



ST. HELIER – BAD WURZACH PARTNERSCHAFT



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020 / Covid19 Newsletter

Since my Chairman's report in May 2019, so much has changed, and we are living in a completely different world. In 2019 we had so much planned only to be sadly cancelled and any future plans are on hold. I will detail below what has and has not happened over the last 19 or so months. I know this is unusual as we did not have a AGM in May this year due to circumstances, we had planned it latter in the year but events have taken over, hopefully when things settle down and we get back to some for of normality it will go ahead.

Unveiling of commemorative plaque 2019, A plaque commissioned by the Parish of St Helier to commemorate the deportations of hundreds of men, women and young children in September 1942 was erected on Albert Quay on Monday 16th September.

The event was attended by some 150 people, including 13 former internees together with their family members and close friends, former politicians and members of the Ports of Jersey. The Constable of St Helier, Simon Crowcroft, gave the opening address which was followed by narrations from 5 former internees who recounted their memories of the day they were deported 77 years ago, many of them just young children. Their memories surrounded the knock on the door of their homes late at night by a German soldier to the harrowing train journey across Europe to their destination in southern Germany; first Biberach and then on to Wurzach where they were to remain behind barbed wire until their liberation on 28th April 1945.

The plaque was unveiled by the Bailiff together with former internee, Mrs Pamela Tanguy; it was her idea to have the commemorative plaque.

Father Nick Berry conducted a short service of remembrance which was followed by the laying of a wreath by Sarah Journeaux, in memory of 12 former internees who did not return from their captivity – two of whom were young children. Angela Francey then read an extract from Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Handbook "Reconciliation".

The Concordia and JustSing! Choirs under the direction of Hugh Lincé.

Light refreshments were served following the service courtesy of the Parish.

Further details and pictures can be found at,

<https://www.sthelierbadwurzachpartnerschaft.com/index.php/events/2019-74-years-since-liberation/memorial-plaque-albert-quay/>



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Field of Remembrance 2019. At the end of October, we attended the service and commencement of the annual Field of Remembrance, this is the seventh year that the Partnerschaft has been present.

Remembrance Services 2019. Both our remembrance services were again well attended, our event in the afternoon conducted Father Nick Barry was well attended we had the largest group of internees attending this year, a dry afternoon for once, the tea afterwards was held at the Merton hotel they made up for the disappointing event in 2018 , they provided an excellent tea, which was ready for all of us as soon as we arrived, they also provided a free carpark for us, so we could attend the service and have the tea without the worry of parking. We had excellent feedback from this event.

November Get together 2019. It was agreed that as we had the new event in September and the Remembrance service at the beginning of November this event which has been waning in numbers due to its time of year would be cancelled and a new event organised in its place earlier in the year when it was warmer.

January Holocaust Remembrance Service 2020 This was attended by committee members and former internees, we laid a wreath

January Family History Fayre 2020. In January is year we attended the local History Fayre, held at the Jersey Library, This year the library staff moved the whole event from the first floor to the new area on the ground floor, this made the event more open to the public and we were visited by many individuals asking many questions about the Partnerschaft, luckily we were located by a large TV and Clive plugged in a tablet so a slide show could be viewed to all visitors. The Friday attendance was not attended due to personal circumstances, on the Saturday it was attend by Clive, Sandra, Lillian Lola, Sarah, with other members of the Partnerschaft joining when they could. This event was a great success with great interest show from the general public with many interesting questions and comments.

It was after this, that our year took a complete turn and things have changed for us. We have tried to keep things going as best we can.



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April 2020 75th Liberation celebrations in Bad Wurzach, in April we had to make the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 75th Liberation celebrations in Bad Wurzach, we could not risk the health of those attending and had to comply with our respective Governments policies. This came as a huge blow to us, considering that Lola and Gisela had been working on this project for over two and a half years, and the final program of events. The committee extends their thanks to both of them and their respective teams in all the work that took place. A great shame.

Tea Party - Holme Grown March 2020, as events were taking a turn for the worst and former internees wishing to meet before a possible lockdown, Lola arranged a small gathering for internees only at Holme Grown, we were joined by the JEP and a couple of other members of the media. Whilst a small group it was very enjoyable, and emotional when we left as nobody knew when we would meet again.

Commemorative plaque and afternoon Tea 2020, fast forward on to 16th September 2020, continuing from the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in 2019, it was agreed that this should be marked each 16th September 2020, during our lock down and the following months we were contacted by several former internees who really wanted this to go ahead. We felt it could not be a full event as it was the previous year but scaled down event. It would be attended by former internees and some family members; the service would be carried out by Father Nick. Our former Bailiff and his wife attended in a nonofficial capacity. After the service we adjourned to the café in Liberty Warf, and distancing was adhered to we had an enjoyable Tea. We were so please that so many former internees attended, we had fourteen.

Field of Remembrance 2020. This event was canceled and not attended to by the Partnerschaft

Remembrance Services 2020. Both events were cancelled following guidelines.

January Holocaust Remembrance Service 2021 We have had to formerly inform the Holocaust committee that we will not be attending this event next year.

Commemorative Badges as mentioned at our meeting and prior to events taking over us, the Partnerschaft had two commemorative badges struck, the first is our 75th liberation badge which is available for all those who attend our events and committee members, we had planned on taking them to Germany with us this year to distribute. The second is a special badge created solely for former internees, these where



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possible have been given to former internees to ware pride. They have been received extremely gratefully by them.

It has been a long time since the committee has met, it might seem several things have taken place without the full committee, you have not been ignored but circumstances have made it exceedingly difficult, we really do appreciate what you do as a committee and hopefully we will meet again next year and make plans for the future.

Badges Produced for the 75th Anniversary

