

SHIPDHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION:

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 2021

Owing to Covid, we have not held any activities and the visit from our French friends has been postponed for a second time and will now take place Thursday 26th – Sunday 29th May 2022.

New people move into Shipdham all the time, so April is a good time to tell everyone what we do. Like other Shipdham organisations, we usually report on our activities to the Parish Council in April but, like everyone else, we have stopped for Covid. So what is it we (normally) do, how, why, where and who?

- We are twinned with Noyant-la-Gravoyère, near Angers on the River Loire in France. Shipdham and Noyant LG are about the same size.
- We don't have subscriptions, preferring to raise funds by social events.
- Our social events (wine tastings, quizzes, garden parties, race evenings, concerts, beetle drives and, of course Twinning itself) are not all fund-raisers, but all are about having a good time together. Anyone is welcome, whether interested in actual Twinning or not.
- We meet with our French friends one year in France, the next in Shipdham.
- Our members come from Shipdham and all over, some even from Bradenham (!)...actually, the furthest is from Sheringham.
- We have been doing this successfully for 36 years now by changing how we approach Twinning to reflect attitudes of the time. For instance, rather than travelling overnight, we stay in an inexpensive hotel on the way. When our French friends come, rather than catering ourselves in the School Hall, we go to a comfortable venue for our evening entertainment.
- We stay in our friends' houses and they stay in ours. This allows us to get to know our friends much better than staying in a hotel...and it's cheaper too!
- The Twinning itself works by matching people (for example, families with families, couples with couples) as far as possible. We go (or they stay) for two or three days and the host Association arranges outings, meals and entertainment in mixed French/English groups with some time in the host's home...like sleeping! This way, language is not really a problem as everyone is struggling a bit...all part of the fun.
- We welcome families, singles, couples of all age ranges. The only requirement is being open-minded and up for a bit of fun.

We always welcome new members so come and give us a try when we start up again, or contact me for more information on 01362 820847.

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Steve Kite, Twinning Chairman.