

Haslemere & District Twinning Association



Bernay 1985



Haslemere



Horb 1991

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Thankfully, 2022 witnessed something of a return to normality even if we did have to celebrate the 'New Year' three months late!

- **The AGM** went ahead as planned on the 8th March; as always, business followed by a much appreciated supper arranged by Rosemary Foster. At this meeting we welcomed for the first time both Kate Finch and Rita Woodhead. Twenty eight twinneders were present.
- **The New Year Drinks & Nibbles** party eventually went ahead after being postponed a couple of times until, finally, we got together at 'Bunchfield' on Sunday 3rd April. Spring was very much in the air, the impact of Covid was receding and we were all so pleased to be able to meet up again. The quality of the finger food provided by members was at its usual high standard.
- **31st Anniversary** of our being twinned with **Horb** was celebrated in some style and coincided with our late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. We were particularly pleased to welcome the Oberbürgermeister of Horb and his wife, Peter and Janet Rosenberger, along with their three children.
- **The BBQ Summer Social** (Sat 16th Jul) at 'Bunchfield' was an extremely happy occasion on a gloriously sunny day, when we found ourselves 'competing' for shade! The pétanque match was enthusiastically contested and the excellent food provided by the members and cooked by Sylvia + was devoured with much relish (pun intended). It was a real pleasure to see at least six totally new guests at this event brought by members. We very much want this to be a feature of all future summer social BBQs and encourage existing members to be thinking who they can invite this year.
- **Our visit to Bernay** (Wed 14th to Sun 18th September): Our French friends put together a very full program which was really interesting, and on occasions, challenging (ten-pin bowling) and sometimes very tasty (Gala Dinner). We experimented with a far less expensive method of getting there and back: we hired a minibus for the journey Haslemere to Portsmouth; crossed the Channel as foot passengers and hired a French minibus for the journey Caen to Bernay. The extra work was worth it and we'll be doing it again next time.
- **The Quiz Night** (Fri 25th Nov) was a great success. The event was announced sometime early autumn and within 48 hours all ten tables /teams had been signed up to. An 11th table had to be 'opened' up to accommodate those who wanted to be part of the fun without organising a whole team of eight themselves. Ann and Rosemary worked extremely hard to provide us all with a wonderful supper.

- **Towards the end of 2022** Clint Raine very kindly said he'd be willing to take over the financial side of the Association's business. This offer was received with equal measures of relief and sincere gratitude. Though the handover will officially begin from 7th March 2023 Clint has already begun to learn the ropes and will be responsible for managing a) the accounts, b) subscriptions and c) the Town Twinners Alliance insurance. Clint is therefore ensuring a smooth transition as Brigitte Hewett retires and Dorothea Nattrass hands over her management of the Town Twinners Alliance. Needless to say, we are all exceptionally thankful to Clint for this offer and know that he will bring his skills to bear on this important aspect of the Association's business. The Association can only exist because of the goodwill of the committee and its members.
- **Brigitte Hewett:** The service given to the Association by Brigitte on an entirely voluntary basis for well over a decade should not be underestimated. She has kept the accounts immaculately and, simultaneously, represented the interests and concerns of the Association on the Haslemere Town Council. We are extremely grateful to her and wish her many hours of additional time to pursue her own interests.
- **Dorothea Nattrass:** For around ten years Dorothea has managed the Combined Liability Insurance for the Town Twinning Alliance; Haslemere being one of 31 members. This is no small task and we are extremely grateful to Dorothea for all her work in this area for at least ten years. She will relish the thought of summer months uninterrupted by thoughts of having to send out reminders and having to chase late payers!
- **ACCOUNT AUDITING.**
We continue to be very grateful to **Simon Levene** for auditing our accounts each year, though this year they were audited by Clint Raine as Simon was out of the country.
- **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**
The overwhelming majority of members paid the annual subscription (£9pp) by regular bank transfer just after 1st January 2022, for which, we are very grateful. Paying by regular bank transfer (30-93-94 00433354, Ref SUB 'surname') saves so much time in administering the accounts and finances generally.

Michael Bawtree (Chairman)

February 2023