



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER ONE

DUDLEY ROSE

It was a moving occasion when hundreds of us gathered at the Eastbourne Crematorium to remember and celebrate the life and achievements of Dudley who died 17 May 2008. He was Chairman of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association which formed just one of the many facets in his busy life. As a result of Dudley's sad passing, we have had to reform and rethink our aims for the future.

Raising the profile of the Twinning Association in the Hailsham and the surrounding areas have been and still is a priority. Talking to local people from our stall at the *Charter Market* last year, we realized many people had little knowledge of the Association and its activities and seemed to feel it was for the privileged few! Our aim is

to bring into membership all those people who share with us an interest in our friends in Gournay-en-Bray. Our local school is beginning to interact with the school in Gournay, our tennis club and associations do the same. As well as an organized visit we are encouraging members to make their own visits with local families who are very willing to host and look after them. We are constantly amazed at the friendship, hospitality and interest shown to us on the visits. We hope all of you will find time to visit Gournay this year.

Paul Simmons – Chairman

THE NEWS

There have been lots of activities carried out over the number of months beginning with our visit last year to the St. Clare weekend in Gournay-en-Bray (photos are available), we provided an open evening at the Town Council offices where a large gathering enjoyed some nibbles and a chat and we were able to talk to people about our aims and objectives; interest was shown in all the photos and some joined the association. This was also where we formally launched our website www.Hailsham-Gournay.org where there is a vast amount of information to look at and links to Gournay's site and other goodies. We had a visit from the *Gournay Historical Society* and again lots of photos were taken and presents given. We had a stall the the *Hailsham Charter Market*

which was a great success and much interest generated. The latest event was a social evening with lots to drink and eat and a trivia quiz which was, by the way, extremely difficult but was huge fun. We are sure there will be more social events as it was a great success. One idea floated at our last meeting was a barbecue in the summer where all the members can enjoy the wonders of an English summer!!

WHAT'S COMING UP

At the moment we are planning our trip to Gournay-en-Bray in July for the St. Clare weekend and this year we will be a large contingent as the Longman Morris men, young people from the Youth Café and Association members are going so we are sure it will be a very exciting time. Anyone wishing to join us, please get in touch. We will be holding court at our stall at the *Hailsham Lions Country Fayre* (in aid of the Sussex Air Ambulance) where again we hope to attract lots of new members.

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

As this is our first newsletter, suggestions, criticisms, additions and copy are warmly welcomed. Contact our website or telephone any of the committee. All the numbers are available on our website.