



Newtown Twinning Association

May 12th 6.00pm 2017

Held at Swallow Barn

1. **Welcome:** In Catharyn's absence Jon took the chair.
2. **Apologies:** Alex, Alwena Catharyn and Steve.
3. **Minutes** passed with minor adjustment to be mentioned in the meeting.
4. **Visit:** It was clarified that 41 people would be going on the trip. Fred had been in touch with Guy and suggested that we gather some personal information about our travellers, so that they could be housed with the best kind of hosts for their needs. So, questions about level of competency in French, allergies, whether or not being in a non-English speaking household would be a problem Andrew said he would send out a questionnaire after the meeting.

Sadly, the weaver has had to pull out of the trip.

Andrew has arranged with Newtopia for a spreadsheet of the goods. This will enable us to decide on prices and commission. In relation to the goods, Fred had had a reply from the French committee that there would be no need for us to have any feedback from France as to their likelihood of sales.

Andrew remained keen on increasing the numbers for the trip, maybe with a contingency from the golf club at the Lakeside and also from the canoeists, who were bidding for funds for Newtown to become the biggest centre in Wales for the sport.

Paul mentioned that the Maldwyn Harriers could be part of a world wide organisation, which opened up immediate possibilities with the French. However, as with many attempts to organise events, potential participants had to balance work against dates of travel and this was always going to be tricky.

The students travelling with the group were going to be well looked after by the French, who had lots of things organised for them. It was pointed out that they would be good ambassadors for the twinning association among younger people.

Liz mentioned the quality of the twinning brochure/ booklet produced by the association in Les Herbiers and wondered if we could create something with a similar tone, asking our corporate

members to advertise in it to offset the costs. Paul suggested that we ask our exchange travellers for anecdotes from their weekend in Les Herbiers, which would add personal and interesting detail into the copy.

5. **Carnival:** 10th of June. The stand will cost about £7.50.

6. **Food Festival:** Andrew will ask the Griffiths to make some permanent posters for us in good quality material, the designs for which will be sent through to everyone for approval.

7. **Action Points:** Picnic in the Park. We decided on the 23rd of July for this year's event. We could have a barbecue, but people could bring their own food and we could bring back some wine from France [to sell?]

8. **Correspondence and Media coverage:** The website has been updated, but the offering from the French about Les Herbiers had turned out to be a bit flowery, so Liz will have a go at moderating the language to suit the 21st century.

9. **Chantiers Jeunes:** Not on for this year, but we feel the project must be better in order to attract young people into going. Maybe we can apply for European funding to help. The Spanish seem to be in the same poverty bracket as us and will need to be creative in their funding to send students next year.

10. **Treasurer's Report:** This was presented at the AGM. As far as the trip is concerned, the balance must be paid by June 1st. We need to check this who haven't booked a cabin and Liz will phone Owen's to make sure about availability.

11. **AOB:** Andrew has arranged for 2 choirs to sing in concert on the Friday night as the French arrive. There was a lively discussion as to whether our visitors would want to listen to a concert rather than be taken home by their hosts. It was decided to consult with the hosts and the French as to what they would like to do, maybe staying in Newtown after the concert for a meal.

Similarly, on the Saturday, people could stay on in Newtown at the festival for the music or have an evening en famille. Sunday would be at the Ellie as last year.

Fred said we should engage with the French and measure their response to the suggestions, believing that they would go along with whatever had been arranged.

12. **Next Meeting:** At Fred's in Sawmills. 5.45 on the 25th of May.

Approved and signed by chair :

Date :