



# *BRIDPORT – St. VAAST LA HOUGUE TWINNING ASSOCIATION*



## **Newsletter July 2020**

Dear Members

I see the last newsletter was mostly about the menu for Mardi Gras, which seems a very long time ago when things were ‘normal’. Recently it was Bastille Day which went unfeted here but hopefully some of you were able to send good wishes to your French counterparts.

Whilst in reflective mood, we have, in recent months, lost two stalwarts of the Twinning Association and remember them fondly. We shall raise a glass to them next time we can all get together:

**Ray Everley**, former Head of Modern Languages at The Sir John Colfox School. Ray was a quiet and unassuming man but was an enthusiastic member of the Twinning Association and became President of it, helped by his fluent French, which no doubt enabled him to found the conversation group which is still going today. He loved to have the Newsletter posted through his door and enjoyed keeping up with our news. The following is a link to a piece about him in the Bridport News, written by Ray’s daughter Christine and our Chairman, Mike Farmer - <https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/18263823.tributes-paid-inspirational-language-teacher-ray-everley/>

**Pam Bates**, whom our newer members may not have met, but who, like Ray, was involved in Twinning for many years, with her husband Peter. Pam was a formidably intelligent woman with a quick wit and a talent as a raconteur. She joined the WRENS at 18 years of age and was stationed at Bletchley Park, from November 1944 to September 1945 in the Naval section, specialising in Japanese Cryptography. She is commemorated on the Codebreakers Wall. At the close of WWII, Pam went to London and drove senior military officers at the Royal Naval Signals School and later travelled the world with her husband Peter.

Looking towards the future, the **Benediction de La Mer** will hopefully take place next year. The information I have is that the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 is the most likely date. A coach has been prebooked but in the current climate, change is always possible. One difficulty is that it may be too much to manage a visit from the French next year in addition to the Benediction, but discussions will take place and any information we have will be passed on to you. We also hope to hold an AGM before too long.

In the meantime, I hope you stay well and safe.

All the best

Rachel

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