



## ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



### **Review of Year 2018**

Your committee had meetings 3 times during the year for general planning with most of the detail planning of social events being done via e-mail.

In May your committee considered its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations and considered its current policy and compliance. Thanks go to M L for chasing members to sign up to this. Group emails have only ever been sent to members using 'blind copy' and for twinning 'business' or very occasionally for something considered of interest to members. The email list is not passed on to third parties, including other members, therefore GDPR presents no change to our existing practice.

On to the social calendar for 2018. As usual this began in mid-January with 31 gathering at Alresford Community Centre for our New Year get together with catering by committee. It was a very chilly evening but was surprisingly cosy inside with the heavy curtains drawn.

Our spring walk, unfortunately, was cancelled. Due to very heavy continuous rain in the days before, parts of the path were dangerously slippery on the chalk and it was felt prudent to postpone the walk for later in the year as the current ground conditions were likely to result in falls. This was rearranged for the summer but there was no interest.

We again polished our Petanque skills on a Friday evening in May. The weather was ideal and games were interspersed with wine and nibbles en plein aire. B C again explained the rules and tried to keep us focused. This was played entirely for fun but there were still rivalries – especially between the sexes.

June found 19 of us crossing the Channel to spend a memorable weekend in Bricquebec on the Cherbourg peninsula. The disappointing take-up with only 15 traveling as foot passengers meant we could not benefit from the '£35 crossing' group offer. After a very early start from Alresford we arrived on Friday and were welcomed at the Cherbourg ferry terminal by members of the Bricquebec Twinning Association with whom we had lunch and spent the afternoon getting (re)-acquainted. That evening the Mayor of Bricquebec, M. Pillet, unveiled a commemorative bench in the grounds of Bricquebec's medieval moated castle in recognition of 35 years since the first official exchange visit between our two towns. To further mark this occasion a framed picture of the castle keep was presented to Alresford as a souvenir. New Alresford Town Council have resolved to hang this in the lower meeting room at the ARC. This was followed by a civic reception in the Bricquebec Town Hall. We returned to our hosts for an evening meal and a very late night.

Saturday morning a coach was ready to take us to the historic Norman town of Coutances where we had a group picnic in the beautiful botanic gardens followed by a visit to the 13<sup>th</sup> century cathedral and a walking tour of the old town. That evening we returned to the Chateau in Bricquebec for a celebration meal in the Knights' Dining Room.

Sunday passed too quickly and we soon found ourselves back in Cherbourg for the journey home and looking forward to the visit from Bricquebec to Alresford next year.

The Summer Wine evening was held on a glorious July evening in A & S L's garden with 30 members joining in. Marquees were erected but not needed. The buffet supper was organized by ML who did all the shopping and B C kept everyone supplied with liquid refreshments.

The quiz with fish and chip supper in St Gregory's Hall in September saw 57 participants putting their general knowledge to the test with questions posed by our excellent quizmaster, T F. All quizzers seemed to enjoy the evening and perhaps it can be repeated in future years.

T N continues to maintain the Alresford Twinning Association website and if you have any ideas to improve this or material, including photos, to put on it, please get in touch with him.

Although your committee plan, organize and publicize events for the Association during the year, we wish to thank non-committee members who offer their ideas and time to run some of our events. Special thanks to T F for his support, and R H who continues to run a monthly French conversation group, usually in the Cricketers. He has been organizing this for a number of years and it is open to all twinning members with a little French who would like some practice. Also thanks to G H for producing our quiz tickets and designing invitations for the 2019 soiree.

I would like, on behalf of the committee, to thank all members who have supported events and have helped throughout the year. I also wish to thank the committee for all the work and time they have put into organizing the various activities they have taken on.