

STATES OF JERSEY



COMMISSION AMICALE: REPORT FOR 2003

**Presented to the States on 25th May 2004
by the Commission Amicale**

STATES GREFFE

COMMISSION AMICALE

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

1. Background

The Commission Amicale was formed in 1995 and comprises elected members of the States of Jersey and the Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie and the Conseil Général de la Manche. The Conseil Régional and the Conseil Général opened an office, the Maison de Normandie et de la Manche, in Halkett Place, St. Helier, in 1996 and a Jersey office in Basse-Normandie was opened by the Commission Amicale on 15th July 1998.

2. Key Objectives

- To foster, develop and support commercial, tourism, educational, agricultural, cultural and sporting links with our French neighbours;
- To maintain, monitor and improve the work of the Maison de Jersey in order to provide advice and information about the Island and to encourage the development of links between the Island and France and monitor its contribution and effectiveness.

3. Membership

The Jersey delegation's broad membership ensures that as wide a spread as possible of mutual interests between the communities of Jersey and Lower Normandy is represented. The interests of the following Committees (as they existed in 2002) ensured a wide and full representation throughout 2003. Policy and Resources, Finance and Economics, Industries, Planning and Environment, Public Services, Agriculture and Fisheries, Tourism, Housing, Sport, Leisure and Recreation, Home Affairs, Education and Legislation Committees together with the Committee for Postal Administration, the Jersey Transport Authority and the Comité des Connétables.

4. Maison de Jersey

Overview

The Jersey delegation of the Commission Amicale has fulfilled its original aims and objectives through the active involvement of the Maison de Jersey in Caen, which has become a well-known office in the region and beyond. Involvement by the Executive Officer of the Maison de Jersey in the support of projects since the opening of the office on 15th July 1998 has increased and led to a considerable number of links being established in many areas of activity between our two communities.

The objectives achieved by the Maison de Jersey throughout 2003 are detailed below alphabetically.

Activity Report 2003

2003 saw an evolution in the activity of La Maison de Jersey. We are becoming ever more involved in helping to develop political and commercial links with France, in particular with Normandy and Brittany. In this domain, our role is one of intermediary; collecting and distributing information, identifying opportunities and supporting the Island community in its dealings in France; helping to open doors and keeping them open. We continue to provide a valuable service to a variety of States Departments and elected members. La Maison de Jersey works to maintain and strengthen existing links between the Island and our French neighbours. Being a good neighbour demands effort, La Maison de Jersey is evidence of the Island's desire to make that effort. In 2003 we expanded our network of political contacts and created channels of access within local government. These channels of access facilitate our task when we need to meet the right people, contact potential partners or seek advice.

We have aimed to write a report that conveys the variety of work that we undertake. We would also hope that it illustrates the potential that La Maison de Jersey has to serve the Island community with our closest neighbour.

Contacts with local government, Conseil Régional and Conseils Généraux of Lower Normandy

Objectives achieved

City of Caen:

- Links with Mr. Viallaneix (Deputy Mayor) and Lesley Sourbee at the International Relations Department (Meeting with the Bailiff and Sénateur Jean Le Maistre 13th February 2003).
- Meeting between Mr. Viallaneix Deputy Maire and a delegation of elected members led by Sénateur Jear Le Maistre, 4th July 2003.
- Working with Mr. Houssin (Culture Department) regarding Jersey's participation at Caen "Soirs d'été" Festival July 2003.

City of Argentan:

- Meeting between the Mayor of Argentan (Mr. Pavis), Deputy Ben Fox, Connétable Vibert, and Mrs. Kelleher on the 26th and 27th April 2003. "Foire de Quasimodo" discussed possible "twinning".

Conseil Général de la Manche:

- Manche Expansion: liaised with François Ricaud regarding Normandie Helicopters (trip to Nantes « Alliance Atlantique » on 29th and 30th October 2003).
- Worked closely with Olivier Le Meignan (Conseil Général) regarding the Ferry links between GRANVILLE/CARTERET-ST. HELIER/GOREY (2002-2003). Translated the Conseil General's Press release prior to inaugural voyage of "Victor Hugo".
- Arranged meetings between Pierre-Jean Blanchet (Conseil Général) and the members of the Commission Amicale, further meetings were held with Jersey Customs, Immigration and Port Officials (14th March 2003).
- 27th – 28th June 2003: Visit of the Commission Amicale to St. Lô (Conseil Général).
- 9th July 2003: Christening of the Marin Marie by Mrs. Bailhache.
- 13th December: Twinning Ceremony between Barneville Carteret in the presence of the Bailiff of Jersey, President Le Grand and elected representatives from Jersey and Normandy.

Conseil Régional de BASSE-NORMANDIE:

- Met the President of the Conseil Régional of Basse-Normandie René Garrec on number of occasions throughout the year.
- Met Isabelle Labiche, Ferac, Culture Department (monthly basis).
- Met Emmanuelle Tirilly, Press and Communication Department (regular basis).
- Assisted and supported Mr. Beauvais (Beauvais Consultants) whilst he prepared a report on a proposed *Zone Franche* (bonded area) in Granville. This would facilitate trade with Jersey particularly after the creation of a deep water port. Introduced Mr. Beauvais to the Commission Amicale 9th September 2003.

Conseil Régional de BRETAGNE:

- The Executive Officer met Mme. Couratin and informed her of the work of La Maison de Jersey (Economic Development).
- Liaised with Mrs. Besse (Tourism Department), and Mr. Rohmer (Service Economie : Emeraude crisis).

Conseil Général d'ILLE Et VILAINE:

- 23rd October: met Deputy President to discuss future co-operation.
- 10th November: Meeting with the Deputy President of the Conseil Général des CÔTES d'ARMOR, Mr. Le Floc'h Jean.

Town of ST. MALO:

- 22nd October: Chamber of Commerce, St. Malo.
- 23rd October: Mayor, Tourism Office (Mr. Weisz). Meeting with Tourism Offices of Dinard, Guernsey and Jersey.

Préfecture de la MANCHE:

- Met Mr. Condemine, Secrétaire du Préfet before his departure for Brittany where he has been appointed Deputy Préfet and discussed future co-operation with la Préfecture de la Bretagne.
- Liaised with Mr. Gaudouen, Sous-Préfet (Health Department): Met Jersey Hospital delegation in Caen 2nd December.

Culture

Culture may be described as being the customs, language, religion, ideas, art, music and literature of any particular civilization or social groups. However one defines it, cultural interchange should be a mutually enriching experience. However, between Jersey and France, the sharing of one and others culture cannot but be beneficial for both societies.

La Maison de Jersey arranged or helped arrange the following:

- 15th February 2003: Coutances Conference "Jersey – German occupation".
- 14th April: Meeting in Argentan with 1204-2004 Committee in preparation for the Bailiff's visit on 11th September 2003.
- 16th April–14th May: Exhibition in the Central Library in Caen (Jersey Zoo, Victor Hugo's Exile In Jersey, Education In Jersey, Agriculture, "40 Years Through The Lens of Ronnie Weiss").
- 12th–17th May: Film production in Jersey – Baraka Production, Philippe Van De Walle "Les Dernis ?". Documentary on Jersey Norman French (available on cassette; awaiting transmission on French TV).
- 2nd–30th June: Jersey Society of Artists Art exhibition at the Tourism Office, Avranches: 40 Paintings 8 Sculptures and 6 Ceramics on the following themes: "Inspiration Exhibition" ("Victor Hugo's Exile in Channel Islands"); "Understanding Freedom"; "Phoenix"; "40 Years Through The Lens of Ronnie Weiss".
- 2nd July–4th August: Art exhibitions in Falaise (as above...)

- 5th–6th July: Summer Music Festival in Caen (Band of the Island of Jersey, Jersey Caledonian Pipe Band).
- 13th–14th December: Jersey Caledonian Pipe Band were to participate at the Christmas week-end festivities in Caen City Centre: cancelled because of Emeraude ferry troubles.

Economic Development

The Executive Officer was pleased to have contributed to the Policy and Resources Committee report on relations between Jersey and France. The report highlights the importance to the Island of developing trade with France over the coming decade. La Maison de Jersey is determined to play a major role in this development.

Objectives achieved:

Transport links:

- Assisted the Conseil Général in their efforts to provide a reliable maritime service between the Island and Normandy.
- Provided linguistic support at meetings between respective civil servants; translation and interpreting.
- Arranged meetings between Customs, immigration and harbour officials and representatives from the Conseil Général.
- Disseminated information to the appropriate authorities and elected representatives.
- Made the Conseil Général aware of concerns regarding the service and the growing customer dissatisfaction.
- Information gathering regarding the Emeraude situation.
- Dissemination of information to appropriate authorities.
- Identified carriers who could transport seafood from the island in the absence of representatives of alternative carriers (Atlantique Aviation).
- Held meetings with Eric Oger (Atlantique Aviation) who is interested in carrying passengers and freight to and from the island.
- Assisted Noel Hayes (Rock Hopper) in his investigations regarding the feasibility of a Jersey-Caen service. Proximity to Paris may prove of great interest to Jersey businessmen.
- Lent linguistic support to the Caen Chamber of Commerce in their business dealings with Mr. Hayes.
- Worked closely with Manche Expansion, a government sponsored organization charged with the task of developing the economic fabric of La Manche region. Jersey could be a key player in this expansion and in turn stimulate business growth in the Island.
- Identified a fresh produce distributor in Paris who is willing to market Jersey Royals in France. Notified producers through Mr. Godin, marketing consultant (the Executive Officer met Mr. Godin on various occasions between March and December).

- Accompanied and supported Jersey businessmen at meetings. Introduced them to potential partners (Jersey Oyster Company, Purple Tree Ltd.).
- Advised French business interested in selling their wares in the Island: Pronotec (PVC windows) 17th June; Normandie Gourmande (regional produce) 2nd October and 28th November ; Mr. Pinard, (Travel Agent) 15th October; Mr. Mousset (Wine Merchant) 16th October; Novatis (urban furniture) 16th December; Mr. Godin, (Agricultural Consultant) March– December.

Education

School visit:

La Maison de Jersey helped organize a number of visits to France for Jersey Schools. During these visits, the Executive Office offered his assistance and support.

Assistants:

Each year 4 French assistants teach in Jersey schools. La Maison de Jersey selected these assistants in co-operation with the University of Caen. The successful candidates were then invited to our office where they followed a programme designed to familiarize them with the Island, the Jersey education system and lesson planning. The Executive Officer is a former Teacher Trainer. La Maison de Jersey also found accommodation for the assistants.

University Courses:

At the request of the Education Sport and Culture Department, La Maison de Jersey identified an intensive university course for a young Jersey Teacher. Sonia Medroa was accompanied throughout her stay by La Maison de Jersey personnel, thus maximizing the linguistic immersion she sought in coming to Caen.

Exhibition in Caen Library:

Jersey Library and the Bibliothèque de Caen have been “twinned” since 2000. This year the Maison de Jersey held an exhibition in the Bibliothèque de Caen; there were four themes: history, agriculture, Victor Hugo and the “twinning” association of St. Mary - Longues sur Mer. The exhibition was prepared by pupils from three schools in Normandy, all of whom will visit Jersey in 2003/2004. The exhibition and media coverage presented Jersey as a vibrant, diverse and interesting society. The creation and maintenance of a positive perception of the island is one of the Maison de Jersey’s prime objectives.

Objectives achieved:

- Helped to organize visits to France for –
 - Jersey College for Girls (4th–6th June)
 - St. Peter’s School (23rd–27th June)
 - St. Luke’s School (15th–19th September).
- Successfully arranged university course for Jersey teacher. Supported the teacher throughout her stay in Normandy.
- Exhibition: Your Anglo-Norman Cousin: Caen Public Library (16th April–14th May).
- Lectures for French school children: Jersey Myths and Legends, Jersey Zoo Caen Public Library (14th April).

- Arranged meeting between the Bailiff and the University of Caen. Evoked future co-operation between Jersey and the University.
- Advised and assisted many French Schools during their preparation for visits to Jersey.

Employment

Objectives achieved:

- Oriented people to recruitment agencies and helped with accommodation, etc.

Health Care

The French Health care system is recognized as being one of the best in the world. There are excellent hospitals and clinics in Brittany and Lower Normandy. For the fourth consecutive year Clinique Saint Martin (Caen) was recognized as being France's leading clinic. The Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (Caen) is equally acknowledged as being a **pole of excellence**. La Maison de Jersey has explored the possibility of Jersey patients availing themselves of these medical facilities. Hospitals and Clinics have agreed to care for such patients should medical authorities in the island so decide. Elected representatives in France are favorable to such an agreement should Jersey decide to adopt this initiative.

Jersey's Major Incidents Committee asked la Maison de Jersey to approach S.A.M.U. (French pre-hospital medical response organization) and establish a dialogue between the two. We established this dialogue and meetings were held in both France and Jersey. Furthermore, we worked with the competent French civil authorities to examine the International legal implications of such co-operation. In 2004, the Jersey Major Incidents Committee will continue to work towards an agreement with their French counterparts. La Maison de Jersey is pleased to assist the Health and Social Services and in this endeavour.

Objectives achieved:

- A delegation from the Major Incidents Committee met Mr. Tiger (Deputy Director of C.H.U. Caen) 2nd December.
- The Delegation visited the headquarters of S.A.M.U., Calvados. The Director of S.A.M.U. explained their modus operandi and raison d'être.
- The Delegation met Mr. Gaudouen, the Deputy Préfet of La Manche (The French Civil Authority) Discussed the possibility of Naval Medical Response (S.A.M.U., Marine Nationale)
- A representative of S.A.M.U. (Calvados), Dr. L. Lepeltier visited Jersey Hospital and ambulance service 9th December.
- La Maison de Jersey produced a brochure outlining Le Plan Rouge and provided copies of same to the Major Incidents Committee.

Housing Department

In December 2001, Deputy Terry Le Main asked us to find French contractors who could build quality housing in Jersey at a cost that would enable the States to make considerable savings. Following a fact-finding visit to Normandy by Deputy Terry Le Main and members of the Housing Department 4 companies visited Jersey. The inspected 3 sites on the Island which were designated for States accommodation. It was generally believed that quality housing could be built at a cost to the States that was inferior to that which had hitherto been the norm; one of the contractors, SARL Quille enthusiastically pursued their interest with frequent visits to the Island and

even engaged a Scottish engineer to oversee the project. La Maison de Jersey was disappointed to learn that Quille had withdrawn from the tendering process. In his letter to Mr. G. Hart (Woodward Associates Mr. F. Vaultier cited the obligation to use almost 50% of nominated contractors as being the reason for withdrawing (Magistrate's Court). They also declined to tender for Le Coie, this time citing delays in issuing the tender. We regret that this project did not allow the Housing Committee and the States of Jersey to learn if considerable savings could be made through using French contractors.

Recapitulation:

- The States of Jersey issued a tender for the construction of social housing on a site at Le Coie (16th January 2003). The Executive Officer informed the French contractors who had visited the sites in Jersey (June 17th and 18th 2002). La Maison de Jersey translated the terms and conditions of the tender application and provided assistance in replying to the tender.
- One of the contractors, SARL Quille was subsequently invited to the Island (3rd and 4th March) to present its candidacy.
- Quille subsequently applied to build apartments on four sites in the Island and also the new Magistrate's Court.
- Quille was again invited to Jersey to meet the Chief Architect Mr. Graeme Hutchison.
- Quille declined to submit a tender for the new Magistrate's Court and Probation Services Offices (13th November).
- Quille declined to submit a tender for the "Le Coie Residential Development".

Media and Website

The media is undoubtedly an important ally in the creation of positive images and perceptions. To this end we sought press coverage for the events we organized and the work that we do at La Maison de Jersey. The French press has a tendency to describe Jersey in negative terms. We try, as the best we can, to paint another picture.

Objectives achieved:

- 10 Press articles in Ouest-France, featured in "Le Mois à Caen", Liberté, La Manche Libre, Les Nouvelles de Falaise, Corse Matin.
- Radio interviews : Corse, BBC Jersey
- Created our website into www.maisondejersey.com – first French language site dedicated to Jersey.

Sport

The problems associated with the ferry links Jersey and France played havoc with our sporting programme. Incertitude regarding sailings understandably led to cancellation (Football, Wanderers and First Tower: 6th–7th June participation in a Regional competition; Athletics: 13th–14th December: Participation in a regional competition). Notwithstanding, la Maison de Jersey made all the necessary arrangements to facilitate the participation of Jersey Sportsmen and women at a variety of events in France.

Objectives achieved:

- *Swimming:*

The Tigers Swimming Club again chose Caen as their training camp in preparation for the National Age Group Championship (August); National Youth Championship (August); Senior National Championship. The Jersey Club used the Caen 50 metre pool (17th–21st July, and 26th–31st October 2003) to prepare for the Hampshire Championship and a Meeting in Jersey. Both competitions were held in November. La Maison de Jersey assisted and supported the Club before and during their stay in Caen. The partnership that has been developed between the Jersey and Caen Clubs is, indeed, a good example of the type of relationship we are endeavoring to develop between Sporting bodies in Jersey and their counterparts in France.

– *COJI*: (Island Games under 15)

Through the auspices of La Maison de Jersey, the Island was invited to compete at Les Jeux des Iles. COJI, *Comité Olympique pour les Jeux des Iles*, is an association that holds an annual tournament involving representative teams from 17 different islands, mainly Mediterranean. The games have the support of the International Olympic Committee, the European Commission and the French Olympic Committee. The participating athletes are aged between 12 and 15. The official language of the games is French and COJI is based in Ajaccio, CORSICA. The Executive Officer met Mr. Derek De La Haye (Assistant Director Sports and Leisure) and a number of Island Sporting Associations which to compete at these games La Maison de Jersey will support their efforts to do so (9th December).

Tourism

In 2002, there was an increase of 100% in visits to the office and enquiries regarding holidays in Jersey. This trend continued in 2003 and resulted in an increase of 65% (1,084 enquiries in 2002 compared to 1,778 enquiries in 2003). Our Internet site means that we are reaching potential visitors throughout France and beyond. La Maisor de Jersey took a number of initiatives to publicise Jersey as an attractive tourist destination. We had a stand at a strategically important site during La Grande Braderie de Caen (200,000 visitors). We brought the Band of the Island of Jersey and the Jersey Caledonian Pipe Band to animate the Town Centre. Our participation at this event resulted in Jersey being cited on 200,000 publicity flyers, approximately 40,000 magazines (‘Le Mois à Caen’) and being featured in the local press and radio. Consequently we were approached by ‘France 3’ (Regional Television) to do a report on our activity at La Maison de Jersey (2004).

Objectives achieved:

- Provided a comprehensive range of constantly updated tourist brochures.
- Informed potential tourists of Jersey’s many attractions.
- Improved our website.
- Communicated with local and national press and media.
- Participated at the launch of Jersey Tourism’s 2004 publicity campaign (Deauville 25th September).
- Supplied Tourism Offices with publicity materials.
- Displayed at Caen Tourism Office (July and August).
- Participated at “La Grande Braderie de Caen” (4th and 5th July).
- Instigated meeting between St. Malo, Dinard, Guernsey and Jersey tourist offices with a view to developing co-operation between them, particularly in view of the arrival of the T.G.V. (High Speed Train) in St. Malo in 2005. This will greatly increase the number of visitors to St. Malo and hopefully to the Island. Further meetings are planned for 2004.

Conclusion

This annual report illustrates how La Maison de Jersey provided valuable service to the Island community in 2003. Our involvement in the annual meeting with the Conseil Général (27th and 28th June 2003) encouraged us greatly in so far that there is a growing desire to work with France in the future. At that meeting, we spoke of the services with which France is already supplying the island, in particular electricity and telecommunications.

A number of elected representatives spoke about the possibility of exporting waste to France for re-cycling and recently the idea of importing water was suggested. With the improvement, hopefully, of the maritime services to the island and the construction of a new port in Granville our need to work with the French is increasingly essential. La Maison de Jersey is ideally suited to help in this process. The work that we are doing at present, be it in the cultural or sporting domain or in political or commercial arena, is helping to change perceptions of the Island, opening lines of communication and building on our network of contacts and friends. These are essential tools that Jersey will need to realize the aspirations expressed in the Policy and Resources Committee Report (*working party on relations between Jersey and France*). Finally, the main strengths of La Maison de Jersey are that we are here, in France and showing that we want to work with our neighbours, the French.