

Newtown Twinning Association

Music Festival EPG

Thursday 2nd May 6.30 pm

Held at Swallow Barn, Kerry

1 **Welcome from the chair.**

Those present: Jon, Liz, Fred, Geoff and Sue.

Apologies from: Michelle and Kevin

2 **Review of dates.** The following timetable was agreed upon with further discussion to take place regarding time of departure from Les Herbiers:

Tuesday, April 14th.	Leave Newtown around midday. Take the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo.
Wednesday the 15th	Arrive in Caen around 6.30 am. Travel to Les Herbiers with a stop at somewhere like Mont St Michel on the way down.
Thursday the 17th	Arrive in Les Herbiers at 6.00 pm for reception. Rehearsals
Friday the 18th	Rehearsals followed by evening concert.
Saturday the 18th	Morning reception to celebrate 20 years of twinning. Travel to Caen for the evening ferry.
Sunday the 19th	Arrive back in Newtown around 1 pm.

Comments: Some reservations were made about a further overnight's travel, especially as some people, like Greg, would be needing to prepare for teaching on Monday. However, Fred pointed out that it would be preferable to get back to Newtown, albeit a bit later, more refreshed from a night's sleep on board.

Action: Consult all parties before a final decision is made.
Phone Owen's to find out when the last date for booking can be made.

3 **Assessment of numbers.**

Michelle and Sue have 12 committed musicians.

Geoff has one committed band member, but she will be travelling independently.

Everyone felt that more could be persuaded over time, with Geoff convinced that he could put together a band from musicians not in Ffonic.

Action: Fred will take flyers into the music shop in Newtown and discuss the trip with the owner, who could help to promote it among his customers.

MYM are having a concert on the 5th of July at Welshpool High School. This could be an opportunity for NTA to make a presentation to musicians and parents about the trip, answer any questions, and hopefully encourage more to participate.

- 4 Possible involvement of other interested parties / musicians.
How they might be accommodated in the programme on Friday night.

Performing Arts: At the moment, Sue and Geoff could not see how performing arts students from the NPTC could viably take part in the concert, when this would not form part of the college curriculum in Les Herbiers.

The Silver Band: Four members of the band are students at Newtown High School. Parental interest has already been shown in allowing their children to participate. Helen Bennett, chair of the band, cannot go herself, but will be happy to send information about the trip to members of the band. Many of the band's players work unsociable hours and may therefore be unable to go, especially for a trip taking several days.

France has a good tradition of brass bands, but we don't know if Les Herbiers has one. Maybe players wishing to go, could be absorbed into Greg's orchestra. Sue commented on how good Greg is at seeing the potential in others and would write parts for them.

Singers: Could singers be seen as viable participants? There is a good choir in Llanfyllin and Sue knows the leader.

There is a good junior choir in Newtown, but they may be too young to be asked to take part.

Action: Sue to contact the choir in Llanfyllin when they next meet.
Liz to ask Marie-Thé if the Collège has a choir and whether Les Herbiers has a brass band.

5 Music for Friday fringe event and venue.

Geoff and Ffonic will be playing.

MYM cannot participate because they will have had no time to rehearse after the summer break.

No other forthcoming promises from local bands so far.

[We did not discuss the venue, but Sue expressed the opinion, in a telephone conversation preceding the meeting, that the Elephant and Castle would probably be seen as the more attractive place for the event.]

Action: Ask the Silver Band about their commitments for the FF weekend.
Sue will ask Greg if he could perform with his saxophone quartet.

6 **AOB**

Sue told us that Montgomeryshire will be running a competition for the Young Musician of the Year. The application form is on the MYM website. Could the NTA sponsor one of the prizes?

7 **Next meeting:**

The Sportsman 6.00 pm on the 27th of June