

Annual General Meeting

on

*Wednesday 18 October 2017 at the Civic Centre, Welwyn
at 7.00 p.m.*

Minutes

| | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| Present | President | - David Nice |
| | Chairman | - Nigel Jeffery |
| | Secretary | - Susan Nice |
| | Treasurer | - Gaham Middleton |
| | Committee Member | - Linda curiel |
| | 17 other members | |

David welcomed members to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from 15 members.

2 Notification of items of Any Other Business

None.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 October 2016

Approved.

Matters arising

Nigel mentioned that Jackie Davis had suggested meeting on a regular basis for a pub lunch but no one had in fact organised it. If there is a keenness for this maybe Jackie would like to be the organiser? She will liaise with Nigel.

4 Review of the past year

Nigel thanked people for attending the meeting. 2016 -17 was a busy and successful year both financially and with the range of activities. The Twinning weekend went well. The quiz was very successful and raised £750. The highlight was the talk by Michael Bunn and we hope to invite him to speak again next year.

Overall we have 43 new names under the First Year Free membership scheme. A handful from 2015 -16 have joined.

The highlight of the year was the Twinning Weekend in France and the very good cycle trip to Champagne. There were over 40 English at the Saturday evening event. Some of the cyclists may join.

The link between St. Mary's School and a school in France is not going very well. There were computer problems in France which led to the old means of communication. However the Head remains very keen. We had also hoped to send football teams to France; hopefully we can resurrect this.

We are sadly no longer the Inter – Twinning boules champions, but the boules event was an enjoyable day.

We have had the sad loss of two key Twinning members during the year; Audrey Maidment whose husband helped to set up the Twinning, and Nora Melton.

Thanks are due to the Parish Council for their support and the free hire of the hall, and especially to Bill Morris who came on the Twinning Weekend. Thanks also to the “shadow committee” - to Dave Clarke who stepped down as Vice Chair but still prints tickets, to Ruth Rankin for her work on the website, and to Janice for running the French conversation meetings – a source of new members. Special thanks to Rob and Veronne for the great job they do producing the posters.

With regard to the cycle ride, thanks are due to Geoff Stillwell for planning the route and leading the ride, and to John Winchester for his help with planning. Also thanks to Liz Bouchnak for her support, and to Stevenage Glass who lent us a van.

We must also thank all members who have helped at the Street Market and the Petit Tour. And finally, thank you to the rest of the committee and to our President, David.

5 Approval of the Accounts for the year to 31 July 2017

We have had a successful year financially. The target has been exceeded at events, especially the wine tasting and Michael Bunn's talk. We have a surplus of some £9.800 as against just over £7,000 the previous year, so we are well placed for the French visit in May.

We stayed well within budget with the cycle tour and even with their free invite to Bastille Day money was left over. However they all agreed to donate it to the Association

The Accounts were approved unanimously.

6 Election of Officers and appointment of other Committee Members

Nigel advised that all the existing members have offered themselves for re-election, which was approved. We have one nomination, for Graham Howat, a newcomer to the village. This was endorsed.

Nigel invited nominations from the floor but there were none.

7 Election of Independent Examiner

Martin Gerty was approved as the Independent Examiner.

8 Approval of the level of subscriptions in 2018-19

It was agreed unanimously that the level should remain at £10 for a family and £5 for single members.

9 Future events – information and discussion

We will have a quiz, a wine tasting, a November event and events in March and April. A Christmas meal is planned.

We are hosts for the boules competition in 2018 but this is now a problem with the loss of the Station pub in Knebworth. Nigel will investigate whether an area near the Social Club could be

converted to pistes but we would probably need to make a contribution.

The Twinning Weekend in May will be from Friday to Monday with a trip to Windsor on the Saturday and the Gala Dinner on the Sunday. Raul and Martin thought a 3 night visit was too disruptive; the event should be for two nights with the visitors extending their stay by private arrangement. Others thought that the 3 night arrangement had worked well. Nigel pointed out that other Associations have longer visits. A show of hands had 7 in favour of 2 nights and 10 in favour of 3 nights. The meeting accepted that we must stay with the agreed arrangement of a 3 night visit for 2018. The subject can be further debated after next May.

Raul thought that the dinner at Knebworth Golf club was outstanding and we should try to go there again. Nigel will investigate, but he pointed out that help would be needed to decorate the room. The general consensus was that we should go back.

The programme is fixed for the coming year but we will be pleased to receive any suggestions for the following year's events.

10 Any Other Business

There being no A O B the meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by a social evening and a Fun Quiz presented by Edward Hackford.