



# COOKHAM TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017/18

## Another great Twinning exchange in October

A slightly smaller group than usual this year went on the annual Twinning exchange to St Benoit in October. As always, they were given a wonderful welcome.

The group travelled mainly by car with one by air. The first event was a reception in the Town Hall, hosted by the Mayor of St Benoit, Dominique Clement, who welcomed the visitors. Joel Blaud, the head of the St Benoit Cookham Twinning Group also welcomed everyone.

Keith Le Page handed over a print of 'A Boating Party at Cookham', as well as a calendar featuring photos from previous Twinning. The calendar's twin has been given to Cookham Parish Council and will hang in the Parish Office.



On Sunday, we visited a Benedictine Abbey after hearing the monks singing Gregorian chants. The afternoon was spent with families in a variety of different activities, re-meeting again for an evening soiree. This was attended by over 50 guests, with excellent hospitality, Penny and Peter Bysse putting on a dancing display, and Richard Kellaway joining the band.



We had requested a tour of Poitiers on Monday, and again we were well looked after. We visited L'Hotel Fume, now the administrative centre of Poitiers University, before moving on to Notre Dame la Grande, le Palais de Justice and Sainte Radegonde Church.

An excellent lunch was provided at 'La Taverne de Maitre Kanter', and, sustained for the afternoon, we had a themed tour centred on Eleanor of Aquitaine. The Town Hall has a magnificent stained glass window., and St Peter's Cathedral has several treasures. We learned about Eleanor's two husbands, Louis VII of France and Henry II of England, and her eight children, including Kings Henry III, Richard I and John of England.



Altogether a most enjoyable and informative Twinning visit. We left for home with great memories of the hospitality received, more informed about some of our shared history, and with our French language skills developed a little further.

**Social Gathering.** Join Cookham Twinning's social evening and AGM at the Jolly Farmer, Cookham Dean on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**, starting at 7.30pm. Once we've dealt swiftly with the business of the Twinning AGM, we'll order food from the excellent kitchen of the Jolly Farmer, and enjoy some fascinating France trivia No need to book although notification to [keith\\_le\\_page@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_le_page@hotmail.com) would be helpful.

**2018 visit of St Benoit.** St Benoit visitors will be with us from Saturday 20th October to Tuesday 23rd October, (half-term week). We'll be looking for volunteer hosts, so get in touch if you'd like to offer hospitality.

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**French Classes.** Pat Cairney holds intermediate French classes for those wishing to improve their language skills. Classes are usually held monthly on a Tuesday evening, cost £3 per session, including light refreshments. Contact Stephanie Diggon to go on the mailing list for future dates. ([stephaniediggon@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniediggon@hotmail.com))

**Membership.** If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership now. Only £7 single/£10 family for one year or £20 single/£30 family for five years. Send your cheque to Stephanie Diggon, 19 Gorse Road, Cookham SL6 9LL, who will also be happy to answer any membership queries.

**Twinning contacts:** [twinning@cookham.com](mailto:twinning@cookham.com) or phone 01628 532279