

Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association Newsletter – July 2003 – No. 6

Second Signing Ceremony

On 28th June in Bourne End Community Centre history was made when dignitaries of Bourne End and Octeville sur Mer signed the final charters completing the formal twinning process between the two communities, the first charters having been signed in Octeville sur Mer on 5th April 2003.

The event saw the culmination of months of planning by the committee and the village was alive with bunting, flags and flowers. Nearly all the shops displayed posters for the event and several had put on special window displays with a French theme. Outside the Community Centre, the Union Jack and the Tricolour were flying from two large flagpoles, which had been especially erected for the ceremony. Above the doorway flew flags with the emblem of Octeville sur Mer and BEBTA. While in front of the door a red carpet had been laid.

Inside the Community Centre main hall many large flags of the two countries hung on the walls with bunting covering the sides and across the hall. Magnificent flower arrangements brightened the stage and the top table.

The scene was set, the sun shone down and at precisely 3 pm. the Comité de Jumelage d'Octeville sur Mer (CJO) party of 25 arrive in Wakeman Road to be greeted by their BEBTA hosts.

The Signing Ceremony opened with the Claytons School Brass Band playing a selection of tunes. Mike Hill, BEBTA Chairman, initiated the speeches and was followed by Philippe Marie, Mayor of Octeville sur Mer, David Paul, Wooburn Parish Council, Alain Richard, CJO President, Dennis Green, Chairman of Wycombe District Council and Dominic Grieve, MP for Beaconsfield. A symbolic key was presented to their Mayor and BEBTA received a painting of Octeville sur Mer from the CJO.



Group picture of some of the Octeville sur Mer delegation and the BEBTA committee at the newly unveiled road sign at the Sheepridge roundabout

Following the signing of the 6 Twinning Charters, gifts were presented to the Octeville delegation and The Wye Valley School Dancers gave a lively performance to close the proceedings in the main hall.

In the Foyer a commemorative plaque and a plaque holding the key and medal presented by Octeville sur Mer on 5th April was unveiled. A short walk took everyone to the newly erected finger post on the corner of Wharf Lane where David Paul and Mr. Marie unveiled an arm inscribed "Octeville Sur Mer 242 Km". The party then drove to the roundabout at Sheepridge where a new "twinning with" road sign was unveiled.

Once back at the Community Centre it was time to start the celebration dinner entertained by "Three's Company" and the Operatic Society.

All too quickly the evening run to its close, but the memory will long stay in our hearts and minds. So many people, clubs and businesses, too many to mention, had helped to make this a fantastic day and give a very warm welcome to our new friends from Octeville sur Mer.

Quiz Night

On a warm and humid 7th June the Association held a Quiz Night at St. Dunstons Hall. There were 12 teams for the quiz. At the end of the evening the winning team, called "Short Measure", were presented with eight bottles of wine. Throughout the evening the hall buzzed with the many articulated conversations going on and the laughter generated by the light-hearted banter. By all accounts everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Future events

Please make a note of these dates.

A Petanque evening hosted by Marlow Town Twinning Association will be held on 6th August at 7:30 pm. at the Hand & Flowers.

The member's Garden Party will be held at 95 Chalklands Bourne End on 30th August at 3:00 pm.

Members have been invited to a twinning visit to Octeville sur Mer, which will include a lamb BBQ on the weekend of 28th /29th September 2003.

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