

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



## Twinning News 2017/5



### Important Dates for your 2017/2018 Diary

- + Skittles/Pre-Christmas evening ----- 18 November 2017
- + Burns Night ----- 26 January 2018
- + Karneval ----- 8-13 February 2018
- + Twinning Quiz ----- 23 February 2018
- + AGM ----- 9 March 2018
- + 25th anniversary of Twinning festivities in Brunoy ----- 13 -15 April 2018
- + Visit by Brunoy ----- 21 - 23 September 2018

### Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again when the nights start drawing in, leaves are falling from the trees and we realise that Autumn is here and Winter cannot be far away. However, that is no cause for gloom as there are some interesting and different Town Twinning events to which we can look forward.

Firstly we can look back happily on the visit from our French friends in September. Our usual good weather gave us a good start with the visit to Canterbury and a friendly weekend was much enjoyed by all.

In November there will be the Skittles evening (see p5) and I hope to see many of you there. I am hoping to be there as my next knee operation is scheduled for the end of November. This will inevitably mean that I am a bit out of action after that as it will be about 6 weeks before I can drive. If any of you have any spare time do ring up or pop in to see me – there is no need to bring a plant or a box of chocs – just yourself will suffice!

*Anne*

**Anne Miller** (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01293 823483) [anne.miller@lineone.net](mailto:anne.miller@lineone.net)

### 25th anniversary twinning trip to Brunoy

Our friends in France are preparing a special weekend, next April, to celebrate this memorable anniversary. I do not know all the details yet but I understand that, in order to leave more time for the special evening, the Saturday coach destination will be closer to Brunoy than usual, to the Château de Courances, à classic 17th century building, specially famous for its park "un des plus beaux jardins de France". The charming nearby village of Milly-la-foret is also known for the house of the 20th century poet, playwright, artist and film maker Jean Cocteau who decorated himself the little chapel where he was buried in 1963.

So, as usual there will be enough variety to interest all of us, whether we like history, art or gardens not forgetting the opportunity to celebrate the 25 years of the friendship which binds us all.

*Monique*

**Monique Pottage** (01737 221073) [mpottage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mpottage@hotmail.co.uk)

We recently spent a very enjoyable weekend in Watrelos, where we were invited to join 25 of our Eschweiler friends celebrating their annual twinning group visit under the theme "Unis dans l'Amitié". On arrival, we were warmly welcomed to a Reception and meal by the Mayor Dominique Baert and the members of la confrérie du carnaval who had invited us in lieu of the Twinning Association. The following day we travelled all together by coach to the Cristallerie at Arques to discover how the different types of glass are made and pick up some bargains in the shop. After a good lunch we boarded a boat to take us through the huge lock to the canal – whilst we were waiting the acoustics inside the lock tempted a rousing rendition of "What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor" in French and German which greatly entertained the guide! After our return we all enjoyed a convivial evening meal together as the guests of Denis and Michele Roland. Sunday we were taken to discover a shopping mall with the largest garden centre in Belgium, just across the border, where all the shops are open – this sold many other goodies too. Then it was time for lunch together before we said our goodbyes. We would like to thank everyone for their hospitality – it was lovely to meet everyone at a more relaxed occasion than the busy time at Karneval.



Next year's Karneval Prinz and Zeremoniemeister have just been chosen – this time from the Narrengarde Karneval group in Duerwiss, with whom we have had longstanding friendships even pre-dating Twinning, through the Redhill Corps of Drums. We are delighted that the RCD have been specially invited to perform at several occasions during the main Karneval 8-13 February. Other Twinners would be most welcome to join us – please let me know if you are interested so we can make travel arrangements.

The Barbaraschule in Eschweiler will once again be visiting Reigate Priory School for their annual exchange during the week of 23 April. There may be a few spare seats in the Eschweiler coach for members of the Partnerstadtsverein to come as well – as we did last year, so this might be a good opportunity for a few to meet up if this can be arranged.

In the meantime, we have a couple more social events this year, another walk and a Skittles Evening as well as the Burns' Supper in January. I look forward to seeing you – and as always, like-minded friends are always welcome as we would be pleased to meet possible new members.

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

### Recent Events:

#### ▪ Brunoy Visit 15 – 17 September

On Friday 15th September about 40 members of Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association stood outside Reigate Town Hall, eagerly awaiting the arrival of their French guests from Brunoy. After delays in France due to heavy traffic and stringent control checks at Calais, we were happy and relieved to see the coach arrive. We took our guests to the Mayoral Reception at the Town Hall and were given a warm reception by the Deputy Mayor of Reigate, Mr Frank Kelly, who said how pleased he was that the

Twinning Link between Reigate and Brunoy is now in its 24th year. Monique and Genevieve also made short speeches to mark the occasion.

Suitably refreshed by drinks and nibbles, our guests then returned with us to our homes to eat and relax. On Saturday we travelled by coach with our guests to Canterbury Cathedral and we were really fortunate to hear the rehearsal of Handel's Messiah, which was to be performed in the Cathedral that evening. The music filled the air and made our visit truly memorable. After about two hours immersed in the history and beauty of the Cathedral, we were left to our own devices to have lunch and some free time in Canterbury; some went on a boat trip or strolled by the river, some visited the beautiful gardens and others chose to go shopping. The general consensus of opinion on the return coach journey was that there had been plenty to do in Canterbury and a good time was had by all. Fortunately the weather was fine and we were pleased that the torrential downpour which we experienced on our return coach journey hadn't occurred earlier!

On returning to Reigate we had a short time to relax before our dinner at Reigate and Redhill Golf Club that evening. After a delicious hot buffet we all enjoyed the tasty Brie which Serge had so generously brought over from Brunoy. Anne and Genevieve made short speeches and there was a good convivial atmosphere.

Sunday morning flew by - some of our guests and hosts took part in 'Run Reigate' in Priory Park and others enjoyed a relaxed 'brunch' or a walk. Anna Vaughan Spruce very kindly organised a whistle-stop tour of local places of interest.

Before we knew it, it was time to assemble at Reigate Town Hall to wave goodbye to our French friends. The visit was action-packed and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A huge 'thank you' to Anne, Monique and Ena for the brilliant organisation which meant everything went so smoothly.

We are now looking forward to our return visit to Brunoy in April.

**Judy Bromley**



Instead of the usual group photo, here is one of the four runners from Brunoy, who took part in the Run Reigate event, proudly wearing their medals. Well done



## ▪ **Message from Marcelle Benattar**

SEPTEMBRE 2017

REIGATE - CANTERBURY ,Un week-end amical et ensoleillé ...

Une fois de plus ,notre week-end de mi- septembre à Reigate, notre ville jumelle, s'est déroulé fort agréablement,associant au beau temps, une agréable compagnie .

En effet, notre groupe de 38 personnes , composé d'anciens fidèles et d'une douzaine de nouveaux, parmi lesquels 6 jeunes élèves et 4 dynamiques sportifs de l' ABC ( Athlétique Brunoy Club ) venus participer ,tout comme l'an dernier , au semi- marathon de Reigate(21kms), a trouvé son unité dans le partage et la convivialité.

Après un départ matinal en autocar et.. quelques bouchons, nous sommes arrivés à Calais dans les temps ,mais des contrôles renforcés nous ont retardés et obligés à prendre le ferry suivant.

Nos hôtes anglais nous attendaient de pied ferme pour la traditionnelle réception en Mairie, dans l'ancienne salle du Conseil municipal, aux plafonds décorés de fresques et sculptures datant du début du siècle dernier . L'adjoint au maire ,M Franck Kelly, nous y a chaleureusement accueillis et souhaité la bienvenue, n'omettant pas d'encourager les 4 sportifs pour leur participation au semi-marathon "RUN REIGATE."

Vendredi soir, nos hôtes anglais avaient organisé le dîner chez eux, souvent en se regroupant,pour plus de partage et de convivialité.

Le Samedi matin nous avons pris la direction de Canterbury et avons pu visiter sa magnifique Cathédrale, aux multiples points d'intérêt,dont le lieu de l' assassinat de Thomas Beckett.

Nous avons eu la chance d'assister à la répétition du" Messie "de Haendel par un magnifique choeur .. ce qui fut un véritable enchantement !!

Après un déjeuner libre ,nous avons pu flâner au soleil dans les ruelles de cette charmante petite ville du Kent, y admirer ses maisons médiévales, typiques, longer ses canaux, ou faire du shopping ..au gré des envies de chacun ..

Retour en fin d'après midi, petit temps de repos, puis nous nous sommes tous retrouvés au restaurant du club de golf de Reigate pour y apprécier un dîner fort sympathique ,offert par nos hôtes du Twinning .

C'est dans une ambiance toujours aussi amicale qu'ont eu lieu les traditionnels échanges de cadeaux et les discours de remerciements.

Dimanche matin ,les coureurs étaient sur le départ de la course avant 9h et nous étions assez nombreux à les attendre à leur arrivée, pour les féliciter de leurs belles performances, ce semi marathon étant relativement difficile, car il se déroule sur un terrain vallonné .

Un grand Bravo à Agnès,Isabelle,Jacques et Mario pour leur participation, leur enthousiasme et leur bonne humeur !

Vers 13h, traditionnelle photo de groupe, et départ pour Douvres après de longues embrassades et un émouvant au revoir.

Traversée Douvres- Calais par une mer étale, et arrivée à Brunoy sans encombres,vers 23h.

Prochain rendez-vous à Brunoy, le week-end du 13 au 15 avril 2018 , au cours duquel nous célébrerons le 25ème anniversaire du jumelage avec Reigate and Banstead.

A vos agendas... et à bientôt !

**Marcelle Benattar**  
**Responsable pour l'Angleterre**  
**Comité de jumelage de Brunoy**

## ▪ Heritage Weekend

We were pleased to have been invited once again by Reigate and Banstead Council to the Town Hall during September Heritage Weekend to showcase the Twinning Association to local residents. As many of you will know, the interior of the Town Hall is most impressive and attracted more than 500 visitors. It was good to use this opportunity to show what local organisations have to offer residents of the Borough. We saw some old friends and acquaintances and quite a few people had visited our Twin Towns or had some connection with them. Encouragingly, many had seen the Twinning signs at the entrance to the Borough but despite all our efforts, several seemed to think twinning was just for Councillors. We had a display board with photos and gave out a lot of our leaflets so I hope the event has gone some way to redress this.

*Graham Powell* Publicity Officer

## Forthcoming Events:

### ❖ Twinning Walk - 21 October

As you may have seen in our last newsletter, we shall be walking around the fields and farms of Leigh – it's a mostly level walk of around 4 miles finishing at the Plough for lunch around 1pm. Friends, children and dogs are welcome – meet outside the Plough in Church Road Leigh at 10.30 am. Please let me know by 15 October if you intend coming so we can wait for you and I can organise the food with the pub.

*Graham Powell* – 01737 761903 [powellspostbox@btinternet.com](mailto:powellspostbox@btinternet.com)

### ❖ Skittles/Pre-Christmas evening - 18 November

As a change from our usual Pre-Christmas celebration, we have decided to organise a skittles evening at the Colman Centre in Croydon Road Reigate. We have been able to hire a skittles alley from the Redstone Rotary club and I have been assured that the competition will not be too fierce as we shall play individually rather than in teams. Having fun doing something a little different seems to be the main objective. So come with your friends and let's try this.



Of course, we need to talk about food! Here we'll go back to the tried and tested formula:

Each of us brings a dish, sweet or savoury and we share it all. Please let me know what you'd like to bring and I will ensure a good balance.

As this is also an opportunity to raise some funds and as we need to cover the hire costs, tickets will cost £7.50 and include the first glass of wine.

We hope that this new idea will bowl you over, so remember to fill in the attached form.

*Monique Pottage*

### ❖ Burns' Supper - 26 January

Advance notice of this so you can keep the date free! By popular request, we are repeating the very successful evening we held a couple of years ago. For economies of scale, it will be a joint event with our friends of Redhill Redstone Rotary Club at the Redhill & Reigate Golf Club in Pendleton Road Redhill. There will be a traditional meal with entertainment by a piper and singer of Scottish songs.

As this is a joint event, please do let us know early if you would like to come as places will be limited due to the size of the room.

*Graham Powell* – 01737 761903 [powellspostbox@btinternet.com](mailto:powellspostbox@btinternet.com)

## New Members:

Aida Niven  
Cathy and Steve Dyson

## 2018 Subscription Renewal

Dear Twinners,

Membership subscriptions fall due at the start of January.

An exception to this is that if you have joined Twinning for the first time recently and we have agreed to waive the subscription for the coming year in view of the short benefit you will have had from your 2017 membership.

Otherwise please send me a cheque and the membership form, for the amounts indicated on it, £7.50 or £15. Cheques should be made out to Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association, (and not to me!).

If you pay by direct bank transfer, please do not forget to e-mail myself and Robert Bogin, our treasurer, to let us know that you have re-joined. Our e-mails are included on the membership forms.

Please note that if you will be participating in the Twinning visits to Brunoy or Eschweiler, you need to be paid up members in order for the Association to obtain the travel insurance cover it needs.

**David Wylie**  
*Membership Secretary*

## And finally



Congratulations to Robert Bogin our Treasurer on special milestone birthday with thanks for his efforts.