

COMMUNITY LANDSCAPING, EVACUEE HISTORY AND SPORTING EXCELLENCE MAKE THE SHORT LIST OF GUITON GROUP 2010 AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

News Release

Embargoed : 9am on Monday 17 January 2011

The short-list for the Guiton Group 2010 Ambassador of the Year comprises a group, a pair and an individual whose endeavours and achievements outside Guernsey during 2010 has substantially raised the profile of the island ... and all for very different reasons.

Floral St. Peters Group, representing the Bailiwick in the 2010 Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom competition received a Gold Award in the "Large Village" category. As the smallest region in the Britain in Bloom initiative, which is the largest horticultural campaign of its kind in Europe, Floral St. Peters Group further strengthened Guernsey's international reputation as a quality floral destination. Only 19 finalists, across all the Britain in Bloom categories, received a Gold Award and it was the only the second time in the competition's history that a finalist taking part for the first time was awarded Gold.

Lee Merrien is no stranger to the hours of training and physical and mental discipline that are required in his chosen field of long distance running and 2010 marked his emergence as a genuine international force on the marathon stage. He finished 12th in his first ever attempt at the distance in the London Marathon and followed this with an exceptional 8th place finish in the European Athletics Championship marathon in Barcelona whilst representing Great Britain. Lee already has in sights running an Olympic qualifying time in the 2011 London Marathon and to qualify for Great Britain marathon team in the 2011 World Championships in South Korea.

2010 also marked a special anniversary for Guernsey and the evacuation of those who left Guernsey in 1940 ahead of the occupation by German troops. Joan Ozanne and Gillian Mawson worked tirelessly over an 18 month period to bring about the successful commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the evacuation. Joan, a former evacuee herself, set up and chaired the 70th anniversary committee and worked closely with Gillian, who as a researcher at Manchester University, is currently exploring all aspects of the evacuation from the Channel Islands in 1940. Joan and Gillian's indomitable efforts resulted in not only the Bishop of Stockport and seven Mayors of UK regions, where evacuees had been sent, visiting Guernsey for its annual Liberation Day on 9 May 2010 but also the installation and unveiling of a commemorative plaque on the White Rock that is now a permanent tribute to the evacuation.

"In today's world it is becoming increasingly essential that Guernsey grows its international reputation." said John Averty, Chairman of The Guiton Group, sponsor of the Ambassador of the Year Award. "The Guiton Group is pleased to be able to encourage the promotion of Guernsey and, through the Ambassador of the Year Award, recognise those who do so much to laud its many virtues throughout the world."

Nominations for Ambassador of the Year are submitted by members of the public and the judging panel met earlier this month to review and discuss the submissions and finalise the short-list. The judges were Mark Lewis and Suzy Heneghan, Guernsey Press; Jim Cathcart, BBC Radio Guernsey, Mike Tanguy, Les Bourgs Hospice; Jurat Stephen Jones, Guernsey Cheshire Home; Anne Ewing, IOD Guernsey Branch and Barry Cash, Chamber of Commerce.

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The winner of the 2010 Guiton Group Ambassador of the Year Award will be announced at the Guernsey Awards for Achievement Gala Evening on Thursday 3 February 2011 and will be presented by The Bailiff, Sir Geoffrey Rowland.

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For more information about the Guernsey Ambassador of the Year or any of the awards in 2010 Guernsey Awards for Achievement, please call Alex Bridle or Natalie Davidson, The Guernsey Event Company on (01481) 728686 or email alex@eventguernsey.com / natalie@eventguernsey.com