

Devon Twinning Circle, 21st January 2023

Finance Session

Income.

Membership fees range from no fee to £30. It was felt that payment indicates a commitment to twinning and benefits include full participation in twinning activities, travelling and visiting arrangements made particularly in visits abroad. All associations also undertake other funding raising activities.

Some associations receive a small amount of funding (£300 was the most we heard of) from their local authority, usually for special events e.g. reception for their visitors especially if there is a dignitary attending. This funding is often in the form of providing for the event rather than a cash payment.

Fundraising.

Suggestions included: quizzes, beetle drives, wine tasting, all manner of social events, jumble sales, barbecues

Anything involving food is a money-maker so long as paid staff are not needed.

Arrangements when hosting.

It seems that all coach drivers are accommodated by the association and treated as any other twinning guest.

Where non-members are hosting, one group offers complimentary membership.

Most associations ask hosts to pay for themselves for visits and activities while their twins are here, though some are subsidised. The visitors are all paid for by the association. One association gives £5 for guests lunch when out on a twinning visit. Most groups invite non-members to join them on these visits.

Arrangements when visiting.

Some associations have been able to get a reduction on the group travel rate from Brittany Ferries because they are twinning groups.

It was noted that due to insurance regulations, only those who travelled abroad on a coach are allowed on it while they are there.

Fund-raising through sales in other countries has effectively been stopped by Brexit as we can no longer export goods as before.

Gifts for host countries are many and various, ranging from tea towels for everyone (this was to commemorate 50 years of twinning) to the ubiquitous phone boxes. The cost does not normally exceed £40 - £50. One association no longer give civic gifts but supports a local charity nominated by their twinning partner, the £50 is donated by the local Council which is matched by the twinning association. This often attracts publicity.