

Jersey Myths and Legends

The Black Dog of Bouley Bay

Many years ago in Trinity, people talked of a black dog that was the size of a bull with enormous red eyes that glowed like fire. He would walk the cliff paths around Bouley Bay at night, dragging its chain behind him. There were many rumours of the Black Dog, some said a sighting of him meant a storm was coming, where as others said he led lost travelers to safety. Others said that the Black Dog would chase people to scare them, but he would never hurt them.

It is still said now that if you see the ghost of the Black Dog at Bouley Bay, it is a sign that a storm is coming your way.

Could the Black Dog of Bouley Bay be a myth made up by smugglers to keep people away from the Bay at night so they could steal from Jersey without people noticing? What do you think?



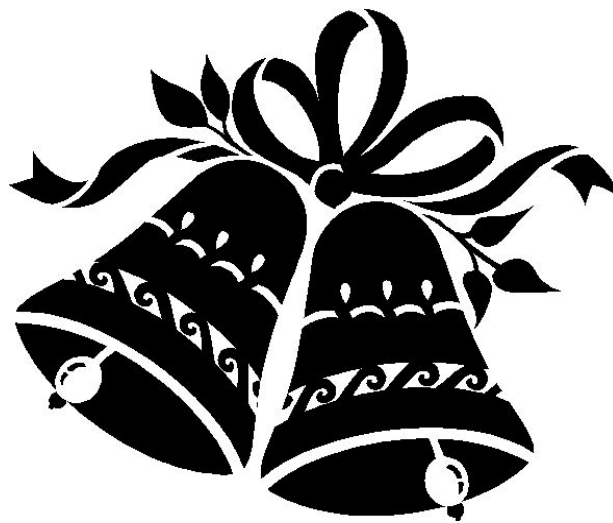
The Ghostly bride

Once upon a time, a couple were walking home through Waterworks Valley at midnight, they heard church bells ringing and soon realised that they were wedding bells.

A bridal procession slowly appeared round the corner - a coach drawn by six horses, with footmen and a coachman. As the coach passed, the couple looked inside at the bride, dressed in her magnificent white wedding dress. But the bride was not happy - under her wedding veil there was just a skull. Scared out of their wits, the couple ran the rest of the way home.

At first they worried that people would laugh at them, but they were soon told about an old legend. A long time before, the same bride went to St Lawrence's Church to be married, but her bridegroom never arrived.

She died from sadness, and now, once a year, her ghost drives down the valley, trying to find her disloyal fiancé.



Witches' Rock

Legend tells us of a fisherman called Hubert who was engaged to a woman called Madeleine. He used to go for long walks during the evenings after work, one evening he walked towards Rocqueberg Point. He fell asleep next to the rock, but when he awoke the rock had gone - and was replaced by a magic wood with beautiful girls dancing round the trees.

Hubert danced with them, and as he left he promised he would return the following night. When he got home, he told Madeleine about the strange events, and she warned him not to go the next night, but Hubert decided to go anyway. Madeleine told the parish priest about her suspicions, and the priest told her to take a crucifix and follow Hubert to Rocqueberg Point that night.

When Madeleine reached Rocqueberg, she saw Hubert, merrily dancing, but they were not beautiful girls they were witches. Madeleine held the crucifix high above her head and ran towards the witches - who vanished, shrieking. Hubert collapsed, and the rock returned in place of the magical forest. Since that night the rock has been called Witches' Rock.



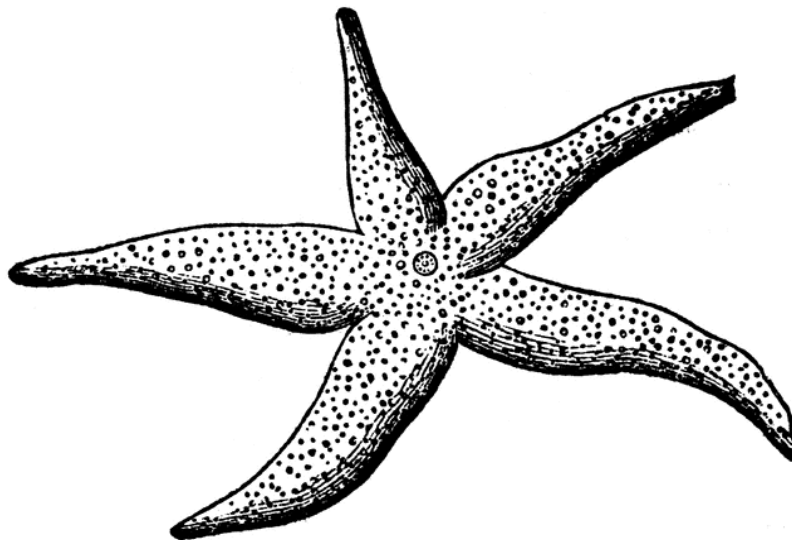
The Witches of La Rocqueberg

The coastline at La Rocque is very treacherous because there are many rocks hidden under the water.

Legend has it that the witches of Rocqueberg would only allow fishermen to pass this headland safely if they were thrown every thirteenth fish from the fishermen's catch.

If they failed to do this they would cast a spell to raise a great storm, and the boat would be smashed to pieces on the rocks.

One brave fisherman refused to do this - instead he took a five-rayed starfish from his catch, cut off one of the arms and threw it at the witches, shouting: 'The cross is my passport'. It landed amongst the witches in the shape of the cross and they disappeared, never to be seen again.



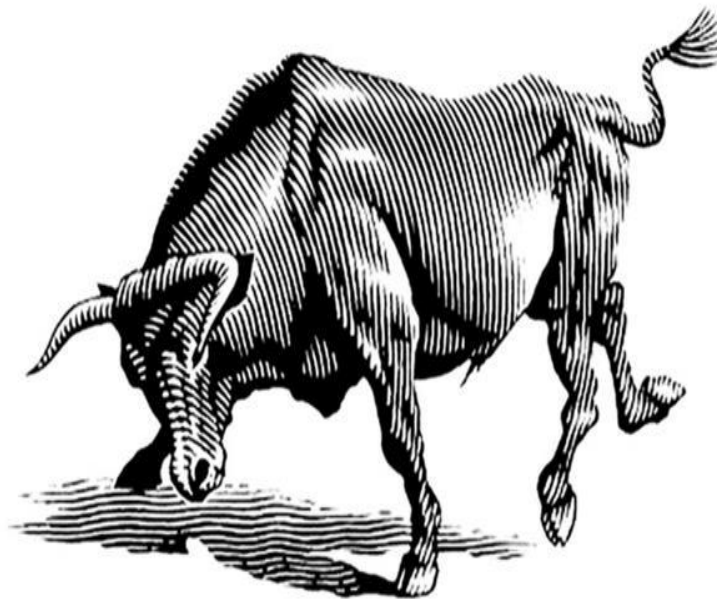
The Bull of St Clement

Fishermen used to talk of a roaring bull that roamed around the rocks off St Clement at low tide. People were so scared of this bull that they refused to venture down to the beach, even to go fishing.

One fisherman refused to believe the tale about the bull, and decided to search the rocks. Whilst he was searching, the bull began to roar - but when the fisherman followed the sound, he found a rock pool, where the rocks had been eroded to form a pipe.

At low tide water was sucked down the pipe, making a gurgling noise, which echoed loudly off all the rocks. The fishermen filled up the rock pipe - and that was the end of the bull of St Clement.

What a shame!



The Dragon of St Lawrence

Legend says that a terrible dragon once lived in St. Lawrence, killing people and burning houses all over the Island. The noble Sir Hambye of France heard stories of this dragon; he travelled to Jersey and after a fierce battle, cut the dragon's head off!

Exhausted and wounded after the battle, Sir Hambye lay down to rest, watched over by his trusty squire. What Sir Hambye didn't know was that his squire wasn't loyal or trustworthy at all. The squire wanted all the glory for himself - he killed his master whilst he was resting then buried the body before returning to France. He told Sir Hambye's wife that his master had been killed by the dragon and that he, the Squire, had killed the dragon. He also added that the dying wish of Sir Hambye was that the Squire should marry his Lady wife.

One night after they were married, the Lady overheard the squire talking in his sleep, he admitted killing his master back in Jersey. The Lady had the Squire sent to trial where he confessed to killing Sir Hambye and was sentenced to death. In memory of her husband, the lady travelled to Jersey and built the mound here at La Hougue Bie. On a clear day you can see right across to France.



Read the story and answer the questions - or just enjoy the stories.

Remember that these stories aren't real.....or are they?



Which bay does the black dog live in?

When might you hear the dog howling?

Which parish does this story come from?



Why was the bride so sad?



Where is witches rock?

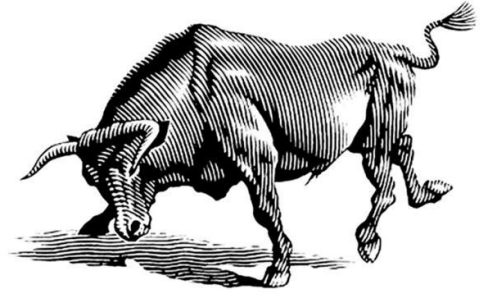
Who was Hubert engaged to be married to?

What would happen if the witches did not receive the thirteenth fish?

What sea creature did the fisherman use to defeat the witches?

When could the bull be heard?

What was making the roaring sound?



Who killed the dragon?

Which parish did the dragon live in?