



## THE BEBTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 4th March 2017

*These Minutes were adapted & translated in French (see CJO Newsletter79) by Wendy Langford (Chair) from those created by Margaret Emery (Secretary) for members of BEBTA.*

**Annual General Meeting of Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association**, held at 7.30pm on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, at St Dunstan's Church Hall, Octeville Place, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, Bucks.



### 1. Welcome.

Liz Yeeles (Chairperson) welcomed everyone, both the 54 BEBTA members & the seven representatives of the CJO (Alain & Eliane Richard, Olivier & Muriel Richer, Janine Mielle, Michèle Gautier & Marie-Hélène Mocquet), whom she thanked particularly for making the journey to be with us.

Liz announced the sad news of the passing of Gilbert Cressent, a member of the CJO for 12 years, & offered condolences to the family on behalf of BEBTA.

She then handed over to Alain Richard.

### 2. Message from the CJO.

Alain Richard said the CJO members present were delighted to be with the Bourne Enders, & especially to be present at Wendy's "coronation". He thanked the past Chairpersons – Stuart Hyde, Mike Hill, Rob DeVille & Liz Yeeles, with whom he had enjoyed working. Alain suggested that the CJO's next AGM might be held in mid-March to avoid the bad winter weather. Then he outlined the programme for the Bourne Enders' visit to Octeville in April 2017: a day trip to Caen & Cabourg, a visit to a beer-making company with tastings, & two restaurant meals.

### 3. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from: Dominic Grieve, MP (Member of Parliament, a member of BEBTA since its

inception); Jean Peasley, Roger & Gill Smith, Wilma & Alan Johnston-Ball.

### 4. Minutes of 2016 AGM.

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted unanimously by show of hands. Proposed by Jan Caddie, seconded by Rob DeVille.

### 5. Treasurer's Report – David Langford

Members present had the financial statement in front of them. David declared the bank account to stand at £9184, so the finances were in good shape, & thanked Roger Smith (in his absence) for checking his accounts. David invited questions on the statement, but there were none.

David confirmed that Lloyds Bank has agreed to accept "BEBTA" on cheques, as well as the full name of the association. Penny Bowden offered to help David in his dealings with the bank, for whom she has worked for a long period.

The Report was passed unanimously. Proposed by Gill DeVille, seconded by Estelle Huxley.

### 6. Chairperson's Report – Liz Yeeles.

Liz Yeeles said that 2016 had gone well for the Association. She thanked the Committee for their hard work, & members for their enthusiastic support of the events organised. She said it would not be necessary to raise the price of the events this year because of the healthy state of the funds.



- Then Liz ran through the events of the past year: the Barn Dance; the Octevillais' visit; Choir participation in BEBTA events & in Christmas festivities at Alfred Court (flats in Bourne End); the "Garden Party" which had to be held indoors because of bad weather; the Galette Afternoon; the Quiz; & the Autumn Dinner.
- Liz described the high point of her year: she was invited to the French

Ambassador's Residence to see Dominic Grieve become a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, in recognition of all he has done for the entente cordiale.

- Liz thanked Gill DeVillie who has stepped down from her role as Catering Coordinator but will remain on the Committee; she also thanked Estelle Huxley, "Madame Desserts", whose delicious cakes & puddings delight members all through the year. They were both given flowers, Estelle's presented by Muriel Richer. Liz also thanked Brian & Viv Pollock, Penny Bowden & Sandrine Hammerlindl (who all left Committee during the year for personal reasons); Pauline Clitheroe (Hosting, along with Muriel Richer); Sylvia James & Christine Duncan (sale of raffle tickets); & lastly her husband, Peter, for all his support during the four years of her chairmanship.
- Changes to Committee: Alan Duncan & Wendy Langford were co-opted onto Committee.



- Liz asked the members to contact anyone on Committee with offers of help (for example, cooking, purchase of drinks, etc.).
- On behalf of the whole of BEBTA, Rob DeVillie presented Liz with flowers & a glass vase engraved with the BEBTA emblem, thanking her warmly for all her work to ensure BEBTA continued to thrive. He also gave a gift to Peter Yeeles.

## 7. Elections – run by Mike Hill

**Chairperson** (Présidente): Mike confirmed that Liz was stepping down & that Wendy Langford was willing to stand for election. Proposed by Alan Duncan, seconded by Sandrine Hammerlindl, Wendy was elected unanimously by show of hands.

**Secretary:** Margaret Emery, who stepped in for Viv Pollock when she resigned, said she was willing to

Chairperson : Wendy Langford  
Secrétaire : Margaret Emery  
Treasurer : David Langford  
Pauline clitheroe (Hosting)  
Gill Deville  
Rob Deville  
Alan Duncan  
Estelle Huxley  
Liz Yeeles  
Peter Yeeles

As the elections were complete, Mike handed over to Wendy.

continue. Proposed by Liz Yeeles, seconded by David Davis, passed unanimously.

**Committee Members:** Alan Duncan co-opted during the year. Proposed by Lesley Davis, seconded by Rob DeVillie, passed unanimously.

All the other members of committee were willing to stand again. Proposed *en bloc* by David Davis, seconded by Lorna Hopper. Passed unanimously.

Mike asked if any other members wished to join the committee, but there were none.

So here is the **BEBTA Committee 2017:**

## 8. Future Plans – Wendy Langford.

Wendy promised to do her best to follow in the footsteps of previous Chairpersons, who set up & ran the Association in the spirit of Twinning. However, in the current climate of dubious behaviour in public life, she pointed out that members had just elected her in the full knowledge that she had been sleeping with their treasurer for years! (*Laughter.*) To avoid problems, she suggested that she should not countersign her husband's cheques, & asked members to speak to her or to a member of committee if they had any worries about this.



Wendy said she was delighted to be able to work with Alain & his CJO colleagues, & urged members to join Committee or offer other help.

Then she outlined plans for 2017:

27 April – 1 May: Visit to Octeville - 24 June: Quiz

End of August (date to be confirmed): Garden Party

14 October: Anecdotes of Twinning (in English) by John Dixon (lecturer for the Alliance Française), with drinks & nibbles. Open to other twinning associations.

## 9. AOB (Any Other Business).

Jen Jackson thanked Wendy for her French lessons, which are enjoyed by all who attend them & bring income for BEBTA.

## 10. Close.

The official meeting ended at 8.20pm with an invitation to everyone to enjoy a delicious meal (cold dishes, salads, puddings) & take part in the raffle.

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