



Waltham Forest, Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd June 2022

Waltham Forest
Town Hall
Forest Road E17 4JF

Annual Report & Accounts 2021-22



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(Artwork - Sharon Foster: aliciadean-artworks.co.uk)

Chairperson Mervin Caesar-John

I welcome our new Patron and Mayor Cllr Karen Bellamy and look forward to working with her during her mayoral year.

I also thank our outgoing Patron and Mayor Cllr Elizabeth Baptiste for her wonderful support and assistance during the last mayoral year.

My report covers 11 months since the last AGM, so from July 2021-June 2022. As with many organisations the Twinning Association had to adjust the date of last year's AGM due to Covid restrictions but I am pleased that we are able to resume to June.

The Twinning Association has continued using Zoom for our meetings and several events but sadly this has restricted the ability of some elder members to attend if they do not have the appropriate facilities.

We have continued to work with our partners and collaborators which has contributed to our development as an active community organisation.

Our collaboration with St Peter-in-the-Forest resumed for Black History Month events and has continued for the Windrush Day commemorations.

For many years David Boote the Chair of Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society has provided the heritage context for our annual Health & Heritage Awareness Sponsored walk. We walked along Chingford Plain on 11th Sept 2021 and raised £1112, half of which was donated to the Mayor's fund in support of the Sickle Cell and Alzheimer's Societies and Age UK Waltham Forest. Many thanks to our first Associate member Cyril Henderson for raising half the funds. We raised more than three times the amount of the previous year.

The fundraising initiative of Jenny Gregoire to set up an Easyfundraising account during her previous tenure as Welfare Officer has continued to help members and supporters raise donations towards our Disaster Fund while they shop online. We are hoping to increase the number of people using this simple passive fundraising facility.

It is with regret that despite the hard work of all our partners and participating students over the last few years, the Twinning Association's Games and Culture project has been cancelled. Another victim of Covid-19. Holy Family Catholic School's staff and students should be commended for their commitment towards the planned life-changing project which was the Twinning Association's Games & Culture trip to Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica.

In April 2021 Twinning Association was appointed by the UK Home Office as one of 14 grassroots organisations who received funding to provide information and direction to the support available in applying to the government's Windrush (documentation) and Windrush Compensation Schemes. The WFTA Windrush Reach Project was launched at a joint event at the Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow on Windrush Day 22nd June 2021 and was delivered through both online and in-person events as well as a planned social media strategy until the end of April. Both printed and digital press as well as an Influencer were used to spread

the word. At this stage it is not clear how many people would have been inspired to seek help but as an additional service we have been able to refer three cases to pro bono solicitors. We are currently evaluating the project for reporting to our funder.

We are grateful to many individuals and organisations who participated in the Windrush Reach project including: Jo Sealy through her marketing company 'To Market', Pauline Campbell our legal advisor, Claudia Jones Organisation, Citizens Advice WF, Dominica Oversea Nationals Association (DONA), Age UK WF, Be That Change and Project Zero.

We have been able to raise additional funds for our Creative Writing Project through Waltham Forest council's Make it Happen grants. The monthly workshops which started in April are facilitated by Jane Ulysses Grell and have been very well received. They will culminate in a performance and anthology in the autumn. The project is in collaboration with the William Morris Gallery which is where the workshops and performance are taking place.

We have continued to keep members and friends informed about the Twinning Association through our newsletter 'Latest News' for which we have received positive feedback. The issues can be seen on our website. Friends and family can sign up on the 'Latest News' webpage to receive future issues. Sharon Foster our Vice-Chairperson and Public Relations Officer has done a great job in keeping our website updated and I would recommend you to visit it regularly.

Reflecting on recommendations from my report in 2021 I can conclude that the TA has:

- yet to develop a youth-led strategy,
- delivered on the grant funded projects,
- continued developing our partnerships and collaborations.

Many thanks and appreciation to the officers and general members who have helped to deliver and/or participated in the numerous events and activities. I am pleased that we have seen the growth of the TA in terms of activities and collaborations. The new Associate Membership category was agreed at the last AGM and it has resulted in an increase in membership. This will, hopefully, translate into a greater ability to deliver our projects.

For the year 2021/2022 the Management Committee consisted of:

Chairperson	Ms Mervin Caesar-John
Vice Chairperson & Public Relations Officer	Ms Sharon Foster
Honorary Secretary	Ms Jacqueline McFarlane
Honorary Treasurer	Ms Jennie Gregoire
Membership Secretary	Miss Hilma Alfred
Education Officer	Mrs Lucy Callender
Welfare Officer	Ms Kathleen Hudson
MC Member	Mr Joseph Vidal
Mayor of Waltham Forest	Ex-officio and Patron

Special thanks to Mr Steve Myhill at Waltham Forest council for his constant support and assistance.

For the next year I recommend that the Twinning Association:
reviews the Strategy & Action plan 2017/2020 which was extended to 2022.
Our Strategic Aim is to develop strong sustainable links and partnerships to preserve, learn and share our culture and heritage.

TREASURER – JENNIFER GREGOIRE-JULIEN

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR CURRENT ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDING 31/03/2022

INCOME	£	£
Membership 2020-2021 and 2021-2022	135.00	
Membership 2022-2023	30.00	
Sponsored Walk	1112.00	
Donation	155.02	
Faith in Action	500.00	
TOTAL (WFTA)		1932.02
Voice 4 Change re Windrush Reach Project		22820.00
TOTAL		24752.02
EXPENDITURE		
Insurance	139.20	
Workshops: Creative Writing and E17 Art Trail	371.87	
Annual Zoom Subscription 2021-2022	143.88	
Retirement Gift for Hon Treas. Claude Griffiths	77.47	
Mayor's Charity (from Sponsored Walk)	546.00	
TOTAL (WFTA)		1278.42
Windrush Reach Project (paid out as of 31/03/22)		13173.84
TOTAL		14452.26
*Combined Excess Income over Expenditure		10299.76

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

Accumulated Funds:

Restricted Funds re Windrush Reach Project yet to pay out	9646.16
WFTA Excess	653.60
*Sub total Excess Income/Expenditure	10299.76
Opening Bank Balance - Nat West - 06/04/2021	4821.17
Closing Balance - 31/03/2022	15120.93

DISASTER FUND ACCOUNT 2021-2022

INCOME

Donation – Easy funding	85.12
Opening Bank Balance Nat West 01/04/2021	3059.38
Closing Balance – 31/03/2022	3144.50

Education Officer - Lucy Callender

It is not an understatement to state that there have been many challenges since the last report. Our greatest disappointment has been the cancellation of the Games and Culture Project involving our youth in our respective global locations meeting, working and together sharing life changing experiences.

However we remain committed to involve and engage our youth in such projects. We continue to work in partnership with our local school, Holy Family Catholic School to offer such experiences to their students in the very near future.

However there must be time and space given for us as an organisation to reflect on our learning post Covid-19. How will we continue to engage with youth, the community and offer that global experience at this time of restrictions?

Public Relations Officer - Sharon Foster

My report for 2021 to 2022 has some similarities to my last report in that we are still communicating virtually however we have entered a new phase of actually meeting up in person which has been welcomed by all.

I have continued to work on the (TA) website and the two social media platforms, which shows an increase in the TA social media profile as it continues to grow:
151 Facebook page likes with 165 followers. Twitter 161 followers .

List of events from our last AGM in 2021 in descending date order.

2022

10 Sept 2022: Health & Heritage Sponsored walk
23 June 2022: Annual General Meeting - WF Town Hall
23 May 2022: Althea McNish Exhibition - tour, tea & chat
16 Apr 2022: Creative Writing Workshops at WMG:16 Apr, 14 May, 11 Jun, 9 Jul & 17 Sept
7 April 2022: St Peter in the Forest partnership Launch of Community Cook Book
14 Mar 2022: Commonwealth Flag Raising
12 Mar 2022: Windrush Reach: Windrush Family Event & Celebrating Women
24 Feb 2022: Ordinary General Meeting - online
18 Feb 2022: Windrush Reach 1:1 Surgeries at Age UK WF
5 Feb 2022: Windrush Reach TA collaboration with DONA - online
21 Jan 2022: Windrush Reach 1:1 Surgeries at Age UK WF

2021

17 Dec 2021: Windrush Reach 1:1 Surgeries at Age UK WF
27 Nov 2021: Windrush Reach TA collaboration with DONA - online
19 Nov 2021: Windrush Reach 1:1 Surgeries at Age UK WF
11 Nov 2021: Ordinary General Meeting (moved from 28 Oct) - online
3 Nov 2021: Flag Raising at LBWF – Dominica Independence 43rd Anniversary
1 Nov 2021: Flag Raising at LBWF - Antigua & Barbuda Independence 40th Anniversary
2, 9, 16 Oct 2021: BHM collaboration with St Peter in the Forest
18 Sept 2021: Windrush Reach Social Surgery with CJO - event at VHM
11 Sept 2021: Health & Heritage Awareness Sponsored Walk
8 Sept 2021: Windrush Reach TA collaboration with Citizens Advice WF - online
31 July 2021: Windrush Reach TA collaboration with Claudia Jones Organisation-online Event
29 July 2021: Annual General Meeting - Council Chamber LBWF

The events list can be found on the Events page on the website

<https://www.wftwinningassociation.org/events.html>

Welfare Officer – Kathleen Hudson

I was elected to the role of Welfare Officer last year at our 2021 Annual General Meeting and I am very happy to be given this wonderful opportunity to become a part of this proactive group: Waltham Forest, Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association.

I was honoured to have met some of our members at that Meeting.

It gives me great joy to have regular communication - albeit via phone due to some members' mobility issues and Covid-19 measures.

I am working on building my relationship with our valued members. I am thankful and appreciative of how they have warmly welcome me into their lives by talking and sharing their joys and daily experiences with me.

Sadly, a former committee member passed away this year and some of our members have experienced bereavement. Flowers, cards and condolences were sent on behalf of our Association and via phone contact to their family members.

I will endeavour to continue to provide the good support service that they have been accustomed to receiving.

I have introduced the acknowledgement of our members' birthdays by sending birthday cards and also the celebration of the festive season by sending cards as a reminder of the Association's appreciation of them.

It was wonderful that some of our members were able to attend our annual social gathering - an evening out dining.

I would like to thank my predecessor Jennie Gregoire, for her support and encouragement which has greatly enabled me to settle into my role.

Membership Secretary – Hilma Alfred

As your returning Membership Secretary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their continued support throughout the year. It has been a difficult year but we have now emerged from the lockdown period following the Covid pandemic and hope to have more face-to-face events in the future.

Sadly we lost one of our members during this period, Mrs Roslyn Robinson a former Membership Secretary, who will be sadly missed.

At the 2021 AGM, the TA agreed to introduce a new category of membership, that of Associate Member. This category of membership allows for members who wish to support and participate in our events but are unable to regularly attend meetings to be part of the association. They do not however have the right to vote. As a result of the introduction of this new category, we now have 7 new paid up Associate Members.

Members total 46 including 4 from organisations.

Any member failing to pay their annual subscriptions shall lose their voting rights until full payment is made (Constitution clause 11)

Organisations

The organisations are as follows:

ABNA (Antigua & Barbuda National Association)

DONA (Dominica Oversea Nationals Association)

LBWF (London Borough of Waltham Forest)

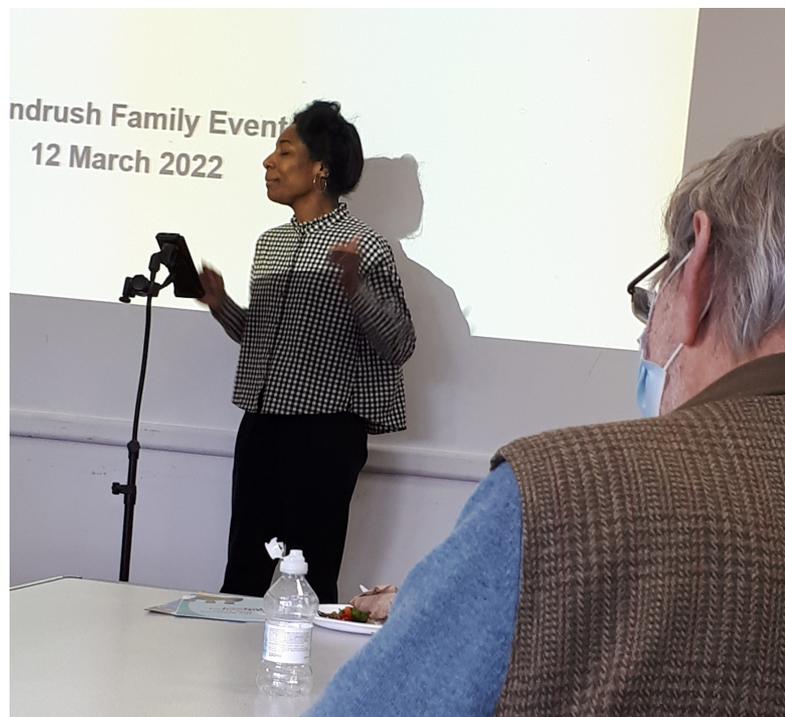
Aquilative Technologies Ltd





ART WORKSHOP
 FOR THE E17 ART TRAIL EXHIBITION
 SATURDAY 19TH JUNE 2021
 12 - 1
 AT
 THE DOG & DUCK
 222 CHINGFORD ROAD
 LONDON E17 5AL
 BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
 TO BOOK CONTACT JACQUELINE AT
 blaajacq@hotmail.com









WALTHAM FOREST, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AND DOMINICA
TWINNING ASSOCIATION

SHARING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

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