

Minutes of Bridgwater-Marsa Twinning Association.

11th April 2016 held at the Mayors Parlour.

Present- Mike Grabner, Joseph Abela, Steve and Pat Morgan, Barbara and Gordon Taylor. Leigh Redman (Mayor) present in building.

Apologies- Steve and Stella Austen, Chris Hewitt.

Chairman's Report- MG thanked the Mayor and council for the use of the Burgess Room which makes it so much easier for the Association- we had been asked to sign in .**MG** hoped we had all had a good Easter and that much of the meeting would be taken up with the planning of the Twinning Weekend and our 10th anniversary.

Vice Chairman's Report- JA thanked **PM** for providing a copy of the plans for the weekend that Brian Smedley had sent out to all the twinning partners. **JA** would like to get the plants to The Walled Gardens so they can be acclimatised before the official planting.**PM** explained that her link at the College had been on holiday and expected a reply on Tuesday.

Secretary's Report-PM has been in contact with Lisa Tucker from The Walled Gardens (which are part of Canning College overseen by Bridgwater College) and also the firm that will provide the plaque for the plants and they will use the font for the printing that the Gardens use. **PM, SM** and **MG** had visited the Gardens and were made most welcome and the Head Gardener mentioned that **JA** had been also and they were looking forward to receiving the plants.

She has also sent emails to Dominic Spencer with details of the activities that will be happening and also the promotion sign, she had printed some off for members to take to advertise the event.

PM congratulated **GT** on his 80th Birthday on Easter Sunday and **SM** who will reach pensionable age (65) ON Wednesday 13th. She has arranged a visit to the training ground of Bristol Rovers to meet the manager and players on Thursday.

We have had an invitation to the Mayor Making of Councillor Alex Glassford and his lady Mayoress Liz Leavy on Friday 13th May at the Baptist Church. **B and GT** will go to represent the Association.

Treasurer Report- SM reported that there is £713.87p in the bank with other outgoings for the plaque for the plants and a small amount for food for 23rd.He showed all the present that will be presented to Marsa to commemorate our 10th Anniversary.

Plans for the Twinning Weekend and our 10th Anniversary.

DS, Claudette and the girls arrive in Bristol Thursday 21st early afternoon- **BT** asked how they would get here **PM** explained they are hiring a car. Possibly **PM** and **SM** will greet them but will have granddaughter.

Sometime during Friday **BT** and **GT** would like to take our Maltese visitors out.

Friday evening will be the Skittle evening at the Squib in West Street at 7.30pm there will be a raffle to support the Mayors Charities (The Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance and the Fire-fighters charity) Please can we all bring a prize. **Leigh** (Mayor) is funding the buffet, it was asked if the food

could be early in the evening – we will ask at the Forum meeting on Tuesday as it had already been mentioned.

Saturday 23rd (St George's Day) the main event to be held in the Charter Hall (part of the Town Hall)

To set up from 10am and open from 11am to 3pm. **PM** will remind Victor at Visit Malta re information. We have a 6 foot by 3 foot table to display on. We hope there will be some boards to pin things to. We will need to provide flags for the entrance to the Town Hall. **PM** has some Maltese ones. **SM** wondered about our banner so will include somehow.

In the evening there is a chance of a meal at 17.30 hours at the Green Olive for £20 which will cover the guests- we wondered if that was possible but will discuss at Forum meeting. **DS and CS** have been there before but **PM** wondered if there was enough time to shower and change before evening entertainment at the Arts Centre which starts at 8pm. The tickets are £10 each **SM** wondered if the performers will have to pay. It was decided when we have a discussion at the Forum meeting tomorrow that we could present the gift on the stage after Il Maltin Tradizzjonal perform.

Sunday afternoon 24th **MG and DG** have invited members to their home from 3pm- please can we let them know if we are attending?

Monday 25th April- Plans for the day- **PM** will contact the College re a suitable time as **B and GT** would like to get back from Portsmouth in time for it as they will be missing Saturday and Sunday due to family commitments. She will also ask about when would be the best time to take the plants out as we will need someone to receive them. The idea is to have 2 plants already planted and the 3rd the official planting carried out by **DS** from Marsa. **PM** will also contact them re refreshments. **L R** explained that the very good reporter from the Mercury has left but will let **PM** know the contact details about covering the event- she will also ask about the College photographer.

PM suggested we invite previous Mayors there are 8 in total, also the new Mayor to be, our Vice President Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger and **JA** suggests also Dr Stefan Buontempo. **MG** suggested it would be very nice to invite our twinned town's members. **PM** will send them with a RSVP so she can give numbers to the Walled Garden. A speech could then be made including thanks to our founder Mr Stephen Gill. There is a very good car park at the Walled Gardens which she will describe on any invitations.

MG suggested we finish the day off with a meal at the Admirals Table for our members where our Maltese family are staying so they do not have to drive into town as they fly out very early from Bristol.

MG and DG are going to attend the AGM of the Bridgwater Civic Society on Wednesday 13th April so we will have a contact.

It was suggested we hold an informal meeting next time to reflect on these events- to be arranged

PM will invite Councillor Alex Glassford to become our new President when he has been officially installed.