

Essex and Suffolk Joint Twinning Congress

Annual Meeting Notes

Saturday 13th October 2018

Venue - "Great Dunmow Maltings" Mill Lane, Dunmow, CM6 1BG

1) Delegates were welcomed by Cllr Barrie Easter Mayor/ Margaret Easter Mayoress/ Richard Harris Dunmow Town Crier/Wendy Barron Chairman of Dunmow-Dourdan Twinning and Mary Dunk Chairman of Essex/Suffolk Twinning Congress.

2) Apologies for Absence received from: Michelle Golding/Beccles, Elizabeth Sutton/Chelmsford, Nigel Hildreth/Colchester, Bridget Waterer/Gosfield, Mrs J Marland/Hadleigh, John Field/Ipswich, Richard Doyle/Mersea Island, Karen Noble/Panfield, Kit Wells/Redgrave & Botesdale, Leslie Mitchell/Sible Hedingham, Marilyn Finbow/Stowmarket, Joy Phillips/Tendring

3) Mary Dunk, Chair, Joint Twinning Congress gave a brief explanation of today's proceedings.

4) Michael Chapman, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, gave a presentation on the Dunmow Fitch Trials, taking place each Leap Year, of which he had been a judge for many years and invited members to participate in the forthcoming trials in 2020. He stated the Lieutenants' offices from both Essex and Suffolk fully support the Twinning Association and are keen to send a representative to events if requested.

5) *Open Forum* -

The Chairman had asked each association to give a short report to the meeting, based on the following:

- *What success and failures have we had over the last year?*
- *How are we recruiting new members, funding and publicising our activities?*
- *Where do we see ourselves in 5 years' time?*

Presentations were made by:

Brentwood, Felixstowe, Dunmow, Haverhill, Eye, Great Waltham, Stansted Mountfitchet, Lowestoft, and those submitted will be on the website.

Panfield were unable to attend but submitted a brief e mail.

Brief overview of members comments:

Various methods of fund raising were discussed as most associations needed to raise approximately £3000 to host visits. Some associations found it increasingly more difficult to host and paying their own way worked for them.

Fund raising events included murder/mystery events, safari lunches, jumble sales, BBQs and curry nights.

Council financial support varied from nothing to £1000.

E Twinning and skype for schools were suggested. With regard to providing chaperoning for minors, either encourage parents to go on trips or alternatively retired teachers.

Local organisations involved included the fire service (fire cadet summer camps), chamber of commerce, rugby clubs, historical connections, rifle club. Advertising suggestions included the local Parish Newsletter.

6) Congress business -

a) Minutes of the last meeting held 14 October 2017 Felixstowe had been circulated with the invitation and Agenda. Proposed/Accepted: LLJ, Gt Waltham, seconded NH, Brentwood.

b) Matters arising - none.

c) Treasurer's report 2017/2018 (as at year end 30th September). David Whiteing was unable to attend but the accounts were circulated at the meeting. Proposed/Accepted: DG, Maningtree, seconded EM, Haverhill.

d) Election of Officers - Chairman: Mary Dunk is in the third year of office (no election required)

Treasurer: David Whiteing willing to continue - Proposed/Accepted: NH, Brentwood, seconded MD, Sudbury.

e) Any other business - None

f) Date and venue for the next Congress: Haverhill, Saturday 12th October 2019 (to be confirmed by Chairman EM).

Meeting closed at 12.30 for lunch and a visit to the museum.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....