



**Thame & District Twinning Association  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021  
7:30pm, held virtually by Zoom**

	Agenda Items	Action
1	<p><b>Present:</b> Linda Emery, David and Norma Laver, Sue Motteram, Liz and Pieter-Paul Barker, Bridget Trueman, Anna Harper, Briony Bradbury, Diane Ansell, Owen and Sally Davies, Caroline Baynes, Helena Fickling, Martin and Philomena Goodall, Carl Barnes</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Robert Trueman, Roy Motteram, Cynthia and David Jackson, Deborah Miller, Sue Kogan, Stuart Holding</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 3rd July 2020</b> Proposed by Bridget Trueman. Seconded by David Laver.</p> <p>Matters arising: Thank you to James: Covid and ensuing restrictions have prevented us so far from taking James out for a thank you lunch. We haven't forgotten, but must wait until people are comfortable returning to social gatherings. Ideally, we need somewhere with a good outside space. Penfriend: Although a potential penfriend was found, it didn't work out. Diane is still looking for a penfriend for her friend's son.</p>	Committee
3	<p><b>Chair's Report</b> The report is attached. Liz thanked Linda for her excellent report which shows that despite Covid we have had a very positive and active year, which is a great achievement. Our events would not have been possible without Bridget who has allowed us to use her Old Tamensian's Zoom account and we thank her and the Old Tamensian's for this. The film nights would not have been possible without Chris Barker's Zoom access, which permitted us to show films legally.</p>	

	<p>Linda thanked Sue for her work in putting together the Virtual Twinning Weekend in May.</p> <p>The French have enjoyed joining in with our online events as witnessed by the high level of participation and were motivated in turn to host their own virtual quiz.</p> <p>Perhaps in future, once normality resumes, those who are unable to attend in person for whatever reason, would be able to join us virtually. We could even invite the French to join our in-person events online!</p> <p>Chair's report attached.</p>	
4	<p><b>Treasurer's Report; to include the 2020/21 Annual Accounts</b></p> <p>Thank you Liz for producing the accounts which have been audited by Carl (Chartered Accountant)</p> <p>The bank balance remains very healthy and has increased by £700 over the year. This is down to Liz following up all unpaid subscriptions and more people being encouraged to set up a standing order, although there are still a few members who haven't done this. It is also down to the online Christmas shop which added a significant amount.</p> <p>Fortunately, there have been very few expenses and we must thank 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame for allowing us to benefit from their public liability insurance to cover us for the Gazebo opening event outside the Town Hall. This saved us a very considerable sum.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report attached.</p>	
5	<p><b>Election of Officers 2021/22</b></p> <p>No nominations for election to the committee have been received and current officers and committee members are happy to continue.</p> <p>Sonja Francis (partial responsibility for our Facebook account) has moved away. Ideally, we need someone with Facebook expertise to pick this up, although we are wary of data protection issues that can arise as a result of using Facebook.</p> <p>Martin Goodall thanked the committee for doing a "grand job".</p> <p>No-one present at the meeting expressed a wish to join the committee, although there are vacancies and new committee members are always appreciated at any time of the year. If you would like to join please contact the committee : <a href="mailto:thametwinning@gmail.com">thametwinning@gmail.com</a></p>	
6	<p><b>Proposed changes to the Constitution</b></p> <p>The Constitution needs to be updated because of the new ways of working that we've had to adopt because of Covid. A new clause relating to Zoom and other Virtual meeting platforms was proposed by Liz and seconded by Helena. As per the existing Constitution, those</p>	

	<p>present were required to vote on the proposed changes. All present voted unanimously to accept the changes. The changes are highlighted in the attached, updated version of the Constitution. Even when restrictions are lifted, the committee may well still continue to meet on Zoom. There are many advantages although we will still want to meet in person from time to time. Bridget said that she would be happy to set up a blended meeting so that those unable to attend in-person, could join the meeting virtually. The updated Constitution is attached with changes highlighted.</p>	
7	<p><b>Fundraising 2021/22</b></p> <p>This is all very much up in the air. While Covid restrictions and fears prevent in person fund-raising activities there is very little that we can do.</p> <p>No-one knows whether the Xmas Markets will be happening this year and even if they do, Brexit regulations will undoubtedly present us with problems going to France to sell our usual selection of goods. The committee will do some research into finding out the new rules regarding exporting and importing, tariffs etc. There will be a lot of paperwork and certainly some items will be off limits.</p> <p>Film nights: We need to contact the Cross Keys to ask whether we can still use the upstairs room. Some members expressed concern regarding ventilation and being in a confined space while the Covid threat is still with us. We all agreed that we need to proceed with caution and that the next film should be online.</p> <p>We agreed that fund-raising in the coming year would most likely be very low-key and outdoors where at all possible. Outdoor mulled wine and Christmas Carols was suggested and all agreed this to be an excellent idea.</p> <p>Cream tea? This could be a possibility in someone's garden. Helena has a large garden in Moreton and suggested a Garden Party in September when we should be in Montesson – the committee will liaise with her and thanks her for her generosity.</p>	<p>All committee</p> <p>Committee and Helena</p>
8	<p><b>September &amp; December Visit 2021</b></p> <p>It is highly unlikely that the September visit will be able to take place, not least because of all the current rules regarding testing and quarantine. We haven't heard anything at all from Montesson. However online activities and exchanges have ensured that we are still strong as a Twinning Association and we are confident that once the pandemic recedes, we will be able to pick up our visits as before. But for the time being we can't make any plans and have to be patient.</p>	

	<p>That said David stressed that it is important to keep people in the loop and interested, so we must keep in touch with everyone. Safe, outdoor activities will be essential for us to do this. Hence the Garden Party and Outdoor Christmas events. The committee will discuss and progress these ideas.</p> <p>Likewise, the Xmas Market trip to Montesson looks uncertain and not just for Brexit reasons.</p> <p>The main thing is to keep everyone safe.</p>	Committee
9	<p><b>Thame Twinning with John Hampden and Montesson Schools</b></p> <p>The link has continued throughout the year with termly online exchanges of letters, ebooks etc. Sadly Nathalie from the Montesson primary school is moving on, but Laura McDonald from John Hampden is keen to keep the link going with the school. Linda will contact Anne Gillet to ask her to supply her with the name of a new contact at the school. Sue will liaise with JH now that Sonja has moved.</p> <p>It would be good if Barley Hill could have a link school in Montesson. Diane Ansell offered to make enquiries at Barley Hill and would be prepared to help and offer them encouragement.</p>	Linda  Sue  Diane
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane is still looking for a penfriend for her friend's son in France. She's hoping to find someone at St Joseph's but if not she'll come back to us.</li> <li>• Philomena expressed a worry that we haven't seen or heard from some of our members during the pandemic. We certainly don't want them to feel that we've forgotten them. Sue will send a personal message to people on the mailing list who were active members until the start of the pandemic. David said that he would be happy to go and speak to them.</li> <li>• Market stall. David will find out whether we can start having a stall again at the market.</li> <li>• Could we organise a walk? This would enable us to meet safely in person</li> <li>• Martin expressed his thanks to the committee for their work this year</li> </ul>	Sue David      Committee
11	<p><b>Date and Venue of Next AGM</b></p> <p>Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p>	