



Friends Of The Priaulx Library

## March 2010 Newsletter

### AGM Announcement

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 18:00 in The Priaulx Library on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

The offices of Secretary, Membership Secretary and of 2 Committee Members, presently held by Gavin Lanoe, David le Conte, David Falla and Deputy Gloria Dudley-Owen respectively, fall due for election / re-election. Any nominations should be submitted in writing.

Any nominations for these positions must be notified to the Secretary no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> April. All nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Gavin Lanoe via email [gavin@lanoe.net](mailto:gavin@lanoe.net), or by post to 1 Pine Tree Estate, L'islet, St Sampson, Guernsey, GY2 4EX. Enquiries by telephone may be made on 07781 127798 but all nominations must be submitted in writing.

### Legacies and Tax Relief

We have recently had the wonderful surprise of someone asking how to leave money to the Library. This can be arranged by an Advocate's office in an original will and also as a codicil to an existing will. It can be for a specific purpose which interests the donor or for more general funds. The important thing is that the Legatee should be "The Trustees of the Priaulx Library".

Members are also reminded that Income Tax Relief is now available on donations to registered charities such as "The Friends of the Priaulx Library". There are certain conditions and further information can be obtained from either of the Trustees, Claire Le Pelley and Bill Robilliard - and, of course, the Tax Office."

### Diary of Events for Spring 2010

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 18:00 – 19:30 at the Priaulx Library

Official Opening of the Guernsey Fellows of the Royal Society exhibition, by Professor John Pethica, Vice-President, Royal Society. All members are invited to attend. See separate notice in this newsletter for details.

March 31<sup>st</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Priaulx Library

Exhibition: Guernsey Fellows of the Royal Society.

May 1st-May 30th

Guernsey Festival of Photography, featuring a display of Occupation photographs on the front lawn of the Priaulx Library. This will be accessible during normal opening hours and on Liberation Day.

May 13th, 20:00 at Les Cotils Centre

Lecture: Guernsey Fellows of the Royal Society, by Chief Librarian Amanda Bennett, and WEA Chairman and Project Leader David Le Conte. Entry is free, but please telephone 237888 for a ticket.

## **La Viaër Marchi**

The Friends of the Priaulx library are to take part in this year's La Viaër Marchi, which is being held at Saumarez Park on Monday 5th July.

We aim to have a display at the park, highlighting not only the library itself, and the facilities and services that are available there, but also to publicise the important work that we all, as Friends, have carried out in support of this fantastic local resource.

Committee members will be on hand to answer any questions that members of the public may have, and also to encourage others to join and help to continue the excellent work that has been carried out, and that is on-going.

So if you are at La Viaër Marchi this summer, pop along and say hello, and encourage others to come and see what we are doing.

## **Guernsey Fellows of the Royal Society**

This programme of lectures and an exhibition celebrates the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society by focusing on Fellows of the Society who were Guernseymen, using research in the Priaulx Library as well as from many other sources. The next event is the Opening of the exhibition at the Priaulx Library at 6.00 to 7.30 pm on Tuesday, March 30th. We are delighted that the Society is sending Vice-President Professor John Pethica to open the exhibition. All members of the Friends are invited to attend the opening and reception, and to view the exhibition.

In addition to being Vice-President, Professor Pethica is Professor in the Department of Physics at Trinity College Dublin, and visiting Professor at the Department of Materials at the University of Oxford. A researcher in nanotechnology, he is also the Chief Scientific Advisor at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington.

The exhibition will be open to the public from March 30th to June 25th.

The Raymond Falla Memorial Lecture on the Guernsey Fellows of the Royal Society will be given by Amanda Bennett and myself at Les Cotils at 8.00 pm on Thursday, May 13th. As this is being presented in association with WEA Guernsey please telephone 237888 for a free ticket.

The final lecture in the series will be given by Professor Nicholas Day, CBE FRS, at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, October 20th at the Frossard Theatre, Candie Gardens. It is entitled What's the point of the Royal Society? A modern perspective.

David Le Conte  
Membership Secretary & Project Leader

## **12,649 And Counting**

It has been quite an undertaking but the scanning of the Carel Toms photography collection is nearing completion. We currently are on image number 12,649 with the finish line in sight. All of the collection has been painstaking scanned and indexed by a small group of members of the Friends, Claire Ogier, John David and Steve Gill.

Over the coming months we plan to select both our favourite images and some key iconic ones taken by the Guernsey Press photographer and post them on the Friends website. This is just a teaser before plans are implemented by the Library to make this digital record of Guernsey's past more accessible to the widest range of people. If you cannot wait for this and would like to see the scanned collection in more detail, please get in touch as a member of the Friends will be more than happy to assist you.

## Take A Closer Look

Sue Laker, Deputy Chief Librarian of the Priaulx Library has generously offered to take small groups of Friends and friends of Friends and the like on guided tours of the library starting in late Spring. These will take place in the early evening when the library is closed to the general public and will consist of a tour of the building and its collections as well as a brief overview on how to use the library for research.

Sue has huge knowledge on the history of Guernsey and the contents of the Library with her favourite collections being that of the rare books and local maps. The tours promise to be fascinating and we are extremely grateful to her. They are open to all so if you are interested in taking a tour of the Library, please contact us at [info@friends.org.gg](mailto:info@friends.org.gg) and we will arrange a suitable date.

## GUERNSEY LINKS WITH AMERICA AND CANADA

The popularity of the recent book, *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society*, written by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows, has encouraged many Americans to visit Guernsey.

Our newsletter will follow the links to America and Canada of some of the families who, because of Religion, land restrictions, poverty and work, left Guernsey for a new life in these colonies. For further research, I recommend the works of Marion G. Turk, *Quiet Adventurers in North America* and *Quiet Adventurers in Canada*, which are held at the Priaulx Library.

During the 17th century, many French Huguenots fled from religious persecution to Guernsey. Some established Puritan island families joined them and migrated to the New England colonies of Virginia and the Carolinas.

The book edited by A.G. Jamieson, 'A People of the Sea', states that records show that as early as 1521, fish was being shipped from Newfoundland to Southampton. Guernsey merchant Thomas Le Marchant was trading as early as 1608 and by 1660 many fishermen from the Channel Islands were engaged in the cod fishing industry in Newfoundland.

Edmund Andros, Seigneur of the Fief de Sausmarez, came from a family who had proved their loyalty to the Crown during the civil wars. He was made Governor of New York in 1674. He squabbled with the Governor of East Jersey, a Jerseyman, Philip de Carteret and was recalled home. James II appointed Andros to be Governor of New England in 1685, ostensibly to break the power of the puritan families who monopolized trade.

After James fell from power, Andros was imprisoned by the people of Boston, he had many adventures during his numerous attempts to escape. However, in 1692 he was again made Governor of Virginia and was very popular. He returned to Guernsey in 1697 and was appointed as Bailiff.

By the early 18th century, hundreds of Channel Islanders had settled in New England. They worked as seamen, ship builders, carpenters, fishermen. Guernsey families sent relatives to Boston and Salem, where they acted as agents for a variety of goods being shipped and traded along the East coast.

Orphans and poor children, over the age of 7 were sent from the islands to act as indentured servants to these maritime families.

Over time and especially following the strict enforcement of smuggling laws, and the ensuing economic decline after 1815, more and more families left Guernsey, Ogier, Naftel, Marquands, Langlois, Robins, Corbet, Bichard, Torode, Le Poidevin, De la Rue, Guille, Alles. Other illustrious Guernsey names - Isaac Brock, Gaspard Le Marchant, William Le Lacheur played a significant part in the history of those distant lands.

I will follow up on the adventures of these Guernsey people in the next newsletter.

Gloria Dudley-Owen  
Friends of the Priaulx Library,  
Committee member