

## La Lettre Jèrriaise 22.01.22

Bouônjour et Bouanne Année bouonnes gens, ch'est Ben Spink tch'a l'pliaïsi d'vos présenter La Lettre Jèrriaise aniet.

Eh bein nos v'chîn au c'menchement d'eune nouvelle année et jé n'pouvons qu'espéther qué ch't' année s'sa miyeuthe qu'les deux dreines années. Jé n'voulais pon vraïnment pâler entouor lé fichu virus mais ch'est presqu' împôssibl'ye dé distchuter la vie au jour d'aniet sans en pâler!

Combein qu'nos vies ont changi d'pis lé c'menchement d'deux mille vîngt, quand chu sâpré virus arrivit ichîn en Jèrri pouor la preunmié fais. Combein d'vacances et d'neuches qu'i' fallait changi, combein d'réunions et d'événements fûtent annulés?

J'avons justément finni l'Eisteddfod Jèrriais et pouor la deuxième fais, i' fallait l'mettre en lîngne ch't' année, au run d'nos rencontrer à la salle pârouaïssiale dé St Ouën, comme d'habitude. Acouo un autre événement tchi d'vînt eune victîfme du virus. Tchi danmage!

Mais, pouor les mousses, il éthait 'té un grand pitchi d'annuler lus section, auprès un té tas d'travas pouor ieux et lus maîtres et maitrêsses et i' fîtent diversément bein dans les circonstances. Un grand mèrcie bein des fais ès cheins tch'ont travailli si dû pouor èt' seux qu'l'Eisteddfod prendra pliaiche ch't' année. Les dés crouaïsis qu'jé s'sons d'èrtou dans la salle pârouaïssiale dé St Ouën l'année tchi veint.

À m'n idée, ch'est hardi împortant d'aver d's événements comme l'Eisteddfod, pa'ce qué j'n'avons pon bein d's opportunités pouor les mousses dé faite sèrvi lus Jèrriais d'houors la clâsse d'êcole. Et pouor garder eune langue en vie, bein seux qu'i' faut la faite sèrvi aussi souvent qu' pôssibl'ye. Ch'est tchiquechouse qu'i' font bein à l'Île dé Man.

L'année pâssée, j'tais là auve deux d'mes collègues pouor apprendre un mio entouor chein qu'i' font pouor garder lus langue, lé Manx, en vie. Ch'est tréjous un pliaïsi d'y aller et chutte fais n'tait pon difféthente. J'rencontris bein d'gens et j'apprîns un tas entouor tout l'travas qu'i' sont à faite là. Ch'tait vraïnment eune însphâtation.

Par exempl'ye, il ont eune école primaithe où'est qu'touos les sujets sont ensîngnis en Manx. Ch'n'est qu'eune pétite école, mais ch'est mangnifique d'ouï touos les maîtres et les mousses pâlant l'Manx. Ch't' école fut fondée y'a eune vîngtaine d'années et duthant chu temps presque deux chents étudgiants y ont apprîns la langue.

La dreine séthée qué j'têmes là, j'fûmes învités à eune bordée dans la salle publyique, juste à côté d'l'êcole. Tout 'tait en Manx pouor la séthée entchiéthe et j'têmes ravis d'vaie les mousses à présenter des pièches et des chansons et un tas d'autres choses en Manx sans hésitation.

Ch'est încryabl'ye dé penser qué l'drein pâleux d'Manx mouothit en mille neuf chent septante quatre et qué, en deux mille neuf, la langue fut dêcliathé péthînmée par UNESCO. Auprès ch'na, des mousses dé l'êcole Manx êcrivîtent des lettres à UNESCO pouor les corrigi! Achteu, il ont changi la description d'la langue à 'critiquement en dangi'. Et pouor dé mé, ayant vîsité trais fais achteu, j'peux vos dithe qué l'Manx et absolument acouo en vie.

Ch'na m'donne dé l'espé qué, iun d'ches jours, i' s'sa pôssibl'ye d'aver eune telle école en Jèrri, où'est qu'touos les sujets s'sont ensîngnis en Jèrriais et qué, à l'av'nîn, j'éthons des mousses tchi s'sont des nouveaux pâleurs du Jèrriais et p't èt' qu'i' s'en vont ensîngni l'Jèrriais à lus mousses étout. l' faut espéther!

Pouor finni, j'sis heutheux d'vos dithe qué, eune fais par mais, la lettre Jèrriaise s'sa publié dans la gâzette du sé, don i' faut garder les ièrs p'lés! J'vos souhaite un raide bouôn deux mille vîngt deux.

À la préchaine.

## La Lettre Jèrriaise 22.01.22

Hello and Happy New Year everyone, it's Ben Spink who has the pleasure of presenting to you the Lettre Jèrriaise today.

Well here we are at the beginning of a new year and we can only hope that this year will be better than the last two. I didn't really want to talk about the blasted virus but it's nigh on impossible to discuss life these days without talking about it!

How much our lives have changed since the beginning of 2020, when this wretched virus arrived here in Jersey for the first time. How many holidays and weddings have had to be changed, how many meetings and events have been cancelled?

We have just finished the Jèrriais Eisteddfod and for the second time, it was necessary to put it online this year, instead of meeting in St Ouen's Parish Hall, as per usual. Yet another event which has become a victim of the virus. What a shame!

But, for the children, it would have been a great pity to cancel their section, after such a lot of work for them and their teachers, and they did incredibly well under the circumstances. A very big 'thank you very much' to all those who worked so hard to make sure that the Eisteddfod would take place this year. Fingers crossed that we will be back in St Ouen's Parish Hall next year.

To my mind, it's very important to have events like the Eisteddfod, because we don't have a lot of opportunities for children to use their Jèrriais outside the school classroom. And to keep a language alive, of course it's necessary to use it as often as possible. It's something they do well in the Isle of Man.

Last year, I was there with two of my colleagues to learn a bit about what they are doing to keep their language, Manx, alive. It's always a pleasure to visit and this time was no different. I met a lot of people and learned a great deal about all the work they are doing there. It really was an inspiration.

For example, they have a primary school where all the subjects are taught in Manx. It's only a little school, but it's wonderful to hear all the teachers and children speaking Manx. This school was founded twenty years ago and during that time almost two hundred students have learned the language there.

The last evening that we were there, we were invited to a gathering in the public hall, right next to the school. Everything was in Manx for the entire evening and we were amazed to see the children presenting plays and songs and a whole load of other things in Manx, without hesitation.

It's incredible to think that the last native speaker of Manx died in 1974 and that, in 2009, the language was declared extinct by UNESCO. After that, some children from the Manx school wrote letters to UNESCO to correct them! Now, they have changed the description of the language to critically endangered. And for me, having visited three times now, I can tell you that Manx is absolutely still alive.

It gives me hope that, one of these days, it will be possible to have such a school in Jersey, where all the subjects are taught in Jèrriais and that, in the future, we will have children who will be new speakers of Jèrriais and maybe they will teach Jèrriais to their children too. We can but hope!

To finish, I'm pleased to tell you that, once a month, the lettre Jèrriaise will be published in the JEP, so keep your eyes peeled!

I wish you a very good 2022.

Until the next time.