

Hi Folks,

Firstly may I say just how grateful I am to all members of the Committee for helping get through a difficult year, and how pleased I am to see John coming forward to offer to take on the role of Chairman and Eleanore offering to remain as Vice Chairman, which should give us much confidence to look forward into the future. We know that the new Mayor of Witney is eager to be involved too, although sadly unable to attend this evening.

Similarly judging by our visits to both Le Touquet and Unterhaching this year, we know that our colleagues in France and Germany are equally keen to maintain the friendly relationship between our towns. This real friendship established over so many years is much appreciated as is the support of Witney Town Council through successive Mayors, Councillors and Town Hall staff. We particularly appreciate the opportunity to meet in our wonderful Town Hall and to be able to help with hosting visitors at the annual Remembrance Day commemoration ceremony . Indeed that is one of the few times that we try to arrange functions to appeal to our local members and we are grateful for Andy at Cafe Rouge for accommodating us in such a convenient location in a convivial way. We are always grateful when other local organizations, like the Town Band or the Voicebox choir are willing to support us. Jenny has managed to convey so much of this so effectively in our newsletter too.

Otherwise we try to encourage participation in visits to France and Germany and links between our schools, as well as hosting visitors. Great publicity opportunities have recently arisen through the development of the charity based Twin Towns Rally between Witney and Le Touquet and hopefully we can build on this in the future. None of this is easy for our present loyal but aging membership, but hopefully a new Chair will bring exciting changes and new ideas for the future.

Once again a sincere thank you to all our Committee members who help in so many different ways.

Mike Breakell