

Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association Newsletter – April 2003 – No. 5

First Ceremony of Twinning

The first formal step in the twinning of Octeville sur Mer and Bourne End was completed on 5th April with the signing of the Twinning Charter in France.

Eleven BEBTA committee members and Councillor David Paul and his wife travelled to Octeville for the signing. The ceremony was held in the Wedding room of the Mairie (town hall) in front of the committee members, journalists of the local and regional press and a packed audience of local people. At precisely 6 pm. the Mayor of Octeville sur Mer, Mr. Philippe Marie, wearing his sash of office, started the proceedings by welcoming everyone. Then followed the speeches from the President of the CJO (Le Comité de jumelage d'Octeville), Alain Richard, the Chairman of BEBTA, Mike Hill, Councillor David Paul and the Mayor of Octeville. Six copies of the Twinning Charter were signed (3 English and 3 French).

A member of the City Council of Children presented David Paul with a symbolic key of Octeville sur Mer.

At the end of the formal ceremony the national anthems of the two countries were played. The party then assembled in the lobby of the Mairie, and BEBTA Secretary, Rob De Ville, asked the Mayor to unveil the Commemorative plaque presented to Octeville sur Mer by BEBTA.

A little later at the entrance to the village, Mr. Marie, in conjunction with David Paul, untied the tri-colour ribbon to unveil the new road sign "OCTEVILLE SUR MER Jumelée avec BOURNE END (Angleterre)".

About 220 people attended the reception held in the large Municipal hall to drink the Champagne of friendship. From the small stage, 50 children from the Jules Verne Junior School, directed by their teachers,



Holding the signed charters from left to right Alain Richard CJO President, David Paul Wooburn Parish Councillor, Philippe Marie Mayor of Octeville sur Mer, Mike Hill BEBTA Chairman

sang English songs, which was very touching.

There followed an evening of local food and wine with entertainment from a folk group of 18 people performing old dances of Normandy to the sound of the violin, alternating with Crazy Mama a strong blues band of 4 musicians and 2 singers. All those who wanted to dance "à l'ancienne" and "à la moderne" had ample opportunity. It was an event that all those present will not readily forget.

For the Bourne End delegation it was a phenomenal weekend! They found it quite overwhelming, the sight of all the French and English flags and bunting - even a flag of our own Bourne End logo. The warmth, friendliness and generosity of the people, the spectacular signing ceremony, which oozed such a sense of occasion, and the new road sign will be memories to cherish forever!

Bourne End Signing

It's Bourne End's turn next to play hosts to Octeville sur Mer and put on a show! On the afternoon of 28th June we will complete the formal twinning process with a Charter signing ceremony in the Bourne End Community Centre main hall. We would like to have as many members and friends attend the ceremony as possible, so please make a note in your diary to come and see history in the making.

Quiz Night

The next social event is a Quiz night to be held on 7th June starting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Dunstons Hall. There will be 10 rounds of questions with a large ploughmen's served half way through and prizes for the winning table. Teams of up to eight people and the quiz is open to members and non-members, so please bring your friends. Tickets are priced at £8 per head.

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