

1979 Inauguration of the Twinning between Stapleford and Villedômer

On Saturday July 14th, Stapleford was officially twinned with Villedômer, near Tours, in France.

A ceremony was held at the Stapleford Village sign which was decorated with the French and British flags. An opening speech welcoming the visitors from Villedômer and outlining the twinning project was given by the Chairman of the Parish Council. The lady mayor of Villedômer did the honour of replying with a speech in English. Sir Frederick Catherwood, Cambridgeshire's representative at the European Assembly said a few words on the value of links with other countries. After the speeches a Charter was signed to formalise the agreement of friendship between the two communities. The Charter was signed for Villedômer by Mme Renée Poiget, the mayor and M Daniel Lamazière, the chairman of the Villedômer twinning committee. Mr Travers Chalk the chairman of Stapleford Parish Council and Mr John King the chairman of the Stapleford Twinning Committee. The St. Andrew's Hand bell ringers then played both national anthems. The church bells rang a quarter peel while everybody drank to the success of the twinning with a local wine supplied by the visitors from Villedômer. Twenty six visitors came by coach from Villedômer for the weekend and were accommodated in homes within the village. During the weekend they enjoyed a Barn Dance, a Village Concert and an open air lunch all provided by the Stapleford Gala and Flower Show committees. They had a guided tour of Cambridge as well as joining in the general festivities of Stapleford's Gala Day.

A return ceremony will be held at Villedômer on August 26th and a coach party from Stapleford will be travelling to France for the occasion.

TE Miller, Secretary, Stapleford Twinning Committee





Travis Chalk , George Dunn, Harold Holt, John King

Account of the 1979 Visit to Villedomer 25th – 26th August

I hope those who were fortunate to be in Villedômer for the weekend of 25th – 26th August will bear with me if I outline the events for those unable to attend.

The coach arrives at Villedômer at 9pm on the Saturday evening along with some true English weather. The weekend was the first wet fête weekend in Villedomer for 10 years and the second coldest on record. The party was warmly welcomed by the people of Villedomer and after pushing the coach from the waterlogged field was given a marvellous dinner.

As part of the fête a singing contest was in progress and Messrs Holt, Edney and King entered and performed "The Bold Gendarmes". The gentlemen of the party were revived from the fatigue of the journey by being introduced to Miss France.

On Sunday morning everyone gathered in the square with umbrellas raised for a tour of the village. During the tour Mr John King unveiled the nameplate on a new recreation area, now called "Square Stapleford". The tour also included a visit to the local museum of M Beaufeu who had collected together local bygones including in particular those items used for making wine casks.

At 11am everyone returned to the square for the Twinning Ceremony. The local boys' football team and the fire brigade formed a guard of honour. Short speeches were made by Mme Renée Poiget, the Mayor of Villedômer, Mr John King our Twinning Committee Chairman and M Barathan of l'Association franco-britannique. The charter of friendship was signed and presented to Mr King along with a beautiful glass chalice. Mr King presented the people of Villedômer with a seat which had been inscribed "STAPLEFORD 1979 VILLEDOMER" by Mr Douglas Phipps. The band of the neighbouring village of Monthodon played both national anthems and the ceremony was concluded with a display by the Villedômer majorettes. Everybody then retired to the village hall to drink to the success of Twinning and to sign the "Book of Honour". After a sumptuous lunch at the local restaurant we returned to the square to follow the majorettes and the band to the fête, again with umbrellas raised. The fête, unlike ours, had very few sideshows and the main attraction was the stage with its continuous variety of acts ranging from the local mahorettes to professional circus acts and singers.

Tea was provided at nearby la Besnardière which contains a magnificent organ, which was stolen by Napoleon from Spain. la Besnardière also houses each September the local equivalent of Aldeburgh Festival.

Tea was followed by a visit to the cellar of the village bineyard, and a church, after which we digressed for dinner with our hosts. After dinner we returned to the fête, which was again in full swing with further entertainment on the stage and a dance in an adjacent hall. The evening was concluded by a magnificent firework display. All the entertainment and refreshment was provided free for the visitors from Stapleford and when the coach departed on the Monday morning everybody was overcome by the quality and the quantity of the hospitality. Those of us who were able to spend several days in Villedômer were able to see the village in the light of blue skies and a warm sun. All will agree that we found it enchanting and the continuing hospitality unbelievable.

Gala links Stapleford with French village



M. Poigeot from Villedomer (right) signs the twinning charter watched by (left to right) Mr Chalk, Mr John King of the village twinning committee and Sir Fred Catherwood. 18237912

Stapleford turned out in force at the weekend for its annual gala—with extra celebrations for its unique twinning ceremony.

Bunting, music and champagne gave the village a distinctly continental air as it formed the links with Villedomer, near Tours in France.

A coachload of French visitors arrived in the village on Friday night in time for a gala dance, and on Saturday there was a fete at the school, a flower display in the church, and an arts and crafts exhibition after the twinning ceremony.

A specially commissioned charter was signed to mark the event, and parish council chairman Mr Travers Chalk welcomed the folk from Villedomer led by the mayor, M. Renee Poigeot.

"I hope this is the beginning of a long and happy relationship which will bind our two villages together for ever more," he told the crowd assembled at the village sign.

Cambridgeshire's Euro-MP, Sir Fred Catherwood, was present at the ceremony and spoke about unity in the common market.

Translation of the Twinning Charter

We,

Chairman of Stapleford and Maire of Villedômer,

Being the freely elected representative of our Fellow citizens,

Certain that we interpret the sincere wishes of our populations

Aware that western civilization Found its origin

in our local communities and that the spirit of Liberty first recorded in the Freedom won by them,

considering that history must continue in a wider world

But that this world will be truly humane only insofar as man live Freely in Free cities,

Do take, on this day, a solemn oath

To maintain permanent bonds between our two

municipalities, to promote exchanges of all kinds between

their inhabitants with the aim of Fostering, through

greater mutual understanding, the true spirit of European brotherhood

to combine our efforts in order to further, to the greatest

extent within our power, the success of that essential undertaking

For peace and prosperity: European unity

A.T.Chalk The Chairman

J.King The President

The 26th day of August 1979

château - renault

UN JUMELAGE BIEN "ARROSÉ"

VILLEDOMER A DIT "YES" A STAPLEFORD

Il y avait beaucoup de plaques anglaises, dans les petite rues proches de la place des Martyrs-de-la-Résistance, hier à Villedomer. Cette « invasion » anglo-saxonne dans la commune tourangelles était bien légitime : en ce dernier dimanche d'août, s'y déroulaient les cérémonies de jumelage de la commune avec le petit bourg anglais de Stapleford.

A 11 h. précises devant la mairie, les jeunes footballeurs de Villedomer se rangèrent en haie d'honneur au pied du podium. Ouvrant la cérémonie par un discours de bienvenue à ses hôtes, Mme Poiget, maire de Villedomer, rappela ensuite qu'une délégation de la commune s'est rendue à Stapleford au mois de juillet pour y célébrer la première partie du jumelage.

C'est en effet le 14 juillet (jour de la fête de Stapleford) que les deux communes avaient choisi comme date pour officialiser leurs nouveaux liens d'amitié. Ce choix indique bien que le légendaire humour britannique reste toujours aussi vivace.

Après quelques brefs discours de M. John King, président du comité de jumelage de Stapleford, de M. Lamazière son alter-ego français et de M. Barathon, responsable de l'Association franco-britannique, M. John King offrit au maire et à la population de Villedomer un cadeau quelque peu inattendu : un drapeau sur lequel était gravé le nom des deux communes et la date de leur jumelage.

Les petits cadeaux faisant les bons amis, le représentant britannique reçut des mains d'un jeune garçon du pays, vêtu d'un costume tourangeau, le parchemin du serment du jumelage. Des numéros de majorettes sur le « God Save the Queen » et « La Marseillaise » conclurent la manifestation. Tout le monde refusa alors vers la salle où se donna le vin d'honneur.

M. King gardera sans aucun doute un excellent souvenir de ce petit trajet, puisqu'il l'effectua au bras de la très belle Miss France 1979, invitée d'honneur.

Pour en revenir au jumelage proprement dit, il faut savoir que la commune de Stapleford est située à 8 km. de Cambridge. Sa population est sensiblement égale à celle de Villedomer, 1.600 habitants contre 1.300 à sa « jumelle ». L'idée du jumelage est



venue par une proposition de l'Association franco-britannique. Contacts pris, l'idée fit son chemin et aboutit aux cérémonies du 14 juillet à Stapleford et d'hier à Villedomer. Le jumelage, réalisé dans le cadre des communes d'Europe, a pour but principal d'établir des échanges culturels entre les deux communautés.

Pour M. King, cela doit se développer « slowly », lentement afin que les liens créés entrent dans la tradition des deux communes. Echanges de jeunes, possibilités de vacances chez l'habitant pour les adultes et séjours linguistiques pour tous, voilà bien l'objectif premier de l'opération.

Mais les personnes du troisième âge n'ont pas, pour autant été oubliées. Les associations française et anglaise ne manqueront pas de se servir des liens créés par le jumelage pour mener ensemble certaines actions.

Miss France à la fête du viaduc

Parallèlement à la cérémonie du jumelage Stapleford-Villedomer, avait lieu la traditionnelle fête du Viaduc. Cette fête champêtre aura malheureusement été contrariée par le temps maussade qui sévit actuellement sur la région. Cela ne l'a pas empêchée de connaître son habituel succès populaire. Commencée samedi soir, par les éliminatoires du concours de chant, la fête du Viaduc permet dimanche à tous les amateurs de jeux de rivaliser d'adresse et d'esprit de compétition. Le tour final du concours de chant revêtit, dimanche après-midi, un caractère exceptionnel grâce à la présence de Miss France et des misses tourangelles 78 et 79. Les festivités devaient se terminer dans la soirée par un grand feu d'artifice dans le champ du Viaduc, à condition que le temps le permette...

Aujourd'hui

Dispensaire : permanence de Mlle Bonnin, assistante sociale de 14 h à 17 h 30.

Judo-Club : entraînement de 17 h 30 à 21 h, salle des sports, rue Martin-Gardien.

M.J.C. : cours de yoga à 17 h 45 au club des jeunes.

Karaté : entraînement de 19 h à 21 h, salle des sports, rue Martin-Gardien.

Concours de labours

Tous les jeunes agriculteurs âgés de 16 à 35 ans désirant participer au concours cantonal de labours qui se déroulera aux Hermites, le 8 septembre, sont invités à se faire inscrire dès maintenant, auprès de M. Chéreau Jacky, « l'Épinière » à Auzouer-en-Touraine (tél. 56.20.24).

Les inscriptions seront closes le vendredi 7 septembre au soir.

SUCCÈS DE LA FÊTE DE MORAND

L'assemblée annuelle de Morand a connu dimanche son succès habituel malgré le temps maussade. La foule fut en effet nombreuse tant le samedi soir, où la jeunesse était reine, que

la houlette de son responsable cross, Adrien Cornet.

Une note émouvante : le comité des fêtes local avait doté cette épreuve du challenge Yves Leroy, en mémoire du regretté ani-

FESTIVAL INTERCANTONAL DE MUSIQUE

A AUZOUER