



LES MOURIAUX HOUSE

1729 - 1825

The Former home of
Hereditary Island Governors

Les Mouriaux House, considered the finest Georgian house in Alderney, was completed in 1779 by Peter Le Mesurier, son of the then Island Governor John Le Mesurier.

The Le Mesurier family, were the Governors of Alderney throughout the 1700's.

Peter Le Mesurier 1750 - 1803

Throughout their hereditary governorship Le Mesurier's and the island prospered through privateering. The jetty at Braye was built in 1736, along with warehouses and dwellings and the export of cattle generated wealth for the economy. A school was built (now the museum) in 1790 and a Methodist chapel was constructed in 1790, following John Wesley's visit in 1787.

Peter succeeded the position of Governor upon his father's death in 1793 and then Peter's son, John Le Mesurier III succeeded to the title in 1803.

By 1808 the British Government took action to suppress smuggling and with the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 the economy of Alderney suffered a severe decline. John resigned his Patent to the Crown in 1825 and since then the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey assumed authority of the Crown.

Les Mouriaux House was visited by Queen Victoria during her reign and then Queen Elizabeth II in 1956. It was also the residence of the first President of Alderney, Captain Sidney Herivel, from 1949 to 1970.

NB. Les Mouriaux House blue plaque is situated on the arch wall entrance on Carriere Viront.



LOCATION OF PLAQUES

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Henry Gauvain | 4 Tommy Rose |
| 2 Les Mouriaux House | 5 Elisabeth Beresford |
| 3 T. H. White | 6 John Arlott |
| | 7 Rev John Wesley |



DISCOVER SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE
WHO WERE BORN OR LIVED IN ALDERNEY



SIR HENRY JOHN GAUVAIN MD, MCH, FRCS

1878 - 1945

St Catherine's House, Victoria Street

Henry John Gauvain was born in Alderney on 28 November 1878. He was the second son of William and Catherine Gauvain. His father William was HM Receiver-General for the Island and his mother, Catherine Margaret, was the daughter of Peter Le Ber, a Jurat of Alderney.

He was educated privately and later at St John's College, Cambridge and as a scholar at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. In 1908 he became first medical superintendent of the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College in Alton, Hampshire, a position he held until his death. He was a pioneer in the surgical treatment of tuberculosis and heliotherapy, the curative benefits of fresh air and sunlight.

He was knighted in 1920 for his services to medicine and the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital.

Throughout his life Sir Henry took a keen interest in the welfare of his native Alderney. He became chair of the Alderney Evacuation Committee during WWII whose purpose was to help the islands evacuated families stay in touch with each other. He died in Alton, Hampshire in 1945.



T. H. WHITE

1906 - 1964

The White House,
3 Royal Connaught Square

Terence Hanbury 'Tim' White was born in Bombay on 29th May 1906. He graduated from Cambridge in 1929. A prolific writer, he is best known for his Arthurian novels. One of the most memorable is the first of the series, The Sword in the Stone, published in 1938.

In 1947, White settled in Alderney where he continued writing and painting. The Once and Future King was published in 1958. In 1960 his Arthurian novels were adapted for the Broadway musical Camelot, starring Julie Andrews and Richard Burton.

Returning to his home in Alderney from a lecture tour in America he died on 17 January 1964 aboard ship in Piraeus, Greece. He is buried in the Protestant cemetery in Athens.

In 1977 The Book of Merlyn, a conclusion to The Once and Future King, was published posthumously. His papers are held by the Humanities Research Centre, University of Texas in Austin.



JOHN ARLOTT OBE

1914 - 1991

The Vines, Longis Road

Leslie Thomas John Arlott, was an English journalist, author and famous cricket commentator for the BBC's Test Match Special. He was also a poet and wine connoisseur. With his poetic phraseology, he was noted for his 'wonderful gift for evoking cricketing moments'.

He and his family had been regular visitors to the Island since 1953 and on retirement in 1980 he moved to Alderney where he regularly entertained friends and celebrities of the time, such as the English bowler Ian Botham. He was a freeman of the town of Basingstoke and was awarded an OBE in 1970. He died on the 14th December 1991 and is buried in St. Anne's church cemetery. Engraved on his headstone are two lines from one of his poems:

'So clear you see those timeless things, That, like a bird, the vision sings.'



ELISABETH BERESFORD MBE

1926 - 2010

22 Little Street

Elisabeth Beresford was the author of children's books best known for creating The 'Wombles'; a community of furry, long-nosed burrowing creatures who live peacefully under the parkland of London's Wimbledon Common, emerging secretly to clean up and repurpose the rubbish left behind by humans.

Born into a family with many literary connections, she was an author and worked as a journalist until she created in 1968 The Wombles, when bringing up her children in Wimbledon. The strong theme of recycling was particularly notable and the Wombles became very popular with children across the world.

From 1961 she and her family came to Alderney for holidays and they moved permanently to Alderney in 1978. As well as writing over 20 Wombles books Elisabeth wrote a variety of other adventure and mystery books for children, many based on Alderney. Between 1991 and 1994 she served as a States Member of Alderney with particular interest in children's education.

She was awarded an MBE for her services to children's literature in 1998.

Elisabeth died on 24 December 2010 and her ashes were interred in St Anne's church graveyard.



'TOMMY' ROSE DFC

1895 - 1968

2 Les Venelles De Gaudion

Thomas 'Tommy' Rose was born on the 27th January 1895. He was a renowned RAF pilot during the First World War, having shot down twelve German planes and was awarded the DFC. He retired from the RAF in 1926 and became a celebrated aviator and in 1935 he won the King's Cup air race at the third attempt. The following year

he made his record 7,300 mile solo flight to the Cape in 3 days, 17 hours and 37 minutes. Between 1939-45 he was a test pilot for Phillips and Powis Aircraft Ltd (Miles Aircraft).

In March 1957 he moved to Alderney and purchased The Marais Hotel. He was held in great affection by the local community and his parties were legendary. He died in Alderney in June 1968 and is buried in St. Anne's church cemetery.

A display of his medals and Cape trophy can be seen at the Museum.



REV JOHN WESLEY

1703 - 1791

The Divers Inn, Braye Road

On August 14th 1787, 83 year old John Wesley, Founder of Methodism, inadvertently visited Alderney. There was already a recognised Methodist congregation, though not a building, ready to welcome him to the Island. John had set sail to Guernsey from Yarmouth but the weather changed in mid Channel. From his journal he wrote:

'We then thought it best to put in at the Isle of Alderney; but we were very near being shipwrecked in the bay. When we were in the middle of the rocks, with the sea rippling all round us, the wind totally failed. Had this continued we must have struck upon one or other of the rocks. So we went to prayer, and the wind sprung up instantly. About sunset we landed.'

He and his friends then found accommodation at the Diver's Inn and all five slept peacefully in the same room. In the morning he preached on the beach; his diary recalls: *'About eight I went down to a convenient spot on the beach and began giving out a hymn. A woman and two little children joined us immediately. Before the hymn was ended, we had a tolerable congregation all of whom behaved well. Part, indeed, continued at fog or fifty yards' distance, but they were all quiet and attentive.'*

Among the people on the boat had been some relatives of the islands Governor, who later came to visit John and found him a very friendly character. In his diary John comments that: *'this incident might make the gospel message more acceptable on the island.'*