



## **Newtown Twinning Association**

**April 12th 5.30 2017**

Held at Swallow Barn

1. **Welcome:** Catharyn was not present to welcome us, but hoped to join us later.
2. **Apologies:** from Steve and John and Alex
3. **Minutes:** to be approved later
4. **Craft Fair:** It was decided to make progress by discussing the main subject of the evening. 45 seats [including one for a child] have been taken so far, which is good news. We now need to see who is committed from those who have simply expressed an interest and those who have paid a deposit.

For this year, it has been decided to allow the two year old to travel for free, but in future years, this will have to depend on the numbers going.

Liz, at Number 1, will box and list all that she is sending, which will be a great help to us. She will forgo 10 per cent of her usual mark up of 30 per cent, so that we can take advantage of it in our commission.

Newtopia prices have risen to 35 per cent this year, to cover costs in the gallery. We must ask them to get their products ready in plenty of time so that we can price and label them. This must be the same from crafts from Number 1.

Andrew has found a new product, a tea towel with a local Welsh design. He feels they will sell well in France, so he has ordered fifty of them to be printed.

**Commission:** It was finally decided that we would charge a 10 per cent commission on each item from Newtopia and 20 per cent on those from Number 1. Towards the end of the craft fair, we could then reduce our takings by lowering the prices.

Fred will send photos of items to Les Herbiers, with their sterling and euro price tags, and ask whether we have gauged the prices correctly for the French market. The present state of sterling will be in our favour.

Those people coming, who will be selling their own produce, will not be charged any commission, but will be offered corporate membership at £25.

Jon will make labels for the craft items and Fred will provide descriptions, in French, for customers in Les Herbiers to read. Fred has also promised to make a spreadsheet with everything listed, for ease of checking what we are taking.

## **5. Action points**

Male Voice Choir: We are still waiting for a decision to be made about 2018.

Rugby: They will not be participating in this year's trip.

Tennis: We shall represent the interests of the Newtown tennis club in France.

Music: Tizzie is to be consulted about her role in negotiations in France, on behalf of music in Newtown.

French Band: We hope that a band may come in June 2018, to play at the carnival.

Craft Fair: See above.

Alexandra Cook, the Russian artist who will be coming on the trip, would like a table to herself, as will the weaver, so we shall have to demand more space at the fair.

Erasmus: Will now take place in 2018.

Food Festival: Andrew had hoped that the French could enjoy a concert [to be arranged] when the French arrive on the Friday evening in September. Unfortunately, too many pitfalls, including fatigue and other people's working hours, stood in the way of this becoming a reality.

Website: Everything will need to be updated before June and the AGM should have a special item to promote it. We could offer cheese and wine to those attending. The purchase of these items was split between members of the committee.

Constitution: We shall have a special meeting in the autumn to create one.

High School: Sadly, through illness, Mr Harkness, the new head, will be leaving, so no decisions concerning the students can take place until someone has replaced him. However, the French and music departments are keen, as are the governors, in promoting the links between the young people of both communities.

Kerry school: I shall make contact with Sarah Rendel before the trip, to create an introductory message to potential junior schools in Les Herbiers.

College Students: We shall leave it to the French to arrange sociable entertainment for our students.

Golf: There has been no interest from Newtown, but the golf club in Lakeside is keen to forge links.

Chrono: The Hafren cyclists are considering going en masse to Les Herbiers. They have four very good cyclists who would like to take part in the main race, but are hoping they aren't too late to enlist. The remaining cyclists would enter the amateur race.

Chantiers Jeunes: Unfortunately, we shall have to pull out of this year's arrangement.

Catharyn, who contacted us to let us know she couldn't make it to the meeting after all, passed on the news that Richard had asked the council for help in the transport costs for these potential young travellers, but had received a negative response. If the opportunity arises next year for four students to take part, it was felt that they should be funded from a mixture of sources, including parents, the town council and the twinning association.

Canoe Links: As Newton lies on the longest navigable river in Wales and Les Herbiers has the Sèvre running through it, maybe our local canoeists may be inclined to make links.

Carnival: We need to book a pitch for the 10th.

AOB: Andrew proposed that Geoff and Esta should be made corporate members for free, considering their generous contribution so far to the association. This was agreed.

Next meeting: Swallow Barn, 6.00pm on May 12th.

Approved and signed by chair :

Date :