

Exmouth Twinning Association

Keeping you in the picture – December 2017

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, EILEEN BEECH

Dear Members,

2017 has been another very successful year of Twinning. The visit from the Dinannais and our visit to Langerwehe were both extremely enjoyable and in wonderful weather too. Thank you to Sue Moreton and Tim Dumper, who with their Committee members, organised these visits.

Our success is also due to Maggie Gingell, our Secretary, Barry McHugh, our Treasurer, and Linda Bolt, the minute taker, who fulfil their duties so efficiently. I am very pleased they are continuing in their roles. We have also enjoyed some social events which keep us in touch between Twinning visits.

Two long standing members of the Committee, Stuart White and Sue Turner, are leaving this year and I would like to thank them for the contribution they have made to the association. We welcome three new members April Marjoram, Sandra Dunn and Dot Taylor.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to Sue Moreton, my Vice Chair, and the Officers and committee members for their enthusiasm and support for Twinning and to all our members who are so committed to our success. Without you there would be no association.

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and memorable twinning in 2018.

Eileen Beech

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – the new group after the AGM

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.

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)

The first full committee meeting of the new Twinning Year is on Thursday, January 4th

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to our newest member Catherine Bell, a fluent French speaker, who has recently moved to Exmouth.

WEBSITE

Tony Jackson is continuing his role as webmaster and we thank him for his efforts. You will now find the excellent videos, made by Geoff Beech, of our Twinning visits during 2017 on the website. See www.exmouth-twinning.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our treasurer was pleased to receive a good number of subscriptions at the AGM but many members still need to make sure they have sent their cheques (made payable to 'Exmouth Twinning Association') to him.

Subscriptions, which are due each year on December 1st, remain the same as last year at £25 per member, so £50 for a couple. This includes membership for any children or grandchildren under 18 years old.

Social membership stays at £10 each or £20 for a couple. Please note that our Constitution states that Social Membership is at the discretion of the committee and may be offered to long standing members no longer able to host visitors. Therefore it cannot be applied for.

Our Constitution also states that if a subscription is not paid **by December 14th** then membership will be deemed to have lapsed so please make sure you pay your dues promptly. Send your cheque to **Barry McHugh, 10 Combours Close, Exmouth, EX8 5RG**

ANNUAL TWINNING DINNER

It was pleasing to have such good attendance this year when 40 of us sat down for our annual dinner on November 18th. The lower cost of the meal this year compared with previous occasions was appreciated and will be borne in mind when we plan next year's event. If you have any suggestions for a venue do let a committee member know. Next year's dinner will be planned for earlier in the year so that the meal, annual subscriptions, the Dinan deposit and Christmas do not all have to be paid around the same time!

Linda Bolt was the winner of our annual draw to house the beautiful painting of Dinan that was given to us by our French friends.

DINAN

The planning is well in hand for the visit to Dinan from 8th June to 12th June. We will be taking the Plymouth ferry and then hiring a coach on the other side. The cost is £120 per person and there are still seats available.

If anyone's plans have changed and they wish to join us please contact me - Sue Moreton 01395 278016

Sue Moreton, Chair, Dinan Sub Committee

LANGERWEHE

We are busy preparing the programme for our Langerwehe guests who will be with us from July 11th to 16th 2018. As we visited them for a total of 6 days, including travel this year, we are hosting them for a similar period. We anticipate we will lay on a day trip and a shorter visit in the immediate area plus, of course, the usual civic reception and evening meal / entertainment.

Could I ask for members' help if they have any brilliant ideas for any of the activities? If anyone who takes part in the German Twinning has a wish to get involved with the planning and organising work of the sub-committee, please let me know – telephone 01395 276635.

Our next meeting is on Monday December 11th.

Tim Dumper, Chair, Langerwehe Sub Committee

DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE

The subject of the DTC was raised at our forum meeting after the AGM so it seems appropriate to reproduce the article below that featured in one of last year's newsletters.

'The Twinning Circle meets regularly to compare notes, offer ideas on the development of twinning activities, foster contacts in other countries and, through that association, provide a group insurance benefit.'

'Membership of the Devon Twinning Circle costs just £10 per association per year which can be quickly recouped through the beneficial insurance rates negotiated by the Circle. It produces its own newsletter which promotes twinning activities and fosters contacts. Currently, around 80 Twinning Associations are members of the Twinning Circle.'

This description of the DTC is taken from its website and explains exactly what this umbrella organisation does. We are invited to send representatives to the quarterly DTC committee meetings which are hosted by the various associations in turn so take place in different Devon towns and villages.

Tim Dumper is our nominated DTC representative and, at the forum, we discussed how we might support our membership of the DTC by accompanying Tim to the meetings or going instead of him when he cannot make a particular date. Many Twinning Associations send a small group of members to the DTC meetings and it would be good if we could do the same as useful ideas can be gleaned from the other groups.

Several members at the AGM offered to accompany Tim occasionally, but all of you are welcome to put your names forward too. Perhaps we could then send a small group to every DTC meeting. Let the secretary or Tim know if you are interested.

100 CLUB DRAW

October – 24 Mary Morris & Norman Drew, 6 Richard & Jane Capstick

November – 19 Brenda Taylor, 10 Sandra & Roger Dunn

Annual draw for £100 – 14 Pat & Keith Graham

100 CLUB – THE FUTURE

During the forum discussion after the AGM the viability of the 100 club was considered and, since many contributors to the scheme were not present, the decision was made to give all members a chance to respond through the medium of this newsletter.

The 100 Club was started by Tony Jackson as a way of raising much needed funds for the association and members were able to buy shares (represented by numbers) which were then entered for a monthly draw for a prize of around £10 to £12, depending on the number of shares bought each year. An annual prize of £100 was drawn at the AGM.

The club raised considerable sums over the years but, since some stalwarts of the 100 club are no longer with us and the subscription was raised last year, the number of shares sold has reduced to

the point where the amount of work for the treasurer is not justified by the minimal amount raised for our funds. With the new subscription rates, the association is in good financial health so does not require a lot of additional fund raising now. Therefore, we do not actually need the 100 club anymore.

However, the treasurer is prepared to continue to run it if sufficient members want it to continue. Therefore, any member who is keen to keep the 100 club going is asked to email Barry on barry-mchugh@sky.com to say how many shares they would buy at a cost of £12 each – though don't send any money yet! If replying on behalf of a couple please make it clear whether you would each want your own shares or if they will be a joint purchase. Should you not be able to send an email then write to Barry at 10 Combourg Close, Exmouth, EX8 5RG.

This must be done **before December 30th** so Barry can calculate whether the club would be viable. The committee members will then make a decision about continuing it or not at their meeting early in January and the outcome will be reported to you all. If the club is continued it will, of course, have a new start date, probably February, for its year but this would help again to move costs away from the Christmas period.

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

The Members' Handbook, which is sent to all members and contains contact details for each of us, will be updated in the new year. The secretary has received information about new email addresses from Margaret and Barbara but if anyone else has any changes to their contact details would they please let Maggie know before the end of December.