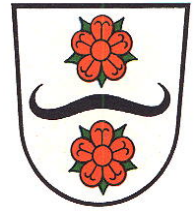




# WAREHAM – HEMSBACH SOCIETY



## ANNUAL REPORT – 2011

2011 is an important year in the history of our Town Twinning with Hemsbach, which is situated in the Rhine-Neckar region of Germany. This is the year we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of our Charter in 1986 and the start of our friendship with the Partnerschaftsverein e.V.Hemsbach.

Following the sad death of our previous President/Chairman Charles R Patterson, who had been involved with the Society since its inauguration, It is also the beginning of a new regime under the Chairmanship of Mrs Myrna Gomes Maria, whose ambition is to further the continuance of the Society well into the future, with increased membership of all ages, especially family units wherever possible.

Our 2011 Programme reflects this ambition, with monthly events geared to appeal to a wide variety of interests. From enjoying talks ranging from smugglers, a local archaeological Community Project, the RNLI and Remembrance Day memories, to village walks, a summer picnic, theatre trips, a Fund-raising 'Piggy Race Night and Buffet', skittles evening and a planned Christmas Social for December plus the Annual Society Dinner in February at the Bulbury Woods Golf Club, our members have been enthusiastic supporters of the Society throughout the year.

Apart from our social activities, much preparation has gone into the planning of our Anniversary. The membership had agreed to the presentation of a special seat/bench from our Society to the citizens of Hemsbach, celebrating our 25 years of partnership and friendship. A suitable design and placement was chosen by the Burgermeister and Council of Hemsbach and together with the inscribed plaque, was presented by the Chairman during our visit in September.

An enamelled Anniversary Badge was also designed to commemorate the occasion, together with the purchase of a promotional banner for the Society.

In addition, a special Anniversary Book detailing the history of the 25 years was compiled. Half of this was devoted to Wareham and half to Hemsbach, containing photos of both towns and surrounding countryside, their histories and customs, messages from dignitaries past and present, photos of civic regalia etc. and memories of visits down the years. An amazing book, which we are proud to say is now part of the archives of both Wareham and Hemsbach.

Nearly forty of our members travelled to Hemsbach for the festivities. The long weekend with our friends was celebrated in style, with a gourmet Anniversary Buffet, ecumenical Church Service, visit to an open air museum and plenty of private parties, with groups of us getting together for barbeques, visits to local wine festivals, testing the local beer etc. and generally having a marvellous time. Unfortunately, all too soon it was time to return to Wareham and to look forward to 2012, when our friends visit us here.

Plenty to plan for, exciting programmes to arrange, ideas to put into practice – Twinning work never ends!!! Long may it continue to spread friendship between peoples !!!!

Myrna Gomes Maria     Chairman – Wareham-Hemsbach Society