



Box Twinning Group Newsletter January 2018

2017 Review

A Happy New Year to All and may 2018 be even more successful than 2017 which started with a Quiz Night held at the Kingsdown Golf Club on January 14th, enjoyed by both twinners and golfers masterminded by our knowledgeable quizmaster Kevin Ford, which brought a welcome contribution to our funds. This was followed a few days later on January 18th with a Club Marketing Night in the Box Pavilion. This helped to raise awareness of the group and on February 22nd our AGM was well attended. Once the business was concluded and the new committee elected, a goodly selection of canapes supported by some excellent French wines kept tongues wagging until quite late into the evening.

The weekend of March 25th – 27th saw us in Sorigny to complete the formal twinning process with 21 of us making the journey – the welcome and hospitality in Sorigny was outstanding.

On arrival at 5pm with some of us travelling by air to Tours and others driving down independently; we were distributed to our host families with the directive to meet up at ‘La Salle des fetes’ a rather well appointed village hall. From 8pm until early Saturday morning the welcoming festivities progressed, and I fear that there were few early risers that morning! However, we enjoyed a conducted tour of Tours, a medieval city that has been brilliantly updated, with a modern tramway system that took 5 years to install from design to completion, and at the same time updating the streets which it passed without destroying the character or ambiance of the city. That evening we dined with about 30 hosts in Sorigny, and retired, some of us rather weary after two long days of travel and entertainment.

Sunday morning brought the conclusion of the Twinning formalities. The venue for the finale was the ‘Mairie’, the town hall, with the ‘marriage room’ appropriately chosen for the ceremony presided over by the Mayor of Sorigny and the Chairman of Box Parish Council. Although there was seating for about 80 in the chamber there were at least another 200 standing outside. Once the two charters were signed, one for the adults and one for the children, the champagne flowed, until we departed for an extended celebratory lunch in a recently restored barn complex. The luncheon ended, there was much singing, dancing and general bonhomie. Things quietened down and a number of us retired to the local park to indulge in a challenge on the petanque rinks.

Monday morning, before we left Sorigny, a visit was arranged to the Primary School. Our hosts were the children of two classes of 8 & 9 year olds, who demonstrated their high

standard of English and questioned us on life in Box, with the occasional personal question causing a measure of embarrassment to the individual, but great hilarity to the rest of us!

Later that year our stall at the Revels was quite popular, two or three new members joined us and the sale of crepes added to our bank balance.

Our first Bastille Day was celebrated on July 16th and fear of the unknown was soon dispelled as the day was a great success, thanks to all those who dedicated so much time and effort. It was midnight by the time those still awake and capable finished packing up and were just able to make it to the Queens Head for a nightcap.

The Selwyn Hall was the venue on October 28th for an Antiques Valuation evening with Marc Allum from BBC Antiques Roadshow. From a Twinning viewpoint it was a success, the people came and brought their items for valuation. They enjoyed the drinks and a chat, although we did misjudge our timing, we will certainly do another one but a changes to the way we do things will be needed.

We now look forward to 2018, the French will be visiting us in the spring and plans are already being laid. Our AGM will soon be on us and the Minutes from 2017 together with the Agenda are with this newsletter. We will not have seen you since Bastille Day, so it would be good to see you again and to welcome any suggestions or comment on this newsletter, you have my email and telephone number and I would be very pleased to hear from you. Should you wish to comment on any aspect of the Agenda or forward a nomination for election to the committee please address your query to our secretary Sheila Parker on 01225 743110.

John Whitford :

Membership Secretary