



Friends Of The Priaulx Library

## Autumn Newsletter 2010

### President's Mid-Term Comments.

In my report to the AGM in April I outlined your committee's key objectives for the current year. I am pleased to say that through some splendid efforts by committee members, assisted by many Friends, we have made encouraging progress.

Success in terms of raising the profile of The Friends in support of the Council of the library has been reflected in the media following our commitment to new projects such as the first active involvement with Le Viaer Marchi. More focused coordination of the much appreciated and wide ranging efforts of our volunteer force has also borne fruit, so too our drive to increase membership which has risen from around 175 earlier in the year to over 240 at the last count.

I am happy to add that recent progress with fundraising has enabled us to help finance the acquisition of new equipment, books and the like which otherwise would be beyond the reach of the Library's very tight budget.

In tandem with our day to day activities, the Guernsey Heroes of the Royal Society exhibition and series of lectures – all superbly researched and managed by David Le Conte assisted by Amanda Bennett has been very well recognised as a unique project of great and lasting value. I hope that you can attend the final lecture which is featured later in this Newsletter.

Finally, may I formally welcome all new members. Please make contact with us if you would like any particular information - and especially if you are able to offer help in the shape of practical support for The Friends and the Library at large. I know that we as your committee, the Council under the leadership of Claire Le Pelley and the staff all thoroughly value your help and contributions.

Peter Walpole  
President of The Friends

### What's The Point Of The Royal Society? A Modern Perspective

8.00 pm, Wednesday, 20 October 2010 at the Frossard Centre, Candie Gardens  
by Professor Nicholas Day, CBE, FRS

This, the third and final lecture in the *Guernsey Heroes of the Royal Society* programme, will be given by Guernsey's only living Fellow of the Royal Society. Professor Day will describe the structure, function, and work of Britain's national academy of science in supporting scientific disciplines, applying scientific knowledge to business, promoting informed debate, and influencing public policy with evidence-based advice.

Through a series of publications and workshops, often in conjunction with its international counterparts, the Society provides authoritative syntheses of the current state of knowledge for many of the pressing issues of the day, ranging from climate change to the storage of radioactive waste. These make an important contribution to the scientific basis for government action.

Professor Day is distinguished for his wide-ranging and influential work in quantitative epidemiology, especially of cancer. He was for many years Professor of Epidemiology at Cambridge, Director of the Institute of Public Health, and Director of the Medical Research Council Unit of Biostatistics. He has authored or edited eleven books, and published some 500 papers in the scientific literature. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2004, and is a Council Member of La Société Guernesaise.

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## **An Eye Opener-First Impressions Of The Priaulx Library**

Until I became Membership Secretary for The Friends of the Priaulx Library in April this year I did not realise that the Library was a free library, that is open to the public. In fact I did not know anything about the Library until Peter Walpole, (President of the Friends of the Priaulx Library), and Amanda Bennett, (Chief Librarian), briefly showed me around in January of this year.

Two weeks ago I decided, together with Evan Ozanne (also a new Committee member), to ask Sue Laker, the Deputy Chief Librarian, if she would give us a full tour of all of the Library including those areas not usually accessible to the public.

Sue took us on a fascinating tour and we enjoyed a whole morning of taking in the atmosphere and history of this amazing building. We were intrigued to note that the building is a converted Georgian Townhouse that became Guernsey's first free public library in 1889, and has both Georgian and Victorian features, including two beautiful Royal Doulton tiled fireplaces on the ground floor.

The house, known as "Candie House", was donated to the people of Guernsey by Osmond de Beauvoir Priaulx. He also donated his vast and important collection of books, which the Library still owns. His ashes are also held in a rather special urn on the ground floor!

It is now Guernsey's premier centre for local studies and family history research. It houses important collections of newspapers, documents and photographs, and is a wonderful place for residents of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, tourists and researchers to browse in the Victorian atmosphere.

The Priaulx Library's raison d'être is to collect, catalogue and preserve the records of the Bailiwick of Guernsey's history and culture and the staff's aim is to make this historical legacy as accessible as possible. It effectively holds the records of Bailiwick life in manuscript, print and image.

The variety of resources available surprised Evan and me. The records on microfilm or on paper can be browsed free from charge, and the highly experienced staff also offer a research service.

### Local studies include

- Genealogy
- Local history
- Maps
- Newspapers
- Pictures and prints
- Photographs

### Special collections include

- Groves' Military collection
- St Aubyn Arts and Social Science library
- Osmond de Beauvoir Priaulx's book collection
- Carel Tom's photograph collection
- Rare books

There is much work to do at the Priaulx Library to maintain this impressive collection of books and documents.

Funds and volunteers are needed for the following, in order to maintain the Library's impressive collections and to offer a wider service to the public:

### Book Binding & Conservation

Binding, restoring and conserving the stock is a long-term, expensive, but vital project. The regular contributions by the Friends towards restoring some of the Library's rarer items are of great benefit to the Library and provide a platform for offsetting the costs by appealing to all Friends to contribute to the 'Adopt-a-book' scheme.

### Auctions and Sales

Occasionally items come up for sale from specialised booksellers or auction houses that would be useful and important additions to the Library, the purchase of which cannot be contemplated within the Council's limited budget. Financial assistance provided by the Friends enables the Library to grasp such opportunities for the benefit of our community.

## Specialised Equipment

On occasions the need arises to purchase equipment either to replace existing, to improve current services or to help implement new services. It is not always possible or appropriate to purchase these out of the Library's limited budget, and help from the Friends is always greatly appreciated, particularly for items which benefit the community or provide welcome publicity. Examples that the Friends have recently financed or are considering include:

- A3 mono printer for the overhead scanner on the 2nd floor. Will greatly help in public access to the scanned newspapers. Approx £750.
- New or reconditioned microfilm readers to replace very old equipment! The Friends have recently helped to purchase an ex-demonstration model (£1,200) – a sum matched by a Friend of the Library, enabling the purchase of two machines.
- Shelving for the Exhibition Room to enable the public display of the Illustrated London News and Punch magazine. The difficulty with library shelving always lies in finding something to suit the library interior. A bespoke solution may be cost-effective, and the Friends could take this on as a project. It would be a great enhancement to the room.

Connie Wakeham  
Membership Secretary  
membership@friends.org.gg

## 2011 Calendar

We are this year introducing a 'Friends' calendar for 2011, which has a collection of old black & white photographs from the Carel Toms collection, showing Guernsey in bygone days, and which we hope will appeal to as many 'Friends' and members of the public as possible.

These make great Christmas gifts, and are of course practical and interesting, and will cost £3.50 each, or 3 for £10, with all profits going towards fund-raising for the library.

So if you would like to order any calendars please forward your cheque, made out to 'The Friends of the Priaulx Library', with the number of calendars you would like, and including your name and address, to:

Rob Grant  
Lohengrin  
Mont Arrive  
St Peter Port  
GY1 2AQ

## Priaulx Library Open Day

The 2010 Open Day was a great success, bigger than the event in 2009 and with far better weather! The Friends yet again put up the large Gazebo and managed to produce a wonderful display in a very short space of time. It was also great to see the Priaulx Library lawn put to use for the second time this year.

The Friends ran the 'Book Swap' table which had a small but steady trickle of people throughout the day and those who hadn't brought books were glad to give a donation. Quite a few visitors also attempted the quiz. A large number of people joined the Friends on the day, bringing the total number to well over the 200 mark.

The tours of the Library given by the Chief Librarian were as successful as 2009 with around 90 people joining in over the course of the day. The Chief Librarian would also like to thank all the staff who came in to help on what would normally be their day off! Altogether around 450 people visited the Library, about eight times the normal footfall.

## **Viaër Marchi**

When 'The Friends of the Priaulx Library' took part in this event for the first time in July this year, we had three primary aims;

1. To raise the profile & awareness of what the Priaulx library has to offer;
2. To increase membership of the Friends of the Priaulx Library;
3. To raise funds for the library.

It proved to be a great day, with warm sunny weather, and not a hint of rain to spoil the event.

Arriving early, we were given a very nice spot by the National Trust of Guernsey in which to put up our new gazebo and set up our stands.

As the day wore on, and the sun shone, Saumarez park was soon filling up with people enjoying this traditional day and visiting the many and varied stalls.

We were kept busy from well before the official opening time, with many people throughout the afternoon and early evening visiting the stand, and enjoying the display, which included maps, press cuttings, books, and a selection of Carel Toms excellent old Guernsey photographs, as well as examples of the many services that the library provide.

Local author, and Honorary member of 'The Friends of the Priaulx Library', Susan Ilie, was also present to sign copies of her book, 'Telling Tales', which proved very popular with members of the public, and we hope to see Susan at future events.

We were very fortunate to receive some excellent coverage of our participation at the event, both through the Guernsey Press and local TV, and we were also pleased to have had a lovely write-up on the National Trust web site.

Following the success of the stand at the Viera Marchi we decided to set it up on the lawn for the library Open Day on the 17th July, when we again welcomed members of the public to this great facility, and showed the benefits of joining the Friends.

During both events we feel confident that we have achieved all three of the aims that were set out, and with 48 new members joining as a result, the support for the library has grown considerably, and it is with great delight that we welcome all of our new members.

Going forward, we now look forward to participating in events again next year, including La Viaër Marchi and the North and West shows, and hope to continue to raise the profile of the library and, through the help and subscriptions of new members of the Friends, to help the library to achieve its aims.

Rob Grant  
Committee Member

## **Annual Quiz**

Following on from the great success of our last quiz, we will again be holding this popular evening event, but, to avoid diary congestion over the festive period, we will be holding it on Thursday 10th February, at the Peninsula hotel.

Please make a note in your diaries, and further information will be sent out nearer the time.

## Friends of the Priaulx Library Volunteers

Got a spare moment and a free pair of hands, here is a list of some of the forthcoming areas in which we need help with.

### Scanning

The watercolours of Carel Toms (having nearly completed his photography library) The negatives of Carel Toms The Priaulx Library - Guernsey people photograph collection The Priaulx Library - Guernsey location's photograph collection Vintage postcard collection Newspaper collection (continuing the work already completed)

### Research

Archiving the Carey collection (including scanning) Map research with committee member John David

### Conservation

Covering books with protective acid-free paper. Treating leather bindings for red rot and applying leather preservative.

### Friends and Fundraising assistance

- making calendars for 2011
- helping out at the Christmas stall
- helping at the Library Christmas wine and nibbles afternoon
- collecting books and manning the next 'Book Exchange' stall
- membership assistance at all above events

If you would like to help, just contact David Montgomery the Friends volunteer co-ordinator at [web@friends.org.gg](mailto:web@friends.org.gg) or call 07781 139569.

## Calendar of Events

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>October 20<sup>th</sup></b> | <i>What's the Point of the Royal Society? A Modern Perspective.</i> Final lecture in the Guernsey Heroes of the Royal Society lecture series, given by Professor Nicholas Day, FRS at the Frossard Centre, Guernsey Museum, 8pm |
| <b>November 2010</b>           | Exhibition at <i>The Gallery</i> . The theme has not yet been decided, but is likely to feature either Maps or Hogarth Prints.  |
| <b>December 2010</b>           | A repeat of the successful 2009 'Christmas Shop'  |
| <b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b> | Friends of the Priaulx Library Christmas Drinks at the Library 4pm-6pm  |
| <b>February 10th</b>           | Quiz Night, at the Peninsula hotel.   |

## Adopt a Book Scheme – Latest Titles

Following on from the successful conservation earlier this year of a number of books in need of urgent attention, here is this latest list to receive the magic touch from Derry Paper & Book Conservation of Nottingham. If you want to donate money towards to restoration any of these titles simply contact [admin@friends.org.gg](mailto:admin@friends.org.gg) and we will explain how you can help.

### Unveiling of the Albert Statue at Guernsey, 1863

A contemporary newsprint picture showing the unveiling of the Albert Statue in Guernsey in 1863, erected by public subscription to commemorate the death of Albert in 1861. This copy is very badly damaged and fragile with numerous tears and missing pieces.

Suggested treatment: Dry-clean and Deacidify. Japanese paper lining on reverse. Encapsulate in a polyester pocket.

### Histoire des Avanturies des Boucaniers, 1603

A very rare early-seventeenth century history of pirates and privateers with a decorative title page.

Although bound in calf, the binding has not survived well with the front board detached and the back board loose. The spine, with its contemporary raised bands and lettering cannot be saved

Suggested treatment: Dry-clean, Deacidify and make repairs to paper and sewing where necessary. Reback with a new calf spine, but using original boards. Spine to have four raised bands with new head and tail bands; lettering as near to original as possible.

### Fables for the female sex, 1766

Suggested treatment: Dry-clean, Deacidify and make repairs to paper and sewing where necessary. Reback with a new calf spine, but using original boards. Spine to have new leather label, lettering as near to original as possible.

### Two oriental bindings

Two volumes of rare nineteenth century Chinese colour woodblock prints. The intricate and delicate oriental bindings are slightly damaged and require repair to protect the cotton pages.

Suggested treatment: Spray Deacidify and resew binding as original

### Camden's Britannia, 2 Volumes, 1722

The first edition of William Camden's great work 'Britannia' was published in Latin in 1588. The Library has an edition of 1600 and an English translation in four volumes of 1806, as well as this two volume edition of 1722, translated into English by Edward Gibson and with maps by Robert Morden.

Suggested treatment: Because the original binding is 'Fastback' (i.e., the spine is glued to the pages), the original binding cannot be repaired without considerable damage. Therefore, both volumes are to be rebound in full calf, with raised bands, new leather labels, gold lines and centres and blind tooling on the front and back, all in an eighteenth century style. This accounts for the expense of conservation – well worth it for this superb piece of work.

## More from the Carel Toms collection?

In this newsletter we do not need you to send us the answers, we simple want to share with you these great images and get the grey matter upstairs working. All images are available to purchase, simple email [web@friends.org.gg](mailto:web@friends.org.gg) for more information.



Walter and Charles Penney outside their Bordage shop. One of a series of Carel Tom's photos showing the making of a Guernsey Can. Date not known.



Loading tomato chips on to the "Ringwood" at the East side of the jetty. Chips were unloaded by hand from the carts. The date is given as 1950-1955



Queen Elizabeth on a royal visit. Probably 1945.



The harbour from the Blue Mountains in 1927. The deck of the jetty virtually complete but the buildings not yet started.



The Guernsey Aero Club's AVRO Avian G-AACF at l'Eree, January 1st, 1935. It was bought in January 1935.



Storm damaged cobo winter of 1962-3

Thanks for your help last time with the Carel Toms collection?

Here is the feedback received thus far.



1. We have received no information about this image. Can you assist?



2. Lloyd de Mouilpied identified the field as one in the Varendes, St Andrew's, opposite the houses immediately west of the Grammar School. The field was rented by Raymond Falla, it is now a garden. Richard Falla, son of Raymond, said that photo was taken in about 1948-9 and the people (l-r) are Augie Guille, the Luce brothers, Ed le Fleur, Peter Collenette, and behind George Luxom.



3. The original caption on the photo did say Rocquaine, and several people have confirmed this, probably having seen its reproduction in Guernsey through the Lens. Rocquaine is a big place and we had hoped for a more precise location.



4. This picture appears in John Corbin Allez's booklet on 'Guernsey Farming in the 1920s' (1998, p. 33), where it says that the woman is Delilah Brouard (née Allez) and the man Gustave Cataroche.. It also appears in Phil de Jersey's website of old Guernsey postcards, with on the back "To Miss Marjorie, the farm at La Carrière, from Anna". La Carrière is the farm at the junction of the rue du Bigard and the rue de la Corbière. Pauline Anne Brouard, the daughter in law of Delilah, confirms the identifications and says the picture was taken in the 1920s. However, Rob Cataroche, great nephew of the people, says that the woman is Anne Cataroche, (not Delilah Brouard) and the man is not Gustave Cataroche (Rob's grandfather), but his brother Fred.



5. Mystery machine. Darryl Ogier has identified this as a winnowing machine, we assume it is of occupation vintage.



6. We have received no information about this image but we could do with knowing more about the vinery with the converted bus. Identification of this would help with several other images.