

Les Troubadours de Gravelines

The Troubadours de Gravelines is a non-profit association that has been organising sound and light shows for over 35 years.

In addition to this major activity, it participates in the tourist and cultural activities of the coast (street shows, historical parades, etc.).

With its 350 extras, «tireless Troubadours», it has put in almost 18,000 hours of voluntary work to carry out all these activities over the past year.

Everyone brings their know-how, but above all their passion and commitment to the association, in line with the association's motto: «Being serious, without taking oneself too seriously».

Contact :

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Find us on Facebook « Le Son et Lumière de Gravelines »
or on our website www.son-et-lumiere-gravelines.com



Gravelines



SITE DE LA PORTE AUX BOULES



Gravelines

SON & LUMIÈRE

JEUDI, VENDREDI,
SAMEDI À 22 H

18, 19, 20

25, 26, 27

AOÛT 2022

LA FLANDRE EN FÊTES
ET FEUX



PROGRAM 

Table 1

1952. Carnival in Dunkerque! Mr Dumoulin is waiting for the Giant «Reuze Papa». Michel, his son, wants to know who this «Reuze» is. So, welcome to the legend of our Giant ! Here you are, immersed in the year 630 with this Viking and our holy bishop Eloi...

Table 2

1164, Thierry d'Alsace, Flemish Count, builder of Gravelines, leaves for Palestine...

From these numerous crusades he brings back the technique of the windmill... Arnold, the first miller, comes to present his newborn son who, like his father, will practise the trade of miller... Which will give him the patronymic: Vermeulen.

Table 3

1900. Lucien Dumoulin has a rebellious daughter who upsets the Ursulines «Sacr -Coeur»... She wants to imitate an ancestor of the family: Marieke! Around 1530 Charles-Quint wanted to know how the fortifications of Gravelines were doing... His architects had to raze the Vermeulen mill, which was in the axis of the ramparts. Little Marieke dares to confront the man who ruined her father's and her ancestors' business !

Table 4

Charles Quint, born in Ghent, spoke both French and Flemish. His son Philippe II had no affection for Flanders, a country far from Spain... These Flemings were even called «beggars» by the Spanish authorities ! War was inevitable !

Jean Vermeulen, son of the miller of Gravelines, wounded in battle returns to Gravelines...

Table 5

Jean Vermeulen quickly forgets his wounds. The beautiful Marie Zonnequindt has promised him her hand. In the church of Saint Willibrord the young couple are blessed by the abbot! And it is the wedding! The whole of Gravelines is there to honour the bride and groom with a «Flemish vivat»...

A visiting painter, Brueghel, immortalizes the wedding and peasant Flanders...

Table 6

1952, Mr Dumoulin is with his son Michel. He now knows the legend. But not this C  Pinard who leads the band with his big furry cap. «The same shako that your ancestor Julien wore when he watched over the port of Gravelines. He used to control the bac ves arriving from the Marais loaded with vegetables for England... Hey hey hey, the Marais de Saint-Omer with the mysterious Marie Grouette !

Table 7

14th July 1937. F licien Dumoulin hates this date. His father Lucien was shot by the enemy on 14 July 1918... His distant ancestor, Antoine Dumoulin, was killed by Revolutionaries on 14 July 1792... Killed by the crowd, not by the people. Look, F licien, it was in Honschoote that an armed people defeated the enemy by shouting: «LIBERTY ! And it was on 14 July 1937 that F licien met a certain... Jeanne !

Table 8

May 1940... Jeanne and F licien are married... Jeanne is pregnant... But they must flee. It's the Exodus ! Jeanne and her mother stay in Bourbourg, F licien returns to his regiment. 1942. The Occupation. Deprivation, ration coupons... And a baby, Michel, who must be fed... 1944, the Canadians are on the banks of the Aa. Gravelines is liberated. F licien, a prisoner of war, is reunited with his Jeanne... And the little Michel he doesn't know...

Table 9

2022. Gravelines is visited with its Fortifications. The guide presents our mill, which was owned by one and the same family for almost a thousand years, the Dumoulins. However, she sometimes talks about the Vermeulen... So one family or two? The answer to this problem lies in the Flanders conquered by Louis XIV in the 27th century.

Table 10

1659. Flanders becomes French. Louis XIV is reluctant to love this region which has tilted too much towards Spain. Therefore, some Flemings will Frenchify their name in order to appear as good subjects of the King... This is how Vermeulen, written in the parish registers in the 12th century, became Dumoulin in the middle of the 17th century. Jacques Vermeulen/Dumoulin saw one of his sons, Pierre, leave to practise medicine in Versailles with another Graveliner: Georges Mareschal, doctor to the King. Is a Dumoulin going to officiate at Versailles ? Versailles !!! Yes, Versailles !!! You read that right! A Dumoulin, a descendant of the Vermeulen millers, is going to practice his profession in Versailles !

Table 11

What could be more beautiful than to finish this family saga with a superb apotheosis ! Versailles and its splendour! Versailles and its far-reaching entertainments! Versailles and its courtiers subjugated by a king adorned with a thousand solar lights. And in the midst of this Court, a young Dumoulin, a great-great-great of these Vermeulen, humble millers of Gravelines.