In the period of approximately 10 years from 1763 onwards the ‘cod triangle’ was at the height of its activities and the Jersey merchant traders stood on an international footing. Many businesses were established during this period, not only in Jersey but also in London and several of the English south coast ports.

After the American War of Independence in 1776, Jersey ships travelling down into the West Indies risked capture by American privateers and as the cod trade started to dwindle, the sailing sheds gradually closed one by one.

Trade in the Newfoundland area didn’t cease altogether, however, because the Jersey merchant traders came up with another strategy to continue their operations. In 1785 Jerseyman Charles Robin became the first to supply household goods, clothing and fishing equipment to the area and he set up a credit system with the fishermen, whereby they would pay him with fish at market value. The more fish they caught, the more the market value would drop and the more fish Robin had to trade.

Jersey people are by definition best described as ‘a people of the sea’ and their courage and tenacity played an important part in securing the Island’s relative economic prosperity for several centuries. In the 21st Century those same traits are evident as the inventive and commercial nature of the Jerseyman has led to the relative economic prosperity of islanders.

In order to recognise these extraordinary achievements we will, as part of the design proposal, create a chronological timeline of historical facts that tell the story of St. Aubin’s and the important role it played in the Islands mercantile development. The names of shipbuilders, ships, cargoes and trading ports will be hand carved into the paving surface via stone carving or etched metal inlay.