

Twinned with Chantilly, France

Spring Newsletter 2015 (no 50)

Chairman's Welcome

Twinning is alive and well!

It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent Quiz night, which was extremely well attended. As well as providing an opportunity to meet up with old friends, it also raised over £500 for the Association.

This year our fund-raising focus is on helping to support the Town-Twinning Choral Festival, which will take place in Epsom in June-July 2016. We are looking forward to welcoming guests from Chantilly, and from their twin towns Uberlingen and Watermael-Boisfort, but it will take considerable resources to put on this event. There is more about this Festival within the newsletter, but if you are willing to help out, by giving up time, providing accommodation or contributing financially, do get in touch with a committee member. It will be much appreciated.

As you will read in the newsletter, the past few months have been busy ones, and there has been a lot going on. More events are planned, and in particular I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual Cheese and Wine event, on 21st May, as well as at the AGM on 23rd June. The Association is also planning to take part in the Borough Funday on 20th September, and committee members, together with the Mayor and Chief Executive, have been invited to travel to Chantilly to celebrate 20 years of Twinning in October. But more about that in the next newsletter! Rotary and the Town-Twinning Association are also working together again on a French-speaking competition for local schools which will take place in October and November.

So Twinning is alive and well, and making a real contribution. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Clr. Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

Visit to Chantilly of the Mayor and Mayoress Monday 10 - Wednesday 12 November

The Mayor of Epsom & Ewell completed an intensive period of remembrance and commemoration last November.

On Tuesday 4 November, he opened a Field of Remembrance in the grounds of Bourne Hall, Ewell.

On Saturday 8 November, he laid a wreath at the Horton Memorial and released a dozen white doves. This was followed by simple wreath-laying ceremonies at All Saints Church Memorial, West Ewell and the Dog Gate Memorial in Ewell Village.

On Sunday 9 November, the Mayor laid wreaths at the two memorials in Ashley Road (Epsom War Memorial and the Commonwealth War Memorial), before leading the Borough's commemorations at St Mary's Ewell and reviewing the troops in Church Street. Never have so many troops, cadets and members of uniformed organisations taken part and so many looked on.

On Monday 10 November, the Mayor travelled 300 miles to the front line of World War I in memory of three of Epsom's fallen who died in September 1914. At the end of an un-metalled road, at the Perreuse Chateau Franco-British National Cemetery, he laid a wreath on the grave of Private Archibald Jones from Epsom.

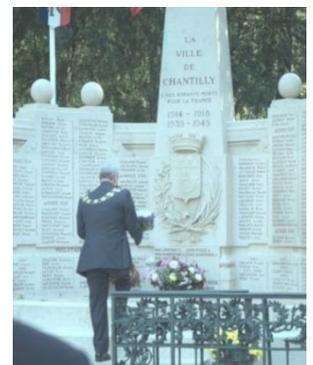
In contrast to the small, peaceful cemetery, the next place visited by the Mayor was the massive memorial at Le Ferté-sous-Jouarre alongside the River Marne. This Memorial commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne between the end of August and early October 1914 and have no known graves. It includes the names of Private Charles Morley and his brother Private Philip Morley, from Epsom.



On Tuesday 11 November, the Mayor was in Chantilly (Epsom's twin town) and spoke to a gathering, in two languages, which included the Mayor and Councillors of Chantilly plus international delegations from Brazil, Belgium, and Chantilly, Virginia, USA. Councillor Foote spoke of 'the opportunity to forge stronger links and understand the lessons of the past by seeing them from our different perspectives.'

He also laid a floral tribute on behalf of Epsom & Ewell at Chantilly's War Memorial. Later that day, he attended a poignant concert in the Grand Stables, in which music was interspersed with children reading letters between a WW1 French infantry man and his young family.

The Mayor described the visit as 'intense and deeply moving.'



Rob Foote, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell

Les Soirées Françaises



We have held successful Soirées on Monday 19th January at Anne's and again on Monday 23rd March at Margaret's.

Both beginners and advanced all seemed very happy with the evenings. Crosswords completed, articles read, lots of simple conversation, as well as a few harder pieces! Members all said that they are looking forward to the next one!

This will be on Monday 11th May chez Anne. She will send you a reminder, but do please let her know in advance if you plan to attend, so she has an idea of numbers. Thank you.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Members' Dinners

We generally hold members' dinners every other month, to give members a chance to catch up with each other, and to hear about the latest news from Chantilly.



Our Christmas dinner was held at the Chalk Lane Hotel, just before the festive season started, and was attended by a record number of members. We held a raffle at the event, which raised a much needed £91 for funds.

The February dinner was held at Café Rouge in Epsom town centre. The food was very tasty, reasonably priced, and efficiently served by the two very busy waitresses.

If you have not yet attended one of our dinners, please do join us. You'll be sure of a warm welcome. And if you have a favourite restaurant that you would like us to visit, please let me know?

Our summer meal will be on Saturday 18th July. The venue has not been finalised yet, but be sure to keep the day free.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Chantilly Christmas Market - 13/14 December

An enthusiastic team of willing volunteers travelled to Chantilly in December to sell our goods at the Christmas market. The puddings, made with skill and efficiency in Brian Atkinson's kitchen with help from Richard Deavin and myself, were well liked as usual, and mince pies, decorated expertly by Margaret Angus, sold out quickly.



We were entertained by the Twinning Committee at a local school together with the representatives from Watermael and Uberlingen on the Saturday night, which was very enjoyable.

The mayor of Chantilly buys a pudding!

Diana explaining what a cracker is.

Any member who would like to go to the market next December is very welcome. Please contact a committee member for details.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary



The France Exhibition 24 - 26 January, Olympia

This exhibition was advertised as the whole of France in a single day. Whilst that may have been an overstatement, it was an exciting claim. French cheese, wine and food generally were prominent with plenty of samples to try. Tourism had a high profile with many regions of France tempting visitors with their brochures. Although the Picardie region and Chantilly were not represented, I found Brittany appealing.

I had hoped to find a suitable intensive French course, but there appeared to be a dearth of such establishments. However I was tempted by a provider in Perigord, not far from Bergerac. In addition to the prospect of improving my French I was tempted by not only a heated swimming pool, cycling, and a tennis court but the prospect of visits to nearby cultural sites.

The second floor of the exhibition was the exclusive domain of "immobiliers" seeking interest in French property. In fact this may have been the "raison d'être" for the Exhibition.

But for others it may have been a performance by the impressive P & O Choir or equally a performance of the Can-Can, complete with traditional music: magnificent! Yes, I enjoyed the day. I hope that next year we may be able to encourage other members to share the French experience.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

SCHOOLS FRENCH-SPEAKING COMPETITION

The English Public Speaking Competition in Chantilly was held on Friday 13th February. Five from the UK Rotary attended the event. The event has been running for some years, and last autumn we ran a similar event for French-speaking students here in the UK.

We went across on the Friday and the event started at 6pm with a briefing for our judge, Anne Richardson. The competition commenced at 7pm and 12 teenagers spoke for 5 minutes each on a topic which they were assigned by lottery. They had seen all 30 topics before, but were not assigned the topic until half an hour before the start. At the end of their talk they were each posed a question by one of the jury members. This was a new innovation which was added following its inception in the Epsom French-speaking competition.



In general the quality was excellent, but no better than the French speakers in the French-speaking competition in the autumn.

The field was divided into anglophones and non-anglophones, with tougher marking for those whose family background gave them an advantage. Following the event we all went to a new restaurant opposite the Town hall for a meal with the Chantilly Rotarians.

The following day two Chantilly Rotarians, Jean-Jacques and Gérard, took us to Senlis and showed us round the medieval town. It was a great morning out, followed by a delicious savoury pancake lunch in the town.

All in all we had a great weekend, and very many thanks to the Chantilly Rotarians for providing such good company and attentiveness.

Clive Richardson, Epsom Rotary

Quiz Night - Saturday 7 March

Your Committee would like to thank everyone who came to the Quiz night and making it a great success. We raised £590 for the Twin Towns choral festival to be held in Epsom and Ewell next year, which is a good start to our fund raising efforts.

Many thanks go to our Quiz Master, Brian, and to Alan Wood for his score display. For those of you who love them, don't forget Alan's quiz night in aid of Christian Aid on 9th May at Unity Hall at 7pm. Tickets from alanuood@gmail.com

The next Twinning event was a Coffee and Cake Sale at Madan Cottage on 4th April. This was very successful too, with around 30 people taking part, and over £300 raised towards the choral festival in July 2016. Many thanks to all who made cakes, helped out, and contributed on the day!

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Le Cercle Français of Sutton send this invitation

Chers amis

Nous allons fêter le printemps ici à Sutton, au restaurant français, La Brasserie Vacherin, tout près de la gare. Le menu se trouve ci-dessous :

Déjeuner de printemps

Trois plats - £25

Service compris, boissons en sus

12h30 samedi, le samedi 18 avril

Brasserie Vacherin

12 High Street, Sutton, SM1 1HN

Si vous voulez nous rejoindre, veuillez m'envoyer (à 19 Highfield Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4JY) votre chèque de £25, payable au Cercle Français de Sutton, et votre choix de plats, avant le 10 avril, ou bien me donner un coup de téléphone avant cette date, suivi du chèque.

Cordialement, Catherine Mahé, Trésorière, tel 0208 642 0285

Cheese and Wine evening - Thursday 21 May

Please join us for another Cheese and Wine evening to celebrate our association with our twin town, Chantilly, to be held at the Town Hall on Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm.

A friendly welcome awaits you with cheeses and wine, and good company! There will as usual be displays about Chantilly, an attractive raffle, and an opportunity to meet with others interested in France and, in particular with our historic twin town.

Members, friends, and supporters all welcome!

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Twinning Association AGM - Tuesday 23 June

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Committee Room 1 on Tuesday 23rd June. An official invitation will be sent to all members in due course, but do please put the date in your diary now!

Please do not think an AGM necessarily boring, because actually it is an opportunity for you to gather with other members to hear reports on our activities over the past year, and also our plans for the coming year. And over a glass of wine, you may also like to put your questions to the committee, so do please come and learn more about Twinning!

Next year 2016 is going to be a particularly challenging year for Epsom, when we will host the Twin Towns Choral Festival, and we will be looking for a lot of support from everyone in the Borough to make this a success.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

EPSOM FUNDAY - Sunday 20 September

The Rotary Fun Day will be held on Sunday 20th September at Hook Road Arena. The Twinning Association proposes to have a stand again to promote twinning activities, with the added assistance this year from our friends in Chantilly who plan to come over to join us.

However the emphasis will be on the "Fun" and we will be looking to entertain all visitors. Any ideas and offers of help will be welcomed; every member can be involved. Please put the date in your diary now, and nearer the time we will be organising a rota of volunteers to man the stand on the day.

The weather last year was fantastic, and whilst we cannot guarantee a repeat we are confident that it will be a most enjoyable day, and we hope to see you there.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

Choral Festival of the Twin Towns 2016

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

Many thanks to those who have already returned the form offering help with various aspects of the Festival. It is a great start, and we will be looking for reinforcements from local festival participants too. If we haven't been in touch with you yet, maybe because your services will not be required until nearer the time, rest assured that your offer is very much appreciated, and will be taken up in due course.

If you haven't had a chance to fill the form in yet, do please dig it out or ask Anne Richardson for a copy (anne@epsomtwinning.com) and return it to us as soon as possible. If you have any questions, do please ask me (diana@epsomtwinning.com). Thank you.

In the meantime, we would ask you all to let us have your ideas for fundraising events, large or small, which we could organise together, and which would contribute towards our goal of hosting the 2016 Festival in Epsom.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

Calendar of Future Events	
2015	
Monday 11 May	Soirée française at Anne's
Saturday 6 June	Derby Day on Epsom Downs
Monday 8 June	Soirée française at Margaret's
Tuesday 23 June	Twinning AGM at the Town Hall
Monday 6 July	Soirée française at Anne's
Tuesday 14 July	Epsom Coaches trip to Boulogne
Saturday 18 July	Members Summer dinner - venue tba
Sunday 20 September	Epsom Rotary Funday at Hook Road Arena
Tuesday 6 October	Cercle Français coach trip to Arras and Vimy Ridge
Friday 9 - Sunday 11 October	Twinning 20 th anniversary celebrations in Chantilly
2016	
Thurs 30 June - Sunday 3 July	4 th Choral Festival of the Twin Towns in Epsom

Committee for 2014/15

Cllr Clive Woodbridge - Chairman	0208 3932853
Mrs Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair/Liaison Officer	01372 727382
Mr Brian Vandervilt - Treasurer	0208 3958996
Mrs Margaret Nightingale - Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	01372 602560
Mrs Anne Richardson - Membership Secretary	01372 723698
Mrs Alison Chatterton	01372 811099
Mr Cyril Frazer	0208 3933628
Cllr Judith Glover	0208 3307686
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mr Martin Lewis	0208 3933877

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