



**Thame & District Twinning Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
7pm at 2 Cheshire Road, Thame, OX9 3LQ**



	<b><u>Agenda Items</u></b>
1	<p><b>Present:</b> Linda Emery, Carl Barnes, Don Butler, David and Norma Laver, Sue and Roy Motteram, Sue Kogan, Owen and Sally Davies, Liz Barker, Helena Fickling, Martin and Philomena Goodall</p> <p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> Robert and Bridget Trueman, James Green, Jeannette Matelot-Green, Caroline and Simon Baynes, Karen Johnson, Nigel and Alison Champken-Woods, Pieter-Paul Barker, Sonja and John Francis, Phyllis Brown.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Minutes of the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017</u></b> Approved. Proposed by David Laver. Seconded by Helena Fickling</p> <p><b><u>Matters arising</u></b> We have stepped up our publicity drive, most notably by reviving the website (thametwinning.co.uk) and opening a twitter account (@thametwinning). Roy Motteram has just taken on the rôle of media coordinator and is actively posting our news and updating the calendar on the website. We follow the Town Council and other local groups on Twitter and are tweeting details of our activities. Roy is not a big fan of Facebook, but as Helena pointed out, lots of people do use Facebook and use it successfully to spread news and advertise events. Sue M agreed to contact Jeannette to ask her to update our Facebook page to publicise the forthcoming trip to Montesson and the quiz night in November. We are also planning to have our fundraising events listed on the Town Hall website and in the free magazines such as Chiltern View.</p>
3	<p><b><u>Chair's Report</u></b> - see attached document. David Laver proposed a vote of thanks for Linda who does so much to enable the continued success of the Twinning Association.</p>
4	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b> - see attached document. Sue M read the report written by James who is on holiday. We thank him for keeping the accounts. It is very pleasing to see such a healthy bank balance (£1914.90) which means we are in a good position already to fund next year's May visit. Several fundraising events are planned which should mean we don't have to worry!</p>
5	<p><b><u>Election of Officers and their Roles &amp; Responsibilities</u></b> There are a few changes to the committee and official rôles, although as a committee our ethos is very much one of "more hands make light work" and "we're in this together". David Laver will be Vice Chairman. Don Butler with his experience and connections, will be on hand to assist and advise both Linda and David whenever needed. Sue Kogan is stepping down for the time being, but will help out where she can. 3 new rôles have been created: Liz Barker – film coordinator Carl Barnes – Christmas Market coordinator Roy Motteram – Website and Twitter coordinator Those present supported these changes.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Fundraising 2018/19</u></b> Given the success of our fundraising activities over the last 2 years, we propose to continue in much the same way, although are always on the look out for new town events that we could participate in.</p>

	<p>We are grateful to David for the community market stall he mans for us on a regular basis and to Liz for the film nights. Neither of these raise a huge amount in themselves, but the small regular income they provide is very welcome and makes a difference.</p> <p>The numbers at the film nights seem to have tailed off a little, so we propose to change to showing a film every 3 months in the coming year. If anyone can recommend a film or would like to request a film, please contact Liz: <a href="mailto:liz@barkersofthame.plus.com">liz@barkersofthame.plus.com</a></p> <p>Don suggested that we hold a Boules Evening – the committee will look into this. Assuming we can find a suitable pitch, this potentially very enjoyable activity should be fairly easy to arrange.</p> <p><b><u>Future events and dates to save</u></b></p> <p>We are immensely grateful to Cynthia and David Jackson who have once again agreed to host a <b>Cream Tea</b> afternoon in their beautiful garden. This will be on <b>22<sup>nd</sup> September</b> this year and is open to members, their families and friends. (Poster attached)</p> <p><b>Quiz Night – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> in the Town Hall. This was a major fundraiser for us last year. Moreover it was an event which involved participation by people not involved in Twinning. Obviously we hope to do even better this year, so please save the date and bring a team. (Poster attached)</p> <p><b>Christmas markets in Thame and Montesson</b> (Thame Christmas Light Switch On - 30<sup>th</sup> November) No date as yet for Montesson, although we intend to be there! If you would like to go, please let Linda know (<a href="mailto:lindaemery@btinternet.com">lindaemery@btinternet.com</a>)</p> <p><b>Christmas Party – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b> in the Town Hall, with the usual surprise guest!!</p>
7	<p><b><u>September Visit 2018</u></b></p> <p>Although the Montesson committee still haven't confirmed the date, we are 99% sure that it will be the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September since this is the weekend of the Fête du Pâté à la Carmen that the Twinning weekend always coincides with.</p> <p>Linda is researching transport, but without a final number it is very difficult to give a precise cost. The aim will be to keep the cost below £120 per person. Indeed last year it was around £100. This is because Linda hired and drove a 9 seater minibus. She is prepared to do the same again and will even drive a 17 seater if needed. Ideally there will be more than 21 people which would make a coach with driver an affordable, if not necessarily the cheapest, option. Clearly this needs to be booked sooner rather than later. Sue will write to the membership as a matter of urgency asking for definite responses. Roy will post details of the weekend on the website and twitter and will share a link with Thame for Europe via Twitter. As always if you have friends or family who would like to participate, please contact Linda. As Owen remarked at the meeting, if we could fill a 50 seater coach, the cost would be reduced to around £50 each.</p>
8	<p><b><u>Christmas Events 2018</u></b></p> <p>As above in item 6 – Christmas Markets and Party</p> <p>Our main concern is that the Montesson Christmas Market may be held on the same weekend at that in Thame, although given that we have given them ample notice of the Thame date and that the Montesson market is organised by the Twinning Committees over there, we hope that it will be the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. If there is a clash, we will just need extra help to man the 2 locations. We certainly need the income generated by our stall in Montesson.</p> <p>If Montesson don't come to Thame, we should look into the possibility of making crêpes – if anyone knows where we can get one of the machines, please get in touch.</p>
9	<p><b><u>May Visit 2019</u></b></p> <p>It will be hard to repeat the success of last May! Linda will keep in touch with Marie-Jane Barnett and we hope that she will be able to support us again. However we recognise that she has many other groups which she supports and we have already been very lucky to benefit from her incredible generosity.</p> <p>However, it is very clear that the new format of holding the meal on Saturday evening worked very well and everyone loved the dancing that went with it. We doubt that anyone would complain if we did something similar again. Carl made the point that, not only was the event more enjoyable, it was also cheaper. We should however recognise that this was mostly due to the generosity of the</p>

	<p>Barnett's.  Consequently we're on the look out for a venue that could accommodate us at a reasonable price with affordable catering. The 3 Horseshoes in Towersey has renovated their barn resulting in a bigger usable space – this could work, although there wouldn't be room for everyone to have a sit down meal and dancing. The Barns Centre was also suggested. We are open to ideas.  The date has still to be decided.</p>
10	<p><b>Thame Twinning with John Hampden and Montesson Schools</b>  During the May weekend, a very productive meeting was held between members of the Thame and Montesson committees and a John Hampden Primary School teacher. The idea is to forge a link between the 2 schools with pupils messaging each other, sharing projects, telling each other about their town etc. The local teacher is extremely enthusiastic and keen to make this work and we wish to support her. Don knows the headmaster, so if it looks like things are stalling or running into difficulties, he can have a word and Sue M is happy to assist if needed (and allowed?) in the classroom. As our efforts to link Lord Williams' with a Montesson school appear to have disappointingly and frustratingly come to nothing, we are very determined to support this initiative and to make it work.</p>
11	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Don reminded us that the Mayors of both Montesson and Baesweiler (Germany) are keen to set up a 3 way twinning. In theory this sounds good, but we worry about finding accommodation for an increased number of visitors. We should revisit the idea at some point and look at the practicalities.</li> <li>2. Sue M thanked everyone for their help and support at fundraising events, especially for their help on the carnival stall which required many helpers.</li> <li>3. David repeated the need to reach out into the community and to increase our membership, by having articles and advert published in the Thame Gazette and other local publications.</li> <li>4. Sue Kogan thanked committee members for making her feel so welcome.</li> <li>5. Owen queried the potential grant that we had offered to us last year if we were to join with the Sinai twinning group. Linda explained that this was just for a one off event and that the committee decided (supported by members at the last AGM) that the completely different aims and way of twinning by the 2 associations meant that we didn't think that it was appropriate.</li> <li>6. Liz thanked the committee for their hard work</li> <li>7. Norma thanked Linda for driving the minibus.</li> <li>8. The committee thanked Phyllis Brown (see Apologies) for her generous donation and her support of the Twinning Association.</li> <li>9. Linda closed the meeting by introducing us to the idea of Toilet twinning. Those present agreed that we should look into it and that it would be a way for the twinning association to support a worthwhile charitable cause. The committee will discuss it at a future meeting. Further details can be found by looking at their website : <a href="http://www.toilettwinning.org">www.toilettwinning.org</a></li> </ol>
	<p>The meeting was followed by a very enjoyable and relaxed bring and share supper and finished at 10pm</p>