

Bingham Twinning Association

Annual General Meeting Agenda – Wednesday 10th May 2023

When: 8pm Wednesday 10th May 2023

Location: Bingham Bowls club

Attending: 14

President: Gareth Williams (Town Mayor of Bingham)

One minute's silence was observed to remember two of BTA's most influential members: Marlies Sparrow and Jim Morely.

1. Apologies

Spence Cozens, Hannah Peters, Tony Farrell, Jane Duffy, Marion Ellis, Ian Markwick, Rachel Bray, Jim Tennant, Clare Williams, Francis Purdue-Horan
Sue Smith, Nick Smith, Rachel Bray, Katie Lee, Jane Ingram, Ed Crane, Hannah Bond, Marrison Ellis, Maureen Stockwood, Jim and Jan Tennant, Clare Williams, Ian Markwick, and John Stockwood.

2. Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved, proposed by and seconded by Andrew Shelton.

3. Chair's Report

Bingham Twinning has had a successful year with events held locally and with our trip to Wallenfels. The year started with a well-attended and very enjoyable BBQ – thanks to the kind hospitality of Colin and Sue Smith. Next was a hugely successful visit to Wallenfels, over 50 members made the trip travelling by plane, campervan, car and mini bus. Most camped at their excellent campsite while a few of us enjoyed the facilities of the guesthouse -the hospitality show by our Wallenfels friends is second to none. Our group joined their festival procession which entered enthusiastically into the beer festival and our band played as superbly as ever. They had other opportunities to play, including at the old peoples home and they were always greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

Jens – the Burgermeister led a walk over the hills - on a very hot day, a visit to Kronach was organised and Rob Smith led a guided tour around his brewery in Wallenfels. A project of significant places and features in Bingham – undertaken by some year 5 pupils from Carnarvon. The completed work was presented to Jens for the Wallenfels Primary school pupils and was very well received. It was a terrific week, much enjoyed by all and to be repeated before too long.

In November we had a Twinning exhibition in Bingham library which looked splendid and we were particularly grateful to Briony Prior for all the work she put in to preparing it. With the contribution of many photos and memorabilia, it covered the life of our Association and

provoked many memories. It was a very good way of raising our profile as it appears there are still those who know nothing of Bingham having a twin town.

We followed this with a well-attended and enjoyable Christmas event at the W.I. hut. Tabletop horseracing was contested by young and old – it is great that we can have an activity that can be enjoyed by all age groups in our membership.

In March a very successful concert was held at the Methodist Centre which I hope most of you were able to attend and enjoy. To have the band from Toot Hill and the Alumni playing was a joy and there were many compliments on the high standard of musicianship. Jens recorded a message to be shown which emphasised the importance of our continued Twinning in Wallenfels. It was a shared concert with Hannah - a member of the Toot Hill band and a girl guide, who needed to raise funds for her trip to Denmark.

During the year the 2 trees were planted at the end of the Linear walk, one for the Town Council - for the Platinum Jubilee and one for Twinning to replace the tree that had not survived. We are grateful to the Town Council for their support and hope the survival of this tree will endure this time.

We have continued to have Zoom meetings with the Wallenfels twinning committee and this has proved to be a useful and enjoyable method of communicating with our friends. Your committee have worked hard this year and given considerable time to planning and organising events. I am grateful to them and to those members who have also assisted on a number of occasions. Our website is excellent and I would encourage you to have a look at BinghamTwinning.com and we do appreciate the sponsorship we receive from local businesses both for this and for the concert.

We are now looking forward to our next event – the summer BBQ on Saturday 22nd July at Colion and Sue Smiths house.

Looking further we are currently considering possible plans for the 40th anniversary of Twinning in 2024 and we hope this will be discussed after the close of AGM business.

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was approved, proposed by Jane Costello and seconded by Bob Markwick

5. Membership report

Nathan Bray reported that although we have unfortunately lost a few members (reference the start of the meeting), we gained a handful of new members. These are mainly parents looking to gain access to the trip to Wallenfels for their children. Even though they are not able to go this year, in future years we hope to help this happen.

6. Election of Officers

The President took over the proceedings to propose the position of Chairman of the Association:

i. Chair Judith Swann

Proposed: Jane Costello. Seconded: Jane Duffy

The re-elected Chair took over the proceedings once more.

ii. Vice Chair Colin Smith

Proposed: Andrew Shelton. Seconded: Sandra Lawless

iii. Secretary Nathan Bray

iv. Treasurer Elizabeth Markwick

7. Election of Executive Committee

Chair: Judith Swann; Vice-Chair: Colin Smith; Treasurer: Elizabeth Markwick; Secretary: Nathan Bray; additionally: Bob Markwick, Briony Prior, Gareth Williams, Jan Tennant and newest member, Graham Johnson.

Approval of the committee: all were in favour.

8. To appoint an Auditor

Linda Finch: all were in favour.

9. President's remarks

The Twinning goes from strength to strength with all of the different events that have been put on by the committee, with particular congratulations and thanks be given to be given for everyone who helped organise a wonderful trip to Wallenfels last summer. It is this type of trip that cements the friendship with Wallenfels. Even though we do have regular contact on Zoom with their committee it is meeting face to face that keeps us close, speaking with them, seeing them and visiting places over there.

Other events of note include the concert in March, well attended with lots of people commenting on how enjoyable it was, with little touches like having Wallenfels Burgermeister -Jens Korn giving us a greeting via a video message that helped give it a real international feel.

I wish BTA every success going into the next year – our 40th anniversary year and look forward to hearing about all the big plans for event and activities that the committee are going to be organising.

10. Close of AGM

11. Post meeting open forum/ discussion.