

Jewels in the Sea

History and Constitution

The Channel Islands, described as jewels scattered in a silver sea, are closer to France than the south coast of England.

Guernsey, the second largest Channel Island, manages to contain its population of around 60,000 in just 25 square miles.

The Bailiwick of Guernsey includes the most northerly Channel Isle, Alderney, Sark and Herm as well as the smaller and equally beautiful Lihou, which is open to the public, Breeqhoiu and Jethou.

Guernsey's big earners are its booming finance industry, tourism and, to a lesser extent, horticulture.

The islands' proximity to the French mainland means that there is a typically French feel to Guernsey reflected in street names and even local surnames.

Although English is the language spoken, Guernsey-French patois can still be heard spoken, especially in the country parishes of Torteval, St Peter's and the Forest.

Living so close to the sea and depending on it for food led to the major part of St. Peter Port Harbour - the White Rock - being built in the last century.

In recent years, the growing importance of leisure boating has led to the construction of four marinas, the most recent at North Beach.

The friendly people, beautiful beaches, cliffs and countryside, stable government and good links with both the UK and the Continent mean that the Channel Islands are the ideal place for a holiday.

Over the years there have been a number of occasions when our more heavy-handed UK cousins have suggested that the Channel Islands could best be governed from Westminster.

But there is a well-worn saying locally that since "we" helped William the Conqueror 'do the business' to Harold in 1066, maybe England should listen more to Guernsey and Jersey when it comes to managing affairs properly.

An argument that gains force perhaps in the light of the islands' enviable 20p in the £ tax rate, lack of VAT, low unemployment and a way of life that is so popular that immigration is a problem.

The Channel Islands are not a single political and geographical group but two separate Bailiwicks - Guernsey which includes Alderney, Sark and Herm and Jersey.

At least from the time of Rollo, the islands were part of the Duchy of Normandy, of which Rollo was the first Duke, and when William, Duke of Normandy, became King of England in 1066, the islands became associated with the realm through the Duke.

After continental Normandy was lost to the Crown in 1204 the islands remained in the hands of the King of England, who governed them as Duke of Normandy.

The islands have never become part of the realm of England and went on to win today's self-governing administrative status, possessing their own insular legislatures, judiciaries and executives.

The islands are not, however, fully independent with HM Government still responsible for local defense and international relations.



St. Peter Port

What all this means in practice is that Guernsey and Jersey have a pretty free hand to regulate their own affairs and make and police their own laws.

In Guernsey this is done through the States of Deliberation - a body free from party politics which is not only the legislative and deliberative assembly responsible for determining policy, but also exercises the executive functions of government either directly or through about 50 standing committees.

Each of these committees is responsible for formulating proposals for the area of government for which they are responsible.

The range is wider than the UK, including matters which in Britain would be the concern of central government.

The states consists of 33 People's Deputies who are directly elected by voters in their parish constituencies, 10 elected parish representatives and 12 senior States Members called conseillers.

The president of the States is the Bailiff, the island's chief citizen and representative who is appointed by the Sovereign by Royal Warrant and normally holds office for five years.

The Sovereign also appoints Crown Officers: HM Procurer (Attorney General), and HM Comptroller (Solicitor General).

Acts of parliament do not apply automatically to the islands, only if the island is specifically named. It is usual today, however, for Acts to contain a clause empowering the Crown to extend it by way of an Order in Council.

Parliament does not legislate for Guernsey in matters of taxation and the like which have long been accepted as the responsibility and concern of the island authorities.

If it were not so, the whole basis of independent government that has been built up over the centuries would be destroyed.

This was formally recognized in 1968. Islander's rights and privileges have been enshrined by various Royal Charters and the most important was probably that which granted immunity to local produce from customs duty on entry to the UK.

Guernsey has its own independent judiciary with the Royal Court consisting of the Bailiff and a permanent jury of 12 Jurats.

Driving

The first thing you notice about driving in Guernsey is the narrowness of most of the roads and the comparatively slow speed at which the traffic travels.

But most of the rules of the road which apply in the UK are also in force here.

But there are slight variations in road markings and also in the way that pedestrian crossings and parking areas are marked.

Perhaps the most important thing for the motorist to remember is that there is a maximum speed limit of 35 mph on the island.

In parts of the island the maximum speed limit is 25 mph.

The island is slowly adopting the international stop sign of two white lines painted at road junctions, but they have not been introduced everywhere.

Many minor roads still have a yellow line painted at their junction with a major road. They denote that a driver must give way to traffic on the major road.

A traffic system which works well in Guernsey which can be confusing to visiting motorists is filter in turn.

This is exactly what it says with cars taking turns to go through a busy road junction.

Parking places are clearly marked by blue signs with a white letter P on them.

These also show how long you are allowed to park.

There is no paid parking in Guernsey, but you must display a parking clock showing your time of arrival in these disc parks.

If you want to see as much as possible of Guernsey during your stay, the use of a car is virtually a necessity.

Those who haven't come on holiday equipped with their own wheels will find that car hire in Guernsey is a great deal cheaper than elsewhere.

Fiat Unos, Metros, Fiestas, Escorts and Orions are all available from Economy Car Hire at competitive rates.

The name might be Rent-A-Car, but the company are equally concerned with bicycles this year and are applying the well-honed methods of car hire to a pedal-powered two-wheeler.

Contact Rent-A-Car about a bike and you will benefit from the same service as drivers get, i.e. free delivery and collections and a radio link that co-ordinates the two.

On the car front, the range is mainly Fords from the Fiesta to a minibus and there is also a chauffeur-driven service.

St Peter Port – Capital has mix of Ancient and modern

St Peter Port, the island's capital, grew up around a small chapel established to commemorate the Battle of Hastings on the sheltered side of the island.

It was a perfect mooring for the sailing ships which were the first of Guernsey's many successful industries.

Sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and with the smaller islands of Herm, Jethou and Sark giving protection for the east, it had the added advantage of being a suitable site for a fort.

Castle Cornet was built on a rock overlooking the mooring and gradually the harbour grew.



St. Peter Port



The castle still dominates the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour making it one of the most spectacular harbour mouths in the world.

The town of St Peter Port flows down from the hillside overlooking the harbour and remains an attractive sight to people arriving by sea.

Generations of islanders have worked diligently to preserve the character of the capital and, despite the demands of the 20th Century, it remains a charming and largely unspoilt place.

Many of the buildings remain much as they would have looked centuries ago; fine, solid granite structures that have borne witness to the many changes that have taken place over the years.

Guernsey was originally a seafaring nation, with fishing on the legitimate side and smuggling on the other.

The narrow streets of St Peter Port retain a sense of history, even though the shops are bang up to date.

The High Street is the main shopping street. It is closed to traffic for much of the day and retains with its cobbles still in place a charm not seen in many High Streets.

Half way up High Street is Commercial Arcade, which is crammed full of jewellery and clothes shops.

At the top of High Street to the left is Smith Street with the main post office and a couple of book shops, while straight ahead lies Le Pollet with a further selection of jewellery and clothing shops.

At the far end of Commercial Arcade lie the markets which still sell fresh fish, meat and vegetables in the traditional way.

Continuing past the markets brings you into The Old Quarter, made up of Mill Street and Mansell Street with its collection of antique shops and other curiosities.

The main development of the town has been at the eastern end where smart office blocks for merchants banks have appeared, but although they are modern in design and appearance, they do little to detract from St Peter Port's charm.



#11 Normon Terrace, Home of Ellen & Charles Rowe



#3 Emma Place



Victoria Road - upper road



Victoria Road - lower road

Guernsey

Do you remember Candie Park,
With it's giant trees, where the children lark,
In the mottled shade, on the lush green grass?
Hush! The Nazis are there.

Do you remember the White Rock walk,
Where dressed up smart, the people would stalk,
And meet their friends, and laugh, and talk?
Hush! The Nazis are there.

Do you remember the Market Place
With its tall grass roof, and hardly a space
For another stall in the open place?
Hush! The Nazis are there.

The roof of glass is shattered space,
There's nothing to sell in the Market place
Of the cheerful greetings there's not a trace,
Hush! The Nazis are there.

The lovely trees are cut for fuel
The people there are the Nazis tool
The Germans are there with the ghastly rule
Hush! The Nazis are there.

Shades of William the Norman, and Rolo the Dane,
Help us restore our isle again,
God grant that once more peace will reign,
And the Nazis no longer are there.



By - Candie Park

Do You Remember

Do you remember the day we meet
The glowing sun had not quite set,
It's radiance shed o'er the laughing sea,
When I first saw you, and you saw me.

Children played at the waters edge,
A hat was thrown on the lighthouse edge,
Sea birds shrieked and laughed with glee,
When I first saw you, and you saw me.

We forgot the rocks, and the ships at sea,
The splash of the waves, and the lonely tides,
When first we gazed in each other's eyes.

Our love was true, for it did last,
To ride o'er the trials of the past,
To rest on the joys that magnified,
As you and I walked side by side.

Long years have sped since the day we met,
Ere long our little sun's will set,
Parting must come 'twixt me and thee,
But we'll meet again in Eternity.

(When I met Dad at the White Rock Lighthouse. Eva Mary Rowe Salway)



White Rock walk - the lighthouse
is still there.



High Street



The Market Place - still used today

Grandma's Tale

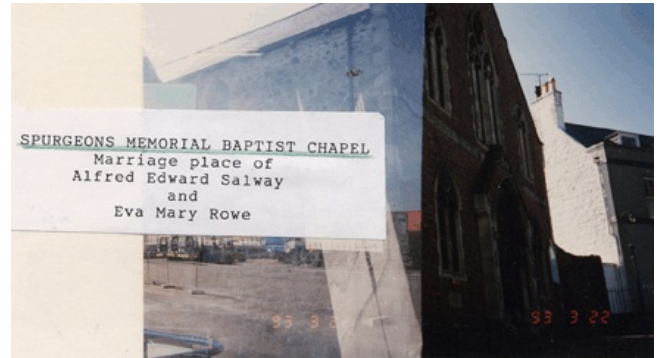
Wedding, Eva Mary Rowe to Alfred Edward Salway

When I got wed, Grandchildren dear;
You never saw such a mix,
Cupid must have gone asleep,
And pan was at his tricks.

Like mothers dress mine to was gray,
And a yard long train was there,
The Skirt hung plain, Straight to the ground,
And a large veil draped my hair.

The groom who should have waited
For his Bride at the church door;
With maids each side him looking sweet
With flowers which they bore.

Oh, no, the poor man walked right in
And sat down in a pew.
The girls, not knowing what to do,
Went in and sat down too.



Jersey

Jersey, the most southerly of the British Isles lies in the bay of St Michel sheltered between the Contentin and Brittany coasts. It is the largest and foremost of the Channel Islands group and measures an average length of nine miles by five wide with a total surface area of some 45 square miles. The island is a natural sun trap sloping gently from north to south. Along the rugged northern coastline, little harbours, coves and secluded bays protected by towering granite cliffs and promontories. In the south wide beaches and warm shallow waters.

The green and gentle interior is crossed by many valleys, some of outstanding charm, and overlaid with a patchwork of small fields and cultivated slopes. Jersey has been intensely and carefully farmed for centuries and has over 3/5th of it area given over to agriculture. Fertile soil and mild temperatures ensure a variety of early crops.

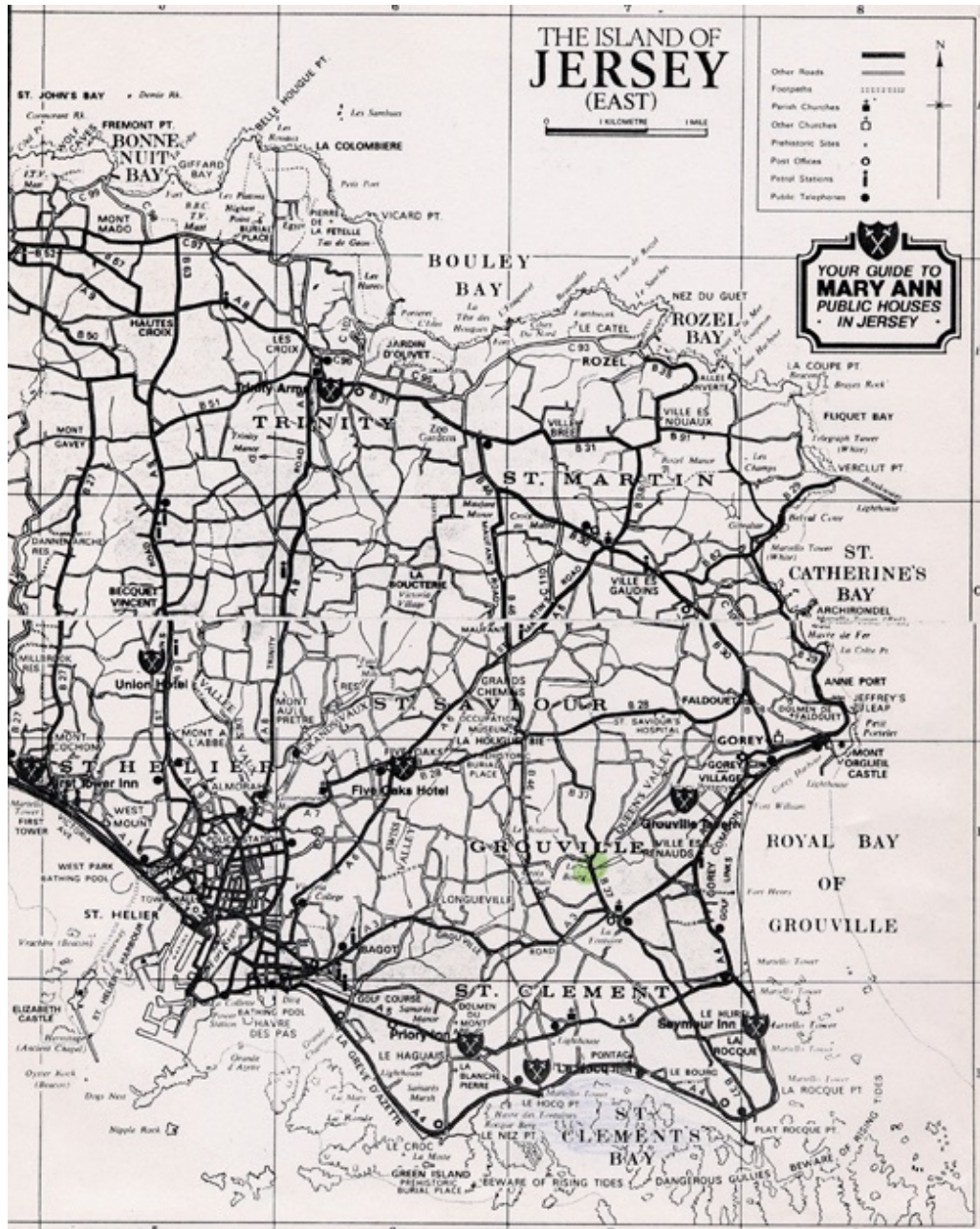
Jersey is generally blessed with a most delightful climate, positioned as it is, and in the flow of the Gulf Stream. It is even marginally drier and warmer on average than the adjacent Islands. Snow falls but rarely, fine springs and autumns are usual, and temperature and sunshine records continually top all other British resorts.

There are beautiful public parks and gardens, and wild flowers abound in the mild air. The seas surrounding Jersey are subject to some of the greatest tidal movements in the world, up to 40 feet being recorded between low and high water marks on spring tides. Visitors exploring the foreshore's rocks and pools will do well to remember the water can rise as much as two

inches per minute at certain times. Although these huge variations in level mean beaches are regularly washed clean, they also effect strong tidal currents around the coasts.

Jersey draws approximately one million tourists annually and is undoubtedly Britain's most popular holiday spot. Increasingly many continental shoppers and holidaymakers are discovering the Island. It is one of few resorts officially grading its hotel and guest house accommodation. A Highly regarded and long established legislature, stable economy, and advantageous tax laws, have in recent years brought Jersey to the notice of the International banking community and attracted many well-known residents to our shores.

The Island now enjoys an enviable reputation as a major financial centre, and traditional industries of agriculture and tourism are joined by banking as the chief source of our prosperity.





Fort George where Alfred Salway worked as a “gentlemens gentlemen.”



The pathway and tunnel from Fort George to St. Peter Port



Roger’s Jewelry Store



Roger’s jewelry store is now known as H. Samuel Jewelry store.

When they married, Father left the sea and joined an old friend of his, Adolph Rogers, in a watchmaking business. Father would go from house to house and gather watches for repair and take them to Rogers. After while he left Rogers and moved with his wife and 2 children to Jersey. Adolph Rogers prospered in the business and wrote to Jersey for father to come back to Guernsey and manage his jewelry store. Father did so and managed in the business for 20 years. It had become the largest business of its kind in the British Isles.

Father opened a watchmakers shop in High St., Guernsey after he left Rogers and did very well for awhile but just after I was married during the Boar War, his business failed as did many other businesses at that time. (Harold Salway writing about his father Alfred Edward Salway)



Wracking field in St. Clèments Bay

3rd Great Grandfather - Charles Mallet

Charles was born at Grouville Jersey Channel Islands, October 1, 1787 and was drowned there. He was Centeneer of Grouville, he owned Wracking boats. There being little fuel in Jersey, no coal and most of the trees were on private property, that the people had learn to dry for fuel, Wrack, a large seaweed that grew on the rocks. This Wrack could only be gathered a few days a year, when the tide was low enough for the rocks

to show well above the water. One season, Charles Mallet went with others out to the wracking field, with about 12 ships, and a great and sudden storm arose as it does in that sea. The ships were dashed onto the rocks and not one man was saved. This could be seen from the shore. I have often pictured grandmother Mary Hooper, standing on the shore, with other women, the wind blowing their shawls and skirts around them, watching in anxiety for the safely of their loved ones. The wracking feast had been prepared, jars of cider and great wracking buns full of dried fruit, for the return of the wracking party. They would dance all night and feast, but they never came back.



La Malletirere or Mallet Castle in Grouville

The House of “La Malletiere”

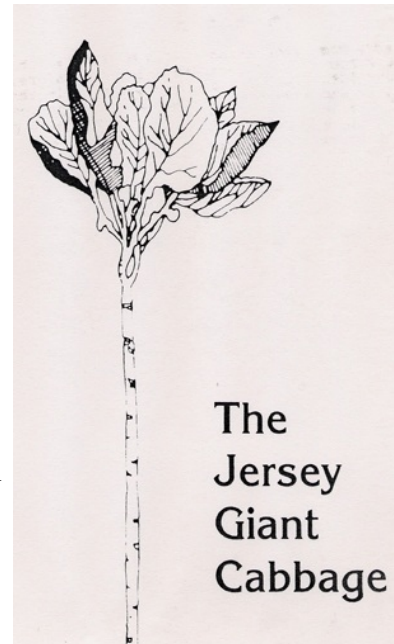
I have always been interested in “La Malletiere” because it is the first home of our earliest Jersey ancestors. Robert Mallet, your 13th great grandfather built it in the 12th century early and according to the following history, some of it still exists. It was built in Grouville, a piece of land trusted to Robert Mallet by William the Conqueror, named after his old home in Normandy.

The Jersey Giant Cabbage

To quote from Lewis Carroll:-

"The time has come the Walrus said,
To talk of many things,
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax
Of cabbages and kings —"

...and he might well have had the Jersey Giant Cabbage in mind in that last line, as if there was a cabbage fit for a king, this is the one. For in the words of a song once very popular in Jersey "A brave, bold Militia our foes do defy; 'Tis here we grow the cabbage TEN FEET HIGH".



The history of how the Giant Cabbage, or more formally, *Brassica oleraceae longata* (Acephala group) reached Jersey is none too clear. It seems certain that the Giant Cabbage had been cultivated in Jersey for a considerable time before 1827 when it reached England from France. "The Farmer's Magazine" of 1836 records that the plant had been cultivated in Jersey from the beginning of the 19th century, but this cannot be proven for sure. In 1836, however, Mr. John Murray of "The Farmer's Magazine" wrote that he had found the Giant Cabbage being cultivated in almost every Jersey garden.

A book about the Channel Islands published in 1835 describes a typical midday/Jersey/meal as "soupe au choux" (cabbage soup) made by boiling together as much cabbage, lard and potatoes as suffices for the family dinner. Sometimes, but rarely, a little meat is added, and sometimes parsnips or turnips take the place of potatoes.

From the evidence available there is little doubt that leaves from the Giant Cabbage head were used in the "soupe" and in other recipes. One alternative was to shred the leaves and cook them in red wine — a much more pleasant way to digest the Cabbage, which by today's tastes is destined to make the eyes water unless heavily disguised!

The stalks of the Giant Cabbage, or Long Jacks as they are also known, were made into the famous Jersey cabbage walking-stick by a number of people at one time. Since the end of the Second World War Phil Le Gresley the founder of L'Etacq Woodcrafts has been the sole manufacturer, a tradition still carried on by the present craftsmen. Also made from the stalk are thimbles, fly swats, shoehorns, corkscrews, collector's eggs, keyrings and lighters, so that little of the stalk is now wasted. A description of how the Cabbage walking-sticks are made appears at the end of this booklet.

This natural phenomenon is of course, usually associated with Jersey but can, in fact, be grown elsewhere. Indeed, it can still be seen growing in parts of Normandy and Brittany. Packets of seeds can be obtained from L'Etacq Woodcrafts for those people who would like to cultivate the plant at home if only to astonish the neighbours! It is in Jersey, however, that this botanical curiosity is famous for growths reported at over twenty feet in some cases — if only the Guinness Book of Records had been around then!

And what a variety of uses the whole plant used to be put to — conjuring up pictures of bygone days, a quaint way of living, a time when life could be enjoyed at a more leisurely pace. Just imagine those olden time scenes, when the Giant Cabbage leaves were used as food for man and beast, when bread and bourdelots were baked on the leaves which were also used to line butter baskets and men's hats to keep them cool in the hot sun. A leaf softened in the oven was placed warm on a bad back and the stalks were used as laths in the ceilings of barns, as bean-poles and tomato canes. On the farms, they served as fuel and of course they were made into walking-sticks.

Whilst most of these old time usages have been overtaken by more modern developments, L'Etacq Woodcrafts is proud to uphold at least a part of these long held traditions by making available to the public some articles which contain a little piece of history.

GROWING THE JERSEY GIANT CABBAGE

Sow the seeds when the moon is full, the best time being mid August or mid September. When nine inches tall, transplant them to where they are to grow using fertilizer at the start and twice more during early growth.

When the cabbages have grown to approximately 15 inches high, a few of the lower leaves should be stripped off to allow the stalk to strengthen.

This process should be repeated as each foot of growth occurs until the stems are some 5½ to 6 foot in height. As they get to 4 foot and over some growers do tie them to sticks to keep them straight, but this is optional.

Should you wish to make them into walking-sticks, the cabbages should be pulled up, including roots, when they have reached full height, the head cut off cleanly, not broken. With the root left on, they should be stood in pyramid fashion for 4 to 5 weeks then brought inside and laid in a warm place (a loft is preferable) until they dry out completely, being turned at regular intervals to avoid rot.

When they are fully dried out they can be coated with clear polyurethane (two coats), having been cut to size and the roots removed, rubber ferrules attached if required and they are ready for use as walking-sticks.

It is interesting to note that one of the leading manufacturers, the late Mr. H. C. Gee, sold the walking-sticks at his shop in Beresford Street, Jersey, from the 1870's until 1928 when his daughter Nellie carried on the business for some years. In the late Victorian period Mr. Gee sold some 500 to 600 sticks a year, well before Jersey became a tourist attraction. By the 1930's the yearly total sales had fallen to about 150.

As previously mentioned, Phil Le Gresley revived the manufacture in 1946 and L'Etacq Woodcrafts is still the only place that makes these unique souvenirs.



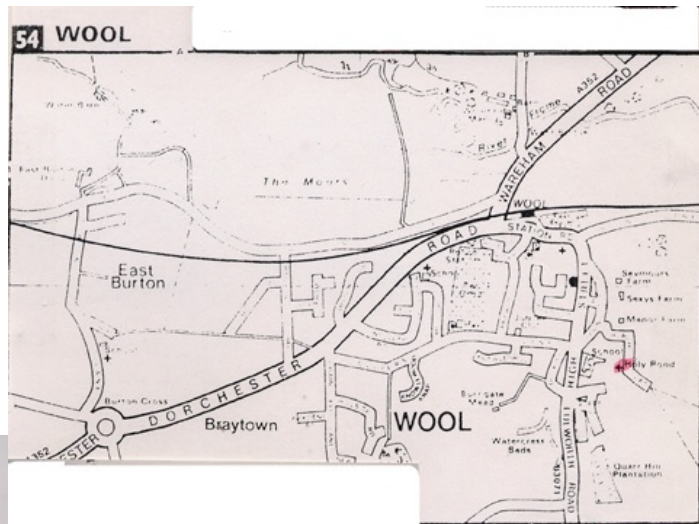
Potato fields on the hills

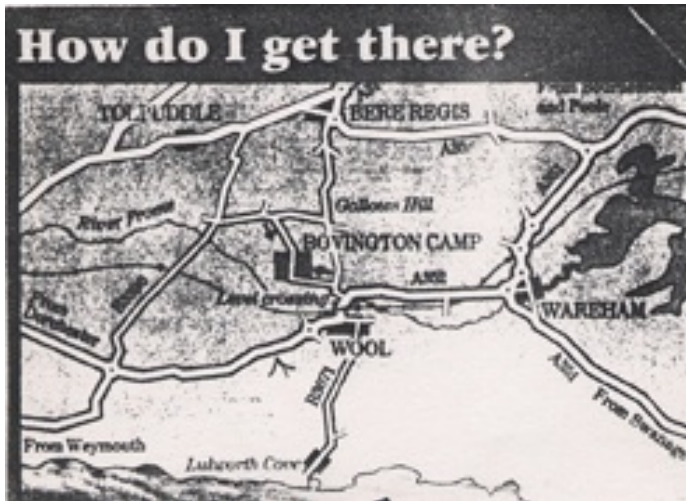


One of the many, many greenhouses in Jersey



Where Alfie and Millie are buried





Bovington Camp - where the 'Green Hut' was located