



Autumn Newsletter 2019 (no 59)

Message from the Chairman

Maintaining our racing connections

It was a pleasure to join other members of the twinning committee on Epsom Downs on 27th August for the annual Chantilly Handicap race. This year the race was won by *Good Job Power*, trained by Richard Hannon and ridden by PJ Dobbs. As well as a bottle of champagne for the winning owner, we presented a prize to the stablelad for the best turned out horse. We were also able to catch up with Caroline Baldock and her fantastic exhibition on the historic racing links between Chantilly and Epsom which was being held at the Racecourse over the Bank Holiday weekend.



Cllr Clive Woodbridge presents the prize to the winner of the Chantilly Nursery Handicap Stakes held at Epsom Downs on 27th August

Subsequently Caroline took the exhibition over to Chantilly where it was well received. I am pleased we were able to support this initiative which underlines the shared racing heritage on which twinning between Epsom and Chantilly was founded. Well done Caroline for all the hard work that went into this project, which I know was a labour of love.

As you will read in this newsletter, it has been a very active time for the Twinning Association and your committee. We took part in the Community Fayre at Hook Road arena together with some of our Friends from Chantilly, whose presence was much appreciated, and a small group attended the *Son et Lumiere* at Les Grandes Ecuries in Chantilly. There have also been a host of regular events and get-togethers, including drop-in coffee mornings at All Things Nice, Members' dinners and *Soirées françaises*. If you are interested in taking part in these, and others, look out for information about future dates in this newsletter and regular email updates.

Looking ahead we have received an official invitation to take part in the 2020 Choral Festival of the Twin Towns, which will take place next May in Watermael-Boitsfort in Belgium. I am pleased to say that three local choirs have expressed an interest in representing Epsom and Ewell and at the time I write we are making a tough decision between three excellent options. More in our next newsletter! Dates for next year's Schools French-Speaking competitions, which we run jointly with Epsom Rotary, have also been firmed up and we are trying to widen the number of schools taking part.

Last but by no means least, 2020/2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing and implementing of twinning arrangements between Chantilly and Epsom. We are planning to mark

the occasion with something low-key in the Autumn of 2020, followed by a more significant joint event with Chantilly in the Spring of 2021. We will update you all in our next newsletter, but your suggestions of fitting ways to mark this milestone will be welcomed.

The end of 2019 is nearly upon us. Where has the time gone? I hope you all enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

Obituary John Garlick - May 1931-June 2019

We were very sad to report the death during the summer of one of our longstanding and most loyal members, John Garlick. He rarely missed a social or business gathering, even up to the last few months of his life, and was always cheerfully and constructively supportive of twinning as well as excellent company. Looking back over his long life, this was his attitude to the many and varied organisations with which he was actively involved. We will miss him.

Twinning Association Annual General Meeting 2019

The Association's AGM was held on Tuesday 11 June at 7.30pm at Epsom Town Hall.

The Chair introduced the new Mayor Cllr John Beckett and the Mayoress his wife Alison.

The Mayor said that he and the Mayoress had attended the Derby and understood the original decision to twin with Chantilly as the home of the French Derby. He thanked the committee on behalf of the Council for all that we do and the benefits that derive from that. He hoped to find some time to visit Chantilly during their mayoral year.

Clive Woodbridge gave his Chair's annual report, and said that the past year has again been a very active and productive one for Twinning.

The committee officers were willing to continue and were re-elected, and a new committee was elected en bloc and will serve for the year 2019/20.

There was a discussion of possible Twinning links with Chantilly's other twin towns:

Informal contact had been made with both Watermael-Boisfort and Uberlingen, who are also twinned with Chantilly, both towns being willing to twin with Epsom. A proposal whether or not to take this forward was brought to this AGM. It was decided to form two subcommittees to investigate potential and come back to the next AGM.

Any other business, including reports from groups having contacts with Chantilly:

Charles Woods, a Life member, and representing Epsom Male Voice Choir, reported they had just returned from Krakow in Poland and would be going to Uberlingen in the near future.

Richard Deavin, Secretary of Epsom Rotary, had sent his report to the meeting that the Rotary Club of Epsom continues to demonstrate its support of the Twinning Association.

Martin Lewis gave his Publicity officer's report, he was in touch with 17 publications in Epsom.

Questions from the floor: Barbara Lewis raised the issue of relocating the Chantilly sign from the parade to the market place. The Chair replied he was in discussion with the Council and hoped to find a sensible way forward.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

First Impressions - visit to Chantilly by Cllr Collin

In May, as a newly elected Councillor, I was appointed to the Twinning Committee. Chantilly has been twinned with Epsom for 24 years because of the strong horse racing connection between the two towns. Following my appointment, I resolved to visit Chantilly as soon as possible.

In the last week of August my wife and I visited Chantilly and were totally overwhelmed by the beauty of the town, a total contrast to Epsom.

The Chateau surrounded by a moat is magnificent and stands proudly in grounds of several acres. A tour of the Chateau was overwhelming with over 2,000 paintings exhibited, second only to the Louvre. We started walking through the extensive grounds and, in the heat, were flagging badly. Luckily, we were able to hitch a ride on a golf buggy. These are for hire at the entrance and are strongly recommended.

The Stables and equine centre were both outstanding with imposing architecture. The museum, which traced the history of the horse, contained exhibits of spurs, saddles and all other manner of horse-related artefacts. A large outdoor exercise ring was the centre piece where horses were being shown. The centre also houses a large domed circular indoor ring, arranged with tiered seating where visitors can come to see horse displays.

An added bonus was the art exhibition in the grounds where a pencil sketch, allegedly a precursor to the Mona Lisa, was compared with several other versions.

The Domaine de Chantilly, comprising the Chateau, gardens and great stables costs Euro 17 per person for a day ticket and is excellent value.

Chantilly town is very clean with good restaurants and shops. During my visit, I met with two members of Chantilly's twinning committee, and we had discussions about possible ways to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Twinning next year. A visit to Chantilly is an experience to be savoured and is unlikely to disappoint any visitor to the town.

Nigel Collin, Cllr and committee member

Twinning at the Community Fayre - 15 September



What wonderful weather we had for the Rotary Community Fayre! Brian Angus set up the tent with its French and British flags proudly flying. Representatives from the Chantilly Twinning committee came over for the weekend, bringing several games for the children with prizes. The fishing for ducks was particularly popular as it was possible for the children to get suitably wet! It was lovely to see so many members from our Association coming to the stand to welcome the French



and practice their French with them.

Many thanks go to our kind hosts, who greeted, deposited and collected, fed and watered and generally made welcome our guests, to Brian and Heather who gave a sumptuous dinner for them on the Saturday evening, and to Phil Neale who transported the delegation to Sutton station for the return journey as trains to Waterloo were suspended on the Sunday.



Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

The Mayor and his wife meet the French delegation

A few thoughts and recollections of events from Cllr Neale

"The weather was kind to us for the Community Fayre on 15th September when I met our colleagues from Chantilly for the first time, Marie-Claude, Anita and Dominique. The stall was a great success with parents and children playing games that our friends brought and winning little bonbons. A steady flow of visitors from the Mayor, councillors, past friends and interested passers-by guaranteed that the afternoon went enjoyably.

The following weekend my wife and I returned the pleasure by attending the Son et Lumière event to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Grand stables of the Chateau. We arrived on Friday afternoon and attended the event in the evening, which was stunning. The Son et Lumière, which only the French can do so well, was projected on the full side of Les Grandes Ecuries, depicting the construction and development of the stables from its conception in 1719. It started with a trumpet call from an ensemble of musicians in full ceremonial hunting uniform and ended in a spectacular dressage with a pair of live horses decked in shrouds of led lights and a faux firework display backdrop on the stable building.

The weekend was completed with a visit to the Saturday market and a very pleasant lunch, hosted by the Chantilly twinning committee, after which Dominique invited Kay and myself to a brief tour of the Mairie. We left on Sunday morning to catch the Eurotunnel having enriched and enlightened ourselves. Chantilly is well worth a visit, just 2.5 hours' drive from Calais, or by train to Paris is even easier. The Chateau and grounds are stunning and the town itself is elegant and very French, funny that!!"

Phil Neale, Cllr and committee member

« Le Palais ou le Cheval est Roi – 300 ans des Grandes Ecuries »



A small group of members and partners made their way to Chantilly to see the "Le Son et Lumiere Vivant et Équestre" at the Grandes Ecuries during the European Heritage Weekend of 20-21 September. Impressive pre-publicity encouraged thousands to apply for free tickets and assemble in the Hemicycle du Duc d'Aumale as darkness fell, and all four showings were fully booked.

Organisation was excellent, queues long but orderly and an atmosphere of excitement generated...

Mist fills the hemicycle and we hear the voice of Prince Louis-Henri de Bourbon-Condé, grandson of Louis XIV, relating his dream of a temple to his great passion, the hunt. The hunting horns sound as he sets off for the chase, and the magnificent stable building gradually emerges as a grandiose extension to the chateau, fit for princes, their noble horses and the dogs. The Prince calls in the best professionals, crafts- and tradesmen, and we see them at work on the design, stone masonry, sculpture, glasswork and decoration of the stables. These stables not only give pride of place to the horses, but are fit for the best parties and finest receptions, which we see in full swing as the musicians play under the magnificent chandeliers.

The lights fade and the Revolution comes, turning the stables into barracks and narrowly saving them from total destruction, in spite of all metal sculptures being melted down for ammunition. We hear the voice of La Renommée, the guardian angel of the stables, now seen on horseback of course, vowing to watch over the precious building in the absence of the Bourbon-Condé in exile.

Returning to the Chateau, the Duc de Bourbon installs long aisles for stalls to accommodate the horses and readies the dogs for the hunt, before bequeathing the Domaine to his godson, Henri d'Orléans, Duc d'Aumale. Now begins the modernisation of the stables with heating and lighting, more space for the horses, and, alongside, a racecourse and the first hippodrome to feed the Duc's new passion for horseracing acquired during his stay in England.

Then come the two world wars, with the stables used in turn to house German army horses, the French army and a veterinary hospital. Finally, restored to its original purpose, we see the stables as a thriving equestrian centre, with the new Museum of the Living Horse and the spectacular displays. Recent and current works have been facilitated by the generous support of the Aga Khan, whose picture we see in the final scene alongside the many people who have been instrumental in the development and enhancement of the stables over 300 years where, surely, the Horse is King.....

Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer

Members' Coffee Mornings at All Things Nice, Ewell Village

Apart from the Twinning stall at the very successful Community Fayre organised by Epsom Rotary our other twinning events are in the evening. Not everyone can make these events and so last October I organised the first of our regular, but infrequent, Friday daytime drop-in coffee mornings at All Things Nice in Ewell Village. These are well supported and enjoyed so I have continued to organise them every 2-3 months.

Since the last newsletter we've had two coffee mornings at All Things Nice on Friday 7th June and Thursday 17th October. Unfortunately, in June we were bumped from the small side room, and the promised "exclusive" use of another space did not materialise. My apologies to those who tried to join us but couldn't find a seat, and well done to those who stuck it out amid the noise of playful toddlers and their parents! Thankfully our coffee morning in October found us back in our usual room and a change of day meant that, in addition to some regular faces, other members came along.

I plan to arrange coffee mornings on a variety of days to try to make them as accessible to as many as possible. I intend also to vary the venue, investigating other cafés for us elsewhere and to offer you somewhere different for our next coffee morning. Wherever and whenever, it will be lovely to see you if you can make it.

Barbara Lewis, committee member

Les Soirées Françaises



Our Soirées continue to be held monthly. Usually we read magazine articles and practise French conversation in friendly relaxed surroundings, accompanied by some cheese and wine. All are welcome, beginners or more advanced, please don't be intimidated! Bring your own ideas too, and if you would like to host one of these evenings please contact Margaret or Anne.

Our next Soirées will be on Tuesdays 5 November and 3 December at Margaret's, and continuing on Tuesdays 7 January and 4 February at Anne's.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Members' pre-Christmas Dinner – Tuesday 26 November

Twinning members and friends are welcome to join us at our Christmas meal on Tuesday 26th November 2019 to be held at El Patio in Derby Square, Epsom (Ebbisham Centre) at 7.30pm.

Party Menu:

Starter: a choice of Vegetable soup, Squid, Baked aubergines, Baked tiger prawns, Chicken and ham croquettes, or Portobello mushrooms stuffed with goats cheese.

Main course: Turkey, Sea bass, Sirloin steak, or Pancakes filled with ricotta and spinach

Dessert: Christmas pudding, Cheesecake, Almond tart, or Chocolate profiteroles

For vegetarians we offer a choice of dishes from our 'A La Carte' menu at no extra cost

The cost will be £30 per person including tip and glass of wine.

Please send a deposit of £20 (or full payment of £30) to:

Ann Dallen, 77 Hazon Way, Epsom KT19 8HG, with menu choices by 20th November please. (cheques payable to Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association).

Or email Ann at Anndallen@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Chantilly Christmas Market – Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 December



Epsom Twinning will again have a stall at the Chantilly Christmas market over the weekend of the 7th and 8th December. A group of around eight Twinning members have volunteered to attend this year (again at their own expense). Their purpose is to stimulate an awareness of, and an interest in, Epsom and Ewell. They will take information about the Borough in the form of booklets and posters and try to talk to as many people as possible.

And depending on the state of our customs union at that date (!) we may also take wares symbolising the British way of life. Along with the usual fare of Christmas puddings, we are hoping also to take mini-mince pies, whisky marmalade, and Christmas cakes. Anyone interested in providing items for sale, particularly mince pies, do get in touch!

For more information, please contact Diana Deavin at diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk

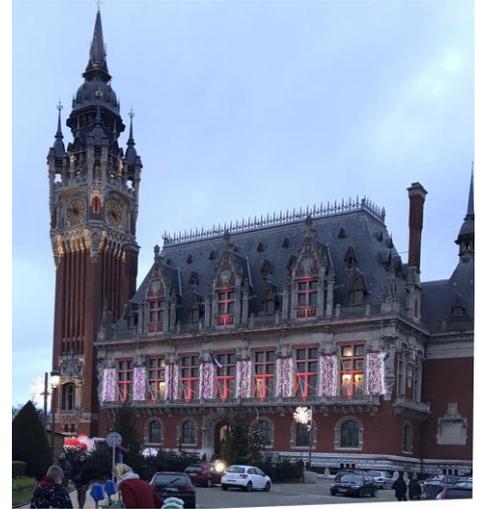
Calais at Christmas

Many years ago I first took the ferry from Dover to Calais just before Christmas. I had heard that the Christmas Illuminations were very good. No, they were spectacular! The whole town centre is transformed into a Christmas Wonderland.

The Illuminations in the main street put London's Regent Street to shame. There are animations and displays in the Town Hall; and the famous clock tower is open to the public. On Sundays in December the shops are open, and away from the huge Cité Europe, there are some attractive individual outlets, along with Christmas market stalls.

A free bus (Le Baladin) operates through the town from the Place d'Armes to the Opera House.

Depending on the time, or if anyone is tempted to stay overnight, Boulogne is a short train ride away, another town to visit for its Christmas decorations.



A visit to Calais would be well worthwhile. I will be going for a day before Christmas; possibly Saturday 30 November. Car parking is difficult in Dover so I will probably take the train. If any member would like to join me I would be very pleased. I know a very good restaurant in the town centre which caters particularly for the French!

Peter Hardy, committee member

FUTURE EVENTS

Epsom Rotary / Twinning Association French Public-Speaking Competitions for Schools 2020

The dates and venues for the next round of this competition are now fixed:

**Junior and Intermediate Classes - Tuesday 11 February at
Blenheim High School**

Senior - Tuesday 3 March at Epsom College



Rotary Club of
Epsom

We already have Blenheim, Rosebery and Epsom College keen to take part and are again hoping to interest at least one other school.

In the meantime, we are looking for an independent, senior French teacher, possibly recently retired, to replace Christine Hearne as senior judge and ensure continuing relevance to the requirements of the current school syllabus.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in taking on this role, please contact: Diana Deavin at diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk

Our Twinning Facebook Page

Are you on Facebook? Did you know that Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association has a Facebook page? To find it type into the Facebook search bar "Epsom and Ewell Twinning" and then select and click on the Association from the drop down list.

This link will take you through to our page, and from there if you want the page to automatically pop up on your Facebook page you can just click follow (just under the picture at the top of the page). This will mean that you will be informed about the Association's activities and events as they are published online.

If you want you can also contact us by sending a message through that page. If you haven't already signed up please do so, and I'm sure you will find it a useful source of information.

Martin Lewis, Publicity Officer

NEWS FROM CHANTILLY

We have received some very sad news from Caroline Théard of the Chantilly twinning committee about our friend Manu, former Councillor and Head of Twinning in Watermael-Boitsfort. Some of you will remember him from the last two choral festivals here and in Chantilly. I will send a note of condolence from us all to Watermael-Boitsfort.

Diana Deavin, Liaison Officer and Vice-Chair

"Chers amis du jumelage, c'est avec une grande tristesse que nous avons appris hier le décès de notre ami Jean Manuel Cisey.

Jean Manuel que nous appelions familièrement "Manu" était échevin chargé des affaires européennes à Watermael Boitsfort. Il avait développé les échanges avec notre ville et su créer ce climat cordial qui nous allait droit au cœur quand nous avons des occasions de rencontres.

A son initiative nous étions invité chaque année au marché de Noël à Watermael Boitsfort et il avait facilité les échanges avec les jeunes du lycée de Chantilly.

Manu avait 47 ans.

La longue maladie de Manu s'était déclarée quelques jours après notre festival des chorales en juin 2018, il était venu à Chantilly pour le 60ème anniversaire de notre jumelage et à son retour sa maladie s'est aggravée.

Comme s'il voulait boucler son histoire d'amour avec Chantilly.

Manu était plus qu'un ami, il faisait parti de la grande famille du jumelage.

A son épouse Christel, ses enfants Océane et Matthew et ses parents, nous adressons nos plus sincères condoléances. Nous ne l'oublierons pas."

Caroline Théard

Comité de jumelage de Chantilly



Souvenir de Jean Manuel Cisey lors de notre 60ème anniversaire de jumelage

Calendar of Future Events	
2019	
Tuesday 5 November	Soirée française at Margaret's
Thursday 14 November	Ewell French Club at Glyn Hall
Tuesday 26 November	Members' pre-Christmas Dinner at El Patio
Tuesday 3 December	Soirée française at Margaret's
Thursday 5 December	Ewell French Club at Glyn Hall
Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 December	Christmas Market in Chantilly
2020	
Tuesday 7 January	Soirée française at Anne's
Thursday 23 January	Ewell French Club at Glyn Hall
Tuesday 4 February	Soirée française at Anne's
Saturday 8 February	Twinning Quiznight at United Reformed Hall
Tuesday 11 February	French-speaking competition at Blenheim
Thursday 13 February	Ewell French Club at Glyn Hall
Tuesday 3 March	French-speaking competition at Epsom College
Thursday 19 March	Ewell French Club at Glyn Hall
Tuesday 21 April tbc	Annual Cheese and Wine at Epsom Town Hall tbc
Saturday 9 - Sunday 10 May	Twinning Choral Festival in Watermael-Boirsfort

Twinning Committee for 2019/20

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
Mr Martin Lewis - Publicity Officer	0208 3933877
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mrs Barbara Lewis	0208 3933877
Cllr Nigel Collin	01372 732000
Mrs Ann Dallen	01372 732793
Cllr Neil Dallen	01372 732793
Cllr Phil Neale	01372 732000
Mr Richard Baker	01372 722792

Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twinning

Mr Harry Corben - Epsom Civic Society
Mr Richard Deavin - Epsom Rotary
Ms Jane Foxon - Sponsalia Chamber Choir
Mr Brian Hill - Barisons Chamber Choir
Mr Colin Peel - Epsom Rotary
Mrs Jill Preiss - Epsom Choral Society
Mr Paul Walker - Epsom Male Voice Choir
Mr Frank Warren - Epsom Model Railway Club