



Meeting on Thursday, 8th December 2016, taking place at Manora

Present: Liz, Jon, Andrew, Alwena, Catharyn

Apologies: Fred, Steve and JoJo, who has sadly resigned her membership.

Matters arising: A small error about Alun Owen has been corrected.

Minutes

Cyclists: The visit to Les Herbiers was a great success and much has future potential.

Male Voice Choir : 2018 Jum/Regal. The choir to receive details about hotels in the area from Guy Trochon as soon as possible.

Maybe some of the choir may like to come on the 2017 trip as a reconnoitre for the others.

Rugby Club: A team of seven would be easier to put together than a full team and could travel independently in a minibus. They need Pierre DuFarr's confirmation in order to make plans.

Tennis Club: Dr Neville wishes to make links in June between the two associations.

Silver Band: A lot of interest has been shown to take a local band to Les Herbiers. Maybe a French band could play in the Newtown Carnival.

Maldwyn Harriers: This is a big association. Maybe they could arrange a fun run during the craft fair weekend.

There are possibilities for the twinning association to do some fund raising through entering our own sponsored runners.

2017 trip to Les Herbiers: The numbers are looking healthy.

Annual Dinner / February 25th 2017 Numbers are improving, with over 30 at the moment. Andrew will send out reminders for the trip and the dinner.

Student Craft Competition: Andrew, Rina and Barrie judged the students' craft designs. There were some very good entries and a wide selection was selected. Sarah will now choose 4 students, who are good at sales and marketing, to sell the goods at the fair in June.

High School Liaison: Andrew has contacted 2 students who are keen to have pen pals. Fred has spoken to Guy to contact the upper school in Les Herbiers to find like minded students.

Liz has written an article about Les Herbiers to be published in the school magazine.

Hopefully, this will give students and parents some background to the town and help to raise interest in the association.

Food Festival 2017

Do we need a food handling certificate?

Richard and Catharyn have food hygiene certificates and Richard has been reading the regulations for the Food Standards Agency- gripping stuff! Could Freddie be a floating licensee in this situation?

For our French 'Town', we made need a licence for wine sales. Hopefully there will be someone on site with an overall licence.

AGM: This needs to be a few weeks after the dinner. We must have a recruitment drive to build up membership. An action plan is needed.

Food Fair 2016: All monies have now been paid in respect to Duo's and the Elephant and Castle. There has been no feedback about the council process for paying fees, which was the big stumbling block for us paying on time.

Erasmus: A small number of employees will be coming from France to spend a week in Newtown, care of local businesses. Owing to difficulties over insurance, larger firms cannot accept anyone. JoJo, Cultivate and No.1 High Street will accept a young person and there will be an effort to change their working surroundings during the week, to give them as much variety as possible. This could take place in March or April.

Food Festival: Andrew touched on the idea of the food festival becoming an independent company, but there are many pitfalls and costs to such a move, which may prove to be counter productive to Newtown.

Sundries: Corporate member designs for display: this will be for Steve to do.

Andrew will deliver our Christmas cards in person.

Treasurer's Report: Fred sent word that our finances are looking healthy.

AOB: Liz had received a telephone call from Plaxy, with a plea to attend the pre Christmas carols and dance in the Market Hall on the 18th of December.

Next Meeting: 26th of January at Swallow Barn.

