

*South Molton*

*Livarot*



## **TWINNING ASSOCIATION**



**NEWSLETTER**

**No. 150 JANUARY 2015**

A belated Happy New Year to all our members.

The first item on our calendar for this year was the **AGM** held at The George Hotel on Thursday 8th January.

Apologies were noted and Margaret read the minutes of last year's AGM.

Lorraine gave the Treasurer's Report and confirmed that the cost of the forthcoming trip to Livarot is £80 per person. We have already paid £40 each as a deposit and she would be grateful now to receive the remaining £40 per person. Please remember to arrange your own travel insurance or if you would prefer, Margaret can obtain this for you through the Devon Twinning Circle. (Phone Margaret on 573558 for details).

**Please note that subscriptions are also now due**—cost remains as last year, i.e. £5 per family, £3 single and £1 for each child of school age. If you have not already paid your subscriptions you will find an envelope enclosed with this newsletter. Please use this to enclose your subscription (with name(s), address and telephone number) and you can give it directly to Lorraine, or to any member of the Committee who will pass it on to Lorraine for you. If you do not have a hard copy of the newsletter and have not paid your subs, please just pay Lorraine (or any Committee member). Many thanks.

Lorraine was thanked for all her continuing hard work in keeping track of our accounts for us, and also Claude Squire for kindly auditing the accounts.

Margaret then gave the Secretary's Report, listing the various events of the past year. She made special mention of David and Ann White who have now moved away but to whom we owe a huge vote of thanks for their hospitality over the years, allowing us to use their room for our many meals and functions and for the great variety of walks they have so kindly organised for us. They will certainly be missed but we wish them well in their new home and we look forward to seeing them at any of our future events if they are able to attend.

Events listed included an excellent twinning weekend when our friends from Livarot came to us, a stall at the Old English Fayre, the boat trip from Ilfracombe up the North Devon coast, followed by a meal at The Old Station Inn and the BBQ at The Old Rectory. Margaret and Steve had represented us at the Foire aux Fromages in Livarot and we then enjoyed our last walk organised by David and Ann—a circular walk beginning at Hunters Inn and ending back there for a cream tea. Four of our friends from Livarot returned to us for the carnival, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and we also took them on our favourite “Selworthy Walk”, ending with a cream tea, during their stay. We had the “Call My Bluff” evening in October, entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church and enjoyed an excellent Christmas Meal in December.

Margaret also mentioned Cliff (Lewis) who sadly had suffered a stroke in August, but was now back at home and managing with the help of carers and a walker and he would appreciate seeing visitors if anyone is able to call on him. We all send our very best wishes to Cliff.

Andrew then gave the Chairman's Report, thanking everyone for their hard work and support over the past year, but also stressing that we need to keep up our fund raising and any new ideas

would be most welcome.

The final report was from Janey as President. She thanked Lorraine and Margaret but said that she was somewhat disappointed in that some of our events were not particularly well supported this year and she felt it was important that members try to give their support as much as possible and we try to get some new members into our association.

### **Election of Officers:**

**President:** Janey had completed four years in this post and was willing either to continue or to give up this year. Margaret had expressed a wish to be President for our 40th celebrations and she was duly proposed and seconded.

**Secretary:** Margaret had already given notice that she wished to resign as Secretary this year but there were no other proposals or offers, so she agreed to continue in post for the time being and she would ask Angela and John Hulme if they would be willing to take over at some stage.

The rest of the Committee were all happy to continue and were re-elected en bloc.

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|---|-------------------------|
| Chairman  | Andrew Petherick        |
| Vice Chairman   | Steve White             |
| Treasurer   | Lorraine Petherick      |
| Publicity Officer   | June Smith              |
| Accommodation   | Margaret White          |
| Newsletter Editors & Publishers   | Dawn & Brian Buckingham |
| Newsletter Distributor  | Simon Karcz             |
| Catering Committee:   |                         |
| Andrew & Lorraine Petherick, Brian & Dawn Buckingham, Steve & Margaret White, John Coleman, Janey Easton. |                         |

The January meeting immediately followed the AGM.

**Call My Bluff— Friday 10th October:** Despite being poorly attended the evening proved very enjoyable and a profit of £34 was made.

**Website:** You may have noticed that I have not included the website address on this newsletter. Unfortunately no-one was able to take over the upkeep of our website when David had to give up, so we have decided not to continue this. However, the Devon Twinning Circle have agreed to keep a page available for us, so we can give them any information as necessary.

### **Christmas Meal—Friday 12th December**

An excellent meal by Garfield's Girls at The Old Assembly Rooms. We were delighted that so many members were able to attend and we all had such a good evening.

**Tree Planting:** As mentioned in the last newsletter, the tree planting to commemorate our 40th anniversary is now going ahead and on our behalf the Livarot Committee will acquire an acer palmatum "Bloodgood" which bears red leaves and we will purchase the same on their behalf for planting here. Good news is that our respective councils have very kindly agreed to pay for the trees and here in South Molton we have been offered a site in the centre of the new part of the extended cemetery.

The Livarot Twinning Committee have asked that the respective trees are planted in March (this is a much better time of year for tree planting, rather than waiting until our planned trip in May) and they have suggested that we send representatives to Livarot in early March in order to do this. A few of us have offered to attend and March 6th has been suggested, but there are no definite plans as yet. We were hoping that a deputation from Livarot would be able to come to South Molton for the planting here, but at the moment it is not looking as though this will be possible for them and we have not chosen a definite date.

We will take a suitably worded plaque when we make our official trip in May, which can be placed by the tree in Livarot. Let us

hope that the trees thrive as well as our Twinning has done!

**Trip to Livarot— Thursday 21st—Monday 25th May:**

We now have 49 people booked for our trip to Livarot which is helping to keep the cost down for us. Excitement mounts as we can confirm that founder members of our twinning, Wyn and Di Smith (who now live in France) will be joining us in Livarot for the weekend and also we will have with us former members Norman and Margaret Chambers.

We have yet to decide on the destination of our coach outing on the Friday and no doubt this can be discussed at our February meeting. We do have several informative leaflets concerning the town of Bernay which has beautiful architecture, churches, museums, shops and cafes. There is an organised walking tour of the town and also a chateau nearby (Chateau de Beamesnil).

**February Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th February, 7.30 p.m. at The George Hotel. As in the past, this will be our planning meeting, as we try to organise our calendar of events for the year. We would very much appreciate some new ideas for fund-raising events as well as suggestions for outings, so please do try to come along if you possibly can. If you have any ideas or suggestions and are unable to attend the meeting please do speak to a member of the committee and we will put your ideas forward.

We do need to make a special effort this year as we need to raise funds to finance 2016 when our friends will be coming to us.

**Annual Meal—Friday 13th March:** It was suggested that this year we hold our Annual Meal at Stumbles Restaurant, where we have been offered a 3-course meal for the sum of £19 per person. We have booked 7.00 for 7.30 but please bear in mind that the maximum number they can cater for is 38, so it will be first-come, first-served i.e. **Book early!** Please book and pay

with Lorraine and she will need to know your choices from the menu:

Chicken Liver Parfait with Red Onion Chutney  
French Onion Soup with Granary Bread  
Fillets of Freshly Smoked Trout served with Horseradish Sauce

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Pan Roast Chicken Chasseur Pomme Purée  
Poached Salmon Pepperonata Stew, Basil Dressing  
Roasted Beetroot and Rocket Risotto, Herb Dressing

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Assorted Berry Torte Clotted Cream  
Raspberry Creme Brulée  
Cappuccino Mousse Chantilly Cream

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Coffee or Tea

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**Tables, Chairs, etc.:**

Since losing David and Ann we have had to find a new home for our tables, chairs and urn. These are now being stored at Steve and Margaret's for the time being. Do bear in mind that these items are available for hire, for a small donation to Twinning funds.

**Tour de France 2015:** If anyone is interested—a section of the Tour de France this year is starting in Livarot on 10th July. A couple of years ago a section of the race went through Livarot, passing through Mesnil Baclay where our friends live. We were watching on TV and recognised the road, then were amazed to see Francis and Andrée sitting under a huge umbrella (it was

pouring with rain) outside their bungalow, armed with their cameras! We then continued to watch as the race passed through Livarot itself, recognising streets and spotting landmarks, although unfortunately we did not see anyone else we recognised!

### **Newsletters:**

I don't know whether anyone noticed on the front of this newsletter—but this is number 150! An appropriate number for the start of 2015! I find it hard to believe that we have churned out this many newsletters over the years—but hopefully there will still be many more to come.

Sidi emailed me a while back to ask permission to translate our newsletters into French for the benefit of all their Twinners. I did say it was a really good idea, but wished him luck with the translation! For some time now he has been putting our newsletters onto their website, but obviously only those who were able to translate for themselves were able to know what we were up to!

I would be only too pleased to receive any contributions for the newsletter—any information, anecdotes, etc would be gratefully received. **(Dawn)**