

## **Speech for Madeira Day**

**1st July 2010**

1. The Friendship Agreement signed between Jersey and Madeira in May 1998 committed the Governments of both Islands to promote mutual respect for the different cultural traditions of the two Islands and their peoples. On the occasion of the visit of the President of Madeira to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Friendship Agreement in 2008, the then Bailiff expressed the hope that there would be an appropriate celebration in Jersey of Madeira Day.
2. Things do not always happen in life quite as quickly as one might wish! But I am delighted to be present today on the first occasion that Madeira Day is formally marked in Jersey. Although Madeira Day came into existence following the granting of autonomy to Madeira after the fall of the Salazar regime in Portugal, the date of 1st July marks an event of much greater antiquity, namely the day upon which Portuguese mariners discovered the existence of Madeira on 1st July 1419.
3. It is most fitting that Madeira Day should now be marked in Jersey. The 2001 census showed that 7% of the population of Jersey was born in mainland Portugal or Madeira. The vast majority of this number undoubtedly came from Madeira. Furthermore, that figure does not include children born in Jersey of Madeiran or Portuguese parents. I am delighted to pay tribute to the contribution made to life in Jersey by those of Madeiran origin. As a result of their industry and thrift, they have succeeded in every aspect of society in Jersey. They have succeeded in trade and business, have

opened shops and restaurants, have become members of the professions and have contributed in so many ways to the life of the community.

4. An indication of the close relations between Madeira and Jersey can be seen in the events following the terrible floods in Madeira in February of this year in which 40 people lost their lives and a great number lost their homes. The response from the community in Jersey was immediate and generous and I commend all those who participated in those fund raising activities or contributed financially.
5. I hope you will all enjoy the celebrations to mark Madeira Day and I would like if I may to give particular thanks to Monsignor Nicholas France who has played such a major part in organising today's events.
6. Finally, while Dr. Jardim, the President of Madeira, has been much engaged with arrangements for the celebration of Madeira Day in Madeira itself, he has asked me to convey a message to you today in the following terms:–

*“The President of Madeira sends warmest greetings to the Bailiff, Government and people of Jersey and, in particular, to the Madeirans who live and work in Jersey. This relationship, which was established between both Island communities after the war in the 1950's and 1960's when seasonal workers came to Jersey, culminated in the signing of the Friendship Agreement between both Governments in 1998 which commands a special mutual respect and understanding.”*