

Richard Rowe gave a really interesting talk on the lead up to Bastille day at our last social event the day after Bastille Day itself.

He also talked about the events around Bastille Day and the history of La Marseillaise which you can read in his own words.

### Bastille Day

Celebrated every year on 14 July as a national holiday in France and their various overseas possessions, Bastille day commemorates the storming of the 14th Century prison-fortress by the impoverished and starving French mob in 1789.

It marked the end of the absolute monarchy in France and the start of the French Revolution.

Later, another mob composed mainly of women marched on Versailles and held Louis XV1 and Marie Antoinette prisoners.

In January 1793, Louis XV1 was caught trying to escape, tried and guillotined. Marie Antoinette was immensely unpopular because of her expensive and frivolous tastes and when Austria and Prussia declared war on France, the mob remembered she was Austrian and her fate was sealed. She was guillotined in October.

The revolutionary workers of Paris were known as 'sans culottes' meaning those 'without knee breeches' worn by the aristocrats, many of whom were also guillotined around this time.

'Let them eat cake' is the traditional translation of the French expression 'Qu'ils mangent de la brioche' as attributed to Marie Antoinette when told that the peasants were starving due to the widespread bread shortage. However, there is no evidence that she ever uttered the phrase



It was never cited by the opponents to the monarchy at the time of the Revolution, only subsequently by the pro-revolutionary historians to demonstrate the selfishness of the French upper classes at the time.

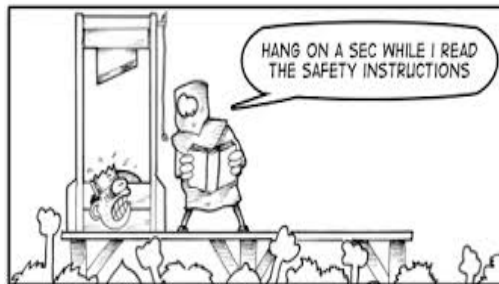
R.R.

### La Marseillaise

In 1792, France declared war on Austria. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle was then an officer in the French army. He decided to write a war song on 25 April, 1792 to support and encourage the French troops and called it 'chant de guerre pour l'armee du Rhin' (war song for the Rhine Army) This song became very popular and was also sung by the 'federes' (volunteers) from Marseille during the storming of the Tuileries on August 10, 1792.

La Marseillaise was declared the National Anthem of France on July 14, 1795

R.R



# Newsletter 60

## Summer 2017



### Chairman's Report

With the summer holidays season upon us, we have no up-coming social events until September (read further down) but we have been very active up to now.

On June 24, we organised a stall at the Nottage Primary Summer Fayre via their PTA.

We played boules, displayed info about the Association and gave pupils a quiz sheet with cultural/ twinning questions. Sweets were given to those who took part.

The winning pupil was to receive a bilingual French dictionary but we had a tie! Well done Felix Wren-Owen and Samuel Richards from Nottage Primary.

A number of people expressed their interest in PSSTTA at the event and a few filled in application forms there and then. Thanks to Angela, Melanie, Jenny, Bobby and Dave who gave up their time and joined me on the day.

Our Schools / Town Twinning Liaison Committee member, Melanie, has been busy contacting other twinning associations and as a result of her efforts we hosted our first 'link-up' with committee members from other local twinning groups ( Pencoed, Cowbridge and Cardiff ) for an informal cheese and wine evening at the Newton Institute on July 8.

The aim of the evening was to get to know one another, share successes, news and future diary dates as well as discussing possible joint fundraising events and/or joint cultural exchanges. It was a very fruitful evening.

A week later, we had a very successful Bastille Celebration, again at the Newton Institute. The evening started with Samuel playing La Marseillaise on the flute – solo at first and then everyone joined in.

This was followed by quizzes, a short humorous film about the storming of the Bastille, a talk by Richard Rowe on events leading up to the storming and, oh yes, wine, French cheeses, crackers etc. It was really lovely to be joined by a number of our new members.

On the last Monday of term (17th July) we visited Porthcawl Primary School and took their assembly. We were put on Twitter! (More inside)

As mentioned earlier, we are hoping to have a joint social evening with Pencoed Twinning Association on Monday 25 September. This will be a pub quiz, venue to be confirmed, with members of Pencoed and their twinned town, Plouzané, Brittany, who will be visiting. It will take place during the same week as the European Day of Languages. Those who wish to attend should register their interest with Melanie ([melands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:melands@hotmail.co.uk)) by 12 August because Pencoed need to know numbers in advance.

We are planning other social evenings after that (both PSSTTA alone and also jointly with our new contacts locally) and will let you know dates in advance. It would be lovely to see you again whether you are new members or established ones. Bring a friend and we may just reach the magic 100! (PTO)

**Nottage Primary School Summer Fayre  
Saturday June 24th 2017**



**Joint Twinning Meeting  
Saturday July 8th 2017**



**Porthcawl  
Pencoed  
Cowbridge  
Cardiff**



We saw some familiar faces on our Bastille Day Celebrations Evening ...

... if you had been there, you'd have seen these, too!



We'd love to see you at our next social.

PSSTTA is also looking forward to next year's visit to France and we have a provisional date around (24 – 28 August 2018) for your diaries.

My thanks go to all the members of the PSSTTA Committee and spouses for their hard work on the Association's behalf.

**I.W.**

### Membership Report

1st July is a really important date in the calendar. 'Why?' you may be asking. Simply because it was on that day that PSSTTA subs became due! Rates remain yet again unchanged: £5 for individuals, £10 for families and £25 for corporates. These rates have remained unchanged since the Association was formed in 1999. There has been pressure from some quarters for these to be increased but I have always argued against this. I feel we should lose more than we would gain. However, if your conscience troubles you, then please consider joining The T'winners. For £12 a year you will be entered into the Christmas draw with a first prize of £100. Further details and an application form can be downloaded from our website.

I always feel somewhat apprehensive at this time of year for I know that it may be quite a while before all are safely gathered in and yet also grateful for the 25% who now pay by standing order. Again, a form can be downloaded. Additionally, I am also grateful to those who pay promptly and thereby need no reminders. The gold medal award for 'First to Pay' this year goes to Anne Rees, retired Head of French at the Comp., silver to Keith Morgan and joint third to Keith Saunders and Dave Bennett. Some have subs carried over from last or previous years.

Those who have joined recently will not be expected to pay again so soon. All a little complicated I admit so if you are in any doubt as to your current status please give me a ring and I will let you know if I have to send round the heavy mob or not! As I have said in previous years, the Association is particularly grateful to those members who rarely or never attend our functions but continue to give it financial support and, it is hoped, publicity. Total number of memberships hovers just above the 90 mark so our target of 100 seems more achievable than for some time. Please retain your membership – we do not want to lose a single member. You can post your subs to me at 29 Chestnut Drive CF36 5AD, drop them through the letterbox or give me a ring – 772896 – and I'll be round to collect them before you have put your phone down!

**D.B.**

### New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members to our ranks. At the same time I should like to apologise for any omissions or repetitions. I suspect I missed out this item on earlier newsletters Rhiannon Price and Nathan Jones of Porth Ann Daniel of Llanelli Leri Davies of Kittiwake Close Liz Dewhurst of Hillsboro Place ... and a correction, John and Cathryn Hodges of Bryneglwys **Avenue**. We wish you all a long and enjoyable time with the PSSTTA.

**D.B.**

We are hoping to start monthly coffee mornings soon for folk to brush up their French. Watch this space!!

### Retiring Heads

The end of the summer term sees the retirement of two headteachers whose association with PSSTTA goes back a number of years.

When the idea of inviting schools to be members was first introduced, it was taken up most enthusiastically by Porthcawl Primary. Older members may remember with affection the French songs sung, the game of boules enjoyed and the buffet on the final afternoon consumed. The headteacher was Andrew Wood and his deputy Ian Bird. The latter became Head of West Park Primary and has also retired at the end of term. How appropriate it was that we were able to visit Porthcawl Primary on the last Monday of term and to wish Andrew 'Une très bonne retraite!' (et aussi à Ian!)

**D.B.**



### Porthcawl Primary School Visit

On Monday 17 July, Mary E-L, Angela, Dave Bush and Ivor visited Porthcawl Primary School to talk to many of the pupils about PSSTTA, what Twinning was about, where Saint Sébastien-sur-Loire is, French words we use every day etc. The children were enthralled and the retiring Head, Mr. Andrew Wood, even put us on Twitter as we were taking the Assembly!!

We look forward to more visits there and also to the other Primary schools in Porthcawl.

**I.W.**

### Visit By Saint Sébastien-sur-Loire

This Easter saw another visit by our French friends – a little shorter than other years but with a packed schedule that sent them home with a smile on their faces and with more fond memories of Wales in general and Porthcawl in particular. They had arrived on Good Friday to a reception with refreshments at the Newton Institute and the families were greeted with gifts of commemorative slate coasters from the Association and framed photographs of 'The Big Wave' kindly donated by Keith Morgan.

On the Saturday, the children went to Jump Jam, most of the adults visited Angela and Ivor as they celebrated their Wedding Anniversary with a 'rolling, drop in anytime' lunch-time buffet.

The evening was spent at the Masonic Home for a Wine and Welsh cakes event where everyone was wonderfully entertained by Col Canto and the Maesteg Male Voice Choir (and a young harpist during the break)

After a free Sunday morning with hosts, there was a leisurely barbeque at Mary and Bobby's (thanks again!)

Monday saw us taking the French to a vineyard (not as strange as it seems!) near Narberth for a meal and wine-tasting, which they REALLY enjoyed!

The Soiree at the Hi-Tide was exceptional! It was an evening to remember for a long time. From the moment the Porthcawl Ukelele Band stepped off to show their Tricolor T-shirts everyone knew they were in for a good night. Let's do that again, please!!

Tuesday brought the 'Au revoirs,' good old fashioned Welsh cwatches and a look ahead to next August! Can't wait!

**I.W.**