



Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the next fundraising events we can be spurred on by the knowledge that the summer visit from La Ville aux Dames was very successful. The work put in by committee and friends of twinning to make the visit a memorable one for our French visitors did not go unnoticed. Our LVAD friends, both new and old acquaintances, were very appreciative of the warm welcome and care offered by their hosts as well as the full programme of events to inform and entertain them. The additional days, necessitated by the change in transport arrangements for the French this year, allowed for a few more free days to explore the area at will, and several of them made the trip by bus or train to Edinburgh where they enjoyed the festival atmosphere and the shopping.

The visit got off to a flying start with a reception held in the Captain's Room of the Maguire Building.



The canapés were prepared by friends of Dollar twinning and what a spread met the guests on their arrival.

Visits were made to New Lanark, Hopetoun House and Pitlochry but the highlight of the week seems to have been the French Café evening held in the Civic Centre. The hall was decorated to resemble a café; tables were set, reservations made, menus prepared.

The "staff" worked hard all evening to dispense food & drinks, serve and entertain the customers, but the stars of the evening were undoubtedly the teenagers.



They arrived dressed for their roles as waiting staff and enthralled the customers with their charm and attentiveness. They were so efficient that they kept the backroom staff on their toes. A special thanks go to Jimmy Scott who played a great selection of French tunes throughout the evening and to Mary Henderson who delighted the customers with a rendition of three French songs. Sadly, Jacques was unable to entertain us with his mandolin as he had earlier in the day taken a bad fall and had broken a bone in his hand. A trip to the hospital at Larbert soon had him in plaster. He is making a good recovery and by all accounts is playing his mandolin again.



During the week, an embroidered picture donated by Sheila Carman was raffled and raised over £200 for twinning. The delighted winner was Brian Mitchell, with the consolation prize of a special edition bottle of whisky going to Paul Boyce.

The visit ended with an emotional farewell barbecue at Robert's with promises of renewing the friendships next year in LVAD.



More photos of the visit can be viewed on our website ([Google Dollar Twinning](#)).

## 2014 VISIT TO LA VILLE AUX DAMES

We now have dates for next year's visit to LVAD, leaving Dollar on Wed 9th July and arriving back in Dollar on Fri 18th July. In the past, we have left Dollar on the Friday morning for the overnight Hull/Zeebrugge ferry, arriving in LVAD on the Saturday afternoon and spending the week there before departing the following Saturday morning. However, the ferry is significantly cheaper mid-week and so it has been agreed with the French committee for us to arrive on the Thursday for a week. This may of course cause problems for those who work and can only travel at weekends but the consensus view of those at the recent meeting was a positive one in view of the reduced costs. Nothing has been booked yet since we need to have at least thirty travellers to make the bus a viable option. If you wish to participate in next year's visit, please let us know as soon as possible but if the midweek departure date is unsuitable due to work commitments then please contact us as there may be other options available. We would encourage as many people to come as possible. You can be assured of a great welcome in LVAD. Check out last years' visit on our website for a taste of what to expect. Going by coach has many advantages: your luggage goes on in Dollar and needn't be handled again until your arrival in LVAD, the journey provides an opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers better, the ferry crossing, with cabin and food included, adds to that holiday feeling. Once in LVAD, the French committee organise and fund several daytime excursions and evening entertainments with free time to explore the surrounding area of Tours. If you have never been to the Loire Valley with its many chateaux and vineyards but would like to visit the area then this is the perfect opportunity, with no shortage of local guides to educate your taste buds. Go on, take the plunge, practise that rusty French you learned at school all these years ago. It's **FUN**. This kind of trip is suitable for everyone from families to couples and singles of all ages. Come along, make new friends both here and in La Ville aux Dames!

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wed 13th Nov** : AGM in St James Rooms at 7.30pm

**Sat 23rd Nov** : Xmas Coffee Morning in the Burnside Hall from 10 - 12 noon

**Fri 17th Jan** : Fete des Rois in Civic Centre at 7.30pm. Look out for details nearer the time!

**Sat 8th March** : Family Ceilidh Dance in the Burnside Hall at 7pm. Look out for posters!

**Wed 9th - Fri 18th July 2014** : Visit to La Ville aux Dames. Look out for further details!

## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Yes, it really is that time of year already!

As ever, we will be looking for donations of mince pies and shortbread for the tables as well as donations for the usual stalls of Baking & Home Produce, Crafts & Gifts with a Xmas theme, Bottles of any shape, size or content and Second Hand Books. In addition there will a raffle of one of Barbara's beautiful paintings generously donated by her daughter Belinda and a Xmas cake to guess the weight of. We also hope to have something special for the children. The Museum will be there too with a selection of quality items including calendars, cards & coasters. At £2.50 entrance, it's a steal! (children 50p). With this much on offer, we will also need volunteers to help with stalls, kitchen duties and serving. If you have any of the above talents, please let us know and we will find you suitable employment. Tickets are on sale now from any committee member.

## AGM

The committee hopes to welcome as many of you as possible. The AGM provides an ideal opportunity to pass on information about twinning but also to encourage discussion about twinning events and ways of attracting more people to join in this worthwhile community activity. The committee welcomes your input. If you feel you would like to participate more fully in twinning, there may be an opportunity to join the committee. Don't be shy! Put yourself forward! We also hope to have more information about next year's trip to pass on to you at the meeting. Time is moving on and we need to know potential numbers to allow us to reserve a coach before the prices rise. If you cannot attend the AGM but wish to join the trip next year, please contact us as soon as possible.

**The meeting will take place in St James Rooms at 7.30pm on Wed 13th November.**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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