

# Twinning Newsletter November 2021

## Letter From the Chair

What a strange and difficult time we have all had over the last 18 months or so. Who would have thought how everything would change and affect us during this period.

From a Twinning prospective everything came to a halt. No meeting up at our regular social events and no trips to and from Gournay en Bray. However I am pleased to say that some members kept in touch by regular Zoom quizzes. We also had some paper version quizzes being sent out to members by Pauline too.

Our French conversation group also restarted on Zoom, moving to garden meet ups when rules permitted. On a couple of occasions some of our French friends joined in too. Over this period some members have received contact from their French Friends and Pauline has continued to be in contact via email with French Twinners.

In September 2020 we managed to hold our Treasure Hunt and BBQ in Alan and Nicola's Garden. This was in fact just the before rules changed again and we entered into another more restricted lockdown. Little did we know then that we would not be able to meet again until our next Treasure Hunt and BBQ which was in August this year. We were very

fortunate to have the sun shining for us on both occasions. Our final "High Tea" event with a wonderful garden quiz set by Alan also took place recently and was well attended. Once again, the sun shone on us all afternoon.



Well done to all who turned up on Sunday 17th for several games of Petanque at Stone Cross.

Committee Members have kept in touch throughout this time and a recent meeting allowed for planning of the High Tea Garden event and our Eat and Meet Annual General Meeting this year. Katie will also be organising our annual New Year Meal at the Calendars Restaurant in Hailsham.

I want to extend my thanks to Pam Smith who has been our Membership Secretary and on the Committee for a number of years. She has decided to step down from this post but I hope that she will continue to be able to attend our social events in the future.

I also hope that we can continue with the planning of Twinning with Remshalden in Germany. This too came to a grinding halt at the start of Covid and has not progressed further. We hope that the Mayor of Remshalden can visit Hailsham in 2022.



My thanks goes to all our Committee for their dedication and help. Without them all we would not be able to continue with our very successful Association.

Also thanks to all our members who regularly attend our social and fundraising events and help us by donating various items of food and raffle prizes.



Finally I hope we can get back on track with our visits to Gournay en Bray in 2022 and also welcome visits from our French friends to Hailsham too.

I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2022.

**Kind regards – your Chair –  
Keith Townsend**



## **Petanque**

10 Twinning members met at the Petanque court at Hankham to join their members in a friendly and sociable game of Petanque on the 17th of October. A very enjoyable morning in the sunshine was had and we all shared refreshments. It is hoped that we may have another games event in the Spring 2022 with a BBQ and other games at the venue. Also, Norman and Marilyn, who are members of our Twinning Association and help to run the Newhaven Twinning Association, have suggested that we may join their members for a Petanque game in Newhaven in 2022.



## **Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ**

Back in August, we managed to hold another of our famous Walking Treasure Hunts and BBQ's. Thankfully the weather held out and we all had a great time catching up with each other for the first time in a long time for many of us. Congratulations to the winners, 'Mazza and the Scooterettes!'





## **High Tea and Quiz Afternoon**

Another enjoyable social event held at Alan and Nicola's! This time, a very engaging quiz set by Alan around their beautiful garden. This was swiftly followed by a variety of dishes prepared and donated by our wonderful members.



A special thanks to Paula for all her hard work preparing and organising all the drinks and dishes!

Congratulations to the winners! You clearly are the most observant of us all! It was lovely to see everyone together again, and in a Covid safe manner!

## **Cycling Trips and Meetups**

We sadly never made our trip to our twinning friends in Gournay, planned for June 2020 but a few of the group did manage a lovely holiday in Cornwall later on in the year, kindly host by Tim and Liz. Although Covid was still very much affecting life for all of us in 2021 we intrepid pedallists still managed to pack a full year of social cycling and fun. Unable to meet up for our usual twice monthly cycle rides between January and March we kept in touch by the new and increasingly popular Zoom video calls. However, April arrived and we were finally allowed some easing of our lockdown restrictions and were able to meet in groups of up to six outside. Our first tentative trip out on an unseasonal and bitterly cold Sunday was to one of our favourite cafes, The Dicker Stores, only to find it closed!





The party returned to Hailsham and split up between the homes of Ralph and Janet, and Mandy and Geoff where hot coffee and hot cross buns were enjoyed. May brought lovely spring weather and the group went a little further to the Castle Tea Rooms at Pevensey Castle, cycling through the villages of Hankham and Westham and returning across the Marsh.



In June a few of us enjoyed a wonderful jazz evening at Limekiln Farm, Chalvington, as part of the Villages Music Festival. During a cycle ride in June Clive heard and saw a cuckoo while out on the Marshes.

Other trips during the year have included stopping for refreshments at Chilley Farm, Arlington tea rooms, and Sharnfold Farm. In August Liz and Tim kindly hosted another BBQ at Vines Cross and in September a group of us enjoyed their wonderful hospitality again down in Helford, Cornwall.

Recently we also enjoyed an Italian meal at Romeo and Juliet restaurant in Hailsham, followed by the latest James Bond at our dear Pavilion Cinema. It is hoped that we can arrange some kind of camping trip next summer and some of us are even suggesting that we make another attempt to visit our friends in Gournay. Who knows?...

We meet the first Saturday and third Sunday in the month for a cycle ride (weather permitting), setting off from the South Road car park at 9.30am.



We are not “lycra” cyclists but instead enjoy a leisurely pedal around our beautiful lanes, always stopping along the way for some refreshments in one of our many cafés.

**Mandy Pittman**

## Upcoming events

15<sup>th</sup> January 2022-New Year Meal at Callendars. Booking available now-please speak to Katy Layer to book your place!

Beetle Drive-We are hoping to hold this event in the future, but it does require lots of members to attend! Date to be confirmed.

**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](mailto:zoecornford@gmail.com)**

## Hailsham Twinning Committee:

Keith Townsend	Chair	01323 846539
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