

## Report of Ditton Twinning Association

The Ditton Twinning Association ran two fund raising events in late 2010, a Boot Fair in the October and a Christmas Fair the following month. These events were repeated again in 2011, in the same months, with all being well supported. Our thanks must be extended to the Association's Committee Member Mr Tony Mulcuck for all his work in attracting and co-ordinating the stallholders who attended on each occasion. The Association's other Committee Members must also be thanked for making a very significant contribution to the overall success of the events.

On 14th May, the Ditton Petanque Team, with supporters, travelled to Rang-du-Fliers for the annual match, which again was a very well hosted event. The outcome came as no surprise, with Les Rangeois achieving a comfortable victory. The hospitality was warm and generous, and everyone from Ditton had a most enjoyable day, despite a very early start and a late return.

On the 26th June, Ditton held its annual Community Day, which is organised by St Peter's Church. On this very special occasion in the village, we were very pleased to be able to host the town band from Rang-du-Fliers, together with their group of Majorettes and supporters including their Mayor, M Jose Colette. This happening was brought about as the result of the Band's leader asking some two years previously if it would be possible for his musicians to parade and play through the streets of Ditton. For a variety of reasons, the request could not be accommodated in 2010, but last year's Community Day proved to be the ideal opportunity to bring the concept to fruition. For our visitors and guests from Ditton, a lunch was provided in the Oaken Hall of the Community Centre, catering in all for some 120 persons. The Band and the Majorettes were given ample opportunity to perform, both before and after lunch, before the rest of Community Day's programme of events was completed. The day was especially noteworthy for being able to host the newly appointed Bishop of Rochester. He delivered a very good speech, and then, to the delight of our French friends, repeated it faultlessly in their own language.

A contingent from the Twinning Association travelled to Rang-du-Fliers on 13th July to be present at the celebrations both on the eve of and on Bastille Day itself. This occasion always provides for pleasant memories of the village supper (with musical entertainment), the village torchlight walkabout and the firework display on the 13th, and the more solemn ceremony on the 14th. The group returned home on the evening of the 14th.

The French Petanque team, Les Rangeois, will be coming to Ditton in May for the annual fixture, and hopes are high for another thoroughly enjoyable day, but a victory for the host side may not yet be realised! Who knows?

In conclusion and on behalf of the entire committee of the Ditton Twinning Association, I wish to express our gratitude to the staff of Ditton Parish Office and the members of Ditton Parish Council for their continued support at all times.

Mike Atkinson  
Chair, Ditton Twinning Association