

CORSHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 20/11/2015

Present at the meeting: Roger Fido, Maurice Hancock, Matt & Sue Wingrave, Maggie & John Rayner, Felicity Hurlow-Jones, Charles & Isabel Boyle, Jane Gater, Margaret Mills, John & Joan MacIver, Rob & Pat Cannings, Nigel & Liz Millward, Mark & Jane Campbell, Millie Carter, John Lamont, Sally Fletcher, Christine Bastow

The meeting began with a minute's silence in reflection of the terrorist attack which had taken place in Paris the previous Friday, 13th November 2015.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Fido, Margaret Smith, Peter Hurlow-Jones, Joy Wingrave, Cliff Gater, Humphrey & Elizabeth Barnikel, Keith Stephens, Leila Riley

2. Chairman's welcome

Roger Fido welcomed everyone to the 35th AGM of the Corsham Twinning Association.

3. Approval/amendments of minutes of AGM 2014:

The minutes from the meeting on 21st November 2014 were approved, proposed by Margaret Mills and seconded by Jane Gater. The Chairman updated the meeting on matters arising from the 2014 meeting, as follows:

- a. **Involving younger people in Twinning:** the Wingraves were pursuing ideas to increase teenagers' involvement in Twinning, although progress had been slow.
- b. **Visit to Guédelon:** the recent trip had included another visit to the site.
- c. **Model boat:** the boat, a gift from Jargeau, had been given a permanent home in the main lounge at Jargeau Court.
- d. **Post Box in Jargeau:** Committee had agreed it was not our place to spend money repairing the vandalised post box which had been a gift from Corsham some years previously. The Chairman had written to the Mayor of Jargeau and the post box has now been taken away.

- e. **Annual subscription rates:** the new rates (£10 for single membership and £15 for joint membership) would come into effect in January 2016.

4. Chairman's address:

Roger Fido's report was as follows:

"Last year I reported that membership had grown to 94, this year we have again increased to now 114.

I have reflected on why. I believe our programme keeps members interested and probably more than that the visit to Jargeau is an opportunity to sample life abroad without the tourist trappings.

Our committee-mainly of ladies-has worked hard to make events such as the French Meal and BBQ a success not only as an event but also financially. Special thanks go to Sue who fits the Secretary role in between many other things, Matt as Treasurer and Maggie as Minutes Secretary. My thanks go to them and all the committee.

For the coming year we will see some committee changes. After a long spell, Charles is stepping down as Vice Chairman and Jane Gater has agreed to accept a nomination for the position, assuming you all back that nomination, I am confident we will work well together. Charles will remain a committee member. We are also losing Graham Canfield and Lindon Collins and I thank all 3 of them for their efforts on our behalf. My son Jonathan will take over the webmaster role, but cannot commit himself to join the committee.

I was so pleased that all went well for our visit in October. The coach, the overnight stay in Amiens, the hosts, Guedelon and especially the weather all made for a great trip. If only I could persuade our Jargeau friends to make much shorter speeches. I was chuffed to receive the many thanks you I had after the visit.

The coming year will be quite a challenge. The usual events we are comfortable with, it is the visit in October where the headache begins. This will be the 35th and we are supposed to make it special. They would like to bring far more than usual but we have told them 50 is all we can manage. That will probably finish at 60.

When EU funding was readily available the financing was relatively easy. As you know that has dried up and we must fund it all. At our joint meeting in Jargeau we had a head on collision with Carole over the day out. We funded ourselves to Guedelon in view of no grant-and they did not leap in to pay instead. At the meeting she said they felt the host should pay for the day out, meaning when they come next year.

We have made it very plain to her and their committee that our funds are finite. If they want a sit down dinner then we cannot finance their day out. They are talking about visiting Cheddar and for the full experience a group ticket is currently £14.80, so 50 of them plus a French speaking guide sees £ 900 gone.

We have not yet fully costed the visit but it is unlikely that we will be in a position to allow hosts a free evening, but there may be a chance of a subsidy. I am relatively confident that 2 grants I have applied for through my contacts will provide a substantial boost to the £3000 we aim to have.

We had expected to use the Springfield Centre for the reception and Dinner. On enquiry I found it closes at 6pm on Sundays –the Dinner evening and 9pm on Saturdays –the reception evening. It was already quite expensive but having to get staff in on overtime has put quite a high price on the hire. We are in negotiations with the school as a viable alternative.

We need a full and active committee. To that end Nigel Millward has offered to join us so there is still 1 vacancy. Without wishing to be sexist, our current balance is 5 gentlemen and 9 ladies so another man really is needed, volunteers please.

I very much look forward to your continued support.”

5. Matters Arising:

See para 3.

6. Financial report

Matt Wingrave presented this year’s accounts. The closing balance was £5640.11. ***[Roger Fido proposed to accept the accounts and John Rayner seconded.]***

The Chairman had applied for two grants to support Jargeau’s visit to Corsham in 2016: £1000 from the Methuen Trust and £500 from Corsham Town Council (with his thanks to Miranda Morgan). He would also apply to the Area Board for a further £500.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

The election for members of the committee was as follows:

Chairman: Matt Wingrave proposed Roger Fido to continue as Chairman, seconded by Christine Bastow. No other nominations were received and Roger Fido was elected.

Secretary: Roger Fido proposed Sue Wingrave to continue as Secretary, seconded by Felicity Hurlow-Jones. No other nominations were received and Sue Wingrave was elected.

Treasurer: Pat Cannings proposed Matt Wingrave to continue as Treasurer, seconded by Liz Millward. 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: Neil Carrigan, Lindon Collins and Graham Canfield had stepped down from the Committee, and the Chairman thanked them for their contributions.

Current members were: Roger Fido, Matt Wingrave, Sue Wingrave, Joy Wingrave, Charles Boyle, Maurice Hancock, Maggie Rayner, Christine Bastow, Jane Gater, Felicity Hurlow-Jones, Margaret Smith, Sally Fletcher, Christine Taylor, Keith Stephens and Miranda Morgan. These were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Liz Millward, seconded by Margaret Mills.

New members elected were: Nigel Millward, proposed by Roger Fido, seconded by Charles Boyle; and Rob Cannings, proposed by Pat Cannings and seconded by Roger Fido.

Charles Boyle said Leila Riley had not put herself forward as a committee member, but was keen to be involved in helping with CTA activities.

8. AOB

- a. The Chairman drew attention to the programme of events for 2015/16, and looked forward to members' support in these activities.
- b. The Chairman had received an e-mail from the Jargeau *maison de retraite*, thanking us for our gift.
- c. The Chairman and Sue Wingrave would present the Scouts with their tents (our gift from Jargeau), and encourage their participation in Twinning.
- d. The Chairman said Box Twinning group was trying to set up a Friendship Agreement with Sorigny in France, and he had forwarded Box a copy of the Friendship Charter we had signed with Jargeau, for information.
- e. Rob Cannings thanked the committee for their hard work this year. He said youth twinning had been successful in the past, and Charles Boyle agreed, saying that parents needed to be convinced of the potential and opportunities that twinning afforded. Sally Fletcher suggested we should publicise "success stories" arising from Twinning and put them on the website. **Action: Committee to pursue.**

9. Date of next AGM

Friday 18th November 2016 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.