

CORSHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 21/11/2014

Present at the meeting: Roger & Ann Fido, Maurice Hancock, Neil Carrigan, Christine Bastow, Matt Wingrave, Sue Wingrave, Joy Wingrave, Maggie & John Rayner, Charles & Isabel Boyle, Chris Taylor, Jane Gater, Margaret Mills, John & Joan MacIver, Rob & Pat Cannings, Graham & Cynthia Canfield, Nigel & Liz Millward, Mark & Jane Campbell

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Smith, Peter & Felicity Hurlow-Jones, Lindon Collins, Cliff Gater, Humphrey & Elizabeth Barnikel, Carole & Ian Brain, Roger & Penny Clifton, Millie Carter, Ken & Jean Oatley, John Lamont

2. Chairman's welcome

Roger Fido welcomed everyone to the 34th AGM of the Corsham Twinning Association.

3. Approval/amendments of minutes of AGM 2013:

The minutes from the meeting on 22nd November 2013 were approved, proposed by Jane Gater and seconded by John Rayner.

4. Chairman's address:

Roger Fido's report was as follows:

"I am pleased to be able to report that our Association has continued to gain strength and membership is now 94. It is encouraging that our numbers stay so healthy.

We have, during 2014, organised a number of events some of which have been well supported, others not so well.

The principle event was of course the visit by Jargeau in June. We had a very shaky start where there was confusion between us over the visit dates. I still believe the time spent with us was far too short and I do hope they address this for 2016 - we will push it at our joint committee meeting next year. My thanks again go to all the committee and other members - especially Rob Cannings and his generator - for making the visit so memorable. You will see from the accounts that the overall cost was £2098-75 which has been funded entirely by the Association. E U funding was considered, but with their usual inefficiency, the website gave us no application form or timing guidance. We tried our MEP but he got nowhere either. They were changing the system - probably to our detriment - and were in chaos.

In October we had a visit by 7 teenagers from Jargeau in something of an experiment to get more younger people involved. Sue Wingrave will tell you more about that.

Now, looking forward to 2015. We start with the quiz and fish and chip supper on Saturday 17th January. With the somewhat sad passing of the Community Centre, we now have a new venue. The Cricket Club has agreed to us using their facilities. 7.30 with questions starting at 8 pm. £10 a head including supper. Full details of subsequent events will be circulated but to whet your appetite these are some:

March a French Meal, May BBQ, June Wine tasting and quiz, July Boules competition, September Race Night, November Flower arranging and demonstration with Christmas in mind.

The main event will of course be our visit to Jargeau-Wednesday 28th October-Sunday 1st November. With the surprising demise of Hatts Coaches we have had to look elsewhere, and have arranged the following.

Leave Corsham 9am Wednesday and go via the Tunnel. Stay overnight in the 4 star Mercure Hotel in the centre of Amiens-a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Breakfast included. Thursday morning free to explore Amiens and have an early lunch. Depart around 1 pm with 5 pm arrival in Jargeau.

Friday our day out. No decision made-suggestions very welcome. Saturday down to our hosts. Sunday depart 9am, return by the direct route via Paris arrive home hopefully around 9pm.

Cost around £170 per person. We have yet to decide on child discount. This cost will include an element of profit to enable us to gather funds for their visit to us in 2016.

I take this opportunity to thank all the committee and especially Sue our Secretary, Matt the Treasurer and Maggie the Minutes Secretary."

5. Matters Arising:

None.

6. Financial report

Matt Wingrave presented this year's accounts. The closing balance was £3043.84. Roger Fido proposed to accept the accounts and John Rayner seconded.

Sue Wingrave reported on the successful visit of seven teenagers from Jargeau to Corsham. Details will be made available on the website.

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 Sue Wingrave. No other nominations were received and Roger Fido was elected.

Secretary: Roger Fido proposed Sue Wingrave to continue as Secretary, seconded by John Rayner. No other nominations were received and Sue Wingrave was elected.

Treasurer: Liz Millward proposed Matt Wingrave to continue as Treasurer, seconded by Charles Boyle. No other nominations were received and Matt Wingrave was elected.

Vice-Chairman and Minute Secretary: these would be agreed by committee members at their next committee meeting.

Committee members: Current members were: Roger Fido, Matt Wingrave, Sue Wingrave, Joy Wingrave, Charles Boyle, Maurice Hancock, Maggie Rayner, Christine Bastow, Lindon Collins, Jane Gater, Felicity Hurlow-Jones, Margaret Smith, Sally Fletcher, Christine Taylor, Keith Stephens, Graham Canfield, Neil Carrigan and Miranda Morgan. Committee members were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Joan Maciver and seconded by Pat Cannings.

8. AOB

- a. RF had been contacted by BBC Wiltshire regarding exchanges with children, in view of the recent visit of teenagers from Jargeau to Corsham.
- b. Members noted the current TV programme about constructing a château at Guédelon, which we had visited during a previous trip to Jargeau. Members would be interested to re-visit the site in the future.
- c. Roger Fido asked members to suggest a permanent home for a model boat, a gift from Jargeau which had previously been kept in the old library. The new library could not accommodate it and there were limits to where it could be displayed as the case containing the boat was not safety glass. Rob Cannings suggested the new community centre may be able to accommodate the boat if it were removed from its case and suspended from the ceiling. Charles Boyle suggested local boat associations or the Sea Scouts may be interested.

Action: Roger Fido to take these ideas for discussion at the next committee meeting.

- d. Charles Boyle raised an issue on behalf of Ken & Jean Oatley, who have a house in Jargeau. A post box, a gift from Corsham from some years ago, had been vandalised and would need some repair work, and they wondered if we would be prepared to take this up with Jargeau Council. Members considered that the Jargeau Twinning Committee should deal with this as it was essentially for them to decide what they wanted to do. Roger Fido proposed to write to the Jargeau Twinning Committee and the mayor of Jargeau to draw this to their attention.

Action: Roger Fido to write to Jargeau Twinning Committee and the Mayor of Jargeau.

- e. Roger Fido put to members the proposal to increase annual subscription rates from £5 to £10 (single membership) and £7.50 to £15 (joint membership, with effect from 1st January 2016. This would be the first increase for over twenty years and would bolster our financial position, particularly as EU grants were unlikely in the future. The meeting agreed unanimously to the increase. Roger Fido would include details of future arrangements in his letter to members about the 2015 trip to Jargeau.

9. Date of next AGM

Friday 20th November 2014 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.