

Twinning Newsletter August 2020

Letter From The Chair

Well what a strange time we have had since we last got together in February for the bar games event. Who would have thought that we would have had a lockdown, shielding, safe distancing, zoom, meetings, masks, no contact allowed with our families or friends, beginning only weeks later. In some ways, it has seemed a long time since February but in other ways it has flown by.



I hope that you have all remained well and safe during this time and I know that I and Pauline have missed our regular social events with you all. We do hope that we may be able to gently start these again on the 13th of September this year, with our Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ at Alan and Nicola's home, while adhering to Social Distancing guidelines (it's a good job that they have a large garden!)

Our 20th year of Twinning with Gournay en Bray was to be celebrated later this year, but has been officially cancelled. It would be too much of a risk to have members, committee and French visitors over for this event, especially as we do not know what the rules will be at that time in the future. However, belated celebrations will hopefully be held sometime next year.

We were due to pay a visit to Remshelden in May this year to celebrate their 30th year of Twinning with Gournay en Bray, but of course this too had to be cancelled and will now hopefully take place in May 2021.

Gournay's side of our 20th year of Twinning with us has been planned for the weekend of April the 7th 2021, which also coincides with the quilting exhibition in Gournay. We have been asked to have quilting/patchwork available if at all possible for their exhibition.



Having outlined what the year has been like, I, of course, trust that you are all well, or as well as you can be at this difficult time.

To finish, a little good news. Membership Renewals have been discussed by your Committee, and the decision has been made to carry your memberships over until November 2021, with the hope that we will be able to have a full year of Twinning events.

I look forward to seeing you all as soon and as safely as we can.

Keith Townsend

AGM 2020

The AGM was very well supported and it was lovely to see everyone, thanks to all who attended. The food that was made by fellow members was lovely and although it was a meeting, still a great social event to be had. I was selected to join the committee and have been welcomed with a great reception; I look forward to seeing you all in the future events to come. **William Dale**



New Year Meal at Callendars

I've been asked to write a short passage about the New Year meal (my first) which was held at Callendars in January. This now seems a long time ago but I will endeavour to remember events as best I can. The fact that I accompanied Katy Layer and Valerie Pope who proved to be the most terrible influence, encouraging me to drink far more than is good for me won't help matters but I will do my best. I was collected, on the night in question, by Paula Rose who offered to drive Katy, Valerie and myself to the venue thus enabling the three of us to consume large amounts of wine which seemed to just appear on the table at regular intervals. I'm assuming this had something to do with the fact that we shared a table with Keith!!!! And, although we were spread out, the atmosphere in the restaurant was one of friendship and conviviality with members greeting each other with real warmth and joy. There seemed to be a great deal of laughter and chatter on each table although I didn't hear a lot of French being spoken!

The service was excellent and each course seemed to be more delicious than the last but, as a regular patron of Callendars and never having had cause to complain receiving only the very best fare, this was no surprise. Everyone appeared to be 'tucking in' with gusto and scraping their plates clean. Eventually, the meal was finished and the highlight of the evening was ...wait for it...Keith's speech. He has a great knack of being able to make everyone laugh which is fantastic way to end an evening with one and all displaying huge smiles. As a new member I feel I have much more to look forward to as part of the Twinning group and a huge thank you is owed to Pauline and Keith for all the hard work they put into the different events and fund raisers throughout the year. I, for one, really can't wait until we can meet up again and am relishing the thought of the next New Year get together.

Hillary Pope

New Banner for Twinning Events

2020 is the year of the new banner for Hailsham Twinning Association! With many thanks to Nicola and Alan for making this happen, we were able to unveil the new banner at the New Year Meal, which will be used at our future events. The banner mirrors our French side's banner, so future trips to Gournay and vice-versa will have a more 'twinned' and official appearance!



Bar Games Afternoon

I'd put a lot of planning into the Bar Games afternoon but even I was surprised as to how well it went! Despite a drizzly, Sunday afternoon the hall was buzzing and a good time was had by all. Even the showroom dummies in the hall would have had a smile on their face if they had had heads! Many members hadn't ever played some of these games before.....so thankfully we didn't play darts!! The assembled members were divided into teams of two by drawing from a hat and assigned to one of two leagues. Each team played each other at different games and who ever topped each league made the final.



The noisiest game was table soccer and at one time I imagined Waitrose staff coming over and complaining about the shrieks of laughter. In contrast we had dominos with players deep in thought. Table skittles and Toad in the Hole provided the opportunity for more aggressive tactics and the subsequent scattering of skittles and toads across the floor and into hidden places.

Some unusual cue action during pool proved fruitful for some whilst Shove-ha'penny bambozzled others more used to using Credit cards than handling money! Bagatelle was chosen as the Grand Final game and deserved winners were Felicity Payne and Jenny



Mansfield who I think remained unbeaten the whole afternoon. It was a pleasure to organise and see so many enjoying themselves. A definite case of it's the taking part that counts.

Tim Izzard



Twinning Cycling Group

As with seemingly the whole world, the Cycling group curtailed all its gatherings since late March, although the majority as individuals or couples sought their socially distanced regular exercise through cycling mainly using the network of quiet rural lanes surrounding Hailsham. Use of the cuckoo Trail was generally avoided as it tended to be much used by walkers, families with prams and those exercising dogs.



In June a number of couples paired up and arranged a picnic somewhere of their chosen route as our favourite refreshment stops were closed down of course, and only recently re-opened with the easing of Lockdown.

The first gathering, of massed cyclists, actually 11 of us, happened on Saturday 11th July as reported below, and what a pleasure it was restoring another much missed social and exercise opportunity.

The regular cycle meet on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday in each month is now restored in many calendars, and a standard time of 9.30am on either day has been agreed. This allows members not living in Hailsham rather more time to have breakfast and get to the venue at South Road Car Park....where the usual negotiations take place to agree a route and refreshment stop (not that simple of a process!)

Ralph Olsen

On Saturday the 11th of July, 11 of us met up at the car park in Hailsham for a beautiful,



sunny cycle ride, our first since the beginning of March. After warmly greeting each other in a socially distanced way, we finally left the car park. Janet led us in and out of the Pevensey Levels on a fabulous ride through Hankham Village, Westham and through Pevensey Castle before we stopped at Chilley Farm for sustenance. Total distance 12.5 miles on arrival back at Hailsham car park.

Gillian Greaves

VE Day Celebrations in Lockdown

Hailsham Twinning Association had many plans over the VE day weekend, including a visit from our French friends. Due to the lockdown implemented in early March, we, among the rest of the world, saw lots of our plans for the future being cancelled or post-poned.



Our visit from our Gournay friends was cancelled, and many of the plans we had for the weekend fell through too. Our first quiz of the year, which we were planning to run in both French and English, was a greatly missed event, and Hailsham Live, a local event planned for VE Day, was also cancelled. However, that didn't stop our members from celebrating VE Day from the safety of



their own homes!

Over the weekend, Pauline and Keith had a Zoom call with some of our French friends, who celebrated over in France. Although it's unlikely we'll get to visit our French side this year, thanks to social media, we can still keep in touch!

Zoë Cornford

Information for Members

Due to many of the events this year being cancelled, we are glad to inform members that your subs for the year 2020 will be carried over to 2021.

Our October Celebrations for 20 years of Twinning have unfortunately been cancelled, though we plan to have a belated celebration next year when it's safe to do so.

Date for your Diary!

Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ-Sunday the 13th of September 2020

£5 per person, with a start time of 1pm. Social distancing will be adhered to!

BBQ to be held afterwards at Alan and Nicola's.

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



**Have you taken any photos that
we could feature in the
newsletter? If so, please email
them to: zoecornford@gmail.com**

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