

COMBERTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 3rd Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June 2003 at Comberton Village College.

Committee Members Present

Malcolm Wright (Chairman)	Paul Hardy	Ann Webb
Ivan Brown (Secretary)	Janet McCabe	
Peter Mitton (Treasurer)	Isabel Tate	

Members Present

Brenda Brown	Brian Cook	Margaret Cook
Andrew Hollick	Paula Hollick	Brian McCabe
Barbara Mitton	Dorothy Morison	Denis O'Mulloy
Shirley O'Mulloy	Jane Wakelin	Chris Westgarth
Mike Winney	Nerys Wright	

Apologies for absence

Max & Jean Bacon, Derek & Mary Catlin, Mark, Melanie, Charlotte & George Collins, Margaret Hardy, Sally Maynard & Les Duncombe, Andy, Lorraine, Emma & Laura Weise.

Min. 1: Minutes of AGM held on 15th May 2002

These were accepted as a true record.

Min. 2: Matters arising from previous Minutes

Min 2/4: Article 7 of the Constitution has been changed to remove the limitation on the number of times Committee Members can re-stand for office.

Min 2/8: The timing of exchange visits has been altered so that Valderoliens will visit Comberton in April and Combertonians will visit Le Vaudreuil in September. Brenda Brown thanked Ann Webb for a job well done in matching hosts to visitors.

Min 5: Ivan Brown had been asked to think of a way of compensating families who host more than their fair share of visitors. He suggested offering a free ticket to the Saturday evening event for every visitor hosted above the number in the host family. After much discussion and expressions of differing opinions it was agreed that this complex issue should be referred back to the Committee.

Min 6: It was agreed that the catchment area for membership of the Association should be extended to include villages to which members had moved and other areas resided in by people with an interest in joining CTA.

Min. 3: Chairman's report

27 adults and 10 children visited Le Vaudreuil in May 2002. Hosts entertained their visitors for the whole of Saturday and there was no communal evening entertainment, but a lamb roast for everyone was held on Sunday in the Salle de Fete.

29 adults and 20 children visited Comberton in September 2002. Again there was no communal evening entertainment on Saturday, but an outdoor picnic for all was held at the Meridian School on Sunday in glorious weather, where we were entertained by the Combertones jazz band and a folk group called Petalikos. This very successful get-together was reckoned to be one of the best events we have organised.

As a result of the agreed change in timing of our exchange visits, 32 adults and 13 children from Le Vaudreuil again visited Comberton in April 2003. The weather was good and the daffodils were out. A traditional Barn Dance was held at the College on Saturday evening. A Sunday picnic was again held outside, thanks to the Meridian School, where we were once more entertained by the Combertones. Nery Wright organised an Easter Egg hunt for the children and the adults played boules.

Games of boules were also played at the Three Horseshoes in August and this will now become an annual event.

A quiz night was held at the College in November, which raised almost £700 for the New Village Hall. The profit was higher than usual, thanks to Nerys Wright and her team who prepared the food. Thanks are also due to the quizmaster and to Peter Mitton who kept the scores. Another quiz will be held this coming November and the profit this time will go to CTA funds. These could be used to subsidise the cost of hiring the coach for our trip to Le Vaudreuil in September.

The Annual Dinner was held in March, again at Bourn Golf Club. It was an enjoyable evening, with 29 members present, but the menu is the same year after year and we should probably try another venue next year.

A warm welcome is extended to new members, the Hornes and the Blands, and the Turlands are currently considering joining.

Sporting exchanges have not so far proved to be very successful. Tennis players visited Le Vaudreuil in May, but there has not yet been a reciprocal visit. French oarsmen have visited the rowing club in St Ives and Combertonians have recently played golf at Le Vaudreuil, but no real exchanges have taken place so far.

The Village College is now twinned with Le Vaudreuil Secondary School. This did not happen earlier because the College was twinned with another school, but that arrangement has now ended. Having visited Le Vaudreuil, Marielle Burgess has established e-mail links between about 130 children in year 8 and she plans to begin exchange visits in 2004. Le Vaudreuil children should visit from 21st to 28th March and CVC should visit from 23rd to 30th May.

Eric Bordet has stood down as President of Le Vaudreuil's Twinning Association and this position has been taken by Gerard Lebegue. Eric is now Vice-president. Gerard sends us all his best wishes and asks if anyone would like to go to the Armada in Rouen in June/July. Nerys and Malcolm went to Le Vaudreuil's Association picnic on 18th May and others, including Peter and Barbara Mitton, have also made private visits to Valderolien friends. Gerard has said that their houses are 'open' in the summer, so if Combertonians would like house-exchange weeks in Le Vaudreuil they are welcome.

Our next annual visit to Le Vaudreuil will be from 19th to 21st September and application forms for this trip will be distributed soon.

Min. 4: Secretary's report

7 adults and 3 children from a total of 4 households did not renew their memberships in January. Some had moved from Comberton and others were finding it difficult to take part in our activities because of educational demands on parent's or children's time. The good news is that one new family of 2 adults and 2 children joined us this year. The nett result is that we now have 74 members; 56 adults and 18 children from a total of 31 households. Any recruiting members could do would be very welcome. The paper on the Association's 'History and Happenings', recently prepared by Malcolm Wright and available at the AGM, will form part of a package of information to be made available to prospective new members. You can request this package from Ivan Brown.

The Membership List was updated for Spring 2003 and was distributed with the Agenda for the AGM. If you note any errors or omissions, please let Ivan Brown know. Also let him know if you change your e-mail address.

There was some discussion of possible reasons for individuals not renewing their membership and it was agreed that no complaints had been heard about our exchange visits. There was general agreement that the recent twinning by CVC was a beneficial move in our relationship with Le Vaudreuil.

Min. 5: Treasurer's report

The detailed account of income and expenditure for 2002 was included with the papers for the AGM. About £50 has been paid out for expenses this year, so we have around £2,200 in hand. We need to consider how to spend this wisely.

Ann Webb suggested subsidising the Sunday picnic lunch when Valderoliens visit. Brian Cook thought we should emulate the French in being more hospitable when they visit us. Peter Mitton suggested subsidising the coach fare for members visiting Le Vaudreuil. This latter suggestion received general approval and the Committee was asked to consider it before our next visit.

Min. 6: Election of Committee Members for 2003 onwards

Janet McCabe, who had decided not to re-stand for Committee service, was thanked for all her contributions to CTA activities.

Jane Wakelin proposed that the remaining Committee members should be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Dorothy Morison and carried unanimously.

Nerys Wright proposed Brian McCabe for the 7th member of the Committee and this was seconded by Peter Mitton. Brian was elected unanimously.

Denis O'Mulloy proposed a vote of thanks to all previous members of the Committee for the time and hard work they had put into running the Association. This was carried with acclaim.

Min. 7: Future social events.

Isabel and Tony Tate are organising a car Treasure Hunt to be held on a Sunday in July. A flyer providing full details will shortly be distributed. Isabel requested help in preparing the Treasure Hunt and Paula Hollick volunteered to assist with this.

It was agreed to hold a boules match at the Three Horseshoes on a Sunday in August. Malcolm Wright will organise this event.

The Annual Dinner will be held in March 2004, and the Committee will discuss changing the venue or attempting to change the menu at Bourn Golf Club.

Another Quiz will be held at CVC in November, again self-catered to maximise profits; all of which will go into our funds. Mike Winney suggested that we buy good prizes for the Raffle and not rely simply on donated prizes.

Min. 8: Any other business

Brian Cook expressed the generally held view that our exchange visits were always very rushed and he wondered if we could extend them by visiting on Bank Holidays, returning on Monday. There are problems in that British and French Bank Holidays do not coincide, but the Committee will consider ways of relieving the time pressure during exchanges.

Ivan Brown suggested that ad hoc working parties were needed to set up venues before events held at CVC and Meridian, as it seemed unfair that this load usually fell on Committee members (especially the Chairman) and their spouses. A general problem for everyone who hosts is that setting-up interferes with entertainment of our visitors. The idea of ad hoc working parties was accepted in principle and Andrew Hollick kindly volunteered to help on the next occasion one was required.

Nerys Wright asked if our affiliation to CVC Community Education meant that we were covered for travel insurance during our visits to Le Vaudreuil. Ivan Brown replied that he had read the policy in question and the answer was no. This policy merely covers CTA's (that is, the Committee's) liability for accident or injury incurred by our members, or the French, during visits we had organised. CTA members still needed to obtain an E111 form and commercial travel insurance to cover themselves during visits to France.

Min. 9: Date of next meeting

The 2004 AGM will probably be held in the Village Hall in May, on a date to be announced later.