



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



Newsletter

New Year 2021

Dear Member

Firstly, the committee would like to wish you well for the year ahead and hope that after the disappointment of not being able to meet as we normally do, that later in 2021 those meetings will again be possible. We have been having regular committee meetings on Zoom, and you can read about future plans below.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 12th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Because of the lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions we have had to rethink arrangements for the Annual General Meeting next month. It is not of course possible to have our usual sociable meeting and meal so the AGM will be a 'remote' meeting via Zoom now on Friday 12th February at 7.30pm. *Please note the change of date.*

We hope that as many members as possible will be able to join online – please look out for the link which will be sent by John Smith to your email address.

However, even if you are unable to attend in person, your participation is important. All the AGM documents are attached and if having read them you have any comments or proposals, or wish to send an apology for absence please submit these to The Secretary, Alison Rae by email or in writing to: 101 Oxford Road Marlow SL7 2PL by 7th February.

The Chair and Treasurer will highlight only the main points from their reports during the online meeting and will respond to questions either during the meeting or by individual contact beforehand.

MARLOW, MARLY-LE-ROI, TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(To be held on Zoom)

7.30pm Friday 12th February 2021

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 8th February 2020 **
3. Matters Arising (reported previously to The Secretary)
4. Chairman's Annual Report **
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2020 **
6. Presentation of Officers and Committee members who have agreed to continue for 2021 **
7. Subsection Reports ** - Pétanque
- French Groups
8. Record of thanks to the Independent Examiner and Website Master both of whom have agreed to continue for 2021
9. Any Other Business (reported previously to The Secretary)

** Copies of these reports circulated to all Members three weeks prior to this meeting.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Held in Liston Hall Marlow

On Saturday 8 February 2020

Present: 58 Members plus 2 guests -

Town Mayor Richard Scott and Mayoress Linda Scott

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Wendy Denison, John and Kay Marsh, Susan and David Buttle, Alison Rae, Shirley Arnold, Ron and Maria Davis
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** These were agreed – proposed by Jan Caddy, seconded by Peter Butler.
3. **Matters arising:** There were none.

4. Chairman’s Annual Report:

The Chairman, Suzanne Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. She commented on the various events that had taken place during the year. In particular, the Autumn Talk, given by Carole Petipher, on Monet and his garden at Giverny. 150 people attended. Carole will be the speaker at the 2020 Autumn Talk when she will speak on Napoleon and Josephine and the Chateau de Malmaison. Suzanne also outlined the programme of events for the upcoming visit to Marly this year – Thursday 30 April to Monday 4 May. All in all 2019 had been a successful year for the MMTTA both in attendance at events and raising funds.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer, Jill Smith, commented on the accounts which had been circulated. The accumulated reserves are £4,238. Jill also mentioned that no new members had joined in the last year. Ways need to be found to encourage new members. Jill thanked Helen Glover and Patricia Hall for their work in obtaining raffle prizes from local traders. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Smith and seconded by Wilma Johnston-Ball. Jill thanked Ray Gale for examining the accounts.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2020

Roger then took the chair.

Jill Smith proposed the re-election of Suzanne Brown as Chairman, seconded by John Smith. This was unanimously approved.

The rest of the committee were re-elected en bloc –

Wilma Johnston Ball, (Vice Chair); John Smith, Jill Smith, Helen Glover, Helen Willson, Patricia Hall, Alison Rae, Frances Timbrell.

7. **Proposals** - There were none.

8. Subsection Reports

- a) MTTA Petanque Club – Roger reported that they had had a good season. The first team gained promotion and they were runners up in the Plate competition.

- b) French Groups – Wilma Johnston Ball reported that all three groups continued and were well attended. Anyone wishing to join a group should contact David Davis.

9. Website

Grateful thanks were recorded to Kelvin Warne who continues to administer the website.

10. Forthcoming Events for 2020

Thursday 30 April to Monday 4 May - Visit to Marly-Le-Roi
Summer Social - Details to be arranged
Saturday 7 September - Marlow Carnival
Autumn Talk - Details to be arranged
Saturday 5 December - Christmas Dinner
Les Baladins will also be coming to Marlow 8-10 May (performance 9 May)

11. Election of Independent Examiner

It was unanimously agreed that Ray Gale be re-elected as the examiner of MMTTA accounts.

12. Any Other Business

There was none.

The Chairman thanked all the committee for their hard work and in particular John Smith for compiling and sending out the Newsletter.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman's Annual Report

Happy New Year Twinners!

So, with sadness, no visit to Marly Le Roi this year 2021. But our French friends hope to see us as soon as possible. There is, also next year and the 50th anniversary to arrange!

So, we would like to encourage exchanges on the Internet, poetry, videos, paintings, photos of your good or bad points or what you have now started in 2020/21, this Covid year.

Re 2020:-

I write with no events this year, but with future cheer as we have both decided to have a very different year.

Videos, a theme they say, from the French and us anyway! So, here's to the first of many, I hope you find this amusing and uplifting – to view the video ‘click’ on the following link:- [{The Longest Time in Covid}](#)

The next will include us, oh dear.....

Never mind here's to another year!

Suzanne Brown – Chairman MMTTA

MMTTA Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2020

I'm presenting a healthy set of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Cash at bank totals £4,761.00. Sadly, we were only able to hold one social event - last year's AGM in February. This raised £389 thanks mainly to a splendid raffle.

The subscriptions we have paid for 2020 are to be carried forward to 2021.

Many thanks to Ray Gale for examining the accounts. May we all be able to meet again in the not too distant future.

Jill Smith Treasurer MMTTA

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2020

Removed for this website version of the newsletter

Committee and Officers 2021-2022

No election is needed as the majority of the current committee and officers are willing to continue until 2022. Frances Timbrell resigned in 2020 after serving as Minutes Secretary. Helen Willson is standing down at the AGM after three years on committee but will continue to help Alison and John with the Newsletter. We would like to thank both Frances and Helen for their contribution.

Being on committee means that you help to plan and guide the association and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us - please do think about playing a vital and enjoyable role in MMTTA and contact any member of the committee for more information.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone who would be ready to go on the 'helpers' list to assist committee members at specific events. Again, do speak to any committee member if you'd like to volunteer.

MMTTA Committee 2021

Name	Role	Tel No.	eMail
Roger Smith	President		
Suzanne Brown	Chairman		Personal Telephone numbers and email addresses are removed in this website version of the newsletter
Wilma Johnston Ball	Vice Chairman		
Alison Rae	Secretary		
Jill Smith	Treasurer		
John P Smith	Membership		
Patricia Hall	Committee		
Helen Glover	Committee		

Camilla Keighley	Town Councillor		ckeighley@marlow-tc.gov.uk
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Additional Helpers

1. Jo Bird
2. Mary Green
3. Frank and Bridget Crowley
4. Jill Walker
5. Suze Bateman

PETANQUE REPORT

There has effectively been no pétanque activity during 2020. Lockdown and Tier restrictions have meant it was impossible to play league matches. Some pairs matches did take place in the early part of the year but with a limited format. The bar and Clubhouse at Marlow Sports Club has also been closed for most of the year which is disappointing as there has been a major refurbishment. Our former venue at The Kings Head, Little Marlow has had its boules area totally revamped and is available for functions and hire when it reopens for business. We are looking forward to the new sporting year which should recommence in March. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Roger Smith, Chairman, MTTA Pétanque Club

LANGUAGE GROUP REPORTS

'Fluent' French Conversation

A hard core of six of us has met on alternate Thursday evenings throughout the year. In January and February we met in members' homes but from late March onwards continued from our own homes via Zoom. We're fortunate to have three members (Susan Wagland, Olwen Elliott and Sheila Stephens) who are willing and able to organise our Zoom meetings and, due to the fact that during this period our activities have been very restricted, attendance has been virtually 100%. A seventh member was visiting her family in New Zealand after Christmas 2019 and is still there!

We tend to take turns to chat continually in French, learning new vocabulary as we go; our topics are varied and interesting. Members also introduce us to a game, a crossword, the occasional dictée, show a film or anything else which may be proposed.

Should anyone wish to join us, please contact Alison Rae
or David Davis

'Intermediate' French

This group has continued throughout the year, meeting weekly and aiming to communicate in French and hopefully improve! When it was possible, we met either in members' gardens or inside, observing social distancing, but since the Autumn use Zoom. We use the magazine 'Rendez Vous'; we each have a copy and when possible use the accompanying CD but the sound is not very clear on Zoom. We were very impressed when an article appeared in the magazine describing the park and former chateau in Marly-le -Roi.

Wilma Johnston Ball

'Intermediate' French

Since I last wrote a report on our group, I need to record with regret the death of Lucy Durbin. We have been missing her not only as a lovely person who was for so many years an active and well-respected member of this group but also for her ability to correct our French grammar when it was necessary!

For some time now the group has been using www.saliannefrenchfocus.com for our sessions, which we receive every week. This is a free online service and comes with an English translation. Some of our group members were finding Tuesday mornings unsuitable, and after trying other times have agreed on weekly meetings at 1.30 on Wednesdays.

John Thornton has decided to retire from active participation.

Once we've all been vaccinated, we hope that we'll be able to start meeting again in each other's houses.

George Flett

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021-22

All membership subscriptions paid last year will be carried over until 2022.

DATES FOR 2021

A reminder of the events planned for later this year.

- **Summer Social** event - July or August date TBA.
A pub get-together with the chance to learn how to play pétanque
- **October 29th ‘Malmaison - Behind the Scenes’**
An evening talk by Carole Petipher. Carole, who spoke to a full house at Liston Hall in Autumn 2019, will be talking to us about the château of Malmaison near Marly-le-Roi and revealing some stories about the private lives of its famous occupants, Josephine and Napoleon.
Not to be missed!
- **December 11th** Christmas Dinner with the *Allsorts Sax Quartet*

KEEPING IN TOUCH – RESTONS EN CONTACT

It's been suggested that we and our friends in Marly set up an informal exchange of memories, achievements, photos and news, so that while we are unable to meet, we can share videos, photos, writings, paintings etc relevant to the two towns and our twinning experiences. Please do consider sharing your thoughts, in whatever form, of past visits and local interest. Send your ideas and contributions to Suzanne Brown (contact details in table above)

FUTURE EVENTS and NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to include other activities that you would enjoy in our social programmes, so please let a member of the committee know if you have any suggestions and ideas of things you'd like to do or if you have any thoughts on how to engage new people to join so that we can expand the membership.

Some ideas to get you thinking:

- French film night
- French themed bring and share supper
- Quiz night with '*poisson et frites*'
- Day visits to places with a French link

- Dejeuner ‘sur l’herbe’ – bring your own picnic

You will see in the Chairman’s report that due to the ongoing pandemic problems, sadly there can be no twinning weekend in Marly this year. This is a great disappointment for everyone after we missed our 2020 weekend together – however, we shall look ahead with optimism to 2022 which is the twinning’s 50th anniversary year.

Although because of Covid-19 we here in Marlow have not been able to be together for a year, we hope that it won’t be long before we can resume our activities. There are a lot of things in this newsletter to engage you so we look forward to getting your responses and to seeing you later in the year. Meanwhile, keep well and Vive le Jumelage!

The MMTTA Committee

January 2021