

The LITA Newsletter



Lymington



Mosbach



Vitré



Almansa

Lymington & District International Twinning Association

Website: lymingtontwinning.weebly.com

Affiliated with Lymington Community Association

October 2017

What's where?	Page
Conversation groups	1
Chairman's Remarks	2
Social News & Events	2
Almansa News	3
Mosbach News	3
Vitré News	5
Who's Who on the Committee?	6
... and more	

Conversation Groups



French breakfasts (French conversation group) are held **on the first Friday of the month**. The next dates are: **3rd November, 1st December** and **5th January**. 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 £4. For details, contact **Diana** (dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590-622578)



Stammtisch meetings (German conversation group) are generally on the **third Tuesday** of the month at **The Mayflower**, King's Saltern Road, Lymington from 7.30pm: The next Stammtisch dates are: **21st November, 19th December** and **16th January**: 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 Tertulia dates are: **9th November, 14th December** and **11th January**: Contact Diana 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.



Forthcoming Social events:

LITA Diary Dates

Visit from: Mosbach 30th Aug-3rd Sept '18

Visit to: Vitré 21st-24th April '18

Trip to: Almansa TBA second half '18

LITA Christmas Picnic 1st December

Lymington Players Preview 5th Feb '18

LITA Skittles Evening 23rd March '18

Details on later pages



From the Chairman

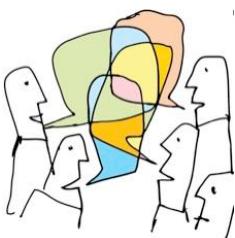
I write this column as Autumn arrives, and already want to look ahead to next Summer's AGM. At that time, my three-year tenure as LITA's Chairman ends. I want to repeat the appeal from this year's AGM for someone to take on the post of Deputy Chairman with a view to taking over as Chairman in 2018. If anyone wants to chat through what either of these roles entails, please feel free to contact me. So far as I can see, there is nothing in our Constitution to prevent past Chairs from taking a second term of office, so if any of you are tempted, please let me know.

My next appeal is for an Accounts Examiner. No formal accountancy knowledge is required, as this is an audit and checking activity. If any member would be willing to take on this role, or knows of someone who would do so for us, please feel free to contact Mike Gillett for more information.

Since our last *Newsletter*, LITA has visited Mosbach, and details of this trip are provided elsewhere as are the outline details for our twinning visits in 2018, and a report from our newly convened Social Sub-Committee.

Finally, may I thank all members of the Committee and volunteers for their tireless efforts in support of LITA.

David Beech LITA Chairman



Social News

To broaden the support network and ensure a team will engage with LITA's social programme, a new sub-committee was formed at the AGM. Lesley Pappini continues in her role as Social Secretary and will head this team which comprises: Jean Paddy, Christine Gillett, Ann Hacking and Val Brace.

Summer Social - Sunday 20th August



Remember the summer? A cheerful LITA group attended the Summer Social at Hordle Village Hall. The keenest showed their boules/pétanque skills. Some good food in a convivial atmosphere, a raffle all on a fine day. And LITA's funds made a tidy profit too. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to a successful gathering. Our



thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to make the day a success.

(photo credits: John Clandillon)

LITA's forthcoming social events...



LITA's Christmas Picnic

to be held on **Friday, 1st December** at the Lymington Community Centre. It should be a fun evening and chance to meet up with friends.

Forms were emailed to members a few days ago.

Please book by Friday, 24th November

For details contact: Jean Paddy, 15 Lentune Way, Lymington, SO41 3PE (01590 672164 or email: paddy@starpad.plus.com)



Monday 5th February LYMINGTON PLAYERS

'DARK LUCY' by Philip King & Parnell Bradbury

7.30pm Lymington Community Centre

Carol, the highly-strung ex-actress wife of the vicar, complains ... the local doctor puts it down to hallucinations ... but a young girl disappears at 'Dark Lucy's Cottage' ... and what Carol discovers exceeds her wildest nightmares!!



Post-show drinks & finger buffet with cast members in the Fuller-McLellan Hall

Tickets £12

*Further information: Diana
dianahastie@btinternet.com or 01590- 622578*

Friday 23rd March - LITA Skittles Evening

at Pennington Social Club (details to follow)



We hope to see lots of you at all or some of these events to raise much-needed funds for LITA.

For details of social events and bookings, please contact: Lesley Pappini, Social Secretary yelse133@hotmail.co.uk or 01590 672587 (unless listed otherwise)



Mosbach News

Shirley Hewitt & Lesley Willsteed
Vice-Chairs Mosbach

**Next LITA visit from Mosbach
30th Aug-3rd Sept 2018**

20th ANNIVERSARY - Tree Planting Ceremony, in Mosbach September 2017

To mark the 20th Anniversary of Lymington's twinning with Mosbach, a Rowan tree was planted on 16th November last year in Grove Gardens, just behind the High Street (**see footnote on page 5). The complementary tree planting to mark the 20th anniversary of the document signing in Germany took place in Mosbach this September during our visit.

Thirtyeight LITA members travelled, mostly flying together as a group on 31st August. From Frankfurt airport, a coach took us through charming Heidelberg and the Neckar River Valley to be welcomed by our hosts and LITA's 'independent' travellers. Many of us were renewing long-standing friendships, others were making their first trip.

We had a day-tour to Strasbourg (or Straßburg in its German spelling). We arrived at Kehl on the German-French border, where we crossed the Rhine into the historic city centre. Hans Happes, as ever our informed and engaging guide, led the group to explore the mediaeval streets and squares. We admired, for example, the tempting artisan cake shops. A river cruise took us from medieval *Petite France* and the Louis XIV city fortifications, through the German Imperial quarter and then upstream near to the European Parliament and Court of Human Rights.

After disembarking, Twinners lunched at a traditional Strasbourg restaurant, *Le Gruber*, on *Flammekuche*, a local speciality.



Almansa News

**LITA and Almansa — last visit
Easter 2016 (Fri 25th to Mon 28th March)**

Dilys MacKinnon
Vice-Chair, Almansa

Our next trip to Almansa will be in 2018. After two unusually timed visits triggered by the 20th anniversary timings, we have now reverted to the standard biennial exchange visits. Present discussions indicate that a date in the second half of 2018 is the most likely. We will keep members informed as we hear more.



Almansa's 'Christians & Moors' festival parade



At 'Le Gruber' awaiting Flammekuche

Refreshed, we looked around the impressive Notre Dame cathedral which boasts an ancient astrological clock with multiple religious figures animated as the quarter-hours strike. Next came a tram ride out to the EU Parliament building. Since parliament was not in session, we were unable to see the debating chamber, but the inner courtyard revealed a building of great architectural interest.



Twinners and hosts in the courtyard of the European Parliament in Strasbourg



Some Twinners indicating their preferences at the European Parliament

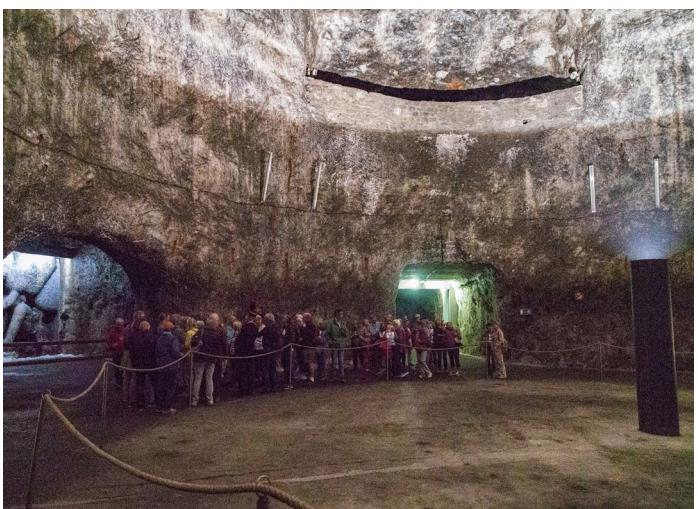
Next day, those new to Mosbach had a guided tour of this pretty, mediaeval town with streets of half-timbered buildings that lies in the forested Neckar valley. With our hosts, we assembled for the ceremonial planting of a young English Oak in a riverside park. The gathering was addressed



Tree planting with (L-R) Bruno König, Michael Keilbach, Hans Happes, Oak tree, Shirley Hewitt, Lesley Willsteed

by the *Bürgermeister*, Michael Keilbach, marking the long association with Lymington. A reply from David Beech, Chairman of LITA (unfortunately unable to attend) was read out in both German and English. There was a lively 'champagne' (i.e. Sekt!) reception for hosts and Twinners who dispersed to the market square. Mosbach hosts a summer festival of crafts, music and entertainment. LITA's visit coincided with the annual Bread Market featuring a wonderful choice of breads, pretzels and other specialities.

The afternoon saw a visit to the spectacular Bad Friedrichshall salt mine. Still commercially active in parts, the mine has many kilometres of tunnels. After a heart-stopping 200 metre descent in the miners' cage, we were guided through vast tunnels and chambers, hearing about the history of salt extraction and modern-day techniques. There were displays on the geological formation of salt and the fossils to be found. Artistic light installations along the tunnels, a magnificent domed hall 30 metres high, and monumental salt sculptures were each truly impressive. After two hours underground came an exciting return cage-ride to the surface and back to the sunshine.



LITA twinners in 'low light' 200 metres below ground

Sunday was spent individually with the hosts and their families. Many visited the Mosbach Summer Festival which featured street theatre performers from across Europe. Most importantly, the day allowed time to pursue a core purpose of Twinning which is to enhance the understanding of peoples from different countries. Twinners and hosts found many issues in common; global warming, renewable energy, taxes, youth unemployment, pensions, terrorism and other very current political themes. The day ended with a final reception at nearby Burg Guttenberg. The ancient castle, high above the Neckar, is still a family home that has belonged to the Barons of Gemmingen-Guttenberg since 1449. The present Baron gave an entertaining talk - in excellent English - about the castle's history. The dinner also featured brief speeches and small gifts were exchanged. We each received a commemorative apple—a real apple—with an ingenious motto. Shirley Hewitt had the sense to photograph this one, front and back.



An apple recording Mosbach-Lymington links

Next morning, farewells were said and promises made for the reunion in Lymington (30Aug-3Sept'18). The return to Frankfurt allowed a visit to Miltenberg. Known as the 'Pearl of the River Main', this historic town has magnificent buildings including Germany's oldest Royal Inn. Some of us enjoyed wandering the town while others took a river trip offering views of the Miltenberg and the wooded hills above.

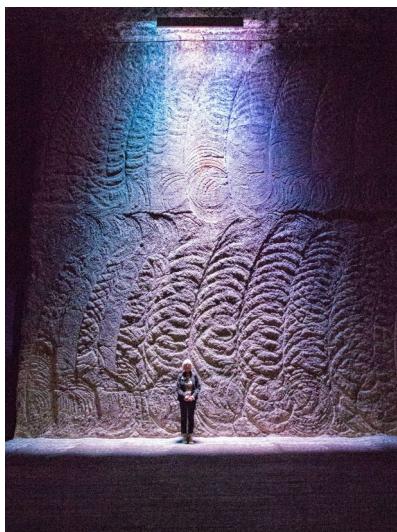
Altogether it had been another wonderful and warm town-twinning exchange trip. The Mosbachers will visit us from 30 August next year.

(For German speakers, a fine article on the visit appeared in the *Rhein-Neckar Zeitung*, the main regional newspaper, and is reproduced at Mosbach's website. A copy went to members by email a week ago):

**** Page 3 Footnote :** *Unfortunately, LITA's rowan tree at Grove Gardens did not survive very long. However, the Council Parks Department will replace it. With luck, nobody will spot the difference ...*



The EU Parliament Building – with the UK's flag still flying ...



Carolyn Miller in the salt mine (...she did escape ...) The wall markings are from the excavating machinery



Judy Uren, Sinead Joyce & Vanessa Ainsworth
Vice-Chairs for Vitré

Vitré News



Visit to Vitré - April 2018

Our next visit to Vitré will be **21st to 24th April**. For logistical and cost reasons, it has been decided to fly to Rennes (which is very convenient for Vitré). As usual, some will choose to travel independently. The outward flight (Flybe, Southampton Airport) will be Saturday 21st April 12.50 arriving at 14.50 (local times). The return will be Tuesday 24th April departing at 12 noon arriving 12 noon (time travel!). Members will receive an email from Judy Uren and her team with the details for booking places since the Vitré trips and visits can be oversubscribed.

The Vitré Jumelage group visited Lymington from Saturday 3rd June to Monday 5th June, the French Pentecost Holiday. There were 59 in the group (54 adults and 5 children) with their driver, the very competent Said Fayed. They travelled on the overnight ferry to Portsmouth, arriving at Elmer's Court Hotel, just beyond the Lymington-Yarmouth ferry terminal at 10am. The weather was bright and sunny and Elmers Court was a perfect venue to welcome our guests. Lymington's Mayor, Councillor Barry Dunning, welcomed the group. Colm McCafferty from Elmers Court took a photo of the group looking across the lawns towards the Solent. [A copy of the A&T article with that photo was sent to members recently].



Vitré visitors – pleading for full plates at Boldre Hall
(photo credit: Cheryl Blamey)

After coffee, our LITA members hosted their guests for the day. People did various things - visiting the Lymington Market, the Summer Fete at Pylewell House etc. That evening, we gathered at Boldre Memorial Hall for a hog roast with salads. We were entertained by some children from Judy Uren's pantomime group. The singers were girls from Priestlands and Bournemouth

Grammar school who sang four delightful songs. We were also entertained by Caley Page, a magician from Portsmouth. On Sunday morning the Vitré group and the three Lymington Town co-chairs (Judy, Vanessa and Sinead) went on a full-day outing to Arundel Castle. It proved to be an excellent choice as they could visit the Castle as well as the village nearby. Their very clever chauffeur, Said, found a much quicker route, reaching Lymington before 6pm. That evening was spent with their hosts. Mid-morning on the Monday, we returned with our guests to Elmers Court and saw them off on a safe journey home. Although this trip was more brief than usual, all participants enjoyed a fine weekend with friendships deepened.



Keep up to date via LITA's website

New information, booking forms etc. are often available *first* on the website – check it.
lymingtontwinning.weebly.com

Website content can be suggested via:
Dave Miller, LITA webmaster at:
litatwin@gmail.com

LITA events



Please make our lives simpler by paying in advance for social events and, wherever possible, **by cheque** payable to 'LITA'
Merci, Danke, Gracias!

Who's Who on LITA's Committee?



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:

Mike Gillett

mikegillett2@btinternet.com or 01590 610788

Vice-Chairs, Vitré:

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Sinead Joyce sineadjoyce47@gmail.com

& Vanessa Ainsworth johnandness@icloud.com

Vice-Chairs, Mosbach:

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rwillsteed@aol.com

& Shirley Hewitt s.hewitt52@btinternet.com

Vice-Chair, Almansa:

Dilys MacKinnon-Rich

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Newsletter Editor, Publicity:

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dmille9226@aol.com

Website Editor:

Dave Miller

litatwin@gmail.com

Lymington Town Council

representative Cllr Andrew Sutherland

legalese8@hotmail.co.uk

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 (as are all previous Newsletters)

Feedback about the Newsletter and suggested news items from members always welcome:
 Dave Miller at DMille9226@aol.com

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Photos: Dave Miller except where noted otherwise