

ST. HELIER TOWN WALKS 2021

Starting at the end of March, Stuart Fell, architect and building historian, will be leading a series of inspiring town walks, examining the wealth of historic buildings and townscapes that still survive in St Helier. He will explore architectural delights and disasters, and look closely at the character of individual streets, their surprises, disappointments and opportunities, and find out what good townscape means and why it is so vulnerable to damage. The aim is to encourage anyone interested in the town to enjoy and develop a deeper understanding of its architectural pleasures, and become less tolerant of new architecture of inferior quality. The walks are free.

These events will parallel Jersey Heritage's 'What's Your Town's Story' series of talks during 2021.

The walks will take place on Sunday afternoons when the St Helier is at its most peaceful, starting at 2.30pm, and lasting between one and one-and-a half hours. In the interests of safety numbers will be limited to around 12 people and early booking is essential. This series will continue until October. This is an excellent way to walk off Sunday lunch, learn about why Jersey's capital town looks the way it does and to consider ways to make it more beautiful. Lively discussion is encouraged.

PROGRAMME – all walks start promptly at 2.30pm

Sunday 28th March New Street

Meeting Point: The junction of New Street and King Street

High points: One of the most architecturally varied and satisfying streets in town with a very good pair of 1930s buildings and some early 19th century idiosyncrasies

Low points: some of the worst examples of modern commercial architecture

Sunday 25th April Broad Street

Meeting Point: The Le Sueur Monument at the east end of Broad Street

High points: Excellent commercial architecture from the 19th and 20th centuries, and some much older surprises

Low points: None

Sunday 23rd May La Colomberie

Meeting Point: Les Jongleurs sculpture; junction of Snow Hill and Queen Street

High points: Immensely varied architecturally with some under-appreciated buildings and townscape

Low points: One of the most damaged historic streets in St Helier – ideas needed!

Sunday 27th June Royal Square

Meeting Point: The Statue of King George II

High Points: St Helier's premier public space with some excellent buildings and outstanding townscape

Low points: None

Sunday 25th July Dumaresq Street

Meeting Point: The Junction of Dumaresq Street and York Street

High points: Contains an excellent group of buildings that help to explain the evolution of Jersey's domestic architecture

Low Points: Much of this historic quarter has been destroyed, and the replacement buildings are uninspiring – ideas needed!

Sunday 29th August Town Church and Surroundings

Meeting Point: The Statue of King George II

High Points: One of the most architecturally impressive and least damaged parts of St Helier, with excellent buildings spanning several centuries.

Low Points: None

Sunday 26th September Queen Street

Meeting Point: Les Jongleurs sculpture, at the junction of Snow Hill and Queen Street

High Points: Some excellent examples of commercial architecture spanning two centuries, including the especially interesting Boots and Woolworths frontages

Low Points: Some rather disappointing buildings of the late 20th century

Sunday 24th October King Street

Meeting Point: The junction of King Street and Halkett Place

High Points: Some outstanding buildings that express how the retail industry in St Helier's principal shopping street has evolved over two centuries

Low Points: Some modern buildings of indifferent quality

SF 15 March