

FARINGDON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DU JUMELAGE



FARINGDON - LE MÊLE SUR SARTHE



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

With the impending 30th Anniversary of Faringdon's Twinning with Le Mele in 2020, the calendar year of 2019 was relatively quiet. We just had one family visit, which was Faringdon visiting le Mele at the end of October. A full coach of local people including many new members made the most of a rather damp weekend with a sports-themed Friday – badminton and tennis were competitive but very friendly.



Others

enjoyed a long walk along the drove byways in the beautiful countryside. As always, the Saturday evening party, aided by the young people of le Mele, gave a fitting finale with many toasts of friendship, with vows to remain closely linked despite Brexit looming!

July 2019 saw us hosting 10 French children and their 2 leaders with local families for a week, with a full programme of excursions and activities. Four local children and one leader travelled to France with them for the return visit. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and planned to go again (. . . sadly of course, that has not been possible).



During the year we have had various social activities, including two French Film Nights and a Winter Dinner at Sadlers. Our Quiz Night was cancelled as it was scheduled just as the pandemic hit.

Part of the reason 2019 was quiet was the anticipation of celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Twinning in 2020 in both towns (May and August),

and funds and energy were being saved. It goes without saying, all plans for 2020 have had to be postponed until 2021.

We are very grateful that Faringdon Town Council have been generous in their support of Twinning, with grants to support the Youth Exchange, and to help with hospitality for the 30th Anniversary. The funds will be rolled over for these events next year (hopefully).

David Williamson

Chair, Faringdon Twinning Association