

Ludlow French Twinning Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at St Peters.

Present: John Holliday [Chair], John French, Pat Price, Tim Mawson, Peter and Prue Vipond, Jan Willett, Sylvia Duffy, Philip Adams, David and Eileen Chapman, Pauline and Garry Oram, Sheila French, Val and David Jackman, Judy Hennah, Andrew Pike, Ros Roberts.

Apologies: Linda Senior, Richard Phillips, John Willets, Tony Price, Pamela Thompson, Alistair and Alison MacIntosh, Lauren and George Hough, Barbara Mawson, Pam and John Aitken, Shaun and Isabelle Cooper, Val Cooke, Dave Mulliner, Carola Morrison.

1. Introduction: John Holliday welcomed members and explained that, as President, he had been asked to chair the meeting in the absence of an elected chair-person. He set out the merits of the twinning over 30 years and expressed his confidence that it could continue in strength for years to come. John French referred to an email sent to members by Dave Mulliner, who had resigned from the committee. This stated that a new Chairperson, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Accommodations Officer needed to be elected at this meeting in order for the Association to continue running. On behalf of members, Joh F. thanked John H. for boosting morale by stepping in to chair the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM: These were approved on a majority show of hands. [Prop. Dave Chapman; Sec. Tim Mawson] . There were no matters arising.

3. Observations on the year 2016/17: John H. noted the long delay in arrival of the French coach due to mal-function of the door and the night vigil of hosts waiting to hear whether they might need to go to Bridgewater to pick up their guests, and the knock-on affect of not running the planned trip to Hereford. It had been pleasing to note the nevertheless up-beat mood of our French friends. Dave J. observed that youth involvement had been good with much enjoyment of the sporting activities. Members expressed thanks to him for his initiatives in this respect.

* As Chairperson at the time, Val Cooke's energy and enthusiasm with regard to youth activities had been much appreciated. This vitality will be sorely missed by the twinning, and members wished to register their thanks and best wishes for Val's endeavours.

Sylvia D. noted that the hosting families had not been involved so much this current year. 2016/17 had been particularly good in terms of family and youth involvement. David J. commented that there were other youth groups which might be approached concerning involvement, citing the flourishing hockey club run by Roger Furniss. Sylvia responded by saying that contact should be made with Roger about this. Philip A. mentioned the effects of 'Brexit' on twinning, ie. councils using it as an excuse to cut support, cuts in language teaching in schools. Sylvia observed that trying to engage schools in twinning events was an uphill struggle. David C. indicated that he was hoping to involve a family with 2 children in the visit to France.

The Saturday evening dinner social was considered to have been a success, thanks largely to Tony Price's organization. The venue, the lay-out of tables and the bar had created a comfortable environment. The caterers from "The Clock House" had produced a good 3 course meal, served efficiently. High spirits amongst some of the youngsters necessitated some disciplining to avoid its intrusion into the enjoyment of others. The band music was enjoyed by most and encouraged the dancing, although the sound was a bit too loud for some. It was remarked that they should have started playing earlier.

4. Finance: Dave Mulliner's 'Treasurers Accounts' for the year ended 31st December 2016 were tabled. They showed 'Transactions', 'Dates', 'Money in', 'Money out', 'Balance' and 'Comments' consecutively through the year. Total money into the current account was £5,070.32. Money out was £2,996.24, giving a current account balance of £2,074.08. The deposit account balance was £2,365.93. This gave a total of £4,440 + petty cash in both the accounts at 31. 12. 16.

The balances for 2017 were changing with subscriptions and travel deposits coming in and coach and ferry deposits going out but there were sufficient funds to allow for modest subsidies. They also explained that to date, only 27 adults and 6 children had signed up to travel by coach and ferry, giving a total of 33. The children travelling free, being subsidized from Association funds. Ten people had opted to travel independently. The basic cost of coach and ferry travel had been agreed as £100.00 per passenger. Because of fewer member travelling than usual the basic cost for members travelling increases to £129 per passenger. So in order to break even, the cost per adult would have to rise to £129. The question for the AGM was whether to raise the cost per adult or to keep it at £100 and meeting the balance from association funds, the children still being fully subsidised.. After discussion members agreed unanimously that **'The cost per adult for travel should remain at £100.00 with the excess being paid out of Association funds.** *A rider to this was that **'members travelling on the coach should be invited to donate extra if they wished, to offset the shortfall against the full cost of travel'**. [Prop. Andrew Pike; Sec. David Chapman].

It was reiterated that these costs did not include those for the meal in France or cabins or reclining seats on board.

At this point it was revealed that a further 6 adults and 4 children might travel by coach. This would lower the cost of subsidizing from Association funds.

Many thanks to David were expressed by members for his long and invaluable service to the Twinning as Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Senior Statesman through so much of its history.

5. Nominations and elections: The following, having been nominated, were all elected by a unanimous show of hands.

Chairperson: Sylvia Duffy, [Prop. Sheila F.; Sec. Eileen C.]
[01584 872807]; <sylviaduffy@uwclub>

Treasurer: Gary Oram, [Prop. Sylvia D.; Sec. Sheila F.]
[01584 875523] <pandgoram@f2s.com>

Secretary: John French, [Prop. Dave C.; Sec. Pauline Oram]
[01584 876142]; <jandsfrench1@gmail.com>

Membership Secretary: Pauline Oram, [Prop. John H.; Sec. Sheila S.]
[01584 875523] <pandgoram@f2s.com>

Accommodation: Pamela Thompson, [Prop. Sheila F.; Sec. Philip A.] [Elected in her absence]
[01584 877650] <psthompson@waitrose.com> [with support from Sheila F.]

Other Committee members voted en-bloc by show of hands

Tony Price [Social events]; Philip Adams [Newsletter]; Shirley Davies [Website] elected in her absence.
David Chapman [Social events]

AOB: Sheila F. drew a round of applause for Pat Price who had made for a warm welcome by producing excellent refreshments for everyone.

Draft programme for the visit to LFM in May: John F. set out the following which could change in some details according to what the French were planning.

Wed. 24 May: 1600 Leave Ludlow Leisure Centre by coach for Portsmouth.

2200 Sail from Portsmouth to Ouistreham.

Thur. 25 May: 0645 Arrive Ouistreham.

Breakfast in Caen.

Lunch possibly in Alencon.

1700 Arrive LFM

1730 – 1800 Reception at Town Hall.

Evening with hosts.

Fri. 26; Sat. 27 May, Sun. 28th May. The programme will probably include time with host families, a dinner/social at a restaurant in Domfront, a concert given by members of both the French and English Twinings, a display of French and English images to celebrate 30 years of the twinning and a visit to Mont St Michel.

Mon. 29 May: 1100/1200 depart LFM for Ouistreham with stop for lunch en route.

1630 Sail for Portsmouth [eta 2115]. Onward journey to Ludlow.

Tues. 30 May: eta Ludlow 0130hrs.

John French [Secretary] 23rd March 2017