



Gillingham Town Twinning Association

Gillingham, Dorset / Le Neubourg, Normandy

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2009 & 2010 Report for Dorset Twinning Association

December 2009 – Christmas Dinner at The Coppleridge, Motcombe

February 2009 – Annual General Meeting held at The Town Hall. Our speaker was Andy Daw from Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester who gave a talk about the visit from students of Le Neubourg College of Agriculture to Kingston Maurward in September.

April 2009 – A walk around the Stourhead Estate was led by Simon Ford (Nature Conservation Advisor for the Wessex Region of the National Trust.)

April 2008 – A Skittles Night with a fine Ploughman's Supper was held at the Gillingham Football Clubhouse. Over 30 members and friends enjoyed a great sociable evening. We raised funds for the association as well.

May 2009 – Twinning Exchange – The visit of our friends from Le Neubourg coincided with Gillingham's celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Railway. The Parade was very much enjoyed and the following day there was an interesting visit to Wilton House. For a change, it was a hot and sunny weekend.

Right: at the official reception - Francois Bidault (Maire-Adjoint), Cecile Fillaudeau (Présidente), Ian Stewart (Mayor), David Lloyd (Chairman).



June 2009 – Summer BBQ. This was held in the garden of one of our members. The food was great as usual and background music was supplied by a local amateur group, *The Old Blue Bag Band*.

September 2009 - A Skittles Night was very much enjoyed at Gillingham Football Clubhouse. A fish & chip supper was arranged instead of our usual ploughman's. It was an opportunity to talk to new members and we raised funds for the association.

October 2009 – French conversation classes started for beginners, intermediate and advanced.

November 2009 – Charity Dinner Dance – an excellent evening in support of Julia's House (Dorset Children's Hospice) and Caring for Kids (Salisbury Hospital). Music by *Loose Connections* assured us of a lively and enjoyable



evening. £2000 was raised to share between the two charities. The cuddly dog (pictured above), won in the raffle by our member Robin, was re-raffled the following month and raised a further £600 for charity.

February 2010 - Annual General Meeting – plus an entertaining evening with Rotarian Keith Millman who presented a wine-tasting.

March 2010 – Instead of our usual Skittles Night we tried something different. We joined forces with Gillingham Town Band Supporters Club and organised a Race Night. It was very successful and good fun. The evening raised nearly £800 which was divided between the two organisations.

April 2010 - A walk around Badbury Rings was led by Simon Ford (Nature Conservation Advisor for the Wessex Region of the National Trust.) We enjoyed a pub lunch afterwards at The True Lovers Knot at Tarrant Keynston.



May 2010 – Exchange Visit to Le Neubourg. This was extremely well supported by members. Visits to Monet's Garden at Giverney and to the Château de La Roche-Guyon. A very enjoyable weekend as usual.

July 2010 – Summer BBQ – Held at a different venue this year and was a very successful social event. Good food was provided by our committee team and music was provided by a local 3-piece band.



Vive Le Jumelage!