

# Comberton Twinning Association

## Chairman's report 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010

I will start, as I seem to say every year, by saying that we have had another thoroughly enjoyable, successful year, but this has not been without its problems.

Since last year's AGM in May, we travelled to Le Vaudreuil in September and the French of course were with us last weekend...in both cases the number of people participating was somewhat reduced.

Membership is still a problem, and Mary will cover this in her report; this in turn impacts on the finances of the Association and the activities and entertainment that we can afford. We really were not in a position to entertain our guests to a meal on Saturday last ...whilst there is sufficient money in the bank at present, we do need this to subsidise the cost of the coach in September, which last year cost £2200.

Last October, I attended a meeting in Le Vaudreuil, when I suggested that the frequency of the visits should become alternate years. Many of the French felt the same, but the suggestion was made by one person that to encourage more French to come to England, and thus improve the economics of the trip, they would leave Le Vaudreuil early Friday morning and visit London en route. This did not increase the numbers of people coming, and it is not felt practical for us to try this, partly because of 'where could we go', also timing of visit to coincide with school holidays, and the practicality of people taking time off work. Although we need to talk to the French again, I feel that it is inevitable that we will go to alternate year visits, which will ease the pressure on the finances greatly. The recent questionnaire sent to members generally confirmed this feeling.

On the social front, we had another successful year. The quiz is our much needed source of funds, and has become an annual village event. We held our annual dinner at the Royal Hotel, and this year propose a meal in a local pub/restaurant in late June. (Suggestions welcome)...plus of course the BBQ in July.

It is now eleven years since the twinning started, and it is very pleasing to see the firm friendships that have been made, and this is evidenced by the ever increasing private visits that are being made.. Twinning is much more than the formal weekends each year.

Thanks as usual to the Committee for all their help and support over the year, especially Mary as Secretary (even when she is in Claviers) and Dorothy for looking after all our money...not to mention Ann for her struggles with arranging hosting!.....and thank you all for your support, and for coming tonight.

Peter Mitton