



May 2018 NTA Newsletter

Dear Friends of Newtown Twinning,

Earlier This Year:

Many of you are no doubt aware that we have already had an excellent start to 2018 with our successful first **French Film evening in January**, many more to follow hopefully!

February brought our very successful first attempt at hosting and organising town centre **business work placements for 6 Erasmus business students** from our twin town, many thanks to all those businesses involved who made this possible! This is something we hope to do more of in the future and hopefully organise reciprocal work placements for Newtown students in cooperation with NPTC Newtown! In February we also held our **Annual St David's day dinner** in the Elephant and Castle, our biggest attendance to date! We would like to thank our very entertaining, and very supportive guest speaker Barrie Thomson and his wife Jojo. If you would like to be reminded of all these earlier events, all the information and photos can be found on our website in previous events at: <http://newtowntwinning.co.uk/prev-events/>

Our recent Music Exchange and other things:

Two weeks ago we were so pleased to be involved in one of the biggest events in the last 4 years of our twinning. Two coaches of 108 visitors from Les Herbiers visited Newtown for an action packed weekend of activities. We are so grateful to all our fantastic local hosts who made this event possible by hosting and

looking after musicians and visitors from Les Herbiers. Our Hosts had a great time and developed new friendships over this very busy weekend.

The main focus of this exchange was a joint music performance between our Montgomeryshire Youth Music, Maldwyn Strings and Ffonic who linked with Ecole de Musique Les Herbiers. 55 musicians from Les Herbiers from 12 years of age up to 76 performed with 70 of our local musicians over two evenings. Bruno Yviquel, Director of the Les Herbiers Music School worked closely with Greg Jenkins of MYM to prepare the two evenings of music.

A welcome reception was held at Newtown High School for the two coaches and 108 visitors and welcome speeches were given by Kate Rayner of NTA and our Mayor Sue Newham.

Very many thanks to Michelle Martin and Sue Phillips of MYM who worked closely with Newtown Twinning to organise this busy weekend, we would not be able to organise it without your help. The musicians rehearsed all day Saturday and Sunday at the High School and to take a break from rehearsals 35 young musicians 12-18 visited U-Strike on Saturday afternoon, many thanks to Muralee for accommodating their visit.

A big thank you to Greg who at the time was also involved with the Newtown Musical Theatre performances of The Producers, we are please that some of our French friends visited the matinee performance on the Saturday and were very impressed with NMT!

The two evenings of music were very different but equally truly amazing. The Saturday evening was held in the Elephant and Castle with 250 people listening to a series of musical performances by small groups of musicians from Les Herbiers and Newtown, this continued all evening. Many thanks to the Elephant and Castle who provided a buffet for all. Presentations and thanks were made during the evening between Twinning Associations by Marie-The President of Comité de Jumelage du Pays des Herbiers and Catharyn Edwards Chair of Newtown Twinning Association. Newtown was presented with a fantastic box of chocolates with a musical theme made by Albert Chocolatier Les Herbiers and Newtown presented Les Herbiers with Welsh Dragon framed print by Lissie Spikes, supplied by No1 High Street Newtown.

The Sunday evening was held at Newtown High School with 350 people watching a range of performances culminating in an amazing joint orchestral performance with 100 musicians performing Hallelujah, Ironman and Skyfall, a fantastic performance by over 100 musicians!! Presentations and thanks were made

during the evening. Sue Newham our Mayor thanked all involved in the evening preparations and the weekend and both Musical organisations, Bruno of Ecole de Musique Les Herbiers and Sue Phillips of Montgomeryshire Youth Music made presentations.

We organised many other activities during this long weekend which were also very successful. Very many thanks to Helen Menhinick of Bryn Walking who very kindly organised a 10k walk on the Welsh borders something our French friends and our hosts thoroughly enjoyed! Also our French friends and hosts enjoyed a Sunday morning Historical walk in Newtown. Very many thanks to Brian Poole our local historian for organising a very interesting and entertaining walk!

Please visit our website to find out more about this fantastic weekend and our activities and see our comprehensive photographic record of all the events. The photographs and comments should be fully loaded to the site by the end of this week: <http://newtowntwinning.co.uk/prev-events/music-exchange-ecole-de-musique-visit-april-may-2018/>

Our French Friends also found time to visit Powis Castle and Coed y Dinas and on the Monday they took the coach on a visit to North Wales and Snowdonia where they were joined by some of our hosts.

During the Music exchange two representatives of Golf Des Alouettes visited Newtown with the French party to set up golfing links between the two towns, no pun intended! Nathalie Orhan, Secretary of Golf des Alouette and Thierry Van. Boxel were guests at St Giles and at Llanymynech. A big thank you to Bob Millard and Bill Brown our local golfers who looked after our two French golfers and arranged transport. Hopefully this is the start of further exchanges between the two clubs.

Nelly Ratier an English teacher from Lycee Jean XXIII Les Herbiers also accompanied the French party with the intension of supporting Newtown Twinning Association to set up educational links between Newtown High School and NPTC Newtown. Nelly met with Angela Butler who kindly set up the meeting at the High School and as a result both establishments are now committed to setting up pen-pal links and Newtown Twinning Association will be visiting the High School later in the year to deliver assemblies about the work of the Twinning Association.

Nelly also visited NPTC Newtown and was taken on a tour of the college by Steve Cass Campus Manager. Very many thanks to Amanda Disley, head of

Business and Sarah Welch of NPTC who also met with Nelly to discuss the possibility of setting up business course links and possible future work placements. A very positive start to future educational links!

The Year ahead: What's coming up!

After this fantastic start to the year how can we possibly follow this?

We are currently planning a number of fund raising events and fringe events that also support the Newtown Food Festival, so please follow us on facebook and on our website for updates regarding these new events.

The next event on our calendar is the **Newtown Carnival on the 9th of June**. We will be running a stall in the Town Hall grounds, selling wine by the glass and talking about our future events and Twinning generally. Please come and visit us, we are hoping for a fine day!

The 22nd of July sees our **3rd Pique Nique Dans Le Parc**; we are hoping to make this a musical event with a BBQ and a change of venue to accommodate all without the problems of our July rain. More information to follow!

During the first weekend of September we see the return of Le Comité de Jumelage du Pays des Herbiers for the **6th Newtown Food Festival** held on the 1st and 2nd of September 2018. Newtown Twinning Association will obviously be returning with a bigger and better **French Village** with an intercontinental Bee Friendly theme! Le Comité de Jumelage will be supplying lots of French Food and Wine along with other local products sold and supported by Newtown Twinning in our French Village.

In early October 2018 Hafren Cycle Club will be joining Newtown Twinning Association on their **3rd visit and participation in the 2018 Chrono cycle Race**. This year our visit is bigger and better! We have been invited as guests of honour at the Chrono Fair! We will be selling local Montgomeryshire Food, Drink and Crafts and we are hoping to take with us local musicians to take part in this large scale event with a Celtic theme so we can put Wales and Montgomeryshire on the map!! We will be running a coach to visit Les Herbiers for this event so please make a note in your diary!

The final event on our 2018 Calendar sees a return to the **Jum Regal Les Herbiers held between the 29th of November and the 4th of December 2018**. This is a large international Winter Trade Fair held in our twin town with Spanish, German and French products. We will be taking Food and Drink along

with local crafts from Montgomeryshire for sale and promotion at this event. We hope that some college students from NPTC will be joining us again for this event. We are also hoping to take some local musicians to this Winter Fair!

We will be running a coach to visit Les Herbiers for this event so please make a note in your diary!

Also please note that both these coach visits to Les Herbiers offer opportunities not only for HCC members but also for Newtown Tennis Club members, Maldwyn Harriers and local golfers along with our usual keen walkers to join us to take part in these activities in our twin town! An estimate cost for the trip which includes the crossing costs and staying with a French family in Les Herbiers is £160.00-£220.00 per person.

2018 also brought **BBC Radio fame to Newtown Twinning Association!** If you would like to hear the BBC Radio Wales interviews on the 5th of April and the 8th May and the **BBC Radio Cymru interview** on the 1st May then please visit our website at: <http://newtowntwinning.co.uk/prev-events/>

All detailed information about all our future events can be found on our website at: <http://newtowntwinning.co.uk/news-events/>

Very best wishes from Newtown Twinning

Thank you all very much for your continued support

Regards

Andrew