



www.keynshamtwinning.org

Newsletter November 2012

It has been a busy year, which is why this is only the second Newsletter of 2012!

Committee & Twinning initiatives

For many years your Committee has been trying to raise awareness and recruit new members by creating a Website; distributing leaflets; writing articles for the local press; making ourselves seen at events such as the Keynsham Music Festival & Victorian Evening; talking to people we meet & groups such as Keynsham Chamber of Commerce and putting on social events.

We are not the only twinning association facing this problem. Since the heyday of twinning agreements immediately after the War, cheap travel has become available to the masses so that many people do not see the attraction of staying with a family in another country and getting to experience at first hand another culture. Another barrier is that the original twinning agreements were between Councils and there is a false perception that twinning is 'just a jolly for Councillors'.

Things are changing though! Carole Duckett, our President, has successfully involved youngsters in Filton Twinning Association's activities: they have accompanied adult groups to France and Germany on 3 way exchanges and she is working to achieve a similar action here. Lisa O'Brien, our Keynsham Town Council Representative (and also a Persona Member) is strongly committed to Twinning and is keen to use her knowledge and connections to further the aims of the Association.

Committee members have visited youth clubs at **Time Out**, **@One** and **Queens Road Methodist Church**. They have got to know the Youth Leaders & teenagers, talked to them, mounted slide shows of France and Filton Twinning youngsters enjoying a holiday there. Evenings with food & especially crêpes have been very popular and interest generated.

Contacts have been made with schools on both sides of the channel, specifically with the Community Governors at Wellsway School, St Johns VC Primary School and the Lycée Max Linder in Libourne.

AGM

The AGM was attended by 24 members, three of these also representing Corporate members. As a result of small changes to the Constitution, we now have three membership categories: Junior, Adult and Corporate. It is hoped that we will attract youngsters to the Junior category and involve them more in the Association. The formal part of the meeting was followed by wine and refreshments.

Social Events during 2012

Annual Twinning Dinner 2012

Early in May, 22 members travelled to Cameley Lodge, a favourite dinner venue, for our dinner.

Wine Students & Wine Tasting

In May, another successful wine tasting took place at Wellsway School, in conjunction with the PTA. For the first year, Gerald Le Pioufle came as 'a teacher', rather than the leader and the party was led by Christine Jouanno.

Bastille Social

This year we took Saltford Hall by storm and our event was held on July 14, as Bastille Day fell on a Saturday!!!

Guests were greeted with a glass of wine and entered the hall to be confronted by a guillotine, with Madame Defarge sitting alongside doing her knitting! The hall was decorated with flags, bunting and severed heads atop long poles made by the youth of **Time Out**. To complete the atmosphere there was an accordion player. During the meal there was an interval, when we were entertained to a rip roaring Can Can by the Keyford Dancers. Later there was a French themed quiz, organised by Nicki Jefferis – and, of course, a raffle. Events like this are a real team effort but we were pleased to have made a healthy profit, of which £400 will be presented to our chosen charity CLIC Sargent. Thanks to all involved!



Libourne Visit

For many, the highlight of the year was our visit to Libourne in September. Travel arrangements went well and we were treated to a 'Welcome Party' on the first evening. Our Libourne hosts got together to put on a great spread and we were entertained by background music from two members of Somerset Morris who travelled with us: Barbara Butler and musician Dave Harbourn.

Friday saw us all on the coach to travel to the Médoc. The swimmer amongst us (mention no names!) stripped off and waded into the water by Le Lac de Carcans Hourtin. On to Carcans Ocean, where we watched the surfers, paddled in the sea and then dined at Heidi's. She is well known for serving enormous ham hocks with sauerkraut. Our meal was more genteel & very tasty.

Back on the coach, we visited Pauillac on the edge of the Gironde, passing several wine producing châteaux on the way back.

Saturday's trip was to visit mediaeval villages near Bergerac: Issigeac and Monflanquin, with a meal at Moulin de Boulède. During the afternoon we visited the Château de Monbazillac, seeing round the house and the caves.

Sunday was the traditional 'day with hosts'. Some people went along to the traditional Sunday market in the town square, others visited Arcachon, St Emilion or just 'socialised'. On Monday, the Wine College hosted a wine tasting for those that wished to attend, while Carole & Lisa met with the Head teacher and staff at the Lycée Max Linder to discuss the possibility of closer links for our young students.

It was agreed that 'E-Twinning' using modern technology to allow young people to communicate and build friendships was an attractive way forward, particularly for primary and younger secondary school students. The Lycée also run a post 'A' level two year diploma in Administration and Human Resources where students study using the English language, and have to undertake two, five week work placements, of which one has to be in the UK. This idea has been presented to the Keynsham Chamber of Commerce, and already one or two organisations have indicated their willingness to participate.

We all met up again on the final night, at a reception and meal paid for by Libourne Council. The new mayor, Philippe Buisson spoke encouragingly of his hope for closer links between our two towns. Meanwhile, Lisa presented him with a custom-made piece of glass, a gift from Keynsham Town Council. After the speeches there was food & wine accompanied by two guitarists. Barbara Butler led some country dancing and the evening was rounded off with a sing song.

As the centre Centre of Keynsham will be undergoing major reconstruction in 2013, the Committee has decided that it would be more appropriate to invite our Libourne friends to visit here in 2014.

Social Events 2013

Annual Dinner 2013

Next year our annual dinner will be held on Friday 8th February at 'The Old Manor House Hotel', Bath Road, Keynsham (just down the road from St John's Church, opposite Vicarage Green – easy parking in Tesco's car park!). Although the cost of the meal will be similar to what we paid this year, we can avoid the expense and inconvenience of distance travel. Please see the menu, order form and payment details attached. We do hope members will bring along family and friends to add to what should be a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. There is a maximum capacity of 50, so get your order forms in as soon as possible to secure your booking!

Quiz

We will organise a quiz early in the year once we have found a suitable venue – big enough to accommodate large numbers!

News from Corporate Members

Wellsway School Modern Languages Dept. is looking for a native speaker of French who could spare a few (paid) hours per week to help students practise their speaking.

Please contact Lois Lambkin via the school office on 9864751

Keynsham Orchestra Concert

Next concert 'Celebrating 2012' on Saturday 24th November 7.30 pm at St John the Baptist Church Keynsham. They will play works by Walton & Elgar. Further details at:

<http://www.keynshamorchestra.org.uk/next-concert>

Keynsham Orchestra trip to Libourne Sat 23 March – Sunday 31 March. Seats available!

There is a chance to join this trip, which includes 2 excellent concerts and 2 days out in the coach. Travel is by coach, with overnight stops at Orleans. Cost will be under £350 if sharing a twin or double room.

For more details contact: szdrew@hotmail.com