



30/09/2021 NEWSLETTER by Joy Paul

Dear members,

Your committee is still active! Here's a brief update. Our next meeting will be planning for the AGM, which should be held in person this time, on 24th January. More about this later in the year, but do put the date in your diary.

At last night's meeting we were delighted to be joined by Anke Posega from Garbsen, who has now taken over as chair of their twinning group. Although needless to say they have not engaged in any twinning activity this year, they have their AGM in a couple of weeks and they hope that links will be maintained and visits in due course resumed. They, and we, acknowledge that there will be many issues to consider along the way, including the availability of hosts in future and the need to involve younger people and families. Anke also noted their more privileged situation with regard to financial and practical support from their council. We pointed out that as and when twinning visits restart, our priority will be the Aurillac exchange, which was scheduled for 2020 and obviously cancelled. But it is good to be in touch.

We were all slightly green with envy because Anke was talking to us from the Algarve, where she is enjoying an extensive break. Sunshine and beaches go without saying, she was working her way through a glass of excellent local Portuguese wine and her husband was in the kitchen preparing to cook shrimps with loads of garlic. She did tell us one of those little stories about the impact of twinning, from her personal experience. As an English teacher she was always enthusiastic about visits to this country. Her husband initially grumbled about being dragged along, not imagining that England could be anything but boring, but once he got there for the first time said 'why didn't you tell me?!'

Between us we also had news from our other twin towns. With vaccination programmes still progressing, everyone is gradually getting back to something slightly more normal but restrictions of various kinds continue and many people are naturally cautious about the future. From our own point of view, we feel that by January it may be easier to consider how things are going and to start to make plans. We shall see. Meanwhile keep well. We will be in touch before the end of the year.