



## Spring Newsletter 2018 (no 56)

### **Message from the Chairman**

It was lovely to see so many members at the recent annual Cheese & Wine evening at the Town Hall. This was the latest in a series of events organised by your hard-working committee members in the past few weeks, including a Curry Night at Le Raj Academy, a Tartiflette evening courtesy of Brian Atkinson, the annual Quiz Night, as well as the Rotary French-speaking competitions. See more about each in this newsletter.

We were also delighted in January to welcome two students from Chantilly to Epsom for a month-long period of work experience at RATP (Epsom Coaches) at their Blenheim Road depot. This was made possible through the connections that Town-Twinning has developed over the years and is an example of how we can foster links between our two communities.

It does not seem possible that it is nearly two years since the Twin-Towns Choral Festival was held in Epsom, but it is, and the next in the series will be held in Chantilly in June/July this year. Epsom & Ewell will be represented by Barisons choir, and we wish them every success in taking part. I am sure they will fly the flag for our town in excellent fashion. We are delighted that the current Mayor-elect, Cllr Neil Dallen and his wife Ann, will be joining an official delegation accompanying the choir to Chantilly.

To introduce themselves, and as a 'warm-up' to the main event, Barisons will be holding a Come & Sing on Sunday 24th June at St Barnabas Church in Temple Road. You are all welcome to join in, so please consider taking part in what should be a fun, and entertaining afternoon.

I also look forward to seeing you at our AGM which will be held on 12th June at Epsom Town Hall. One change to the committee to be confirmed at this meeting follows the decision of Cllr Keith Partridge to step down. Keith has been a great asset to Town-Twinning over the past three years and his energy and enthusiasm will be much missed. However I am delighted to say that Cllr Liz Frost has agreed to be the Council's second representative on the committee, alongside myself. Liz, along with her husband Chris, has been a strong supporter of Twinning during her recent time as Mayor, visiting Chantilly and supporting many of our events. I am sure she will be a tremendous asset to the Association in the future.

Thanks for your continued support.

Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Chairman

## Members' Christmas Dinner – Monday 27 November

Sadly our popular Christmas dinners at the Chalk Lane Hotel will never be repeated, as the doors of the hotel close this month, and Steven McGregor and his wife leave Epsom to enjoy a well-deserved retirement in France. Our final meal of Terrine de Campagne avec Cornichons, Confit de Canard, Pommes Saladaises and Tarte aux Pommes was tasty and very enjoyable, as usual prepared by Head Chef Vincent Hiss.

Through the generosity of our members the raffle raised £110 for twinning funds.

We will continue to arrange regular members' meals and are always interested in finding new venues. If you have a favourite restaurant to recommend, please let a member of the committee know.



Anne Richardson, Membership secretary

## Chantilly Christmas Market – Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 December

Nine twinning members crossed the Channel on the Friday, Brian and Margaret Angus, Heather Saint, Richard and Diana Deavin, Clive and Anne Richardson, Brian Atkinson and Peter Hardy, to set up our stall at the annual Christmas Market in Chantilly. They packed Christmas puddings, mince pies, and Christmas crackers to give the French a representation of Christmas celebrations in Epsom. This year the various groups occupied cabins in the precinct opposite the public library.



Saturday dawned fine, bright, but very cold. The crowds came and our home-made products were very popular. We encouraged sales by offering products to taste, and the ladies of the local Inner Wheel provided home-made refreshments in the nearby Town Hall.

Our hosts made us very welcome and arranged a reception at the Lycée on Saturday evening, most enjoyable with excellent food.

Sunday dawned wet, however the weather did not deter the crowds and when the Market closed at 5:00 pm we had sold almost everything.

That evening, after we had packed up, we were invited to the nearby home of Anne and Charles Peck for an informal buffet. Charles is English, and a retired racehorse trainer; Anne is our long-standing Twinning Liaison in Chantilly. We were made very welcome.

On Monday morning we were up early for the return journey home. It was raining. As we approached the coast the outside temperature began to fall suddenly and it started to snow and around 11:00am the inevitable happened; traffic at a standstill due to lorries which had jack-knifed. We remained there, in a blizzard, for the next six hours! On the radio we learned that the local schools and the Port of Calais were closed; public transport was suspended, but just before 5:00pm the traffic started moving and we drove unhindered into Calais to find the port was just reopening. Nevertheless we had a long wait before departure.

On becoming stuck we had warned the others of our plight. Clive drove eastwards and also became stuck. Brian Angus, however, in his four wheeled drive vehicle, took the local roads to the Channel Tunnel, where again there were problems. We all arrived home safely but considerably later than anticipated.

Thanks are due to all twinning members who kindly provided produce to sell on the stall, to those who helped at the market, to the organisers, and to our wonderful French hosts who made Twinning the experience we all dream of.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

## Les Soirées Françaises



Our Soirées continue to be held monthly. We do crosswords, read magazines, and practice speaking French in friendly surroundings. All abilities are welcome, whether beginners or more advanced.

Our next Soirée will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at Anne's, 8 Christchurch Place, Epsom, KT19 8RS. Please join us for easy French conversation, a glass of wine and a snack or two. Cost £5 per head. Please RSVP to Anne at [anne@epsomtwinning.com](mailto:anne@epsomtwinning.com) and if you would like to host one of these evenings please contact Margaret or Anne.

Our May evening will be a Francophone Supper at Brian Atkinson's on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. He will choose some French recipes and it will be an evening when, with French food, wine, and music, we will try and converse solely in French. There will be no tests, and only fun not fluency is definitely expected. Brian asks for a contribution of £10 towards the costs.

Our next Soirée française will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at Margaret's.

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

## Members' Dinner – Tuesday 16 January

We decided that a meal out might help to cheer us up from the post-Christmas and New Year blues, and blow the diet! Although some of us had been to the excellent Indian restaurant Le Raj in Epsom, none of us had been to Le Raj Academy at NESCOL.

I booked a table with Mohammed in December and from that point on nothing was too much trouble for him. Although busy organising the catering for the British Curry Awards Night he put together an excellent bespoke menu for us. None of us knew what to expect, but the room was tastefully decorated, the ambience was very good and we were made very welcome. It was also very busy!

We started with the usual poppadoms and accompaniments, followed by a beautifully arranged plate of starters; onion bhajee, samosas and chicken tikka. We did not need to choose a main course as our menu included chicken tikka Masala, gosht rogan and dall sobzi (the vegetarian option) with pilau rice and naan bread, and there was more than enough to go round – the food just kept coming! We finished with delicious ice cream, mango kulfi, which was made in house.

Everyone who came said how much they enjoyed the meal and the company of fellow Twinners. It certainly livened up a dull grey January weekday.

I think a Twinning return to the Academy restaurant is definitely on the cards. Join us next time, you won't be disappointed!

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

## Work Placements for Chantilly students - 22 January-24 February

We were delighted to welcome two business studies students from Chantilly, Mélanie and Ophélie, to the Borough for 5 weeks' work experience during January and February. We and they are extremely grateful to RATP Quality Line for honouring the agreement made with Epsom Coaches before the restructuring of the business was announced. Thanks also go to those members and friends who hosted and welcomed the girls during their time here. The following is their account of their stay.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

"Firstly, concerning our experience with the RATP Quality Line.

We were able to learn more about English working methods, especially in the field of public transport. This experience was beneficial for our school curriculum and taught us a lot. Thanks to this we are able to report on our internship which will be very important in passing our examination. We have also been able to acquire new skills.

Secondly, concerning the town of Epsom where we spent 5 weeks.

It was a pleasure. We lived with two families who kindly helped and advised us throughout the stay. We noted how the town is committed to respect for the environment. It is very clean and has a lot of greenery. Every week we went to relax in Rosebery Park, a big green space not far from us. We were also able to walk around the Ashley Centre shops and discover some we did not know. Generally, at the end of each day we would study at the Epsom Square library: very large and very quiet, it allowed us to write our course report in peace. We also visited the Downs overlooking London and the mini golf course between Epsom and Kingston: very attractive and pleasant to see. With our first family, we went for a walk in the very large Nonsuch Park. Our family has helped us all to discover typical English dishes such as chicken pie, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding or stew and desserts such as cream tea, crumpets and apple pie.

We also noticed that Epsom is a tourist town and we met numerous French people. Thanks to one of these we went out some evenings to English pubs like The Faraday, the Marquis of Granby and the Cabello Lounge.

We also met the Epsom twinning committee, Epsom being the twin town of Chantilly in France where we come from. It was a great pleasure to meet all these people. We had the opportunity to spend three evenings with members including one in the first week when we had just arrived at Brian's for a tartiflette evening (traditional French dish) and were able to tell them about this excellent dish. Another during a "soirée à la française" at Anne's where we were able to discuss and learn English quotations and pass on our knowledge to members. Then finally during the famous Quiz evening, we could discover English history and thus improve our understanding whilst sharing an excellent traditional meal - the famous fish and chips.

Finally, we wish to thank all the twinning committee for welcoming us and teaching us things during our stay. We would also like to thank the two families who have welcomed us for listening to us and helping us every day. Also we wish to thank Diana Deavin for the valuable help that she has given us and all the research she has done for us. This stay was rewarding and full of good things.

Mélanie and Ophélie

## Quiz Night - Friday 16 February

Another successful Quiz night was held at the United Reformed Church Hall in Epsom on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Eight teams fought a hotly contested quiz, the top team (the One and onlies) scored 104 but the bottom team wasn't far behind with 80 points, so a very well-matched contest!

Again thanks to Diana for arranging the fish and chips which provided a refreshing touch half-way through. We enjoyed a very happy evening in a great atmosphere.

Clive Richardson, Quiz master

## Epsom Rotary Club and Epsom and Ewell Town Twinning Association French Public Speaking Competitions for Schools 2018

### Junior and Intermediate Classes

The first of the French public speaking competitions run by Epsom Rotary and the Twinning Association took place at Rosebery School on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February. This was for Junior and Intermediate level students, and there was an impressive turnout from Rosebery, Blenheim and Epsom College. The girls outnumbered the boys by 13 to 1, but the audience was sadly depleted due to the worsening weather conditions. However, the performances easily compensated, and Rosie Paget from Blenheim came first and Noémie Winmill from Rosebery second in the Junior Class, reading poems suggested by the judges. The Intermediate Class was won by Alisa Strelkova-Lundberg from Rosebery, with Alex Ukrasin of Epsom College second, for their very confident and interesting presentations on "La santé" and "Paris" respectively and their question and answer session with the judges. The standard overall was very high, giving the judges Christine Hearne, Christine Rippon and Janet Shiret a very hard time. Thanks were offered to all for taking part and to Rosebery for hosting.



### Junior Results

Rosie Paget Blenheim - First place

Noémie Winmill Rosebery - Runner Up

### Intermediate Results

Alisa Strelkova-Lundberg of Rosebery - First Place

Alex Ukrasin of Epsom College - Runner Up

Sofya Kovalenko of Rosebery - Highly Commended



Clive Richardson, Secretary, Rotary Club of Epsom

### Senior Class

The Senior Class of the fourth French Public Speaking Competition for schools, organised by Epsom Rotary club took place at Epsom College on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The Mayor of Epsom, Councillor Liz Frost, attended and presented the prizes, and we were pleased to welcome also Anne Peck, representing the twinning committee of our twin town, Chantilly.

A small but enthusiastic audience of teachers, fellow pupils and members of the Rotary Club and the Twinning Association heard presentations from four candidates from Epsom College and Rosebery School. As usual the standard was high, causing the judges much thought before awarding first prize to Elina Patouridou from Epsom College. Runner up was Samantha Perren of Rosebery School.



Congratulating all the candidates the Mayor compared the language skills of today with those of former generations. Councillor Clive Woodbridge, Chairman of the Town Twinning Association, referred to the particular importance of effective communication in current "interesting" times.

Thanks were given to Epsom College, the organisers, the judges and especially to the dedicated teachers who had so encouraged the competitors.

Richard Deavin, President, Epsom Rotary Club

## Cheese and Wine Party - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Our annual Cheese and Wine evening was held once again in the Town Hall in late March. As well as the obvious(!) cheese, bread, and wine (as well as non-alcoholic drinks), we offered a table bulging with cold meats, pate en crouete (a French cocktail nibble a bit like a mini Gala pie), pate, dips and a healthy selection of salads, vegetables and grapes Everyone tucked in with relish.

Most of the Committee helped with planning, buying, setting up, serving at the bar, (wo)manning the door and of course the all-important clearing away.

It was good to see many of our Twinning members there and we were also very pleased to have our current and very active Mayoress, Liz Frost and her consort Chris Frost, as well as next year's Mayor-elect Neil Dallen and his wife Ann. Paul Thomas, the man behind the very useful Facebook page "What's on in Epsom" was also able to attend.

All in all the evening went very well. Everyone mingled and some new contacts made.

The Association represents the Borough in all things Twinning, and although Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is unable to support us financially it does make available a room for our events. We are very grateful to Council for this.

The intention is to have more events during the year to which all members are welcome, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Barbara Lewis, Committee member

## Rotary Club of Chantilly - English Public Speaking Contest - 23 March

Senior students from three of the five Lycées in the Chantilly area took part in this, the 9<sup>th</sup> Public Speaking Competition, which was held at the Mairie on a very cold Friday evening. The theme was "The Digital Revolution", topics were advised in advance, but the students were only told 20 minutes before the start which one they would be speaking about. Hence they had a very short time to prepare a presentation of 3-5 minutes each.



Francophones and Anglophones were judged separately, and the topics of the two winners were "Although we may shape the construction of algorithms, they end up shaping us" and "My privacy depends on my dumbest friend", not easy concepts to put forward a case for or against at the best of times. Prizes included a cheque and an aerial sightseeing trip of Chantilly.

Et voilà les 7 candidats!

The judges as it happened were all female, and included the wives of the Chantilly and Epsom Rotary Presidents, the Chaplain of St Peter's Church, two lady Rotarians and a couple of English teachers. The chairman of the judges, however, was a man. The official welcome was given by Deputy Mayor Bénédicte de Cacqueray.

Jury du speaking contest



Diana Deavin, Vice-Chair and Liaison Officer

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

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 12 June at 7.30pm in Committee room 1 at Epsom Town Hall. The official notice and agenda will be sent to all members well in advance, but please make a note in your diary now.

The AGM is an opportunity for you to gather with other members over a glass of wine to hear reports on our activities over the past year, and also about our plans for the future. So do please come!

Margaret Nightingale, Secretary

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

As previously reported, the incoming Mayor and Mayoress will lead a small party to accompany the Barisons Choir, who will represent the Borough and Twinning at the festival. The choir is preparing a short repertoire for open air performances and the gala concert which will take place in the arena of the Grand Stables in Chantilly, to be followed by a combined choirs performance of the *Gloria* by Vivaldi.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, the choir is kindly inviting members of all the local choirs who are not lucky enough to be going to Chantilly this time, to join them for an afternoon workshop and early evening performance of the *Vivaldi Gloria in concert with orchestra - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 6pm St Barnabas Church* in the presence of the Mayor, in association with the Twinning Association and supporting Love me Love my Mind, a local mental health charity based at the church.

Please put this date in your diary now. Full details will be sent to you soon, but if you have any immediate queries, please email [diana@epsomtwinning.com](mailto:diana@epsomtwinning.com).

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

## **Museum of the Horse - proposed exhibition Sunday 30 September - Epsom/Chantilly and Horseracing**

at the last race meeting of the season at the Racecourse, followed by exhibits at Bourne Hall and in Chantilly. Another date for your diary.

Caroline Baldock, who introduces herself below, is putting this exhibition together with the help of Bourne Hall museum, her racing contacts and our friends in Chantilly. We will let you know more nearer the time, but hope we will be able to support her at the racecourse and use the opportunity to inform racegoers about twinning. We also hope to run the Prix de Chantilly race at Epsom on the same day and to invite friends from Chantilly, but this is not yet confirmed.

## Epsom and Chantilly - A Story of Two Towns

In the middle ages an expanse of woodland was cleared and laid to grass just 13 miles south of London. From high on these Downs could be seen the city, with its palaces, towers, churches, temples, theatres, orchards, narrow streets and city walls stretched before you, its river winding through the countryside and under the narrow bridges heavy with houses and shops.



And it was up on the Downs, green with rich grass, that the drovers herded their sheep to fatten on the land ready for the London market. In time the Smoothfields, (Smithfields) in the 12th century and Hyde Park, often the home of racing horses gave way to a new venue of rich turf, that of Banstead and Epsom Downs. A perfect venue for the rich and enthusiasts to come and try their mounts, for sale, fortune or just entertainment.

Sir Visto who won the Derby and the St Leger and was owned by Lord Rosebery. 1897.

Across the Channel in Northern France, the Orgemont family owned a fortress. Built on several sandy islands in the middle of lakes, in a hunting forest, the home of the red deer, the domain of the kings of France. The Chancellor of Francois Ier purchased the Chateau of Chantilly, his name is intertwined with the streets of Chantilly. It was the beginning of a relationship with the Kings and Ducs of France which was to blossom into a passion for the sport of racing horses, the celebration of the Thoroughbred. Englishmen were invited to train horses in Chantilly, it was the beginning of a love affair, a virus of enthusiasm for these exceptional animals. The story of the two towns is full of intrigue, occupation, hardship, and the horrors of war, near extinction and survival. They are today twinned, not just by dint of being two horse-racing towns, but through a long and fascinating history of shared passions, hardships and happenings.

An Exhibition on the Twinning of these two towns is proposed to be held at the Racecourse in September 2018.

Caroline Baldock, Museum of the Horse, Chantilly

### Other contacts with Chantilly - More schools contacts

We are currently linking individual pupils and classes in Blenheim High School with contemporaries at Le Collège des Bourgognes and the Lycée de la Fôret.

The head of history at the Collège is planning for some of her pupils to take part in the official commemoration of the end of the First World War in Chantilly on Sunday 11 November, reading letters home from French soldiers who were involved in the conflict. She has suggested that a couple of students of a similar age from Epsom should join them, along with their families, to read from British troops' correspondence and stay with local families in Chantilly. We could have some interest from participants in the French Speaking competition. More information when we have it.

Diana Deavin, Vice Chair and Liaison Officer

Calendar of Future Events	
<b>2018</b>	
Monday 9 April	Soirée française chez Anne
Monday 14 May	Francophone supper at Brian Atkinson's
Saturday 2 June	Derby Day on Epsom Downs
Monday 4 June	Soirée française chez Margaret
Tuesday 12 June	Twinning AGM at the Town Hall
Sunday 24 June	Barisons Come and Sing at St Barnabas Church
Friday 29 June - Sunday 1 July	Twinning Choral Festival in Chantilly
Saturday 14 July	Bastille Day BBQ at Brian Atkinson's
Sunday 30 September	Twinning Exhibition at the Racecourse
Sunday 11 November	Commemoration of the end of WW1

### **Twinning Committee for 2017/18**

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
Mrs Alison Chatterton	01372 811099
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 Colin Peel - Epsom Rotary  
 Mrs Jill Preiss - Epsom Choral Society  
 Mr Paul Walker - Epsom Male Voice Choir  
 Mr Frank Warren - Epsom Model Railway Club