

## Membership Report June 2018

I should really not be writing this as I am sure you will have noted from the AGM report I resigned as membership secretary at that meeting. However, as nobody was injured in the rush to fill the vacancy, I have been persuaded to carry on in an acting capacity. I feel such ties to the association and have invested so much time and effort over fifteen years in building up membership numbers that I cannot leave it in a very difficult position. I have also been swayed by my fellow committee members' offers of assistance. Meanwhile if any member is willing to take on my role then I shall be delighted and very willing to help them through a transitional year.

Of course this situation need never have arisen. It has done so mainly because I have become increasingly frustrated over members' tardiness in paying their subscriptions. Last year five members received sae's and did not use them even to inform me they no longer wished to remain members. The last two were collected in February. Subs are due on July 1<sup>st</sup> each year and have not changed in amount for many a moon. Every member will with this newsletter have had a reminder. If everybody sent in their sub in immediate response then the whole business could be completed in one week. They can be posted to me at 29 Chestnut Drive Porthcawl CF36 5AD or give me a call on 01656 772896 and I will be round before you have put the phone down – well nearly. And my annual thanks to those 21% who pay by Standing Order To finish on a positive note. We welcome two new couples to the PSSTTA. Anne and Lindsay Soley of Davies Ave in Porthcawl and Robin and Frances Ralph from Pencoed. We wish them a long and association with us. I believe Rob Lee has another Corporate member to enrol. If that happens then they will become our 87<sup>th</sup> member. Perhaps, after all, our long standing target of 100 memberships may be attainable!

**Dave Bush**

## FRENCH ONION SOUP

French onion soup is a type of soup based on meat stock and onions. It is often served with croutons or a slice of bread with cheese on the top.

### Ingredients:

50g butter  
1kg onions sliced  
1.2 litres beef stock  
Salt and pepper  
6 slices of French bread toasted  
125g Gruyere cheese

### Method:

Melt butter in a pan. Add the onions and fry gently until golden. (30-40 minutes.)

Add the stock and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to the boil, cover and cook for 20 minutes.

Heat the cheese on toast under the grill until golden brown.

Serve the soup in individual bowls with a slice of toast on top.

Bon Appetit!

**Ann Lee**



# Newsletter 61

## Summer 2018



### A Word From the Chairman

Dear member,

It is the new start of our Porthcawl/St. Sébastien Town Twinning year.

As your new chairman may I welcome you all to our newsletter collated by our retiring chairman, Ivor Williams.

Firstly, may I thank the PSSTTA committee for their support – there has been a little re-shuffling, so please check out our website to see who's who!

Naturally, we sadly miss Keith Morgan who passed away very recently. He was a valued member of the Association and committee member and most of the photographs in our website archives were taken by Keith, so his memory lives on.

We welcome Paul Winstanley to the committee as our publicity officer. Paul and his wife Elaine, are two of our newer members.

We are really looking forward to our next trip to St. Sébastien ... and it's getting very close now! The bulk of our party for our trip to France are flying from Bristol

Airport @ 12noon on August 23rd returning on 27th August@19:25 Fourteen of the party are going to Bristol by mini-bus with trailer for luggage leaving Porthcawl approximately 8:30 tbc.

We are pleased that our Mayor, Norah Clarke and her husband, Mike, will be joining us on the trip.

Our new Social Secretary, Melanie, and the committee are working on many events in the coming year, so keep checking the website for details. We'd so love you to join us and, perhaps, you could bring a friend – the more the merrier! Merci!

**Marv Emmet-Lewis**

### Some Notes For Your Diary

We will be celebrating Bastille Night a little early on 11 July at the Hi-Tide at 7p.m.

The menu is French Onion Soup (*have a go at making it yourself with Ann's recipe!*) followed by Tarte Tatin.

There will be a film on Puy de Fou and a quiz (Puy de Fou is a **FANTASTIC** theme park and everyone who has been there wants to go back again and again!)

The cost is £8.00. A number of people have already put their names down and we hope that many of you may also join us.

Please contact our Social Secretary, Melanie, ASAP and definitely by Saturday 7 July if you would like to come.

[melands@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:melands@hotmail.co.uk)

Please keep your diaries free for the afternoon of Saturday 18 August when we will be hosting a 'Summer Afternoon Tea' at the Newton Institute from 2 to 5 pm with sandwiches, scones, strawberries and a glass of rosé along with entertainment (in the garden behind the hall – weather permitting!) Tea and coffee will also be available.

This will also be a chance for our members to meet one last time before our trip to France. Tickets are £8 – please let Melanie know if you wish to come by 11 August. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Pencoed Town Twinning are organising a 'Walking Treasure Hunt in Porthcawl on Wednesday 25 July at 7pm starting and finishing at the Hi-Tide. The event should take about 1½ hours and entry is £2.50.

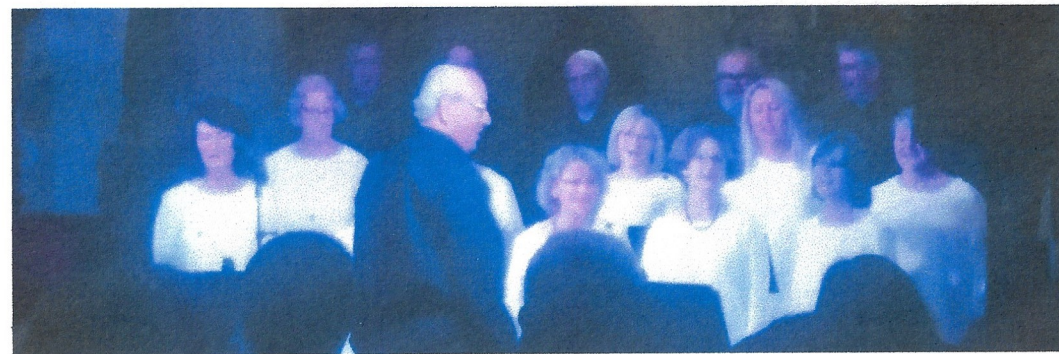
If anyone from Porthcawl Twinning would like to take part, they will be most welcome. Again, please let Melanie know if you wish to take part.

**Melanie Weaver**

## Town Twinning Liaison

Our local twinning associations have been very busy in the run up to summer and it has been lovely to have been able to join them in their celebrations.

**Bridgend Town Twinning Association** recently hosted the '*Chorale du Lac*', from Villenave d'Ornon, Aquitaine, France and as part of their programme of events they hosted a joint concert on May 21<sup>st</sup> at All Saints Church, Porthcawl with *Sounds Familiar* and *Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Choir*. A pleasant evening was shared by all and it was lovely to meet with members of Bridgend Town Twinning Association and their French friends. A number of our members also performed with *Sounds Familiar* which made the evening even more special.



**Cowbridge Town Twinning Association** recently entertained guests from *Clisson* for 4 days from 14<sup>th</sup> June on their bi-annual visit. Trips to Carleon, Monmouth and Tintern as well as a Welsh evening with Welsh dancing and food were planned for their guests. The association also put on a bilingual play at the Market Theatre, which was based on the Magic Roundabout as one of the Clissonais guests was an artist on the original French programme '*Le Manège Enchanté*'. We were fortunate to be invited to the reception in the Physic Garden, Cowbridge on June 14<sup>th</sup> and three of our members were able to attend. The weather was perfect for the event and a number of the French guests even invited us to visit them in Clisson during one of our visits.

Another lovely evening was spent recently with our friends from Pencoed, Cowbridge and Bridgend Town Twinning Associations at The Pencoed Miners Welfare Hall on 22 June. Pencoed hosted the evening. They provided a lovely buffet and we were entertained by the Catwg Handbell Ringers. It was great to see that a couple of our new members were also able to join us at this event.

Meeting up regularly with local organisations has enabled us to share ideas and future plans, talk about membership and fundraising as well as make new friends. We look forward to spending more fun moments with these groups and perhaps a few more in months to come.

**Mel Weaver**



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### Some "Winely Warnings" from Richard Rowe!



"Oh, God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains!"

Shakespeare, Othello



First a man takes a drink.  
Then the drink takes a drink  
And soon the drink takes the man!

Old Chinese Proverb

## Did You Know? A Brief History of Brittany

Around 460 A.D., many Britons fled from the Anglo-Saxon invaders of these isles and crossed the Channel to France.

Where they settled became known as “La Petite Bretagne” (Little Britain) as opposed to “La Grande Bretagne” (Great Britain) In 825 it became a monarchy, proclaimed by the son of the Emperor Charlemagne, stretching through Rennes down to Nantes. However, it was continually attacked by the Normans and by 993 it became divided into two Dukedoms but managed to prosper and defy the rule of the King of France.

In 1491, Anne, Duchess of Brittany, married Charles VIII and became Queen of France. After his death in 1499, she married Louis XII in order to maintain the autonomy of her duchy.

Between 1491 and 1514 the imposing castle in Nantes was built as a fortress during the struggle for independence of the Duchy of Brittany.

During the 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the castle became the Breton residence of the Kings of France. The dormer windows mark the union of Brittany and France – the porcupine of Louis XII faces the hare of Anne of Brittany.

In 1532, all Brittany became re-united with France by an Act of Union signed in Vannes. In 1561, Rennes became the seat of Parliament, to the detriment of Nantes.

In 1534, a Breton explorer named Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence river and claimed Canada for France.

**Richard Rowe**

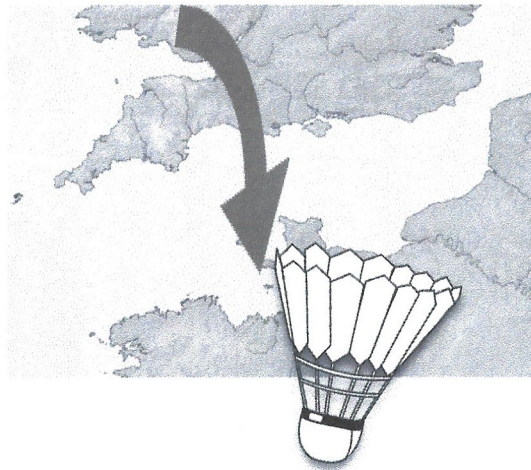
## ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND OVER THE NET

As both Chairman of Porthcawl Badminton Club and committee member of the PSSTTA for many years it has always been an ambition to establish a link between our local Badminton club and St Sébastien’s. In August this dream is set to become a reality.

Six young players, ages ranging from 16 to 26, all except one, present or former pupils of Porthcawl Comp., will join our main party flying from Bristol. From email exchanges it would appear they are going to enjoy a great time in France.

It is pleasing and encouraging that the Association’s Executive Committee has agreed to subsidise the cost of their travel as it has done in the past for A-Level French students. I should like to think that members are pleased that their subs have helped this come about.

**Dave Bush**



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