

HEATHFIELD & WALDRON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

We began 2025 facing an uncertain future having learnt the previous year that the Chairman of the Association in Forges had stepped down but that there was no successor in place. Happily, Josiane Lannel - their current Secretary - agreed in March to assume the role and so our relationship was able to continue.

Our programme of events followed its now well-established pattern with two French Film evenings organised by Isabelle and Stephen Barkway— Jean de Florette in February and its sequel Manon des Sources in May. The Bastille Day BBQ hosted by Richard and Wendy Ridley was in July and our annual skittles competition and lunch was in October at The Royal Oak in Barcombe. We ended the year with our annual quiz in November. All events were thoroughly enjoyed and well attended by members although disappointingly no tables at the quiz were taken by the public unlike previous years. In view of the uncertainty surrounding our future we decided against having our usual stall at the Parish General Assembly but we did have one at Le Marche and attracted a good level of general interest.

The main event of the year was of course the exchange visit when we welcomed a group of 7 from Forges for the weekend of 12 – 14 September. As in previous years they arrived on Friday and spent the evening with hosts enabling

them to rest following their journey. On the Saturday we visited Rathfinny Wine Estate for a self-guided tour followed by lunch at The Star in Alfriston. The afternoon was free for people to explore the village of Alfriston and we met up on Saturday evening for an informal supper. On Sunday we organised a visit to Michelham Priory with a tour of the priory and lunch. Our guests departed on Sunday evening after a successful and enjoyable weekend.

For the first time in several years we have seen a noticeable drop in membership numbers which now stands at 37. Nevertheless financially we are in reasonable shape with a year end balance of £2209 75. Our largest expenditure was the exchange visit, the overall cost of which was some £2200. This was offset by a generous grant of £750 from the Parish Council plus contributions from those members attending the various events meant that the actual cost to the Association was £932.38.

Sadly I have to report that during the year Grahame Fullalove died after a long battle with illness. Grahame had been a stalwart supporter and will be very much missed.

As ever I am grateful to the committee and the general membership for their support and encouragement which makes the role of Chairman so much easier.

Sheila Drennan

April 2026