

# PARISH OF ST HELIER /BAD WURZACH PARTNERSCHAFT COMMITTEE

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023 / 2024

Our financial year 2023-2024 proved a most active and successful one. All our traditional commemoration ceremonies were duly honoured, with our priority being the hosting of former internees.

In September 2023 we were unfortunately unable to hold the actual deportation ceremony on the Albert Quay in front of the plaque for organisational reasons but, importantly, the traditional tea party did take place at the Radisson Hotel much to the enjoyment of the former internees present.

On Remembrance Sunday in November 2023, we held our commemoration ceremony at the deportees' memorial in the Howard David Park followed by afternoon tea at the Ommaroo Hotel.

On 28 April 2024, the very date of the internees' liberation in 1945, a special ceremony was held in the remembrance garden at the War Tunnels. This event included the unveiling by her great-grandson of a memorial stone to Amy Berry. Her story is a sad one. Due to ill health Amy left the Wurzach camp in March 1945 and, together with 211 other Channel Island internees, was transported to Sweden in a prisoner exchange group. However Amy's condition was so serious she was admitted to hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden where she died on 17 April 1945 and is buried. Since, strictly speaking, she did not die in Wurzach, no memorial stone had until then been set up in the War Tunnels garden until now.

The past year proved a bumper year for visitors from our German twin town. On the occasion of the Coronation & Liberation Day 2023, the German mayor, Frau Alexandra Scherer, who was on this occasion the Bailiff's guest of honour, visited together with a small delegation. This visit gave our Committee the opportunity to show our guests further island places of interest which included a guided tour of Mont Orgueil Castle as well as an introduction to the pleasures of Indian and Thai cuisine.

In August 2023, we hosted 9 members of a young brass band, the *Banklesmugge Band* together with 10 of their supporters. The highlight of their stay was participating and marching in the two Battle of Flowers parades. Three further lively busking performances by the Band included an evening in Gorey, the morning of the Battle of Flowers in St Aubin and entertaining shoppers in King Street on Saturday morning. We in turn treated our guests upon arrival to pizzas in Gorey, a wonderful BBQ evening at the Old Bank House in Gorey, a sandwich lunch on Rozel beach and an acclaimed typical English roast lunch at Jersey Pearl shortly before their departure from Jersey.

Lola Garvin