

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2018/3



Important Dates for your 2018/2019 Diary

- ✚ Visit by Brunoy----- 21-23 September
- ✚ Skittles Evening -----20 October
- ✚ Visit from Eschweiler to Reigate ----- 30 May- 2 June 2019

Brunoy Link

Dear friends

Well! What a Summer this is – and it shows no sign of changing. While we all swelter and the poor gardens suffer we must turn our thoughts to the Autumn and think about the second part of the celebrations for our 25th Anniversary. We just hope there will be a small amount of decent weather left particularly for the visit to Kew on the Saturday. Our Brunoy friends arrive on Friday 21 September when Her Worship the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, will welcome our visitors in the Town Hall. Then on the Saturday Evening she will join us again for the Dinner at Reigate College. This is open to all members, not just hosts, so we hope that many of you will join us for this occasion. In honour of the Anniversary there will be music, too. Full details are elsewhere in this Newsletter, together with a form to fill in if you want to come. Hosts will of course get all necessary details early in September when we have the final Timetable from France.

As usual there are more events later in the Autumn so we hope to see you at these as well. In the meantime we can all pray that any rain comes during the night so that our enjoyment of the sunshine is not disturbed – unlikely as this most probably is!

By the way – please note my new email address – it's easy to change in your records.

Anne and Monique

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

Un repas en musique

After the brilliant way we were entertained in Brunoy to mark 25 years of Twinning, we decided that it was our turn to pull out all the stops to celebrate 25 years of friendship. Monsieur Bruno Gallier, the Mayor of Brunoy, will be coming to join us in the celebrations.

We are providing the Anniversary cake for the Mayor's reception on the Friday but we hope that the Saturday evening will also be quite special this year. There cannot be a party without music, so Richard Cawtheray has kindly agreed to organise this: we will be entertained by David Skinner's "Quintet Plus Big Band", I am told they also play some French numbers.

We will be giving you a chance to reminisce with a display of twinning photos on paper and on screen... You can do so with a glass in hand as we are planning to greet you with a jug of Pimms, so English, n'est-ce pas! You can expect the meal to be to the very high standard we've been used to from Gavin, the Chef in Reigate College.

Do come all of you, hosts or not, and maybe bring some friends to show off Twinning. It should be a really good evening and thanks to the careful budgeting of the Brunoy trip and our very successful fundraising

Quiz in February, we are able to keep the meal at the same price as last year. Please fill in the relevant attached form.

I hope to see you all.

Monique

Eschweiler Link

Dear Friends

It was good to hear that you enjoyed our visit to Eschweiler. Many thanks to all our Eschweiler friends for hosting and helping us. We were very pleased that our Mayor Cllr Dorothy Ross-Tomlin and her husband Jim were able to join us, and that a youth group from the YMCA came on a return visit to the Narrengarde Youth Group. In addition, we welcomed several new members to the Association on their first visit to Eschweiler and we hope to see you all at some of our future social and fundraising events before Eschweiler's next group visit to us next May.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer holiday!

Janet Powell Eschweiler Link Chairman
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Recent Events:

▪ Spring Walk – 26 May

Saturday 26 May was a bright warm morning with promise of a settled day ahead. Ten of us led by Judy Bromley or rather Rufus and Charlie, our four legged guides, crossed the A25 from The Pheasant and disappeared into the lane. Rufus and Charlie were eager and checked the hedgerows regularly to make sure we were on the right route.

It was like a scene from a 'Famous Five' adventure. Left at the walnut tree and before long we reached the shade of part of the North Downs way as it nestles in the lea of the Hills. The more knowledgeable amongst our band pointed out the wild flowers whilst others discussed difficulties of car maintenance in the 60s. Along the wooded paths we avoided 'off road' cyclists and watched in amazement as runners sped past, turned left and climbed the almost vertical face of the Downs. Not being a 'doggie' person I asked the naive question, just how far does a dog walk? Rufus looked at Charlie, shrugged and off we went back towards the A25 and the Black Horse. By this time a thirst was building under the cloudless sky. Onward we went across the Heath, our band rather more strung out but still determined. It's moments like this we begin to remember the famous scene from the film 'Ice Cold in Alex'. We finally reached our goal, The Pheasant, after 2 hours and about 11,000 steps. Rufus and Charlie seemed ready to go round again! We were joined for lunch by other members perhaps envious of our morning in our beautiful Surrey countryside.

And there on the bar in a row were four glasses of cold Orchard Cider. Roll the cameras!, Thank you Judy.

Brian Cowle

▪ Afternoon Tea - 24 June

On Sunday 24 June our Chairman, Penelope Horsfall, once again kindly hosted the Twinning Association's annual Tea Party. It was another lovely, hot day allowing us to relax and enjoy her sunny garden sitting at shady tables.

After a welcoming glass of Bubbly there was a delicious spread on offer : a variety of delicate sandwiches, Pen's traditional scones with cream and jam, strawberry gateau and a choice of other cakes and goodies. All this was accompanied by numerous cups of tea or glasses of sparkling water.

Founder member Gerda Thompson was present along with 20 other members. Thank you, Penelope, for your warm hospitality and thanks also to all the organisers for their hard work which made for a delightful afternoon.

Ros Borkowski

▪ **Visit to Eschweiler – 6-9 July**

At 6.45am pm on a beautifully sunny morning we “Twinning Newbies” joined 35 others on a coach from Redhill for the first part of our journey/adventure to Eschweiler. The last time I crossed the channel by water was on a Hovercraft in 1975 (the skirt split, and we had to be rescued...) so I was pleasantly surprised with the very smooth crossing which was made easier by spending the entire journey having brunch in the brasserie!

Despite our arrival in Eschweiler being a couple of hours later than planned, our hosts were most welcoming and after a quick turnaround we tripped up to the historic Altdeutschen pub which was decked out with flags and bunting: very soon the weissbier was flowing. Our hosts generously provided a wonderful meal and equally wonderful company, which set the scene for the weekend.

On the Saturday visit to Düsseldorf there was a choice of three trips: guided walk through the city centre and old town; a guided visit to Mediahafen and tour of WDF TV studios or a boat trip, which we took, to historic Kaiserwerth spending a few very relaxing hours meandering around the town. On the return boat journey a few of the Twinning group were huddled over a small screen watching the World Cup quarter final – England v Sweden – and relaying its progress when we, England, were doing well, whilst others spent a couple of hours warming up for the next Twinning quiz night!

The three groups met up for dinner at Düsseldorf Brauere, magnificently hosted again by Eschweiler Twinning group, followed by an entertaining walk back to the coach, deftly weaving through World Cup supporters, Hen and Stag night parties. In the evening a couple of us enjoyed watching Russia v Croatia on a big screen (one of at least 20 screens!) in Eschweiler Market Square, where at least 500 people gathered, bars over-spilling, people sitting on the church wall and children playing in the children's playground around a bronze sculpture in the middle of the square (by Aachen sculptor Boniface Stirnberg). The square erupted when the game went to extra time, then penalties – all in very good spirits.

On Sunday morning, before meeting up with the main group, Manfred very kindly and proudly showed a few of us around the most serenely beautiful St Peter and St Paul Church in the square in Eschweiler. The original Church on its site dates back to the 8th Century. Our host, had burnt the midnight oil, literally, researching and printing off a booklet of the History of the Church in English.

We then joined the group at 10:30 for a wonderful trip to the Eifel Mountains, en route passing through quite charming villages. The first stop was Mariawald Abbey, the only Trappist Monastery in Germany, also famous for its Green split lentil soup (Mariawalderstrasse pea soup) which we translated into 'exploding lentils'...The exploding definition was more apt though when tasting the unique liqueur which is also produced at the monastery. A highlight for us was the most beautiful and relaxing two hour boat trip on the Ruhrsee. The sun was shining, we sat relaxing with a glass of wine, passing beach after beach with us all being in agreement that we wanted to have a holiday home there!

The evening event was again generously hosted by the Eschweiler Twinning Group which was held in an unusual location in the grounds of a discontinued lignite mine. A combination of an amazing BBQ, flowing beer and wine, with very warmly delivered and received speeches from the Twinning Groups, along with great company on a balmy night in July encapsulated the spirit of the entire trip.

Whilst most of the Redhill contingency left Eschweiler at 10am on the Monday, we travelled further into Germany.

As we left the group, we reflected on our very full fun packed days and considered the uniqueness of the social relationships formed by the twinning of our two towns. Politics and notions of borders were wonderfully put to one side and the spirit and essence of Redhill's 35 year twinning relationship with Eschweiler was encapsulated by our new German and French friends linking arms with us on the Saturday evening singing "We are stronger together".

An enormous Thank You to Janet and Graham who skilfully and efficiently organised such a wonderful trip; to Ena who very deftly introduced us to the Twinning Association, and particular thanks have to go to the Twinning Group in Eschweiler for their generosity, friendship and kindness. We look forward to seeing them all next year.

Mary and Mike S

▪ **Our trip to Eschweiler (from WAVES/YMCA)**

In July this year we joined the twinning Association for a four-day trip to Eschweiler in Germany. For some of us this was the first time we had been able to go abroad ever! We were all so excited! Last summer we got to meet some of the young people from Eschweiler who came to England to visit. We put on a fun activities day for them and had a great time doing photography and trampolining so we were really excited to go and visit everyone again in Germany.

On the first day we went to Gregor's house in the evening for a BBQ and meet his family and friends. We were all a little nervous being in a different country but everyone made us feel so welcome and we played some fun 'get to know you' games. The BBQ was also delicious!

On the second day after a very big tasty breakfast we went on a boat trip to a little town called Kaiserswerth we took lots of photos, had some huge ice creams and also got to paddle in the river. We were even able to catch England win the football while traveling back on the boat. In the evening we tried some traditional German food in Dusseldorf. It was really nice to be able to try something different and it was really tasty. By the end of the day we were all very tired but had had a really good day.

The third day was definitely our favourite day, we went with Gregor and his youth group to Belgium for the day to a theme park which is a bit like Thorpe Park. We went on some amazing rides that were a little scary but really good fun. Our favourite ride was called *The Tornado* and it had one huge loop in the middle of it. you could probably hear us screaming and laughing back in England. After this we travelled back and had dinner with everyone in the youth group. We had curry sausages and chips. Yummy!



On the fourth day we travelled home on the ferry and coach. The journey both ways was really long but worth it for the brilliant time we had. The best bits about the trip were being able to experience going to and being in a different country and all the new friends we made while in Germany. We now all follow each other on Instagram and we want to keep in contact with all our new friends. We would like to go back to

Germany again and experience carnival. Everyone talked a lot about carnival and it sounds like great fun! This trip has made us feel more confident in traveling and trying new things including speaking German. We would never have been able to go without the support from everyone involved!

We just want to say a HUGE thank you to the twinning association and everyone involved in making this trip so amazing! We will remember this trip for a very long time. We would recommend visiting Eschweiler to everyone!

Thank you!

From all the young people from WAVES!!

Forthcoming Events:

- ❖ Visit by Brunoy 21-23 September
- ❖ Skittles Evening on Saturday 20 October at the Coleman Redland Centre

We are again organising a skittles evening at the Colman Centre in Croydon Road Reigate. We will be hiring a skittles alley from the Redstone Rotary club again the competition will not be too fierce as we shall play individually rather than in teams.. So come with your friends.

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 £10 and include the first glass of wine.

Please remember to fill in the attached form.

Anne Miller

Congratulations



Congratulations to Dominique Baert, Mayor of Wattlelos (Eschweiler's French twin town) who has just been made an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur (France's highest award of merit) for his work and longstanding service to Wattlelos.

Obituary

Doreen Buckoke

We are sad to hear of the death of Doreen Buckoke, a long standing member, who recently passed away following a long illness.