

# **Minutes of the Witney & District Twinning Association Committee Meeting on Wednesday 29th November 2017**

**Present:** Eleonore Bruyere, Mike Breakell, Tony Perkins, Margit Kail, Mark Pengelly, John Thornton, Jenny Smith, Andy Wolf, Chris Woodward and guests Josi Wolf and Juergen Eckermann

**Apologies:** none

**Welcome:** The Chairman John opened the meeting by welcoming all those attending and introduced the guest Juergen who is interested in joining the membership. The committee also welcomed Cllr Chris Woodward, current Mayor of Witney to the Committee and he announced the increase the town has awarded the Twinning Association.

**Remembrance Day Review:** Overall the committee was happy with how the events throughout the Remembrance Day happened. The Treasurer expressed concern regarding the cost of each gathering and suggested that the following year the Sunday farewell could be held in a restaurant to reduce cost. Including the subsidy for of part of the Remembrance day Dinner, the total expenditure for the weekend was just below £630. Andy suggested his restaurant, as he would be able to assure the meal would be served at a certain time in order for our guests to be able to set off at their planned time to catch any form of transport they are booked on. The committee discussed the possibility to also offer more traditional British evening meal to our guests and combine this with a Pub experience. Everyone was in agreement and this would be discussed again closer to the next event.

## **Activities and Fundraising:**

The committee discussed how the association can raise further funds in order to be able to subsidise other events that are important to the association. Chris suggested a variety of activities such as Pub Quizzes, Summer Treasure Hunts and offered to get more of the town councillors involved to promote these events.

**Membership Fees and Financial Year:** There was no suggestion to change the amount of the membership fee, however we discussed the possibility of changing the start of the financial year to make it clearer to the members when the membership fees would be due. Suggestion involved either pushing the date to the New Year or beginning of April, whereby either granting some time to members without fees or asking for a pro-rata payment to cover these months in the extended financial year..

**The Twin Town Challenge:** The committee discussed that it would be useful for the organisers of the Twin Town Challenge (TTC) could attend our Twinning Committee Meetings to allow for a closer cooperation between organisations and allow the Twinning Association a clearer picture of upcoming events and how help can be provided. With Andy and Mike running a car in the rally, both our Twin Towns will add their Crest or Logo to the car along with the Witney Twinning Association advertising itself.

**Newsletter:** All recent events throughout the Remembrance day Weekend will be covered in the Newsletter edited by Jenny and contributions will come from:

Eleonore: Handmade Poppy Appeal  
Le Touquet to Witney Race  
Remembrance Day Weekend

Chris Woodward Summary of the Paschendale Commemoration  
His visit to Unterhaching for Volkstrauertag  
Remembrance Day Sunday from his perspective

Mike & Andy Witney to Le Touquet TTC

Jenny reminded everyone that photos would be very useful and should be sent to her. The Newsletter will be put online and a link be sent out through email to the members and on Social media. The committee will see if it is possible to add a link to the Town Hall App and Chris suggested we should get in touch with Polly.

**Rally Le Touquet to Witney:** Eleonore reported there would be 20 cars with 40 participants travelling over 4 days to Witney from Le Touquet between the 18th and 21st June 2018. They would stop on the way and end up spending 2 days in Witney itself. Eleonore has already provided the organisers a complete list of hotels and John has offered to help make booking for participants should assistance be required.

The committee will be creating an itinerary for evening event whilst the event organiser would be in charge of activities during the day.

Eleonore has written to The Motor Club in Witney to gauge their interest and see if any cooperation will be possible. Chris suggested that Henry Box might not have any objections to have the cars parked on the grounds temporarily for a photo opportunity.

**Handmade Poppy Appeal:** Eleonore also raised the important appeal of the Handmade Poppy Appeal that the committee agreed the association should get involved in and the committee will be reaching out to the membership to help make poppies from different materials to mark the "mile" the Witney soldiers marched when leaving to war.

**Important Upcoming Events With Our Twin Towns:** To avoid clashes on dates with our Twin Town, Margit will be getting in touch with Unterhaching to find out for which dates they already have plans. Since the meeting we have found out that from the 8th to 11th June 2018 Unterhaching will be celebrating its 40th Twinning Partnership Anniversary and have invited a delegation from Witney to join in their festivities. An invitation will be sent out shortly.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Minutes prepared and written by John Thornton, 3rd December 2017