VERWOOD & THREE LEGGED CROSS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

(Twinned with Champtoceaux, France and Liederbach-am-Taunus, Germany)

Chairman: Terry Bright **Hon. President: Mayor, Cllr Jean Hazel**

ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEAR FROM OCTOBER 2009 TO SEPTEMBER 2010

On 22nd October 2009, we held our 28th AGM. Some Amendments were made to our Constitution, which had not been updated since 2002.
In November, Verwood & Three Legged Cross Twinning Association took part in the Verwood Remembrance Day Parade – a cold day, but well attended by our Members alongside the other Verwood residents.

At our Members' Christmas Party in December, a good buffet, provided by our hardworking Committee, was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a first-class performance of traditional Christmas songs and carols sung, unaccompanied, by the excellent Jubilate choir.

January 2010 was a quiet month, apart from the monthly Members' Meeting. These are regular meetings which provide get-togethers for all of our Members, with the purpose of keeping in touch during the winter. The Reverend Stuart Timbrell gave his very entertaining talk on "Discovering Dorset – Part 111". We are looking forward to hearing Part IV at some time in the near future.

February was also quiet with regard to Twinning events, but our Committee was kept busy preparing for the annual Dog Show and the proposed visit to Verwood in May by our friends from France.

March – our last monthly get-together was enjoyed by our Members, with Speaker Anne King on "Cliffs, Coves & Contraband"

In May we held our annual Dog Show. This event is kindly run by two Twinning Members of longstanding, Audrey & Dave Palmer. They organise the advertising, Judges, Prizes & Tombola. Committee Members provide food & drink. insurances, cleaning-up after the event and generally helping out where needed. Various other stallholders are invited along to create more interest and attract people who are not dog owners. The weather was fair, a good day was had, and a fair profit made.
In May also, 50 of our French friends came from Champtoceaux to celebrate, with us, 25years of Twinning. We took them by coach to Lacock & the Fox Talbot Museum. Lunch was arranged in the two local pubs. The Saturday soirée – a gathering of all visitors and their hosts – was held in our local Community centre "The Hub". Small gifts were presented to all of our guests. With outside caterers, everyone (including local dignitaries) enjoyed a splendid meal whilst being entertained by a pianist. Following the Speeches and usual exchange of gifts, a group played music for dancing until midnight. Our visitors' departure the following day was a mixture of sadness at seeing them leave and relief that all had gone to plan.
A new Family Club opened in Verwood at the old British Legion premises. Our Committee Members manned a stall at their Open Day and attracted new members.

In July, a meeting of Members was held at 'The Hub' to ascertain if they wished to continue monthly get-togethers through the summer. This was well attended, and a second coffee morning was held at the home of 2 of our Committee Members in August. A small profit was made to boost our funds.

Also in mid-August, our summer Boat Trip from Poole, up the Wareham River, to Wareham was well supported by 60 people. A very warm summer evening made it a very enjoyable trip.
The end of August always produces our Verwood Rustic Fayre, which is organised by Verwood Rotary Club. Our Association has a marquee and, from Cafe Rene", offers light refreshment. This year we departed from our usual fare of French bread, cheese and wine to offer "French Platters" – individual baguette rolls with Cheddar cheese or Brie with pickles , coleslaw and wine or soft drinks; also tea with scones or cake. This was another boost to our funds after an expensive celebration year. A large contribution from our takings is made to Verwood Rotary Club for their donations to local charities.

Throughout the summer, Verwood & Three Legged Cross Twinning Association provided a team to play Boules in the league against other Dorset Twinning teams. We unsuccessfully finished second to bottom of the league, but many pleasant afternoons were spent in the company of fellow "Twinners" and some fitness was gained from the exercise involved.

Our 29th Annual General Meeting will take place in October 2010.