

# Panfield Twinning Association

Fundraising over the last year

Beetle Drive - easy to arrange, very popular, ticket price includes a ploughman's supper.

Winter Warmer dinner - food provided by members, ticket price usually around £12-15, depending on the meal, eg if it's just sausages cooked in different ways, it's cheaper. We offer soup, main course and dessert.

Burns Night supper - food provided by members, each taking a different course to provide a traditional five course meal. Tend to run this every other year, as it's quite a lot of organising.

Vinyl Lionel. For the first time this year, our chair, who is a good musician and has a wealth of vinyl records, offered his services as a DJ for a summer evening 'disco'. Unfortunately it was not as well attended as we would have liked, but we still managed to raise a couple of hundred pounds overall.

## Successes

As well as our successful fundraisers, we have just hosted our twins for the traditional long weekend. We had a brilliant time! Our friends arrived on Friday afternoon, going back to their host families for the evening. On Saturday we hired a coach to take us first to Dobbies at Woodbridge for coffee, then on to Flora Tea rooms for a fish and chip lunch before visiting Sutton Hoo for a guided tour with a French-speaking guide as well as an English one. For the evening we had booked the village hall at Shalford, having set up the tables early on Saturday morning, then all the British contingent brought food along with them. We were lucky to have the services of Vinyl Lionel again to entertain us, and we didn't even have time

to move the tables before our French friends were up and dancing! On the Sunday we entertained our visitors in our families, with people visiting all sorts of venues, from lunch on a boat on the Thames to visiting Hyland's House to visiting Cambridge. We bid a sad farewell to our families on the Monday morning.

Failures...

We are losing four of our 19 members this year, as they have decided that age now precludes them from wanting to host families any more. I have advertised in the local village magazine, I have advertised on the village website, I have advertised on the online 'next door' website, we have given out leaflets at the local fete, but not a single taker has appeared. We ask for a yearly sub of £25 per person, or £50 for a family with up to three young children. We have considered whether we can continue to function as a formal Twinning Association and will be looking again at the viability of continuing in our meeting next week. There is a lot of goodwill to continue and most people would want to continue to visit with their French counterparts even if we didn't arrange things formally, so we have a lot to think about. The median age of our group is probably 60...