

Presteigne and Norton Twinning Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The First Annual General Meeting of Presteigne and Norton Twinning Association will be held on 17 January 2003 at 7.30 pm in the Assembly Rooms, Presteigne. All those who are interested are very welcome to attend, but only paid-up members of the Association are entitled to vote.

Membership Application/Renewal Form 2003

Subscriptions for 2003, at £5 per person, fall due at the AGM. Please complete/amend the following form as necessary:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Current Status:

Amount Enclosed:

Please make cheques payable to **Presteigne and Norton Twinning Association**. Either bring the form with you to the AGM or send it with payment to the Treasurer:

Bill Weiland
2 The Paddocks
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PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 3 December 2002



Our French visitors and their hosts outside the Radnorshire Arms

Officers

Chairman	John Kendall	01544 260550
Vice-Chairman	Elwyn Powell	01544 267717
Treasurer	Bill Weiland	01544 260488
Secretary	Liz Boyles	01544 260076

Dear Friends

Welcome to Newsletter Three. The main story for this issue is the visit of our French friends from Ligné in October. I am very pleased to report that this was a great success and much enjoyed by all those involved.

Our 16 guests arrived at the Radnorshire Arms on the dot of 12 noon on Friday 4 October. Most of them had hosted PNTA members who had visited Ligné last year, and we were also pleased to welcome some new faces. The hotel provided a warm welcome and buffet lunch, during which Deputy Mayor Trevor Price officially welcomed the visitors to Presteigne.

The first event of the afternoon was a visit to the town's largest employer, J L French. Members of the staff were very helpful in explaining the work of the company and providing a guided tour of the factory. This was followed by a visit to Hill Farm, home of Councillor Evelyn Davies, to show the guests a typical Radnorshire working farm. The visit included a demonstration of working sheepdogs and a farmhouse tea laid on by Evelyn and her family, with the help of PNTA members.

The following morning began early in Presteigne Assembly Rooms, with a debate on the euro chaired by Colin Kirkby. The French described their experiences of the new currency, both positive and negative, and a full discussion followed, although no agreement was reached as to whether Britain should join the Eurozone. The debate was followed by a talk on Welsh devolution by Kirsty Williams AM.

After a morning of serious discussion, the group was treated to a lunch with a Welsh flavour at the Royal Oak in Gladestry, and celebrated the birthdays of two of the French visitors. A walk along Offa's Dyke to Hergest Croft enabled the visitors to enjoy some local landmarks as well as walk off lunch! The afternoon ended with tea at Hergest Croft and a stroll round the gardens.

The highlight of the evening was the ceilidh at Titley Village Hall. Students from Ligné who were on an exchange visit to John Beddoes School came along with members of the public, and the hall was

packed – there was just about room to dance! Our French visitors joined in with great enthusiasm. Once again the ceilidh owed its success to Sue Harris and Bandamania, who provided an excellent evening of music and dance.

Sunday morning began with a reception and coffee at the Manor House hosted by John and Jenny Kendall. Keith Parker then took the group on a guided tour of Presteigne, describing the town's historic buildings and St Andrew's Church. This was followed by a formal lunch at the Radnorshire Arms, with a musical accompaniment from local group RadJazz and concluding with speeches by Mayors John Wilding and Maurice Perrion. The last visit for the guests was to the Judge's Lodging, followed by an evening at home with their host families.

Breakfast next morning at the Radnorshire Arms was very early! Our visitors left at 8 am after some very affectionate farewells on the hotel steps. We were sorry to see them go but were very pleased the visit had been such a success. Arrangements for the formal twinning now look set to go ahead and a visit to Ligné is planned for October next year to cement the alliance. This is timed to coincide with the official naming of the *Place Presteigne*, a town square next to the new *Espace Culturel* building in Ligné, on 18 October.

The PNTA would like to acknowledge the help given by the staff of the Radnorshire Arms, who worked hard to provide a warm welcome for the visitors and some excellent meals. We hope that the latter dispelled any qualms the French people may have had about British food! Thanks also go to Julie Lachaud who acted as interpreter, and on the French side to assistant mayor Anne-Marie Cordier whose hard work has made both twinning visits so successful.

The next event will be the AGM, the notice for which is on the back page of this newsletter. The meeting will be accompanied by two short French comedy films, "Insomnie" and "Happy Anniversary", directed by Pierre Etaix.

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year,

Patricia Wilson