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Welcome to the October newsletter.

It has been a busy time recently (so what's new?), with the Summer Outing and Cafe Rene at the Rustic Fayre both being enormous successes again. We have also been preparing for the two big events coming up in October - the AGM and the restart of our winter season Members' meetings - both in our new venue of the Methodist Church Hall. A formal notice about the AGM, together with some proposals we are making for changing our constitution are included in this newsletter. Our Members' meetings have also moved to the Methodist Church Hall as we have rather outgrown our original venue at the Band Hall. Also coming up in October is the long weekend break to Lille and Ypres which promises to be a weekend to remember for all those booked.

I hope to see you all at one of these fine events - remember it's YOUR twinning so come along, experience what we do and we're open to any suggestions for new or improved things we can do.



At the time of writing we are still awaiting news of our final position in the Boules league. In fact some teams have not yet completed their fixtures. So it looks as if we will have to wait a little longer to see how we got on, but it does look like our efforts this year should earn us a finish in mid-table respectability.

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Please note the change of venue

This year's AGM will be held at 8pm on Thursday 22nd October in the Methodist Church Hall, Vicarage Road.

Please let me have your nominations for anyone willing to join us as a committee member.

Notice of Resolutions to be discussed at the AGM

At the AGM we will be proposing some changes to our constitution. These changes will require a 2/3rds majority to be carried and are as follows:

Amendment 1: Section 2, title. Amend from "Objects" to "Objectives". Change all other references to "objects" to read "objectives".

Reason: To use the more up-to-date terminology to avoid any confusion.

Amendment 2: Section 2: change "the countries of Europe" to "other countries" and in Section 3 b) change "To encourage..." to "To organise and encourage..."

Reason: This amendment is aimed at allowing us to investigate the possibilities of a partnership with a non-European town and more closely reflecting how we go about our objectives.

Amendment 3 : Section 8 - New para i) to read as follows:

"8 i) Members of the General Committee shall conduct themselves in an acceptable and respectful manner to other members at all times. A breach of this code of conduct shall result in suspension of the offending member by the Chair of the meeting. A decision on whether this should be followed by dismissal from the General Committee shall be made by secret ballot of the other members of the General Committee present."

Reason: Committee meetings are generally informal and light-hearted occasions, but all official business conducted should be through the Chair. This amendment is aimed at the unlikely eventuality of informal comments being made which could cause offence to any other member(s) present.

Amendment 4: Section 8 - New para j) to read as follows:

"8 j) No member is authorised to commit the Association to any expenditure without the agreement of the General Committee as recorded in the minutes. A single expenditure not exceeding £50 may be authorised by the Chairman. In the event of an unauthorised debt, the person incurring such debt will be personally and solely liable. Members of the Management Committee shall be jointly liable in the event of an authorised debt in excess of the Association's assets being incurred."

Reason: This clause is aimed at formalising the arrangements in the event of an unauthorised debt being incurred. In the event of an authorised expenditure in excess of our assets, it makes all committee members jointly responsible rather than the burden falling on a single individual.

Amendment 5: Section 8 - New para k) to read as follows:

"8 k) The Association's policy is never to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or age."

Reason: This clause is commonly found in such documents in this day and age and keeps us correct politically. Of course, being reasonable people we wouldn't do this anyway, but this binds future committees to the same policy.



This year's Summer Outing was another great success. 67 of us boarded the coaches at Morrison's Car Park for the short drive to Poole Quay, where our boat was waiting for us. An interesting cruise around (and very close to) Old Harry Rocks, with fish and chips laid on for us, found us in Swanage Bay in time to watch the splendid firework display from a different angle. After the display, with the night

air chilling down noticeably, it was full speed ahead back to Poole, entertained by a 50s and 60s disco in the boat's saloon.



This year's season of Members' Meetings starts this month, again in our new venue of the Methodist Church Hall. The October meeting will be on the 14th, starting at 7.30pm. Join us for coffee and biscuits, meet friends old and new, and hear our guest speaker Kate Greenaway talk on "My Many Occupations". For the November meeting, on the 11th, we will have a new speaker, Mr John Smith, telling us about the Special Operations Executive.

The December meeting on the 9th will of course be our pre-Christmas celebration and will be at St Michaels Parish Room as in previous years.



2010 celebrations with Champtoceaux. The dates for our 25th anniversary celebration visit from our friends in Champtoceaux have now been finalised. They will be arriving on Thursday 13th May and leaving on Sunday 16th. We have a full programme of celebrations being planned, including a big day out on the Friday for guests and hosts together, and a rather special "soirée" on the Saturday afternoon and evening - so make a note for your 2010 diary now!



A reminder that Catharina needs your old Birthday Cards to make new ones from. She sells these cards in support of the Twinning so if you have any to offer, please let her have them or call her on 813564.



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