



Secretary's Annual Report

11th March 2020

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 previous 12 months.

2019

March	Annual General Meeting Wednesday 13 th at the Société Jersiaise
April	Extraordinary General Meeting Wednesday 17 th at the Société Jersiaise
May	Liberation Day Slave Workers Memorial Service Thursday 9 th At the Slave Workers Memorial, Westmount With Social Secretary Noel Le Fondré representing the Society
June	Trevor Green's Occupation Memories Talk, Wednesday 19 th at the Société Jersiaise
July	Elizabeth Castle Workshops and Tours Saturday 13 th with University of York Department of Archaeology
August	75th Anniversary PT Boats Memorial Ceremony Sunday 11 th at Noirmont Point, organised by Alex Fearn Normandy Day Trip Saturday 17 th organised by Noel Le Fondré
September	No Member Events
October	Occupation Memory Lane Archive event, Tuesday 1 st at St. Lawrence Church, organised by Noel Le Fondré St. Ouen's Bay Fortifications Walk Sunday 6 th , organised by Matthew Costard, for The National Trust for Jersey 1944: Should We Bomb Auschwitz? Film, Wednesday 16 th at the Société Jersiaise Battle of Britain Aircrew with Jersey Links Talk, Wednesday 23 rd at the Société Jersiaise, organised by Geoff Simpson
November	Scheidhauer Memorial Thursday 7 th at Rue de Diélament Trinity with Noel Le Fondré Trinity Commando Raid Memorial Service Friday 8 th at Petit Port, Egypt, with Noel Le Fondré representing the Society Occupation Conversations Film, Wednesday 13 th at the Société Jersiaise with Pat Tourtel
December	No Member Events



2020

- January** **Lost Home Movies of Nazi Germany**
Film, Wednesday 8th at the Société Jersiaise
- Local History Fayre**
Friday 24th & Saturday 25th at the Town Library, Tony Pike representing the Society
- Holocaust Remembrance Day**
Monday 27th at the Maritime Museum, Noel Le Fondré representing the Society
- February** **St Martin's Church: 200th Anniversary**
Memorabilia Displays, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th, with Trevor Green
- Occupation Conversations Nos 6-8**
Films, Wednesday 12th at the Société Jersiaise with Therese Le Breuille, Dave Hocquard, and Ted Syvret

The Past

Last year's AGM was very divisive and I am glad it is behind us.

Recently we made some changes to the bunker teams. These decisions were not taken lightly, despite what you may have read on social media. Our requirements are reasonable; guest safety is paramount, and teams must report their takings and communicate with the Committee.

Excessive spending on a vanity project in 2018 delayed more important works, but we got our priorities in order and deferred maintenance began at several fortifications.

Committee member Chris Addy is not standing for re-election but I would like to thank him for his expert advice and guidance over the past year. He shared a lot of information about best practices for managing historic structures and collections, and I think we can continue to improve.

The Present

The Committee are a proper team this year, we get far more work done with fewer people. Tony Chalker rejoins us as Fortifications Co-ordinator at the perfect time. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for their hard work and advice over the past year.

The first day of this month saw more people renewing or joining the Society in a 24-hour period than I have ever seen before. Thank you too!

As of today we have 312 paying members, 8 Lifetime members, and 5 complementary memberships. 87 have already joined or renewed this year. Your 2019 subscriptions expire in May so please renew soon.



The Future

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Channel Islands from the German occupying forces. I believe public interest in the Occupation will peak over the next few months and then it will decline sharply. For this reason I think it is time we consider dissolving the Company and reverting to the Society structure we had before.

Being Company Secretary is a great deal of work for me and while I enjoy serving our members, I do not look forward to another year of paperwork and administration.

The Society itself is healthy and member subscriptions easily cover the cost of publications and archiving. That side of our organisation can happily continue unchanged for many years.

The position of Archivist remains vacant. We should really add an education co-ordinator if we want to bring in younger members, otherwise our numbers will continue to decline. If you can assist with either role, please let me know and I will help you get started.

In recent years the fortifications in our care lose money but they are too important to let go. We need to fix this. I think the simplest answer is to open them more frequently. My idea from last year to recruit volunteers from Acorn Enterprises and the Back To Work team still has merit, but I leave it for the bunker team leaders to decide.

In summary, we are an all-volunteer Society and I call on all our members to make an extra effort to help those of us already volunteering. Your parents and grandparents suffered during WW2 but they did what they had to in order to succeed. You should do the same, to make sure their experiences are not forgotten.

Tom Brossman
Secretary
11th March 2020