

# Barrow and District Twinning Association

## Christmas Newsletter December 2020

Dear Member,

I hope that you are keeping well during these strange and sometimes difficult times and that you are able to keep in touch with our French friends using either the latest technology or the tried and tested "snail Mail".

Many of you will already have heard of the death, during the summer, of Claude Mesmin. Claude was one of the original members of the French twinning Association and took part in many visits over the years. He will be sadly missed.

I have called this message a newsletter but sadly there is not a great deal of news to report. Of course we had all hoped that during the summer we would be able to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our friends in Marans but the advent of the Coronavirus made such a trip impractical if not impossible.

Although there is now a vaccine in sight which hopefully will make life and travel more normal during 2021 the committee have come to the conclusion that to try and plan for a visit in the coming year might still be somewhat premature. Whilst a vaccine may be imminent in the UK, we have no idea when it might be available across Europe, whether there will be any travel or insurance restrictions or indeed how comfortable we will all feel about travelling and visiting. Given the length of time that it takes to plan our visits we felt it best that we should take the decision now not to travel rather than to "wait and see" how the situation develops.

By doing this we feel that it gives members some certainty going forward and enables us all to make whatever summer arrangements we wish without the risk of any other possible constraints. Should there be a dramatic change in the situation later in the year then perhaps we can review things then.

It may be that some of us will be able to make individual arrangements with our French friends for visits on either side of the Channel. In fact, we hope that everyone will make every effort to keep in touch with friends in Marans so that we can move seamlessly into 2022.

As soon as the Covid restrictions are relaxed and some sense of normality restored, we will of course try to get our usual programme of events up and running again.

If anyone has any ideas of activities that would help keep our association ticking over in the coming months or would like to be involved in planning for the future, please do get in touch.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Ted Rodgers