

Kath Ahier

Good morning, the 24th July 2021.

My subject this morning concerns speaking my first language, Jèrriais.

I can't write in Jèrriais, I'm trying to read it. Is it easiest for you to read it, write it or speak it? What is a language? It's a way of meeting one another. Discuss, have an argument, perhaps help one another, find a friend that has a similar interest.

When I left St. Ouen I missed hearing Jèrriais, I wanted to meet someone, when I was in town, perhaps speak to them, between ourselves. But one needs to know the person who can speak to me in this language.

I had an idea to indicate to someone else that I wanted to do this. I had an old jumper that my mother had repaired. I thought of putting it on my shoulders with the text which had the words for others to read "***I would like to speak Jèrriais***". Just this week I have been given a badge that can indicate the same thing but the other person must be in front of me, not behind me as was the case of my first thought.

When I was a small child (*pétchiote*) I had an uncle who lived in England. Once, when he was with us here, it seems that my mother asked me, in Jèrriais, to go question someone about something she wanted to know something. When I met the other person, knowing she did not understand Jèrriais, I asked her the question that my mother had given me, in English. Of course she replied in English. Now I went to find my mother and I told her the reply that I had heard, but I told her in Jèrriais. My uncle was amazed to see and hear me jump between the two languages.

A question. Why are there so many apostrophes in the written Jèrriais ? I think I can find the answer to that in the book *Le Jèrriais Pour Tous*. I hope to start reading it and using it soon. Another thing that I would like to do is understand how children learn their first language.

Thank you for listening. I finish with the saying that I heard, by Winston le Brun,
Peace between neighbours.

K. E. A. Goodbye