



**Keynsham Libourne**  
Keynsham & District Twinning Association

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

### VISITORS FROM LIBOURNE

**September 2010.** The visit was cancelled owing to industrial action by French air traffic controllers. Fortunately, we did not suffer any financial loss through cancellation of the coach & pre booked meals. Annie & Michel Rougeon made alternative travel arrangements and attended a smaller dinner with disappointed hosts at Cameley Lodge.

**May 26-31 2011** is the date for the next visit. If you have not already been asked and could offer accommodation, please contact Joan Ellison.

### AGM

The AGM was well attended and around 20 members stayed to dinner afterwards. The President's address is attached. There are 2 new Committee Members: Lesley Harris and Fay Wright.

### WINE STUDENTS May 7-19, 2011

Nicki Jefferis would like to hear from anyone willing to host the students. They are usually aged around 20 and require bed, breakfast and evening meal. Their days are well organised with visits and they have some weekend free time. Hosts can offer them a taste of what it is like to live in an English home. The highlight of their stay is a wine tasting at Wellsway School, which will probably be on Friday 13 May.

### FUTURE OF TWINNING?

Twinning organisations generally are experiencing a fall in interest and membership; travel has become cheaper and more accessible to everyone and many 'school exchanges' have fallen by the wayside. Members at the AGM were adamant that Keynsham Twinning must continue. We are following up an initiative by Norton Radstock Twinning Association (twinned with Ambares et Lagrave, also in the Gironde). They have contacted other twinning groups in the area and would like to discuss how we might sometimes be able to combine resources in order to hold larger events.

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Your Committee recognises that to attract new members, we need a regular programme of interesting activities. In the pipeline are several ideas, which will be discussed by the Social Committee and finalised by the next Newsletter: pétanque, wine tasting, quiz evening & an evening 'involving food'! We welcome any suggestions from members.

Meanwhile, we are holding a Quiz Evening (see attached). If well attended, we hope to make a donation to the **MIND** charity, in the same way that we supported Dorothy House at the Bastille Dinner. This is one way in which we can raise our profile locally as well as supporting a good cause.

**Coffee Mornings** will be held at **1 Courtenay Road** from **10.30** on the **3rd Friday** of the month: **21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 15 April & 17 June.**

There will be a **Pancake Evening** for **Committee & new members on March 8.**

**KEYNSHAM & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
**REPORT FOR 2009/10**

Once again it is time, firstly, to thank all those who have contributed so much towards making Twinning a success during this past year. I know that there are mixed feelings about what exactly is "success" but I am sure that events like the Bastille Dinner can certainly come under that heading. As a result to were able to contribute £400.00 to Dorothy House.

I said last year that it was a `renaissance` year and that I looked forward to taking a great leap forward. This has not really happened and we have not had a great influx of new members despite the activities of so many members of the Committee.

Last year saw the launch of our website and although we have had 171 hits – it has not materialised into new members. Most hits were from the UK but 15 from France others from other European countries and a few from Australia, Brazil, Russia, Uruguay, s. Korea and Cyprus However, we have managed to maintain our membership and everyone (thanks to Sue Hopkins) now receives a very informative Newsletter to keep us up to date.

The two big events this year which kept the Committee busy were the Bastille Dinner and the proposed visit of the French to us in September This has meant that the Social Committee have perhaps not organised as much as they would have wished. We decided that the amount of effort put into the Music Festival last year was just a step too far this year with our other commitments. The Victorian Evening, we believe has lost all its appeal to most Keynsham residents and we would let this pass by as well.

Much time was put into the organisation of the French trip, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a strike by the French Air Traffic Controllers. I want to thank the Committee and all the hosts for the hard work that went into the preparation, all to no avail. We were fortunate that none of the restaurants, or the coach company asked for a cancellation fee. I therefore took the decision that all hosts should take up the dinner date on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> September as a `thank you` for all their efforts. We were all feeling a little deflated and this cheered us up no end.

The French Twinning Association have now given us a date for next year (May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>) and after the meeting tonight, if approved, I shall e mail Michel Vigier their President, to agree those dates.

Thank you all once again for your support and I would encourage those of our members who we never see to come along to some of the events and perhaps make their contribution and most certainly be there when our French visitors come next year.

Any organisation is only as good as its members and it would be encouraging if I, and your very hard working Committee, could meet ALL our members during the coming year.

**Julie Stiddard, President.**