

WATA BOUTIT

— The newsletter of the Waterlooville Area Twinning Association. —

No 22 March 2008



WATERLOOVILLE



2008 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2008 AGM has agreed subscriptions as follows. Please send your cheque made payable to WATA direct to John Aspel at 24 The Glade, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7PE.

FRENCH OR GERMAN TWINNING (please specify which)

Individual membership £8, Family membership £16

FRENCH AND GERMAN TWINNING

Individual membership £12, Family membership £24

QUIZ NIGHT

Our next social event will be a quiz night in St George's Church Hall on Saturday 12th April at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Food will be provided but you are invited to bring your own liquid refreshments. Tickets are priced at £7 and we would like to try and form tables of up to 8 people. Please try and bring friends along to join you for this event.

As usual there will be a raffle and if you are able to donate a small prize that would be greatly appreciated. Please let Colin know your ticket requirements by 22nd March.

Your Committee		
Chairman	Glynnis Simcox	02392 254533
Secretary	Colin Monk	02392 258938
Treasurer	John Aspel	02392 251953
Members	Lorraine Boyes	02392 570774
	Helen Wright	02392 615346
	Bob Simcox	02392 254553

Please e-mail any items to colin.monk2@ntlworld.com or post to 77 Durley Avenue, Cowplain, PO8 8TZ

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the AGM held at 8.15pm on MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2008 in St. George's Church Hall, Waterlooville.

Welcome.

Glynnis welcomed those present

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Robin & Lesley Smith, Bidy & Ian Purvis, Norman Boyes, Susan Collins, Dick Handy, Victoria & Georgina Wright, Tom Simcox.

Present

Colin & Rosemary Monk, Glynnis & Bob Simcox, Kimberley Simcox, Helen & Peter Wright, Will Waddell, Brenda & Colin Bentley, Jack & Tina Griffiths, Joan Carder, Lesley Handy, John & June Aspel, Lorraine Boyes.

Acceptance of 2007 AGM Minutes.

Proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Lorraine. All in favour.

Matters Arising from 2007 Minutes.

Europe Day—Due to the lack of support from Havant Council the Committee had felt they could not undertake organising an event in Waterlooville. Instead the event was taking place in Usedom in Germany. Henstedt-Ulzburg (Maurepas' German twin town) had offered assistance with travel if any English wished to attend.

Chairman's Report.

The old saying "Time flies when you are having fun- certainly applies to our Association. Another year has flown by so we must be having lots of fun.

The opening event of 2007 was again Burns night, our joint venture with St George's Church. It was even more successful than 2006 so many thanks again to those who made it happen. Well done to Colin, Rosemary, Dick, Lesley, Tony and Jane who organised everything and thanks to John, Lorraine and Helen for some spud bashing!

Going to Maurepas by car instead of all together in coach was a strange experience, not having the arrival reception or the farewell send off was something I missed, but the weekend itself was a great success. I know that the trip to Rheims, in particular lunch in the Air Force Officers Club, was memorable for many of us. I hope that in future years we will be able to go back to using the coach as it does add to the group spirit of the whole weekend.

Our other Fundraisers have included, a BBQ, Spanish evening and Fireworks party. I would urge you all to attend as many functions as possible, and to bring your friends, as they are great fun and value for money, in addition to raising much needed funds. I would also like to thank all those who have hosted and/or cooked for our various events.

Since the summer your committee has been busy planning for the arrival of the Maurepas contingent on 10/11 May 2008.

We now have an outline programme, a venue and a menu. All we are waiting for is a list of who will be coming.

Since meeting at the Europe day in 2006 we have been in contact with the German town of Henstedt - Ulzburg who have been twinned with Maurepas for over twenty years. We have been discussing the possibility of having a formal link with them and this resulted in two exploratory visits in October/November. During these visits we spent most of the time with the schools in our two communities. A link would be of benefit to our association and to the community, and our friends in Maurepas and our newer friends in HU are hoping for a positive result in our vote tonight.

Just to end ... I want to thank the committee for all the work they have done through the year, and all the members for supporting the association. I'd like to say a special thank you to Colin for producing WATABOUTIT

Our next function is the quiz night next month so I hope to see you all there!

Treasurer's Report.

John reported that we had started the year with a bank balance of £923.07 and had ended the year with a bank balance of £1,655.53 and a cash float of £11.40—a net increase of £743.86. This had placed us in a good position for the May visit of our friends from Maurepas.

WATA Accounts for 2007		
	Income	Expenditure
Subscriptions	210.00	0.00
Events		
1 Burns Night	188.57	0.00
2 60's Evening	260.47	72.57
3 Barbecue	198.02	64.30
4 Spanish Evening	203.61	106.75
5 Fireworks	180.00	57.84
Raffles		
1 Burns Night	0.00	0.00
2 60's Evening	45.00	0.00
3 Barbecue	40.00	0.00
4 Spanish Evening	35.10	0.00
5 Fireworks	0.00	0.00
Insurance		167.50
Miscellaneous		
Taxi to airport for German visitors		80.00
Twinning visit gifts		67.95
Total Income	1360.77	
Total Expenditure		616.91
Net Income	743.86	

Approval of Accounts.

Unfortunately there had not been time to have the accounts audited so they were approved on that basis.

NB Post meeting note accounts have now been audited and approved.

Agree Subscriptions

The proposal from the Committee was to recommend an increase to £16 per family or £8 per person. This was agreed unanimously.

Stand Down the Committee.

The Committee stood down to receive nominations.

Seek Nominations to Committee

Chairman —There had only been one nomination received in the name of Glynnis Simcox. Unanimously agreed.

Secretary —There had only been one nomination received in the name of Colin Monk. Unanimously agreed.

Treasurer -There had only been one nomination received in the name of John Aspel Unanimously agreed.

Committee – There had been three nominations received in the names of Bob Simcox, Helen Wright and Lorraine Boyes. Unanimously agreed.

Appointment of Honorary Auditor for 2008.

There had only been one nomination received in the name of Jack Griffiths. Unanimously agreed.

Report on the visit of a delegation from Henstedt-Ulzburg to Waterlooville and of the return visit by members of WATA to investigate a possible twinning link.

A written report was received from Robin Smith as follows:-

Since Summer 2006, with the encouragement of our twinning friends in Maurepas, we have been exploring the possibility of a three-way twinning with Maurepas' twin Henstedt-Ulzburg - near Hamburg. A party of eight from Henstedt-Ulzburg visited Waterlooville, 11 - 14 October, and six of us undertook the return visit, 1 - 4 November.

The exchange explored building links between local schools, and went well with much new interest in twinning. We hosted two head teachers from Germany, and we were accompanied by Sue Cornell-Cowplain's International Development Leader. We engaged Cowplain, Crookhorn and Staunton schools, and four schools in Germany.

There is much interest - and excitement - between the schools on developing links, especially at the family level, and there is a good opportunity over time to draw in some new members to WATA.

Things are moving forward re Cowplain's link with the Alstergymnasium in Henstedt-Ulzburg. Sue Cornell accompanied us on the return visit to Henstedt-Ulzburg, and has subsequently joined W A T A. A group of students and their teacher from Henstedt-Ulzburg will be taking part in Cowplain's Arts Department Residential in Devon during Feb 11-18, having arrived in the Portsmouth area on Feb 9 to spend the weekend with Cowplain's Head of Art, host families and Sue. Two teachers and a small group of Cowplain students will be going to Henstedt-Ulzburg in April to develop the link further. Sue is also in contact with the Alstergymnasium regarding an International Club she has set up with a colleague through which students will be able to make e pal links.

The contact between Cowplain School and the Alstergymnasium in Henstedt-Ulzburg has started so well that Cowplain now wants to link with a secondary school in Maurepas as well. This is very much what we intended because it is through school links that we aim to attract new families into WA TA by strengthening the Maurepas link at the school level and working with their existing German partner.

Crookhorn and the Realschule in Henstedt-Ulzburg are developing links, assisted by Helen Wright in

her capacity as a school governor at Crookhorn. Crookhorn is expecting to send a music/drama group to the Europe Day celebrations in Germany in May.

Our German friends certainly enjoyed the sights of Waterlooville and Portsmouth.

On the return visit we found Henstedt-Ulzburg to be remarkably like Maurepas, and of about the same population, set in pleasant countryside near a major city. Our trip to Hamburg was fascinating, seeing the remarkable 19th century town hall and the Hafencity regeneration project for the Hamburg Docklands and which includes an opera house project to rival that in Sydney.

Undoubtedly Henstedt-Ulzburg is keen to twin with us, and they bring a dimension that could help us build on school links. We met many friendly people who want to share experiences and cultures with us, and who know our friends in Maurepas well. Our friends in Maurepas also want us to develop the link.

A three-way twinning opens new possibilities, both at the youth level and for own twinning with Maurepas. We could, for example, on occasions meet friends from Henstedt-Ulzburg in Maurepas, or from Maurepas in Henstedt-Ulzburg. There is also the possibility of European Union Grant funding for youth activities - something that Henstedt-Ulzburg already uses for Europe Days.

However, the first step should be a modest one, and we should agree to go forward with an initial link. By working through Cowplain and Crookhorn Schools we have the potential of new members, and by bringing in a third partner we have the prospect of a new dimension to add interest and vitality to our twinning with Maurepas. We could do this by:-

- Agreeing to an initial link with Henstedt-Ulzburg
- Highlighting the triple twin possibilities with friends in Maurepas
- Building the school links through Cowplain and Crookhorn Schools
- Encouraging youth participation
- Having specific committee posts for Maurepas programme, Henstedt-Ulzburg programme, and youth programme within W A T A
- WATA committee providing overall co-ordination

Fund raising is an issue for W A T A. Currently we raise funds for a limited programme, and it would be difficult to raise much more under present circumstances. If we are to proceed with Henstedt-Ulzburg, we can probably only do so at this time on the basis that participants largely meet the costs of entertaining visitors themselves, especially in relation to admission charges to local sights. This would mean that, while the hospitality programme for visitors from Maurepas would be unaffected, we would have the costs for visitors from Henstedt-Ulzburg falling more on the hosts. We would make this clear with Henstedt-Ulzburg as part of any decision to proceed.

A report was also made by Will Cornell on behalf of his wife Sue, explaining that Cowplain School had already formed good links with the Henstedt-Ulzburg schools with some German students taking part in Cowplain's arts weekend in Devon. They were hoping to develop further joint arts projects which would be displayed in the two towns. Cowplain School were very grateful to WATA for taking the initiative and wished also to form links with Maurepas as part of their wider community links.

Helen reported that Crookhorn School had exchanged post cards between students and were looking at the wider development of contacts.

Glynnis said that this was an exciting time for the Association as it was the first time that we had really been able to get schools to engage with twinning.

To take a decision as to whether or not to form a formal twinning with Henstedt-Ulzburg.

Glynnis put forward a formal proposal that we move forward to formalise a Twinning by way of a charter with Henstedt-Ulzburg (similar to our twinning with Maurepas). She also proposed that there be a joint membership fee option (France and Germany) of £12 per single membership and £24 per family membership.

There was some concern from those present that the Association would not be able to fund two twinings. Glynnis replied that it was hoped that the German twinning would increase our membership and thus our income. However, initially the German twinning would need to be low key with those members of the Association interested in the German Twinning bearing most of the costs of visits themselves.

There was a suggestion put forward that funds should be ring fenced to French and German twinning but this was not felt practical.

It was also suggested that the Committee may need to have two members who took responsibility for each country.

The proposal was put to the vote and was passed with 13 in favour and 4 abstentions.

2008 Twinning Visit.

Colin reported that plans were well underway for the visit in May. The Committee had agreed that we needed to provide a more “up market” approach to our venue and meal and we had agreed to the event taking place at Petersfield Golf Course. There was a choice of menu and those participating would be asked to make their meal choice in advance.

The Saturday outing would be to The Weald and Downland Museum and it was hoped the weather would be good enough to enable picnics to be taken.

The French were undecided on their method of travel and route to England so we did not know if a coach would be available for the Saturday outing.

The French were currently producing a list of people coming and this would be issued to members as soon it was received.

Future Social Events.

Colin reported that so far this year we had already held a very successful Burns Night. The Committee had agreed to hold a quiz night in April, Barbecue in June, Greek evening in September and Firework Party in November. The Committee were always keen to hear of new ideas and offers to help or provide a venue for an event.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

SUMMER BARBECUE

The Summer Barbecue will be held at Helen and Pete’s on Saturday 21st June. Book the date in your diary now.