

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2022/1



Important Date for your 2022 Diary

AGM ----- 30 March

Message from our President

On the 27th February I was taken to see, and hear, an opera adapted for children, namely The Pied Piper of Hamelin. Nearly 50 schools from West Sussex contributed to the cast.

When at school we studied Robert Browning's version. I knew it was a German legend. The first mention of the Piper apparently dates back to 1284. The varieties of its ending are numerous but the driving away of the rat infestation remains constant. I wonder if there is a French version.

The one I attended made the point that only three children could not follow the Piper and his/her music. One child was lame, one deaf and the third blind so could not follow the alluring sound.

The villains of the opera are the Mayor and his council. In this version the Mayor had a considerable singing role and the councillors sang together! My instant feeling was if, as Mayor, I had been asked to sing solo, the councillors would have headed out the door fast! In this version they were all not nice people!

Finally the Piper was sung and played by a woman. Still some lovely very old stories around.

Penelope

Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

The news from Brunoy is a little mixed. As in England, they are getting used to a milder form of the virus and, in Brunoy, life is returning to normal, but with a few more common sense rules to be observed. Masks must be worn on public transport and access to many public places indoors is much easier for all those who have a "passé vaccinal" (ie Covid Pass with double vaccinations and booster).

The Brunoy Twinning AGM in January was less fun than ours will be at end of this month: they were not allowed to share the usual "galette des rois", a special cake for Epiphany, or have a glass of white wine with it. I expect that the rules were still stricter in January.

On a more positive note, Dominique Ryan tells me that she is going to study the feasibility of organising a twinning visit here in September and survey the membership. Let's wait and see! I am sure we all hope to meet our French friends soon.

I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on March 30th. Please let me know if you are coming, I need to know how much cake to buy, n'est-ce pas !.

Monique and Anne

Monique Pottage (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01737 221073) mpottage@hotmail.co.uk
and Anne Miller (01737 913542) anne.miller@mail.com

Dear Twinners

I hope you are all well and managing life through all the difficulties the viruses have thrown at us. Hopefully now the Spring will bring better weather and at least some kind of respite. Now that "official" restrictions have been lifted we are able to cautiously resume meeting and it will be lovely to see you again at the forthcoming AGM for a chat over tea and cake.

Of course we remain in regular contact with our friends in Eschweiler for updates on the situation there. There are still many problems following on from the catastrophic flooding last summer with much of the centre remaining closed while the lengthy drying out process and restoration continue. Progress of Omicron is around 4/6 weeks behind us here, so there are still restrictions on public gatherings. Normally this would have been the time to celebrate Karneval, but this year it had already been reluctantly decided to cancel the parade. Some groups did have small outdoor events, mainly for the children. Instead of the usual Karneval procession, Cologne held a huge Freedom for Ukraine rally. As with the rest of Europe, there have been massive support efforts to help people there.

As a result of all this uncertainty, I shall not be able to organise a group visit to Eschweiler this year, although we may be able to go individually. However I know that our friends there send you all their good wishes and hope that we shall be able to meet again before too long.

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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Recent Events:

▪ Annual Twinning Dinner

One rather wet Friday evening in January about 26 members met at the Black Horse pub in Reigate for an evening meal. Most were on a couple of long tables but David and I were on a circular one tucked in the corner with another couple. We all had a very nice meal, very efficiently Janet had asked us to preorder to enable a swift service, this worked very well. Thank you Janet. It was so good seeing our friends again but it wasn't possible to circulate to catch up so we look forward to meeting up again!

Sue and David Wylie

Forthcoming Events

◆ AGM 30 March

The Annual General Meeting of Reigate and Banstead Twinning Association will be held at the Colman Centre, Croydon Road on Wednesday 30 March, from 2.30 - 4.00 pm.

It has been impossible to hold an AGM for the last two years because of Covid restrictions on meetings so we invite you to join us for tea and cakes to discuss future plans.

I'm delighted to announce that our Mayor, Jill Bray, has agreed to join us for our meeting. Please fill in the attached form by 27 March, so that Monique can ensure that we have enough cakes!

Sally Baker

Secretary

Treasurer and Membership

- **Treasurer**

The 2021 accounts were audited and approved. There was a deficit of £205.42 for the year however reserve funds stood at a healthy level. The deficit included the £500 donation paid to the Eschweiler flood fund. The total donated by members and the Association was £3615.

We are still holding £731.40 deposit paid to the coach company re the Brunoy trip that could not take place in 2020

This year currently there is £573.90 positive income but the only expense to date is £66 relating to the annual dinner (tip). Membership receipts are £90 down with £35 to come.

- **Membership**

We have 85 Members which represents 69 memberships.

Robert Bogin
Treasurer & Membership Secretary

New Member:

A warm welcome to:

😊 Brenda Juntunen