

Twinning Newsletter April 2018

Letter From The Chair

As I sit in my office on a beautiful morning it strikes me as I reflect back what a great bunch of people we are altogether. Friends and helpers and helpers and friends, Officers and the Committee, loved ones and lost ones.

As some of you are aware my Vice Chair and committee member, John Puttick resigned at the AGM last year although I am pleased that he remains a member. He will be missed for his good work over such a long time with the Association. Alan Stone has been appointed as the new Vice Chair and now shares the "hot seat" with me.



We are also pleased to announce that Zoë has now taken over the role of Newsletter Editor and my thanks goes to her for taking this on.

Sadly, we lost one member last year, Sandra Wade, and have also recently lost Kelvin Layer, Katie's husband.

On a lighter note last year, we enjoyed many wonderful times together and our social events continue to be well attended and fun. Unfortunately, I could not attend the car treasure hunt and BBQ due to my knee replacement operation, but I know that our French guests and English members and friends, over 60 altogether on the day, all had a good time.

Our September sightseeing trip to France was very eventful, in more ways than one, a trip to Honfleur and other local places and "an extra day" in Dunkirk!

Our memberships stay pretty steady with a few members leaving for various reasons and other new members joining.

2018 kicked off with our New Year Meal at Callenders and which was wonderfully organised by Katy and attended by nearly 40 people. Next came our Soiree with live band, and with a 60's theme. Much dancing was enjoyed.

This year we have already just made a trip over to Gournay for the Patchwork and Country exhibition and we are offering a trip in July to incorporate the Tour de France which is coming right through Gournay. Also, the annual St Clair Parade – of which we are taking part in again this year after having a short break from the walking procession to enjoy watching it instead.

Keith Townsend

New Year Meal at Callendars

The New Year Meal was a very enjoyable first event of the year for everyone, and many thanks to Katy for organising it again this year. Once again, we dined at Callendar's and spent a lovely evening sharing our stories and memories from our Christmas' and the New Years'. A memorable moment was John's dinner being mistakenly eaten by an unsuspecting member for the second year in a row! This provided us with lots of laughs and leaves us with a question of 'will we make it a hat trick next year?!'

Zoë Cornford

60's Soiree-Nothing Is Real!

Well it was a really excellent evening for our soiree. A good time was had by all with lots of singing and dancing.

Many thanks to the band; they were excellent!



The sixties music was just great.

Some members and friends went the extra mile and dressed up in sixties gear. We even had a hippy who sang "Back in the USSR" the band and paid £10 for the privilege. Now all we need to do is to "top this" for another good evenings' entertainment, (no pressure!)

Many thanks to all those who made this evening a success.

Alan Stone

Patchwork Event in Gournay-en-Bray

Six members travelled over to Gournay en Bray on 13th April and stayed til 16th for the exhibition, taking with them a number of colourful patchwork quilts and cushion covers all crafted by our members and friends. In amongst these was a wall hanging which Ann Norris, Pauline Townsend and Janet Olesen crafted together – depicting various Hailsham and Gournay scenes including our Hailsham Church, Pavilion, and the War Memorial. In fact, two similar wall hangings were made, and one was presented to Annick and Wai Lin and the other French committee members.



The weather was kind to us and during the weekend visits were made to a local church – St Martin Bremontier Merval which has many wonderful carved wood sculptures which had been taken from the Abbaye de Bellozanne when it was destroyed. Sunday was spend in Dieppe visiting local sights and enjoying a lovely meal in a restaurant near the harbour.

Pauline Townsend

Twinning Association Cycling Group

The local cycling group, numbering over a dozen, really came together following 3 visits to Gournay, enjoying the companionship cycling down the Avenue Verte. We meet on either, or both, monthly dates of the first Saturday and third Sunday. Whilst inclement weather, particularly snow and ice, tend to reduce numbers, most are keen to go...attracted by the lure of Brunch and coffee at one of a number of tried and tested venues. Amongst our favourite are The Village Shop, Upper Dicker, The General Stores at Ripe (Chocolate Brownies to die for!), Bates Green, (Arlington) Farm Shop & Cafe, Lakeside Café Horam, and more recently Sharnfold Farm Shop, near Stone Cross. Spoilt for choice really, so there's usually a 'debate' before we set off in the chosen direction (the majority has it!)



A route is usually decided upon before we depart, favouring the minor roads and lanes, and when aiming towards the Dicker or Arlington, Robin Post Lane, a traffic free byway, is favoured....unless very wet and muddy.



Whilst the attraction is socialising and good Brunches, the other real benefit is the physical exercise afforded to all ages, which the group represents in spades...or should it be in pedals?

Ralph Olesen

There have been many memorable moments on our summer trips that have become a regular feature for the Twinning cycle group for some years now. For anyone wishing to put vast mileage behind them, we would be a great disappointment as we tend to cycle gently along enjoying the lovely scenery of the Pays de Bray, en-route to Gournay-en-Bray. Who could forget the cold beer and cider that greeted us after a hot, humid ride up to our farmhouse stopover near Forge-les-Eaux, and the 3-course bar-b-que meal that followed, all seated on long tables outside as the sun set over the hills. Even more memorable as our French hosts all went home afterwards and left us alone in the ancient farmhouse! Or the opposite experience of arriving in Forge cold and wet and piling into the nearest cafe for coffee, omelette and chips. Bliss!

We've sat by quiet rivers watching swallows dip and dive, we've fallen asleep on grassy banks after baguette and cheese, cooled ourselves in the clear spring water of a "lavoire", frequented numerous cafes and been welcomed in Gournay on arrival as if we'd accomplished something incredible. Actually, we'd taken 3 days to cycle what others have done in 4 hours!

This year, as last year, we're staying in the U.K. with French twinners joining us in West Sussex, but next year maybe the run down the Avenue Vert to Gournay will happen again, so why not get ready and join us on our twice monthly rides. Get that bike out of the shed!

Paul Simmons

**Have you joined our
Facebook group? Don't
miss out on any
upcoming events!**



Upcoming Events!

Friday 18th-Saturday 21st May

French Friends Sightseeing Weekend to Hailsham

Friday 8th June

Twinning Cycling Group's trip to West Sussex

Sunday 24th June-1pm Start

Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ hosted by Nicola and Alan Stone. £5 per person.

14th July Weekend

Weekend visit to Gournay-En-Bray, coinciding with the Tour De France through Gournay.

Hailsham Twinning Committee:

Keith Townsend	Chair	01323 846539
Alan Stone	Vice Chair	01323 842660
Pauline Townsend	Secretary	01323 846539
Nicola Stone	Treasurer	01323 842660
Pam Smith	Membership Secretary	01323 442151
Paula Rose	Social Secretary	01323 841373

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