



May Newsletter (Covid 19)

Chairman's message

Dear Fellow Twinners (These are indeed unprecedented times.)

Our 3rd Newsletter of 2020. Well this has been far from what I expected from my first 6 months in the Chair following on from Ken's tenure. It seems a long time ago that we were able to meet up at the Leap Year lunch and coffee mornings, which have had to be put on hold during the current pandemic. The Quiz Night had to be cancelled, along with the May Fayre and Donkey Derby, and the plans that we had for future events have had to be put on hold.

Also, the Youth Event in Schwaz cannot now take place.

However, as could be seen from the way that the country came together over the VE Day celebrations, we are a resourceful and determined nation and that is particularly noticeable in East Grinstead. From what I have seen or heard from our members, spirits are as high as they can be and we are all trying to get on with life as best as possible. I can't wait until we get back to normality, whatever that is, and enjoy many future events where we can hopefully look back on this time and share stories and enjoy each other's company again. I might even make a cake for coffee mornings!

Until then, stay safe and well and if there is anything either I, or any of the committee can do, please ask. **Nick Hodges.**

Nick & Lucy's contribution to newsletter.



I've still been working from home during Lockdown which has been particularly testing. We've kept busy by spending time at our allotment (Ray Ellis and Andy and Bernie Mason can vouch for us) and having regular quiz' karaoke and murder mystery virtual evenings with friends. We always have a theme - one being dressing as your partner, so Lucy decided to come as me in a Twinning T Shirt! Our Olivia has been trying to keep busy despite her GCSEs, and school prom, being cancelled. We've tried to make up for it with dog walks and, now we're allowed out a bit more, cycle rides. We had a cream tea on the drive for VE Day and the sight and sound of the Spitfire overhead stirred up so many emotions.

Margaret and Alex's Contribution.



Lots of jobs done in the garden, the weeds dare not show their faces. Seeded some Beans and Peas and planted them out then we had some little visitors who ate them all (Rabbits) so I had to start again. The Hose reel has been repaired no more leeks and the Bungalow is being painted.

But what a joy to look at this Rhody. We also had some lovely Ducks just popped in to say hello.

Hope you are all well and missing you at Coffee.



Janice Robson's contributions

Marc and I are in separate houses because he is still working and mixing with customers so I feel slightly vulnerable. I have just been staying pretty much at home gardening, cooking etc. Have got into doing jigsaws and sudoku. I am learning German via Duolingo which is a free app and I do some each day. I have been on a diet and I have lost over a stone and a half. I have been following the Michael Mosely fast 800 diet. So think that is pretty impressive!! We should have been in Turkey now. 38°. They are having a heatwave. We are all safe and well and have been out over the last few days doing lots of very long walks. It has been lovely to meet up with a different friend each day. Janice.

Anna and Jeff's contribution:



I have been having a quiet time isolated at home with Jeff, and also our daughter Natalie, her husband and our little 15 month old granddaughter Rose, who have moved in with us for the foreseeable future. I spend quite a lot of my time with Rose, playing, singing, dancing and going for little walks. The weather has been so good, and we have enjoyed BBQs and walks in the surrounding area too. Jeff and I have a net to practise our golf swing, and a chipping set up, so have kept our hand in. We had our first game back at Chartham Park on Wednesday, just the two of us, having no contact with others, and following the rules very carefully. It was lovely to be back. Overall we are very lucky, and send our best wishes to our fellow twinningers.



Sue and Pete's contribution:



Sue seems to have been painting Trellis Sheds, Garage Doors and Windows and Gates on and off since the beginning of Lockdown. Thankfully she's almost finished. Keeping busy in the garden and grateful that garden centres have re-opened. We are all planning a "Breakout BBQ" in our garden, which is the largest, when we are allowed to mix again. Perhaps an idea for Twinning? We are missing our grandchildren terribly but Sue has managed two Zoom storytelling sessions and one socially distanced one in the grandchildren's garden.

Chris and Monika's contribution:

I have been able to get on my bike and do a 25km (15 mile) cycle around our area. This I do 4-5 times a week depending if I wake up early enough (05.50am) The route I do, takes me over the M23. One day I was surprised when I noticed it was open, so I took a photo. Normally this motorway is very busy at 7 am, but as you can see there are only one or two cars. Also, the skies are quiet. No planes!



Since writing the above, Monika and I have been taking walks in the Ashdown Forest. We have also seen the grandchildren. Luckily, our small garden is just big enough to keep our distance, and it is amazing that even five- and three-year olds understand the reason for this. Now we are waiting for Wales to open up so that we can meet our daughter halfway. – Apart from this, we have had to cancel two holidays booked for April and June and are waiting for refunds. We are also trying to sort out decades of photographs and do a bit of family history.



I have been spending a little time on my cross stitch but more time in the garden doing this.

I will be ready to be back at coffee mornings on Saturdays at the Library when we can, but I might look more like this.

Hope you and yours are well!
Julie Fleming



I now have the bird bath that Mindelheim presented to us erected and waiting for the birds, picture attached. Last Saturday I went to East Court and sat on the seat most generously presented to us at our retirement, for the first time, thank you.

When this shut down is over, I think it calls for a big party when we are able to meet.

**With best wishes.
Ken**



Jim's enjoying takeaways from the London Road Bar and Grill and has lovely neighbours who shop for him. The Beard he's grown during lockdown has convinced us that the Lions will probably contact him and ask him to be this year's Father Christmas!!

VE Day Celebrations

We had a VE Day drinks party on a communal lawn where we all brought our own things and kept our distance - just like being on a street.

Anna & Jeff.



We enjoyed a VE Day Tea in our front garden socially distanced from 8 groups of neighbours and at 7pm moved on to Prosecco.

If you missed The Spitfire Flypast over the town on VE Day. Good news - Its returning on September 15th for **BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY**

Sue & Pete



**Bill & Mary
Pearman**
Entering into the spirit of things.



On a sad note two past members have recently died, they were David Gadbury who was tragically killed on his bicycle at Sackville roundabout, and Beryl Brown who died last week.

German May time traditions

Contribution by Vicky Jackson

We may be familiar with May time traditions in this country, but what celebrations take place in our twin towns? Here are some German traditions you may not be so familiar with.



The first of May is a public holiday filled with local traditions especially in Bavaria. It's a time when local people dress in national costume and come together to celebrate this important occasion. The central attraction is undoubtedly the Maypole, known as the 'Maibaum' in German. Sadly due to the current restrictions, such a Maypole or May tree won't have been the centre of this year's May Day celebrations. However, traditionally in Mindelheim as in many Bavarian towns and villages, a tall, straight tree trunk is felled and placed in the main square. These May trees are then uniquely decorated with ribbons, wreaths or signs denoting local craftsmen's guilds. When everything is in place it's time to celebrate with brass band music, dancing and plenty of beer. Indeed, many Bavarian breweries produce a special strong beer called 'Maibock' at this time of year. Then there is the tradition of serving 'Maibowle', a type of punch using white wine which is flavoured and garnished with sweet woodruff. This is a refreshing drink usually served on a warm afternoon. The above picture shows a May tree with craftsmen's guild symbols

taken in the Bavarian town of Tegernsee.



At this time of year chocolate May beetles and ladybirds often adorn confectionery shop windows. This goes back to the 17th century when the May beetle was seen as the harbinger of spring.

The prankish act of youngsters shaking trees to capture such beetles is well documented in the poet and illustrator Wilhelm Busch's children's story of the two rascals 'Max und Moritz'. Also at this time of year in some German regions small birch trees often decorate house fronts. This goes back to a tradition where young men placed such saplings outside the houses of their girlfriends or their betrothed. It is also interesting to note that Mother's Day in Germany always falls on the second Sunday in May.


