

La Gran'mère du Chimquière

Early Guernsey Monument

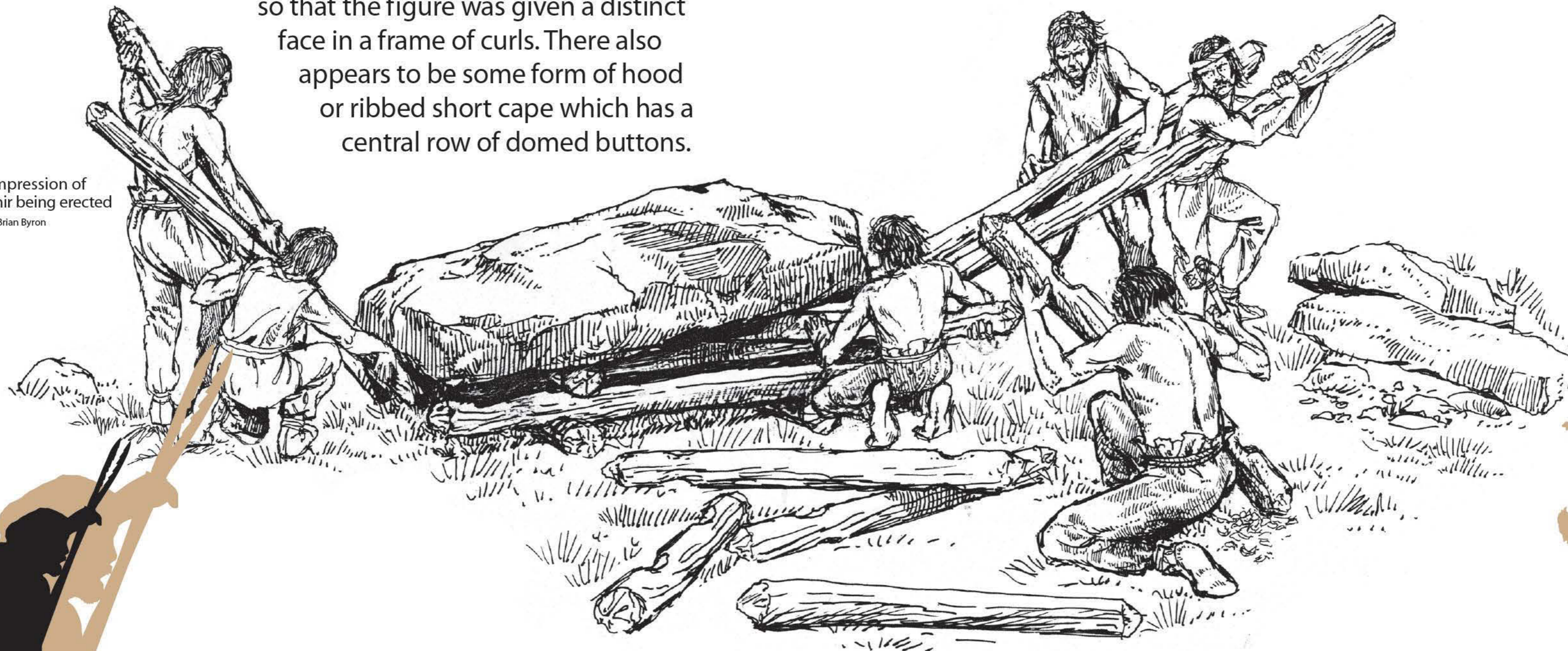
2 Granite menhir or standing stone

This granite menhir or standing stone is a granite slab that has been shaped by carving and smoothing into a stylised female figure. The function of standing stones is unknown but archaeologists believe that they are markers of special or sacred spaces. It is likely that many were destroyed over the centuries as land use changed.

La Gran'mère stands to a height of 1.65m. and has been carved in two phases. The first phase was a stylised human figure depicting breasts above curved arms with a lower girdle. At a much later date, perhaps in the Roman period, the upper part was totally remodelled

so that the figure was given a distinct face in a frame of curls. There also appears to be some form of hood or ribbed short cape which has a central row of domed buttons.

Artist's impression of the menhir being erected
Illustration by Brian Byron



Its original location is unknown. Some records suggest that it stood within the churchyard prior to 1815 but was subsequently removed from the sacred precincts. At some point in the past it has been broken in half, perhaps to deface it as a pagan object. Date c 2500-1800 BC.

Guernsey Folklore

Guernsey people revere the Gran'mère today. She is often decked with garlands of flowers for good luck before weddings and coins are sometimes put on her head.



The Gran'mère is often decked with garlands of flowers for good luck before weddings

one other statue-menhir can be found in Guernsey

Castel Statue Menhir

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