

Exmouth Twinning Association

Keeping you in the picture – May 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, SUE MORETON

Hello everyone

I hope that you are all safe and adjusting to this change in all our daily lives. I heard the lockdown referred to as 'the giant pause' which I rather like as it sounds as if we shall all pick up again in due course.

We have had good news from Germany and France and the links remain as strong as ever which is such good news for us all. Please see the news and dates for the French and German committees.

Clearly we cannot have the spring and summer gatherings that we would normally organise and so we may use technology to get together and see each other without breaking the rules. It would be nice to think that we may be able to come together for Christmas but we shall have to wait and see.

We are saying goodbye to David and Joyce Cox who have resigned from the Association. They have both been enthusiastic and strong Twinning members. Joyce was our chairman for five years from 2000 to 2005 and led us with good humour and friendliness. We shall miss them both. We also learnt the sad news of the death of Bill Williamson. He and his wife Betty belonged to the Association for many years and will be remembered by some of our long standing members.

Please keep in touch with any concerns and issues you have and I look forward to us all being together soon.

Stay safe

Sue Moreton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Your committee members are - Sue Moreton - Chair

Barry McHugh – Treasurer

Dot Taylor

Maggie Gingell – Secretary

Linda Bolt (who is also our minute taker)

Tim Dumper

Kate Sharman

April Marjoram

Mark Sharman

Sandra Dunn

Nigel Morris

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 or 01395 278448 or speak to one of the committee members.

FINANCES

Thank you to all who paid their annual subscriptions promptly. Your committee has discussed the fact that there will be no trips and very few social opportunities this year and will be seeking ways to acknowledge your commitment to the Association, despite there being so little on offer in 2020, perhaps by discounting next year's subscription and/or subsidising an annual dinner if we are able to hold one. Final decisions on this will be taken when we have a clearer picture of the possible costs next year.

ONLINE MEETINGS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Having held one successful online meeting, your committee is considering purchasing a licence for Zoom to enable future meetings of the main and sub committees to take place without time restrictions (the free version of Zoom limits meetings to 40 minutes) whilst we remain unable to

have face to face meetings. The licence can be purchased on a monthly basis for £11.99 and this would be well worth doing if we could use Zoom for some social activities for all members in addition to the formal meetings. Perhaps we could have quizzes (two members are prepared to organise this for us); get-togethers with a cup of tea or coffee for a chat or any other online event you might like to suggest.

Therefore would you email me on maggiengingell@aol.com if you are able to access Zoom (it is free and easy to download and use) to say if you would be interested in joining in some twinning activities online. If sufficient members are keen, we will purchase a licence for as many months as necessary. **Please respond by June 3rd**

Maggie Gingell

DINAN

The sub-committee has been busy reorganising the planned trip to Dinan and the following arrangements are now in place -

Brittany Ferries has kept our deposit and nominally rebooked us for a date in October by which time the new timetables will be ready and we can then transfer the booking to a suitable date in 2021.

The French coach company is also retaining our deposit as a credit note for 18 months during which time we can use the coach once or several times.

So the good news is that we have not lost any money though we must be aware that costs may increase next year

We still play a waiting game for the virus to subside to safe levels in France and the UK and transport links to be viable at a time to suit us, but the hope is that the trip will now take place from June 18th to 22nd 2021 and our French friends are planning accordingly.

If you were not able to travel this year but want to be on the list for June 2021 let me know.

If you paid for this year's trip but know that you will definitely not be able to travel next year, please get in touch with me as the Association's Reimbursement Policy will be used to calculate refunds due.

The French sub-committee consists of myself with Sandra Dunn, Jan Eamer and Anne Bentham. If anyone else would like to join us I would be pleased to hear from you as more helpers will be needed for the following trip when the French visit us for the 50th anniversary of the link with Dinan.

Eileen Beech, Chair, Dinan Sub Committee

LANGERWEHE

The plans for the visit this year by our Langerwehe friends for the 35th Year of our Twinning Partnership have not been abandoned but will be used again, assuming all the businesses are back in action, in 2021 when we hope to welcome our guests from July 14th to 19th.

The draft programme remains -

July 14th Our guests arrive in the evening, most by coach, a few independently.

July 15th Civic Reception, followed by Lunch buffet at the Exe Sailing Club.

July 16th Trip by Blake's coach to West Devon.

Morning and Lunch at the Dingle's Fairground Museum and Heritage Centre off the A30 at Lewtrenchard.

From mid afternoon at Roadford Reservoir, a scenic location with good walks for those able and wishing to walk.

Early evening Carvery Dinner at the Roadford Centre's Function room, with a spectacular view!

July 17th Free Day

July 18th We hope to spend part of the day in Teignmouth, travelling by train – we are still working on this part of the programme.

July 19th Langerwehe guests leave – early morning as usual.

The German sub-committee which has worked to arrange this for you consists of myself with Linda Bolt, Maggie Beed, Geoff Beech, Margaret Alford, Carolyn Hallett and Carolyn Phillips.

Tim Dumper, Chair, Langerwehe Sub Committee

BILL WILLIAMSON

Maggie Gingell has kindly asked me to pen a few words about Bill who sadly passed away from natural causes on Sunday 26th April at the age of 93.

My first thoughts were when did I first meet Bill and how did it come about. Eventually the answer came to me – POETS. No, not literary poets, but an Exmouth organisation founded by Bill and which enabled its members to have a good night out (meal and drinks) about four times a year, with POETS standing for Push Off Early Tomorrow's Saturday. In the early days there was often entertainment of, shall we say, varied content and quality. The organisation still exists, although Bill dropped out of it many years ago, as I did.

I cannot recall quite when I joined POETS but I was certainly a member in early 1993, as it was then that Bill persuaded me to join Exmouth Twinning Association and in that respect the rest, as is said, is history. Bill was very helpful to me on my first visit to Langerwehe that year.

Bill hailed from Willesden, where he met and married Elizabeth (Betty) Seymour in 1948. Betty sadly passed away a few years ago.

Bill served on the Twinning Committee from 1996 to 2001 and in September of 2000 was one of a party of Exmouth twinningers to the Eifelmarkt in Langerwehe, where they introduced the local population to the delights of Devon cream teas. Mary Morris has kindly provided a picture of those who were involved. Bill is seen on the far right and in the centre of the picture is Bill's wife Betty.

Thank you, Bill, for what you did for the Association. Rest in peace.

Tony Jackson



MEMBERSHIP

As Sue mentioned, we say goodbye to David and Joyce Cox and we also say farewell, and thank you for their services to twinning, to Nigel and Gill Walshaw now that they have decided to relinquish their membership.

Confirmation of the payment of a couple of late subscriptions is awaited by our treasurer but, assuming that is received, we have 55 full members and 11 social members for the year 2020 to 2021.

As soon as those membership numbers are confirmed, Geoff Beech will finish the new edition of our annual Members' Booklet. Our thanks go to Geoff for undertaking this invaluable task for us each year.

WEBSITE

Tony Jackson continues to maintain our website Have a look – www.exmouth-twinning.org.uk