



# DUNBAR AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

[www.twinning.dunbar.org.uk](http://www.twinning.dunbar.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009



Christmas Greetings from the committee  
to all friends around  
Dunbar and district and in  
Lignieres and the surrounding cantons.

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**  
**7:30pm**  
**Dunbar Day Centre, Westgate.**

Please come and bring your friends along to our annual general meeting in February. Hear more about previous and planned activities and stay to enjoy a chat over refreshments. Don't miss the chance to renew your membership for another year! Please check the date in the press nearer the time.

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### The Rich Task

The S1s at Dunbar Grammar School (DGS) are currently working on a special project during Modern Languages time. For one period each week they are completing activities for the "Bonjour Lignières" Rich Task. The year is divided into three themes - Myself, My School, My Community, and each pupil will complete three different types of task, one for each theme - Making a Web Page, Making an Film, and Creative Expression.

They will also be spending time on other related activities and topics - researching famous French people, learning about the history of DGS, and discovering the secrets of Dunbar - as well as learning about our twin town. The web pages, films and pieces of art are intended as a means of communicating with pupils in Lignières and we hope to re-establish links with the school and the town through this project.

We would also very much like to get the people of Dunbar and Lignières involved in the task as well - we would like to invite members of the Dunbar community to come and talk to students

about their memories of DGS and of the town throughout the years. They have already been shown the film made in 1987 to promote the grammar school to the cluster primaries!

This is a pilot project and we hope that it will be successful enough for us to continue with it in the future!

Sheilagh Fallon, PT Modern Languages, Dunbar Grammar School

### Thomas S Main, born 1<sup>st</sup> July 1950 died 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Tom Main was a member of the long established Main family in Haddington.

Shortly after his marriage Tom and Ray came to live in Dunbar which was to be his home for the rest of his life. Local government had become much more political as a result of the 1974 act. Tom Main agreed to stand in the Dunbar Burgh ward at the 1977 election. He was elected and was re-elected for a second term in 1980. He retired in 1984 to devote more time to business.

Tom was involved in various aspects of Dunbar life. He was particularly involved with the Twinning Association. He had been involved with the Haddington link with Aubigny sur Nere when he was younger.

Tom supported the idea of the link with Lignieres and he went to France for the signing ceremony in the Chateau of Lignieres in the autumn of 1994. Ray had become the conductor of Dunbar Choral Society in 1989 and Tom was a tower of strength to her, not only in the mounting of the concerts in Dunbar, but also for the two important visits made to France by the Choral Society. The first was in April 1995, when the society took part in a concert in the Abbaye de Chezal Benoit on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and another in the Cathedrale de St Etienne de Bourges on Palm Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April. This concert was in the presence of the Archbishop of Bourges.

The second visit was in April 2000 when the Choral Society took part in a concert in the parish church of Lignieres on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April and another in Chezal Benoit on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Tom continued to be interested in the activities of the Twinning Committee.

Stephen Bunyan

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### Trip to Lignieres.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October a group of 16 set off for Lignieres by Ryanair via Limoges. The purpose of the visit was to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our twinning agreement and also to make plans for the future. Members of the Lignieres comite de jumelage greeted us warmly at Limoges. The journey north took about 2 hours and on arrival we received a "vin chaud" reception in the market square "sous la halle". Speeches were brief, the welcome warm and the wine intoxicating. Then it was off with our host families for an evening meal.

A leisurely start on Saturday morning saw us congregate in the rain in Villecelin, a new canton in the jumelage, for a tree planting ceremony to mark our 15th. anniversary. Speeches were not so brief and umbrellas were produced as the rain became heavier. The French have had a very dry summer and had been praying for rain but they were still disappointed that it should have chosen to fall on this special occasion. Stephen concluded his speech by presenting the mayor of Villecelin with a saltire. Manon Soupizon and Xavier Herault both made short speeches saying how much they had enjoyed their visits to Dunbar in the summer before they were joined by 2 young children from Villecelin to drape a banner round the sapling and begin the planting. Members of the "Thiaulins de Lignieres" were dressed in costume and some played traditional music. A goat appeared with a nice warm tartan blanket over its back! Wine and snacks were distributed before we moved on for lunch.

A picnic was provided in an open-air shelter at the Chateau du Plaix. Everyone had a basket containing sandwiches, various fruits and a delicious chocolate mousse. Having had the fun of squeezing into the tiny loos, not all at once I hasten add, we had a guided tour around a exhibition of old photographs of local unidentified people (probably a relief to the little boy with no clothes on!) and also a demonstration of the use of old tools and toys. Then we were driven to St Hilaire-en-Lignieres where we viewed "La grange aux verrieres", an exhibition of the colourful windows made with a new method of creating stained glass which fuses glass-making technology with modern artistic flair. In the evening we returned to our host families for our meal.

As we had spent Sunday with our host families there was much to talk about when we gathered in the evening for a special dinner at St.Hilaire. The smoked salmon, which we had taken over, was handed around before we enjoyed an excellent dinner of soup, pork, cheese and apple tart and lots of wine. This was an opportunity for more speechmaking. Solange Soulat, Presidente du comite de jumelage, presented Stephen with a large plate from a local pottery and then Stephen stole the show with an hilarious speech presenting the card which Hilda Laurenson had had made to mark the occasion.

The college was the venue for a meeting on Monday morning between Paul Raffaelli, Sheilagh Fallon, Stephen Bunyan and local teachers. Over more food and wine plans were devised for return school exchanges over the next two years. Transport and child protection were the main issues addressed. The rest of us had a chance to wander around the Monday morning market – a chance to buy a few souvenirs for home.

The return journey was uneventful though there was a fair amount of drama at the airport trying to fit all the gifts into our weight restricted luggage – sadly some cheese and jam had to be left behind but the large plate did make it home, thanks to Sheilagh's large back pack.

The general consensus was this had been an excellent visit. New friendships have been made, old friendships cemented, the value of twinning reinforced, and most importantly, plans made for visits which will ensure the continuation and development of twinning in the future.

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### Scholarship

The comite de jumelage sponsored 2 students from Lignieres, Sophie Manon and Xavier Herault to come over in the summer for a period of work experience. The committee is very grateful to the Fineron and Simpson families for providing accommodation and to all those who provided work experience and went out of their way to make these visits enjoyable and educational.



Xavier's leaving party

### Office Bearers

**Chairperson:** Stephen Bunyan: 01368 86

**Vice Chairperson:** Alison Tossell: 01368 864891

**Treasurer:** Joy Smeed: 01368 862502

**Secretary:** Fay Stanton: 01368 862634

**Minute Secretary:** Rona Starr: 01368 862758

**East Lothian Council rep:** Cllr. Jackie Bell. 01368 863110

### Committee members:

Peter Armstrong

Ray Halliday or alternate

Simon Flower