



ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Review of 2016

Your committee met 4 times during the year with one being on the Brittany Ferry on our way back from Bricquebec. Meetings are fairly short, with much of the detail being done via e-mail. The web site continues to be improved under TN's supervision. Forthcoming events, reports and picture galleries can all be updated so if there is anything you would like to contribute, he will be pleased to hear from you.

RH has continued to help those who want to improve their French conversation skills with his monthly gatherings of interested members at the Cricketers. RH supplies current topics from French magazines and newspapers providing lots of opportunity to practice. The final meeting before Christmas last year was held at a member's home with nibbles, wine, French music and conversation.

A range of social events took place during the year, beginning with our New Year celebrations held at The Cricketers with 27 members joining in. A buffet was provided by the pub and there was a mini-French themed quiz.

For the second year a Sunday skittles session was planned in March, but once again had to be cancelled due to problems with the Northbrook Arms. Hopefully we may be able to try again sometime.

J & A T planned and led another country walk for us in April, starting at the Woolpack Inn. It was a lovely morning and we had some good views around the Candover Valley. After the walk, most returned to the pub for lunch. Numbers for this were lower than previous walks although a number of 'regulars' had prior engagements.

19 members made the journey to Bricquebec in May to, as usual, a very warm welcome - unfortunately the same could not be said for the weather. The main activity laid on for the group on Saturday was a walk round part of the coast and visit to the 17th century Manoir de Tourp – this houses artisan workshops, an outdoor exhibition of views of la Hague, as well as a chapel, a bakery and a beautiful old dovecote. Our hosts then laid out a picnic lunch on the picnic tables where we all ate huddled under umbrellas and waterproofs against first the drizzle, soon followed by heavier rain and strong winds. We were treated to a hearty group meal in the evening at a local restaurant on the coast, during which our hosts welcomed us by giving a well-rehearsed performance of John Lennon's 'Imagine' in English. On Sunday morning, a guided tour of the chateau in Bricquebec was arranged followed by a welcome reception by the Mayor of Bricquebec. As usual the visit was over far too soon.

This year we had a dry, warm evening to play Petanque - organised by BC - and I imagined this weather encouraged a larger turn out than on previous years. Drinks and snacks coupled with the game was enjoyed by all taking part.

The Summer Wine evening was held in July in T & V Fs garden. with 33 members joining in. Another lovely evening with a sumptuous buffet provided by the committee. T & V had arranged the garden beautifully and it was hard to drag ourselves away when night fell.

In September, we held a supper-quiz at Alrebury Park to raise funds for the visit from Bricquebec next year and also as a social event. 70 quizzers were in attendance which was an ideal size for the venue and TF was an excellent quizmaster. The final scores had 2 tables very close. The winner being a team of 'non-twinners'. The two aims of the evening - to have an enjoyable social event and make a profit - were both achieved with a surplus of £432 for the evening.

Finally, the committee wishes to thank all its members who have supported events, hosted for the exchange and have been so supportive throughout the year. I wish to thank the committee for all the work and time they have put in organising the various activities they have taken on. We go into 2017 with the finances of the Association in a healthy state which will enable us to plan next year's exchange visit with confidence.