



## ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



### Review of 2017

Your committee met 4 times during the year for general planning with most of the detail of social events being done on e-mail. Our small conversation group meets on a Thursday monthly at The Cricketers and our thanks go to RH for his enthusiasm and patient as we try to make ourselves understood.

TN, our web master, is always looking for new material to put on the site – please check this out as it has it includes a selection of photos from 2017 plus details of our upcoming programme. If you have something to contribute or ideas for content please let him know.

We continued with a number of social events during the year. January saw 30 members at The Swan for our New Year get together with buffet. We had the use of two rooms, one with very comfortable seating, and the Swan provided a good buffet selection.

In April we joined J&A T who once again took us on a stroll through our beautiful countryside, this time a circular walk from The Hinton Arms towards Cheriton Mill, followed by lunch at the pub. The pub is known for its large portions so fortunately no walking in the afternoon.

On a Friday evening in May we could be seen playing Petanque in Arlebury Park – the weather was rather grey and chilly. It was as much fun as always although I have not detected any improvement in my game over the years.

As always, the main focus of the year was the exchange visit, with 27 coming from Bricquebec, including 4 youngsters. The weather for the weekend was not very good and a little blustery. The majority joined the group visit to Uppark on Saturday morning. The National Trust were very helpful in providing a French translation overview of the property and the room attendants, having been warned of a party of French visitors, were keen to point out anything of interest. After a picnic lunch in the grounds, various activities were planned by the hosts in the afternoon. 56 guests, hosts and friends meet in a fantastic marquee in the garden of The Globe in the evening. After a welcoming drink of Hattingley sparkling wine and speeches including that from the Leader of the Town Council, M P in French, we enjoyed a three course meal of mainly local Hampshire ingredients. Our visitors commented on the pub and its setting, enjoying the wildlife on the pond although there was some confusion trying to explain the significance of Drake and Duck in differentiating the toilets. Sunday morning was spent with hosts before meeting up at Portsmouth for, in some cases, tearful farewell and promises of meeting again in Bricquebec in 2018.

The Summer Wine evening was held in July in S & V P's secluded garden with 39 members joining in. Marquees were erected in case of bad weather but we were fortunate to have a mild evening. The grand buffet was prepared by the committee under direction from M L who also made her usual marvelous contributions.

At last, on an evening of torrential rain in September, we were finally able to have our twice cancelled skittle' evening and supper at The Northbrook Arms – 19 members had a go with J T proving to be the master.