



Dear Friends,

As we move into the 25th year of twinning between our two communities, we can look back with pride on the many successes of the twinning. Over the years, many Dollar families have been involved in the exchanges and we are very grateful for their generosity and support. Many lasting friendships have been forged between families in La Ville aux Dames and Dollar. Without question, we in Dollar have benefitted from these exchanges as they have also promoted new friendships between members of our own community, as we all work towards a common end to continue and strengthen the links between our two towns.

We are now looking forward to our visit to La Ville aux Dames in July when we will celebrate this milestone of 25 years. If you want to be a part of this, please get in touch with Alison Sangster. At present, we have 33 confirmed bookings for the trip but there is plenty of space available for any latecomers. So if you think you might like to join us, now is the time to tell us as we will soon have to confirm cabin reservations with the ferry company. We will be travelling with Fitzcharles Coaches of Grangemouth, who have provided us with excellent service in previous years, crossing from Hull to Zeebrugge. It is a long journey but the overnight crossings do add to the enjoyment of the trip for many people, as it provides opportunities for further socialising on board ship. Despite our offer of discounted rates for children and students, we have been disappointed at the lack of interest from younger people, with currently only two teenagers accompanying us. With the range of exciting holidays on offer these days it's difficult for us to compete, although it would be a very worthwhile experience for our youngsters to enjoy the hospitality offered by the host families in La Ville aux Dames as well as practising their newly acquired language skills.

We look forward to meeting up with you at any or all of our 2006 events, which you will also find advertised on the Dollar Community Web Site. As this is the first newsletter of the year, I would also like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year on behalf of Dollar Twinning Committee,
Eunice.

FETE DES ROIS

2006 got off to a flying start for us with the Fête des Rois in January. The evening went very well and was enjoyed by eighty people. David Reynolds and Linda Rice were crowned King and Queen for the evening by last year's monarchs, Anne Beech and Bill Cook. The competition between their respective teams was fierce and, too close to call in the end, a draw was declared. A delicious buffet was prepared and served by committee members and friends and we are indebted to them all for their hard work. Robert organised an excellent raffle with all the prizes donated by local Dollar shops and friends of twinning and we are grateful for their support.



APRIL FLING

Our annual Ceilidh Dance will be held as usual in the **Coronation Hall in Muckhart** on **Sat 1st April**. Dollarfield Band will be providing the music and Benny's will provide the buffet supper. Tickets at £10 adult, £5 teenagers, Free for under 12, are on sale now from committee members. The price also includes a welcome drink but there will be **no bar** so remember to bring your own drinks.

We are expecting some visitors from La Ville aux Dames for this weekend. So far, we know that Dominique Mazaleyrat, Lucas Smeets and the Ruflets are definitely coming but there is also a possibility that Chantale Morin will be also be accompanying them. We expect them to arrive on Friday 31st March and stay until the Tuesday. If you would like an opportunity to meet up with any of our visitors during the weekend please let us know in plenty of time.

PETANQUE EVENING

Following the success of the petanque evening at the Birds'n'Bees in July, we will be repeating the event there. Although it means travelling to Stirling, the benefits of playing on a good surface, and the excellent buffet supper provided by the restaurant, makes it a very attractive option. We hope to arrange this for June so keep an eye out for posters and notices in the local papers nearer the time.

50 CLUB WINNERS 2006

January	1st	Jean Davison
	2nd	Minnie Sutherland
February	1st	Jeff Scales
	2nd	Nancy Hunter

There are still 2 numbers available for 2006. If you would like the chance to win any of the last ten monthly draws for only a tenner, please contact Paul Boyce as soon as possible.

POISSON D'AVRIL

In the last newsletter we posed the question : "Why might the spring dance on the 1st April have a fishy theme?" The clue was the date, it being April Fools Day. In France, April Fools Day is celebrated with pranks, as in this country, but why is it known as "Poisson d'avril"?

The playing of practical jokes on the first of April dates back to 1582 when France became the first country to change over from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. The New Year was moved from the end of March to January 1st. Those who were unaware of, or disregarded, the change became the butt of various jokes. But what about the fish? This may have origins in the abundance of fish in French rivers during early April after the young fish had just hatched. These "poissons d'avril" had a reputation for stupidity, being easy to fool with a hook and lure, and so it was illegal to fish them. It may have become customary to fool people in celebration of this abundance of foolish fish. Well, that's one theory!

Congratulations go to Mary Henderson who won a bottle of wine for correctly answering the question.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman :	Eunice Wilson (742926)
Vice-chair :	Pauline Kirkwood (742076)
Treasurer :	Paul Boyce (781399)
Secretary :	Alison Sangster (742344)
Members :	Robert Anderson (743920)
	Alan Briscoe (01577 840680)
	Douglas Houston (07843625374)
	Minnie Sutherland (742787)

Note : due to Roger Carman's continuing poor health, Pauline has agreed to step in as acting Vice Chair for the rest of the year. All our thoughts are with Roger and Sheila.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 1st April : The Spring dance will be held in the Coronation Hall, Muckhart, doors open 7.30 for 8pm. The tickets, priced £10 for adults, £5 for teenagers with children under 12 free, include a welcome drink and a buffet supper. **As there will be no bar, a condition of the let of the hall, please bring your own drinks.** Tickets are on sale now from committee members.

Thurs 4th May : There will be a meeting for all those going to La Ville aux Dames in St James Parish Rooms at 8pm. Letters with additional details will be sent in advance of this to all travellers.

Sat 3rd June : It's **Gala Day!** We will be looking for volunteers and crepes for our stall and donations of items for a French hamper which will be raffled.

Friday 9th June : The Petanque Evening at the Birds'n'Bees has been booked for 7pm. Details will follow nearer the time. Numbers will be limited so book your place now.

21st – 30th July : The trip to LVAD will depart Dollar on the morning of Friday 21st, returning to Dollar on Sunday 30th July. There are still some places left on the coach. Why not come and join us!

£10 CHALLENGE

Since several people indicated that they would support this fundraising idea, first mentioned at the AGM in November, we have been surprised at the lack of interest since then. Having mentioned it again at the Fete des Rois in January with no response, we will try again via this newsletter and at the April Fling when Paul will come armed with his envelopes of tenners. If there is still no uptake we will abandon the challenge. For those of you who weren't at either of these previous events, and haven't a clue what we mean, the idea is a simple one. We give you £10 to spend on materials or ingredients and ask you to, at least, **double it**, in whatever way you want. All that we ask is that it's legal! Some ideas include charging your friends for a Soup'n'Sandwich Lunch or a Coffee Morning, Guess a doll's birthday/name, hold a Wine Tasting evening or a Murder Mystery evening, sell garden produce, baking or craft items. We would be willing to provide opportunities for the sale of goods either by providing a table at any of our events, such as the Gala, or by advertising in our newsletters. You will have many more interesting ideas but the one thing we would advise you not to undertake, without consulting us first, is a raffle due to the legal implications concerning Gaming Laws. If you would like to take up the challenge please contact a committee member to receive your £10. If you think you will need more than £10, for example if you wish to hold a wine tasting evening, there is no limit on the number of tenners you can have as long as you double what we give you! We look forward to hearing about your ingenious fundraising schemes.