

Twinning Newsletter November 2018

Letter From The Chair

Dear All,

Welcome to our November 2018 Newsletter. I am pleased to report that our Association's social events have continued to be well attended and enjoyed by those coming along. My thanks go to our Committee and Officers who put in a lot of effort to organise our annual social events. Equally thanks also to everyone who contributes with donations of food and raffle prizes. We always welcome members ideas for events too so if you have any please let Committee know.



The Cycling group continues to flourish and the monthly Saturday and Sunday rides, which I know from experience, always involve a coffee/breakfast stop too. As you will see their annual break took place in England this year, but it is thought that they may go to France again next year but cycle on a different route, yet to be decided. New cyclists always welcome!

The French conversation classes run by Pam are continuing and if anyone is interested in joining in these then they need to contact Pam (who is also the Membership Secretary) as she runs groups at varying levels. Also, the French conversation group, who try to meet monthly (in our home) is continuing and enjoyed by a number of people. This usually consists of a prearranged topic to be discussed at each session and general chat between the group.

I was pleased to meet with the Remshalden scouts from our Friendship town in Germany and am keen to report that the German town and officials extend a welcome to youth groups and our Association members who may like to visit there in 2019. Anyone interested in this type of visit needs to contact Pauline or Committee Members.

Membership remains at only £10 per year each so, if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us, bring them along to one of our events – the next one being the AGM on 30th November 7.30 Charles Hunt Centre.

All the Best



Keith Townsend

Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ

A group of us set off one Sunday afternoon in June on the Car Treasure Hunt. As usual, we made a staggered start and, following the clues ably devised by Alan, Keith, Nicola and Pauline, we set off round the course. We went via London Road to Hellingly, where we stopped at the church had a cat to us, then we realised that all the clues were in a logical order round the outside. My daughter, Jen, and I then set off again and went the wrong way, but still found answers to some clues! Once we realised that we had gone wrong, we ended up back on the route via Cowbeech and Rushlake Green. We noticed that some fellow competitors had stopped for a sneaky drink at the pub. Eventually, we finished up at Alan and Nicola's for a fantastic BBQ, with salads and puddings. It turned out that Jen and I had won. That was an added bonus to a really enjoyable afternoon amongst good company.

Katy Layer

Henfield-Cycling Trip 2018

There is, it seems, no limit to the intrepid spirit of the Twinning Cycle Group who recently ventured as far as Henfield, north of Paris, for their annual camp. Seventeen of us in all, including guests from the Gournay-en-Bray Jumelage. Scouts had been sent out well in advance to scour the land and had found the ideal camp site at Blacklands Farm, a quiet, rural location suitable for our sedate and siesta loving members, some of whom had every intention of actually cycling at some point. We all arrived on the Friday and Geoff & Mandy's trusty gazebo was erected as a centre piece, festooned with Susie's bunting and fitted out as a communal kitchen. Six tents and a caravan were put up around it occupying the centre of a vast field." What a lovely quiet spot " we thought, ignoring the large, empty children's play area next to us.

A huge round of applause went up as Monique and Joel arrived from Gournay, having battled through rush hour Sussex traffic, to complete our party. Joel is a semi-professional cook, well used to fine wine and every French culinary delight, with this in mind we decided to impress him with some quality English food, and bought them both fish 'n' chips! A daily diet of sausage, beans, bacon and eggs followed, washed down with lovely wine and Pommeau which Joel kept producing from his pannier bags. I'm sure they went home enlightened by this fine English fare we fed them on. Johnny P. got fed up with the stodge we were eating and organised a healthy vegetable stew to be prepared. This caused a major incident in the camp as Gill demanded that the dirt in the leeks be washed out first, but John felt it was an essential ingredient. Gill, knife in hand, held her ground and John retreated gracefully into his wigwam in a vapour cloud.

Ralph, who had masterminded the whole expedition, being the chief scout among us, oversaw proceedings from his luxury chalet in the woods nearby, well away from his little troop of underlings.

Saturday arrived, and our quiet campsite suddenly filled up with dozens of noisy families. Realizing that our spot next to the play area was not such a good idea we were forced to go on a bike ride and took cover at Stan's Bike Shack.

However, no sooner had they arrived, but they all disappeared and by Sunday evening all was peaceful again. Our evenings were spent

sitting round our camp fire, sometimes playing games as befits a group of mostly pensionable age people, namely a memory game involving trying to remember a single digit number which proved far too difficult for most of us, the game being won by Monique, striking a blow not only for feminine but also French superiority.

The days were spent very slowly getting on our bikes, but getting off them very quickly whenever we passed a pub or cafe. An old railway line running north from Bramber became our main route, rather rough in places and one steep area caused our one and only mishap when Janet took a tumble. Where was Zoe when we needed her? Just after this our route leader Clive had a rush of blood and, thinking we had gone ahead, which we hadn't, chased after us giving us fifteen minutes of blissful peace and quiet before he realised his error.

On a more serious note I have to report that Tony has lost his trousers, or more precisely his cycling shorts, and his hat! Have they been stolen? Taken back to France as a souvineer? Detectives would have identified two main suspects: Ralph, who shared his luxury cottage with Tony, thereby having "opportunity" and Clive, whose own cycle shorts had begun to reveal more than was decent in mixed company, having "motive". At present the case remains unsolved.

All our cycle holidays seem to end with Geoff throwing cheap and useless bits of equipment in the rubbish bin. This year it will probably be the LIDL BBQ set, failing to ignite for the second year while John's cheaper ASDA BBQ blazed away merrily. I must say though that I think my Wicks BBQ outshone them both.

After the excitement of Mandy getting her bongos out last year, it was "SingalongaSusie" with her ukulele this year, has a Twinning choir was born? Blessed with fine weather and long summer evenings, life revolved around the food



which Sue and Mandy organised, keeping us all topped up and tipsy. Sue cycled even less than last year but did have to guard the kitty, which was so well worked out that we only had to top it up with one pound each to balance the books at the end of the week. Geoff cooked us all a delicious curry, Clive guided us on all our rides and ended the holiday selflessly cycling with Monique and Joel into Brighton on much quieter cycle paths than they came on. Gill took care of Monique when she was poorly, and we all managed to make sure this mish-mash of humanity got along with each other, without fistycuffs, for the fifth year running. Lastly Ralph and Clive are to be congratulated and thanked for organising the whole event so well. Onwards and upwards... Vive la bicyclette!

Paul Simmons

St Clair Weekend in Gournay

A group of us set off to Gournay early in the morning of Friday 13th July, however, we were not at all unlucky but in for a fantastic weekend. Some of us went in the minibus, some by car and bike. We arrived in the afternoon and went off with our hosts and met up again in the late afternoon to greet the Germans from Remshalden who were there for St Clair too. We then went to the Town Hall for a reception with the German and French mayors who gave speeches and Keith made an excellent speech too, and we presented gifts to the French and Germans.



The next day, we took part in the 14th July procession to the War Memorial where Keith and Pauline laid a wreath, then it was on to an outdoor reception at the Town Hall. The French Twinners were having a stall selling pancakes, drinks and sandwiches to coincide with the arrival of the Tour De France in Gournay. We went along to support them at the stall and we were very lucky to experience the Tour de France for ourselves. It was preceded by razzamatazz and floats giving out free gifts, then the race passed by in a flash but it was wonderful to see. We must have seen some of the well-known cyclists, including the eventual winner, but it was difficult to tell them apart. The atmosphere was great and we had good chats with fellow spectators.

In the evening, we had a lovely meal at the Asie Wok restaurant with our French hosts and other Twinners. It was a delicious buffet meal and a relaxing evening.

The next day, we were with our hosts in the morning then met in the afternoon for the St Clair procession. It was a boiling hot afternoon, but the procession was very colourful and lively. Our Twinners wore Royal Family masks and this went down very well with the French audience. People threw themselves into the role; Nick acted the part of Prince William enthusiastically, while Richard (Prince Harry) had dyed his beard ginger! Meanwhile, Keith (Prince Charles) kept trying to kiss his daughter-in-law Kate (Pauline!)

Before going out in the evening, there was the chance to watch France win the World Cup. All of Gournay erupted with joy, with cars tooting their horns madly, driving round and waving French Flags.



In the evening, we went to Claudette's in the countryside for a very relaxing meal. There were over 30 people there, all sitting outside and enjoying the buffet and plenty of drinks. The evening ended with Monique playing the accordion and us all singing in French and English.

The next day, we said our goodbyes and set off for home. It was a wonderful weekend and we are grateful to Keith and Alan for driving and Pauline for organising it all.

Katy Layer

Remshalden Scouts Visit

Over several months and after much planning and conversations between our Association and the Group Leader, Christoph, the date for their visit arrived. Unfortunately rain came down on the day they arrived and the day they packed up and left the Bushy Wood scouting venue. But in the true scouting tradition – this did not deter them. But fantastically the sunny weather then prevailed throughout most of their two week stay in Hailsham.

Altogether there were 25 scouts ranging from 14-18 and 5 leaders). They had arranged their own itinerary which consisted of sightseeing locally, games on the Western Road park, ten pin bowling at the Leisure Centre, walking to Eastbourne, and visiting coastal towns including Brighton where they camped out on Brighton Beach for the night.

Our Twinning Association had also arranged a cream tea event, thankfully held inside at the Southview Community Rooms as the rain came down and did not stop on this particular Sunday.

Having over 30 people and Twinning helpers too in a small inside area needed something extra to interest the scouts (other than the wonderful spread of cakes and sandwiches provided by our members). Keith came to the rescue – he rushed home and brought back two shove ‘appeny boards – much to the amusement of the group. After discussion and rule explanations this soon developed into a competition and was enjoyed by all. I think some of the rules may have gone out of the window though. Mary Lovell also gave a wonderful talk about the English Scouting Movement and handed out badges to all the scouts – it was good to see how this led to many of the scouts asking her many more questions as a group and individually.

A request to have a typically English meal had been made by the group and Pauline had organised a fish and chip supper with apple crumble at Callendars. For some reason the scouts had decided that they wanted this on the same day as the cream tea! Who are we to argue with their request? So an enjoyable evening was had by all - some of the Twinning Committee attended and the Hailsham Mayor, Nigel Coltman, joined the group and welcomed the scouts and their leaders.



On the last evening of their stay in Hailsham they had invited some of the committee to join them in a traditional Remshalden area meal consisting of a type of casserole with sausages and lentils and with a dessert to follow. They entertained us with varied sketches and singing.

Pauline Townsend

Walking Treasure Hunt & Cream Tea

Having recovered from the Car Treasure Hunt, my friend from near Tunbridge Wells & I embarked on the Walking Treasure Hunt, though I use a 'walker' & can't walk too quickly. We began at the South Road Car Park on Sunday 12th August, where we were given out instructions by Keith and Pauline. We set off on our circular tour taking in the back roads, and nooks and crannies of Hailsham. Some clues were easier than

others, eg: how many bays in the market? Where was the tree house? (a sign on the wall) and how many white garage doors were there? (3, but 2 were cream!) The last clue: 'who is the dearly missed best friend?' was discovered lying on a bench – Connie Walker! We came last – but I walked slower than anyone else! We then drove back to Lynwood, Nicola & Alan's home, for a delicious cream tea, which most of us were able to enjoy in the garden, braving just a few drops of rain!



Pam Smith

October Quiz

Once again it was lovely to see so many of our members come out for our second quiz and supper evening of the year. This season's choice of meal was sausage casserole, which I hear was thoroughly enjoyed. Excellent questions were again written by Katy, who keeps our brains ticking during the quiz and updates us with the correct answers between rounds! Many congratulations to the winning team! A very enjoyable evening as always; here's to the future quizzes!



Zoë Cornford

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



Upcoming Events!

New Year Meal

Future events with dates and confirmations to come!

March: Soirée (free to members!)

April: A trip to Gournay for Euro market and tractor festival

May/June: A trip to Remshalden in Germany (our Friendship town)

July: St Clair Trip

June: An invitation to visit Gournay and meet up with Remshalden Twinning

Sept: Sightseeing Weekend in France

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

Sharon Cottingham	01323 845792
Katy Layer	01323 843125
Ian Haffenden	07880773125
Zoë Cornford	01323 449352