

We are always interested to hear from you about fresh ideas you may have for future events, so if you do have any, please contact Trevor Rogers on Y.873017.

Regular readers of the 'Western Gazette' may well have been amused by Robin Legg's light-hearted tale, in the issue of 30 Aug., about the delivery from France of some play equipment destined for the new play area in Thornford. Apparently, some changes were needed to the lease relating to the half-acre of land to the west of Thornford Recreation Ground, where the new children's play area has been sited. Unfortunately the order had gone ahead for the play equipment before the changes to the lease had been made.

'Would there be a show-down,' Robin pondered, 'between a beret-wearing driver puffing on his Gauloise and rustic retainers of the Estate, sharpening their scythes for the sort of direct action on the lorry tyres the French would admire?'

Luckily, his fears proved to be unfounded, as 'the estate allowed the installation to proceed before the new lease was concluded.' Entente cordiale has survived yet another challenge!

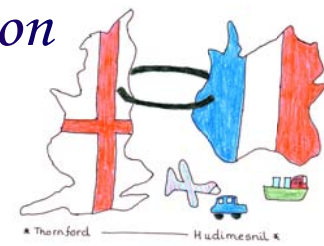
And, finally, **SUBS!** These remain a modest £5 per household, per year, and are due in April. They are an important source of funding to us since they help to cover the cost of insurance on its various activities. If you have not paid this year's subscription, please send £5 either by cash or a cheque, made payable to 'Thornford Twinning Association' to our Treasurer, Bob Pope at No. 1, Waverlawns Barn (left-hand end), using the red post box set in the wall.

Thornford Twinning Association

JUMELAGE DE HUDIMESNIL ET THORNFORD
THE TWINNING OF THORNFORD AND HUDIMESNIL

Newsletter

Issue No.2 September 2007



Primary School Visit to Hudimesnil: 21st - 24th June

Four children from Thornford P.S. made a little bit of history for the school and the TTA in being the first to visit pupils of the school in Hudimesnil. Alastair (11), was the eldest, followed by Jos (9), Selena (8) and James (6). The children, accompanied by their mothers: Rebecca, Alyson, Maria and Joan, each stayed with a host family in Hudimesnil.



This walk was along a part of the coast near St. Martin de Brehal. (photo by Gerard)

Maria Lyons, mother of Selena, made some interesting jottings in her diary about their stay with the Leservot family.

On Thursday, 21st June, she and Selena had enjoyed a visit to Granville to experience the 'Fete de la Musique,' held each year on the summer solstice 'when, all over France, amateurs will be making music.' Amongst the many musicians they saw were 'a rock guitarist on a street corner,' 'an organ grinder sitting on a chair in a sweet shop,' and 'a pop group on an outdoor stage.'

Early on Friday morning, about 9,00 a.m. the group had taken what Maria described as 'a bracing walk on a cold, windy beach,' where they had collected a fascinating array of shells. Joan Brady also recalled 'the lovely walk on the beach collecting cuttlefish.' This walk was, apparently, along a part of the coast near St. Martin de Brehal.

Around 11.30 a.m. our four children had joined the French pupils at the school in Hudimesnil, where 'Selena was introduced as the new teacher!'

Fortunately for Selena, Madame Laval was also on hand to offer some help with the lessons planned for that day. Meanwhile, the adults and James Derrick, had visited the Christian Dior mansion, where post-war fashions were displayed. Maria describes the gardens as 'overlooking the sea and filled with the scent of roses, which had a trail of famous perfumes one could follow: 'Poison', 'Tendre Poison', 'Paris', 'Christian Dior' and so on.'

On Saturday, 23rd June, the group had made a visit to Mont St. Michel. Maria describes the somewhat hectic fun of the

for us on arriving back at the coach, to find Trevor & Jane greeting everyone with a glass of Pimms. Soooo refreshing! What an inspired idea!



By 8,30 p.m. we were back at the 'King's Arms' for a buffet meal in the Skittle Alley, when we were able to swap stories about our day's activities. Having enjoyed a glass or two, we took a short walk up the road from the pub to round off the evening at the Old School House with 'dessert at Trevor & Jane's. There was, in fact, a range of highly tempting desserts provided by members of the TTA; to attempt all would have been a serious challenge even for a grand(e) gourmande(e)!

All too soon Sunday morning arrived and, judging from some of the comments made by our French friends, they much enjoyed 'le week-end.'

Whilst we had organized a variety of activities, it was the enthusiastic participation of our members that helped to make it so successful.

And now for some dates for your diary ...

*Ceilidh with Will Antell - Friday, 16th November.

*Christmas Market and

Dinner-Dance in Hudimesnil - Saturday, 24th November.

*Quiz, with Brian King - Saturday, 23rd February 2008.

Ceilidh and Quiz both at Thornford Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The prize-giving took place shortly after 4.00 p.m., when the winners of the Onion Competition were: 1st prize: Gerard Clement and 2nd prize Claude Fouques. Could it be that the French know their onions better than us? However, our congratulations to Stan Shepherd, who gained 3rd prize.



A trip to Cerne Abbas had been organized for the early evening, the rendezvous, once again, being the Village Hall, at 6.45 p.m. What an asset we have in our village coach service! Colin & Stella Powell were ready, on time as always, to take us off to Cerne, proffering us sweets and banter on the way. It was such a pleasant evening that some people were content just to stroll through the village, taking in the Abbey ruins, whilst the more energetic climbed up the hill to view the Cerne Giant and the temporary, outline figure of Bart Simpson at close quarters. A pleasant surprise was in store

day. 'Selena and I ran up, ran down, ordered coffee and a crepe with Joan and James, ran to the shop opposite for gifts, ran back to cold coffee, ran to the van, raced to the picnic, rushed to the zoo.'

Joan Brady also commented on 'the fun everyone had at the zoo with the French children (especially the bouncy castle)! It was a very enjoyable week-end and I hope it won't be too long before we can reciprocate with a visit by French children to our own school.'

James said: 'I loved playing with all the other children on party night. We all sat at a long table and, when we'd finished eating, we raced outside in the rain. It was cool!'

Selena said: We went to Mont St. Michel; it was huge! Then we went also to the zoo. We saw monkeys. The food was different in France; we had lots of salads.'

Tina Wilkes, the Headteacher of Thornford Primary School, commented that, 'the exchange visit of children and parents to the Primary School in Hudimesnil in June was a wonderful opportunity to experience another culture, make new friends, and practice language skills. The school is very pleased to have worked with the Twinning Association in arranging this very successful visit, and we hope there will be further contacts in the future.'

"I had a great time at the party on the last night. There was lots of interesting food."

Alistair

French visit: 10th - 12th August

Our French friends from Hudimesnil certainly brought the sun with them for this particular week-end. The group of 14, which included four young children: Leo & Lise Coic, aged 9 and 5 years, and six-year-old twins, Stephanie & Anne Briens, were given a warm welcome when they arrived outside the Village Hall around 4.30 on the Friday afternoon. Our visitors and their host families in the village then strolled back for supper 'au maison.'

Just for the record, our visitors and their hosts were as follows:-

Gerard & Raymonde Clement - Dennis & Joyce Witchell.

Patrick Bekus - Andy & Dawn Carver.

Marie-Therese Josephe - Peter & Elizabeth Routledge.

Jean-Pierre & Sylvie Briens and their children - Shirley Hewson.

Pascal & Nathalie Coic and their children - Andy, Maria, Selena, Antony & Christopher Lyons.

Claude & Jacqueline Fouques - Terry & Madeleine Harvey.

At 8.30 p.m. the same evening, you may well have been one of the crowd of at least 100 'Twinners' and other villagers who gathered outside the 'King's Arms,' to watch some Morris dancing, superbly performed by the 'Treacle Eater Clog Dancers,' You would have noticed that for the 'Treacle Eaters, Morris dancing is no longer an entirely male preserve, as there were a few ladies, energetically dancing with them in the group. So we now have Morris Dancers, as opposed to Morris Men! There was a good deal of



audience participation in the way of clapping and the stamping of feet, so, all in all, it was a very enjoyable way to round off the evening.

Saturday, 11th August

Gerard very kindly collected in all the French exhibits for the Horticultural Show to take them to the Village Hall early in the morning. This meant that our visitors with their English hosts were at leisure to explore the local area; many chose to go into Sherborne to see round the old/new castles and the Abbey, whilst others made for the coast and resorts such as Lyme Regis.

The Horticultural Show opened at 3.00 p.m. in blazing sunshine, when crowds of people thronged into the comparative coolness of the marquee. . It was interesting to see what a variety of exhibits had been produced by our French visitors as well as by members of the TTA. Whilst the 'concours d'oignons' and winning the coveted Roy Harvey trophy was the centre-piece of the Show for some of our French and English 'Twinners', some very beautiful work in art and craft had also been entered.