

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2018/2



Important Dates for your 2018 Diary

- Spring Walk-----26 May
- Afternoon Tea-----24 June
- Visit to Eschweiler ----- 6-9 July
- Visit by Brunoy-----21-23 September
- Skittles Evening -----20 October
- Joint visit to Reigate by Eschweiler and Wattlelos Youth Group on project to Celebrate end of First World War -----25-27 October

Brunoy Link

Dear friends

By the time you read this our visit to Brunoy will have come and gone. It was the first part of the celebrations of our 25th Anniversary and we look forward to the second part which will be in September when our French friends come here.

Before that, of course, there will be other Town Twinning events which we are all asked to support. It is always a good idea to think of a friend or two you could invite to one of our events, as word of mouth and a personal invitation is a good way of recruiting new members. For a Borough of the size of Reigate and Banstead the number of our members is very small indeed and it would be good to increase our membership.

There are lots of interesting events in this Newsletter so let us all resolve to be as active as possible and build up our Association

Anne and Monique

Anne Miller (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link)
and **Monique Pottage**

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Eschweiler Link

Although only last month, it seems quite a while now since we returned from our Karneval visit to Eschweiler with the Redhill Corps of Drums. It was certainly an especially memorable visit since we have all known this year's Prinz Patrick, Zeremoniemeister Michael and many of his entourage for many years. They had a fantastic "reign" and even managed to keep their voices until the end, despite all the singing! We were made especially welcome by their Narrengarde Karneval group and were involved the whole weekend with performances, processions and even a national tv interview by WDR. Eschweiler has the third largest Karneval in Germany and they got extra kudos for international visitors, especially since this year's theme was "Grenzenlos Jeck" – celebrating Karneval without country borders. Graham and I have been going to Karneval for 25 years now and we were surprised and honoured to be awarded the Silver Star, Eschweiler's second-highest medal, in the Town Hall for our participation on behalf of the Twinning Association's support for this most important event in the Eschweiler calendar.

Swiftly following on from this was the Wattlelos Carnaval at the beginning of April and as usual we were warmly welcomed to view the annual parade of their Giants in the local Northern France tradition, together with Confrerie groups.

Priory Junior School and Barbaraschule Eschweiler have just completed both their annual visits. This is the 12th year the exchange has taken place and we congratulate all the teachers and helpers concerned. Our next group visit to Eschweiler will take place 6-9 July. We will travel by coach and make day visits to Duesseldorf and the Eifel area. We already have a good number of participants including the next Mayor, Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin and her husband, and some members of the YMCA Youth Club with their leaders who will be making a reciprocal visit following last summer's exchange. There are still some seats available and accommodation available in families or a hotel, but please let me know soon if you are interested in coming. I have been asked several times so would like to stress that you do not have to speak German to enjoy the visit.

There are several new members who have just joined the Association in order to come to Eschweiler, so we would like to welcome them and hope that they will be able to come along to one or other of our social events in the meantime, so we can all get to know one another a little before travelling. Look forward to seeing you!

Janet Powell Eschweiler Link Chairman
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Recent Events:

▪ Burns' Night Supper – 26 January

Twinnings and Redstone Rotary Club members came together to celebrate Burns' Night on 26th January. (Although the Bard was born on the 25th, this year the date fell on a Thursday!)

The evening started with pre-dinner drinks and whilst chatting we were entertained by a pipe *ceòl mòr*. All assembled were excitedly anticipating an evening of Scottish culture which they were about to experience.

Twinning has committee members who are members of both the organisations. Janet Powell gave a welcome to all Rotarians from Twinning and Robert Bogin responded for the Rotarians to the Twinnings.



Of course Burns' Night is celebrated for the Supper. The serving of it was preceded by some words by Jim Scott, resplendent in formal evening highland dress, sporran and sgain dubh. He gave the Kirkudbright Grace and the first courses were brought to the tables.

This was followed by the traditional procession of the Haggis with the cook carrying it behind the piper and the placing it on the salver before Jim, who recited *the address to the Haggis*.

On reaching the lines:-

" His knife see rustic labour dicht, An' cut you up wi' ready slicht,"

as tradition requires, slashed his knife into the haggis and it was toasted by all with *uisge-beatha* (whisky). The meal was served with beef, neaps and tatties (swede and potatoes).



In the interval before dessert a medley of Burns' songs were beautifully sung by Julie McLean. After Cranachan, (the desert), she led us in the singing of *The Bony Banks of Loch Lomand*.

Jim Scott gave an address on the life of the immortal bard of Ayr.

Burns was a man about 200 years ahead of his time in social thinking. His writing supported the idea of equality for women. Jim also delighted us with a recitation of the poem

Wee sleeket cowran tim' rous beastie,

reflecting on how the Bard's words apply to the state of our world today.

Richard Cawtheray proposed the toast to the health of the lassies and Wendy Naish from the Rotarians toasted the laddies. She observed that how incredible it was that after such a long time, Burn's Night was celebrated and Burns was held in such esteem all round the world, possibly helped by the fact that in his relatively short life, he had so many children by so many lassies!

During the evening we completed a quiz on all things Scottish and the night ended with the singing of Auld lang syne. The guests left having enjoyed a very different kind of evening and proclaiming their Scottish ancestry or affiliations, however distant.

David Wylie

▪ Quiz – 23 February

A record of 105 people were due to come but one was, unfortunately, unable to make it. Most people had fish from the Holmesdale Road fish and chip shop this was really good.

We made a very good profit but the exact amount has to be confirmed by the Treasurer.

As we are celebrating 25 years twinning with Brunoy the money will come in useful in September.

We would like to thank Alys, Helier's daughter, for stepping into the breach at the last minute.

The winning table was the same as last year.

We would also like to thank Elspeth for organising the food and Monique for organising the quiz, which was a great success as usual.

Mary Hickman

▪ AGM – 9 March

The Annual General Meeting was held at the URC Hall Shaw's Corner and about 30 members attended. It was good to meet some of our new members and welcome the Deputy Mayor Frank Kelly, who will be accompanying us to Brunoy for the 25th anniversary celebrations, together with his wife. The meeting followed the usual procedure of reports on the year's activities of the Eschweiler and Brunoy links, Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's report. Thanks were recorded to Elspeth Cawtheray who was standing down as Hon. Secretary and Sally Baker was voted in to replace her. The remainder of the Committee agreed to continue and thanks are also due to them for their work during the year, as well as to Ena Bishop - it was commented on how well the newsletter was received.

Administrative and postage costs have risen and the subscription has remained unchanged for several years, so it was agreed by the meeting that individual subscriptions be increased slightly to £10 per annum with effect from next year. We do however also rely heavily on members supporting our fundraising events throughout the year in order to keep this affordable for all. The Committee would also welcome members' help with organising these events.

The meeting concluded with supper and wine for members to socialise together and Janet was thanked for organising the food.

Graham Powell

▪ Visit to Brunoy – 13 -15 April

We started our visit to Brunoy along with a further 35 members of the Reigate and Banstead Twinning Association at 6.30am of Friday 13 April on an overcast spring morning by boarding a coach for the trip from Reigate.

Being advised that it was customary to take an original English gift to our hosts we hastily purchased an original Bakewell Tart on line and a cake stand. Having had time to reflect on our purchases we hoped we would not be considered to be Marie Antoinette sympathisers.

Possibly the date, the railway strike in France and the Easter holidays all contributed to the traffic congestion around Paris which resulted in us arriving an hour later than planned.

Surprisingly, our hosts who had possibly been hanging about for far longer than expected were delighted to see us and transported us to their home and presented us with a printed 5 course menu in English and French.

We then went to the Mairie, Salle des Mariages for a reception where we were greeted by the Mayor and various other dignitaries and members of the Brunoy Twinning Association (BTA) committee. After two glasses of Champagne we returned with our hosts to their home to sample the grand dinner that had been prepared.

Our hosts Halina and Francois had invited two of their friends to join us and we started the first course which turned out to be more champagne, and after an amazing meal and a lot of confusion (our French being poor) and laughter we fell into bed at 10.30.

The next day it was 'everybody back on the coach' for a visit to Milly La Forêt. a small church renovated by the local people and decorated with meaningful religious murals and a Chateau in Courances.

In the evening we were all again hosted by the members of the BTA at the Salle des Fetes with classic pop music played by an enthusiastic band. As the evening wore on and the wine began to flow otherwise restrained members were seen dancing with gay abandon to the Beatles with the event finishing sometime after midnight.

The next day our hosts took us to the local market where we made a few purchases before boarding the coach for home at 1pm.

What surprised us was the warmth and friendship which was extended to us by all the members of the BTA in general and our hosts in particular.

However, it should be appreciated that the link with Brunoy has been forged over a period of some 25 years, and the members of the respective committees have no doubt worked extremely hard over the years to make an event of this magnitude available to interlopers such as me.

Our hosts who insisted we accept wine and champagne from them could not have been more patient, friendly and tolerant in giving us a brief insight into French history, culture and their private lives, we hope to return the compliment in September.

Surprisingly they insisted we visit them again in the summer, an offer to which we shall give serious consideration

Pete Mason

the former mayor of Brunoy

the current one

our deputy mayor



▪ Reigate Priory and Barbaraschule School Exchange

The theme of this year's exchange was 'Music and Dance'.

Reigate Priory visited Eschweiler - 12-16 March.

At the Barbaraschule, the children learnt about the traditions of Karneval, especially the special songs and the costumes. Both schools attended a special church service to celebrate the friendship between them. They played bonding games during lessons to encourage the learning of key phrases in both languages. On their final day they enjoyed a guided tour of Aachen, which included learning about the myths and legends of the area, and at the farewell barbecue the children were entertained by a demonstration of Karneval dancing.

Barbaraschule visited Reigate - 23-27 April

On the return visit to Reigate, the children from Barbaraschule tried music making using samba instruments, learnt dance routines and some traditional English folk songs. They also enjoyed a visit with their Reigate hosts to the Brighton Aquarium and learnt how to play beach cricket. Helped by the Deputy Mayor, a tree was planted in the school grounds to celebrate the twinning of the two schools. As one girl commented "The best part of the exchange is making new friends in another country!"



Sally Baker



25 years of Twinning between Reigate & Banstead with Brunoy

1993

2018

Help please!

To celebrate our 25th anniversary of Twinning with Brunoy, in September, we would like to organise a display of photos recording many happy moments spent with our French friends over the years. Could you please look up any pictures you are happy to share, leaflets, photographs etc. We also hope to put together a small album of photos and memories. Please send me pictures with dates, caption and of course your name so that we can return any hard copies to their owners.

I intend to go to the walk in May and the afternoon tea in June, so you could give me your pictures then?

Many thanks,

Monique

Forthcoming Events:

❖ Spring Walk – 26 May

Rufus (my dog) and I will be leading a walk on Saturday 26 May, starting at the Pheasant Pub at Buckland (formerly the Jolly Farmers, on the left hand side of the A25 from Reigate towards Buckland).

There is a large car park at the pub so we can assemble there from 9.45 prior to the departure time of 10.00. The walk will take approximately 2 hours and we can then relax for a drink and lunch at the Pheasant.

The Pheasant is a popular pub, so I have reserved seating for 20. However, I will need to know exact numbers by 19 May so that I can confirm arrangements with them.

Can you please let me know by e-mail (judybromley2014@gmail.com) if you will be taking part on the walk and whether you would like to have lunch? You can of course just have lunch if you are not feeling too energetic!

Judy Bromley

❖ Afternoon Tea – 24 June

This year we are, again, organising an afternoon tea. Penelope Horsfall, our president, has kindly offered to host this event in her garden in Fengates Road. If any of your friends are considering joining the Twinning Association, please invite them to come and meet us in the relaxed atmosphere of a convivial afternoon tea. Shelter will be available in case of rain.

We wish to serve delicate sandwiches as well as a variety of delicious cakes and scones. Of course we will drink tea but also a glass of sparkling wine to get the party going.

As this is also a fundraising event, we will ask you to contribute £7.50 and a small plate of delicate sandwiches or a plate of small cakes/scones. To ensure a variety of goodies, I will ask you to contact me. Please see all the details on the form attached with this newsletter. I hope to see many of you.

Monique

❖ Skittles Evening on Saturday 20 October at the Coleman Redland Centre – details to follow

Proposed visit to EU Parliament in Brussels

Some of you came on the visit to the Parliamentarium in Brussels which our Eschweiler friends organised. Unfortunately on that occasion we weren't able to have a working visit with the MEPs, but through another EU contact a small group visit would be possible on 16 October. It's proposed to travel by Eurostar and stay over so it could be combined with sightseeing.

If anyone is interested, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make arrangements.

Janet Powell

01737 761903 powellspostbox@btinternet.com

General Data Protection Regulation

There will a separate e-mail issued shortly which will be sent by Ena Bishop on behalf of David Wylie with regard to the forthcoming regulation. Please note that you will need to respond to this in order that the R&B twinning association can continue to keep in contact with you by your preferred method.

Obituary

Mme Marie-Thérèse Lejay

You will all be sad to hear of the death of Marie-Thérèse Lejay at the age of 91. She was the friend of me and my late husband Jim. We met in the South of France about 30 years ago. M-T got sunburnt one day and we lent her some after-sun. We became friends, exchanged sons and choirs and this led eventually to the Twinning between Reigate and Banstead and Brunoy. One link has gone but the association will endure.

Anne Miller

New Members:

A warm welcome to:	Bob Belton	Roger Dale	Alison Davis
	Christine Eade	Christine Firat	Chris Hemsley
	Bethany Higgins	Clara Hubank	Frank and Ann Kelly
	Chantelle Greenidge-Minott	Pauline Moull	Bob and Ann Witham