

Bailiff's Speech for Fête Nationale

Thursday 14th July 2011

Monsieur le Consul Honoraire, Chef Ministre, Connétable, Mesdames et Messieurs

1. Je suis très content d'avoir été invité de célébrer la Fête Nationale de France à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la prise de la Bastille en mille sept cents quatre-vingt neuf.
2. Jersey and the adjoining regions of France have of course many ties because of their shared history as well as their close geographical position. However, such links need to be nurtured in order to ensure that they develop in accordance with modern day requirements. I am pleased to say that I think considerable efforts are being made by Jersey, Normandy and Brittany in this respect and I would like to mention a few examples.
3. Firstly, this is a significant year for Normandy because it marks the 1100th year of the creation of the Duchy of Normandy in 911, of which of course the Channel Islands formed part. Many celebrations are being held throughout Normandy to celebrate this anniversary and I am pleased to say that Jersey is joining in these celebrations. There was the Fête Nouormande from 9th – 12th June including the “most Norman of Norman markets” at the Weighbridge, there is the shop window at Maison de Normandie which is showing different aspects of the

celebrations over the year and there is a presentation on the 'Droit Normand' in the Royal Court on 14th September by Madame Sophie Poirey of the Université de Caen. Norman law forms the foundation of Jersey law in a number of areas including property and succession and it is therefore most fitting to have a presentation on this topic.

4. Secondly, there have been continuing links between the Government of Jersey and those of Normandy and Brittany. The Chief Minister led a delegation to Saint Lo recently where the delegation met with representatives of the Conseil Général de la Manche as well as the Préfet de la Manche, Monsieur Laflaquière. The Connétable of St Ouen and the Education, Sport and Culture Minister, the Deputy of St Ouen led a delegation to Saint Malo and there they met with governmental representatives from the Department of Ile et Vilaine.
5. Thirdly, the Chief Minister has travelled more widely in France and at the beginning of June the Chief Minister led a delegation to Paris for a two day programme where they addressed members of the Assemblée Nationale and the Senate as well as meeting with other senior officials.
6. I have no doubt that all of these visits are extremely important. A strong supporter of strengthening the links with France throughout his career has been the Connétable of St Ouen, Mr Ken Vibert. He will be retiring from the States later this year and I would like to pay tribute to his efforts in this area.

7. Another recent event showing the strong links between Jersey and France is that last year in September, St Clement became the 12th and final parish to enter a twinning arrangement with a French town; in their case Cancale. So now all 12 parishes are twinned with French communities.

8. I thank you Mr Honorary Consul for all the hard work which you undertake during the course of the year and I am pleased to be here to celebrate France's national day with you.

9. I would like now to propose a toast:-

«Vive La France ».