



Newtown Twinning Association  
Elephant and Castle 6.30 pm 15th February 2018

**Welcome:** Catharyn made the welcome.

**Present:** Catharyn, Liz, Paul, Andrew, Alwena, Fred and Richard.

**Apologies:** Jon, Steve, Cheryl and Kevin

**Matters arising**

**Finance:** Fred reported that we have £2 846.61 in the bank, with £1000 left in the town council fund.

Next year's £2000 twinning allocation from the Town Council has been approved. We need to put in our plans to the TC in order to speed up the process, when paying bills. Richard will help with this.

We should present the TC with the quotes from the Elephant and Castle, Duo's and the High School before the end of the financial year.

We will not be able to raise many funds during the music festival: we can charge for Sunday for the concert, but can only raise money on Saturday night, by maybe running a raffle. We could ask the French to bring some produce for a raffle to make the ticket purchase more attractive.

**Music Festival:** The sandwiches from Duo's will be £2.80 a head. Looking at numbers over the weekend, we could be ordering for 200 people over the two days. This food should be for musicians and tutors only. The association will provide crisps, nibbles and drinks throughout the rehearsal times.

**Buffet:** The Elephant and Castle have quoted £9.95 a head for either a hot meal or a finger buffet. Many on the committee were unimpressed by the choices: there was no desire to order even more sandwiches as part of a cold buffet and the hot meals did not seem to be value for money, especially as there were no sweets on offer. Maybe we could negotiate a cheese board.

**Other costs:** Andrew has not reserved the swimming pool for Saturday, but had made a provisional booking for the hall at the leisure centre, between 2 and 3 o'clock at a cost of £42.45. Bowling was an option at £4.90 and groups could walk down in 10 minutes. Football would be an easy and sociable activity to arrange.

Andrew has arranged for two groups to have a guided tour of the bypass, one on Friday and the second on Monday.

Catharyn was very pleased with the prospect of the music festival in Newtown and said that it would raise the profile of the NTA, with the possibility of gaining new members.

Richard will be making a live FaceBook session later this month and will talk about the twinning and our need for new hosts during the music festival. The County Times keeps its eye on our updates and has already written an article asking for hosts.

Hosting: We have 38 people being hosted at the moment, which is clearly not enough, so we must put out flyers. Some potential hosts are unable to help out, because they are already involved with the Music Theatre event, happening at the same time. [There has been an offer made, for Coach 2 to attend a cut price matinée on Saturday.

We need to ask Greg to promote the Festival and our need for hosts in assemblies at the High School.

**Erasmus:** Andrew has been in touch with local businesses to give them the latest agenda for the students' stay. There were ideas, such as showing the students round town on their first Sunday, having a fish supper in Weatherspoon's on Friday and maybe arranging other social occasions during their fortnight with us.

Paul and Kate pointed out the need for help on a couple of occasions when they would not be on hand for the students in their care.

Fred has sorted out and sent the train tickets to France. He has been reimbursed.

The question of security arose, in respect of the students wishing to go out by themselves. As they are older teenagers, this maybe shouldn't be a worry, but Fred can bring this up in discussion with Les Herbiers, to find out what parameters should be set, in agreement with the parents.

**Annual Dinner** on the 24th: Nearly 40 people so far have committed to going. The saxophone quartet, arranged through Michelle, will play at the start of the evening. Barrie and JoJo will have a free meal, in the light of the speech that Barrie will make.

We shall have a raffle, with hopefully lots of donations from the committee. Jon and Liz will run it on the night.

Catharyn will make a short speech at the end of the evening to explain forthcoming events.

**Chrono:** There could be up to 20 cyclists on a coach going to the Chrono. A bike trailer would be necessary - this would be paid for by the Hafren cycling club. However, as the Chrono is not a twinning event, we shall first have to see if the French can accommodate us.

Cyclists from different areas around Newtown may be willing to fill the coach. Those running the Chrono would take responsibility for hosting the cyclists.

Fred said he would ask Guy during the forthcoming Skype session to make a decision about this, based on the details we have so far.

**Jum'Regal:** Alwena feels that we should be concentrating on the Jum'Regal, which is a twinning event, and wants to know how long the French would be willing to host us - for 3 or 4 nights?

The event will take place during the first weekend of December. Cultivate cannot commit so much produce just before Christmas, as is the comment from other small producers. We shall need to approach other sources of local products.

We must be careful, if we do commit to going, not to overlap our produce with that from Spain and Germany, such as honey. If we ask for details about what was successfully sold at the last Jum'Regal, we could base our pitch around that.

There may be some Welsh [through Russell George] or European funding that we could tap into for our crossing to the Jum'Regal, on an arts or commercial basis.

**Food Festival:** Andrew is suggesting an environmentally friendly 'bee' theme for our marquee. All ideas and contributions welcome.

**AOB:** Tourism. Richard has looked at numbers available currently and twinning could be responsible for a fifth of all tourist numbers into Newtown. It was felt that we should market Newtown directly to Les Herbiers.

Film Night: Liz thanked everyone for coming. The evening broke even and several positive comments had been received from the people who attended. Liz wished to mention in particular Denzel Jones at the Christian Centre and Owen Stanier and Brian Probert, from Sarn 'Flicks in the Sticks', and thank them for all the effort, time and assistance they had given to make the evening a success.

**AGM** 22nd March in the Town Council Chambers at 6.30 pm.

**Dated:**

**Signed:**