

**25th  
Anniversary  
edition**

# Alresford Twinning Association celebrates

25 years of Twinning between Alresford and Bricquebec, 1982 to 2008

What an exciting year to be President...25 years of Twinning and membership still growing! To mark the occasion we are very pleased to present you with this special edition Newsletter which illustrates some of the highlights of the past 25 years of Twinning between Alresford and Bricquebec. I hope you will enjoy looking back at the history of the Association and we would be particularly keen to hear from any of you if you have any photographs or press cuttings of your own that you would like to share with us.

On behalf of all members I would like to thank all past Presidents and committee members for their hard work and inspiration in developing a thriving Association. *Terry Foreman*



May 1998



French Market, Alresford—2007



VE Day 50 year anniversary - 1995

Donjon 2000



20th May 2000 ATA visit the House of Commons



Presidents in order of service: Hugh Brown, Wynne Roberts, Bill Griffiths, Stephen Pinch, Ewart Woolridge, Barbara Noble, John Noble, Peter Wrigley and Terry Foreman

# Alresford Twinning Association celebrates in Bricquebec

Chantal Greard, Mayor M. Vredi & his adjoint, and Terry Foreman



To celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of the first official exchange visit between Alresford and Bricquebec, 28 members of the Alresford Twinning Association visited the twin town in Normandy over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> June. The group set sail on the fast boat from Portsmouth to Cherbourg on Friday afternoon and by 8.30 in the evening they were sitting down with their host families enjoying a traditional French evening meal.

The next morning the Bricquebec Municipality held a welcome reception hosted by the Mayor, M. Vredi and his "adjoint", who is responsible for all the social and sporting associations of the town. M. Vredi, Chantal Greard (President of the Bricquebec Twinning) and Terry Foreman (President of the Alresford Twinning) all spoke briefly about the desire of all parties to expand the links between the two towns especially through young people and sport. Terry Foreman added that he was especially pleased that ten new members of the ATA were visiting Bricquebec for the first time. In the afternoon the visitors rejoined their host families for the afternoon, which was spent exploring the countryside and coast line in glorious sunshine.

In the evening 60 people attended a celebration meal, where the Alresford Group were presented with a special gift to mark the occasion. Each visitor received a "moque", a traditional bowl that was used by Norman farm workers in the area to collect their cider, when taking a break from the fields.

A 'moque' ↗





On the Sunday morning, Janine Bavay, a local historian took the group for a tour of the local castle and keep. A climb to the top of the keep was the highlight of the morning with stunning views of the surrounding area. The visitors gained a fascinating insight into the history of the castle and the many changes of ownership by siege and war ..... and learnt that Robert the Bruce was not really a Scot, but a Norman originally from the neighbouring village of Brix !!

After yet another lunch and wine !!! the afternoon was rounded off by a very competitive game of boules/ petanque. Coincidentally, at the same time on the Sunday, the local Judo club hosted a tournament for youngsters with over 150 participants in the superb modern Bricquebec facility. To cement the relationships, Terry was asked to present the medals to the winners at the award ceremony. Terry is hopeful that maybe some Alresford youngsters can participate in the future.

Sunday night the group returned to Alresford tired but refreshed by the marvelous hospitality of their French counterparts.



# Alresford Twinning Association celebrates in Alresford

## Summer Wine Evening, 25th Anniversary Celebration

Despite inclement weather on Friday evening 11th July over 40 members and invited guests attended the annual Summer Wine evening of the Alresford Twinning Association. The event was held in the garden of Ingleby House, Jacklyns Lane, Alresford, courtesy of Lord and Lady Chidgey.

The Summer Wine evening helped to reinforce the strength of the Association and further celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first exchanges between the two towns.

After a few glasses of wine and a magnificent finger buffet, Terry Foreman, President of the Association, invited attendees to join him in toasting the Association, its friends in Bricquebec

and future exchanges between the two towns. The toast was accompanied by the cutting of the anniversary cake by Lady Chidgey who has long supported the aims and objectives of the Association.



## Bricquebec members visit Alresford to celebrate 25 years of Twinning

As part of our activities to celebrate over 25 years of Twinning with Bricquebec in Normandy, we welcomed 22 visitors from France for the weekend 3rd to 5th October. They were met by their hosts in Portsmouth from the late ferry from Caen. Fortunately an extremely calm crossing.



On Saturday morning the guests were officially welcomed to Alresford by Ken Yeldham, the Chairman of the New Alresford Town Council, at a reception held at Arlebury Park. In his welcome speech Ken reiterated the support of the NATC for Twinning activities between the two towns and very much hoped to receive more visits both cultural and sporting in the next 25 years! Chantal Greard, President of the Bricquebec Association, and Terry Foreman, President of the Alresford Association both reconfirmed their desire to expand the relationship further.

In the afternoon the hosts entertained their guests to a variety of visits around Hampshire.

In the evening the Alresford Association hosted a "Celebratory Dinner" at the Golf Club attended by 65 people. To start the evening with a laugh, the french guests were treated to a quickfire round of "Higher or Lower", with the winner (fortunately one of the french guests) receiving a bottle of very special "House of Lords" Claret, very kindly donated by Lord Chidgey.

Inclement weather curtailed the planned Boules challenge match on the Sunday morning. It did not though stop the group from enjoying some local ale and sandwiches at the Tichborne Arms, before departing for the ferry .....and a slightly rougher crossing back to France.

If you have any photos, press cuttings, documents, memories, etc. of the early days of the Alresford Twinning Association, do let us know.