



Secretary's 2017 Annual Report

8th March 2017

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby submit my first annual report for the year just ended. Below is a summary of our member meetings and Society events for the past year.

2016

- February**
- Beijing Baiyi School Students Visit**
Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th, 93 international students from Baiyi School in Beijing visited Batterie Lothringen. President Paul Burnal and Vice-President Matthew Costard were their guides, ably assisted by Matthew's wife Sandra and her friend Stephanie Simmons, who acted as interpreters.
- Jersey Library Lunchtime Talk**
Friday 5th Committee Member Alex Fearn gave a talk at Jersey Library, as part of the Jersey Librarys' ongoing "Lunchtime Talks" series. It included an overview of the German infantry defence positions, bunkers and minefields at Ouaisné and St Brelade's Bay forming part of the defensive network using period photographs and maps.
- Soldatenhiems in Jersey (part 1)**
Wednesday 10th Archivist Colin Isherwood gave a talk on the history of the Soldatenheims in Jersey which included: Soldatenheim I - the Mayfair Hotel, Soldatenheim II - St. Brelades Bay Hotel, Soldatenheim III - Seafield House, Soldatenheim IV - La Hougue and Offiziersheim - the D'Auvergne Hotel.
- March**
- Annual General Meeting**
Wednesday 9th
- Heritage Festival Tour**
Sunday 27th Press Officer Tony Pike led a guided walk "Resistance Nests Le Braye & La Carriere, and Action Post Höhe 201" as part of the 2016 Heritage Festival.
- April**
- Heritage Festival Tour**
Sunday 3rd Press Officer Tony Pike led a guided walk of St. Corbiere which included interior visits to the M19 Mortar & 10.5cm Jäger Casemate bunker
- Repeat Visit to Saint-Malo Citadel**
Saturday 16th expert guide Neil Walker led a repeat day-trip visit to Saint-Malo to explore its many fortifications. Fully interpreted with many Archive photos, Neil's tours are fascinating and very comprehensive
- Stp. Plemont Guided Walk**
Saturday 23rd Vice-President Matthew Costard lead this National Trust for Jersey guided walk around the German fortifications. The clearance of the former holiday



camp has uncovered several Occupation structures that were previously inaccessible.

Heritage Festival Tour

Sunday 24th Committee Member Alex Fearn led a guided walk "The German Defences of Ouaisné and St Brelade's Bay" which covered the geology, flora and fauna together with the other landmarks being La Cotte, the Conway towers, St Brelade's Church, the German soldier rest houses, German graveyard and a WWII plane crash site.

May

Concrete In The Frame Art & Photographic Competition

Monday 2nd Press Officer Tony Pike and artist Ian Rolls announced the winners at the Harbour Gallery in St Aubin. The competition resulted in a significant amount of publicity for the Society, as well as increased interest from younger members.

Jersey Library Lunchtime Talk

Friday 6th Archivist Colin Isherwood led a talk "Limpet Stew to Liberation!", on food supplies and rationing during the Occupation period.

Heritage Festival Tour

Sunday 8th Press Officer Tony Pike and Committee Member Alex Fearn led a guided walk and ceremony "Tour of the German Kriegsmarine Batterie Lothringen and American PT 509 memorial ceremony" at Noirmont Point.

Liberation Day

Slave Workers Memorial Service

Monday 9th

Day Trip To Guernsey

Monday 9th Social Secretary Noel Le Fondré led another excellent day trip to Guernsey, with thanks to our colleagues for their assistance.

2016 Occupation Review

The annual Review was released in May of 2016 by the CIOS Guernsey branch.

June

International Atlantic Wall Conference

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th Press Officer Tony Pike gave a talk about the Society at an international conference entitled "Patrimonialiser une mémoire sensible : le Mur de l'Atlantique". The conference was organised in conjunction with Norway's Museum Vest network of museums in Hordaland and took place at Abbaye-aux-Dames in Caen.

July

Jersey Library Lunchtime Talk

Friday 1st Archivist Colin Isherwood gave a talk "Operation Green Arrow and the lead up to the Occupation", covering the weeks and days leading up to German troops landing at Jersey Airport and taking over the Island.

August

Day Trip to Normandy

Saturday 6th Social Secretary Noel Le Fondré led a visit to Normandy, with stops at Ste Mere Eglise, Batterie d'Azeville and more.



Samarès Manor Tour

Saturday 13th Archivist Colin Isherwood led a guided tour of the Manor, the agricultural museum, and the grounds, which was fully interpreted with Archive photos and included access to several areas which were closed to the public.

September (No events)

October **What came before: Jersey's British Coastal Artillery in the 20th century**

Wednesday 5th Author and Historian Ian Ronayne examines the history of the last coastal artillery batteries in Jersey - built and manned by Britain that is.

November **Norway - Further Adventures in Aok20**

Wednesday 9th Society Members Neil Walker and the "Concrete Evidence Team" have recently returned from Norway and visited some new sites to report on.

Trinity Commando Raid Memorial Service

Friday 11th Social Secretary Noel Le Fondré laid a wreath on behalf of the Society, in memory of British Commando Captain Philip Ayton.

December (No events)

2017

January **Film: "Hitler's Island Madness"**

Wednesday 11th Society members saw a film from the History Channel "Hitler's Island Madness", which examined the German plans for the Occupation of the Channel Islands.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Friday 27th Lifetime CIOS Members Bob Le Sueur MBE, and Michael Ginns MBE were featured on a new panel of the Occupation Tapestry and Mr. Le Sueur was the featured speaker at the Holocaust Remembrance ceremony. Following the ceremony in the Tapestry Gallery, Social Secretary Noel Le Fondré laid a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial outside on behalf of the Society.

Jersey Library Local History Fayre

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th Press Officer Tony Pike and Committee Member Alex Fearn represented the Society at this event at the Town Library. Mr. Pike gave a talk about the CIOS Friday and Mr. Fearn spoke about German fortifications guarding St Brelade's Bay on Saturday. Sincere thanks to Ed Jewell, Julie O'Grady and Helen Barrett at the Library for their support in promoting the event and event planning.

February **Ho 4 Tunnels Visit**

Saturday 4th Secretary Tom Brossman organised a tour of the Hohlgangsanlage 4 munition storage tunnels complex above Grands Vaux Reservoir. Many thanks to Jersey Water for granting access to this amazing site.

Beijing Baiyi School Students Visit

Wednesday 8th, Press Officer Tony Pike opened Batterie Lothringen for a visit with international students from Baiyi School in Beijing.



Each event listed above is the result of a great deal of time and effort by the organisers and multiple outside organisations that assist us. On behalf of the Society, I thank everyone involved for their participation in so many successful events.

Not to be overlooked are the bunker teams who go out and work on the fortifications we manage, and open them to the public each year. This brings in the majority of Society income and I have to point out that they are every bit as important to the Society's success as the Board are. For most people outside the Society, the bunker teams are our public face and we owe our positive public image to them.

Recognition is also due to Vice-President Matthew Costard and Archivist Colin Isherwood, whose tireless work on the Island-wide Heritage Re-Survey has been ongoing for more than a year. Many important fortifications are missing or incorrectly identified in official records and the Re-Survey is meant to correct this. The majority of those working on it are paid to do so and yet Matthew and Colin are participating as volunteers.

I would also like to personally thank our outgoing Board members, President Paul Burnal, Treasurer David Letto, and Committee Member Matthew Snepp for their years of service to the Society and for all the knowledge they have shared with me. I may not always agree with them but I do listen and I am learning. Thanks also to former Secretary Jeremy Hamon for continuing to help me as I learn the role of Secretary.

Membership numbers this year are up from last year. As subscriptions are just coming due I do not want to take anything for granted and assume all 2016 members will renew, but with so many new members joining lately I think we will see a boost of at least 10% from the 405 members counted last year. Just now we have over 430 and I hope to see the majority renew their memberships. If you have any comments or concerns I am always available to hear them. I take every concern that members express to me to the Board meetings (anonymously if necessary) and make them aware of your messages.

I would like to reiterate that we are a large society with a diverse range of opinions. Only the official social media accounts linked from our official website are speaking for the Society. We don't censor what members can say nor do we expect people to assume members are speaking on behalf of the Society when they post a message from their personal account. Please keep this in mind when browsing the Internet and contact me if you need official clarification on anything.

Finally, I would like to express our condolences to the family of Michael Ginns on his recent passing. He was a key member of the Society and he will be sadly missed.

Tom Brossman
Secretary
8th March 2017