

SHIPDHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT TO SHIPDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2023

We hosted a visit from our French friends in May 2022, which was the first exchange visit since 2019, with a gap of some 3 years following the Covid pandemic. It was a successful and joyous reunion with 23 visitors and 33 Twinning Association members, a total of 56. Even with post-Covid reduced numbers we are still one of the most successful twinning associations in Norfolk, most of whom are towns not villages, which is a feather in the cap for all of Shipdham. We organised a wine tasting event last summer using the Community Centre area next to the bowling green and hired the Shipdham Hub marquees to hold it. We used Bullock Park pavilion to welcome our French friends which is just big enough to get us all in standing up but has the advantage of a car park that can accommodate the visitors' coach and the cars that take them off for an entertaining weekend. We held a Beetle Drive in March in the WI Hall with hot food that we brought in having cooked it in our homes. We advertise all our events for everyone to come whether they are members of Shipdham Twinning or not as we see STA as part of the village, indeed more than half of the people who came to our recent Beetle Drive and enjoyed bangers and mash were not twidders. We like to think we are the recipients of and generators of goodwill for Shipdham by holding events in Shipdham venues where we can. We attract lots of members from outside Shipdham as well as from Shipdham itself.

We are delighted that plans for a new village hall are in hand particularly in the light of the Village Forum meeting in 2019 3½ years ago where parishioners highlighted the need for these facilities.

Steve Kite, Chairman, Shipdham Twinning Association.