

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 2013

The Fitzwilliams Centre, Beaconsfield

Friday, 15th November 2013, 10pm, following dinner at 8pm

Following an excellent dinner provided by Ann Tennant and a very interesting and amusing talk by the Beaconsfield Town Crier, Mr Dick Smith, the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Beaconsfield Twinning Association took place. 32 members and guests of the Twinning Association, including the Mayor of Beaconsfield, Cllr Sandy Saunders, were present.

Apologies for absence were received from David & Helen Baker, Nuala Boardman, Patricia Davies, Tony & Sue Ebbutt, Ian & Barbara Fairgrieve, Jenefer Farncombe, Dominic Grieve, Daryl Ann Hardman, Sylvie Higgs, Mike & Mary Hird, Huw & Chris Jones, Dorothy Langmore, Dick & Averil Lister, Mike & Sheila Newland, Ray Tincknell, Peter & Sally Willison.

1. Chairman's Welcome & Report

The video of the Diderot celebrations during the BTA visit to Langres in May 2013, compiled by the BTA Chairman Phillip Sheahan, had been playing on the large screen. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the Mayor of Beaconsfield, Cllr Sandy Saunders and his wife Rosemary, and our guest speaker Dick Smith, the Town Crier. Phillip said that his Chairman's Report had already been circulated to all members by email or by post, and copies were available on the tables, so he did not propose to go through it in detail, but that he would welcome feedback. The comment was made that it was an excellent report, and everyone agreed.

2. Minutes from the 2012 AGM and Matters Arising

The 2012 Minutes were proposed by Susan Sheahan and seconded by Juliet Gorton, thereby approved with no matters arising.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments for the Year to 30 June 2013 were available in printed form for attendees to see. Marlen Lihou, the Treasurer, gave her report and confirmed that the Receipts and Payments had been examined and approved by Dick Lister. Cash at bank at the end of June 2013 was £3,242.90.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Peter Sanders and seconded by Dick Smith, and thereby approved.

4. Election of Officers

The following positions were approved by the members present:

Chairman:	Phillip Sheahan	Proposed by Deborah Sanders Seconded by Henry Wilson
Treasurer:	Marlen Lihou	Proposed by Susan Jones Seconded by Sue Biggs
Secretary & Membership Secretary	Susan Jones	Proposed by Susan Sheahan Seconded by Annik Heal

5. Nominations for Committee Members

The following committee members were re-elected, proposed en bloc by Juliet Gorton and seconded by Leonie Richards:

Annik Heal, Peter Sanders, Susan Sheahan.

6. Appointment of Auditor

The re-appointment of Dick Lister as Auditor, proposed by Deborah Sanders and seconded by Marlen Lihou, was unanimously agreed.

7. Future Events

Regarding plans for 2014, the Chairman mentioned particularly the proposed visit of the Langrois to Beaconsfield in October/November 2014. They received us so hospitably in May with the fantastic Diderot celebrations that this will be a difficult act to follow, and we will plan carefully.

He said that we will need to continue fundraising and will therefore propose a variety of events. Having been somewhat disappointed by the lack of support for events in 2013 such as the horseracing evening and the boules picnic, he planned to offer choices to the membership to give them the chance to express their opinions.

The Beaconsfield Cheese Market will take place in April 2014 and we anticipate that the Langres Chevaliers de Cape will once again attend, so we will plan an event around that visit.

The proposed sign for the Boules pitch will raise our profile and we will capitalise on that.

The major event for 2104 will be on July 5th at Hall Barn, a musical evening which still has to be planned in detail but which will most likely be a jazz/cabaret performance for which we will encourage people to "dress up". The Long Parlour holds 80 so depending on the response from the BTA we may invite neighbouring twinning associations to join us.

He thanked the Mayor for suggesting the idea of commemorating the anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and the D Day landings on June 6th by renovating the memorial to the Free French in the Beaconsfield cemetery. Dick Smith mentioned that he has already renovated it several times.

Looking forward, the Chairman said that since the committee was now much reduced by the retirement of Alison Palmer and the resignation of Nuala Boardman due to ill-health, and the fact that no-one else has come forward to join the committee, we will need increasingly to call upon members to help with specific events.

Alan Walters then asked that the committee should plan ahead to celebrate in 2015 the 20th anniversary of the twinning of Beaconsfield with Langres on the 25th November 1995. He also mentioned that we should be aware that 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of the twinning of Langres with Ellwangen in Germany and that we should send our good wishes for the occasion. The Chairman thanked him for these suggestions.

8. AOB

The Chairman thanked Dick Smith for his excellent speech and presented him with a bottle of Bells whisky which seemed eminently suitable for the Town Crier.

He said that he had regrettably omitted to thank Peter Sanders at the last AGM for his work as Treasurer and therefore wished to do so now, and presented him with a gift.

He also thanked Marlen Lihou for her work as Treasurer and on the Archives, Susan Jones for her initiative with "Brush Up Your French", Susan Sheahan for her previous work as Secretary and Membership Secretary, and Juliet Gorton for agreeing to remain as our President for another year, and presented them all with gifts. He made clear that these were all "Chairman's Awards" and were not paid for from BTA funds.

Susan Jones then thanked Phillip Sheahan for all his work, both as Chairman and behind the scenes with publicity and other initiatives, and presented him with a gift.

There being no other AOB, the Chairman closed the formal meeting.

The weighing of the Town Crier in all his regalia then took place and the answers to the dinner quiz were given. Prizes of Diderot and Langres themed chocolates were awarded to the winners of the quiz, and a cap with a Langres logo was awarded to the person whose guess was closest to the Town Crier's weight. Phillip also presented the Mayor with a Diderot themed confectionery as a thank you gift.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home.

Susan Jones, Secretary, 16th November 2013