

# Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association Newsletter – July 2007 – No. 19



At the beginning of the visit -Visitors and Hosts

## **Twinning Visit to Octeville sur Mer**

On 26th May 48 Association members arrived in Octeville sur Mer for the start of their bi-annual twinning visit. As the coach unloaded in the Michel Adams Hall car park and the greetings were being made we were told that we must return to the hall at 7pm. for a reception given by the Mayor. So after going to our hosts, dropping off our cases and a quick change of clothes we were back at the appointed time. We were surprised to find a large choir brightly singing English and French songs with an English conductor. After a superb performance it was time for the speeches of welcome, a Champaign aperitif and so the weekend began.

Next day we awoke to heavy rain, but many hosts and visitors braved the elements to visit Octeville's Sunday Market. In the evening we all attended the Soirée and enjoyed a long dinner while being entertained by a Bretagne folk dance group. Then it was time for the diners to join the dancers and after a few dances some very English dances (the conga and oki coki) were shown to our hosts.

Early next morning 91 hosts and visitors boarded two coaches for a visit to the Normandy landing beaches.

The weather worsened with heavy rain and high winds and by the time we arrived at the first stop, Le Point du Hoc, the site of German heavy gun emplacements, conditions were such that most people did not attempt the walk to the headland. Next there was a visit to the gun emplacements at Longue sur Mer and from there onto the pretty village of Crépon for lunch. Following lunch we were taken to the fascinating war museum in Arrormarche, which tells the story of the Mulberry harbour which was initiated by Winston Churchill and was vital to the success of the allied landings. The final stop of the visit was at Pegasus Bridge where the first action of D Day took place where British commanders arrived by gliders and captured the vital bridge over the river Orme and held it against counter attacks until relieved. Unfortunately the severe weather made sight-seeing difficult but the small museum at the site gave good shelter.

All too soon it was Tuesday and time to say farewell to our dear friends and make our way home. In spite of the weather, everyone had had a wonderful time and returned home with happy memories. Vive la Jumelage!

## **Petanque Evening**

On 15th June 26 members joined the Marlow Town Twinning Association's Petanque club on their piste at the Kings Head, Little Marlow for a friendly Melee competition. Expert advice and tuition was on hand and mixed teams battled for the best score of the evening. Judging by members' reluctance to leave at the end of the evening one can only conclude everyone had a great time.

Another Petanque Evening is planned for September and an invitation will be issued to members soon.

## **Quiz Night**

At 7:30 pm. on 30<sup>th</sup> June St. Dunstons Church hall was a hubbub of voices as 89 people took their places in preparation for the start of the Association's annual Quiz Night. Soon the gavel came down as the Question Master, Mike Hill, started the quiz and 6 rounds of questions plus a picture quiz were presented to the 12 teams. Half way through to fortify everyone an ample ploughman's lunch and dessert was served. The competition was intense, but at the end of the night it was the team "Dolly Mixture" which had top marks and scooped the prizes.

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