

**Minutes of Wrea Green Twinning Group 2018 Annual General Meeting**

**8 October 2018, held in The ­­Institute**

**Present:** Mike Parker, Marjorie Ward, Jacky Draper, Christine Bradbrook, Davina Parker, Rosemary Howe & Mike Cockrill, plus three “friends”.

**Apologies:** Rick Bilby.

**1**. **Welcome by the Chairman.** The Chairman, Mike Parker opened the AGM at 7:30 pm and thanked those present for their attendance.

**2. The Chairman’s Report for the past year and plans for the next.**

# a. Introduction

This report covers the activity of the Wrea Green Twinning Group since the last AGM on 30th October 2017.

# Committee

The committee consists of the following team:

* 1. Mike Parker - chairman
  2. Mike Cockrill - secretary
  3. Christine Bradbrook - treasurer
  4. Davina Parker-Murphy
  5. Jacky Draper
  6. Rosemary Howe
  7. Marjorie Ward
  8. Rick Bilby
  9. Derek Reeh

Mike Cockrill and I are due for re-election, having served for three years since our last re-election, and although we are both happy to continue as members of the committee, we wish to stand down from our roles as secretary and chairman respectively having served for six years. Replacements will be sought as part of the AGM. Jacky Draper has served for a year as an Extraordinary Committee member, and is therefore due for re-election. I am grateful for the support I have received from Derek Reeh over the last four years and understand that he will stand down from the committee at this AGM. He has however, offered his support when required in future group events. This will still leave two vacancies on the committee.

# c. Activity in 2017/18

1. Many members of the Twinning Group have established friendships with people in St Bris and he links they have established continue quite separately from the Wrea Green Twinning Group. As an example, the Bersans, the le Blonds and two other couples witnessed France losing 13-14 to Wales in the Six Nations rugby match in Cardiff in March 2018. They stayed in a hotel in Bristol and we enjoyed dinner with them at our daughter’s home on the evening before the match. Similarly, Derek and Janet Reeh have visited St Bris on several occasions and have enjoyed a holiday in Bourg St Maurice with their friends, Jean-Pierre and Anne-Marie Lucas and the Monarchi-Comtes stayed with the Bradbrooks for a week earlier this year.
2. An organised group from St Bris visited Wrea Green between 28th April and 1st May 2018.
3. Christine Bradbrook has given up her role as the Treasurer of the North West Twinning Federation. The Federation is a useful forum to share ideas and we are grateful to Christine for representing us on it. The Wrea Green Twinning Group remains affiliated to the NWTF, and Christine still represents us on the committee. However, we arrange our Public Liability insurance directly with Zurich Insurance.
4. As always, our main fund-raiser for the year was Field Day on Saturday 30th June 2018. Although it was hard work, it's encouraging to see the level of support we received from members and friends, allowing us to achieve our financial target.

# The Burgundy Vines

The two vines presented in 2014 by St Bris to commemorate ten years of twinning are now thriving in the front garden of the School House. We are proud to announce the success of the 2018 Wrea Green grape harvest. After several days of hard thinking and half an hour of harvesting, the harvest is finally complete. Keeping the picker happy for the duration of the harvest was hard work for Dee, who provided food and wine at regular intervals. The result was 900gm of Chardonnay grapes. I don't know what the Sauvignon Blanc vine is doing, but it's decided producing grapes is beneath its dignity. I do hope the St Bris harvest has been more successful.

I would like to thank the School Trustees and Mrs Wainright, the tenant of the School House, for allowing us to display the vines in their present position in the garden of the school house.

# Finances

The Twinning Group finances will be covered by Christine, our conscientious Treasurer, later in the agenda. A copy of the audited accounts is at Attachment 1. As well as thanking the committee and our friends and supporters for our strong financial position, I would also like to thank the Parish Council, which contributes every two years to support the biennial visit of the French here. I am particularly grateful that the Parish Council was able to increase their contribution in 2018 from £250 to £300.

This sum will be added to the amount we will raise over the two years and used to entertain visitors from St Bris le Vineux when they next come to Wrea Green in 2020.

The total sum raised this year is in line with our target and will be sufficient to ensure the French visitors to Wrea Green are suitably entertained.

# Field Day - 30th June 2019 (Provisional)

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of Field Day to our financial position. Although it's not written into the constitution, support on Field Day is a basic requirement for membership of the Twinning Group. With a strong team the work is manageable and enjoyable. If we're short of people the worry beforehand is upsetting and the work is too hard on the day. In 2018 Field Day will be on Saturday 30th June and I expect all committee members to be available. I would be very grateful to any other supporters who were able to help too.

The support from the cake-bakers of the village is always heartening and we are very grateful for their support. I would particularly like to thank the Wrea Green Women's Institute and their chairman Jenny Gleeve for their cake contributions.

# The Committee

The officers of the committee will change from the date of the AGM (8 October 2018) and there remain two vacancies on the committee. Volunteers to fill these vacancies would be welcome and would find their contribution to twinning in Wrea Green both rewarding and enjoyable.

# The Future

The plans for next year are bound to be enlivened by our successors, who can rely on support from Mike Cockrill and me.

The next visit to St Bris will be between 14th-17th June 2019. We will arrange for the EasyJet flight EZY1927, leaving Manchester at 14:15, to be met at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, and we will ask our St Bris friends to arrange cost-effective transport back to Paris to catch EZY1928, leaving CDG at 17:45. Final confirmation of the dates is awaited from St Bris.

**3. Secretary’s Report and Minutes of last AGM.** The secretary reportedthat all communications with St Bris Twinning Group have conducted by the chairman. Minutes of the 2017 AGM were reviewed and acceptance was proposed by Rosemary Howe and seconded by Davina Parker. Finally, the secretary stated that there were no outstanding administrative tasks.

**4. Presentation of the Audited Accounts by the Treasurer.** The Treasurer updated the AGM on the current state of the Twinning Group accounts, reminding all that the past year have seen a reduction in funds as a consequence spending to support the visit by the St Bris group. Nevertheless, the funds reflect a healthy cash balance of £3524.89 The accounts were audited on 30 September 2018. Once again Field Day Tea Tent activities provided the largest contribution to the funds. The TG continues to benefit from the biennial grant from the Parish Council that has been generously increased to £300. Overall, the fund is strong and well placed to support the 2020 visit from St Bris. Finally, the Chairman thanked Christine for her work as Treasurer and her willingness to continue with the task. A copy of the audited accounts is attached.

**a. Questions from the floor and vote of acceptance.** There were no comments from the floor. Mike Cockrill proposed that the accounts should be accepted and this was seconded by Marjorie Ward.

**5. Election of Committee Members.** Three committee members volunteered for re-election. The elections were as follows:

a. Mike Parker. For re-election as an Ordinary Member, proposed by Kim Bradbrook and seconded by Davina Parker.

b. Jackie Draper. For election as an Ordinary Member, proposed by Mike Parker and seconded by Rosemary Howe.

c. Mike Cockrill. For re-election as an Ordinary Member, proposed by Dee Parker and seconded by Chris Bradbrook.

**6. Election of Officers.** Both the Chairman and Secretarywished to step down after nearly 6 years as officers of the committee.

The election of committee officers was as follows:

a. Davina Parker as Chairman, proposed by Jacky Draper and seconded by Mike Cockrill.

c. Christine Bradbrook as Treasurer, proposed by Rosemary Howe and seconded by Kim Bradbrook.

b. Jacky Draper as Secretary, proposed by Marjorie Ward and seconded by Norman Harris.

**7. AOB.** NormanHarris informed the meeting about the production of “logo-ed” shirts etc that could be of interest to the Wrea Green TG. These items have proved popular with the Kirkham TG. A fee of £20 is required to set up the logo on the computer control machine; and, individual embroidery is charged at £5 per garment. The idea was well received, and it was agreed to discuss the subject at the next committee meeting. MP said that he would inform St Bris of the changes of the officers of the committee and ask them (St Bris) to confirm the dates of the 2019 visit. Also, MC agreed to highlight the changes of committee officers in an email to “Friends”. It was agreed to hold the next committee meeting on Tuesday 16 Oct, at Devina’s home, beginning at 8:15pm. There was no other business.

**8. Meeting closure.** There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm

9 October 2018 Mike Cockrill

Acting Secretary