

Haslemere & District Twinning Association



Bernay 1985



Haslemere



Horb 1991

MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at **THE LINK, St BART'S CHURCH, DERBY ROAD, HASLEMERE**
On Tuesday March 10th 2020 at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
(www.haslemere-twinning.eu)

1. **WELCOME (AF)**

Ann warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by speaking of the significant contribution to the Association made by **Barbara BADGER** (previous Chair) and **Seb WELFORD** (previous Website Manager), both for many years. Sadly, both had passed away in the last three/four months and are sadly missed.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from ...

Dorothea NATTRASS, Rae BOXALL, Sue and Malcolm OGILVY, Rob and Mike WEST, Frankie GAITER, John and Gentian WALLS, Simon LEVENE (Auditor), Melanie ODELL and David ROUND, Beryl and Alan BUCKLEY, and Brigitte HEWETT (Treasurer).

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING held MARCH 2019 (AF)**

The minutes had been circulated well before the meeting and required no material discussion.

Acceptance proposed by Paul BAGSHAW and seconded by Diana SERMAN

4. **MATTERS ARISING (AF)**

There was none.

5. **PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT (MB)**

MB briefly outlined the events of the preceding year and specifically mentioned the Bastille Day Summer Social BBQ held at 'Bunchfield' courtesy of our hosts Sylvia and Christopher TIBBS. On this occasion we had the opportunity of judging the Poster Competition when some forty entries from Haslemere State Primary Schools were on display.

Acceptance proposed by Dianne BENNETT and seconded by Sheila NICHOLAS

6. **PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT (BH)**

Sadly, our Treasurer, Brigitte HEWETT, was unable to be with us. She would normally have taken us through the accounts (that had been circulated) and answered any questions arising. In her absence MB obliged. It was explained that 'The Young Peoples' Fund' now no longer existed as, during the course of the year 2019, the Association had invited local Primary Schools to submit proposals of how they could spend reasonable sums of money (£200-£300) on worthwhile language-learning projects which probably wouldn't have happened without support from The Twinning association.

It was reported that, as of March 2020, both Michael BAWTREE and Ann FITCHETT can now access the accounts held at Lloyds Bank.

Brigitte HEWETT was thanked for all her work in maintaining the accounts of the Association so well.

Acceptance proposed by Miranda FRY and seconded by Evie PAGE

7. **ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE (AF)**

Committee 2019

Michael BAWTREE	Chairman
Beryl BUCKLEY	Vice-Chairman
Ann FITCHETT	Secretary
Brigitte HEWETT	Treasurer
Rosemary FOSTER	
Sheila NICHOLAS	
Simon LEVENE	
Dorothea NATTRASS	

Those standing for election 2020

Michael BAWTREE	Chairman
Beryl BUCKLEY	Vice-Chairman
Ann FITCHETT	Secretary
Brigitte HEWETT	Treasurer
Rosemary FOSTER	
Sheila NICHOLAS	
Simon LEVENE	
Dorothea NATTRASS	

MB thanked the committee for all their devoted hard work throughout the year and invited anyone present to consider lending a hand in this important work. The new committee was elected 'en bloc' being

Proposed by Sylvia TIBBS and seconded by Marion BAGSHAW

8. **FORTHCOMING EVENTS (2020) (MB)**

~~Haslemere to Bernay~~ ~~April 15th (Wed) to 19th (Sun)~~

A significant proportion of the evening was spent talking about the impact of the **CORONAVIRUS** on (a) our trip to Bernay and (b) Horb's trip to Haslemere.

The question debated was: Should we cancel/postpone one or both trips?

We were very fortunate to have one of our members (Christopher TIBBS, NHSE Director for SE England) in the meeting who gave a very succinct summary of where the UK was on the curve of The Number of Reported Cases and Deaths resulting from the virus. He noted that the UK was extremely fortunate to have a centrally organized strategy for dealing with the virus, compared to many other countries (notably the USA, where there is no NHS).

After a great deal of discussion it was agreed that (i) we should cancel the trip to Bernay in April and consider a proposition from Bernay of postponing our visit to EITHER Wednesday 26th to Sunday 30th August OR Wednesday 2nd to Sunday 6th September. (MB wrote to Annick BRUNEAUX 11/03/2020 a.m.) MB is to write to all

those who had signed up to go to Bernay and find out whether either of these dates would be acceptable. The cost per person going on the coach is already high and being subsidized, and, should more drop out, the cost per person would increase significantly; and that (ii) we should write to **Horb** and say that we'd be happy to host their visit if they took the decision to come. (AF wrote to Christine DIETZ 11/03/2020 a.m.) It was felt that the decision to come or not must lie with those travelling. It was pointed out if we cancelled one of the two trips then 2021 would see either trips away from the UK and the following year the hosting of two trips from our twins to Haslemere: a situation we wish to avoid at all costs.

Ultimately, we wish to do the right thing concerning personal and public health and do nothing that could exacerbate the spread of the virus.

<u>VE Day Procession</u>	May 10 th (Sun)
The Haslemere Twinning Association will be part of the VE Day Procession through Haslemere and needs volunteers to hold the Association's banner aloft. More details will be provided as/when they become available.	
<u>Horb to Haslemere</u>	May 22 nd (Fri) to May 27 th (Wed)
This will go ahead if Horb takes the decision to come.	
<u>Summer Social (BBQ Sylvia and Christopher)</u>	July 11 th (Sat)
This will take place at 'Bunchfield'	
<u>Haslemere to Bernay</u>	August 26 th (Wed) to 30 th (Sun) OR Sept 2 nd (Wed) to 6 th (Sun)
<u>Quiz Night</u>	November 13 th (Fri)
<u>Petersfield TA Quiz Night</u>	November TBA

9. **DISCUSSION (MB)**

- (a) The subscription system of bank-to-bank transfer 1st January. This new way of receiving subscriptions constitutes a vast improvement on previous years and members who had already paid by bank transfer were thanked profusely for their help.
- (b) Change of dates for the Bernay visit. The move from October to May at the request of the French is now established; however, whether it stays in the half-term holiday of the summer term depends on whether the experiment of holding our visit to/from Bernay at the end of August meets with the approval of our members.
- (c) Impact of the Coronavirus. Please read the notes in section (8) above.
- (d) Website Management. MB announced that, following negotiations, Robert MARSON has accepted our invitation to take on the management of the Association's website for the sum of £300 + VAT per annum. Robert MARSON is a computer professional, ex-RGS, Guildford and Mathematics Graduate from Cambridge. He is highly suited to the task and will provide invaluable service in maintaining our humble presence on the internet.