



Alton Town Twinning Association NEWSLETTER JULY 2023 info@altontwinning.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM took place at Alton Maltings on Monday, 24 April. Pauline Esland chaired the meeting and Sarah Hinde took the minutes. Resignations from the committee had been received from John Williams and John Jones. We are very grateful to both of them for the work they have undertaken: John W as Treasurer and John J as Membership Secretary and "Communicator-in-Chief" for many years. We are pleased that John J has volunteered to continue circulating emails to the membership.

Three people stood as new committee members: Patric Hinde as Treasurer, and Eileen Fawcett and Merula Frankel as ordinary members. They, together with returning members Pauline and Sarah, were elected unanimously.



Pauline, Merula, Patric, Eileen & Sarah at their first committee meeting in May

The committee for 2023-24 is as follows:

Office of Treasurer

Patric Hinde

Ordinary Members

Pauline Esland

Liaison with Montecchio
Publicity

Sarah Hinde

Liaison with Pertuis

Eileen Fawcett

Merula Frankel

MONTECCHIO MAGGIORE

The latest news from Diego is that the date of their visit will be from Thursday to Sunday, 12-15 October, when they plan to fly to Heathrow. Diego reported that he was going to visit their Town Hall to ascertain how many members of the council will be in the party. We will update you as soon as there is further news. In the meantime, Pauline has been finding out prices for transport, provisionally booking a venue for our official dinner and arranging a welcome by the Mayor.

TALK ON ART

Invited by Pam Jones, on 13 July Dr Wayne Jefferson made a welcome return to the Maltings where he entertained us with an interesting, illustrated, talk about the American artist John Singer Sargent, 1856-1925. Sargent was born in Florence, travelled extensively but spent most of his life in Europe, dying in London at the age of 69.

Although Sargent is most famous as a portrait painter, Wayne also showed us examples of Sargent's landscapes, influenced by his friend Monet, and also his work as a war artist.

Sargent produced around 900 oil paintings and 2,000 water colours. In 1909 he declined a knighthood so that he could remain a US citizen.

We were pleased to welcome some non-ATTA members to this talk.



Sargent's painting Two Girls Fishing were of his two nieces

SUMMER LUNCH

On Sunday 2nd July, for the second year running, we held a buffet lunch in the grounds of Thedden Grange as Tony Cohen, Charlotte Wigzell and their neighbours had kindly agreed to host us again.

The food that we all contributed was laid out in three gazebos. Quiches, cured meats, cheeses, pasta, bread, salads, fruit and desserts made up a very appetising buffet.

These were accompanied by French and Italian wines and beer. The coffee on offer was Carte Noire... but the teabags were Tetley!

After lunch, members had the opportunity to go on a guided walk around the grounds.

Our thanks go to Tony, Charlotte, Winkie and Bryan for hosting and setting up and to Sarah for co-ordinating the food.



PERTUIS

We are feeling very positive about our Twinning with Pertuis. Despite the fact that all their 'Alton Twinning' committee resigned during Covid, we are pleased to report that at last a new committee has been formed. They seem pleased to be continuing their relationship with us. However, their new committee has to be ratified by their Mayor, and this is to take place this September. So our communication with Pertuis is currently only via Monique, the previous chairman of their committee, who has been most helpful. We are hopeful that the French will be able to visit Alton in 2024.

It was lovely to have such a large turnout for our Summer Lunch and we hope to see even more of you for our 25th Anniversary celebrations in October.

With best wishes from the ATTA Committee