

PIDDLEHINTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION 2009 - 2010

Our friends from **Longueville** came to the Piddle Valley for Whit weekend (May 21st – 24th) and we entertained them with visits to Forde Abbey and Stonehenge on the Sunday and with a skittles evening and a 3 course dinner (with the emphasis on local Dorset produce) on two of the evenings.

Some new ideas incorporated this time : we spent one day and one evening with our own guests instead of organising large group events at these times, but those in the Twinning who were not hosting were invited to join in with individual host families. We also played for a new Sports Trophy (donated by the French) and so far the matches have been Petanque in France and Skittles over here ! We also hired an outside caterer for the first time for our dinner, which proved to be a great success and well worth the outlay.

In addition to our group visits, many from both the Piddle Valley and Longueville have spent long weekends with families they have met through the Twinning.

Fundraising and social events : we think it important to do both, to maintain contact over the year between official visits.

January - a Fête de Rois party, with ‘ galette des Rois ‘ and crowns ! We also showed photographs and DVDs of our then recent visit to Longueville in September 2009.

Annual Twinning Quiz, with raffle. Always enjoyed and good for fund-raising.

February – annual Jumble Sale, which usually guarantees us at least £200 for funds.

March – AGM and dinner, which we ended with toasts of calva and pommeau, gifts from our Normandy friends.

May - Visit from the Longuevillais.

July - Annual Summer Barbecue to thank all our members for working so hard.

Our Autumn programme 2010 - October skittles match against Bradford Peverell Twinning Association and our own Piddlehinton Twinning Quiz. We also plan to take part in the Dorset Twinning Quiz in Sturminster Newton at the end of October.

Our new Chairman, Dave Bowen, was elected at our AGM. Other officials remain Paul Johns as Treasurer and Jo Thornton as Secretary, plus 4 committee members. We have 37 members in the Twinning, and Longueville have 45.

Sadly, we lost Sam Fowler in January at the age of 83. A talented jazz bass player, he accompanied us many times to Normandy and was much loved by us all and by the Longuevillais.