

GEMINI

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTBURY AND DISTRICT FRENCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

8th May 2018

Just a quick reminder: We need to have your written permission to mail you or to contact you by any other means you have given us, due to changes in the Data Protection Act. If you haven't already replied to my mail this will be the last time we will be able to contact you.

Next Event: Games Night - Saturday 26th May 2018

Future dates for the diary:

Treasure Hunt and Tea - Sunday 24th June 2018

More functions to be confirmed between these dates.

Discover Westbury Event - Saturday 22nd September 2018

Games Night - Saturday 26th May 2018

We will be holding a games night towards the end of this month and we have already a few games ready for the evening. However, we invite any of you to bring along a favourite game to share. The games will be laid out on different tables and, as before, you will be able to move around from one to another. If you want to bring a game please let us know beforehand so we know how many to expect. More details about this night after our committee meeting on the 15th of May.

Treasure Hunt and Tea 24th June 2018

More details about this event in the next Gemini.

Discover Westbury Event - 22nd September 2018

The Discover Westbury Event is being held by the Westbury Festival Organisers and is intended for local groups to advertise what goes on in Westbury. We have booked a table to participate in this event and hopefully we will gain some new members. We will be collecting memorabilia from our 18 years twinned with Château du Loir and before that for over 20 years with Soisy sur Seine. We will be happy to receive any ideas for the display and also volunteers to man/woman the stall.

NEWS

Château du Loir visit 2018

I hope you have all recovered from the trip. Many of you have thanked Norman and I for the organisation of the trip, but thanks also go to Gill as she liaised with Brittany Ferries and Chandlers for us. We do appreciate your thanks, and yes, it is a lot of work but our group are such good company and easy to please, so on behalf of the three of us thanks to all of you for making it all a success

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On our return there was a mail from the Hotel on my computer. I thought you may be interested so here are the mails from them and my response - translated to and from the French:

From Emeline at the Ibis 26th April 2018:

Following your stay in our hotel, we hope that everything went well in terms of accommodation and catering. We are happy to welcome back a group like yours in the future. In the meantime, I wish you a good return, and to let you know that I stay at your disposal for any additional information.

My reply when we returned 31st May 2018:

Thank you for your mail, we arrived back in Westbury this morning at 00.45 am following an excellent few days with our French Friends. We would like to thank you and all your Staff for your hospitality, the warm welcome, excellent restaurant and the service you provided. The members of our group have only good comments about our stay with you. Many thanks again and hopefully we will see you in 2020.

They replied again 2nd May 2018: I Thank you greatly for your reply, and quickly told all the team. The feeling is mutual, we are happy to welcome you on a future stay, it was a real pleasure to work with you.

Your Comments

Here are the first of your comments about the trip, any more will be in the next Gemini:

Well, what can I say? It was all wonderful, as usual. I had a lot of fun with Janine and on our free days she took me to some most interesting places. Can we do it again this weekend please?

From Barbara

We have just about recovered from the visit to Chateau, our hosts had packed in so much we were worn out! I must say that the stay in the Ibis was wonderful, such a comfy bed! Don't think I would have coped with a ferry cabin. It is good to get back to simple food and not three courses, etc.

From Pam and Bill

Very Many Thanks for all you did for us all ensuring that the trip was a huge success. We know that behind the scenes a lot of planning and administration goes on as was evident by the smooth and efficient organised trip. We couldn't fault the event and considering all-in-all, even the weather was better than we expected. We have returned with many happy memories, having made new friends and very full stomachs! Thanking you again

From Caroline and Richard

I have just sent an email to thank Remi and Nicole for a lovely weekend but this is just a note to say thank you so much for all your work towards the twinning weekend. We just turn up and get on the coach forgetting all the preparations you have to do. So thank you, we do very much appreciate it, you can relax completely now and sleep for a week!!!

From Tom and Maureen

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Your comments continued:

Fran & I think that the twinning trip was probably the best one we've ever been on (apart from the journey home) events worth mentioning are being taken on a guided tour of the Le Mans racing circuit and seeing (and hearing) the cars practicing on the circuit, Bridget being locked out of her room and wandering along the corridor in her nightie at the Ibis hotel, at Falaise. Seeing the cave village. Our hosts, and the accommodation they provided, were excellent and Fran & I both think we will be hard pressed to equal the return visit next year. I think it will be remiss of us not to mention the work that you and Norman put into arranging the trip so:- Thanks for all you have done and keep up the good work.

From Alf & Fran

There may be quicker ways of getting to France, but by boat, on a calm day, seems the best way to unwind and get in the mood for a holiday. I think the only bad wine we had was at the hotel that first night. We thought we'd be clever and ask for a different type of red wine, but despite stating that any other than the one we had just had, would do, we still ended up with the same glass of rocket fuel. So much for our French! Needless to say, the rest of the holiday was full of wonderful food and wine. Our hosts were asked by their group if we ate the food provided and seemed surprised when they were told yes, no problem. The events organised by both the twinning organisations and town councils were splendid affairs and we were made to feel most welcome. We especially enjoyed the visit to the garden centre/workshop run by people with learning disabilities. Although we had been to Chateau du Loir three other times, we were able to visit new places - Le Mans, Ponce sur Le Loir (art exhibition and glass blowing), as well as the town market and a restaurant. Our host family had only moved to the area 18 months ago but we were able to be ourselves in their home and play games and even catch the end of their 16 year old daughter's basketball game. Best of all, they wanted to practise their English!

From Carole and Gordon

AND FINALLY

Surely there are more tales to tell about the trip, please send them in for the June edition of Gemini.

Thank you all for your comments in the past - please keep sending them in. We welcome any more items of news from you so if you have anything you would like to share with our members, please send them to an email address below. We would especially like more of your feedback on any of the events.

For further information or replies for any of the events please phone or email:

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