

## **Ferndown Twinning Association Report**

Report dated September 20101

The main event this year was the visit of the French Group from Segre. Two Coaches brought a group of Folk Dancers, a group of swimmers and a party of members of the French Twinning Group. Altogether 98 visitors.. This was the first time we have had such large [numbers](#).It was necessary to accommodate the Dancers and the Swimmers in the Guide Camp at Dudsbury which is a good site with two buildings which are fully equipped with Kitchen and washing facilities. For the weekend we entertained the guests with a Dance Display on Saturday afternoon and a ceilidh in the evening/ On Sunday there was an outing and cream tea at N.T.House Kingston Lacy. The Ferndown Swimming Club took charge of the swimmers and provided a joint swimming Gala and an outing to Bournemouth on Sunday. The Town council sent the Mayor along to the Ceilidh and the Town Clerk provided the evening buffet. Help was obtained from the Guides for the lunch on Monday at the Guide Hall before the French left for home. The visit was enjoyed by all and many of the visitors who came were first time visitors. More importantly many were younger than the usual party of Twinners.

Apart from the visit the Association has run a few social events in the winter and spring to help with funds. Membership remains fairly static at around 50. Attendance at the events is normally around 30.

The Association is trying to get more support from the Town Council, who set up the Twinning arrangement, but have never taken responsibility for the running of the Association, nor for funding nor for contact with their opposite numbers in the French Town Hall. With the exception of two Twon Clerks who have been members and one Town council representative on the Committee Ferndown Town council largely ignores the Association.

Douglas Lock Chair