

SHAFTESBURY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022



Chairman's Message. Twenty-eight of us recently visited Brionne for a weekend hosted by our French friends. Amongst us were fifteen members of Karen Wimhurst's Palida choir who sang their hearts out, here, there and everywhere, to everyone's delight. A huge thank you to them all. We had a great time, despite heavy rain all day on the Saturday, we visited the 17th Century Chateau Beaumesnil and were very spoilt by our hosts. New friendships were forged and old ones rekindled. Next year we will be celebrating 50 years of twinning with Brionne, so that will be a weekend to look forward to.

We very much hope that members of the choir will want to join the Twinning and participate in some of our activities throughout the year as well as go on future weekend adventures with our twin towns. Next April/May we are off to Lindlar in Germany for a 4 day visit and we will be hosting Brionne here, probably sometime in September.

Helen English



Brionne visit - 23rd to 25th September.

Friday: An early start and smooth crossing with excellent driving by Lina, our experienced coach driver with fabulous sparkly shoes. After some tuneful moments on deck, we were met in Brionne by our hosts and escorted to "La Mairie" (Town Hall) to enjoy a welcome drink and speech from the "élue", (elected official) standing in for the Mayor. A thoughtful commemorative silence honoured our late Queen before leaving for our respective lodgings for supper.

Saturday: Rendez-vous à La Mairie for our trip to the Château Beaumesnil and its weekend Festival of 1001 diverse vegetables with a bio emphasis on recycling, upcycling and replacing chemicals with a greater alignment to Nature where practicable and a return to ancient methods.

“Fanfare”, the Brionne Swing Band, played a lively set in The Barn (“L’Ancienne Grange”) followed by a sampling of our very own homegrown Palida Chorale (choir) ably led by Karen Wimhurst.

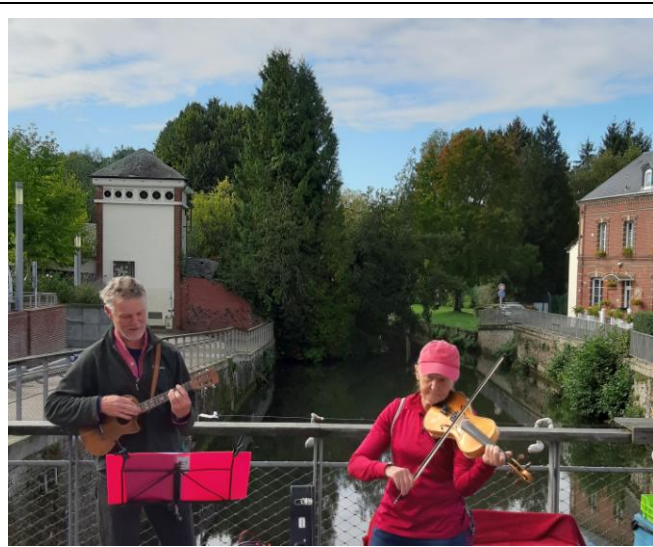


We were treated to a sumptuous lunch, sampling the local fare and traditional recipes from the Eure/Cotentin Region under a marquee to shelter us from the continual deluge which luckily didn’t dampen our spirits at all.

The afternoon saw us on a self-guided tour of the moated Château, with pamphlet guides in French/English. It was gifted to the locality upon death by the owners whose passion was bookbinding. It had a luxurious exterior which belied a more rustic interior with fantastic cellars whose amazing acoustics inspired us to give an impromptu rendition of Michelle, appreciated by nearby visitors.

At 17.30: “La Répétition” Chorale(choir)+Orchestre: practice for the evening concert in Brionne Church. Palida led with a set followed by the French Orchestre. As a finale we performed a Medley of Beatles Songs plus “Vois Sur Ton Chemin” learnt for the occasion. Afterwards a party was at the “Ecole de Musique”: “prendre un pot” in celebration before returning chez nos hôtes: some to supper, slumber or late night partying.

Sunday: saw us re-convene “Au Marché d’alimentation et de vêtements” (food and clothes Market) - Mary the Fiddler and Robin on ukulele started with a lovely “intervalle folklorique” sur le Pont Grace, followed by an impromptu Palida set - all well appreciated by the passers-by (les Passants), (busking: an alternate lifestyle???) We rounded off with a light buffet at “Le Petit Pont” consisting of local seasonal “fruits et crudités” before reconvening at the coach for the homeward journey.



We left with fond farewells to all, albeit in high spirits from our cultural Exchange, forging new friendships for next year when we play hosts. Di George.

Summer BBQ – Saturday 30th of July, kindly hosted by Roy & Christine with the help of others. 20 attended with £122.44 raised towards STTA funds

Shaftesbury Visit to Lindlar 2023. – Proposed date 28th April to 2nd May 2023.

Details to be confirmed in the New Year with a booking form. Approximate cost £200 per person. Please advise our accommodation officer for provisional numbers asap – clarehuxley29@gmail.com

Boules - The Town Twinning players have been making good use of the new piste at Cockrams, Coppice Street and recently hosted The Keystone Petanque Finals Day, where Martin & Jan Lucas became the doubles winners for 2022. (see separate report)

We have also played a friendly at Stalbridge Village Hall and are looking to hold a return match on Sunday 16th October. The league matches are finished for the year but we are still aiming to play weekly if light and weather allow.

The piste is free for all to use, but if you wish to come along to one of our sessions, call Will Moore on 01747 228499 or email whsmoore@talktak.net

French Film - The Exchange at Sturminster Newton were showing the Film “Au Bout des Doigts” and a few of our Shaftesbury members joined Sturminster Newton Town Twinning members for an informal gathering before the film.

Halloween Quiz – Saturday 29th October 7.30 start, £5 per person inc food. Bring your own Brew, Charity Raffle. Prize for best costume. Royal British Legion. 858219 or roymitchell53@btinternet.com

Twinning Lunch – Sunday 27th November - A social lunch (no turkey) – 2or 3 course social gathering at The British Legion, served at 1pm. £10 per head, bring your own Tittle. Reserve places with Roy. 858219 or roymitchell53@btinternet.com

2022 Diary of Events

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| 14 th October | Gillingham Town Twinning Skittles Night at Social Club |
| 29th October | Shaftesbury “ Halloween ” Quiz at Royal British Legion |
| 10 th November | Sturminster Newton Twinning Association quiz |
| 18 th November | Gillingham French Night at The Udder Farm Shop to celebrate 45 years of Twinning with Le Neubourg |
| 27th November | Shaftesbury Twinning Lunch at British Legion – reserve places with Roy asap. |
| 28 th November | Shaftesbury Late Night Shopping |
| 19 th December | Shaftesbury Christmas Fair |
| 24th February | Shaftesbury Town Twinning AGM & skittles evening |