

Guernsey 2012

A lark on Sark...

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th July 2012

Itinerary...

-- Friday 13th July --

- 09:45 Assemble for coach at Vet Labs, Addlestone
- 10:30 Departure from Addlestone for Poole
- 14:30 Ferry leaves Poole for 3 hr crossing to Guernsey
IMPORTANT: Get into uniform before leaving ferry!!
- 17:30 Ferry arrives St. Peter Port, Guernsey
Load onto coach, depart immediately for concert venue
- 18:00 Arrive at concert venue: Castle Cornet, St. Peter Port
for “Castle Nights”. Other bands are also playing;
picnics, cafés and food stalls available on-site.
- 18:45-19:30 Concert performance
- 21:30 Depart for hotel and check-in
- 00:45 Civilised nightcap & bedtime stories; hotel bar closes.

-- Saturday 14th July --

- 06:00 Early morning swim
- From 07:00 Slap-up breakfast in hotel
- 09:00 Leave hotel in coach, with instruments and in uniform
- 10:00 Ferry leaves Guernsey for 55 min. crossing to Sark
- 11:00 Ferry arrives in Sark, transfer by tractor bus to venue:
New Island Concert Hall, hosted by Sark Musical
Appreciation Society
- 11:30 Set up for concert / rehearse, then free time to explore
the island and have lunch
- 14:00–15:00 Concert performance
- 16:00 Ferry departs from Sark
- 17:00 Ferry arrives in Guernsey; coach to St. James’ Concert
Hall, St. Peter Port. Set up for concert / rehearse, then
free time for evening meal etc.

- 20:00–22:00 Joint concert with Guernsey Concert Brass.
22:00 Return to hotel, joined by members of Guernsey
Concert Brass for drinks & social.
00:45 Break up fights; hotel bar closes.

-- Sunday 15th July --

- 06:00 Early morning swim.
(Probably less exuberant than yesterday).
From 07:00 Gentle remedial breakfast in hotel: Nurofen, Resolve...
09:30 Check out of hotel; transfer luggage into storage room.
09:30 Coach departs for Guided Tour of the Island including
history, archaeology, horticulture and wonderful
scenery. Tour ends in St. Peter Port – option to stay in
St. Peter Port and make own way back to hotel later in
day or immediate transfer with coach back to the hotel.
18:30 Optional evening meal at hotel (£18 per head)
20:00 Assemble at hotel to load coach and depart for port
21:45 Ferry leaves Guernsey
00:45 Ferry arrives in Poole
02:45 (!) Coach arrives in Addlestone
02:50 Across the road to Linda's for nightcap and toast.

-- Contacts --

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*DISCLAIMER: BCB accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of
information in this guide!*

All you need to know about Guernsey

Guernsey, officially the Bailiwick of Guernsey, is a British Crown dependency comprising 10 parishes on the Island of Guernsey, and the islands of Herm, Jethou, Lihou, Alderney and Sark. It is neither part of the UK nor part of the EU (a fact which certain unscrupulous cruise lines exploit by calling at Guernsey to get around duty-free sales legislation). Guernsey issues its own sterling coinage and banknotes, but UK currency also circulates interchangeably.

Guernsey has many large sandy beaches, like Vazon and Cobo Bays on the west coast of the island, offering fine sand and scenery as well as excellent windsurfing conditions.

Rising sea levels caused by prehistoric global warming transformed Guernsey into an island, when Neolithic farmers settled and built the dolmens and menhirs that dot the islands. Guernsey has three sculpted menhirs of great archaeological interest; the dolmen known as *L'Autel du Dehus* also contains a dolmen deity known as *Le Gardien du Tombeau* (The guardian of the tombs).

La Varde, the largest megalithic structure in Guernsey, stands on L'Ancrese common. This grey granite tomb comprises a 33ft long chamber and passage, and was discovered by accident during military exercises in 1811, under a drift of sand.

During the Middle Ages, the island was repeatedly attacked by continental pirates and naval forces, especially during the Hundred Years War. In 1372 the island was invaded by mercenaries under the command of Owain Lawgoch, who was in the pay of the French king. Lawgoch and his dark-haired mercenaries were later absorbed into Guernsey legend as an invasion by fairies from across the sea.

During Mary I's religious persecutions, three local women were burned at the stake for their Protestant faith. Following imprisonment at Castle Cornet, all three were burnt on the same fire... They should have been strangled first, but the rope broke and they were thrown into the fire alive. (More gruesome details can be found on Wikipedia under "*The Guernsey Martyrs*"). There is a memorial plaque to the

martyrs on the Tower Hill steps in Saint Peter Port, near the site of their execution.

The north eastern area of Guernsey, where the Peninsula Hotel is situated, is known as Vale. The area was once a separate island and includes Vale Castle, built on the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort that protected the channel between the Vale and the main Island.

Guernsey has seen the rise and fall of many industries, although none more dramatic than that of ship building. In recent times there has been a revival, building small pleasure craft, but still tiny in comparison to 19th century operations that employed vast numbers of men. Another large 19th century industry was the quarrying and export of various forms of Granite.

During the WWII occupation, some Guernsey islanders were deported to camps in the southwest of Germany, and a concentration camp was built on Alderney where forced labourers were kept. It was the only concentration camp built on British soil and is commemorated on memorials under Alderney's French name, '*Aurigny*'.

Guernsey was very heavily fortified during World War II, out of all proportion to its strategic value. There are German defences visible all around the coast and additions were made to Castle Cornet and even a windmill. Hitler was obsessed with the idea that the Allies would try to regain the islands at any price, and over 20% of the material that went into the Atlantic Wall was committed to the Channel Islands.

Fort Hommet was constructed on the Vazon Bay headland in the late Napoleonic era as a defence against the French, although fortifications are recorded here as far back as 1680. The Martello (tower) fort was restored and armed as part of Hitler's defensive works.

Fort Grey, colloquially known as the "cup and saucer", is another Martello fort located on a rock in Rocquaine Bay on the west coast of the island, said to have been the site of witches' Sabbaths. The

Fort was sold by the War Office in London to the States of Guernsey in 1891 for £185, and today houses a shipwreck museum.

The small tidal island of Lihou is the most westerly point in the Channel Islands, and can be reached at low tide by an ancient stone causeway. The ruined Priory of St. Mary is found here, established by Benedictine monks in the 12th century. The monks were not popular with the locals, who suspected them of devil worship, perhaps due to their insistence on rights of wreck. The ruined priory was used for target practice by heavy artillery during the German Occupation.

The temperate climate is ideal for growing tomatoes, for which (along with potatoes) the island is famous, with mild winters and warm sunny summers. The warmest months are July and August, when temperatures are generally around 20-24 °C (68-75 °F). July is usually the sunniest month. [*Except perhaps this year? – Ed.*]

Camellias and Magnolias often grow to be huge in Guernsey, notably in the public gardens of Saumarez Park, where exotic subtropical species were planted by a Guernsey diplomat who had served as the British Ambassador to Japan. A nature trail links the park with nearby Cobo Bay. Saumarez Park is one of the Island's main social venues and also houses a Victorian kitchen garden.

The best view across St Peter Port harbour can be obtained from Candie Gardens, which also offers a rare 19th century public flower garden, and the oldest known heated glass-houses in the British Isles, dating back to the late 18th century.

The Guernsey Steam Tramway began service in 1879 with six locomotives, but was superseded in 1892 by the Guernsey Railway. Little more than an electric tramway, it was abandoned in 1934, leaving Alderney as the only Channel Island with a working railway.

Until the early twentieth century, French was the sole official language of the Bailiwick, and all deeds for the sale and purchase of real estate in Guernsey were written in French until 1971.

Victor Hugo wrote some of his best-known works while in exile on Guernsey, including *Les Misérables*. Hugo escaped to Jersey via

Brussels in 1852, and in 1855 moved to Guernsey, where he stayed with his family until 1870. Hugo was offered an amnesty by Napoleon III in 1859, but refused to return to France until the Emperor had fallen from power. His home in St. Peter Port, Hauteville House, is now a museum administered by the city of Paris. In 1866, he published a novel set on the island, *Travailleurs de la Mer* (Toilers of the Sea), which he dedicated to the island of Guernsey.

Henry Watson Fowler moved to Guernsey in 1903 where he and his brother Francis George Fowler composed *The King's English*, the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, and much of *Modern English Usage*.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir spent little over a month on Guernsey in late summer of 1883, and painted about 15 pictures on the island, all showing views of the bay and beach of Moulin Huet. The paintings were commemorated in a set of Bailiwick stamps in 1983.

The national animals of the island of Guernsey are the donkey and the Guernsey cow. The traditional explanation for the donkey is the steepness of St Peter Port streets that necessitated beasts of burden for transport, in contrast to the flat terrain of the rival capital of St. Helier in Jersey. Consequently, Guernsey people are traditionally nicknamed *donkeys* or *ânes*, especially by Jersey people, who in return are nicknamed *crapauds* (toads).

The Guernsey cow is an internationally famous icon for the island. Prized for its rich creamy milk, which is claimed by some to hold health benefits over milk from other breeds, Guernsey cattle are increasingly also raised for their beef, which has a distinctive flavour and rich yellow fat.

The rich milk of Guernsey cows makes Cream Teas a speciality on the island, often accompanied by a fruit loaf known as *Gâche*. For those seeking a different gastronomy, R.W.Randall's Brewery is based in St Peter Port, producing fine ales including *Breda* (a pale lager), *Cynful* (a dark bottled ale that won the annual Tesco Beer Challenge in 2004) and *Wycked* (a bitter).

Spot the difference...

Can you find 10 differences between these two pictures of a typical BCB summer audience?



Spot the difference...

The picture was taken at Gogmore Park on Sunday 24th June, 2012



Channel Island factsheet

- Post boxes and phone boxes are painted blue in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- Sark is closed to day trippers on Sundays.
- Guernsey has its own Internet TLD (top level domain) name: .gg
- Guernsey's capital, St Peter Port, is visited by over 80 cruise ships each year.
- The Channel Islands boast over 300 restaurants.
- Many of the older houses in the Channel Islands have a witch's seat, comprising stones that jut out from the gables. The islanders believed that by providing a seat for passing witches to rest on would prevent them from falling foul of evil spells.
- Jersey was a favourite holiday destination of the Father of Communism, Karl Marx.
- Herm is home to the smallest prison in the world. It has room for just one person.
- The Little Chapel on Guernsey is the smallest chapel in the world. It was made by a French monk and is decorated with broken china and shells.
- The people from Jersey and Guernsey think they are descendants of fairies, known on the islands as "*pouques*" (pronounced "pooks")
- The last reported sighting of a fairy was in the early 1900s.
- The Channel Islands boast over 100 species of crab, 240 different varieties of seaweed and over four million oysters.
- Herm boasts an incredible "Shell Beach", which is composed of millions of shells brought to the island by the Gulf Stream.
- The Channel Islands are all smaller than Greater London.
- In the islands, Elizabeth II's traditional title as head of state is "Duke of Normandy".
- This year's ever-popular Sheep Racing event will take place on Sark over the weekend of July 20th to 22nd
- Divorce was illegal on Guernsey until 2003.

All you need to know about Sark

Sark is a royal fief, part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, with its own set of laws based on Norman law, and its own parliament. It has a population of about 600 and an area of 2.1 square miles. The island is a car-free zone, where the only vehicles allowed are horse-drawn vehicles, bicycles, tractors, and battery-powered buggies or motorised bicycles for elderly or disabled people. Passengers and goods arriving by ferry from Guernsey are transported from the wharf by tractor-pulled vehicles.

Sark comprises Greater Sark, and Little Sark to the south, connected by a narrow isthmus called *La Coupée* which is 300 feet long and has a drop of 330 feet on each side. Protective railings were erected in 1900, before which children would crawl across on their hands and knees to avoid being blown over the edge. There is now a narrow concrete road along the isthmus, built in 1945 by German prisoners of war under the direction of the Royal Engineers.

Most of Sark is 350 feet above sea level; the highest point on the island is also the highest point in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, named *Le Moulin* after a windmill dated 1571 located there, at 374 feet above sea-level.

In the thirteenth century, Sark was used as a base of operations by the French pirate, Eustace the Monk, after he served King John of England. Although populated by monastic communities in the medieval period, Sark was uninhabited in the 16th century and used as a refuge and raiding base by Channel pirates. Helier de Carteret, Seigneur of St. Ouen in Jersey, received Letters Patent from Queen Elizabeth I granting him Sark in fief in perpetuity on condition that he maintained the island free of pirates and occupied by at least 40 men who were the Queen's subjects, which he duly did, bringing with him 40 families mostly from St. Ouen.

Off the south end of Little Sark are natural swimming pools whose waters are refreshed at high tide, called Venus Pool and Adonis Pool.

The whole island is extensively penetrated at sea level by natural cave formations that provide unique habitats for many marine creatures, notably sea anemones, some of which are only safely accessible at low tide. Sea Ravens are very common in Sark.

Sark exercises jurisdiction over the island of Brecqhou. Only a few hundred feet west of Greater Sark, Brecqhou is a private island that until very recently was closed to visitors. Since 1993 Brecqhou has been owned by David Barclay, one of the Barclay brothers, co-owners of The Daily Telegraph. They contest Sark's control over the island, which has a surface area of approximately 200 acres. Brecqhou has its own fiscal system, and the owners can establish their own levels of income tax.

In August 1990, an unemployed French nuclear physicist named André Gardes attempted a single-handed invasion of Sark, armed with a semi-automatic weapon. On the night of his arrival, he put up signs declaring his intention to take over the island the following day at noon. He was arrested while sitting on a bench, changing the gun's magazine and waiting for noon to arrive, by the island's volunteer constable.

In January 2011, Sark was designated a Dark Sky Community, and the first Dark Sky Island in the world, by the International Dark-Sky Association. This designation recognises that Sark is sufficiently clear of light pollution to allow naked-eye astronomy. Though Sark was aided in its achievement by its location, its historic ban on cars and lack of public lighting, it was also necessary for local residents to make adjustments, such as re-siting lights, to cut the light pollution. The award is significant in that Sark is the first island community to have achieved this; other Dark-Sky places have, up to now, been mainly uninhabited areas, and Sark residents were commended for their effort.

Among the old laws of the Channel Islands is the Norman custom of the *Clameur de Haro*. Using this legal device, a person can obtain immediate cessation of any action he considers to be an infringement of his rights. At the scene, he must, in front of witnesses,

recite the Lord's Prayer in French and cry out "*Haro, Haro, Haro! À mon aide mon Prince, on me fait tort!*" ("Haro, Haro, Haro! To my aid, my Prince! I am being wronged!"). It should then be registered with the Greffe Office within 24 hours. All actions against the person must then cease until the matter is heard by the Court. The last *Clameur* recorded on Sark was raised in June 1970 to prevent the construction of a garden wall, although another *Clameur* was performed in 1989 to delay construction of a property adjacent to the Stocks Hotel until the end of that summer season

Crossword...

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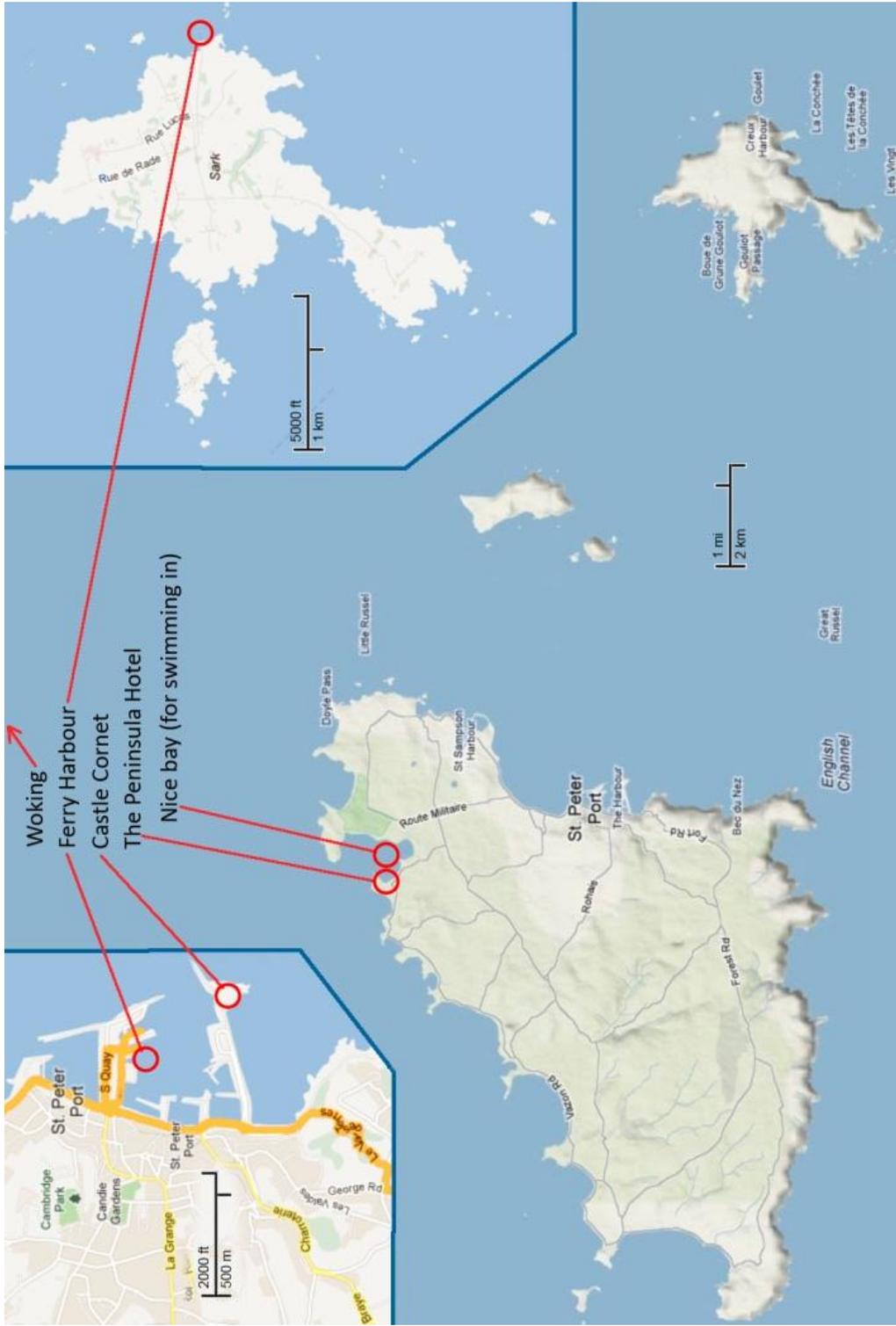
Across...

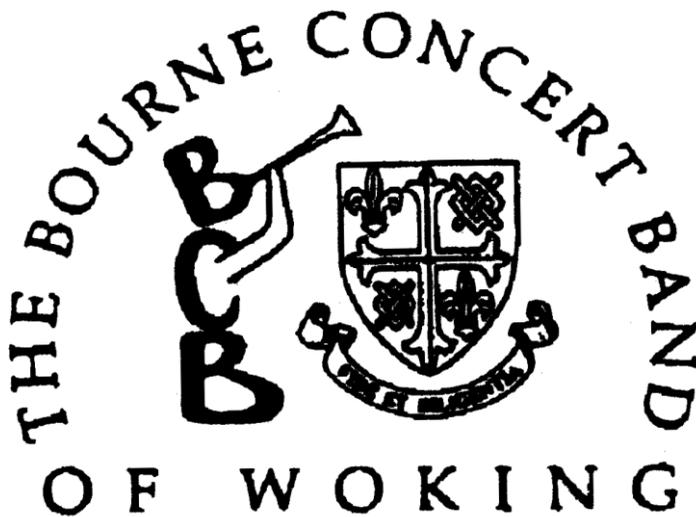
- 1 & 23 down Victorian gardens with the oldest known heated glass house in the British Isles (6, 7)
- 3 See 1 down.
- 6 One of Guernsey's sister islands (4)
- 7 Guernsey is this many miles from mainland Britain (7)
- 9 In music, an instruction to return to the normal register after a passage marked to be played in a different one *e.g.* an octave higher or lower (4)
- 10 West Coast Fort built in the 19th Century (6)
- 11 In music, the symbol which, when placed before a note, lowers it in pitch by a semitone (4)
- 13 & 5 down There are this many cliff top miles to explore on Guernsey (6, 5)
- 14 Guernsey fruit loaf (5)
- 15 "La Varde" is a megalithic example of one of these (4)
- 17 & 13 down One of many tasty treats enjoyed on Guernsey (5, 3)

- 20 & 29 down Subtropical plants and a Victorian kitchen garden can be found here (8, 4)
- 24 Originally built as part of the Guernsey's sea defences, this Fort now houses a ship wreck museum (4)
- 26 & 16 down Where fine ales come from on Guernsey (8, 7)
- 31 & 30 Famous book written by Victor Hugo whilst in exile on Guernsey (3, 10)
- 32 & 22 down A major industry on Guernsey in the 19th Century (4, 8)
- 33 The people who lived at 12 down (5)

Down...

- 1 & 3 across Ancient fort that is tied in some way to virtually every major event in Guernsey's history (6, 6)
- 2 Musical term meaning 'vivacity' 'liveliness' (4)
- 3 Most popular beach on the SW coast of Guernsey (4)
- 4 This artist visited Guernsey in 1883 (6)
- 5 See 13 across
- 6 See 25 down
- 8 Salad item for which Guernsey is famous (8)
- 12 This rocky islet, on which stands a ruined priory, is accessible from Guernsey at low tide (5)
- 13 See 17 across
- 16 See 26 across
- 18 Quarrying and export of these rocks (*pl.*) was a major industry in the early 19th Century (7)
- 19 Famous Sark sport involving sheep (6)
- 20 Another of Guernsey's sister islands (4)
- 21 In music: A chord of three notes (5)
- 22 See 32 across
- 23 See 1 across
- 25 & 6 down The artist (4 down) loved this wonderful scenic area on the South Coast of Guernsey so much that he painted it 15 times in just over a month (6, 4)
- 27 Castle in the north east of Guernsey
- 28 The basic unit of time in music (4)
- 29 See 20 across

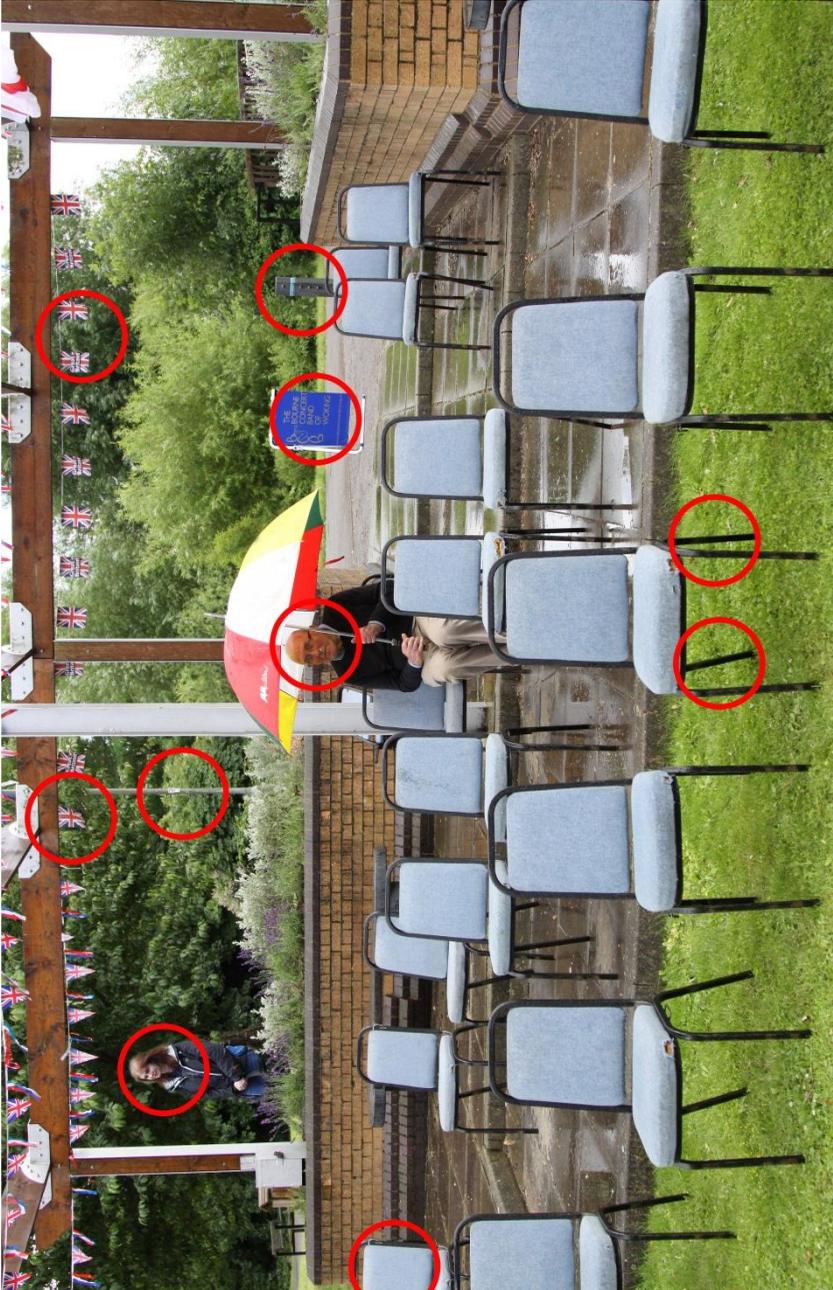




Guernsey 2012

The Answers...

The differences revealed...



The crossword completed...

C	A	N	D	I	E					B			C	O	R	N	E	T
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S	E	V	E	N	T	Y		U		I			B		N		G	
T					O			E		O		L	O	C	O		H	
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		R			S				S	A	U	M	A	R	E	Z		E
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A		I		I		I			K					I		M		R
R	A	N	D	A	L	L	S					V		T		O		Y
D		G		D		D		B		P		A		E		U		
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N						N		A		R		E				I		
S	H	I	P			G		T		K				M	O	N	K	S