

Annual Report 2022-3 Lowestoft and Plaisir Twinning Association.

In May, the fortieth anniversary of the Twinning between Plaisir and Bad Aussee was celebrated in Plaisir. Richard Allen and Valerie Soloman represented Lowestoft and were able to sell some English produce at a special market.

For our first activity for some time, we were pleased to welcome a group from Plaisir in July.

We had a show at Seagull Theatre organised by Angela Freakley.

One of the groups performing was FABBA; we will take a small group to visit Plaisir this year to perform for the Plaisirois.

While they were here, we took the Plaisirois to Kensington Gardens on the 100th anniversary of the Gardens, they then went to look at the Third Crossing under construction. Visits were also made to Carleton Marshes, Somerleyton Hall and Sutton Hoo. A visit to Beccles was made with our friends from Beccles Twinning acting as guides; the tour finished with afternoon tea at Beccles Church.

On the final day of the visit, guests and hosts came together for dinner at the Masonic Lodge, organised by Caroline Franks. We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Lowestoft and his wife to the dinner as well as old friends from our Association.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Lowestoft Town Council.

Our Easy fundraising account has raised £10.04 with only seven members. We hope others will join up to help us swell our funds.

In October we hosted other Twinning Associations for the Suffolk and Essex Congress at the Seagull Theatre, organised by Richard Allen. It was a pleasure to meet in person after having two years of meeting on Zoom. The attendance of Alan Green and Wendy Brooks was welcomed. We discussed our plans for the future: it was generally felt that our Associations needed younger members and that we could organise more events with neighbouring Associations.

In November, Peter Lang laid a poppy wreath at the remembrance service on behalf of the Association.

In January we had our Annual Dinner at the Masonic Lodge which was well attended. It was a pleasant evening that finished with a fund raising raffle.

COVID has severely restricted our activities, but we have met on Zoom and have plans for more activities in the coming year: Ten Pin Bowling; Film Nights; a Coffee Morning at the Grit. Our visit to Plaisir will, this year, be in April.

Many thanks to the Committee, for their continued support. It would be good to have more Committee members if there are people able to join us.

Richard Pulham (Chairman), February 2023.