

## Jèrriais Annual Report for 2018.

During 2018, the Jèrriais Section meetings continued to concentrate on improving language skills, both verbal and written, in a variety of ways, using games and writing short stories and descriptions of events, based on subjects and material supplied by Geraint Jennings of L'Office du Jèrriais.

We learned to use various verbs and their tenses and to widen our vocabulary, so our grammar and spelling would be improved. In addition, we read out our translations to improve our spoken Jèrriais, and we were also able to learn some conjugations of verbs which don't follow the standard forms!

Other activities during our meetings included practices of our Jersey Eisteddfod poetry contribution, 'Deux mots adrèchis spécialement ès auteurs' by Elie, for which we were awarded Gold Certificate.

During the summer, some members represented Jersey at La Fête Normande in Guernsey and contributed our Eisteddfod winning choral speaking piece in Jèrriais. We also prepared for the Centenary celebration of two famous Jersey literary figures, Bram Bilo, Ph'lippe Le Sueur Mourant (1848 - 1918), who was a writer of prose pieces, and 'Elie', Edwin John Luce (1881 - 1918), who was a poet and a well known writer of verse. A celebration of their work took place at La Fête du Jèrriais during September, to coincide with European Language Day on 26<sup>th</sup>. September, and pieces were read to a large audience by members of the Section. The occasion also included performances of selected dances in which members of the audience were happily persuaded to join in and learn.

We also attended La Faîs'sie d'Cidre, La Séthée dé Nièr Beurre, and practised our singing of carols, from a Carol Booklet attractively designed by Geraint, for La Chant'tie des Cantiques d'Noué outside M&S en Ville, held during Les Fêtes d'Noué. This year there was greater participation with pupils and parents than previously, but unfortunately not as many passers - by between 6.30 - 7.00 pm. This was followed by a practice before Lé Sèrvice Annuel dé Neuf Léçons et Cantiques at l'Églyise de St. André tunefully led by Colin Ireson, and during which, it was a challenge and a pleasure to join with the organist, Winston Le Brun. The readings, all in Jèrriais, were beautifully read and the Congregation was in full voice again.

During the year we continued to represent the Section on the Comité du Congrès des Parleurs Normands - Jèrriais and to help with arranging events to raise money with

L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais. Our Chairman also represented the Société Jersiaise on the new group, the Jersey Advisory Group (JAG), chaired by Dr. Lesley Stagg, and comprising teaching staff of L'Office du Jèrriais, members of Le Don Baleine, L'Assemblée and Lé Congrès, which was formed to promote the teaching and learning of Jèrriais. To help this process, Aline Cattermole is conducting free classes at various times in the Philip Maurant Education Centre and there are conversation meetings being held at Jersey Pearl on Friday mornings, organised by Mess. Ken Vibert, and at St. Martin's Public Hall on Wednesdays, organised by Mess. David Marett.

We also continued to record native Jèrriais speakers as often as possible from our list, with the invaluable help of Colin Ireson of L'Office du Jèrriais.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Arthur Maurant Room above the Office of the Société Jersiaise, Pier Road; further information and contact details can be obtained from the SJ Office. For those who want to practice speaking Jèrriais, our colleagues in L'Office du Jèrriais have arranged an evening sun-downer session at the Adelphi, between 5.30 - 6.30 pm on Tuesdays, and a morning coffee session at the Museum, courtesy of Jersey Heritage, between 10.30 - 11.30 am on Thursdays, where we can meet and speak Jèrriais at all levels.

John Clarke (Président).

Ralph Nichols (Ségrétaire).