

## **HEATHFIELD & WALDRON TWINNING ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

2022 was the first “lockdown free” year since the pandemic began which enabled us to resume a programme of activities. In April we held our first AGM since 2019 and later that month a Soiree Francaise was hosted by Mike and Rita Dimsdale and then in July Richard and Wendy Ridley hosted a lunchtime BBQ. Both occasions were thoroughly enjoyable. The Parish Council organised a celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June at which the association had a stall and as usual we were represented at Le Marche in August. These events are intended to raise the profile of the association and the latter was particularly successful resulting in several new members. A planned visit to The Royal Oak pub for skittles in September was cancelled as this was during the period of official mourning for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our annual quiz took place in November and was extremely well supported with over 90 attendees. Sadly, the scheduled visit from Forges was yet again postponed due to further instances of Covid in France.

Having seen a reduction in numbers during the last 2 years it is encouraging to report that the membership has since increased and now totals over 50. With few activities in the same period and therefore little pressure on our finances the committee decided to reduce the membership renewal fees for 2022 by half. Nevertheless, and particularly as a result of the highly successful quiz we have strengthened our financial position, ending the year with a balance of almost £4500. This will be important for the coming year when we hope to welcome a group from Forges as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

There is one committee change to announce – Rita Dimsdale has stepped down and her place has been taken by Isabelle Barkway.

Finally, as ever I would like to thank my fellow committee members as well as the membership for their continued support. The committee is always interested in the views of members so if anyone has any matters they wish to raise please do get in touch.

Sheila Drennan

March 2023