



**Thame & District Twinning Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Friday 5th July 2019**

7:30pm at Christchurch, Upper High Street, Thame, OX9 2DN

	Agenda items	Action
1	<p>Present: Linda Emery, David Laver, James Green, Sue Motteram, Dudley Wilson, Philomena and Martin Goodall, Sue Kogan, Robert and Bridget Trueman, Sonja Francis, Helena Fickling, Roy Motteram, Owen Davies, Norma Laver, Don Butler, Anna Harper, Liz Barker</p> <p>Apologies: Simon and Caroline Baynes, Pieter-Paul Barker, Deborah Miller, John Brown, David and Cynthia Jackson, John Francis, Sally Davies.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 7th August 2018 Proposed by David and seconded by Roy</p>	
3	<p>Chair's Report. <i>See attached document</i> We also thanked Liz for continuing to run the successful film nights. The last film was very popular and therefore the next film will be the sequel. "Les poupées russes" - September 28th.</p>	
4	<p>Treasurer's Report; to include the 2018/19 Annual Accounts <i>See attached document</i>. Crucially our income and expenditure broadly tallied, with a profit of only £33.72. However as we are a not for profit organisation, this is as it should be. Some discussion followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridget asked whether most members paid their subscription by standing order. Surprisingly only a small number do this. It would make life easier for everyone for subscriptions to be paid in this way. Sue will email everyone before the renewal date of 1st September asking them to consider doing this. • Bridget wondered whether more money would be generated by having more hosts in May. In fact this would cost us more money as the more visitors we have, the more 	Sue M

	<p>it costs us, not only because we would have more guests to pay for, but also because hosts are invited to the Saturday meal free of charge. Also, the barn is at near capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The May weekend was the most expensive to date. Roy asked whether that was likely to increase. We think not, but it's something we need to watch. This year a few non-hosting members came to the Saturday evening meal, which they paid for and we also invited the teachers from John Hampden and Aston Rowant in our efforts to build the twinning relationship between the 4 schools. Naturally we also included and paid for Marie-Jane and her husband. We catered for 65 people and there were nearer 70 in the end. David pointed out that it would be a financial risk for us if the French party was any bigger. As James mentioned in his report, the cost of the Saturday evening entertainment was not insignificant. We feel that the £300 spent was well worth it as everyone had a wonderful evening, with the French saying it was even better than last year's barn dance. However we acknowledge unreservedly that we could not stage an event such as this without the support, help and immense generosity of Marie-Jane. <p>Marie-Jane has already indicated that we can use the barn again next year, but we can't expect her to keep subsidising the entertainment (last year she paid for the barn dance band and this year she paid £200 towards the band). If we were a charity she would be able to support us with grants, but we don't qualify for charitable status.</p> • Martin asked if we have a reserve fund. No, as we normally spend what we raise each year. However, thanks to a few frugal years 3 or 4 years ago we do have a comfortable cushion of nearly £2000 in the bank. We would aim not to run this down. 	
5	<p>Election of Officers and their Roles & Responsibilities Committee agree to stand in existing roles Website and Twitter – Roy. He uploads newsletters to our website and posts and tweets details of our events. We also retweet other local events. Facebook – Sonja says she can work on it and thinks that she can</p>	<p>Roy Sonja Linda</p>

	<p>post to the group without the password. She offered to look to see if she can and will ask Jeannette (administrator) for the password if she can't. Linda will write to Jeannette.</p> <p>Anna suggested that we need a Facebook page for publicity. We should keep our own internal group for private discussion, but a page would facilitate sharing. This can be done fairly easily by creating a gmail account for twinning. Sonja will look at this. It was very good to have Anna, our youngest member by far, contribute to this discussion as she clearly knows more about the uses of Facebook pages than most of the rest of us put together and her input is greatly appreciated. Sonja, Anna and Helena – you appear to know what you're talking about, so hopefully we will soon have a Facebook Twinning page where we can publicise our association and events to a wider, different audience.</p> <p>No-one raised any objections to the re-election of the existing committee and no-one expressed an interest in joining the committee</p>	<p>Anna Harper</p> <p>Sonja, Anna, Helena</p>
6	<p>Fundraising 2019/20</p> <p>Last year's events successfully raised enough to cover the weekend and other expenses, such as gazebo rental.</p> <p>This year's fundraising will take same format although we are very open to new ideas.</p> <p>Afternoon tea chez Cynthia and David. We are very grateful to Cynthia and David for hosting this event for us and their generosity. Hopefully we can repeat the event at the end of the summer, either in their beautiful garden or elsewhere if they are unable to do it this year. Linda will contact them.</p> <p>We will be doing the Christmas Markets in both Montesson and Thame and continue with the film nights and market stalls.</p> <p>Any other ideas?</p> <p>Dudley suggested having a charity stall such as a table at a car boot sale?</p> <p>Anna – Swishing evening? John Hampden School has done this. The idea is that you pay a flat entry fee, then pay for food and drink. Everyone brings things to sell, except this is no ordinary sale. People browse for 10 minutes, picking out and keeping an eye on the things they would like. Every 10 minutes a bell rings and participants can grab an item and take it. Bit like a bring and buy but no money changes hands. Anna will ask her mum who</p>	<p>Linda</p> <p>Anna</p> <p>All suggestions to be discussed at a future committee meeting</p>

	<p>helped organise it how it worked. Ulrika Kibble from “Lighthouse” did one with a few craft stalls as well – stall holders pay for table or pay a percentage of their sales. We could also contact her. We agreed that this is something that could work for us as there is very little outlay and therefore very little risk attached.</p>	
7	<p>September Visit 2019 Linda is prepared to drive a minibus again. A coach would cost over £3000 but everything depends on numbers. If there are enough people a coach could be viable. Norma commented that people felt a bit squashed on the minibus last year, especially as space was taken up with goods being taken over for the Xmas market. This year will be better as most of the goods are already in France as part of our preparation for whatever Brexit sends our way in way of import / export restrictions and tariffs. Sue and Roy will be taking another load of boxes at the end of July. Take 2 minibuses? This is still cheaper than a big coach. Realistically a coach would need a minimum of 30 passengers at over £100 each. Linda will research prices and costing. Date provisionally 13th -15th September to coincide with the Fête du Pâté à la Carmen. We need confirmation. Owen – suggested having a reserve driver for the minibus. Sonja volunteered as she has experience of driving a minibus. Names needed as quickly as possible for the visit. Should we ask the mayor? Roy said that he thinks it is wrong to pay for the mayor. At the carnival he encountered people in the town who mistakenly think that this is a “jolly” for councillors. Linda and others clarified that normally the mayor would pay for himself / herself. Linda will ask the mayor, but we agreed that Twinning is not in a position to pay. We need to make it very clear to residents that we receive no grant or council funding. The only advantage we get is 3 free uses of Town Hall. Roy will ensure that our introduction on the website is clear.</p>	<p>Sue Carl</p> <p>Linda</p> <p>Sue will email membership</p> <p>Linda</p>
8	<p>Christmas Events 2019 – Montesson and Thame Xmas Markets As stated above, we are going to be at the Montesson Xmas market and most of our goods are already in France. Many thanks to our excellent market coordinator, Carl, who hunts down all the best deals. Not sure yet as to whether Montessonais are coming over on 6th</p>	<p>Carl</p> <p>Linda and committee</p>

	<p>December – we fear they won't because they made very little profit this year and with Brexit they may have to pay duty. Linda has heard that The Lions are disbanding soon – usually they sell mulled wine at the Thame Christmas Lights switch-on. If they're not handing the mulled wine stall over to another association, could we take it over? The committee will follow this up.</p> <p>Linda won't be at Thame Xmas market – in Gambia with LWS.</p>	
9	<p>May Twinning Week-end 2020</p> <p>It was agreed that we should avoid bank holiday weekends, noting that the early May Holiday has been moved to Friday, 8th May. 1st May is also a Bank Holiday in France.</p> <p>We will suggest 15th - 17th May to the French</p> <p>We will request feedback from membership about the proposed date and also give everyone early notification of the dates so they can keep the weekend free.</p>	
10	<p>Thame Twinning with Aston Rowant, John Hampden and Montesson Schools.</p> <p>The schools are in contact, either by Skype when technology permits or email. Sonja and Sue will continue to support the teachers. It was suggested that we could raise our profile and work in helping to promote the links by attending school events such as school fêtes.</p>	<p>Sonja Sue</p> <p>Committee to discuss and pursue</p>
11	<p>AOB -</p> <p>Martin – excellent films, much appreciated.</p> <p>The last one, entitled L'Auberge Espagnole was particularly good.</p> <p>Next date: 28th September. Sequel to the last one</p> <p>Tuesday 9th July – Market stall</p> <p>Sonja has been asked by the French walking group about the possibility of them walking from Henley to Thame next May as part of their journey here. They would walk over several days arriving in time for the welcome reception of the May weekend visit. They've done something similar before and are interested in doing it again. We could meet and walk with them on the last day or whenever. We have no objections. As soon as the dates are confirmed, we can let them know and if they still want to do the walk, we can help them. Sonja will coordinate and email Huguette.</p> <p>Owen – having Anna with us – could she be a link between Montesson and LWS? Anna is keen to help us forge a better link</p>	<p>Liz – films</p> <p>David and volunteers – market</p> <p>Sonja – walking group</p>

	<p>but she has now left school and will be doing a gap year. She fears that we won't get very far with the exchange idea since despite us taking 2 of the teachers with us to Paris a few years ago, they now have a new exchange school in Brittany and the teachers are very busy. However, she did think that there could be some mileage in emailing the French teachers telling them about the films and asking them to to publicise them. The film nights would be more popular than other events since they give the 6th form students an opportunity to hear French and improve their listening skills and cultural awareness. We could invite them to other events where native French speakers will be present. Anna's view (shared by Sue) is that we need to target the 6th formers and asking the teachers to simply tell them about the films will not add to their workload. Anna will share with her friends who are studying or wishing to keep up their French. Sue will email a French teacher at Lord Williams's asking her if she is willing to tell her A Level students about the films.</p> <p>Sue gave a vote of thanks to Linda who is the kingpin of the Twinning Association and without whom, the association would not function.</p>	<p>Anna Sue</p>
12	<p>Date and Venue of Next AGM Friday 3rd July at Christchurch at 7.30</p>	