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| colarms-cityofbath | Bath Beppu Friendship Association  22nd January 2018 18:00  Mayor’s Parlour, Guildhall, Bath | \\osiris\users$\martina1\My Pictures\Flag_of_Beppu,_Oita.png |

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| Attendees | Paul Crossley (PC)  Kaoru Jacques (KJ)  Yukie Scott (YS)  Michiyo Leather (ML)  David James (DJ) | Tony McNicol (TM)  Jane Hands (JH)  Caroline Buxton (CB)  Mieko Zuckerman (MZ)  Helen Akiyama (HA) | Tania John (TJ)  Barry McRae (BM)  Ed Leather  Caroline Chalker  Yumiko Jones  Kazuhiro Takeuchi |
| Apologies | Alfred La Vardera (ALV) | David Tanner | Susan Gaulter |

**Meeting Minutes**

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|  | **Note** | **Action** | **Date** |
| 1 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Welcomeby PC. Roundtable introductions were made. |  |  |
| 2 | **Minutes of Last Meeting** | PC |  |
| 3 | **Review of 2017**  PC summed 2017 up as an “amazing” year for the BBFA. Just some of the events organized were listed: cherry blossom viewing; successful Japan Festival with proceeds going to our chosen causes; visits to Bath by Beppu & Kunisaki delegations ; successful Sake Tasting event; PC & YS visited Beppu for the Onsen conference as well as busy general schedule otherwise; BBFA members visiting Japan; new Wagashi connection; Emakimono project and Postcard exchange; Japan Embassy represented several times at our events. |  |  |
| 4 | **Reporting back on recent Beppu Visit**  PC was invited to make a keynote speech at the Beppu Onsen conference which he enjoyed doing very much. Throughout the whole visit lots of good contacts were made. Apparently the Japanese were interested in the British “community-led”, rather than business-led, culture. Lots of local people and businesses were visited. YS stressed how enjoyable it was visiting Japanese schools and seeing how how much the children had loved doing the Emakimono project. It even made local & national TV! (BBFA to try and obtain recording) | KJ/YS |  |
| 5 | **Rugby Youth Tour to Beppu, Feb 2018**  9-19 Feb. 23 RFC players from 4 local schools plus the university, plus coaches & parents. 4 rugby matches planned plus cultural events. “Cultural Exchange through Rugby” is the theme. Staying with homestay hosts and at the youth hostel. Included in the schedule: training with monks including Zazen meditation; sake tasting for adults; university and high school visits; players’ presentation. Beppu’s New Zealand sister town is also represented.  KJ to take the new Bath video made by BTP if possible.  Reasonable amount of media interest. Social media via Facebook & Twitter (@BathRFCJapan18). BM stressed the importance of BBFA members trying to build on this, eg, try and get Bath Magazine/Bath Life to feature the event.  Over £20k of sponsorship has been raised. | DJ  JH |  |
| 6 | **Women’s Adventure Expo Event involving BBFA**  New date of Saturday 28th April has been set at the Apex Hotel. Exact amount of sponsorship from Inside Asia has yet to be finalized. They are interested in launching a bespoke expedition to Japan to include Beppu. KJ said that Kunisaki might well be keen to be involved in such a trip via Inside Asia – meeting to be set up between TJ and Kuniskai rep during visit to Bath end Jan.  DJ suggested TJ speak to the Chamber as there may be businesses looking to champion women’s causes. Maybe corporate packages. | TJ  KJ/TJ  DJ/TJ |  |
| 7 | **Japan Festival**  YS cannot commit to leading an event of this scale this year due to family commitments.  Future of Japan Festival & Sake Event and possible alternatives this year to be discussed at the next meeting at executive committee level, then findings communicated out to members. | JH (agenda) |  |
| 8 | **Tsutefude**  This is an art form of calligraphy or free-flowing Kanji. Already very popular in Japan. HA is organizing a trip to Swindon for the company owner mid May onwards for about 10 days. HA is looking for an opportunity in Bath for the owner to hold an event – ideally at a museum, a workshop, creating special messages to take away.  HA to liaise with owner to find out exactly what she is looking to achieve so that venue/style of event can be agreed.  Bath Spa Uni possibly would be interested as very creative institution.  Pay for venue like Comins? Or Apex, MEAA?  It was noted that BBFA should try and establish links with Honda in Swindon. | HA |  |
| 9 | **I.T. Update**  MZ to let I.T. sub-committee know when Masato runs out of Blog content so that we can ensure it continues.  BM to re-send info about Bath-Beppu connection to TM for website  KJ to pass Rugby info to TM for website | MZ  BM/TM  KJ/TM |  |
| 10 | **Members’ Social Dinner 27.1.18**  Forum Coffee House, Buffet style. DonDon Japanese caterer. £10 BBFA members, £15 non-members (subsidized by profit-making events). 43 people coming (70/30% members/non-members). £200 venue (drinks deductible)  ML suggested, and it was agreed, that we would invite our various event sponsors to this dinner in future. | ML/KJ |  |
| 11 | **AOB**  Financial: confirmation received from ALV that HMRC are agreed that BBFA does not need to register for Corporation Tax. Good news!  Emakimono: all being well with the teachers concerned, WASPS have agreed to be the next school to do this project after half term (end Feb/March time)  Postcards: KJ to follow up during Feb trip to Beppu (plus bring back some Emakimono to Bath)  Beppu Bar: up and running from Wednesday 21st March. Third Wednesday of each month from 6pm at the Huntsman Pub.  BRSLI “World Through Our Eyes” event: hoping to bring the Japan Ambassador to it in 2019. Make a day of it with BBFA. PC to write to Embassy to invite.  Cherry Blossom Viewing Event: JH to add to next mtg agenda  Thanks: BM expressed his thanks to the BBFA for great work done in the past year. | JH/ML  KJ  JH (Calendar)  PC  JH |  |
|  | **Next meeting**  (Executive committee only) Wednesday 14th March 2018, 6pm, Mayor’s Parlour  (Whole membership) Thursday 26th April 2018, 6pm, Mayor’s Parlour with a social afterwards involving Shochu and Cakes to toast our friends in Beppu and Oita | JH |  |