



Alton Town Twinning Association NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM took place at Alton Maltings on Monday, 15 April. Merula Frankel chaired the meeting and Eileen Fawcett took the minutes.

The following people were elected to the committee:

Chair: Merula Frankel

Treasurer/Membership Secretary:
Patric Hinde

Secretary: Eileen Fawcett

Liaison with Pertuis: Sarah Hinde

Liaison with Montecchio Maggiore
Pauline Esland

The following resolutions were passed:

- The financial year will be changed to run from 1 April to 31 March. Therefore the current financial year will run for 15 months from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- Membership fees will rise to £18 for single membership and £25 for family membership with effect from 1 January 2025.

NEW MEMBERS

The publicity drive undertaken by Eileen earlier this year has brought in some new members. In May, Sarah and Patric invited them and other committee members to their home for afternoon tea.



New members Peter, Jean, Sue, Graham, Mary and Richard with Dave, Sarah, Merula and Patric

VISIT FROM PERTUIS 20-24 JUNE

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VISIT TO MONTECCHIO MAGGIORE 10-14 OCTOBER

A group of 10 ATTA members will be visiting Montecchio in the autumn.



A reminder of our 20th Anniversary visit in 2018

FUTURE EVENTS

Please make a note in your diaries.

ART TALK 8 NOVEMBER

A Talk on Art by Michael Fawcett, together with cheese and wine, will take place at Alton Maltings on Friday, 8 November. Price £10. More information, including start time, will follow closer to the date.

NEW YEAR LUNCH 5 JANUARY 2025

The venue for next year's New Year Lunch has yet to be decided. We will let you know once it has been booked.

VISIT FROM PERTUIS 20-24 JUNE

In June, coinciding with Regency Week, we were delighted to welcome friends, old and new, from Pertuis. This was the first visit since the covid pandemic and our 20 visitors included a family with three children and a gentleman of over 90 years of age. Organisers Sarah and Patric travelled to Heathrow to welcome our guests and accompany them to Alton where hosts were waiting to greet them and take them to their homes.



Arrival at Heathrow

CHICHESTER AND FISHBOURNE

Originally planned for May 2020, on Friday 21 June there was a coach excursion to Chichester for guests, hosts and other ATTA members. In Chichester we were able to choose from visiting the cathedral, Bishop's Palace Gardens, the Pallant Gallery and walking around the walls. After lunch we were back on board the coach for the short drive to Fishbourne Roman Palace Museum where the visit commenced with a short film about the excavations, with sub-titles in French. The weather was beautiful which made an excellent start to the weekend.



Odile, Etienne, Jean-Jacques, Simone and Gilbert in Bishop's Palace Gardens



Merula and her young guests at Fishbourne

RECEPTION AT THE TOWN HALL

On Saturday morning Jean-Jacques Dias, who was representing the Mayor of Pertuis, guests, hosts and other members were welcomed in French at the Town Hall by our Chair, Merula Frankel, and Alton Mayor, Cllr Annette Eyre. Short speeches were given by both M Dias and Cllr Eyre and gifts were exchanged. Cllr Eyre's speech was translated into French by new member Simon Norcross. Pertuis gave Alton a splendid, embroidered, wall-hanging, made by the *stitchers of Pertuis* and, as it was Regency Week, Alton gave Pertuis a picture of Regency dancers.



Listening intently to the speeches

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Afterwards, guests were free to enjoy the events in the town. Jean-Jacques was seen riding in a horse-drawn carriage with hosts, Charlotte and Tony. Alton Morris and King's Pond Shantymen provided other entertainment in the town centre.

On Saturday evening we held a bring-and-share supper at Beech Village Hall. Patric had displayed photographs for his *Bridges of the World* quiz which kept us busy until the serious business of eating our supper commenced. To round off the evening there was singing in both French and English. Etienne provided the music for the French songs, on a guitar borrowed from Gerry, and Hilary led the English songs accompanied by Barbara on her ukulele.

**Some dishes laid out on the tablecloth
given to us by Pertuis in 2018**



Bon Appétit



SUNDAY

As is the tradition, Sunday was spent with hosts; guests were taken to places such as the Spinnaker Tower and D-Day Museum, London and the children to a friend's swimming pool. Wherever they went, everyone was back in time for our farewell dinner, held at the Rose & Crown. The meal was attended by over 60 people and was a delightful way to round off the visit. As a memento of their stay, Merula presented a glass dish, decorated with Regency figures by Pam (Pell) Jones, to Emmanuel for *le jumelage*. This was accompanied by a collection of quotations from Jane Austen novels. The five youngest guests also received souvenirs of their visit.



In the main restaurant



and in the garden room

On Monday afternoon we said goodbye to our friends and look forward to seeing them again in Pertuis next year. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this visit such a success: the committee themselves, in particular Sarah and Patric with their meticulous preparation, those who hosted and those who joined in with the events, those who had previously made contributions to the association funds and, of course, to our guests without whom there would not have been a visit. One of our non-committee members described it as a “triumph”.



Au revoir à nos amis, nous espérons vous revoir bientôt
SUMMER PICNIC

For the past two years we have enjoyed a summer picnic at Thedden Grange – by kind invitation of Tony and Charlotte in 2022 and at our request last year. We thought that they deserved a break this summer and Merula kindly offered us her garden instead. It was good to see so many new members attend and, although they weren't able to come themselves, Mary and Richard generously lent us a table and chairs so that we could seat everyone on the terrace. As always, there was a bountiful assortment of delicious food brought along by everyone. Back into fund-raising mode, we held a raffle with lots of prizes being donated. Our Treasurer, Patric, is delighted to report that we made £100 for our funds. Thank you to everyone, particularly to Merula for opening her garden to us.



Lovely food • Lovely garden • Lovely weather • Lovely people

With best wishes from the ATTA Committee

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altontwinning.org.uk