

TWIG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

09:45 Wednesday 27th March 2019

Salle des Aines, Pibrac Siege social: 20 Chemin de la Fontaine 31820 Pibrac

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Welcome and Help Co Ordinator, E-mail Secretary / Facebook, Website Co Ordinator, Assets Manager, Christmas Fair Co Ordinator, Welcome and Help Assistants, Non- Committee Role Grapevine Editor

41 MEMBERS PRESENT AS PER ATTENDANCE SHEET

1. 62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to our AGM. Thank you all for making the effort to attend this morning. As you know it is very necessary for our existence as an Association. It is great to have this Hall again for our meeting with its easy parking and facilities. We must thank Pibrac Mairie for their support of TWIG. As is now usual we are here on a Wednesday as it reduces the chance of being cancelled because of the needs of the local school. I would like to say thank you to those who came early to set up the hall and provide us with a hot drink and delicious cake. It does help to have a little time for socialising before we begin. Can I also say thank you to NAME who helped me translate last year's minutes into French as required by the Prefecture, Bank and Mairie. You should have a copy of the Agenda before you, so you will see that we have a discussion session towards the end of the meeting. This has worked well in the past and gives the Committee an idea of what developments you would like to see in TWIG so I hope you will raise points and offer suggestions then. However, to begin with I have great pleasure in introducing the presentation of the Charity cheques. Our Xmas Fair last November was a fantastic success thanks to a lot of hard work from so many members and excellent organisation from the co-ordinator and her team. Now is the moment to divide the proceeds between our 3 deserving causes. Each will be receiving the sum of 3388,25 €. So, without more ado I will ask our Treasurer to present the cheques.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE CHEQUES TO LAST YEAR'S CHARITIES

A donation cheque for 3,388.25 euros was given to each of the following charities we supported in 2018:

- BRACE
- CALUM'S CABIN
- ACTION FROID

4. APPROVAL OF THE LAST AGM MINUTES FOR 28TH MARCH 2018

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The minutes of the last AGM were approved and accepted. Proposed by NAME and seconded by NAME. Passed unanimously.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES

No matters raised.

6. TREASURERS'S REPORT

Current balances as of 27th March 2019:

- Current Account: 1378.34
- Savings Account: 7814.78
- Christmas Fair Account: 15586.96 before presentation of charity cheques

The audited accounts were emailed to all members ahead of this meeting. Briefly, at the end of 2018 Twig had 12633.64 in current which included the Christmas fair proceeds, 8064.78 in savings and 2882.80 in the Christmas fair account. The accounts were audited on 5 February by the TWIG Auditor and I would like to thank him for his work done free of charge for TWIG. Thanks also to NAME for her support whilst President. There are just three points I want to mention.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair raised 10164.74 after expenses. I have a breakdown with me if you would like to see a stall-by-stall analysis but as it's not part of the audited accounts, it has not been circulated with the official paperwork for the AGM.

Subscriptions and reserves

Membership Fees

At last year's AGM it was voted that the membership fees be reduced from 25 euros as part of a planned gradual reduction of TWIG reserves which were considered surplus to TWIG needs. The fee for this year is therefore 20 euros and I consider that we can safely set the subscription for 2020 at the same figure. Over the last financial year the reserves were down by about 550 euros in line with what was agreed at the last AGM I remain of the same view as last year, that 5000 euros in reserves is a sensible provision. So I would suggest that we leave the membership fee for 2020 unchanged at 20 euros.

Event funding

Just a reminder, that if you belong to a special interest group, say the reading group, your group can request money for group related activities. As the money allocated for this has rarely been taken up in recent years, the Committee has decided that instead of saying to each group that they can have up to 50 euros each year, as has been the case till now, instead we have set aside 250 euros in the TWIG budget for which group leaders are free to apply and it will be allocated to the first group or groups (depending on the size of the claim) to make a justifiable case OR if any TWIG member has a good idea for a TWIG activity, and is prepared to manage it, the same money is available. Its first come first served. Once it's gone, it's gone. Hopefully 250 euros is a more useful amount to subsidise an interesting activity. Please use it!

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTS

The treasurer gave clarification to the members concerning the 250 euros available to the SIGs and advised the money can be used by one group or a number of groups and that the individual budget of 50 euros for each group was now no longer applicable. Treasurer confirmed that Pibrac Marie are not required to provide TWIG with any financial support and, that TWIG do not make any financial donations to Pibrac Mairie. NAME thanked the Treasurer for her work.

8. PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE ACCREDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2018

The accredited accounts were approved. Proposed by NAME and seconded by NAME. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

9. PROPOSAL TO STATE IN THE MINUTES THAT

“The committee agrees that the address of the Treasurer be the one to receive all bank statements and letters relating to TWIG finance” Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

10. PROPOSAL TO KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP FEE AT 20 EUROS IN 2020

Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

11. ELECTION OF AUDITOR FOR 2019

Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

12. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Well, here I am standing before you for the final time as President and I must say that it is with some regret that I am stepping down. It does not mean that I won't be continuing in TWIG and with the activities that I enjoy so much, just that I want to step back a bit and spend more time with my husband in his retirement. After all I have to teach him new skills, ironing, cooking and maybe even about washing floors and windows, the sky's the limit. I have gained so much from my membership of TWIG and I know a lot of you feel the same way. It is particularly pleasing to know that our Association is functioning well, offering even more activities to the members, and fostering those vital friendships that we all enjoy so much. We hope to hear in the discussion session later on just what things you would be interested in doing in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who I have had the privilege of working with behind the scenes. Of course, I mean the Committee. They've been a marvellous bunch to work with. You've already heard from her and can see for yourselves how well she does the job of Treasurer. We can relax knowing that financially we are not only in a great position but she has her finger on the pulse or should I say the purse strings. Thank you so much for your efficiency and for operating in such a pleasant way and smiling through the difficult moments. It has been great to have NAME as Secretary. She is so reliable and has really grown into this role, the fount of all knowledge when it comes to TWIG affairs, (second only to NAME on that!) the Treasurer and Secretary should be truly valued as officers of this Association.

Continuing with the Committee membership, I'd like to ask NAME to say a few words as our Welcome and Help Coordinator. This is such an important role as she is, normally, the first person that new members come into contact with. Thanks for all she has done this past year, not always in easy circumstances. We are saying goodbye to NAME from the Committee where she has been membership secretary and website coordinator. NAME, like me has some fresh demands on her time this coming year but those of you with a talent for crafty things will be glad to know that she is continuing with the wonderful Craft Café. As far as membership goes we currently have 104 members. There has been a healthy flow of new members in the past 6 months all of whom are keen to get involved in TWIG events and SIG activities. The website is regularly updated with TWIG news and monthly SIG activities, but the overall look could benefit from a refresh. We give thanks for the ongoing support of the web administrator. We have to thank NAME for the production of the new Directory such a great help to all of us when it comes to getting in touch. It hasn't been easy this time but we are planning to change things a little bit for the next one, having emails and phone numbers in but only the postcode and town/village part of the address. This will save space and when any full addresses are needed they can be given out by the member concerned. If you'd like to comment on this there will be an opportunity in the discussion time. NAME you will be pleased to know is continuing to do her great work as email and Facebook coordinator. There is no doubt she has a talent for it and I would like to thank her for her capacity to take some awkwardly expressed scribblings and turn them into something you can all understand. Facebook contact is increasingly important, and NAME is brilliant at managing that, providing another way to keep us informed. She's always glad to receive your photos. Contributions gratefully received. Facebook was used very successfully for advertising the Xmas Fair. NAME is going to say a few words now about her role as Xmas fair Coordinator. Thanks, NAME, for all you've done both in front of and behind the scenes to make the organisation work so smoothly. This year we have really seen a huge improvement in the management of the TWIG Assets. This is thanks to our Asset manager, has got everything stored, recorded and in ship shape condition so thank you for that. Events where we need things, like today for example are smoothly catered for. I'd like to remind you that any of our assets can be lent out to members at no charge. You simply have to contact the assets manager, go and collect them and take them back clean. We have all the items you could want for a big gathering be it glasses, kettles, coffee makers, plates, cutlery as well as plastic chairs and tables. Any popular items I have missed? We have had as Vice President again this year and I'd like to thank her for taking over when I have been unavailable. She is always willing to lend a hand to the organisation of events as have been the 2 general members of the Committee, they will be leaving the Committee this year but before they do I want to thank them for their commitment and help. Last year I stood here and pleaded for someone to come forward and take on the Grapevine. And someone did. Unfortunately, NAME can't be with us today owing to the fact she is diving in the Seyschelles. However, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank her for taking on what was a steep learning curve in order to produce a magazine. I think you'll agree she did a remarkable job. What's more she is going to continue for the rest of the 2 years that she will be in Toulouse. Thanks to all and any of you who helped get that first effort out. Please do what you can to give her some material for the next one. I've told her to nag!! TWIG puts on 5 or 6 main events a year, open to all members. Thanks to the Committee members who have organised these. Later

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on we will be asking if there is anything you'd like us to do differently. But as always it is mainly in smaller groups that friendships are forged. We owe a big thank you to the SIG group leaders for creating opportunities, for giving us all the chance to meet up and enjoy time together. I'd like them now to stand and be identified so that everyone can put faces to names. We have 11 of them, including the new cinema group which has got off to a great start. This week's film Greenbook was marvellous. Finally, a thank you to everybody else. For support, for participation for sharing our differences as well as the things we have in common but most of all for that wonderful quality women seem to have in abundance, kindness.

13. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PROPOSERS OF THE CHARITIES TO BENEFIT FROM THE 2019 CHRISTMAS FAIR ASSOCIATION

- VICTOIR Registered No W013000903
This Association has its origins in 2004 when 3 young dentists went on a humanitarian trip to Togo in West Africa to treat local children. One such child they discovered had cancer of the jaw and to their horror they found there was no facility to treat childhood cancers in the whole of Togo. In difficult circumstances and by travelling to Benin and Ghana they were able to get the chemotherapy drugs they needed. The boy, named Victor was saved. However, it was too late to save another boy in their care. Two year later they founded the Association Victoir (Victory) with the aim to create a Pediatric Oncology Unit in Lome the Togan capital. Since then, much progress has been made. A pavilion was set up so that children could be hospitalised for treatment with the support of local doctors, the existing hospital system and the French Embassy. They managed to access the drugs they needed and train local healthcare personnel so that by 2015, more than 200 courses of chemotherapy were being administered with a cure rate of 70%. But of course, success has created its own problems. In Jan 2016 there were 21 children in the pavilion meant for 12. So, the plan is to add 2 more buildings to the site, one for housing children with cancer and a second for diagnosis and day care. There is no national social security in Togo so Victoir's contribution is literally lifesaving.
- PROSTATE CANCER UK Registered No 1005541 (England & Wales) SCO39332 (Scotland)
At first sight Prostate Cancer UK is perhaps an unusual choice for TWIG members to consider. My personal motivation comes from my friend NAME who was diagnosed aged 50 and sadly lost his battle last year in less than 12 months. Two other friends are currently in remission after treatment. That said we all have men in our lives, whether it is husbands partners, fathers, sons, brothers and other family member and friends. The men here in Toulouse with us are frequent helpers at TWIG events, especially at the Christmas fair so to acknowledge that contribution and support, as well as for other reasons I am proposing Prostate Cancer UK. This disease in men is frequently compared to breast cancer in women and the statistics reflect just this (4.8% and 6.7% of all cancer deaths in 2018). Prostate Cancer UK works simply to stop men dying from prostate cancer. They are fighting for better treatments, diagnosis, support and prevention. Their aim is to improve the care of those affected, increase investment in research and raise public and political awareness. With more screening the number of deaths can be

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significantly reduced, and I think TWIG members can certainly do a lot to raise awareness.

- LES TRETEAUX BLANCS 31 Registered No 83749605800012 –
This association is a theatre group for young children that offers an annual musical to children who are disabled or undergoing a long stay in hospital. Each year, they perform the show around fifteen times in paediatric units and reach around 600 children. The purpose is to provide a high-quality show performed by children to entertain other children and to provide an opportunity for children to meet. The script is written by professionals specifically for the association. It is a lively musical that always has a meaning related to the feeling of being different and learning how to deal with this. After the show, the audience can have a souvenir card from the performance signed by the comedians and there is also the opportunity to share a snack and talk with each other. The show offers the children a magic moment in which the remaining feeling is no longer about being different, but about the joy of being together.

14. VOTING FOR THE CHARITIES

Proposal to divide the proceeds from the 2019 Christmas Fair equally between the three nominated charities Proposed by L J, seconded by S B. The vote was unanimous, and motion carried.

15. PROPOSAL THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM THE TWIG BOOKSALE WILL BE DONATED TO A LOCAL WOMEN'S CHARITY AS CHOSEN BY THE COMMITTEE – OLYMPE DE GOUGES

Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

16. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The following Committee members are willing to stand for re-election:

Proposal to re-elect the current committee members: Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. Vote was unanimous and the motion was carried.

Nominations have been received Proposal to elect the new committee members: Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. Vote was unanimous and the motion was carried.

17. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President– Treasurer– Secretary– Vice President Proposal to elect the officers: Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. Vote was unanimous and the motion was carried.

18. RESOLUTION FOR CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Resolution to give the three new officers (President, Treasurer and Secretary) the authority to be three bank signatories for TWIG. The bank has requested that this authority be put to the vote and agreed by members. Proposed by NAME, seconded by NAME. Vote was unanimous and the motion was carried.

19. OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION (CHAIRER BY NEW PRESIDENT)

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NAME mentioned that there is a problem with TWIG membership e mails either not being received or going into spam folders. A show hands indicated that there were at least 10 people having the same problem, many of them on Orange e mail. NAME confirmed that this would be referred and investigated to try and find a solution. NAME expressed her appreciation of the 'face to face' communication and involvement by the Welcome and Help team and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), in this day and age of digital communication and social media. NAME acknowledged this and informed the membership of plans to hold more informal coffee mornings for new and existing members in the future to promote friendship, networking and to share information. NAME asked about the limited number of charities being nominated by members and the reasons why this is the case. NAME suggested that the nomination presentation may be off putting to some people and that language could be a barrier to both presentations and also researching local French charities. NAME confirmed that help can be given to anyone concerned about public speaking and language difficulties. NAME suggested that the SIGs could propose a charity as a group, but this idea carries risks of uneven voting and was therefore not considered to be a viable option. NAME suggested that larger well-known charities should not be nominated in favour of smaller charities for whom the money may have a more significant impact. NAME acknowledged this but stated that the committee could not ethically dictate to the members, which charities should or should not be put forward. NAME encouraged the members to think about charity nominations earlier in the year and it was agreed that we would send out some reminder e mails for people to get thinking about charities, from La Rentre on wards. It was agreed that we would continue to have a maximum of five charity nominations per year.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

21. DATE OF NEXT AGM March 2020

Date to be confirmed. The meeting closed at 11.35 am. Minutes taken by the Secretary.