

# Beaconsfield Twinning Association

Promoting educational, cultural, sporting and friendship connections with Langres in the Champagne-Ardennes region of France



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

**The Curzon Centre, Beaconsfield  
Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 9.30pm, following dinner at 7.30pm**

Following a highly entertaining illustrated talk by Peter Gawne, a Twinning Association life member, on "Nine Years in Normandy", and an excellent dinner provided by Anne Tennent with additional aperitif, seafood and cheese kindly supplied by Peter and his wife Sheila, the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Beaconsfield Twinning Association took place. 56 members and guests of the Twinning Association, including the MP for Beaconsfield and Attorney General, the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve, were present. The proceedings were as follows:

### 1. Chairman's Welcome

Deborah Sanders, the Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes from the 2010 AGM and Matters Arising

The 2010 Minutes were proposed by Chantal Weiss and seconded by Susan Jones, thereby approved with no matters arising.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments for the Year to 30 June 2011 had been circulated. Peter Sanders, the Treasurer, gave his report and confirmed that the Receipts and Payments had been examined and approved by Dick Lister.

Peter reported that we started the year with £1,319 and ended with £1,362. Subscriptions and donations, the coffee mornings, the AGM with meal in November 2010 and the meal at Stix in March 2011 provided the main contributions during the period. The major outgoings were the insurance costs, the Ballet visit in June 2010 and the cheese makers' visit in April 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Susan Sheahan and seconded by Juliet Gorton, thereby approved.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

Deborah Sanders, the Chairman, began by saying that she had already sent her Chairman's Report for 2010-2011 to all members, giving a flavour of the year.

She thanked the committee members for their hard work, saying that she had enjoyed her four years as Chairman and is now taking a year out from the committee, but is still willing to help with events such as the coffee mornings.

She outlined the challenges faced by the Association, which include:

- Smaller and older membership
- The difficulty of communicating the value of twinning to the people of our town (the new website is being developed to help with this)
- Encouraging local councillors to work more closely with the Association

She mentioned two previous committee members present at the meeting, Alan Walters and Henry Wilson, and underlined the sad loss of John Gorton, one of the founders of the Association. She told the meeting that John's widow Juliet had attended the Memorial Mass held in Langres Cathedral in October, and would lay the Twinning Association's poppy wreath at the Remembrance Day service in Beaconsfield the day following the AGM.

Deborah then thanked Chantal Weiss, who was also standing down from the committee, praising her wise council and translation skills. She presented Chantal with a gift of a book and flowers as a token of the appreciation of the committee, and wished her well in her 'retirement'.

She finished by wishing Phillip Sheahan well in his new role as Chairman.

#### 5. Election/Re-election of Officers

Chairman:	Phillip Sheahan	Proposed by Nuala Boardman Seconded by Flora Pedler
Vice Chairman:	Robin Pedler	Proposed by Annik Heal Seconded by Susan Sheahan
Treasurer:	Peter Sanders	Proposed by Brenda McKee Seconded by Peter Gawne
Secretary:	Susan Jones	Proposed by Robin Pedler Seconded by Chantal Weiss
Membership Secretary:	Susan Sheahan	Proposed by Sue Biggs Seconded by Peter Sanders

All the above positions were approved by the members present.

In the absence of Phillip Sheahan, who was unable to attend the meeting, Robin Pedler read Phillip's acceptance speech. He thanked Deborah on behalf of the members for all her hard work and the major contribution she had made to the Association, wishing her well for the future.

## **6. Election/Re-election of Committee Members**

The following committee members were re-elected by unanimous vote:

Nuala Boardman, Annik Heal, Marlen Lihou, Alison Palmer.

There were no new elections to the Committee.

## **7. Appointment of Auditor**

The re-appointment of Dick Lister as Auditor, proposed by Flora Pedler and seconded by Michael Croft Baker, was unanimously agreed.

## **8. Future Events**

The Chairman mentioned forthcoming events planned for 2012:

- The REMP-ARTS exhibition of paintings in Langres in May, in which we will be represented by Marlen Lihou
- The Fête de la Musique in Langres in June, where we will be represented by performers from the Jackie Palmer Stage School
- Our invitation to Langres to come to Beaconsfield in September or October, with a planned visit to London
- Other fund raising events which will be announced in due course and which are vital to support the Association's activities next year

## **9. AOB**

There was no further business and the outgoing Chairman closed the meeting.

Susan Jones, Secretary, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011