

Meeting in Saint-Lô, Normandy

On Thursday 20th October 2011 at La Maison du Departement

Present:-

Stuart Trought, President, States of Alderney
Bill Walden, Chairman of General Services Committee, States of Alderney
Paul Arditti, Alderney Representative in States of Guernsey
Roy Burke, Chief Executive Officer, States of Alderney
Ilona Soane-Sands, Translator

The party left Alderney at approx 0800hrs for Cherbourg airport. At Cherbourg airport the party was welcomed by Michel Laurent (Deputy du Conseil de la manche and mayor of Beaumont Hague) and driven to the regional assembly at Saint-Lô.

The party was welcomed at Saint-Lô by the following people:-

Erick Beaufils, Vice-président en charge du pôle Développement et aménagement du territoire
Rolande Brecy, Conseillère générale en charge des fonds européens et de la coopération décentralisée

Michel Chopin, Directeur cabinet Conseil général de la Manche

Michel Laurent, Conseiller général délégué au laboratoire départemental d'analyses et aux commissions locales d'informations

Jean François Le Grand, Président Conseil général de la Manche

Olivier Lemaignan, Direction des mobilités et de l'exploitation portuaire

Benoit Lemaire, Directeur cabinet Préfecture de la Manche

Catherine Lemoine, Service Education

Nadège Lemoussu, Assistante relations internationales Conseil général de la Manche

Aurélié Leroy, Directrice de la Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche à Jersey

Hervé Moalic, Agence Aires marines protégées

Thierry Motte, Responsable service Relations internationales Conseil général de la Manche

Eric Pierron, Direction du développement et de l'innovation économique

together with members of the press -TV, radio, and local newspapers.

The meeting opened with a joint press conference followed by wide ranging discussions. The following subjects were discussed:-

1. Cultural and sporting links
2. Transport links, with particular reference to Maritime links, the frequency of Ile de manche sailings, the usefulness of the Vedettes sailings (being?) the preferred option for Alderney, the fact that Maupertus ? was no longer run by the Cherbourg Chamber of Commerce but a private company and several charter companies were now using it.
3. Videoconferencing links between St Anne's School and the Cotentin and despite it being donated? The IT problems had not yet been resolved after several years?
4. The possibility of better commercial links between Cotentin and Alderney. It is my intention to arrange a meeting between Alderney Chamber of Commerce and Cherbourg Chamber of Commerce in the new year.
5. Waste disposal
6. Visits from appropriate ?? services eg., Firemen, Lifeboat
7. Contacts were established between our own and the French civil service

Other items touched on included

8. The formation of French Maritime Parks and Renewable Energy in the bay of St Malo

9. More travel packages – Alderney did not appear to be helping itself in this respect. Particularly when compared with Sark.

After lunch and an exchange of gifts the party returned to Alderney.

The atmosphere was most cordial throughout. Anything that Alderney wished to bring up was considered seriously and in a helpful manner.

Some of the items will need to be followed up seriously in order not to lose the momentum achieved.