

Twinning Newsletter November 2022

Letter From the Chair

It's good to report that we have been able to get nearly back to normal now since Covid started and prevented us from running our normal Twinning events and trips.

We have, as you can see from our Newsletter, held various social events for our members this year. All of which have been well attended and all events held outside have had the sun shining. How lucky.



The Committee has continued to meet regularly to plan events for all and to restart the visits to Gournay en Bray.

The Mid September trip to Gournay went very well and we all enjoyed visits to local areas and time with our host families. This time we were asked to arrive around 5pm and so we took the scenic route along the Opal Coast and stopped off at one of the museums. Comments were that it felt wonderful to be returning to France once again.

The end of September was when our trip to Remshalden near Stuttgart in Germany took place. This was to join in their celebrations of what would have been their 30th anniversary of twinning with Gournay en Bray . It had originally been postponed til this year because of Covid.



Myself, Pauline and Alan initially travelled to Gournay to stay with hosts overnight before we joined the French/German Twinning Association for the long coach trip to Remshalden (10 hours). All was going well til we met a huge traffic jam near Stuttgart which added another 2 hours to the journey. After a splendid weekend we then made the same trip back. Staying once again with our host families in Gournay overnight before driving back to England.

Thankfully no traffic jams this time!

We were wined and dined and treated to some lovely local entertainment for the Twinning Celebration Evening. We were also lucky to spend time with our German host families and a trip to a fairly local town also took place. A local museum was also visited and we were able to enjoy a wonderful display of photographs etc from the 30 years of their twinning. A tree planting ceremony also took place in Remshalden to mark this twinning event.

All three of us were able to have time to talk to important members of their Association regarding restarting the



friendship between Hailsham and Remshalden and hopefully moving forward again with a possible twinning between us. We have verbally invited Herr Molt, their Mayor, and others to visit Hailsham early next year. We had previously got to this point before Covid struck. Now hoping to restart this all again.



Two weeks after this trip 9 French friends travelled over to Hailsham for the Bonfire celebrations. The good weather stayed with us and a trip to Hastings Art Museum and a walk along Bexhill seafront took place before returning to English hosts and enjoying the procession in Hailsham and the wonderful fireworks. The next day our French friends enjoyed travelling to Brighton by train, visiting The Lanes, Brighton Pavilion and the Pier. On returning home Pauline and I hosted a buffet meal for 20 (including my daughter's puppy – who was on best behaviour with all who attended.) It gave Committee, French visitors and English hosts time to talk to each other in a relaxed atmosphere. Culminating with Keith et all singing songs with our French guest accompanied by the music on their phones!!!

Time was also taken to make some plans for French/English visits next year. Possibly in May or June.



As always I want to thank all the Committee for their continuing hard work and also to hosts and members in general. Let's hope that we do not have any interruptions to our plans and events in 2023.

Kind regards – your Chair – Keith Townsend

Jubilee Cream Tea

On the afternoon of the 8th May the Twinning Association held a garden party at Lynwood to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum jubilee. The garden was suitably decorated with bunting and the weather was warm and sunny.

This free event for members was enjoyed by 40 people including the Mayor. A royal quiz was held; the winners were Paula Anne and Katy.

As always at these events there was a magnificent spread enjoyed by everyone, another successful event.

Nicola Stone

Petanque

A lovely August Sunday morning was spent by several members of our Association, playing the French game Petanque at Hankham Petanque Court. Although we have to limit the number of people able to play, we always struggle to see people turning up for this event! A lovely, non-strenuous sport that can be enjoyed by many. Special thanks to Ann for helping to organise this event.



Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ



Our Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ came the weekend after the beloved Queen Elizabeth II's passing. With respects paid to her on the day by way of a toast, we went ahead with our event, albeit with a smaller attending than usual. A

lovely afternoon had by those who attended, and congratulations to the winners!



Gournay Heritage Weekend Visit

Steve and I were very apprehensive about going to meet our French hosts as we have never done anything like this before. We set off very early on the Friday morning for the journey down to the Eurotunnel. The journey was quite straightforward. We arrived in Calais and took the scenic coastal route. The weather was good and the scenery was lovely. We stopped for coffee in a hotel. We then went on to Ambleteuse to visit a war museum which was quite interesting. After a look round, time was getting on and we eventually stopped for a quick lunch.

Steve was one of three designated drivers to drive the minibus along with Keith and Alan, none of whom had much sense of direction!! We turned round more than once!!

We eventually arrived in Gournay En Bray at just after 5pm. Our hosts were waiting for us. The rain had just started, so after being introduced to our hosts, we set off for our home for the weekend.

Our hosts; Severine, Frederick and Mailie, made us feel very extremely welcome. We had worried for no reason!!! After a lovely supper, conversation and drink we went to bed.

The next morning breakfast was a real treat with lots of different breads, croissants, pain aux chocolats and different confitures, yoghurts etc.

We all met up and went to a glass factory/museum in Blangy sur Bresle which was about an hour's drive away. We had coffee then a picnic in the grounds of the museum. We had a nice visit there and watched a demonstration of glass blowing.

We returned home just in time to have a cup of tea and a quick change before meeting up again in a Moroccan restaurant in Gournay en Bray. We had a lovely meal and met some more members of the French side of the Twinning Association.



On Sunday morning after a delicious breakfast again it was a free morning with our hosts. Severine and Mailie took us to a village called Gerberoy which is an artists' village. The buildings were very old and there

were cobbled streets. It was lovely there and we had a walk round before stopping for coffee in the sunshine.

We then went to a doll museum on the outskirts of Gournay en Bray. The lady owner explained that she had created this in lockdown. It was a story (which she explained to us in English before the tour). It was quite interesting and very clever how it was portrayed.

After this it was back to the house to get packed and have lunch. Severine had made two very large quiches before we had got up that morning. They were delicious. We then met everyone for the journey back. We had all decided to come back a day early due to the Queens funeral.

We had a lovely weekend and have made friends with our French hosts and are keeping in contact with them.

We don't know why we were so nervous!!

Jan Sharp

Remshelden Visit

Keith, Alan and I and the coach filled with the French German Twinners made a late arrival in Remshelden on the Friday evening. The traffic around Stuttgart being the problem that held us up. We were all met by our hosts - Alan staying with Suzanne who he had stayed with before with Nicola. Myself and Keith with our friends and hosts - Valentine and Sandra. They were also hosting two other French Twinners - Isobelle and one of the "Rolling Stones" band members. It is so nice to see friends again and stay in their homes with their family members. Much chatter, mainly in English and French took place during the first evening and the rest of the stay.



Saturday was a full day of entertainment. The first being a visit to a local museum, lunch after outside (there was rain but we were under a very large gazebo, then back to our host family's home. A tree planting ceremony also took place. Not much time for a rest as we then went for the Twinning celebrations in the evening. This consisted of a buffet meal and drinks, entertainment including the local male voice choir, dancing by a female dance group, and "The Rolling Stones" - who had invited Keith up to sing with them. He has done this before in France and

we know them all quite well. He was also accompanied by Herr Molt the German Mayor. Finally ending with a duo made up of two people who had travelled on the coach with us. Much speech making and exchanging of presents also took place during the evening.



Sunday with a full day of rain we took a coach trip out to another town where we had a guided tour, followed by being treated to a meal at a local restaurant. We had free time to explore the town and museums.

The final evening was spent in our host's home, again, with a wonderful meal and much chatter and laughter. So many stories were exchanged, and plans made to see each other again in the future.

Twinning really gives the opportunity to get to know the real culture of the Countries involved and to learn about the homelife of our hosts.

A thoroughly enjoyable jam-packed weekend including a stay, before and after visiting Remshalden, with our French hosts before travelling home.



Pauline Townsend

October Quiz

Another one of our well attended quiz evenings was held in October. This time with a new spin on it; bring your own picnic! Still with a break in between the 8 rounds of questions, with thanks to quizmaster Katy, the 'picnic' idea seemed to be a big hit all round. Congratulations to the winners!

Hailsham Visit from Gournay for Bonfire Weekend

In October, our side of the Twinning Association welcomed 9 members from our French side, including their Twinning President Annie Guillot, for a packed weekend of sightseeing. Saturday night, members experienced a true Sussex bonfire and parade, followed by a fireworks display. A full article on this event will feature in our next newsletter!



Cycling Trips and Meetups

The cycling group continue to regularly meet on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month, though occasionally meet on other weekend days if the weather requires a change of plan.



As well as cycling, the group got together in the summer for impromptu picnics on the beach, where the activity of swimming replaced the normal cycling exercise.

This year after much deliberation members of the group visited Romney Marsh for the day to join up with a few who decided to camp for a few days. The weather was sunny and warm and as well as cycling, the group had a happy pit stop at the pub at St Mary on the Marsh. As the year draws to a close, the cycling group looks forward



to weekend cycling, holiday planning and more opportunities for al fresco fun next year. If anyone would like to join us, then contact the Twinning organisers Pauline and Keith for information on forthcoming cycling meet-ups.



Upcoming events

New Year Meal: 7:30pm on Saturday 21st January 2023

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

Hailsham Twinning Committee:

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