



Emsworth - Saint Aubin Twinning Association

Emsworth – Saint Aubin Twinning Association Newsletter Summer 2014

Dates for your diary



July 12

Boules with Denmead Twinning Association
at Samuel's Rest, Shedfield

October 4

We'll meet again' – Emsworth Twinning Review
at Assembly Rooms, Community Centre

November 14

Supper Social at St James' Parish Hall



Chairman's Letter

Dear Members

We have been involved in exchanges with the St Aubin 'Jumelage' for the last twenty eight years and long may we continue to do so.

When I looked around the reception for one hundred and fifty representatives of Twinning Associations from four countries linked to St Aubin and celebrating the seventieth anniversary of D Day, I thought, 'This is what Twinning is all about – fostering friendship and understanding between different cultures and former enemies.' We sat with German Twinners, who were also staying with some of our hosts in St Aubin (one of them kindly translated my speech from French into German) and French Canadian Twinners, whose soldiers were some of the liberators of St Aubin in June 1944. All of us were enjoying the food, wine and entertainment provided by the St Aubin Twinning Association and vowing that the terrible conflict that had ravaged Europe in the 1940s should never happen in Europe again – 'Lest we forget....' as one of the French Canadians said in his speech.

Brittany Ferries was packed with passengers from all nationalities making their way to the Normandy Beaches to remember those who had fought and died in the liberation of France and Europe in June 1944. 'Fire Tugs,' cascading sprays of water, escorted our ferry out of Portsmouth Harbour, overhead members of the Air/Sea Rescue team saluted us. The Red Arrows had 'buzzed' us as we embarked! Inside the ferry, we were entertained by a 1940s style trio called, 'The Candy Girls' and joined in with many war time favourite songs. The Veterans on board, most over the age of ninety, danced gamely to 'We'll meet again' and 'White cliffs of Dover'. An Emsworth Twinner organised the singing of 'Onward Christian Soldiers,' which we were told had been sung by the men, seven miles off the coast of France on their way to fight on the beaches on June 6 1944.

After being greeted by our hosts, we were taken off to view the fireworks which were to be set off all along the Normandy beaches. Some of us saw the fireworks from a beach whilst others viewed them from a distance so that we could see the wonderful site of a dozen or so displays exploding in unison all along the coast. After that, feeling chilly we were taken for 'vin chaud', in a marquee set up in the grounds of the

Church. We didn't get to bed until after 1 a.m. – good practise for the next couple of days!



In bright sunshine the next morning, we stood on the same beach where so many men had died, or were injured and remembered the terrible fighting on that day in June 1944. The children of St. Aubin sang to us during the service, placing stones with painted poppies alongside a wreath from the French Canadians which was floated on the sea, whilst the proud old veterans took the salute. It was a very moving occasion.

Later, I was privileged to represent our Association in a wreath laying ceremony further along the beach, accompanied by members of other Twinning Associations.

Before lunch, some of the Committee enjoyed aperitifs and tasty snacks with the new Mayor – Jean Paul and some of his Councillors in the Mayor's Parlour. Keith Richardson (as your previous Chairman) and I were presented with books, signed by the author and entitled, 'Les Plages d'Histoires,' which we'll bring along to our next events to show you. The photographs displayed in this book, were linked to the fascinating 'Exposition' in the Salle Aubert in St Aubin, which showed portraits of eye witnesses, then and now and their accounts of the D Day landings in St Aubin. We learned about the landings from the civilians in St Aubin who had been bombed by the Germans from inland and the Allies from the sea.

In the evening, we attended a ceremony a short walk away, in Langrune where the 48th commando unit of the Royal Marines was remembered in another

moving service. Then, it was a quick change in order to attend a dinner for about 250 people in the sports hall in St Aubin, where we ate and drank until well after midnight. We were entertained by an enthusiastic French lady, who may well have rivalled 'Madame Edith' in our production of 'Allo, 'Allo!



On Saturday, we attended a service for the French-Canadians when our host Daniel Duigou played a moving tribute on his guitar and all the Twinning Associations were thanked by Alain Tranquart, the Chairman of the St. Aubin Jumelage.

This was followed by a barbeque for all the Twinning Associations back in the 'marquee' in the church grounds.

I was pleased to present our hosts with a tapestry made by one of our talented members, Evelyn Lister in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry and based on a black and white cartoon of Churchill, dressed as a Norman, leading the Allied troops into battle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Evelyn for her work, Carol Sheppard for translating my speech into French and helping me with pronunciation, Diana Cogswell for liaising with Sylvie Rosse in St. Aubin for the hosting and Keith Richardson for organising the ferry bookings. Lastly, thanks to all those members of the Emsworth Twinning Association, who, of course, behaved impeccably and made the weekend such a happy occasion.

What a wonderful weekend, I don't think we'll ever forget it.





'We'll meet again' – our Twinning Review on October 4

The songs of the forties have proved so popular that the Committee have decided to use them as part of our big fund raising event on October 4th at the Assembly Rooms in the Community Centre.

We've booked a pianist, Brian Budd, who some of you will know from Village Voices concerts and are hoping that many of you will volunteer to 'do a turn' and entertain us. Brian is going to play for a sing along and also 40s style dance music. If you can sing, recite a poem or tell a story, dance, do magic tricks, juggle or flame throw, Norman Bartlett would love to hear from you! Please contact him Tel: 01243 698487 or e-mail me for further details. We're intending to put on a show with a catered meal and tombola and raise funds for the next French exchange visit to Emsworth in 2015.

Boules against Denmead on July 12

Meanwhile, we're playing Boules against Denmead on July 12 – they have already beaten us twice, so we can't let it happen again! Please come along and help us get our revenge! The cut off date is July 4th please fill in the Booking Form which has already been sent to you and return it with your cheque to Martin de Laporte as soon as possible.

There's a change to our format for the November event on November 14 – more details later.

As usual, all information about future events will appear on our website: www.emsworthstaubin.org.uk

I look forward to seeing you at all our events.

Amicalement,

Hazel

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