

January, 20th 2013

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Municipal Council, the General Counselor and I would like to thank you all for once again attending our now traditional greeting ceremony.

For some of you, the language of Molière is as difficult as the one of Shakespeare is for me so this is a translation of my speech.

We are gathered here today because we are all fond of this country and its people, its heritage and its roots, and also because of all the different activities we organize together and which bring us closer.

So, I shall do as I did last year, but, first it is important to me to thank all those who involved in the life of Floressas.

Therefore I express my warmest thanks to :

- My council, and our "heated" debates from which positive and democratic decisions are always taken. Each member is ready to answer my requests when I need it and it is very comforting.
- My assistants, Ginette and Claude who help me every day in my work.
- Cecile and Francis for their efficient management of the municipality.
- All the staff and teachers of the "Plateau" for their professional work with our children of the 4 municipalities.
- Noël and his committee who organize so many friendly and funny festivals for our village.
- The hunters... for their delicious meal.
- The YAÏKA association for the annual flea-market and the evening concert.
- Sandra, Mike, Christine, Robert, Linda and John, for their marvelous traditional Christmas meals, and all the "watering staff" for the wonderful display of flowers in the village.
- Anne-Marie, our webmaster for our beautiful and regularly updated website.
- Marie-Thérèse for the French and English evenings of conviviality and the hiking group.
- John, our "national" photo and video reporter.
- All the volunteers and people who contributed to the various tasks and activities.
- The new inhabitants of Floressas.
- Thank you to all of those who have sent greeting cards that give us great pleasure (By the way, please excuse me for not answering!)

I always forget someone.... and I do apologize for this and I hope you will forgive me !

Now I will sum up in a few words, the different actions we have carried out in 2012, and also what we intend to do during this New Year 2013

The electric power lines had been buried and the complete lighting of the village is a finished. All electrical and telephone poles were removed so the lighting is more discreet and all bulbs are low consumption. For this new lighting system, we have centralized power to a single electric meter and programmed it on an astronomical clock locked to sunrise and sunset, with a total switch off between 1 and 6 am.

Despite a larger number of lamps in the village we've saved about 30% of energy !

We've started the regularization of many roads that go through private lands at Lagardbasse, Pierre Rouge and Marmont and it is still going on.

The cadastral surveying is partly finished, but some acts still must be signed before the notaire. This work requires a lot of energy and patience, but is essential, because, over the years the owners may have left, they may have died or be divided by inheritance, which makes the task of regulating complex and almost impossible within a few years.

The purchase of the land beside the church for its development is being finalized. The project includes the removal of the concrete slab to widen the road, and digging alongside the church to allow the walls to dry. The open area beside the church will be clearer and airier with the elevation of the building due to this digging.

We also wish to buy the land next to the castle to build a better car park and give a side access to the kitchen.

We want to make the large open area in front of the castle, nicer, more pleasant and also a pedestrian area, for the many events celebrated in the castle.

The work for the collective sewage in the center of the village should start within this year. AQUARESO is managing the work. They've recently renew the water supply line of the site known as La Sagne.

The work has been done in a clean, careful and clever way. All pipes have been set into the public domain, and it is planned to remove even small sections from private properties when the collective sewage is being done.

So, I would like to thank and congratulate the President of AQUARESO, Mr Serge BLADINIERES and the manager Mr Laurent JAHAN and his team for their field work.

We are still trying to balance the budget for the renewal of the outside and surroundings of the castle and I expect we can start work within 2013. But grants and bank funding are less and less important and we have low incomes. We will do all that we can possibly do, to start this project before the end of my period as mayor, but it will be difficult.

I will now give the floor to the Vice President of the General Council, Vice President of our "Communauté de Communes" and President of AQUARESO, Mr Serge BLADINIERES.

[...]

The Municipal Council of Floressas and I, now invite you to share the "galette des Rois", and please feel free to ask us any questions : we remain at your disposal.

But before having a friendly drink around the "galettes", we wish you :

A Happy New Year 2013!

Best wishes for health and happiness !

Nicolas Froment