

## **CORSHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

### **Annual General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Present at the meeting:** Neil Carrigan, Jo Reeves, Lindon Collins, Claire Vallorge, Maurice Hancock, Roger Fido, Christine Bastow, Maggie Taylor, John Rayner, Millie Carter, Chris Riley, Ian Brain, Jim Ball, Sally Fletcher, Beryl Gale, Peter Gale, David Taylor, Margaret Smith, Elaine Marston, Keith Stephens, Susan Wingrave, Matt Wingrave, Averil Coppock, Peter Coppock, Dorothy Lamont, John Lamont, Joan MacIver, Margaret Mills, Elizabeth Millward, Nigel Millward

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Charles Boyle, Isabel Boyle, Carol Brain, Bronwyn Riley, Rob & Pat Cannings, Roger Clifton, Ray & Chris Tarling, Graham & Cynthia Canfield and Christine Taylor

#### **2. Chairman's introduction**

Neil welcomed everyone to the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Corsham Twinning Association. He apologised for the change of venue to the Community Centre at short notice, this was due to an electrical fault at the Fire Station. Wine had not been provided due to the corkage charge and a bar was available.

#### **3. Minutes of AGM 2009:**

Minutes from the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved.

#### **4. Matters arising:**

(i) The date of Jargeau's visit to Corsham in 2010 was changed to October due to the timing of the EU funding application. We succeeded in securing a grant of €8000 and a report of the visit was in preparation for submission to the EU. Substantial funds were available to subsidise Corsham's visit to Jargeau in 2011, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Twinning.

(ii) Pat Cannings of the Ad Hoc drama group has informed us that links have been made with Trac, their counterparts in Jargeau. It was intended to put on a (possibly joint) drama production at Jargeau in 2011.

(iii) Millie Carter said links had been made between choral societies in both towns. Events may include Corsham Wind Band, which would celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.

(iv) Maurice Hancock confirmed that the Fire Station had been refurbished and it was hoped to hold some Twinning events there in the future. Liz Millward said a temporary drinks licence could be bought for £25 if required.

#### **5. Chairman's address**

Neil said the CTA had had a very successful year with good attendance at all events:

- A wine tasting with Bona wines – another to be organised in 2011
- A Quiz night: - thanks to Roger Fido and family for organising this event

- A boules tournament in Box - thanks to Charles Boyle for organising this. Neil congratulated Maurice Hancock and his team "The 3 Wise Men" on their second victory and presented the engraved trophy to Maurice.
- The French Market morning - thanks to the sub-committee: Chris Bastow, Clare Vallorge, Maurice Hancock and Jo Reeves.
- The annual BBQ – thanks to Millie for hosting this, a great success in spite of the bad weather
- Hosting our visitors from Jargeau – which saw a fantastic programme of events, including a trip to the Welsh National Assembly in Cardiff; a boat trip around Cardiff Bay; and a debate in the Town Hall with the Chippenham MP, the local Labour Party representative, and an MEP, with thanks to Claire Vallorge for translation. A number of people had helped to organise the programme of events and thanks were given as follows:
  - To Charles Boyle, for the Scottish-themed dinner on the Saturday night (30<sup>th</sup> Nov)
  - To Liz and Nigel Millward, for the Anglo-French Church service at St Bartholomew's on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Nov
  - To Lindon Collins and Claire Vallorge, for the children's pumpkin carving competition, for which the French won the Junior trophy
  - To Chris Riley, for the skittles competition, for which Corsham re-gained the Henderson trophy
  - To Roger Fido for his sterling efforts in organising the trip and for matching hosting families so successfully
  - To the membership who hosted visiting families
- Neil noted the passing of former Twinning member Mr Beaver who would be sadly missed
- Neil thanked all the committee members for their support. He was going to step down after 2 years as Chairman, and wished the new Chairperson well.
- All present thanked Neil for his excellent chairmanship of the CTA

## **6. Financial report**

Roger Fido (Treasurer) presented this year's accounts, which had been audited. There was a healthy balance, with £1400 in the bank and £4000 to come from the EU grant. Insurance costs had been substantially reduced and fixed for 3 years, for which the Chairman thanked Roger.

Roger announced plans for the trip to Jargeau in 2011. The visit would take place between 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October, leaving Corsham at 0900 and travelling to France via the Tunnel, staying in a hotel North of Paris for the night and arriving in Jargeau lunchtime on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>. The return journey would also be via the tunnel, arriving back in Corsham about 11pm on Tues 25<sup>th</sup>. Roger will write to all members with details, asking them without commitment to indicate whether they may wish to go, to help

determine the size of coach required etc. It was hoped to contain costs to around £75 per head, as in 2009.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee**

The election for member of committee included:

Chairman: Carol Brain (proposed: Neil Carrigan, Seconded, Roger Fido). Carol was unable to attend the AGM, but Neil read a statement from her expressing her willingness to stand as Chair. Her nomination was accepted.

Secretary: Jo Reeves (proposed: Roger Fido, Seconded, Millie Carter)

Treasurer: Roger Fido (proposed : Sally Fletcher, Seconded, Liz Millward)

The Committee was open to welcome new members. Ian Brain would join; Claire Vallorge would step down, and thanks were expressed for all her hard work. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at the Corsham Club. Further details were available on the website.

## **7. AOB**

- Maurice Hancock thanked Neil again for his efforts as Chairman which had really lifted the Twinning Association
- Millie Carter suggested an approach should be made to Junior Council members to encourage more young people to join the Twinning Association and participate in its activities. Chris Riley undertook to follow this up through the Town Council. Members were keen to increase the involvement of younger people
- Sally Fletcher referred to the Twinning's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2011 and proposed some means of commemoration in the town (eg a plaque). The Association's archives are held in the Wilts & Swindon Heritage Centre. Involvement of those who were involved at the beginning would be good.

## **7. Date of next AGM**

Friday 18th November 2011, venue to be confirmed,(likely to be Corsham Fire Station).