

# **“The Biberach Friends of Guernsey within the Town Twinning Association commemorate the 79th anniversary of the Liberation of Camp Lindele**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Lindele Liberation Day, the Biberach Friends of Guernsey organised a memorial service on behalf of the Biberach Town Twinning Association. About 60 people, including Mayor Norbert Zeidler met at the memorial sculpture “The Cry” by the artist Robert Schad in front of the former Camp Lindele which nowadays houses the Police Academy.

Helga Reiser, chair of The Biberach Friends of Guernsey, was delighted about the big number of participants. She welcomed the visitors and recalled the many different purposes of the site. From 1942 about 1,000 British civilians, mainly from the Bailiwick of Guernsey were deported and transferred to Camp Lindele. More than 2.5 years later, on St George’s Day 1945, the camp was liberated by French troops.

This introduction was followed by excerpts from memories of four deportees who were freed on this day, read by members of the Biberach Friends of Guernsey”:

- *Agnes Brendle read from memories of Tom Remfrey, then a youngster who was here with his parents.*
- *Barbara Würz contributed a text from “The Day the Nazis came” by Stephen Matthews.*
- *Michaela Jenke added a text by Marietta Moskin, a Jew born in Vienna. Having escaped from Vienna in time to Amsterdam was caught there with her parents and transferred to Bergen-Belsen to be used as exchange Jews, but landed in Biberach. Her book “I am Rosemary” was translated by Biberach pupils and published in 2005 as “Um ein Haar” (At Hair’s Breadth)*
- *Rotraud Rebmann finished with memories of Margaret Rose. Her book “Beyond the Wire” finishes with a memorable sentence of her father Frederick Cockayne “We must remember what was done in our names, good or bad, and not be afraid to speak out when necessary but we must always look ahead and not back. The past is gone, we can’t change it, but we can move to a good and honourable future with hands joined in friendship.”*

“Despite events at Camp Lindele, friendships were formed between deportees and people from Biberach lasting till today. These friendships have formed the basis for the friendly relations between Guernsey and Biberach.

In October this year during ‘Guernsey Weeks’ in Biberach arts and culture will be presented, and more information about Guernsey will be available.