

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER TWINNING ASSOCIATION ("BMTA")

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008



Welcome to the "new look" August edition of the BMTA Newsletter. It contains a lot of news which we hope will be of interest to you.

Change of Officers and Committee

First and foremost there has been a complete change in the management of the Association. Hazel Morley resigned as Chairman, Susan Morley resigned as Secretary and Claire Morley resigned as Press and Publicity Officer, all on 18 May, 2008.

The remaining members of the Committee also resigned "en bloc" immediately prior to a Special General Meeting requested by seventeen members of the Association and attended by thirty members of the Association on 19 May 2008.

At issue was the proposal of the former Committee that the Association be merged into and become a sub-Committee of the Billericay Society. Under our Constitution which is being strengthened in favour of the Membership such a proposal would have required a two thirds majority of the Membership.

This radical proposal was not widely canvassed, however, and when it became clear that it would be strongly opposed, the Officers and the entire Committee resigned. The proposal was defeated by twenty seven votes to three at the Special General meeting and the Association lives on in its own right and not as a sub-committee of the Billericay Society!!

This is not to say, however, that the Association will not cooperate with the Billericay Society. It will and we look forward to reestablishing cordial relationships with the Society in the near future.

Your New Officers and Committee

At the Special General Meeting it was decided that acting officers be appointed until the AGM in September (see below).

Andy Wait, Mik Dunn and Alan Wood probably need no introducing as acting Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Alan Wood was Treasurer before he resigned from the former Committee last year. However, our new acting Chairman, Brian Hughes, does need some introduction.

Brian has lived in Billericay since 1947 and made his first visit to Billerica in 1975. Over the next twenty years he made regular visits to Billerica and acted as "unofficial diplomat" between the two towns. During this period he took presentation items donated by Basildon Council, the Billericay Historical and Archaeological Society, the Billericay Rotary Club and himself, all of which went on display in Billerica.

Brian left it to the BMTA to build upon the relationship he had established while he developed his new legal practice in Shenfield. He was invited to act as Chairman at the Special General Meeting and brings to the role his considerable experience as past Chairman of a number of local organisations.

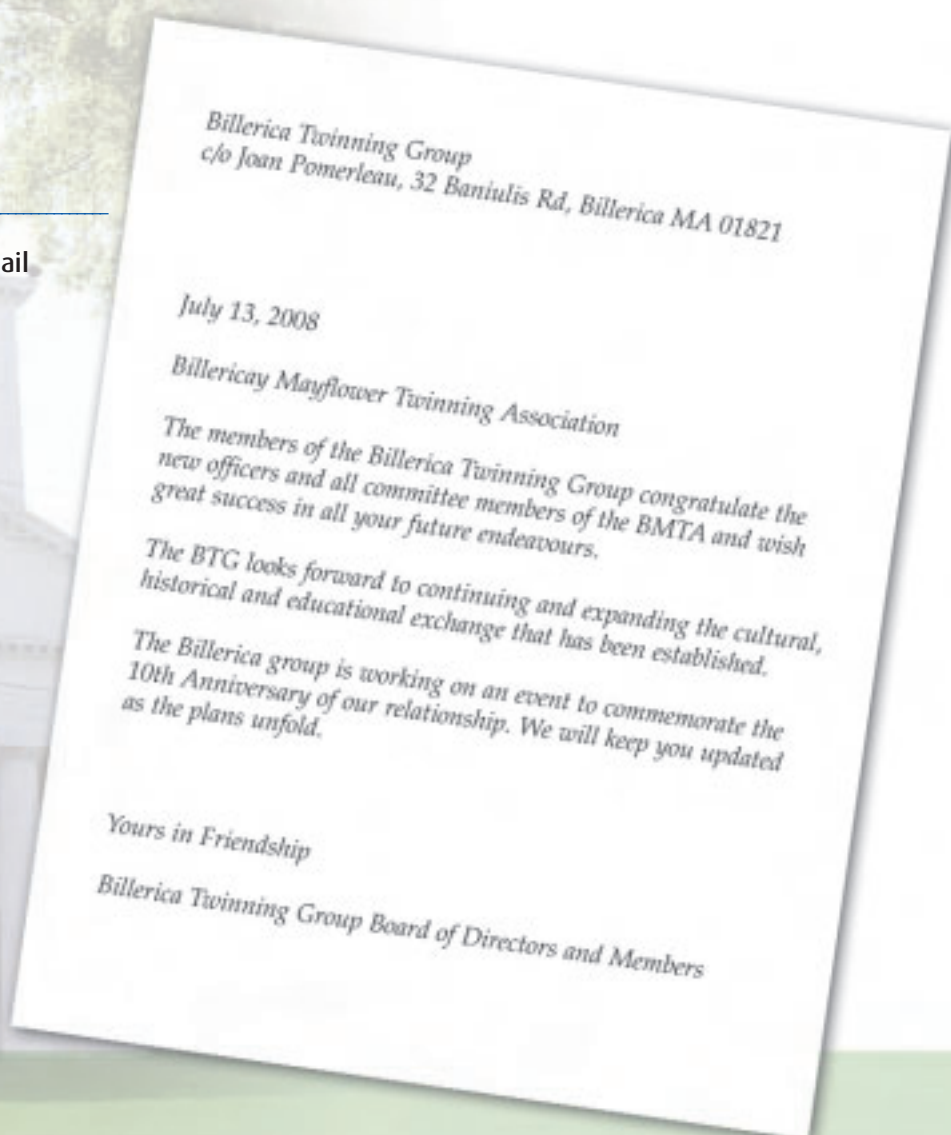
'Twinning for the people'

The names, telephone numbers and email addresses of our new Committee are as follows:

Chairman	Brian Hughes	01277 226644 (B) 01277 624505 (H) brian.hughes@anami-law.eu
Vice Chairman	Andy Wait	01277 651476 andyw8usa@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mik Dunn	01277 654539 morse-morse@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Alan Wood	01277 651417 alan.wood55@uwclub.net
Membership Secretary	Geoff Douglas	01268 710709 geoff.douglas@petroplus.biz
Social Secretary	Doreen Shaw	01277 630967
Committee	Mick Staines	01277 622766 mgstaines@onetel.com
	Pat Staines	01277 622766
	Vera Wood	01277 651417
	Marilyn Wait	01277 651476
Advisers to Committee Website PR	Ross Holland Trevor Draper	01277 652004 rosswholland@btinternet.com 01277 632299

Greetings to our New Committee from Billerica

We have recently received an email from Billerica Twinning Group, as follows:



Membership

Our membership is very important and we would like to renew links with all our Members and make sure they are kept regularly informed on what the Association is doing. Not surprisingly, the former officers have not been particularly helpful in this respect and we would very much like you to complete and return the attached card so that we can reconstitute our Membership records.

“Road Reps”

Although we will do our best to distribute this newsletter to all our members we would appreciate volunteer Road Reps to cover some of the roads in Billericay. If you can help in this respect please let us know when you return the form or by telephone to **Geoff Douglas** on **01268 710709**.

Events

The new Committee have planned a number of events for the Association: details are as follows.

- 1. Coffee Mornings:** Doreen Shaw will be arranging a number of coffee mornings, the first of which will be held at Doreen’s home (1 Mill Road, Great Burstead) from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Wednesday 13 August. Please see our website for the dates of future coffee mornings.
- 2. Annual General Meeting:** Friday 19 September at 8pm at the Canon Roche Centre. Drinks and refreshments will be available. Please do make an effort to attend this important meeting at which the new Committee will be setting out it’s proposals for the coming year. We also hope to be able to confirm the acting officers in their current positions, and to ratify our new Constitution.
- 3. Tenth Anniversary Quiz Night:** This will be held on Saturday 4th October at 7.30pm The Association is ten years old and this year we are marking the event with a Quiz masterminded by Colin Cutler who has been pleased to return to the Association and offer his services under its new management.
- 4. Presentation of Charter:** The new Committee have decided that, if possible, we should have our Charter alongside the Charter of Fishers in the Council Offices and it is hoped that the presentation can take place at the Council Offices on 4th October, immediately prior to our Tenth Anniversary Quiz Night. Our copy charter will be presented to the Cater Museum for record purposes.

Website

Our previous website was owned by the Morley family. They closed it down when they resigned as Officers.

The new Committee have set up a new website for the Association, **www.Billericaytwinning.org.uk**, and we will be publishing regular updates and articles on it.

Our intention is to offer pages on the website to the other twinning organisations in the town (Fishers and Chauvigny) so that the residents of Billericay can access information on all the twinning activities available to them.

We hope that, by having one composite website, we can promote cooperation between the twinning organisations for the benefit of everyone – particularly our young “citizens”.



American Visit

An event which passed by almost unnoticed was the twinning visit in April from our friends in Billerica. Despite the fact that our former Chairman cancelled the welcome Dinner and did not attend the presentation ceremony at the Cater Museum the visit was a great success, thanks to the efforts of members of the new Committee. The Dinner was rebooked and held at the Village Bar and Grill and well over twenty members of the Association known to have paid for the Dinner attended this enjoyable occasion. Next time the Association has a twinning event everyone will be informed and given the opportunity to participate. There will be no cancellations!!

Constitution of the Association

A new Constitution is being prepared for presentation to the AGM for approval. The intention is to give the membership more say in the activities of the Association and to prevent all the major offices being held by one family. Copies of the Constitution will be available to all members. It is the intention of the new Committee to bring greater transparency into all aspects of the Association.

Thank you for reading this. We hope you will be able to participate in the activities of the Association and that you will enjoy doing so.

Brian Hughes, Chairman

Andy Wait, Vice Chairman



Useful Web Sites

www.billericalibrary.org

www.billericahistorical.org

www.townonline.com/billerica

CONTACT DETAILS

The Secretary,
BMTA, 78 Perry Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 0ND

Tel: 01277 654539

Email: morse-morse@hotmail.co.uk