

PSSTTA corporate members.

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PSSTTA corporate members

Ace Taxis: 33 New road, Porthcawl. CF36 - Tel: 01656 771077

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Hi Tide Inn: Mackworth road, Porthcawl. CF36 5BT - Tel: 01656 782432

Email: hightideinn@aol.com

The Grove Golf Club: South Cornelly. CF33 4RP - Tel: 01656 788771

Email: enquiries@grovegolf.com

Porthcawl Rugby Club: Porthcawl. CF36 3DW - Tel: 01656 784242

Email: chris@porthcawlrfc.co.uk

Seabank Hotel: The Promenade, Porthcawl. CF36 3LU - Tel: 01656 782261

Email: seabank.porthcawl@alfatravel.co.uk

The Grand Pavilion : The Esplanade Porthcawl CF36 3YW - Tel:01656 815995

Email: pavilion@bridgend.gov.uk

Driven Taxis : 8 Dock Steet Porthcawl. CF36 3BL - Tel:01656 788887

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M Tranter & Co Accountants : 20, John St Porthcawl: CF36 3BA - Tel:01656 788280

Email: admin@tranter.org.uk

Ty Gwyn Kennels : Tyn-y-caeau lane Newton, Porthcawl CF36 5SU - Tel:01656 783122

Email: tygwyn.corner@btconnect.com

Silures Art Gallery : South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DG - Tel: 07870 354 882

Email: artists@siluresgallery.co.uk

Brodawel Camping Park: Moor Lane, Nottage, Porthcawl, CF36 3EJ - Tel:01656 783231

Email: info@brodawelcamping.co.uk

Prince of Wales Inn: Ton Kenfig, Bridgend, CF36 4PR - Tel:01656 740356

Email: info@princeofwales.co.uk

Beales Fish & Chips: 2-3 Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl, CF36 5TS - Tel:01656 788223

Email: TBA

St Sebastien Guest House: 30, Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl, South Wales, CF36 3YU - Tel:01656 771594

Email: davies.alana@gmail.com

We are grateful to all corporate partners for their continued support of this community association. Their contributions help to ensure the association remains viable and is able to engage particularly with the younger generation to raise awareness and promote the virtues of friendship and cultural understanding between nations.

Our message to all members is please try and support our corporate members whenever possible.

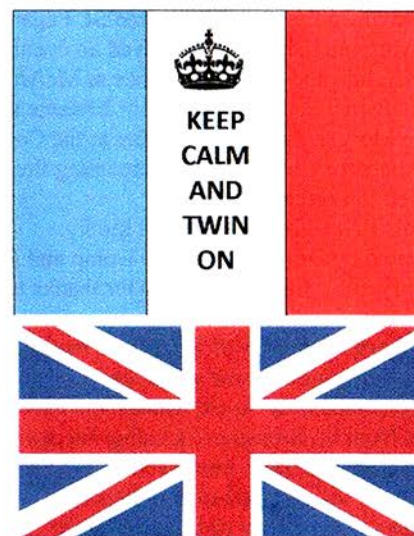


Newsletter Newsletter 55

Summer 2015

MEMBERSHIP REPORT JUNE 2015

July 1st is nearly upon us. Why is this a significant date? Because, Dear Fellow Twinners, it is the time when annual subs become due once more. Those among you who now pay by standing order can allow themselves a smug smile of satisfaction, secure in the knowledge that you will not be pestered by letter or phone by your membership secretary. Alas, you are in a minority. However, should any member wish to join you then a form can be downloaded from our website or I can post or hand deliver one to you. Of course, if you pay promptly by cheque or cash, then this need not concern you. But once more PLEASE do not have to be chased for your subs; you may remember that two were eventually paid in February this year. I can already hear these people saying, 'subs cannot be due again, can they?' The rates remain the same ie £5 Individual and Schools, £10 Family and £25 Corporate. As every year there was pressure to increase these and understandably so.



They have remained the same since the Association's inauguration in 1996. Secondly our French counterparts pay 20 euros! However, the compromise reached was that members be encouraged to add a small donation or more desirable for all parties, to join the T'Winners for £12. The draw, made at Christmas, always offers very good odds on landing a substantial cash prize. Forms can be obtained in exactly the same way as described above.

Yet I stress this is purely voluntary; we are so keen to retain all our members - shall we ever reach 100? - and if you continue to pay the current rate only then I shall as always be delighted to receive the brass.... but please be prompt!

Dave Bush Membership Secretary

Footnote:

If all those who expressed an interest in joining the PSSTTA during our friends from St. Sebastien's recent visit did so we should be approaching the 90 members mark!!!

Forthcoming Event

Bastille Night

We will be celebrating Bastille Day a day late this year!

All Saints Church Hall has been booked for Wednesday 15 July and for le petite prix de £6.00 (children half-price) you'll receive a glass of wine, cheese and paté (perhaps a dessert?) together with entertainment, raffle and a quiz or two!

Please give Mary E-L or Bobby an e-mail, or a 'phone-call ASAP if you'd like to attend.



Summary of Joint Meeting of the two Associations 17 April 2015.

Reindeer Project. Good publicity but a lower number of entries than expected.

School Exchange between La Joliverie and Porthcawl Comprehensive School. This had been very successful and since April Porthcawl have also visited St. Sébastien.

Rugby Fixture in France. Very disappointing as preparations had been made to receive our team but we appear to have cancelled without informing the French.

Town mayor invited to 50th Anniversary celebrations with Glinde in St. Sébastien during August 2015.

Hosting. Concern expressed by French that some visitors were staying in accommodation where the host was on holiday. The French felt that this detracted from the experience.

World War 1 Exhibition. There was a request that this could be displayed in St Sébastien. It has since been reported that the exhibits could not be allowed to leave the museum.

Sporting Themes for next visit. It was suggested Golf, Boules and Swimming could for part of the social activities during the net visit.

Date of next visit to St. Sébastien:- 23 to 28 August 2016.

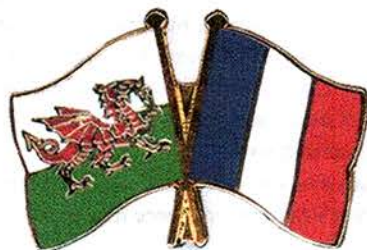
The Benefits of Twinning.

A letter had been sent to the Town Council to reinforce the benefits that the Association does bring to the community. A copy can be viewed on our website.

RC

Porthcawl Comprehensive School – French student exchange June 2015.

Twenty of our students and three of our staff from Porthcawl Comprehensive school have just returned from a French exchange trip to Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire where they had the most fantastic time. So much so, it is hard to pick the highlight of our stay! We were overwhelmed by the very warm welcome of the Head teacher and all the staff at La Joliverie school. Upon our arrival the deputy mayor of Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire, Porthcawl's twin town and Mrs Merceron, deputy head of La Joliverie, made wonderful speeches about the importance of the exchange between our two schools and of how learning a language enables young people to broaden their horizons and experience different cultures. Just like us, they hope it will be the start of many more trips of this kind. Lots of activities were planned during our stay including a day at the beautiful La Baule beach and a visit to the theme park Puy-du-Fou where the students were captivated by a series of medieval re-enactments. We also had an evening at the crêperie, tasting delicious savoury and sugary pancakes. The French and Welsh students enjoyed themselves so much that some have already signed up for next year's trip! It was really great to see the students developing their French while reinforcing the friendships formed when the French students visited us in March. If you want to know more about this exchange, you can find us on Facebook *PCS French student exchange* or on the blog <http://pcsfrenchstudentexchange.wordpress.com> A bientôt! Mrs G.Morgan (teacher of French at PCS)



VISIT 2015.

On the 15 April we welcomed to Porthcawl 47 visitors from our twin town of St Sébastien Sur Loire in France.

This was largest group for some years with several new members and in particular some younger families. As always we were faced with hosting problems with the families but as always solutions were found. One generous member allowed the use of their home during their absence and also two non-members also helped out. It should be mentioned that these non-members have since become members of the association, having thoroughly enjoyed the hosting experience.

The group had travelled overnight by ferry from Cherbourg made several calls on route and finally arrived in Porthcawl at 6pm. The reception was held at Nottage Primary School, which because of its location very much lends itself to this biennial event. After the usual emotional welcomes with many hugs and kisses – well you know the French! – it was on with the 'battle' of the speeches which they also love.....! For some it was their first experience of Wales and indeed the UK.

On this occasion it was only to be a four-night stay and as always the timetable or itinerary would be hectic with little time to rest.

On Thursday it was meet at the rugby club car park by 9 a.m. for a trip to the Penderyn Distillery with morning coffee and a later lunch at the TY Newydd Country Hotel.. The day being rounded off with a tour around Brecon.

Returning to Porthcawl at 6p.m. it was all quick change for the evening live music event at the Grove Golf Club where members and visitors provide the entertainment and were later joined by the Jazz Band from St Sébastien school of music who were in Porthcawl playing at the Jazz festival.

So, a late evening which showcased both young and old talents and was very much enjoyed by all.

Friday morning we held the joint meeting for the two committees to plan for the future and ensure the twinning partnership is kept alive

and revitalised.

Late morning my own party headed off for St Fagan's Folk museum for some culture, fun and of course the traditional picnic.

It was then home for 5p.m. and ready to prepare for the formal dinner or soiree at the Hi-Tide Inn Porthcawl where a party of over 100 were entertained by the Jazz Septet from St. Sébastien and later a disco.

The Mayor Cllr Sean Aspey attended and presented a gift of 'smoking dragons' on behalf of the people of Porthcawl to Cllr Agnes Revol the representative of Mayor Joe Guerriau of St. Sébastien who was unfortunately unable to attend this time.

....and so it was Saturday and the last dayfor the children it was a trip to Cardiff Bay, speedboats and out into the channel for an hour- for some this was thrill for but for others a nightmare, although they were all very brave and survived. Breakfast had been and gone! It was now time for lunch and a hike- necessary to find the best prices! After a quick lunch about 19 of us descended on the ice-cream ladies who were enjoying the sunshine. What with the children, language and size of queue they certainly earned their money.

Many of the other hosts ventured out with their guests to various places of interest, both in and around Porthcawl.

Late afternoon it was time for the barbecue at Bobby and Mary's and chefs were drafted in from Rotary and with Ivor on Guitar our local talent provided the music and our French friends the singing. They seem to have talent for knowing the words which seems to have escaped the Welsh- I know not why..

After plenty of burgers, sausage, salads, cake and a fair quantity of wine we said our au revoirs , à demains and bonne nuits, it was home for a quick nightcap and bed.

On Sunday 9a.m. after many late nights and early mornings, we all met at the rugby club and once again after some emotional moments it was time to say goodbye until next year when we shall all hopefully meet again in St. Sébastien.

Chairman's Report 2015

Methinks a year to ponder with many highs, but in all honesty some occasional lows.

First I must thank all the members of the committee for their dedication and support in delivering our programme, and for their encouragement in some of the more difficult and frustrating times- none of which I intend to cover now, as this is not a time for post mortems but to simply reflect and look forward with optimism.

We did lose a number of long time members and have seen some become less involved because of ill health. Special mention of the sad and sudden loss of Helga Clarke long time member and German adviser. Also mention and send our best wishes to Bill Duff who we have not seen for sometime because of ill-health but remains in our thoughts-although it must be said Bill and Jean were still involved with hosting during the recent visit with the help of daughter Anna.

We have some new younger members; suffice to say we really must do more to ensure their involvement by delivering a programme in which they can be actively involved and remove any stigma that this is simply an Association for the older generation.

What have we been up to during the last year?

Primary schools – not able to deliver fun days this year, but we produced a fun Christmas competition for primary children to find Santa's Reindeer with substantial prizes – thanks to all involved. Particularly I want to acknowledge help of Chamber of trade and Commerce and The Gem for their help. Unfortunately we were not overwhelmed with entries.

Bastille Day, Summer Barbecue and Christmas Party were unfortunately cancelled. Combination of overwork, uncertainty and financial viability with change of venues particularly now The Rest was no longer available. So hopefully this year we'll be back on track.

Last August we enjoyed our visit to St Sébastien. There were memorable visits to Terra Botanica, Boules by the Lake and a vineyard. A splendid evening cruise and finally a wonderful barbecue with impromptu musical..

performances by members of both associations We had both primary and secondary students in our party of 35.



Vivez en Anjou la grande aventure du végétal

Beaujolais Night — a successful evening with entertainment from two well rehearsed accordion players having nearly 100 years experience between them.... supported by French performers on YouTube.

For our fundraiser we held a Silent Auction and buffet at All Saints Church Hall... Great success again thanks to all involved, especially Mary and Bobby who were the 'curators' for the museum and other pieces prior to delivery for sale.

Rugby Fixture with St. Sébastien. Sadly this was once again cancelled and some confusion with SS has caused minor upset. However we live in hope.

On 19 March this year we had the schools exchange visit. This was a great success involving some 24 children from La Joliverie School in SSSL. Besides time in lessons at the Porthcawl Comp, they also visited St. Fagan's Folk Museum, Big Pit and enjoyed an evening at the Hi tide and retail experience at McArthur Glen... Particular thanks go to our Melanie and Gaelle Morgan the French teacher at the Comp. and others for all they did in welcoming the children to Porthcawl.

Schools Prize giving – this was kindly facilitated by Dave Bush at The Comp and Janet Hanbury at St. Clare's School. Our thanks to both

Visit April 2015 – I will mention, although strictly speaking for next years report.

We welcomed over 50 old friends and new guests from St. Sébastien including the Jazz Group from the SSSL music school. During the visit we had trips to Penderyn Distillery and Ty Newydd country Hotel. An enjoyable music evening at The Grove followed and on the Friday we held our Soiree at the Hi Tide.

Our thanks to Bobby and Mary for the hard work they put into making this a success. Also thank them both for what they did for the barbecue in hosting the evening.

It was a short visit but overall very enjoyable and successful. Several new French families were involved and also new members on our side having their first experience of hosting. Our thanks also to those non-members who helped out with hosting.

I would also like to record our thanks to Kerry Townley acting Head of Nottage Primary for allowing use of the school hall for the reception and not forgetting the Town Council for the £500 Grant funding. I have since written to the council and thanked them for the donation with my thoughts on the the value of such support to the association and the local community.

Nearly there --Special thanks to the SSSL Jazz band and also our own intrepid performer Ivor Williams.

Andrew Singer our auditor...it ensures Bobby has the right number of beads on his abacus.....! Have I forgotten anything or anybody?

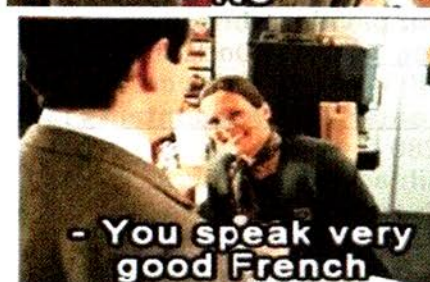
You will hear from the treasurer our income streams have improved. This can partly be attributed to additional income from the website as a result of our corporates involvement – all thanks to Rob Lee webmaster– so use them if you can! After the visit we have managed to maintain the reserve of £1000, which has always been for me our safety net against any future liabilities.

And as always if I've forgotten anyone ----- please be assured we are all grateful for your input and assistance.

Finally, I started off the year by saying never again but you suddenly realize how much the job has taken you over and after some discussion have been convinced me I should carry on and stand again.....if I am allowed!.....but this doesn't take away my belief that we need younger blood to be more involved and develop a more creative programme.

Thank you for your patience...again!

RC



Tour de France blague?

'Lie flat on your backs, class, and circle your feet in the air as if you were riding your bikes,' said Monsieur Jim Naze, the PE teacher.

Pierre! What are you doing? Move your feet, boy.'

'I'm freewheeling, sir.'