

Haslemere & District Twinning Association



Bernay 1985



Haslemere



Horb 1991

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2015 was a pretty momentous year ...

- It was kicked off by our usual **NEW YEAR DRINKS & NIBBLES** in the Town Hall which is a superb place to hold this event with the sole caveat that the number permitted into the Council Chamber is forty. I consider the Town Hall to be an eminently fitting place to hold this gathering as it reminds us by implication and association that our Association is an integral part of the rich fabric of Haslemere life. We sip drinks and share the nibbles within feet of the charters establishing Haslemere's relationship with our two twinned towns. And, from the very window of the Council Chamber, we can see the tree planted in 1985 and across the road the two-armed sign post pointing the way to Bernay (239 km / 150 miles) and Horb (734 km / 460 miles).
- **COMMITTEE MEETINGS** galore: I would like to pay tribute to the many hours that all my colleagues have spent in committee helping to thrash out the detail of the arrangements necessary to make our annual programme work. The degree of self-catering that they organise (amongst many other things) is amazing and commensurate with the appreciative comments that follow.
- **EMAILS** by the hundreds, many in French to Bernay; French vastly improving! Sadly, German isn't required to the extent that French is. The English of the Germans (which generally speaking means Christine Dietz) is fantastic, but the English of the French is not in the same league! There are some notable exceptions to that generalisation but not on the present committee. If anyone would like a challenging way of improving their French, look no further; please step forward!
- **NEWSLETTERS** aimed at keeping all interested parties informed of what is going on. As you know, we aim to get about four Newsletters out during the year containing latest information and detail of forthcoming events. We hope you are finding these useful. If you have any comments to make about them don't be shy in expressing them. Also, if any member would like to circulate some local information on other aspects of Haslemere life which is likely to be of general interest to the Association's mailing list, please send it through to a member of the committee for consideration.
- **30th ANNIVERSARY VISIT by BERNAY.** This was undoubtedly the big one! Pétanque Match won 9-6, the Poster Competition displayed at the Haslemere Museum, the presence of the founding personalities Jean Mansley, Joel et Yvette Bourdin, Andre Sourdon, Michael Biddiscombe not forgetting Beryl Buckley. When the French coach arrived at Haslemere Hall with 55 people on board including eight under twenty years of age it seemed like a mini-invasion! It was wonderful time and so many of you have happy memories stored away in

the form of photos that you and others took during those four days of happy celebration. Shirley and I are relatively new kids on the block (we arrived in 2008) and I would really like to pay enormous tribute to all those that have supported Haslemere Twinning since its inception in 1985. Most of what you have done goes unrecorded but your legacy lives on.

- **VISIT to HORB**, September. Christine Dietz always puts on an interesting programme, and last year's was no exception. Apart from the wonderful hospitality that we all enjoyed with our German hosts, we were taken around the ancient towns of Tübingen and Rottenburg on our journey to Horb from the airport. Then, two days later, we were treated to a visit to Bad Wimpfen and given a guided tour by an ex-pat from Wales who now divides his time between giving tours and making ancient stringed instruments! After lunch we were taken to a hilltop vineyard and treated to afternoon tea German style. In between these trips out, we spent a day in Horb culminating in a dinner together in an old hotel more or less opposite the Town Hall. The main course of this meal was provided by the hotel and the desert by friends of the association!
- **DINNER PARTIES** organised to put money back into our account to offset costs of entertaining our guests from abroad and held at 15 PVC have turned out to be very popular occasions. These are times when we are able to spend a few hours together enjoying some high quality home-cooked food in a relaxed environment. Our thanks to all who support these and thereby help to inject a little more into the association's account.
- **QUIZ NIGHT** at Our Lady of Lourdes (November), the proceeds of which helped replenish the bank account after the celebration of the 30th Anniversary with Bernay. Judging by the expressions of appreciation on the night and comments in emails afterwards this was a huge success not just in terms of the funds that were raised but in terms of the enjoyment people had in bringing friends to a good night out on a cold November evening. If anyone has ideas for the subject matter for rounds in future quizzes, please come forward with them. All ideas will be taken most seriously (with the possible exception of POP MUSIC!)
- **WEBSITE MAINTENANCE**. Thanks go most willingly to **Seb Welford** who does a magnificent job in keeping our website up to date. It is most interesting to chat to people from outside Haslemere whose initial contact has been through the website.
- **ACCOUNT AUDITING**. Likewise, to **Peter Howard** we address our thanks for helping Brigitte at the year end to ensure that all the numbers add up correctly.
- **NEWCOMERS**. Several new people have joined the Association during the course of the year and we give them a warm and official welcome:

Nieves MONTES
Sylvia McCALLUM and Christopher TIBBS
Chris and Nick HINCHLIFFE

Have all but joined ...
[Audrey HARRISON](#)
[Lucina MARCELL](#)
[Robert and Margaret OWEN](#)
[Margaret PENFOLD](#)

Michael Bawtree (Chairman)