

Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association Newsletter – July 2004 – No. 10



Group picture taken on the arrival of our guests from Octeville sur Mer on 3rd July

Quiz Night

It was a very warm evening when sixty people attended the Quiz night held on 12th June in St. Dunstons Church Hall. There were ten rounds of questions and right up to the last round several teams vied for the lead, but at the end of the evening it was the team called "Short Measures" that were the winners.

Football Competition

A team of 10 to 11 year olds from Bourne End Junior Sports Club played in the International Football Tournament held in Octeville sur Mer over the weekend of 29th May.

On 5th June a team of 10 year olds from Octeville sur Mer came to Bourne End and played in the BEJSC football tournament held in Wooburn Park. They did not win, but they played well and held their own against our local teams. They all received a medal and a certificate to remind them of their visit.

Entente Cordiale

To mark the centenary of the signing of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France on 8th April 1904, members of the Association gathered in the Bourne End Library on the evening of 6th April. The Library staff had specially erected a display for the occasion with a French theme. Following an opening address on the centenary by Rob De Ville, the current Association Chairman, Mike Hill the past chairman unveiled the picture presented to BEBTA by Octeville sur Mer on the occasion of the Charter Signing ceremony on 28th June 2003.

The picture was mounted on the wall opposite the main door and will now be kept on permanent display in the Library. The event finished with a toast to the Entente Cordiale.

"Fete au Village"

From 20th through to 24th May, 27 members visited Octeville sur Mer for the "Fete au Village" and twinning visit. The "Fete au Village" was held on the Thursday and was opened by the Mayor and the Deputy for Normandy. There were stalls all along the main street, a band played throughout the day, a display of vintage cars, a march past of drum majorettes, and an art show. Local artists from the Thames Valley area supplied arts and crafts, which were taken to the show by Association members and placed on display. In the evening, to round off the day, a large firework display with music was held. It was clearly an important event for Octeville sur Mer.

On Saturday there was a boat trip around the harbour at Le Havre and then everybody gathered for the Mayor to unveil a road-sign bearing the legend "BOURNE END 150 Miles". In the evening a Soiree was held for all the hosts and guests. After dinner, which featured raclette, (cheese cooked on special heater on the tables) everyone danced into the early hours. All too soon it was time to leave our friends and return home.

Our thanks to all the local artists that took or allowed us to take paintings and craft items to Octeville sur Mer.

Official Twinning Visit

Over the weekend of 3rd July 52 Octevillais visited Bourne End for the first official twinning visit of Octeville sur Mer members.

On the Saturday afternoon some visitors took a walk along the Thames to Marlow, visited Beconscott model village or visited Lillyfee Woodcarving studio. In the evening there was a Soiree for guests and hosts at the Vulcan Scouts Hall, where there was a hog roast. The evening started with a speech from our Chairman, Rob De Ville, who welcomed our visitors, to which Alain Richard CJO President replied. Dominic Grieve MP. and Shadow Attorney General was then presented with Life Membership in recognition of all the support and help he has given to the Association. After the dinner the tables were cleared and the barn dance began. Immediately everyone joined in the dancing and the floor was full the rest of the evening.

Next morning our visitors and some of the hosts boarded a boat and travelled to Windsor where some visited the castle while others went shopping. Later the Octevillais boarded their coach for a guided tour of the Windsor area.

All too quickly it was Monday morning and time to say farewell to our guests. The Octevillais boarded their coach for a visit to London before heading off to the ferry and home.

Future events

Please put these dates in your diaries and come along to support your Association.

28th August Garden Party

30th October Halloween Dinner

Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association
7 Chilterns Park
Bourne End
Bucks. SL8 5LB
Telephone: 01628 521864
E-mail: rob@rdeville.freemove.co.uk



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