

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2019/3



Important Dates for your 2019 Diary

✚ Visit from Brunoy-----	13 - 15 September
✚ Skittles evening-----	18 October
✚ Winter Walk-----	9 November
✚ January Dinner-----	TBA

Message from our President

Our Association was cordially invited by Eschweiler Town Hall to attend the official twinning agreement ceremony between Eschweiler with Sulzbach-Rosenburg in Bavaria. Our Mayor was unfortunately unable to go so, as President, I headed our small delegation. Janet Powell, as chairman of our Eschweiler link attended, as did her husband, Graham. He drove us! Thank you very much Graham. Sally Baker, our Secretary, also went but travelled separately.

We thank our friends in Germany for their hospitality and exceedingly warm welcome. It was good to meet those from Sulzbach-Rosenburg, as well as some of our friends from Wattrelos, and no doubt we shall see them again at some future event in Eschweiler.

It was an interesting occasion, not encountered before. The elephant in the room is, of course, Brexit, which is the reason Eschweiler needed to find another twin town, but we are assured, not to replace us. We wait to see the outcome but are determined to maintain our friendship with our Eschweiler twinners. We have exchanged visits for over thirty years. Something to be proud of.

Penelope

Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, Marcelle who is responsible for the English link in the Brunoy Twinning Association, was told that our twinning link was "just a group of friends". At first, she felt a bit upset as it seems to underestimate our link. However, on reflection, I feel that the fact that we have built real friendship over the years is certainly something to be proud of. Ours is not just an official link with blessing and subsidies from a local authority. We often know each other's families and may meet also outside the Twinning visits. Nevertheless, I can also see why Marcelle was unhappy with the "just". Our friendship is open and flexible, we'll host a different family or a completely different person who may come over for a special occasion. We encourage a variety of links between different groups. This September, we are going to welcome 4 half marathon runners for RunReigate and 4 keen photographers to link and exhibit with the Reigate Photographic Society. Over the years we have welcomed cyclists, tennis and judo players, people keen on playing bridge or singing and encourage a variety of links for people of all ages. This year a 16 year old from Brunoy is working as a volunteer in Redhill YMCA during his summer holidays.

I will stop beating that drum. When our friends from Brunoy come to visit us on the weekend of the 13 to the 15 September, do tell them how much we appreciate our friendship and let's all enjoy our European link.

The programme for the weekend will include a visit to Amberley open air Museum and Littlehampton. The details will be sent at the end of August to all the hosts.

Make the most of the good weather but "attention à la canicule", ie the heatwave....

Monique and Anne

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

(01737 221073) mpottage@hotmail.co.uk
(01293 823483) anne.miller@mail.com

Eschweiler Link

Dear Friends

We have had a very busy few months with the visits from the Barbaraschule Eschweiler to the Priory School in Reigate, the Eschweiler Twinning Group to us, and then the official visit to Eschweiler organised by their Town Hall to mark the new partnership between Eschweiler and Sulzbach-Rosenburg in Bavaria. Detailed reports on these visits are to be found later in the newsletter. Again, many thanks to those who hosted and helped.

Thanks also to Rachel Turner, our Twinning Councillor, we have now managed to secure accommodation for the Barbaraschule at the Old Pheasantry again for next year – this exchange has been taking place for 14 years and it is a relief that the concerns about availability following changes there have been resolved.

In the meantime, I hope you all have an excellent summer and look forward to seeing you on the return of Twinning social activities in September.

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link
01737 761903

Powellspostbox@btinternet.com

Recent Events:

▪ Summer Walk



On Saturday 25th May, Rufus met a dozen twinners at the Pheasant in Buckland for our traditional summer ramble, led once more by Judy. Although the weather was cloudy at times, it was mild and the rain held off, so it was dry underfoot. Our route first took us along lanes on a very gentle climb. (photo of group with Downs behind.) Once we joined the North Downs Way (part of European long-distance route E2 - Nice to Galway) the path became narrower with some roots and a few steeper downhill bits. As luck would have it, this was the only busy part of the route where we met or were overtaken by other walkers and joggers! Turning south we recrossed the railway and the A25 at Buckland Church, and soon after, we turned eastward and Reigate Heath windmill came into view. Now we knew that we were on the final leg of our 4.3 mile (7km) circuit. This took us along the Greensand Way past Dungates Farm, where Rufus was greeted enthusiastically by old friends, a whole pack of other Golden Retrievers.

Once back at the Pheasant we were joined for lunch by Penelope, Richard and Elspeth and their two new dogs who quickly got acquainted with Rufus

Edward Pottage

▪ Visit from Eschweiler

The visit got off to a bad start - unfortunately, there had been a number of “technical issues” on Eurotunnel, which had delayed our guests in Calais. We were all waiting anxiously, hoping they would arrive in time for the restaurant booking, when the coach arrived with minutes to spare. Hosts whisked their guests off home to eat, whilst the hotel guests were speedily checked in to the Redhill Travel Lodge, then taken up to the Toby Carvery to eat. After a very long and frustrating journey, everyone was glad of a good night’s sleep ready for the next day.

We used the German coach to travel to East Grinstead, where the Bluebell railway station is incongruously situated in a corner of Sainsbury’s carpark. It took many of us back in years to see the train puffing in to meet us. The train had been beautifully restored and the seats were a lot more comfortable than those “ironing boards” now in use on Southern Rail and Thameslink. Tony Trent was acting as our guide and had prepared an information sheet for everyone to read during the stately progress of the train through the lovely Sussex countryside towards Sheffield Park. We had an emergency stop due to deer wandering over the track! On arrival at the station, there were varied technical and social history exhibitions to see, together with an engine driving simulation, which was very popular. Then it was time for our picnic lunch and a beer before setting off to the National Trust Sheffield Park Gardens just up the road. These are beautiful at any time of year - everyone admired the azaleas and rhododendrons before sampling the other National Trust speciality of tea and scones before we set off back to Redhill. After time to freshen up, it was time to enjoy our dinner at the Home Cottage, Redhill.

On Saturday, some of the hosts took their guests off to various places. Some of our guests knew where they wanted to go in London and made their own way there. As some people had not been to London before, Hartmut took one group and Janet and I took another group. Everyone was thrilled to see parts of the rehearsal for Trooping the Colour. Prince Philip was spotted in the Royal car (not driving!) and there were lots of bands marching and playing. It was very hot by then and we decided to take the riverboat from Westminster to Tower Bridge so that people could see the sights without walking too far. We had to wait quite a while in the full sun for space on a boat and unfortunately one lady in our group got sunstroke (in London!!) and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. Luckily, she recovered quickly after treatment and was able to return later that day. There is always something happening in London so we were not surprised when the Police closed Tower Bridge due to a naked protestor climbing on to one of the support struts. We made our way back to the station and back in time to prepare for the barbecue at Redhill Golf Club.



Our brand new Mayor, Cllr Keith Foreman and his wife Helen were able to join us for dinner, and were able to meet our guests. The Mayor impressed us by attempting his speech in German and then with the Scottish dancing following. It was an enjoyable evening ending with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne”.



Sunday morning came along too fast and we all gathered for goodbyes and the traditional group photo before waving our friends off. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed it tremendously, especially those new visitors who said they would definitely be back!

Graham Powell

▪ Summer Lunch

On a lovely, sunny, summer’s day in July members gathered in Ros and John Borkowski’s beautiful garden.

A gazebo had been erected with a long table and chairs, with side tables laden with tempting, summer dishes provided by members attending. In true tradition they did not disappoint and it was laden with all manner of tempting delights!

John greeted us all with a welcome drink. There were outdoor games to try but most of us were happy to catch up and sit, while appreciating the lovely weather, surroundings and company.

These events are an opportunity to get to know each other and share thoughts and ideas.

A huge THANK YOU to Ros and John and all who provided the lovely treats and helped to make the event a success.

Phil and I look forward to hosting and participating in our annual visit in September by our friends from Brunoy. Another opportunity for us to share in our Community Friendships.

Rosemary Jones

Forthcoming Events

◆ A convivial meal with our friends from Brunoy on 14 September

This year again, we will meet at Reigate College on the Saturday evening for the now traditional Twinning meal. Gavin, the College chef will provide his usual delicious food and the atmosphere will be as warm and friendly as ever. We will enjoy a four course meal to include the lovely cheese our visitors always bring with them. Please do come to celebrate our friendship with Brunoy. Do come even if you are not hosting this year, it does not matter, you will still have the chance to practise your French or perhaps just exchange a few ideas in English with people who have different opinions. Do feel free to bring some British friends who may want to know more about twinning. Please fill in the form attached to this newsletter. As usual the Twinning Association will pay for our French guests.

Au plaisir de vous voir nombreux.

Monique

Treasurer

The Eschweiler visit here has reduced our reserves but this was expected and they still stand at a healthy level. The summer lunch brought in a reasonable amount and there has been little other movement

Robert Bogin

Obituary

Sahel with French and English students



Life is so unfair... Our gentle friend Sahel Terranova died last month after a few months of illness. Sahel was one of the most enthusiastic Twinners from Brunoy and among the youngest. She first came over with her husband when her boys Xavier and Kevin were quite small, being bilingual herself she was always keen to encourage others to acquire similar skills. Her boys are now in their twenties, so over the last ten years it's to college students that she devoted her time and talent. Always ready to help, nothing was too much effort to enthuse her students and teach them so much more than language skills. She promoted many contacts and exchanges between our Reigate students and hers, keeping in touch for years. We can see her in this photo with a group of French and British Students in Milly la Forêt in April 2018. She will be much missed by all of us.