

Wortham and Burgate Twinning

Chairman's Report 2018

2018 saw another year of varied activities, some well supported others a bit less so. After the AGM we started our social activities with another film night. Hoping to cater for our younger members we decided on the animated version of TinTin. Interestingly (and a bit fraught for Andy who was our techie for the evening) after having some technical problems we ended up with both English and French subtitles. In fact, as it was an action film, we probably could have all managed without any at all. Although in the event none of our younger members came the adults who did enjoyed it very much. Our thanks to Jacky Bradley who kindly agreed to host this.

A Breton Dance evening in May saw us being led, by BOF a live band, in some interesting traditional dances including one which allowed for intervals to gossip with your dance neighbours!

Whilst we will all remember the summer of 2018 as being really hot, we Twinners will also I hope remember it as a lovely weekend for our annual Twinning visit, this year with our friends from Hédé visiting Wortham. They were also joined by two members of the Badbergen Twinning Association.

The weather held for all our events many of which were outside. New members David and Andrea Kay had bravely offered to host the bring and share in their garden and we all enjoyed the beautiful summers evening there. A river trip and picnic by Oulton Broad was followed by some of our visitors fulfilling their wish to bathe in the North Sea – just as well we had a hot summer!

Our gala meal was enjoyed by all and we were lucky to have entertainment by the Ludham Pikes a group which includes our own member Vicky Tustin. As an added bonus one of the band spoke fluent French when making the announcements. Sunday saw varied activities including biking in Thetford Forest, watching an open-air performance of Midsummer Nights Dream, participating in a cookery demonstration to make strawberry scones and drinks

in our (rather parched looking) garden. Of course, for the French the most important part of Sunday was watching their team win the World Cup!

As usual there were lots of French children visiting – 15 in all. Some of our younger members enjoyed teaming up with their French counterparts and we continue to try and encourage more families to be involved.

An autumn event was kindly provided by member Mike Bowen who did a talk running through many of the pop hits of the fifties and early sixties – giving members who attended a chance to dredge up their memories and sing along to familiar songs. Because we only had a small audience, we changed venues and Jacky Bradley kindly agreed to again host an event for us. Without this we would have had to cancel since the cost of hiring the village hall would have meant we had a loss. As it is those who came along enjoyed the evening.

The Christmas market was again a successful fund raiser but in any event our friends in Hédé feel it is important for us to have a presence there. The market is the way they raise funds for our Twinning visits so to have us 'on show' as it were emphasises the nature of the event for them.

The final event of the year our Christmas social, a casino evening, was provided by hosts Chrissy and Mike Odams. Unfortunately, the date seemed to have clashed with a number of other local events so it was not as well attended as our Christmas Socials usually are. It's a pity since it was a really good evening. Betting 'for free' meant that it was only the competitive spirit that was to the fore and nobody, even those who lost all their chips – didn't lose their shirts either!

As you have already heard our funds are very healthy so we are concentrating on having social events that keep us all in touch with each other. We try to hold events suggested by members but for various reasons this year they have not all been well attended. For this reason, we are again asking what you would like us to organise for you. We also try to give as much notice as possible so please when you get the newsletter put the events in your diary.

We continue to try and make links with schools and families but it continues to be an uphill struggle. I am in discussions with Ian at Wortham School to try and get families on board. In November He kindly invited parents to meet me

after dropping their children off but nobody showed any interest. We are hoping to have a joint event one morning at the school with a French market and café which parents and children can be involved in. I also intend to pursue the possibility of having a presence at an open evening.

Hellos and goodbyes

We welcomed new members Kellie and Dan Hilling Joseph and Jacob, Heather and Ian Hovey, Janet Whiteside and newest members Anne and David Steele. David and Andrea Kay who joined last year have discovered they are heavily overcommitted so are taking a years break from membership but hope to re-join us next year.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Michael Richards who died in August and our thoughts continue to be with Paddy .

Long standing members Dick and Linda Pell and Caroline Smith have decided to hang up their twinning 'hats'. All are long standing members who have supported us over the years. We wish them well and hope to see them from time to time if they fancy coming to any of our events.

We are also saying goodbye, not as members but as committee members to two of our Committee. Nick Beasley who has been not only a long serving committee member but also our Chairman for four years. He has decided that he will stand down from the committee since he is unable to make many of the committee meetings. He will continue to act as our ambassador to Hédé since he is often in the region. Andy has also decided to stand down but will continue to be our IT support and webmaster (and on a more personal note, moral support to your Chairman!). Our thanks to them both for contribution to the committee over the years and also to their continued contribution to our organisation.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. We can only continue as an organisation with all your participation. Please let us have any ideas you may have for keeping this the vibrant organisation it is today so with this in mind please complete the sheets on your tables before you leave.