

Town-twinning is a wonderful way of making friends both here and abroad through linking an English town with one or more others in different countries.

Your questions answered:

When did our Twinning start?

- in 1990, when the official charters were signed at Knebworth House and in the Casino at Châtel.

You can see them in our Knebworth library display case, along with lots more information.

How does it work?

- A **KTA group** from Knebworth visits Châtel every two years. We usually stay with a French family in their home. We pay for our travel and a gift for our hosts. Then we return the hospitality when they visit Knebworth on alternate years. Their next visit here is **Thursday April 30th – Monday May 4th 2009**. These visits are open to all KTA members (numbers permitting.)
- If you are already in a **specific group** (see below) the local committee can put you in touch with your French counterparts and help you to arrange your own **group exchange visits**. Some large groups have chosen to stay in hotels or in caravans or tents on one of the many well-equipped French sites.
- **Grants** are sometimes available from the European Union or the North Herts District Council to fund groups of young people. The Committee can advise you on this.
- **House exchanges:** families have been put in contact to arrange their own holiday swap.

What groups take part in Twinning activities?

- **Tennis:** there have been several exchange visits and tournaments between the two clubs.
- **Football:** Châtelailon have invited young footballers from their twin towns in Poland, Switzerland and here in Knebworth to play in a tournament over there in May 2009.
- **Golf:** Knebworth Golf Club currently hold the trophy!
- **Badminton:** the French club is now in contact with our local club.
- **Cycling:** we are presently setting up a link between groups.
- **Schools:** Pupils at **Knebworth School** are in touch with French pupils at the Ecole Élémentaire Paul-Michaud and **Datchworth School** with the Boucholeurs School in Châtel.
- **Penfriends.** Local youngsters have been corresponding with French penfriends in Châtel.
- **Choir:** Stevenage Male Voice Choir gave their 50th anniversary concert in Châtel in May 2008.
- **Dance and gymnastics:** Since Châtelailon also has a link with Skierniewice in Poland, they occasionally organise festivals in France involving all three towns.

What do English groups do over there?

During a visit there are usually **group excursions** to places of interest like the many superb locations on the coast and inland, La Rochelle, which is only ten minutes away, Venise Verte, Ile de Ré, Ile d'Aix, Fort Boyard, Château de Tiffauges, Rochefort, the Futuroscope theme park, Bordeaux and Cognac.

Celebrations: receptions, carnival processions, shows on the beach, outdoor meals, barbecues, swimming, tasting the local Pineau, shopping, dancing to the sound of the accordion and, depending on the group's interests, **shared shows, sports fixtures and so on.**

What activities have we shared in Knebworth besides sporting ones?

A fabulous French **Fashion and Hair Show** here gave local youngsters an unforgettable opportunity to walk the cat-walk! **Classical plays** have been performed by a group of French actors on three occasions, twice in Knebworth House. An Anglo-French **Art Exhibition** at the Art Van Go Gallery, along with a children's Art Competition. A Victorian weekend, including an **Olde Tyme Music Hall** by the Lytton Players. A **Saint George's Day party** and visit to the **House of Lords**. Next year's theme is **the 60's!**

Are there local social events here?

Yes, besides entertaining French guests when they are here and joining them on visits, we organise regular **fund-raising activities**, such as quiz nights, guest speakers, dinner dances, wine tastings and our AGM and Sunday Lunch. We are always open to new ideas!

How can I join?

Application forms are available from. Joy Hall, 12 Stonecroft, Knebworth. (tel. 01438 812609)

Membership fee, to cover printing and postage on newsletters and help to fund visits from France, is only £5 per family per year, payable in January. Members can also buy tickets for our events at a special discounted price, usually saving £1 - £2 each – a real bargain. **And if you join now in July, it's only £3!**

You can visit us on www.knebworth.org and follow the "French Connection" for our latest newsletter.