



Llanwrtyd Twinning Association

Report of the Chairman (Jacquie Brown) 2011

Llanwrtyd Wells Twinning Association has had a relatively quiet year during 2011. We have approximately 35 members and meetings have been well attended throughout the year on the first Thursday of each month (held at the War Memorial Institute). Activities during 2011 have included the following:

1. Town Council and Webpage

Our close working relationship between the Twinning Association and the Town Council has continued and we have welcomed Carol Prichard (current Mayor) to our meetings since she took up office in 2011. Our Town Clerk, Pat Dryden has also continued to help us liaise between the committees and to share the Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council website providing us with a window to welcome closer liaison with Mériel (France) and Český Krumlov (Czech Republic). See: <http://www.llanwrtydtc.webs.com/>.

We were also very pleased to receive some funding from the Town Council in 2011 which has been a great help for us to continue our activities.

2. 10th Anniversary Trip from Mériel – 23rd to 27th August 2012

Further to the Llanwrtyd Twinning Association trip to Mériel in 2010, a return visit to Llanwrtyd has been planned to take place from 23rd to 27th August 2012. The Mayor (Carol Prichard) sent invitations to the Mayor of Mériel (Jean-Louis Delannoy) and the Mayor of Český Krumlov (Starosta Mgr Dalibor Carda) in June 2011 and both parties have accepted the invitations. As this event coincides with the Alternative Games taking place in Llanwrtyd in August 2012 the committee are working hard to make sure the visits are a success with positive outcomes.

3. Children's Exchange Visit

Ysgol Dôlafon was unable to organise a visit to Mériel in 2011.

4. Sports

Both Mériel and Llanwrtyd Committees have discussed possibilities for football and other exchanges to take place but these were not possible in 2011. However we are looking forward to a delegation of French runners (organised by the Présidente of the Mériel Twinning Association, Nicole Cabon) coming over to take part in the Man v Horse Marathon on 9th June 2012. We are also looking forward to introducing our Twins to some of the more unusual sports (e.g. Bog Snorkelling) during their visit in August.

5. Arts and Culture

A memorial concert was organised in the Town in June 2011 in memory of a former member of both Llanwrtyd Twinning Association and the Town Council, former Cllr. John Keates, who passed away after a short illness. A wonderful evening of music and song was performed in the Victoria Hall which included Soloist Pat Dryden, Builth Wells Male Voice Choir and Llandoverly Male Voice Choir (both of which John had been a member with other members of Llanwrtyd Twinning Association) and friends of the Keates Family, Carys, Teleri and Siriol Dyer. A tree was planted in Mériel in John's memory in November 2011 and Jacquie Brown (Chair), Bryn Davies (Minutes' Secretary) and Lee Houlsby (Committee Member) joined with our Twins to support John's widow (Lesley) at the ceremony (see photo below).

Planting of the Tree in Memory of John Keates in November 2011



Left to right: Nicole Cabon (Présidente) Jean-Louis Delannoy (Mayor of Mériel) and Lesley Keates

We have welcomed Annie Kelly prior to our meetings during the summer 2011 to give us some taster sessions in French. We do hope that our members will take the opportunity to continue to learn some French expressions, ready to welcome our French guests in August.

An art exhibition of local Welsh artists is being planned to take place in 2012.

6. Music

We have recently been contacted by a Rock Band in Mériel, who would like to link up with a local Llanwrtyd rock band (Lindsay's Shirt). We are hoping to kick-off this partnership with a video-conference link in the near future.

6. Český Krumlov

We are very much looking forward to meeting the Mayor of Český Krumlov (Starosta Mgr Dalibor Carda) already known to some of our long-term members as a former Head Teacher of a school in Krumlov together with a small delegation, for the official visit to Llanwrtyd with our French Twins in August 2012.

7. Fundraising and Social Events

We have held a variety of fundraisers, social events and fun meetings during 2011 which have included a Table Top sale and the Christmas Tree Competition on the weekend of 3rd December. On June 17th - An evening with a French Flavour was held at the school when members shared food, wine and competed in a mini-golf tournament organised by Liz and Gareth Morris. Good fun was had by all!

Photos of our French Twins were displayed at the Christmas dinner



Having fun at our June 2011 French Evening

The Annual Dinner held in January 2012 had approximately 30 people attending at the Neuadd Arms Hotel.



Christmas Dinner at the Neuadd Arms Hotel, Llanwrtyd

8. Business Plan

The business plan has been recently finalised and will encompass a range of activities and the official visit during 2012.

Finally, may we thank all members of the Llanwrtyd Wells Twinning Association for helping to keep the Association alive and successful. We are looking to increasing membership during the coming year and the Committee are very busy making plans for the Official Twinning Visit in August 2012 when we will meet up again with our Twins from both countries and foster our European links with our Twins as well as renew and strengthen our friendships.

Jacquie Brown
Chairman