

HARTLEY WINTNEY TWINNING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

DAVE SKELLERN AND CATHY ROBERTS ---interviewed by Rick Spinks on Radio Hartley Wintney 87.7FM between 7 and 9 pm on Friday June 12th

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13th June	Village Festival
23rd -26th June	Cycle to Malle and Triathlon
18th - 21st July	Walking Week End
26th September	Charity Dance with Off The Record in aid of Help for Heroes
23rd January	Burn's Night

EDITOR'S NOTES

At last a newsletter! Apologies for the long gap but as you know there was the delayed A.G.M. and thus a new committee so better late than never. I intend to bring out four copies a year at regular intervals – June, September, December and March. Deadlines for these issues are May 31st, August 31st, November 30th and February 28th(or 29th). I hope this will help people to contribute their ideas. Many thanks to Sophy Bennett for her letter. It would be nice to hear your views on anything to do with twinning as the committee welcomes feedback when planning events. One thing you will notice is the different layout. As most people read this on-line I thought this may be easier to read. What do you think? Maybe many of you print it out so would prefer columns. Let me know. There are also no photographs in spite of several appeals to members. I'll try harder to provide my own, though I'd rather have your contributions. If you've ever seen my photos you'll know why!

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Dear All,

I regret that as a result of personal circumstances it has been some time since I wrote to you. Let me try to repair that failure now. Much has happened since my last report. Probably the most important issue is that Gerda has put this newsletter together, and has committed to providing quarterly issues in the future. It is intended that this newsletter will be not only be for the advice of HWTA information, but also for the exchange of views on TA matters. Please become involved, we would

like to encourage a more active interest in the running of our affairs by the membership. Tell us what is right, or wrong, about the way we are operating. If it is what is wrong we would also welcome your views on solutions!

In March we announced our Golden Bridge Project Managers, thanks to Cathy Roberts, Gerda Bennett, Sue & Dave Skellern and Steve Sharpe for volunteering their time to lead these projects, details elsewhere. The AGM came and went, many thanks to Louise Cox and Andrew Morton for their stalwart service and support during my short tenure, also to Steve, and Lindsay Toomer for taking up Executive positions on the new committee and to Sue Skellern and Gerda for volunteering to join the general committee. We also had a welcome visit from Staf Verhoven and Herman Smolders who updated us on the Golden Bridge Project. The commitments and rules relating to this project, at large, are gradually becoming clearer.

April was fairly quiet on the face of it, with the new committee and the Golden Bridge team re-assessed their responsibilities. But, in the background much work was being progressed the most notable being that Steve Sharpe accepted, and released, our new website www.hwta.org.uk on the 1st May and closed down the old one. Although there is still more info to be placed on this new site I am very pleased with the new presentation and the work done, to date. I hope you will agree. This will now become our prime electronic reception and information point on Twinning Association activities. Please have a look and pass your comments to a committee member. Just one point, we know some pictures are on the wrong pages!!! Many thanks to Steve (again!) and Martine Lovell for their guidance in the design and build of this site. Also thanks to our external contractors who have pledged to continue support in the future.

Also in May we hosted a team of nine Tri-athletes attending the Hart Triathlon. Thanks again to those who accommodated our visitors. I have not seen the 'Tri' results but I hope their visit was worthwhile. This month I also received a request for a 'veterans' football team, in Malle, to visit and play our village team. I passed the contact to the Chairman of HWFC. This is exactly the sort of liaison I would like to see our Association encouraging and promoting.

Looking forward. In June we, along with a delegation from Malle, shall be actively involved in the Village Festival, once again. Dave Skellern has volunteered to manage the Westmalle Bar, so have a word with him if you are available to help in any way. It is usually a very busy day, so many hands make light work! In July we shall be hosting an International Walking Weekend, check with Sarah Beasley, for details. For more information of these and other HWTA activities check out the website where up to date info will be posted on a regular basis.

Better leave some room for other contributors, but pleased to be back again!

Kind Regards, Tony Davies



THE GOLDEN BRIDGE PROJECT ---LINKING COMMUNITIES

By Gerda Bennett

And it is.....LINKING COMMUNITIES. Having really got underway more and more people are becoming involved who have never had anything to do with Twinning before. By next week end we hope we will have involved many more as Sue and I will be handing out leaflets but above all talking to people at the village Festival. Things have really moved on with this exciting joint venture. Come and see Sue and me at the Twinning Stall when you will have an opportunity to ask us questions and offer suggestions. It is also bringing the Twinning partners together as we are working closely with Malle and St Savin GBP representatives. They in their turn are introducing new people to the Twinning movement. I had a meeting with Linda Platt, headteacher at Greenfields Junior School, who was most enthusiastic and hopes to involve the children in links with the schools of Malle and St Savin. That is just one example of the kind of response we are getting. Do visit the new website to find out more and see what the other twinning partners are doing on the Golden Bridge website (See useful contacts at the end of the Newsletter)

DECEMBER RAFFLE AND LUNCHEON –or the event formerly known as the Gourmet Raffle.

By Jean Amos

Should we still call it the Gourmet Raffle or has the word Gourmet lost some of its meaning over the years? Or “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it?” Result – let’s try a different format and if it doesn’t work we’ll try harder next time.

So – on Sunday 7th December in our usual venue the W.I. hut, we held our seasonal lunch and grand raffle. Shirley Wilkins (who has influence in such matters) arranged for one of her head chefs at Bramshill to provide us with a very tasty Boef Bourguignon, rice and salad followed by mincemeat strudel with lashings of cream. The wine from our own cellars had aged well and there were no complaints about its vintage.

Lunch was followed by the Grand Raffle conducted with great aplomb by Jonathan Glen. Whilst there was a wide variety of prizes, all reflected the theme food. Here are a few examples:-

A day’s cookery course at Newlyn’s Farm Cookery School

A chocolate hamper from the Chocolate Farm at Alresford

Three ‘P’s – a pheasant, a partridge and a pigeon donated by Dave at Hartley Wintney Traditional Butchers

Tea for Two at Tylney Hall

Cases of local beer, wine and cider

We hope the winners felt their gamble had paid off and those who weren't so lucky will be keen to try again. Above all, we hope you had a pleasant and relaxed half day.

LETTERS

Dear Gerda

I thought I would put down some of the points that I made at the AGM in relation to the "Gourmet Raffle" and Twinning social events in general.

I don't want to seem like an old stick in the mud but change for change's sake is not always a good thing. The old style Gourmet Raffle was a highly enjoyable social event. Members all contributed to the raffle prizes, the prize table was beautifully decorated and we all mingled happily and sociably around it. Many members came away with prizes, and the beauty of the jam jar system was that if you did win a prize, it was something you wanted. We ran a profitable bar and the event was always the biggest annual fund-raiser. The new-style pre-Christmas event has its merits too, in that we enjoy a good meal, and for some, being held in the evening is more convenient. However, a raffle where members contribute quite a lot of money and only a small minority wins very large prizes is not much fun. Also in the rush to secure seats, there is very little social chit chat and only if you are lucky, do you manage to sit on a table with friends. Furthermore, last year's event ran at a small loss, despite contributions to the prizes from local tradesmen. The Treasurer said that making a profit wasn't an issue as we had plenty of money in the bank, I'll discuss that later. I would suggest that we revert to the old-style Gourmet Raffle, have it in the evening, if that is preferred, and provide a bar and nice nibbles. Chairs could be dotted around for people who want to sit down, but not tables.

I feel that the Twinning Association is in danger of becoming just another village social club with no particular focus, (Maybe the Golden Bridge Project will rectify this). In the past, when we were simply twinned with St Savin, almost all our activities had a French connection – bingo in French, petanque, the piscine party, trips to Agincourt, Ypres, Lille, a re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo, to name but a few – which, I feel, added to the enjoyment and relevance. We did have a lot of fun, let's not lose that.

Lastly, on the subject of profit-making, in the past the profits were put to good use. We entertained our twins royally every other year and provided very good and active visits for them, in between we subsidised coach trips and thus encouraged members and non-members to join us. I think we always broke even.

I would be interested to hear other members' views.

Sophy Bennett (past committee member)

BURN'S NIGHT by Gerda Bennett

On a cold winter's night in the month of January

The Twinning Association a Burn's night did gi'e.

Bagpiper Brian got everything started

And the skin of the haggis with dirk was soon parted.

Haggis mash and neeps the people did swallow

With a wondrous array of puddings to follow.

We sat and we drank with many a friend

'Til down on our heads the muse did descend.

Poems and music were there to delight

And Matthew made sure that it all went alright.

Then Jonathan Glenn got us all up and hopping –

With everyone doing traditional bopping.

The Tay Bridge Disaster ended it all

Then everyone helped to clear up the hall.

Thank you to everyone whose hard work helped towards a successful evening. Date already booked for next year! January 23rd – put it in your diary.

ROBERT MAY'S SCHOOL EXCHANGE WITH ST SAVIN

When it was the turn of St Savin to visit Robert May's School Sarah Beazley arranged a get together with the visitors from St Savin and Miss Fiche, the French teacher. Marie-Christine Bouffard was able to bring us up to date with how the Golden Bridge Project was progressing in France. They had had a lovely idea which was to get each twinning partner to cross stitch a panel representing their town and at the end of the Golden Bridge Project it could be presented to Malle as a memento. Does anyone out there know of anyone who could help with our contribution in any way? Please contact Sue Skellern if you can help.

TRIATHLONS NEWS

Hart Sprint Triathlon – this year 6 Belgian participants joined approximately 400 other competitors for the annual Hart Sprint tri which comprises a 400m swim in the pool at Fleet, a 20km bike ride from Fleet, through Hartley Wintney and back to Fleet and then a 5km cross country run in the field opposite Hart Leisure Centre. The Lollepotters team have become a regular fixture at this event and are welcomed by all the triathlon community. The results are as follows:

Winner - Matthew Newman - 00:57:38

17	Wim Van Dyck – 1:02:17
47	Klaas Thibault – 1:06:40
82	Patrick Keverlaerts – 1:11:01
181	Eerd Van Riel – 1:17:59
296	Wim Jordens - 1:26:43
372	Maarten Claes - 1: 39:38

By Cathy Roberts

The Fat Boys are Coming.....

..... or should that be The Fat Boys are Going [to Malle].



Whichever it is, six intrepid members/associates of the Twinning Association will be embarking on a marathon 270 mile cycle ride to our twin town of Malle on June 23rd. The trip will last four days and culminate in a civic reception in Malle on June 26th. The original plan was that perhaps as many as 20 cyclists would participate, but a combination of work pressures and common sense has reduced the number to the following motley crew; Andrew Morton, Steve Sharpe, Chris Roberts, Jim Woolhouse, Dave Thomas and Tony Bones. In addition, Cathy Roberts will be accompanying us for the UK leg and at the time of writing this we are looking for a volunteer to drive a support vehicle. Can anyone out there help????? The route will initially take us to Milford for our first cooked breakfast, then via Cranleigh to Crawley for lunch. We overnight in Headcorn, near Ashford, where we have dinner and a few light refreshments. On the 24th we make our way Ramsgate and the ferry to Oostende. After more eating and drinking it's off to Sint Niklaas and the next day onwards to Malle. The more energetic, aka stupid, amongst us will then take part in the Malle triathlon. The more sensible ones will go straight to the Triathlon marquee for beer and burgers. The main intent of the trip is to have some fun and drink lot's of Belgian beer, but two of us are taking the opportunity to raise money for Naomi House Children's Hospice, This is a very worthwhile charity which has a real need for cash, due to having a great deal of funds tied up in Iceland at the moment. If you would like to sponsor either of us, please go to one of the following links:

www.justgiving.com/stevesharpe1

www.justgiving.com/andrewmorton3

If either of us raises more than £1000 we have pledged to forego the first course of beer and burgers and take part in the triathlon. For those of you that want to follow our progress, we hope to have a daily blog available on www.hwta.org.uk/malle_cycle assuming we can master the technology.

MALLE TRIATHLON

17th Annual Lollepotters Triathlon – this year's triathlon in Malle which comprises a 350m swim in a gravel pit lake, a 16km bike ride part of which is along a disused airfield and a 4.5km run around the streets of Malle is preceded by a 270 mile bike ride from Hartley Wintney for some of its participants. The triathlon starts by the banks of the gravel pit lake at 7pm and is a mass start in the water. Participants climb out 350m later and mount their bikes which have been racked amongst the trees. They cycle through the woods and emerge onto a disused airfield where the fun really starts as groups of cyclists bunch together and fly round the circuit in pelotons. The route takes them to Malle where they deposit their bikes in preparation for a flat run around the streets of the town, encouraged by the crowds of residents who have gathered on the streets to cheer them on. The finish line is by a marquee which later hosts the beer festival and live band performance so rehydration takes an unusual form after this event! A number of Hartley Wintney residents have competed in this event for some years now and we also welcome a number of Belgian triathletes to our event in Fleet in May so triathlon is a truly twinned event!

By Cathy Roberts

Visit of Oostmalle Veterans FC

The visit was arranged at break neck speed when Tony Davies with the neatest of side steps firmly put the ball in the court of the Football Club. E-mails were exchanged between Jan Hendrickx the president of Oostmalle FC expressing their wish to play against Hartley Wintney Vets on 21 May.

After much toing and froing the tour came to fruition and the itinerary was agreed as follows:

- Wednesday 20 May: Arrive Hartley Wintney FC at 8pm to watch the UEFA Cup Final plus food to satisfy the initial party of 10. Needless to say things did not turn out as planned. The traffic in Belgium was very heavy as it was a bank holiday and the touring party did not make the football club until 22.50 hours. Following some light refreshment the following day's activity was planned.
- Thursday 21 May: Hartley's dedicated tour leader Paul Charman arranged for our guests to play golf at Bowenhurst Golf Club. Unbeknown to Paul the boys had not played golf before. In the evening Hartley Vets played Oostmalle Vets with the home team winning 3-0. The teams exchanged souvenir pennants and following the game we were presented to four crates of the finest Oostmalle beer. A very thoughtful and generous gift. Both teams enjoyed a very sociable evening and our guests departed the following morning for the journey home

We hope that in the future we will be able to make arrangements in a less hurried manner and that we will be able to show our guests more of England. I would like to add a special thank you to Paul Charman who organised the catering and itinerary for our visitors.

USEFUL CONTACTS

www.hwta.org.uk HWTa website

www.goldenbridge.eu GBP website for all participants

goldenbridge@hwta.org.uk email contact for GBP strand managers

Committee Members

Tony Davies --Chairman

Ron Osbourne--Membership Secretary

Sarah Beazley--Secretary

Lindsay Toomer --Treasurer

Steve Sharpe --Vice Chairman

Gerda Bennett--Newsletter Editor and GBP

Sue Skellern--GBP

Jean Price

Committee meetings are held in the Lady Kaye Room at 8.00 pm. on the third Monday of the month. Date of next meeting 15th June. Members are invited to attend from 7.45 for 15 minutes if they wish to bring anything to the attention of the committee, having advised the secretary one week in advance. Please also advise by email a week in advance.