

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



## Twinning News 2025/2



### Important Dates for your 2025 Diary

✚ Twinning Walk -----	26 April
✚ 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visit to Eschweiler-----	19 - 22 June
✚ Summer Lunch-----	5 July
✚ Visit to Brunoy-----	18 – 21 September

### Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

I would like to thank you all for participating in greater numbers at our AGM recently and, in particular, for your many interesting suggestions of even more inclusive and exciting new activities for all of us twinnings.

The team in Brunoy is making some progress in finding hosts for our new members but it's also up to us all to maintain the close personal friendships characteristic of our French link. An Easter card or message, fairly unusual in France, may be an opportunity. Did you know that 4 twinnings from Brunoy came over to attend our famous Twinning Quiz in February, they were delighted by their visit and hope to emulate our successful formula to gather funds and publicise the association. The preparation for our September visit is continuing apace. Thanks to your prompt payment of the deposit, we can go ahead with planning the coach trip. We hope to revive the idea of a lunch stop in Amiens to give us the chance to see its beautiful cathedral.

That's all for Brunoy news for now. I hope to see many of you on the twinning walk or at the pub lunch afterwards at the end of the month.

*Monique*

**Monique Pottage** (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01737 221073) [mpottage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mpottage@hotmail.co.uk)

### Eschweiler Link

Dear Twinnings

Another Karneval season in Eschweiler has come and gone! Although Karneval is all about local tradition and events are usually the same year on year, we particularly enjoyed this year's. We have known the "Zerm." or "Zeremoniemeister" who accompanies the Karneval Prinz for many years and it's such a lovely feeling to be so warmly welcomed into the circle of Karneval and take part together with our friends from Wattrelos (Eschweiler's French twin town). This year 38 members of Redhill Corps of Drums band came with us - you can read Peter's report elsewhere. Our town's participation and continued support of Eschweiler's most important annual event is greatly appreciated by everyone. For those who haven't been - it defies description, but if you Google "Eschweiler Karneval 2024" you'll get an idea of it.

The Eschweiler schoolchildren will shortly be arriving for their visit to Reigate Priory School and next weekend we have been invited to take part, with Eschweiler, in Wattrelos' celebrations for 40 years of their own Carnaval.

Now Spring seems finally to have arrived, and we look forward to seeing you all and meeting some of our new members at our forthcoming social events. Don't forget - it's YOUR association and suggestions for these are always welcome - do let us on the Committee know of any ideas you have.

**Janet Powell**

Chairman - Eschweiler Link

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## Redhill Corps of Drums and Band - Karneval 2025.

As many of you may know, the band has been attending Karneval since 1984. Some years with a full band and some years just a few of us in attendance, so every time we go it's slightly different. This year however was something a little special. There were many more members that were able to attend, along with ex-members and friends of the band, many of whom are very good musicians.

So, at five o'clock on Friday morning the first bleary eyed members were picked up by our coach driver and by six o'clock everyone and everything was on board and we were off!. Arriving in Eschweiler we checked into the B+b Hotel, which we all found to be nice. It was then on to the Konigsberger Hof for dinner which, as always, was very tasty and well received by all. The first job for us, was to join in the 'Storming of the Rathaus' on Saturday morning it was also the first opportunity for all of us to play together as a band. So, we joined in with the hundreds of locals all dressed in their Napoleonic style uniforms to march to the town hall.

Once inside we were given refreshments and many of us caught up with old friends from Eschweiler and the surrounding villages. It was then time to perform on the Town Hall stage. We formed up in a single line at the entrance to the hall, our drummers struck up and I led the band in, playing a well-known Karneval tune, much to the approval of those in attendance which included Graham and Janet Powell. We had already spoken to Janet and she very kindly said a few words on the band's behalf. Giving a brief history of The Redhill Corps of Drums and our involvement in Karneval over the years. And we thank Janet for doing that for us. The band then continued to do a short performance on the stage which sounded good and was very well received.

Having spent the next couple of hours in the town hall it should have been time to get some lunch and have a quiet afternoon before our next show in the evening, but it wasn't to be. Instead, somebody thought it would be a good idea to form up as a marching band and head across the market square playing. This same person (You know who you are!) then led us straight up to, and in through the door of a local bar whilst still playing! We were welcomed in and asked to play some more tunes with our guest players really playing to the crowd and beginning to understand what Karneval is all about.

Saturday evening is for us, a long-standing booking for a local carnival society 'KG Ulk' at The Burghof Inn. On arrival we were shown to the tables reserved for us and sat down to watch the show on stage involving various dancing groups and local acts.

It was then our turn. Once again entering in a single line from the back of the hall, the crowd rose to their feet and clapped along with the tune whilst we made our way to the stage. Once there, we were again welcomed by the organizers in German and English and there was Janet again to deliver our history at Karneval and our thanks for the welcome we receive. We then continued to play a routine that included all the party classics including, YMCA, Amarillo and Sweet Caroline amongst others, the crowd were on their feet, job done! It was then time to relax and join in with the singing and dancing for the rest of the evening. A good time was had by all.



Following a leisurely breakfast on Sunday, it was time to board the coach and head for the village of Durwiss, a place that is special to the band, having formed many long-standing friendships with the people there. In beautiful sunshine we joined the carnival procession and headed off around the streets. Every road was lined with people, most dressed up in brightly coloured costume, joining in with the spirit of Karneval. It also gives a us chance to say hello to those we have known for many years when we see them around the route. It was then back on the coach to head out for dinner at a Pizzeria in Eschweiler. Having booked tables for thirty-six of us with no deposit taken, we thought we'd better show up!

Everything so far has been a warm up act for Monday's carnival or Rosenmontag as it is known. In Glorious sunshine we made our way to the starting point, stopping en-route to have a cheeky beer and to meet up with our old friends Braass te Huur. We then headed down to the main road to join the thousands of others gathered to take part in this enormous procession. Having arrived at our allotted time it was then another 1hour 45mins before we set off around the Karneval route. Everywhere you looked there were people, sometimes three or four deep along the route all having a good time, singing and dancing along if they know the tunes that the many music groups in the procession are playing. Just over two and half hours after setting off we reached the end and it was time to rest but no! Many of the band got a second wind and continued playing to the crowds gathered at the finish line, and in the lovely spring sunshine it was a great way to finish what had been one of the best Karnival sessions ever. Thank you, Eschweiler we look forward to seeing you again soon. Alaaf!

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

## Recent Events

### ▪ Quiz

Helier's powerful, commanding voice brought us all to order on the cold and rainy evening of February 7th, promising a challenging but most enjoyable quiz night, with 80 questions on a variety of topics for the teams waiting expectantly at tables laid for supper in a packed room, upstairs in the United Reformed Church.

First timers, like ourselves, may have grappled with the rules of playing jokers and bonus points, but there was never a moment's doubt about the quiz master's authority to adjudicate on the answers to questions. Our team believed firmly that, "fewer" minus the 'f' and the 'r' makes "ewe". The competitive momentum never failed and there was always, "everything to play for" .

The traditional fish and chips supper with variations was exceptionally good and our thanks go to the whole team of organisers. There was resounding applause for them. There were many lucky raffle winners amongst the enthusiastic twinnings and their friends. The scoring was done meticulously and so efficiently showing a tight battle for first place. The tension was allowed to build; very high praise was so well deserved for the all female team on table three, who received prizes from Monique. It was a night to remember and the next one can't come quickly enough.

**Janine Middleton**

### ▪ AGM

On Friday 21 March we had our AGM, chaired by Sally Baker who welcomed us all. Our president Penelope congratulated us because so many groups had fallen by the wayside during the Covid era, but we survived. Indeed the German connection with Eschweiler has been going strong for 40 years.

Sadly, we heard that Genevieve Finel, a stalwart member of Brunoy twinning, was very ill in hospital.

Janet spoke about development and extension of the Eschweiler links. The Mayor of Eschweiler had visited Reigate in October to meet our Mayor, the Leader and other Officers of the Council to discuss mutual civic topics, with the offer to continue these in Eschweiler at a later date. Reigate Business Guild had invited the Deputy Mayor of Eschweiler to open the Reigate Christmas Market and turn on the Christmas illuminations. This was a great success and good publicity for Twinning. The Guild wish to repeat it this year, possibly with the Brunoy Mayor, and Eschweiler have already accepted the invitation. 38 members of the Redhill Corps of Drums band went with us to play in the carnival street parades in Eschweiler and their support was greatly appreciated. The usual visit of the 9 year olds from Eschweiler's Barbaraschule to Reigate Priory Junior School will take place in a couple of weeks, and they will stay in the Old Pheasantry Centre in Mogador which has been taken over by the YMCA. The YMCA themselves hope to return to Eschweiler in the Autumn with one of their youth groups who will join a group there for joint activities.

The June group twinning visit to Eschweiler for the 40th Anniversary celebrations will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the twinning with Wattrelos, Eschweiler's French twin town. Our incoming Mayor and Deputy (who is also our Twinning Councillor) will be joining us.

Monique introduced our new members, enlightening us that Zelanie Cooper, (our council representative), will be deputy mayor next year. We expect to have 2 teachers Reigate Priory school join us on the trip in September. The link with St Pierre is now well-established, the children exchange letters and cards at regular intervals. In Brunoy, Bernard Viollet is now responsible for the English link. 2 ladies are helping with the details of organising our visit in September. Thus, Bernard can concentrate on preparing the visit of Redhill and Reigate Choral Society at the end of May organised by Ann and Helier Dreux, our brilliant Quiz master. The choir will sing in Paris and Brunoy. Monique said that it shows that our French link goes beyond an annual trip. Not just educational and artistic but, also, a civil link when the Mayor from Brunoy joins those of Reigate and Eschweiler to open Reigate Christmas market this year.

Robert told us we needn't have a rise of subs this year as finances were healthy, mainly due to our fund raising on the quiz night.

Sally asked whether the present members of the committee were willing to stand again. They all agreed to do so and were voted back in. The Committee also asked if anyone else wanted to join them.

Sarah is organising a walk and pub lunch on 26 April

We were asked for ideas for activities, some of which could be raising a little for our fund to help towards the costs when our twinning friends visit next year. There were a few interesting suggestions such as having a Twinning stall at a local fête or organising a cheese and wine evening with a wine expert.

The meeting was closed so we could enjoy a glass of wine with a lovely selection of cheeses and pate, clementine, and spicy German chocolates

**Sue Wylie**

## Forthcoming Events

### Twinning Walk

Sarah Walters is organising the next Twinning Walk which is on Saturday 26 April. It starts and finishes at the Pheasant at Buckland, Reigate Road, RH3 7BG. The plan is to meet at 9.30am for a prompt departure at 9.45am. The walk will last about 2 hours. It is a gentle walk to take in Reigate Heath and the surroundings and is stile free. The walk will finish back at the Pheasant for lunch at 12 noon for those who would like it. Twinners who would prefer just to join for lunch can do so.

**Please let Sarah know by 12.April if you would like to walk and lunch, or just walk, or just lunch - e-mail preferred to [sarah@waltersfamily.org](mailto:sarah@waltersfamily.org).** Once the numbers are confirmed for lunch, Sarah will send out a menu by e-mail as the pub would like to have an idea of menu choices before the day to ensure menu requests are met.

## Treasurer 's Report

### TREASURER

The final audited 2024 accounts showed a net loss of £494 due to the Anniversary weekend by the Brunoy Club - this outcome was expected. Cash at the bank is still at a good level and membership subscriptions are almost all in. As a result the Committee have decided that there is no need to raise the subscription rate for 2026 but this will be reviewed at that time for 2027 subscriptions.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have 92 members which represents 69 memberships of whom 51 are paying memberships

**Robert Bogin**