

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2025/3



+Important Dates for your 2025 Diary

- Summer Lunch----- 5 July
- Visit to Brunoy----- 18 – 21 September
- Autumn Twinning Walk ----- 18 October

Dear friends,

As we are now ready to celebrate 40 years of twinning with Germany, I haven't much to say about our French twin town. This year, our friends in Brunoy have already met a few people from Reigate and Redhill as they organised a warm welcome for the R&R Choral Society at the end of May. Do look at the photos and the report written by Helier Dreux, in this newsletter.

Now, the Brunoy Twinning committee is concentrating on preparing our visit in September. They have already secured a group visit of the magnificently reconstructed Notre Dame cathedral in Paris for the Friday morning. I also heard that the plans for the Saturday day out are well advanced. I hope to tell you more about that when we meet for the Summer Meal on 5 July (see the small article and the form in this newsletter).

I hope to see many of you very soon! Either on the trip to Eschweiler and/or for the Summer Meal.

This is Twinning in action!

Monique

Monique Pottage (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01737 221073) mpottage@hotmail.co.uk

Eschweiler Link

Dear Twinners

Finally Summer seems to have arrived, although perhaps in fits and starts! I hope that the warmer weather will tempt you to join us at our Twinning Summer Lunch on 5 July. Although the weather can't be guaranteed, what we can promise is a friendly welcome and lots of desserts! Some of our members have joined quite recently, so we look forward to meeting you if you are free.

Of course, we are also looking forward to our visit to Eschweiler shortly. Eschweiler Twinning Association and their Town Hall have been busy with all the preparations, including a wine festival so that we can all enjoy some local specialities whilst meeting new friends or renewing acquaintances. If you're not able to join us, we'll tell you all about it in the next newsletter!

VISIT BY BARBARASCHULE. ESCHWEILER TO PRIORY SCHOOL

In April it was a pleasure to welcome another class from the Barbaraschule Eschweiler to Reigate once more. The group of 9 year olds came for a week with their teachers and Hartmut Fröhlich from Eschweiler Twinning Association; staying at the Old Pheasantry Centre at Mogador, which is now looked after by the YMCA.

Each day the group went into Priory School, working on various mutual projects together with Year 6 and their teachers. The staff at Priory School and Mr Moses the Head teacher have been doing this for several years and are brilliant at devising things such as sports and music themes which can be done by both groups working together. This gets the children learning from each other, which is such a valuable experience.

The Mayor, Cllr Humphries and the Mayoress came to welcome the group together with Sally Baker and myself. The Twinning Association subsidised a rail trip to London with a boat trip along the Thames and whistle-stop tour of main sites, before the all-important job of trying out English to buy your souvenirs from a patient shopkeeper. I was very impressed that one of the boys, completely unprompted, thanked me and told me how much he'd enjoyed his visit. Many of the children exchanged e-mail addresses and we hope their contact continues.

Thanks are also due to Mr Moses and his wonderful team for their amazing can-do attitude together with Chloe and the YMCA for their help. This is something our Twinning Association can really be proud of - it is the youngest German/British youth exchange in the country that the German Embassy knows of and of great value to both sides in expanding their horizons.

WATTRELOS. CARNAVAL

Graham and I were pleased to be invited to take part in Wattrelos' Carnaval. (Wattrelos is situated near Lille and is the French partner town of Eschweiler.). The occasion was also to mark the 40 years' anniversary of the founding of the Carnaval Confrerie, who organise all the celebrations. We were initiated into membership four years ago by the Mayor so it was nice to take part. A special party for the Confrerie took place on Friday evening and on Saturday a large group from Eschweiler came by coach to join us, together with some of those taking part in the parade through the town on Sunday. I was asked to take part in the all-female jury who chose the "Super Prince" and Master of Ceremonies for the forthcoming year. Thanks everyone for your hospitality - it was a great weekend and good to see you all.

Janet Powell

Chairman - Eschweiler Link

01737 761903 07891 375555 janetelizabeth.powell@btinternet.com

Recent Events

▪ **Twinning Walk**

On Saturday 26 April, bright and early, sixteen or so twinnings and one small dog arrived promptly for a 10 am start from the Pheasant in Buckland equipped for Spring weather – could be chilly, but could be getting warmer. Aply lead by Sarah, we ambled along sun lit footpaths, past horses and their riders and banks of glorious bluebells! and other flowers such as wild garlic, pink campion and lady's smock were identified. Twinnings are naturally sociable and it was great to get all our news up to date. Heading down towards Reigate Heath Golf Club, we skirted the Skimmington Arms and followed footpaths over to the Equestrian centre near Flanchford Road then we skirted around to the Shag Brook at the bottom of Dungates Lane and back over to The Pheasant.as we crossed Flanchford Road, walked down towards Rice Bridge and came back up by Trumpets Hill.



We returned to the Pheasant near Shag Brook dead on midday, as programmed. A few partners and other members who had been busy that morning but did not want to miss out on the fun joined us for lunch. Sean and his team provided a friendly service there. We had a delicious lunch and many of us also had a small alcoholic beverage as reward for our morning efforts.

Thanks go to Sarah for organizing such an enjoyable event and for showing us what a beautiful area we live in and how lucky we are

Jane Manfield and Sally Wallis

▪ Reigate & Redhill Choral Society Visit to Paris 24-26 May 2025

About 50 members of the choir had a successful weekend in Paris. We sang at morning Mass at the magnificent church of Saint Philippe du Roule. As it was a special occasion for guides and scouts, the church was packed. Members were then given the opportunity during the afternoon to see the amazing work that has been done at Notre Dame.

In the early evening we made our way to Brunoy for an evening recital before a small but appreciative audience followed by a magnificent supper with wine provided by Bernard Viollet and his team. Sadly, we were not able to see Collette as she is very ill in hospital.

Kevin Chamberlain, the new chairman of the Choir, gave a speech in French thanking Bernard and his team for their hospitality and adding how he remembered singing in Brunoy back in 2002 and that we were happy we were to be able to visit them again. Also present was our daughter, Alys, who had happy memories of playing with her orchestra when she was at school.

The tour was completed by another recital on the Monday in the Madeleine followed by a stroll along the Rue de Rivoli and through the Tuileries Gardens to the Palais Royal.



Helier and Ann Dreux

Forthcoming Events

🌈 Summer Lunch/Twinning Garden Party Saturday 5 July

This year again Ros and John Borkowski have kindly agreed to host our twinning Summer meal in their beautiful garden. We hope that the weather will be better than last year when we had our annual garden party inside!! Do come, this is always a very convivial occasion.

All the details about it are in the form attached to this newsletter. Please answer quickly to make sure that we set out enough garden chairs for everyone.

With a bit of luck, I will be able to give you some fresh news from Brunoy.

Monique

Treasurer 's Report

TREASURER

There has not been much activity in 2025 to date although the Quiz night raised an excellent £949. The account balance is currently high but this includes prepayments from those participating in both the Eschweiler and Brunoy visits in June and September respectively.

MEMBERSHIP

The association 68 memberships of whom 50 are paying memberships- the other 18 are foreign members. This gives a total number of members of 91. Total of subs received was £885 compared with £880 in the previous year

Robert Bogin

Congratulations

- ❖ Jean and Peter Mason on their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary.
- ❖ Dave Edge, Bandmaster of the Redhill Corps of Drums Band, who was invited to Buckingham Palace recently in recognition of his many years of volunteering in education skills. Dave and his helpers teach young people music and to play instruments from scratch if necessary. The Band has participated in Eschweiler's Karneval for over 40 years.