



ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



News Bulletin

August 16th, 2010

Message from the President

We are very pleased to circulate the new Bulletin, with plenty of news about various recent events and details of the forthcoming visit to Alresford by our friends from Bricquebec.

We have also included a reminder of the forthcoming events.

In the last Bulletin we mentioned the invitation to the Petersfield Twinning Quiz evening on Thursday, November 11th. Penny and Steve McClelland have already expressed an interest. Viv and I will also probably join them. Does anybody else want to come along? (A reminder of the format and venue is repeated later in the Bulletin.)

Hopefully you will also have seen quite a bit of coverage in the local press with articles on the Association activities appearing in the Alresford Advertiser, Alton Herald, Hampshire Chronicle and Alresford Forum. This type of coverage certainly enhances the standing of the Association in the community and is often a source of enquiries for new membership

It is also coming up to that time of the year when we need to be preparing for the AGM and looking to see how we plan to organise the Association in the future .

As you all know, I stayed on as President for an extra year in the hope of finding a successor, but as yet no luck.....any volunteers ? However, it is only right that I stand down at this year's AGM and allow the new committee to decide on the future management structure of the Association.

We will see a number of changes this year on the Committee as both Helen Andrews and Marian Baldwin will be standing down. Also Eileen Cuthbert is off on a long "Round the World " trip so will be taking a "sabbatical " !!

We already have two people who are willing to stand, Barbara Redman-White and Penny McClelland, but we would welcome a couple of other volunteers as well. It is a lot of fun.....and not too arduous.

Finally have a good summer break and I hope to see many of you again in September.

Terry Foreman
President

Forthcoming events

French friends' visit to Alresford, Fri – Sun September 3rd to 5th

For details of the programme, please see Appendix.

The celebration dinner will be held on Saturday evening, September 4th and is open to all Association members, whether or not they are able to host French visitors. See Appendix for details.

Annual Dinner – Saturday 16th October

Once again, we hope to hold this at Alresford Golf Club and details will follow later. In the meantime, please make a note in your diaries.

AGM – Friday 19th November

Please try to make this meeting as the 'business' section does not take long but it is important if you are interested in the activities and development of your Twinning Association. This is followed by a local speaker, all washed down with a glass of wine. *Further details to follow.*

Joint Twinning Associations Quiz Night in Petersfield – Thursday, November 11th

The committee has received an invitation from the Petersfield Twinning Association to participate in a Quiz Night with teams from other Twinning Associations on the above date. We are seeking to make up a table of 6. Venue is the Half Moon pub in Petersfield.

Reports on activities since the May Bulletin

Pétanque picnic – 21st May

As promised in the May Bulletin, a report on the evening and the finer details of the game follows from Philip Ferris.

PETANQUE AT ARLEBURY PARK *Le petit cochon is not a french expletive neither is it a term of endearment, it's the little wooden ball used in the game of petanque. You may have seen it played in dusty squares in France. Le petit cochon (the little pig) is thrown and the object of the game is for team members to throw the boule to finish as close as possible to le petit cochon. If necessary, and if you're good enough with your throw, you can knock away any of the boules of the opposing team especially if they are close to le petit cochon! The winning team scores for each of their boules nearest to le petit cochon.*

About 30 Alresford Twinners enjoyed a wonderful sunny evening in May at Arlebury Park. Most members played, some took a picnic and others suitable liquid refreshment. We all had a good evening and not an expletive was heard – neither in English nor in French.

Visit to Bricquebec, June 4th – 6th

Over the weekend of 4th-6th June 14 members of the Alresford Twinning Association members visited their twin town of Bricquebec in Normandy. The party left on the fast ferry to Cherbourg on Friday afternoon arriving in Bricquebec around 20.30 to spend the evening with their hosts.

The group was blessed with some glorious sunshine and exceptional hospitality over the weekend.

On Saturday the group met up in "Les Marais" National Park to spend 3 hours mixing both a guided boat trip and a ramble through the reed beds of this vast area of marshland. Several species of wildfowl were spotted, but the two highlights were watching a nesting pair of storks feeding their young, followed by a close up of a very happy Coypu sunning himself in one of the many pools.

The afternoon was spent visiting various places of interest together with our hosts...including the seaside resorts of Portbail, Barneville-Carteret and the spectacular coastline of La Hague .

In the evening Chantal Gréard, the Bricquebec Twinning President welcomed everyone to a celebratory dinner at a nearby restaurant, where the group enjoyed an excellent five course dinner with a selection of regional dishes from Normandy.

After a Sunday tour of various locations in Normandy including the delightful harbour of Honfleur (dodging many enthusiastic D-Day re-enactment troops en route!) the group returned on the evening boat from Caen.



Summer Wine Evening – July 16th

Despite a blustery, but dry and sunny evening over 50 association members attended the Annual Summer Wine Evening on Friday 16th July. This event is held annually in gardens around the Alresford area.

This year the evening was held at Old Alresford Place, courtesy of the Diocese of Winchester.

Before the buffet supper, the guests were given a brief presentation on the story of Old Alresford Place, a marvellous insight into local history. How many people know that Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers Union lived here?

The Association were very grateful to committee member Margaret Lumb, who organised a superb spread for the buffet.



APPENDIX

Arrangements for visit to Alresford by Bricquebec party

Friday to Sunday, September 3rd – 5th

The Committee has now have confirmed numbers for the visit to Alresford and we should have 34 French friends coming over.

It is exciting that this time we will have some youngsters accompanying the party...one 7 year old, one 13 year old and the Orieux girls who are late teens. It would be good if we could generate an interest too with some younger families on our side of the Channel. Several of the group will be visiting Alresford for the first time.

For general information we have attached a list of the host families, but even if you are not hosting you are welcome to join us at anytime over the weekend, especially for the dinner on the Saturday evening.

The party will arrive on the Friday night by fast ferry from Cherbourg arriving at 22.15 and as there are so many we have organised a coach (Top Marks) to pick them up. Terry will be going down with the coach and if there is anyone who would like to go down with him, just let him know.

If hosts could be at Alresford station car park at 23.30 to pick up their guests, this would be much appreciated.

On the Saturday, hopefully we will be blessed by good weather, as it is Alresford Show day. We have organised with the Show Committee a reduced entry fee of £5.50 per person for both hosts and guests. This includes a Members Guest Badge, allowing entry to the Members Enclosure. As you know this is situated at Ringside and will be an ideal Meeting Point/Picnic stop during the day.....and a welcome rest for some tired legs !

In the evening the Dinner will be held at the A.R.C. (Arlebury Park Recreation Centre) from 7.30, probably sitting down to eat around 8.30.

This year for a change we will be providing a Curry Buffet organised through the Shapla Restaurant.....nothing too spicy... we do not want to upset the delicate French palate !!!!

The Menu is as follows:

Starters: Onion Bhaji
 Meat Samosa

Mains: Chicken Tikka Masala
 Lamb Dopiazza
 Sag Aloo
 Pilau Rice
 Naan Bread

Wine will be included for the all-in price of £25 per head (excluding our guests of course).

Please make cheques out to 'Alresford Twinning Association'.

The Sunday we have left free for hosts to entertain as they see fit. However a number of people have expressed an interest in visiting Portsmouth in the morning and possibly meeting up for lunch at Gunwharf Key, before the guests depart on the 15.30 ferry. Please let Terry know if this is of interest, otherwise we will meet up at the Port for 14.30 latest to bid farewell to our friends.

It looks like being a great weekend and we thank everyone in advance for their support.

