



Spring Newsletter 2014 (no 48)

Chairman's Welcome

Honouring founding fathers

At our recent cheese and wine evening I had the pleasure to present awards to our first two Honorary Vice-Presidents, Cllr. Clive Smitheram and Hon. Alderman Reg Saviel. It was the support and encouragement of 'founding fathers' like Clive and Reg that enabled Twinning to get off the ground in the early days, and creating the position of Honorary Vice-President means we can tap into their knowledge and expertise without them having to actually serve on the committee.

The evening was a very pleasant opportunity to socialise, and meet some newcomers to our ranks, but also to catch up on what individuals and organisations have been doing in support of Twinning. The links between the two Rotary Clubs seem to be getting stronger and a recent visit to Chantilly proved an ideal opportunity to further these connections. Current Epsom Rotary Club president, Carol Caiger, was able to present Chantilly with a special plaque on behalf of Epsom & Ewell, and plans were also formalised for some return visits later in the year.

Those on this visit brought back rather sad news that Claude Charpentier and Anne Peck, who have been such stalwart supporters of twinning in Chantilly are stepping down from their official Council roles after a some years, following recent elections in France. Many of you will have met them on various occasions and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for the future. However, both have promised to continue informal links with Epsom & Ewell via twinning and other organisations, and we look forward to welcoming them here as guests at some time in the future.

The biennial Twinning choral festival, involving the twin towns Chantilly, Uberlingen, Watermael-Boitsfort, and Epsom & Ewell will be taking place at the end of May, in Uberlingen, and we will be represented by local chamber choir Sponsalia. We wish them well. They will be supported in a 'civic' capacity by Cllr Judith Glover and we are very grateful that she is able to offer them official support during their visit. It will be Epsom & Ewell's turn to host this twinning event in 2016, so we will soon be looking for volunteers to help us at that important time.

A number of Twinning events are planned for the next few months, including the regular members' dinners, and we are also hoping to hold the successful Quiz night again, either in the summer or autumn. So do watch this space!

Clive Woodbridge, Chair

Chantilly Christmas Market - December 2013

The annual Christmas Market in Chantilly was held this year the weekend of 7-8 December. Having recently joined the Twinning Association, I decided this would be a good way to make new English and French friends. Also I have long been attracted to the idea of exploring foreign Christmas markets, and it seemed from the publicity that this would be possible in Chantilly.

So I found myself in Chantilly staying with Anne Peck and her husband Charles. Charles is English and was a jockey at Newmarket but now he trains racehorses in Chantilly. I was given a lovely welcome and made to feel at home. Chantilly is a very attractive town and was looking especially good with tasteful Christmas illuminations.

The market this year was held in the Hippodrome, a huge space with wonderful views of the Chateau and lake, especially at night when the Chateau was illuminated. We were next to the German and Belgian twin town stalls.

The time flew by on both the Saturday and the Sunday. There were samples to prepare of Cheddar and Stilton cheese, mince pies, Christmas puddings and whisky marmalade, and they had to be explained to the French, many of whom seemed surprised that the English were able to make edible cheese! Those brave enough to try were so amazed that they bought packets of Cheddar which seemed more popular than the Stilton. There were lots of families at the Market, and we gave free crackers to the children. Some knew from previous years what to expect, but some did not and it was great to see the pleasure and excitement on their faces. The only difficulty was trying to translate the 'jokes' into French.

However, it wasn't all work, there was time to explore the other stalls and entertainment, not forgetting the 'vin chaud'. There was a huge tent selling wine and food with lots of opportunity to taste.

On Saturday evening a dinner was given by the Mayor of Chantilly for all the people from Chantilly's twin towns. It was a nice way to finish a busy day and to socialise with people from the other towns.

It was a great experience and a good way of making new friends, which for me is one of the main points of joining the Association. I was well looked after by both the French and the English, and I am looking forward to going again next year.

Sue Pennington

The France Exhibition

This event, held annually at Earls Court, seeks to promote many aspects of life in France. This year the "France Exhibition" was held over 17th - 19th January.

Although much of the exhibition is devoted to the sale of property in France with estate agents, solicitors etc. being well represented, my principal interest was in the publicity and products of the regions, the food, the wine and the language courses, all of which were well represented.

There were plenty of samples of cheese and wine. I even received a certificate for oyster tasting! Whilst I couldn't find any brochures relating to Chantilly many of the regions of France were advertising their history and scenic beauty. Consequently I departed with a very heavy bag of brochures!

And to transport us to these delights the ferry companies all had offers. I was unaware that DFDS Ferries had taken over the Newhaven - Dieppe crossing in addition to the Dover - Dunkirk service. Whilst longer sea voyages, including those from Portsmouth to Le Havre, Caen, Cherbourg and St. Malo may not appeal to those with a weaker stomach travelling from Epsom, the mid-channel crossings can save mileage and time. Incidentally the Channel Tunnel was not represented!

Perhaps my main objective was to investigate a language course. I finally settled on one alongside the Canal du Midi outside Toulouse. For many years I had longed to explore the Canal du Midi, I have friends in "nearby" Millau and I love the countryside of Aveyron.

These courses all seem to operate to the same formula; lessons in the morning followed by visits to places of culture, interest etc. in the afternoon to practise what you have learned. However in this case the availability of rail transport was a deciding factor: TGV from Paris to Bordeaux and Toulouse. There was one other aspect which I was determined to investigate; hire of a "peniche" on the Canal du Midi. Although I would love to do that it may have to wait until another occasion.

I enjoyed the day at the "France Exhibition". Perhaps next year we could arrange a Twinning Association visit to Earls Court - it would be more enjoyable in a group.

Peter Hardy

Twinning Annual General Meeting - 1 July 2014

The Association's AGM will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 1st July at 7.30pm. An official notice will be sent out to members in due course, but please put the date in your diary now. Thank you.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Les Soirées Françaises



Our French conversation evenings are proving very popular. Members can practise their French in sympathetic surroundings. We are mixed abilities and happy to hear of others who would like to join us. Eileen brought this beautiful poem to the last soirée on 3 March and part of it is copied for you below.

Liberté

Sur mes cahiers d'écolier
Sur mon pupitre et les arbres
Sur le sable de neige
J'écris ton nom

Sur toutes les pages lues
Sur toutes les pages blanches
Pierre sang papier ou cendre
J'écris ton nom

Sur les images dorées
Sur les armes des guerriers
Sur la couronne des rois
J'écris ton nom

Sur la jungle et le désert
Sur les nids sur les genêts

Sur l'écho de mon enfance
J'écris ton nom

Sur les merveilles des nuits
Sur le pain blanc des journées
Sur les saisons fiancées
J'écris ton nom

Sur tous mes chiffons d'azur
Sur l'étang soleil moisi
Sur le lac lune vivante
J'écris ton nom

Et par le pouvoir d'un mot
Je recommence ma vie
Je suis né pour te connaître
Pour te nommer.

Liberté

Paul Eluard, *Poésies et vérités*, 1942

The next soirée will be held at Margaret's on Tuesday 6 May.

Email margaret@epsomtwinning.com.

There will as usual be a small charge of £3 to cover the cost of wine and nibbles.

There will be different subjects to discuss and the usual crossword! We encourage you all to speak French! If you wish to bring an article from a French newspaper or magazine, please do so, and if you have other ideas for subjects of conversation please tell us, or just bring yourself! If you intend to come, it would help your host to know numbers - please call Margaret on 01372 602560.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Chantilly Public Speaking Contest

The 2014 English-speaking contest for schools, organised by Chantilly Rotary Club, took place on the 7th February. Many Rotarians and Rotary's District Governor were present, and Epsom Rotary Club was represented by Richard and Diana Deavin and Colin Peel. Coincidentally all three are also members of the Town Twinning Association.

Richard Deavin was "elected" to join the judges' panel consisting of J-J Lesaffre, Chantilly Rotary's liaison with Epsom, and no less than 6 lady English teachers, chaired by the English former Head of a local secondary school.

There were two classes - Francophone (8 candidates) and Anglophone (6). All contestants were aged about 16 and from different schools and backgrounds in and around Chantilly. For each class the candidates were given 20 minutes to prepare a 5-minute speech in English on a topic based on the general subject of Europe and the EU. The topics were known in advance and prior preparation was therefore possible, but the allocation of topics was made on the night and the speeches had to be put together without the benefit of any notes previously made.

The results were generally impressive; we felt some sympathy for the few candidates who lost their way under the pressure. The pressure was nothing to that imposed on the judges: instant marking was required under categories Quality, Command of language, Clarity of Diction, Ease and Eloquence of Delivery, and Relevance. Results were analysed by computer and the judges were required to discuss their marking and adjust if necessary. Feelings ran high in the judges' post-contest deliberations, but finally winners were selected and prizes presented by the District Governor and other distinguished guests and sponsors. The Judges and UK guests were entertained to Dinner by Chantilly Rotary Club.

Before the competition the UK visitors took the opportunity to explore Chantilly (including the Moulin des Princes which used to pump the water supply for the Chateau, and in the 19th century for the whole town) and meet Twinning colleagues.

Richard Deavin

Members' Dinners



Our November dinner was at The Chalk Lane Hotel. We had a private room for the event, which made it easier to make announcements and even to speak in French without embarrassment! Mr McGregor created a French atmosphere for us and their French chef created a suitably French meal. We held a raffle which raised much needed funds for the Association, and were able to welcome some new members to our group.

Our spring meal on 7 February was held at an Italian restaurant, Il Ponte in Epsom. We were warmly welcomed by our jovial host, and enjoyed a tasty meal. Sadly, we had to cancel the meal on 7 April, due to a conflict with another event, but the next members' dinner will be on Monday 9 June at a venue to be confirmed.

If you have not yet attended one of our dinners, please do join us - you will be sure of a friendly welcome and an enjoyable evening, and if you have a favourite restaurant to suggest, please let me know.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

Epsom Rotary Club Raids Chantilly - 19 March



Led by President Carol Caiger, six Epsom Rotarians and their partners "raided" a meeting of their contact club, Chantilly on Wednesday 19th March. The group was welcomed by the President, M. Jean-Louis Vignaud and members of the committee, and enjoyed a pleasant dinner, making new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

We were given an interesting talk on France-Galop and how racing is organised in France by M. Guy de Fontaines. The following day Jean-Jacques Lesaffre of the Chantilly club had organised a tour of Chantilly and its environs. We visited a famous training facility with manager, Matthieu Vincent and Christiane Head, trainer of last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner.



We then visited St Peter's Anglican Church to view the renovation work, for which Epsom Rotary had supported fund raising activities, and then toured the royal stables and the recently opened living horse museum. After a good lunch we visited the Chateau and rounded the day off with a cup of tea at the "English Shop". We took the opportunity to finalise details for Chantilly's visit to Epsom in April.

Richard Deavin

Presentation to Chantilly



When Frances Rutter, Epsom & Ewell's Chief Executive, visited Chantilly for the Prix d'Epsom race last year, she promised to commission a plaque celebrating Twinning to be mounted in the newly refurbished grandstand. Taking advantage of a visit by Epsom Rotary Club, Carol Caiger, Mayor's secretary and, coincidentally President of Rotary this year, presented the completed Plaque to M. Claude Charpentier, head of Twinning for Chantilly.

Diana Deavin and Anne Richardson accompanied Carol on behalf of the Twinning committee. Also present were the respective partners of the delegates and Françoise Derray from Chantilly's twinning committee.

Richard Deavin

Twinning Cheese and Wine party - 27 March



Over thirty members attended our annual Cheese and Wine party at the Town Hall, and had the opportunity to meet with others interested in our twin town.

The room was decorated with flags and there was a substantial buffet table including paté and various cheeses, an excellent bar offering French red and white wines and fruit juices, and an attractive raffle. All this created a very friendly atmosphere!

The photos show our Chair Clive Woodbridge presenting the title of Hon. Vice-President to founding members Reg Saviel and Clive Smitheram, with the twinning gift bowl designed by Margaret Haslam.



A big thank you to all those who contributed to a most successful evening. And as well as enjoying each other's company, we made a profit of around £100 to add to Association funds, well done everyone!

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

News from Chantilly

La ville achète trois tableaux de Ludovic Moreau

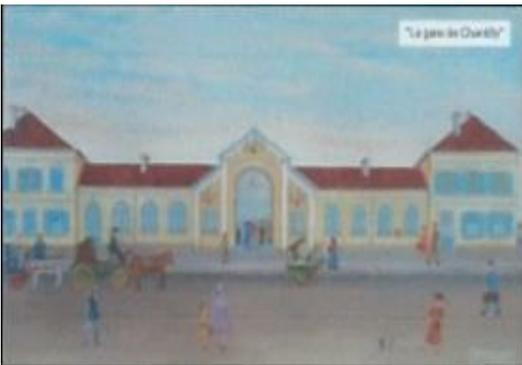
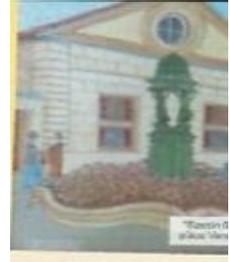
Chantilly aims to regularly acquire works of art and fortunately is the beneficiary of gifts. In 2009 AXA gave a collection of 18th Century Chantilly porcelain. In 2013 the town commissioned the Oise artist Sophie Lucas-Fraye to paint a fresco on a jockey theme in the entrance.



In January Chantilly purchased 3 paintings by Ludovic Moreau for the municipal art collection. He was born in 1915 (died 1990) in Seine-et-Marne and lived in Chantilly from the 70s. He opened the Art Cellar in 1972 with his wife in Rue de Creil to sell Oise paintings. As well as paintings of Chantilly, he depicted the landscapes of his childhood at Moret-sur-Loing and his holiday spots, with a particular attraction for the lavender fields of Provence.

The 3 paintings, "Le château de Chantilly", "Bassin fleuri" et "La gare de Chantilly" will be hung in the town hall, joining "Courses à Chantilly", donated by Madame Moreau in 1990.

Monsieur Mazodier, the grandson of the artist, is lending the collection of his grandfather's paintings, along with numerous documents, for an exhibition next January. Take a look if you happen to be in Chantilly.



Qu'est ce que l'art Naïf

Ludovic Moreau's style is naïve - a deliberate reaction away from pessimistic, sad avant-garde intellectuals. He preferred his paintings to be fresh, colourful, light, joyous, figurative, anecdotal and unpretentious.

Alison Chatterton

Chantilly contacts - potential links

- We are still looking for a 9 year-old and a 13 year-old boy to correspond and eventually exchange with someone over here.
- Also, a mature Franco-German couple would be interested in linking up with a similar pair with a view to hospitality when visiting the Borough.

- If there are any French (or other subject) secondary-school-age teachers out there, we would be interested to hear from you in connection with various twinning and Rotary projects.
Please contact Diana Deavin diana@epsomtwinning.com 01372 727382 in the first instance.

Also, if you are visiting Chantilly in the near future look out for the Tourist Office in its new location in the Rue du Connetable, near the old Mairie and the Square de l'Europe/Espace Bouteiller.

Diana Deavin, Liaison Officer

Twinning Choral Festival - Uberlingen 29 May - 2 June

Following the success of the Second Choral Festival in Watermael-Boitsfort in 2012, the Twinning Association in Uberlingen, Germany is organising and hosting the **Third Choral Festival on 29 May to 1 June 2014** with choirs from four twinned towns. Councillor Judith Glover, Twinning committee member, will also be attending as official representative of the Borough.

Sponsalia Chamber Choir, directed by Beresford Bell, will again be taking part, representing Epsom. Sponsalia includes many members of the Epsom Choral Society, and members of Epsom's Twinning Association. Sponsalia will be singing in three concerts with the choirs from our twinned town - Chantilly, together with choirs from Watermael-Boitsfort and 4 other choirs from the host town Uberlingen, in Germany.

Three concerts are planned over the weekend, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, including open-air performances in the town. Each concert will include a programme of music of each choir's own choice, finishing with a communal song for all the choirs to sing together. Sponsalia will be performing a selection of choral music origin covering 600 years, from Orlando Gibbons to Will Todd, including some well-known traditional English folk songs.

We are very grateful to all in Sponsalia for making this commitment and for all the hard work involved in the preparation for the concerts. Please do visit the Sponsalia website to read more about the choir: www.sponsalia.co.uk

Janee Foxon, Chair, Sponsalia

WWI Centenary - 4 August

WW1 commemorations

Over the next few months Epsom & Ewell will be hosting a number of events to commemorate the start of the Great War. Details can be found on the website: www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/WW1. It is our hope that at some point a delegation from Chantilly will be able to join us to mark this occasion which still has great significance for communities on both sides of the Channel.

Highlights include a Borough-wide 'Reflections' on 4th August, the date when war was declared, an Epsom in Harmony concert with a WW1 theme at the Racecourse on 26th September, and a WW1 weekend at Bourne Hall on 4th and 5th October.

Clive Woodbridge, Chair

Borough Fun Day - 21 September

The Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association has arranged to have a stand at the Rotary Fun day in Hook Road Arena on Sunday 21st September. Thanks are due to Epsom Rotary for their generosity in providing a pitch.

We would be pleased to see any of our members at the Rotary Fun Day. We have been asked to provide entertainment, which will include a model railway game with a continental/twinning theme: complete with a representation of the Channel Tunnel, railway stations at "Epsom" and "Chantilly", the participants will be invited to identify, for a small prize, where (and in which country) the train will stop.

We believe such a game will appeal to the young and the young at heart, whilst at the same time highlighting Twinning. For us to take part, we need help to assemble the stand, arrange publicity, distribute leaflets, run the railway, and collect donations. If you can come, if only for a short time, please contact Peter Hardy (01372 721148) or just turn up on the day!

Peter Hardy

Calendar of Future Events	
2014	
Wednesday 23 April	Investec Spring Race Meeting
Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 April	Model Railway Exhibition at Nescot
Tuesday 6 May	Soirée française at Margaret's
Thurs 29 May - Sunday 1 June	Choral Festival of the twin towns in Uberlingen
Friday 6 June	Ladies Day at Epsom Racecourse
Saturday 7 June	Derby Day on Epsom Downs
Monday 9 June	Members' dinner at venue tbc
Tuesday 1 July	Twinning AGM at Epsom Town Hall
Thursdays 3,10,17, and 31 July	Evening racing on Epsom Downs
Tuesday 5 August	Centenary of the outbreak of WWI
Monday 25 August	Bank Holiday Family Fun Day on the Downs
Tuesday 26 August	Summer Raceday at Epsom Racecourse
Sunday 21 September	Rotary Borough Fun Day at Hook Road
September	Prix d' Epsom at Chantilly Hippodrome
Sunday 28 September	Racing Season Finale at Epsom
October	Fundraising Quiznight

Committee for 2013/14

<i>Cllr Clive Woodbridge - Chairman</i>	0208 3932853
<i>Mr Brian Vandervilt - Treasurer</i>	0208 3958996
<i>Mrs Margaret Nightingale - Secretary/ Newsletter Editor</i>	01372 209704
<i>Mrs Anne Richardson - Membership Secretary</i>	01372 723698
<i>Mrs Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair/Liaison Officer</i>	01372 727382
<i>Mr Brian Angus</i>	0208 3931749
<i>Mrs Alison Chatterton</i>	01372 811099
<i>Mr Cyril Frazer</i>	0208 3933628
<i>Cllr Judith Glover</i>	0208 3307686
<i>Mr Peter Hardy</i>	01372 721148
<i>Mr Ron Thorley</i>	01372 727592

Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twinning

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