

Bidford on Avon Twinning Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Bidford on Avon Twinning Association was held on the 9th May 2006 in the reception of the British Legion, Bidford on Avon and commenced at 7.40pm.

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman Mr Charlie Haywood who extended a warm welcome to all present.

Apologies were received from Helen Easthope, Jane Hall and Lyn Kirkman.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and approved as reflecting a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

Chairman's Report:

“Once again the time has come for me to give a report on the previous years activities. Overall it has been a positive period for the Association, although we have some new people interested in joining us, the numbers are still disappointing considering the many new houses that have been and are still being built in the village.

The visit to Ebsdorfergrund last May was considered very successful by the 18 people who made the trip. One of the events attended was a barbeque, which coincided with the hottest day in Germany for almost a century. Also the visitors were taken on a visit to Hann Mudden on the river Weser, very picturesque with many interesting buildings.

During the summer months Malcolm and I, along with other helpers ran a stall at the local car boot sale. We had some fun but made not too much profit, at least we managed to raise a few pounds for the Association. Many thanks to those who helped and gave goods for us to sell on the stall.

In September, several of us attended a performance of “Scrooge, a Christmas Spectacular”, at No 8 which is a theatre in Pershore. A little incident during the appearance of the ghost caused the fire alarm to sound and we had to vacate the auditorium, this was caused by too much use of the misting effect! After an extended interval the play resumed as though nothing had happened. A local drama company gave a very polished performance and it made a very nice evening out.

On the Christmas lights opening night we held a raffle for a giant hamper, this successfully raised over £120. Once again many thanks to the helpers and those who gave articles for the hamper.

For our Annual Dinner in early February we travelled to Badsey, where 30 of us enjoyed a meal at the Wheatsheaf Inn. During coffee, Malcolm outlined the arrangements for the forthcoming visit from Ebsdorfergrund taking place at the end of this month.

This will be discussed later.

An application for a grant from the Parish Council was successful and the Association was awarded £500.

Finally, on your behalf, may I thank our Secretary Malcolm, Treasurer David, the Committee and all who have supported the Association during the past year.”

Treasurer’s report: Mr David Willatts presented to the meeting the Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2005 which showed an excess of income over expenditure of £689.97. The bulk of which is represented by a donation of £500 from the Bidford on Avon Parish Council. The donation will be used to entertain our German visitors when they visit us later this month. Other income was derived from car boot sale and a Christmas Hamper raffle. Very little expenditure was incurred during the year and therefore the retained bank balances at the close of the year amounted £2637.45, which is a very healthy financial position for the Association. David Willatts advised that our auditor had received all receipt and payment documents and reported that no issues had arisen during the audit.

The Accounts were unanimously adopted by the Meeting and thanks are hereby recorded to both Mr Willatts for his work during the year and our appointed auditors Rigbey Harrison.

Election of Officers:

The existing committee, (with the exception of Mr & Mrs M Collins who resigned earlier this year and to whom we extend our recorded thanks for their years of service on the Committee), are willing to continue in office and were unanimously re-appointed. The two Committee vacancies were filled by, Mr Corin Bishop and Mrs Eira Willatts who both being in agreement to serve were also unanimously appointed.

For the record the officers are:

Chairman: Mr Charlie Haywood

Secretary: Mr Malcolm Dewsbury

Treasurer: Mr David Willatts

Committee members: Mrs Anne Dewsbury, Mrs Sheila Orton, Mrs Heather Haywood, Mrs Jeannette Baty, Mr Graham Johnson, Mrs Penny Johnson, Mr Corin Bishop and Mrs Eira Willatts.

Mr Corin Bishop wished it to be recorded that thanks go to all Committee members for their ongoing commitment and work serving the Association.

Visit from Ebsdorfergrund:

The Secretary explained the itinerary of the forth-coming visit, giving details of host families, and planned events. The Chairman also reminded the Meeting that donations for tombola prizes in respect of the planned social evening would be appreciated. To précis: our German friends arrived approximately 17.00 pm on 25 May 2006, and will be greeted at The Broom Inn upon arrival and introduced to their host families. The following day is free for them to recover from their travels and to visit Stratford upon Avon/Chipping Campden or

just to walk around our village. However, in the morning there will be a tree planting ceremony at 11.00am at the BOA Primary School. On Saturday our German friends are to visit Bath and in the evening there will be a social gathering in The Crawford Hall, commencing at 19.00pm. Sunday will be a day with host families and relaxation. Monday, our fiends will leave Bidford on Avon saying their goodbyes before travelling to visit Brixham, staying there for two days and then returning home afterwards.

Subscriptions:

For the second year, lengthy discussion took place regarding this topic. The Treasurer, proposing that the financial security of the Association would be enhanced if members were encouraged to pay a subscription...as would be normal in any organisation.

The opposing view being that some people do host but do not wish to pay even a nominal subscription, this making it a little unfair upon those who do pay. An unrelated topic of public insurance for events was raised and whether as an organisation we should carry this form of insurance. In order to obtain an insurance quotation, the Association would be asked for membership numbers and it is likely that the premium could correlate according to size. Therefore if the whole of the village is a member of the Association the premium could be excessive. The Secretary is instructed to investigate this matter, (reporting back to the Committee), in order to establish if insurance is necessary and also if the cost should be shared by its members, and if so, to consider if members pay some form of contribution to this cost by way of a membership subscription. Obviously more to follow on this subject.

Any other business:

It was reported that progress is being made with local schools regarding promotion of the Twinning Association and it is hoped at some time a direct link could be made...interim contact has been made with Alcester High School and a school in Ebsdorfergrund.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm