



## **Katell and Glenmor**

Katell is well known in Central Brittany, her vocation is to raise awareness of the politics and culture of Brittany. She was the companion of Glenmor. Glenmor died in 1996 and in 2011 there were events celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Lots of people will remember how difficult it was to be Breton 20, 30, 40 years ago. Being a Breton was like being an Indian in an imaginary country, he fought so hard for the Breton language and the culture. All his friends remember a 'certain' Glenmor. I, who was his companion for so many years know there were lots of Glenmors. There was a peasant who admired his father so much even though he was illiterate and admired his mother who worked on a farm. This was aristocratic 'peasantry' though it had its feet in the mud.

He wanted to bring out the Breton identity and the beautiful language. Certain friends wanted to celebrate that side of him, so in Glomel they have opened a Glenmor garden, which is very simple, with grasses and pear trees, because he was so poor that, at times, all he had to eat was a pear that he had to eat hidden behind the bank. There is also Glenmor going to Quiberon for the first time. He never saw the sea until he was 28 years old.

All this was very well done, we linked the different threads. There was also the political side of Glenmor. Although now Brittany has woken up to the richness of its culture, he was the first to defend it politically. When someone put a BZH on their car, it was unimaginable 30 years ago. It was a long march towards free speech.

As part of the celebration there were political debates at Glomel and Saint Péran. Then afterwards there were the women who put on one side the politics of Glenmor. Whether they were right, I don't know, it is not for me to judge. The political side needed a voice, a charismatic speaker. During the period he would sing "Prince, entendu bien". The princes are still around, they are still deaf.

So lots of women, people like Nolwenn Korbel have taken all his poetic songs, it is sad because his political side is not being heard. For me, the political songs are strong but sad. He was a bard, an oral journalist, we have forgotten he had a bite.

They have picked up songs like 'The Rose' and I was able to accompany him at Bobigny, people were saying why don't you always write songs like this, it is as beautiful as Ronsard. But he felt it was more important to defend the Breton

Language and Culture.