

## Entente Cordiale – St Aubin-Emsworth Twinning

Keith Richardson

The St Aubin-Emsworth Twinning Association will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2006. The principal aims of the Association are to promote friendship and links between individuals, families, schools, groups and clubs. In this way, both sides of the twinning can enjoy and explore the cultural and everyday experiences of life in our two countries. If you would like a more in-depth experience of La Belle France, then the association could be your route to a new Entente.

St Aubin-sur-Mer, our twin town, is an attractive small seaside town on the Cote de Nacre (Mother of Pearl coast) in the Calvados 'departement' (district) of Normandy. Like Emsworth it has developed from a fishing village, also enjoys a reputation for seafood, and is located near a ferry terminal, in this case Caen-Ouistreham, but unlike Emsworth, is actually on one of the D-Day landing beaches. The area around St Aubin is steeped in history going back to the time of the Norman Conquest and beyond to early Roman times. The town of Bayeux, housing the tapestry recording the 1066 invasion of England, is nearby and the area abounds with reminders of more recent events. The town is a popular resort, which in summer welcomes many visitors, attracted by the sandy beach, restaurants, hotels, campsites and other facilities.

The history of the Association goes back to 1985 when the mayor of St Aubin visited Emsworth for an exploratory meeting with the Borough Council. He left full of enthusiasm and, ever since the resulting reciprocal visit from Emsworth, the twinning has flourished. This long-standing connection between the two towns has brought an increasing mutual understanding between the communities, a great deal of pleasure and many lasting personal friendships. This was no more clearly in evidence than on the 10th anniversary of the twinning in 1996 when a large party from Emsworth was welcomed to the celebrations in St Aubin and planted an English Oak tree in the grounds of the Mairie (Town Hall) as a symbol of the past and continuing friendship. More recently the Association has joined with St Aubin in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town and the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The Association maintains an active social programme, including family events and links with other twinning organisations nearby to Emsworth, designed to help fund the hosting and visiting expenses. Exchange visits are made bi-annually in each direction and visitors are accommodated by the host families. This provides ample opportunity to meet and live with your hosts as part of the family.

Members are drawn mainly from Emsworth with some coming from the surrounding villages. A regular newsletter gives details of events and an Annual Dinner is held, usually in February each year.

For more information, visit the Association website at [www.emsworthtwinning.org.uk](http://www.emsworthtwinning.org.uk) or phone our Membership Secretary on 01243 379877.

## New Cycle Route

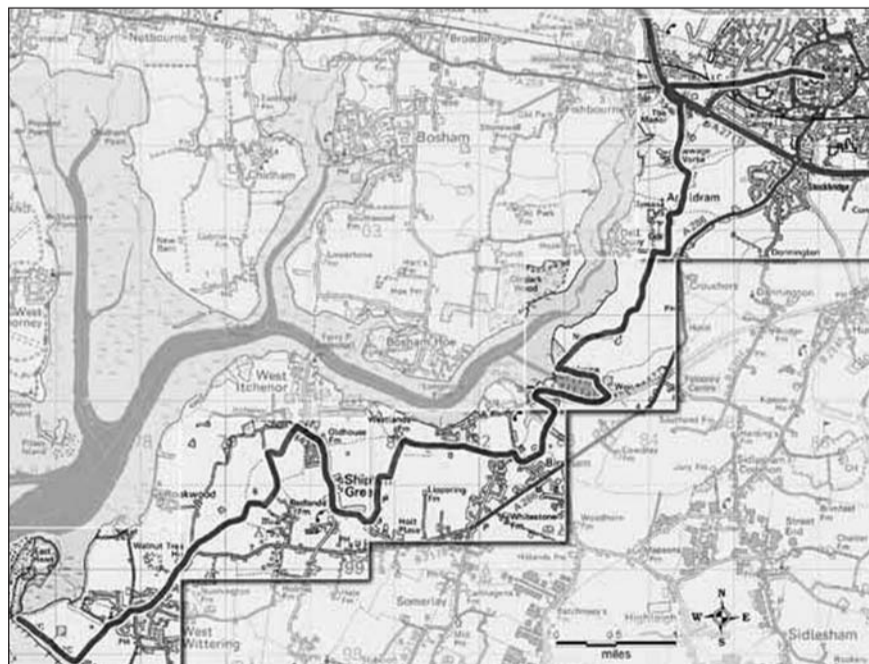
### Chichester Harbour Conservancy

A new cycle path, the Salterns Way, has now opened enabling cyclists to visit East Head from Chichester without either endangering themselves on too many busy roads or climbing stiles and conflicting with walkers on the footpaths.

The route starts at the Cross, in the centre of Chichester and finishes at the sand dunes of East Head. It passes through the harbourside villages of Apuldram, Dell Quay, Birdham, Itchenor and West Wittering. Along the route, which goes through the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), you can see farmland, marinas, old churches and woodland. Pubs and cafes with waterside views make useful stopping points. Much of the route is suitable for all-terrain wheelchairs or those with soft tyres, however, the road sections should only be attempted if you are confident of your safety.

Unfortunately following the route is, at present, not so easy as it should be. Many of the signs, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, have been removed by persons unknown. Philip Couchman, Manager of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in an appeal to the public says, "It is a real shame that after all our hard work these signs have been taken. I don't think it is the casual vandalism of children - if someone has a problem with the route or with the signage, I am very willing to talk with them. If anyone has information please get in contact with me urgently, or with the police who have been informed of the situation."

A detailed copy of the route, can be downloaded from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy website [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk). Leaflets describing the route and giving information about amenities are available from local Tourist Offices and the Harbour Office. Tel 01243 512301.



## WARBLINGTON SCHOOL WINS SPECIALIST STATUS IN SCIENCE

Julie Rose - Head Teacher

Warblington School has recently been successful in achieving Department for Education and Skills (DfES) designation as a Specialist School in Science and Mathematics. As a Specialist School working with its community partners, it will raise standards of achievement and increase participation in Scientific and Mathematical related pursuits in order to achieve greater success for all in its learning community.

This award is one of a number of key developments that signal a future for the School that is creative, innovative and reformist. The successful bid - the result of fifteen months' planning and research - has resulted in a financial award approaching £600,000 over four years. Plans are already under way to rebuild and renovate all Science laboratories and Mathematics classrooms.

The School's confident vision is one in which its lead Department - Science - working together closely with the Mathematics and ICT Departments, has the capacity to make significant change and improvement within all classrooms, staffrooms, and the learning community as a whole. Science Specialist Status will allow the School to develop facilities and resources which will better support the practical embedding of ideas and approach within Science, and then extend across its whole curriculum and that of its partner Schools.

The key aim of the Government-sponsored Specialist School Scheme is to raise standards in all subjects. This is accomplished by strengthening and developing the quality of the learning and teaching strategies throughout such schools. Warblington School, for example, now has an interactive white board in every classroom. This initiative has already had a profound and beneficial impact upon the quality of the students' learning.

Students in Science and Mathematics will have the benefit of learning in a modern, stimulating environment where they will experience 21st Century Science and mathematics to GCSE level. Such exposure to a rich variety of state-of-the-art equipment and ideas will equip and enhance students with both the experience and confidence to use modern day technology.

Specialist Schools also link with the local community and private sector sponsors. Warblington has now further developed its ties with local first and junior schools: participating schools will now benefit from technical IT support and more regular visits to take part in Science Days. The School has also developed a key link with its lead sponsor, Xyratex, and opportunities now exist whereby regular Science, Mathematics, and ICT Challenges and Festivals can take place alongside investigations involving data collection, 3D rotation geometry linked to CAD design, report writing and presentation on a variety of topics.

In particular, the School is ready now to build upon its most recent initiatives, strategies and successes. The Science and Mathematics Departments' highly promising 2005 KS3 results continue their yearly upturns. Its work with its biggest industry links partners - Xyratex, Southern Water and the Langstone Technology Park - has already enabled the School to put into place a series of exciting partnership models of collaboration, and it continues to build upon an established record of managing and co-ordinating collaborative partnerships with local primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities.

It is the School's ultimate intention to become recognised as a centre of excellence in Science and Mathematics education and to disseminate best practice throughout and beyond the Havant region.

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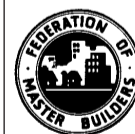
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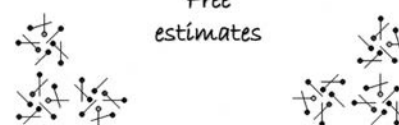
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