

Twining Newsletter November 2023

Letter From the Chair

Hello everybody,

I was looking at some of my photographs from our last French visit to the Armada event in Rouen and what a fabulous event it was. I was able to look back to April when some of our Committee members visited Gournay to collect the English artwork which had been on display there. This was a very wet and windy weekend and culminated in us attending a dinner involving the French Tractor Club members. English tractor visitors were very delayed because the boats were cancelled from Newhaven to Dieppe because of the weather.



In April and June Pauline and I stayed with the French Twining Presidente, Annie and her husband Thierry in their lovely large farmhouse in the country. It is interesting and relaxing, and we often see other members of their family and enjoy spending time in each other's company. The photographs reminded me just why we take part in this enjoyable pursuit. I also looked at other photographs of our

Twining social events this year and could see how well attended they are by our members and their friends. Always a chance to catch up with each other and have some fun too.

Unfortunately, our French friends are not able to come over in September as we had hoped, but were in the Chailey area recently, bringing along many French farmers with their tractors to join in the Tractor event. Although this was not an official Twining event - the English and French Tractor Clubs were brought together by our Association & it is wonderful to see how these joint ventures have grown. We met up with French Committee for a lunch together at the Six Bells.

We hope that we may make a visit to France in May or June next year and it would be lovely to have a few members join in, who have not done so before. So, once we sort out dates for 2024 – perhaps some of you may fancy coming along with us?



Remshalden, Germany (Our friendship town who are twinned with Gournay en Bray) – held their street festival in June and two of our members, Nick and Felicity left us in Gournay and made their own way to Remshalden via Stuttgart and spent several wonderful days, first in a hotel, and then staying with German hosts. This is something that we may be able to look into doing next year, perhaps if there is enough interest?

Kind Regards, Your Chair, Keith Townsend

New Year Meal

Yet again a wonderfully enjoyed event organised by our lovely Katy, the New Year Meal is one of the most popular of our social events. The attentive staff take great care of us and our evening as usual finished with a reminiscent speech from our Chairman, Keith, recapping the years memories and a cheer to the New Year.



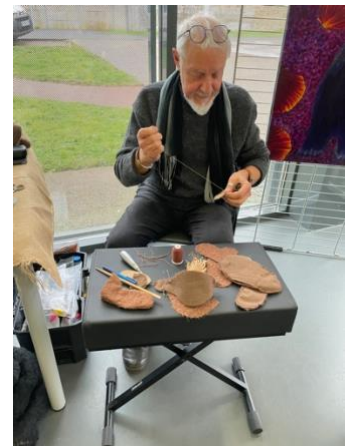
March Quiz and Picnic

Another well attended quiz was held in March, with our questions being set by Katy. Keith provided the entertainment, I mean, was the joint Quizmaster! Always an evening of laughter and brain-racking at our quizzes. Congratulations to our winners.

April Art Festival in Gournay

Pauline, Keith, Nicola and Alan travelled to Gournay specifically to meet the Mayor and to collect the 6 English artists work. The six artists were Jennifer Bassett, Valerie Evans, Lucy Dunn, Linda Mauldon, Mary Lovell and Liz Hankins. It was an excellent exhibition so many talented French and English artists, even a teddy Bear maker Neil Morton who was English but lives permanently in France.

Unfortunately, it was a very wet weekend which affected visitor numbers especially to the Euro Market which this year was held behind the Town Hall.



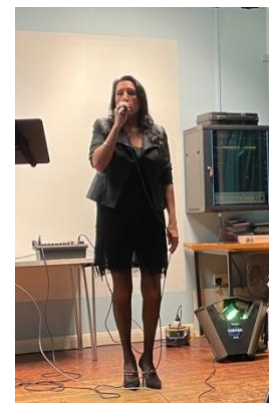
On the Saturday evening we were invited to The Tractor Association dinner which was held in the Salle de Fete. On the Sunday we were taken to the author Jules Vernes house in Amiens which was extremely interesting. On the Sunday evening Monique and Joel hosted an excellent meal for us and the French Twinning committee.

The weekend was over all too quickly and despite the dreadful weather we had a very enjoyable and interesting time.

Nicola Stone

Soiree

This year, we had the lovely Linsay Jane singing many hits from across the decades. Lots of members had a boogy on the dance floor! This event is free to members, and always provides an evening of entertainment and sociating.



June Minibus Trip to Gournay

In June, Alan, Keith and Steve drove a minibus of 10 of us over to Gournay for a sightseeing and social weekend with some of the Gournay members. We were all hosted in our couples/pairs and had a very busy trip! Our first day started with a 6am set off, a quick journey on the Eurotunnel, and a snack stop at Aire De La Baie De Somme. We arrived in Gournay around 2pm, before heading back to our host families' homes. We all met up at a restaurant in the evening to chat with all the other hosts and catch up over the several months/years!



Our second day we had some free time in the morning, so in mine and my fellow twinnings Mary, had a long walk around Gournay, before returning to a delicious lunch waiting for us. We then went as a group to the garden of Andre Van Beek, a French painter, where the weather was kind to us with a



five-minute shower exception! The flowers were stunning, and the landscaping was beautiful. Back to our hosts for the evening, where Mary and I played Rummikub with our hosts for many hours!



Our third day was the main attraction of our weekend, with the trip to Rouen for the Armada! After Wai-Lyn managed to herd us all onto a bus and successfully guide us to the centre of it all, we had enough time before our organised boat trip for a quick



café au lait and a croissant! Once on the boat, we sailed up and down Le Seine, viewing all the great ships from around the world. The afternoon gave us free time to wander the waters' edge, mainly finding the best value for money pint for Keith! After all the walking of the day, we definitely all slept well that night!



The next morning was our departure day, so after a brief visit to Gournay market for Mary and I, we all met at the swimming pool for a tearful goodbye. Not before a photo in front of the Gournay-Hailsham sign!



Zoë Cornford



A long weekend in Remshalden

What an exciting few days! Following our trip with the twinning association to see the 'tallships' in Rouen, France, Felicity and I caught the TV from Paris to Stuttgart, Germany. I must say how quick and easy it was - we left at 1pm and arrived just over 4 hours later at 5.15pm. With no baggage reclaim to negotiate we simply went straight to our hotel which was conveniently located a 10 minute walk from the station. As we only had a day free before being met by our hosts from Remshalden, we had to make the most of our time and started by looking around the high street and park. We also went to an amazing exhibition explaining how and why the new railway station was being constructed (think London Bridge or Crossrail!). We then went to the collection of buildings which included an art gallery and the museum for the state of Baden-Wurttemberg (good test for our language as the explanations were only in German!). On the next day our lovely hosts (Klaus and Regine) picked us up from our hotel. They are retired teachers and both spoke good English - after a round of hellos, they took us to a spectacular hill overlooking Stuttgart where many years ago the king built a monument to commemorate his wife when she passed away. We then drove back to Remshalden (about 20km and after settling in walked around the village with our hosts. Without exaggeration the right description might be 'chocolate box' as Remshalden itself is packed full of rather quaint old houses that are typical of the area. One interesting fact is that dotted around the town there are houses with baking ovens where anyone can go and bake bread on special days. Over the next few days our hosts took us to lots of little villages around the area which I would highly recommend for a visit! All this and then we visited the



Straßenfest (street festival). For this event Remshalden literally shuts off a couple of roads and then builds stands which sell lots of freshly made/brewed food and drink! There were also 2 music stages and bands



played well known songs until late. One of the stands was run by our French friends from Goumay en bray and we spoke to them at length. They'd brought lots of cheese with them, and I ended up buying some. We also met up with our friends from the German twinning association who we knew from previous visits! Sadly, Monday was time for us to leave and we left for the airport. We'd had a brilliant time and look forward to going back again soon! **Nick Barton**



Pub and Bar Games Afternoon



In September, we held another pub and bar games afternoon at the Charles Hunt Centre. Although we have to limit numbers for this event, it is still



a very enjoyable afternoon spent with other members. Congratulations to our winner, Liz, and to Paula, our runner up!

Remembrance Day 2022 & 2023

As a Committee, we decided last year that we would procure a wreath to lay at Hailsham Memorial, on Remembrance Sunday each year, on behalf of the Twinning Association. Keith and Alan, our Chair and Deputy Chair, lay this on behalf of our members.



November Quiz

Another one of our popular quizzes was held in November, still with the twist of bring your own picnic! With the break in between the 8 rounds of questions, the 'picnic' idea seemed to be a big hit all round. Congratulations to the winning team; 'Mixed Bunch!'

Upcoming events

New Year Meal: 7:30pm on Saturday 20th January 2024

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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Nicola Stone	Treasurer	01323 842660
Katy Layer	Membership Secretary	01323 843125
Paula Rose	Social Secretary	01323 841373
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