

# YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

## Old friendships renewed after three-year wait

DID you know Southborough is twinned with a town in France called Lambersart and this year is their 30th anniversary? This French town is a leafy suburb of Lille in North East France in the region of 'Hauts de France', just an hour and a half from Calais and close enough for a day trip.

Southborough, High Brooms and District Overseas Friendship Association (SHDOFA) have had many wonderful experiences with their French friends both here and across the Channel, and long-standing friendships have been made.

Members of SHDOFA have recently returned from a weekend coach trip to Arras to visit some of the First World War monuments and museums. They met the French members of their sister group, Amities Internationales, for lunch and dinner for the first time in three years and they returned tired but happy and extremely well fed!

Just before the lockdowns, a large group came over from Lambersart for a detailed walk around the Common and a guided tour of the historical Southborough landmarks. At some stage during their visits, their French guests usually visit Tun-

The Ring of Memory site at the top of Notre Dame de Lorette hill  
CHRISTINE FORBES



bridge Wells - Marks & Spencer and the Pantiles in particular.

SHDOFA has its own social and fundraising programme of events including quizzes, lunches, barbecues and pétanque competitions. Southborough has its own 'terrain de pétanque' and in recent years have played other local twinning associations. They do quite well against English teams but have yet to beat the French at their own game!

SHDOFA's objective is to promote



Lambersart Town Hall  
ROBERT PRANCE



Entertaining piano steps in Lambersart  
ROBERT PRANCE

friendship and understanding between people of all ages from both areas, and do this by visits in both directions, developing personal contacts to broaden the ways of life, culture, recreation and commerce.

If you would like to join SHDOFA, you can call Bob Prance on 07768 560867 or Membership Officer David Elliott on 01892 528400.



The war memorial in Lambersart  
ROBERT PRANCE