

Spring Newsletter 2019 (no 58)

Message from the Chairman

Connecting up with young people

Over the years one of the main aims of the Town-Twinning Association has been to foster links between young people in the respective communities of Epsom and Ewell and Chantilly. This has not always been an easy task, for various reasons, but in the past few weeks I am pleased to say there have been some positive developments.

With the kind assistance of our contact Marie-Claude Fontaine, Ewell Grove primary has made contact with an equivalent age range school, the École Paul Cezanne, in Chantilly. Teachers at the two schools have been working on ways that the children might enhance their language skills through mutual communications and it seems that this will get off the ground this coming September. Another Chantilly school, the École du Coq Chantant, has also expressed interest and there have been some communications with St Martin's in Epsom. I'm assured that teachers at St Martin's are 'on the case'. I hope to have updates on both these encouraging contacts in the next newsletter.

In February, Town-Twinning once again supported Epsom Rotary's French-speaking Competition, which this year saw contestants from the upper and lower schools at Blenheim High School, Rosebery and Epsom College take part. The standard was very high and judging to find the winners was not easy. But the main thing was that all the young people clearly enjoyed taking part and speaking French. Let's hope that for 2020 we can encourage a few more schools, and some more boys, to take part.

In another contact involving young people a group of 6th formers from the Lycée de la Foret in Chantilly visited Epsom in March, taking in some of the London sights as well. They were well looked after and thoroughly enjoyed their stay, which included time at Blenheim High School.

A host of other contacts between various groups are underway, and cover a wide range of interests, from scouting and rambling through to cycling and community events. Town-Twinning in Epsom and Ewell is in good health, and fortunate to be supported by hard-working and committed volunteers. Long may this continue!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM on Tuesday June 11th. This is an important one as we will be discussing whether we wish to investigate further possible twinning relations with Watermael-Boitsfort in Belgium and Uberlingen in Germany, Chantilly's other two twin towns. The issue is finely balanced and we will be interested to hear what our members think of the idea, and if they might be willing to assist in building contacts with these communities.

German speakers particularly welcome!

If you can't attend on the night in person, please do feel free to send me an email at clivewoodbridge@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or see the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

I hope you all enjoy a lovely summer!

CLlr Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

Obituary Betty Emery (nee Murphy) 11 April 1919-11 November 2018

Elizabeth Mary Murphy came to England from a busy farm in Co. Clare, Southern Ireland, where she grew up surrounded by horses, breeders, trainers and jockeys, to train as a nurse. She started in the Midlands, but the pull of the horses eventually brought her to Epsom. Finding herself working at a hospital in Berkshire, this is how it came about:

"I tend not to dwell but to act upon, so I went out and bought the "Nursing Times" and scanned the advertisements, and there it was. Epsom District Hospital was advertising for nurses, so I applied and was duly accepted. This was it!"

Once here, she found racing connections and mutual acquaintances who helped her to have the best of both worlds, working nights at the hospital and riding out during the day! Later, she worked at Epsom College and as a private nurse, started a nursing agency and a racing welfare charity and was an active member of the College Ward Residents' Association before becoming a Councillor.



Towards the end of her time as Borough Councillor, Betty was one of the driving forces in the Borough's search for a twin town.

Betty's close involvement in Epsom racing circles and familiarity with many of the personalities in Chantilly were instrumental in cementing an agreement with Chantilly and the signing of the twinning charter there in September 1995. It seems unlikely that twinning would have happened without her.

Betty's autobiography, *"Wings over the Shannon"*, quoted above, gives a full account of her long and very active life until the mid-1990s, when the twinning agreement with Chantilly was signed, and Betty was still going strong. In fact, she had never stood still. We hear about the "Luck of the Irish", Betty may well have had some of this, but she was definitely one to go out and look for hers.



Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer

Members' Christmas Dinner – 30 November 2018

Our venue for our pre-Christmas meal for many years, The Chalk Lane Hotel, is sadly no more so we needed to find somewhere else suitable. There is only one French restaurant, Café Rouge in Epsom and Ewell, and Twinning had recently eaten there.

But we have some very good Italian places to eat locally and so we decided to opt for Il Laghetto in Ewell Village, a good traditional Italian with service to match.

On the night 25 of us gathered for what proved to be an excellent 3 course meal. We were lucky to have our very supportive Mayor and Mayoress Neil and Ann Dallen join us too, though it had been a rush for them as we were their second evening engagement!



The restaurant was busy, as there were other celebrations going on too and as the evening wore on guests at various tables mixed and we were able to promote the aims of Twinning.

We would probably have returned to Il Laghetto but very soon after our meal they changed hands and are now a Sardinian restaurant. Perhaps we need to do a reccy to see if they meet their predecessor's standards!

If anyone has a local, reasonably priced restaurant they would like to recommend for future members' dinners, please let me know on barbara@epsomtwinning.com

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

Chantilly Christmas Market – Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 December

As usual the Christmas Market in Chantilly is a great time to meet our twinning partners in Chantilly, the Rotary Club of Chantilly, and the loyal customer base we have built up over the years. We took with us Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies, Crackers, Marmalade and other attractions. We set up our stall in a new position in the main marketplace of Chantilly on the Friday night. It seemed a great improvement from previous years where we had been a bit side-lined. We were right by the main entrance and could be easily seen in the strong floodlights. We went back to the hotel on Friday night feeling very happy and had a great feast with a little wine! Our team was Richard and Diana Deavin, Clive and Anne Richardson, and Helen Lewis. For Helen it was her first time.



Saturday started early with us on site before 9am and we had a great success selling roughly half our goods on the Saturday. We took shifts and so were able to go and visit other parts of the town, buy some cheese, wine, and meat for ourselves and generally relax when off watch. Saturday evening was spent with the other twin towns and the twinning association of Chantilly in a local school. We had a great time and there was a lot of laughing, and some people fitted in serious meetings!

Sunday dawned bright and early again. The Richardsons were on duty in the morning because Church and visits called for the others. We were relieved around lunchtime and were able to

relax in the afternoon. By Sunday night we had sold pretty well everything and were feeling very pleased with a job well done. Sunday night was a time to relax in the hotel and get ready for the gentle drive home on Monday.

All in all the weekend was a great success and is highly recommended for other twinning members next year. I do hope we get more to help out on the stall because five people was really the bare minimum trying to produce a rota.

Clive and Anne Richardson

The France Show 2019 - Friday 25 to Sunday 27 January

This exhibition is held every year, and for the past few years at Olympia. It's an excuse to escape from January in London for the atmosphere of France. The Show includes food, wine, travel, language courses, tourism, and a whole floor was devoted to property sales, giving advice to anyone contemplating purchase in France. Musicians entertained in the dining area.

This year there were fewer regions of France advertising their attractions but I still returned with several bags of brochures. A notable absence was Picardie, and Chantilly!

On the stage downstairs there were cookery demonstrations, but the event which attracted the largest crowd was a periodic performance by the Can Can Girls, complete with the traditional music.

Of course I didn't go for the Can Can Girls.....

It was quite a shock to walk out into the grey streets of west London.....



Peter Hardy, Committee member

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

Junior and Intermediate Classes - 11 February

Senior Class - Thursday 28 February



Rotary Club of
Epsom

Twinning once again cooperated with Epsom Rotary Club in the organisation of the French Public Speaking Competition for local senior schools. This is now an annual event, in its fourth year, and the standard and support for both the Junior/Intermediate and the Senior rounds were the best yet.

Junior and Intermediate Classes

For the first time, Blenheim School kindly hosted the Junior/Intermediate round which was attended by Marie-Claude Fontaine, our main twinning contact from Chantilly, as one of the judges. We were all impressed by the modern school building and its facilities, not to mention the fact that Blenheim junior contestants won in the junior class poetry recitations, which they brought to life with actions and some props. Rosebery students took the prizes in the intermediate section each with a short talk and questions on a subject of their choice.

The judges struggled to decide on the results of both, awarding a number of Highly Commended certificates as well as the 1st and 2nd prizes, which went to Lili Oliviera and Rosie Paget respectively in the Junior and Katya Ganevitch and Jo-Ann Winmill in the Intermediate with their talks on Holidays and Music.

Senior Class

Epsom College once again generously hosted the Senior competition, where subjects ranged from "La Coupe du monde 2018, c'est l'Afrique qui l'a gagné?" to "Les Grandes Ecoles: élites ou élitistes?" Winners were: 1st Anabel Hindmarsh with « Est-ce que Louis XIV mérite le titre du Roi Soleil? » and 2nd Samantha Perren with « Pourquoi est-ce que Voltaire a écrit Candide? ». Both girls were from Rosebery. Visitors from the Rotary Club de Chantilly joined the regular judges and all were impressed with the topics chosen and their delivery.

Thanks to those members who came along to support, either as audience or judges, and congratulations to all the competitors.

Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer

Visit to London with Students from Chantilly

On Thursday and Friday 7th and 8th March a party of nine students from Chantilly with two teachers visited Epsom and London. Marie-Claude was the teacher in charge, accompanied by her colleague, Gueda. The party stayed in Earl's Court.

On the Friday I met the party at the Natural History Museum prior to a tour of London by public transport. We caught a No.11 bus from Sloane Square to the City. Although this route would have taken us past the tourist sights in Westminster it was diverted via Vauxhall Bridge, the South Bank and Waterloo Station to cross the River Thames at Waterloo Bridge. As it was the first visit to London for most of the students this was unfortunate but they did see the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, the River Thames at high tide, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Our destination was the Bank of England before a short walk to Fenchurch Street and the "Walkie Talkie" building. On the 36th Floor is the Sky Garden with wonderful views over London. Sadly by then the early morning sun had given way to cloud. (admission to the Sky Garden is free but visits must be booked on line in advance.)

The students were suitably revived after a visit to McDonalds and we took a crowded Central Line train to Marble Arch. Whilst the teachers and I had afternoon tea at Marks and Spencer's the students went shopping.

It was dark and raining when we emerged! I hope everyone enjoyed their visit to Epsom and London; particularly those for whom it was their first experience.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

Cheese and Wine Party - Thursday 26 March

Our annual Cheese and Wine evening was held once again in the Town Hall to celebrate our association with our twin town, Chantilly.

Epsom and Ewell Council cannot support twinning financially but they make available a room in the Town Hall, help from their staff in setting up the room and the loan of glasses. All we have to do is provide the food and drink!

This year we had a very good attendance plus, as always, the support of our Mayor and Mayoress Neil and Ann Dallen. Neil spoke about his enthusiasm and support for Twinning. He told us of their visit to the Choral Festival in Chantilly in July (the trip was self-funded) and also of their visits to Überlingen in Germany in August and to Watermael-Boitsfort in Belgium in September, two towns with whom Chantilly is also twinned.

Both towns sound delightful and have much in common with Epsom. In these uncertain times Neil said that contact with our European friends will be especially important and hopes that it may be possible for us to twin with the other two towns in the future.

The evening ended all too soon, it really had been most convivial, and here's to next year's cheese and wine evening when we perhaps might be celebrating our future association with Watermäel-Boitsfort and Überlingen.

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

Quiz Night - Friday 5 April

Every year we hold a Quiz Night to raise funds but more importantly to enable twinning members to enjoy being together in sociable competition. This year we had a record turnout, 11 tables altogether.

Fish (or alternative) and chips were supplied by Posh Plaice at Tattenham Corner.

Our supportive Mayor and Mayoress, Neil and Ann Dallen, helped make up a team and donated a delicious hamper of French biscuits. Other committee members donated prizes and we used the excuse of Easter approaching to offer some Easter eggs too. As at other events there was the obligatory raffle. Neil's able help with conducting the raffle was gratefully received.

Questions were as fiendish as ever and kept the teams jockeying for first place, in the end it came down to a tie break. Our Quizmaster decided that both teams deserved to win, so prizes were distributed between both tables.

The Quiz was as always, great fun and if in the past you have hesitated to come along I really recommend you give it a go. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

Other contacts with Chantilly

Spring 2019

You may be interested to hear what's going on behind the scenes in terms of ongoing projects and contacts with Chantilly.

School links are progressing and, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Marie-Claude Fontaine, a colleague and some of their students from Lycée de la Forêt in Chantilly have recently started corresponding with pupils at Blenheim School, thanks to the enthusiasm of their French teacher Nadia Anderson. To further cement the relationship, the students and teachers visited the school for the day at the beginning of March as part of a short but very busy two-day trip. They were able to participate in various lessons throughout the day and experience school lunches. They were then delivered to the Town Hall where, at the invitation of the Mayor, they were shown round the various rooms and regalia, told about the structure and operation of the Council and the officers, and offered refreshments to help them on their way to their hostel in London.

Links between Ewell Grove school and a primary school in Chantilly are in the pipeline, and there may also be a similar opportunity for another junior school in the Borough.

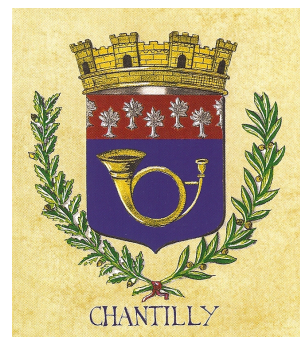
Initial contact has been established by the Scout organisation in both towns, and we await developments with interest.

There is also interest among various adult groups in establishing projects with Chantilly. Our newest Charity member, Age Concern Epsom & Ewell, is hoping to run a sponsored cycle ride to Chantilly as soon as possible, so if anyone has relevant experience which might help them, please get in touch with Diana or Martin on the committee.

There's a lot going on throughout the spring in Chantilly. In particular, the Flower show looks well worth a visit <http://www.domainedechantilly.com/en/flower-show/>
You can find information and diaries of more events to view and download on the Chantilly town web site www.ville-chantilly.fr, including the latest Chantilly Mag, Le Printemps des Arts and Rendez-vous a Chantilly.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

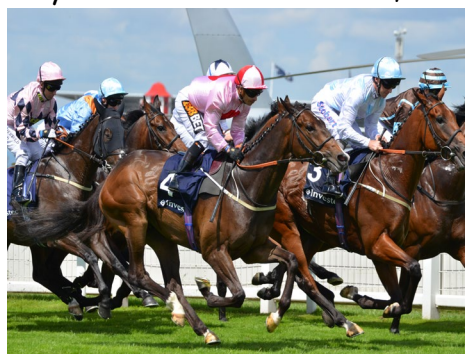
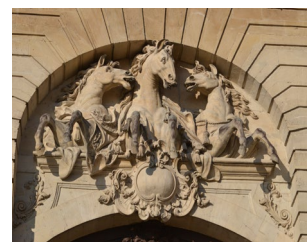
A Tale of Two Racing Towns - Epsom/Chantilly and Horseracing - Ebbisham Centre Sunday 26 May - Thursday 20 June



A TALE OF TWO RACING TOWNS
L'HISTOIRE DE DEUX VILLES; UNE PASSION, LES COURSES.

EBBISHAM CENTRE - 26 MAY TO 20 JUNE
EPSOM DOWNS RACECOURSE - 26 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
CHANTILLY RACECOURSE - 9 TO 30 SEPTEMBER

Local horsewoman, photographer and writer Caroline Baldock has created an exhibition on the history of Epsom and Chantilly. The two towns share many similarities, history and passions. The exhibition will raise awareness of the relationship between the English and French in Chantilly that is so unique. The most important passion they share is the racehorse, but Chantilly remains today a town anglicized by two centuries of



English immigrants. One painting of Epsom Downs by John Constable will be shown in reproduction for the first time, alongside photographs and memorabilia collected over a lifetime in the racing community. The exhibition will be in French and English and will be shown in the Ebbisham Centre, at Epsom Downs Racecourse, and in Chantilly at the Hippodrome in September for the 300 years celebration of the building of the Grandes Ecuries.

Caroline Baldock, Museum of the Horse, Chantilly

Members' Coffee mornings at All Things Nice, Ewell Village.

As a Committee we try to keep you informed about what we do. We also try to put on events that you may enjoy but we do wonder whether members feel out of touch with us. We have regular members' dinners and soirées, our AGM and other annual events, but not everyone can make these evening events. We therefore thought we would try a daytime informal drop-in for those who could join us for some chat, a cuppa (and cake!) and find out more about Twinning.

Our first coffee morning was held at All Things Nice in their pleasant ante room, on 5 October. We had a good turnout of members. There was much discussion of all things Twinning but there was also lots of general chit chat.

We have held two more coffee mornings in January and March, they've also been well attended and we've had a few people poking their nose around the door to see what is going on!

Our next coffee morning will again be at All Things Nice from 10.30am on Friday 7 June. Their coffee and tea and other hot drinks are very good and their cakes and snacks take a lot of resolve to resist! If you can make it, it would be lovely to see you there.

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

Twinning Association Annual General Meeting 2019

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 11 June at 7.30pm in Committee room 1 at Epsom Town Hall. The official notice and agenda is sent to all members, but please make a note in your diary now. The annual meeting is an opportunity for you to get together with other members over a glass of wine to hear reports on our activities over the past year, and about our plans for the future. This year is especially important because we will be asking you what you think about a proposal for Epsom to twin with Chantilly's other two twin towns (see the Chairman's introduction above). So do please come and join us!

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

Les Soirées Françaises



Our Soirées continue to be held regularly. Usually we read magazine articles and practise French conversation in friendly surroundings, accompanied by some cheese and wine. If you would like to host one of these evenings please contact Margaret or Anne.

Our next Soirée française will be on Monday 17th June at Margaret's.

Epsom and Ewell Community Fayre - Sunday 15 September 2019

Following on from their successful Fun Day in 2017 our friends and fellow Twinners in the Rotary Club of Epsom are pleased to announce they will be organising and sponsoring a Community Fayre at Hook Road Arena. Entrance will be free and all are welcome.

The event will deliberately be smaller than the Fun Day to capture the relaxed atmosphere of a country village fayre and will be aimed at providing entertainment primarily for children. The Epsom Rotarians are still in the early stages of planning but amongst the proposed attractions

will be a dog show, a talent contest for young people, and a collection of Classic Cars along with a display from a local marching band.

There will be a number of stalls manned by local and national charities, local small businesses and clubs, and the Twinning Association will be represented. There may also be a presence from local schools. Rotary has asked each stall holder to provide an entertainment for children, so there should be no chance that the little ones will be bored! Other attractions will be added so watch this space.

To quench your thirst there will be a Beer tent possibly run by Ewell Rotary Club and those hunger pangs will be taken care of by stalls selling traditional fare, vegan and alternative foods as well as those all-important ice creams. A picnic area will be available.

Hook Road is easily accessible from all parts of the Borough but if you need to drive parking will be available at £2.00 per car.

The Community Fayre will prove to be one of the events of the year so don't miss it. An update on progress will be on our web site.

Martin Lewis, Publicity Officer

STOP PRESS!

We have just received a request from Chantilly for an exchange between two teenage girls from Chantilly and counterparts in Epsom. Their mother would like her daughters aged 15 and 17 to have female penpals in Epsom of about the same age with a view to spending a few weeks in each other's homes and learning the language.

I have a little more info if anyone would like to contact me.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

Grand Gala de Bienfaisance à Chantilly

"Epsom Rotary supporting the Grand Gala de Bienfaisance organised by the Rotary Club of Chantilly held at the Hippodrome on Saturday 27 April, and marking the Chantilly Club's 45th anniversary.

A cheque for €9,000 was presented in support of two young local children and treatment for a rare degenerative brain condition from which they both suffer."



Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

Calendar of Future Events

2019	
Sunday 26 May - 20 June	Twinning Exhibition at the Ebbisham Centre
Saturday 1 June	Derby Day on Epsom Downs
Friday 7 June	Drop-in at All Things Nice, Ewell Village
Tuesday 11 June	Twinning AGM at the Town Hall
Monday 17 June	Soirée française chez Margaret
Wednesday 10 July	Members' dinner at Café Rouge
Wednesday 24 th July	Committee Meeting at Epsom Club
Monday 26 August	Twinning Exhibition at Epsom Racecourse
Monday 2 nd September	Soiree Chez Anne Richardson
Sunday 15 September	Rotary Community Fayre at Hook Road Arena
Sunday 9 - 30 September	Twinning Exhibition at the Hippodrome Chantilly
Saturday 5 October	Barisons Concert at St Barnabas Church

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
Cllr Liz Frost	01372 732000
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mr Martin Lewis - Publicity Officer	0208 3933877
Mrs Barbara Lewis	0208 3933877

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