



# Wortham and Burgate Twinning Late Autumn Newsletter

*Captain Bayard (alias Chris Grocott) welcoming guests to The Murder Mystery Evening*

## Forthcoming Events

### **Christmas Market Hédé Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

Pam and Gerry Gurhy, Lynn Clarke, Joy Cornish and Katherine Hughes will be travelling to Hédé in December to sell produce, crackers and gifts at the Hédé Christmas market. Popular with French shoppers there is usually a regular clientele of customers returning each year to buy marmalade, pickles, mincemeat and lemon curd. Crackers are always popular and we always sell out.

As usual we will also have a raffle and we are asking members for contributions to a hamper – we would like to fill the hamper with British products and any donations for this would be welcome. Please let Chris Grocott or Linda Simpson have your donation before the end of November (or let us know and we can collect it).

The Hédé market is a fund raising event for us, funds going towards the cost of entertaining the French when they visit Wortham.

Nick will also be bringing mistletoe back from France in December and this will be on sale (together with any leftover produce from the market) at the Christmas Social.

### **Christmas Social Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm Easter Barn Mellis**

Invitations will be going out for this event in mid-November. If you have friends who are interested in joining Twinning please bring them along but please let us know when you RSVP to the invitation. Parking will be in the Multiyork car park - cross the road and follow the signs.

## Program for 2016

### **Tuesday 2nd February**

**Annual General Meeting** followed (by popular demand) by wine and nibbles and a French themed quiz.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

Following on the success of film night last year we will be having another film night. We will be showing Francois Girard's film The Choir. We will be showing it in French with English subtitles. This will be held once again in the comfort of Nick and Frances Beasley's home Easter Barn Mellis.

**April** Following on from her cookery popular demonstration evenings Pam Gury will host a cookery workshop. Details will be notified in the new year.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** A lunchtime barbeque – this will be a social event, full details to be confirmed nearer the time.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Visit to Wortham by Hédé Jumelage.** Please note the date in your diaries and give some thought if you can host either by accommodating guests, providing a meal for a group of guests and hosts and/or have ideas about possible outings.

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Fund raising evening – details to be notified in due course.

### **December**

Hédé Christmas Market and Christmas Social. Details to be confirmed in due course.

In addition to the above we are also hoping to organize a French Dance workshop during 2016. As with all other events further information will be posted either in the Newsletter and/or by e mail and hard copy notices where necessary

### Murder Mystery Evening

We never suspected we had such acting talent in the Twinning! The 40 members and friends who attended our Murder Mystery Evening at the beginning of October certainly entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the evening.

Set aboard the SS Libertania en route for Southampton in August 1914, Captain Bayard (alias Chris Grocott) started the evening, after welcoming the guests, by announcing that Britain had declared war on Germany. Unfortunately before he could talk to the guests about this the lights went out and the good Captain was shot (Chris was later reincarnated as a passenger). First Officer Daniel Warren (Andy Phillip) quickly took charge and the ship sailed on. Amongst the crew and guests there was much tension – crew members with their own agendas – promotion, smuggling, toadying to the new captain etc. Guests, who came from varied backgrounds and were of various nationalities suddenly found themselves on opposite sides of the war. The ship's guests included a wealthy industrialist, a German procurements minister, a Russian Minister, reporters, singers and their agents, a sleuth and assorted companions. Everybody had their own ideas about what should happen – return to New York or sail on - and were trying to gain an advantage over their fellow guests if they could. During the evening there was a second, unscheduled, murder but the perpetrator (Second Officer Daniel Warren) seemed to get away with it.

At the beginning of the evening individuals were given their character briefing and there was some scratching of heads over the complexities of what would transpire - undaunted though, everybody, after a brief pause to take stock, soon started circulating to try and prise out the information they needed. Andy Simpson acting as host/master of ceremonies was on hand to give guidance and make rulings on any actions crew and guests wished to take and there was certainly a lot of improvisation going on! A break halfway through to enjoy a finger buffet and replenish the drinks gave a further opportunity for facts to be found out (nobody seemed eager to abandon their role and continued in character throughout). A few guests also took part in the beetle drive one of the crew (Joy Cornish) had organized.

At the end of the evening Andy asked people to point out who they thought the murderer was – only one got it right (it was Stewardess Catherine New alias Chrissy Odams) – Fran Weaver a guest (a lucky guess perhaps?). She won a bottle of wine.

A bottle of wine was also won by Ian Luff for his convincing role play as Second Officer David Whitworth. The raffle prize (a magnum of Prosecco and two champagne flutes) was won by Alan Cowham. The evening was judged a bit complicated but great fun and raised £383 profit for Twinning funds.



Guests getting into the swing of the evening .



Comparing notes



Too busy to notice the whale outside!

