

## Watton Twinning Association Chairman's Report March 2024

This again has been a very busy year, which started with our AGM and Cream Tea in March then the Watton to Weeze visit in May, 15 members travelled on a 17 seat minibus, with our planned itinerary and Open House with Chairman Benedikt, Melonie and family a good time was had by all.

During our visit we had a special event at The Weeze RAF museum on the old RAF Laarbruch site which is now Weeze Airport. The museum has tripled its size from the last time we visited it by taking over some of the adjacent buildings. This celebration was made all the more special as with the help of Watton Town Council who very generously gave us a grant which enabled us to purchase 3 very large photo albums and to get printed hundreds of photos taken from the very start of twinning in 1984 when we were canvassing for members, the official signing in 1987 and right up until February 2024 also a framed collage picture of places of importance in Watton, these were presented to the people of the museum who were delighted to receive them, we had a great celebration with them and the Press was there to record it all for the newspapers.

The Coronation Picnic was very enjoyable also The Beetle Drive afternoon. Unfortunately I had to cancel the July event due to bereavement. Carnival was held in October at the Sports Centre which was later than usual, as we had our Oktoberfest at The Old Bell as well we decided not to do the town fireworks event as it was to many events in one month. A huge Thank You to Cindy and Graham at the Bell who always support us brilliantly with our fundraising. We also had a table at the Festive Market at the end of November, a very successful event.

Unfortunately I had to cancel our New Year Get-together in January due to a burst pipe and no heating. February we had our Anniversary Meal, a Carvery at the Old Bell Saham Toney, 16 members attended also our guests Watton Town Mayor Peter Bishop and his wife Catherine plus 1 other guest.

I hope members have been happy with the efforts that I with the enormous help of the committee have done throughout the year to keep all our events enjoyable and running smoothly. I'm very happy to say we have some new members Maude & Malcolm Ankomah & Terry Fenge. We need more people to come onto the committee at the moment there are just 5 of us, please think seriously about this if you wish your Twinning club to survive. We have meetings approx. every 2 months on Mondays. Except for the AGM all meetings are held at my place, during the winter months at 2pm and others start at 7pm and normally finish by 9pm. Please come and talk to me if you are interested

I would like to say a huge Thank You to our Watton Town Council for the huge support they have given us over the years.

**Many thanks to everyone who helped make these occasions successful.**

We are now looking forward and making plans for several events during the course of 2024/25

**May:-** Weeze to Watton Visit, 17 members travelling on 2 minibuses. Plans to be made.

**July:** Cream Tea & Quiz? Possibly a Beetle Drive

**Sept:-** Carnival?

**Oct:-** Town Fireworks & Oktoberfest

**Nov:-** Festive Christmas Market

**Jan 2025:-** New Year Get-together.

**Feb:** Anniversary Meal.

**March:** AGM

**This concludes my report for this year.**

Margaret Devine (Chairman)