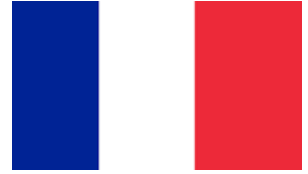


# SHAFTESBURY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020



Our last Newsletter was pre-Lockdown and there has been little to report outside of Covid 19 virus and these unprecedented measures that have been put in place during this pandemic. The Events Calendar for Shaftesbury has been decimated with the cancellation of so many key events and activities, Schools, Churches, Theatre, Club, Society and Associated meetings.

We are beginning to see the light at the end of lockdown with the gradual re-opening of High Street Shops and Offices, albeit under restrictive conditions to protect all concerned. However there is still a long way to go and we hope that we are all able to continue to observe the social distancing and self isolation policies that have enabled us to get to this stage in containing the pandemic.

We are ever grateful, to the NHS and all those working in the medical profession, the distribution network and delivery drivers who have kept us provided with essential food and goods, the care homes and home carers who have worked continuously through lockdown often in the midst of isolated outbreaks. The Police, Fire service and emergency services that have provided the essential support and control of “The Lockdown” even when the public have ventured beyond sensible bounds and got themselves into trouble. Let us not forget the farmers, who are often working long hours and alone without support or reprieve. The list is extensive and the general attitude of the population has recognised the commitment of those on the frontline.

Locally, we acknowledge the volunteers and neighbours who have given their time freely to friends and neighbours in addition to their own family and work commitments. Those who have never ceased and continue to work ensuring that the essential services are there for the rest of us. The local groups that have been started up providing transport, prescription and shopping services, as well as befriending support to those on their own, shielding or self isolating.

Shaftesbury received from Dr. Georg Ludwig, The Bürgermeister of Lindlar, a generous donation of £541 via our own Mayor Tim Cook to The Shaftesbury Food Aid Support Service. Similar donations were made to the twin towns of Brionne in France and Castell in Croatia. Members have continued to keep contact with our friends in Brionne and Lindlar on a one to one basis to keep each other updated on events.



This Year's Lindlar Visit to Shaftesbury has been postponed to June 2021 and will be confirmed in the New Year. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of twinning with Lindlar and we plan to make it a year to remember.

The 2020 Brionne visit has been delayed until September 2021 and we look forward to visiting them after a long 2020 in lockdown and being restricted for travel.

**Boules** – After a late start to this year's games, we have followed Petanque England's guidance on games and have started practising singles and doubles. It seems unlikely that there will be league matches this year, but we hope there may be some knockout competitions.

**Website** – For previous Newsletters, events & photos [www.shaftesburytwinning.org.uk](http://www.shaftesburytwinning.org.uk)

**Membership** of Shaftesbury Town Twinning Association is open to anyone and costs just £6 a year individual and £10 family. For further information, please contact Roy Mitchell, Secretary on 01747 858219 or [roymitchell53@btinternet.com](mailto:roymitchell53@btinternet.com)

**Obituaries** – Many of you are aware, but we sadly report the passing of three twinning Members.

**Leo Williams**, after a short illness, a committed and devoted member of Town Twinning for many years. A regular visitor to both Brionne and Lindlar

**Priscilla Williams**, having suffered for a few years, passed away within a few weeks of Leo.

Leo and Priscilla were enthusiastic members of Twinning for over 40 years and during that time supported the Association in many ways. They were always willing to host guests from Lindlar and Brionne even though they had their original families who did not always come on the trips. As true Twinners Leo and Priscilla often made private visits to their friends and of course they came over here.

Leo was a very clever man and often made games/displays for our fund raising activities. We also have him to thank for our boules piste which is in regular use by us as members of the Keystone Petanque League. On our long coach journeys to Lindlar Leo would always provide the travellers with a quiz that he had prepared. As some of you may know he was a keen supporter of Shaftesbury Town Band, Shaftesbury Carnival (even dressing up in costume and collecting) and Fontmell Magna Village where they lived and started the Scarecrow theme for the village fete.

What can one say. They were such a wonderful devoted couple and will be sorely missed by their family and all who had the pleasure to know them.

**John Littlewood**, A retired Army Officer who had served in Germany, was taking German lessons with other twin town members who were also trying to get to grips with the language. He became an enthusiastic member of the Association at social events and travelled twice with us to Lindlar as well as hosting. Indeed at his well attended funeral (about the last one held before lockdown) his family related how much he had enjoyed being part of the Twinning Association. He was a very enthusiastic golfer and actually died on the Golf Course having collapsed approaching the 18th hole. We send our condolences to his family.

#### 2020 Committee Members

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