

## Comberton Twinning Association

Chairman's report. May 11<sup>th</sup> 2007

I think we have had another very successful year; membership numbers remain somewhat of a problem, as it seems difficult to attract new members, but at least we have just about held our own. Mary will, I am sure, elaborate on this. We have prepared a promotional leaflet, which it is planned to deliver to houses when we see a new person move into the village. Basically, as ever, most new members will come by word of mouth.

Since the last AGM, we have had three official weekends with our friends in Le Vaudreuil. Last May, they visited us, and we arranged a ceilidh which always seems to go down well with both the English and the French. The visit in September to France ended on Sunday with lunch on the lake and it was then agreed to again reverse the visits, so they returned in March, when they organised a wonderful 'West Indies' evening. Maybe March was not the ideal month, but it was very much at the behest of the French. The social event of these weekends is not of course the only reason for the weekend; indeed it is the hospitality, friendship, and getting to understand the differences in our ways of life which is what twinning is all about.

In addition to the organised visits, six of us attended the French AGM in January; the business element is rather difficult for us to understand, but the social 'pique-nique' afterwards is great fun, and we have borrowed this idea for our meeting. The AGM was on Friday evening, but we did of course manage to make a weekend away! In addition, several private visits have been made during the year and the Village College has exchanged students with the Collège Montaigne. I would like to see more links in the sporting field, and perhaps also in due course Meridian School may establish links with le Vaudreuil.

Dorothy will guide us through the finances, and I am sure she will say that funds are reducing; we have done very well on obtaining grants in the past, which is not something we can do for ever, and this is a problem we will have to face. A subject for discussion, I am sure.

Our social activities are generally well supported. The summer dinner at Madingley is very popular, and we will be dining there again in July. After three years, maybe a change is due for next year? Boule in August is not the most supported event, perhaps because of holidays, but for those that do go, it is most enjoyable. The quiz in November, which is our fundraising event, is always well supported, and now a fixture in the village calendar. Our after Christmas social was not too successful in number terms, but for those that did come, we did have a very good evening!

I cannot finish my report without recording the very sad death of Mike Winney during the trip in March. This was a huge shock to us all, but the support given to Jane by our friends in Le Vaudreuil was wonderful, and I think that this tragic death has brought the two villages so much closer. I have sent a letter on behalf of the Twinning Association, to Frederic Bregeon, expressing our thanks, and he has undertaken to send this to all the members in Le Vaudreuil. Mike was a member of the association from the start, extremely supportive, and will be greatly missed.

Finally, a big thank you to the Committee, who work so hard, especially Mary as Secretary, and Dorothy our Treasurer. Thank you all for coming and I look forward to another good year.

Peter Mitton  
Chairman