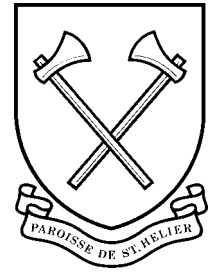




The Town Crier



October 2004, issue 13

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www.parish.gov.je

A Chef de Police is chosen for St Helier

On October 5th the Royal Court decided to allow the Constables to choose who will head up the Honorary Police force in each Parish, instead of the job going automatically to the Centenier with the longest record of Honorary service.

Having consulted the members of the Honorary Police in St Helier. St Helier's Constable, Simon Crowcroft, has appointed Centenier David Christie to the post. Mr Christie (pictured, right) has served since 1990 as a Centenier in St. Helier, and according to the Constable he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position.

A graduate of Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, Mr Christie has run one of the busiest Pharmacy outlets in Jersey for the last 35 years. He has been a member of the Round Table, Presiding Chairman of the Joint Christmas Appeal, and President of Jersey Rugby Club, and he continues to be active in other Clubs and Societies. Mr Christie has four grown up children, three of whom live in the Island.



Gold for Jersey in Bad Wurzach games



The visit was arranged by the Partnerschaft Committee, which meets each month to plan exchanges and activities between St Helier and Bad Wurzach.

Members of the Jersey ex-internees Association were also invited, and the event sponsored by Marks & Spencer. Parish employees, Bob Doran and Kevin McCarthy, who coached the footballers, are pictured with the trophy.

A reception was held in the Town Hall recently to celebrate the achievement of Jersey's young footballers and athletes in winning a tournament held in St Helier's twin town in Germany.

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To save money the Town Crier is not posted to every address in St Helier. You can receive your copy of the Parish newsletter by post or email – please phone 811811, or email us. Also please let us know if you can deliver the Town Crier to your street or estate.

Assembly backs plans for Westmount Quarry and new Community Centre

Recent Parish Assemblies have supported plans for two new developments in St Helier. The Parish will work with its preferred developer to bring forward detailed proposals for its Westmount Quarry site within 18 months – to include much needed parking for residents, sheltered housing, and a commercial element. A supermarket is one of the options that is being looked at, but assurances were given at the Assembly on 21st September that the potential impact upon nearby residents would be taken into account as plans are developed for the site.

Meanwhile, plans to develop new houses next to Mont a l'Abbe cemetery were unanimously supported by the Assembly on 6th October. Part of the scheme is the creation of a new community centre with caretaker's flat which will be gifted to the Parish. St Helier Constable, Simon Crowcroft, paid tribute to the members of the St Helier Representatives Group and Town Hall staff whose efforts led to an increase in the size of the Centre, and thanked the developer, Marett Homes Limited. 'These facilities are bound to really enhance the lives of residents,' he said.

St Helier Battle of Flowers: bid for new Association

A meeting has been called to discuss the formation of a new Association to raise funds, design and build a float for St. Helier to enter in next year's Battle of Flowers. Anyone interested in joining is asked to come to the Town Hall Committee Room at 5.30pm on Thursday 21st October, or to contact the Constable on 720830 (constable@posh.gov.je)

New vehicles 'on the dust'

The Parish has taken delivery of two new refuse collection vehicles. Following a lengthy consultation process with the staff concerned, a Ford Iveco chassis with Norba compaction and Terberg lifting gear was selected for the job, allowing the oldest vehicles in the fleet to be scrapped. Says Refuse Department manager, Dave le Guyader, 'missed collections are often caused by vehicle breakdowns. These new wagons mean we can have a proper maintenance programme and provide a more reliable service.'



Critics of the Parish's 'paint it blue' policy will be pleased to note that all of the Parish's new vehicles now come in 'factory white' to save money.



Parish fine tunes a sponsorship opportunity

The Town Hall's Assembly Room is being used for an increasing number of community and business-related functions. Now Parish Constable, Simon Crowcroft, wants to hold musical concerts there. But there's one small problem ...

'I finally tracked down the old Town Hall piano to the lounge of one of our residential homes', explained the Constable. 'It has been put out to grass for good reasons. There are some excellent Yamaha pianos for sale at the Island Music Centre in Bath Street, and I'm looking for a business partner to buy or lease one of them for us, so that we can hold regular lunch-time recitals and evening concerts in our wonderful Assembly Room.' Interested in some high-profile and long-term advertising for your firm? Contact the Town Hall. It will be music to their ears.

News from around the Parish

Wanted – Occupation memories

Jill Nicholson is Parish co-ordinator for 'Liberation 60', a joint Heritage Trust and J.E.P. project with the 12 Parishes.



Jill aims to collect individual memories for a Parish exhibition in May 2005.

'As Parish co-ordinator for the Liberation 60 project,' she writes, 'I would like to meet with people who were in Jersey and in particular St. Helier during the period between the Liberation and the Coronation, 1945-1953.

I am looking to meet people who lived here during the Occupation; people who were evacuated or deported or imprisoned and returned; people who came to live in Jersey after the War or people who emigrated in the 1940s.' You can contact Jill via the Town Hall or at: jill.nicholson@jerseymail.co.uk

Shopmobility's 'share number'

Edward Trevor, MBE, is leading efforts to set up a Shopmobility scheme in St Helier. This will provide much needed extra parking for disabled people along with electric wheelchairs to make shopping easier.

The scheme will be discussed at a public meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday 11th November at 7pm.

Co-op shoppers can donate their dividend to the Scheme by using the number 257.

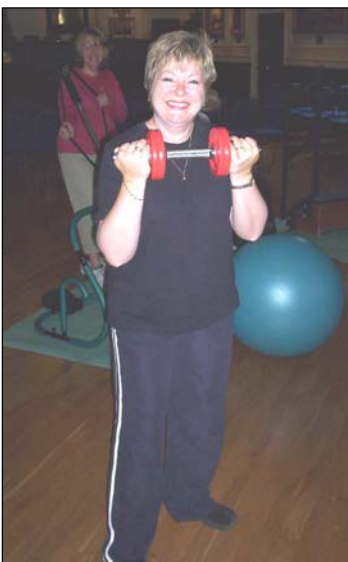
Restaurant adds community issues to its menu

A Taste of Thai Restaurant was recently opened in Colomberie, by the owners Steve and Penny De La Haye and partners Lee and Julie Madden. The restaurant provides authentic five-star Thai Cuisine with professional friendly service in relaxed and comfortable surroundings. The head chef Num boasts that his dishes are created and served using traditional herbs and sauces imported from the land of his birth.

The team at 'A Taste of Thai' are very supportive of community issues in and around Colomberie and welcome Parish plans to enhance the "village" feel of the area. They are seeking to make their restaurant the focal point for Thai nationals living in Jersey and a portal for those wishing to visit Thailand, promoting the country's culture, traditions and natural beauty.



Slimming down the Town Hall



When Town Hall secretary, Maureen Guy, (pictured left) had the bright idea of a sponsored slim to raise money for Children in Need, she sent an email to Parish staff and elected representatives. The Constable and Deputy Ben Fox have joined about ten Parish staff on the punishing regime which includes circuit training in the Assembly Room twice a week, organised by Kevin McCarthy. The team are hoping to shed up to two stone each before Christmas.

Is this the Town Crier?

No, it's Parish Constable, Simon Crowcroft, taking part in the public reading of Wace in the Royal Square. The event was organised by the Jersey Arts Trust as part of National Poetry Day.



Parish progress in 'Performance Benchmarking'



'The Parish of St Helier has been included in the States' Benchmarking Project for a number of key reasons,' writes Andy Pemberton, Finance Director. 'The Parish has many similar services to the States and it can benefit from being benchmarked against some of the best value performance indicators used by the States and by other local authorities.'

Last year the Parish prepared performance data for Refuse and Waste Collection Management, Parks & Open Spaces, and Street Cleansing.

Says Mr Pemberton, 'The results for the Parish were favourable, with the cost of waste collection per household falling in the lower median range (53% of waste collected is for households and 43% for businesses). Cost

per head of population for Parks & Open Spaces is in the median range, and it was noted that the Parish has won some international awards for the high quality of parks and open spaces displayed in 2002 and 2003. Finally, it was noted that the cost of keeping the roads clean and clear of litter is lower than for other authorities.'

This year the benchmarking is going to be repeated but additional performance comparisons will be produced for the following: running Welfare; issuing Driving Licences; registering births, deaths and marriages; street lighting; sickness absence; and Information Technology.

Mr Pemberton goes on: 'The relevant managers in the Parish have been busy working on collecting information for the above headings, and they are to be congratulated on their attention to providing accurate data to assist with the benchmarking. We are also looking at more areas for co-operation with the States, particularly in the areas of procurement, invoicing, and electronic payments and receipts. With regard to procurement, the States have been successful in reducing the cost of many key supplies including fuel, advertising, telephones, stationery and provisions. The Parish already has the benefit of States negotiated prices for some of the above, and it is hoped that more progress will be made to reduce costs to the Parish by working closely with the States.'

Andy is helping the Constable and Procureurs du Bien Public to produce a Financial Report for the first six months of the current financial year, due to be published in early November.

New Constable's Officer



Jessica Buttle, a student at Highlands College, has been sworn in as a Constable's Officer in St Helier. She is pictured outside the Royal Court with Centenier Danny Scaife.

Learn ballroom dancing at the St. Helier Dance Festival

The new St Helier Dance festival gets in the swing on Friday 22nd October at the Town Hall. Dance teachers from Bournemouth will be offering tuition on Friday and Saturday mornings, and there are two evening dances. Details from Roger or Christine on 733120.

Key dates in October

- Weds 13th – St Mark's Church 160th anniversary celebrations, 7.30pm; continuous Bible reading lasts the rest of the week – do drop in and listen, or take part!
- Frid 15th – Jersey Rally starts, New St, 12.45 pm;
- Tues 19th – Public meeting on a proposal for the Millennium Town Park, Town Hall, 7.30pm;
- Weds 20th – Roads Committee at Town Hall, 10am (meeting open to the public);
 - Community Services Board, 2pm;
 - St Helier Representatives' Group, 6pm;
 - Parish Assembly, 7.30pm;
- Thurs 21st – Meeting to form new St Helier Battle of Flowers Association, Town Hall, 5.30pm
 - Youth Committee, 6pm;
- Frid 22nd – Deadline for payment of 2004 Rates Bills before 10% surcharge applied;
 - Ballroom dancing tuition, 10.30-12.30;
 - evening dance (Hawaiian theme), 8pm;
- Sat 23rd – Ballroom dancing tuition, 10.30-12.30;
 - evening dance (prize dances), 7.30pm;
- Sun 26th – Tea Dance at the Town Hall, 2.30 to 5pm, admission £4 on the door
- Thur 28rd – Licensing Bench, Royal Court, 9.30 am
- Sun 31st – Poppy Day launch and Opening of Field of Remembrance, the Cenotaph, 10am