



Spring Newsletter 2020 (no 60)

Message from the Chairman

Normally our newsletters are full of information about all the activities and events that are coming up in connection with Town-Twinning. But these are not normal times and so this is very much a retrospective, with some added thoughts about how we plan, or at least hope, to mark the 25th anniversary of twinning with Chantilly in September.

Inevitably so much that we had hoped to announce is up in the air, and many events, like the Twin Towns' Choral Festival in Watermael-Boitsfort, have regrettably had to be cancelled or postponed. I thank Barisons choir for their willingness to represent our Borough at the Festival and hope that a chance to stage the event in the future with their participation proves possible.

We had scheduled the Association AGM to take place on June 2nd at the Town Hall. But it seems it will almost certainly have to be deferred until later in the year. We will keep you updated by email, and your officers and committee will continue on a status quo basis until then.

I know these are trying times and many of you will be facing extended periods in lockdown. I promise we will get together as Town-Twinning friends and supporters as soon as we are able to and hopefully that is something to look forward to.

Best wishes and stay safe, Clive Woodbridge

Here's a roundup from Membership Secretary, Anne Richardson, of our more recent events:

Herald of Spring - Bourne Hall

Many thanks to all the members who helped at the Herald of Spring exhibition at Bourne Hall. We were able, with some excellent new display material and practical help from Brian Angus, to put on an attractive display of information about Chantilly and the activities we have participated in over



the years. We met many old friends and recruited some new members so it was a huge success. The stall was also up the previous evening and was seen by the Mayors of Epsom and Ewell, past and present, so a great showcase of what we do. When our meetings can be resumed we have many ideas for new activities for the Summer months.

Anne, Brian and Cllr Phil Neale prepare to greet visitors

Christmas market in Chantilly - This seems a long time ago now, but please see the web site for an account by first-timer and committee member, Ann Dallen. [LINK](#)

French Speaking Competition

Some fantastic French spoken by the young contestants in our French Speaking Competition run with Epsom Rotary, Blenheim High School, Rosebery School and Epsom College.

12 pupils from the three schools competed at the Junior level, reciting poems to see who was best at speaking publicly in French. This was followed by 7 pupils at the Intermediate level speaking about their interests and families. The standard was, yet again, impressively high and the audience were wowed!! For more details, please see the website.



<http://www.epsomtwinning.com/recent.html>

Three weeks later, Epsom College hosted the Senior Competition, with a separate evening, this time at Epsom College with 5 students giving more in-depth presentations on topics ranging from Impressionism to the French Empire and Paris: A city of love or divorce. These provoked some serious questions from the judges who again had a difficult job choosing the winners from such a talented group.

Thanks are due to the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and Ewell for presenting the prizes, Blenheim and Epsom College for hosting, the teachers and helpers who made the event possible and, of course, the judges - Diana Deavin, Christine Rippon and Catherine Legouas.

Quiz Night

It was a great pleasure once again to run the quiz night this Spring, before we had to stop our regular meetings. We had a number of "old Faithfuls", plus some new faces to swell the numbers. As usual the food arrived on time, hot and as ordered, and we managed to fit in a varied selection of rounds. Clive was an excellent quizmaster as always, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Many thanks to those who were kind enough to help with clearing up and removing the rubbish. It is increasing difficult to cover the costs, with the price of fish going up every time, but, thanks to the raffle and your generosity, we even managed a small surplus.

Sadly, these were our last public appearances before lockdown, and some of our planned activities are on hold. Watermael-Boitsfort are postponing the Choral Festival of the Twin Towns to next year, and Überlingen's huge 6 month long garden festival will not start next week as planned.

There is still plenty to look forward to, including:

Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of twinning with Chantilly 2020/21

It hardly seems possible, but it was in September 1995 that the twinning charter was signed in Chantilly, with Epsom's signing in March 1996. We have agreed that the locations will be reversed this time, with Epsom and Ewell starting the celebrations on the weekend of 25-26 September and Chantilly in Spring 2021. We have provisionally booked a space in the marketplace on the Saturday and have lots of other ideas which we can pick up when we are more able to plan ahead.

Reaching this milestone, we are also reflecting on what we have achieved over the years, how life has changed, and what should be our strategy for the future. We will be sharing these thoughts with members in due course and asking for your input, so please start thinking now.

In the meantime:

Shared on Facebook you will see some of the "Echappées culturelles de Chantilly" daily snippets about people and places from Chantilly's history. Do have a look and listen. If you have reasonable French, they are quite easy to follow, and the subjects are varied and fascinating. To find our page type into the Facebook search bar "Epsom and Ewell Twinning"

Chantilly is in pretty much the same situation as we are, with businesses adapting to supply and feed people, schools providing lessons and fun, voluntary organisations making face masks, delivering food and keeping people entertained and the essential services working extra hard to keep everyone safe and well. Jokes, videos and messages of support are exchanged regularly with our twinning friends.

If you would like to contact us, please email: Anne@epsomtwinning.com or Diana@epsomtwinning.com. We won't be going far!

With very best wishes to you all for Easter. Keep safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

The Twinning Committee