

## Comberton Twinning Association

Chairman' report 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009

I think I can say that last year was different!

Our spring visit to Le Vaudreuil was delayed until July, to enable us all to enjoy the spectacle of the tall ships Armada, a wonderful sight. A record number from Comberton travelled to France, over 50.

Sadly, in September, the fire in the Tunnel prevented the French from coming, as travel really was quite impractical. They did of course come in early April this year, to commence our tenth anniversary celebrations. On the Saturday evening, we enjoyed not only an excellent meal, but lively music, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Une bonne soiree! (and the French were very complimentary about English food!)

As I have said before, twinning is more than the twice yearly get togethers...there are many private trips, mainly to Le Vaudreuil, but also some coming to us. Four of us attended the Annual Meeting in le Vaudreuil in January, understanding every word, and enjoying an excellent weekend of hospitality. Then of course, Barbara and I have just spent a week with the le Beques in Brittany, taking twinning to a new level!

Membership; this continues to be a struggle to get new members. We remain fairly static in numbers, but really do need more families. I feel that the only way we will gain these members is by personal introduction...articles in Contact, for example, just do not work.

Social...we have a reasonably full programme. The quiz provides us with much needed cash to enable us to subsidize trips, although last year we had additional support for the Armada trip from awards for All. We also have the annual dinner, this year at the Royal Cambridge hotel.. Last year at Madingley, we felt rather let down, with the feeling that all was rather rushed. Also, we have the BBQ each July and this year, as a one off, our New Year's Eve Dinner, which all enjoyed immensely!

Last autumn, I received a request from Poses to see if we could find a village near us to establish a twinning link. Efforts through Parish Councils may be paying off, with several expressing interest, and hopefully one of these will come to fruition.

Thanks as ever to the committee for their help and support, especially Mary as Secretary and Dorothy, Treasurer. A special mention must also be made of Malcolm Wright, who is stepping down from the Committee. He of course founded this twinning, and was Chairman for the first seven years, and we must all express our sincere thanks to him for this without him we probably would not be here tonight.

Finally, thank you all for coming; Annual Meetings usually are not the most popular events, which is why we copied our friends in le Vaudreuil in having something to eat after the meeting, and thus turn it into a social evening

Many thanks

Peter Mitton