
The LITA Newsletter



Lymington



Mosbach



Vitré



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

affiliated with Lymington Community Association

July 2011

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New Chairman for LITA

We are delighted to confirm that **Peter Richardson** was elected to succeed Cheryl Blamey as LITA's new Chairperson at the AGM.

(see page 4 for the AGM report and Peter's remarks on taking office)



Peter at the Anniversary Gala Dinner, Beaulieu Hotel

LITA Diary Dates

Twin-town Visits & Trips:

To Mosbach: **29 Sept - 3 Oct 2011**

From Almansa: **3-6 Dec 2011**

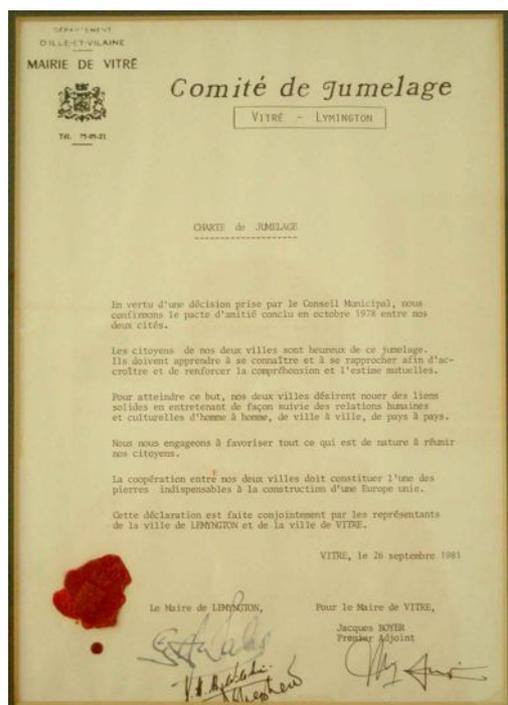
To Almansa and Vitré, From Mosbach:

2012 dates to be announced

Forthcoming Social events:

Dates and details - see page 7

Four Twin Towns celebrate Lymington's 30-year link with Vitré



The 1981 Twinning Charter

(this article is based on Cheryl's piece published in the Lymington & New Milton 'A&T' last month)

Ninety-two guests from Vitré, Mosbach and Almansa visited Lymington in early June to share with members of LITA in celebrations of the town's 30th Anniversary of Twinning.

The main focus of the festivities was the relationship between Lymington and Vitré with whom our first Twinning Charter was signed in 1981: annual exchanges have taken place ever since then. Normally, between 40 and 50 people from each country participate. It is a testament to the vitality of the link, and the enthusiasm of the Vitréan twidders, that LITA's Committee had to disappoint around a fifth of those who had signed up to visit us: we were simply unable to cope with such large numbers. In the event, 80 visitors from the Brittany town were joined by a half dozen delegates from Mosbach (Germany) and from Almansa (Spain). All were accommodated in LITA members' homes.

Our Vitré guests arrived on the overnight ferry from Portsmouth on Thursday 2nd June. The group included 8 young families with, between them, 15 children aged from 6 to 14. All the visitors had previously been involved in exchanges with Lymington, most having long-standing friendships with their hosts, but several stayed with new hosts.

A visit to Boldre Church after lunch on the Friday was followed by a guided country walk to Pilley, with many classic New Forest photo opportunities to capture along the way. At Boldre War Memorial Hall, a traditional English Cream Tea awaited the thirsty ramblers and others who had come by car.

That evening, a Civic Reception, hosted by the new Mayor, Cllr Anna Rostand, was held in the Lymington Community Centre's Fuller-McLellan Hall, the Town Council Chamber being deemed too small to hold the huge group. Against a colourful backdrop of five flags (that of Brittany accompanying the four national colours!), Cllr Rostand welcomed the elected civic dignitaries and Twinning Association representatives from each of the Towns. She reminded the assembled company that her husband, Pierre, a native Frenchman, had been a founding committee member of LITA, and added "I never imagined, when we made our first visit to Vitré in 1981, that three decades later I would be standing here as Mayor, celebrating with you all our 30th Anniversary of Twinning."



Reception stage party

Alain Bouvet, a Deputy Mayor of Vitré, paid homage to the vitality and longevity of the link, which he attributed to the voluntary work put in by the twinning committees and the strength of friendships over many years. The Vitré *Présidente* (Chairperson), Odile Bouvet, traced the history of the link, and reflected on the shared goal of "knowing one another better, and strengthening mutual understanding," expressing the hope that this would be carried forward by future generations. The Vitré committee member responsible for organising the link, Anne Rupin, praised the dynamism of LITA and thanked its members for the warm welcome they extend on each visit.

Five children from the Vitré *Comité de Jumelage's* "Little School" each read - in English - a prepared statement of greetings and thanks. The hope was expressed that some Lymington children, perhaps via Priestlands School, might again become involved and enjoy the benefits of friendships with French families. Gifts were exchanged between civic and twinning representatives.





Bill & Carol Foster with the Almansa delegation at Osborne House

The Vitréens had long expressed a wish for an excursion to the Isle of Wight on their itinerary and this time were not disappointed. Two coaches made the Red Funnel crossing from Southampton to Cowes, and a visit to Osborne House was followed by a short tour of the eastern part of the Island. On the return ferry journey, the magnificent sight of three liners, including the *Queen Mary 2*, sailing out of Southampton Water was an unexpected bonus.

In celebration of 2011 as the *European Year of Volunteering*, twinnings were joined on Saturday morning by representatives from several local Voluntary Organisations, including the *League of Friends of Lymington Hospital* and *Community First New Forest*, for an International Conference on Volunteering. Presentations were made by delegates on the state of Volunteering in their country and town, and on the work of one particular organisation in that town. Personal expertise, experiences and ideas were shared, and differences and common problems addressed -- with the able help of translators from LITA. The buzz of networking chat over coffee afterwards attested to the connections made and the usefulness of the exchanges.

At the same time, the French-speaking Town Tour guide, Linda Olden, conducted two back-to-back tours along the Lymington River for Vitre visitors. Many guests --and their hosts-- were also fascinated by an exploration of the art of English bell-ringing, as the ringers of St Thomas' tower demonstrated their campanological skills with explanations given in French and English.



Carolyn wields the emergency Pritt-stick

Everyone involved in the weekend was full of praise for the *Four Towns Twinning Exhibition* which had been compiled and mounted by Carolyn Miller along the Walter Simmons Gallery of the Community Centre. Through archive and recent photographs, historical documents and written information, the history of Lymington's twinning, together with the wonderful heritage, culture and architecture of the French, German and Spanish towns, was displayed. Several Lymington shops, including Elliotts, displayed a poster depicting the four towns and celebrating the Anniversary.

The grand finale of the long weekend was a Gala Dinner at the Beaulieu Hotel, whose peaceful setting in the heart of the New Forest was shown at its best in the warm summer evening sunlight. Traditional English Pimms in the garden and an excellent 3-course meal were enjoyed by 174 diners. After Cheryl Blamey and Odile Bouvet had blown out candles on the Anniversary Cake, the band *Zac and the Zeros* played retrospective numbers from the 60s and all generations took to the dance floor.



The Vitréens' coach left next morning from the car park in front of the Lymington Town Sailing Club, whose entrance steps provided the ideal setting for a classic "au revoir, until next year!" group photo.

Cheryl Blamey

(Members should each have received from Dave Miller an emailed 'invitation to view' photos of the weekend at the Picasa website)

The Anniversary: 'Thanks to our Sponsors'

The following individuals, businesses and organisations have our gratitude for their donations, help and hospitality associated with the 30th Anniversary celebrations.

Lymington & Pennington Town Council - £250 and Civic Reception

Anna Rostand - £250 New Forest District Council Community Grant allocation

Le Comité de Jumelage de Vitre - £600 to pay for additional coach for the Osborne House visit

Careys Manor & SenSpa, Brockenhurst- £300 Calendar sponsorship

New Forest District Council - Printing of Posters

Fionola Shaw – of *Fionola's Flowers* - Table flower decorations for Gala Dinner

Our members **Vicki & Glenn Phillips** (*Sails Coffee Shop*, Marine Drive, Barton-on-Sea)- Cream Teas supplied at cost-price

France at Home Market (**Muriel Charles** & organiser **Paul Hickman**) for allowing us to join in (even though we didn't make it!)

These High Street shops kindly displayed LITA posters:

Elliotts (with a special window display), **Glow & Co**, **The 99p Shop**, **Maxwell Hamilton**, **Krysallis**

LITA AGM 2011

Over a third of the membership attended the AGM on 29th June. As Mayor Anna Rostand was unavailable, it was chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Jacqueline England, who took the occasion to join as a LITA member! Reports from the various Committee members covered the wide range of events over the past year. There was a vote of thanks for all who had helped to make the Anniversary celebrations such a big success. Cheryl also thanked the committee and membership for their work and support over her term as Chairperson. She was thanked in turn, with the gift of an electronic Spanish dictionary and a country-garden flower arrangement from the membership.

Peter Richardson (*see front page and next column*) was elected as the new Chairperson, but as he is not retiring until the end of 2011, Cheryl will remain as a co-opted member on the Committee until December. The rest of the Committee were re-elected en bloc. The evening was rounded off in the usual convivial fashion with a wine'n'nibbles social, and a slide show of photos from the Anniversary weekend.



Snailmailer Chase

Have you recently acquired a new email address? LITA information is received much more quickly by email than by post. *Newsletters* are also received in colour via email rather than black & white by post. Please let me know if you think we need a new email address for you.

Carolyn (*Membership Secretary*)

Message from Peter Richardson, the new Chairman of LITA

It is a great privilege to take over the Chairmanship of LITA from Cheryl Blamey and my first task in this message is to pay tribute to her leadership and hard work for the past three years. She has overseen steady growth in both membership and activities, culminating in the highly successful 30th Anniversary events. Sincere thanks were expressed to her at our AGM and I reiterate them here.

Of course, Cheryl has not worked alone to achieve these successes. She has been ably supported by a very enthusiastic and hard working Management Committee who, with help from the wider membership, have organised and carried out the activities that make up our varied programme of social functions, visits to and from our twinning partners and promotion of LITA within the community.

It was the strong support of the Management Committee and the willingness of the LITA membership to volunteer to help and support our activities that helped persuade me to take on the Chairmanship. LITA is an association that is strong, well supported by the membership, active in fostering good relationships with its partner towns. And we enjoy what we are doing.

It is too early to have formed a 'strategy' but my aim is that we should continue to be a strong association, have the support and enthusiasm of our members and further our good relationships with our twin towns. Building on existing good relationships within our community and with its leaders and continued participation in community activities – such as the Arts Festival or the Christmas Tree Festival - will strengthen our association still further.

I look forward to the next three years as Chairman with some trepidation – it is a hard act to follow, but in the knowledge that the Management Committee and members are so enthusiastic and supportive and that Cheryl has agreed to remain on the Committee until the end of 2011 (when I retire) I do look forward to my role. I hope to get to know members better and am always ready to listen to your views. I will do my best to ensure that being part of LITA will continue to be an enjoyable experience for us all.

Peter

(*email at litachair@gmail.com*)

Outgoing Chairperson's Letter

As the Chairperson's baton is handed over to Peter Richardson, I should like to say how much



I've enjoyed the role of developing and nurturing our Association and our twinning links over the past three years. Together we have achieved a great deal: membership has increased by a third; effective fundraising has, despite the huge outlay for the Anniversary events,

placed funds on a secure footing; and we have made great strides, through various measures, in raising the profile of LITA in the wider community. Most importantly, we've enjoyed some wonderful exchange trips and visits, and strengthened our bonds of friendship with the people of our twin towns.

It is my impression that people are attracted to Twinning not just because they are want to improve their foreign language abilities, or are franco/hispano/germano-philes, or want a "cheap holiday." They do so because they are drawn by the Twinning ethos of reciprocity, of giving and receiving, enjoying activities around a shared interest with like-minded people. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with such a lovely bunch of people as one meets within the LITA membership. A special thank you to the Committee for their unflagging support, and for being such a brilliant team.

As Peter is still working full-time (plus) until he retires in November, he and I will chair alongside one another until the end of the calendar year. Your Committee is thrilled that he has agreed to be Chairperson, and have great confidence in his abilities to take us onwards and upwards into LITA's next chapter.



Cheryl



On a cold but fine January morning, fifteen brave LITA folk set out from Keyhaven. We followed the sea wall towards Lymington and then returned along the Ancient Highway. Although the Dugbird had brought a telescope, the weather was a bit too cool to linger long at any one spot. Some more prudent members of the group decided to go ahead and form an advance party at *The Gun*.

We failed to add the elusive Sea Eagle to our list, but we still managed to see a respectable total of nearly 40 different species. The full list of the birds we saw is below, but I can note some of the highlights.

As we left the car park, we were greeted by a cheerful, friendly line of Turnstones on top of the sea wall.

The high tide had banished them to this higher perch where they appeared remarkably tame. Recent rainfall had provided plenty of water for the marshland ducks: we were treated to excellent views of handsome drake Teal and Pintail, as well as Gadwall with their conspicuous black rear end. There were also plenty of Shovelers with their comically large beaks, well adapted for sieving food items from the water.

Wading birds always provide rich entertainment with their remarkable ability to fly in wheeling formation, and they come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Over the sea, large flocks of Dunlin were flying to and fro in search of mud to feed on but still frustrated by the high tide. Overhead a large flock of Black-tailed Godwits made an impressive spectacle as they circled round, revealing their conspicuous black and white wings and tails. Several Lapwing were perched on a sandbank, providing good views of their wispy crests: in flight their round-winged appearance looks so different from the bird on the ground.

As we approached the Ancient Highway, a few more 'dedicated' birders were treated to the sight of handsome, fast-flying Golden Plover over the

flooded meadow, and at the far end we spotted a small flock of White-fronted Geese - rare visitors to these parts.

To complement the varied, colourful sights of the day, pleasing sound effects were supplied by Teal, Wigeon and Redshank. Less musical were the strident calls of Coots who often seem to be at loggerheads with their fellows. From deep in the reedbeds the skulking Cetti's Warbler belied its small size by emitting an unmistakable, loud outburst of 'song'.

At the end of the morning *The Gun Inn* provided a warm haven and welcome refreshment for the group. Our thanks are due to Diana Hastie for her cheerful, efficient organization and to everyone who ventured forth on a cool January day. Perhaps our next outing should be at a warmer time of year when sunny skies will have attracted tuneful summer migrants from southern climes?

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN or HEARD

Little Egret Starling, Cormorant Dunnock, Great Tit, Pied Wagtail, Cetti's Warbler, Reed Bunting, White-fronted Goose, Brent Goose, Canada Goose, Shelduck, Mallard Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Coot, Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Dunlin, Turnstone, Snipe, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Mute Swan, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull (over. 35 species in all)

Dugbird Marcuse

A Triple Entente – Three-way Twinning



Mary, Klaus & Monique in Fougères

It seems a long time ago that I was sitting in the coach from Lymington going on my first twinning visit to Vitré. We'd travelled overnight and here we were at our destination. A feeling of apprehension assailed me - would my hostess accept this elderly, non-academic English woman whom she had never met? My French was reasonable but, by comparison with the

locals, painfully slow. Monique Dubois came forward to greet me, competent, kindly and very able. Her warm smile helped me to relax. Before long she'd driven me to Fougères, where she lives. She is a bridge player, skilled on the computer, a German teacher, a keen gardener, an excellent needlewoman and a skilled cook - in fact, she puts me in the shade!

But having said that we are now firm friends, not just officially, but with that good friendship that makes being together a joy. We know about one other's family and Monique's postcards come to me from around the world as she visits Vitré's twin cities in Romania, Poland, and Canada.

However, this year we went beyond the twinning stage and ventured a triple exchange. Unfortunately, LITA's proposed visit by our Mosbach friends in April last year had to be postponed due to the grounding of aircraft as a result of volcanic ash. As Monique had been Head of German at a secondary college, we had the idea that perhaps my delightful friends, Sissie and Klaus Keil from Mosbach, could come to Brittany. It seemed a wild idea at first but the Keils own a camper-van and were eager to visit Brittany to explore and meet another friend of Klaus' as well as to meet up with Monique and me.

As the Bible says '*and so it came to pass*', albeit with a certain amount of confusion and sat-nav drama, that my much-loved German friends arrived. The weather was perfect. Monique produced a superb meal and insisted on them staying in the house. Breakfast in the garden was the start of an unforgettable day when we explored Fougères and Vitré. After another night, Sissie and Klaus headed home, but it had been such a pleasure for us all to have shared the happiness of meeting. How much I owe to the hard work of LITA Committees who have made such friendships possible.

Mary Lewis-Bizley



MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

Last session, our membership increased to 126. Thank you to all who have already promptly sent in forms and subscription cheques to cover membership renewal (due from 1 July).

Once you've renewed your membership, you can be sure of receiving the next *Newsletter*, *Bulletins*, photo links, and other regular information about the Association's activities. You will, of course, also be eligible to join any trips to our Twin Towns during the coming LITA year.

Please notify me of any changes to your personal details so you don't miss out!

Carolyn Miller (Membership Secretary)



Almansa

We will be welcoming the visitors from Almansa 3-6 December, exactly a year after the trip aborted because of air-traffic controllers' strike last time. The programme will repeat what we had planned then. As soon as I have details of numbers (not easy given the strong *mañana-mañana* ethos of the Spanish!), I will be contacting members to arrange hosting. Our current information is that for various reasons, fewer *Almansenses* will be able to travel this year than we had hoped to welcome last year. I am also hoping to arrange a LITA visit to Almansa for 2012.

Dilys MacKinnon (*Vice Chair, Almansa*)



Vitré

Even whilst the dust settles on the Vitréens visit to us, we start to plan our return visit to France. Dates sometime in Summer 2012 are being considered. We will keep you all informed.

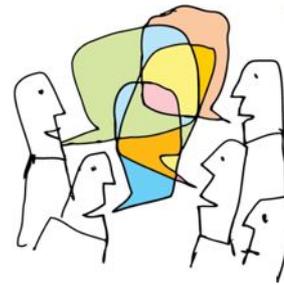


Mosbach

A large group is booked to visit Mosbach from 29th September to 3rd October this year. We can look forward to a stimulating itinerary as we visit our beautiful Partnerstadt again. Further details will be circulated to those engaged on the trip nearer the date.

Eine große Gruppe ist gebucht um Mosbach vom 29. September zum 3. Oktober zu besuchen. Wir können uns auf eine anregende Reise, als wir unsere schöne Partnerstadt nochmals besuchen. Weitere Einzelheiten werden den Reisenden näher das Datum in Umlauf gebracht werden.

Social Secretary's Report



For your Diary:

LITA's Forthcoming Social events

Thursday July 14th - Bastille Day Boules tournament

Sunday 14th August - Summer Social BBQ

Thursday 13th October - French cookery course at MJ's, Brockenhurst College.

Saturday 19th November - Murder Mystery at the Community Centre Milford-on-Sea

Conversation groups

Do you want to brush up your languages? Our conversation groups will welcome you

French: Next French breakfasts: **5 August, 2 September, 7 October**. These are held at Le Blaireau in Brockenhurst from 10.30 am on the *first Friday of the month*.



Contact Diana for details.

We have a **Beginners' French Class** (i.e. approx 'O' level ... once-upon-a-time!) for LITA & BTA members: Carolyn organises and participates in this weekly session conducted by a native French speaker at *Brasserie Gerard* in the High Street. Please **contact Carolyn** if you are interested in joining. The class meets *every Tuesday at 10.30am*.

German: The next **Stammtisch** dates are: **19 July, 16 August & 20 Sept**. *Stammtisch* meetings are on the third Tuesday in each month at *The Mayflower*, King's Saltern Road, Lymington from 7.30pm: (**contact Joan Wray** - 01590-682385).

Spanish: The next *tertulia* for Spanish conversation will be on **Monday 11 July** from 2.30pm at 5 Armstrong Close, Brockenhurst and will begin with a talk by Graham & Agnes Swetman, "*Un viaje por Chile*". Future dates and information will be sent to those in the group. New members please

contact Diana for details.

Social Secretary's News

A popular event took place on March 26th when, thanks to Sheila Ward's tricky questions, 66 participants were challenged at our annual Fish & Chip Quiz. It was a chance to welcome guests and twinnings from other Associations. Despite being a very reasonably priced night out, over **£300** was raised for our funds.

The next fund-raiser was our preview performance of 'Steel Magnolias' by the Lymington Players plus post-show party on 9th May. It was a most entertaining play with some great performances and the opportunity to chat and mingle made for a good evening. Thanks to all who came or helped as **£200** was made.



We are entering two teams in the Bastille Day Boules tournament on **July 14th** organised by New Forest Twinners at the Hordle Boules court, which, win or lose, should be a fun way of spending *la fête nationale*.

Sunday 14th August 1pm onwards, sees our **Summer Social Barbecue** at Wilverley Barbecue Site, a great venue. This costs **£10** per ticket, or **£22.50** for a family, so please bring children and grandchildren. All are welcome for a fun day out with Sway butcher's meat and delicious salads and puds. Water and soft drinks are provided; just bring your own wine or beer, plates, cutlery and glasses. Any offers of help on the day, or food contributions, would be most welcome. (*Booking forms were emailed earlier – failing that, please book by contacting Diana*).



An exciting new event LITA is trying is an afternoon's French cookery course run by John Macarthur, Chef Director of the New Forest Cookery School, **MJ's** restaurant, Brockenhurst College. We have a 3-hour session for a group of about ten. It starts with a briefing over coffee. Then we'll be set to work in the professional kitchens and, best of all, later get to eat the delicious three-course French meal prepared. We'll learn about the history of French cuisine and the secrets of the great French master chefs of yester-year, including their classic dishes such as *Moules Marinières* or *Champignons sauvages en croute*, *Carre d'agneau Richelieu* or *Poulet sauté Marengo*, classic *Tarte au citron* or *Tarte tatin*. The cost will be **£40** per person and it will take place on **Thursday 13th October** from **4.30 to 7.30 pm**. If we can't fill all the places, other Associations will be invited to join us, so sign up with **Diana** now if you're interested.

A big night out is coming on **Saturday 19th November** when we're putting on another **Murder Mystery** event with the Cloak and Dagger Company, this time at Milford-on-Sea's new Community Centre. More information will follow, but please keep the date free. As we will be publicising this widely, please let **Diana** know of your interest to make sure of your place.

Diana Hastie

Who's Who on the Committee

(with contact details relevant to this Newsletter)

Chairman:	Peter Richardson litachair@gmail.com
Deputy Chairman:	Simon Hacking
Hon Secretary:	Rosemary Marcuse
Hon Treasurer:	Malcolm Eggleton
Vice-Chair, Vitre:	Sheila Collyer
Vice-Chairs, Mosbach:	John & Sheila Ward
Vice-Chair, Almansa:	Dilys MacKinnon
Social Secretary:	Diana Hastie dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578
Membership Secretary:	Carolyn Miller carolynstbedes@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Miller DMille9226@aol.com
Co-opted Member	Cheryl Blamey cblamey@limeone.net



Osborne House

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

Dave Miller at DMille9226@aol.com