

## **Hamptonne History**

The Hamptonne Country Life Museum project represents a partnership involving a number of different island heritage organisations. In 1987 Hamptonne was bought by the National Trust for Jersey with the financial assistance of the States of Jersey. The Société Jersiaise undertook to restore the site.

Following archaeological investigation and restoration of some of the buildings, Hamptonne was opened to the public in June 1993 as one of the sites within the Jersey Heritage Trust.

Further developments led to the opening of the Langlois building and the colombier in the spring of 1996.

### **The Langlois House**

This is an upper hall house and takes its name from one of the earliest recorded families that we know to have lived on the property - the Langlois. This style of architecture was common in medieval Brittany; the animals and stores were kept downstairs and people lived in the rooms upstairs which were reached by an outside staircase. This building has been restored to show what life was like in the late eighteenth century.

The doorway was one of the oldest architectural features in the island. While the usual number of stones in a Jersey arch is nine, this example has eleven. The double arched entrance to the farmyard just next to the Langlois House has a date stone set in it giving the date as 1637. The large arch was for vehicles while the smaller arch was for pedestrians.

### **The Hamptonne House**

This takes its name from the Hamptonne family who bought the property in 1633. It was Laurens Hamptonne who proclaimed Charles II king in the Market Place in St. Helier in February 1649.

Over the centuries this house has been transformed a number of times as tastes changed. Originally it was a large, single room open to the rafters; the first floor was added in the sixteenth century in order to allow the farmer and his family more privacy from the servants. Access was provided by building a stair tower on to the back of the house. At the end of the seventeenth century a two storey extension (the Dower Wing) was added to the eastern gable in order to make the house larger. Most of this house has been restored to show the visitor what life was like in the 1640s, while the Dower recreates the 1730s.

### **The Syvret Building**

Named after the family who lived here in the nineteenth century, the Syvret building dates from the 1830s and is the most recent of the three houses to be built. The rooms are extremely high and are typical of those found in the large houses being built in St. Helier at this time. This building houses the exhibition Living Memories which tells the story of how rural life has changed in the island since the Great War.

The northern end of this range of buildings is used as a cider barn and

contains an apple crusher, a twin-screw apple press and barrels as well as other farm tools. The cider-making equipment is all in working order and is used every October to produce our own cider.

### **The farm outbuildings**

These became more important during the nineteenth century and a number of beautiful examples have survived. The northern yard was created in the late nineteenth century; it consists of stables, a carriage house, bakehouse, washhouse, farm labourer's accommodation and an open shed. These buildings have been restored to show how they would have looked when they were first built.

### **The Colombier**

While there are a few nesting niches for pigeons in the facade of the Hamptonne House and the eastern end of the Langlois building, most of the pigeons were kept in the colombier on the other side of the small valley.

The first recorded colombier on this site was built by Richard Langlois and it is one of only two square colombiers in the island. A date stone set in the wall above the door records the date of its rebuilding in 1674.

### **The orchard**

The orchard has been planted with a selection of island varieties of bittersweet and bittersharp apples which, when mixed together, provide the right balance for the cider we produce following the autumn harvest.