

Minutes of 2nd Skype session with Les Herbiers

on 19 Feb 18 (6:30 – 8:15 pm)

- **Logistics** - The two (now full) coaches will now be arriving in Newtown (not necessarily at the same time as one come by ferry from Portsmouth whilst the other one will be arriving from Dover) at cc on Friday 27 April (reception organised at the High School to welcome them all).
 - Coach 1 (musician coach) will be leaving Newtown on Monday 30 April at cc 9 am (host families to 'drop off' their French visitors between 8 and 9 am on their way to work). That coach will be taking the shuttle at 11 pm on that day and hope to have one / two touristic nice stops on the way back to Dover. (**Question** : they are asking us if we could suggest one or two places of interest where they could stop on the way?)
 - Coach 2 (twinning coach) is due to be leaving Newtown early am (time still TBC) on Tuesday morning and will be heading back to the ferry.
- Details of people on board coach 2 will be sent to us shortly but that bus will be full too.
- Coach No 2 intends to spend Monday 30/04 visiting Wales. **Question**: they are asking us what would be good / interesting places to visit and have suggested maybe Snowdonia. Ideally, they would like a few of us to join them that day. We need to discuss further.
- Musical repertoires (UK and FR) have been discussed at length during the Skype session and in the end a detailed programme was agreed for Sunday night. Concert due to start at 7 pm. Two parts of cc 45-50mins each with 20-30 interval in the middle with some light food / refreshments to be served (LH have confirmed they will bring some brioches which we can enjoy during this interval). **Action** – Michelle & Gregg to confirm the detailed musical programme as discussed & agreed during the Skype session.
- LH have asked if French young musicians could not stay on their own in local families (a bit too scary especially for the young ones!) but stay by two instead? We have confirmed this should not be a problem. They are about to re-send us the list of their musicians and their ideal choices in terms to staying in the same host families..
- LH confirmed there may be an additional 3 to 4 (18-20 year's old) musicians who might also be joining the trip (in addition to the list already provided). LH to confirm.
- LH have confirmed that two Fr golfers will join the trip with their equipment. Local 'golf' families to host / entertain them during the weekend.
- Safeguarding matters were briefly mentioned -
- Saturday :
 - Musical rehearsals due to start at 10 am in the High School (everyone to arrive between 9:30 and 10am). These rehearsals – including local music teachers – will last until 1 pm.
 - High school logistics – **Action** : we need to check with the High School and make sure we have several spare rooms for everyone to rehearse, not just the main hall. Rehearsals will be Saturday am as well as Sunday from cc 11 am on. We also plan a complete concert rehearsal in the main hall from cc 2:30 pm on Sunday so we need to make sure individual rooms as well as the main hall are available to us for most of

the w.e. As musicians will be leaving their musical instruments overnight (Saturday to Sunday), we also need to make sure some rooms are securely locked to avoid any problem (Andrew, is this one for you to discuss with the High School?).

- Light lunch served in the high school between 1:00 and 2:00/2:30 pm.
 - Afternoon activities : LH have confirmed they like the suggested activities, ie laser shooting, bowling as well as sports hall with various sports (would be great if ping pong could also be included)
 - They think it's a good idea for one/two group(s) of 12 people to be given the opportunity to visit Newtown by-pass (maybe a group for coach 1 and another group for coach2). We understand that the visit can only take place on Saturday as opposed to Sunday.
 - LH also suggested that it would be great if we could organise a visit of Newtown town centre on Saturday pm as they reckon lots of them may be interested.
Question – Any idea on how / who could do that? (I personally could help with the translating work if necessary). Could 'Rory' (?) be involved with local ghost stories? (LH would love it!)
 - Everyone back to their host families late afternoon for a shower..... Before heading down to the Ely for the evening dinner.
 - Diner : They have one/two bands who would be happy to play some traditional music during our Saturday evening; LH would also be happy to alternate with local Welsh folk bands including Ffonic.
 - Post diner: everyone to go back home with their host families or carry on 'partying' in local pubs.
- Sunday –
- Most of morning spent with host families with an opportunity to also get some sleep (especially for the youngsters).
 - Musical rehearsals due to start at 11:00-11:30 (TBC) in the High School until 1:30 pm. These rehearsals will be at group levels in their respective separate practise rooms.
 - Light lunch served between 1:30 and 2:30 pm in the High School.
 - Complete concert rehearsal (in the main hall) due to take place between 2:30 pm and 4pm.
 - Going back to host families to refresh and have an early diner (4:30-6:30 pm)
 - Back to the High School at cc 6:30 pm with concert starting at 7 pm.
 - For the concert, was agreed last night that everyone should wear the same uniform (white top; black trousers/skirt)
 - Concert to take place between 7 and 9 pm in two 45 mins parts with 20-30 mins interval (incl refreshments....). LH raised the point that some of their adults (incl musicians) would rather not have any diner that early – ie before 6:30 pm – (not before the concert) and instead have some diner provided after 9 pm; we have not committed to anything but need to think on what could be done – food-wise - if anything (that said, as they come to Newtown, they also confirmed they will adjust to Welsh habits/customs as necessary).
 - Back to their host families with their instruments between 9 :00 and 9:30 pm.