



**THE EPSOM & EWELL TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION
TWINNED WITH CHANTILLY**

**The 24th Annual General Meeting of the
Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association
held via Zoom on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm
MINUTES**

1 Apologies for absence

Brian Vandervilt, Liz Frost, Marion Kenny, Charles Seechurn. Neil Dallen, Ann Dallen, Ron Thorley and Carol Thorley (8)


Present: Clive Woodbridge Chair, Diana Deavin Vice Chair, Anne Richardson Membership Secretary, Brian Angus, Jackie Reynolds, Barbara Lewis, Martin Lewis, Barbara Warwick, Janet Shiret, Keith Partridge, Nigel Collin, Phil Neale, Mike Preiss, Jill Preiss, Clive Richardson, Margaret Nightingale Secretary (16)

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

The Mayor Cllr Humphrey Reynolds was sadly unable to join us because of technical difficulties.

ITEM	REPORT
2. Minutes of the previous AGM	Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 11 June 2019 Acceptance of the Minutes of last year's AGM, previously circulated to those attending, was proposed by Nigel Collin and seconded by Keith Partridge, and were accepted as a true record and approved.
3. Matters arising	Due to the Covid virus the Committee was not able to take forward Twinning proposals with Watermael-Boitsfort and Uberlingen. We have decided not to pursue Überlingen for the time being.
4. Chairman's report	Clive began by saying this year's AGM had been deferred from June due to the Covid 19 pandemic and we had to hold the AGM via Zoom to comply with legal reporting requirements. Clive reported the Twinning Association was approaching its 25 th year. We had been operating as usual up until March 2020. We had sponsored the Chantilly Handicap on 27 th August at Epsom racecourse. Twinning took part in the Epsom Community Fayre at Hook Road arena on 15 September when twinning colleagues Marie-Claude Fontaine, Dominique Louis-dit Trieau and Anita Relano from Chantilly had joined us for the weekend, and met the Mayor and Mayoress at the Fayre. A number of committee members had attended the spectacular Son et Lumiere at the Chateau de Chantilly on the weekend of 20-21 September to celebrate 300 years of the Grandes Ecuries. We attended the Christmas market in Chantilly the weekend of 7-8 December. The annual Quiz night in February 2020 had again been popular. The Schools French-speaking competition organized jointly with Epsom Rotary had again been held in February at Blenheim High School for juniors and in March 2020 at Epsom College for seniors.

	<p>The twinning stand at the Herald of Spring in Bourne Hall on 7th March had attracted a number of new members. In between we continued with the Members Dinners and Soirees which Anne kept going in Margaret's absence. Sadly our annual Cheese and Wine in April had to be cancelled, and the Choral Festival in Watermael-Boitsfort scheduled for May 2020 had to be postponed because of the Covid 19 pandemic, but we hoped that this would be resurrected by them in 2021. During the year John Garlick a loyal supporter of Twinning had passed away.</p> <p>There have been positives however. We have had zoom committee meetings and two similar meetings with our friends in Chantilly in July and September. School relationships were being fostered, including between Ewell Grove and a school in Gouvieux, a town near Chantilly. He spoke about the new Chantilly sign in the Market place, and the Hall of Fame which the Borough hoped to establish to celebrate winners of the Epsom Derby.</p> <p>Whilst we were proud of the relationships which have been achieved over the past 25 years there was a need to involve younger demographic members. Thoughts for the future need to be collated but Twinning was in a good shape and after the present virus crisis we are confident we can bounce back. From Chantilly Dominique had sent a welcome message of support to the Epsom and Ewell Twinning Association, to please pass on their best wishes from the Chantilly Jumelage committee in pursuit of our fraternal relations. Clive thanked the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. A thank you was proposed to those committee members who were there at the beginning – Brian Vandervilt, Diana, Anne, and Margaret. Clive thanked John Beckett last year's Mayor for all his support, and also Richard Baker who had worked to establish a rapport with Uberlingen, and now wishes to stand down from the committee.</p>
<p>5. Treasurer's report</p>	<p>Brian Vanderwilt had sent his accounts to end March 2020 to the AGM. The balance on the Choral account remained the same as it had not been used, it was to be kept to help finance the next Choral festival in Epsom. The previous event in Epsom cost around £14,000. As many of the businesses who had generously sponsored the event in 2016 were no longer trading in the Borough, raising funds for this type of event may be difficult in future. The Association now had public liability insurance, essential for external activities. A small deficit for the year in the twinning account left a balance of £1,606.58 in the General account and £8,851.74 in the Choral account. The Treasurer's report was adopted.</p>
<p>6. Membership report</p>	<p>Anne Richardson reported membership has been stable, growing slightly during the last year. We now have 111 members of whom 89 are life members. 2 people have left, as has the Kingston Phoenix Road (cycling) Club. We had members join at both the Rotary Community Fayre and Herald of Spring, and two more during lock down! Three annual members had upgraded to Life members this year. Girl Guiding Epsom Division has just joined as a group, with Mary Zoeller.</p>
<p>7. Election of Officers</p>	<p>The Association officers were all willing to stand again. Chairman Clive Woodbridge, Secretary Margaret Nightingale, and Treasurer Brian Vandervilt were re-elected.</p>
<p>8. Election of Committee</p>	<p>As reported earlier, Richard Baker had resigned. There being no nominations for new members to the committee, the remainder were re-elected en bloc:</p>

	<p>Diana Deavin Vice Chair, Anne Richardson Membership Secretary, Martin Lewis Publicity officer, Barbara Lewis, Cllr Phil Neale, Cllr Nigel Collin, Cllr Neil Dallen, Ann Dallen, and Peter Hardy. This committee will serve for the year 2020/21. Although there were no other nominees, anyone interested in joining the Committee should please contact the Secretary.</p>
9.Appointment of Auditor	<p>As Guy Brew was willing to continue this was agreed.</p>
10. Reports from Groups having contacts with Chantilly	<p>Richard Deavin as Secretary of Epsom Rotary, had sent his report as follows:</p>  <p>Rotary and Twinning continue to work together when possible to maintain and develop the relationship with Chantilly. Rotary was represented at the Chantilly Christmas Market and, as usual, met their opposite numbers in Chantilly Rotary socially. In February and March the French public speaking competition, organised jointly, was again well supported, with three schools taking part. We are planning to run next Spring's competition via Zoom. Perceived travel problems for the French due to Brexit have meant some reluctance to visit Britain (for example our President's Ball), and Covid 19 has made visits currently impossible. However, our use of Zoom has given us new opportunities, and we have had several virtual meetings, including our President's induction. Rotary/Trinning relations continue to develop on both sides of the Channel. For example, a Chantilly Rotarian would like to form a link with a band in Epsom, and on 15th October, there will be a virtual/bilingual quiz in which members of both Rotary Clubs and Twinning organisations will be competing. Richard Deavin, The Rotary Club of Epsom There were no other reports received from Group members.</p>
11. 25th Anniversary of Twinning with Chantilly	<p>Although It was still hoped to arrange an event to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, currently it was difficult to make firm arrangements. Clive said we were hoping to organize a celebration next Spring 2021. There may be a match with the Chantilly Golf Club, Nigel Collin is in talks with Epsom Golf Club and they were very much in favour, he was waiting for more information. It was suggested that a short film about Epsom could be made to entice visitors from Chantilly perhaps using the one available via University of Creative Arts. Nigel said there was an awful lot we can shout about our Borough, and the Council has a promotional video of Epsom and Ewell. Brian Angus said we could show a promotional video of Chantilly. Clive was working on ideas. An event was proposed to be held in the Epsom Market Place in September 2021 to include guests invited from Chantilly. Neil Dallen: had suggested holding an event in the Market place at New Year. Brian Angus: this was an opportunity to zoom with Watermael-Boitsfort and Uberlingen. Diana said the Mayor did send a message to Chantilly Clive said that 25 years of twinning had enriched people's lives, that twinning is a way of reaching out.</p>
12. Any other business	<p>Clive Richardson mentioned an Anglo/French Quiz would be held with Chantilly Jumelage on Thursday 15th October organised by Epsom Rotary and Twinning. Anne Richardson wanted to advertise Caroline Baldock's interesting talk entitled "Millionaire dies in debtors prison".on Friday 13th November 7pm by Zoom, Christopher Potter (1751–1817), The man and the porcelaine. LE MILLIONNAIRE QUI MEURT DANS UNE PRISON POUR PERSONNES ENDETTEES Contact anne@epsomtwinning.com for details 01372 723698.</p>

	<p>Epsom Rotary hoped to go ahead with the Schools French-speaking competition in 2021 perhaps via Zoom. Epsom College had already responded favorably. Someone asked if there was an equivalent in Chantilly of Riding for the Disabled? Jill Preiss was heartened by zoom, which was enabling us to keep in touch. Janet Shiret: said it was good to catch up. Keith – lovely to see you all tonight and wishes us all well, do stay in touch. Phil – knows a local band who would be keen to be involved, can we give him some contacts in Chantilly? Phil – other contacts via outdoors?</p>
<p>13. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The Chairman concluded the meeting at 8.30pm, saying that Twinning has enriched so many peoples' lives in both Chantilly and Epsom. The next committee meeting will be held via Zoom on 17 November 2020.</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">MN/PH 141020 DD 261020</p>