



BRIDPORT – St. VAAST LA HOUGUE TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Autumn 2021

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

After a long period of enforced inactivity we're back – a successful AGM on 2 August with a first, tentative socialising element to it, followed by a proper party at the Marsh Barn just over a month later. It was great to see so many members – and some new faces – having an uninhibited good time.

As the new chair of the association I would like to thank Mike for the fantastic work he has done for the Twinning cause over the last 20 years or so. He has been a great figurehead for the Bridport organisation – hugely popular with members on both sides of the channel – and a true believer in the importance of fostering close ties with our French friends. He has played an enormous part in ensuring that a strong spirit of friendship has existed between the two associations over his time as Chairman.

As well, other long-standing members of the association's committee are either standing down or changing roles. Sandra Brown as Treasurer and Penny Laurence as Membership Secretary have both given dedicated and loyal service over the years and now stand down. Rachel, who has done a fantastic job as Secretary, is moving to Membership Secretary; and we welcome Linda Bullock as Secretary and Mary Ibbotson as Treasurer. A big thank you to all of them for their important contribution to the success of the association.

I wish you all a good end to the summer and I look forward to our next get-together in the run up to Christmas.

Jonathan

cont

Chair: Jonathan Dines, 165 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3AG
Tel: 07907 301136 Email: jonathanhdines@gmail.com
Secretary: Linda Bullock, 1 Chardsmead Road, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3EY
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Letter from Past Chairman

Dear Members of the Bridport – St Vaast La Hougue Twinning Association

I was very touched by the presentation made to me at the French Wine and Cheese Event. It was a wonderful evocation of St Vaast which I will always treasure. Even more so as it was painted by Adele, one of my favourite St Vaastaises. It has been an honour to Chair our Association and a privilege to enjoy the company of you, our members. Thank you all so much.

With Best Wishes

Mike Farmer

In his letter above, our Chairman has given a resume of recent association activity.

At the AGM Officers and Committee were elected

Chairman Jonathan Dines
Secretary Linda Bullock
Treasurer Mary Ibbotson
Membership Secretary Rachel Maltby
Committee Veronica Edwards
Diana Greig
Robert Dunford
President Monique Pasche
Vice President Mike Farmer

Town Council nominated representatives: -

Cllr Geoffrey Ackerman

Cllr Steve Williams

Jonathan Bourbon was co-opted onto the committee at a meeting of the committee on September 6th.

The Minutes of the AGM are attached.

cont.

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French Conversation Group

For many years, a fortnightly conversation has been led by a number of excellent leaders - most recently Micheline Wheatley, who stood down this Spring after many years of dedicated service.

We are now pleased to welcome Marie Martin as our new leader to take our group forward.

While the venue remains at the Bridport and West Dorset Club in South Street, the day of the week changes. Having met on a Tuesday since the group's inception it will now meet on Wednesdays, beginning on 6 October.

Mike Farmer has kindly agreed to be the group's coordinator.

Please contact Mike on 01308 423400 to get full details about joining the group.

Date for your Diary

Friday December 17th Our seasonal Celebration at the WI Hall in North Street
Bridport

July 15-18 2022 Biennial visit to St Vaast with Benediction de la Mer

Every ten years a unique memorable event takes place in St Vaast, when the fishing boats and streets are covered in garlands and figures made of crepe paper, in support of a unique open-air service and flotilla for the Blessing of the Boats.

Bridport's biennial visits have coincided with this event and will do so again in 2022.

If you had previously committed to travel for the postponed 2020 weekend and still intend to do so for 2022, please will you make contact with me (Linda) as soon as possible.

If you are someone who did not previously express an interest or are a new member and wish to consider joining our weekend visit then also please make contact as soon as possible as accommodation is a key factor of planning for the weekend.

Media

Our website (as below) has been active for some years and we are pleased to say we now have an active Facebook facility, see www.facebook.com/BridportTwinningAssociation

We need to add photos to the Facebook, please contact there if you can help.

Finally, a very warm Welcome to our new members. – Recently, quite a flurry! –
We are looking forward to meeting you all at our future events.

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