

**38th Annual General Meeting
of the
Calne and District Twinning Association
Thursday, 27 November 2008
7.30pm,
Marden House, Calne**

MINUTES

1 *Welcome from the Chairman*

Malcolm opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 38th AGM of the Twinning Association (28 members attended). He drew attention to the new polo shirts and sweatshirts that the Chair and Secretary were wearing. It had been agreed at committee level that such garments would give a good sense of belonging when we visited our partners and also give wider prominence to the Calne & District Twinning Association within the town when the occasion arises. These are on sale at the back of the hall.

This meeting took a different format to usual, inasmuch as both Vice Presidents attended. Peter Treloar agreed to do the Address this year. Dr Norman Beale agreed to do a short talk on the life of 'Joseph Priestley in Calne', which is also the title of Norman's new book. He agreed to sign any books purchased during the evening – all proceeds from his book to go to the Heritage Centre.

2 *Apologies*

Apologies were received from:

Mercy Baggs, Roy Golding, Jane Rowsell, Anna Desch, Ken and Anne Lewis, Bev and Roger Shepherd, Alfred La Vardera.

3 *Vice President's Address (Peter Treloar)*

Peter stated that the year has been a very full and successful year for the Association for which he said had been down to the hard work of the Committee. He thanked the Committee and also Malcolm, Jenny and Christine. He spoke of the high standard of the Newsletter and the information it contained for the members. He also stated that he had been with the Twinning Association since the very beginning and had had some wonderful times and made some wonderful friendships during that time and he felt that this was what Twinning is all about. He felt there was a role for a body of this kind to maintain the links and friendships made.

4 *Minutes of the 2007 AGM*

Minutes had been sent to all members. Malcolm asked if there were any issues to be raised from these Minutes. There were none from the floor. The Minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed - Barry Cooper. Seconded – Jean Downham

5 *Chairman's Report*

Malcolm first spoke to members about the Teddy Bear's Cup. The old Cup was between Eningen and Calne. This year we have a new one to reflect all the towns – Calne, Charlieu, Eningen and Caln Township. The reason Caln has been included is because there is a strong possibility that Caln will join us in 2010.

This has been another very successful year for the Twinning Association. Details will be given in the Secretary's Report.

At last year's AGM, Malcolm reported that the Twinning Association needed to evolve to stay alive. He also reported on the radical plans that were needed to put into place, i.e. the tri-nation visits that started this year with our visit to Eningen.

The visit to Eningen was extremely successful, which for the Chairman had two highlights. The first was being able to drive a new Range Rover around the Eningen countryside for a day and the second was the wonderful success of the market stall on the Market Day in Eningen.

The general consensus around the market was that the Calne stall - 'A Taste of Wiltshire' with produce from in and around Wiltshire - was the best - so well done everyone involved. An added bonus for us was that Councillor Roy Golding, then Mayor of Calne, also accompanied us on this visit and was in high profile not only in and around the Market, but also elsewhere in Eningen, which helped raise the profile of Twinning.

The success of the visit gave us a glimpse of the huge amount of organisation and cost that had been undertaken by our hosts. This knowledge, rather than depressing us, in fact spurred us on to greater heights. We all agreed that there were three essential elements that we need to address and all were in fact, mutually dependent.

The first is to create better links with the Town Council, especially important as it was the Town Mayors who agreed to and signed the original twinning documents. These links have been well forged and continue to be so.

As the Chair of this Association Malcolm has been invited to sit on the Calne Events Working Group and Christine attends various Council-run initiatives. The positive thing about all this is the fact that we aim to bring Calne Twinning to the wider community.

The second and most important element was funds or, in our case, the lack of funds. As the costs of hosting one town's visit is in the region of £1000, the cost of hosting two or even three (including Caln Township) in 2010 could be expected to be in the region of £2000 - £3000. Way outside our reach! Hence we needed to find an alternative funding stream. Again, the Secretary's report will go into more detail on how successful we were.

2010 is the Calne in Bloom year, so we have organised our visit around that time, to take part in the Town's planned Summer Carnival. It has been agreed that we would like to show our visitors what Calne can offer and to this end we are working in close liaison with the Council. Hopefully, by keeping our activities within Calne, the cost of the visit can be reduced somewhat.

The third element is to raise our awareness amongst the wider Calne community. We needed to get out and show Calne what the Twinning Association is all about. To a certain extent, this process started last year with our reconnection with the local schools. In the next Calne Connection there will be an article on Twinning.

Through our involvement with the Town Council, we have started to get more involved with local activities and more importantly, show the Town Council that we were prepared to get involved. We had a stall at last year's Christmas Parade, we also had a stall at the recent Calne Community Showcase and we will be joining this year's Christmas parade.

To help raise awareness of the Twinning Association, we have had new banners made and we have now taken delivery of clothing bearing the Twinning Association logo. All of this will help make us stand out. In addition, our new website (www.calne-twinning.org.uk) is now linked to the Town's website and you should soon be reading an article in the Calne Connection about the Calne Twinning Association. We are determined to make a concerted effort this coming year to really raise our profile and hopefully, attract more members.

In conclusion, a very successful year with a very successful committee and one that I have been proud to be part of. Calne Twinning is not about any one person; this year we have had a fantastic Committee. A Committee that is prepared to come out on rainy nights and walk about with flags, etc. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and commitment. I would also like to thank you all here tonight for your continued support.

6 *Secretary's Report*

It has once again been my privilege and pleasure to be the Secretary of the Calne and District Twinning Association this year. I say this every year, but each year it has been a fact.

The committee has been very busy in opening up the image of the Twinning Association and making it more 'user-friendly'. We have gained some new members who are new to Calne – so a very warm welcome to them.

• **Visits – 2008**

- Eningen 1-5 May (22 members joined the visit). The slide show showed some of the exciting times we all had. The weekend was the first of the tri-nation visits and was a huge success. Eningen put on a superb itinerary for all its visitors. The highlight of the visit was our 'Taste of Wiltshire' market stall, which was a brilliant success. We had the pleasure of Roy Golding's company, the then Mayor of Calne, for some of the time – thank you Roy. Another highlight was that we beat the French at boules!!
- Caln – 16-23 May (12 people attended). This was another extremely successful visit. Again, the Americans put on a superb itinerary. The Caln visit scrap book was available for members to view (One will be done for Eningen also). These are for the Twinning records and a visual reminder of our visit.

• **Fund-raising/Social Events - 2008**

- Mardi Gras Quiz Night – We raised £124.81
- Table top sale – 3 August – £106
- Quiz Night – 5 September – £73.38

• **Grants**

- Town Council Grant - £1000 towards 2010 visit to Calne – for which we are very grateful
- North Wilts - £441 for projector and screen – both were on display and working at the AGM.

• **Fund-raising/social events (Planned/to be planned) – 2009 – for visit 2010**

- Quiz Night
- Table Top
- Evening events, ie fish and chip/bangers and mash suppers
- Would like to set up a 100 Club – but need a volunteer to run it
- Any suggestions re social/fund-raising events warmly welcomed
- Would like to see more of our members joining in and enjoying the occasions

- **School involvement – so far**
 - John Bentley School – we have supported the Linguist of the Month Award (£30 for three months -£10 per month - £5 book token to a boy and girl linguist each month). Hope to do so again during the coming year.
 - Have become involved with breakfast meetings at JBS which include the wider community of Calne
 - Priestley School – visit is planned to talk about Caln – they have a penpal scheme with Caln Elementary Primary School
 - Fynamore School are hoping to start up a similar penpal scheme with another class in the Caln Elementary Primary School.
 - Derry Hill is in contact with a school very close to Charlieu.
 - We are actively looking for a school in Eningen to set up links with Holy Trinity.
 - We would like to invite St Mary’s and Springfield School to become involved in the 2010 visit. A member of St Mary’s School staff was present at this meeting. Contact to be made.

- **Community Involvement**
 - Calne Town Events Working Group - Chairman
 - ❖ Christmas Lantern Festival

 - Dragons Den panellist at The John Bentley School - Secretary

- **New Equipment**
 - Projector and Screen – for use in promoting the Association. To be used in Primary Schools and other talks. Has already been used by St Mary’s Church. A policy will be drawn up on the hire of the equipment

- **Sweatshirts, Polo Shirts and Fleeces**
 - These are new to our Association. It is hoped that by wearing any of the items of clothing will 1) highlight the Twinning Association and 2) help identify us a group when we are on any of our visits. These are now available – price list on display.

- **Wessex Forum**
 - Our involvement/meetings/sharing information. These meetings have proved extremely useful. It is always interesting to hear how other Twinning Associations conduct their business. We all learn from and support each other. Chairman and Secretary attend.

- **Our Committee**
 - The Association has a very committed and welcoming committee. It is embracing new ideas, people and occasions and aims to be accessible to as many people as possible. My particular thanks go to Malcolm

and the rest of the Committee whose commitment to Calne Twinning is so enthusiastic. They work hard on the Association's behalf, both within it and as representatives of it, serving on committees within the community. The Committee has continued so successfully to steer the Twinning Association through another positive and successful year. Our meetings have always taken place in a constructive, open and friendly atmosphere and with the best interests of the Association and its members at the forefront of all its business.

- My special thanks also go to you, the members, who have supported us during this year. Thanks also to the Town Council, specifically Mercy, Roy, Linda and Daryl for all their support and encouragement.
- The Association is looking forward to a very positive and successful year ahead and we hope you will all feel that you can be very much a part of it through invitation and participation. Your thoughts and ideas will always be welcome (whether or not we agree with them!) and we would hope you feel free to comment to the Committee if you feel you have good ideas or constructive criticism. It is every member's association.

7 *Treasurer's Report*

Janet reported that the subscriptions were up from last year. We had received a donation from the Lansdowne Strand Hotel for an advert in the Newsletter. We have also received the grant for £1,000 from the Council. Janet reported that there was an extra table-top sale to the one mentioned in the Secretary's report and the total made at that Sale was £80. We had also made a profit from the Taste of Wiltshire stall in Eningen of £31.81 (this despite us giving a lot of stuff away as free samples). Mardi Gras made £124.81. The expenditure of £50 relating to the visit to Caln was explained as the cost of the History Book commissioned from Christopher Edge and presented to Caln. Malcolm explained that due to the complicated Licensing Laws we could not now provide wine at our major events held in public places. We had purchased some wine during the early part of year and although some of that was sold at our earlier functions we decided not to continue to do so. The rest of the wine was used at Twinning social functions, such as entertaining Twinning guests when they visit the UK and as raffle prizes, etc. We now have no wine belonging to the Twinning Association.

Janet confirmed that the bank balance showed a healthy £2,926.72, which included the £1,000 grant from the Council. It is hoped to keep the £1,000 grant in a separate account to be used solely for the 2010 visit. The difference of £1,926.72 is a healthy bank balance for the Twinning Association.

It is intended that we continue to apply for grants and Hugh will be doing this during the coming year.

Malcolm announced that Janet has decided to retire as Treasurer from the Committee. Janet was one of the two original committee members who stayed with the Association when the previous committee resigned en masse. Malcolm thanked Janet for her support, commitment, loyalty and hard work she had put into Twinning over the years. On behalf of the Twinning Association - a huge thank you Janet.

The Accounts were accepted. Proposed: Terry Thornton. Seconded: Mike Tuck

8 *Election of 2008 Committee*

The Constitution states that after three years officers of the committee have to put themselves up for re-election (with six years being the maximum amount an officer can serve on the committee). This year the posts of Chairman and Secretary are due for renewal.

8.1 *Chairman*

Malcolm agreed to stand again if it was the wish of the Members. Peter took over this part of the proceedings and asked if any member wished to stand as Chairman. There were no offers from the floor. The vote was therefore that Malcolm continue in post as Chairman for the next three years. Proposed: Terry Thornton. Seconded: Mike Tuck. The vote was carried unanimously.

8.2 *Secretary*

Christine agreed to stand again for another term.
Proposed: Norman Beale. Seconded: Pippa Jefferson. The vote was carried unanimously.

8.3 *Treasurer*

Due to the resignation of Janet, Mike Tuck agreed to take over the post. His nomination was proposed by Barry Cooper and seconded by Jenny Gull. The vote was carried unanimously.

9 *Forthcoming Events*

9.1 **Mardi Gras :24 February 2009.** It is hoped to run a quiz night on this occasion.

9.2 **Visit to Charlieu – 21-25 May 2008.** This will be the second of the tri-nation visits and we will be joined by Eningen. Anyone wishing to join the visit should contact Christine.

9.2 **2010 Visit to Calne – 24-28 June 2010.** This visit has been arranged to coincide with the Calne Carnival.

10 *Any Other Business*

Malcolm spoke of having a fantastic committee, but with any committee you always need someone who is willing to go that extra mile to make something happen. The committee had got together and presented Christine with a beautiful bouquet – which was a wonderful surprise.

Jenny thanked everyone who brought food for the evening, their support was greatly appreciated

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

There was a 15 minute break after which Dr Norman Beale gave a very interesting talk on the Life of Joseph Priestley in Calne. This was supported by a slide show which vividly illustrated aspects of Norman's talk. A huge thank you to Norman. His talk was a great success.