

# Exmouth Twinning Association

## Keeping you in the picture – Spring 2020

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, SUE MORETON

Dear Twinners,

Thank you to all of you who came to the AGM last week. It was a very successful meeting and I thank you for your continued support. We all had a jolly and sociable 'after show party' that went especially well after the consumption of wine!

During the forum we had some very interesting suggestions about the annual dinner, social events, having coffee gatherings at venues to keep in touch and also foreign language conversations over tea or coffee with one another.

We will have to postpone planning any of these for obvious reasons now and I think it is very unlikely that we will see our French or German twinners this year but we will let you all know as we have any news.

I would like to mention a few members, beginning with congratulations to Jim and Maggie Beed whose article won the first prize in a quarterly Devon Twinning Circle newsletter. They then went on to win the annual prize for best article and they accompanied me and Maggie G to the January DTC meeting where they were awarded the Don Leech tankard and our Association won the Monica Saunders Cup. Well done to them.

Thank you to Geoff Beech for his high quality leaflets and photos. The Association really benefits from his work and we are very grateful. Thanks go to both Barbara Mason and Doris Couper for their excellent assistance with language translations. Doris has done this for a long time and now wishes to stand down so we thank her for all her support over the years. Both Doris and John are going to become social members and we thank them for their continued commitment to the Twinning Association.

Many thanks go to Maggie and Barry for their continued diligence and to Linda for the minute taking. Thanks also to all the committee members who help the Association to run smoothly and successfully and a warm welcome to our three new committee members, Kate and Mark Sharman and Nigel Morris.

I would like to thank the French committee for their hard work in organising the last visit. The visit was not without incidents or highlights many of which were generated by the weather. We had a very wet and windy welcome at the coach park then an excellent reception at the Sailing Club, a super cricket match thanks to Paul Berman and then a rather damp trip to Honiton. I am glad to say that the trip was successful and it is fun to have some adversities to talk about in years to come! We had new French visitors and new Exmouth twinners which is always good to see.

The trip to Germany trip was very enjoyable and we were made to feel very welcome. We had a great day out in the Ahr valley and once again new hosts and visitors made good first visits. Sadly we learnt of the death of Heinz Tillman, who some of our older members will remember and who was a real moving force in the German Twinning. Both trips rely on our committees and we would welcome twinners who want to help either by joining the committees or taking on individual projects to contribute to events.

We have also had some great social events with a Summer Barbecue courtesy of Dot Taylor and an Oktoberfest sausage lunch at my house as well as a Christmas mince pie and mulled wine event.

We do not have a social committee at present so would welcome anyone who would like to organise a few events.

In April 2019 we hosted the Devon Twinning Circle and had a splendid lunch and an excellent talk from April Marjoram. One of the DTC committee members said that they had sat through many talks and her talk was the best one they had heard. So, well done April!

Everything is in a state of change at the moment and it is unlikely there will be any twinning events or visits for many weeks or months now but we will keep everyone informed as much as possible and as soon as there is anything to tell you. I am currently talking to my French and German counterparts to decide how best to proceed.

Please keep in touch with each other and we look forward to the resumption of normal service as soon as possible.

Best wishes

Sue Moreton

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Following our AGM your new committee members are -

Sue Moreton - Chair

Barry McHugh – Treasurer

Maggie Gingell – Secretary

Tim Dumper

April Marjoram

Sandra Dunn

Dot Taylor

Mark Sharman

Kate Sharman

Nigel Morris

Linda Bolt (who is also our minute taker)

Welcome to our new committee members – it's good to have a nearly full committee again and to have some new faces and fresh ideas!

If you want your committee to consider any particular matter at one of its meetings ( the next one is booked for May 13<sup>th</sup> though this will almost certainly be changed now) 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.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

I can only echo Sue's words about another successful twinning year with great visits, good social occasions and new members. Since the last Members' Booklet was published in 2019 we have added 2 new members, Maggie Richardson and Geoff Skinner, and have bid farewell to Bernard and Sadie Cracknell who decided not to continue their social membership. Our membership currently is 58 full, 13 social so 71 in total, exactly the same numbers as last year and a very healthy situation compared with many Devon associations. Thanks to Geoff Beech we will soon have a new edition of the Members' Booklet and I would ask you all to let me know by the beginning of April if any of your contact details have changed.

Just to clarify the position for those not sure – Social Membership may be offered by your committee to those who have served the association well as full members over the years but who are now not able to continue with the visits and hosting due to age or infirmity. Social members may attend all events locally but do not host or go on away visits and they may not vote at the AGM.

At the AGM forum it was clear that members did not want a raffle at every event since the Association is not in need of extra funds at present. The free raffle for the French painting, usually held at the Annual Dinner, will continue but we will not plan any other draws for the time being.

As you know, our Association belongs to the Devon Twinning Circle and we will now be paying £15 annual membership (up from £10) to this umbrella organisation of our County's twinning groups. Your committee members try to attend the quarterly meetings – usually myself and Sue but anyone is welcome and details of meetings are in the quarterly DTC newsletter that I email to you all.

A significant change this year has been the decision by Devon Twinning Circle not to provide individual travel insurance anymore for twinning trips. Uncertainty about changes due to Brexit and the possibility that the EHI cards could suddenly become useless prompted insurance companies to increase their charges and alter the method of payment by DTC. This meant that DTC would have to pay up front, instead of as needed, and then hope to sell enough insurance at increased rates to cover their costs. It became obvious that such a situation was not financially viable so the decision was made to stop travel insurance.

This means that every twinner going on a visit abroad must have their own travel insurance well in advance of the trip, for their own medical or cancellation needs, and because the coach and ferry companies require this. The public liability cover will still be available from DTC and we do purchase this. It costs £125 per annum and gives us cover up to £5 million. To meet with the requirements of this insurance we do need to have risk assessments for each event we arrange. Sometimes these need only be circulated to those organising events; at other times you all need to see them, for example when we are hosting Dinan or Langerwehe, and I email them to you then.

Maggie Gingell

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Having prepared the Treasurer's report, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, for the AGM I can confirm that finances are healthy and we are in a very similar position to the previous year. I would like to thank all those who have helped with the collection or payment of money for various events throughout the year, particularly Paul Berman (for the French coaches and ferries), Tony Jackson (for the Website hosting fee), Maggie Gingell (for the Annual Dinner deposit), and April Marjoram (who donated to ETA her payment as a speaker at the Devon Twinning Circle event) Thanks to David Gingell for acting as Examiner of the Accounts.

The Committee has approved keeping subscriptions the same at £25 per person for full members and £10 per person for social members, and these are due for payment by the end of March. Please make sure your cheque (payable to Exmouth Twinning Association), or other method of payment, is with me by then.

In due course the Committee will be considering reimbursement of monies paid for visits but we must wait until we know what our non-refundable commitments to ferry, coach and venue companies are and these will probably be fewer if we wait for the companies to cancel bookings in line with government advice.

Barry McHugh

***Editor's note – I have kept the reports below from Eileen and Tim in the newsletter as we hope that these plans can be moved to next year since it is now obvious that they are not going to happen in 2020 - sadly.***

### **DINAN**

Dates of visit Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

At the moment the plans for our visit to Dinan are progressing well but this may well change due to the spread of the Coronavirus.

There are 10 independent travellers and 19 travelling in the group, 29 in all

The group travelling to Plymouth by car share should have received the list of travellers to help them to organise lifts and drivers.

We are now collecting the balance of the cost of the ferry and coach, which is due by the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Please send completed cheques to me, or you can pay by BACS transfer. Our bank details are on the recent letter about the trip.

The Briefing meeting (now cancelled) is on the 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Gorfin Hall at 7.30 pm. You will have received a map showing the position of the hall in Exmouth.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Eileen Beech, Chair, Dinan Sub Committee

Your Langerwehe Sub Committee members are currently working on the programme, and associated matters for the visit this year, which is the 35<sup>th</sup> Year of our Twinning Partnership.

Draft Programme

Weds July 15<sup>th</sup> Our guests arrive in the evening, most by coach, a few independently. The group will number 25 plus the driver, we are told.

Thurs July 16<sup>th</sup> Civic Reception, followed by Lunch buffet at the Exe Sailing Club.

Fri July 17<sup>th</sup> 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!

Sat July 18<sup>th</sup> Free Day

Sun July 19<sup>th</sup> We hope to spend part of the day in Teignmouth, travelling by train – we are still working on this part of the programme.

Mon July 20<sup>th</sup> Langerwehe guests leave – early morning as usual.

We are still putting final touches to hosting arrangements, our charity to receive donation etc.

Tim Dumper, Chair, Langerwehe Sub Committee

**Given that the Coronavirus pandemic is now certain to disrupt our visits this year the Reimbursement Policy is included here since it will be used to decide which, and how much, of your payments will be returned to members.**

#### ***Exmouth Twinning Association - Reimbursement Policy***

##### ***Aim***

*To ensure that all members of the Association are treated equally if unable to partake in a Twinning visit or social event after paying a deposit or the full cost of the trip or event.*

##### ***Guidelines***

*All deposits and final payments for Twinning Association visits to or from Dinan or Langerwehe shall be non-refundable (except in the case of a deposit where notice of inability to travel is given before the final date for payment of that deposit).*

*Members unable to partake in visits after paying should use their insurance cover, as appropriate, for reimbursement.*

*The only exception would be the total cancellation of a visit in which case a percentage of the money paid by each person, up to 100%, may be reimbursed after the Association has met any costs incurred by the booking.*

*Deposits and payments for Twinning social events will usually be non-refundable depending on the booking policy of the venue being used and the date by which final numbers and financial commitment must be given.*

*The Twinning Association Committee members will review this policy each year.*

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

There are no plans for social events at the moment and, given the restrictions that are being imposed day by day due to Covid19, we have to wait a while before planning anything. However, if you would like to organise or host an event in the future do let the committee know.

## **DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE**

We are invited to send representatives to the quarterly DTC committee meetings which are hosted by the various associations in turn. Maggie Gingell is our nominated DTC representative but other members may attend the meetings as well. Maggie and Sue Moreton attended the January meeting in Bramford Speke along with Maggie and Jim Beed who were presented with their award for writing the winning article for the DTC newsletter last year.



*Sue receiving the Monica Saunders Cup from DTC Chair, Josie Mardon, and Jim and Maggie B with the Don Leech tankard from DTC and flowers and wine from our association*

## **NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome to Maggie Richardson and Geoff Skinner – new members for our Association but experienced twinningers from their Fareham / Vannes link. Many of you will have had the chance to chat to them at the AGM.

And a welcome back to Joyce and David Cox who left ETA when unable to continue hosting anymore, but who have now accepted the committee's offer of social membership in recognition of all they have done for the Association.

## **WEBSITE**

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