

Carnoët Horse Procession.

Jane

I have come to Carnoët and I am actually following a horse, descending from the summit where the saints are and we're heading down to the chapel. What a beautiful sight. A little out of order, frisky, one or two of them and the priests are just walking past me. I think there is going to be a ceremony with the horses standing around in a circle.

I've never been to a horse pardon. These happen from time to time. Not that much here now. Less importance put upon the horse as a work animal. Ah the owners are trying to get them to line up in a very neat line. The horses aren't quite so struck with the idea. Some of them have got beautifully platted tails – look really lovely. So if you can imagine a horseshoe shape of the large horses looking in on the two priests with their bible.

Priest 1

“Dieu a créé l'homme et l'a établi sur la terre pour qu'il domine toutes les créatures et qu'il reconnaisse par la gloire de ces créatures. Rends gloire à Dieu que tes œuvres sont belles Seigneur”

Priest 2

“Nous allons approcher de chaque cheval. Je poserai la croix de bénédiction sur le front du cheval”

Jane

So the priests are going to walk to each animal and cross the forehead of each horse and bless them.

And, yes they're marking across the tops of the eyes with the cross of Christ, in fact they don't touch the animal, and they actually do it with the owner as well. It's a beautiful sight, nice the spirituality that came into life “à l'époque” in those days. Faith in the harvest, faith that you would survive another year and your animals would support you and not die on you, that God would look kindly on you. So the priests have finished – wishing the crowds a lovely day.

This is after the event, the children are allowed to stroke the horses. His head is basically the height of the little children...

The horses have finished and they process down with dogs, and a child on the back of one of them. What a beautiful sight. They stopped on the summit of the hill next to the saints for people to take photographs – absolutely sublime really.