
The LITA Newsletter



Lymington



Mosbach



Vitré



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

Website: lymingtontwinning.weebly.com

Affiliated with Lymington Community Association

March 2016

Chairman's Remarks

*Could it be
Au Revoir – Auf wiedersehen - Adios
to LITA?*



Welcome to our first *Newsletter* of 2016. This month, my comments have moved to the front page as LITA is facing a crisis that will impact upon its future viability. Put simply, we urgently need to fill the following vacancies on the Committee:

Mosbach Vice-Chairs: Sheila and John Ward stepped down from the Committee at the 2015 AGM but there were no volunteers to replace them. To ensure that this year's 20th anniversary of Lymington's twinning with Mosbach was marked appropriately, Sheila and John have continued to cover these roles this year, for which we are extremely grateful. If we do not find replacements, the scheduled 2017 visit to Mosbach will not take place.

Vitré Vice-Chairs: Jackie Mann is to step down at this year's AGM. Whilst Judy Uren will continue in post, she needs a Co Vice-Chair to share the workload. Once again, unless we fill this vacancy we will not be in a position to host visitors from Vitré in 2017.

Social Secretary: Diana Hastie will also step down at the 2016 AGM, although she has agreed to continue to facilitate the monthly French breakfasts. We therefore need someone (or perhaps a 'job share') to take on the 5 or 6 events that have become such a key part of LITA's annual social and fundraising calendar. Revenues from these events enable us to avoid/minimise increases in membership fees.

Treasurer: Malcolm Eggleton will step down at the 2017 AGM, by which time he will have completed 10 years in this key role. Malcolm's early indication of his intentions gives us a golden opportunity for a replacement to shadow him for a period and provide an orderly handover in 2017.

Without a fully-manned Committee, LITA cannot function properly, or perhaps at all, so I very much hope that that we can generate enough volunteers to maintain 'business as usual'. Please will those interested in any of these vacancies let Simon Hacking or me know. If anyone wants further details of what the roles involve, please feel free to contact the current incumbent – contact details are at the end of the *Newsletter*.

Kind regards.

David Beech LITA Chairman

Editor's comment

In his letter above, our Chairman has captured the concerns of the Committee. We know that there are many members who could give just a little time back to LITA through volunteering for the Committee, not least because they have derived so much pleasure from the social gatherings trips and visits that LITA has run over so many years. Some might feel that they could carry on independently, privately, with friendships in Spain, France or Germany originally forged

through LITA. But this will deny newcomers any chance to enjoy a similar enrichment to their lives in 'Lymington and District'.

Please check out the previously published messages of encouragement from Sheila Ward and from Diana Hastie repeated below.

The Committee will be very pleased to help volunteers find their feet in any of the tasks. Skill with languages or the mastery of spreadsheets might well be desirable, but are by no means essential. All LITA needs is some fresh blood on the Committee (rather than 'on the carpet!'). The need is urgent. Please offer your help if you can.

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Forthcoming Social events:

LITA Diary Dates

Visit from: Mosbach Thurs 4th to Mon 8th August 2016

Trip to: Vitré Thurs 12th May to Tues 17th May 2016

Visit from: Almansa Easter 2016 (Fri 25th to Mon 28th March)

Monday 25th April 2016 Lymington Players
See articles for details

Conversation Groups



French breakfasts are held **on the first Friday of the month**. The next dates are: **1st April** and **6th May**. 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 (which should reopen by Easter) from 7.30pm. The next **Stammtisch** dates are **19th April** and **20th May 2016**. For details, contact **Dave Miller** (01590-645823 or DMille9226@aol.com)



Tertulia meetings

(Spanish conversation group). These take place on the **second Thursday** of the month. The next meetings are **14th April** and **12th May**. Contact Diane Hastie [see above] for further details. Meetings are held at **The White Hart**, 17 Milford Road, Lymington from 7.45pm for those who wish to practise their Spanish conversation.



The last Tertulia had a group of twelve or more attending – Spanish conversation is catching on! Some of those attending are included below:



Social News



Many LITA members have supported, and even run, social events over the last year, which has been wonderful. If you have an idea for a social event, or would like to offer help, or learn more about the role of

Social Secretary, since I will be resigning at the next AGM, please get in touch.

The Fish & Chip Quiz

The Quiz is a successful annual event. Once again David Beech and Gill Woods hosted the quiz and set a suitably challenging range of questions. A good profit for LITA funds was raised with 65 members attending in the Robert Hole room at the Community Centre.

Monday 25th April 'I'll Get my Man' the Lymington Players



Our next social event – recently advertised by email to members – is a preview performance of the Lymington Players Spring production, with a post-show party.

It is wise either to e-mail me, or phone, before sending a cheque to be sure there are tickets left. The play is the

farce by Philip King 'I'll get my man'. We'll follow the presentation with a social with the cast and crew, with wine, beer and soft drinks and a finger-buffet. (Anyone who would like to contribute a plate of something delicious, please let me know.)

Sunday 10th July - LITA's Summer Social

Shirley Hewitt and Lesley Willstead are planning a fab **Summer Social** for us, to again take place at Hordle Recreation Ground. This will be on **Sunday 10th July**. Keep the date free and look out for more details soon.

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
Easter 2016 (Fri 25th to Mon 28th March)

Dilys MacKinnon
Vice-Chair, Almansa

We will welcome our visitors from Almansa later this month. They have an interesting itinerary – flying first to Bristol Airport so that they can enjoy a visit to Bath. *En route* to Lymington the next day they will visit Stonehenge – a must-see as the most important comparable prehistoric site in the whole of Europe. Then they come to us. The main excursion arranged for them will be an outing including Romsey Abbey and Breamore House. We also hope to have an official 'naming' ceremony on Esater Monday at Almansa Way, the road in the Lymington Shores development by Redrow Ltd.

We will have a communal meal and musical entertainment for our guests and their hosts at the Walhampton Arms – a location they had much enjoyed on their last visit.



Mosbach News

Visit from Mosbach
Thurs 4th to Mon 8th August 2016

For more photos of the summer 2015 visit to Mosbach, check the website

Our visitors will have a group day-trip, most likely to Arundel Castle with the chance to visit Chichester 'unterwegs'. The communal dinner will be at Passford House Hotel in Lymington. Those who wish to join in will experience a guided tour of the Lymington Lifeboat Station and enjoy coffee at the Town Sailing Club with its splendid views from The Solent Room. A civic reception will help to mark the Lymington phase of the 20th anniversary of our twinning links with Mosbach. Some thirty-four guests will be joining us from Germany this time.

A request from Sheila Ward

[This important message was printed in the last Newsletter and the one before that. Unfortunately, the committee has received no clear expressions of interest from volunteers to help coordinate visits and trips from and to Mosbach. Please read

Sheila's informative and encouraging note. We do hope to hear from potential coordinators to ensure our very successful Mosbach link thrives. Ed]

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 resign as the joint LITA Vice-Chairmen for Mosbach at the AGM in June this year, following the then 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-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 sheila.lymington@gmail.com [or LITA's Chairman David Beech at litachair@gmail.com] 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

Former Vice-Chair Mosbach



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!



Vitré News

Next Trip to Vitré

Thurs 12th May to Tues 17th May 2016

For more photos of the summer 2015 visit from Vitré, check the website

A group of over 50 LITA members will travel to Vitré in May. We anticipate the usual attractive programme whilst there renewing old friendships and making new ones. This time, those travelling with the LITA coach are taking the 'slow-boat' overnight to beautiful St Malo - a delightful starting point for our visit to France.

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

Who is Who on LITA's Committee?



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://lymingtonwinning.weebly.com/>

Website content can be suggested via:

John Ward, the LITA webmaster at:

litatwin@gmail.com

Chairman: **David Beech**
litachair@gmail.com or
davidbeech.bigstone@btinternet.com

Deputy Chairperson: **Vacant**

Hon Secretary & Membership Secretary:
Simon Hacking
oakenbrow@uwclub.net or 01590 683218

Hon Treasurer: Malcolm Eggleton
malcolm.eggleton@aol.com

Vice-Chairs, Vitré: Jackie Mann & Judy Uren
lajacqui@yahoo.com judyuren@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairs, Mosbach: **Vacant**

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

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