
The LITA Newsletter



Lymington



Mosbach



Vitré



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

Website: lymingtontwinning.weebly.com

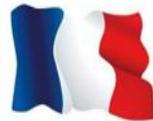
Affiliated with Lymington Community Association

October 2013

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Conversation Groups



French breakfasts are held **on the first Friday of the month**. The next dates are: ... **4th Oct, 1st Nov, 6th Dec**

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: **15th October, 19th November, 17th December** (when we generally have a Christmas meal – details to be confirmed). *For details, contact Joan Wray* (01590-682385 or daysoutwithadifference@hotmail.com)

Tertulia meetings (the Spanish conversation group). These now take place on the **second Thursday** of the month. The next dates are **10th October, 14th November, 12th December** Meetings are now held at **The White Hart**, 17 Milford Road, Lymington for those who wish to practise their Spanish conversation.



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

LITA Diary Dates

Visit from: Mosbach 28 May-1 Jun 2014

Trip to: Vitre 11-15 Jul 2014

Trip to: Almansa approx 27-31 Aug 2014

Forthcoming Social events:

Christmas Party

Saturday 7 December '13 (p3)

Brockenhurst College Lunch

Thursday 3 April '14

Lymington Players & Party

Monday 28 April '14 (p3)

See inside for details, where noted

LITA Chairman's Report



Each Chairman's article for the Newsletter tends to start with emphasising the appreciation I have for the efforts of the Management Committee and individual members. I make no apology for this as it is genuine appreciation and I am most grateful for the work that goes on to keep LITA so active.

The extent of the activities enjoyed by LITA members was admirably demonstrated by the reports and discussion at the AGM in June. The chat over drinks after the business part of the AGM probably lasted just as long as the AGM and was another occasion for us to meet socially. I was particularly pleased to welcome, as our Honorary President, Mayor Anna Rostand who then went on to chair the meeting. A report on the AGM did make its way to the Lymington Times giving the wider public some idea of what goes on in LITA. (This *Newsletter* makes up for the lack of space in the 'A&T' for the photo welcoming Mayor Anna!)



LITA's Hon President, Mayor Rostand greeted by our Chairman, Peter Richardson at the AGM

Proper archiving of our history and activities is important for LITA and I am pleased that Ellen McGeorge has agreed to help with this. I make a plea for all members to check out garages, attics or spare rooms for any historical information on LITA. Please contact me (phone or e-mail) if you think you may have something worth considering for our archives.

We plan to participate in the Lymington Christmas Tree Festival again this year. It is

being held again at Lymington United Reformed Church, High Street, from 27th November to 8th December and so will be open on Friday 29th November when the Christmas Lights are switched on. This should give the Association some extra publicity in the town. Please contact me if you can volunteer to help decorate LITA's tree.

LITA is of course all about fostering good international relationships and many good friendships have resulted from visits to and from our Twin Towns. It is good to remember that friendship is a precious commodity and brought about by the excellent organisation of visits and trips by our Vice Chairs. Shelagh and I holidayed with our daughter and granddaughter to Southern Brittany this summer and our Vitré family immediately invited us to stop off for a few days on our way. We did so and were all made to feel so welcome as we experienced life with a French family. Our granddaughter (aged 7) still marvels that she was really allowed to dunk her baguette in her bowl of 'chocolat chaud' at breakfast.

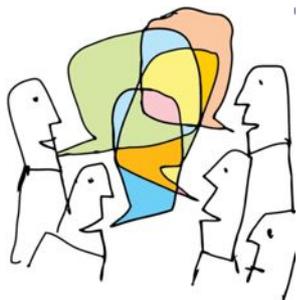
I am excited that we have well advanced plans for our Mosbach friends to visit Lymington (from 28th May to 1st June 2014) and an early invitation to visit Almansa over 'Feria Barroca' (around the 28th August 2014) to continue celebrations of the 20th anniversary of signing. The Vitré Twinning Committee has just invited us to visit (from 11th to 15th July) over their Bastille weekend celebrations. More details on these exchanges from Vice Chairs, Mosbach, Almansa and Vitré are given below and on our excellent and newly upgraded website (thanks to John Ward).

I also look forward to your support at our social events organised by Diana Hastie and detailed below. Please do look out for opportunities to encourage new members to join LITA – newcomers help us to continue to thrive.

I repeat my thanks for all the work done by our Committee and by individual members. On behalf of the LITA membership, I send our best wishes to any member who is unwell at present.

With kind regards

Peter Richardson
Chairman
(litachair@gmail.com)



LITA Social News

From Diana Hastie

Since the last Newsletter we have been very busy having a good time and raising money for LITA. We are grateful to Douglas Marcuse for leading a bird-watching walk in May in the beautiful woodland of Bolderwood, which we followed by re-fuelling with coffee and cakes (see next page). Then in July we celebrated **Bastille Day** with an excellent meal with a jazz trio at *Le Blaireau* in Brockenhurst. In August we had as our **Summer Social**—a Croquet Tea. Thank you to Lymington Croquet Club and especially to Sheila and John Ward for organising a fun tournament (won by our Chairman and his good lady! A fix? Surely not). We kicked off with an elegant glass of Pimms, and finished with a scrumptious cream tea. As usual, the Committee's thanks go to all who helped with the event.



Croquet in sunshine – remember the summer? More photos at the LITA website

Our links with Vitré were deepened by LITA's showing of the film '*Jamais je ne t'oublierai...*' at Lymington Community Centre in September (see next panel).

We are busy planning our **Christmas party**, on **Saturday 7th December**, so do keep the date free and give me your name to secure a place (forms were sent out with this Newsletter). There will be a glass of mulled wine, a three-course meal and entertainment from the male choir **Ocean Harmony** in LITA's usual friendly and festive ambience, all for £18 per person. We will have a raffle and cash bar, with the possibility of pre-ordering bottles of wine. This should be a good fund-raiser, but will run more smoothly with many hands making lighter work. Could you volunteer to help? Do please contact me if you can (see next column).

Another plea: I need to reduce my activities, which makes putting on any future big events hard for me. *Would any member(s) like to work*

alongside me over the next few months to see if they would enjoy the work? It is a lot of fun and very rewarding. Perhaps you would be willing to work with others organising several events, or just one? Maybe you could commit to helping run the Summer Social, for example. Please contact me if you would like to discuss what you might do.

Finally, we offer advance notice that we have been offered a good production by **The Lymington Players** for next year with their version of '*Allo, Allo*' on Monday 28 April. Plenty of time to brush off those dodgy French accents and wartime outfits to get in the mood.

For details of social event and bookings, please contact: Diana Hastie, Social Secretary

dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578

Twinnings learn more about the history of Vitré

On 24th September, at Lymington Community Centre, members and friends were shown a documentary film recently made by members of the twinning Association of Vitré. The film called '*Jamais je ne t'oublierai...*' ('I will never forget you...') is a moving account of families in the countryside around Vitré who took in and hid Jewish children during the Second World War.

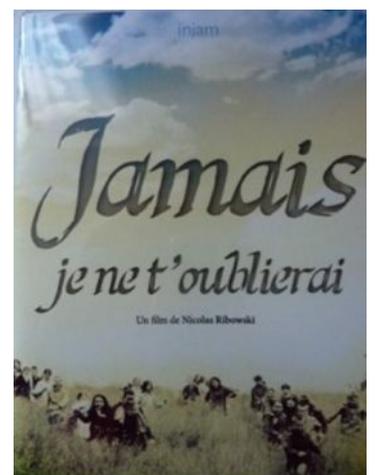
The local Historical Association (to whom we made a donation from our profits), with significant contributions from Michel and Danielle Godet (well known to many twinnings), spent years researching the stories and was able to reunite several of those children, now in their 70s, with children of the families who had

harboured them. The fate they had escaped was alluded to when we heard accounts of parents and siblings rounded up in Paris and taken to the holding camp of Drancy and thence to Auschwitz.

One of the first things the sheltering families did was to have the children baptised and to change their names to Catholic ones. An

inspired element of the making of the film was to involve the children in the top two classes of the Primary Schools who questioned the returning 'children' about their experiences, to learn what went on in their own villages 70 years ago.

A tea followed the film showing. This gave members the opportunity to discuss the film, which everybody seems to have found most interesting and very moving.



LITA Birdwatchers' walk



Douglas Marcuse (*above, left*) led a band of LITA members on a lovely walk in Bolderwood in May. Whilst we *saw* very little birdlife on the wing, or on the branch, under expert guidance from Douglas, we *heard* plenty! The approved list included at least 17 species:

Blackcap, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Cole Tit, Cuckoo, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Redstart, Robin, Song Thrush, Stock Dove, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wood Warbler, Wren

The small fee added to LITA's coffers and all who went enjoyed Diana and John's hospitality back at their home, *Ytene*, for welcome tea and scones.

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**.

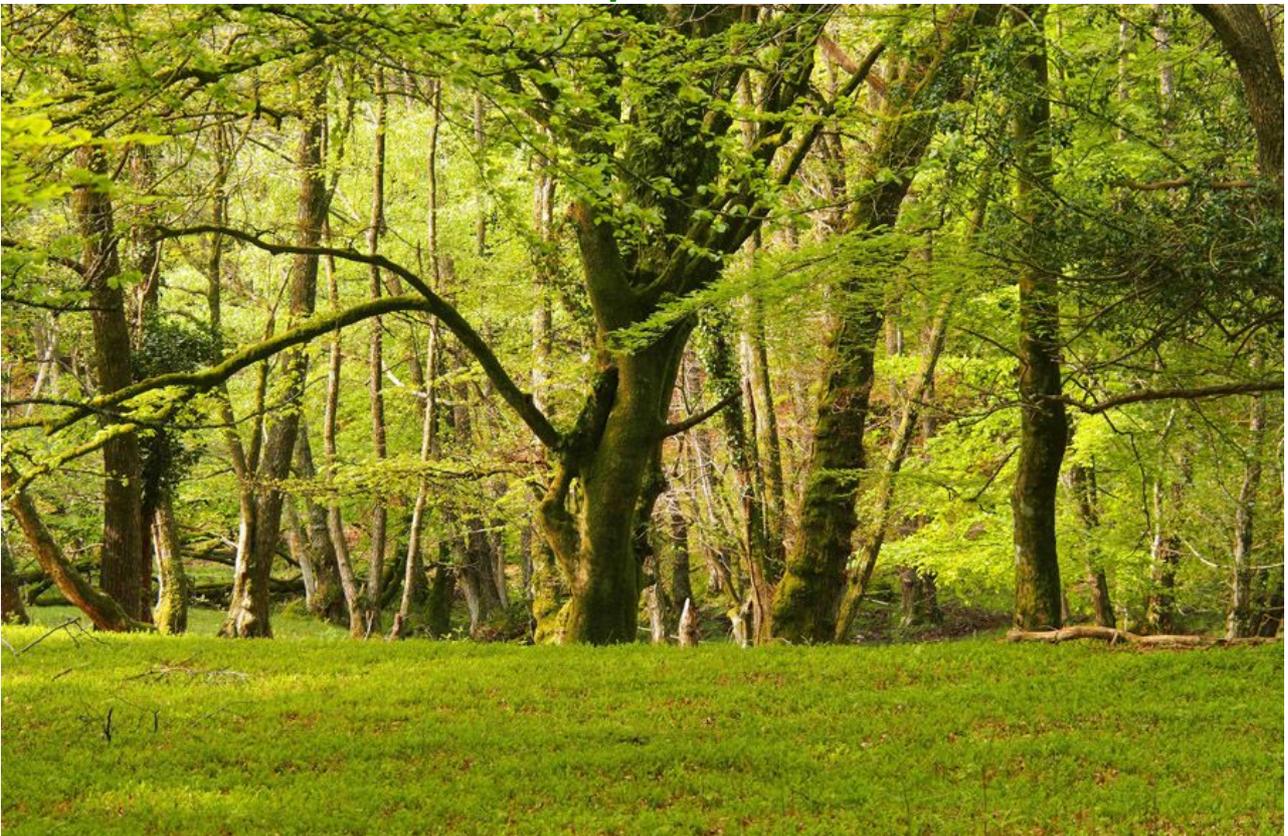
Merci, Danke, Graças!

LITA Membership

Everyone should have received a Members' Address and Telephone List recently.

Please remember to let me know if any of your details change.

Carolyn Miller, Membership Secretary
carolynstbedes@aol.com
01590 645823



Beautiful spring colours for LITA's twitchers

Photos: Dave Miller



Almansa News

20th Anniversary of Twinning with Almansa

In May this year we were able to welcome a group from Almansa to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of our Twinning Charter in Lymington in 1993. We have now been invited back to Almansa in August 2014 to celebrate the signing of our Twinning Charter in Almansa in 1994.

The dates will be either **27th to 31st August**, or **28th August to 1st September**, depending on the best flights available. This time the visit will coincide with the *Feria Barroca*, which will be great fun, and as always will involve very late nights and little sleep, but not to be missed! Photos of a previous *Feria Barroca* can be seen at: <http://almansa.com/barroca/index.htm>



Images of the Feria Barroca parades and market in Almansa (photos © J.F. Ruano)

For those of you who have not been on one of these visits before, you will be assured of a very warm welcome and a lively few days of Spanish hospitality. Not all our hosts speak English, but there never seems to be a communication problem as everyone gets into the festive spirit, so don't be daunted if your Spanish is limited to 'Hola' and the basic pleasantries!

At the moment, some of the airlines that fly to Alicante have not yet finalised their timetables that far ahead, but as soon as we settle a definite flight we will send you details so that you can make your own reservations. (There will also be LITA's reciprocal travel charge of £35 per person). In the meantime please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in taking part in the visit so that we have an idea of possible numbers.

More photos of the Almansese visit here in May are available on the LITA website

Dilys MacKinnon
Vice-Chair, Almansa



Mosbach News

Mosbachers visit to Lymington 2014

If you would like to host a guest or guests from Mosbach next year, you might like to know what we have in mind so far for the programme. We are still trying to think of an event to follow the beetle drive and the quiz of previous visits. Remember that most people from Mosbach speak good English, so don't let language worries be a barrier to you acting as a host! The dates are likely to be from **Wednesday 28th May to Sunday 1st June**. These might change if our Mosbach visitors cannot book the flights they wish to take, but we will let you know if this is the case. We are quite likely to have some students among the Mosbach party again, and special activities will be offered in addition to the programme ideas below to assist their hosts.

Wednesday 28th May: Our guests will probably arrive late afternoon and we shall fetch them by coach, probably from Heathrow. So expect to collect them early evening from an appointed place in Lymington and to take them home for supper.

Thursday 29th May: Free day for guests to recover from the journey and spend time with host families. Supper with families. You may like to get together with other hosts at home or at a pub.

Friday 30th May: As the main event of the visit, we propose a whole day visit to the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth – see <http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/>. It opens at 10 a.m. and there is lots to see and do, so we shall ask you whether you might like to accompany your guests on this trip. The combined coach and entry cost for hosts would be under £30 per head.

An all inclusive ticket allows visitors to enjoy each of the world class attractions at the Historic Dockyard: HMS Victory (currently being refurbished), the brand new Mary Rose Museum (opened May 2013), HMS Warrior 1860, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, ‘Action Stations’ (*see below) and 45-minute Harbour Tours by boat. *The historic Boathouse 6 contains ‘Action Stations’, which brings to life the modern Royal Navy through simulators and interactive displays.

We plan to offer some descriptions translated into German where possible.

For the very popular *Mary Rose*, entry is on a time-slot system, giving you a half-hour interval to enter the museum. We shall book an appropriate number of entries. Once in, it takes between 90 to 120 minutes to go round, but you can take as long as you like.

Group members can have their own individual tickets and do not have to stay together throughout the day, so that they can see things in any order (apart from the booked *Mary Rose* slots).

There are a variety of eating opportunities within the Dockyard site (see

<http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/dockyard-food-drink.php>) otherwise you can provide or take a picnic. There are three picnic areas, one being under cover. There are also interesting shopping opportunities including a huge antiques centre (see <http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/dockyard-shopping.php>).

Supper with host families.

Saturday 31st May: A morning to visit Lymington market and relax with your guests. A walk of some kind may be planned for the afternoon. In the evening we shall organise a group meal, quite possibly at Boldre Memorial Hall again.

Sunday 1st June: Our guests will return to Mosbach – departure time not yet known.

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



LITA braves the unseasonably-flooded River Neckar



Twinnings visit the Darmstadt Jugendstil Artists' Quarter

For more photos from LITA's trip to Mosbach last May, visit the website



Vitré News

Visitors from Vitré – May 2013

We were pleased to host 53 visitors from Vitré this year, many of whom knew their hosts well from past visits. This time, they chose to spend a day in London *en route*. They thoroughly enjoyed this, especially because—quite by chance—they were able to see the Queen and entourage processing to the State Opening of Parliament.

The two days here included an afternoon visit to Bolderwood, a day at Buckler's Hard including the Maritime museum there and a boat trip down the Beaulieu River. The visit culminated in a farewell buffet dinner with music and dancing at Boldre Memorial Hall.

Photos from the Vitré visit are available on the website.



Vitré Twinners & LITA hosts at Boldre Hall, May 2013



LITA dancers at Boldre Hall



Marie-Val 'Let them eat cake' Antoinette-Wright serves ..

Forthcoming Trip to Vitré — 11th to 15th July next year

We are pleased to report that we have just received an invitation from Anne Rupin of the Vitré Twinning Committee to visit Vitré from 11th to 15th July 2014. The visit will thus be over the Bastille weekend celebrations. We know there will be a spectacular firework display in Vitré as part of our programme with our French hosts. We also know that there will be a reception with the Mayor and a *grande soirée de fête* on Saturday 12th July, shared with a delegation from Sroda, Vitré's Polish Twin Town, as they celebrate 20 years of twinning together.

The Management Committee is looking at the feasibility of various travel arrangements for this visit. After our last visit, there was a feeling that there might be cheaper, acceptable alternatives to taking our own coach and driver. Hiring a coach in France, if we travel by ferry or if we fly from Southampton to Rennes or Nantes, could

offer a more suitable option.

All the alternatives for travel arrangements and the whole visit programme need to be carefully considered before making our decision. Please look out for more details and information from us, but in the meantime, please book the dates in your diary for what we are sure will be a memorable visit.

Jackie Mann & Val Wright,
Vice-Chairs. Vitré

*Keep up to date via
LITA's website*

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

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

Who is Who on LITA's Committee?



Chairman: Peter Richardson
litachair@gmail.com

Deputy Chairperson: Judy Uren

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 or 01590-622578

Membership Secretary: Carolyn Miller
carolynstbedes@aol.com

Newsletter Editor & Publicity: Dave Miller
DMille9226@aol.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

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:
litatwin@gmail.com

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

Dave Miller at DMille9226@aol.com

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