

---

---

# The LITA Newsletter



Lymington



Mosbach



Vitré



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

Website: [lymingtontwinning.weebly.com](http://lymingtontwinning.weebly.com)

Affiliated with Lymington Community Association

November 2012

---

---

## What's where?

Conversation groups	1-2
Social News	2-3
Chairman's Remarks	3
Almansa News	4
Mosbach visit report	5-6
Vitré trip report	6-7
Who is Who on the Committee?	7

... and more



**Feliz Navidad – Merry Christmas** – join us for the LITA Christmas event (see page 3)

## LITA Diary Dates

**Visits** from: Vitré 8-12 May 2013  
from: Almansa (to be confirmed)  
**Trip** to: Mosbach 28 May-2 June 2013

## Forthcoming Social events:

**Friday 16 November** Lunch at  
Brockenhurst College – see page 3  
**Saturday 8 December** LITA Christmas  
Party – see page 3  
**Monday 22 April** Lymington Players  
evening (details coming later)

## Conversation Groups

**French breakfasts** are held  
**on the first Friday of the**  
**month.** The next dates are:  
**7 December, 4 January and**  
**1 February.** 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](mailto:dianahastie@btinternet.com) or  
01590-622578).



### Conversation Groups (cont.)

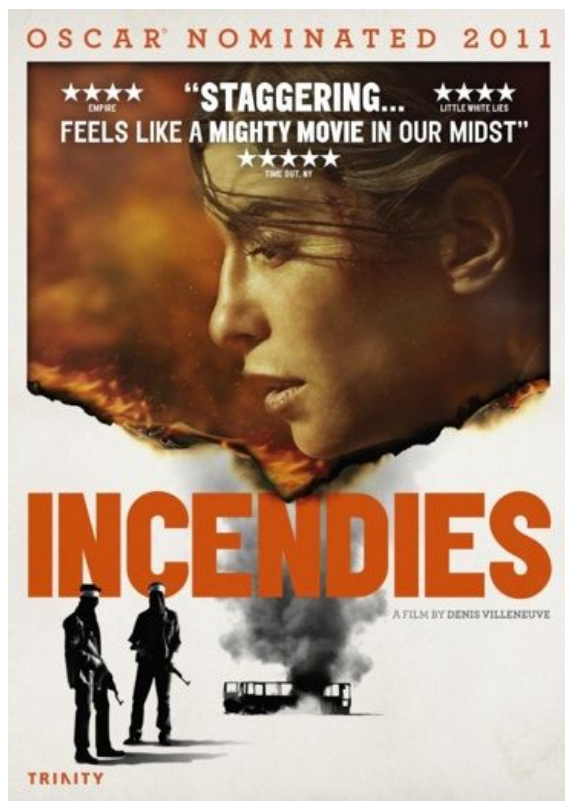
**Stammtisch** meetings (German conversation group) are on the **third Tuesday** of the month at **The Mayflower**, King's Saltern Road, Lymington from 7.30pm: The next *Stammtisch* dates are: **20 November, 18 December** (our Christmas meal – booking necessary!) and **15 January**. Contact **Joan Wray** 01590-682385) for details.



**Tertulia** meetings (Spanish conversation group) **New Dates!** These are now on the **third Monday** of the month. The next dates are **19 November, December** (tba), **21 January, 18 February, 18 March** at Cheryl Blamey's (15 Oakenbrow, Sway SO41 6DY). Please let her know whether you are coming or not. *Hasta la vista!* Contact **Cheryl** [cblamey@lineone.net](mailto:cblamey@lineone.net) (01590 681746) for details



**Do you fancy a French film?** Lymington Film Society will be showing **Incendies**.



This is a beautifully filmed and movingly performed drama that explores how personal motives breed political radicalism.

**Sunday 11th November, 7.30 pm**  
Fuller-MacLellan Hall, Lym Community Centre.  
**Cost £5 to Film Club non-members**  
Pay on the door, no need for advance booking.



### LITA Social News

We had chosen the hottest day of the year for our **summer social barbecue** and enjoyed sunshine, good food and good company.



*Andy Pitt-Plady controls his sausages [CB]*

We played boules and croquet and went on a forest walk (though some just lazed around) to work off the tasty lunch. Many thanks to our helpers, especially our chefs Simon, Andy and Alan.

Around £170 was raised for LITA funds.



*LITA takes over Wilverley Plain for the barbecue [CB]*

*Continued ....*



## LITA Social News

(Cont.)



### Celebrate Christmas with a Spanish flavour – 8<sup>th</sup> December

To launch the 2013 celebration of our 20th anniversary of twinning with Almansa, our Christmas event should get us in the mood with Sangria, Salsa dancing (watching or trying it out), and a choice of meat, fish or veggie paella (let us know on the form of any allergies or other dietary requirements), plus churros, a delicious Spanish sweet treat. There will also be a bar and a great raffle - win your Christmas presents!- all for **£20 per person**.

**Venue:** Boldre Memorial Hall, Pilley;  
7 for 7.30pm

If any members could offer help on the evening, please contact Diana. Plenty of people have already signed up, so do get your booking form in soon to be sure of your place.

**A separate booking form was emailed (or posted) to members last month. Otherwise, please contact Diana for details**

[dianahastie@btinternet.com](mailto:dianahastie@btinternet.com) or 01590-622578

### Friday 16th November: LITA Lunch at Brockenhurst College

**£16** for an excellent 3-course meal.

This popular annual event for LITA members is now sold out – but do contact Diana to be put on a waiting list, as sometimes spaces become available. Apologies if you missed out on a ticket. Book early *next* year to secure a place!

## 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 **by cheque**.

*Merci, Danke, Gracias!*

**Diana Hastie**

## LITA Chairman's Report

Each time I write an article for the *Newsletter* I want to emphasise the appreciation I have for the efforts of the Management Committee and individual members to LITA's work and this *Newsletter* is no exception. I am most grateful for the work that goes on to keep LITA active.

Many of us enjoyed hosting a group from Mosbach at the end of September that included five teenagers rewarded for good performance in their English studies at their schools.

Lymington's Mayor, Jacqui England, participated in two events over the weekend. Our thanks to Sheila and John Ward for an interesting and well organised visit. Detailed descriptions can be found on page 5 and in the *Lymington Times* of 27<sup>th</sup> October. We look forward to taking up Mosbach's invitation to visit around the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> May to 2nd June 2013.

The Management Committee has had extensive discussions over the dates of trips and visits for future years in order to balance the popular spring exchanges amongst our Twin Towns. We are also trying to ensure that the alternate trips to, and visits from, them are evened out; otherwise there is a real challenge to the logistics and finances of members, as well as LITA. I am pleased that Vitré have accepted our invitation to visit us from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013. There could be 50 guests travelling, so Jackie Mann and Val Wright would appreciate early offers to host our French visitors.

We have also invited Almansa to visit in 2013 (deviating from their previous four year pattern) to celebrate 20 years since the signing of our



Twinning Charter, but dates are still to be finalised. Dilys MacKinnon will let you know when the visit is confirmed.

Careful budgeting to provide interesting and varied visits for our guests is always necessary. With ever-rising costs, the Management Committee has reluctantly agreed the need to increase the 'reciprocal travel charge' (applied for trips to Twin towns) to £35 per person (but with no charge for children). Remember that LITA travellers enjoy tremendous hospitality, including meals and outings entirely free once they reach our Twin Towns. The Committee still feel that this is a fairer charge, rather than seeking to increase the membership fee, which remains unchanged.

The Committee is also concerned to help welcome new members into LITA. Clearly, our social activities (advertised elsewhere in this *Newsletter*) are a prime way for new members to get to know others and become part of the Association. Our 'socials' are social events for our own members as well as essential fundraisers to support our international twinning activities. I would particularly encourage new members to sign up to the Christmas Party (see p3). Additionally, new members in 2012 and any newer members who have missed out on a 'Welcome-to-LITA' event are invited to meet the Committee and other members (see the 'Membership' panel opposite).

The LITA brochure is being updated. This is given to new and potential LITA members and is also available in Lymington Community Centre.

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £250 recently from Lymington & Pennington Town Council towards our funds.

I look forward to our social events organised by Diana Hastie and repeat my thanks for all the work of our Committee and individual members.

With best wishes

**Peter Richardson, Chairman**

## LITA Membership 2012-13



### New Members get-together 5 January 2013

- Did you join LITA in 2011-12?
- Have you missed a New Members' Evening in the past?
- Would you like to meet the LITA Committee and other new members?

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, you are invited to an informal **'New Members Welcome'** on **5 January 2013**. This get-together is planned for just an hour or two, in the late afternoon. If you can attend and have not yet received a personal invitation, please contact me.

**Carolyn Miller**, Membership Secretary  
[carolynstbedes@aol.com](mailto:carolynstbedes@aol.com)



## Almansa

We hope to have news of dates agreed by the Almansa group for their visit to us next year. We will keep members informed as soon as we have details.

**Dilys MacKinnon**: Vice Chair, Almansa



## Mosbach

### A Tide Mill, Beetles and the Tennyson Monument



*Part of the Mosbach-LITA crocodile heads from Freshwater Bay bound for The Needles [DJM]*

Eighteen LITA families welcomed thirty-two twinning guests from Mosbach, including seven children and teenagers, for their long-weekend visit. The five teenage guests had come as a reward for good performance in their English studies at the various secondary schools in Mosbach, while the two younger children accompanied their parents.

A restful first morning allowed time to get over the travel day before and to catch up on family news, for many guests were staying with hosts whom they know as friends after several exchange visits. Our first trip out was to Eling Tide Mill for a guided tour followed by a cream tea – always popular. Mosbachers live twelve hours' drive from the sea, so they always appreciate anything remotely marine, and a tide mill was a novelty. From Eling the teenage guests and their hosts went on to a ten-pin bowling session.

The Saturday programme was left free. Many of the group enjoyed the High Street market in warm sunshine, while others were taken farther afield by their hosts. In the evening, most hosts and guests got together at Lymington Community Centre for a riotous 'Bag Beetle Drive' with a Fish & Chip supper. By the eighth and final round, widespread cheating was under control and most people had finally grasped the rules, (little thanks to them having been circulated in advance in both languages). The presence of Town Mayor Jacqui England did little to restore order to the chaos.

To the relief of the organisers of the visit, Sunday dawned dry if a bit cloudy, as the party, accompanied by a few hosts, took the Yarmouth ferry and thence the Needles Breezer bus to Freshwater Bay. There everyone enjoyed elevenes of coffee and delicious homemade cakes at the Dimbola Lodge Tea Rooms, before all but three set off to walk over Tennyson Down to the Needles, pausing at the Tennyson Monument to take in the fine views.



*The LITA party at the Tennyson Memorial [DJM]*

Finding a picnic spot sheltered from the brisk wind at the Needles New Battery, the party then took the Breezer bus back to Yarmouth where there was time for a brief exploration before boarding the ferry back to Lymington.

A quick turn round found all the guests and hosts assembled in the evening at the Walhampton Arms, where they again welcomed the Town Mayor to join them in a tasty Italian hot buffet meal accompanied by Italian wines. Brief speeches of welcome from the Mayor and thanks from the guests ended with an invitation for twinneders from Lymington to visit Mosbach at the end of May 2013. ***[Pencil in the dates Wednesday 29 May to Sunday 2 June as the most likely for our visit]***

On their way back to Heathrow Airport, the visitors from Mosbach visited Windsor and enjoyed audio tours of Windsor Castle.

**Sheila & John Ward:** *Vice Chairs, Mosbach*

---



*Mosbach's Bürgermeister Michael Keihlbach tries out Lymington's Mayorial Throne (at the invitation of Mayor Jackie England!) during the visit [DJM]*

---



## Vitré

### 2012 trip to Vitré

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, several members of LITA left Lymington early, on a bright sunny morning for the trip to Vitré. As usual, we travelled with Solent Coaches, this time with a new driver, Roger Hargis, who proved to be extremely helpful and who quickly entered into the spirit of the trip. We arrived at the Sports Complex in Vitré, within a few minutes of our estimated time of arrival, to a warm welcome from our host families. Many LITA members were visiting old friends whilst for others it was their first introduction to their French hosts. Everyone was quickly whisked away to have dinner and an early night.



*One fantastical Machine de L'Ile in Nantes [SC]*

The following day all 38 LITA members used the Solent Coach for a visit to Nantes. It proved to be a superb city, full of wonderful old houses built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century at a time of great prosperity for Nantes. We were impressed by the transport system, the TGV (super-fast train) runs through the city, there is a modern tram system and it is possible to hire a bike for 1 Euro a day. The city is spotless and filled with flowers. We spent the morning at the *Machines de L'Ile*. The machines are fantastic mechanical insects and other animals created in the workshops of the old docks. This is part of a regeneration project that has been part-funded by the EU. The most amazing 'machine' was an over-life-sized elephant whose movements were compellingly life-like. Some of the group, including our intrepid Chairman, Peter, dutifully 'had a go' on



the creatures. Our hosts had prepared picnic lunches that we ate sitting by the river Loire in warm sunshine. In the afternoon we visited the wonderfully restored *Chateau des Ducs de Bretagne*. The guided tour, specially arranged for us, revealed some of the history of the chateau and the most important exhibits. After a busy day we returned to our families for a welcome dinner.



*Picturesque Dinan [SC]*

We spent the following two days with our hosts. Several of the French families took their guests to Dinan, a lovely old Breton town set on a hill and looking all the more delightful in the bright sunshine. Some were able to enjoy time on the beach at St Malo. Another popular destination was the *Jardins du Haute Bretagne* north of the medieval city of [Fougères](#). Lovely.



*Breton Dancing display at Pocé-les-Bois [SC]*

On the last evening we all assembled at Pocé-les-Bois, a few km west of Vitré, for drinks and nibbles on a warm summer's evening. Later we all sat down for a delicious dinner, wonderful starters and puddings were provided by the ladies of the *Jumelage* whilst the main course of chicken tagine was provided by the *Mairie*. Dinner was followed by a display of Breton Dancing after which many hosts and guests joined in, though not with quite the same style!

We left the following morning having said fond farewells to our friends in Vitré. Some LITA members were travelling onwards on various holidays but those returning to Lymington had time to stop at the Pegasus Memorial on the Caen-Ouistreham canal before catching the Portsmouth ferry home.



*A final group photo before departing [SC]*

A very successful visit for 38 LITA members had been blessed by warm sunshine and the kindness and generosity of our friends in Vitré.

**Sheila Collyer:** *former Vice Chair, Vitré*

*The photos in this article are by Sheila and Andrew Collyer "[SC]". There is a great collection of photos from the trip on the LITA website. Just follow the Vitré link on the left hand side to the Home page and then 'Previous visits'.*

---

## Who is Who on LITA's Committee?



*There were a few changes to personnel after the last AGM with two new recruits elected.*

**Chairman:** Peter Richardson  
[litachair@gmail.com](mailto:litachair@gmail.com)

**Deputy Chairman & Hon Secretary:** Simon Hacking

**Hon Treasurer:** Malcolm Eggleton

**Vice-Chairs, Vitré:** Jackie Mann & Val Wright

**Vice-Chairs, Mosbach:** John & Sheila Ward

**Vice-Chair, Almansa:** Dilys MacKinnon

**Social Secretary:** Diana Hastie  
[dianahastie@btinternet.com](mailto:dianahastie@btinternet.com) or 01590-622578

**Membership Secretary:** Carolyn Miller  
[carolynstbedes@aol.com](mailto:carolynstbedes@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor & Publicity:** Dave Miller  
[DMille9226@aol.com](mailto:DMille9226@aol.com)

**LITA website** [lymingtontwinning.weebly.com](http://lymingtontwinning.weebly.com)

**Webmaster** John Ward  
[johnontrike@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnontrike@yahoo.co.uk)



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

**Photo Credits:**

[CB] Cheryl Blamey      [SC] Sheila Collyer  
[DJM] Dave Miller

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

Dave Miller at [DMille9226@aol.com](mailto:DMille9226@aol.com)

**The LITA Website**



Our website

<http://lymingtonwinning.weebly.com/> allows information and photos to be shared. Website content can be suggested via John Ward, the LITA webmaster at [johnontrike@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnontrike@yahoo.co.uk)



*LITA hosts and Mosbach guests at the Walhampton Arms [DJM]*



*Exhausted – younger members of the Mosbach contingent recover at The Needles Battery [DJM]*

© LITA and the contributors, 2012