



**MMTTA**  
**MARLOW/MARLY-LE-ROI TOWN**  
**TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
www.marlowtowntwinning.co.uk



Newsletter  
Autumn 2018

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter. In this edition we:

- remember some beloved friends of twinning who have recently died;
- bring you up-to-date with who is on the committee;
- include write-ups of recent events – The September Carnival and the Autumn Talk by Dominic Grieve;
- report on the achievements of the Petanque Club;
- advertise our next event, the Christmas Party and include an application form;
- advise that the annual subscriptions will be due at the end of this year and include a renewal form;
- notify you of the dates of other forthcoming events.

*Departed Friends*

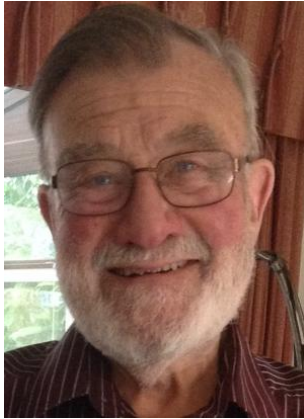
*Dennis Sargeant (President and ex-Chairman of the MMTA)*



It is with great regret that I have to announce the passing of our most respected leader on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. He has provided great service to our organisation over the past 35 years, both as the longest serving Chairman (16 years) and President (15 years). He was the ideal person for the job, sociable, communicative and discerning. For the last 5 or more years he has battled bravely with a series of illnesses. During this time I have always found him cheerful and full of humour.

The time of his passing and the publication of this Newsletter are too close to collect all the details about Dennis's exploits within the town twinning, but I very much hope to include them in the next Newsletter or maybe a special Newsletter for Dennis.

## Brian Partridge



Brian who was a very good friend of Wendy Denison joined our town twinning in 2012. He has been involved in most of the exchange visits since he joined, accompanying Wendy and staying with Marc and Patricia Geneve. He had a long history of amateur theatre and singing, and so was a great candidate to perform in our two town twinning productions during the exchange visits with Marly-le-Roi - 'The Old Time Music Hall' as the ancient fairy in 2015 and in 'My Fair Lady' as Colonel Pickering in 2016. He may have been a little dubious about playing in either role, but he played them with a lot of panache and humour.

He was diagnosed with cancer in May of this year and, despite a course of chemotherapy, he died on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. Wendy, who visited him often in Stafford, said he was cheerful throughout his illness and much enjoyed listening to his beloved music.

## Charlie Eldin



Message from Dominique Aupépin

Pour Les Amis du Jumelage

Notre ami Charlie Eldin, fidèle et ancien membre du jumelage avec Marlow, nous a quittés discrètement et sereinement le 5 octobre dernier. Ses obsèques ont eu lieu dans l'intimité familiale.

Charlie Eldin était une des voix de la radio Fréquence Protestante depuis de nombreuses années et un formidable conteur. Il aimait la vie du jumelage ; pendant les trajets de retour en car entre Marlow et Marly, nous attendions l'heure du conte de Charlie qui restera pour nous une personne très attachante avec sa gentillesse, sa gaieté, sa simplicité.

In reply we wrote:

It was again very sad news on hearing of the passing away of Charlie Eldin. He did seem to us a very gentle, kind man with a good sense of humour. He was obviously a well known and loved man within the Marly-le-Roi community and I am sure he will be greatly missed within your organisation and certainly be missed by people who knew him personally within our organisation.

### *Members of the 2018 Committee*

We have been a little remiss in not publishing who is on this year's committee. So the table below hopefully rectifies that, listing the committee members and providing a name of someone you may wish to contact if you would like something raised at the committee. We tend to meet 4 or 5 times a year, but we are always in contact by email if there is something important to discuss.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Suzanne Brown	Chairman
Wilma Johnston Ball	Vice Chairman
Alison Rae	Secretary
Jill Smith	Treasurer
John P Smith	Membership
Helen Willson	Committee
Caroline Wesson	Committee
Patricia Hall	Committee
Frances Timbrell	Committee
Helen Glover	Committee
Janet Cary	Hospitality
Camilla Keighley	Town Council Liaison

Personal contact details have been removed from this online version of the newsletter  
- please contact [enquiries@marlowtownwinning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlowtownwinning.co.uk) for information.

## *Carnival – 15<sup>th</sup> September*



Another great spectacle thanks to Lindsay Robinson and her team. I must say I thought the organisation was excellent, with plenty of stewards in their purple T-shirts to be seen

around the event.

Following last year's success with the parade down the High Street, this year saw the return of the parade with its theme of recycle and re-use – very apt in this materialistic and throw away world. The children dressed up in balloons, with the addition of some colourful floats, classic cars, plus a group of Ra-Ra girls twirling their sticks. Perhaps we will get back to the days when the Town Twinning Association entered its own floats for which many rosettes were won. I am sure that we still have plenty of members who have a tale to tell about those events. Anyway the whole place buzzed with thousands of people in the High Street and in Higginson Park, enjoying the numerous activities that were going on. The place was a hive of activity and colour. I think there must have been something for everyone.

We as usual had our stall in the park, advertising our wares. Some of us had again dressed-up in stereotypical French outfits (or so we supposed) offering a nibble of cheese and a small glass of wine to anyone who might stop and talk. We certainly did better than usual as far as recruitment is concerned, signing up at least 4 people. So many thanks to those people who came along to help set-up and look after the stall. We look forward to next year's event.

## *Autumn Talk by Dominic Grieve MP – 13th October*



Once again we had a very illuminating and interesting talk by someone who is clearly good at communication and has a sharp and astute mind. I guess very much part of his barrister and parliamentary training. We were a little concerned

beforehand that it might have been either a very stuffy political sort of talk, or that it might have led to a heated debate over Brexit (or the dreaded 'B' word as it was referred to). We did have the 'Peoples Vote Campaign' handing out leaflets outside the hall as people came in. But it was neither of those things.

Dominic gave an illuminating talk about his family heritage, particularly on his French mother's side, going back to the mid 18C. He then talked about what he saw as the differences between the French and British ways of doing things. It seems that the French are more formal and reserved when meeting new people (probably something we already knew), more inclined to plan things through, but then to be more dogmatic about change – he used the analogy that they liked putting things into square boxes but we like to kick them around. They apparently have a lot of respect for their local mayors (again something we have noticed on our visits to M-I-R) but much less so for central government, in fact not caring too much if their rules are made in Paris or Brussels. He didn't feel that the successful election of Macron and his completely new party (En Marche) in breaking away from the established parties was something that could happen over here.

Following the talk we had a Q&A session. Dominic was quite happy to accept questions of any denomination. In fact only 2 questions were raised concerning the 'B' word. One apparently from a Daily Mail reporter, who supplemented what seemed an innocuous question about the characteristics of the French, and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> question about the current and future state of things over Brexit. Dominic skipped the first assault on Brexit helped by Suzanne but answered the 2<sup>nd</sup> question, referring to a recent Cambridge paper given by Sir Ivan Rogers former Ambassador to the Europe Union, which he said provided in his view an extensive and informed answer to how things were going to go with Brexit.

As well as being splendid talk it proved a successful evening for our association. We had about 90 people attend, who enjoyed the pre-talk wine and nibbles, which I think helped to make it a better social occasion. So I would like to thank all the committee and friends who helped and particularly to Caroline Wesson for co-ordinating the preparation of the food and drink and to Alison Rae for co-ordinating the publicity and the sale of tickets.

### [MTTA Petanque Club Report](#)



Our league season has now finished. The weekend team finished third in their league - an excellent effort. In the



midweek league, MTTA came seventh and the MTTA Cygnets were 11th. An enjoyable season at our new venue at the Marlow Sports Club. £400 was donated to local charities from our Charity Open competition in September. Thanks to MMTTA for providing the prizes. Our Club representatives did well at the Regional Championships at Hayling Island in September and helped the Thames Valley Region to promotion to Division one of this National Competition. Hearty congratulations for carrying Marlow Twinning on to this national stage. - Roger Smith

### **Forthcoming Christmas Party – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**



The Christmas Dinner will be on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Carole Thurston will be providing her usual delicious Christmas fayre and the Marlow Ukulele Band will be entertaining us with a selection of favourite songs. We will include a few Christmas carols, possibly a Christmas quiz and of course time for you to socialise. **The application form**, which includes the choice of meals, is **included in this Newsletter**. We hope that you will enjoy the top quality meal and the entertainment. The price per ticket is £24. Please return the filled in form **to Jill Smith, 6 Beaufort Close, Marlow, SL7 1EN**, together with your cheque payable to MMTTA, by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

We look forward to seeing you there in your Christmas attire.

### **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are due by 1st January 2019. The subscription form is attached to this Newsletter. The subscription charges remain the same as last year - £5.00 single / £8.00 family membership for those receiving their Newsletter by email. Anyone who would prefer to receive theirs in hard copy, please add £3 to your basic subscription to cover the cost of printing and postage

*(Note:- For new members who joined at the Carnival or later, their subscriptions cover 2019)*

The Membership Secretary maintains the information from the form on the MMTTA Database. This enables us to know who has paid, who has the Newsletter delivered, and how to get in touch when we send out information. We couldn't function without this Database.

Therefore from your returned Subscription form we update our Database with: Name; Partners Name; Type of Membership(single, family, life member etc); Date Paid; Petanque Member; Address; Phone (home and mobile if available); Email Address; Date Joined;

Members can request sight of their own personal details at any time, and can request that they are corrected or deleted. To continue this system we now have to ask you to sign, confirming that you give your permission for us to keep this information on the MMTTA Database – see Subscription Form 2019 attached which must be signed and returned with your cheque.

### **Personal Data and Photos**

While on the subject of personal data and its protection, I would also like to add at this point that we like to take pictures of people enjoying themselves at the MMTTA events, which we sometimes publish in our Newsletter and on our web site in order to promote ourselves as a friendly bunch. We do show the photos of the Marly-le-Roi visit at the Summer Social and we do also occasionally use a very limited number of event photos to advertise ourselves, such as in the Carnival Programme this year. As it seems to me to be getting rather cumbersome on the subscription form to add another signature for opting-in for photos I would like to take the approach of opting-out, *so that if anyone really doesn't want their photo taken then to make it clear when the photo is being taken and to inform either a member of the committee or myself* – John Smith (see list of contacts published earlier in this Newsletter).

### **Future Events**

Remembrance Parade – ***Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018***

Christmas Party - ***Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018***

AGM - ***Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019***

Visit by Marly-le-Roi - ***Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019***