

LymMeung Autumn 2011

Twin Town News

Email your contributions to pannb@uwclub.net
For past pictures and other information, visit our website at www.spanglefish.com/lymmtowntwinning or go to www.lymm.com



LE MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

Bonne Année Deux Mil Douze!

May I first and foremost wish our Committee and all Members a safe, healthy and enjoyable New Year "Twenty Twelve" – may all our doings together be "OLYMPIAN" and filled with "DIAMOND" moments.

I'm sure that many of us will be looking forward to this year's visit to our friends in Meung s/ Loire in June, marking the forty-fourth Anniversary of our "jumelage". Twenty-eight of us will set off by coach on Tuesday June 5th, the second of the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holidays and arrive the following afternoon, with a similar number of independent travellers, to spend four days and nights with our Chers Amis in La Belle France, free and far from politicians and dour media.

I'm guessing that this year's gifts of choice for our good friends will include some Diamond Jubilee memorabilia – so good of her Majesty to choose our date for her anniversary.

DEADLINE DATE-MEUNG COACH

The balance of £150 per head for our coach journey to Meung-sur-Loire should be paid to the Treasurer no later than Easter Sunday, April 8th; cheques to "Lymm Twin Town Society"

SOIRÉE MUSICALE

Our Supper Evening in November looked in jeopardy until almost the last minute, as the two young musicians we had booked had to pull out at very short notice. "Tout est bien qui finit bien", however since we were able to find a superb young pianist, Ben Clarke, RNCM graduate and Associate of the Royal College, who drove over from Macclesfield with his quality keyboard and

This year's Committee Members are:

Peter Birchall - 01928 579164 Ann Holly - 07957 866730
Iain Macfarlane - 753227 Richard Clegg - 752434
Kathy Elbra - 756579 Uschi Lynas - 01925 263417
Celia Forsberg - 758671 Pat Swindlehurst - 755412
CO-OPTED: Kirsty James -758361

**New members are always welcome -
Please contact any of the Committee.**

delighted us with a well chosen programme, from Bach to Gershwin, Satie to Debussy, Scott Joplin and more.



A hot supper was followed by the usual array of members' mouth-watering desserts, preceded however by a second surprise performance by "our own, our very own" Duo, Philip and Peggy Morey.



Philip sang and Margaret accompanied three very entertaining items, rounding off with "Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud" with enthusiastic audience participation. Many thanks to both for the time and effort involved; what other Twinners' Talents are waiting to be discovered? **Thanks too to all who brought along desserts and raffle prizes.**

BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

Also in November our ever-energetic Kirsty organised the Society's second "Beaujolais" soirée at the Church Green hotel. Around 55 members and friends of all ages enjoyed a first-class meal and a taste of the 2011 vintage, plus an informative and entertaining talk about wine and more liquid refreshment of choice, in many cases into the wee small hours. This was again a very successful event and made a very useful profit for Society funds.
Merci beaucoup à Kirsty et ses adjoints!

NOEL ARRIVE

Christmas has been and gone once again, as has our prelude to the festivities on the Sunday before the 25th. Unlike the last two years the weather was mild and the skies clear, but the "ambiance" inside the Village Hall was as warm as ever.

An early start saw a band of helpers setting things up from around 9.00 a.m., children's games, crêpe makers, vin chaud, soft drinks, tables and chairs, flags and bunting, etc., etc..

From around 10.30 the hall was teeming with young families, filled with squeals and whooping, fragrant with hot crêpes, jam, syrup and lemon as well as steaming mulled wine. Kirsty and her band of helpers organised the young ones into French games, songs, face-painting and simple fun and kids and parents alike tucked in to the goodies on sale.

Relative calm took over around mid-day as the young families dispersed and the "seniors" moved in. The mulled wine got up to full strength as the kitchen filled with sandwiches, sticky sausages and mince pies, while we waited for the choir to assemble. Instead of the ten or so members of the **Di Voci Ladies Choir** we had expected, the full team of twenty plus turned out, immaculate in black dresses and fully tuned. They treated us to a wonderful selection of songs seasonal or otherwise, before members tucked in and recharged their plastic cups (the wine glasses having gone astray!) then joined in three or four Christmas carols before summoning Santa to the party.

Once again "**Santa Bob**" astounded us with his feat of memory as he recited, scriptless, his 2011 ode and handed out some thank-you gifts.
All-in-all a happy and heartwarming start to the Christmas week.

FÉLICITATIONS, CHANTAL

Pat and Will Swindlehurst, correspondants of Secretary Michel and Chantal Bret, and Tom and Dorothy Stansfield, partners of Président Jean-Claude and Françoise, hopped over to Meung for a few days last month to help celebrate Chantal's 60th birthday and to convey best wishes from l'Angleterre. We learnt that Françoise has had bad luck with a fractured wrist and her very poorly mother, so we send them all, and all our Bons Amis Français, **our very Best Wishes for 2012.** Forget the Euro, Camo, Sarko et al, just treasure your cross-channel friendships!

CALL ME SIR (?)

The French often have problems with ambiguities in our English language. For example, a letter sent to "Monsieur John Smith" would translate as "**Mister** John Smith", but its opening "Cher Monsieur" would equate to "Dear **Sir**". This is why for several years now yours truly has regularly received official mail from Meung addressed to **Sir Peter Birchall**, and why, on one occasion, my wife Ann opened the door to the postman delivering a package from Meung, to be addressed as "**Lady Birchall?**"

This month added a new variation to the confusion: my latest letter from the Town Hall in Meung was addressed to **Sir Birchall Peter!**

PARAPROSDOKIANS:

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
 - The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
 - Light travels faster than sound; This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
 - Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
 - We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
 - Behind every successful man is a woman; behind the fall of a successful man is, usually, another woman.
 - Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
 - Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
 - Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even when you wish they were-I used to be indecisive; now I'm not so sure.
 - A clear conscience is a sign of a poor memory.
-

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

A Saturday afternoon in early January has become a regular fixture in the Society's social calendar, for a trip to see the Royal Exchange Theatre's Christmas season production, and so it was on January 7th. Friends from Lymm's two Probus clubs helped us to take up all fifty seats, so it was a full load of smiling theatre-goers who got off the coach after enjoying an unusual, slightly crazy show, featuring the usual range of special effects including a remote-controlled snake and a fireworks explosion, and odd-ball characters including a drunken skat-singer with four spare legs and a New York diner waitress who was in fact a refugee Russian grand-duchess.

The underlying, serious theme reflected the contrast between a "Bohemian" family, who all pursued happiness and fulfilment through a variety of hobbies and creative pursuits, and a stiff Wall Street financier and his wife whose sole obsession was work and the pursuit of wealth. Maybe the play, though set in 1930s New York, was chosen to reflect our current polarisation of Bankers and the City on the one side and the rest of us who are just getting by as best we can, but in spite of its serious undertone the show had so many laughs that, with a little love-interest to help it along, politics and economics were far from the mind.

MORE NOVEMBER IMAGES



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Society's next social and fund-raising event will be on Saturday March 3rd - a SUPPER EVENING at the Oughtlington Community Centre - details and tickets soon. Put your Raffle Prizes on one side.

*PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT
THE TWIN TOWN SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER*