

# Twinning Newsletter November 2019

## Letter From The Chair

Dear All, Sunday afternoon and Pauline and I are just back from the Remembrance Service in the town and oh yes of course, we've got a meeting tomorrow night.

A Twinning Committee Meeting, and thank goodness we've got a fabulous committee. Without whom so many of the events you all come to would not happen. Even this newsletter wouldn't appear!



As always at this time of year I need to say a very big thank you to:

Pauline - the organiser, Nicola – our Treasurer, Alan – my Vice Chair and beer drinking companion, Paula – the wonderful food at our events doesn't appear by magic! Katy – door lady who takes our attendance money and chases nonpayers, Pam – Membership Secretary – no payment = no membership, Sharon – happily always with us and willing to help wherever needed and Zoe - Chief Veggie

Chef and Newsletters Producer – always a good read. Thank you all so very much and of course a huge thank you to all our members too.

**Keith Townsend**

## Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ

On a lovely day in July, a group of Twinners set off on the annual Car Treasure Hunt. There were 4 ladies in our car, Hilary, our driver, Valerie, Jennie and myself. We set off on the route which would take us round some pretty country roads, going via Horam and returning through Amberstone. Luckily, Hilary is an







accomplished driver, as we frequently had to stop or turn back to look for clues. It certainly was a Treasure Hunt, as some of the clues were hard to find, we all ended up wandering around a pond searching hard on one occasion! We returned to Nicola and Alan's to enjoy a fantastic barbecue with the Twinners' Trial providing excellent musical accompaniment. It was a lovely afternoon, with good company, and the icing on the cake was

that we found out that we had won. In fact, Hilary was so impressed by the event, that she joined the Twinning Association on that day!

**Katy Layer**

## **A Canterbury Tale!**

Our Twinning cyclists ventured out again this year camping and cycling around Canterbury. Anticipation begins well before we set off for the trip when we all meet up for a pre-holiday meal a week or so before we leave, just to get our stomachs ready for the abuse they will receive around the



communal camp kitchen. This meal is always a jolly affair, renewing old friendships and meeting up with the unsuspecting newcomers to the group who need to try and fit in to a unique blend of Corbynites, Thatcherites, leavers, remainers, carnivores, herbivores and Clive.

One of the reasons for having this meal is to make important decisions and agree an agenda for the holiday. The only decision I can recall being made was that everyone should take a cake! Paul and Mary hosted the evening round a large table in the garden. It's been our experience that when we host this sort of event with other friends, there is always the perk of knowing that quite a lot of wine is usually left over. Clearing up after they all eventually fell out the door, we were shocked to find **ONLY ONE BOTTLE OF SPARKLING WATER** left behind.

Friday 28th June found us all driving to Canterbury, all that is except Gill and John who missed the whole trip through illness. We all met up at a rather posh campsite and found a quiet corner where we set up camp. Out came Susie's bunting, Geoff's

gazebos, cookers, tables and chairs, and...cake. Ralph, Janet, Tony and Judy decided this year to be less aloof and camp like the rest of us, their tents though, situated

a safe distance from us, had balconies, double beds and drinks cabinets. It's become something of a tradition that our two curry specialists, Mary and Geoff would bring a curry each for our first evening meal. This made a splendid start to our holiday with us all sitting at our long "French style" table complete with, would you believe, a silver candelabra in the middle. The meal lasted all evening as various desserts appeared and a rather large pile of empty bottles began to grow. We were off to good start.



Our first full day looked like being a scorcher. Whitstable was our destination and about mid-morning Ralph began to get all 15 of us together ready to move out. He was his usual bright and chirpy self but after over an hour of, at first one person missing, then another, and finally losing his own wife, he looked a dejected figure as we all wondered if we would ever get going. But get going we did and wound our way round Canterbury, through the university campus and onto the "hors categorie" Alpine climb up the Crab and Winkle Trail.

We had several newcomers to our group and we were not sure how they would cope on one of our exhausting rides. After all, most of us had trained rigorously throughout the year, slogging our way to the nearest café and back twice a month. One of our newcomers was our esteemed chairman Keith, who assured us that years of competing in the London to Brighton road race, as well as hurtling around the Pyrenees had prepared him for anything the Crab and Winkle could throw at him. All was going well until we found him bloodied and bruised in a pub in Whitstable. Our concern increased when he muttered that he had crashed while avoiding a canoe! We gave each other knowing looks and deduced that delirium had already set in. O where was Zoe again! She could have attended to every part of his anatomy including his brain. After a few Tommy Simpson "put me back on the bloody bike" moments he took on a more Captain Oates approach and, not wanting to burden his comrades, selflessly took a taxi back to base.



The return journey was indeed a test of stamina, the combination of heat and alcohol taking its toll. Mike suffered some sort of heat stroke and barely surfaced for the next two days, Judy went very wobbly but was revived en-route by a packet of crisps from Mandy. Tim's back tyre exploded dramatically when his rear wheel snapped. All in all it was an



eventful little jaunt. Bikes and people had to be retrieved from various disaster scenes by Tony and Liz.

We had originally planned for a fish 'n chip supper but couldn't get organized so Mandy took control and produced a wonderful vegetable stew from seemingly nowhere. What a star! What a lazy Sunday morning we all had the next day. Our camp kitchen had unhealthy things bubbling away on every available gas ring and a long, slow breakfast followed in warm sunshine. Eventually we thought we ought to do something and a nominal ride was arranged by Clive taking in the local lanes around Stodmarsh and Littlebourne, stopping briefly in Wickhambreaux which consisted of a village green, a church, a pub and a very big tree. Back at camp yet another cake appeared, this time a Bumble Bee cake made by Liz. A huge four course BBQ took up the whole of the long summer evening as the candelabra flickered windlessly on into the twilight, conversation gradually petering out as tired bodies drifted off to tents and slumber.



More uneventful but very pleasant cycling took place on Monday taking in the quaint villages of Bramling, Patricxbourne and Wingham where we had a rather pricey lunch at "The Dog". An important highlight of our camping trips is always to have at least one evening meal together in a restaurant and this year found us all at the "Duke William" in Ickham, eating outside

as the sun set and swifts swooped. On the Tuesday we took our bikes by car to Ash, from where Clive had picked out a route which included things close to his own heart, so we were not surprised when we were taken to see an impressive Victorian water tower, Richborough Castle and the Pfizer Viagra factory. We finished up at the lovely town of Sandwich. Rich in timbered houses and with pleasant riverside walks this town is well worth a visit if you've never been there.

Our holiday was nearly over but we had time for one more BBQ before some of us headed for home leaving just five happy campers to enjoy a last breakfast together on the Wednesday. This left one more tradition to take place a few weeks after our return...our post-holiday meal. This time it was a large table in Geoff and Mandy's kitchen, where we all tucked into an Indian take-away, reminiscing and playing very silly games. Dessert was Geoff's special favourite, frozen Mars bars. It's been about eight years since our first Twinning cycle holiday, both here and in Normandy, and we took a few moments to think of fellow peddlers no longer with us, remembering with fondness Debbie Haffenden, John Plowman, Sandra Wade and Nell Nicoll.

Thanks to Clive, Ralph, Janet and Susie for initial planning and site visits earlier in the year and thanks again to everyone who made a CAKE!

**Paul Simmons**

## **Cycling on... Twinners regularly on 2 wheels**

Throughout the year it has been our custom to meet up and venture forth on either (or both!) the first Saturday or third Sunday each month, gathering in South Road Car Park at 9am on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.

Numbers vary each time, typically between 4 and 10 depending on weather and other prior commitments. Before we set off, a tried and tested venue for coffee and cake, or even the full English... is agreed upon, together with a route - ideally a circular one avoiding well trafficked roads. Needless to say the Cuckoo Trail, and Robin Post Lane are favoured where they can lead us to the chosen refreshment stop!



Over recent years we have built up quite a list of favoured stops such as Lakeside Café at Horam, Chilley Farm at Rickney, Village Stores at Ripe (Chocolate Brownies to die for!) and Village Shop, Upper Dicker. Typically we will cover 8 to 20 miles and spend an enjoyable social time together, exercising at a moderate pace in the open air, returning home around mid-day.

Care to join us? Then have a word with Ralph Olesen at the AGM (or email: [rolesen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rolesen@tiscali.co.uk)) who e-mails out a monthly reminder.

**Ralph Olesen**

## **September Sightseeing Trip**

On Monday 20th September, 15 members of Hailsham Twinning Association set out for a sightseeing weekend in Gournay-En-Bray, our Twin Town. The 5am start for everyone led to many naps on the minibus! Once we had arrived and were fed and watered by some of our French Hosts, our first point of call was the restored bridge 'Pont du Coq Menerval.' One of the Gournay



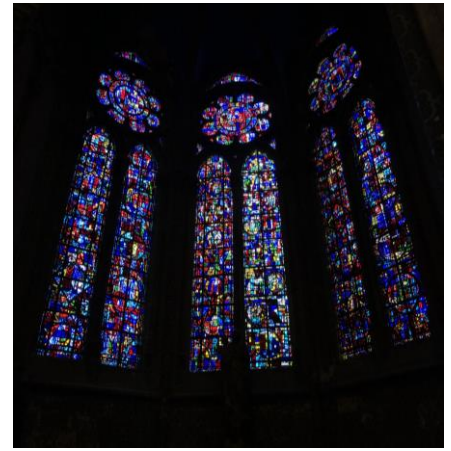
members had translated the information boards for us, which we then took turns reading aloud to the group.

Saturday brought lots of sunshine, and some well rested faces! We stopped at two different watermills, at one of which we were given a very informative speech by one of their guides. We then spent the afternoon in Forges-Les-



Eaux, allowing us to grab some french goodies from the shops and our lunch. After our midday stop, we carried on to Le Château de Merval. This is now an Agricultural college, which is massive in comparison to other colleges, with only 160 students in the whole college.

Sunday blessed us with a sunny morning but a drizzly afternoon. The morning we spent at La Maladrerie Saint-Lazare in Beauvais, which is often used for concerts and the like. The gardens there are extremely well-maintained and designed. The rain came down just as we arrived at the National Tapestry works in the city of Beauvais, where we saw several tapestries in progress. We were informed



that one of the works we were looking at would take a total of 2 and a half years to complete!

Raincoats still on, we went to grab a spot of lunch in a café opposite the Cathedral of Beauvais. We visited the Terra Nostra photo exhibition, which had started the day before, which focused on humanity's impact on the environment. Lastly, we went inside the Cathedral at Beauvais and saw many beautiful aspects, inside and out, such as their intricate stained-glass windows. Monday morning, we bid our farewells to our friends in Gournay and set off home.

**Zoë Cornford**

## **Walking Treasure Hunt & Cream Tea**

The Walking Treasure hunt on September the 1st went really well, with a fair few groups involved and enjoying it.

The weather was a bit cloudy but managed to stay dry thank goodness! While many of us got stumped by the trickier riddles on the list, others flew around answering the brain-racking clues.



The food after was great as always, and after a visit from the Mayor, the results came in! We had won! This was the first walking treasure hunt for me, and it won't be my last! Overall a fantastic day!

**William Dale**

## **October Quiz**

The October Quiz was well supported on a wet and windy evening. Over 75 members competed in the rounds, which Quiz Master Katy had carefully sought quite challenging questions with one or two easy ones. As the saying goes, 'they are only easy if you know the answers!'

At half-time, the food was served by the very capable cooks (Paula and her team) dishing up Chilli Con Carne with hearty chunks of bread, or the vegetarian option, Vegetable Chilli. Many congratulations to those who won!

**Sue Cornford**

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations between Remshalden and Gournay**



On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of October, some of our Committee members returned to our twinned town, Gournay en Bray. This time to take part in Gournay's celebrations of 30 years of twinning between Gournay and Remshalden,



Germany. An official re-signing of their Charter took place with over 100 people present and enjoying a four course meal and entertainment. Over the weekend a visit was made to the Agricultural College at De Merval where we were given a guided

tour of the orchards followed by a picnic including tastings of the Apple Juice, Pommeau and Calvedos all made from the huge variety of apples grown there.

A further trip was made to the underground caves 'La Cite Souterraine de Nahours.' A very interesting site where the caves were used by a whole village in the First and Second World Wars.



The Committee took advantage of meeting with the German Mayor, Herr Molt, and continuing their planning towards a twinning between Remshalden and Hailsham. It is planned that Herr Molt will visit Hailsham for the first time in 2020. Hailsham will be organising their own celebrations of 20 years of Twinning with Gournay en Bray in 2021.

**Pauline Townsend**

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



**Future events with dates**

18<sup>th</sup> of January: New Year Meal at Callendars

16<sup>th</sup> of February: Bar Games afternoon with refreshments

28<sup>th</sup> of March: Quiz and Supper

May: Long weekend of sightseeing by our French Friends (hosts needed!)

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> of June: First visit from Remshalden Mayor and Councillors

6<sup>th</sup> of June: Beatles Soirée and meal with live music from Nothing Is Real

27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> June: Tractor Festival in Gournay-En-Bray

July: St Clair Trip – to be confirmed

Sept: Sightseeing Weekend to Gournay-En-Bray – to be confirmed

**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		07880 773125
Zoë Cornford		01323 449352