
The LITA Newsletter



Lyminster



Mosbach



Vitre



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

Website: lymingtontwinning.weebly.com

Affiliated with Lymington Community Association

January 2015

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Conversation Groups



French breakfasts are held on the **first Friday of the month**. The next dates are: **6th February, 6th March**. These take place at **Le Blaireau** in Brockenhurst from 10.30am for those who wish to practise their French conversation in a suitably French atmosphere. Coffee & croissant £3.75 For details, contact **Diana** (dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578)

Stammtisch meetings (German conversation group) are on the **third Tuesday** of the month at **The Mayflower**, King's Saltern Road, Lymington from 7.30pm: The next **Stammtisch** dates are: **17th February, 17th March**. For details, contact **Joan Wray** (01590-682385 or daysoutwithadifference@hotmail.com)



Tertulia meetings (Spanish conversation group). These take place on the **second Thursday** of the month. The next dates are **12th Feb, 12th March**. Meetings are held at **The White Hart**, 17 Milford Road, Lymington from 7.30pm for those who wish to practise their Spanish conversation.



For details, contact **Diana** (dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578)

LITA Diary Dates

Trip to: Mosbach 3-7 Jun 2015
Visit from: Vitre 14-17 May 2015
Visit from: Almansa in 2016

Forthcoming Social events:

Fish & Chip Quiz Thu 26th March 7.30pm
Blithe Spirit Mon 27th April 7.30pm
LITA AGM Mon 29th June 7.30pm
Summer Social early August
Brockenhurst College Lunch Fri 9th October

See articles for details

Chairman's Remarks

Technically speaking, this should be a blank section. The lively LITA Electric Chair remains empty as we still seek a successor to Peter Richardson as LITA Chair-man -woman -person.



LITA needs a volunteer from the membership to take on this fascinating and rewarding role. Your Committee retains the experience, ability and enthusiasm to sustain LITA, but we are keen to have this post filled as soon as

possible. If you are interested to hear more about the role, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Committee entirely informally.

And there will be further Committee post(s) to fill as Vice-Chair for Mosbach after the next AGM (see next item).

LITA relies entirely on the support and active involvement of members with so many roles and tasks. We encourage you all to consider being involved in these rewarding ways and contributing to the continuing success of our Association.

LITA Committee

A request from Sheila & John Ward

Having organised three trips to, and three visits from, Mosbach, and because we have both had to assume major responsibilities in several other organisations, John and I gave notice at last year's AGM that we would be resigning as the joint LITA Vice Chairmen for Mosbach at the AGM in June this year, following the forthcoming trip to Mosbach.

It is definitely not necessary to speak a word of German to take on this role. We always communicate in English with Ursula Geier, our contact in Mosbach – her English is very good. There is always a German host or guest handy (several are English teachers) to interpret if it is necessary to 'say a few words'.

So, this is an appeal for two members to step forward and take their turn for the next couple of years at least. It is easier with two people (it doesn't have to be a couple), and we would also suggest strongly that the new incumbents take their role to be one of co-ordination and, wherever possible, to involve other members in the actual organisation of the biennial visits from our Mosbach friends. John and I will be happy to support in every way, and would indeed be willing to plan one element of the 2016 visit for you.

So this is also an appeal for members to offer in principle to organise one element of a Mosbach visit, which might be the coach transport to and from Heathrow (usually with a visit to

somewhere on the way back), the Grand Day Out, the usual evening social event, or an informal half-day walk or other local activity. There is plenty of support available from other LITA members to help to run such activities.

Being Mosbach Vice Chairmen also involves at least one of you attending LITA committee meetings. These are only held about four times a year and are relaxed events held in someone's home.

Please contact us at sheilaward@talktalk.net if you would be willing either to consider being a Vice Chairman (co-ordinator) for Mosbach or to offer now to run one element of a visit or trip. Offers of the latter help at this stage will encourage potential co-ordinators who will know that they will have the support they need. Thank you.

Sheila Ward
Vice Chair Mosbach



LITA Social News

From Diana Hastie

We have enjoyed several LITA events since our last Newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of organisers Shirley Hewitt and Lesley Willstead, and despite all that ex-hurricane Bertha could throw at us, we raised nearly £250.00 at our Summer Social. They were assisted by our usual pinny-clad chefs, Simon, Andy and Alan who cooked up a delicious BBQ, along with many members who provided salads and puds. A very enjoyable social occasion, and thanks to all concerned.

The '**Secret Lymington**' talk held at the Community Centre proved to be a fascinating evening, with nearly 40 members and friends attending. We heard an engaging and informed talk from Aimée Durnell about her delightful and original book on Lymington. Copies of the book and her other works were available to buy whilst enjoying a glass of wine with other members.



We were grateful to Shelagh Richardson's expertise, (plus Peter's support i/c tea and coffee) when a dozen of us met in their house for a workshop on making a **Christmas door garland**. We also enjoyed a light festive lunch and refreshments, thanks due to Jenny Pritchard and Diana for that, and the opportunity to spend a day being creative. Shelagh demonstrated a fabulous table decoration in the afternoon, which we raffled for LITA funds, and which was won by a delighted Viv Parsons. There have been requests to repeat this activity next Christmas, or do something similar in the summer-time.



Garlanded with success

Our classy **Winter Social** with a nightclub atmosphere is reported on page 6; many thanks to the team who put this on, especially Judy Uren and Annabel Kermode.

Our special preview performance of Noël Coward's **'Blithe Spirit'** by **The Lymington Players** will be on **Monday 27th April**. As usual, the performance will be at Lymington Community Centre. The play will be followed by a light buffet and drinks with the cast

Lesley Willsteed and Shirley Hewitt are busy planning our **Summer Social**, possibly involving a few games of boules.

LITA's Annual Lunch at **Brockenhurst College** will be on **Friday 9th October**. Watch out for the publicity for this as it is invariably a sell-out!

We always look forward to seeing members at our events, and remember if you have an idea for a social event, or would like to offer help, please get in touch. Anyone fancy a go at 2015's Winter Party?

Wot no Newspaper?



We have a date now for our ever-popular **Fish and Chip Quiz**, which will be on **Thursday 26th March** in the Robert Hole Room of the Lymington Community Centre. It will be 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start ... but no newspaper.

We are grateful to new members **David Beech** and **Gill Woods** who have kindly offered to set the questions this year, so let's give them all our support. As usual, there will be a selection on offer of Fish & Chips, Chicken & Chips or a Veggie option. Please bring your own drinks and glasses; cutlery will be provided. The cost is £8 for Twinners and £10 for guests (cheques to be made payable to LITA) so start selecting your teams (of 6-8 people), or alternatively join a team on the night.

This is always an entertaining evening with a great ambience - and a raffle too, so sign up with Diana now to ensure your place.

For details of social events and bookings,

please contact: *Diana Hastie, Social Secretary*
dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578 or
5 Armstrong Close, Brockenhurst SO42 7SZ



Almansa News

LITA and Almansa — next visit 2016

20 Years of Twinning Celebrated in Spain

Last year's trip to Almansa: 28 Aug-1 Sept 2014

(this text is based on report that appeared in the 'A&T', last year and written by Peter Richardson)

It's over 20 years ago that Lymington twinned with Almansa—a Pact of Friendship and Collaboration. Even now, we are one of fewer than ten towns in England with a Spanish twin-town and that makes for a special relationship to be treasured.

Our Mayor, Cllr. Michael White and the Mayor of Almansa Cllr. Francisco Nuñez Nuñez signed a renewal pact of friendship and collaboration in a shady quadrangle of Almansa's Town Hall. The ceremony included speeches from both Mayors, Sr. Antonio Callado (who was Mayor when the original pact was signed in 1994), Tim Jones,



Chairman of Almansa's Twinning Association and Peter Richardson, our former Chairman. Gifts of books and a picture were exchanged, followed by the symbolic planting of a tree in a new development of apartments, a childrens' playground and fitness trail which is to be called *'La Plaza de Lymington'*.

As the majority of the group was visiting Almansa for the first time, it was especially interesting for us to experience a time of fiesta and to learn something first-hand of Almansa's history and the surrounding area. On the journey inland from Alicante airport, we passed one town whose industry was making womens' shoes, another making mens' shoes, another specializing in childrens' shoes. Towns were overlooked each by their own castle, some restored, others in ruins. 'Castles in Spain' was a

reality! On arrival in Almansa, 700 m above sea level, we were immediately welcomed at a reception in the Town Hall, interviewed on Almansa-TV and introduced to our hosts.



A really varied programme had been organised to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of our Twinning Charter. It included guided tours of Almansa's castle, an exhibition of the Battle of Almansa in 1707 and a visit to a local wine producer where we were photographed surrounded by 350 oak barrels, each containing 300 litres of wine. We travelled up the fertile Valley of Ayora and Cofrentes, stopping to see walking sticks, pitch forks and wooden utensils



being handcrafted. A boat trip followed on the River Jucar ending at an impressive dam and hydro-electric power station.

We spent plenty of time with our host families, getting to know them and their way of life; learning the importance of siesta time to enjoy the fiesta with late meals, folk dancing concerts, a big band concert (which started at 11.30pm!) in the relative cool of the evening. The hospitality was very generous and we have returned to Lymington with fond memories of new and renewed friendships.

Tree planting and naming at La Plaza de Lymington



Twin Town Street Names

The name of Lymington isn't just part of the town scene in Almansa. Our German twin town, Mosbach, has its own Lymington-Strasse close to the bustling town centre, while the Avenue de Lymington in our French twin town, Vitré, is a pleasant suburban road of modern chalet bungalows with pleasant flower beds on each side. For our part Lymington has Vitré Gardens near Woodside and Mosbach Place off Cannon Street, while one of the roads in the new Lymington Shores development by the river is to be named 'Almansa Way'.

The next visit from *Almansese* will be in 2016, possibly near Easter-time.

More photos from the trip to Almansa are available on the LITA website

Dilys MacKinnon
Vice-Chair, Almansa

Guylène Blot 1972-2014



We are very sad to have to report the sudden death of Guylène Blot in November last year. She was a regular visitor from Vitré (hosted by Dave and Carolyn Miller) with her husband Bertrand and their children, Mathis and Camille. All of us in LITA express our condolences to Betrand, Mathis and Camille, their family and friends on their tragic loss.

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Mosbach News

Trip to Mosbach — Wednesday 3rd
to Sunday 7th June 2015

Wir fahren nach Deutschland!

A LITA group that already exceeds 30 will be travelling to Mosbach in June. As usual, some members will travel independently to extend their stay in Germany. Otherwise, members will fly together. Make sure you alert us if you wish to join this trip. For those flying, please book your own seats on the following BA flights from Heathrow to Frankfurt **before** returning the booking form (available at the website or as previously sent to you)

Going out:

Wednesday 3rd June Flight BA0908 departing 1340 hrs

Coming back:

Sunday 7th June Flight BA0911 departing Frankfurt 1840 hrs.

Only a few seats were still available on both flights (at the time of writing). Using other flights might be possible, but independent travel arrangements to and from the airports will need to be made - check with us for advice. (A coach to and from Heathrow is already booked to meet the planes detailed above; those travellers are transferred by a 'Mosbach' coach to and from Frankfurt).

You can book in various ways - online, by telephone or through a travel agent. Online is the cheapest. Travel agents will charge extra. If you would like to book online to save money but have no friends or family to do this for you, please contact us and we will arrange help for you.

If you have any queries about the Mosbach visit please contact us by phone: 01590 671205 or e-mail: sheilaward@talktalk.net

Sheila & John Ward
Vice-Chairs, Mosbach

For more photos of the visit from Mosbach last May, check the website



Vitré News

Forthcoming Visit from Vitré —
Thurs 14th May to Sun 17th May 2015

Preparations are well underway for the visit from the *Vitré-ens* in June.

There will be about 60 visitors. They could send more, but we have logistical 'limits'. The major day's outing for our visitors will be to the historic dockyards at Portsmouth, HMS Victory, the Mary Rose, HMS Warrior, the Naval Museum and other attractions are on the agenda. The *Vitré-ens* specifically requested this visit and we have been able to comply. Whilst the visitors will use their own coach, hosts and other LITA members will be very welcome to join in. Details will be circulated to members within a few weeks. On the evening of Saturday 16th May we will host our visitors at Boldre Hall for a meal and country dancing (led by the band 'Pass the Buck')- a popular event for us all.

Jackie Mann (lajacqui@yahoo.com) &
Judy Uren, Vice-Chairs. Vitré

Paying for LITA events



A polite reminder from the Social Secretary and the Treasurer - please make our lives simpler by paying in advance for social events and, wherever possible, **by cheque**.

Merci, Danke, Gracias!

LITA's Winter Party

We held our **Winter Party** at The Boldre War Memorial Hall, Pilley, on 29th November. The evening kicked off with George Mills on the piano playing a medley of music as guests arrived. Although a mild evening for late November, the members were greeted with a welcome glass of mulled wine.

The headline entertainment was provided by Lisa Weidner, well-known locally through her regular gigs at *The Haven* in Lymington, *The George* in Yarmouth and other venues. She added glamour to the evening and sang two sets of 'cool jazz' classics in cabaret mode, with some stunning lighting effects provided by her engineer, Rob.

A tasty supper of *Coq au Vin*, provided by local caterer Helen Howells, was chosen to reflect our French connections.



Lisa Weidner at our Winter Party



Lisa and her engineer, Rob, chat with Cheng Wood



Shelagh Richardson & Cheng Wood



Lisa Weidner

(A brief version of this report appeared in the 'A&T' in January, but without a photo. We do always submit reports on all our events into the local paper, with photos, but we're not always successful!)

LITA in Milford



This year, the annual **Love Milford Week** (16th-22nd February) will feature a '**Clubs, Classes & Charities Morning**' on **Tuesday 17th Feb 2015: 10am to 1pm** at **Milford Community Centre on Sea Road**. LITA will have a display, manned by Dave Miller and Jackie Mann. We hope to recruit at least one or two new members and generally 'show the flag' for LITA. Actually we'll be showing the flags of France, Spain and Germany to celebrate our twin-towns.

As the masthead of the *Newsletter* always shows, LITA's full name is 'Lymington & District International Twinning Association'. Our 'District' certainly includes Milford where we already have many active members.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining LITA, we're always keen to make new recruits. Please direct them to our website (see below) or to contact anyone on the Committee (see right). Otherwise, if you'd like to show up and support Dave and Jackie, you would be very welcome too!

The LITA Website



Keep up to date via LITA's website

New information, travel dates, photos of all our events, booking forms *etc.* are often available **first** on the website – check it when you can.

<http://lymingtontwinning.weebly.com/>

Website content can be suggested via:

John Ward, the LITA webmaster at:

litatwin@gmail.com

Who is Who on LITA's Committee?



Chairman:	Vacant litachair@gmail.com
Deputy Chairperson:	Judy Uren
Hon Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Simon Hacking oakenbrow@uwclub.net or 01590 683218
Hon Treasurer:	Malcolm Eggleton
Vice-Chairs, Vitre:	Jackie Mann & Judy Uren lajacqui@yahoo.com
Vice-Chairs, Mosbach:	John & Sheila Ward sheilaward@talktalk.net
Vice-Chair, Almansa:	Dilys MacKinnon-Rich dilysmackinnonrich@gmail.com
Social Secretary:	Diana Hastie dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578
Newsletter Editor & Publicity:	Dave Miller DMille9226@aol.com
Website Editor:	John Ward litatwin@gmail.com

A description of Committee members' roles and other details of the Committee's work were included in the Newsletter for June 2012 – still available to download from the LITA website

Feedback about the Newsletter and suggested news items from members always welcome:

Dave Miller at DMille9226@aol.com