

## Comberton Twinning Association

Chairman's report. May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

Last year, I started my report by saying that, although as enjoyable as ever, the year had not been without its problems. Attracting new members was difficult, and as a result, we were struggling somewhat financially.

Things are much improved, for a variety of reasons. Membership has increased, and I am delighted to see new families joining... I am sure Mary will expand on this in her report. On the money side, the position at present is much more healthy due to several factors;

Increased subscriptions, as agreed at the last AGM

We did not have a meal with our visitors last year ;we merely held the Ceilidh  
More people joined the trip to Le Vaudreuil last September than the previous year, which meant that the shortfall on the cost of the coach that we had to cover was much reduced.

Plus a cheaper ( and older!)coach

The contribution from the Wine tasting in February, and thanks again must go to Jane and Sandra for this.

Although Dorothy will present a very healthy bank balance at the present time, this will of course reduce dramatically when we pay for last weekend's meal, and subsidise the cost of the coach in September.

Last year, there was much thought of reducing the visits to every other year, but at present the threat of this seems to have gone away; the French membership seems to be increasing, and last weekend some 45 came to us; we had to say no to three more as we had no more hosts.

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. Last year, we went to the George and Dragon at Elsworth for our annual meal, which was well received, and we will be going there again next month. The wine and cheese evening provided by Waitrose was excellent, and raised a substantial sum. The summer BBQ is ever popular, 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!) Dorothy is stepping down, so special thanks to her for all her hard work over the past few years.

Thank you all for coming...certainly the idea of having some food after the meeting (which we unashamedly copied from the French) helps the attendance ..it has to be better than a few boring reports, and then going home!

Peter Mitton. Chairman