



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



Newsletter



I hope you have all had a very good Christmas and now look forward to a happy New Year.

In this edition I report on the events of the Remembrance and Armistice commemorations and the Christmas party. Also we have the AGM coming up on February 11th and the visit by our friends from Marly-le-Roi happening at the end of May.

2016 has been a sad year for the high number of our members who have passed away. So we remember Jo Duggan; Ruth Hillsdon; Geoff Smith; Margaret Done; Jim Mahoney; Bob Fletcher and recently Derek Done. Geoff's son and daughter, Joe and Debbie, sent a message saying "*they would like to thank all those members of les jumelage both in Marlow and Marly le Roi, who sent condolences to them on the death of their father last June and also those who attended his funeral. It was a great comfort to them to know how well Geoff was thought of.*"

Our local MP Dominic Grieve has just received the 'Médaille D'Honneur', as has a long standing member of our association, Norman Poulson, who now lives near Cardiff. I am sure a lot of our members will remember Norman who was our membership secretary- see the write-ups later on in this Newsletter.

We need to remind those members who haven't yet paid their subscriptions that they were due on the 1st January 2017.

This Newsletter includes a number of forms and addendums:

- [Agenda for AGM](#)
- [Minutes of last year's AGM](#) – please read beforehand. Any questions can be raised under Matters Arising – item 3 on the Agenda.
- [AGM Dinner Booking Form](#) including menu choice
- [Nomination Form](#)
- [Subscription Reminder Form](#)
- [Marly-le-Roi Hosting Form](#)

Marly-le-Roi Armistice



In France the commemoration of the Armistice is always held on the 11th November, which was a Friday. First we attended the service of Peace, which this year was held at the Protestant Church. We then assembled at L'Hotel de Ville, from which we all marched to the war memorial at the local cemetery. Here the service proceeded with singing from the local school choir, a number of commemorative speeches with particular focus on the savage battle of Verdun (1916), the roll calling of the fallen and the laying of the wreaths which unlike our poppy

wreaths comprise bouquets of cut flowers. Councillor Chris Funnell gave a poignant speech on behalf of Marlow Council. We all joined in the singing of the "La Marseillaise" and "God Save the Queen" which was rousingly led by a French teacher. This year was a little different as we accompanied the children who laid our wreaths. We then adjourned to the Salle des Fetes for a reception, before walking back down to the town's social club for a course or 3 of lunch with more than acceptable supply of wine and champagne. The lunch was finished off with the communal singing of some old favourite songs. The Brits were given "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" to sing which with the help of some of our French friends and Chris Funnell we just about managed to do without getting too tongue tied.



While we were in Marly-le-Roi we took the opportunity to visit some of the local chateaux. We went to the Palais de Compiègne and to the Chateau de Breteuil.

The Palais de Compiègne is a royal residence built for Louis XV and restored by Napoleon. Compiègne was one of three seats of royal government, along with Versailles and Fontainebleau. During the French Revolution, in 1795 all the furniture was sold and its works of art were sent elsewhere so it was essentially gutted.

Napoleon restored it to the First French Empire style (1808-1810) and from 1856 on, Napoleon III and Eugénie made it their autumn residence, and redecorated some of the rooms in the Second Empire style.

In addition there was an exhibition of royal portraits by a 19th Century German artist Franz Xaver Winterhalter (1805 – 1873) which were mainly French heads of state, but also included some portraits of Albert and Queen Victoria and family.



The Palais de Compiègne felt a little grand and formal, in contrast the next Chateau (de Breteuil) was much more animated (literally).



The Château de Breteuil has remained the property of the same family since it was built between 1604 and 1610. The Breteuil family closely served the Kings of France throughout the 17th and 18th Centuries as ministers and ambassadors. In the 19th Century they were close friends of the last Bourbon Kings and in

1881 hosted a meeting between the French minister Gambette and the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII where they laid the basis for the “Entente Cordiale” concluded in 1904. Another Prince of Wales, the future Duke of Windsor, also stayed at the Chateau for 4 months in 1912.



There were associations with the writer Proust, the philosopher Voltaire, and the writer of fairy tales Charles Perrault whose stories included Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Tom Thumb, and Puss in Boots. One of the magical things about this place is the series of montages depicting the historical scenes which happened in the house and the fairy tales of Charles Perrault some of which are animated and relate their story.

It was an interesting and enjoyable trip.

[Marlow Remembrance – Sunday 13th November](#)



It proved another record breaking event which was performed with the usual impressive pomp and ceremony. Five of our twinning friends who arrived Saturday evening, attended the ceremony along with their Mayor Jean-Yves Perrot and their deputy Mayor Stéphanie Theyre with her two children.



We were very pleased to host our Marlychois guests who included: Marie-Anne Gacon; Patricia Genève; Natalia Laforge; Valérie Laforge and Patrick Gautier who organised the trip. They were warmly looked after by Maria and Ron, Wendy and Brian, Dagmar, and ourselves. On Sunday evening we all met at the Côte Brasserie for a meal.

[Médaille D'honneur – Dominic Grieve QC MP.](#)



It was an unexpected privilege to receive an invitation from the French Ambassador Sylvie

Bermann to attend a ceremony to award the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur to our local MP the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC.

Dominic chairs the Intelligence and Security Committee in Parliament. He has a long-standing personal connection to France, and serves currently as President of the Franco-British Society as well as Vice-Chairman of the Franco-British Council. In his speech Dominic Grieve told guests that the Légion d'honneur had also been awarded to his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather.

At the ceremony we met his other town twinning representatives which included Liz Yeeles from Bourne End, Phillip Sheahan and his wife Susan from Beaconsfield and Judith Foster from Burnham. It was good to get together and find out what each association is doing. I must at this point, say that Tricia 'snuck in' uninvited having arrived in her casual wear having spent the day in London. Not sure what the man at the door thought when we presented



ourselves looking like drowned rats because we had to run about ½ mile through the pouring rain and with Tricia wearing her soggy trainers.

I must say I was impressed with Dominic's ability to speak to all his guests in a room full of guests and to introduce us to some of his friends and work colleagues. It was a very enjoyable

evening.

[Médaille D'honneur – Norman Poulson](#)



Something I should have included in the last Newsletter but over-looked, was the news that one of our life members (who was our membership secretary) and now lives near Cardiff was also awarded the Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur for his part in the D Day landings. An extract from his local newspaper read:

“Norman worked at 21 Army Group Headquarters as part of a team responsible for the planning of ammunition supplies for the

invasion – this was tedious, detailed work carried out by pencil and paper as computers and electronic calculators did not exist. Norman served in Normandy where he landed on Juno beach. As the fighting moved further into France, Norman was left with the task of inspecting and evaluating German ammunition dumps along the coast of Normandy. When this task was completed, he re-joined his unit in Belgium and eventually ended up in Germany.” -
Congratulations to Norman from the MMTA

Christmas Party



It was an enjoyable evening that made a good start to the festive season. We had a good crowd and many thanks to all those who came.

The Christmas dinner got us off to a splendid start. It was excellently cooked and well presented by Carole Thurston and her team.



The entertainment was super – some great singing from Jackie Duxbury’s Harmony group which included a piece of jocular Christmas carolling from 4 local rustic gentlemen. Jackie also delighted us with a few funny Christmas tales – I thought it was a great variety of festive cheer and much enjoyed.

The Christmas quiz which comprised the famous faces picture quiz, well known quotations, and well known phrase picture puzzle quiz, was won by Wendy Dennison’s table. It was rumoured that

they were lucky to have Anne Davis's grandson James on their team, who was rather good on the quotations.

[Annual General Meeting – 11th February 2017](#)

Now to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which takes place on Saturday 11th February in Liston Hall. We will start at 7pm with drinks and socialising and the AGM will commence **promptly** at 7.30pm. The Agenda and Minutes are included with this newsletter. Please read them beforehand so any issues can be raised at the meeting. We always need volunteers to come onto the committee, not necessarily to fill particular roles (though Jan Caddie is looking to retire as membership secretary), but to help out in general. We must allow for a healthy turnover of committee members. Duties include about five committees meetings and five events a year – so it will not take too much of your time; a nomination form is included for any willing candidates. We do also have a 'Helpers List' for those members who would like to help from time to time but not be on the committee. I would like to thank all the current committee and helpers who ensure that we have a thriving and continuing association. After the AGM business we will have another delicious dinner, this time from a new caterer for us, Richard Chambers. The booking form for the AGM dinner (£20) is enclosed – please make your choices and return it with payment to Jill Smith **before 1st February**.

[Subscriptions](#)

Subscriptions were due by 1st January. If you are not sure, whether you have paid yet, please contact Jan Caddie on 01628 471884 or by email - jan.caddie@gmail.com.

[Marly-le-Roi Visit](#)

Our friends from Marly-le-Roi will visit us this year from **Thursday 25th May to Sunday 28th May**. The planned itinerary is:

- Our visitors will arrive Thursday evening. On arrival, we will hold a welcoming reception. Then our visitors will return to the homes of their hosts.
- Friday our visitors plan to take a trip to Chipping Camden and then to Broughton Castle. This will be a day's excursion, and so they will return early evening to be collected by their hosts who will provide an evening meal.

- Saturday is a free day, to enable hosts to take their guests out and about. Saturday evening will be the soiree at the Great Marlow School. The theme will be “The Wild West” which will give us an excuse for a bit of a ‘Hoe Down’.
- Sunday our visitors return home. It is expected that they will leave about midday.

Janet Cary has kindly volunteered to organise the hosting once again, and to this end a form is included to enable people to add their details, whether for hosting already acquainted guests or for first time guests.

MMTTA Petanque Club Report

The Winter season is a quiet one for petanque. Cold weather and outdoors sports don't mix that well, hence not a great deal of playing activity. Club nights went on until October and were basically blessed with good weather all year. The Christmas melee was held in late December and was a very enjoyable competition followed by an excellent meal at The Kings Head, Little Marlow, the club's home venue. Again we extend an invitation to all members to join us for a game whenever they want.

Roger Smith

Forthcoming Events

AGM -	Saturday 11th February 2017
Marlychois Visit -	Thursday 25th May to Sunday 28th May 2017
Summer Social -	Date and Venue to be decided.
Autumn Social -	Saturday 7 th October 2017 (<i>Provisional</i>) at Liston Hall
Christmas Party –	Saturday 2 nd December 2017 at Liston Hall