

SHERBORNE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2010 TWINNING EVENTS

For the past 28 years we have been happy to report that our season has commenced with a very successful Epiphany Party. This year however, the event was cancelled due to inclement weather in early January with footpaths and roads in a treacherous condition. Disappointing as it was, we had no alternative but to be prudent. All is not lost though as we have plans to repeat the event under a different title later in the year.

Our AGM in March attracted some 40 supporters, the highest turnout for some time, which was very encouraging, but we were sorry to lose our long serving Treasurer, Les Derrick. Following the business part of the evening, our new Treasurer, Gerald Howell, entertained us with a most interesting illustrated talk on Greece.

Our Spring meal in the Gaggle of Geese at Buckland Newton followed with about 30 members sitting down together to enjoy some excellent food including such delicacies as pheasant and lemon posset. Always a well supported popular event.

Our big event of the year followed with the cementing of our friendship with our new twin town of La Hulpe in Belgium. A small group of seven committee members and spouses made the journey, simplified now with a rail link between the UK and Brussels, and a short, fairly inexpensive ferry crossing from Dover to Dunkirk. We were given a very enthusiastic welcome and taken on a sight seeing tour of Brussels and a visit to nearby Waterloo to see the site of the famous battle. The official Charter signing took place in the town's beautiful Chateau and an exchange of gifts followed. We presented La Hulpe with a copy of the famous Sherborne Missal whilst they gave us a Mongolian Linden sapling, too large to travel back with us it will follow later to be planted in Sherborne Pageant Garden. Links between sporting and other groups in our two towns are in the process of being created which augers well for the future.

On one of the warmest days of this summer 30 of us, including our new Town Mayor Jane Smith, gathered in the beautiful Leigh garden of a Committee member to enjoy a Garden Party. The sun didn't stop shining and shade had to be sought – most rare in an English Summer! A very enjoyable event thanks to Michael & Pat Morrell whose garden and greenhouse of exotic plants and fruit was the envy of many of us.

September brought our annual visit to our long time French friends in Granville. This year 25 of us formed the group and we were pleased that the sea crossing was very smooth. The crossing from Portsmouth to Caen was the best part of 6 hours- somewhat longer than the shorter Poole to Cherbourg one we are used to. The French were their usual generous and hospitable and we enjoyed a great buffet on Sunday lunchtime following our day spent in Avranches on Saturday. Back home again late on Monday the weekend passed all too quickly.

We still have our Autumn dance and party to look forward to in November as a replacement for the cancelled Epiphany party and if it proves to be well supported it could well become a permanent feature.

Our efforts on the Boules pitch have been most enjoyable with several new members taking up the game – some with a natural aptitude. We have hopes that with plenty of practice during the winter we shall improve on our 4th league position this year.

John Snell
Hon. Secretary