



**Keynsham Libourne**  
*Keynsham & District Twinning Association*

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## **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011**

### **AGM REPORT 5 October 2011**

The AGM marked the end of many years of service to the Association by Julie Stiddard as President, Joan Ellison as Honorary Treasurer and Margaret Stone as a Committee Member. Julie and Joan will remain on the Committee. Flowers were presented to all three ladies.



Carole Duckett is our new President. She brings experience and enthusiasm. Both she & Bernard have been involved in twinning for many years in South Gloucestershire & Filton (for 37 years!), where there is a three way Twinning: Witzenhausen, Germany and St Vallier-sur-Rhône, France.

There was no dinner after this year's AGM but the Committee will organise a dinner during next year. The evening was rounded off with a splendid buffet, provided by Committee members.

### **MESSAGE FROM CAROLE DUCKETT, PRESIDENT**

The first recorded modern twinning agreement between Keighley and Poix-du-Nord, Nord, France was in 1920 following the end of World War I.

Keynsham's does not go back quite that far - our Twinning Charter was signed in 1977. The 34 years have been good - long time friendships formed between Keynsham and Libourne residents. During 2012 Keynsham & District members will travel to Libourne.

As newly elected President of Keynsham & District Twinning Association, with support from the Committee, my objective is to make Twinning even more successful.

Since the AGM we have been part of the Victorian Evening. It is hoped that a full 2012 programme of events for members, friends and family to enjoy will be planned in the next few weeks.

My hope for 2012? To have the youth of Keynsham showing an enthusiastic interest in Twinning, but still mindful of the older generation. All helping to ensure that our Twinning movement stays alive.

**EVERY BEST WISH FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT**

**KEYNSHAM & DISTRICT TWINNING NEW YEAR 2012!**

Since the AGM, the vacancy of Treasurer has been filled (Sue McCaig) and two members co-opted to the committee: Lesley Morris and Carla Doucette (Membership Secretary). The Committee is now:

Carle Duckett	President
Nicki Jefferis	Vice President
Sue Hopkins	Hon Secretary
Sue McCaig	Hon Treasurer
Carla Doucette	Membership Secretary
Joan Ellison, Lesley Morris, Rosemary Pountain, Julie Stiddard, Fay Wright, Cllr Lisa O'Brien (Council Rep)	

### **WINE STUDENTS' VISIT 2012**

Provisional dates for the visit are May 18/19 to May 30 with the Wine Tasting on Friday May 25. Nicki Jefferis would like to hear from anyone living in Saltford or Keynsham who would be able to offer accommodation: dinner, bed & breakfast is £16 per student per night.

### **VICTORIAN EVENING**



Derek McCaig & Julie Stiddard on Twinning stall; Brian Padfield (Isambard Kingdom Brunel), David Fry (Town Crier) & Carole Duckett.

This was a good evening with 'something for everyone', raising around £150 for funds and helping everyone involved to see the Victorian Evening in a new light.

## **VISIT TO LIBOURNE 2012**

The visit is likely to be sometime between 12 - 30 September. If you have a preferred time slot please tell a Committee Member.

## **IS TWINNING DEAD?**

Last month Bishop Stortford cut their town twin links. There has been debate about this, which you can see by Googling BISHOP STORTFORD TWINNING. Lets make sure we're not next! *(Ed)* Maybe you have strong views, which you'd like to share?

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010/2011

For the last two years I have used the word “renaissance” in my report and I am going to use it again. The dictionary definition is “A rebirth: a period of intellectual revival”. Well, time will give the verdict on that one! We have certainly tried in these last few years to “up our game” as they say and although we have not attracted too many new members we have gained some but unfortunately lost some as well.

When one uses the term rebirth it does not imply that the organisation was dying on its feet. As this will be my last report as President I believe it is incumbent upon me to review the activities of this Association over the years since I have been President/Chair. I believe I took office about 10 years ago and was on the Committee before that. Much has happened and things have changed – we looked towards the twenty-first century by opening a web site (173 hits this year from Brazil, US, France, Germany & Senegal).

In the good old days of Wansdyke District Council we received a grant each year and as a Councillor I was given the job of seeing that the money was spent as it was intended although those grants stopped many years ago. It was with good stewardship that we have survived financially until now. Here I should thank our Treasurers both Fred and Joan Ellison for their contribution over all those years.

*(At this point Julie held up a plaque)* This is one of the impressive documents that were handed out in the early years to Councillors involved in the setting up of this Association: Noreen Pope, Doug Miles, Les Sell and many others *(including Peter Dando & Non Hobson shown in photo overleaf Ed)*.

Back in those days it was very much a closed organisation and it was not until 1977 when we were formed that people of Keynsham really got involved with twinning with Libourne. Since then there have been countless exchange visits with our friends in Libourne and many changes of officers both here and in Libourne.

Over the years the Committee have been very active and meetings have been very well attended. Here I should thank in particular Margaret Stone who will be leaving the Committee this year. Thank you Margaret and Bryan for the use of your house during the past years for our meeting. We know that we will have your continued interest in the Association. Thank you too to all members of the Committee and officers who have willingly given their time and energy to the Association during this and in past years.

We, of course, had a very successful visit by our friends from Libourne in May and ended the visit by a Dinner at Cameley Lodge. They have invited us back next year (2012) and more of this when we talk about Libourne activities later in the Agenda.

As I leave office I would like to have a look ahead as to where we are headed and in this regard I want to read a brief piece from the internet on European Twinning:



“A twinning is the coming together of two communities seeking, in this way, to take action with a European perspective and with the aim of facing their problems and developing between themselves closer and closer ties of friendship.

It represents a long-term commitment between the partners. It should always be able to survive changes in political leadership and short-term difficulties of one or other partner, and support each other in times of need. Being a commitment for the long term, it is vital to ensure that the partnership is regularly reviewed to make sure it meets the needs of the present day, and remains fresh and dynamic.”

Over the years we have tried to uphold these principles and I am sure that your new President will do the same.

Thank you once again to all members who have supported me through my time as President and may we all look forward to 2011/12 with optimism.

**Julie Stiddard. 5 October 2011.**



Presentation and inauguration to the Ballis de Lalande-de-Pomerol took place in Keynsham Town Hall on 11 June 1986. Picture includes from Keynsham Twinning: Peter Dando, Non Hobson, Noreen Pope and others. The gowns were dark red and gold.