

Presents: JC, JL, BS, CLM, WL, JC, RN, AC, LS, MS, GJ, CK

### 1. Language Plan update

BS presented the Jèrriais Language Strategy 2020-2024. He had a meeting with the person in charge of writing the Welsh Language Strategy which helped him to produce the document. Deputies Jeremy Maçon and Monfort Tadier agreed to write the introduction of the Jèrriais Language Strategy 2020-2024.

The vision for Jèrriais is that the language will be spoken, shared, supported and sustained. BS reminded us of the importance of having ambitious targets.

The theme 1 of the strategy is “Language Acquisition”. The main aim is to increase the number of Jèrriais learners. JL stressed the fact that, in order to reach this target, Jèrriais should be given the importance it deserves and it should be put in the curriculum, but at the same time, it is difficult to impose Jèrriais as a compulsory subject. GJ objected that all children should have the same opportunity to learn Jèrriais in their school. MS agreed but highlighted the importance of giving the possibility to children to opt out if they do not wish to learn the language. LS gave the example of the very successful 6-weeks intensive French programme. The children had the possibility to opt out, nevertheless only a few did because the course was introduced to students in a very fun way.

The theme 2 of the strategy is “Language Use”. The main aim is to increase the social and professional use of Jèrriais.

The theme 3 of the strategy is “Language status”. The main aim is to increase the visibility and status of Jèrriais across the island. On this matter JL underlined the importance of having parishes involved. BS said that the JAG is a very good platform to develop collaboration with parishes and he said that we need to think about how we can work with them in the future.

The theme 4 is “Language Corpus”. The main aim is to standardise Jèrriais and to ensure it develops as a living language.

The theme 5 is “Language Planning”. The main aim is to centralise and coordinate efforts surrounding Jèrriais.

At the end of the presentation, GJ raised the question of who is going to take ownership over the next Language Plan. Last time neither the Education Department nor the Economic Development were willing to take responsibility for it. LS said that the existence of both the Jèrriais Teaching Service and L’Office du Jèrriais illustrates this ambiguity. LS added that a phrase in the Language Strategy 2020-2024 should acknowledge this fact. In this sense, the preamble that JM and MT will write in the Language Strategy is very important and should embrace the bigger picture of the history of the different Jèrriais Language Plans.

## **2. Expansion of the teaching team**

LS said that despite the plan of increasing the number of teachers being approved and the money being available, it cannot take place at the moment because she doesn't know when the money is going to be freed up. Therefore, LS cannot go ahead with advertising for the 3 teaching positions at the moment. However, the plan is still to recruit 3 more teachers at around Easter time + a part-time administration assistant. Nevertheless, the position of Head of Services will still be advertised internally. This position will be offered to one of the team members.

## **3. Eisteddfod report back**

WL said that talks about moving the dates of the Eisteddfod and changing its venue have been going on. The question of adding an extra day to the event has been raised as well.

MS said that the current venue is a problem as it is not appropriate for the number of candidates and the size of the audience with a lot of people not being able to sit. These questions will be submitted to the Eisteddfod committee. CLM said that the Jèrriais language was the main contributor to the Eisteddfod Gala on the 30<sup>th</sup> November bringing a high number of participants to the event.

CLM added that the current date of the Eisteddfod is also an issue because new learners with very few exposure to the language have to perform within a short period of time and it proves to be difficult for them.

WL said that all these questions will be submitted to the Eisteddfod committee.

MS concluded that this year was a great success and that the next step will be to involve more adult participants. AC has already started to work on a play with her adult students for next year's event.

BS said that the great success of the Jèrriais Eisteddfod shows that students are willing to have more opportunities to speak the language for instance in their school. LS added that the recruitment of new teachers is crucial to meet this need.

## **4. Update on work at JH**

GJ gave an update about Jerriais related events planned for 2020. There will be many events taking place through the year (including bachîn ringing, street poetry, pub and café conversations, dancing with Les Chaboleurs, International Mother language Day, Saint George's Day, Camoès Day, La fête de St Helier, Festival of Words, European Day of Languages, Poetry Day, La Faîs'sie d' Cidre, Jèrriais Eisteddfod, La Fête dé Noué).

However, the 3 main events will be la Fête du Jèrriais (20/4 to 26/4), La Fête Nouormande (7/6 to 14/6) and Laelius 200<sup>th</sup> (20/11).

GJ said that the storage of the Norman games still needs to be sorted out.

WL said that there are currently 78 people taking part in weekly conversations across the island. LS said that some people might be happy to volunteer with conversations or other projects around Jèrriais.

GJ mentioned that Café Normands in Normandy are expanding and they have been inspired by the work done in Jersey.

BS said that these conversations are vital and the new teachers will have to be exposed to these group for their own training. On this matter, LS highlighted the fact that new teachers will need to have a strong linguistic background especially because the team is now reduced after TSW's, CI's and partially GJ's departure.

JC added that Jèrriais should be a strong component of the Heritage Plan and he would like to give Jèrriais more visibility and do more around the language. Therefore, a bigger team is needed.

## **5. Partnerships for 2020 - looking ahead**

In 2020 the Jèrriais Teaching Service and the JAG members will be working with:

- L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais
- National Trust
- Société Jersiaise
- L'Office du Jèrriais
- Jersey Heritage
- Le Don Balleine / Congrès
- CYPES
- EDTSC

GJ said that the JAC may be added to this list. Partnerships will take place in the following areas: educational resources, community, academy, events organising, Language Plan, projects, Eisteddfod, classes / books, Promotion

Services that the Jèrriais team offers at the moment include: translations, CPD, support with resources, creation of displays. Services that the Jèrriais team may need include: the use of sites, rooms, facilities, volunteers, promotion, event planning and fundraising.

BS said that other partnerships may be considered including Visit Jersey and Digital Jersey. GJ said that when organisations have their language/ communication plan renewed it is a good moment to offer Jèrriais translation services.

## 1. AOB

JL raised the question about the future role of the Don Balleine. Don Balleine Trust will continue to fund publications. Don Balleine Incorporated Association would like to know where they can help best.

GJ will be in Rouen on the 11<sup>th</sup> January for the *Rencontres Régionales de la langue normmande* and he will be in Caen on 27<sup>th</sup> of January for the *Conseil du Parler Normand*.