

Tributes to Fred

Letter from Mike Williams to Jean Sheppard



Fred was our first Twinning President and provided huge support to the group in its early years – from November 2012, the initial visit of Sorigny to Box, and onward Fred was always there to provide encouragement during those challenging days when it seemed that the Parish Council was determined to prevent us Twinning with Sorigny! I know that all our Box committee members will join me in saying a big ‘thank you’ for Fred’s efforts over the years.

It was a proud moment for all of us to formally twin with Sorigny here in Box on September 4th, 2016, for the first part and again in Sorigny on Sunday March 26th 2017 and it was a great pleasure to see both you and Fred support the group on both occasions. I know that Fred will be sorely missed in Sorigny and Lili, their Chairman, is aware of the situation already.

Once again Jean – I’ve really appreciated Fred’s and your support over these past years going back to the time I served, albeit briefly, on the PC where I found Fred a capable and constructive councillor and Chairman.

Mike Williams, Chairman of Box Twinning Committee, 23rd April 2020

From Sheila Parker – memories of Fred



I have known Fred for over 20 years, I first met Fred at an event in the village, although he had a military bearing, he also had a great sense of humour and a ‘twinkle in his eye’.

During his time as chairman of the parish council, he was to lead the project for a new sports pavilion on the recreation ground. To raise funds for the new building we held several events including dances and quizzes. He took an interest in the design and ensuring it was suitable for all users.

Whenever a small job needed doing around the parish for example, cutting down a broken branch off a tree, clearing the mud out of the moat in the Lovar Garden pool, he and Barry Sims would quietly get it done and report back to the Parish Council that it had been completed.

He took a great interest when the first visitors from Sorigny visited Box, showing them around the village, pointing out the historical sites, and was delighted when we finally signed the Twinning Agreements. He and Jean enjoyed the visits to Sorigny and meeting the many friends they made.

He was a lovely man, a great Chairman, and friend who will be greatly missed.

Sheila Parker, Chairman of Parish Council & Secretary to the Box Twinning Committee, 24th April 2020

From Christine Colin-Desbourdes – memories of Fred



I first met Fred in November 2013 during our first trip to Box. He was, with Mike Williams, one of the linchpins of the Twinning. He was a very attentive man who had a lot of listening skills. He was very cordial. We can also note his humour and his distinction, so British!

Christine Colin-Desbourdes, ex-President of Sorigny Comité de Jumelage 28th April 2020

From Alain Esnault – memories of Fred



We have learned with sadness of the death of FRED SHEPPARD. He was as president of the twinning committee, with MIKE the architect of the twinning of our two municipalities SORIGNY and BOX. A happy bringing together of the inhabitants of our two cities which maintains the Franco-British friendships. We will keep in mind his kindness, his courtesy and his spirit of openness to the world of today.

May his wife JEAN be assured of all our friendship.

Alain Esnault, Honorary President of Sorigny Comité de Jumelage & Mayor of Sorigny, 30th April 2020

From Celine Lhuissier Tудоce– memories of Fred



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Fred Sheppard, first President of the Box Twinning Committee. I unfortunately did not have the chance to share many moments with Fred Sheppard but the so little allowed me to retain some of his great qualities: smiling, elegant, gallant, intelligent, eloquent, funny.... I could go on. The Twinning Committee and I extend our condolences to Jean his wife and to all of his family.

<<To know the origin and the quality of a wine, it is not necessary to drink the whole barrel>> Oscar Wilde

Celine Lhuissier Tудоce Présidente of Sorigny Comité de Jumelage, 3rd May 2020

Pour connaître l'origine et la qualité d'un vin, il n'est pas nécessaire de boire le tonneau entier.



- Oscar Wilde