

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2023/3



Important Dates for your 2023/24 Diary

- ❖ Walk ----- 30 September
- ❖ Quiz ----- 1 March
- ❖ Visit by Brunoy ----- 25 – 28 April

Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

Our visit to Brunoy may already feel like a long time ago, though I am sure that our epic coach journey will stay in our memory for a while yet... As you know, for financial reasons we will not see our French friends in September this year but only in April next year. In response to my enquiry, (to which nearly 100% of you replied, many thanks) everyone agreed that it would be lovely to extend the visit by a day and thus make it a longer and more relaxing weekend. So be sure to be available to host your usual friends or perhaps some new ones from Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 April 2024.

As you may know, since BREXIT, a passport is compulsory to get into Britain and some of our friends used to travel with only an identity card. I know, from experience, that renewing a French passport is not quick, so please, do invite your usual friends promptly telling them that a passport is required as well as welcoming them for the extra day. We do want to properly celebrate 30 years of Twinning and it would be a shame if some people discovered too late that their passports were out of date!!

We have not planned in details our 30th anniversary celebrations but I hope to start very soon with the help of a small team, your ideas are welcome.

I look forward to seeing many of you for the Twinning walk or, at least, for the pub lunch afterwards.

From the South of France where we are suffering a heat wave, I wish you all a pleasant end of the holiday season.

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

I hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer break. We will be shortly be extending ours with a visit to the Mosel with our friends the Rabys from Eschweiler for a little wine tasting combined with some historical visits in the area.

At the end of September we look forward to seeing some of you for a walk and/or get together to catch up on summer events. Thanks to Peter for organising this.

The next thing we are looking forward to is the visit by Barbaraschule to Priory School at the end of September. The German children haven't been able to do this since Covid and we are very pleased it is now possible to resume it.

They will stay at the Old Pheasantry centre in Mogador and go into school each day for a week together with our children.

Unfortunately the Burns' Night Supper we were planning in January has had to be cancelled, due to closure of the venue. However we are making plans to organise an alternative occasion to be held after Christmas and more about this to follow.

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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RECENT EVENTS

▪ AGM

On a pleasant Friday evening 22 twinnings met up for the annual AGM held, almost by tradition, at the URC on Shaw's corner fittingly on the border with Reigate and Redhill.

There were quite a few 'Apologies for Absence', pretty much as many as were attending, so there could have been 40+ but that was not to be, however it was good to see some new faces too.

The business part took just over an hour largely due to discussion surrounding topics like membership numbers and demographic. No conclusion was reached but it was good to hear a range of views and what could be considered as ways to address these questions.

We were brought up to date with the two links and plans for the coming months

The members of the current committee were willing to stand for another term and this was met with universal acceptance (or should that be relief !).

Once the meeting had been brought to a close there was a sudden burst of conversation and several made a bee-line for the table at the rear of the hall which had been laid out with several cheeses from several different places as well as pate etc accompanied with bread. The nourishment would not be complete without some form of liquid refreshment and red and white wine were duly supplied along with a selection of fruit juices (presumably for those who would be keeping an eye on their driver on the way home)

This being a social occasion as much as a business one - there was much conversation - not least encouraged by the refreshments provided.

It was good to catch up with folk - some of whom had not seen each other for quite some time.

The upcoming Summer Lunch in July will provide an occasion to all us to continue the aforementioned conversations.

Jim Scott

▪ Summer Lunch

Arriving at Ros and John's house and seeing a small sign saying the lunch was in the garden around the back could not have prepared me or I am sure other members and friends who had not attended a lunch before.

The wonderfully manicured lawn and the lovely plants and flowers greeted us everywhere we looked in the lovely sun. We had the marquee for shade and I am sure many were thankful for this as everyone enjoyed their delicious repasts, catching up with old friends, making new acquaintances and reminiscing about the recent trip to Brunoy. There was much shuffling of chairs as people moved around to share time and laughter.

We were joined by The Deputy Mayor Cllr James Baker and also the previous mayor (myself), who is now the council liaison, after our previous ex-Cllr Rachel Turner joined the twinning committee.

After a thank you to the hosts by both Janet and Monique we were invited to partake in a fantastic array of desserts, too numerous to name but tempting to try.

The afternoon was rounded off by tea and coffee in the garden before fond farewells were made.

Frank Kelly

▪ ***Visit by Eschweiler***

We were very pleased to welcome a small group from Eschweiler recently. They arrived by minibus, bravely driven by Frank Lohrmann for his first attempt “on the wrong side of the road”, and welcomed to Janet and Graham’s garden with the other hosts. After a relaxing get together over some Pimms and nibbles, all our guests were taken home for dinner and a well-earned rest.

The following day dawned with beautiful weather and we drove to Hever Castle through scenic country lanes. Luckily, being a Friday, it wasn’t too busy which meant that everyone could take their time seeing the manor house and going over the historical details. A headphone commentary in German was provided, which helped a lot and there were also some interesting exhibitions of costumes and so on. After a spot of lunch, we moved into the gardens, which were beautiful. Everyone admired the lake and the rose gardens smelt gorgeous. Of interest to younger guests is a new Water Maze – basically a trail over stepping stones which squirt you with water if you venture in the wrong direction! Luckily the warm weather meant that no harm was done. We returned to relax in our garden with some drinks before our guests were collected by their hosts for dinner.

By popular request, we visited London by train on Saturday. Luckily, the trains were running on time and we reached Victoria with no problems. The rehearsal for Trooping the Colour was taking place and we had some wonderful views of Buckingham Palace and the Mall before managing to get a spot near the barriers in Horseguards behind the horses and gun carriages. From a distance it was possible to see Prince William on horseback (standing in for the King) and a better view of the soldiers returning up the Mall. It was getting very hot by then so we wandered along the river in search of some drinks and up to St Paul’s, before returning by bus to Victoria – tired but mission accomplished. In the evening, all the group were pleased to meet some other Twinners at the Inn on the Pond, together with their hosts, where we enjoyed dinner and a chat together.



The group left soon after breakfast on Sunday, rather concerned about Eurotunnel delays, but actually the journey went without problems and they arrived home earlier than expected

Graham Powell

Forthcoming Events

🚩 Twinning walk, Saturday 30 September

This Autumn's Twinning Association walk will be led by Peter and Joanna Lloyd. It will start and finish at The Sportsman, Mogador. Start time will be **10.30 AM**.

The walk itself is roughly 4.5 miles, with a shorter option (3.5 miles) available if anyone needs it, or it is raining too hard. The walk takes us along the North Downs Way, then turns north before returning to the pub across Walton Heath. There are a few short climbs, but it is mostly level and there are no stiles. We'll finalise eating arrangements with The Sportsman when we know how many people are taking part. They offer sandwiches or pub lunches and if the weather's good we will have the option of sitting outside. For more about the pub see <https://www.thesportsmanmogador.com>

For more information about the walk, or to register your interest, please call Peter Lloyd on 07803 190090 or e-mail peterlloyd79@hotmail.com.

Treasurer and Membership

◆ Membership

We have 92 Members which represents 72 memberships 57 paying. Of these 2 are for one year only students. We have welcomed 4 new memberships this year.

◆ Treasurer

The 2023 accounts show a positive income. There is insurance yet to be paid also website costs however the year should show a healthy balance. We paid £600 deposit to Merstham Mix for Burns night February 2024. Unfortunately, Merstham Mix has now gone into administration however we have been assured that this money is held on trust and will be refunded in due course.

Subscriptions are £75 above 2022

Robert Bogin
Treasurer & Membership Secretary

NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to

Thora and William Ascough

OBITUARIES

❖ Rodney Garrard

Rodney sadly died on 9 June. Rodney and Renate's connection with Eschweiler pre-dates the Twinning Association's so here are some reminiscences from Renate.

Our son Chris was a member of Redhill Athletic 40 years ago! They were invited by Eschweiler to take part in a competition. That led to an exchange over here. I remember being in charge of finding homes for all of them! In those days there was no vetting! I ended up with 4 boys myself because people dropped out for various reasons!

One of those boys was Ralph, now a father of 3 grown up children, and one younger one and we are still in touch.

Later, the Reigate Twinning Association started and at first we did stay with Rainer and Ria. We visited Eschweiler on our way back from Switzerland and made more and more friends. Rainer would lend us bikes and led us round the very new lake. (Blausteinsee).

We actually saw it grow. It took years until it was full. Now it is a lovely place . As we knew so many people by now, we decided to stay in a hotel and visit all our friends instead. They were all so hospitable and all we did was eat. As we got older, we met them all for a nice dinner as our guests. As time passed, they got to know each other as well and we were one happy family. Funnily enough, none of these old friends ever joined the Twinning!

On two exchanges we had young girls staying . They had to write an article for their paper and got a free ride! Both girls were lovely. We attended the wedding of one of them in Aachen. As it happened the couple talked about Redhill when they met and realized, they both stayed here! We visited them privately and they stayed with us whenever they came for a sports function in London. The same with the other girl, we met up often.

We met many new friends at the Twinning's 10th anniversary up in the grounds of Reigate Castle. It just snowballed although some of our connections did fizzle out.

We experienced the Karneval once and brought bags full of sweets back to our kids thanks to having all these friends! The Germans really do know how to party! What is lovely, you get to know the Bürgermeister as they stay in their role for many years. They sit in the square when there are celebrations and are happy to talk to you. They are very approachable indeed. What always impressed us was that , with all the alcohol that gets consumed, we have never witnessed any trouble. Everybody was just happy!

Renate Garrard

❖ *Jean-Luc Doyan*

We were sad to hear of the recent death of Jean-Luc, former Deputy Mayor of Wattrelos. Jean-Luc was the "face of Wattrelos" in Eschweiler, especially at Karneval, and a regular visitor there for very many years. He had many friends amongst the Karneval Associations and was kind enough to invite us in Reigate to Wattrelos' own celebrations too. Our condolences go to Dominique and his family.

Janet Powell