

WELWYN ANGLO FRENCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2022 Annual General Meeting

Friday September 30th 2022 at the Civic Centre Welwyn at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

Present:

President - David Nice

Vice -Chairman – Graham Howat (in the chair)

Secretary - Susan Nice

Treasurer - Graham Middleton

Committee Members – Linda Curiel, Anne Lloyd

12 other members

1. Apologies for absence: were received from Barry Bracken, Martin Gerty and 4 members.

2 Notification of items of Any Other Business:

Alan Jones would like to talk about pétanque

Susan Boardman has a message from Jackie Davis

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October 2021 were Approved unanimously.

4 Matters arising:

Nigel Jeffery asked what progress had been made with inviting Heads of French to events. Graham H advised that Mary Westley, now retired Head of St Mary's, had attended our wine tasting and he has visited the secondary schools, taking posters. This is something we intend to pursue in different forms, but the schools do have other priorities and, outside of St Mary's, have not been enthusiastic.

5 Review of the past year

We had a pleasant wine tasting in November. XO will be happy to do it again.

Our Christmas Lunch was on 20 December at the Rose and Crown. It was an interesting and pleasant venue but the food got poor reviews.

The first quarter of 2022 was a period of inactivity due to Covid. But in April we had a very interesting and successful talk by Joy Hall on Indochina.

Our quiz on 21 May was hosted by Simon Edwards, who did a great job and over £700 was raised.

We participated in Welwyn Festival, both at the Street Market on 25 June and at the Singler's Marsh Fun Day on 2 July, where we had set up pétanque pistes. We had a successful Bastille Day dinner on 14 July at the Red Lion but cancellation by the White Horse only 12 days before the event made this a difficult function to organise.

The meeting was briefed on the inauguration of our Twining Display Wall in the rear corridor at the Civic Centre. This will be a permanent display wall but in addition we can have a short-term display for 3 months in the main lobby at the time when the French make their twinning visit.

6 Approval of the Accounts for the year to 31 July 2022

Graham M reported that the year fell into two halves. In the autumn there was a Covid-inspired reluctance to turn out so the results for the wine tasting and the Christmas Lunch were disappointing. However the two spring events did well and we had a surplus of £577 for the year.

Had the French come in May it would have been a deficit. Our accumulated reserves are £12,421. Nigel Jeffrey felt that we should not lose sight of the need to raise some £2,000 a year to cover the costs of entertaining the French. He was assured by Graham H that we understand and fully adhere to this. He added that we have spent on publicity, with new leaflets printed for the Street Market, new flags and bunting, and picture frames for the corridor display.

The Accounts were approved unanimously.

7 Election of Officers and appointment of other Committee Members

All the existing officers and committee members were re-elected and re-appointed, apart from Anne Lloyd who will stand down from the Committee but will continue to liaise with schools and report back to the Committee.

There were no nominations from the floor

8 Election of Honorary Independent Accounts Examiner

Graham M advised that Mark Slater was willing to stand again. Mark was duly re-elected.

9 Approval of the level of subscriptions in 2022/23

Graham H advised that the Committee feel we should leave the subscription rate at the existing rates of £10 for a family and £5 for individuals. We are not looking at it as a means of raising funds, which we handle in other ways.

10 The Visit by our French Twinning Friends 11-13 November 2022

Graham H reported that 16 are coming, and we are working on the programme.

They will arrive at 4.00 on Friday 11th so we have the Small Hall booked for 5.30 for the reception. There will be a choir from St. Mary's school. The French Circle have the hall booked for 7.00 but they did not want to participate in welcoming the French. For the Saturday outing we are looking at Stately Homes. Nigel said that the French love pageantry, and the Boardmans had mentioned the Lord Mayor's Show. However the French would have spent time in London on the Friday and Graham felt that it would be easier for us to take them to somewhere more local. We are looking at possible venues for the Saturday evening dinner.

The eventual conclusions were Waddesdon, historic home of the Rothschild family for the Saturday outing and The Sun Inn in Lemsford for the dinner.

11 WAFTA's involvement with St. Mary's School, Welwyn

Anne is in contact with Libby, the French teacher. We also have a contact in the PTA. Anne visited three primary schools in the spring. We would like to start a pen-friend scheme, but there has been no response from France. However when the French come over Graham H is hoping to enlist Joanne Deliot's help with this. It was thought to be a good idea if we could sponsor something at St. Mary's. *This has evolved into funding a French Book Corner.*

12 Future events

We have no programme beyond this quarter, when we have the French visit and there will be a Christmas lunch.

Vernonne requested that we do not hold our quiz in Christian Aid week which will conflict with the St Mary's Church quiz. We will likely return to a date in January.

13 Any Other Business

Susan Boardman delivered a message from Jackie Davis about the Inter - Twinning Petanque competition. She felt there had been a complete lack of communication and support. Only two of them were there to play for Welwyn. It was explained that key members of the committee were away but Graham H agreed that we must ensure better communication in the future.

Alan Jones announced that he is happy to be the WAFTA pétanque organiser and this was gratefully accepted.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p m and was followed by wine and refreshments.