

LONGCLAS

THE LABELED

JOIN OUR
L'EREE
CELEBRATION



LIBERATION
DAY 2025

Friday 9 May

LET'S PARTY
like it's **1945**



**ROCQ
CAPITAL**
Boutique Asset Management

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CELEBRATION



LIBERATION
DAY 2025

LET'S PARTY
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The western parishes are fortunate to benefit from strong and lasting community values, fed from the schools being at their heart. Pupils from La Houquette and Forest recently came together to reflect and remember the challenging times faced by Guernsey's children during the five years of separation, and to look forward to a wonderful family day of free fun and community celebration at L'Eree on May 9th.



WELCOME



On this special 80th anniversary of the Island's liberation from occupying German forces, the Parish of St. Pierre du Bois warmly welcomes fellow Islanders to L'Eree for a day of remembrance and community celebration.

Our commemorative event schedule offers something for everyone. Beginning at 10am with a People's Service of Thanksgiving, followed at 11am by a nostalgic 1940's audience singalong, the day continues with reflections on friendships built through the Guernsey Friends of Biberach group and a noon performance by the Biberach Youth Orchestra.

All Islanders are invited to enthusiastically wave flags and cheer during our inclusive People's Parade, celebrating particularly with evacuees and those who remained during occupation.

We are deeply honoured by a Royal visit from HRH The Princess Royal. Please join us in extending a warm welcome in the West to our esteemed guest. Another exclusive highlight at L'Eree is the thrilling free-fall display by the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team—definitely not to be missed!

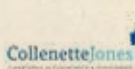
With engaging imagery, book signings, extensive family fun, and free musical entertainment throughout the day, we assure an unforgettable experience.

Join us for this landmark 80th celebration!

Thankyou to our 2025 Sponsors and Supporters



ROCC CAPITAL
Boutique Asset Management



co-operative



Additional thanks for this 80th Anniversary event, alongside for some, the past 4 years of unwavering support from our Community...

Event Organiser
Anne Thomas.

Committee
Steve Champion-Smith, Andre Mayor & Douzaine Members, Tim Langmead, Carl Jensen, Gloria Dudley-Owen, Claire Jehan.

Beach Team Lead
Kim Carre.

Bar
Vraiceaters Tavern, Neil Le Poidevin, Demelza Newsom.

Stage Manager
Mark Guillou.

Each and Every Tea Tent Volunteer

Site Support
Glen, Luc and all volunteers on the day.

Event Support
Dennis Burns, Lydia Pugh, Lisa Vidamour, Ali Banfield, Lloyd & His Team @Regency Event Hire, Chubb and His Boys @ Traditional Marquees, St. Peter's Church, ACLMS, Mrs Lindsay, Dave Cowley, Little Bears Pre-School, Guernsey Water, Torteval Douzaine, Cow @West Show, Josh Gabriel @North Show, Richard @Links Radios, Island Castles, La Houquette School, Forest School, Lloyd le Tocq, Arun @ Proscenium Events, Forest Stores, Ben Le Page, Sylvans Football Club, Island Waste, 4hire, Perelle Butchery, Vintage Was, Blue Ormer Publishing, Marco Tergisni, Stuart Perfitt, Jon & Philippa Buckland, Guernsey Archives, Guernsey Museum, Stagecoach, G.A.T.E.

All Event Marshalls

All Musicians
Salvation Army Band, Guernsey Concert Brass, Singing For Health Choir, Cobo Cabana, Space Pirates Of Rocquaine, Crown & Chance, Guerns Of The Galaxy, Underdog, G.A.T.E. Singers.

Food Vendors
Amchi Bus Guernsey Tram, Fish & Chip Co, Mims Pizzas, Mims Ices, Nberts Candyfloss, & Popcorn, Sergio Gois.

Natalie Gilman
& all Beach Team helpers.

Brochure Design
Tom Robertshaw, Sammy Giovinnazzi (GIO).



ROCC CAPITAL



LIFE UNDER

Story By John Bourgaize

OCCUPATION

Born in 1938, John Bourgaize was one of 18 children. While some older siblings were evacuated, he remained on the island, living at L'Eree. He recalls running from air raids, dodging a minefield, and being knocked off his feet by an explosion when a cow set off a mine.

At four, his family moved to St. Peter's at Les Hougues Falles. He struggled in school, only speaking Guernsey French, and remembers the terrifying Mirus battery guns shaking the road. In 1944, heavy German gunfire targeted Lihou Island. Soldiers also practiced in local fields - John once fell into a trench and was chased for breaking curfew after visiting his aunt.

Food was scarce. Germans took supplies to a central depot, but John's father secretly buried potatoes and falsely reported them stolen. "For Christmas 1941, we had goat meat; my stocking held an apple and sweets." Later Christmases brought rabbit, potatoes, broccoli, and boiled seaweed for dessert. There were no toys, only clothes. His worst memory was eating potato cake made from green skins, which made him sick.

"often finding live bullets, we used to take the wooden cap off, place it on the road and throw stones to explode it. one day, my brother put two live bullets in the fire, and they exploded. our mother smacked him!"

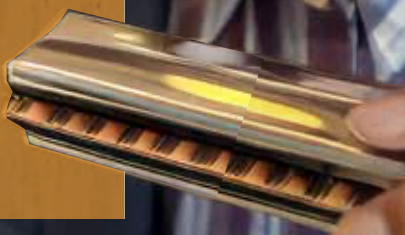
Read John's full story in the Memorabilia Tent at the event.



As a young boy, John Bourgaize recalls Sarnia Cherie being played at the time of the Liberation, compelling him to learn the harmonica. Subsequently, in 2011 he was honoured to be asked to play Sarnia Cherie in the Bailiff's Chambers on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of its release.



Listen to John play his harmonica again at the 80th Anniversary event.





PAPERS PLEASE!



Thomas and Mary Jehan lived at Mon Port, Plaisance Road at the western side of the airport runway. On rising and opening the curtains one morning, Thomas was shocked to discover an anti-aircraft gun had been set up close to the house and an accompanying German was peering back at him through the window!

Thomas was a grower, and Mary was the daughter of Nico Le Sauvage a fisherman from L'Eree. They had four children, Nora, Mary, Elsie and Thomas. Thomas Jr married Enid Lucas, just prior to the outbreak of the second world war and also lived at Mon Port throughout the occupation and their eldest child (who now resides at Mon Port) was born during this time.



Learn more about life under occupation and being an evacuee at our History Tent.





SCHOOL CHILDREN

HOME AND AWAY

In June 1940, of the thousands of children evacuated from our Island, 198 were from Guernsey's southern and western parishes. With many leaving behind parents, possessions, and everything they knew.

Their journeys took almost a full day, with some experiencing trains for the first time. Many siblings were separated, facing challenges with new dialects and varying care experiences. However, strong community and school support often helped bring evacuees together.

For those who remained, schooling was difficult due to teacher shortages. Margaret Le Cras recalled walking long distances, seeing German soldiers daily, and only speaking patois. "Our teacher, Mrs. Pearl Blondel, taught us English. We gathered pinecones for the boiler in winter to stay warm." Len Le Ray, then an infant in St. Saviour, remembered feeling his parents' fear and being terrified on his first day at Torteval Methodist.

Pupils from La Houquette School have been learning of the hardships faced by Guernsey's children during those long 5 years and will reenact the Parade celebrations of 1946, on May 9th.



LIFE AS AN

EVACUEE!

Rosemary Smale (nee Barrett) was just four when she left Guernsey on a cattle boat with a family friend. Her brother travelled separately, and their parents joined them later in Liverpool. Their initial homes in Liverpool were soon bombed, forcing Rosemary's family to shelter in a broom cupboard beneath the stairs. Her father then moved the family to Stockport, where sirens frequently sounded, sending them rushing to an Anderson shelter next door, often helping elderly neighbours along the way. Rosemary vividly recalls nearby bombings and hearing spitfires overhead.

Despite this, Rosemary remembers her life in Stockport fondly, quickly making friends and adjusting well to school life, even amid gas masks and air raid drills. "Church was attended every Sunday, and there was freedom to play and explore. School and community parties were fun, and I wasn't overly worried," she reflects.

Returning home to Guernsey after the war was unsettling for Rosemary. Their new home in St. Martins felt eerily quiet and desolate, contrasting sharply with the bustling life she'd known in the UK. Yet she understood her parents' joy at being home, saying, "I thank the Lord that they did return."



"We had Doodlebugs (flying bombs with engines) which would pass over the houses and Mum would sit in fear until the sound of the engine had died away."

Deportees from Guernsey were among the more than 1,300 Allied civilians held at Biberach camp in southern Germany. Photo, courtesy of the Guernsey Press.

BIBERACH



History & Reconciliation

During the occupation, over 1,000 Guernsey and Sark residents were deported to camps in the southwest of Germany, notably to Biberach an der Riß and interned at Camp Lindele (Lager Lindele). It was to be their involuntary home for almost 3 years. Today, Guernsey and Biberach are 'twinned' in a flourishing friendship via the Guernsey Friends of Biberach group.

Life in Camp

Gladys Skillett, a civilian internee, was expecting her second child when she was deported from German-occupied Guernsey to Biberach. Alone in the hospital, she befriends a German woman in the same maternity ward, and despite the language barrier, their friendship endures for the rest of their lives.

You can talk with her daughter Gloria and read the whole story of Gladys's experiences in the Memorabilia Tent on May 9th at L'Eree.



Sidney and Gladys Skillett. Biberach camp.

Biberach Orchestra

We are therefore delighted to welcome 43 talented members of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Bruno-Frey Music School who will be visiting Guernsey to participate in the 80th anniversary events and will be performing for us on stage at L'Eree at 12 noon. Guernsey's Music Service students last visited their counterparts in Biberach in 2023.



L'EREE PROGRAMME EVENT START TIME: 10:00

Time	Food & Drink	Entertainment Marquee	Historical Tent	Roadside	Common	Beach	Fly Past
10:00	Tea Tent Opens	People's Church Service of Thanksgiving	10-12 Live Stream Town		All Day Family Zone Tables & Chairs		 Hurricane
10:30	Wraps, Quiche, Sausage Rolls		Photographs		U5's Playzone & Shade		
11:00	Sandwiches Cakes & Gâche	1940'S Singing	Book Signing Book Sales & Memorabilia		11:00 Face Painter & Fun Tattoos		 Harvard
11:30	Veg & Fruit		Occupation Talk	Partial Road Closure of Les Sablons	Inflatable Fun Velcro Wall	11:50 Low Tide	
12:00	Pizzas	Biberach Youth Orchestra	Paper Planes Biberach	FREE Flags	12:00 Bubble Lady Climbing Wall		 Dakota
12:30	Fish & Chips	Break For Parade	Art Displays	People's Parade	Break For Parade		
13:00	Burgers, Sausages	Live Music Cobo Cabana	Rolling Images	Wheel Chair Routine		Sandcastle Competition	 Spitfire
13:30	Curry		Short Film	Dance Group	Inflatables & Family Fun	Beach Football	
14:00	Bean Jar				Performances by local G.A.T.E. Students		
14:30	Candy Floss		Gathering of Evacuees		Reading of a Poem Paper Planes "Occupation Story Telling"		14.00 Hurricane & Harvard Take Off & Fly Two Circuits Of The Island
15:00	Popcorn						14.50 Dakota Takes Off & Flies Two Circuits of The Island
15:30	Ice Creams	Live Music Cobo Cabana	Live Stream Town Cavalcade		Live Stream Town Cavalcade	RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team	
16:00	All Day Catering		Occupation Film With Interviews		All Day Static Tractors	Races & Fun Games	

16:30		Live Band Space Pirates of Rocquaine	Rolling Images	Visiting Static Military Vehicles		Danglin Donuts Tug of War	
17:00					Central Area	17:00 High Tide Swim	
17:30		Meat Draw Incl Cheese & Veg	Occupation Talk			Free Kayaking*	
18:00	Tea Tent Serving Ends		Occupation Film With Interviews		Bubble Lady		
18:30		Live Band Crown & Chancere			Inflatables Close	Enjoy Late Afternoon Picnics	
19:00			Life In Biberach Paper Planes				19:00 Spitfire
19:30		Live Band Guerns Of The Galaxy	Children's Film Screening				
21:00	Last Caterers Close	Break For Fireworks	Livestream of Drones & Fireworks		Livestream of Drones & Fireworks		
21:30		Headline Band Underdog					

EVENT CLOSES AT 23:00

JOIN OUR
L'EREE
 CELEBRATION

LIBERATION
DAY 2025

BRING YOUR RUGS & BLANKETS
 Free Buses and Night Service
 Bar: Opens 11:30 - Last Orders 22:30
 Central Area
 Big Screen Imagery Running All Day*.
 Seating & Tables Provided,
 Retro Dancers.

**There will be occasions when it's necessary for the main screen sound to be muted.
 Programme details were correct at time of print and may be subject to change.*

LET'S PARTY
like it's 1945
 with **FREE** Glow Sticks!

FREE reusable cups from
 Sponsors Rocq Capital.



ROCQ
CAPITAL

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**LIBERATION
DAY 2025**



Please use the **FREE Bus**, **Car Share**, or come by **Pushang**,
or **Walk** as much as possible!



**EVENT OPEN at 10:00
CLOSES at 23:00**



Parking (free)



Parking (paid / Charity)



Bus Stop



Parking (special access)



Bicycle Parking



Event Ground & Marquees



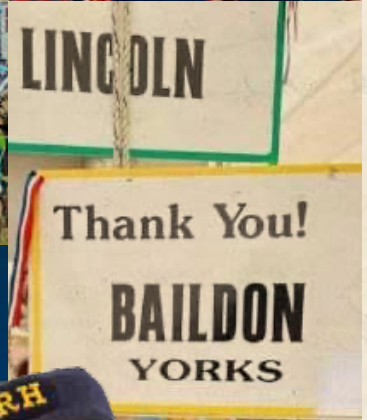
People's Parade Route at 12:30



Parachute Landing



LOOK BACK



RAF Falcons Drop In!

Look to the skies for a thrilling addition to our 80th celebrations!

We're delighted to welcome the RAF Falcons, the UK's premier military parachute display team from RAF Brize Norton. Their spectacular free fall display, featuring speeds of up to 120mph and signature moves like the Heart and Crisscross Carousel, promises to captivate every spectator.

Don't miss this exciting showstopper!

Thank you to States of Guernsey's support in enabling this to happen for our community event at L'Eree.

ROYAL AIR FORCE **FALCONS**
Parachute Display Team

Paper Planes

A Tribute to Guernsey's Evacuees

Students from our local dance school, G.A.T.E., will present their beautiful homage to the evacuees of Guernsey in their performance of 'Paper Planes'.

The story follows children who, during the Second World War, received letters from their fathers who were fighting abroad. It is an incredibly moving piece by a group of very talented local dancers.



Watch & Wave at The People's Parade at 12:30



A ROYAL CELEBRATION.



We are honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to the 80th Anniversary Liberation Day celebrations at L'Eree on Friday 9 May. Her visit highlights the historical significance of the Channel Islands' Liberation, marking eight decades since the end of German Occupation (1940-1945), when the islands became the most fortified part of the Atlantic Wall.

Liberation began on 9 May 1945 with the historic arrival of HMS Bulldog in St Peter Port, where German forces officially surrendered at dawn. To commemorate this milestone, The Princess Royal will join islanders at L'Eree, meeting veterans, evacuees, volunteers, and community organisers involved in the day's events.

Lieutenant-Governor Lieutenant General Richard Cripwell remarked, "It will be a great privilege to welcome The Princess Royal... offering a powerful reminder of the value of freedom."

The Princess Royal's visit reflects her deep appreciation of military and naval history, making her attendance particularly significant as we honour those who lived through Occupation and remember the sacrifices made for our liberty.

The Princess Royal last visited Guernsey in 2018, and we warmly welcome her return for this historic celebration.

"It will be a great privilege to welcome The Princess Royal... offering a powerful reminder of the value of freedom."

– Lieutenant-Governor Lieutenant General Richard Cripwell





LOQAL

Proud sponsors of the
L'Eree 80th Liberation Day Celebrations.

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