

Wimborne/Valognes Twinning Association

Report for 2010

We had another full and varied year of meetings, which many of our 191 members had enjoyed. We began the year with a joint meeting arranged by Ochsenfurt Twinning. One of the most memorable meetings had been Annie Thom's account of her parents' experience in the French Resistance.

We were pleased to welcome the Grainger String Quartet as members during the year and they did us proud playing for everyone in France and our "Bastille Barbecue" in July in Wimborne, when we were also pleased to welcome Eve Le Carpentier of Valognes who was at the end of her stay in England as an au pair.

One of the main reasons we exist is to promote good will between the two towns and during the year it was pleasing that there had been many occasions when events had occurred to bring our two communities together. Over 40 of us visited France for the Biennial Visit in May and five of our members attended the Valognais Barbecue in September – four were new members and they were given a warm welcome by Bernard and other members.

The Grainger String Quartet spent a week in France giving performances to members of La Manche Twinning Association and in concert in Valognes. They also "busked" in St Sauveur-le-Vicomte.

Teachers from Dorset and Poole schools, including one representing Allenbourn Middle School, visited La Manche to discuss links with schools in both countries. The Lycee Henri Cornat and Corfe Hills and QE Schools are taking part in e-twinning with the aim of helping friendships and exchanges between the students of the schools.

The Valmontaise Chorale came to Wimborne in May to sing with the Wessex Singers. Although they were guests of the Wessex Singers, members of our Association helped with hosting and also attended the Barn Dance on the Sunday evening.

It was hoped to recommence games of petanque in the spring at Redcotts Recreation Ground.