

DORSET TWINNING ASSOCIATION
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO AGM
2009-2010

This report covers the third year of working with the new Constitution and covers the scope of both the Chairman's and Secretary's reports.

I referred in my report to the AGM last year of our concern about our continuing links with the La Manche Comité Départemental des Jumelages. One of our constitutional aims is to "assist in developing the link created by the twinning of the County of Dorset with the Département of La manche", and in furtherance of this aim it was agreed with our French friends that we should meet to discuss the best way forward. The original concept was that pairs of twin towns should be invited with the hope that we might have perhaps ten pairs of twin towns attending with some 40 participants. In the event the numbers were considerably less, particularly from Dorset, and the committee considered whether we should cancel or postpone the meeting. It was decided to continue since it might be many months before a suitable date was again available, particularly in view of the ferry situation. In discussion with the French the venue was changed, and a useful meeting was held as reported separately. The two committees must now consider the next step.

The Committee have discussed a proposal from the Treasurer, Terry Piper, that the best way to promote the DTA and all its constituent Associations would be to produce a brochure, with individual Associations being responsible for a double A5 "spread" which would include local advertisements to help to offset the cost of £100 for each Association. It was thought that this would be particularly useful to those without access to the internet and the DTA's website. This proposal has been circulated to member Associations with mixed results, and is included on the agenda of the AGM for further discussion and decision.

Unfortunately Neil Birrell who took over our website from John Lamper informed us last February that he did not wish to continue as webmaster because of increased commitments. We were very fortunate that Phipp Sharp, the Sturminster Newton/Montebourg treasurer was willing to take on this work, and we are very grateful to him for the expertise which he has brought to this task, including the change to a new and cheaper webhost. The website address has not changed.

Sturminster Newton are to be congratulated on achieving a "double first" winning both the Annual Quiz and the Pétanque league, our grateful thanks to those who work behind the scenes organising these events.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their support during the year, and in particular the work done by the Treasurer and secretaries. As members will be aware

the DTA has benefitted greatly from the secretarial services provided by David Kenyon and Stephanie Sainsbury. David strived hard to keep the DTA viable following Tony Watts retirement, and was a natural choice as Secretary when the Management Committee was set up in accordance with the new Constitution. Since that time the Management Committee has benefitted from David's advice and experience. Throughout this time Stephanie has supported David and the Committee by doing the minutes of our meetings, organising events and maintaining contact with our member Associations. Stephanie in particular has put in a lot of work in her own time to help us, since this work was not part of her official duties for the DCC. David has now retired from the DCC and does not wish to continue on the Management Committee. Although she has said that she will not suddenly stop supporting us, Stephanie has a new superior and an increasing work load, and has asked us to replace her. Our new formal contact with the DCC officers is with Ms Ruth Parker, who is the DCC lead consultant for modern languages in schools. It has been made clear that she will not be able to offer the secretarial/admin support that David and Stephanie did. Consequently the DTA is seeking nominations for the post of Secretary.

We have been fortunate that the DCC representative on our Committee, and a regular attendee, is Councillor John Wilson, the Chairman of the Council and our President. Following an appeal at the last AGM for anyone willing to be co-opted to the Committee, we welcomed Geoff McDonnell of Weymouth and Portland/Louviers as a co-opted member. Finally I would like to thank Tony Watts who has attended most of our meetings, and has been of considerable help in our relations with France and Brittany Ferries, as well as being able to advise us on the background to many of the issues we are dealing with.