

# Exmouth Twinning Association

## Keeping you in the picture – August 2018

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, EILEEN BEECH

Dear members,

What a summer we have experienced so far, perfect weather but maybe too hot for some! It has been a busy summer of Twinning, our two exchanges having taken place. Firstly came our journey to Dinan in June which was extremely enjoyable despite the indifferent weather. Secondly came the visit to Exmouth by our friends from Langerwehe when the weather was hot all the time for their first five day stay.

Both visits have been deemed a huge success, renewing old friendships and, for first time twinnings, the beginnings of new, lasting friendships. Our thanks go to Tim and Sue and their committees for organising these successful visits.

We have held two enjoyable social events and I would like to thank all those who attended or contributed to these. They were both jolly occasions which enabled twinnings to remain in touch between visits.

Finally, I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Jim and Maggie Beed, who submitted an article to the recent Devon Twinning Circle Newsletter. For their contribution we were awarded the Monica Saunders prize of £50 for the best newsletter contribution and the association will be acknowledging their success. Maybe their efforts will encourage other members to write their musings for the newsletter!

There are two important dates for your diary, firstly the SGM on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to consider important changes to our constitution (see item below) and, secondly, our annual dinner on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at the Exe Sailing Club. I look forward to meeting you on one or both of these occasions.

Eileen Beech, Chair

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

If you want your committee to consider any particular matter at one of its meetings please contact the secretary Maggie Gingell on [maggiengingell@aol.com](mailto:maggiengingell@aol.com) or 01395 278448 or speak to one of the committee members.

Your committee members are

Eileen Beech - Chair

Sue Moreton - Vice chair and Dinan sub-committee chair

Barry McHugh – Treasurer

Maggie Gingell – Secretary

Tim Dumper – Langerwehe sub-committee chair

April Marjoram

Sandra Dunn

Dot Taylor

Linda Bolt (who is also our minute taker)

### DINAN Exmouth to Dinan visit 2018 Friday 8 June to Tuesday 12 June

We were a party of thirty twinnings with twenty six in the ferry party and four independent travellers. Two new twinnings were welcomed to the group and, at an early hour on Friday, the main party drove in private cars to Plymouth dockside, parked and then boarded the ferry.

Thanks go to Paul Berman for his excellent liaison with the ferry company and for then organising the departure. The French coach met us at Roscoff and a pleasant journey full of anticipation was made before our friends met us in Dinan and whisked us to their homes.

Next morning we had the Civic Reception in the Town Hall with the Mayor of Dinan when Eileen Beech was able to hand over the gift from us and our Town Council to the 'Secours Populaire'. In the afternoon there was an excellent illustrated talk by Diane Moore about the English Colony in Dinan between the 19th and 20th century, and a copy of her book has been given by her to the Association and will be available to all members to read. The afternoon was warm and there were a few nodding heads in the audience!

The Sunday was free with our hosts and that evening we had a glorious sunny evening at a local school with Les Gourganès singers, a local folk group, who entertained us while we drank wine and ate delicious canapés. The meal that followed was accompanied by a very generous flow of wine!

On Monday we converged on Jugon Les Lacs and had a guided tour of this lovely old village followed by a picnic lunch in a sports hall. There were then traditional French games in which we acquitted ourselves quite respectably.

We left on Tuesday and caught the three o'clock ferry. The weather had not been very kind to us during our stay but the couple of hours spent outside the terminal cafe sitting in the hot sun, drinking wine and eating chips was enjoyable and allowed us to reflect on another great visit.

We look forward to receiving our French friends next year with a proposed date of Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June - this will be confirmed at a later date. The French committee will be meeting to discuss next year's visit and any ideas for visits and activities will be welcomed. My thanks to all of those involved in the organisation of the visit and for sharing all the tasks.

Sue Moreton, Chair, Dinan Sub Committee.

As Sue mentions above, the book '**The English Colony of Dinan**' was given to our association during the visit and, in order to make it available to members, a loan system is proposed. Any member wanting to read the book should contact Eileen Beech to arrange to borrow it for up to one month.

#### **LANGERWEHE**      The Langerwehe Visit to Exmouth July 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2018

All of us involved with this year's visit know that it was really successful. Even before our friends arrived, I had twinnings coming to me and saying how they were looking forward to the visit. This didn't happen by accident - our Langerwehe Sub Committee put in hours of planning and preparation work so many thanks are due to Maggie Beed, Linda Bolt, Geoff Beech, and our "new recruit", Margaret Alford.

We were helped enormously by the pleasant, sunny weather, of course! The two outdoor activities, our visit to Bicton Gardens and the boat trip along the Jurassic Coast, could have been much less enjoyable had rain set in. Highlights were a guided walk around the Gardens at Bicton, and seeing kittiwakes nesting on the sandstone cliffs from the boat. We also had an enjoyable evening buffet dinner in the fully refurbished ballroom at the Manor Hotel with music from Alan Terry that set many people dancing. Thanks to all the people involved with making all these events memorable and fun to be at.

This year our Civic Reception was again at the Exe Sailing Club, but the Town Council has kindly increased the financial support for this event, enabling all concerned to have a finger buffet instead of the usual crisps and nuts! Thanks are due to Laura in charge of catering and to Ted Draper, the Club Commodore there, as always, ensuring everything went smoothly.

This year Roger our Town Crier was back and our new Mayor, Jeff Trail, who knows that area of Germany stayed on and chatted with our guests.

Eileen, our Chair, welcomed the guests and Herbert Fahrnich, Langerwehe's Chair, responded ending with their donation to the 'Save Exmouth Museum' fund. Peter Cowper thanked them on behalf of the Museum. I don't think I heard "Brexit" mentioned once in an official capacity at this year's Reception!

Thank you to everyone involved this year, and all the hosts and guests – I hope I speak for everyone in saying it was relaxing, but fun!

Tim Dumper, Chair, Langerwehe Sub Committee

## **PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES**

Your committee has given much thought to the current organisation of our Association's year and has decided to recommend the following changes to our Constitution. The full Constitution, showing suggested changes, is attached to this email and the changes are explained here -

- (Item 15 in the full Constitution) The AGM should be moved from November to March (before the 22<sup>nd</sup> as that is the earliest possible date for Easter). The committee recognises that evening meetings in the dark and cold of early winter are not attractive so suggests a Springtime meeting instead which it intends should be combined with a social event to get all members together before the start of the annual visits. This would take place at a new venue with catering facilities and disabled access as insurance regulations mean that we will no longer be able to use the Fire Station. Our sincere thanks go to the Alford family who have arranged for us to use the Fire Station as a free venue for so many years. The current officers and committee members are prepared to extend their term of office until the new AGM date. Consideration has been given to the need for planning of trips to be well underway at the time of the proposed new AGM date, which could bring committee changes. The Dinan and Langerwehe sub-committee members feel that this is not a problem since planning already has to commence before the current AGM date and they have expressed willingness to continue in role until the completion of the next visit. Co-option could be used to keep specific people in the sub-committees as long as necessary.
- (Item 19) The financial year end should be moved from the end of October to the end of December. This would give the treasurer more time to prepare the accounts, and have them checked, than at present and is a move that our current treasurer, Barry McHugh, would welcome.
- (Item 22) Membership subscriptions should be payable on April 1<sup>st</sup> rather than December 1<sup>st</sup>. Your committee is conscious that subscriptions are currently due at what is an expensive time of year with Christmas approaching so moving the due date takes off some of the financial pressure. If this is agreed by members the proposal is that the current year's subscription be extended to cover the period from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 thus giving all members four free months' membership!

In due course, the secretary will be issuing a formal notice about a Special General Meeting, to take place on Tuesday October 2nd, for members to vote on these changes to the Constitution. If they are approved the AGM will then be moved from November to March. Please contact the secretary if you have any queries or comments.

## SOCIAL EVENTS



*Thanks to Dot Taylor for hosting our successful Summer BBQ*

**The Annual Dinner** will take place on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and will be at The Exe Sailing Club . The menu is included here to whet your appetites! Full details and a booking form will be sent out nearer the date.

### Starters

Homemade Vegetable Soup  
Avocado and Prawn Platter  
Roasted Vine Tomato and Goats Cheese Salad  
Chicken Liver Pate served with warm Toast

### Main Course

Butternut Squash and Root Vegetable Tagine  
Fillet of Sea Bass with a Tangy Citrus Sauce  
Braised Lamb Shank in a Red Wine, Redcurrant and Rosemary Sauce  
Roasted Duckling Breast with a Classic Orange Sauce

### Dessert

Vanilla Pannacotta topped with Raspberry Compote  
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad  
Sticky Toffee Pudding with a Toffee Sauce  
A selection of Cheeses, Crunchy Biscuits, Chutney, Grapes

**Coffee/Tea**

**Cost £20. 00pp**

## DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE

We are invited to send representatives to the quarterly DTC committee meetings which are hosted by the various associations in turn. Tim Dumper is our nominated DTC representative but other members may attend the meetings as well. Let the secretary know if you would like to attend the next one at Teignmouth on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

The secretary, Maggie Gingell, went to the meeting in Cullompton on July 21<sup>st</sup> and came back with useful ideas about how we should host the meeting when it is our turn on **Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**. We have booked the rooms and kitchen at Brixington Community Church for the event and will be providing a lunch as well as a meeting space, so help on the day will be needed for the hosting and catering. Please note the date in your diary and look out for requests for assistance nearer the time.

## WEBSITE

Tony Jackson continues to maintain our website Have a look – [www.exmouth-twinning.org.uk](http://www.exmouth-twinning.org.uk)