



Friends of the Priaulx Library

Friends of the Priaulx Library Newsletter

Issue 1 2013

Guernsey's Harbours - Past, Present and Future By Captain Peter Gill

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Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to:

Captain Peter Gill
Evan Ozanne
John David

STOP PRESS

The next Friends' event is
'Towers on Guernsey'

An illustrated talk by
Committee Member, au-
thor and local guide Eric
Grimsley

Candie Lecture Theatre at
7pm on Thursday 14th
March 2013

The evening is free to
members of the Friends
but a small charge of £5
will be made to non-
members.

Space is limited so tickets
will be available at the
Priaulx Library from Mid
February.

More details on page 6.



St Peter Port Harbour from above, one of Guernsey's east coast harbours and a safe sanctuary.

On the evening of Thursday, 27th September the Harbour Master Captain Peter Gill gave a talk to Members of the Friends of the Priaulx Library at the Frossard Lecture theatre, Candie Gardens.

It was a fascinating talk by Captain Gill and included amusing anecdotes as well as describing the development of St.Peter Port and St.Sampson's harbours over the past nine centuries, the current problems at both harbours and the future plans for their development.

Captain Gill spoke without any formal notes and below are his bullet points and some of the visuals he used to highlight his anecdotes.

After explaining the reasons for a harbour, such as a refuge or shelter for ships during storms and a place with

deep water so ships could discharge cargo with relative ease and safety, he gave some current statistics relevant to both harbours: -

2 ports with 4 marinas; 105 leases; a property portfolio value of some £250 million; up to 70 cruise liners each year off St.Peter Port (in a good year); 10,000 yachts with a total of 40,000 crew; 5,000 registered local boats; 2,000 moorings and the harbour staff issue 20,000 accounts and invoices each year.

Old Harbour Lighthouse - St.Peter Port

Prior to 1832 a Round House was used as a guardhouse for prisoners en route to Castle Cornet. The Ordinance of Chief Pleas of 1642 requires 'that it (the Round House) be rendered at public expense'.

James Cochrane's 'Map of the Island of Guernsey' of March 1832 refers to the 'new light as 'A gas light with reflectors has been recently fixed on top of the South Pier Round House, which answers by night as bearing G does by day'. ('G' being the clearing mark shown on the map for the Lower Heads).

John De Carteret's 'Outlines of the Rules and Regulations for the more efficient discharge of the Duties of the Deputy Harbour Master' dated 29th September 1849 state 'He should keep a correct account of the expenditure of Gas at the Pharos and see that it is not lit too soon, nor put out too late as it appears has frequently been the case'.