



## Emsworth - Saint Aubin Twinning Association

*Chairman's Letter*

### 'Allo, 'Allo'

## Dear Members

I've been looking back at the Newsletters produced since I took over as your Chairman in March 2012. The first edition was called 'Allo, Allo' after our successful reproduction of the famous comedy show in which we raised over £1000 at the end of March in that year.

My daughter, Victoria Miller, who runs her own Graphic Design business in California, has been our Editor since 'Allo, 'Allo' started and what a brilliant job she has done for the Emsworth Twinning Association over the last 5 years, not only with the Newsletters but designing the lovely 'Programme of Events' for our recent Exchange Visit – thank you Victoria.

### Exchange Visit to Emsworth 28 April – 1 May 2017

We have just completed another successful Exchange Visit with our friends from St Aubin and my last one as Chairman. It was voted as the 'best ever,' but then, we always say that! John Auric organised an enjoyable visit to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. Many of our French visitors had never been to the island, which they loved. We wished we could have had longer in the House, as there is such a lot to see – but perhaps another time?

### Dates for your diary

2017

#### July

Boules Match with Denmead  
Twinning Association

#### September 15

Special General Meeting & Supper



On the Sunday, we invited all Members



and French Visitors to join us in a lunch time barbecue organised by Evelyn and Tony Lister in their garden where we entertained well over 50 people! We borrowed the U3A marquee which we put up on the lawn and we were glad of it because the weather was dreadful! An unforgettable sight was of stoic British and French tucking into their lunch under the shelter of dripping trees and a flapping tent! There

was also seating indoors, where the mood was cheerful with lots of 'Pimms', laughter and chat between all who attended. The afternoon ended with songs around the guitar and then all guests were ushered away, so that we had time to change and turn our thoughts to the evening event in St James' Hall.

The speeches took place before dinner so that Alain (French Chairman) and I could enjoy the rest of the evening, during which I was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a beautiful cut glass vase from our Committee, to mark my retirement as Chairman.

Evelyn had arranged for a delicious two course buffet from 'Fresh Caterers'. The buffet table looked very inviting and after a welcome drink provided by our Association, the food was consumed with enjoyment, many guests returned for second helpings and the desserts we're delicious!

Martin had invited a friend, Chris Mann, to play the accordion for country dancing, whilst Elisabeth Butler did the calling. The French love to dance and were soon encouraging the more inhibited British to join them, twirling around the dance floor.

The evening ended with a demonstration of 'The Madison' – a line dance which the St Aubin Twinners perform at most of their events. We were fascinated to see that both men and



women performed – would that happen in our Twining events I wondered? Elisabeth has offered to teach us – any volunteers?

It was a wonderful weekend and made me feel honoured to have been your Chairman during all the many other Exchanges which have



taken place over the last five years especially the D Day events in St Aubin and the thirtieth anniversary of our two Associations – all recorded in our Newsletters.

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### March AGM

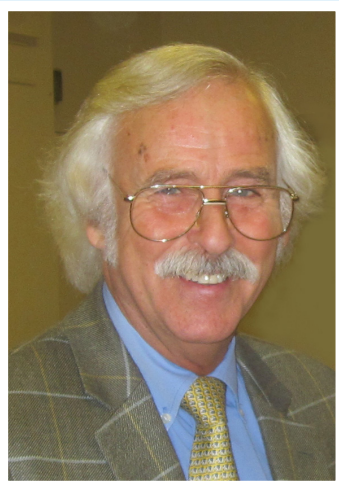
At our AGM and dinner held in Emsworth Sailing Club this year, I announced my resignation as your Chairman. I felt after five years as Emsworth Twinning Association's Chairman, it was time for me to hand over to someone else. I am delighted to tell you, that John Auric, our latest Committee member, agreed to take over as interim Chairman until our next AGM in March 2018. Sadly, we didn't have anyone willing to join the Committee and take on the role of Chairman permanently. I do hope this will not mean the end of the Emsworth Twinning Association after thirty years of friendship and successful exchanges.

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### Committee 2012 - 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have supported me on the Twinning Committee over the last five and a half years. I took over from Keith Richardson who had served as Chairman before me for about ten years. Keith continues to serve and support the Committee. Martin de Laporte has been the hard working Treasurer to the Committee for many years, as has Pam Burns who became Secretary to the Committee when I took over as Chairman. Anne Gains, another long serving member, who stood down last year and Evelyn Lister have both supported the Committee with catering – this is Evelyn's second time round. Kate Van Gend is our liaison person with the French – she took over from the late Diana Cogswell. Judi Milburn is our Membership Secretary – who took over from Alison Maxwell-Cox. Rodney Arnold and Brian Cope have also served on my Committees and Brian continues to support the Association in many ways. *Continued on page 4*

## Norman Bartlett



It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Norman passed away on May 6th this year. Not only was Norman a close personal friend of ours, he was also a hard working member of the Twinning Committee who had to resign last year after being diagnosed with inoperable stomach cancer. Norman was such a vibrant character easily recognised with his flowing white hair and bushy moustache! His performance as 'Monsieur Leclerc' in 'Allo, 'Allo,' was unforgettable as he opened the show in bed with 'Maman' played by his partner Carol, who had to chase him off the stage because he had pinched her bottom!

Norman always came to Committee meetings full of suggestions for fund raising events – from Revues to the Chinese Auction. He worked tirelessly to carry these out and the rest of the Committee were carried along with his enthusiasm.

**We miss him very much.**

Geoff Wiggins is our webmaster – he succeeded Graham Maxwell Cox. John Auric was co-opted onto the Committee (when Norman had to stand down last year, due to ill health) and is now a full Committee member and interim Chairman from June 1 until March 2018.

Thanks also, to the spouses and partners of Committee members who support us at every meeting and to you, the Members who help to set up and clear away before and after events.

It is thanks to all those people, both past and present who are willing to serve on our Twinning Association Committee that enable our Twinning Association to survive. Without them, we would not have a Twinning Association – so please, if you haven't already taken a turn at supporting your Association in this way, think about it now and be ready to give up some of your time in the future to join our Committee.

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## **Future events 2017 and Special General Meeting**

Our next event will be the Boules match against Denmead Twinning Association in July – usually around Bastille Day. Denmead will be organising the event this year, so the Committee will let you know details when we have them.

On Friday September 15 2017, the Committee are proposing to have a Special General Meeting to discuss the outcomes of the Members' Questionnaire and possible changes to our Constitution. The SGM will be followed by a Quiz and cheese and wine, so please come along if you want to have a say in the future of your Association.

I shall remain as a member of the Twinning Committee at least until March 2018. I have been privileged to serve you as Chairman of the Twinning Association and I wish John Auric every success as Interim Chairman. Please support him by taking part in our future fund raising events.

Amicalement,

*Hazel*

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Committee:

**Chairman**

John Auric 01243 379018

**Secretary**

Pam Burns 01243 373673

**Treasurer**

Martin de Laporte 01243 373618

**Membership**

Judi Milburn 023 9247 1645

**Catering**

Evelyn Lister 01243 573452

**Travel**

Keith Richardson 01243 430737

**Bookings**

Hazel Willard 01243 379877

**Liason**

Kate Van Gend 01243 378883

**Webmaster**

Geoff Wiggins  
[www.emsworthstabin.org.uk](http://www.emsworthstabin.org.uk)

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Newsletter Design and Twinning logo by Victoria (Tor) Miller.  
Pictured here in Carmel-By-The-Sea, California where she lives  
with her husband Gray, daughter Grayden (pictured below)  
and dogs (appropriately named) Bordeaux (left) and Beaujolais Nouveau 'Beau' (right).

