

## **Launceston & District Twinning Association**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Trethorne Leisure Centre at 7:00pm**

#### **Attendees and Apologies**

There were 39 attendees and 7 apologies, including Brian Hogan, our town council representative.

#### **Minutes of the AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Having been circulated just after the meeting, these were taken as read and accepted. It was then decided that the minutes should be emailed to all members straight after the meeting and again just before the next AGM.

**Matters arising from the minutes:** There were none.

#### **Chair's Report**

Jill started her report with comments on our last visit to Plestin. 55 adults and 14 children enjoyed a lovely weekend with the usual hospitality. It had been noted on both sides that some people would prefer longer visits. However, this is obviously not viable for those in work or for children.

A suggestion for those not wanting to take a car, was that it would be possible to go by bus and return as foot passengers. However, this could have implications on the cost of the bus for the other members.

According to the new President, Bruno Phillipe, there are several new French families who would like to twin with us. At the moment we have no more details, but Jenny Worth has been in touch with the French, so we will see what happens.

Jill then said how we were saddened to hear of the death of the French bus driver, Jean-Marc Breban.

Jill also said that it would be interesting to note how many informal visits to and from France have been made this year. Apparently there were quite a few and it will be interesting to see how this develops.

Jill then asked about Marcel and Annie Le Guillou's idea about a walking group getting together - has there been any more interest in that? Jenny Worth said that this idea was 'still up in the air'.

Jill then mentioned that she would be interested to know how many families have had informal visits during the past year. Apparently there were quite a few and it will be interesting to see how this develops.

Jill then gave a synopsis of our fund-raising/social activities over the past year - we enjoyed coffee mornings, film nights - thanks to Carolyn, and Wine & Wisdom - thanks to Peter. Sadly we had to cancel the last quiz due to lack of support and it clashing with other events. Everyone enjoyed the Call my Bluff, with the very effervescent Alice Brown and the picnics and walks were a lovely idea - thanks to Jenny Worth.

Again, we had a stall at the Victorian Market. We do this purely as PR, but Jill is not sure if this is really relevant to us, as no-one seemed interested in the Twinning Association. This will be discussed further at the next Committee Meeting.

We look forward to next April when our Twinners will arrive. Jenny Birkett has booked the Town Hall for the Sunday, with the same caterer, Judith Scott and the band, Choughed To Bits; this function will start at the earlier time of 6:30pm as people will be going to work and children to school the next day.

Thoughts for entertaining our French friends so far are: The Davidstow War Museum and the nearby St. Kits Herbery, Hidden Valley and the Otter Park. Further ideas will be discussed later in the agenda.

Jill then mentioned future social events that we are considering: Bowling and Trethorne sometime in January and either a Murder Mystery or Call My Bluff in April at the Cricket Club.

Due to the bi-annual visits, the pressure for fundraising has lessened but Jill feels that we mustn't lose the incentive and support for various social events, so we would welcome any ideas both for social events and to entertain our Twinners.

Jill then went on to thank all those who have helped during the year and particularly the committee. She then gave a special 'thanks' to George and Patty for all they do with the Packet and our website, and to Jean for keeping the books up-to-date. She then asked them to accept a small token gift.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, certified by the Independent Examiner, A.M. Farr, were handed out to everyone and Jean went on to explain that the figures were a bit skewed because the French did not come over last year, and we had quite a good balance due to our various fun-raising activities: Murder Mystery, Coffee Morning, Film Evenings - these raised £169.00, Wide & Wisdom, Call My Bluff, and a small profit from the Victorian Market.

Jean asked if there were any questions. There were none. It was then proposed and seconded that the accounts be accepted, and they were then accepted by the members.

### **Secretary's Report**

As we did last year, a couple of members of the Twinning Association attended the Remembrance Parade, and a wreath was laid this year by Issy Thorns on behalf of the Launceston and Plestin Twinning Associations. Thank you, Issy.

As was mentioned earlier, George and Patty do a fantastic job sending out the Packet - 16 issued so far this year! As the Packet aims to keep members up-to-date with what's going on, if anyone has any information relating to twinners or twinning that you would like to share, please let them know.

Jenny then went on to mention that apart from the Packet, George and Patty also keep our website up-to-date. The website averages about 90 visits a month with an average of about 300 page views a month. The record month was May, after our trip to Plestin, when there were 114 visits and quite a lot of page views. Usage of the website is slowly increasing and the latest figures, for October, show 108 visits and 326 views.

Having spoken with several members, it appears that sometimes emails sent out are not received by everyone, and sometimes, Jenny is not receiving emails from members. It was decided that when Jenny sends an email, the recipients should answer straight away so she knows who's received it and who hasn't. In the same way, when she receives an email from twinners, she will reply. Hopefully this will make sure everyone is getting the information.

### **Election of Officers**

Mike Macoun, who has been a member of the Twinning Committee for many years, and was also the chairman for several years, is stepping down. Many thanks go to Mike for all the hard work he has done for us.

The rest of the committee members were then re-elected - proposed by Patty Taylor and seconded by Lizzie Browning.

Jill then asked if anyone else would like to join the committee, especially any men. No men came forward, but Lucy de Glanville proposed Tracey Carmichael, who was seconded by Dy Vivian and accepted unanimously.

### **Suggestions for places to visit when the French visit us**

The following suggestions were brought up and will be discussed at future committee meetings.

Dingles - good for families in the future

Dartmoor Zoo

Paignton Zoo - comments suggested that this was rather a long way away, and was also quite expensive, however, it might be possible to do more expensive visits since we only do them every other year.

Lost Garden of Heligan

Kents Cavern

Honey Apiary

A wander around Padstow

It was also suggested that we could go somewhere, possibly on the bus, where we could just do our own thing. This might be better for both groups with children and those without. Someone suggested National Trust places - but do they accept buses at their venues? This will be investigated.

Jean Mansell came up with a very possible idea - Round Robin Trip - which costs £20 per person, but is very interesting.

The itinerary is:

Totnes to Paignton by bus

Paignton to Kingswear by steam train

Kingswear to Dartmouth by ferry

Dartmouth back to Totnes by boat

All these suggestions will be investigated and discussed at future committee meetings.

### **Suggestions about fund-raising and/or social events**

Crêpe Evening

Quiz in St. Giles Hall

More walking - yes!

Geo Cashing

Wine & Wisdom

Call My Bluff

Bowling with children involved

These suggestions will be discussed at future committee meetings and then the relevant information will be in the Packet.

**Any Other Business**

Jenny Worth informed the meeting that there are several new families in Plestin who would like to join the Twinning - this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee were informed that John and Helen Clutterbuck are moving away from the area, so they will no longer be part of the Twinning Association.

Thanks to Jill, the meeting finished in good time, and we all went to enjoy the lovely meal provided by the Leisure Centre

Carolyn Burch informed the meeting that, unfortunately, Pam Davy and Viv Bradley could not attend the meeting because Pam has a very bad chest infection and Viv is almost homeless because of a fire in her house, she is actually staying with her neighbour until something can be arranged. The attendees then signed a couple of cards expressing our sympathy to both Pam and Viv.

Jenny Birkett  
21.11.2015