

# Hartley Wintney Twinning Association



TWINNED WITH SAINT-SAVIN, FRANCE AND MALLE, BELGIUM

A meeting was held on November 18th in the Lady Kaye Meeting Room to relaunch the Hartley Wintney Twinning Association. Although advertised as an AGM we decided we needed more time to prepare for this so it was the start of the relaunch process which will culminate in an AGM with election of officers and transfer of funds held by the Parish Council. There were 15 attendees and apologies from 7 people.

## 1. The Steering Committee

This consists of David Skellern, Sue Skellern, Rosie Hughes, Sheila Smith and Gerda Bennett. Anyone can volunteer to join should they want. The Committee will guide us all through the process of defining the aims of the Twinning Association and how they may be achieved.

## 2. Aims

- to actively foster links with other local organisations and enable contact with our twinning partners in Saint-Savin and Malle.
- to work closely with all the Parish Councils of Hartley Wintney, Rotherwick, Winchfield, Mattingley and Heckfield to help achieve the above.
- to raise the profile and awareness of twinning
- to update the organisation and constitution (if needed)

One big change from how the Twinning Association used to be run is that the Association will become an organisation to enable contacts with our twinning partners instead of organising trips and visits and fundraising ourselves. For many years the formal visits that took place every year with coaches hired, activities organised and formal dinners and speeches had **largely** disappeared. These were expensive events to

organise and as time went by many preferred to be more informal. It also made it more difficult to involve the whole community which is something we want to do and to respond to any ideas from the community. There are several existing links which we intend to build on such as the Hart Sprint Triathlon; the beer stall at the village festival; links with the schools; sporting organisations and fire station as well as hosting the next walking weekend - we don't know when as yet.

### **3. Suggestions from the floor**

Sue Skellern said we should find areas where we could help and support our communities along with our twinning partners in ways that could include more people. In the past, we all collected wine corks which were given to Malle where they were used to help support a local community group with learning difficulties. So any ideas are welcome! Several people wanted to involve local schools - perhaps by organising a safe platform for pen-pals. Although we don't aim to have fund raising as a core aim there was a very strong feeling that social events should be organised to help both the interested group bond and to widen our inclusion of the community.