



## *Twinning with Montecchio Maggiore* **SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION**



**Planting of the "Silver Anniversary Tree" at Jubilee Fields**

October 2023 saw the 25<sup>th</sup> or Silver Anniversary of our twinning with Montecchio Maggiore. To mark the occasion, we were pleased to welcome a small delegation from Montecchio who arrived here on 12<sup>th</sup> October – the first time we had met since the pandemic.

For the first two days of their visit, our Italian guests met up privately with friends, old and new. They also made a visit to Alton Library where they could see the Bisazza mosaic that they had given us in 2004 and the display about Montecchio that Eileen and Pauline had set up. They met with Library Manager, Scott, and Team Assistant, Giusy, who is Italian! The Italians donated a book about Montecchio to the Library. Scott said that their visit had "made his day".

On Saturday morning our Mayor, Councillor Ben Hamlin, officially received our guests, together with some of our members, at the Town Hall. He gave a speech of welcome and the gift of a hand-written, framed quotation on hand-made paper, of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*: "*It isn't what we think or say that defines us, but what we do.*" (calligraphy by Patric Hinde). The gift was presented by "Jane Austen", better known as Pat Lerew dressed in Regency costume.



This was followed by a speech from their Mayor, Gianfranco Trapula, who presented Cllr Hamlin with a lovely painting of the town hall in Montecchio and a book called *La Bella Montecchio* - about their town in bygone days.





**The Mayors and their gifts with Diego and Carlo**

Afterwards, the group proceeded to Jubilee Fields for the ceremonial planting of the “Silver Anniversary Tree” by both mayors. The tree, a Himalayan birch *B.jacquemontii*, is similar to a silver birch and was purchased by the twinning association. The tree planting was the brainchild of Pam Jones. It was felt that the site of Jubilee Fields for the Silver Jubilee was very appropriate.



**Teamwork**

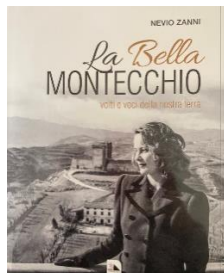
On Saturday evening we held a dinner at the Rose & Crown, Farringdon, for our Italian friends, the Mayor and his wife, and members who were able to attend. We welcomed everyone with a glass of prosecco or non-alcoholic aperitif and sat down to an excellent three-course meal. After dinner, it was time for more presents: the book *La Bella Montecchio* for us and silver-framed photographs of the wildlife of King’s Pond (photos by John Williams) for the Italians, together with Pam (Pell) Jones’ 2024 calendar of paintings of Alton, including the mill and King’s Pond. We finished with a rendition of Italian and English songs.



The Rose & Crown is believed to have been built in 1810 by Edward Knight, the brother of Jane Austen, and King’s Pond by William King, the owner of the paper mill in Alton, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. So the whole day was connected in one way or another. I would like to claim that this was due to meticulous planning but, in fact, it was just a happy coincidence!

Diego has written to thank us for making their stay so enjoyable. We look forward to our next visit to Montecchio in the not-too-distant future.

### Some close-ups of the gifts



Here is an article from a local paper in Pertuis:

# Passation à la tête du comité de jumelage Pertuis-Alton

Monique Manet, présidente depuis six ans, cède la place à Marc Lecerf, pour piloter l'association qui lie Pertuis à sa jumelle de l'Hampshire anglais.

**D**ernièrement, le comité de jumelage Pertuis-Alton a tenu son assemblée générale en salle Carignan. En ouverture de la réunion, la présidente Monique Manet, en poste depuis six ans, a annoncé: "Après le Brexit, la Covid qui a fortement perturbé les activités, et une année difficile par manque de candidatures au bureau, notre jumelage reprend, désormais, des couleurs". Détaillant, par la suite les détails du fait du jour, la présidente démissionnaire a présenté la nouvelle équipe qui s'est mise en place ce soir-là, pour poursuivre les échanges avec Alton, reprendre les classiques "tea time", organiser la Saint Patrick, mettre en place les conférences et les rencontres interjumelages.

## De nouveaux projets en gestation

Cette nouvelle équipe souhaite, également, organiser des échanges entre les classes de Français à Alton, et celles d'Anglais à Pertuis, ainsi que des ren-



La présidente Monique Manet a passé la main à Marc Lecerf, lors de l'assemblée générale, qui a réuni de nombreux adhérents. / PHOTOS J.T.

contres en dehors des cours afin de discuter autour d'un thème. "D'autres idées sont en gestation

et les voyages reprendront plutôt en 2024", a poursuivi la nouvelle équipe de Pertuis-Alton, non sans oublier d'adresser "un grand merci à Monique Manet pour avoir soutenu le jumelage pendant ces années difficiles".

## Créée en 2006 pour promouvoir les échanges

De son côté, la concernée - qui reste adhérente du comité de jumelage - a souhaité: "Welcome à Marc Lecerf, aujourd'hui notre président, à Emmanuel Feirrer vice-président et à toute l'équipe. Les adhérents sont heureux de toutes ces perspectives et les cours d'anglais font le plein. Merci à Liz Glawe notre dynamique professeur". Rappelons que le comité de jumelage Pertuis-Alton a été créé en octobre 2006 dans le but de promouvoir les échanges culturels, sportifs et scolaires avec la ville d'Alton, située dans le Hampshire, à 80 km au sud-ouest de Londres. Il est le plus jeune des quatre comités de jumelages officiels de la Ville. J.T.



And here is Eileen's translation:

## HANDOVER OF THE HEAD OF THE PERTUIS-ALTON TWINNING COMMITTEE

**Monique Manet, President for six years, hands over to Marc Lecerf, to guide the Association which links Pertuis to its English twin town in Hampshire.**

The Pertuis-Alton twinning committee recently held its general meeting in Room Carignan. To open the meeting, President Monique Manet, in post for the last six years, said 'After Brexit, Covid which badly disrupted all activities and a difficult year due to a lack of official candidates, our twinning is regaining its impetus.

The resigning president introduced the new team taking up its place that evening, in order to pursue exchanges with Alton, resume the classic 'tea time', organise St Patrick's Day, set up conferences and twin town visits.

## New projects in progress

This new team would like to organise exchanges between Pertuis and Alton schools, as well as additional meetings round a theme. 'Other ideas are developing and travel will resume in 2024', the new team announced without forgetting to say 'a big thank you to Monique Manet for supporting the town twinning through difficult years'.

## Set up in 2006 to promote exchanges

On her side, Monique Manet – who will remain on the twinning committee – said 'Welcome to Marc Lecerf, our president from today, to Emmanuel Feirrer, vice president, and to all the team. Members are happy with all these prospects and the English classes are full. Thank you to Liz Glawe, our dynamic teacher'.

Let us recall that the Pertuis-Alton committee was set up in October 2006 with the aim of promoting cultural, sporting and school exchanges with the town of Alton, situated in Hampshire, 80 kilometres south west of London. It is the youngest of the four official town twinning committees of Pertuis.

The photos show Monique Manet and Marc Lecerf together and the audience of the general meeting 'attended by many members'.



Following on from this, Sarah and Eileen have had a Zoom call with Patrick Molle in Pertuis. Patrick asked if they could come to Alton next year at the same time as the Jane Austen Regency Week. Some of you will remember that their last visit here in 2018 also coincided with Regency Week. In 2024 Regency Week will run from 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Having taken advice, Sarah has recommended that

our French friends come for the first part of the week when there will be plenty of Regency activities taking place. So, if you are planning to host or meet up with our visitors, **please keep the days around the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> June free.** Their precise dates of arrival and departure will be circulated once they are known.



**A reminder of 2018**

### **NEW YEAR LUNCH**

Our New Year Lunch has been provisionally booked for **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Hen & Chicken.**  
Full details will be circulated in due course.

I think we can all agree that the visit from Montecchio was a great success and, with the prospect of having visitors from Pertuis next year, ATTA can continue to be optimistic for the future.

With best wishes from the ATTA Committee