



HENLEY LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Chairman's Report 2010

I am sure I said the same thing last year, but we have had another busy 2009 with lots of twinning activities during the course of the year. The biennial exchange to Leichlingen took place in May and met up with the Badminton team that first went over to Leichlingen over 30 years ago. Celebratory matches were played at the local badminton club and much fun was had by all. We visited an amazingly beautiful little wine town called Aarweiler about an hour away from Leichlingen for a tour of the town, the roman dig museum and a wine tasting a meal at a local winery. We also enjoyed the most sumptuous evening's entertainment and banquet to round the visit off. It is always nice to see new friendships formed and old ones renewed, and we are looking forward to welcoming the Leichlingers to Henley at the end of May this year.

The choir of the Kantorei Kirche invited the Choral Society to Leichlingen a few weeks after we arrived back. This did present a small dilemma for some of our members, but one that was quickly resolved. The performance went well and we had a lot of good feedback from the choir members and our friends in Leichlingen.

June saw our annual Garden Party take place again in Peter and Jeanne's beautiful garden. The ladies' band with rotating name played again and attendance dropped back to normal levels. My thanks go to Sue Fitzsimons and the Falaise committee for making this such a success.

In September, we welcomed the Leichlingen Musicians over for the workshops. We were very lucky in securing an EU grant for this, which solved our funding worries, which I'm sure many of you remember as being a very large worry for us last year. The cost of this weekend is over £5000 and it is a huge relief that the event's funding has been secured for another few years. A huge vote of thanks go to Mandy Beard, Jenny Fleming, my husband and the many other volunteers for ensuring that the workshops continue to flourish.

In November, we had our joint Autumn Party with the Borama and Falaise Twinning groups in the Christchurch Centre. Attendance was good and we all enjoyed the food prepared by the Christchurch Centre's cook. It proved a very pleasant social event to round off our calendar.

Many of you came to buy waffles from Debbie and Emilie Clark, Sue and Evie Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth and the various other members who dropped in to give a hand at the late night shopping in December. Despite the horrible weather, there were a huge number of people in town and we managed to raise well over £100 towards Association funds. Many thanks to all who helped on the day, especially the stalwart tent putter-uppers and taker-downers. We couldn't do it without all of your help.

The Football Club and Swimming Club continue their exchanges with Leichlingen. The footballers enjoyed a particularly good season last year beating the Leichlingen team for the first time ever.

The coming year promises to be lively again, with the Leichlingers visiting us at the end of May and preparations already getting under way for the music exchange in September. I would also like to say a thank you to the committee for all the work and time they have put in over the last year. It is much appreciated by me, the council, and the rest of the membership.

This year is going to be my last year as Chairman and Derek Tom's last year as treasurer, so we are looking for able candidates to take over these positions during the course of the year. Please come and have a chat if you have a little time to help on the committee.

Carol Crowdy

A. 11.2010