



ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Review of 2019

There were 4 full committee meetings held during the year for general planning with other planning via email or informal meetings.

The social calendar for 2019 had some ups and downs with not everything running to plan. The January soiree at The Cricketers attracted 23 members and was enjoyed by the Committee as they did not have the responsibility of catering and drinks. GH produced the invitations for us, illustrated with one of PFs' line drawings of Alresford.

We were lucky to get a lovely morning at the end of March for our Spring Walk. 8 members met in the Cricketers carpark for a circular walk across the golf course to towards Titchborne and back where another member met us for lunch. The weather was so good we ate in the garden.

However, the weather gods were unkind for the Petanque evening in May but the 8 members who turned up still enjoyed the evening by going for a meal at the Horse and Groom.

B&J C hosted the Summer Wine party on a perfect summer's evening in July. 28 members attended and were able to sit out in the garden with a magnificent buffet organised by ML and prepared by the committee. The Barn Dance, a fund raiser planned for September, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest but our thanks go to RW who had offered to be the caller.

We were hosting the Exchange visit in Alresford in 2019. The date for the visit was originally planned as early as the previous November to give all those who wanted to participate plenty of warning but Chantal was only able to muster 11 to come over. Plans were swiftly changed for the smaller numbers. Eventually only 7 people from Bricquebec came across due to 4 having to cancel at the very last minute. The Bell provided a very good meal on the Saturday evening and 2 members of the Town Council came for aperitifs, gave a few words of welcome and mingled with the French guests before dinner.

Due to the small numbers in June we then arranged a less formal visit in September for those who had not been able come previously – 13 took this opportunity to visit from Bricquebec. This included a family with 4 children, hosted by JP.

Some of the party went to Cheriton School where they were greeted by the school's French Club and the headteacher. The children had prepared a 'Bienvenue' banner and refreshments were provided. Hosts and guests did 'their own thing' during the day on Saturday.



Visit to Cheriton School

Saturday evening, after squeezing 31 into the courtyard of The Bell for aperitifs, the group split in two with the majority going on to enjoyed a good evening at Shapla's whilst the party with the children went to the Pizza Express.

An exciting development this year has been assisting the organiser of the after school French Club at Cheriton School arrange for an exchange of correspondence with a school in Bricquebec, She reports that the children are very excited to get letters and photos and she helps them with their replies in French.

In September the Twinning Association were represented at the 150th Anniversary of The Avenue where JT, ML and JH decorated and 'manned' a gazebo. For the occasion your committee produced an updated leaflet for prospective members.

TN still continues to maintain the Alresford Twinning Association website and I repeat the request to contact him if there is anything you wish to contribute. RH holds regular meetings encouraging us to improve our spoken French and gain in confidence. Unfortunately, the meeting room in The Cricketers is not available so currently he has relocated to The Globe. Please think about coming along.