

# BAILIWICK

Over the last seven or so years, there have been two questions that *Bailiwick* has often been asked. The most common is, “what does *Bailiwick* mean?” The dictionary defines a ‘bailiwick’ as having two meanings:

(i) It is the district or jurisdiction of a *bailie* or *bailiff*. A bailiff was, an official employed by a British Sheriff who was empowered to serve warrants and make arrests, along with seizing the properties of a debtor. It is for this reason that Guernsey and Jersey, two of the Channel Islands, are more correctly known as *The Bailiwick of Guernsey* and *The Bailiwick of Jersey* since they were originally policed by bailiffs from the UK. They are still Crown Dependencies as they fall under the sovereignty of the British Crown but are not part of the United Kingdom and still have a resident Bailiff – the Lieutenant Governor (who represents the Crown).

(ii) The second meaning of ‘bailiwick’ is that it is one’s *area of interest*. The phrase “that’s not my bailiwick” is used to mean “that’s not something I know anything about”. Hopefully *Bailiwick* addresses this.

The second most popular question is, “where do you get your ideas from?”. The honest answer is that they come from a number of places. Sometimes current news stories trigger a *Bailiwick*, such as the decommissioning of the Arecibo telescope in Chile (22 Nov 2020) , just weeks before it collapsed. Others recall the anniversaries of births, deaths, or events, such as the Christmas truce (19 Dec 2021) or the discovery of Piltdown man (17 Dec 2017). But many are stories that *Bailiwick* came across in various media which she (tried) to always check multiple sources before committing to print. So we have discovered about Thomas Midgley III’s exploits with putting lead in petrol and then inventing CFCs and the adverse impact of both on the atmosphere (29 Oct 2017); “The Wicked Bible’s” typographical error, rendering the seventh Commandment as “Thou shalt commit adultery” (which demonstrates the importance of good proofreading) (10 June 2018); and how an ancient Greek (Eratosthenes) proved the Earth was round (and measured the size of it) in the second century B.C. (8 Aug 2019).

But most importantly, each of these stories have an important relevance to those who are Christian believers. Realising this link has been the primary goal of the last 292 *Bailiwicks*. And hopefully entertaining you also.

And remember, there's always room for a sequel...