WROUGHTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Copies of emails, and my responses, from Mike Ide

10/12/24
Dear Twinning Friends,

I am still the holder of the Association's bank account. Celia or Judith will need to sign any withdrawals we make; I have included Liz as our long-term 'independent examiner'.

Following brief flickers of interest when a new Parish Chair or Maire is elected, no progress has been made by Wroughton Parish Council or St. Germain Mairie to re-establish a twinning link. An attempt was made to form a new club in sglc to twin with a town in the Republic of Ireland (english-speaking and still part of the EU) but I have not noticed any news of them in the monthly sglc newsletter.

Lloyds bank will impose charges on our account of £51 per year starting 1st January so I would like to make a change before then. I do not think it is likely that a new twinning group will be set up in Wroughton to which we could pass our funds. If we want to wait for developments, I could transfer the funds (£1,662) to a personal account in my name which would not attract charges but the money would then become mine and not subject to the safeguards of a society account with co-signatories and a watchful independent examiner. So we could think about distributing them to worthy causes with which we have been associated in the past. I have thought of a few ideas; could you comment on them and perhaps add your ideas.

Wroughton Prospect Hospice who helped several of our members with end-of-life care.
Wroughton Catholic Church (St. Josephs) who let us use their hall for meetings for a small 'donation'.
Wroughton CofE (St.John) who let us use their hall and (under Canon Michael Johnson) supported us and hosted a visitor.
Wroughton Silver Band who played for us during an exchange
Wootton Bassett Twinning with whom we collaborated on meetings.
Wroughton Junior Football who came with us to sglc and hosted a team from there.

Mike

I declare a personal interest as I am a member of Wootton Bassett Twinning.

10/12/24 – my reply

Thanks for this Mike.

I had recently been wondering about the position of the twinning association and I agree that Wroughton Parish Council is unlikely to do anything constructive about re-establishing links with St Germain.

To be procedurally correct, a meeting of any remaining members should be called, and a statement of intent to wind up the Wroughton Twinning Association and agree on the distribution of the funds should be made.

However, if not practicable, then I would have no hesitation in recommending Prospect Hospice to be the sole beneficiary of the funds.

With all good wishes,

Liz D

19/12/24
Hello Mike,
Just wondering if you have had any feedback from the others about the WTA bank/funds.
BW
Liz D

19/12/24
Yes. We have reassessed my view that only those of us with access to the account could decide what to do. The account belongs to all the members so we are calling a meeting of all 8 of us who had paid a membership from 2013 to decide what to do. From informal opinion so far the Prospect is the most popular recipient.

The Twinning Association was a group of local people, not all of whom lived in Wroughton, who supported the idea of twinning exchanges. The formal Twinning agreement was between the two communities represented by the two local councils. It would be up to them to decide to revoke the agreement and paint out the signs (or not).

Mike

19/12/24 my reply

Thanks for this Mike. I am a bit of a stickler for proper 'procedure', especially having been involved with the twinning idea from Day 1, all those years ago - along with Lewis and other Wroughton parish councillors!

I presume you will keep WPC in the loop as well, since John Hewer is, technically, your president still?

Would be very grateful to be kept in the loop also please.

Happy Christmas & NY,
Liz D