

## Changes and Plans for 2011 at Edenbridge & District Twinning Association

Edenbridge & District Twinning Association recently held its Annual General Meeting which resulted in a change of Chairman and Treasurer since a number of current committee members retired for various reasons. Thanks go to Geoff Darrington and Bob Orridge as well as Val Bantin and Sylvia Orridge for their past work.

Our new Chairman is Peter Stevens moving on from his role as Vice Chairman.

After the official side of the evening had been completed those present enjoyed chatting together and reviewing a slide show of the past year's activities.

2010 had been an active 37<sup>th</sup> year of 'twinning' beginning with the enjoyable New Year meal at Self Unlimited, also used successfully as a small fund raising event.

This was followed by the success of the team in the Rotary Town Quiz who made it to the semi-finals, after enjoying the various rounds which took place over the winter.

April saw a party of French from Mont St. Aignan arrive for the Saturday walk from Haysden Lakes along the River Medway to Tudeley Church to view the Marc Chagall windows and partake of the midday meal at the Poachers Inn, before returning, made even more pleasant by the excellent weather.

To continue our efforts at fund-raising, a new event was held in May. By kind invitation, a Garden Party was organised at the home of Peter and Chrissie Stevens, where many old and new friends came and viewed the pretty garden created by our hosts as well as tasting the cream teas on offer. The weather held fine, if a little cool and cloudy, for the enjoyable and profitable afternoon.

We continued to enjoy good weather during our events over the year, such as for the main visit of the year which saw 35 participants from Edenbridge & District travelling by coach to MSA for a busy weekend. On the Friday afternoon we met some hosts early and together visited the interesting Glass Museum at Blangy sur Bresle and marvelled at a fascinating glass blowing demonstration. Saturday morning we strolled around the Parc de Cleres before our picnic lunch and the afternoon was spent at the Fireman's Museum. The evening was a tasty meal altogether at a local hall when a magnificent sized Brie cheese made a starring role before being cut for the cheese course.

At the end of September we welcomed the French for a second time this year, for a mini-visit (referring to numbers not activities) though 23 people came along, this time. We all enjoyed visiting nearby Lullingstone. In the morning we toured the Roman Villa which was a great favourite with the children, followed by a picnic in the grounds of the Castle and then toured its World Garden. Some people walked along to the Hop Farm before all joined together at the Visitor Centre to enjoy a Kentish Cream Tea.

October saw some of the French committee members over for the joint meeting to discuss and plan out the events for next year.

After reviewing 2010, it was time to announce this programme and the dates for 2011 which we can now look forward to.

The first of these is the weekend of March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> when our friends in Mont St. Aignan have invited a party over to venture on a walk on the Saturday. Quite early in the spring this time and so we will be hoping for good weather but taking along our winter woollies and wet gear, just in case!

June 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> sees the French visiting for 3 nights, though as they will be leaving early on the Monday, it will be only two days of activities. Part of the time is being planned as a visit Greenwich and its many attractions.

There will be another chance to meet with French friends during September 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> when a smaller group from Edenbridge & District have been invited to Mont St. Aignan with an outing to historic Le Havre on the Saturday.

As can be seen the 38<sup>th</sup> year of twinning between the two towns and their local areas, looks set to be just as busy and enjoyable as this last one and if anyone would like to join in one or other of the activities or know more, why not phone either Peter Stevens 01732 865634 or Jean Cust 01342 850249, email [secretary@edta.org.uk](mailto:secretary@edta.org.uk) or look at the EDTA website: [www.edta.org.uk](http://www.edta.org.uk)