

Sark plans an eventful 2015



Many local residents, working in conjunction with Sark Tourism, are involved in planning a range of exciting new events for 2015 which, we are sure, will attract visitors to experience this unique island, its stunning coastal scenery and friendly people. Sark is always a great place for a day out or a longer stay. This year, however, is a very special one as Sark commemorates two significant historical events.

The 450th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter by Elizabeth 1st to Helier de Carteret

The charter was signed on 6th of August, 1565. The sixth falls on a Thursday this year so we have chosen to focus our celebrations mainly on that Thursday and the following three days though other events will take place throughout the season. On the 6th of August the children of Sark will present a pageant depicting the signing of the charter at Le Manoir, Helier's Seigneurie. Shoppers may enjoy a courtyard market in the same area. A first for Sark, a modern henge, on the cliffs on Sark's south east coast will be officially opened on the same day, at around 6pm. Join with the Sarkees and bring a picnic to celebrate nine gate-stones, Jersey pink granite of course, becoming a 2015 monument.

On **Friday 7th August** a guided walk, 'In Search of Helier de Carteret' will start from the Visitor Centre at 2 pm.

Saturday 8th, may see a real one off: a Jersey to Sark rowing race. Or, if you feel like taking to the water yourself, there is an evening cruise on the Isle of Sark Shipping vessel Sark Belle which will circumnavigate Sark.

Sunday 9th of August is a day for all the family with games, fancy dress, food and competitions on the Millennium Field.

Fantasie, a son et lumiere which is a lighthearted romp through Sark history from 4000 B.C. to 1852 will take place in front of La Seigneurie on Friday **4th September** and Saturday **5th September** at 9 pm.

The 70th anniversary of Liberation from German Occupying forces

On **Sunday May 10th** our commemorations will take place at Creux harbour, hopefully beginning with a flyover by Battle of Britain planes at 11.15 am (TBC). This will be followed at by an interdenominational service then the dedication of a granite plaque to those who were deported from the island in 1943, unveiled by the last surviving resident deportee. This is followed by a marquee reception at 12.30 for islanders and visitors. All of this takes

place in the presence of the lovely Chelsea Pensioners as well as other specially invited guests.

As well as all those events we expect annually; Wild Flower fortnight, Folk Festival, Sheep Racing, Street Markets, Autumn Starfest weekend, to name only a few, there are some additional new events to look forward to in 2015.

5 bays in a 5 days challenge

A new event running from **Easter to mid October** via the Sark Tourism Facebook page. Visitors taking this challenge must supply a series of selfies to show that they have been down to 5 different bays. They can do this during a holiday break, or they can come to Sark on 5 different day trips to visit a different bay every day. There will be a special prize for post which gets the most 'shares'.

Taste of Sark month

THROUGHOUT JUNE This is a chance for our cafes/restaurants/shops to showcase the lovely range of food on offer on Sark, with the focus on home produced ingredients.

Cream Tea Competition

THROUGHOUT AUGUST You can't visit Sark without having a cream tea. Sample them all and then choose your favourite, with the chance of a winning a prize, awarded to one entry form picked out at random at the end of the season.

Autumn Walking week

During the October school half-term week

Experience many of the fabulous views and locations that Sark has to offer by joining free morning and afternoon guided walks available each day.

For more information on the 450th celebrations contact Jan Guy on 01481 832343 or email janguy@cwgsy.net

For information about Liberation Day celebrations and general information about Sark events during 2015 phone Karen Adams, Sark Visitor Officer on 07781 106072.

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