

**Bailiff's Speech at
Fête Nationale (Bastille Day) – Tuesday 14th July 2009**

Mr Honorary Consul, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I was sworn in as the Island's Bailiff last Thursday and today is the first function which I have attended as Bailiff. It is therefore most fitting that this should be at a gathering to celebrate France's national day on the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille in 1789. France is not only our nearest neighbour but there are ties between France and Jersey going back many centuries. The French community remains an important part of Jersey.

2. I was therefore honoured that my swearing-in as Bailiff was attended not only by Sénateur Le Grand, Président, Conseil Général de la Manche, but also Monsieur Laflaquiere, Le Préfet de la Manche. Their presence was, I suggest, a good indication of the strong relations between Normandy and Jersey, exemplified by the presence of La Maison de Normandie in St Helier.

3. Another example of the close relations with both Normandy and Brittany is in the area of fishing. When I became Attorney General in 1994, there was much mutual suspicion between Jersey fisherman on the one hand and Norman and Breton fisherman on the other. There was uncertainty as to who could fish where and there was concern at over-fishing.

4. Fishing is always a sensitive topic but, under the leadership of Senator Pierre Horsfall, the Island, through the UK, reached an

agreement with the French Government, which established a system of licensing for the area. Most importantly, it established a Management Committee consisting of fishermen and government officials from Jersey, Normandy and Brittany. The Management Committee meets regularly to discuss measures for the management and conservation of the fishing stocks. I am told that it is working extremely well and that relations between the fishermen from the three areas have never been better.

5. As well as being the first French National Day that I have attended as Bailiff, this is the first such occasion hosted by your new Honorary Consul, Mr David Myatt and I wish him every success in his rôle.

6. I am delighted to have been invited to speak today and it gives me great pleasure to propose the toast to “La France”.