

PARISH NEWS

HISTORIC ST HELIER, GERAINT JENNINGS: “ONE OF THE PLAGUE-SPOTS OF THE TOWN”

Westmount has been much in the news recently, and the roll-out of community policing by the States of Jersey Police has been noticeable. If we look back over a century, Westmount and community policing were also making headlines in 1912.

An editorial in the Morning News stated: “Westmount has always been known to the present generation as one of the plague-spots of the town, a centre of vice and immorality, and a prowling ground for blackmailers and other criminals. It is tacitly recognised that it is not only compromising but actually unsafe for respectable people to resort to after dark. Now it seems that even

in broad daylight in summer, with plenty of people about, the place has its dangers.” This was in response to a reported attempted sexual assault on a woman on 15th September.

Westmount had a reputation as a cruising ground after dark, notorious for assignations, with hints appearing in newspapers of prostitution, female and male - hence the reference to blackmail. The Morning News drew “the conclusion that St. Helier is hopelessly and shamefully under-policed”, with the paid police “so absurdly few in number that they cannot hope to adequately police a town of 30,000 inhabitants - and the honorary officials

have something else to do than to spend their time in patrolling Westmount”.

“The extent to which Westmount and the bad characters which infest it stink in the nostrils of all decent people, should point a moral. St. Helier needs, and needs urgently, more police... to still the voices of the many householders who complain so bitterly, and justifiably, that they are forced to pay police rate...”

Nowadays, Westmount is very different in character and, with the States of Jersey Police out and about in the community, also safer than 1912, if not in other ways uncontroversial.

Anais Niobey, assistant at St Helier-based Maison de Normandie, keeps us up-to-date with events just over the Channel or coming to Jersey directly from France.

LA NORMANDIE A PORTEE DE MAIN

La Normandie est si proche mais nous paraît si loin en ce moment... Si elle vous manque également, la solution est de venir faire un tour à la Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche au 71 Halkett Place à St Helier.

Vous pourrez y découvrir nos toutes nouvelles vitrines mettant en avant les nombreux festivals des arts de la rue organisés tous les ans par les membres du réseau normand : ReNAR. Venez nous voir pour avoir des informations à propos de ces formidables événements qui, nous l'espérons, pourront bien avoir lieu en 2021.

Nous avons également de quoi vous faire plaisir avec notre boutique : biscuits, miel, caramel, thé, rillettes, sac, savons... Tous nos produits viennent tout droit de Normandie pour qu'elle ne vous paraisse plus si loin !

À très bientôt !

A TASTE OF NORMANDY IN ST HELIER

Normandy is so close but feels so far away at the moment, so if you are craving to go back pop in Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche at 71 Halkett Place in St Helier.

You will be able to discover our newest window display showcasing the numerous street arts festivals organised all over Normandy every year by the members of the Norman Street Arts Network, ReNAR. Come and get information about those great events that will hopefully happen again in 2021.

We also have many treats for you in our shop: biscuits, honey, caramel, tea, spreads, shopping bags, soaps... Everything is made in Normandy by local producers for you to enjoy!

We hope to see you soon.

Contact us:

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Have you something to share with fellow parishioners? Is there an event or activity coming up that you want to tell St Helier about? Let us know at the Town Crier and we can include this for you. Call Annie Bienvenu on 811821 or email short news items and associated photos to annie.bienvenu@posh.gov.je.