

# Exmouth Twinning Association

## Keeping you in the picture – Winter 2020

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, SUE MORETON

Dear Twinners,

The committee has met and continues to slowly make plans but does not expend too much time on them given the ever changing state of national affairs.

We are now much more hopeful that, with the recent news of the arrival of a vaccine against the virus, our twinning plans for 2021 will reach fruition and I have written to Martine Biche in Dinan to say how committed we are to visiting again and how much we look forward to seeing our friends in France once more.

Here in Exmouth, we will not be meeting before Christmas as has been our habit but we hope that we may meet in early summer. Our finances are healthy given the lack of activity and consequent expenditure in 2020, though we must expect most expenses to have risen again once we start our activities next year.

I hope you will be able to support our AGM next year in whatever form it takes.

I wish you well for Christmas and hope that you will be able to spend time with family and friends. Keep safe and I will see you all soon.

Sue Moreton

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS Your 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)

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.

### FINANCES

Your committee is well aware that there has been little benefit for members this year from the annual subscription payment. Since the Association's outgoings have been low, for obvious reasons, our financial situation is very good with ample funds to cover next year's anticipated expenditure. Therefore, as a one off response to this exceptional year, the committee has decided to dramatically reduce next year's subscription rate and to request a token payment only, to demonstrate a wish for continued membership, of just £5 per person for full members. Social members will not be asked to pay anything but I will be approaching them in due course for confirmation of their wish to remain members.

Any new members joining the Association next year will, of course, pay the usual fee of £25 pp.

No payments are required yet as the subscriptions are not due until March **but anyone who pays by automated payment must act in good time to change their instructions to their bank to ensure they do not overpay. If you do not change the amount payable our Treasurer will assume the extra is a donation to the Association.**

Those who pay by cheque or cash should wait for further information about subscriptions which will be sent to you early in Spring.

Maggie Gingell  
Secretary

### **AGM**

Our AGM will be on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. We are assuming that it will need to be an online meeting via Zoom as it seems likely that having face to face get-togethers for large groups is still a long way in the future. Zoom is free and easy to download and I am happy to run some practise meetings for those unfamiliar with it who would like to try it out ready join us for the AGM.

The committee appreciates that not everyone is able, or wishes, to use Zoom therefore I will be sending information about the AGM well beforehand so that you have a chance to register your votes as appropriate and hear what will be discussed. Do get in touch if you want more information about using Zoom for our AGM.

Your officers and a number of committee members have already expressed a willingness to continue serving the Association but there are vacancies on the committee and anyone is welcome to put their name forward to join it. Do get in touch with one of the committee members if you want to know more about what is involved. Nomination papers will be sent out nearer the date of the AGM.

By March we should have some idea of the level of disruption to European travel that Brexit and (at the time of writing) the possible no-deal situation may cause, so the AGM could be the time to consider how our Twinning arrangements might be affected.

Maggie Gingell  
Secretary

### **DINAN**

We expect, like us, you have really missed our Twinning visits this year. Our visit next year to Dinan will be very welcome and something to look forward to. We have all the plans in place, ferries with reclining seats and coaches booked departing on June 17<sup>th</sup>, to enjoy a wonderful time with our Dinan hosts, and returning on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

I have recently spoken to Martine, the Dinan Chairman, and she assures me that they are also planning our visit and very much looking forward to seeing us again too.

Of course the visit can only take place if we have all had the Covid vaccination. It cannot come soon enough! I expect by the early summer we should have all received it in time for us to be able to travel safely. If everything goes to plan and it is safe for us to travel we will be contacting you in the Spring to give you the final arrangements.

From the Dinan Committee,  
Eileen Beech, Anne Bentham, Jan Eamer, Sandra Dunn.

Congratulations to Eileen on her recent co-option to the Town Council. It's good to have two active twinners involved in decision making for our town. Tim Dumper is the Association's nominated Town Council link.

### **THOUGHTS ON THE LANGERWEHE VISIT 2021**

The Pfizer BioNtech vaccine, as we know, is creating a light at the end of the coronavirus tunnel for some of us in this country – a vaccine originally developed in Germany by the founders of the drug firm BioNtech.

It is being examined by the European Medicines Agency, along with other vaccines, so it is quite possible that the German people will also have vaccines offered in the New Year. But, at present, both Britain and Germany are facing rising case numbers – Germany faces a Christmas lockdown, and it looks most unlikely that Devon will come out of Tier 2 any time before Christmas.

As I write, the United Kingdom still faces the possibility of a No Deal European Union exit, and significantly changed regulations for travel, costs of insurance, health protection etc. All this leads to the fact that neither the Langerwehe Committee, nor our Sub Committee in Exmouth, know enough yet to restart our planning for a visit. Twinning Members will remember that the Langerwehe party were very nervous last year, and have let me know that it is too early yet for them to make a decision about travelling to Exmouth.

When the pandemic started we contacted the firms that we had been working with to ask if they were prepared to reserve facilities for the visit in the same week in 2021 as we had booked for 2020. This was done, and as soon as we know a bit more about how the future may unfold, we will start work on bringing our proposed programme back to life! I am sorry not to have more definite news, but that is 2020 for you!

Some sad news, for those who have been linked with Langerwehe for some years and will remember her, is that Christa Rosarius, previously twinned with the Coxes, has died.

Tim Dumper  
Chair, Langerwehe Sub Committee

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

There are no plans for social events at the moment and it is unlikely we will be able to plan anything for some time yet. However, when gatherings are permitted once more we will consider arranging a dinner for all so we have a chance to catch up on a years' worth of everyone's news!

## **PICTURE RAFFLE**

We were not able to hold our annual dinner but we did have a picture raffle and the winning ticket belonged to Roger Dunn so he and Sandra will have the pleasure of the painting on their wall until next Autumn



A socially distanced handover of the painting took place in November

## 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.



Our association won the DTC's Monica Saunders cup last year for the best newsletter article in the previous year, and Jim and Maggie Beed, who wrote the article, were presented with the Don Leech tankard. The winner of the cup this year is Bradninch Twinning Association but there has been no DTC AGM at which a presentation could be made. Therefore, our Association got the cup engraved and ensured that it, and the tankard, had a good polish before the DTC secretary collected them and passed them on to representatives of Bradninch.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Carolyn Hallett, one of our newest members, who has been involved in both the French and German visits, is about to move house and so, from Monday December 14<sup>th</sup>, her new address will be 61 Scott Drive, Exmouth, EX8 3LF Telephone 07789 506626.

It will be a few months before the new Members' Booklet is produced so you may like to change Carolyn's address in your current booklet.

Good luck with the move, Carolyn!

## WEBSITE

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