

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2024/1



Important Dates for your 2024/25 Diary

- ✚ Visit by Brunoy----- 25 – 28 April 2024
- ✚ 40th Anniversary Visit to Eschweiler----- 19 - 22 June 2025

Message from our President

Greetings to all our twinningers. A new year has started for us, again to strengthen our friendships and maybe improve our language skills!

We are looking forward to Easter and perhaps an occasional chocolate egg. Are you like me and turn to read the “best date before”? I always smile when up comes the month of June or July. I always mutter to myself.....‘fat chance’! Nevertheless I do hope we all have an enjoyable break.

Planning is progressing for exchanges this year and 2025. A great deal is being explored. Thank heavens for modern technology! A very big thank you to our organisers. We couldn't do without you.



I always look forward to meeting our friends.

It adds an extra slice to our lives.

Perhaps I could end with a group hug.

As ever Penelope

Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

We are now preparing the visit of our French friends from Brunoy to celebrate with all of you 30 years of friendship. If you are hosting, you have now already received a longish message detailing some of the options available for the weekend programme.

However, the main celebrations will be on the Saturday evening when, I hope, all of you will join us, with perhaps some of your francophile friends, in Reigate College refectory for the Dinner and Dance. 7 for 7.30 pm. **See the attached flyer**. The Surrey Hills Big Band was so good in 2018, when we celebrated our 25th anniversary, that we asked them to play again for us and get some of us dancing!

As our friends from Brunoy will bring some cheese and we are having a celebration cake too, this is going to turn out to be a 5 course dinner! Both the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead and the Mayor of Brunoy will preside over the festivities.

Other good news : besides our yearly exchange visits, we are also making some progress in linking the young people of our towns, primary school children and scouts.

So let's celebrate Twinning together in style and reserve quickly your place at the Dinner and Dance.

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

We have just returned from Karneval, full of enthusiasm for this wonderfully uplifting colourful spectacle which brightens Winter days and brings everyone together for a couple of days. It certainly takes some stamina but is so worthwhile.

It was great to see so many at the Quiz and it seemed a good time was had by all! Thanks to Helier and Ann and everyone who came, helping support us with fundraising in such an enjoyable way.

We look forward to the next few months and meeting more of our new members now the weather is hopefully set to improve. See you soon, I hope?

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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40th Anniversary Visit to Eschweiler - Thurs 19 June -Sun 22 June 2025

Wow! Can't believe that next year it will be 40 years of friendship between us - despite everything! We can all be really proud of this. We have been invited to Eschweiler to celebrate although the arrangements are still to be made. This will take some time so it would be really useful if you would make a note of the date and let me know if you might be interested in coming (without any commitment at this stage). The aim would be to travel by (large!) coach but this depends on numbers. Accommodation could be hotel or with families. There have been many people involved with the link over the years but before I contact anyone else I should like to ask current Twinners. So to avoid later disappointment, please let me know if you might consider coming, together with your preferences for travel/accommodation.

Eschweiler Karneval 2024

Another unforgettable occasion! It is so difficult to describe Karneval; the street parades or the inside performances. There are a lot of videos on the Internet - if you search for "Eschweiler Karneval 2024" you will have a better idea of what goes on. They can't possibly recreate the lovely atmosphere though, of everyone having a great time together. The idea is that Karneval brings everyone together, no matter who they are or what their personal situation is, and that no-one should have to celebrate alone. Definitely what the world needs at the moment - even if it is just for a few days. People have always been so friendly to us - we arrived on Friday evening at the Festival Hall in Duerwiss and as soon as we got through the door we were overwhelmed by greetings. Eventually we were released to enjoy a wonderful evening of music, singing, jokes and dancing.

There are 22 Karneval groups in Eschweiler, each with their own coloured uniform, band and dancers. Historically we have always linked with the Narrengarde in Duerwiss (blue and yellow) and more recently with KG Ulk (blue and red). These groups in particular have been especially welcoming to us.

On Saturday morning, representatives dressed in Karneval clothes from all the groups are greeted in the Town Hall with a beer (or soft drink) by the Mayor Nadine Leonhardt and the Chairman of the Karneval Committee. Such a colourful spectacle!! There are a few speeches followed by a bit more music and dancing, before leaving for lunch. In the evening we were invited to the KG Ulk group's session. Our host Heinz-Michael Raby has just retired from being President but we congratulated his successor and really enjoyed the evening's entertainment, mostly from the group's own members.

Karneval Sunday, the Mayor invites the Karneval Prince and some members of his group, together with the Karneval Committee and "visitors" - us and some of our friends from Eschweiler's French twin town Wattrelos -for breakfast. There are a few presentations, especially to the little Pages who accompany the Prince during six weeks of office. Then we rush back to Duerwiss to change clothes and prepare for their street procession in the afternoon. As it's a smaller neighbourhood just outside Eschweiler, quite a lot of

people there know us and are keen to collect our annual Karneval badges, with several displaying a whole scarf full from previous years. We once again joined the Narrengarde officers on one of their floats, to distribute our sweets and give-aways to the crowds lining the streets. After a couple of hours of singing and shouting greetings to the crowds we were glad to return to the Festival Hall for a couple of beers, to meet the other participants and await the arrival of the Karneval Prince and his entourage before returning "home" for a slightly earlier night.

The Monday of the Roses street parade is the main event, and celebrated in Eschweiler much as in Cologne, but in a more local way without political themes. All 22 Karneval groups have several floats each for their band/s, children, officers etc, pulled by tractors and joined by the walking groups. Precisely at noon the Karneval sets off with the first groups around the crowd-lined streets waiting for the "goodies" thrown from floats. The tour lasts around four hours. According to the local Press, there were 6000 participants this year and 200,000 spectators, making it once again the third largest Karneval in Germany. We were invited to a Schnitzel Buffet in a local pub afterwards with the KG Ulk group and it was nice to have the time to chat to some of them afterwards.

Another great Karneval was over. We met lots of people who were all really appreciative that we were there to support their Karneval. Thanks to everyone, especially our hosts the Raby Family, for a great time.

Janet Powell

RECENT EVENTS

▪ January Meal

What an enjoyable party we had to celebrate 2024 together when we met for an evening meal at the Red Lion at Betchworth! We managed just to squeeze into the function room together and were provided with a delicious two-course meal. Our thanks to Janet Powell who made the arrangements and saw that we were served with the correct menu choices. She suggested that some of us changed places for the second course which meant we were able to circulate and talk to as many people as possible. There was a most convivial atmosphere as we met up with old friends and met some new ones. It was a great success if the noise levels were anything to go by! There were 39 people present which is perhaps a record.



Janet welcomed us warmly and talked about some of the events planned for the Twinning Association during 2024. This first of which is the annual quiz organised by Helier and Anne Dreux on Friday 1 March at 7.00 for 7.30 pm in the United Reform Church Hall at Shaws Corner, Redhill RH1 6AU. Tickets including a Fish or Chicken Nuggets or Fishcakes or Veggie at £15 from robertbogin@gmail.com (our Treasurer) As it will be St.David's Day expect a Welsh Theme!

Monique told us about some of the arrangements for the visit to us from the Brunoy Twinners from 25 to 28 April. There were present some new members who had kindly agreed to be hosts. She asked for photos of past visits which could be used for a short film to be used during the 30Years Celebrations.

We were delighted that the Mayor, Cllr Eddie Humphreys and his wife, Sarah, the Mayoress were present together with Paul, the Macebearer and Chauffeur and Sam Parris, the Mayor's Secretary. The Mayor spoke a few words saying how pleased they were to be present and were looking forward to the visit of the Mayor and Twinners from Brunoy. He told us that he would be Mayor for a second year and we were pleased to hear about the continuity. It is always so pleasing for the Twinning Association to have the support of the Mayor. This was illustrated by the fact that three past mayors were present: Penelope Horsfall, Diana Bowes and Brian Cowle.

Diana Bowes

▪ Quiz Night

It's that time of year again! Time to make sure that all the festivity cobwebs have blown away! Time to get out your dancing shoes - NO your thinking caps!

1 March at Shaws Corner in the company of approximately 100 people, Helier and Ann Dreux conducted our annual quiz. There were happy and puzzled faces as we answered 8 rounds of 10 questions plus the Bonus round. Jokers were played and groans and cheers welcomed the answers in such categories as Crime, Cosmetics and Perfumes and Umbrellas.

At half time we tucked into chips etc from Deep Blue and had the raffle before completing the final 3 rounds. Table 2 came first, table 7 came second and table 8 came third. Congratulations!

Thank you to Helier and Ann for their hard work, the Committee for all the work 'behind the scenes' and everyone for coming. See you all next year!

Hilary Jones

Treasurer and Membership

Membership

We have 89 members which represents 72 memberships of whom 48 are paying memberships. This number includes 5 x one year only members (non paying) who are hosting Brunoy visitors although it is possible that they will join after this year.

There are two members who have not yet paid for 2024 but it is expected that they will

Treasurer

The 2023 accounts are with the auditor and showed a net income of £900+ for the year and a healthy bank balance which will be needed for the forthcoming anniversary visit by Brunoy. Main events - the quiz earned £1045 and visits by twin clubs cost £606

The 2024 accounts to date show a net income of over £2000 which has been boosted by the recent quiz which raised over £900 including raffle receipts over £300. Also our savings account has yielded good interest with the increase of bank rates. Cash at the bank is currently therefore at a high level in anticipation of the Brunoy visit and other expected expenses during the year. Membership income is down £80 on last year

Robert Bogin
Treasurer & Membership Secretary