



PRESS RELEASE

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# La Fête du Jèrriais

Following the success of last year's inaugural Fête du Jèrriais, the festival celebrating Jersey's native language is set to return for 2019 in what is UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages. The festival, organised by L'Office du Jèrriais and supported by Jersey Heritage, will take place between Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The main event of this year's Fête is a concert featuring local band Badlabecques and Lihou, a band formed of French, British and Channel Island musicians who will play songs from a recent publication entitled 'Traditional Music and Songs of the Channel Islands'. With the support of Jersey Heritage, the publication of this book and CD has been made possible by a collaboration between the University of Caen and French organisation La Loure, who exist to promote the music and oral traditions of the Normandy region.

This event will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at the Maritime Museum, in keeping with the nautical theme of many of the songs of the Channel Islands. It will be preceded by a talk about the project by La Loure at Jersey Museum. Taken together, both events represent the launch of the publication in Jersey. Thereafter, Lihou and La Loure will travel to Guernsey to launch the book there as part of the Guernsey Literary Festival.

Another new event for 2019, taking place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, is an evening of music and poetry with cidre tasting. Local musicians and poets will perform pieces with a Jèrriais connection, be it a song with a Jèrriais title or even an entire poem in the language. This same day sees the launch of an art exhibition at CCA Galleries featuring work based on a haiku poem written in Jèrriais. Artist Danny Rolph will deliver a talk about his work at the gallery on Friday lunchtime.

The final day of this year's festival, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, will be a family event at La Hougue Bie. Building on the success of the launch of a Jèrriais version of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' in 2018, this year will see the publication of a story booklet based on the La Hougue Bie legend of Lord Hambye and the Dragon. Activities on the day will include storytelling, a 'dragon trail', craft activities, traditional dancing and games.

Other festival events include Jèrriais films in the theatre at Jersey Museum, the launch of a Jèrriais version of Jersey Heritage's Memory Box app, as well as a cultural tour of St Helier with local history and Jèrriais expert Geraint Jennings culminating in a demonstration of the ancient Jersey tradition of bachîn ringing at CCA.

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