

Ludlow French Twinning Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th March 2016 at Ludlow Women's Centre

1. Introduction: Tim Mawson [Chair], welcomed the twenty-four members attending.

2. Apologies:

These were received from Bronwen Baylis, Rosemary Bristow, Adrian Cobley, Bill Eastwell, Pamela Thompson, Andrew Pike, Jan Willetts, Val Jackman, John and Pam Aitken, John and Janice Holliday, Jules de Bere, John Fleming, Steve and Lynsey Piper, Mike and Paula Tucker.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th March 2015.

These were approved. [Proposed by Dave Chapman., Seconded by Prue Vipond]. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report:

May 2015 visit

Before the visit a get-together meeting at Ashford Carbonel village hall was held to help members and new families to familiarise themselves with what twinning was all about. Last year's May visit was the highlight of our activities with nearly 50 people travelling, including 11 young people. We visited Caen and then the fabulous Bayeux tapestry. Over the weekend new family ties were fostered and old ones re-kindled, a great meal had at Rânes (with a spontaneous gymnastic display!), an interesting town visit, and a visit to the Abbaye de la Lucerne.

Other events

Building on the positive experience at Ashford Carbonel, David and Val Jackman organised a social cream tea event there in September, enabling members to socialise, scoff and play bowls and skittles. A pin-up notice board was much appreciated, spurring Jules De Bere to set up a Twinning Facebook page, which all Facebookers are encouraged to link up with. This is to help spread the word about twinning, and complements our Website managed by Shirley Davies, who is always keen to put up photos of twinning-related activities, so please, send her your photos!

The other main social event was the 2016 annual dinner, held at the Charlton Arms at the end of January. Around 40 members had a great evening, thanks to the organising skills of Tony Price, with a much appreciated presentation of the twinning past by Life President John Holliday.

On the schools front, we have written to all the Headteachers of local primary schools to interest them in twinning (but got no response.) This was followed up by a poster designed and produced by Sylvia and Valerie for each school to extol the advantages of twinning - we await a flood of interest!

May 2016 visit

The work undertaken to match families up with each other, required diplomacy and deftness, and here I have to hand it to Sheila French who has done this job for many years, but is now looking to hand the job on to someone else. Please note!

The Fertois will arrive at the Ludlow Brewery on the afternoon of Thursday 5 May, and then on the Friday a visit is being organised to Hereford, to look at the world famous Mappa Mundi, see the town and maybe visit a waterpark on the way back to Ludlow. Also on the Friday we'll arrange for the youngsters coming over from France to visit the school to admire the well-oiled machinery that is the British education system. The Saturday will be spent with the host families, with the chance to visit Ludlow for those who want, and then we finish off with the traditional social evening at Brimfield Sports Centre (where we had a great evening 2 years ago). Then early on the Sunday 8 May, we'll be bidding each other tearful farewells.

We remember that one of the Twinning Association's objectives is to encourage sporting links between the towns, and in this vein the French are keen to establish connections with basketball players in Ludlow. Sylvia will update us on what's happening on that score.

To prepare for the visit we asked the Town Council to ensure that the French flag was flown above the Buttercross, as has been the tradition, and to pass on to the Mayor an invitation to attend the welcome reception at the Brewery. But I have to report that the Town Clerk has not replied on that score, nor to confirm that the annual grant of £100 would be paid. I fear that this goes to re-enforce the impression of a lack of interest by the Ludlow authorities for Town Twinning.

We have heard our last Treasurer's report from Dave. As you know he is stepping down as Treasurer and from the committee after many years of faithful service. Dave is one of the pioneers of the Ludlow twinning association, and has made an immense contribution to the concept of twinning, and indeed has enhanced the reputation of the town as a result. Quite apart from being Treasurer he has over the years also been Chair and Secretary, and is the kind you can always rely on to get things done, the go-to man. He's also been membership secretary, organised transport for the French trips, and supported the association in so many ways; barbecues, skittles matches, social events generally. If there's a young French person wanting to do Summer work on a farm, Dave's been the man to find a place for them. In short, he's going to be a hard act to follow, so he is more than deserving of all our thanks, and we have a small token of our appreciation to present to him and Judith.

5. Treasurer's report:

Dave Mulliner reported on the financial position at 31 December, 2015. His key points were that we were holding £1661.12 in our current account as the difference between our income and expenditure. £2364.77 is held in a deposit account. A small amount of petty cash is held to give a total balance of £4062.90.

The cost of the visit to France in 2015 was our biggest item of expenditure at £6257.61. The visit was subsidised to the sum of £1018 with help from donations from members and organisations over the past two years. This involved a cost for a relief driver of £290 which may be avoidable in future. Other avoidable future costs have been achieved by doing our own website and not advertising in the town calendar.

Other income came from subscriptions at £550 and from events.

The Treasurer invited questions and comments on our income and expenditure. John French expressed content that we had fed back to sponsors such as Wesley's.

Viv Parry suggested that we should approach the Town Council for free advertising in lieu of an increase in grant.

[Acceptance proposed by Sheila French, Seconded by Val Cooke]

6. Elections:

Tim Mawson and Dave Mulliner were not seeking re-election as Chair and Treasurer and Martin Knowles as committee member.

Valerie Cooke was proposed as Chair by Sheila French and seconded by Barbara Mawson.

Viv Parry was proposed as Treasurer by John French and seconded by David Jackman.

Pauline Oram was proposed as Committee member by Sylvia Duffy and seconded by Dave Chapman

It was approved that retiring officers would remain as committee members until the May visit. Then the roles of remaining committee members would be adjusted, reassigned or confirmed at a Committee meeting. The current committee is therefore:

Chair	Valerie Cooke 56, Mortimer Drive, Orleton, Ludlow, SY8 1GX email: valeriecooke@aol.com	Tel: 01568 708504
Secretary	Philip Adams 144, Corve Street, Ludlow, SY8 2PG email: philipadams@uwclub.net	Tel: 01584 872807
Treasurer	Viv Parry 3 Clifton Villas, Temeside, Ludlow SY8 1PA email: viv.parry@gmail.com	Tel: 01584 873604
Accommodation	Sheila French 4, Coach House Fields, Livesey Road, Ludlow, SY8 1EZ email: sandjfrench@talktalk.net	Tel: 01584 876142
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