

# CORSHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 22/11/2013

**Present at the meeting:** Roger & Ann Fido, Bridget Fido, Ian Scrannage, Maurice Hancock, Jo Reeves, Neil Carrigan, Christine Bastow, Margaret Smith, Matt Wingrave, Maggie & John Rayner, Charles Boyle, Peter & Felicity Hurlow-Jones, Chris Taylor, Sally Fletcher, Jane & Cliff Gater, Margaret Mills, Keith Stephens, Carole & Ian Brain, Roger Clifton, Penny Gardiner, John & Joan McIver, Rob & Pat Cannings, Graham & Cynthia Canfield

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sue Wingrave, Lindon Collins, Chris Riley, Isobel Boyle, Humphrey & Elizabeth Barnikel.

### 2. Chairman's welcome

Roger Fido welcomed everyone to the 33<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Corsham Twinning Association.

### 3. Approval/amendments of minutes of AGM 2012:

The minutes from the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 were approved, proposed by Neil Carrigan and seconded by Ian Brain. It was noted that the difference of £17 in the closing balance reported for 2011/12 and the opening balance for 2012/13 was accounted for by an unrepresented cheque.

### 4. Chairman's address:

Roger Fido's report was as follows:

*"This time last year I took over the Chairmanship, when the association was moving forwards after a quiet period in its evolvement. We continue to gather momentum and our membership is now 79 paid up members. That I believe is a healthy number to ensure our future.*

*Our committee has met monthly and organised a number of events which have all been well supported by you. From these we have gained some funds to give us a financial cushion for future visits by Jargeau.*

*As many of you will know, grants for twinning visits are becoming as rare as hens teeth. Our friends in Jargeau are usually successful, but even they failed this year, albeit by just 2 1/4 points. We took up the grants matter with the EU via our MEP. We eventually got a reply which advised us that in the tranche our MEP investigated only 102 of the 242 applications were successful and of those 102 only 2 were from the UK. In some mitigation, they did tell us that in 2011/12 of a total of 6000 applications, only 160 were from the UK (about2%). Perhaps, like us, others feel it a useless exercise to try after so many failures. It does seem that success is weighted towards new Europe.*

*It was our intention for next year's visit to not even bother to apply. The amount of work involved both before and after the event is arduous and very time consuming with obviously no guarantee of success. However when we had our joint meeting in Jargeau this year, we came under intense pressure from their committee to at least try. Rather reluctantly, I have to say, we relented and agreed to give it another go.*

*Many of you here this evening were on the visit so I will not bore you with details. For those unable, for whatever reason, to join us let me say it was considered by all to be a great success. Our hosts were able to put on a great visit despite no EU grant, and in fact gave us a pattern to follow for the future. We retained the Henderson Trophy thanks partly to dead-eyed Millie, our coach driver, and our Town Council Representative. The Junior trophy remains in France. My thanks again go to everyone on the visit for keeping to the timings-especially to arrive in Jargeau just 3 minutes before our scheduled arrival time. I have written to Hatts with our thanks to their staff and especially Wayne.*

*On the subject of visits, we have for a while now exchanged at the October half term. The French have found first that the channel can be rough-so they use the tunnel like us. Then our weather at the end of October can be unfriendly-remember the snow when they left last year? We have therefore agreed that for 2014 we will try a June visit. They will arrive lunchtime on Friday 6th June and depart Monday 9<sup>th</sup> morning. We already have an embryo of ideas to make the visit entertaining, but as ever what we are able to do will depend on funds available. We will not hear from the EU until about 6 weeks before their arrival which is far too late to make plans for say 70/80 visitors. We are therefore proceeding on the basis of no grant, but if successful we can be more generous.*

*We have already discussed a programme of events for next year with some shuffling of dates to accommodate the visit. It starts with a quiz –with fish and chips –18th January. As this year we will hold a BBQ, wine tasting, boat trip-different destination, boules, and 2, possibly more, new events. You will be getting a full list in the new year when subs become due. Please support as many events as you can-it rewards our efforts.*

*I would like to say a special thank you to our committee, especially the officers, Charles Boyle vice chairman, Matt Wingrave Treasurer, and Jo who have turned out in good numbers every month to discuss forthcoming events and put in ideas. As most of you will know, Jo Reeves, now Carrigan is starting a family, due in March, and has decided to step down as Secretary. I have enormous respect for the work she has done for all of us and cannot thank her too much for the records she has kept and keeping you all in the loop. Whilst she will be very much missed I am pleased to say that Sue Wingrave-wife of our treasurer- has agreed to take over the role and I am sure she will find it interesting and I hope not too demanding.*

*There are other committee changes. Millie Carter who has supported us for many years, has now moved to Saltford, and whilst she will still be a member, she has resigned from the committee. Ian and Carole Brain have also decided to withdraw. They run the Royal Oak and Carole still has a full time job which often takes her away from home. Chris Riley will also probably be leaving this area part way through next year, so I am now seeking new volunteers to help us continue the good work. Neil Carrigan has agreed to rejoin us, more in an advisory capacity than hands on, as again with a heavy workload, a new baby and a house to look after, his time is limited. Later in this meeting we*

*come to appointments so please give it a thought in the next few minutes. The more active committee members we have, the lighter the load.*

*Finally, a special thank you to Joy Wingrave. For some while now we have been trying to get more families with children involved. She has devised a leaflet-in colour- to distribute to targeted school classes and other outlets in the hope more will come forward and join us."*

## **5. Matters Arising:**

None.

## **6. Financial report**

Matt Wingrave presented this year's accounts, which had been audited. The closing balance was £5,322.97. Neil Carrigan noted that we were able to maintain a level of funding to support the trip to Jargeau even without the EU grant. Rob Cannings proposed to accept the accounts and Jane Gater seconded.

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

The election for members of the committee was as follows:

**Chairman:** Charles Boyle proposed Roger Fido to continue as Chairman, seconded by Ian Brain. No other nominations were received and Roger Fido was elected.

**Vice-Chairman:** Roger Fido proposed Charles Boyle to continue as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Carole Brain. No other nominations were received and Charles Boyle was elected.

**Secretary:** As indicated in the Chairman's address, Jo Reeves had decided to stand down as Secretary. Roger Fido proposed Sue Wingrave as Secretary, seconded by Neil Carrigan. No other nominations were received and Sue Wingrave was elected.

**Treasurer:** Roger Fido proposed Matt Wingrave to continue as Treasurer, seconded by Margaret Mills. No other nominations were received and Matt Wingrave was elected.

**Committee members:** As indicated in the Chairman's address, Millie Carter, Ian Brain, Carole Brain and Chris Riley had decided to withdraw from the committee, leaving some vacancies. Neil Carrigan would join the committee in an advisory capacity as an ex-Chairman. Graham Canfield also offered to join the committee. Neil Carrigan, Graham Canfield and current committee members were elected en bloc, proposed by Carole Brain and seconded by Neil Carrigan.

**Action: Roger Fido to ask Miranda Morgan to join the committee as the Town Council representative.**

## **8. AOB**

- a. "The Wild Flowers" comprising Maggie Rayner, Sally Fletcher and Margarita were congratulated on winning the trophy for the 2012 Boules Competition.
- b. The meeting thanked Jo Reeves for all her hard work as Secretary and wished her all the best for the future.
- c. Roger Clifton thanked Roger Fido for his hard work as Chairman and for organising the successful visit to Jargeau.
- d. Neil Carrigan raised the matter of the EU grant, and whether the effort required to apply for the grant was worth it. Charles Boyle explained how the grant worked, with points being awarded for various categories which favoured "new" Europe and countries which had links with several different places. Sums allocated were £30 per head for visitors, and £70 per head for hosts. The theme for 2014 and subsequent years was "Remembrance" which gave a lot of scope and it was noted that activities did not have to take place only during visits – they could take place through correspondence or virtually over the internet, over a period of time. Roger Fido said that, as indicated in his report, we had agreed at the committee meeting in Jargeau that we would apply for the grant in 2014 but would plan a programme that would be affordable if we didn't qualify. If we were successful, it was proposed to carry forward funds to support activities in 2016, the twinning's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**Action: Charles Boyle asked all members to contribute any ideas on the theme of "Remembrance" that would be suitable for the 2014 programme.**

Post meeting note: The Chairman thanked the minute secretary (Maggie Rayner) for taking the minutes of committee meetings.

## **9. Date of next AGM**

Friday 21st November 2014 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.