

Annual Report of Shelford Twinning Association (2021/22)

The circumstances of the last two years have been exceptional ... but there now appears to be light at the end of the tunnel with the lifting of restrictions although we must still be mindful of that Covid will be with us for some time and that we need to be prudent and careful in the activities we undertake. The last two years has given us an opportunity to assess realistically what is important in life. One of the biggest plus points has been the 'community spirit' ... encouraging and supporting each other ... hence our desire to continue to develop our relationship with the people of Verneuil-en-Halatte.

We have endeavoured to keep in touch with the members of Shelford Twinning Association and in December 2021 we held a very successful and well attended quiz evening - our first event since Covid began. It is our intention to hold a number of events in the coming months including a wine tasting evening, film evening and a quiz evening.

We continue to think about our French counterparts in Verneuil and continue to pray that they are all in good health. Like us in the UK, they have experienced a very mixed two years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but are now beginning to look to the future and work with us to rebuild confidence in our twinning links.

This week, Cedric Gance, a Headteacher from Creil and who lives in Verneuil-en-Halatte, is spending the week at Great & Little Shelford Primary School and he will be meeting up with the members of the committee of Shelford Twinning Association.

As regards the future of exchange visits to/from Verneuil-en-Halatte, there continues to be an exchange of emails with our counterparts and we're agreed that confidence will be low and that first and foremost, trust must return to the families to accept guests. Whilst we're sure that the vaccines will help rebuild confidence for people to travel again, we will need to be very proactive and creative to rebuild confidence in Twinning - especially with the children from Shelford Primary School and their families.

On behalf of the Shelford Twinning Association Committee, I would like to express our thanks to all our members, friends and the local community who have kept in touch and supported us during the past two years. We now look forward to welcoming people back to our social events in the near future.

Colin Jefferson
(Chairman, Shelford Twinning Association)