



## Autumn Newsletter 2018 (no 57)

### Message from the Chairman

#### Racing raises Chantilly profile

The origins of twinning between Epsom and Ewell and Chantilly lie in our shared horse-racing heritage, and we have always been grateful for the encouragement and support of Epsom Racecourse. I was delighted to be able to attend the running of the Chantilly Nursery Handicap Stakes at Epsom Downs on 28th August and to present a prize to the jockey of the winning horse, Majestic Mac, and the lad of the best-turned-out horse. The regular running of this race does help keep up awareness of our twin town in the local community, and thanks go to Simon Durrant, General manager, Epsom Racecourse, for agreeing to stage this year's race.

*Cllr Clive Woodbridge presents a prize to Charlie Bennett, the rider of Majestic Mac, the winner of the Chantilly Nursery Handicap Stakes held at Epsom Downs on 28th August*

Your committee has been exploring ways of engaging more effectively with members and a very successful trial coffee morning, held without a particular theme or topic, took place at All Things Nice in Ewell in October. This was very well attended and it is something we hope to repeat. Keep your eye out for information about the next one.



Other events are at the planning stage, including a Quiz Night and the ever popular Cheese and Wine evening. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events. The Schools French speaking competitions, organised with Rotary, are also an established part of our calendar now. This is a wonderful way to encourage young people to speak French and research a topic in another language. Members are welcome to come along and give their support on the two evenings.

The news is full of Brexit woe at the moment, and Town Twinning has never been more relevant in this context. Whatever happens we must not leave Europe in a cultural and personal sense, and twinning organisations like ours around the country will play a key role in keeping our various communities connected. Informal approaches have been received from Chantilly's other two twin towns, Überlingen and Watermael-Boitsfort, as to possible future links of a twinning nature with them also. Your committee will be mulling this over in the coming months, but we would be interested in any comments members may have whether this is something they would support. Our Mayor, Cllr Neil Dallen, has now visited both the German and Belgian towns, flying the flag for Epsom and Ewell, and you can read about his experiences in this newsletter.

Christmas is nearly upon us and a group from Epsom & Ewell will again be attending the Christmas market in Chantilly, continuing a long-standing tradition. I wish them good luck. May I also wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. All the best for 2019!

Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

## **Twinning Association Annual General Meeting 2018**

The Association's AGM was held on Tuesday 12 June at 7.30pm at Epsom Town Hall.

The Chair introduced the new Mayor Cllr Neil Dallen and his wife Ann. The Mayor said that he was looking forward to his visit to Chantilly in two weeks' time for the Twinning Choral Festival.

Clive Woodbridge gave his annual Chair's report on twinning's activities over the past year.

Alison Chatterton, a longstanding member of the committee had resigned but will continue to support twinning. We sent a gift with our thanks to her for her contribution.

The committee officers were willing to continue, and the committee was re-elected en bloc.

**Epsom Rotary:** Richard Deavin had sent a report to the meeting: the relationship between Twinning and Rotary continues to be strong.

**Questions from the floor:** A member thought there was a need for ordinary members to feel more included in our activities. The committee would consider this issue further. However, regular mailings from the membership secretary kept members fully informed, and the newsletter gave reports of twinning activities throughout the year. It was agreed that a precis of meetings would be put on the twinning website in future.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

## **5<sup>th</sup> Choral Festival of the Twin Towns - Chantilly 29 June - 1 July**

With autumnal weather coming on, the heady days of summer almost seem a distant memory. One of the highlights of the long and gloriously hot summer days was Epsom and Ewell's participation in the Choral Festival of the Twin Towns held in Chantilly from 29 June to 1 July.

Choirs from Chantilly, Epsom and Ewell (excellently represented by Barisons Choir), Watermael-Boitsfort in Belgium and Überlingen in Germany participated. Whilst the latter two are not yet twinned with Epsom and Ewell (but are with Chantilly), we nevertheless have close ties with them. The Festival provided a great opportunity for the sizeable and enthusiastic contingents from all four towns to meet up with old friends and make new ones.



As well as the formal choral performance on Saturday evening, the Chantilly committee organised a variety of social events for the choirs and visitors to the town. Those of us lucky enough to attend and be part of the Festival (the Epsom contingent was self-funded) were not disappointed by the quality and enthusiasm of the choirs as they joined together to provide a wealth and variety of songs from all four countries.



The Friday evening reception at the Lycée Jean Rostand stands out as a great example of the camaraderie between the four countries. We were all just good friends together with no thought of borders or anything else separating us.



Saturday morning saw all the choirs, almost as strolling minstrels, perform at a variety of venues scattered around, including Chantilly's market place and outside the Mairie. Barisons Choir performed iconic songs representing all four home countries which made one feel proud to be British.



In stark comparison with the informality of Saturday morning, there was the hard-to-beat spectacle that night of the gathering together of all the choirs in the formal setting under the Dome of Chantilly Great Stables.



The finale was the choirs joining together to sing the Gloria by Vivaldi. It was great to be all together and feel part of a big international family which is a memory that those of us who were there will always cherish.



A mention must also be made of the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Cllr Neil Dallen who with his wife Ann travelled to Chantilly at their own expense, and were excellent ambassadors for our town. Neil and Ann made many friends with the warmth they showed to our international neighbours and the way they embraced the concept of Twinning and international fellowship. The photo shows our Mayor presenting a framed print of the Dog Gate at Bourne Hall to the Mayor of Chantilly. Although an honorary member of Twinning as Mayor, Neil has now become our 100<sup>th</sup> paid-up member.



All the towns look forward to the next Choral Festival of the Twin Towns in Uberlingen in 2020. Not only do we have a feast of music to look forward to, but also to visiting another interesting spa town. We all enjoyed a memorable long weekend. Long may it last!

Martin Lewis, Publicity Officer

## Bastille Day 2018 - 14 July

As the glorious summer of 2018 continued, and with the amazing Choral Festival in Chantilly behind us, we were still thinking of things French. Brian Atkinson kindly offered to host a Bastille Day BBQ in his lovely garden. On the day about 20 of us gathered to mark the occasion. We knew that for a very reasonable £12.00 we would have bbq meats, salads, dessert and wine, but as we walked into the garden we quickly realised that Brian had generously pushed the boat out for us all. A large gazebo covered a long table and chairs which would comfortably seat us, essential in the frazzling heat. Another gazebo covered a table with enough nibbles and dips to feed double the number there. A dining table groaned with a large selection of wines and soft drinks, and the tantalising smell of a bbq beckoned to see what was cooking.

Many guests knew everyone, but as comparatively new members there were some faces we didn't recognise, but as is always the case at twinning events we soon got chatting to everyone. The afternoon passed in excellent company, with superb food and a glass or three of wine. I can't say we talked about twinning matters all afternoon, but with that common interest, the

conversation ranged over many topics with much good humour. Sitting and eating together really is very convivial and such a good way to get to know people better.

We have spent some wonderful Bastille Days in France, but this one at Brian's deserves to be up there with the best. Our thanks to Brian for his organisation and generous hosting of the day.

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

## The Mayor's Visits to Twin Towns

### 1. Überlingen - 25-28 August

We were fortunate enough to be invited by the Mayor of Überlingen to spend a few days in his town at the end of August. As we had no mayoral engagements for six days we accepted, and the Mayoress started organising travel arrangements. Flying was expensive (probably due to a bank holiday hike in prices) and train timetables didn't match our requirements, so Ann booked a late ferry out of Dover to follow our last afternoon commitment before the bank holiday.

Mistake 1! We planned to drive for a little while and stop at a hotel for the night but had not taken into account the change in time. We could not find a hotel so drove for another few hours and slept in the car for an hour.

Mistake 2! When it is dark, pouring with rain and in unknown territory it is useful to have a SatNav. We got lost a few times, adding a couple of hours to our journey, and finally arrived in Überlingen around 4pm.

We arrived in beautiful weather and wandered around the resort on the edge of Lake Constance stopping for the occasional drink in some of the many lakeside cafes and restaurants.

The Mayoress has a fascination for monkeys so, after spending most of the morning going round their fantastic local craft market, Saturday was spent learning to use their local buses and visiting a monkey sanctuary about 5 miles away in the countryside.

On Sunday we followed the town trail which allowed us to visit most of the major buildings of interest including the Town Hall and a couple of magnificent churches.

Monday we went to the Town Hall to see the Mayor and found out that, at short notice, he had to visit family and an appointment was made for the Tuesday. The rest of the day was spent exploring other parts of the town centre and sampling various wares.



Tuesday we duly met up with the Mayor and a representative of Rotary and had a very interesting conversation about aspects of Überlingen and how it is run, followed by a very nice lunch at one of the hotels where the conversation flowed naturally and freely.

Wednesday, our last day, was spent relaxing, sunbathing on the beach next to their Council owned water park. Late afternoon the weather started clouding over and we enjoyed our last evening meal under a canopy in the pouring rain.

The following morning we drove back, again in poor weather, only getting lost once by driving into Brussels rather than round it!

Fortunately we managed to find the ferry port at Dunkirk just in time to catch the ferry home. A great 5-day break culminating in a desire to improve the links between Epsom and Überlingen.

## **2. Watermael-Boitsfort - 29-30 September**

We were invited to the 60-year celebration of Twinning between Chantilly and Watermael-Boitsfort at the end of September and, not wanting to miss the opportunity of visiting another town twinned to Chantilly, we quickly accepted.

Once again the Mayoress used her skills to organise another trip abroad and train tickets were purchased and hotels booked. After an uneventful train trip we arrived in Brussels after dark with a suitcase and rather than using public transport, caught a taxi to our hotel in Watermael.

To our surprise the hotel restaurant was Indian so we had a very pleasant 'meze' of Indian food along with a taste of their local Belgian beer. We wandered around the local area for a short while and collected a few brochures and local maps.

The next day we were due to meet our hosts and the Chantilly contingent at Watermael railway station. We arrived at the station in plenty of time. Wondering where the reception was going to be held we were suddenly 'welcomed' by a man coming out of the station building who invited us in. We then realised the station building had been converted to a meeting room!

We were invited to help ourselves to refreshments and soon the Chantilly crowd arrived and we recognised a few faces. We were given a welcome pack with a local transport pass for two days and a welcome talk. We then had a few hours free time while the Chantilly group booked into their hotels. This was followed by the welcome lunch and a visit to the centre of Brussels for a tour round the city and a visit to their Town Hall.

The deputy Mayor of Watermael-Boitsfort quickly caught up with us and invited us to an evening meal with about ten others. After a very pleasant and relaxing meal we went on to an informal party, finally bowing out around midnight and walking back to our hotel.

We got up early Sunday and spent a few hours wandering round their large outdoor market where you could buy food, drink, clothes, bric-a-brac, in fact almost anything!

An official get together followed with a short film clip and talk about a famous painter, Paul Delvaux who lived in Watermael, then we had a walk round the town being shown the places and architecture that had inspired the painter.

The walk was cut short due to time, and the party caught a tram back to Watermael centre for the official unveiling of the plaque at the town centre bandstand. This was immediately followed by a very nice buffet lunch and an optional short visit to a museum featuring works of a local engraver-sculptor, Lipit.

All too soon the celebratory visit was over, goodbyes were said to the Chantilly party, and we gave our thanks to our hosts and made our way home.

Watermael-Boitsfort has an obvious connection with Epsom through its twinning with Chantilly. In addition it is two 'towns' with different characters, like Epsom and Ewell, and has a lot of green open spaces, history and character.

Perhaps this is an opportunity for Epsom to twin with Chantilly's other European twin towns which share the biennial Choral Festival of the Twin Towns?

Cllr Neil Dallen, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell

## **Bridlington School Lunch in Chantilly - Saturday 15 September**

Following the connection established by Tim Kench, John Wresdell and Richard Markwell it was suggested that the Old Bridlingtonian Club hold a lunch in France. The problem was where to hold such an event; France being such a vast country.

An obvious choice was Bridlington's twin town, Millau, in the Tarn Valley, where students from Bridlington School have benefitted from exchange visits. However the beauty of Aveyron is offset by its remoteness. Another option was Chantilly, a delightful town north of Paris, well served by the main road and rail transport arteries. Also as Chantilly is twinned with Epsom, I was familiar with the locality. Several Old Bridlingtonians live within easy reach of Chantilly. I had already dined at an excellent restaurant near the town centre, l'Auberge de Vertugadin. There were hotels nearby and the restaurant was a short walk from the railway station. A date was decided, Saturday 15 September, being between the end of the French summer holidays and the Old Bridlingtonian lunch in Sheffield.

Fourteen of us attended the lunch. On the day the sun shone and it was very warm. We were invited to eat outside in a walled courtyard, in true French fashion. The ambience of the restaurant was wonderful; the food was excellent and beautifully served. Michael, who owns the restaurant was a delightful host. Speeches were kept to a minimum.

However there was another surprise. I had invited a friend, Marie-Claude Fontaine from the Chantilly Twinning Association. Marie-Claude was no stranger to the Yorkshire coast having spent two years as a language student in South Yorkshire. Thanks to the initiative of John Blythe and others, Marie-Claude was presented with a framed photo of the School and a large bunch of flowers. In return each guest received a gift from La Ville de Chantilly; a wonderful reminder of the day.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Les Soirées Françaises



Our Soirées continue to be held monthly. Usually we read magazine articles and practise French conversation in friendly surroundings.

Our next Soirée will be a supper on **Monday 5 November** at 7.30pm at Brian Atkinson's, 3 Links Road, Epsom. There will be a main course of chicken Marengo (apparently named after Napoleon's horse but we are not sure why). The cost will be £10. The hope is that conversation will be in French, but no one should feel intimidated, all are welcome. If you would like to come, please let Brian know by 1 November at [brian.francis.atkinson@gmail.com](mailto:brian.francis.atkinson@gmail.com) or phone 01372 723767.

Anne Richardson, Membership secretary

### Members' Christmas Dinner – Friday 30 November

As you know, our venue for our pre-Christmas meal for many years, the Chalk Lane Hotel, is sadly no more so we needed to look elsewhere for somewhere suitable.

I am sure many of you have noticed that, apart from Café Rouge there is a dearth of French restaurants in Epsom and Ewell, but we are very well served with some Italian restaurants. So, working on the basis that some parts of France close to the Italian border will have their cuisine strongly influenced by their Italian neighbours, we have decided to opt for Il Laghetto in Ewell Village. Some of us have eaten there before and it's good traditional Italian with service to match, and the manager has been very helpful.

We will have their 3-course Christmas menu (several options for each course) and, with a 10% contribution for gratuity, the meal will cost £26.00. Everyone will be responsible for their own drinks. So, with fingers crossed that it is as successful as previous Christmas meals, we invite you to celebrate Christmas and all things Twinning at Il Laghetto on Friday 30 November from 7pm. A menu and contact details will be sent out soon, so let me know if you would like to come. You can see the menu in advance on <http://illaghetto.co.uk/menus/seasonal-menu>



Barbara Lewis, Committee member

## Chantilly Christmas Market - Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 December



Plans are already in place for Twinning to have a stall at the Christmas market in Chantilly for the weekend of the **8th and 9th December**. Along with the usual fare we are promoting two local cottage industries by taking some puddings from Rob and Peta at Simply Puddings:- [simplypuddings.co.uk](http://simplypuddings.co.uk) and jams from Sue at Jam Packed Preserves:- [jampackedpreserves.co.uk](http://jampackedpreserves.co.uk). We invite anyone who is interested in providing items for sale or who can recommend other local producers with goods for sale at the market to contact me.

We would also like help making mince pies, chutneys and Christmas cakes.

If you would like to go to the market, please let Diana know as soonest, so that we can arrange accommodation. [diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk)

We would also like to take some Christmas crackers for the children, so we are asking members as in previous years to please donate some boxes. contact [anne.richardson@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.richardson@btinternet.com).

Anne Richardson, Membership secretary

## Epsom Rotary Club and Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association French Public Speaking Competitions for Schools 2019

**Junior and Intermediate Classes - Monday 11 February  
at Blenheim School**

**Senior Class - Thursday 28 February at Epsom College**

We are looking forward to welcoming the President and members of the Rotary Club of Chantilly to our regular lunchtime meeting before they join us for the competition.

If anyone would like more information before the full details are circulated nearer the time, please contact Diana.

Richard Deavin, Secretary, Epsom Rotary Club



Rotary Club of  
**Epsom**

## News from Chantilly

Here's an update on the various projects and ideas about which we are in contact with the Chantilly twinning committee, as well as some news about what's going on in Chantilly and the wider twinning association involving Watermael-Boitsfort and Überlingen.

Recently returned from celebrating 60 years of twinning with Watermael-Boitsfort (as reported by our Mayor), and their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Überlingen having been marked earlier in the year, the Chantilly team have now set about planning "return visits" and celebrations in Chantilly in 2019.

I am delighted to report that a class at the Lycée de la Forêt (technical high school) has now linked up with an equivalent class at Blenheim High School, thanks to the enthusiasm of the teachers - Marie-Claude Fontaine and Nadia Anderson. The pupils have started to correspond, and more high-tech links are planned, hopefully to be followed up with visits in due course. Possible links between Epsom and Ewell Scouts and Scouts de France in and around Chantilly have been given a kick start by our Mayor, who, as many of you will know, has been involved in scouting for many years. This came up in the speech he gave to the assembled delegations in Chantilly this summer, since when contacts at both ends have been established, and there's even talk of a jamboree and links with groups in Chantilly's other twin towns.

Continuing our efforts to involve young people, we are very pleased to let you know that two students from Rosebery School and their parents will travel to Chantilly on 10 November to represent the Borough in the official commemorations of the First World War. The two girls will join pupils from the Collège des Bourgognes and other young people to take an active part, reading extracts from correspondence written by servicemen who were involved in the action at the time. A Chantilly family has invited them to stay in their home. Unfortunately, the Deputy Mayor of Chantilly has been unable to accept an invitation to attend our commemorations here in the Borough.

You might like to see the impressive programme of commemorative events planned in Chantilly throughout November <http://www.ville-chantilly.fr/1918-2018-histoire-et-memoire-a-chantilly/>

Regular events, like the Christmas market, will again take place, and we are exploring other opportunities to get together with Chantilly in 2019. I am keeping an eye on announcements about the many cultural and other events which may be of interest to our members. We hope some of our friends will come over for the Senior French Public Speaking competition at Epsom College in February.

You can also see what's going on in Chantilly and practise your French via the latest copy of the Chantilly Magazine, posted on their web site at <http://www.ville-chantilly.fr/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/BM-136.pdf> . Much of it sounds just like home, with road works\*, (\*beware of road closure between Senlis and Chantilly until March next year!), problems with fly tipping and new parking regulations. Plans are also afoot to restore the façade of the Notre Dame church and maintain and preserve the two cemeteries. Central to much of Chantilly's current focus is the involvement of young people and equipping them to take their place in society, providing a wide range of practical and cultural out-of-school activities.

Any questions, please contact Diana Deavin [diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diana.deavin@yahoo.co.uk)

Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer



Calendar of Future Events	
<b>2018</b>	
Monday 5 November	Soirée française at Brian Atkinson's
Sunday 11 November	Commemoration of the end of WW1
Friday 30 November	Members' Christmas dinner at Il Laghetto
Monday 3 December	Soirée française at Margaret Nightingale's
Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 December	Christmas Market in Chantilly
<b>2019</b>	
Friday ... January tbc	Drop-in Coffee Morning at All Things Nice
Monday 7 January	Soirée française at Anne Richardson's
Tuesday 15 January	Twinning committee meeting at the Town Hall
Tuesday 22 January	Members Curry Night at ... venue tbc
Monday 4 February	Soirée française at Margaret Nightingale's
Monday 11 February	Schools French-speaking competition - Juniors
Thursday 28 February	Schools French-speaking competition - Seniors
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Quiznight - venue tbc
Monday 4 March	Soirée française at ...
Tuesday 26 March	Cheese and Wine Party at the Town Hall

### **Twinning Committee for 2018/19**

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
Cllr Liz Frost	01372 732000
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mrs Barbara Lewis	0208 3933877

### **Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twinning**

Mr Harry Corben - Epsom Civic Society  
 Mr Richard Deavin - Epsom Rotary  
 Ms Janee 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