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**The very warmest of seasonal greetings to you all.** The last couple of months have seen a very successful long weekend visit to Lille and Ypres, our Annual General Meeting, our first two members' meetings of the season in our new "home" in the Methodist Church Hall and continuing work planning for our big anniversary year next year.

Before we all start indulging in the excesses of the Festive Season we have our own Christmas celebration to look forward to. This is at a different venue to that advised on your membership card - we have moved to the Memorial Hall. The date (9<sup>th</sup> December) and time (7.30pm) remain unchanged. We have a full evening of entertainment lined up for you, including the return of our friends from Jubilate who sing traditional carols *a capella* so brilliantly.

We re-commence our members' evenings in January with Stuart Timbrell entertaining us with the next in his "Discovering Dorset" series of talks.

I hope to see you all at one of these fine events - remember it's YOUR twinning so come along, experience what we do and we're open to any suggestions for new or improved things we can do.

Finally, a reminder that 2009/10 subscriptions are now due. Details of how to pay are in this newsletter.

Finally finally, my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Change of Venue**

**Please note that this year's Christmas celebration will be held in the Memorial Hall from 7.30pm on Weds 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Admission free but there will be a raffle.**

**We will be providing the usual festive refreshments, including soft drinks and mulled wine, but if you would like beer or wine please bring your own bottles. That will keep us from falling foul of the new licensing laws**

**Race night update.** Due to the difficulties in finding sufficient sponsors in these straitened times, we have had to cancel our race night planned for 5<sup>th</sup> December. We will try again for this highly entertaining event next year.



**Boules.** The final league table saw us finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the Dorset Twinning league - our best result for a few years now. In September's cup tournament played at Manston, Barbara and Brian Bowey finished as losing semi-finalists in the cup competition and Ieuan and Janice Davies were runners-up in the Plate contest. Well done to both couples for a very creditable performance.



**This year's AGM** was very well attended, despite a last-minute change of venue due to double-booking of the Methodist Hall. We were moved into the Council Chamber

at the Council Offices next door to the Methodist Church, which gave us the opportunity to see some Twinning memorabilia not normally available to us. The formal business of the evening provided some lively discussion on some of the proposed changes to the constitution and afterwards we played Quizgo - a variation on a quiz which means the quickest thinkers aren't always the ones to win! This proved so popular we will probably have a game or two at the Christmas party.



**This year's season of Members' Meetings is now well under way.** The October meeting saw us settling into our new home and hearing Kate Greenaway tell us about her many (too many for me to count!) occupations. In November, John Smith gave a fascinating talk about the work of the Special Operations Executive. After the Christmas Party we return to the Methodist Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. January's speaker is the ever popular (and amusing) Stuart Timbrell who will be continuing his series of "Discovering Dorset" presentations. Why not make a note of 13<sup>th</sup> January in your brand new diary and join us for coffee and biscuits, meet friends old and new and hear an interesting speaker.



**2010 celebrations with Champtoceaux.** A reminder that the dates for the celebration visit from our friends in Champtoceaux are Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. Plans for the programme of events are progressing well so watch this space for full information as things firm up.

**In the meantime,** don't risk missing out on the opportunity to join in the fun. All the events will be free of charge to hosting members so, **if you are willing and able to host some guests please talk to Joyce on 824469 NOW - it is first come first served so ring today.**



**Our weekend in Lille and Ypres** was a great success. 43 people took advantage of the opportunity to visit this fine city in northern France, birthplace of Charles De Gaulle; and an evening excursion over the border into Belgium to Ypres for dinner and the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The evening we visited saw a large contingent of UK visitors, with 2 pipe bands in addition to the local Fire Brigade, who sound the Last Post there every night. So we returned home on Sunday evening after a memorable weekend.



**2009-2010 subscriptions are now due.** Rates have been held at £5 per household for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running. Many of you have already paid at the Rustic Fayre, at the AGM or to your newsletter distributor, but if you haven't please get in touch with your distributor or Sandra Groves and let them have your subs. In exchange you will get a pretty pink membership and "fixture" card for the year.



June 2009: your Chairman presenting Eva Söllner, Bürgermeisterin of Liederbach, with one of the 3 limited edition prints of houses from the novels of Hardy

**Your Officers are:**  
Chairman: Terry Bright tel 822959 or email [twinning@verwood.org](mailto:twinning@verwood.org).  
Vice-Chair: John Blackwell - 868763  
Secretary: Julie Blackwell-West - 868763  
Treasurer: Sandra Groves - 826449  
Minute secretary: Barbara Bowey - 822299  
Membership Secretary: John Pettitt - 825951  
Website: <http://twinning.verwood.org>