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**The Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 12 March at 7.30pm**

**At the Town Hall, Epsom**

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Liz Frost, Anne Richardson, Brian Vandervilt

**Present:** Clive Woodbridge, Chair, Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair, Martin Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Peter Hardy, and Margaret Nightingale.

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion / Report** | **Action** |
| **2. Minutes of last meeting** | Approved and signed by the Chair. |  |
| **3. Matters arising** | None. |  |
| **4. Past events** | **Curry Night at Everest Spice – Tuesday 22 January**  About 20 members had attended. The staff were very attentive and made everyone welcome.  **Soirées françaises – Mondays 4 February and 4 March**  Attendance was 7 at each of these. In February the Mayor, Neil Dallen, had attended with his wife Ann.  **Rotary French-speaking competition – Monday 11 and Thursday 28 February**  This was considered to be another success. The standard was noticeably higher than in previous years. Blenheim School won the Junior Competition. Rosebery School won the Intermediate and Senior Competitions.  No boys had participated, it was felt that Glyn should be encouraged to take part next year.  **Visit of 6th form students from Lycée de la Forêt to Epsom 7 March**  Nine students and 2 teachers visited Epsom on 7th March. They came on the overnight bus from Paris and attended lessons at Blenheim School. Later in the afternoon the minibus took them to the Town Hall where they met the Mayor who wore his Civic Robes for the occasion and took them on a brief tour of the Town Hall. They returned to London that evening. Peter met the group on Friday 8th and the party visited the Natural History Museum, toured London by bus and visited the Sky Garden in Fenchurch Street, and went shopping in Oxford Street. A highly successful day.  Clive said we had worked hard to get this school visit. Diana and Anne reported that the students were very nice and interested. Nadia Anderson of Blenheim was keen to take her students to Chantilly next year. They may need some support.  Clive mentioned that Ewell Grove had expressed an interest in setting up pen pals for pupils with counterparts in Chantilly. Marie-Claude has this in hand.  **New French Club in Ewell – 7 March**  This was well supported, about 15 attended at Glyn Hall. It was led by Colette Burch-Avarre with Norman Shipley showing a French film with subtitles. Some twinning members attended but it was felt that Twinning did not need to steer this group. | **DD**  **DD**  **DD** |
| **5. Treasurer’s report** | No report from Brian, so assumed as before. Diana reported £100 had been spent on prizes for the French Speaking Competition. |  |
| **6.Membership report** | Anne reported by email we have gained one new charity life member in Age Concern Epsom and Ewell |  |
| **7. Committee matters** | **Twinning AGM – Town Hall – Tuesday 11 June** – including enlargement of the committee  Notices to be sent 21 days in advance. The new Mayor would be invited. At previous AGMs groups had been asked to present reports on their activities.  Strategy for “succession planning”. No discussion.  Options to twin with Überlingen and Watermael-Boitsfort  Clive reported a positive discussion with the Residents Association group on the Council who were in general agreement with proposals to twin with Überlingen. Councillor Richard Baker, who was a German speaker, was enthusiastic and had indicated a wish to join the committee if the twinning were to go ahead. Neil Dallen had also agreed to support his initiative. Martin did not wish the workload of the present committee to be increased. However, it was thought that a subcommittee should be formed, once the principles had been approved by the AGM. This would be an agenda item for the AGM, and the notice would be re-worded to encourage new members. Diana will consult Anne re German speakers on the membership list.  Enlarging the Twinning committee  All twinning members would be encouraged to offer help either as committee members or as ad hoc helpers. We needed to encourage young people, perhaps leading to a youth twinning group nucleus. The Mayor, Neil Dallen was interested in encouraging Scouts and Guides in Twinning and contacts have already been made with the Chantilly leaders.  Barbara suggested we again look at U3A groups as a pool for recruiting, invite them to the AGM, and Martin suggested we attend the next U3A open day at Bourne Hall.  Clive said Twinning can facilitate and open lines of communication. | **MN**  **DD**  **DD**  **BL/**  **ML** |
| **8. Future events** | **Coffee Morning – All Things Nice – Friday 15 March**  Time 10:30am - midday. An informal get-together without a theme but one objective is to publicise our activities and encourage new members. Barbara had distributed some publicity material in Ewell village. Anne had emailed that she will bring pull-up and hand-outs.  **Cheese and Wine – Tuesday 26 March**  Barbara would buy the buffet and Diana the wine, catering for 30. Clive was asked to order glasses and arrange tables as before. Anne please take the disposables from Margaret's garage. Jackie Reynolds, Suzanne and Trevor had agreed to help. Clive R to please provide a photo display of past Twinning activities.  **Quiz Night – Friday 5 April at the URC Hall**  Clive Richardson will be the Quiz Inquisitor. Anne emailed there would be 2 table rounds and 6 other rounds, but no jokers. There would be a fish and chip supper and a raffle. A flyer had been sent out to members. Barbara had invited the Mayor and Mayoress as our guests.  There had been complaints about an experimental system of enveloping tickets for a raffle. Tickets will therefore be sold in the usual way, and one person be delegated to draw the raffle tickets and display the winning tickets on a board. It was felt that a smaller number and higher-value prizes should be on offer. Barbara, Clive and Diana will provide same.  **Members’ dinner – a date in May to be confirmed.**  **Next French market in Epsom**  Nothing to report. However, the Market Place is currently being refurbished. (S*ince the meeting, Diana has heard that there is so far no booking for 2019.)*  **Epsom Common Day – Sunday 21 July**  To decide if Twinning should take a stall. There may be Rotary involvement.  **Twinning exhibition at the Grandstand**  Caroline Baldock was awaiting the outcome of her Heritage Lottery application before she could finally proceed. It is now planned to hold the exhibition "A Tale of two racing Towns” at the Ebbisham Centre from 13th May to 10th June. We hoped to be able to display twinning publicity material. There would be a private viewing on 30th May (the day before the Oaks). The exhibition was planned to move to Chantilly from 2nd to 30th September, maybe in the Cultural Centre.  We did not know yet if there would be a Chantilly race at Epsom or vice versa.  **Age Concern’s proposed cycle race to Chantilly**  Nothing further known, it was a huge undertaking. Martin was awaiting contact re a possible meeting date, and Brian Vandervilt had agreed to put together some pointers.  **Rotary event at Hook Road Arena – 15 September**  This would be a Community Fair, there would be no entrance fee. Clive R is circulating to Rotary members. To consider if we are to take a twinning stall. Marie-Claude is considering organizing a group of students to join us.  **Mental Health Week at St Barnabas – 5-12 October (LMLMM)**  This could include a singing workshop organised by Barisons who want to continue to be involved with Twinning, but the week’s programme is not yet agreed. Liz to please keep us informed. | **CW/**  **BL/**  **DD**  **AR**  **BL/**  **CW/**  **DD**  **AR/DD**  **DD**  **BV**  **LF** |
| **9. Publicity for future events** | Barbara asked if Anne could re-run the flyer for Quiz Night (which currently has about 30 takers – not far off break even?) just before she goes away.  It was agreed that mail shots be sent out firstly as a list of future events, followed by publicity for specific events nearer the date. Mail shots will be restricted to Twinning events only but should also ask members to forward details to friends.  Martin said he has difficulty uploading material to local websites and social media and asked if it was worth the time he spent. Clive uses social media for his other activities and offered to investigate; Clive R is the owner/publisher for twinning on Facebook at least. | **AR**  **ML/**  **AR**  **CW** |
| **10. Autumn newsletter** | This will be published in early May; all contributions to Margaret please by 30th April. | **All** |
| **11. AOB** | None. |  |
| **12. Date(s) of next meeting** | Tuesday 7 May confirmed. No further date was discussed. |  |
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