

Friends of Triel
Leatherhead and District Twinning Association

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 16 November 2021
Reeves Room, Leatherhead Parish Church Hall

Present:

Committee: Paula Hancock, Elaine and David Crutchley, Bridget Lewis-Carr and Navin Mehta.

Members: Jean & Tony Pearson, Councillor Simon Moss, Anna Brereton, Jill Goodchild, Heather Ward, Beverley Mehta, Rodney Bligh

On Zoom: Julia Baker Kate Jhugroo, Anne Thompson

Apologies:

Paul & Johanna Hancock, Bridget and Hubert Carr, Frances Pyatt, Joyce Marshall, Jill Rosser, Jean Butcher.

Welcome:

Paula Hancock, the Chairman, welcomed all present and the minutes of the previous AGM held on 12 November 2009 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

Paula highlighted the exciting events of 2021.

Bienvenus mes amis!

I'm sure some of you will remember that last year's AGM was conducted as a virtual Meeting via the power of Zoom, something many of us have now become very familiar With. Well I suppose that means that we have progressed, as here we are in the flesh holding an actual meeting once again in the Reeves Room, with a very real glass of wine! I'm particularly delighted to welcome to our AGM Councillor Simon Moss, who is our official Council representative for this year. Simon has agreed to say a few words of introduction, so if you don't mind waiting till after my report Simon, I will invite you to speak then.

It wasn't until 11th September this year that the committee felt confident enough to reunite our membership after many long months, by inviting everyone to Bridget and Hubert's sunny garden for a late Summer Picnic. It was such a pleasure to see some familiar faces again after so long and we enjoyed a long overdue catch up as well as a wonderful picnic together.

Moving on to our annual exchange visit, which was originally planned for May 2021, the committee had a long discussion at a recent meeting about the viability and practicalities of travelling to France in 2022. We eventually came to the very reluctant conclusion that there currently remain too many uncertain factors with regard to both Brexit and Covid, and that our trip to Triel next year is just not viable. This recommendation to defer the trip until the international situation becomes clearer was reached with heavy hearts and I'm sure you all appreciate the many factors which have led to this decision. However the committee feel it is important that we unite our membership on a regular basis in the coming year, so we are proposing to organise a busy social programme in the next 12 months. Look out for our emails and newsletters..!

Our Friends of Triel French Conversation group continues to meet every month or so either in members' homes or by Zoom (at the moment we are alternating between the two) and although numbers fluctuate, we've had some very interesting sessions. Our next

meeting will be the afternoon of Monday 22 November at Jill Goodchild's house in Leatherhead. Anyone who is keen to practice their spoken French is welcome to join, but you do have to be able to string a few sentences together!

As always I would like to thank everyone on the twinning committee for the commitment they have shown over the past year, and for being so dedicated and enthusiastic. Our small team works extremely well together to offer a programme of social events for you all as members, to put together newsletters and to plan our annual exchange. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their support over the past year.

This year we have a couple of changes to the committee. The first is the resignation of Julia Baker, who has been a very valued member of the committee helping to organise trips and travelling to Trier regularly for nearly 20 years. Over these years, Julia has made very good friends with Claire Muff and her family, and I'm sure this friendship will endure.

Julia has been a wonderful committee member, full of bright ideas and always happy to mastermind a spreadsheet, and I personally have greatly enjoyed the pleasure of her company on many trips. Julia's husband, Brian, is our IT whizz and has agreed to continue looking after our website, so our thanks go to him for all his support. The committee have a small gift for Julia as a token of our appreciation for her commitment to the twinning, which I shall present to her in due course as she was unable to come this evening. (card to sign)

The second resignation is mine as Chairman. I believe most of you are aware that Paul has some serious health issues at the moment and this has meant that our life is now somewhat changeable and unpredictable. I would find it difficult to commit to a Trier visit and this unreliability makes it hard for me to continue as Chairman. I have been visiting Trier since 1991 and it was a great pleasure to see the link with Trier become a formal twinning in 2004. Having shepherded many groups to Trier and welcomed an equal number of twimmers to Leatherhead over the past 30 years, I am happy to hand over the reins. I intend to remain on the committee and hope to take part in all the social events in the coming year, so you won't be getting rid of me just yet! I am delighted that Kate Jhugroo has agreed to stand as our new Chairman and I know that she will do an amazing job in this role, ably supported by our excellent committee.

Earlier this week I received a message from Nicole Jusserand in Trier which I would like to read out to you:

Chers amis de Leatherhead,

La dure période que nous vivons depuis de nombreux mois nous tient éloignés physiquement mais nous pensons beaucoup à vous et parlons souvent de vous entre nous. Nous formulons le souhait que 2022 nous apporte des retrouvailles amicales et chaleureuses.

Prenez bien soin de vous !

Au plaisir de se retrouver !

Au nom du Conseil d'Administration, Nicole (Présidente)

So we twinning enthusiasts look forward to a future in which our freedoms are restored and in which we are able to overcome some of the uncertainties and obstacles that we are currently facing. We very much hope to travel to France in 2023 to celebrate our love for all things French and demonstrate to our fellow twimmers in Trier that both our 'entente cordiale' and our twinning links remain strong.

Thank you to everyone who has braved the technology to join us this evening and we hope to see you in person very soon. We are intending to record this meeting and will endeavour to upload it onto the Friends of Trier website, so if you know of anyone who wants to watch and listen after this evening, please point them in that direction.

Paula the invited Councillor Simon Moss, our MVDC Representative, to introduce himself. Simon Moss represent Leatherhead South ward and is a conservative member on the Council. His Grandmother was French and lived in Paris. Simon has a very good command of French which is excellent news for us. He is very keen to be active representative on the committee.

Treasurer's Report:

I am pleased to say that I have little to add to the accounts as presented, from which you will see the association is in a healthy financial position with current net assets of £4,110.15 which includes £1,800.00 held on behalf of 19 members who have made a deposit payment towards our next visit to Triel. We have also made a deposit of £500.00 with our coach company for the next visit to Triel. Our expenditure for the year was £91.05 for the website renewal fee and £35.00 for the Summer Social. There was no income as we did not have to pay subscription for the year. However, we will have to pay a subscription of £10.00 per person for the year 2022. As before, there will be no charge for person under the age of 18 years.

As mentioned by Paula, we have decided not to undertake our visit to Triel in 2022, but will be using our coach company to provide transport to members on our proposed day trips in this country to place of interest. I will invite those members whose deposit we hold, if they want it returned.

Election of Officers:

As Paula mentioned earlier she wish to resign as the Chairman, having been that office for over 20 years, but would be willing to remain on the committee. Julia wanted to come of the committee, but rest of the committee members had indicated that if elected they would be willing to carry on. Simon Moss the MVDC Rep was also proposed to be on the committee. Jeanne Pearson proposed that the whole committee member be elected en bloc and this was seconded by Beverley Mehta. The following committee members were elected unanimously by members:

Chairman:	Kate Jhugroo
Treasurer	David Crutchley
Secretary	Navin Mehta
Membership secretary	Johanna Hancock
MVDC Rep	Simon Moss
Other committee members:	Paula Hancock, Bridget Lewis-Carr and Elaine Crutchley

Any Other Business:

Elaine was thanked for the latest newsletter. There were prizes for the winners of various events during the year and also for the winner of the quiz. The French conversation group has met on ZOOM and lately in groups and is quite well supported. All members are welcome to join, if they wish to improve their French speaking skill!

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm and it was followed by an excellent cheese and wine party.

The date for next year AGM was fixed for Tuesday **15 November 2022** at Reeves Room commencing at 8.00 pm. Agenda for the next AGM:

1. Minutes of last AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Officers
6. Any other business