

ABBOTSKERSWELL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting Saturday 10 January 2015

- 1 **Present:** Richard and Rosemary Whiffin, Sandra and Kevin Eales, Celia and Andy Rose, Liz and John Haysom, Pam and Dave McNee, John Brench, Linda Banks, John Whitehead, Bill and Di Lewis, Julie and Ian Arrow, John Lewis, Jenny Eyles, Brian and Christine Mackness, Terry and Di Reed, Eileen Fazakerley.

Apologies: Joe and Liz Clowes, Ann and Alan Kitchen, Joe and Kathy Hayes, Derek and Jenny Bellotti, Gill and Gordon Bradford, Brian Brench, Sue Gosling, Jenny Brook, Christine Lewis, Franz and Christiane Kunst, Jan and Steve Bryan, Wendy and Brian Hinchcliffe, Ced and Viv Bell, David and Trish Turner, Mary and Alan Wheeler, Gill and Fred Still, Bob and Sarah Chambers, Sylvia Hallett, Rodney Lowe, Ursula Hunt, Sheila Hart and Fernley Beer, Mary Murphy.

- 2 **Last year's minutes** were approved and signed.

Proposer : Brian Mackness Seconder: Rosemary Whiffin

- 3 **Chairman's Report:**

I cannot believe that my first year as Chairman has now ended and what a year it has been. It has been a very busy and successful one and it has flown by.

There have been several key issues for your Committee to focus on this last year.

The first was the visit to Abbotskerswell of our twinning friends from Le Pré d'auge and Les Monceaux from 1st – 4th May. We hosted 38 French Twinners plus the coach driver. Having matched our visitors to their hosts the next thing we had to do was throw some ideas into the pot as to where we could take them on the Friday and what we should do for the Saturday evening.

We decided to take them on the Seaton to Colyton tramway after a lunch in Sidmouth. There was some finger crossing to be done as the tramlines had been damaged by the heavy rain but we were lucky and they were repaired just in time and if you go onto the French Twinners web page you will find some photos of that trip. This trip was followed by a Safari Supper which was very well organised by Jenny Bellotti and Gill Bradford and enjoyed by all.

The Saturday was a day for the hosts to be able to spend time with their visitors. Visits to the beach or Dartmoor were arranged by some and others just got together for a relaxing afternoon in the garden. In the evening a meal was provided in the village hall for all the hosts and visitors and other twinning members. Babbinis provided the food and the entertainment was a local jazz group. All too soon it was time for the evening to end and in no time at all alarm clocks were sounding around the area as we struggled out of bed to get our visitors to their coach for an early start back to France.

Last year also saw the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in June. A number of twinning members made arrangements to travel to Normandy for these celebrations and although this was not an official twinning visit our Twinning friends made us very welcome.

July saw a change of venue from Tony Bowhay's garden to Brian and Christine Mackness's garden for our garden party. The weather was really kind to us that

day allowing us to have a really relaxing and enjoyable afternoon which ended with a gardening quiz devised by Christine. Unfortunately my knowledge of anything to do with the garden is very limited so I stood no chance amid the many keen gardeners that we have in the group.

October was when we said goodbye to two of our active but older members, Patricia and Peter Hudson who sold their house in the village and have moved back to Sidford to be nearer the sea.

In my address last year I said that I wanted the liaison with the school in Abbotskerswell and the local school in France to be a priority and I am pleased to report back that after a slow start and a change of head teacher in the school in France back in the summer, things are beginning to progress very well. And I would like to thank Dave McNee for doing the initial communications with Sylvie the previous head teacher, and to Andy Rose, who is now leading this and is working hard with Tim Hughes here and Murielle in France. Our aim for the next year is to be in a position to help the school with a visit to Le Pré d'auge.

I would like to end by saying a big thank you to all the members who have helped with the organisation of the various monthly events we have held as without you and all the willing cooking volunteers these events would not be able to take place. I would like to say a big thank you to John Whitehead for all the brilliant press coverage and to Pam Wakeham for all the support she provides in the kitchen, and last but not least I would like to say thank you to my Committee for all the support that they have given to me over the last year and especially to Rosemary who has done a great job over the last seven years as our secretary and will be sorely missed now that she has stepped down from post.

Sandra Eales, Chairman

Proposer : John Lewis Secunder: Pam McNee

4 Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of the treasurer, Richard Whiffin reported that the accounts had been audited and circulated prior to the meeting. He then read the Treasurer's report:

'I have pleasure in submitting the attached accounts. At the time of writing in mid-December, I am awaiting the Auditor's sign off and I will ensure that this certificate is available at the AGM.

One word of caution is necessary. In this financial year 2013-14 we have banked two Abbfest "thank you" payments of £500 each; one for 2013 and one for 2014. Thus, in looking at the accounts, this must be considered as it effectively understates the loss for the year by £500.

That said, to produce a loss of only £902 when we hosted the French (which cost a net £3136) is a remarkable achievement. The committee try hard to ensure that we make a reasonable profit on each event, as the aggregation of these helps pay for the bi-annual French visit to Abbotskerswell.

At year end 30 November 2014, we had cash and bank balances totalling £5128. The conventional wisdom is we need to have 7k in the bank by the time the French come (2016) so we will be organising a fund raising event in November 2015.

Your committee does all that it can to put on a balanced set of events, taking into account all interests. But if you do have any particular ideas, then do tell us please!

I commend the accounts to you.'

Joe Clowes, Treasurer

There were no questions on the accounts.

Proposer : John Whitehead Seconded: Linda Banks

5 Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and committee.

John Lewis temporarily took the chair for the election of the Chair.

Chair

Sandra Eales, proposed by Ian Arrow, seconded by Richard Whiffin, was unanimously re-elected.

She resumed the chair for the election of the remaining officers. Andy Rose was confirmed as Vice Chairman proposed by John Brench, seconded by Di Lewis and Joe Clowes as Treasurer proposed by Christine Mackness and seconded by Liz Haysom.

The Chairman then thanked Liz Haysom and Dave McNee, who were stepping down from the committee, for their contributions to the Association and was pleased to report that Julie Arrow and Linda Banks had agreed to stand for election. As this brought the committee up to the requisite number she suggested that we elect the remainder of the committee en bloc. This was proposed by John Lewis and seconded by Celia Rose. All elections were unanimously approved.

The 2015 Committee

Chairman : Sandra Eales

Vice Chairman: Andy Rose

Secretary: to be confirmed at committee 29/1/15

Treasurer: Joe Clowes

Members: John Brench

John Haysom

Alan Kitchen

Di Reed

Richard Whiffin

Rosemary Whiffin

Linda Banks

Julie Arrow

6 Date of next AGM – Saturday 9 January 2016

ABBOTSKERSWELL TWINNING ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS 1 DECEMBER 2013 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2014

INCOME	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	Abbfest "thank you " payments	1000		BANK AND CASH BALANCES	
		Crockery Hire	20		Balance b/f 30/11/2013	6030.5
				1020	Minus loss for year	-902.14
	SUBSCRIPTIONS		640	640		5128.36
	EVENT INCOME	Dec 2013 at Stover	920		Represented by	
		January AGM	330		Bank	6404.07
		February Valentines	468		Cash	139.29
		March St Patricks	440			6543.36
		April Easter Bonnets	370			
		May French Visit	163			
		June at Cricket Club	360			
		July at Mackness	375			
		Sept at Church House	250			
		Oct at Church House	230			
		Nov at Church House	380			
				4286		
	TOTAL INCOME			5946		
EXPENSES	EVENTS	Dec 2013 at Stover	966.7		Profit and loss for Individual events	
		January AGM	361.27		Dec 2013 at Stover	-46.7
		February Valentines	303.7		Jan AGM	-31.27
		March St Patricks	272.81		Feb Valentines	164.3
		April Easter Bonnets	224.66		March St Patricks	167.19
		May French Visit	3299.95		April Easter Bonnets	145.34
		June at Cricket Club	205.37		May French visit	-3136.95
		July at Mackness	210.19		June at Cricket Club	154.63
		September at Church House	157.83		July at Mackness	164.81
		October at Church House	155.28		Sept at Church House	92.17
		November at Church House	224.26		Oct at Church House	74.72
				6382.02	November at Church House	155.74
	MISCELLANEOUS COSTS					
		Auditors fee	24.09			
		Insurance	94.8			
		Xmas Tip for washer up	50			
		Repairs to Court Farm fence-French coach damage	85.87			
		Chairmans leaving gift	21.95			
		Various get well cards and flowers	30			
		New Equipqment	79.47			
		Flowers for Barrel	29.94			
		Gill Still Spanish walk donation	50			
				466.12		
	TOTAL EXPENSES			6848.14		

The difference of £1415 is accounted for by pre-payments for 2014-15 year of:

French Deposits	£675
Xmas 2014 deposits	£740
	£1,415

Accounts prepared by Joe Clowes 30.11.14.
Accounts independently audited by Sharon Raggett 28.12.14.
(Original signature on audited document)