



Chair's letter May 2022

Dear Members,

Hello everyone, I am very aware that this is long overdue for which I apologise.

Hopefully the worst of the epidemic is now behind us and we can begin to return to some form of normal life. That said I know that some of you are still affected by Covid and I wish you a speedy recovery.

Well, what's been happening: In December we held a Cheese and Wine Evening along with a Quiz, for which I thank Joh Auric. We had a good evening, and it was great to meet in person once again. Thank you to Anne Gains and her helpers for the platters of cheese.

In March we held our annual AGM at Emsworth Sailing Club and once more were provided with a delicious dinner, Ollie the chef as always coming up with a great meal served by his fantastic young staff. The evening started with business which was, I think, short and sweet! The committee had all decided to stand for another year so no problem there. I thanked them all for their support with especial mention to Pam Kilbey for her hard work in managing the bookings and menu choices for the evening.

The weekend of 29th April/2nd May saw us off to St Aubin. After missing our exchange due to Covid it was lovely to catch up with old friends and indeed make some new ones.

A short visit with lots packed into our time. Arrival in Ouistreham was later than planned and we were happy to see the smiling faces of our hosts and to be whisked away to our beds. Though some delay was caused by a temperamental barrier in the car park! Sylvie Rosse to the rescue.

Saturday, we had an early start as we travelled to Vire to look round the museum.



The Museum had opened recently and had a wide collection of interesting displays concerning the town and history.



We then departed for lunch. A great three course meal in a restaurant situated in a slight valley dominated by pillars that used to support a viaduct. However, this is now an adventure park for those of a daring disposition!



Whilst enjoying our "Repas" we were treated to visions of bodies bungee jumping from great heights or sliding past on the zip wire, rolling past at speed

on the luge. Needless to say, no one left the table to take part in these activities.



A young couple enjoying their pre wedding celebration provided Keith with a photo opportunity...



Saturday evening and Sunday were spent “en famille” then Sunday evening the DINNER. This was a maritime themed evening, with the hall decorated with nets, seagulls, model lighthouses, starfish and sea shells.



Welcome drinks and entrees were provided by the ladies (and maybe some of the men) of St Aubin.



A choice was given between a “Blue Lagoon” or a non-alcoholic Green version!



As always there were a couple of speeches. This year the Mayor of St Aubin welcomed us at the beginning of the evening and then I and Alain Tranquart said our bit.



Next an amazing array of “fruits de mer”, which I understand had been bought that morning.



This was followed by fish in a tasty sauce with rice, Cheese and finally, if you still had room, dessert selection. I always say there is a special part of our stomachs for this! But then I’m a dessert lover.

Naturally the evening wouldn’t have been complete without a sing along accompanied by Janet Thirlwall on her Ukulele and Daniel Duigou on his guitar. Elisabeth Butler even managed a little dance.



Monday prior to our rendezvous at the ferry terminal we had lunch and lots of affirmations of friendships to be rekindled in 2023 when the St Aubinas visit Emsworth.

Finally, it was time for goodbyes at the ferry port....



Okay, so what do your committee have planned for the future? The next event is to be A Prosecco Tea Party in the old hospital grounds on 12th August. This will be fund raiser and tickets will be £12.50 a head to include a glass of prosecco and your afternoon tea. There will be a Bottle stall, a Plant stall and a Cake Making competition. So please brush up on your cake recipes and see if we can have our own Great British Bake Off!

More details later but please put the date in your diary. Guests will be welcome.

Hoping that we can welcome our French friends next year and wishing each and everyone of you all the best.

Judi

FUTURE EVENTS

- **Afternoon Tea with Prosecco** 12th Aug.
Emsworth Cottage Hospital Garden
- **Event** (Nov2022, details TBA)
- **Coffee & Mince Pies** (Dec 2022, date TBA)

Members of the Committee 2021-2022

Chair:	Judi Milburn
Treasurer:	Pam Kilbey
Secretary:	Terri Collett
Exchange:	Carol Sheppard
Membership:	John Auric
Events:	Jean Morrin
Events:	Jacky DeLaPorte
Travel:	Keith Richardson
Media:	Colin Eldridge
Catering:	Anne Gains
	Devendra Gadgil