

PARISH OF ST HELIER /BAD WURZACH PARTNERSCHAFT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024 / 2025

Over the past 12 months we have successfully held all our traditional commemoration ceremonies with, sadly, an ever diminishing number of former internees present. However on the bright side we now have an increasing number of faithful friends and family of our Partnerschaft attending these events.

The past year also saw the visit of a group of faithful visitors from Bad Wurzach during Liberation Day week in May 2024. The most important reason for their visit was to attend the opening ceremony of the Internees Art photographic Exhibition in the Berni Gallery on 7 May 2024. This exhibition, comprising photographic representation of internees original artwork evoking numerous aspects of life in the camp, was based on Gisela's previous exhibition launched in Bad Wurzach during the visit of a Jersey group in September 2022. It proved a great success thanks to the hard work of the Arts Centre team, receiving good media coverage.

The touristic highlight of our German group's stay was a day trip to Sark where the sun played its part providing a wonderful backdrop to a most enjoyable day out.

On 16 September 2024 we held our annual deportation ceremony on the Albert Quay in front of the plaque followed by the traditional tea party at the Radisson Hotel.

In October 2024, after lengthy preparation and hard work both in Jersey and Germany, a small brass band of "street musicians" namely the *Five Brass Souls*, visited Bad Wurzach and gave performances of all kinds of music such as swing, Latin, jazz, blues at numerous venues in and around the small town, including a most acclaimed concert in the iconic Leprosenhaus. Again a most successful exchange visit after the entertaining performances of the young German brass band, the *Banklesmugge Band* in Jersey the previous year.

On Remembrance Sunday in November 2024, the annual commemoration ceremony at the deportees' memorial in the Howard Davis Park took place followed by afternoon tea at the Ommaroo Hotel.

On 27 April 2025 our annual internees' Liberation ceremony was again held in the remembrance garden at the War Tunnels with excellent attendance of an estimated 70 people, including seven former internees. The Bailiff, whose first time it was at one of our events, delivered a 80th anniversary themed speech and was introduced to all the former internees present. He then visited the remembrance garden, laying a red rose on Raymond Gould's stone. We were fortunate to have the Reverend Sarah McClelland, whose father and family had been interned in the camp, officiating at our ceremony this year. All agreed that the War Tunnel Café service and refreshments, including scones and Jersey wonders were of a high standard again this year.

Lola Garvin