

**Notes from the joint meeting of the North Ferriby and Le Pellerin Twinning Association Committees  
held on Sunday, 8th July 2007 in the Salle Cassin, Le Pellerin**

**Attendance**

North Ferriby: Chris & Margaret Swindin, Jane Knight, John Halmshaw, Ann and Michael Welbourne, Bill Lamb, Desiree Betts, Bill Deakin.

Le Pellerin: Carole Gauduchon, Françoise Eveno, Chantal Auffray, Catherine Lorec, Alain Broussard.

**Activities**

CS gave a résumé of the activities of the NF Association in the past year: wine bluff, jive night, quiz, barbecue, hog roast. He reported that the 2006 visit of the LP party had left us with a small deficit in our accounts, but that this had soon been recovered from the proceeds of our functions. Activities arranged between now and the end of the year were a gourmet dinner and a Christmas party. Membership stood at around forty families, or around ninety individuals. Our income was from membership subscriptions and functions.

CG then gave an account of the activities of the LP Association: English biscuits, cakes, jams, marmalades and books were sold at the Forum des Associations each September and the Christmas market each December. Monthly "chat" evenings were held in either CG's or Nancy Guérin's home (charge 5 euros, normally 5/6 participants). This year they had sold refreshments at the Fête du Vélo in June (40 km. circular, Nantes to LP, 18,000 cyclists). They received an annual grant of between 300 and 500 euros from the municipalité; this year they were awarded 700 euros because of the NF visit.

**School Links**

Catherine Lorec reported a successful exchange of letters, e-mails and text messages between the secondary schools this year, three packs of letters having been sent in each direction. The correspondence was working well, and she felt that thanks for this were due to Karen Percival. They would recommence in January 2008.

It appeared that Nancy Guérin's replacement had found it difficult to keep up the primary school correspondence but had agreed to do so next year, suggesting three exchanges p.a. Mme. Claudie Decourtye wished the correspondence to be by letter as the school had only five computers. MS reported that NF primary school had considered sending a teacher to LP for this weekend but it had not proved possible to arrange cover.

There was discussion about the possibility of school exchanges, which CL said she could not fit in at secondary level. CG said that the headmaster of the Collège was supportive, but CL said that this would be difficult as the four English teachers had little spare time. JK suggested that individual private exchanges could be considered. CG reported that there was a group of pupils between 16 and 18 years of age who were interested in working with us. We would follow this up with South Hunsley.

**Group Links**

CS said he felt we should persevere with setting up contacts between groups this year, e.g. Jardiniers de France/NF Gardeners' Club (CS had spoken with Bernard Dauvé and Mal Cracknell, both of whom were supportive), Sésame Autisme 44/Riding for the Disabled. Possibility of vintage vehicles (Ken Rowley and Dominique Surget). Other possibilities were Union Sportive Pellerinaise - Foot/South Hunsley and Mrs. Paice's Junior School Choir (if there is an equivalent in L.P.).

**The Future**

CG said that the people who would probably succeed Daniel Morisson in the Mayor's office next year were keen to continue with the twinning link. We needed to sign a Pacte d'Amitié (Friendship Charter) before proceeding to a formal twinning; the latter would open up potential for European grants. DB suggested that an official group comprising Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Julie Abraham should travel to LP for the signing.

Fête des Fleurs next year would be on 8<sup>th</sup> June. CG suggested that the French should come to NF next year as scheduled and that the following year there should be a "pause". NF would then go to LP for the Fête des Fleurs in 2010. CS commented that missing a year could have a negative effect on the momentum of the relationship, although this could be compensated for by small specialist groups visiting (in both directions) in the intervening year. However, we also needed to consider whether forthcoming visits should take place during term time, which was difficult for teaching staff and school children, or school holidays.

**Margaret Swindin - 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007**