

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



## Twinning News 2023/4



### Important Dates for your 2023/24 Diary

- ❖ Rotary Charity Quiz..... 18 November
- ❖ New Year Meal .....26 January
- ❖ Eschweiler Karneval ..... 8 – 12 February
- ❖ Quiz.....1 March
- ❖ Visit by Brunoy..... 25 – 28 April

### Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

I hope you have all enjoyed our beautiful weather, just like summer my very English friends say, for me just like a mild autumn in the South of France. It was perfect for the lovely Twinning walk so well planned by Peter and Jo Lloyd. Now our next "twinning activity" will be the Rotary quiz.. All organised by volunteers! Long may it last..

After your really good response to my short questionnaire in June, you will be glad to hear that our friends in Brunoy have now confirmed that they will be coming for the extended weekend from Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 April 2024. I know that these dates are not new to you but now I need you to confirm your commitment to hosting and, unless I have talked to you about it since the beginning of September, please send me a quick message by e-mail or WhatsApp to say so. Dominique, in Brunoy, tells me that she expects to come with a group of about 35 people. Hence the need for hosts, not only for families, usually couples, but also for "single" ladies or gentlemen, including perhaps, the coach driver.

We have not yet worked out a detailed programme but we intend to go to London by train on the Friday and organise a day trip with the French coach on the Saturday. Please do not hesitate to offer accommodation even if you are not available to entertain your guests for the whole of the time our friends are in England. We can share the responsibility of entertaining everyone. For example not everyone needs to come to London. On the Saturday evening, we will be celebrating in style, with good food and music, with all twidders and friends, our 30<sup>th</sup> Twinning Anniversary.

We would be delighted to get more suggestions for this festive weekend.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

*Monique and Anne*

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and **Anne Miller** (01737 913542) [anne.miller@mail.com](mailto:anne.miller@mail.com)

### Eschweiler Link

Dear Twidders

We were lucky enough to spend a couple of days in Eschweiler recently en route to a wonderful week in the Mosel Valley with the Rabys. We stayed in Wintrich, quite near to Wittlich which is Brunoy's German twin town. A very beautiful area, which holds its own Passion Play in the church every 5 years with locals acting and singing in the choir. We met the Mayor doing his "day job" making sparkling wine and he was already growing his hair and beard in preparation, looking rather like an ageing hippy! We had a very enjoyable and informative wine tasting of sparkling, white, rose and red wines, as well as walks through the scenic but steeply sloping vineyards and a trip up the Mosel in a model of a Roman wine ship.

Last month, we were delighted to welcome a group of 9 year olds from Barbaraschule Eschweiler, their teachers and Hartmut Froehlich back to Reigate Priory School. This was their first visit since Covid, and it was great that the Old Pheasantry in Mogador, where they stay, has been refurbished in the meantime. See below under recent events for details of the visit.

Sadly, Eschweiler haven't got the funding to welcome us for a group visit next year - understandably their priorities have to be with those affected by the flooding, the after-effects of which are still causing many problems. However, they are looking forward to welcoming us in 2025 - our 40th anniversary. We will be visiting Eschweiler for Karneval in February, and as usual, everyone is welcome to come and participate as much or as little as you want. Transport and dates would depend on those interested.

In the meantime, Monique, the rest of the Committee and I all look forward to seeing you at some of the events we have planned - if you need a lift then just let the organiser know and we will do our best to help.

**Janet Powell**

*Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link*

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## RECENT EVENTS

### ▪ Twinning Walk

A group of eight Twinning members and Cassie the dog met on Saturday 7 October at 10 am to do a five mile walk starting from the Sportsman pub at Mogador. Peter Lloyd was our guide and route planner and we set off promptly so that we could be back in time for lunch at the pub. The weather was warm and sunny and ensured that the lovely autumn day enhanced the views and surroundings as we walked across the North Downs and over Walton Heath.

We started by walking along the lane past the houses on Mogador Lane, and then followed a footpath through the fields and crossed the M25 by a footbridge to then walked along the top of the North Downs, enjoying breaks in the trees to give us wonderful views South towards the South Downs in the distance. It was good to have the chance to chat to and catch up with fellow Twinners as we walked through the lovely countryside. We met many cyclists and fellow walkers en route and some groups of young people who were preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. It was a day when everyone was out making the most of the beautiful weather.

We then emerged from the woods to cross the road near Pfizer and continue on our way, back over the M25 and through the trees to Walton Golf Club where we stopped for a photo opportunity and then continued back across Walton Heath with a slight detour back to the Sportsman pub at Mogador.



Once back at the pub, we were grateful to have the chance to relax and rest our legs after a five and half mile walk and we were joined for lunch by five other Twinning members. We then all sat together at one big table to enjoy a drink and a well-deserved lunch from the varied menu which we could choose to suit our own tastes.

Our thanks go to Peter Lloyd for planning and organising the walk and especially for arranging the lovely weather.

**Sarah Walters**

▪ **Visit to Reigate Priory School by Barbaraschule, Eschweiler**

It has been three years since the last exchange of 9 year olds took place, due to the Covid problems, so we were delighted that the German children came back to see us again last month. Two of their teachers Maren and Christina, and Hartmut Froehlich from Eschweiler Twinning came to help.

Due to a delay with the ferry, the coach arrived at the meeting place, the National Trust carpark at Mogador, in complete darkness and we were grateful to those running around with torches to help unload the children, their luggage and catering supplies, ferrying them round to the Old Pheasantry Centre where they were staying for the week. Once there, everyone gratefully tucked into the pizzas we had provided before settling down after such a long day. We were pleased to see the refurbishments which had been done to the Centre since we had last used it - it's now looking much more homely and welcoming and the staff were very helpful.



The following day, their coach picked the German children up and they arrived at Reigate Priory School to a welcome from Mr Moses the Head teacher, staff and children of Year 5. The Deputy Mayor, James Baker, had also come to greet them and impressed us by his short speech in German. Sally Baker and Ute Peter from Eschweiler told us about their original first meeting which set this exchange in action, and Penelope Horsfall, Graham and I were impressed how well the children from both schools were getting on. Whilst the children were in school, they partnered each other in lessons and we hope that friendships and contacts will develop from that. There had been some staff changes at Barbaraschule and both sets of teachers had not met beforehand, but everything went well and Reigate Priory is planning to visit Eschweiler next year.

On the Thursday Graham and I accompanied the group to London on the train, with a walk around some of the main tourist sites, and a boat trip on the Thames up to Tower Bridge, where the children could buy their all-important souvenirs.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with this visit, especially Mr Moses, the enthusiastic teachers at Reigate Priory and Steve the caretaker for his help with the luggage. Although youth exchanges are now much more difficult to arrange than before, they are the future of Twinning and the benefits for all are quite clear to see.

**Janet Powell**

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **🇬🇧 Rotary Charity Quiz – 18 November**

A number of twinning members are members of Redhill Redstone Rotary Club who support many of the Twinning Activities and are also Committee members. We are inviting you support our planned Charity Quiz this Autumn.

All the details are on the flier attached. We hope you can gather a team and join us.

**Rosemary Jones**

### **🇬🇧 New Year Meal - 26 January**

7.15 for 7.30 pm We have planned a meal in the (private) Cellar Room of the Red Lion Betchworth.

Conscious of everyone's finance pressures after Christmas, the cost for a nice two course meal with coffee will be no more than £30. Buy own drinks at the bar. If you are thinking of coming, please email to let me know and nearer to the time I will give you three menu options from which you can choose beforehand. If you need a lift, I can try to arrange that too.

**Janet Powell**

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## Treasurer and Membership

- ◆ Membership  
No change re membership since last Newsletter
- ◆ Treasurer

The 2023 accounts show a positive income and the year-end should show a healthy balance. The money we paid to Merstham Mix has been refunded in full. We received £2000 from Eschweiler which was to be paid to the Old Pheasantry for the visit by the Barbaraschule students. However, the Old Pheasantry insisted that we only pay £1750 and that the £250 difference was used for the benefit of the students. The net cost of this visit was around £240. The visit from Eschweiler Twinning Group resulted in a cost of £365. There are no further substantial expenses anticipated this year as insurance has now been paid

**Robert Bogin**  
*Treasurer & Membership Secretary*

## Redhill Corps of Drums and Band is looking for new members!

First of all, let me thank Janet and Graham for not only giving us this opportunity to make an appeal through the Twinning Association newsletter but also for their support along with many others from the association over the last forty years.

The band was formed in 1981 and shortly after became involved in the twinning movement within the borough. A few of our members first visited Eschweiler in 1983 followed by the whole band the following year to take part in Karnival. Those links have endured and stood the test of time and every year a group from Redhill visit Eschweiler to join in with the festivities. Along the way we have hosted bands from Durwiss as well as individuals from Eschweiler and the surrounding area. We have also played at some of the gatherings arranged by the Twinning Association here in Reigate and Banstead. So, I am sure our paths would have crossed with many of you over the years.

As well as twinning occasions, the band also plays at many local events including Banstead May Queen, Caterham bonfire celebrations and Horley Remembrance parade. We have visited and played in several European countries and also form part of the National Marching Band along with similar organisations from all over the country. Together we play at The Birmingham International Tattoo where we open the event every year and also take part in the finale. This is where our members get a chance to play alongside military bands from all over the world as well as British bands like The Royal Marines and other United Kingdom forces bands.

The Redhill Corps of Drums and Band is a charity set up to encourage and help young people to play a musical instrument, be part of a team and hopefully form friendships that will last a lifetime. We would love for more people, particularly young people to come along and give it a try. Anyone aged eight and above is welcome to come along and give it a go. We can provide most brass, woodwind or percussion instruments that you would find in a marching band.



We have an enthusiastic and talented group of instructors waiting to help you not only to play an instrument but also to read music and help with attaining music grades that young people may be going through at school.

If you would like to know more, please contact our Bandmaster, Mr David Edge, 07895 537750 or through the Website [www.rcd.org.uk](http://www.rcd.org.uk). You are also welcome to visit us during our practice sessions, these are held most Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at: St John Ambulance Hall, Kingsfield Business Centre, Philanthropic Road, Redhill. RH1 4DP.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future and maybe, between us, we can introduce some more young people to the delights of both banding and twinning.

**Peter Rusbridge**  
*President, Redhill Corps of Drums and Band.*