

VISIT OF REDHILLBILLIES TO VILLENEUVE

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE 21 JUNE 2016

Dedicated to TWINNING

See John Adams with *Jo Dean and Tom Vowles of The Redhillbillies* and friends. They were a great success at Villeneuve!!!! Congratulations and thanks to them for their support.

Summer came late to the South of France this year 2016 but right on cue for the Soirée Musicale in our twin village *Villeneuve-lès-Béziers* in the south of France - and the perfect setting for the headline performance by *Tom Vowles and Jo Deane of the Redhillbillies* on 21st June.

As the sun dropped behind the mediaeval buildings, the floodlights came up on the music stage set up in the central Place Michel Solans. In the warm dusk the festival started with 'Le Coeur des Guitares' – 21 acoustic guitarists providing a range of up-beat Spanish dance music – followed by various other musicians providing a remarkable range of music.

Then Jo and Tom took the stage and, from the first number, were on top form a mix of country rock and ballads. The square teemed with locals revelling in the warm summer night and, before long, was alive with impromptu line dancing, young people jiving, and an appreciative audience beating time and sipping drinks under the plane trees. As the local paper said the following day Tom et Jo 'had shown the full range of their talent with the superb guitar and banjo playing'.

Putting a play-list together earlier that day, Tom and Jo had sought a quiet rehearsal space under the impression that they would provide about 40 minutes of music. Such was the demand that they were still playing well after midnight.

The evening had begun with aperitifs and an excellent seafood supper on the square in front of *Les Enfants Terribles*, a popular stop for Wington visitors. Winding down after the event, those with energy remaining joined Tom and Jo at the excellent brasserie *La Crémade* beside the Canal de Midi for post-concert refreshments.

A tremendous visit and we all hope there will be a repeat Watch this space (but please don't tell Glastonbury fans – there could be a mass exodus next year). The event was organised by the Villeneuve Mairie and we thank them as always for their warm welcome and generous hospitality towards the contributors. Finally, a special thank you to Jo and Tom for making this tremendous contribution to the twinning relationship.

From your own Reporter John Adams



























VILLENEUVE-LÈS-BÉZIERS

Mardi 21 juin

La musique en fête



Le Cœur des Guitares a enflammé le cœur du public

Tous les ingrédients étaient réunis pour passer un agréable moment. Le public, tout comme les artistes, était au rendez-vous pour cette soirée qui sentait (enfin !) les beaux jours. Villeneuve a choisi pour la deuxième année consécutive de laisser la scène ouverte à celles et ceux qui ont envie de faire parler leur talent. Artistes confirmés ou amateurs étaient donc invités à monter sur l'estrade et le moins que l'on puisse dire est que le panachage musical était de grande qualité sur la place Michel Solans. La sonorisation, l'éclairage et la présentation des artistes ont été ef-

zet, auteur-compositeur-interprète qui sillonne les villes de France pour proposer son univers emprunté à Bashung, Cabrel ou bien encore Bérabab avec une voix chaude à mi-chemin entre Michel Sardou et Johnny Hallyday, a interprété quelques compositions personnelles tirées de son album « Rue Lirette » qui sort dans les tout prochains jours et sur lequel il travaille depuis un an et demi.

C'est également de la variété française que Stéphane Bayas a proposée au public présent. Accompagné de sa guitare, il a chanté quelques-unes de ses compositions. La



Le talentueux groupe anglais the Redhillbillies