

## Guildford Twinning Association

### Annual General Meeting

Guildford Guildhall, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30pm

#### Present

Cllr Richard Billington, Mayor of Guilford; Barbara Ford (Chair), and about twenty members.

#### Apologies for Absence

Andrew and Julia Aylott, Irene Black, Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Angela Gunning, Trevor Jones, Jennifer Margrave, Sunethra Mendis, Hilary Perry, Wolf Pietrek, Adrian and Hilary Thompson, Joan Wrenn.

#### Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and two visitors from Freiburg.

#### Appointment of President

The Chair explained that under the constitution of the Association, the Mayor of Guildford is the President. She formally proposed that this be approved, which received universal assent. She then handed control of the meeting to the President.

#### Minutes of Previous AGM

Copies of the minutes of the AGM last year, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018, had been distributed in the room beforehand. They were approved without further discussion.

#### Chairman's Report

Barbara Ford reported that this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning and sees the Association with an active programme reaching out to more people. A floral bed in Guildford castle grounds marks this special year. Some school exchanges continue, with considerable Association efforts to involve more teachers. There have been visits to Freiburg, and well-attended public lectures. This year saw two art exhibitions in Guildford of the work of Freiburg artists, and in 2021 it is hoped Guildford artists will be exhibiting in Freiburg. However, efforts to restart soccer fixtures have not yet succeeded, and there has been no progress on a mooted link with Versailles.

She reported the deaths of Honorary Alderman Bernard Parke and former councillor Mike Piper, active committee members. Pat Grayburn had retired from the committee, and Michael Gorman had handed over the Treasurer and Membership Secretary posts to Martin Stringfellow.

She thanked Guildford Borough for grant and other support especially marketing assistance. She thanked Ros Calow for her immense efforts with the art exhibitions, and she thanked all those others in Guildford and Freiburg who had given their time and efforts. She mentioned two future events: a concert on 10<sup>th</sup> August and the annual summer lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

The report was adopted.

#### Report from Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Membership stood this day at 167, an increase on last year. Most subscriptions are up to date, but reminders will be sent where necessary and the list kept up to date. All but a few members are on email, which greatly reduces postage costs.

The accounts show a surplus for 2018/9 of £530, but with larger income and expenditure (turnover) than last year. Guildford Borough has given extra grant funds for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; we received a

generous legacy from our former chairman Mary Lloyd-Jones; and we have received a high level of donations at our social and cultural events. There has been a minor change of accounting policy in respect of stock for the Christmas Market and other events. We are in a strong position with about £5,800 in the bank.

Martin thanked the new auditor, Alan Winn, for taking on that role.

A member questioned the absence this year of a subscription to the Anglo-German Association in London. Martin explained that they now insist on individual membership to attend their events, so we no longer pay the former corporate subscription.

The report was adopted.

#### Election of Officers

The following officers were elected *en bloc*: Chairman, Barbara Ford; Secretary, Hilary Perry; Treasurer & Membership Secretary, Martin Stringfellow.

#### Election of Committee

The following committee members were elected *en bloc*: Minutes Secretary, Jennifer Margrave; Education Liaison, Steve Callaghan; Arts Liaison, Ros Calow; Newsletter Editor, Irene Black; other, Michael Gorman.

#### Election of Auditor

Alan Winn was re-elected auditor to serve for the financial year 2019/20.

#### Close

There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 8pm. Members took advantage of a glass of wine or a soft drink, and then viewed extracts from a film, *Worldwide Friendships*, that had been commissioned by the City of Freiburg about their twinning history and activities.