



**Minutes for music sub-committee meeting on 21st of February 2018 at 6.30 pm
Held in the Sportsman**

Present: Michelle, Sue, Andrew, Alwena, Kevin, Liz , Jon

Absent: Fred, Cheryl

Matters arising: The most important matter to discuss was hosting.

Few people as yet have committed themselves to hosting either the adult musicians on Coach 1 or the passengers on Coach 2, which will both now be arriving on the Friday.

The children among the musicians are almost all accommodated now and we feel that we can find hosts for the remaining passengers on Coach 1, but we are becoming very anxious that Coach 2 will be impossible to host, given our small numbers.

We have to prioritise the musicians and tutors on Coach 1, as this is the main reason for the French visit.

Many potential hosts are already involved with the Music Theatre event on the same weekend as our concert and will be unable to host for us. Many other hosts are committed elsewhere. If we cannot find hosts for the students among the music fraternity, we should call upon those hosts from the twinning association to fill the gaps.

Basically, we are facing the prospect of having too many French visitors for our slim resources. [Numbers have risen since our last meeting.]

It is going to be difficult for the twinning association, if not impossible, to entertain those visitors who are not musicians, whilst also working throughout the weekend in support of the concert on Sunday. This poses, too, a problem of over-capacity numbers for the school hall on Sunday evening, not forgetting the problem of whether or not to ask the French to pay to attend the concert in the first place, as we had hoped to be charging adults and families for this privilege, in order to raise some much needed funds.

We decided on a deadline of the 16th of March, after which, if we cannot find sufficient numbers of hosts, the second coach will be unable to come. The committee in Les Herbiers must be apprised of our current status as soon as possible, in the light of possibly needing to cancel ferry bookings.

Andrew is in desperate need of names from the second coach, to help with potential hosts.

Skype: The golf club has agreed to show the French golfers around, but so far, there has been no offer of accommodating them.

Music: Michelle was concerned that the French musicians were requesting a long break in the middle of the concert, so that they could have a meal, but we agreed that meals should be taken before the concert and a short break [20 minutes] will be arranged, for light refreshments. Recognising that many people will be travelling from Welshpool and beyond, it is unreasonable to expect hosts to provide a meal so late in the evening.

The French would prefer the child musicians to be accommodated in twos in homes where there are children already. We agree with this.

Rehearsals: We shall ask Greg to arrange which rooms will be available for rehearsal during the weekend. Some musicians will want to store their instruments securely at the school, under lock and key, but they must understand that they should be responsible for their own insurance. Temperatures on the coach overnight may not be good for the condition of the instruments, so maybe some musicians may decide to take them back to their accommodation.

The coach could be used by those musicians in the Welshpool area for picking up and returning during the weekend. The timetable of the driver should not be compromised considering the short length of the journeys involved.

The coaches themselves will need to be parked. We shall ask for special dispensation from the council to house them overnight on the main car park in town. This should be fairly cheap.

Grants: Andrew mentioned the possibility of applying for a Welsh Arts Grant - something that Esta was doing for us, before she sadly died. This may not be available this year, considering the lateness of our application, but there are other sources of money that we should be investigating for future events.

Michelle and Sue generously offered to pay for the sandwich bill [around £800 for the weekend] from the money they receive in grants. This will be a big help for the association.

The two parties, Welsh and French, have agreed on the music to be played at the concert, though some details are to be finalised.

Final decisions were made about the **weekend timetable**.

Saturday: A 10.00 start, followed by a flexible tea break in the middle of the morning.

Rehearsals will continue to 13.30 followed by lunch.

Some rehearsals may continue after lunch as late as 15.00, therefore the time booked at the leisure centre will be rearranged. Bowling will remain an option.

Sunday: The morning's rehearsals will begin at 10 or 11 o'clock, depending on the quality of play. Lunch will be at 13.30 followed by a dress rehearsal at 14.30, running through to 16.30. This will be too late for some to get back to Welshpool for a meal, so a meal of fish and chips will be arranged locally.

Everyone will wear black and white, with no distinguishing national emblems.

Sue mentioned that two small groups of musicians, snare drums and strings, not involved with the main concert, will perform during the interval.

Safeguarding the children: The Town Council have passed our concerns on to county level. We shall obtain an advisory document that can help us in this matter, which will aid us in deciding what to do in different sets of circumstance.

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th March 6.30 pm in the Sportsman. This will be before our deadline, helping us to make final decisions.