

NEWSLETTER

Issue 69



Annual General Meeting

There was no AGM during 2020. The committee are waiting until such time in 2021 as soon as we are allowed to hold indoor meetings for up to twenty people - which is our normal attendance for our AGM. As soon as this becomes possible, members will be circulated with details of the date and agenda for that meeting.

Once normal activity of the Association resumes, annual membership fees will be sought.

What do you think is the future of twinning in times of restricted international travel?

What would make you confident to restart visits to our twin towns?

What would make you confident to offer accommodation to visitors?

How can we reinforce links both within the Didcot area and with our twin towns?

If you have any suggestions please get back to me at com@didcottwinning.org.uk

Contact information

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membership payments

Barclays: 20-01-09

Account: 40454494

Didcot Meylan Twinning Association

Parlez-vous français?

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

A chance to practice your language skills - see next page

MOVING TWINNING FORWARD

The idea of exploiting virtual platforms to enhance interactions between ourselves and our twin towns originated in an email from Meylan twinning committee. At the end of their virtual 2021 AGM they proposed that representatives from their three twin towns should join them to talk about twinning in times of restricted international travel.

After making sure that we all had the necessary software (our committee meetings have all been via Zoom, but Meylan proposed Google Meet) we agreed this would be a good idea and on the afternoon of March 13th we joined our friends in Meylan and Planegg as well as meeting one resident of Gonzales.

This meeting was followed up by another between Meylan and Didcot to explore specific suggestions for interactions (see next page).

Later in April a meeting is planned between the mayors of Didcot and Meylan, together with members of their councils. Since our last exchange trip, Philippe Cardin has been elected the new Mayor of Meylan and this meeting will be the first chance for our elected officials to meet since 2019.



Meylan



Planegg



Short talks

One proposal is that twin towns could take it in turns to offer short talks that may be of interest to residents via a video conferencing platform such as Zoom or Google Meet. These talks would be advertised to members in both towns and operate on a first come, first served basis. They would be given in the language of the host town and last no more than 30 minutes.

There would be a chance to ask questions.

Suggestions from Didcot included:

- A virtual visit to a National Trust property
- Sustainable Didcot
- English Garden style

The committee would like to hear whether members think they might participate in such events. Suggestions for topics are welcome. Offers to present are even more welcome.

Language practice

We also are considering the demand for an informal opportunity to practice speaking a foreign language. This would not be a taught class but there would be discussion in small groups of up to 6 people of a previously-circulated topic. Members of the group would take it in turns to choose the topic.

Groups would ideally consist of equal numbers of speakers of each language.

If you are the native speaker, you would be expected to sensitively correct errors of pronunciation and offer new vocabulary during the discussion.

Sessions would be conducted in French one time and in English the next.

A glass of wine would be considered an ideal accompaniment to such meetings.

Again the committee would be interested to hear whether or not you might be interested in joining a group. The idea would be to match competence levels within groups.