

Exmouth Twinning Association

Keeping you in the picture – Winter 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, SUE MORETON

Dear Twinners,

Thank you to all who supported the annual dinner at the Manor Hotel. It was a very pleasant evening, even if I did not win the painting or a raffle prize!

Plans for the French trip are well in hand with the French committee whilst the German committee members are looking at some exciting options for the 35th anniversary visit of the twidders from Langerwehe.

Many thanks to all of those involved in the planning and preparation of both events. We also have the Christmas social to look forward to - a chance for a bit of festive cheer in the middle of what seems a wet and rather dreary winter.

Sue Moreton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Your committee members are -

Sue Moreton - 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)

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.

DINAN

All those intending to go to Dinan next year have been asked to let Eileen Beech have the deposit by December 1st. Eileen has sent the list of travellers to the French association and we wait to hear their accommodation plans and programme for the visit in due course.

The book ‘**The English Colony of Dinan**’ was given to our association during a recent visit and, in order to make it available to members, a loan system is in place. **Please would the member currently borrowing it return the book to Sue Moreton. Thank you.**

LANGERWEHE

Tim Dumper reports that planning for the 35th anniversary visit is going well and the Langerwehe sub-committee members look forward to revealing all in due course!

SOCIAL EVENTS

Christmas event

Geoff and Eileen Beech will be hosting a Christmas social evening on **Friday December 20th** from 7pm – a chance to meet up with other twidders and enjoy mince pies, sausage rolls, German biscuits, shortbread and other nibbles along with mulled wine, white wine and soft drinks.

Cost £4 per person

Cheques, to be made payable to Exmouth Twinning Association, or cash with booking form below to be delivered to Eileen Beech, 125 Salterton Road, EX8 2NP by **Sunday December 15th**

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Christmas Social Evening booking form (send to 125 Salterton Road, Exmouth EX8 2NP by Dec 15th)

Name/s

Number @ £4 pp Total to be paid £ (cheque / cash enclosed)

Any dietary needs

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Annual Dinner

The 42 twinningers who sat down for our meal at the Manor enjoyed a great evening of food and friendship. If you have any thoughts about our annual dinner next year (maybe a lunch, a buffet with people moving tables between courses, a different venue?) do let the committee know – or offer to help organise it!

The French picture raffle was won by Brenda Taylor who decided that it would be difficult to fit the painting into her home so kindly offered it to Maggie and David Gingell instead. The picture now looks splendid on their dining room wall – thank you Brenda!

Financial Matters

Payments for away visits.

We need to ensure that we have funds to pay deposits for both the ferries and coaches when we make the away visits. The committee members have discussed this at length and have agreed a process that will ensure that all trips are treated consistently.

The process is that the appropriate committee (Dinan or Langerwehe) will ask for an expression of interest in travelling once dates for the visit have been confirmed. When numbers are known the committee can plan and cost the visit. We will then ask for confirmation of intention to travel with the group and for a deposit to be paid which will probably be £50.

This will ensure we have sufficient funds in our current account to start paying the various deposits required by the travel companies. We will then send a letter requesting the balance of payment about three months prior to travel. Again this allows time for the cheques to be cleared before our bills have to be paid. We will ask independent travellers for their contribution at this stage as well. We look forward to your understanding and cooperation with this process.

Our Re-imbusement Policy is included below for your information -

Exmouth Twinning Association - Re-imbusement 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 re-imburement.

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 re-imbursed 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.

Reviewed May 2019

Review due: May 2020

AGM

Our AGM is booked at the Church Hall in Raddenstile Lane for Thursday 12th March next year. We will have a social event afterwards with cheese and wine as we did this year – further details nearer the time.

Early next year the secretary will send out nomination forms for the officers and committee members as they all have to be elected or re-elected each year. There are spaces on the committee so we really do need more volunteers to help with the running of the association. Speak to a committee member if you want to know more.

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 attended the AGM at Halberton on October 19th and, as you know, was pleased to hear that our association had won the Monica Saunders cup for the best newsletter article in the previous year, thanks to Maggie and Jim Beed who will go with Maggie G to the next meeting in January for a presentation.

The not-so-good news from DTC is that it will no longer be able to provide travel insurance though public liability cover will continue. With the advent of Brexit, insurance companies are increasing their charges for travel cover as they presume that the EHI card will no longer be valid so more claims will be made on insurance policies. The increased costs and other changes by the insurance company mean that DTC can no longer offer a competitive price for the insurance and could end up losing a lot of money. **Those of you who have used the DTC insurance are advised to look for alternative cover well in advance of any twinning trips.**

WEBSITE

Tony Jackson continues to maintain our website Have a look – www.exmouth-twinning.org.uk as there are new videos of German visits.