

Foxton Twinning Association

Chair's Report – 20 January 2019

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our second Annual General Meeting. I'd like to summarise some of the key activities of the committee this year in my report.

After the last AGM we pretty much stepped straight into a French Café at the Pavilion and then presented our very first Film Night at the beginning of March. We were lucky that the choice of film, *Intouchables*, proved very popular amongst the audience – it really was a fantastic film and I know that those of you able to come really enjoyed it. The evening was made by the professional setup of Saffron Silver Screen turning our very own village hall into a proper cinema. Of course, such success brings its own pressures going forward...

Our very own Chris Hindley set off across the channel to present two talks on the subject of BAS, one to the school, and one to the community. These were fantastically well received, and it is small projects such as this (where individuals or groups from the village are able to extend the twinning project beyond simply what the committee proposes) that we are looking for as we go forward.

June saw a Safari Supper, with diners ranging the length of the village (the vast majority of whom were even given the correct address to go to). Although I certainly felt a lot better after I had heard about the antics in the Montigny version.

And then came the moment of truth. Forty-four visitors crossed the channel to be welcomed into the homes of Foxtonians the length and breadth of the village (and a bit beyond). The weather wasn't perfect, but the warmth between host and visitor certainly made up for it! With visits to Cambridge and Wimpole Hall pre-arranged and an evening celebration on Saturday night, it was up to hosts to entertain on Sunday and entertain you did! Our counterparts in France sent us the following message:

"On behalf of the families hosted in Foxton and the twinning committee, I thank you for this superb weekend spent with you. Thank you for your warm (in spite of the weather!) and generous welcome and all the things you had organised for us: the visit, the party and the country-dancing. We wish also to thank the families who hosted the French and did their utmost to entertain them."

Consequently, we are all very much looking forward to this year's visit to Montigny – scheduled for the weekend of 31st May – 3rd June. By positioning this visit at the end of half-term week we are hoping that it will facilitate the participation of even more families from the village and, of course, are looking for a record number of travellers yet again. We know that the welcome will be warm.

We will continue to build our funds over the year – ready to support our hosting in 2020 – and so, to this end, I'd like to draw your attention to the film night on Saturday 9th March. It will be another fantastic evening.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the members of the committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment over the year. We have been sorry to see Jane and Julie leave us this year, but know that they will both be able to help at and attend our events in future. We hope to welcome some new committee members this year – and we will need them: there's a lot to do.

Thank you.