

## Comberton Twinning Association

Chairman's report. May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008

I will start, as last year, by saying that I think we have had another successful year, both with our twice a year meetings with our friends in Le Vaudreuil, and also our varied social events that we hold.

Mary will report on current membership; it does seem to be an ongoing struggle to increase our numbers, despite our efforts. The reasons are really unclear to me, maybe concerns over language or hosting, but I think we will primarily have to rely on word of mouth, as this is how most of our newer members have been found..

We welcomed the French in September, the weekend culminating in a hog roast at the Village Hall, which proved to be very popular. I think the music of the Combertones added to the atmosphere. Our visit is of course later than usual, in July, to enable us to visit the Tall Ships Armada in Rouen, which promises to be a great spectacle, if not a little crowded. We have been fortunate in obtaining a grant of £900 from Awards for All to support this visit, the case being made that this grant will keep the cost down for children, and thus encourage families to come. This visit is likely to be popular, so members will be invited to reserve their places first, perhaps before placing an article in Contact to advertise the trip, and thus hopefully gain some new members.

In addition to these more formal links, there are now several private visits to Le Vaudreuil during the year. Barbara and I attended the AGM in le Vaudreuil in January, and stretched this into a very enjoyable weekend. I cannot claim to follow the meeting in any detail!, but certainly there was some very lengthy discussion on the logistics of our forthcoming trip to the Armada, and also on the breakdown of the link between our Village College and the College Montaine in le Vaudreuil. I think this is very sad, and we can only hope that links can be established between the primary schools of the two villages. As I said last year, it would be good to see some more sporting links .

On the social side, generally the support is very good. The quiz acts as a good source of much needed funds for us, as well as now being a permanent fixture in the village calendar. The boules in August is not very well supported, but then last year it did rain, so the few of us resorted to drink. It was somewhat difficult to sell tickets for the dance in February, but in the end some 70 tickets were sold, it did raise some £330, and was thoroughly a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Last year, we did wonder whether people were tiring of Madingley Hall for our annual dinner, but the turnout last month was the highest ever, so perhaps we ought to stay there! And there is of course the BBQ, and last year it didn't rain

Finally, as ever, thanks to the Committee for all their hard work, especially Mary as Secretary, and Dorothy our Treasurer( when they are in the country!)

Finally, I perhaps should mention the AGM food, an idea we unashamedly copied from the French... it seemed to go down well last year, and more are staying this year than last, which is encouraging. It does mean that AGM is a little more than the business meeting, a glass of wine, and go home.

Thank you all for coming,

Peter Mitton  
Chairman