

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019



Judith and Lynn at the Christmas Market in Hédé



NEWS

Stop Press

Visit to Starwing Brewery Saturday 30th March 2pm £5

We have organised a visit to Starwing Brewery in Redgrave (located opposite Redgrave church) by kind permission of Mark Duxon, proprietor. There will be an opportunity to have a tour of the brewery followed by tasting five different beers. We will be providing a light lunch of cheese and bread to accompany the tasting. The cost of £5 covers both the beer tasting and light lunch. There will be an opportunity to buy beer also if you wish.

Should you be interested Katherine Lawrence (Marks partner) is running a weaving workshop from 10 -1 in the morning (£35 making a garden obelisk) on the same site. For details visit her website:

<https://karenlawrencebasketry.com/courses/>

Could you please book your place for the brewery visit by e mailing Judith at worthamandburgatetwinning@gmail.com or telephoning her on 01379 741806 We will need to know by Wednesday 28th March in order to organise the catering.

AGM

At our recent AGM members heard from Susan our Treasurer that our finances are healthy with a bank balance of around £4000. It was therefore recommended that subscriptions remain at the same rate as 2018. It was also agreed that we would be able to continue to offer subsidies for children visiting Hédé in

the summer, although the precise amount will depend on the number of children going. It was also agreed that we would also subsidise travel to the airport for adults.

The AGM elected the committee as follows:

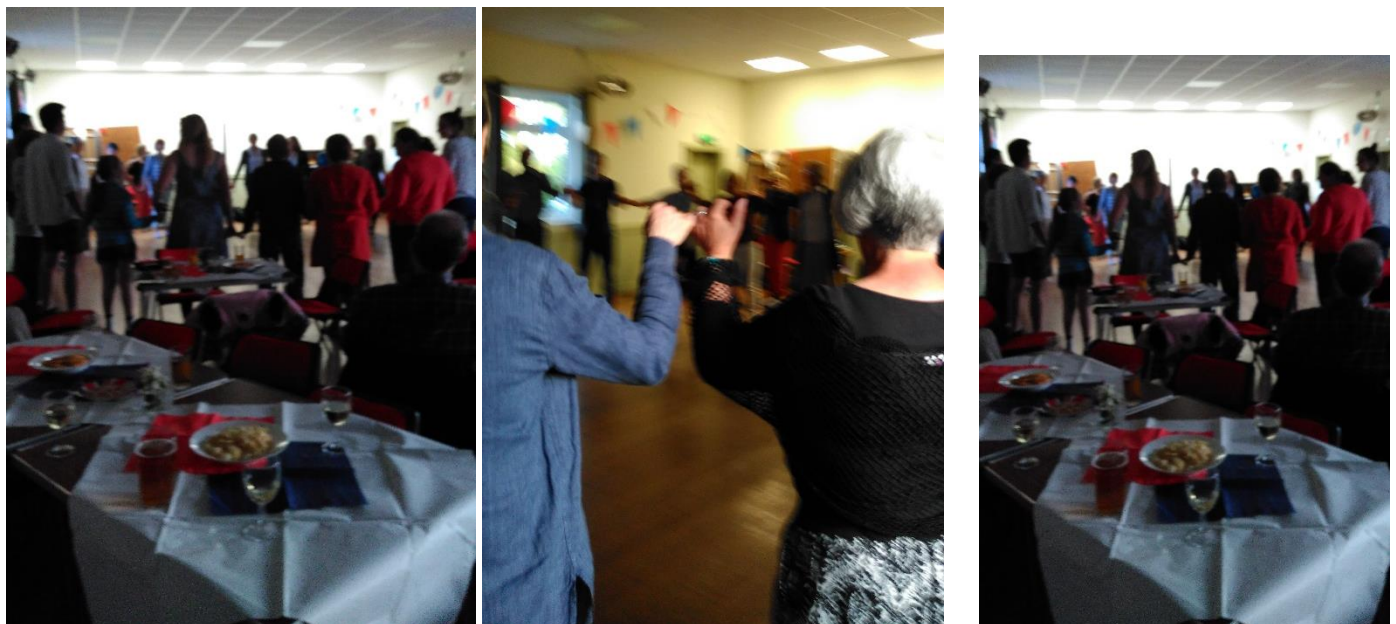
- Linda Simpson Chairman
- Judith Phillip Secretary
- Susan Wright Treasurer
- Joy Cornish
- Lynn Clark
- Katherine Hughes
- Chris Grocott
- Pam Gurhy
- Gerry Gurhy
- Nikki Miller
- Vicky Tustian
- Chrissy Odams

Please do contact any of us if you have ideas for our organisation or wish to comment about anything

Chairman's report for 2018

2018 saw another year of varied activities, some well supported others a bit less so. After the AGM we started our social activities with another film night. Hoping to cater for our younger members we decided on the animated version of TinTin. Interestingly (and a bit fraught for Andy who was our techie for the evening) after having some technical problems we ended up with both English and French subtitles. In fact, as it was an action film, we probably could have all managed without any at all. Although in the event none of our younger members came the adults who did enjoyed it very much. Our thanks to Jacky Bradley who kindly agreed to host this.

A Breton Dance evening in May saw us being led, by BOF a live band, in some interesting traditional dances including one which allowed for intervals to gossip with your dance neighbours!



Breton Dance evening

Whilst we will all remember the summer of 2018 as being really hot, we Twinners will also I hope remember it as a lovely weekend for our annual Twinning visit, this year with our friends from Hédé visiting Wortham. They were also joined by two members of the Badbergen Twinning Association.

The weather held for all our events many of which were outside. New members David and Andrea Kay had bravely offered to host the bring and share in their garden and we all enjoyed the beautiful summers evening there. A river trip and picnic by Oulton Broad was followed by some of our visitors fulfilling their wish to bathe in the North Sea – just as well we had a hot summer!

Our gala meal was enjoyed by all and we were lucky to have entertainment by the Ludham Pikes a group which includes our own member Vicky Tustin. As an added bonus one of the band spoke fluent French when making the announcements. Sunday saw varied activities including biking in Thetford Forest, watching an open-air performance of Midsummer Nights Dream, participating in a cookery demonstration to make strawberry scones and drinks in our (rather parched looking) garden. Of course, for the French the most important part of Sunday was watching their team win the World Cup!

As usual there were lots of French children visiting – 15 in all. Some of our younger members enjoyed teaming up with their French counterparts and we continue to try and encourage more families to be involved.

An autumn event was kindly provided by member Mike Bowen who did a talk running through many of the pop hits of the fifties and early sixties – giving members who attended a chance to dredge up their memories and sing along to familiar songs. Because we only had a small audience, we changed venues and Jacky Bradley kindly agreed to again host an event for us. Without this we would have had to cancel since the cost of hiring the village hall would have meant we had a loss. As it is those who came along enjoyed the evening. The Christmas market was again a successful fund raiser but in any event our friends in Hédé feel it is important for us to have a presence there. The market is the way they raise funds for out Twinning visits so to have us ‘on show’ as it were, emphasises the nature of the event for them.

The final event of the year our Christmas social, a casino evening, was provided by hosts Chrissy and Mike Odams. Unfortunately, the date seemed to have clashed with a number of other local events so it was not as well attended as our Christmas Socials usually are. It’s a pity since it was a really good evening. Betting ‘for free’ meant that it was only the competitive spirit that was to the fore and nobody, even those who lost all their chips – didn’t lose their shirts either!



Our funds are very healthy so for the coming year we are concentrating on having social events that keep us all in touch with each other. We try to hold events suggested by members but for various reasons this year they have not all been well attended. For this reason, we are again asking what you would like us to organise for you. We also try to give as much notice as possible so please when you get the newsletter put the events in your diary.

We continue to try and make links with schools and families but it continues to be an uphill struggle. I am in discussions with Ian at Wortham School to try and get families on board. In November He kindly invited parents to meet me after dropping their children off but nobody showed any interest. We are hoping to have a joint event one morning at the school with a French market and café which parents and children can be involved in. I also intend to pursue the possibility of having a presence at an open evening.

Hellos and goodbyes

We welcomed new members Kellie and Dan Hilling Joseph and Jacob, Heather and Ian Hovey, Janet Whiteside and newest members Anne and David Steele. David and Andrea Kay who joined last year have discovered they are heavily overcommitted so are taking a years break from membership but hope to re-join us next year.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Michael Richards who died in August and our thoughts continue to be with Paddy .

Long standing members Dick and Linda Pell and Caroline Smith have decided to hang up their twinning 'hats'. All are members who have supported us over the years. We wish them well and hope to see them from time to time if they fancy coming to any of our events.

We are also saying goodbye, not as members but as committee members to two of our Committee. Nick Beasley who has been not only a long serving committee member but also our Chairman for four years. He has decided that he will stand down from the committee since he is unable to make many of the committee meetings. He will continue to act as our ambassador to Hédé since he is often in the region. Andy has also decided to stand down but will continue to be our IT support and webmaster (and on a more personal note, moral support to your Chairman!). Our thanks to them both for contribution to the committee over the years and also to their continued contribution to our organisation.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. We can only continue as an organisation with all your participation. Please let us have any ideas you may have for keeping this the vibrant organisation it is today so with this in mind please complete the sheets on your tables before you leave.

After the business for the AGM was finished members enjoyed crepes cooked by Pam and Linda and with a choice of lemon and sugar or salted caramel fillings. While they were enjoying these, they worked on the dingbat challenge (with an additional challenge of four French dingbats). They were also tested on their Wortham Twinning knowledge with a quiz of relevant questions.

Many thanks to those of you who have completed and returned the questionnaire asking for your ideas on what you would like us to organise. We will take these on board and try and incorporate your preferences in the future. In the meantime, and based on your responses so far, we have organised a couple of events one before and one after the visit to Hédé.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday March 30th Visit to Starwing Brewery REDGRAVE

See details above.

Wednesday 29th May – Sunday 2nd June Visit to Hédé

The visit will take place during our half term week. The French schools will be in session so any children/grandchildren coming to France will have the opportunity of spending a day in a French school. We will be offering a subsidy on travel for children (precise level to be decided when we know how many children will be visiting). We will also be offering subsidised travel to the UK airport

If you are considering going then there are various travel options. Some of us have already booked flights with Flybe from Southend on the Wednesday at 18.30, arriving in Rennes at 20.55. Returning on Sunday at 21.20.

Some people have booked with Ryanair from Stansted to Dinard. This leaves at 15.00, arriving at 17.15. Returning on Sunday at 15.00, arriving at 15.10.

Prices vary from day to day so keep checking. Avoid cookies picking up your interest by using control n when you are in your browser

Saturday 21st July Summer Garden Party and Barbeque

Summer garden party and barbeque at Batteleys Cottage 5pm – full details to be provided in due course.

We will be organising events later in the year too and will keep you informed once we have had feedback from everybody with the questionnaires and can finalise events based on your preferences.

Some images from the visit from |Hédé to Wortham July 2018





