



**Thame & District Twinning Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Friday 14th July 2023 at 7:30pm
Christchurch, Upper High Street, Thame, OX92DN**

	Agenda items	Action
1	<p>Present: Linda Emery (Chair), Liz (Treasurer) and Pieter-Paul Barker, Sue and Roy Motteram, David Laver, Bridget and Robert Trueman, Sue and Phil Boyle, Carl Barnes, Martin and Philomena Goodall, Cynthia and David Jackson, Owen and Sally Davies, Deborah Miller</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Sue Kogan, Helena Fickling, Natasha and Jamie Challoner, Norma Laver, Andy Wainwright</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 1st July 2022: Approved. Proposed by Roy Motteram. Seconded by David Laver</p>	
3	<p>Chair's Report: a copy of Linda's annual report is attached to this email</p>	
4	<p>Treasurer's Report; to include the 2022/23 Annual Accounts. The end of year accounts have already been distributed to members so that they could be seen in relation to Liz's report. There were no questions. Liz thanked Carl Barnes for auditing the accounts. A copy of Liz's report is attached</p>	
5	<p>Election of Officers 2023/24 In the absence of anyone wishing to take over the rôles of any of the officers, the current officers agreed to remain in post. Chair - Linda Emery Vice-chair – David Laver Treasurer – Liz Barker Secretary – Sue Motteram Vice-secretary – Bridget Trueman Website – Sue and Roy Motteram Facebook and Love Thame – Bridget Trueman</p>	

	<p>We were very happy to welcome Sue Boyle to the committee. Sue has considerable expertise with Facebook and we agreed that as Anna Harper is no longer in Thame and very busy with her studies, it would make more sense for Sue to take over from her. Bridget will contact Anna and liaise with Sue regarding passwords.</p>	<p>Bridget Sue B</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Fundraising 2023/24 We must maintain, if not increase our fundraising activities, not least because this raises our profile in the town and lets people know that we exist! Linda threw the floor open to suggestions that were discussed. The committee will work on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Taste of Thame (May 2024) Proposal is that we share the Masonic Hall with the Sinaia Friendship Group and the Ukrainian community in Thame to open a “European café” offering a selection of items from the countries we represent. Ideally this would spill out on to the pavement so that people know that we’re there. It was suggested that we make Crêpes subject to us having a suitable machine and abiding by the current food hygiene regulations etc. The committee will research this and should it seem possible, do a dry run at a smaller twinning event, perhaps on Shrove Tuesday. 2. Cream Tea – Cynthia and David very kindly offered the use of their beautiful garden for this, ideally in September. The committee will liaise with them to find a date and help with setting and clearing up and anything else that needs doing. 3. Mince Pie and Carols Evening in December – date and venue to be decided nearer the time 4. Community Market Day – we have a stall booked for this on 22nd August. A few people have come forward to help David with this. Sell books and jigsaws. 5. Weekly market Community stall – illness and poor weather have prevented David from doing more than one of these this year, but he offered to book the pitch more often. Carl suggested that we have one in April, but to avoid public holiday dates so as to be more sure of getting volunteers to help. 6. Film nights: David asked whether we could go back to The Cross Keys, however we understand that the landlord doesn’t have the correct licence to show films for public 	<p>Committee</p> <p>The Jacksons and the committee</p> <p>David</p> <p>David</p>

	<p>viewing.</p> <p>Pieter-Paul has investigated the idea of showing a film at the theatre either through a requested film with Thame Cinema for All or renting the theatre for us to manage ourselves. For the former there would be no cost to us, but equally no profit. For the latter there's an outlay of £200 - £250 so we'd have to be sure of getting enough customers. The people at the cinema may be able to help source a film however, especially as those generally available don't have English subtitles. Elisabeth in Montesson has recommended some films to Liz.</p> <p>The committee will discuss the options and make the necessary enquiries.</p> <p>7. Quiz Night: We haven't set a date yet for our next quiz, hosted by Sue and Phil. This is usually in early November. Sue B asked about doing a joint quiz with Sinaia. She can liaise with them. We agreed that we should think seriously about doing this and will discuss / set a date at the next committee meeting. The question of venue / bring your own was also discussed. The consensus was to keep the evening as cheap as possible</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>Committee and Sue B</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>September & December Visit 2023.</p> <p>17 people have confirmed their place on the coach so far. 4 others will travel by car because of onward travel plans following the weekend in Montesson.</p> <p>Elisabeth has asked what we would prefer to do on the Saturday – go into Paris on the RER or take the coach elsewhere? Chartres, Monet's Garden, Versailles and Fontainebleau were suggested. We discounted Versailles and Monet's Garden we've been to both places twice and quite recently. We concluded that Chartres would be a good option with a good mix of things to do and see there. Liz will convey this back to Elisabeth.</p> <p>Liz passed on a message just received from Mason's coaches that we have been offered a DFDS ferry at 9.10am requiring a 5am departure time from Thame. After recovering from the shock. it was agreed that this was perhaps a good thing, in that it means that there's time for a longer stop somewhere once in France. Owen made the very good point that the coach usually stops at the services in Kent for quite a considerable time. Given that everyone (including the driver) has plenty of time to stretch their</p>	<p>Liz</p>

	<p>legs etc on the boat, could this stop be missed, thus shortening the journey time and making a later departure time possible? Liz will ask Mason's.</p> <p>This led on to a discussion about the return time. Owen expressed his dismay that the coach always has to leave before the start of the carnival procession. The only way round this would be a much later return time to Thame, which could be too late for those who need to go to work the next day. Would it be possible to leave on Monday morning and visit a town such as Amiens or Beauvais en route for Calais? Again this would impact those who work, but it is something we need to consider next year, both for the May visit and our September visit. Sue will sound out the membership early in the New Year, but we could already broach this with Anne and Elisabeth in September and ask them if there's somewhere they would like to go when they're here in May.</p>	<p>Liz</p> <p>Sue M</p> <p>Liz / Linda</p>
8	<p>Coach Costs to Montesson September.</p> <p>The coach will seat 34 and we break even at 20 so we still need to recruit others to join the coach party. Owen is doing a brilliant job recruiting among all his contacts, but we should widen our scope. Bridget will post the details on Love Thame.</p> <p>Phil asked whether we could open up the seats to people who just wanted to use the coach to make the journey to Paris. We could! Phil also asked whether we invited other clubs in Thame to join us, eg a choir who could stay with choir members in Montesson, the Camera club etc. This is an avenue that we should pursue</p>	<p>Bridget</p> <p>Committee</p>
9	<p>AOB –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roy requested that we boycott P+O given their appalling treatment of their employees. Phil agreed and asked that we go so far as write to P+O to tell them why we will not use them. Linda said that she was happy to do this. 2. Phil asked about our relationship with Baesweiler. We see them when we are in Montesson and they sent condolences when Don died, and way back a 3 way link was briefly considered, however we already struggle to find enough hosts and we concluded that it would prove too difficult. 3. Owen asked about our links with schools in Montesson. Mrs McDonald at John Hampden corresponds with Carole Ndiaye, a primary school teacher in Montesson. They send 	<p>Linda</p> <p>Sue M to maintain contact</p>

	<p>emails / folders of letters etc about once every half term. Carole would love to bring a party of children over but it would seem that the French don't have the same child protection requirements in place as it certainly wouldn't be easy to do from our point of view. We've lost all our hostels / group facilities here so we wouldn't be able to put them up as a group easily.</p> <p>4. We need to contact Marie-Jane at Towersey Manor to set a date for next May. She's already offered the barn to us and we would be very happy to go back there.</p> <p>5. Everyone thanked Linda for her work throughout the year as Chair</p>	<p>with both teachers</p> <p>Linda / committee</p>
10	<p>Date and Venue of Next AGM Friday 5th July 2024 Christchurch, Upper High Street, Thame, OX92DN, if available.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.20pm