

BARFLEUR TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No 1 – August 2011



The principle of twinning with Barfleur was agreed at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2010. Following that meeting a number of people volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee to explore the practicalities of the twinning arrangements.

Progress at first was slow but we can now report that, subject to support at the AGM, everything is in place to establish a full twinning arrangement with Barfleur.

An initial meeting was held in Barfleur on 31st May this year at which the town councillors agreed to hold a public meeting to confirm support for twinning with Lyme. The meeting was held on 7th June attended by 20 people (16 from Barfleur and 4 from outlying communes) and it was agreed to go ahead with the twinning. It was recognised that both communities have much in common both historically and today, the main difference being that Barfleur has 630 residents and Lyme 3700. This was not seen as a problem by the Barfleuraais.

Two visits have taken place by members of the Lyme committee. On the first occasion in April Sheila Poupard and Rob Michael were met and entertained by Christiane Gancel and other members of the Town Council. On the 2nd visit by Sheila Poupard and Jon and Jan Dover to coincide with the Lyme Regis rowers training event, time was spent touring Barfleur and St Vaast. On the Friday evening Lyme members were invited to dinner with Christiane and Michel Mauger (Deputy Mayor) and continued to discover more about our respective communities.

On Saturday the Lyme representatives visited and chatted with Christiane and her family and then were taken to the Football Stadium where Christiane is the President of the Football Club. They look forward to meeting representatives of both Lyme Regis and Creully Football Clubs. In the evening the Lyme visitors were invited with Christiane to the home of Sybil and Olivier Lebeaut where they also met Jean Deville (Mayor) and his wife. After this the visitors took Christiane and her son Herve for a meal in Barfleur. The Barfleuraais propose visiting Lyme later in September (date to be agreed) following Jean Deville's return from his holiday.

Now that both towns have set up committees to organise the twinning arrangements the next steps in Lyme are to confirm these arrangements. The interim committee has elected:

Chair	Sheila Poupard
Secretary	Mike Lewis
Treasurer	Tony Norman

Other members of the committee are: Jan and John Dover, Jenny Finch, Rob Michael, Molly Spencer and Sara Purvis.

A draft constitution has been drawn up based to an extent on that used by the Lyme Regis – St Georges, Bermuda Twinning Association. A membership form is enclosed with this newsletter for completion and return with your subscription to Mike Lewis at the Town Council Offices.

It remains to ratify the constitution by the membership, formally elect a committee and to confirm/amend the membership fees. This will be done at an AGM to be held in October when all paid members will be eligible to vote although the meeting will be open to the public in the hope of attracting new members.