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Twinning News March 2019

Chairman: Pat Durrant

Vice Chairman: Sue Dawson

Hello Everyone,

I am pleased to be accepted as the new Chairman of Bassetlaw Twinning Association and wish you all a belated Happy and Healthy New Year. Many thanks to Maddy for all her work as Chairman in the past year.

Thank you to all the members who came to the A. G .M. at Retford Town Hall which had been postponed from the previous week due to heating problems at Worksop Town Hall. Unfortunately the change of date and venue impacted upon those able to attend. Thanks also to the Committee for providing a lovely buffet. Our speaker this year was Sandra Withington who had been invited to give us a talk on the preparations being made for events later this year and into 2020 to celebrate the 400th anniversary since the Pilgrim Fathers set sail. It was very interesting and informative. Work has started on a Pilgrim Experience centre in Retford next to the museum - somewhere to take future visitors from our twin towns.

We look forward to having another busy twinning year as visitors from Pfungstadt will be arriving in May and we will be making a return visit to Pfungstadt in September.

To all our friends in France and Germany reading this - whatever happens with Brexit it will not change how we feel. We are and will remain friends.

Best wishes,

Pat

Calendar of Events

2019

Mar 6 th	Executive Committee Meeting (Langold VH)
March 7 th	40 th Anniversary of Twinning with Pfungstadt
April 10 th	39 th Anniversary of Twinning with Aurillac & Arpajon
May 6 th	Retford Charter Day
May 22 nd	Executive Committee Meeting (Town Hall)
May 29 th -Jun 3 rd	Visit to Bassetlaw from Pfungstadt
June 8 th	Swaledale Marathon
June 12 th	42 nd Anniversary of Twinning with Garbsen
June 12 th	Summer Meal at Venus Restaurant
June 23 rd	Strawberry Tea at Clarborough Village Hall
Sep. 5 th - 10 th	Visit to Pfungstadt from Bassetlaw
Sep 10 th - 15 th	Visit to Garbsen from Bassetlaw
Oct. 27 th	39 th Anniversary of Twinning with Farmers Branch
Nov 29 th	Christmas Concert Spectacular
Dec 7 th	Christmas Market

Black - Confirmed

Red - Visit or date still to be confirmed

Bassetlaw Twinning Association

Committee Members Telephone and Email Addresses

These are the committee members that have other specific responsibilities:

Gill Cowley (Garbsen Rep.)

01909 473687

gillianmcowley@btinternet.com

Sue Dawson (Vice Chair)

01909 486821

susan.dawson1933@gmail.com

Linda Dore (Secretary and Pfungstadt Rep.)

0797 1190 391

linda.d@gmx.co.uk

Pat Durrant (Chairman)

01909 486499

patmdurrant@hotmail.co.uk

Shirley Isard (Council Rep. and Membership Sec.)

01777 872159

shirleyisard@gmail.com

Barbara Jameson (Treasurer)

01909 472785

barbara.jameson@btinternet.com

Eric Lane (Newsletter)

01909 730652

ericr.lane@btinternet.com

Joy Paul (Aurillac Rep.)

01909 730284

joy.paul@tiscali.co.uk

John Shephard (Website)

01909 540310

jshephard321@gmail.com

Membership Reminder

Thanks to all those who paid their subscriptions at the Annual General Meeting. It really helps us if members pay their subscriptions as early as possible as it cuts down on the amount of work that we have 'chasing' subscriptions.

We are hoping to receive all membership fees by 31.03.2019 -Please Help Us.

Annual Membership	
£2.00	Full Time Student Member
£5.00	Individual Member
£15.00	Corporate Members

For further information ring Shirley Isard on 01777 872159/07908 814519 or fill in the slip below and send it to Water Meadows, Bevercotes Lane, Tuxford, NG22 0LQ.

I wish to continue as a member of the Bassetlaw Twinning Association, and I enclose the fee of:

£ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please make cheques payable to: Bassetlaw Twinning Association

Annual General Meeting – Chairman's Report

(by Maddy Richardson)

First of all I would like to thank you on behalf of the BTA for attending the AGM on the 28th January at Retford Town Hall.

BTA has had a very busy year again with a selection of activities and Fund-raising events plus the visit from Garbsen and a visit to Aurillac/Arpajon.

We started the year with the annual meal to the King William IV at Oldcotes. Thirty one members and friends enjoyed a three-course meal with a wide menu choice and received excellent service. There were opportunities to socialise with everyone. £40 was raised through the raffle, which was an added bonus.

Two stalls booked at the Retford Charter Day produced a good profit of just over £270 for the Association. The weather was glorious and we thankfully had some shade from the trees. As a newly appointed Chairman, I was extremely proud to be part of the day and enjoyed meeting fellow members.

Twenty members attended the meal at the Venus restaurant in Dinnington for the Annual Summer Meal in June. The food was superb as usual and the staff service was excellent, I would recommend a visit. Also in June, seven BTA members took part in the Swaledale Marathon with times ranging from 5hrs 50 mins to 8hrs 40mins, "It makes me tired just thinking about it". The item was reported in the June Newsletter stating it was once again a weekend of fun and perspiration.

June finished with a very successful visit by our friends from Garbsen. Days out included a visit to the Dukeries Academy for Gymnastics, the National Mining Museum, Tuxford Windmill, a walk around the Retford Heritage Trail and Welbeck-all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the visitors. This was the return visit to celebrate 40yrs of Twinning.

On July 8th we held the third Strawberry Tea at Clarborough Village Hall, hosted by BTA members, John and Kath Sutton. 80 tickets were sold for what was another fabulous afternoon and raised £300 for BTA. We are indebted to John and Kath for all the hard work in organising and promoting the event.

Between 2nd and 9th of August a group from BTA visited Aurillac. As a publication first, the visit was reported in its very own section of the September Newsletter and included details of a varied week of activities, including visits to a Chateau and a medieval village. Aurillac Castle and a museum and picnics were enjoyed in

the shade. The French families made it a memorable visit for members, experiencing the family life.

Finally on the 1st December, members travelled to Leeds for the Christmas Market. A smaller coach was hired this year because some member were unable to attend owing to illness. 35 people, including myself, enjoyed the trip. It certainly was an eye-opener for me, attending a restaurant with members and really enjoying the company of the people I was with exploring the market and stalls. The words 'German sausage' might come to mind. It was a brilliant day even with the rain.

Much as members have enjoyed various activities and events this year, it has also been tinged with some sadness. In January we lost John Taylor, in October Joan Lee and Peggy Colman and in November Sonia Butlin. We also received news that our favourite Country and Western performer at our fundraising event in November 2017, had also passed away after a short illness.

We must, however, look forward to the future and ensure that the Association keeps growing and members enjoy events and also maintain connections with our twin towns.

Some of you will already know that I am standing down as Chairman owing to my role as a District Councilors and also having local elections in May this year and also dedication and commitment to my ward. I will let my replacement report on the events which are planned and proposed for 2019.

I have enjoyed my time as Chairman and although I have been a member of the committee previously, it never fails to amaze me how hard everyone works to make sure events are successful and that visitors from our Twin towns have such an enjoyable stay with us.

I would just like to finish by saying a sincere thank you for the help I have received as Chairman this year, especially Linda, Barbara and Sue. I have really enjoyed meeting you all, both at events and meetings and look forward to still being part of BTA.

Thank you so much for the gift of flowers they were beautiful.

Maddy Richardson Stands Down as Chairman

(by Sue Dawson)

On behalf of BTA members and the committee I would like to thank Maddy for being our Chair during the last year. Maddy has been very supportive of the BTA processes and has been active at the fundraising activities. She is standing down due to her significant role she will be undertaking in upcoming elections.



We wish her well in all she does in the future. Maddy has said she will remain supportive so we shall see her at BTA events I am sure. We wanted to give her some flowers, which were purchased before the closure of the Town Hall which caused us to cancel the original AGM. Therefore Linda Dore very kindly gave them to her the next day.

BTA Christmas Market 2019 by Gill Cowley

Here we are again, March and talking about Christmas!

This year's trip will be on Saturday 7th December, always assuming we have enough people interested, it is open to anyone to come you don't have to be a BTA member.

I'm asking for suggestions for a venue for our visit, so far only York has been mentioned, please let me know where you would like to go: gillianmcowley@btinternet.com or 01909 473687

Retford Charter Day (by Eric Lane)

We are again planning to have two stalls at the Retford Charter Day on Monday 6th May but need your help.

In order to book we need helpers - If you can help for even just an hour or so please let Frank or Eric know as soon as you can.

01909 730652 or eric.lane@btinternet.com

Frank has started collecting gifts for the stall and received them from a number of members. We hope to have 300 prizes for our 'Pick-a-Pot' stall.

If you have any new prizes that you can give us please give them to any committee member or contact Frank or Eric to make arrangements to get them.



Summer Meal at the Venus Restaurant in Dinnington – Wednesday 12th June 2019 (by Eric Lane)

The meal at the Venus restaurant last June was a tremendous success and an event that all those present have asked us to repeat. Two course meal £22.45, three course £27.45, coffee not included.

We are now taking bookings contact Eric:

ericr.lane@btinternet.com or 01909 730652 or Text 07899 040860



If you want a special night out, this is the one for you

Swaledale Marathon (by Eric Lane)

This year's Swaledale Marathon will take place on Saturday 8th June and we again have a team of BTA members taking part. The team are Jean-Luc Chartron, Eric Lane, Frank Raspin, Jeanne Raspin, Gill Shephard, John Shephard, Rob Shephard and Paul Wood.

The route as usual starts and finishes in Reeth, has a total distance of 23.2 miles with total climbs of 4,128 feet.

The group and their supporters will be in Reeth from Friday 7th – Sunday 9th June.

Christmas Concert Spectacular (by Eric Lane)

The concert is to be held on Friday 29th November 2019. The arrangements are progressing well. The venue has now been confirmed as The Assembly Room at Worksop Town Hall. Sheffield Folk Choral have been booked as the main guests and will be supported by Peter Garratt, Ken Atkinson and Geoff Heppell - they played at Anne Fox's Memorial Variety Concert.



Sheffield Folk Choral have entertained us on 3 previous occasions

Newsletter Deadline (by Eric Lane)

Please note the deadline for the June Newsletter is Friday 24th May. All items need to be sent to Eric electronically and I would ask that you use Comic Sans as my preferred font.

Send to Eric: eric.lane@btinternet.com

I have still not received any items for inclusion from any of the general membership!

BTA Annual Meal 2019 (by Sue Dawson)

The BTA annual meal took place at the King William Restaurant Oldcotes on February 27th. 32 members joined together for this annual event and we all enjoyed a great meal at a very reasonable cost. We had a nice area cordoned off for us, and judging by the general noise there were lots of good conversations going on. Although this was not a fundraising event we raised £45.00 from the raffle which was won by Shirley Isard and Paul Wood.



The group were very appreciative of the staff, it is no mean task getting 32 meals out very quickly all hot and all as requested.

Our thanks go to Barbara Jameson for all her hard work, she may nag you for your orders, but having them ready for the staff prior to the meal and arranging our table settings is no mean feat. I am always glad that she has a record of the meals for those of us who forget what we ordered. Thank you again Barbara.

I am sure there will be an annual meal next year so if you have never joined us look out for the adverts in the newsletter later in the year, come along and enjoy a very pleasurable evening.

40th Twinning Anniversary between Bassetlaw and Pfungstadt Twinning Associations (by Linda Dore)

2019 marks the 40th Anniversary of twinning between Bassetlaw and Pfungstadt and as planned, sees visits both ways to celebrate this special anniversary year.

Our visitors from Pfungstadt will arrive by coach on Wednesday morning 29th May and while here will take part in excursions requested in 2017, i.e. visits to Welbeck, the Mining Museum near Wakefield and a tour of the Retford Heritage Trail. The main celebration event will take place on Sunday 2nd June at Worksop Town Hall prior to our guests commencing their return journey on Monday 3rd June. Guests will stay with both hosts and at The Lion Hotel in Worksop as on recent previous occasions. Support hosts will be required for the guests staying in the hotel so if you wish to be involved, please let me know. We don't know who is coming yet but are looking forward to welcoming friends both old and new.

For anyone not hosting or being a support host, there will be the opportunity to meet our visitors and join in a meal BTA is providing for them at The King William IV Hotel in Oldcotes on the evening of Friday 31st May. More details and menus to be circulated nearer the time as we are hoping for a special deal! Similarly, there will be chance to come along to the celebration event on the evening of Sunday 2nd June. Please make a note of both these dates in your diary.

For the return visit in September, a group of BTA members will fly from Manchester to Frankfurt on Thursday 5th to be in Pfungstadt in time for the start of the popular Kerb Festival weekend on Friday 6th. Some of the visiting group will fly home on Tuesday 10th September while others will travel by train to Hannover to visit our other German twin town, Garbsen. This will be the first time a visit by BTA members has included the option to visit both our German twin towns as part of the same trip. The members who have chosen to do the "twin town twin trip" will fly back home from Hannover on Sunday 15th September.

Update - Proposed Charge for BTA members travelling to host towns

You will be aware from brief discussions at the BTA AGM and from a recent email forwarded to BTA members, that the committee were proposing a £50.00 additional charge for those travelling to host towns. This money was to be used to support the BTA costs when hosting return visits. This was originally decided due to increase costs and reduced income from fundraising events.

We have received a number of comments regarding this, both positive and negative. We do thank you for your feedback, these views were discussed at the BTA executive meeting 06/03/19.

As a result of our discussions we have decided NO ADDITIONAL PAYMENT will be requested for the next trip to Pfungstadt or any other trip for the time being. One very positive suggestion was to have an open BTA meeting to discuss the broader aspect of funding our exchange visits, whilst ensuring that we maintain a suitable income to ensure the BTA will be able to fund future exchanges.

We do need to consider how we maintain the BTA and finance future visits, in long term. Therefore there will be an open meeting in the summer to discuss views regarding future fundraising event and ideas, we do not have a date/venue yet but it is likely to be in July. We will let you know the date and time etc., when a venue has been agreed.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact:

Pat Durrant Chair or Sue Dawson Vice Chair
BTA Executive Committee