

Newsletter September 2013

After the planning and work associated with last year's Bastille Social and our visit to Libourne, this has been a quieter year, with no exchange. Carole Duckett will be reporting on the year's activities at the AGM.

Committee

We have the largest Committee ever: 12 members. With the AGM fast approaching, there will be some changes. We would be pleased to see new faces with fresh ideas, in particular, anyone with computer or PR skills who might take on the job of sending website updates to our 'techy' man, writing the Newsletter and keeping our profile high in the local press.

Members' Dinner at Old Manor House, Keynsham in February

41 members attended our annual dinner. The change of venue made transport much easier and enabled us to support a local business.

Presentation of cheque to CLIC Sargent



In February, many months after our Bastille Social, we presented a cheque for £400 to the Keynsham shop staff and local fundraising manager. This is enough to fund a family for 11 days, staying in a 'Home from Home' near to a hospital where their child is undergoing treatment. For children and young people in Keynsham and Somerset, Sam House and CLIC House would be their nearest Home from Home accommodation.

Quiz & Butterflies Haven in March

March saw us at St Dunstan's for a very successful quiz evening, using the services of a professional quiz master. Local traders were very generous with contributions of raffle prizes. A donation of six fruit cakes, some of which were auctioned, helped to swell the coffers. The evening raised £546 of which we donated £300 to Butterflies Haven, a local charity which supports children on the autistic spectrum and their families.



Wine students in May

May saw another successful visit of wine students from Lycée viticole at La Montagne, with the traditional wine tasting which was run in conjunction with Wellsway School PTA. Nicki Jefferis is standing down after many years of organising the Keynsham side: liaising with staff in France, finding accommodation for the students and making sure that the arrangements ran smoothly during the stay.

Lycée Max Linder student working at Keynsham Town Council during June

Following discussions in Libourne last year, a placement was arranged for Aurore Tourenne. This was a great success, which we hope to repeat another year. See:

<http://theweekin.co.uk/news/twinning-student-works-at-town-council/>

Saltford Festival in June

Raising the profile of twinning is important to our survival. A few Committee members ran a stall in Saltford High Street, selling pancakes, bread pudding and 'gingerbread daddies' – it was Fathers' Day!



Pancakes at Saltford Festival



Pancakes at 'Time Out' Youth Club

Youth Cubs

Committee members, led by Carole, have regularly visited 'Time Out', where they have concentrated on cooking skills (including pancakes, of course!) and getting to know the members.

AGM 18 October See attached papers

Subscription Renewals

At last year's AGM, the Constitution was amended, with Subscriptions becoming due on 1 September of the following year – now! As before, only paid up members are entitled to vote at the AGM. Please pay by using the tear off slip over the page. Otherwise, please bring your cheque book or money to the AGM.