

Tiverton Town Twinning Association Newsletter



Spring 2026



News from Hofheim



To start, **Kathleen & Willi** sent best wishes from "Good Old Germany"!

Not to be outdone, **Gisela & Rüdiger** sent us their New Year's wishes from "The End of the Earth"!



And now, the weather. In common with us here in Devon, the weather in Hofheim has been appalling in the early part of the year. One couple likened the constant cloud and rain to a damp and dismal Dartmoor. Let's hope it stops in time for our visit in September!



Those of you who know **Wolfgang Exner** will appreciate what a fun and jovial person he is. His cheerful enthusiasm is sure to have been a contributing factor in his unanimous election as president of Hofheim Lions for the year 2026/27. A previous president some 9 years ago, Wolfgang will now guide the Lions towards their 50th anniversary.



The sad news reached us on 31st January that **Linda Weber** had passed away that morning. Heartfelt condolences and kind thoughts were sent from the Twinning Association.



Sunday Service



It was with great pleasure that we were able to recognise our very own "Masterchef" by awarding her a special apron in November.



For many years, **Shirley Grant** has worked hard to provide us with countless delicious 3-course meals. She is admired for her ability to cater for large numbers,

and of course, for the quality and imagination of her dishes.

Shirley's health issues are well known, yet despite often being in pain, her cuisine never disappoints. Unfortunately, she is unwell at present, so we hope she gets well soon.

Jean Aplin is very active behind the scenes at Sunday lunches. She books the Hall, circulates the details to members, takes acceptances and sends reminders. These are substantial tasks which she repeats for every event.

Jean also helps with table decorations, organises the provisions for the teas and coffees and even provides a taxi service for those unable to drive.



This kind of service helps to keep up the numbers. So she too deserves a big thank you.

Dorothy Smith & Hilary Mepsted (chefs), **John Smith** (kitchen porter and chief potato masher) also deserve a "thank you" for their untiring service. As do **Linda McGinn, Val Hind, Angie Cockburn** and **EVERYONE ELSE** who helps with numerous practical and organisational tasks.

 **Chairman's Chat** 



Well, it's been a long wet winter, but I have now come out of hibernation! So, a few updates for you in this newsletter.

In the same way that I like to look forward to the warmer weather and the chance to get out and about, I also like to anticipate future twinning events. On 28th May TTTA has been invited to the Annual Parish Evening at the New Hall – we shall have a stall with a slideshow of photos and tasters of French and German wines. Good publicity and an opportunity to find new members!

Some 24 of us are winging or driving our way to Hofheim in early September for what I'm sure will be another enjoyable and memorable visit. Matthias and Ulla are busy putting together a varied programme of events, and as ever, Angie is heavily into organising the travel.

Meanwhile, here is a fun, colourful card sent by the Chairman of the Hofheim partnership:



With kind permission of Heidi Werkmann

Happy Easter, everyone.

Graeme

TTTA Social Meals 2026

May 17 th	Roast Pork Meal
June 28 th	Cream Tea @ 3
July 26 th	Tarragon Chicken
September 6 th	Harvest Lunch
October 4 th	Autum Meal – Lasagne
November 1 st	French Meal - Cassoulet
December 11 th	Grand Christmas Meal

All are at 1pm at Halberton Village Hall except the Cream Tea (3pm). The Grand Christmas meal which will be at Tiverton FC as usual.

 tta.org.uk 

Don't forget to check out our website for updated photos and twinning information!



Chinon



Our efforts to encourage the revival of the Chinon partnership continue, with approaches being made from several angles. Unfortunately, so far without success. Individual members of Tiverton twinning are, however, continuing to visit friends there, so our link is not entirely lost at this stage.

It may be some consolation to know that red wine from Chinon is now available in Morrisons!

TTTA Committee Matters

Yes, it certainly does! Because without the Committee things just would not happen. It has continued to meet regularly and has enjoyed the solid support of the Mayor of Tiverton, Neal Davey, during his term of office.

It is understood that his role as mayor will cease in May, in which case we offer him our sincere thanks. But we shall not lose touch with Neal and his wife, Libby, as they will continue to be worthy members of TTTA.

The Committee would like extend a big welcome 2 new members: **Pauline Dodsworth** and **Fritz Kraft**, who have already enjoyed a couple of Sunday lunches with us. Willkommen!

We are sad to remember here the passing of **Pauline Knowles**, wife of **Dennis**, a long-time member of Tiverton Twinning, on 9th November 2025.

Her funeral was held on 1st December at St Peter's Church.

May Pauline rest in peace.