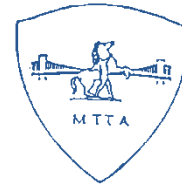


**MMTTA**  
**MARLOW/MARLY-LE-ROI TOWN**  
**TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
www.marlowtowntwinning.co.uk



## *Newsletter*

### *New Year 2019*

**A Very Happy New Year to you all.** I hope you have had an enjoyable time over Christmas and the New Year. We now look forward to our **AGM on February 9th** and the visit in May of the Marlychois. In this edition we have a lot to cover, including:

- A tribute to our dear Dennis;
- A report on the Armistice (in Marly) and the Remembrance (in Marlow).
- A report on the Christmas Party.
- Plans for the Marlychois visit.
- AGM information including agenda, minutes from last year, new committee, proposals for 2019, booking forms.
- French classes report.
- Petanque report.

So let's get started:

#### *Dennis Sergeant*





Dennis Sergeant joined MMTTA in 1985, *Chairman from 1987 -2003 (16 years), President from 2003 – 2018 (15 years)*

He gave considerable service to the town of Marlow and its French town twinning. He was an inspirational leader with the skills and qualities to do the job – a man who had the vision, ideas and enthusiasm to drive the organisation forward, who had the eloquence of speech and necessary communication skills, who was immensely sociable and likeable, and who gave much of his time for the benefit of the MMTTA.



Dennis was involved in so much of the town twinning activities and in fostering and promoting the association. He cultivated the town twinning in Marlow through the organisation of social get-togethers, production of the Newsletter, support for the Regatta, Remembrance, and the Carnival for which he organised ingenious floats, and the trips to Marly-le-Roi, together with the promotion and support for our Petanque section.



In Marlow Dennis's vision took him beyond just the MTTA, he was also keen to set up a dialogue with the other town organisations and schools to try and develop the twinning even wider – to this end he set up a Marlow Twinning Forum.



While in Marly-le-Roi, he promoted the friendship through our annual exchange visits, participating in the Armistice ceremonies, planting an English oak tree, naming a street after Marlow, and organising the giving of a telephone and post box – both of which now stand proudly in the main market square. All this contributed towards developing a great relationship with the Marlychois, particularly Pierre Moreau and of course the other 'Mr Twinning' Patrick Gautier.



**And** let us also not forget the wonderful support his wife Yvonne gave him throughout this time.



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***A Thanksgiving / Memorial Service for Dennis will be held at All Saints Church at 3pm on Tuesday 15th January.***  
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Roger Smith is delivering a tribute on behalf of the association.



Following the service there will be a gathering in the Church Hall which is close by, next to Burgers on the Causeway.

***We fondly remember and salute you Dennis:***



## Remembrance Day - Marlow – November 11<sup>th</sup>



Sunday November 11th 2018 was of course a very memorable day. The weather was beautiful as it so often is at the Marlow service. The crowd seems to get bigger each year and indeed this year it was thought to be the largest ever (approx. 6,000 people). Apart from the wreaths, the main requirement for the parade is definitely sunglasses as a good half hour or so looking into the sun is quite difficult. As ever, the parade was nothing less than superb. It is good to see so many servicemen, ex- servicemen, families and so many Marlow Associations, Organisations and Clubs take part. Our friends from Marly-Le-Roi were also present . Patrick Gautier was there as President of the Marly Twinning Associations and Maire- Adjoint Stephanie Thieyre (deputy mayor responsible for Twinning amongst many other activities) was there representing Marly Town Council. What a pleasure it is to see them in Marlow each year. John and Tricia Smith were in Marly-le-Roi at the same time representing MMTTA at the French ceremony. Thanks go to all who took part in the ceremonies both in Marlow and Marly-le-Roi, it makes a memorable occasion even more memorable.

Roger Smith VP MMTTA



*Suzanne hosted our French friends during Remembrance*



Our French friends, Patrick and Martine Gautier and Cllr Stephanie Theyre arrived in Marlow on the 10<sup>th</sup> and they were picked-up in style in a Bentley and taken to the Marlow Vineyard, Harrow and Hope for champagne and food tasting including Marlow cheese and Copas turkey. After lunch they, with other twinning committee members, went to see the torches around the Tower of London which are in aid of the 100 year anniversary of WW1. Following this we viewed the Christmas lights in Regent Street and Oxford Street before making our way home for dinner chez Suzanne. On the 11th, we all attended the service and laid wreaths for Marlow and Marly-le-Roi, then back to the Legion for lunch and to listen to the band. We then moved swiftly on to the rowing club for the 100th celebration of the rowers that died from Marlow in WW1. If you look closely you can see silhouettes in the 8 seater rowing boat. Then our French friends went back to the hotel for transport home. A lovely time was had by all!



Suzanne Brown – Chairman MMTTA

## Armistice – Marly-le-Roi – November 11<sup>th</sup>



As the Armistice Service in France coincided with the Remembrance Service in Britain making it impossible for our Chairman to attend both, I and my wife Tricia had the honour of representing the MMTTA in Marly-le-Roi. Also in attendance was Bob Johnson from the Marlow Town Council and Richard Boast from the Marlow Firefighters. The service at the war memorial was marred by pouring rain, forcing us all take shelter under dripping umbrellas, except for the uniformed members who had to suffer in silence, in spite of which Maire-Adjoint, Benoît Burgaud kept the proceedings going. This year to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the war, we were joined by both the German and Portuguese dignitaries of Marly's twin towns, making four different national towns laying wreaths, singing anthems and making speeches. This was along with the usual speeches and songs honouring the fallen and advocating the desire for continued peace. It was a nice touch to have a number of French Firemen dressed up in WW1 uniforms.

This service was only one part of a three- day commemoration organised by the Town Council of Marly-le-Roi, starting on the Friday evening with a welcome drink and gathering of town representatives and people, at the Jean Vilar Cultural Centre. An enjoyable concert given by five musicians representing Leichlingen and Marly-le-Roi followed, with music composed around the 1<sup>st</sup> World War including Debussy, Ravel and Holst.



The highlight for me was when Reiri Taniguchi (Reiri has played for us in Marlow) and Ana Pozuelo played a piano duet called ‘*Le Boeuf sur le toit*’ – a very lively, jaunty number – which had us all tapping our toes.

On Saturday evening, we continued the events, firstly at the local library with the viewing of paintings, drawings and a series of readings created by students from Marlow, Marly-le-Roi and Leichlingen commemorating the war and the peace. There were some very powerful images as well as the poetry and prose. Tricia read a thought-provoking piece by *an Imogen Cole aged 12* titled: ‘*I stand alone in silence*’ which starts:

*“Today feels different? There is no wind, no birds or creatures; are they afraid? Afraid of the feeling in the air that makes your stomach drop and fills your heart with lead; that makes you weak and vulnerable? But I can’t run like a hare or fly like a bird. I can’t escape” ----- “as the first man peeks over but is instantly met with a shower of black, cold-hearted pellets coming out of nowhere”*

After a quick dinner at chez Dominique and Jacques, we had another concert at the Salle des Fetes, this time given by the professional orchestra of Lutetia located just outside Paris whose performers were increased to about 50 instrumentalists and 120 choristers from the conservatoires of Marly-le-Roi and surrounding towns, and Leichlingen. They produced a wonderful harmony of sound performing a range of orchestral and choral pieces from Ravel, Vaughan Williams, Faure to name a few, finishing with the rousing chorus of “Ode a la Joie” by Beethoven from his 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony (also the European anthem). For this last piece six young musicians joined the orchestra and opened the piece before

the full voice and sound of the rest of the ensemble joined in. It was certainly a rousing performance and they got a very deserving standing ovation at the end.



Sunday started at 9.30am with a religious service at the newly renovated Catholic church of St Vigor which is situated on the hill above the old town. It is now a light and spacious interior with the sculptures, paintings, and a warm coloured décor freshly restored which provides a wonderful setting of peace and meditation. Following the religious service, we congregated at the Hotel de Ville as it just started to rain, for the march down to the war memorial for the civil service at 11am.

Following this, the mayor Jean-Yves Perrot conducted a gesture of peace between our four countries by the joint planting of an olive tree in the Parc du Chenil which was then followed by a welcome drink in the Salle des Fetes.

The event ended with a four course veterans' lunch with excellent food and wine at the Restaurant du foyer Fontenelle. The post-lunch singing found Bob Johnson in good voice with a rendition of "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner."

The whole three days was most enjoyable, and I must offer my thanks to Jean-Yves Perrot and his team, and Les Amis du Jumelage for providing such a great event and for looking after us so well.

While we were in Marly-le-Roi, we took the opportunity to go to two exhibitions in Paris - one showing the works of the great Venice artists, including Canaletto, from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and the other at the Musée de Luxembourg exhibiting the art nouveau works of Mucha.



John Smith

## Christmas Party



**What a jolly swing-along party we had!**



evening immensely.

The food and table service were excellent thanks to Carole Thurston and her team. Following the meal Brian Ward and his merry Ukulele Band gave us a rousing musical sing-a-long session. They played with gusto and provided a great selection of favourite Christmas carols and WW1 tunes for us to join in. I am sure we all went home singing, having enjoyed the

## Annual General Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Now to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which takes place on *Saturday 9th February*. We will start at 7pm (or just after if you wish to avoid the car parking fees) with drinks, nibbles and socialising before the AGM commences **promptly** at 7.30pm. The Agenda (see back page) and Minutes (2018) are included with this Newsletter. We have been blessed with a strong committee this year, but there is always the need for new members. So if you would like to join the committee, not necessarily to fill a particular role, but to help out in general, then please get in touch with Suzanne Brown - tel: 01628 475726, or any Committee Member. Alternatively if you are averse to joining committees but would like to help out at an event, then we would still be very pleased to hear from you. There are about five committees meetings and five events a year – so it will not take up too much of your time. Joining the committee does allow you to participate in the decision making and we always need fresh ideas. I would like to thank all the current committee and helpers who ensure that we have a thriving and continuing association. After the AGM business we will have another delicious dinner, this time from our caterer, Richard Chalmers. The booking form for the AGM dinner (£20) is attached – please return it with payment to Jill Smith by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

## Subscriptions

**Subscriptions were due by 1st January 2019.** If you are not sure whether you have yet paid, using the form provided in the last Newsletter, please contact John Smith on 01628 484156 or by email – smith\_spinfield@btinternet.com. A subscription reminder form is attached.

## Marly-le-Roi Visit

Our friends from Marly-le-Roi will visit us this year from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The planned itinerary is:

- Our visitors will arrive Wednesday evening, when we will hold a welcoming reception. Then our visitors will return to the homes of their hosts.
- Thursday we plan to take our visitors to the National Trust Abbey and village of Lacock in Wiltshire. They will spend the day there, exploring and having lunch in a local Pub.

- Friday we plan a trip to London with a tour around the Houses of Parliament.
- Saturday is a free day for hosts to entertain their guests themselves. One suggested idea is a trip around Hambleden and neighbouring villages following the local leaflet 'Midsummer Murders' tour.
- Saturday evening will be the grand 'Soirée' at Great Marlow School. This year's theme is 'Regatta' so dust off your blazers, boaters and summer frocks.
- Sunday is the day of goodbyes. It is expected that the Marlychois will leave as usual about midday.

### **MTTA Petanque Club - Winter Season 2018**

We are now into our quiet time with not much activity apart from our annual Christmas melée. The 2018 season did however finish on a high spot when the MTTA Cygnets finished as runners up in the League Cup plate competition beating some really stiff opposition on the way to the final. Congratulations to all involved. We look forward to the 2019 season which is the second full year at our new home at the soon to be renovated Marlow Sports Club. Thanks go to MMTTA for its support in 2018 and all previous seasons since 1988.

Roger Smith MTTAPC

### **French Classes Report**

Three French conversation groups are active and well attended. If you are interested in learning French or wish to improve your language skills then contact David Davis on 01628 810313 / email: davis-david6@sky.com.

### **Future Events**

*AGM - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019.*

*Visit by Marly-le-Roi - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019.*

*Summer Social - Date and venue to be determined.*

*Marlow Carnival - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019.*

*Autumn Talk - By Carole Petipher - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.*

*Christmas Party - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019.*

**MARLOW/MARLY-LE-ROI TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION  
(MMTTA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**7.30pm SATURDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2019**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 10th February 2018**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Chairman's Annual Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2018**
- 6. Election of New President**
- 7. Election of Officers and Committee members for 2019**
- 8. Proposals**
  - a. Subs to be £5.00 each person - No family discount.*
- 9. Subsection Reports:**
  - a. MTTA Petanque Club**
  - b. MMTTA Language Classes**
- 10. Web Site**
- 11. Forthcoming Events**
- 12. Election of Auditor (Independent Examiner)**
- 12. Any Other Business**