



**HARTLEY WINTNEY
TWINNING
ASSOCIATION**



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

Edited by Gerda Bennett



Chairman's Report

The new committee has already met twice. Our first order of business was to give committee members a key role to perform over the year, so the full committee now looks like this.

Steve Sharpe	Chairman	01252 842781
Ron Osborne	Dep Chair and Membership	01252 843796
Sarah Beazley	Secretary	01252 842139
Estie Jordaan	Treasurer	01252 844677
Dave Skellern	Communications	01252 842394
Sue Skellern	Social Coordinator	01252 842394
Andrew Morton	Malle Point of Contact	01252 843346
Caroline Simson	St Savin Point of Contact	01256 411016
Jean Price	Committee Member	01252 842568

We agreed a number of objectives for the year and have set up sub-committees to look at:

- updating the constitution to ensure that it is fit for purpose
- examining the role of the twinning association now and in the future and the role that the Parish Council could/should take with respect to twinning
- producing a business plan for 2010 and setting agreed accounting standards for the future.

We are planning a number of Social Events, the first of which is a Wine Tasting evening on 15th May at the WI Hut. Further events will be

confirmed in due course. The next committee meeting will be on 10th May.

Steve Sharpe
Chairman



Christmas Raffle

In December we held a return to the old style Gourmet Raffle but without so much emphasis on the 'gourmet'. People who came were very generous with their donations and it was a most enjoyable social occasion. Quantities of mince pies and mulled wine were consumed and there was much socialising. A good time was had by all who attended.

However the view was expressed by more than one person that it was not a very efficient way of raising money and that members were being asked to contribute a lot by both buying raffle tickets and donating prizes. Maybe we need to get away from the idea of fund raising and just have a social occasion? Views would be appreciated.

Gerda Bennett



Burns Night

It was a cold and windy night, January 23rd, but inside the WI Hut at Hartley Wintney, things were hotting up! It all started with a proud Scotsman in a kilt playing a catchy tune, hotly pursued by none other than Glynis with a tray on which resided the star of the night: the Haggis! The famous poem by Rabbin Burns - Ode to the Haggis - was recited with great aplomb as usual by Jonathan Glenn.

Then the cut was made and it all came out..... the delicious Haggis spilled out onto the plate, and soon everyone who was anyone in Hartley Wintney's "High Society" (or even the Twinning Association & friends) was queuing up for their share of the spoils: Haggis (or his Vegetarian Brother), Neeps and Tatties, all washed down with a glass or two of red or white wine, some beer, and of course, "a wee dram" of Scotch! This was followed by a veritable feast of assorted puddings, all home-made of course!

Once all were replete, the serious part of the evening could start: the recital of poems, followed by the dancing! We were treated to poems long and short, some from books others self-penned, but always funny until everyone was in floods of tears (of laughter), a tune on the violin, another on the mouth organ.

When the audience thought they could laugh no more, Jonathan & Sharon invited all and sundry on to the floor for a dance or two. Great fun was had by all as they were trying to remember the steps and the sequence of events which had to take place during the dance. It was a chance for the ladies to swish their skirts and for the men to show off their skills as stags. I am sure some of the ladies had forgotten quite what heroes their men-folk were and, at the end of the evening, they took them home with renewed interest in their eyes.....

To round off the evening and following our tradition Gerda Bennett gave a heart-rending reminder of the "The Great Tay Bridge Disaster" - which will be remembered for a very long time! Finally, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung with great enthusiasm before new and old friends bade each other "Good Night" and "Au Revoir", or even "Auf Wiedersehen", until the next event of the Hartley Wintney Twinning Association - or a pint or three down the local pub.....!

Mike Croxford

Not only was it a great event – we also raised over £600! Thank you to everyone who made it such a success. **Editor**



Walking in Saint Savin

Walking has become an important part of our Twinning activities over the last five years. It all started when Staf and some friends from Malle said that they would like to see more of Hartley Wintney than just the village. So in 2006 they were taken for two all-day walks and saw much of the parish of Hartley Wintney.

From the success of this sprang the plan that each year there would be two days of walking during which we would see more of each other's countries. Hartley Wintney hosted the 2007 and 2009 walks and Malle the 2008 one. Walkers from Saint Savin joined the 2009 walk and they will be the hosts this year.

The walks have provided great fun, physical challenges and international comradeship. The 2007 walk will be forever remembered for the gallant Belgians carrying the English ladies across the flooded

Whitewater River one day and on the next day we were all climbing the formidable heights (for the Belgians!) of the Selborne Hangers. The enjoyment of the days continues into the evenings with activities such as playing skittles when last year the French, using their petanque skills, were the worthy winners.

Anybody who would like to join the two days of walking of about ten miles each day in Saint Savin on **18/19 July 2010** in good international company should contact Sarah Beazley on 01252 842139 for more details. It is hoped that in 2011 the walk will be in Malle and in 2012, the year of the Olympics, in Hartley Wintney!

Sarah Beazley



Communications

At the first meeting of the new committee Steve was eager to bestow a number of roles on new members. So I can now introduce myself as Head of Communications - the HWTA spin doctor! I have created a communications plan, identifying as many different media as possible that we can use; how and when to use them; and for what purpose. So far I have come up with about a dozen, ranging from the annual opportunity to broadcast via RadioHW; through regular updating of the notice board; to creating greater awareness of the web site. Unlike the caption it's not rocket science!

I know we are all grateful to Gerda for creating several issues of the Newsletter over the last year or so. I used to do the same job myself back in the Friends of Malle days and I know it to be an onerous task. In particular it can be hard to elicit material from the membership and the creation of quite a large tome becomes a mammoth task. Inevitably publication dates slip and so the material becomes out of date by the time you get to read it.

My feeling is that a very regular (probably monthly) and much lighter bulletin is required to report quickly on recent events and to highlight forthcoming ones. If anyone wants to submit articles or letters that would be much appreciated, but the bulletin will be issued come-what-may in order to keep everyone up to date. It is my intention, in advance of each event, to appoint a 'volunteer' to create a short article about it within a week, preferably with digital photos, so I should get a steady stream of material. If you wish to volunteer please let me know in advance of any event, before you hear the knock at the door! I want to publish the bulletin on the web site and bring it to your attention via an email with a link to it so that we get more of

you visiting the website and you get fewer megabytes in your Inbox. But don't worry - if you are not connected to the world-wide web it will be delivered to your door.

I can see a busy year or so ahead with lots to tell you about. If this turns out to be the case there will be a build up of material that could be used to create a more heavyweight newsletter on a less regular basis. Gerda and I would like to know what you think - bulletin, newsletter, both or something completely different? Please let us know.

Dave Skellern

01252 842394

committee@hwta.org.uk



Fun Wine Tasting

As Steve mentioned right at the top, we are holding a light-hearted wine tasting evening on 15th May in the WI Hut. Interspersed with the tasting of wine supplied by Auriol Wines will be some quizzes and novelties for your enjoyment. £10 will buy you an all-inclusive ticket which will keep your glass filled and you can take away a voucher giving you a 12% discount on the tasting wines at Auriol Wines. There will be a team format and prizes, so if you can get together a group of around six wine buffs that would be great, but if not, don't worry – it should be easy to form teams on the night.

To get your tickets contact Dave Skellern on 01252 842394

And now some information that may be useful on the night! Wines are made up of chemical compounds which are similar or identical to those in fruits, vegetables, and spices. The sweetness of wine is determined by the amount of residual sugar in the wine after fermentation, relative to the acidity present in the wine. Inexperienced wine drinkers often tend to mistake the taste of ripe fruit for sweetness when, in fact, the wine in question is very dry. The red wines have resveratrol which is an anti-ageing compound. (Who needs Oil of Olay?)

Individual flavours may also be detected, due to the complex mix of organic molecules such as esters and terpenes that grape juice and wine can contain. Tasters can often distinguish between flavours characteristic of a specific grape (e.g., Chianti and sour cherry) and flavours that result from other factors in wine making, either intentional or not. The most typical intentional flavour elements in

wine are those that are imparted by aging in oak casks; chocolate, vanilla, or coffee almost always come from the oak and not the grape itself.

But I expect you knew all that! See you on 15th May.

Dave Skellern



Golden Bridge Project

As you know, Hartley Wintney is involved in the Golden Bridge Project instigated by Malle, which involves all four of Malle's twinning partners and reaches a climax later this year. The following sections are taken from our progress report on the project, as required by Malle as part of its presentation to the EU.

The Golden Bridge Project – a Chairman's Perspective

When our friends from Malle first introduced their idea for the Golden Bridge project, we really didn't appreciate the scope of the project and the level of commitment that would be required to deliver the five different elements of the project. We appointed five project managers, but with uncertain deadlines and no great understanding of the deliverables the project started to slip. Approximately one year from our (mis)understanding of the deadline for project completion, we realised that we needed to rejuvenate things. We appointed new Project Managers and set off with a new enthusiasm. At this point we discovered that the deadline was not May 2010, but for some of the projects September 2009, leaving us less than six months to complete the various activities.

The project managers worked together to produce a publicity leaflet that was distributed around Hartley Wintney to raise awareness about Golden Bridge. We manned a stand at the annual Village Festival in June 2009 and spent time with as many visitors as possible to discuss the Golden Bridge and encourage their participation. Two project managers were interviewed on Radio Hartley Wintney to talk about the project and its objectives. The local primary school was approached about producing the Heritage stories and the whole village was involved in our Environment project. Various individuals and local groups were approached for contributions to Photography and Art and we scoured the village for a composer for the music.

The result of all of this activity was that the Golden Bridge Project raised the profile of twinning significantly in Hartley Wintney and we hope that the people involved in the project at every level will

maintain a level of interest in our activities, aims and objectives. As is self-evident, we did manage to deliver the various projects within acceptable timescales and I believe that the project was a great success.

The Golden Bridge Project is the most significant thing to happen to Twinning in Hartley Wintney for many years. Vive le Pont d'Or.

Steve Sharpe

The Environment Project

As part of the Golden Bridge project, it was agreed that a current environmental project within the village would suit the ethos of sharing with our twinning partners a community led project. Hartley Wintney had agreed to launch a Greening campaign, a movement that encourages communities to think on an environmental scale.

Greening Hartley Wintney was launched at the Festival in June, to a lot of active participation and enthusiasm. This community-led scheme aims to reduce CO2 emissions and at the same time save all households money on their energy bills. Challenge cards were distributed to all households in the village during July, and the team of volunteers who have been supporting this scheme surveyed every house and business in the village. The results were a disappointment. For a variety of reasons, few cards were actually displayed, with an average of only 3% in each street (the range was from zero to 30%). However, even with this 3%, villagers had committed to saving 38.8 tonnes of CO2 and 16.1 tonnes of water.

I shared with our twinning partners the campaign ethos and the challenge cards. The cards were shown to the pupils at the village schools, who discussed how they could achieve the challenges. We also asked pupils to write a poem or draw a picture to encourage as much participation as possible and the results were displayed at the Festival.

The Parish magazine ran a number of articles explaining the Greening campaign and the Parish Council were active in supporting it. Although the results were disappointing, I feel that the campaign has raised environmental awareness within the village. It is hoped to reinvigorate the campaign at a later date and we would encourage our twinning partners to spread the word.

The Parish Council will continue to support the challenges and encourage residents to do so too by publishing reminders and promoting the use of emission reducing initiatives where possible.

Cathy Roberts

The Heritage Project

When I took over the management of the project I decided that as the stories were to be aimed at 10 to 11 year olds I would first approach Greenfields Junior School in the village to see if the school was interested in becoming involved. The Head Teacher was very keen not only to have the children write the stories but was also hopeful that there would be continued links between the school and our two twinning partners. I was invited to speak to the children. I spoke to the whole school about the history of our twinning with St Savin and Malle and also told them about the whole Golden Bridge Project. I then spoke to the older pupils, those aged 10 and 11, and asked them to write two stories for the project. They were most enthusiastic.

Through research on local history I decided that there had to be a story about the oak trees that are such a feature of our village. There was also an article in the parish magazine distributed to all houses by St John's Church that I felt could be the basis of another story. I gave the children the basic facts about the two stories, introduced them to Twin and Twan and left it up to them and of course their teachers. The pupils worked on their stories in groups and the two best stories were chosen.

This project has been most successful in making a wide group of people aware of twinning. This has been achieved in the following ways:

1. The involvement of the local school both short and long term
2. Talking to people at the village festival who gave me lots of local knowledge and stories for me to choose from
3. Contact with the local Preservation Society
4. Involvement of local people involved in one of the stories - in particular the lady who owns the tortoise featured in the story.

For me the greatest success has been the chance to involve pupils at the school who are the twinners of the future.

Gerda Bennett

The Art Project

As the manager of the art strand of the Golden Bridge I felt this was a great opportunity to involve more people from our community who share a common interest in art with the prospect of meeting up with people from the other four countries involved. I took on the task with great anticipation.

My plan was to get as many people of all ages to enter into an Art competition which would be judged along with the photographs to produce the 5 artworks and the 40 photographs required.

It was felt that the best way to advertise was to try and talk to as many people as possible about the five strands at the Hartley Wintney Festival, a very popular event, which seems to bring together a large number of the community of all ages. Gerda (Heritage Project Manager) and I spoke to many people who came to our stand and handed out leaflets inviting them to get involved. I also went and spoke to various organisations who were represented at the festival and hoped that I would fire them with enthusiasm to produce some art for us.

A lot of people showed interest and when I rang them said that they thought it was a great idea. I was disappointed with the actual response I got but undeterred I rang people I felt would be able to produce some art for the project and they kindly produced the art that is on the web site now.

I still feel that, although this project didn't go as well as I had hoped, it has the potential to draw new interest to Twinning when the exhibition comes to Hartley Wintney.

Sue Skellern

The Digital Photography Project

The Golden Bridge Project got off to a slow start in Hartley Wintney and by the time of the official launch at the Village Festival on 13th June the closing date for the first set of entries had passed and that for the second set was only days away. With Staf's agreement we adapted the initial guidance and placed the 'Hartley Wintney rules' on both the HWTA and Golden Bridge websites. An email address dedicated to the Digital Photography strand was created on www.hwta.org.uk and the .

Publicity for the Photography strand was via media such as the HWTA and Golden Bridge websites; leaflets handed out at the Village Festival; an interview broadcast twice on Radio HW; the HWTA notice board and the HWTA Newsletter.

The submission of entries was very slow with the first arriving on 5 September so in the meantime a selection of informal photos taken by myself and others was placed on the website. Further entries arrived during the autumn. When the closing date arrived on 30 November fifty one entries had been received.

We had initially planned to hold a combined Photography and Art exhibition with public participation in choosing the final forty entries to be submitted at the end of the year. However, the number of entries did not warrant such an event and the final forty were selected based on the premise that every entrant must have at least one photograph in the final selection and that the widest representation of the village and surrounding area as a whole was more important than absolute quality.

I believe that the final forty photographs give a good feel and impression of the village and surrounding area. My thanks to all who contributed to the Digital Photography project.

Dave Skellern

The Music Project

The Music project posed a slightly different challenge from the other projects, as music cannot really be composed by the collaboration of the many, so the challenge was to find the right individuals to compose the music and create the libretto. There were many suggestions made about who I might approach, but, as one volunteer is worth many pressed men (or women), I was thrilled when Sam Jones, a music graduate from Queen's University, Belfast, phoned me to offer his assistance. We were also fortunate in recalling a poem written a number of years ago for a Twinning Burns Night Supper, by Janet McDonald. So now we had a plan, Sam would write the music to Janet's poem, which she adapted for the purpose.

Put this all together with Han Flintrop's excellent leadership and his ability to integrate our piece into the overall Golden Bridge composition, then how could we fail? The music was completed (almost) on time and the result is available for all to hear.

Well done Sam and Janet.

Steve Sharpe

And Finally ...

The final piece in the Golden Bridge jigsaw is a cross-stitch to which all of the twinned communities are contributing. The finished item will be presented to Malle to mark the completion of the Project. You will see a photograph of the work in progress in the report that accompanies this newsletter. The middle section of the work is the empty space to be filled by Hartley Wintney and we are greatly indebted to Carol Brown of the Hartley Wintney Women's Institute, who has designed

the centre panel and is making fantastic progress on completing the cross-stitch. The completed work will be a unique and artistic reminder of the collaboration involved in Golden Bridge.



Dates for your diary

Here is a diary of key events for the next few months. See the website www.hwta.org.uk for regular updates.

23 April	School visit from St Savin to Robert May's – cricket lesson in Hartley Wintney
3 May	Triathletes from Malle compete in the Hart Sprint Triathlon at Hart Leisure Centre.
8 – 9 May	Golden Bridge symposium in Malle
15 May	Fun Wine Tasting evening
5 – 6 June	40 th anniversary of twinning between Saint Savin and Heusenstamm in Saint Savin
12 June	Westmalle beer at the Village Festival
23 – 27 June	Charity cycle ride from Saint Savin to Hartley Wintney
17 – 20 July	Walking in Saint Savin

If you want more information or would like to get involved, contact any committee member.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. Don't forget – communication is a two-way process and your ideas and opinions are always welcome.

Gerda