

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2022/2



Important Dates for your 2023 Diary

- January Lunch -----20 January
- Twinning Quiz-----3 March
- Visit to Brunoy -----31 March to 2 April

Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

As you all know now, we have been invited by Brunoy Twinning Association to visit them for the weekend of 31 March to 2 April 2023 to celebrate 30 years of Twinning. Of course, they have not yet prepared a precise programme for this festive weekend. We only know that we will have a special evening meal with live music on the Saturday. Other details will be decided later.

After some research and negotiations we think that we can fix the transport costs at about £150 per person for the whole weekend. Naturally it may depend on numbers and, therefore, I would like you to fill in the attached form..... to give us an indication of firm interest though not of absolute commitment. As soon as I have more information, my husband and I will create a flyer and send it to you with a date for the deposit.

To keep the price of the trip reasonable, we do need a small subsidy from our twinning fund. After two years without any fund raising activity we are starting again in 2023 with our famous Helier Quiz on Friday 3 March. Please note that date and talk to your friends...

I know that we are looking forward to meeting everyone again and renew all our friendship links in France and Germany. We hope to see you all around the tables for the January meal.

Monique and Anne

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

Eschweiler Link

Dear Twinners

Although it was sadly not possible to organise a group visit with Eschweiler this year, Graham and I did go there in June. We were invited by the Narrengarde Karneval Group to their Summer Festival and we also visited friends, with whom we spent a lovely few days at Xanten, an old Roman town. We took the opportunity to catch up with all the Eschweiler Twinning Committee, who kindly organised dinner together. It was great to see everyone again and we were very pleased to have been able to chat to Eckhard Pelky, (the photographer who had visited here many times). Sadly Eckhard died very suddenly, shortly after our meeting; I sent condolences to his family.

Nadine Leonhardt, Eschweiler's Mayor, invited us to the Town Hall to thank our Twinning Association Members for the generous donation to their Flood Relief scheme. She also said how pleased she had been to receive supportive telephone calls from our then-Mayor, Jill Bray. It has been over a year since the catastrophic flooding to first floor level in the centre of the town and it is obvious that there is still a great deal of work to do in the whole area, with some bridges and railway lines still needing repair. Central Funding has been difficult to access and the application process bureaucratic. Many of the shops are individual businesses, some of which have not recovered and not expected to reopen. The main priority is to get heating systems in basements working again before winter sets in, but there is a shortage of craftspeople available to do this and the drying-out and re-plastering of buildings takes many months. Despite all their problems though, Eschweiler have still taken in a substantial amount of people fleeing from Ukraine.

Reigate Priory Junior School and the Barbaraschule in Eschweiler have had reciprocal exchanges of 9 year olds for many years. Although an exchange wasn't possible this year, Mr Moses and his amazing staff kindly agreed to help one of Eschweiler's student teachers who is specialising in English as part of her Master's degree in Education. Due to Post-Brexit visa restrictions, her class had to study English in Malta! This didn't prove very satisfactory and she asked to come here for further practice at the school whilst staying with one of the teachers. We would like to thank the school for helping to support our twinning association work and wish Lisa every success for her future career.

The late Queen's death was a shock to many of us, despite her great age. We were grateful to receive letters and messages of condolence and support from many of our French and German friends and we thank them for their kind wishes.

Our Mayor, Cllr Frank Kelly, has replied to both Brunoy and Eschweiler, thanking them for their letters of support and condolence

Next month I have been invited to take part in another of the regular Zoom discussions between the German Embassy, the British/German Association and the towns in the Surrey area who are twinned with German ones. These have been very useful and has resulted in some interesting exchanges of ideas. The last one featured Richmond and their "twin" Konstanz who have been cooperating on recycling ideas.

We don't know how things will go with Covid over the winter, but hope that Karneval will be able to go ahead in some form in February. Eschweiler are hoping to plan a group visit to us in June, depending on what happens. We all look forward to seeing our friends again as soon as we can.

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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News from Eschweiler

◆ Ute Peter

Dear friends,

I hope you are healthy and enjoy sunny autumn days.

In the meantime you have a King. I was moved to see the funeral of Queen Elisabeth on TV, and you have a new prime minister. So much change!

Our next members meeting is in November. Then will also be the by-election of Eckhard Pelky.

Eschweiler is slowly recovering - little by little more stores are opening. In Germany everything has become expensive : food, gasoline, electricity, heat, gas. The government is planning relief.. We also have a large increase of Ukrainian refugees.

In many areas there are supply shortages. The economy is being rebuilt so that there are fewer dependencies and climate change is taken into account.

Corona numbers are increasing, a 4th vaccination to the new variants is recommended.

Let us be confident! :) Stay healthy and protected!

Sincerely

Ute.

Eschweiler Twinning

◆ Lisa Zylus

Thanks to the partnership between Eschweiler and Reigate, I had the chance to spend two weeks in Reigate and gain an insight into the British school system. It was a great experience for which I am very thankful. I was kindly hosted by a teacher from Reigate Priory Primary School for these two weeks and was able to get to know the everyday life of a teacher at this school.

The historic school building is set within beautiful grounds and it is easy to see that it is a school with very high standards. I was able to observe lessons in all year groups and will definitely keep some teaching approaches in mind for my future as a teacher in Germany.

I particularly noticed that a lot of work is done with technical tools such as iPads and smartboards, which I hope will soon be the norm at German primary schools too. It was also interesting to compare the levels of knowledge as school in England starts two years earlier than in Germany.

Reigate is a beautiful city. I was happy to have some time to explore the city and make use of the proximity to London.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for the experience. I will benefit greatly from it personally and professionally.

Recent Events:

▪ Summer Lunch Party on 9 July 2022

A good number of members attended the Summer Lunch which was held again in the garden of Ros and John Borkowski in Reigate on a perfect Summer's day. There was a large marquee providing shade for us to sit down together at tables to enjoy our picnic. We all brought a dessert which was then shared and what a wonderful selection there was! Coffee was served afterwards too. It was such a pleasure to meet up again and exchange news. There was such a lovely atmosphere as members mingled and chatted happily together.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Rosemary Absolom and her husband, David, were welcomed as visitors. Rosemary told us about her working life connected with Canada and mentioned about speeches being translated from English into French and vice a versa. We hope that she and David will become involved with us in future. We look forward to when we can meet up again with our friends in Brunoy and Eschweiler – perhaps next year.

Thank you to Ros and John for hosting this event again and to Monique and Janet (who could not come on the day as she and Graham had Covid) for organising everything.

Diana Bowes

Forthcoming Events

◆ January Lunch - Friday 20 January. 12.30 for 1.00 pm

As a Committee we have been well aware of the difficulties of getting everyone together recently. We want to see you again! To make this as affordable for everyone as possible, I have booked lunch in the (private room) Cellar Bar at the Red Lion, Old Road, Betchworth RH3 7DS. There will be a choice of main course and sweet together with coffee at £25. Buy your own drink at the bar.

Please keep the date free and I will advise once their January menu is available as we will need to pre-book for ease of service.

Janet Powell

Treasurer and Membership

- **Treasurer**

There is a small surplus for the year to date and reserve funds are at a healthy level. There has not been much activity in the year with a small deficit on the annual dinner (tip) and on skittles. Subs are £65 less than last year.

The £731.40 deposit paid to the coach company re the Brunoy trip that could not take place in 2020 will be written off as the quotes for the trip in 2023 from Turbostyle are lower even taking that £731.40 into account.

- **Membership**

We have 84 Members which represents 68 memberships..

Robert Bogin
Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Obituary

Zöe Adams

You will be sorry to hear that one of the Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association's original and loyal members died recently after a long life. She was 94 years old and had been in failing health. She was the wife of Maurice Adams, a Borough Councillor, who with his colleague Tom Curtis, was instrumental in setting up our twinning friendship with Eschweiler. Maurice and Zoe were Mayor and Mayoress in 1982 during which time the Twinning Association was formed. Over the years they were both involved in many charities as well as being active members of our association. After Maurice died in 2002 Zoe continued with her many interests and came to our events on a regular basis. She herself had been a Nurse and Midwife in the Navy which is where she met Maurice. He was widowed with two young daughters of whom she was very fond. At the funeral at St. Andrew's Kingswood there were so many members of her family present who had looked after her devotedly.

My friendship with Zoe goes back to 1983 when I joined the Borough Council and found that the Twinning Association had been founded to set up a link with Eschweiler. In the autumn of that year, I went for my first visit there with my husband, Richard. The official twinning events took place in 1995 as by then firm friendships had been formed with people from both towns as well as with the Councils. Maurice and Zoe had many visitors staying with them at their home in Kingswood and hosted many happy parties. I have such happy memories of Zoe and was pleased I was able to go to her funeral service when we celebrated her life.

Diana Bowes

Michael Selby

We were very sad to hear that Michael died very recently. He had been unwell for some time, but before that was discreetly active in Twinning. He went to Brunoy a few times, however, as he lived alone he felt unable to host anyone in return, but could be relied upon to find accommodation and look after the French drivers. His fluency in French was then a real asset. In September 2020 he was awarded the title of Honorary Alderman as he had served his local community for many years as an independent Borough Councillor. He will be missed.

Monique Pottage