



## **Brest Twinning Association**

Rob I'm here in the offices of the Association Brestoise de Jumelage and I'm speaking to Isabel who is the secretary of this Association. Twinning is very important to Brest, clearly, how many places is Brest twinned with?

Isabel Er nine.

Rob Nine places? All over the world?

Isabel Yes, er in Germany, in yugo...., er in Italy, in Ireland, in Romania, in the United States, er in Burkina Faso, in Spain, in Ireland....

Rob That's a lot of different er twinning.

Isabel Yes.

Rob Why do you think there are so many?

Isabel Because the Breton people like to travel abroad and they want to, to keep contact with the people that they have discovered or they want to be close. Bretons like the different cultures and so they decided to, to keep contact all over the world with a lot of sister cities.

Rob Which is the biggest twinning group?

Isabel The biggest? Er I think it's er Plymouth because Plymouth is close to Brest, so a lot of people er English or French wants to go to Brest or wants to go to Plymouth, to keep contact to, to discover a new cultures, er, to, to speak English because English is an international language um the French people realise that English is very important.

Rob How long has this twinning with Plymouth and Brest been going?

Isabel The twinning was created by 1963 so er this years we are going to celebrate the 50 Anniversary.

Rob And are there special events for 2013?

Isabel Yes we planned a lot of a lot of things so um we received a lot of

English people in September.

Rob Last Year?

Isabel umm.....

Rob No, no, you will in the future, okay.

Isabel Yes, in the future, September.

Rob 2013, yes.

Isabel Yeah and umm about 80, 80 people wants to go to, to Plymouth to celebrate the anniversary, about 30 people young, teenagers, older people wants to go to Plymouth to be welcome by the English family, er about, um, 50 musicians wants to play music and, er....

Rob Breton music?

Isabel Yes, Celtic music I think like Kervren St Marc (?) it's a Bagad and they want to, to play Celtic music.

Rob There's a sports link?

Isabel Yeah, we, um, a young basketer wants to, to go to Plymouth to play mad....., matches.

Rob Be careful, they are very strong in Plymouth, the basketball players.

Isabel Okay yeah but I think the young people are aged from 14 to 16 and they are happy to go to Plymouth to, to confront the same sports um they want to play, er I think the Breton wants to win!

Rob Some of the other places Brest is twinned with, you were telling me earlier about in Africa, Burkina Faso which isn't a very well known country, why is there a link with that country and Brest?

Isabel Some of people went to the Africa, went to Burkina Faso, so there are, th..., they saw the poverty, they saw the difficulty of the lives the way of life of the Africans, so when they come back to Brest and they realise that the... Brest has a lot of things to give to Burkina Faso. So many people decided to keep contact with Sapone and decided to, to write a letter to the mayor of Brest to explain the poverty of Sapone. The Africans have got a happy way of life and they want to help them to keep the joys and the..., but we know that Burkina Faso has got a lot of problem of money so the Breton decided to, to help them and it decided to create a twinning between Brest and Sapone.

Rob So African people come to visit here?

Isabel      Yeah but it's very difficult to have the visa but when they go to Brest they are very happy to discover a new cultures, to discover a new landscape, because er.....

Rob          And a new climate.

Isabel      A new climate too, and they, they want to learn a lot of things about France, about the French culture and they want to learn a lot of things to report to the land. Burkina Faso wants to open the mind to Europe.

Rob          I think this is a very busy; you have a very busy job I have to speak to you between telephone calls, so, it's a very lively Association. I hope that er 2013 is a very fruitful time for the link between Brest and Plymouth, most of all, but also for all the other links that you have.

Isabel      Yeah.

Rob          Thank you very much Isabel for talking to us.

Isabel      You're welcome.

