that, when compared to contemporary accounts published in 1841, it turns out not to be accurate. According to the newspapers at the time it was 10 year old Philippe Le Breton who was shot, not his older brother François (Frank). The impression Frank gave of the ages of the boys was misleading. George Sinel was 15 at the time of the incident - the same age as the Colonel's young manservant Ned (whose surname was apparently Denman rather than Deadman). Reports differed as to when the incident had occurred, whether on the afternoon of Friday 24th September or at 10 o'clock at night on Thursday 23rd September. In any event, the boys had not spent two nights on the run. Doctors Brohier and Jones had been called to treat Philippe and the incident had been reported to the police on the Friday, upon which the Colonel was arrested. He was released on bail on Sunday 26th September, once it was clear that Philippe's life was no longer in danger.

Despite the family's protestations, the matter appears to have rested there in the face of conflicting evidence. The authorities appear to have believed the Colonel's story that he had been subject to night-time thefts - this may be because the police knew or suspected that George Sinel at least had 'form'. George was baptised in Saint Helier on 8th July 1826, the son of Jean Sinel and Elizabeth Mallet. The alleged raid on Colonel Carr's

property was followed by his conviction to four months in prison (with eight days on bread and water) in 1844 for robbery in Saint Saviour; to one month in prison (and eight days on bread and water) for house-breaking in Trinity in 1844; and to transportation in 1846.

On the night of Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st June 1846 a number of boats in Saint Helier harbour were raided by a gang of youths and items of clothing stolen. Among this gang was George Sinel who pleaded guilty to the theft of goods including trousers, jackets, hats and handkerchiefs. The youths were brought to the Royal Court on 29th August by Centenier Chevalier - the same Centenier who had arrested Colonel Carr in 1841 - and George was sentenced to seven years' transportation. One of the remarkable features of that day's court proceedings was that it was observed by Royal Commissioners conducting an enquiry into Jersey's criminal law. The newspapers remarked that the Commissioners would have been able to note the fairness of the trial and that the accused of Jersey were afforded more guarantees than in any other country. George was held in prison until transported to the colony of Victoria, Australia, in 1849. There he married Marion McPhee in 1851 and died in 1915.

What had really happened outside Colonel Carr's house in 1841? Did the story that he was a homicidal maniac that was put about by the Le Breton family follow him to his grave and live on far longer than that? Did Frank Le Breton's embroidered account in 1911 give new life to the legend of the mad Colonel? Since Frank at that time was living at 27 Old St John's Road, he was certainly in a position to keep his version of the story alive among his neighbours. And the youths known as the Gallows Hill Gang in the early 1950s were still spreading the story around Westmount that there was a mysterious mad colonel living (or recently deceased) near the cemetery who was known to take pot shots at boys. So we conclude this little sidelight on truth and legend in our Parish's history.

**Geraint Jennings**

## Municipalmatters

# St Brelade visit to discuss recycling scheme

The Parish of St Brelade has set up a working party to report on the feasibility of introducing kerbside recycling. The group was asked to consult with parishes who presently have a recycling scheme.

*Below: Visit to the Depot's new recycling shed*

The Parish of St Helier was delighted to invite the working party to visit the Municipal Services Depot to discuss the Parish's Coloured Bag Kerbside Recycling Scheme, and the visit took place on a rather cold day at the end of January.

The Director of Municipal Services, Debra D'Orleans, explained why the Parish of St Helier chose the coloured bag scheme as opposed to the traditional multi box scheme: Many residents of the Parish do not have the storage space for multiple boxes, particularly in the centre of town. The bags are easy to store and handle and multiple bags can be used during peak periods, such as Christmas. The bag method allows one system to be rolled out across the Parish. St Helier required a quicker method of collection to avoid traffic gridlock in the town and surrounding areas, and the coloured bag collection process allows the truck to move on quickly as the team collect the bags from the kerbside using a normal refuse truck with the compaction plate disabled in order not to crush the load.

The blue bags containing paper and light card are thrown to the right side of the vehicle, with the red bags containing tins, cans and plastic bottles thrown to the left. Any bundled cardboard collected is thrown into the middle. Once the collection round is complete, the vehicle transports the bags to the Parish Depot where the bags are tipped into the recycling



shed. As can be seen from the picture, the bags stay in their separate streams once tipped.



The bags are split and sorted using a simple conveyor system. The separated materials are dropped into large sacks and

moved to the baling process and, once baled, the commodities are weighed and loaded onto a 40 foot trailer for onward transmission to the harbour. The trailer is then shipped to our recycling partner in France, who distributes the commodities to the relevant European market to use in recycled products, such as coffee cup holders.

The Parish of St Helier has introduced a fortnightly collection rather than monthly to assist those households with limited space. The collection day coincides with the refuse collection day, which

makes it easier for households to remember. Recycling has been introduced without increasing the Parish Rate due to efficiencies made across the refuse collection service.

The working party took a tour of the temporary recycling shed to see the separated commodities and the current difficulties with the lack of space, whereas the new recycling facility currently under construction will provide double the space and allow for an educational facility for schools and groups to view the process in operation.



*Left: Viewing the recyclables*



## Parish clubs & groups

This section of the Crier is devoted to the many voluntary clubs and groups run throughout St Helier. If you would like to promote your organisation or a planned special event, or just to include contact details, please telephone **811821** or email [towncrier@posh.gov.je](mailto:towncrier@posh.gov.je).

### Women's Institute

There are four meetings in St Helier as follows:

**St Helier Sirens WI:** 1st Thursday of each month at Church House (opposite Chambers) at 8pm. Contact Sue Bone on 636977 or 07797 831473 or email [liberty@localdial.com](mailto:liberty@localdial.com).

**La Pouquelaye WI:** 2nd Wednesday of each month at the La Pouquelaye Community Centre (the old La Pouquelaye School). Contact Gill James on 722467 or [gilljames527@gmail.com](mailto:gilljames527@gmail.com).

**West Park WI:** 1st Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm at the meeting room at the King George V Homes on La Grande Route de St Aubin. Contact Sheila Sykes on 491856.

**First Tower & Millbrook WI:** 2nd Wednesday of each month at the St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Contact Joan Cadoret on 735534.

### Mobile Library

George V Cottage Homes – Mondays, 9.20-9.45am

B&Q, Queen's Road – Tuesdays, 9.50-10.30am

### Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

#### 14th Jersey (St Helier) Scout Group

Salvation Army Hall, Minden Place

**Beavers and Cubs:** Monday evenings

**Scouts:** Wednesday evenings

Contact Jean-Paul Lecrivain (Group Scout Leader) on 07797 836295 or [gsl14thjsy@gmail.com](mailto:gsl14thjsy@gmail.com)

Additional enquiries: Mary Roberts, Island Secretary, on 486935 or email: [jersey.scouts@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:jersey.scouts@jerseymail.co.uk)

#### Rainbows, Brownies & Girl Guides

All Saints Church Hall, The Parade

Thursday and Friday evenings

Contact: Daphne on 871199

#### Little Monkeys Gymnastics, Fort Regent

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.15pm with Mums

Children must be walking; suitable for 1-3½ years

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays From 3.30pm onwards

Children from 3-6 years

Saturdays 9-10am

Children aged 5-6 years

#### Regent Gymnastics Club, Fort Regent

Visit: [www.regentgymnastics.co.uk/page\\_1267903869504](http://www.regentgymnastics.co.uk/page_1267903869504).

#### Royal British Legion, 2-4 Great Union Street

Tuesday to Friday from 12pm and Saturday & Sunday from 11am.

## Town Crier contacts

The Town Crier is published by the **Parish of St Helier** in association with **MediaMasters**.

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### Sun Bowls

Starts mid-April, Opening times: 10.00am, 2.00pm and 6.00pm, leagues on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Contact Terry Bell on 734721.

### First Tower Billiards & Snooker Club

Open weekdays from 7pm to 11pm and Sundays from 1pm to 6pm.

Email [firsttowersnookerclub@gmail.com](mailto:firsttowersnookerclub@gmail.com).

### Jersey Scrabble Club

Every Tuesday evening at 7pm. Contact Anne on 730409 or email [apasturel@live.co.uk](mailto:apasturel@live.co.uk).

### St Mark's Sparks

Thursdays during term-time from 10am to 11.30am at St Mark's Church.

Contact Jeremy Taylor on 720595.

### The Caesarea Quilters

Third Monday of every month. Contact Sue Bone on 636977.

**The Channel Islands Family History Society** is holding its 35th anniversary exhibition at the Town Hall on 25th and 26th May 2013 from 10am to 4pm, which will feature information on the 1911 Census, French connections, family trees, help with research, joining the Society, sale of books and refreshments. More information can be found at [www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org](http://www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org)

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# TheFrenchConnection

Aurélie Leroy, manager of St Helier based Maison De Normandie, keeps us up to date with events and developments happening just over the Channel in France.

## Le centième anniversaire de Bagnoles de l'Orne



Bagnoles de l'Orne est située au cœur du département de l'Orne non loin de la Ferté Macé, entourée d'une superbe forêt et le long d'un magnifique lac.

*Bagnoles est connue bien sur pour sa ville thermale, son casino, ses grandes ballades en forêt, sa gastronomie et ses deux centres de thalassothérapie utilisant des produits bios locaux soit pour se relaxer ou en cure de rééducation. Bagnoles est assez jeune pour une ville française et célèbre cette année son centenaire. Les vitrines de la Maison de Normandie exposent en ce moment tout ce que Bagnoles peut offrir et démontre la grande qualité d'accueil de cette ville thermale. A l'époque, on parle d'un lieu-dit où les gens y aimaient faire de longues ballades le dimanche. Après avoir découvert tous les bienfaits de l'eau du lac et de la tranquillité de ses alentours, cette ville située en Zone de Protection du Patrimoine Architectural Urbain et Paysagé, a été officiellement nommée en 1913 et est vite devenue une destination de choix où la relaxation rime avec soin de soi et plaisirs de la vie comme les macarons ou le casino mais avant tout la détente. Veuillez nous contacter pour recevoir plus d'informations et passer un weekend reposant à Bagnoles!*



## 100th Anniversary of Bagnoles de l'Orne

February is the month of Shrove Tuesday, crêpes, Bagnoles de l'Orne is situated in the heart of the Orne county, surrounded by a peaceful forest and alongside a beautiful lake. It is now well-known for its thermal centres, its casino, its long walks in the forest, its gastronomy, and its two spa centres for relaxing or treatment with local organic products

*Bagnoles is quite new for a French town and is celebrating its 100th year in 2013. Our shop windows at Maison de Normandie is now showing the delights of this inland high-quality resort where a warm welcome is guaranteed. In the old days, Bagnoles was just a small locality where people liked to walk on Sundays. After discovering the benefits of the lake water and tranquillity of the surroundings, the town located in a beautiful architectural and natural protected zone was then officially named in 1913 and soon became a lovely and cozy little resort for spa treatments and to enjoy the pleasures of life such as macarons, casino gambling but, above all, relaxation. Contact us should you want to receive information for a relaxing weekend in Bagnoles!*

*If you would like to receive Maison de Normandie's monthly newsletter about events and festivals in Normandy, please send us an email [info@maisondenormandie.com](mailto:info@maisondenormandie.com) or become a friend on Facebook: 'MNMJersey'.*



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# The St Helier Gazette



## PARISH NOTICES

### Parish Assembly

An Assembly of the Principals and Electors of the Parish of St Helier will be held at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 27th March 2013 at 7.00pm** to consider Parish business.

**Please note the date and start time.**

The agenda will be published no less than five days before the meeting and will be available from the Town Hall or the Parish Website at [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je). Parishioners are asked to arrive in good time to check their entitlement to vote, i.e. electors of the Parish, ratepayers and nominated mandataires.

**A S Crowcroft** Connétable Town Hall

### Roads Committee Meeting

A meeting of the St Helier Roads Committee will take place on **Wednesday 27th March 2013 at 9.30am** at the Town Hall.

Members of the public are invited to attend part 'A' of the agenda.

The full agenda will be published no less than five days before the meeting and will be available from the Town Hall or the Parish Website at [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je).

**A S Crowcroft** Connétable Town Hall

## GENERAL



### REPLACEMENT POSTS

Are you looking for a fresh challenge? The Parish has two exciting and challenging career opportunities, as it seeks to recruit highly motivated key individuals with excellent communication skills to complement its existing team.

#### Facilities & Resource Manager

The successful candidate will work closely with the Municipal Services Director to identify and implement an effective automation system for the processing of dry recyclables. The role will also include the effective management of the mechanical workshops which provide servicing, maintenance and repair for the vehicle fleet, plant and equipment in use across the Parish to support an effective and efficient front line service to parishioners.

#### Technical Support Engineer

We are seeking an engineer to take responsibility for the delivery of projects, urban renewal schemes and resurfacing contracts. Applications are welcomed from suitably qualified Architectural Technologists, or those who are suitably qualified/experienced and hold an Engineering or Construction BTEC higher national qualification, HNC, HND or similar.

The pay is equivalent to Civil Service Grade 8 – 9 (£33,053 - £43,423), dependent upon qualifications and/or experience.

Full details of the positions and an application form are available from the Town Hall or the Parish website: [www.sthelier.je](http://www.sthelier.je).

Closing date: 15th March 2013.

The Parish of St Helier is an equal opportunities employer.

### Parish Property for Rental

**The following Parish property is available to rent:**

#### Flat 3, 7 Lempriere Street

– one bedroom, first floor flat with access to communal garden, monthly rent £650.00 Available for let immediately (A – H housing qualifications required). For further information please contact the Town Hall on 811811 or email [townhall@posh.gov.je](mailto:townhall@posh.gov.je).

### Notice to all Dog Owners

More than 400 dog owners in St Helier have not renewed their dog licences this year. If you have not done this yet, please do so as soon as possible at the Town Hall.

### St Helier Music Society

Interested in playing classical music in the Town Hall? If you would like to play in a string or woodwind ensemble, the Constable would like to hear from you. Telephone 811821 or email [constable@posh.gov.je](mailto:constable@posh.gov.je).

### Liberation Day Afternoon Tea Party : Wednesday 9th May 2013

Parishioners in Jersey during the Occupation, former Evacuees and Internees, and members of the Armed Forces past and present, are invited to attend the Town Hall for Afternoon Tea on Liberation Day, Wednesday 9th May, from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Tickets will be limited and application forms are available from the Town Hall Reception Desk. All applications must be returned to the Town Hall by Wednesday 24th April, and tickets will then be sent out in the post.



## THE DEUTSCHE BANK FESTIVAL OF THE CREATIVE ARTS AN EXHIBITION OF

Needlework & Textile Art, Photography, Schools' Handwriting, Literary, Floral Art, Adult & Youth Art & Craft, Schools' Art & Craft

**Thursday 14th - Sunday 17th March 2013**, at the RJA&HS Exhibition Showground, Trinity  
10am – 6pm, closing on Sunday at 4pm.

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- Day 8 - Yosemite National Park
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- Day 13-15 - Los Angeles (Anaheim)
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