



## Minutes for meeting

January 27th 7.30pm

Held at : Swallow Barn, Kerry

1. **Apologies:** Catharyn, Rina
2. **Present:** Liz, Jon, Alwena, Andrew, Steve and Fred.

Welcome: With the chairman absent, Jon volunteered to take the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. This included Paul Harry Barron and John and Alex Spencer, who had kindly responded to a request to sit in on the meeting, to see if they would like to join the committee.

3. **Minutes:** Correction. There were no Christmas cards delivered on behalf of the Association, which had been meant for corporate members.
4. **Matters arising:** 25 people had booked to come to the annual dinner and paid their £5 deposit.

From this point, Andrew went through the 'Action grid' as decided to be used for ease and clarity.

15/16 **Choir:** The choir had been looking at costs involved with travelling in June at the time of the Jum./Regal and found them to be prohibitive, on account of the Puy du Fou. They were going to look at visiting at a different time, when they could stay with families instead of in hotels.

16/16 **Rugby Club:** After being pressed for a response, the club had decided not to commit to travelling in June, but, like the choir, could look at the possibilities of travelling at a different time of year.

Their costs would be too high for the association to help out, but maybe there are grants available for such a scheme. There was a suggestion that the WRU may have monies set aside for this kind of venture and maybe we could help in some way with fund raising. This could be explored at another meeting.

The French club could come here first, which would set the ball rolling.

17/16 **Tennis Club:** Fred has organised a meeting with Guy in June to look around the tennis club in Les Herbiers. Dr Neville [from Newtown Tennis Club] will go with him and then organise an exchange separately.

18/16 **Silver Band:** Fred will contact Guy about the possibility of a French band coming to take part in the carnival.

19/16 **Maldwyn Harriers:** A request for information from Guy Trochon, to find out about any races at the time of the exchange in June. Interestingly, there will be a race against the tide, between the mainland and the island of Noirmoutier, taking place on the Saturday afternoon. They were waiting for the result of their meeting, to see who would like to go.

20/16 **Craft Fair:** Les Herbiers now needs to be informed about what is being taken. Sarah will do an enterprise session on Wednesday, the 8th of February for those students whose work is going in June. She will also interview students on March 10th to select four individuals who will be selling the student produce.

Andrew and Alwena showed us some of the selected craft items, which had a strong Welsh theme to them. The SEN students had made quirky 'Elf Doors', from computer aided designs, which had been well constructed. Approval was made from the rest of the committee for the selected produce.

Andrew had asked Marie-Thé to look over some of the adult samples and she had remarked that anything in glass may not find a market, as it is not very popular in France.

**Newtopia:** It has been difficult to contact individual craftspeople through the volunteer workers in the shop, who don't have a list of contacts at their disposal. Andrew has made a poster for the shop, which may prompt some producers to get in touch.

It would appear that Gill Meehan may not go on the trip now, but the Russian artist has expressed an interest to take part.

John and Alex promised to mention the trip at the AGM of the Oswestry twinning association. 33 people have committed so far.

21/16 The deposit to Owen's has to be paid by the 6th of March, which will be taken care of by Fred.

Andrew will cross reference everyone who has booked, to make sure all deposits have been collected.

22/16 Closed

23/16 We are hoping to meet with schools/ representatives in June. We need to take information about any students from the High School in Newtown, who wish to have a penal. Liz will write an email to Mr Harkness to request the details through Ms Duprés, the head of languages.

Liz also mentioned that Sarah Randall, a teacher at the junior school in Kerry, is very interested in creating contacts with a similar school in Les Herbiers, to link projects between the children. Liz will reaffirm this interest before June.

25/16 Closed

26/16 **Annual Dinner:** Numbers will be given to the Elephant and Castle. A menu will be sent out to all those going.

Tim Clarke's meal will be paid for by the association, in return for his talk on tea.

27/16 **Olympiad** - on the back boiler for now.

28/29/16 **Bill Paying:** We must remember to raise a purchase order from the council for anything that we buy. The council will then pay the supplier, even though the system is very slow. This method is worth it because we save the 20 per cent VAT.

30/16 **Erasmus:** Everything is in place to welcome the students from Les Herbiers, but we need further details from Guy about the students themselves.

31/16 **The 'French Village'** idea for the layout of stalls this September, has been accepted at town council level. Liz suggested that Mrs Griffiths, who lives in Kerry and is a fine patissière, having trained in France, may be interested in making the genuine article for our 'bistro' at the food fair. Liz promised to contact her before the next meeting.

32/16 **Website:** We are desperate for our part of the town website to be set up, but apparently Zach is swamped with work and we have to wait.

33/16 **AGM:** I shall ask Catharyn to set up a date for the AGM. Steve raised the point that we could and should link our financial year with that of the council, so our AGM could take place at the end of April.

We need to fundraise, but, considering the general poverty of Newtown and its immediate area, this is difficult and needs to be thought out imaginatively.

34/16 Corporate membership certificates have been given out.

35/16 **Constitution:** It was decided that a special meeting would have to be set up to discuss and draft a new constitution. [We would need an extraordinary meeting for the Food Festival, too.]

5. **Communication:** Liz has written articles for the local rags, but having missed the deadline for one or two before Christmas, we have to wait for the end of January for the next publications.

Maybe Freddie could help out with running a Facebook page? This seems to be the way most people find out about up-to-date news and goings-on, and this will be the best way to generate interest in the NTA. Fred promised to ask Freddie before the next meeting.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Our funds look good - until we pay Owen's of course for the crossing.

We have £2000 in the bank, which is mainly deposits for the trip.

£300 are left in the council funds and has to be used, otherwise it's lost. Rather than use this towards the ferry deposit, it was decided to give it to Newtopia towards craft fair costs, so Fred will need to chat to Ed about that.

The money from the council will run out one day and we shall have to be prepared for that eventuality.

7. **Membership:** There have been no new members since last meeting. We need a regular newsletter to keep members in the loop. Steve suggested that we have a membership 'year' to keep things simple.

How do we keep members happy - through free wine at the food festival? [Hmm.]  
Benefits for membership to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. **AOB:** On talking about the twinning committee in Oswestry, John and Alex disclosed that the numbers there were no larger than here, which was surprising, considering the number of events that are arranged each year. Maybe we aren't as badly off as we thought.

We have enjoyed having John, Alex and Paul here for the meeting and hope that they will come again.

9. **Next meeting:** Friday 17th of February at Fred's in Kerry, with a 7.30 start.

In between times, Jon and Liz will have a subcommittee meeting at Menora, with Andrew and Alwena, to talk about the forthcoming meal.

Approved and signed by chair :

Date :