

JAG | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 10/02/2021 | 10:00-11:00 | Meeting location Via Teams

Facilitator

Lesley Stagg

Attendees: JLM, CI, BS, AC, CLM, MS, CA, CI, WLB

Apologies: JC, CK, KM

Absent: RN



Jèrriais

AGENDA TOPICS

Time allotted | 10mins | Agenda topic *Introductions* | Presenter KM

KM was unable to attend the meeting. Attendees agreed that another meeting should be scheduled before Easter at a time when KM will be able to attend.

Time allotted | 10 mins | Agenda topic *Changes and Recruitment* | Presenter LS, BS

LS explained she will be retiring at Easter and moving back to North Wales. BS has volunteered to take over as JAG facilitator. LS expressed how pleased she was that group will continue in its current form. BS reiterated how important it is that JAG continues as it is the only forum where all the stakeholders in Jèrriais convene. The recruitment process for three new primary/secondary teachers has begun and there has been a healthy pool of applicants. Interviews will take place on Wednesday after half term.

Time allotted | 20mins | Agenda topic *Jèrriais Teaching Service Update* | Presenter BS, CLM, MS, AC

The Jèrriais Teaching Service is undergoing change in order to reach a larger number of children and ensure efforts are better targeted in order to meet the remit of creating a new generation of speakers.

MS explained she will be joining Plat Douet Primary School (a two-form entry school) after Easter to work in the nursery three days a week, before fully launching a new pilot project across Foundation Stage and KS2 in the autumn. MS will be introducing Jèrriais to young children and their parents across nursery and reception classes in the mornings and then teaching years 4, 5 and 6 in the afternoons. Lessons will take place during the school day for the first time. The headteacher has been extremely supportive and recognises the benefits of multilingualism for wider cognitive development. MS has already met the Foundation Stage team and they were very welcoming. AC explained all five adult lessons from beginners to proficient, as well as the lesson for States Members, have been moved online this term due to Covid-19 restrictions. Most students are happy with the arrangement and it is going very well. AC was apprehensive at the start but now is very comfortable to teach on Teams. Teaching online

has proved successful in terms of cutting down time commuting, providing more time to teach. She will continue to offer a mix of online and classroom lessons going forward. After three years there is a core of adult students who are ready to take more responsibility for the language and are able to contribute to La Lettre Jèrriaise on BBC Radio as well as RURAL magazine. One secondary lesson has been moved online. The students are happy and it is working well. CA enquired as to whether the lessons might be recorded for others to access. This is potentially an option but there are constraints due to data protection and permissions from participating students. MS explained there are some interactive online lessons for children on the Learn Jèrriais website. CA suggested Jersey Heritage and National Trust could promote these. CLM described a new cross-curricular programme which will be launching in the summer term. The programme of ten two-hour lessons is cross referenced with the Jersey Curriculum and the Jèrriais language scheme of work and includes off-site visits to make use of heritage sites around the island. Lessons are based around five key historical dates for Jersey and look at the development of the Jèrriais language alongside history and culture of the island. Eventually it is hoped that this will be delivered across year 5 in all Jersey primary schools. BS proposed collaborating with Jersey Heritage and National Trust to share resources and promote interests. JLM expressed his delight with the new programme and the potential for promoting Jèrriais as a 'living tool'. CLM explained the Service plans to resume Pallions, although this is not possible in the current Covid-19 climate. The hope is that the cross curricular programme will enthuse young learners and encourage them to attend Pallions with their families to learn more. LS and BS have been working on a Whole Island Language Policy. This is a very exciting time. The tide is turning. It is recognised that linguistic ability is important for development. Multilingualism is increasingly being seen as something to embrace, as a real benefit.

Time allotted | 10 mins | Agenda topic *Eisteddfod* | Presenter MS, WLB, CI

WLB congratulated the children that participated in this year's Jèrriais Eisteddfod, saying the standard of the language was akin to what he remembers from the early 1950s. He was pleased with the choice of pieces, a mix of traditional and modern that resulted in performances that were 'quite alive'. The adjudicator ran out of platinum certificates! The Jèrriais Section still uses marks to assess and he is pleased that Council are supportive of this. CI said that despite just 30 participants, the adjudication took over three hours on Teams with some technical issues. He thanked the teachers for their work. MS said she was very pleased with how the online competition went. She highlighted some issues with regard to ensuring adjudication was fair in an online format. She will now write a report for the Autumn Festival Committee in case they are faced with having to hold an online festival this year.

Time allotted | 15 mins | Agenda topic *Strategy* | Presenter BS

BS explained there has been a delay to the publication of the Jèrriais Language Strategy due to Covid-19. However, it has now been updated and is ready for publication. KM has written a foreword and it will be presented as a report to the States Assembly. BS offered to share the document with stakeholders for comment before it is submitted. Anyone wishing to see it should ask him for a copy. BS has compiled an operational plan for the current year and will do this on an annual basis to keep track of targets. The pursuit of the ratification of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages continues but is a complicated process. BS has met with law officers, External Relations, representatives from the IOM and experts from the Council of Europe. It has been decided that Jersey should aim for Part 3, which means complying with a minimum of 35 articles. This will be helpful in terms of holding the Government to

account, adding an extra layer of protection for the language. A new book for young children, My First Words in Jèrriais, has been published and will be distributed to children in Foundation Stage classes across the island's schools. A new updated ODJ website will be launched on International Mother Language Day in February. BS is in talks with two developers YouTalk and IndyLan to create two new language apps.

Time allotted | 15 mins | Agenda topic *Promotion* | Presenter *GJ*

GJ suggested waiting until the next meeting when CA will be present before outlining current and new language promotion initiatives. GJ suggested it might be a good time to look at defining responsibilities now that Jersey Heritage has received an increase in funding and will be looking to recruit. Jèrriais has teaching team but now more resources need to be put into promotion.

Time allotted | 15 mins | Agenda topic *AOB* | Presenter *N/A*

WLB said BBC Radio Jersey continue to be supportive of broadcasting La Lettre Jèrriaise on a Saturday morning. Contributors are currently recording at home and submitting to Cathy Le Feuvre. If anyone else is interested in contributing they should get in touch with WLB. BS thanked LS for all her support. JLM added that he wanted to endorse this and wished her the best for her retirement.