



## Newtown Twinning Association

### Minutes

Sunday 14 August 2016 1930hrs

**Chairman's announcements:** There were none to be given.

**Apologies:** JoJo and Rina unable to attend.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** These were unavailable, but JoJo had sent an action plan, in a point by point format, which would keep us on track during the meeting and would be simple to fill in.  
Therefore:

- 1 Achieved
- 2 Ceildh

The proposed Ceildh in Esta's barn is a good idea, given the space she has available and her willingness for us to hold it there. However, as we want it to be a fund raising event, it would be preferable to open it to a wider public, which may be problematic, in that Esta may not want anything more than a private function and she would need insurance for a public event.

Maybe this could be a test run.

Tickets could be sold through Fred's language classes and via a mailing list.

- 3 Will Cathryn sort out the drinks for the reception and the bill with Ed?
- 4 T-shirts.

Fred has been back to the firm to discuss the problems with the poor printing and laundry qualities. A better product is available at £8.80, with larger sizes too. 7-10 days were needed for an order to be made up. We could sell them at £10 as long as there was approval from the town council. We hoped that the council would pay for this new batch of shirts, given that they would be promoted through the design.

Fred is to order 30, with 10 each of the larger sizes. Those others that we have left could be given away or raffled.

- 5 Fred will hire glasses for the Food Festival weekend from Tesco's.

- 6 Meal at the Elephant and Castle.

Choices will be made at the reception on Friday night, to be given on Saturday morning to the hotel. Steve will write to all participating, giving them an opportunity to decide between 2 and 3 courses. Andrew is to get definitive prices this week.

The room at the Ellie is large and pleasant for our function.

Walks: Walks for the rambling group have been well arranged between Trish, Richard and Mike.

7 News has been received from the choir that too many of them will be unable to attend the craft fair in Les Herbiers, because of work commitments and school holiday time would be preferable. It is hoped that someone from the choir will come and discuss it at the fair.

We decided that discussions between French and potential exchange parties [sport, crafts etc.] would take place on Sunday afternoon at the tent, being a central and obvious point. A draft timetable was set up for this to happen.

8 Congratulations were given to Jon on the quality of his leaflet for the weekend, which will be sent out, with slight changes, to France and our host families asap. Jon will print 10 for the reception in order to reduce waste, as last year most were discarded afterwards.

9 The third weekend in June has been earmarked for the crossing to Les Herbiers.

10 The environmental health inspection was in hand and the French were well prepared for the weekend.

11 We are still unsure whether we can or not sell wine at our table, with or without a licence. Steve may take out a licence in the name of the twinning association. For the Ceilidh, we could ask people to bring their own beverages.

12 Gift ideas.  
Fred said that no gift was expected in October, but a short speech would be delivered in French, English and Welsh, written by Richard. Steve is going to find a book about Montgomery with aerial photography for this September, which could be presented to the French with some local wine.

13 Everyone to assemble [without berets!] at ten o'clock.

14 Mr Harkness, the new head, has agreed to see a contingency from the committee, on September 12th at the High School. Andrew, Alwena, Liz and Jon have said they will go.

Steve will produce a newsletter in time for the Food Festival. Liz to write an article about the Food Festival for the county papers and produce a separate piece for the local rags [Kerry, Bettws, Tregynon] in time for an October publication.

**Correspondence:** there was no correspondence to discuss.

**Financial report:** No change. We will buy wine from the French, but it will be slightly more expensive due to the exchange rate.

**Membership report:** We now have 17 associated members and 6 corporate members.

There was a suggestion that there could be youth representatives from the High School to the Town Council, which was a model followed in other places.

**Any other business:** Library books in French.

Liz and Jon put forward the idea that we could help to provide a range of library books in French for the general public. They have seen the chief librarian, who was in enthusiastic agreement. After a meeting with other staff and officers, they gave permission for us to buy the books and then they would handle the loans. This initiative would put the use of any monies completely in the public domain and would add to the willingness of the Association to support the interests of the people of Newtown.

Jon explained that we could send letters to as many businesses as possible in the area, asking them to donate between five and ten pounds to the book fund and then have a book dedicated to them.

Fred asked how many people in Newtown would be interested in reading them, but Cathryn suggested that supplying a range of books associated with exam texts would be of particular use and we could liaise with the French staff at the High School.

Jon explained that Fred's classes might be interested and we could provide material right across the ability range, including the popular Bandes Dessinées.

**Next Meeting:** We shall have a food festival round-up on September 15th in Kerry at 7.30.