

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

(covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley)



Twinning News 2017/2



Important Dates for your 2017/2018 Diary

- Spring Walk-----6 May
- Brunoy Visit to Reigate -----15 -17 September
- 25th anniversary of Twinning festivities in Brunoy-----13 -15 April 2018

Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

Our trip to Brunoy, though earlier than usual, was blessed with superb weather – see article on page 3

Our Twinning link with Brunoy is going from strength to strength, since this year nearly 25%, i.e. 8 of the 34 people on the trip, were making their first visit. Among them we had 3 Reigate Bridge players as we are trying to revive a link between Brunoy Bridge Club and a Reigate Bridge Club which existed a few years back.

We have recently heard that the personal links, forged through our tradition of staying in each other's homes, has led to one French young man getting sponsorship from the father of his former English host, and an English student spending several months in Brunoy working as a language assistant, to further improve his French.

We hope that the trip in 2018 will be even more successful as we will be celebrating 25 years of Twinning with Brunoy! We will keep you all informed about what is being planned for the festivities, as soon as we get more details from Brunoy.

We hope the summer hasn't peaked too early as there will be plenty going on in the months to come. There will be a walk in May and hopefully a Summer Lunch later on. As always we look forward to seeing you all at one event or another so do make sure you participate in as much as you can. If we all found one friend to join the Association our numbers would double overnight.

Do keep in touch and bring your friends, neighbours and family to enjoy our multi-lingual friendship.

All the best from

Anne and Monique

Anne Miller (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01293 823483) anne.miller@lineone.net
and **Monique Pottage** (01737 221073) mpottage@hotmail.co.uk

Eschweiler Link

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and long may it continue! We have a variety of social events planned over the next few months and would welcome you and your friends along to join us.

In the next couple of weeks, the 9 year olds from Barbaraschule Eschweiler will be making their return visit this year to the Priory School in Reigate, accompanied by their teachers, Hartmut Froehlich and Ute Peter. They have an exciting week planned together in school, working on a local history project, and will be visiting Brighton during their stay. We are pleased to help support these visits and delighted by the success of this

longstanding exchange. Thanks are due for all the hard work by the teachers of both groups to enable the children to have this opportunity.

In June, a Youth Group from Eschweiler Duerwiss will visit us, to make contact with our young people, and we hope the visit will be reciprocated. Due to the group's large size, they will stay at the YMCA Hostel at Abinger Hammer. The YMCA in Redhill are kindly organising a social evening and barbecue for us, and the group also will visit London and Brighton.

At the AGM we discussed the proposal that we be invited to Wattrelos, Eschweiler's French twin town, for a joint visit with Eschweiler in September. Budgets everywhere are tight and they wanted to combine both towns in a single visit. However it was decided that Twinning as a group would not participate as we already have Brunoy as our French twin. I have had a further preliminary discussion with Eschweiler and plans are underway for a Twinning group to visit Eschweiler, possibly next June.

We were warmly welcomed at the recent Wattrelos Carnaval and I spoke at length to them about our friendship link. They completely understand our commitment to Brunoy and do not want to do anything to undermine that friendship. However they don't have a British link themselves and would be very happy to invite individuals or groups to events in Wattrelos, as was envisaged when we originally set up the link.

I can't stress strongly enough how important our friendship links with France and Germany continue to be. Many people I spoke to there have taken the Brexit vote as a "kick in the teeth" and we need to reassure them that although we are leaving the European Union, we still want to be a part of Europe. We have been friends for many years now and despite political events, we will work for that to remain unchanged.

Janet Powell, (Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link) Tel: 01737 761903 powellspostbox@btinternet.com

Recent Events:

▪ Annual Dinner – 27 January

It was good to meet the Twinners at this social function early in the New Year at Redhill Golf Club. About 50 of us (?) met at this newly upgraded golf club and enjoyed a superb dinner of beef bourguignon, chicken in tarragon sauce or salmon and prawns, desserts to die for and of course plenty of wine (for the non-drivers).

There was a great hubbub as we exchanged greetings and news.

Best wishes

Rose Reynolds

▪ Twinning Quiz - 24 February

Over seventy members and guests recently attended the Annual Quiz Night. Once again Helier Dreux, assisted by his wife Ann, excelled as Quiz Master. It must take many hours for him to, not only compile fiendish questions in a variety of categories, but also prepare pictures and texts for each challenge. The result was a splendid evening of mind taxing fun, including humorous questions like 'Why do men in Japan eat less rice than men in China?' (Because there are more Chinese men!). The evening included an excellent fish and chip supper. Congratulations to all concerned, especially Monique Pottage and Anne Miller who organised the event.

Sally Baker

▪ AGM - 10 March

The AGM took place on 10 March; about 35 persons attended.. The Treasurer's report showed that the funds are healthy. All members of the Committee were re-elected. The Newsletter will continue to be prepared by Ena Bishop. It was emphasised again that volunteers are needed to assist with events during the year. It was also emphasised that we need new members! The DE and FR Link reports were read out.

Following the DE Link report, in which it was suggested by Eschweiler – as an economy measure - that we would visit Eschweiler once every 3 years, one year we would meet with them in Wattrelos, then the third year, Eschweiler and Wattrelos would visit us: members expressed strong feelings particularly about : visiting Eschweiler only once every three years – unfair to members who are only/mainly interested in the DE Link; many Eschweilers stay in the hotel instead of staying with families – a key part of twinning, and the best way to form friendships; costs – how savings could be made; relationship with Wattrelos – we are not twinned with Wattrelos, twinning visits to Wattrelos – as suggested by Eschweiler - would incur added expense for us, and could offend our friends in Brunoy. Further discussions with Eschweiler are already underway.

After the business was completed, cheese and wine and a lot of chat was enjoyed by all.

Elspeth Cawtheray, Hon. Secretary

For clarification for newer members, in about 2009, St. John's School, Redhill had started talks with Enfant Jesus School, Wattrelos about exchange visits. A few successful exchanges have taken place – and the schools are still in touch. The following is an extract from the Minutes of the 2009 AGM:

Extract from AGM Minutes of 6 March 2009

1. Questions & Discussion and Any Other Business

(a) Wattrelos (Eschweiler's French Twin Town)

Wattrelos have 4 twin towns but none in England, though they have tried (unsuccessfully). We have a bond of friendship with them through Eschweiler. They would like to have a Friendship Agreement with us, to facilitate youth exchanges including French schools. A formal acknowledgement means that they can get funding for exchanges. We have tried to get school links with Brunoy many times. Our priority would still be Brunoy but our friendship with Wattrelos would be more for schools and youth. The constitution allows for other links like a "Friendship Agreement". Members agreed and Penelope will write to the Mayor as our patron to inform him.

Note from Janet re the above AGM Report:

... I mentioned, there are other opportunities for individuals and groups to visit Eschweiler throughout the year, for example the annual Karneval. It was the official twinning group visit we were discussing at the AGM and I think that needs to be clarified.

It was never the intention for our Friendship Link with Wattrelos to replicate our Brunoy Twinning and Wattrelos completely understand this. However we are always welcome there, as was stated when the Friendship Link was set up.

Further discussions with Eschweiler are already underway.

▪ Visit to Brunoy - 24 to 26 March

Friday, 24th March, at about 6:30am, my husband, two granddaughters and myself arrived at Reigate Sixth Form College to start the 2017 Twinning weekend in Brunoy.

Throughout the weekend all travelling arrangements went according to plan, and as usual Terry, our coach driver, did a grand job!

Twinning weekends are always busy, but loads of fun and the chance to meet up with friends.

Following our arrival and all the hugs and kisses, there was a reception and then later a party meal at les Salles des Fetes de Brunoy. The food and drink was delicious and plentiful and the company excellent. The speeches of thanks and welcome were well received. When we finally returned to our hosts' house we sat and chatted and drank some more but the 10 year old granddaughters fell into bed, exhausted after a long day.

Saturday began early as we had to meet the coach at 08:00 to drive to Giverny to visit the home and garden of Claude Monet. The sun came out, the temperature rose and the gardens were a blaze of spring colour. What a beautiful place! The house was fascinating and it was inspiring to stand where Monet had stood. We saw, and stood on, the famous bridge and saw a few lily pads where all the lilies will bloom later in the year.

We had enough time to wander at our leisure, sit and soak up the peace of the garden as well as listen to the many languages being spoken around us. We walked to the church to see the grave of Monet and his family as well as other artists.

The evening was spent with our hosts. We all ate too much. Our granddaughters ate lots of radishes, which they learned to enjoy during their last visit. We played games, watched football and chatted and had a very pleasant evening

Shopping at the supermarket was the first task on Sunday and then a leisurely walk along the river Yerre before lunch and the task of packing all the cases and presents into the car. There were lots of hugs and kisses again as we prepared to leave and promises to meet again soon!

Our journey home went smoothly and we managed to get on an earlier ferry so were back in Reigate an hour earlier than we had expected.

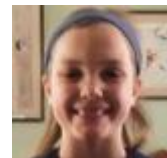
A fabulous weekend, and many thanks for all the hard work by Anne and Monique to make it such a success. Our granddaughters are already looking forward to next year. (see what they have to say below)

Hilary Jones

Our weekend by



Emma Jones and Erin Millard



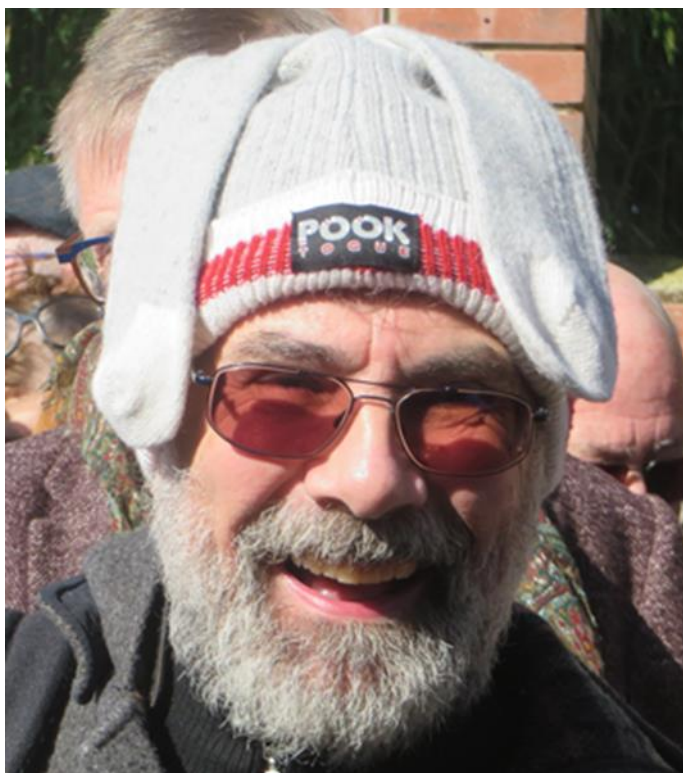
Our second visit was even better than the first..... it gets better every time!

The families are all kind and you learn new things. The food is different but you should always try it and it is usually very very good.

We had a real spring weekend and visiting new places was the best bit. This time we went to Monet's garden and house, which was incredible. The house was very interesting and we were excited to stand in the exact place where Monet stood. We saw his bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom and saw lots of his wonderful paintings. We stood on the bridge by the lake and walked to the church to see Monet's grave. Then we ate some lovely French ice cream.

It was a good weekend and so for all you young and older people out there, you would love it!





Now for the season's must wear
Bernard Violet
in one of his collection of hats!!

Forthcoming Events:

❖ Spring Walk - 6 May

Our Spring walk will be on Saturday 6th of May. Judy Bromley who joined Twinning quite recently has agreed to lead this walk with her faithful dog Rufus. So come with your children, your friends and your dogs for a fairly gentle walk. We'll start at 10 am from the Dolphin pub car park in Betchworth. Postcode RH3 7DW. This area can be quite muddy so walking boots are advised.

As usual, after the walk, we'll have lunch together at the pub and those who do not walk can come just for the beer (and the food), around 12.30. See you all.

Monique

How the Eschweiler Link Started

This information is from Karen Arscott who is Gerda Thomson's daughter

The process started in the local paper in 1981 when Mr Adams was Mayor of Reigate and Banstead and they asked people of Banstead to attend a meeting about the possible twinning with Eschweiler in Germany. My parents saw the article and decided to go along to find out about it.

Mum approached Nork WI where she was a member, about them being twinned with the Deustches Land Frau Shaft (not sure of spelling of this).

As part of the agreement between the Boroughs it was decided to give it 5 years before the official signing in 1986 of the contact, this was in case there was lack of interest.

Mum wrote to the Stadt Director on behalf of the WI to find a German link and he sent her the address of Brunhilda Buenten who was the District President of the Deustches Land Frau Shaft.

The contract was signed in Germany by the 2 Mayors. Mum attended with Dorothy Fisher, Margaret Crook and Joyce Parsk who were all members of Nork WI. They stayed with Germany families.

Ici Londres

Here's a link to the electronic version of the free French magazine "Ici Londres":

<http://www.ici-londres.com>

Congratulations



Sue and David Wylie
on celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary



Renate and Rodney Garrard
on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Obituary – Tim Horsfall

Tim Horsfall died on 4 April – having been unwell for some time, and on behalf of all the members of the Twinning Association, we offer our condolences to Penelope and her family. Tim's working life as an Engineer enabled him to travel widely – as he gleefully said – with other people paying. In 1962, he was granted a patent for "Oscillatory circuit interlock of horizontal coke oven batteries" (US3017622). I've no idea what it is all about, but as we know, his enthusiasm and fascination with gadgetry of all kinds continued for the rest of his life!

In retirement, he became Penelope's Consort! He thoroughly enjoyed her year as Mayor of the Borough, and he was just as pleased to accompany her on our Twinning visits – to Brunoy and Eschweiler. For several years, Tim, Penelope, Richard and I travelled to Eschweiler for the Karneval – we had a lot of fun, and we smile a lot at the good memories. He was very enthusiastic in helping with the Summer lunches and (pre) Christmas soirees – and I have some of his recipes – especially his cucumber sandwiches. He will be very much missed.

Elspeth

Genevieve Finel, President of the Brunoy Twinning Association has contacted us, in its name, to express the sadness of losing "our friend Tim" and offer her condolences.