

TONBRIDGE FRENCH CIRCLE

REPORT TO THE TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL **TWINNING COMMITTEE**

1. The membership of the Tonbridge French Circle now stands at 60 francophiles of rather mature years, some of whom were involved in the original twinning with Le Puy-en-Valey and some of whom still enjoy French conversation classes.
2. For several decades we maintained a close friendship with a group of anglophiles in La Rochelle, with alternate bi-annual visits between La Rochelle and Tonbridge. But this now looks as if it has run its course for various reasons, including the the age profile of the respective groups. A few years ago, I tried to forge a similar exchange link via some close friends in the beautiful city of Angers, but this did not get off the ground.
3. We also have a link with the Cestas Exchange, which was established over 20 years ago and was developed by francophiles learning French at the Cranbrook, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Adult Education Centres. Exchange visits take place during a long weekend usually in May or June and alternate between Cestas (in the Pessac-Leognan appellation area) and here.
4. Our regular activities now include:
 - an annual day or two day trip to France;
 - social meetings at members' homes, such as a "Déjeuner sur l'Herbe";
 - occasional boules matches with local organisations;
 - wine tastings; and
 - French film evenings.

Brian W Buck
Chairman
Tonbridge French Circle