

**T**his day, 6th of August, four hundred and fifty years ago, 1565, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the first witnessed her royal Letters Patent to Helier de Carteret, Seigneur of St Ouen in Jersey, granting him the Island of Sark, with all its rights, members, liberties and appurtenances. The fief to be held, direct from the Crown.

The conditions for holding Sark = unique among the feudal tenures of Channel Island fiefs were laid down to ensure that the island be 'continually inhabited by forty men at least, Crown subjects, ... faithful and obedient to the Queen'. And an annual sum of a twentieth part of a Knights Fee per annum to be paid to the Crown Receiver of Rents.

Despite all the change over four-and-a-half centuries this remains true to this day.

To mark this occasion, the Seigneur, the Seneschal, the President and members of Chief Pleas and the people of Sark renew their loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

