

Chairman's Letter

November 2013

To all members of the Yate and District Twinning Association

Firstly may I say it was both a surprise and an honour to be chosen as your next Chairman and I will do my very best to guide the Y&DTA over the next twelve and challenging months ahead. The previous Chair Ruth Boulton provided the Y&DTA with a clear and professional leadership during the five years she was in office and we all owe her a great deal of thanks for all her hard work and dedication over that period. Ruth has now taken over the post as Association Secretary which for me will mean I have someone to call upon for expert assistance and guidance as I settle in. Ruth takes over the Secretariat from Alan Spiller who has also devoted a great deal of his personal time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the Y&DTA over the continuous ten years he has held that post, so many thanks to you Alan as well.

At the AGM I did say that I had two objectives:

1. Firstly I aim to try and improve communications between ourselves and our good friends and hosts in Bad Salzdetfurth. As you may or may not know the group in Bad Salzdetfurth do not have the same formal organisation as we do here in Yate. Therefore I will be writing to Reinhard as leader of the Bad Salzdetfurth group to start a dialogue on what can be done to improve our mutual understandings and aspirations for the future, and in this way build a solid and sustainable path for the future.
2. Secondly I would like to try and involve you the members more in the day to day business of the Y&DTA. I must say I was a little disappointed at the attendance for the Planning Meeting held on the day following the AGM and although you are lucky to have a very good committee it would have been advantageous to have had some new ideas, suggestions and input from non-committee members. One member's suggestion was to have more presentations by speakers similar to the one given by Rafael at this year's AGM, this is something that although at an embryonic stage will definitely be part of next year's programme.

The proposed programme for 2014 will be circulated to all members very shortly and I would be personally grateful if you would each study the programme and provide any feedback good or bad, verbally or written to myself or any committee member. In this way the committee and myself can be confident that the programme best serves the majority of members.

If you would like to contact me personally on any matter please do not hesitate to either email me at nigel@bs36.fsnet.co.uk or by telephone on 01454 778227. I do have an answerphone so should I not be available please leave your number and I will return your call at the earliest opportunity.

Finally I apologise for this rather lengthy letter but trust you will understand that this is just one part of my objective of involving non-committee members, like you, more in the day to day business of the Y&DTA.

Thank you for your attention

Nigel Ellis

Chairman of Yate and District Twinning Association