

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER TWINNING ASSOCIATION ("BMTA")

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009



Welcome to Issue No. 2 of the BMTA Newsletter. As you will see from this Newsletter the past six months have been eventful. Progress has been made on re-establishing links with our local community and with Billerica. On page 2 you will find details of forthcoming events in which all members are warmly invited to participate.



Presentation of Charter: 23 October 2008

One of the first priorities of your Committee was to claim a rightful place for our Charter in the offices of Billericay Council – alongside the Charters of Chauvigny and Fishers with which Billericay is also twinned. The Council welcomed our approach and arranged a special presentation ceremony. Our Charter was accordingly presented by Vice Chairman, Andy Wait, to Chairman of the Council Peter Bowditch in the presence of a number of members of the Council and the Association on Thursday 23 October (photo opposite).

Visit from Billerica Twinning Group Chair: 20 – 23 September 2008

The Billerica Twinning Group followed up their letter to us in July (published in our August Newsletter) with a "flying" visit from Joan Parcewski, their Chair. Joan could only be with us for three days but was well looked after during her stay by members of the Association. At a celebratory lunch at the Belvedere on 21 September Joan was presented with a painting by Trevor Shaw of "The Billerica Lily" (photo opposite).



Reminder Re Distribution of Further Newsletters

Please note that if you have not returned your membership Application/Membership renewal form by 31 March 2009 you will not receive any more Newsletters. We will be limiting distribution to "known" Members from 1 April 2009. Membership application/renewal forms are available for downloading from our website: www.Billericaytwinning.org.uk

'Twinning for the people'

What You Can Find on our Website

Our Newsletter is intended to be topical with news items and details of past and future events. Our Website is far more comprehensive – with background information on the links between Billericay and Billerica, the history of the BMTA, a picture gallery and links to a number of “related” Websites. It is well worth a visit.



Forthcoming Events

- 1. Coffee Mornings:** Doreen Shaw will be arranging a number of coffee mornings, the first of which, this year, will be held at Doreen’s home (1 Mill Road, Great Burstead) from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on Thursday, February 19th. Please see our Website for the dates of future coffee mornings.
- 2. “Bring and Buy Sale”:** this will be held at the Mayflower Hall in Chapel Street on Saturday 28 March from 9.30 am to 12 noon. Please come along and tell your friends about it!
- 3. Quiz Night:** our first Quiz Night in 2009 will take place at the Canon Roche Centre, behind the RC Church in Laindon Road on Saturday 16 May, commencing at 8 pm: the event is open to members and non members. The cost of the evening, inclusive of a buffet meal will be £6 per head. Soft drinks will be available. Please bring your own drinks if you prefer something stronger! Apply to the Secretary for tickets or download application forms from our Website.
- 4. John Baron’s Charity Walk:** Sunday 24 May: this popular and well attended event starts from Barleylands Farm at 1.30 pm – with a longer walk for the energetic and a shorter one for those who prefer a leisurely stroll! It is good fun-provided the weather is kind: we look forward to seeing you – with or without sponsorship – on the day.
- 5. Strawberry Fayre:** this will be held courtesy of Mrs.Valerie Jones at the Thatched Cottage (nearly opposite the South Green Memorial Hall at 2pm) on Saturday 4 July (Independence Day). £1 of the £2 entrance fee will be donated to the Essex Air Ambulance Service: strawberry teas and drinks will be available – in the beautiful garden – at a

modest cost. The event is confined, however, to members and friends only who should apply for tickets to the Secretary (same as for Quiz Nights).

- 6. Quiz Night:** Our second Quiz Night will be held at the same venue on Saturday 7 November: same price, same starting time, and same arrangements. And, talking about Quiz Nights, please read the Article below: as you will see Quiz Nights do not just appeal to the “oldies” young members can thoroughly enjoy them as well.

Our Quiz Night in October: A letter from two younger participants:



Recent Past Events:

These have concentrated on restoring the reputation and raising the profile of the Association: they have also, in the process, helped pay for our last Newsletter, our publicity leaflet and the presentations we have made to the Billerica Twinning Group. Thanks are due, therefore, to everyone whose hard work made the Quiz Night and our High Street Sales such a success. Our stand at the Round Table Fireworks Night was a bit of a “wash out”, literally, but so, to a large extent, was the Event! We can only hope for better weather next year!

Presentation of Model to Mayflower School

As the result of an approach by our Chairman the Mayflower High School have agreed to display a model of the Mayflower in a display case outside the School Library. All we now have to do is find (or make) a suitable model!! The display case will feature the Association and historical information on the links between Billericay and Billerica: It will also mention the pressures that led our forbears to leave their homes in Billericay and Great Burstead and embark on a perilous journey to an uncertain life in the New World.



Photo of Mayflower Replica Plimouth

The Mayflower

Featured opposite is the replica of the Mayflower, at anchor in the harbour of Plimouth, Massachusetts: the original vessel weighed about 120 tons and was about 90 feet in length: in addition to her crew she carried 102 passengers and stores for everyone on board. The Mayflower was a very small vessel to face the hazards of the Atlantic: it took her over two months to cross the Atlantic and she arrived three hundred miles further up the American coast than intended.

Display at Library

The Association is indebted to Terry Gandy for featuring the Association in his display at the Billericay Library: during the Second World War the townsfolk of Billerica contributed – as did many other Americans – to a Spitfire Fund. The Fund proved a useful source of additional finance for the production of one of our most effective and famous fighter planes.



SPONSORSHIP

We are constantly on the look out for sponsors who are interested in promoting the Association and their own particular activities: our sponsors currently include Stewarts Bar and the Billericay Cookshop/Emporium. If you would like to sponsor the Association in return for an “ad” on our Website please contact our Secretary (details overleaf).

Welcome to New Committee Members

We are delighted to welcome two new and enthusiastic Committee members, Linda Walsh and John Brown: we thank them for volunteering to help expand the role of the Association: we know they will inject more energy into what we do. Set out opposite is our current Committee.



Chairman	Brian Hughes	01277 226644 (B) 01277 624505 (H) Brian.hughes@anami-law.eu
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	Pat Staines	01277 622766
	Vera Wood	01277 651417
	Linda Walsh	01277 622649
	Marilyn Wait	01277 651476
	John Brown	01277 635298
Advisers to Committee Website PR	Ross Holland Trevor Draper	Rosswolland@btinternet.com 01277 632299

Facts About Billerica

The Billerica Lily

On page one is a photo showing the presentation of the painting of the Billerica Lily to Joan Parcewski. For a better view of the Lily, which grows on heathland around Billerica and which has become an emblem of the town see the photo opposite.

Penpal Scheme

Quilters School and the Thomas Ditson School, Billerica.

Thanks to Carolyn Chappell, a teacher at Quilters School and Pat Staines, a member of the Committee, the penpal scheme between 10 year olds at the two schools has been revived. Any young people wishing to join a penpal scheme should contact Pat Staines who will be delighted to hear from them (telephone number above).

