



THE EPSOM & EWELL TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION TWINNED WITH CHANTILLY

**The 25th Annual General Meeting of the
Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association
held on Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm at the Epsom Club**

MINUTES

1 Apologies for absence

The Mayoress Mrs Sarah O'Donovan, Brian Angus, Margaret Angus, Martin Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Cllr Neil Dallen, Mrs Ann Dallen, Mrs Jill Preiss, Louise Laudy, Ros Godson, Liz Frost (11)

Present: The Mayor Cllr Peter O'Donovan,

Committee: Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Chair, Brian Vandervilt, Treasurer, Diana Deavin Vice-Chair, Anne Richardson Membership Secretary, Margaret Nightingale Secretary, Cllr Nigel Collin, Cllr Barry Nash, Peter Hardy

Members: Simon Durrant Epsom Racecourse, Helen Phillips Epsom Choral, Caroline Baldock, Trevor Taylor, Jackie Reynolds, Clive Richardson, Richard Deavin, Colette Burch-Avarre, Christine Rippon, Andrew Casey (19)

2 Welcome from the Hon. President, The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell

Clive welcomed the Mayor Cllr Peter O'Donovan to the meeting and asked him to say a few words. The Mayor said that he appreciated the invitation to come to our AGM. He had previously attended other Twinning events recently, he had come to the displays in the Marketplace last Sunday and had attended Caroline Baldock's talk at Bourne Hall within the Racing exhibition set up by the Curator Jeremy Harte. He thought it remarkable that Twinning had continued for 25 years, it was important, especially about the horseracing connection. He had been invited to visit Chantilly and hopes to go there during his mayoral year.

The Chair thanked him and said we all hoped he enjoys his mayoral year ahead.

He was sorry that the last Mayor Cllr Humphrey Reynolds had been unable to go to Chantilly because of the Covid pandemic.

3 Minutes of the 2020 AGM held on 13 October 2020

Clive asked the meeting to consider the draft minutes of the last AGM and asked if there were any comments. There were none and he asked the meeting to adopt them as a true record. He thanked Margaret for her record keeping.

4 Matters arising

None.

5 Chairman's report

Clive thanked the Mayor and welcomed all members and guests.

It had been an unusual year: we were regretfully unable to meet in person until very recently, but we had kept in touch through Zoom and had productive exchanges on line. We were able to have online discussions with our friends in Chantilly which were valuable in facilitating connections for the future. We have been able to meet recently, we sponsored the Chantilly Race at Epsom on the Bank holiday Tuesday with the support of the Jockey Club; we had a stall in the Marketplace on Sunday 12th September; and a special viewing of the Epsom Derby exhibition at Bourne Hall on 13th September presented by Caroline Baldock, courtesy of Curator Jeremy Harte.

Clive hoped that 2022 will find travel back to normal, with mutual visits between Chantilly and Epsom resuming eg. the Christmas market, and some of our regular events returning with the schools French-speaking competitions and Members soirées and dinners.

Looking ahead to 2022, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over 4 days in June, the Queen will attend the Derby on the Saturday 4th June, various events are planned, among the celebrations would be a series of plaques of Derby winners displayed in the Marketplace, including the famous Sea Bird, trained in Chantilly.

Clive expressed thanks to Cllr Philip Neale who had resigned from the committee.

Thanks were also expressed to our Secretary Margaret Nightingale who had been a supporter since Twinning was first established. She was leaving the area. The Mayor presented her with a gift.

Clive reported that, as he would be Mayor next year, sadly he would be stepping down as Chair of Twinning. It had been an honour to have been Chair and he had enjoyed it, thanks to the support of the committee. He would continue to serve on the committee and help to support twinning. He was more convinced than ever of the value of twinning in forming bonds within and between our communities. He was also presented with a gift by the Mayor.

Clive now had two pleasurable tasks to perform:

Presentation of the first Cyril Frazer Award to Epsom Choral Society. Twinning had approved a grant to support music in the Borough in memory of Cyril Frazer who had been Mayor when Twinning was signed. Clive asked the Mayor to present the Cyril Frazer Memorial award to Epsom Choral Society represented by their Chair Helen Phillips.

Presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Simon Durrant of the Jockey Club.

Clive said that Betty Emery had started our connection with Chantilly racing, and he thanked Simon Durrant who was carrying on that connection.

Clive asked the Mayor to present a certificate of Honorary Life membership to Simon Durrant of the Jockey Club in recognition of his support of Epsom Twinning with Chantilly and sponsorship of the Chantilly race at Epsom.

Simon said, as the current custodian of the racecourse and its history, he wanted to ensure its future by encouraging more young people to attend. He was looking forward to next year and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen will attend the Derby on the Saturday, and he was planning how to make the most of the 4-day weekend.

6 Treasurer's report

Brian Vandervilt presented his report to the meeting. The accounts were circulated (report attached). Membership was the only source of income and after insurance and a donation there was a small deficit of £56. The report showed balances of £1,550.58 on the General account and £8,851.74 on the Choral account. The Mayor asked what was the difference between the Choral account and the General account, it was explained that the Choral account was the result of fundraising for the Twinning Choral Festival 2016 held In Epsom, and it had been decided this account would be used exclusively to finance Epsom's participation in future Choral Festivals of the Twin towns.

7 Membership report

Anne Richardson presented her report to the meeting:

"This year has seen many changes to our membership. We have lost some of our founder members loyal to Twinning since its inception. Ron Smith with his wife Hazel were members from the early days and Ron had continued to attend many events after Hazel's death. Rosemary Foote and her husband Robert have both died since the last AGM, Rosemary from cancer and Robert tragically after an accident at Brands Hatch whilst acting as a Marshall. Robert had visited Chantilly in his Mayoral year and spoke at a Remembrance ceremony in Chantilly. We lost Jane Frazer, who was the wife of Cyril, the Mayor who signed the Twinning Agreement with Chantilly in 1995. Her French knowledge was invaluable in early meetings in France and England.

Jean-Claude Mansat, from the French Twinning Association was always a welcoming face whenever we were in Chantilly and will be sadly missed.

Also Frank Warren of the Epsom and Ewell Model Railway Club who was involved in their twinning visits to Chantilly. We have recently heard of the death of a Life member, John Vaughan of Ewell.

Now to the good news! Even during lockdown our membership increased, in large part due to the Zoom meetings we held, in particular Caroline's talks. Our email membership is now up to 129 and I also send details of events to 16 members who do not have email. 10 members in Chantilly still receive the newsletter. The latest 8 members were recruited as a result of the stall in the market place, and I believe two of those new members are attending tonight."

8 Election of Officers: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary

Clive was retiring. He asked for nominations for Chair. Nigel Collin was proposed by Diana Deavin, seconded by Anne Richardson, there were no other nominations. Nigel was elected unanimously as the new Chair. He said he wants to generate a list of programmes to encourage membership, especially among younger people.

Clive asked Brian if he would stand again as Treasurer, he replied he was willing to continue and was therefore re-elected.

Clive asked for nominations for Secretary to take over from Margaret. There were no nominations, so discussion was left until the next committee meeting.

9 Election of Committee

Clive expressed thanks to Cllr Phil Neale who had resigned from the committee during the year. Barry Nash was the new Council representative.

Remaining members: Diana Deavin, Anne Richardson, Martin Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Neil Dallen, Ann Dallen, and Peter Hardy were willing to continue. Clive Woodbridge will remain on the committee. Two nominations were received: Caroline Baldock and Christine Rippon, nominated by Diana Deavin were duly elected and welcomed to the committee. This committee will serve for 2021/2022.

There were changes in the Chantilly committee, the Chairman Dominique Louis-dit-Trieau has left.

10 Appointment of Auditor

Brian V said that Guy Brew was willing to continue and this was agreed.

11 Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Twinning

Proposed ways to celebrate:

Nigel mentioned an Epsom-Chantilly Golf tournament, A Car treasure hunt between Epsom and Chantilly with people taking photos along the way, a pioneer rally, a cycling race was another option, other sports eg. petanque /boules, all this depending on the Covid problem and future travel restrictions. There were problems with Covid vaccination in France.

The French were keen on the Treasure Hunt but less enthusiastic about Golf. Sport was a strong bonding connection.

Diana mentioned collaboration with local clubs, and quoted from Marie-Claude's Forum paper, eg. the Fencing Club where the possibility of organizing an international tournament is ongoing, and the Scouts et Guides de France are very positive about creating ties with Girl Guides Epsom and Ewell. The Girl Guides were willing to go to Chantilly as soon as possible.

Arrangements for exchanges were still in preliminary stages; the French had recently lessened the Covid regulations but those remaining were complex.

12 Any other business

Richard Deavin gave his report from Epsom Rotary: the French-speaking competition would be held again next year, provisionally on 22nd February at Blenheim for the Juniors and intermediates and the 8th March at Epsom College for the Seniors.

Anne also mentioned the successful Chantilly/Epsom Rotary Quiz night.

Clive offered a vote of thanks to Epsom Rotary for their continuing support.

The meeting closed at 9pm, members continued to enjoy wine and conversation in the Club.

No date was decided for the next committee meeting which will be held in November.

PH 7.10.21
MN 11.10.21
NC 13.10.21