



## Autumn Newsletter 2016 (no 53)

### Message from the Chairman

#### **Town Twinning - never more relevant than today!**

It's been a while since our last newsletter, and for good reason! The hugely successful Europe in Harmony Choral Festival took a lot of time and effort from so many of our committee members, that there has been a bit of well-earned 'down time' since. However we are all now back, fully refreshed, and planning a number of interesting events over the next month or two, as you can read in this newsletter.

The Choral Festival went so well and our guests from Chantilly, Uberlingen, and Watermael-Boitsfort went home having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, not just through the singing, but also the home hospitality they were afforded, and the various events that took place over the three days they were with us. May I please say a big thank you to everyone who took part, helped out, raised money, or came along to see the performances. It was a truly wonderful weekend and the organisers, fully supported by your committee, certainly did Epsom & Ewell proud with their efforts.

By ironic timing our Festival took place just after the Brexit vote. For some, a Europe in Harmony event may have seemed a little at odds with what had just transpired. But I think those who took part would agree with me it was the perfect antidote: a chance to state publicly that whatever happens in the national political world, at a local level ordinary people will continue to enjoy harmonious ties and relations with their friends and colleagues on the other side of the Channel. Town Twinning is a force to be reckoned with, and will ensure that this always remains the case. The concept of Town Twinning has, in my view, never been as relevant or important as it is today.

It is my sincere hope that the government looks to revitalise the many twinning links that exist up and down the country to ensure that in a post-Brexit world we continue to have harmonious ties with our friends on the Continent. We may be leaving the European Union, but we are not leaving Europe. That should be the message we are hearing from on high. We are sadly not as yet, and so it is up to us to make sure that this message gets across loud and clear.

In Epsom & Ewell there will always be a warm welcome for our friends from Chantilly and we know they will reciprocate. The ties that bind us together will never be broken,

thanks to the years of twinning activities organised and supported largely by volunteers from our two towns.

### **Tributes from Twinning:**

Many of you will have learned of the sad passing of Cyril Frazer. A former Councillor, Cyril was Mayor at the outset of Twinning, and was a staunch supporter right to the end. He was a regular at committee meetings and always supportive of twinning events. I am sad to think I will no longer enjoy his company during lifts back to Ewell. He always had something interesting to say, and had had a fascinating life. Courteous and kind, a real gentleman, Cyril will be missed by so many people. Those of us in Twinning are fortunate that we got to get to know him as a true friend.

We were also sad to learn of the passing of former Councillor, and Honorary Alderman, Jonathon Reed. Jonathon was perhaps best known for his work with the Burma Star Association, but he also served as one of the Council's representatives on the Twinning committee for a number of years and will be fondly remembered for his support and encouragement, and his kind and warm disposition. As an Honorary Alderman Jonathon will be given a Civic Funeral at St Martin's Church on Wednesday 2nd November at 2pm. Our thoughts go to the family and friends of both Cyril and Jonathon.

Clr Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

### **Riche Spring Fashion Show**



Riche of Ewell Village held a Fund-raising **Fashion Show at Christ Church Hall, Ewell on 19 April in aid of the Choral Festival.**

This was attended by 65 members and friends, and tickets included a glass of wine and nibbles on arrival.

As well as showing us some beautiful clothes on the catwalk, Carol also brought displays of jewellery and other fashion items for us to browse during the interval. We enjoyed a fun and relaxing evening, which raised £670 for the Twinning Association, and we were extremely grateful to Carol for organising this for us.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

### **Les Soirées Françaises chez nous**

Our French conversation evenings are becoming ever more popular, and we are now aiming to arrange them every month at members' houses. We have a variety of materials to stimulate discussions, including books, newspaper articles, magazine articles, playlets, quizzes and crosswords. Our last was on Monday 24th October at Margaret's Flat. Do join us next time for some easy French conversation, with some wine and cheese. Cost £5.00 per head.



If you can help by hosting an evening, please contact Margaret [mcnightingale@sky.com](mailto:mcnightingale@sky.com) tel 01372 602560. Thank you.

## Members' Dinners

We very much enjoy seeing members at our monthly dinners. These meals give your committee an opportunity to share our past activities, to tell you of future events and to develop new ideas in convivial surroundings.



In January we will be holding a members' meal with a difference, a "Pot Pourri" at which we will ask everyone to bring a dish to share. Next year will see us trying new venues, so if you have a suggestion for a good eatery, do please let us know.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

## Twining Association AGM - Tuesday 7 June

The Association's AGM was held on Tuesday 7 June at the Town Hall. The new Mayor Cllr George Crawford attended and we enjoyed wine and nibbles together on arrival. Sadly attendance was less than in previous years with only a dozen members present. The Mayor said he had served on the Council for nine years, and had not been involved with Twining thus far, but was looking forward to the remainder of his term being present at our events, and he will help whenever he can.

Clive gave his annual report on twinning's activities over the past year, most of which had been taken up by organising the Choral Festival, especially accommodation for the many guests from our twin towns. The Mayor said he would attend all the concerts. There were also activities planned in the Ashley Centre. We had made new friends as a result of increased awareness of twinning.

Committee officers were willing to continue, and the committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

## Choral Festival of the Twin Towns - 30 June-3 July

Well, we did it! Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the committee, our members, singers, friends and other groups in the community, the festival was a great success. Our visitors and audiences complimented us on every aspect of the event, everything ran smoothly, everyone was fed and housed, transported and given as much shopping time as possible. The main aim of singing together was achieved and exceeded, in our magnificent venues, and the rain only came down when there were time and places to avoid it. The marquee at Epsom College was a major factor and a wonderful space to put on a good show. Any minor hiccups passed unnoticed.

Three concerts in as many days were preceded by a week of fun and song and dance in the Ashley Centre, with a good number of our local schools taking part, not to mention our visitors performing in the town following a civic welcome at the Playhouse. The

visiting civic delegations were taken on a coach tour of the Borough, stopping off at the Racecourse, and being treated to tea at Nonsuch.



We did ourselves and the Borough proud and are grateful for their support. We received thanks and congratulations from the Mayor and other council members who

were very much in evidence throughout the weekend, and those sponsors who were able to attend. Our European visitors were thrilled and enjoyed every minute of their sadly too short stay. The best account of the weekend is shown in the pictures taken by Clive Richardson and Tony Rowe, a few of which are included in the collage above.

Thanks to careful negotiation and organisation, the amazing generosity of so many, and no major disasters, we also ended the weekend in a comfortable position financially. Chantilly has bravely taken up the challenge yet again and will already be planning the 2018 Choral Festival. They have also suggested more cooperation and events involving the four twin towns together, perhaps sharing some of their regular festivals, e.g. Watermael-Boitsfort rugby tournaments, water sports in Überlingen, and maybe we can include some of them in a future Arts Festival or one of our sporting events. The committee will be looking at taking some of these ideas forward now we have recovered!

Once again, many, many thanks to you all for your hard work and support for what really was a major undertaking.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chairman and Festival Coordinator

## **Epsom Rotary Fun Day - Sunday 18 September**

The Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association was again represented at the annual Rotary Fun Day at Hook Road Arena on Sunday 18 September. The day was fine and warm, attracting a large number of visitors. This year we were better positioned, opposite the main parade ring.

As in previous years the display on our stand depicted the Twinning achievements during the past year, of which the Choral Festival was perhaps the most significant one. A large display of photographs was prominent in the Twinning tent.

As the emphasis was on fun the "Twinning Railway" was again featured, this time in circular format with Epsom and Chantilly represented and separated by a "Channel Tunnel". A children's tombola in which every child won a prize was popular, and every person joining the Twinning Association on the day was given a bottle of wine.



Amongst a steady stream of visitors were the Mayor and Mayoress. One family was enrolled as members and there were several enquiries. It would seem, after the July Choral Festival, that the people of Epsom are more aware of twinning.

Of course this event could not take place without a coordinated team effort. Thanks are due to those who helped prepare the stand and the displays, particularly Clive and Anne Richardson, to those who stewarded the stand on the day, Carol Thorley, Diana Deavin, Jackie Reynolds, and Trevor Taylor, and to Brian Angus who again very kindly provided a huge tent at very little cost.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

## AND LOOKING AHEAD:

### Members' Pizza Evening - Tuesday 8 November

We do hope you will join us for something slightly different:

A Pizza Evening at the Olive Tree Restaurant, Ashtead Park Garden Centre on Tuesday 8 November, 7 for 7.30pm, cost £15 pp to include: A regular 14in pizza of your choice, a glass of wine, beer or soft drink, and an ice cream.

The restaurant is now open most evenings and has installed a pizza oven, with an appetising choice of pizzas. Please let Diana know asap if you would like to come, and she will send you the list of choices.

Diana Deavin, [diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk), 01372 727382 or 07778 935341.

[The Olive Tree Restaurant](#), Pleasure Pit Road, Ashtead, KT21 1HU, 01372 271188.

### Members' French Film outing - Saturday 26 November

"Tous les Matins du Monde" is showing at the Kings Place on Saturday 26 November at 2.30pm. It is a film based on a book of the same name, set in the reign of Louis XIV and shows the eminent musician Martin Marais (starring Gérard Depardieu) looking back on his young life when he tried to become a pupil of Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe, and features much music of the period, especially that for the viola da gamba.

Tickets are priced £6.50, and if you would like to join us please contact Jill Preiss asap at [jillpreiss@aol.com](mailto:jillpreiss@aol.com) or tel 01372 379299 who is making the booking for us.

Kings Place is close to Kings Cross Station, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG, and there's also a Café there where we could maybe meet for a snack lunch beforehand?

### Members' Christmas dinner - Tuesday 6 December

Save the date for an early pre-Christmas get together and some good food at the Epsom Club on Tuesday 6 December, 7 for 7.30pm. Full details will be circulated soon when I have discussed with possible caterers and we have a menu to show you. In the meantime it would be helpful if you could please let me know whether you are likely to be coming. Thanks. Contact: [diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk), 01372 727382, 07778 935341).

### Chantilly Christmas Market - 10-11 December



Now is the time when we start to plan for our Twinning stall at the market in Chantilly. We would like help with making Christmas puddings, mini mince pies and baby Christmas cakes for the stall, and after the Choral Festival we have been asked to take marmalade again as well.

Also, if you want to experience a typical French Christmas market, whilst showing people what the English enjoy in the festive season, and if you would like to practise your French as you talk about twinning opportunities in Epsom, why not join us?

We're looking for volunteers to help us man the Twinning Association stand at Chantilly Market for the



weekend of **10 /11** December. We take crackers for the children and other typically English goods and have fun explaining them to the French. We give out leaflets about the borough of Epsom and Ewell. We are warmly welcomed by the people of Chantilly and enjoy an evening meal with the Twinning groups of the other twin towns.

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, 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. Those of you who cannot come but would like to contribute could donate some crackers.



Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

## **Un Diner partagé**

Members' dinner in January will have a slightly different format - a Pot pourri or "bring and share" dinner, at the United Reformed Church hall on Saturday 21 January 2017.

## **Another Quiznight**

We look forward to holding another of our fun Quiznights, provisionally booked at the United Reformed Church hall on Saturday 11 February.

## **Cheese and Wine Party**

We are planning to hold our annual Cheese and Wine party at Epsom Town Hall on Thursday 16 March.

More details of all these future events as and when we have them, but do please put the dates in your diary now!

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary, 01372 602560 or mcnightingale@sky.com

<b>Calendar of Future Events</b>	
<b>2016</b>	
Thursday 3 November	Twining committee meeting
Tuesday 8 November	Members' Pizza evening at the Olive Tree
Saturday 26 November	Members' Film outing to Kings Place
Tuesday 6 December	Members' Christmas dinner at the Epsom Club
Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 December	Christmas Market in Chantilly
<b>2017</b>	
Monday 9 January	Soirée Française chez Margaret
Saturday 21 January	Members' Diner partagé - Pot pourri
Tuesday 7 February	Rotary Junior French-speaking competition
Saturday 11 February	Quiznight at United Reformed Hall
Tuesday 21 February	Intermediate French-speaking competition
Tuesday 28 February	Senior French-speaking competition
Monday 6 March	Soirée Française - venue tbc
Thursday 16 March	Cheese and Wine Party at the Town Hall

### **Committee for 2016/17**

Cllr Clive Woodbridge - Chairman	0208 3932853
Mrs Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair/Liaison Officer	01372 727382
Mr Brian Vandervilt - Treasurer	0208 3958996
Mr Brian Atkinson - Assistant Treasurer	01372 723767
Mrs Margaret Nightingale - Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	01372 602560
Mrs Anne Richardson - Membership Secretary	01372 723698
Mrs Alison Chatterton	01372 811099
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mr Martin Lewis - Publicity Officer	0208 3933877
Cllr Keith Partridge	01372 740602
Mr Norman Shipley	07903 544546

### **Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twining**

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