



Twinned with Chantilly, France

Autumn Newsletter 2014 (no 49)

Chairman's Welcome

I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely summer. Your committee has been busy keeping the spirit of Twinning alive and well in the Borough over the past few months as you can read in this newsletter. The members' dinners and French conversation evenings continue to be popular, and are recommended. Why not come along to one of those listed in the following pages?

The highlight of our summer 'campaign' was a visit to Epsom by a delegation from Chantilly who attended the Epsom in Harmony choral event at Epsom Racecourse, as part of the Council's commemoration of the centenary of the start of the First World War. The party of six, led by Caroline Theard, thoroughly enjoyed their stay, and thanks go to those who provided home hospitality. Our guests also enjoyed a walk around Ewell and a visit to Bourne Hall Museum on the Saturday, and on the Sunday were able to watch an afternoon's racing before departing.

Unfortunately the Chantilly Handicap race at Epsom could not coincide, and that took place towards the end of August. I was delighted to be able to present a prize to the owners of the winner, Last Echo, and committee members judged the best-turned-out horse, making an award to the groom.

Connections with Chantilly will be strengthened further when, on 11th November, our mayor, Cllr. Robert Foote, his wife Rosemary, and Brian and Margaret Angus, travel at the invitation of our twin town to attend their Remembrance Day events. It is a great honour. While there the Mayor will also lay a wreath at the grave of a soldier from Epsom & Ewell who fell in France during the War. More of this will follow in the next newsletter.

There is no let up, with a lot planned for the next few weeks. Together with Epsom Rotary, the Twinning Association has been organising a French-speaking competition with local schools, and committee members are also preparing to make their annual pilgrimage to the Chantilly Christmas Market. Offers of assistance are welcome.

Plans are also being made to host choirs from Chantilly, and their twin towns of Uberlingen and Watermael-Boisfort, in 2016. This will be a major event, and please keep an eye out for details. This will require a lot of volunteer input if it is to be a success, so if you are interested in getting involved do let one of the committee members know.

We had hoped to stage a repeat of our successful Quiz Night. However numbers did not live up to expectations, so we decided to postpone it. Apologies to those who had reserved places. We will hold it in the Spring, and hope that members will be able to support it, as it is a fun event which also helps keep our finances in good shape.

Finally, may I wish you all best wishes for the festive season and the New Year. I will be in touch again early in 2015!

Cllr. Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

Twinning Association AGM - 1 July 14

Our AGM held at the Town Hall was considered to be a very successful meeting. The Mayor and Mayoress were present, 26 members attended, with 5 apologies. The minutes of the June 2013 AGM were approved and signed.

The Chairman Clive Woodbridge gave his overview of the past year's activities, including his several visits to Chantilly: for the Prix d'Epsom in September and again for the Christmas market in December.

The Cheese and wine party at the Town Hall in March was a great success, during which the Chairman made presentations to Reg Saviel and Clive Smitheram as Hon Vice-Presidents of the Association.

An important event was the Twinning Choral Festival in Uberlingen at the end of May which Judith Glover attended representing the Mayor, and where Epsom was represented by Sponsalia chamber choir.

He also mentioned the Soirées françaises and Members dinners which continue to be popular with members, and thanked Anne and Margaret for organising these monthly evenings.

He then promoted the Epsom in Harmony event to be held at the Duchess Stand in September which will be attended by the Mayor, and a group from Chantilly was coming over to take part.

The Mayor, as Hon President of the Association, Cllr Robert Foote took the chair for the elections of officers. The committee for 2014/15 was re-elected en bloc.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Chantilly Raceday - 26 August



Presentation to the Winning Owner Ralph Beckett

Clive Woodbridge, Clive and Anne Richardson, Carol and myself were lucky enough on Tuesday 26th August to be the guests of the Jockey Club for luncheon in the Queens Stand followed by an afternoon's racing. Given the terrible rain of the previous day it was a relief to find the weather breezy but most definitely dry! We also had the privilege of entering the parade ring to choose the best turned out horse in the Chantilly Handicap Stakes. In the event it was an easy decision and the lucky stable lad was delighted to receive a £50 prize. The winner of the race was Last Echo owned by 90 year old Ralph Beckett who had bought the horse as a birthday present to himself! The Chairman and Anne were delighted to present him with champagne on behalf of the Association.

Ron Thorley, Committee member

Les Soirées Françaises



Our French conversation evenings are established and popular. Though we are mixed abilities, members enjoy practising their French in a relaxed atmosphere. Our previous meetings on 7 July and 8 September have included the usual "mots croisés" for members to start with, and follow with reading and translating articles from French magazines.

Our next Soirée française will be held at Margaret's house at 4 Christchurch Gardens on Monday 10 November, and you'll be most welcome to join us. Please bring your own ideas to contribute to the conversation. There will as usual be a small charge of £4 to cover the cost of wine and nibbles.

It would help us to know numbers, so please either send an email to me at margaret@epsomtwinning.com, or telephone me on 01372 602560. You are also welcome to borrow a copy of our helpful leaflets *Rendez-vous* and *La Vie Outre-Manche* to practice at home between *Soirées*.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Epsom Rotary Borough Fun Day

Sunday 21st September, the date of the Rotary Fun Day, dawned fine. The Twinning Association had a pitch with Brian Angus kindly providing a tent and tables for our displays. As the theme was "fun" we included a model railway for children and those young at heart. However this was no ordinary model railway but a vintage clockwork collection, mainly from Trevor Taylor, with buildings constructed by Peter Hardy from recycled materials representing both Epsom and Chantilly. A model Channel Tunnel divided the two segments.

Other displays advertised Twinning, and members were on hand to encourage visitors to join and to discuss the aims of Twinning. Throughout the day there was considerable interest in our stand. Thanks to all who manned the rota, in addition to those above, Diana and Richard Deavin, Clive and Anne Richardson, Margaret Nightingale, Michelle Dambrin, and Clive Woodbridge - a true team effort.



Peter Hardy, Committee member

Epsom in Harmony - 26 September

The first Epsom in Harmony concert took place in 2012 in the Oaks Hall at Epsom Racecourse as part of a year of celebration including the 75th Anniversary of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. This year the organising committee of Epsom were invited to arrange another concert along similar lines as part of the Borough's commemoration of the start of World War I. The same venue with the same participants but the addition of a choir from Rosebery School. This time we selected a mixture of music and poetry focussing on works which emerged in the period before the outbreak of the World War I and the early period of conflict.

Music and Poetry throughout the programme were accompanied by the Epsom and Ewell Silver Band, providing music of the period from the Bandstand to the Music Hall in the interludes between the choirs' performances. Musical Director, Jack Smith, ably undertook a dual role as Conductor and Master of Ceremonies.

Epsom Choral Society with conductor Robin Kimber opened the concert. Following a poetry reading, Soundbytes took the stage, their numbers having been arranged

by their conductor, Hazel Hannam. Sponsalia Chamber Choir who performed with their conductor Beresford Bell, were delighted to be joined by two fellow singers from the Chantilly choir and part of the attending delegation. The all-male barber-shop choir, the Downsmen, with conductor Lisa Robathan, performed pieces in this genre which was particularly popular in the first 20 years of the last century, and the Silver Band rounded off the first half.

Throughout the evening the readings were accompanied by photographs of the poets projected on the wall behind the stage and on the display monitors around the Oaks Hall. In the interval there was a slideshow of photographs of Old Epsom, mainly from the period running up to the War, and the days of young men pictured lining up through the town to enlist. These were provided by the archivists at Bourne Hall, and with the Union Jacks on the columns round the hall, a very patriotic atmosphere was created.

The Silver Band opened the second half, and Rosebery School followed with Helen Turner conducting and Meredith White at the piano. Next were Ewell Ladies Singers, conducted by Margaret Harrington with Christina Ward accompanying. The uplifting *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* from the Silver Band was precursor to the last choir, the Epsom Male Voice Choir with Ian Assersohn its conductor and his wife Jan accompanying. All the pieces in their programme were arranged by the conductor. The final two poems, Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* and Robert Graves' *The Last Post*, were a cue for the sounding of the moving bugle-call.

Mayor Robert Foote gave an address which included details of the work of his charities. Finally, choirs and audience joined together to sing Land of Hope and Glory and the National Anthem, ending a highly successful concert enjoyed by performers and audience alike, and achieving its aim of making significant donations to the Mayor's charities in excess of £950, and a bucket collection of about £500 to Combat Stress.

Jon Pullinger, Epsom Choral and Sponsalia

Weekend visit from Chantilly - 26-28 September

The weekend saw a visit to Epsom by five people from Chantilly. The reason for the visit was to participate in our events commemorating the start of the First World War. The Epsom in Harmony concert on the Friday evening was a great success, the programme featured songs and poems from the period, and featured two of our Chantilly visitors singing with the Sponsalia choir.

All the guests were accommodated by members of our Twinning Association.

On Saturday there was a tour of Epsom and Ewell, using the Civic Society guide to point out places of interest. A buffet lunch was offered at Bourne Hall Museum where the guests were shown the exhibition showing the Borough during the First World War. Later refreshments provided our guests with a traditional English tea

in Ewell Village. In the evening members joined our visitors at a Fish & Chip Supper held "at home" where we all managed to squash into one room.

Sunday morning was bright and fair so we were able to show our visitors the views from the Downs and Box Hill, as well as a short tour viewing the land to be used for the new Centenary Wood. After lunch all our guests attended the racing before departing back to Chantilly.

Brian Atkinson, Twinning member

Peter's language course in Toulouse

I was looking for an intensive course to improve my French. "Breath French" appealed to me as it would be in the south adjacent to the Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site I had long wished to explore.

Then back to Paris and the TGV from Montparnasse to Toulouse. Ray, my fellow student and Aline, welcomed me to Toulouse.



From that first moment I loved it! We were forbidden to speak English. Morning lessons, typically grammar and vocabulary, were held in Aline's home, an old house in glorious countryside. During the afternoons we visited places of interest. I liked Saint Felix de Lauragais with its huge market square, its ramparts and chateau, now the tourist information office where our guide also worked.

Toulouse is a youthful vibrant city where life seemed to be centred in the open air. Perhaps my favourite visits were to The Pyrenees, where we climbed to the ruined 13th century fortress of the Cathars, The views are magnificent and our guide was an expert on the geology, fauna and flora of the area.

All too soon the week was over and back to Paris. It wasn't a cheap holiday but being all inclusive I believe was good value for money and hopefully if my French hasn't improved my confidence has received a massive boost.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

Exposition de Modélisme, Chantilly

I was delighted to be invited to exhibit my railway, "Bridlington Quay", at this event held in Chantilly over the weekend of 11th/ 12th October. Although primarily a model railway exhibition, other forms of model transport, including aircraft, boats, and vehicles were on display.

We were made very welcome by our hosts who included twinning stalwarts, Philippe and Francine Fontanes.



The exhibition was visited by a variety of local dignitaries including the Mayor of Chantilly, Eric Woerth and his wife, Peter Brandt, and other supporters of Twinning in Chantilly. I was delighted by the interest from the French in "Bridlington Quay" including a very professional promotional video. For the record Bridlington Quay had been constructed in 1:42 scale, completely by hand, utilising recycled materials where possible.

My thanks to everyone in Chantilly for their support.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

SCHOOLS FRENCH SPEAKING COMPETITION

The Schools French Speaking Competition, organised jointly by Epsom Rotary Club and the Twinning Association proved to be a great success. It was divided into three classes, Junior for years 7-9, Intermediate, for years 10-11 and Senior for years 12-13.

The Junior and Intermediate classes were held at Rosebery School on Tuesday 21st October. Four local schools were represented, Rosebery, Glyn, Blenheim and Epsom College, and audience and judges alike were impressed by the high standard shown by all competitors. The juniors recited a poem from a list prepared by the judges, and the Intermediates had to give a talk about themselves, followed by a short interview by one of the judges.



The Junior candidates

After prolonged debate in the judges' room Zornitsa Todorova of Rosebery was awarded first prize in the junior event and Saffron Burgess, also from Rosebery was runner up.

The prizes in the intermediate event were carried off by Epsom College, with Anna Muir first and Alex Rasmusson runner up. However the competition was so close that the judges decided to award two "highly commended" certificates, to Rory Green of Glyn and Bethany Davies from Rosebery.

The prizes to all the candidates were presented by Clive Smitheram, President of Rotary and Honorary Vice President of the Twinning Association.

The Intermediate candidates



The Senior event took place in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Tuesday 4th November, in the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Robert Foote, who is President of the Twinning Association, and a packed chamber with some 50 guests, including a delegation from the Rotary Club of Chantilly.

Six candidates took part, from Rosebery, Blenheim and Epsom College, and each gave a short talk on a subject of their choosing. Candidates were also each interviewed by one of the judges. The subjects were challenging and the standard was high, showing that the candidates not only all spoke excellent French but also had a clear understanding of their chosen subjects.

After long deliberation the judges awarded first prize to Elise Mathers, Epsom College. Second was Jack Snowden from Blenheim School, and Chloe Carter of Rosebery was highly commended. The prizes were presented by the Mayor, who congratulated all the candidates.



Judges on both occasions were Twinning members Janet Shiret (chairman), Christine Rippon and Margaret Nightingale, supported by Anne Richardson. For the Senior event they were joined by Gerard Olsem from Chantilly Rotary Club. Nobody went away empty handed. All competitors were awarded certificates and each competing school in each class received a pack of Heroes - which they all truly were! As Clive Smitheram said in his closing remarks, never again can it be said that the English can't or won't speak foreign languages: these young people have proved otherwise!

Richard Deavin, Secretary, Epsom Rotary

Forthcoming visit to Chantilly of the Mayor and Mayoress

The Mayor has accepted an invitation from the Mayor of Chantilly to join their commemorations of the First World War on 11 November this year. En route to Chantilly the previous day, the party will visit Perreuse cemetery and the grave of

Epsom's Archie Jones, and visit the nearby town memorial to see the names of two other Epsom men who lost their lives.

Their programme in Chantilly will include a meeting with the Mayor, M. Woerth, a visit to a local graveyard, and wreath-laying and formal ceremony at the Chantilly Town War memorial, where they and the Chantilly Councillors will be joined by a group of British Chantilly residents. In the afternoon, they will also be shown various displays in the Mairie, and material which have been prepared for the commemoration. The day will culminate in a Grand Concert under the dome of the Horse Museum.

The party will return Wednesday evening by Eurotunnel.
A report and photos will appear in the next issue.

Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair

Members' Christmas Dinner

We have had a variety of meals this year, and enjoyed meeting up with members and sharing news of activities both here and in Chantilly. If you have yet to join us, please be assured of a warm welcome.

The Christmas dinner this year will be held as usual at the Chalk Lane Hotel, on Monday 1st December. The room is always very welcoming and has its own bar!

They will provide us with a 2 course meal for £27.50. Details of the menu will come in due course, but please could you reserve your place by contacting Anne:

anne.richardson@btinternet.com 01372 723698.



Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Chantilly Christmas market - 13/14 December



Do you want to experience a typical French Christmas market, whilst showing people what the English enjoy in the festive season? Would you like to practise your French as you talk about twinning opportunities in Epsom? We are looking for volunteers to help us man the Twinning Association stand at Chantilly Christmas Market for the weekend of 13th/14th December.

We take mince pies, crackers and other typically English goods and have fun explaining them to the French. We give out leaflets about the borough of Epsom and Ewell.



You will need your winter woollies, as it can be very cold, but there is always a Vin Chaud nearby. The more people come, the more free time you will have to buy your last-minute presents, visit the other stalls, take a walk to the Chateau or even have a cup of tea in the English shop. If you would like to join us please contact a committee member.

Christmas pudding making has already begun, thanks to the help of three members. We welcome help with making mini mince pies and marmalade for the French to taste. Those of you who cannot come but would like to contribute could perhaps donate some crackers?

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Review of current projects with Chantilly

I thought it would be interesting for you to know the extent of our upcoming projects with Chantilly, of which an encouraging number involve young people. We will keep you informed about progress in future newsletters as well as encouraging members to become involved. Do let us have your thoughts on any of these.

- Exchange of documents relating to World War 1 in Epsom and Chantilly between Rosebery School and the Collège de Chantilly.
- Primary schools exchanges being planned between St Martin's Junior and Infants and two Chantilly schools.
- Lycée de la Forêt technical high school/college in Chantilly seeking work experience placements in Epsom/Ewell for students studying vocational subjects for BTEC, etc. We have identified some openings but still looking for some in the equestrian sector. They would also like to set up an exchange with an equivalent college in the Borough, and Nescot are keen to pursue this exciting opportunity.
- Age Concern Epsom representative being helped to find out how Chantilly council and voluntary organisations look after their aging population.
- Cooperation with Epsom Rotary Club in the first Schools French Public Speaking competition, with twinning members and visitors from Chantilly Rotary acting as judges. (see separate article)
- An exchange for young golfers here and in Chantilly is being considered.
- Christmas market in Chantilly - 13-14 December - twinning team planning to attend and offer our traditional wares for sale. (see separate article)

- Looking forward to 2016, we are starting to plan the next Twin Towns Choral Festival which will be held in Epsom, following successful previous choral festivals in Chantilly and their other twin towns, Überlingen and Watermael-Boitsfort.
- This will coincide with 20 years of twinning with Chantilly and is a huge challenge - we will be looking for your help in all sorts of ways.

Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer Diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk

Calendar of Future Events	
2014	
Soirée française	Monday 10th November chez Margaret 7:30pm
Mayor's visit to Chantilly	Monday 10th - Wednesday 12th November
Twinning Committee meeting	Monday 17 November 7.30pm at Margaret's
Members' Christmas dinner	1 December at Chalk Lane Hotel 7.00pm
Chantilly Christmas market	Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 December
2015	
Soirée française	Monday 19 th January at Anne Richardson's
Members Dinner	Monday 9 th February - venue to be confirmed
Quiz night - all welcome	
Cheese and Wine evening	
2016	
Choral Festival of Twin Towns	Thursday 30 June - Sunday 3 July

Committee for 2014/15

Cllr Clive Woodbridge - Chairman	0208 3932853
Mr Brian Vandervilt - Treasurer	0208 3958996
Mrs Margaret Nightingale - Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	01372 209704
Mrs Anne Richardson - Membership Secretary	01372 723698
Mrs Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair/Liaison Officer	01372 727382
Mrs Alison Chatterton	01372 811099
Mr Cyril Frazer	0208 3933628
Cllr Judith Glover	0208 3307686
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mr Ron Thorley	01372 727592

Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twinning

Mr Colin Peel - Epsom Rotary
 Mr Richard Deavin - Epsom Rotary
 Mrs Jill Preiss - Epsom Choral Society
 Mr Frank Warren - Epsom Model Railway Club
 Ms Jane Foxon - Sponsalia Chamber Choir