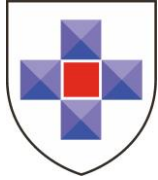


Twinning Agreement –



H'Attard - Elancourt



It all started 6 years ago in October 2012, during a private visit in Paris when together with the then Ambassador for Malta in Paris, HE Clive Agius, I paid a visit to Elancourt when I was cordially welcomed by the Mayor of Elancourt, Monsieur Jean-Michel Fourgous, Councillors and the Twinning Committee. We discussed possible areas of mutual interest between the two localities and we agreed that we mainly concentrate on Education, Sport and Culture including local craftsmanship.

On returning back, I delivered a presentation to the H'Attard Local Council and it was anonymously agreed that we embark on this Twinning project. Infact in June 2013 two top members of the Twinning Committee, Mr Andre Poutier and Mr Jean Desjeux visited H'Attard on a familiarisation visit and extended an invitation to the Mayor and the Council to visit Elancourt the following year. In 2015 a delegation from Elancourt led by the Deputy Mayor Mrs Chantal Cardelec paid an official visit to H'Attard. The delegation also included the President and the Vice President of the Twinning Committee, Mr Denis Lemarchand and Mr Andre Poutier and committee members. We had meetings with a number of stake holders who showed their interest to participate in this twinning programme. These included the St Nicholas Collage Tumas Dingli Primary School, Alka Ceramics, the Attard Football Club, the Attard Athletics Club, the All Ages Netball Club and the Attard Subbuteo Club.



In October 2016 a Twinning Agreement was signed in Elancourt by Mr Jean-Michel Fourgous, Mayor of Elancourt and Mr Stefan Cordina, Mayor of H'Attard together with an activities report signed by Mr Andre Poutier, Vice President of the

Twinning Committee of Elancourt in charge of Malta and myself, as Twinning Coordinator for the H'Attard Local Council.



During the years we managed to rope in other stake holders in this Twinning Programme and one person who showed great interest in this Twinning Programme from the very beginning, was Mr Paul Haber a professional Artist and Ceramist who lives and works in H'Attard.

After several exchange of e-mail with officials from the Embassy of Malta in Paris, the Cultural Diplomacy Fund under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and HE the Maltese Ambassador in Paris, Ms Helga Mizzi, we managed to obtain EU funding for Mr Paul Haber to organize a two-week exhibition of his Ceramic Works of Art in Paris. This exhibition was held



in June 2018 at the Mairie du Ire at Place de Louvre. Although originally it was planned that afterwards this exhibition will move to Elancourt, this idea has been shelved for next year, since the space available there was rather limited

for the large pieces which have been exhibited.

This choice proved to be an excellent idea since Paul's works were greatly appreciated by the numerous guests who were present for the inauguration.



Besides a number of VIPs who were present for this prestigious event, the Mayor of Paris and HE Ms Helga Mizzi, Ambassador for Malta in Paris addressed the gathering. They both praised the exceptional contribution Paul is making towards the cultural exchange between Malta and France. Also present for the inauguration ceremony were Mr Andre Poutier, Vice President of the Elancourt Twinning Committee in charge of Malta, together with other members of the Twinning Committee and the Local Council of Elancourt. Through his works Paul Haber brings Malta's heritage, colours and beauty to other peoples from around the world.



More progress has been achieved in Education with various contacts through social media between students from the H'Attard Primary School and the Commanderie Primary School of Elancourt. With regards to Sports there were several exchanges, in fact in August 2015 two members of the Attard FC paid a visit to Elancourt. This was later reciprocated in April 2016 when 12 young players from Elancourt accompanied by their club's President and Coach paid a visit to H'Attard and participated in a sport programme which was organized by the Attard FC.



In 2016 a group of 13 players, this time representing the Attard Subbuteo Club also visited Elancourt and participated in an exhibition match with the French champion's team.

During these past 6 years, we managed to go a long way. Last year another delegation from Elancourt led by Mr Thierry Michel, Deputy Mayor of Elancourt, visited H'Attard and participated in the Gieh H'Attard celebrations. The delegation had several meetings with other representatives of five organizations who showed their interest to



participate in this programme, these are, the La Stella Levantina Band Club, the Attard Accordion Group, the Scouts and the Girl guides Group and the Attard Cycling Club. Since last year most of these organization made several contacts with their counterparts in Elencourt and it seems that these contacts are progressing fast.



We still have a long journey ahead of us but with the participation of local organizations and clubs together with the residents of our locality I am sure that this Twinning Agreement will continue to be a success story.

Remigio Bartolo
Twinning Coordinator
H'Attard Local Council