

A summary of the AGM of Broadclyst Twinning Association in June, and a summary of the contribution of the parish council towards the work of the Association

AGM

15 members were present and 6 had sent their apologies. The chair's report focussed on a range of formal and informal exchanges and visits: the main twinning visit from Plobannalec-Lesconil (P.-L.) in May 2018 had been a success and the return trip to P.-L. at Easter 2019 had been described as the best ever. Besides these larger group visits, various young people had gone over separately: 5 Clyst Vale Community college (CVCC) pupils/alumni had travelled independently to P.-L. to camp at the home of a French friend who had previously come across to stay and study at Clyst Vale; and 2 young people had come over from P.-L. to stay in a family and attend CVCC, making friends and improving their English. We will look at the feasibility of taking a group of people across Brittany to P.-L. by bicycle from Roscoff. This could potentially include subsidised travel and accommodation aimed at younger people. We continue to attend the Christmas market at P.-L. and a small delegation from P.-L. continues to attend our Fun Day to make crepes (pancakes).

In addition the Association continues to organise social events which also raise funds. We hold monthly film nights in the Victory Hall, which tend to be "feelgood" films which are quite popular with members of the public of a certain age and are thought to provide quite a good opportunity for people to go out and enjoy themselves in company. We are planning to hold two ceilidhs in the Victory Hall in 2019-20.

Parish council expenditure on Twinning

The parish council's money is mainly used to pay for the costs of the hosting the visit which occurs every other year. The members of the association take on all the private costs of hosting the families and individuals who stay in their houses, but the parish council pay some of the other costs. The last visit was in 2018 and the parish council paid for the coach transport to get the French to and from Plymouth, and also paid for some of the costs of a ceilidh which was held during the visit; we cannot expect our visitors to buy tickets. On the alternate year Broadclyst visits P.-L., and this does not normally incur any expenditure. For this reason, the annual budget for twinning gets drawn down on alternate years. In 2019-20 we will be hosting again. In 2020-2021, we will be visiting P.-L.. If the parish council does continue to support the association, we are looking at the possibility of using parish council funding to subsidise ferry transport, and hostel accommodation, for young Broadclyst people to come over and then cycle across Brittany, stay at P.-L., and then cycle back, perhaps at Easter 2020.

This support from the parish council takes the pressure off the committee to spend a lot of time on fund-raising. We continue to hold the film nights and the autumn ceilidh because we think they are good social events, as well as fund raisers, but we don't need to do any other fund raising. All the members of the committee are busy people, with key people in full time jobs as well as other voluntary activities, and the viability of the twinning without some support would be threatened.