

PATCHWAY TWINNING NEWSLETTER



PATCHWAY TWINNED WITH CLERMONT L'HERAULT AND GAUTING

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EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL FORUM

All members of the Twinning Association are invited to an open event organised by South Gloucestershire Council's European & International Forum to be held at Thornbury Council offices on Tuesday 17 November at 7 p.m.

There will be presentations on the following topics, followed by an opportunity for those present to contribute their views:

Make Twinning Work for You by Bristol City Council's Twinning Officer; Twinning Really Works: a case history; Museum & Heritage Centre links between the UK and EU by the South Gloucestershire Heritage Officers; South Gloucestershire Twinning Association and web page.

INTER TWINNING QUIZ

Alveston Twinning Association has invited us to join them for an inter twinning prize quiz at St. Helen's School, Alveston on Friday 20 November at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Teams of 4 people are invited and the cost of £8 per head includes a ploughman's supper.

J.T.
C. Lee
Jenny.

This is an opportunity to enjoy a pleasant evening and meet members of neighbouring twinning associations. There is at least one team signed up from Patchway, so if you would like to join us please contact John Thomas as soon as possible so we can let Alveston know how many to expect.

REPORT ON AGM

This year our annual meeting was held on 8 July at Stoke Lodge Primary School in Bourton Avenue and was chaired by our President, Ian White.

The meeting started with refreshments and was followed by an excellent presentation about our twin towns by students from Clermont and Gauting, who were in Patchway that week with their teachers on a study tour.

The short business meeting completed the evening. We were pleased to welcome two new members to the Committee: Jill Clapp and Richard Clark. A list of committee members is given at the end of the Newsletter.

Please note if you were not at the AGM that membership subscriptions now due for 2009-10 please. Cheques for £5 per member can be sent to Jenny Gammon at 224 Dewfalls Drive, Bradley Stoke, BS32 4BU.

SCHOOLS VISITS

We were pleased to welcome a group of ten 17-18 year olds from France and Germany with their teachers to spend a week in Patchway from 5-12 July.

We were grateful to the following schools for offering work experience placements: Patchway Community College, Holy Family Primary, St. Chad's Primary, Callicroft Primary and Stoke Lodge Primary.

Apart from the work experience, the young people went ten pin bowling, shopping at The Mall, had a cultural visit to Caerleon Roman Baths, barracks and amphitheatre and Chepstow Castle. They also helped local children with costumes and joined in the Patchway Festival parade at Scott Park.

We were also grateful to 8 members of the Twinning Association who offered accommodation for this group and to Richard Clark, the Head of Stoke Lodge Primary School, for his organisation of the week.

VISIT FROM CLERMONT L'HERAULT

At the end of July a group of 30 from Clermont came to Patchway to renew friendships and visit new places.

As usual we had a very busy schedule, starting on the afternoon of Friday 31st July. We collected them from Bristol Airport and brought them by bus to the Patchway Council Offices where they met their hosts. In the evening there was a BBQ and the Council invited us to use the Casson Centre and garden so we could have a proper barbecue, singed burgers etc despite the July weather. There was food, drink and music and the success of the evening set the scene for a very successful weekend.

On Saturday the visitors were whisked off to the National Museum of Wales (St. Fagan's), where they could wander in the sunshine, which they insisted they had brought with them! We had lunch and the time flew by. We returned to Patchway at 5.30 p.m., having crossed both Severn Bridges. The evening was held in the Sports & Social Club at Scott Park. It was a fantastic atmosphere, set with decorations in red, white and blue and the flags of the two nations. The Mayor of Patchway welcomed the Mayor of Clermont and, after the speeches, there was an exchange of gifts. This was followed by a lively demonstration of English folk dancing and an excellent buffet by Sharon of the Sports & Social Club. The evening ended with an opportunity for everyone to join in the dancing and a great time was had by all.

On Sunday most people went to the Bristol Harbour Festival. The weather was sunny and the atmosphere good so everyone had a special memory to take home and share with their friends. The group had to leave very early on Monday (3.30 a.m.!) to catch the plane back to France. All in all a weekend to remember for a long time to come, so thanks to all the hosts for their help.

GAUTING VISIT IN 2010

We have invited a group from Gauting to visit us at the end of July next year for a similar programme to that described above.

More information will be given in the next Newsletter but we will be very grateful for offers of accommodation for the weekend.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE: Alan Bamforth, Steve Bloggs, Jill Clapp, Richard Clark, Ken Dando, Jenny Gammon, Lucy Hamid (Secretary), John Hooper, Derek Horner (Treasurer), Paul & Elaine Martin, Annette Morgan, Alex Seaman, John Thomas (Chairman), Ian White (President) and Win Williams.