Dear Watlington Residents

20th Anniversary Twinning Celebrations June 2nd – 6th

Last year, as you may recall, a party from Watlington travelled to our twin town, Mansle, in the Charente district of France, for the first stage of celebrations marking the 20th Anniversary of our twinning link. This year it is our turn to host the celebrations and our friends from Mansle will be joining us for a long weekend of at the beginning of June to mark this special occasion.

The aim of the Association is to foster a strong and lasting link between our two towns not only socially but through the schools, societies, sports clubs and businesses we have in our area. Our objective is, through our encouragement and support, that these links will eventually become self sustaining and grow into meaningful and rewarding exchanges of ideas and experiences. Already we are seeing some signs of success as a strong link is beginning to grow between Icknield Community College and the college in Mansle. The primary school also has very good contact with the ecole primaire. Mansle has also previously made requests for older students to carry out extended work experience with businesses in Watlington. Several local people already have close cultural, ownership and leisure ties with SW France and the Charente in particular.

Many residents have already visited Mansle and a few have entertained French visitors in their homes in the past. Some of us have had the pleasure of being entertained in homes in France and are keen to reciprocate. Quite simply the occasion in June may be seen as a unique opportunity to practise one's language skills in French or even in German for those who accommodate the small number of German and Austrian attendees. Those of you with pupils at Icknield college will already have received a letter from the school concerning accommodation of school counterparts.

On behalf of my committee, this is our request for you to become involved, by entering the detailed events in your diaries, by planning any special activities which you are normally involved with in this area, particularly which you feel would be of interest to our visitors; and most importantly by offering to accommodate one or two visitors or even more in your homes. Those of you who received, by email or by hand, our preliminary invitation in January to become involved, will be aware of the outline programme of events. We would now ask ALL concerned to communicate offers of accommodation to me at the above email address, or by note at my home address, or by personal contact to a Twinning Association committee member.

Our intention is that as many of the hosts as possible (who are so inclined) will be able to attend the external visits and community events which we arranging for our guests. The bigger events will be limited by ticket. The full programme for our guests is as follows:
June 2nd - 6th 2011

Thursday 2nd 6.30 Welcome by the Parish Council at the Town Hall – Canapes & Refreshments
Dinner with Hosts & Families
Friday 3rd 10.30 Alternative visits to RAF Benson / Rowse Honey / Chinnor & Pr. Risboro
Rwy 1pm Picnic at The Sportsfield
3pm Volunteering - the European perspective - workshop led by Peter Luff
5.30 Mansle Gardens – Presentation – Nibbles & Refreshments
8pm Hogroast - The Watlington Band at the Memorial Club (entry by ticket)
French choir – choral selection
Saturday 4th 9.30am & pm Visit to Oxford by Coach – The Ashmolean Museum – City walk -
Tour of Trinity College including Lunch – Shopping
8pm Dinner Dance & Swing Band at Icknield College (late with Bar – entry by ticket)
Sunday 5th 9am Voluntary Options – Church Service / Tennis Social (10 – 12) / Rifle range
/ Country / Town Walk
Noon – Light lunch with Hosts / Departure of some Guests
4.30pm Welsh male voice choir – performance for 100+ with note collection (tea)
8pm Informal Meal at Memorial Club – All + students.
Monday 6th Departure of remaining guests.

The above ‘Programme of Events’ which we have planned for June gives an excellent opportunity
for our visitors to see Watlington at work and play whilst enjoying the hospitality and friendship
that makes our community so special. French speakers and foreign language material will be on
hand at the various events where needed, and the varied and wide ranging nature of these events
should give our visitors a worthwhile and entertaining experience during their stay in Watlington.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss anything about these events in more detail. We
would also welcome the opportunity to discuss other ways in which your particular area of
interest can become involved in the Twinning concept. If your preference is to communicate by
note or letter rather than by email then please drop it in to my post box.

In expectation of a generous number of offers of accommodation, your cooperation is much
appreciated. Please do not delay in responding to this community request. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely
Alan Craddock, Chairman