

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

(covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley)



Twinning News

2015/3



Celebrating 30 years of Twinning with Eschweiler - sunny day in Brussels



Dates for your Diary -

1. Visit by Brunoyens - 11-13 September
2. Winter walk - 17 October
3. Quiz at Banstead - 14 November
4. Christmas event - 4 December - tbc
5. New Year Dinner tba Jan 2016
6. Eschweiler Karneval - 5-9 Feb 2016
7. Visit to Brunoy - 8-10 April 2016
8. Visit from Eschweiler - 13-16 May 2016 tbc

News from the Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

The visit from our French friends will soon be here and we hope that we shall have our usual good weather. The visit to Greenwich on the Saturday should be good as it is not every day that you can stand with one foot in the West Hemisphere and one in the East! There is much else in Greenwich to keep us all well entertained, with the Market, Cutty Sark, etc.etc.

On the Saturday evening (September 12th) there is a Dinner at Reigate College and as last year, all members and guests are welcome to join our French friends and their hosts. This is much easier on everyone as it is difficult to cater when in Greenwich all day! We hope to see many of you there.

The next event will be a Quiz in Banstead. This is booked for Saturday November 14th so we do hope more of you from the 'South' will make the effort to venture into another devilish Helier Quiz! This should really be a fun evening.

Nothing else to report at the moment ..

all the best from

Anne

Anne Miller (Chairman, Brunoy Link) (01293 823483)
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Monique Pottage (01737 221073)
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News from the Eschweiler Link

It seems a long while ago now since our wonderful visit to Eschweiler to celebrate our 30th anniversary with them. A report on the visit from Tammy follows separately but there are many photos on Eschweiler's new website (www.pav-eschweiler.de) so do have a look, if you haven't already. It was extensively covered in their local Press and provided a good PR opportunity for the Partnerstadtsverein to show what they do. It was lovely to see quite a number of people from Eschweiler, unconnected to Twinning but interested in our links, whom we met in the Town Hall one evening. Rudi Bertram the Mayor had kindly hosted the Twinning Evening with refreshments and an exhibition about both Reigate & Banstead and Watrelos, with whom Eschweiler have been twinned for 40 years. This was the first time we have travelled by Eurostar and most people were impressed by the experience, so it may be something we will consider in future due to the cost of taking a coach. The return visit from Eschweiler is planned for mid May next year. Please save the date since we will need help with return hospitality.

In the meantime, we have several social events planned, so do come and meet people and we hope to see you at some or all of them.

Janet Powell, (Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link)
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Recent events

Visit to Eschweiler - 14-17 May

Early coach to Ebbsfleet + Eurostar to Brussels + local train to Welkenradt + mini van = arrival Eschweiler! It was a bit of a trek but went very smoothly, as around 20 of us managed to get to Eschweiler around 5pm to meet our hosts for this special weekend celebration.

We have been on a number of trips to Brunoy but this was our first time going to Eschweiler. We've heard of the wonderful hospitality of our twin town in Germany and decided it was time to participate in this link for the 30th anniversary.

On arrival we met our hostess and had a relaxing evening getting to know her and another twinning couple. We had a lovely meal together and our conversations were peppered with English, French and a bit of German (since we aren't German speakers we were really just picking up some words here and there).

The next morning we were off to Brussels and the European Parliament by double decker coach, along with the Watrelos contingent (who were also there to celebrate 40 years of twinning with Eschweiler). We arrived in Brussels to visit the Parliamentarium. Unfortunately we were unable to meet our MEP as planned, but we did get to see the exhibits and learn a bit more about the roots and formation of the European Union and what it stands for. There was also a 360 degree screen where you could sit as if you were in the chamber.

Next we headed into Brussels town centre for a walking tour in beautiful sunny weather - we were split up into language groups accordingly to learn a bit more about the city and history of Brussels. We saw the Royal Palace, the Grand Place, and various other sites and buildings around uptown and downtown. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to stop for their world famous frites, chocolates or beer!

On the way back to Eschweiler we stopped for a lovely meal together in a restaurant near the border (where we did finally get a chance to sample the Belgian beer). We were also presented with a German bottle of wine each from Eschweiler.

On Saturday we had the formal civic ceremony to commemorate the anniversaries of our twinning links. It started with a number of speeches from all 3 twin towns and in between we had musical interludes with an excellent

saxophone group and musical entertainment. Afterwards we looked at the exhibition while drinking champagne and eating canapés. In the afternoon we all met together at a lakeside restaurant for a buffet meal before the evening ecumenical church service with a local church involved with the twinning. What struck me most about the speeches and the sermon, as well as from the exhibition at the European Parliament, were the ideals of the creation of the EU to bring people together for a common purpose and understanding. I was greatly impressed by the German willingness to address the painful past of the war while seeking co-operation between nations to prevent similar events from taking place again in future.

Saturday evening we had drinks, a meal and musical entertainment. Some danced (mostly the French I think). We all had a good time and the hospitality of Eschweiler was amazing. We certainly didn't go hungry!

Sunday morning we headed back for our trek home by coach, train, Eurostar and coach again (including the opportunity for a bit of shopping at Brussels Eurostar terminal for that beer and chocolate we missed out on during our walking tour.)

Even though we don't speak German, we really enjoyed our time with the Eschweiler group and getting to know them, their city and their country better. There was a real sense that twinning and the European Union both exist to help ensure peace and friendship between and amongst people and nations. Our German hosts take it seriously. We are looking forward to next year when they visit us and we can renew those friendships and return the hospitality.

Tammy Meduna-Scott

Summer Lunch - 11 July

We were extremely lucky with the lovely weather for this event and were able to take full advantage of the garden of the Dog & Duck at Outwood, as well as the exclusive use of their refurbished dining room. It was good to be able to have a chat and catch up with everyone over the extensive buffet provided, and a nice opportunity to meet a couple of new members.

Janet Powell

Unfortunately ..

The Sumer walk had to be cancelled - it had been difficult to get a 'good_date' during May - so many people 'away..' and

Also, the "14 July" Boules Tournament - did not take place this year - hopefully one of the local organisations will take over (Rotary?) - and get it going again next year.

Future events

Visit by Brunoy friends - Saturday evening meal - 12 September

Our French twinning friends from Brunoy will arrive on 11 September and on Saturday, 12th, we'll have our Buffet supper in Reigate College, (which provides plenty of parking). Please come and join us even if you are not hosting this time, as it will give you the opportunity to meet old friends or make new ones! As you know, the food is excellent and the atmosphere always convivial.

The Twinning Association will pay for our French guests, the cost for the British is £19 per person. Please let me know if you require a vegetarian option.

* Drinks are available at the bar and reasonably priced. NB: Cash only at the bar.

Please fill in the relevant form, at the end of the newsletter and send it to me as soon as possible or by Friday 4th September with your cheque. I will acknowledge your cheque by email if you send me an s.a.e.

Bonnes vacances!

Monique Pottage - mpottage@hotmail.co.uk

Autumn Walk - 17 October

We hope some of you will be able to come along - Monique had a route planned for May, so if suitable we shall use that. However, if you have a favourite walk - suitable for different abilities (!), please do contact Monique. Although final details are not available at the moment, if you are interested, please let Monique know - by e-mail or phone - and she will pass on final details in good time.

We hope to end the walk with a pub lunch, and again will advise details once you have shown an interest.

Quiz Evening - Banstead on 14 November

This will follow the usual format - and again, we are pleased that Helier and Ann Dreux will be in charge -

- same venue - The Institute - on Banstead High Street
- the doors will open at 7.00 pm for a prompt 7.30 pm start.

You can have a choice of fish /chicken/ veggie and chips - or no meal at all.

We have kept the cost down to £10 per person in the expectation of a full house (if you do not want a meal, the cost is £7).

Do bring your friends along and make up tables of 6 or 8, we know that the larger tables do not always win so you can decide! If you cannot make up a full table, don't worry, we'll find you some partners on the night. In twinning, we are all friends!

Please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter, and return it to me.

Anne Miller

Christmas event, December 2015 and New Year Dinner (2016)

Further details in the next Newsletter - but keep the dates free - probably 4 December and 22 January respectively!

Karneval - 5-9 February 2016

As always, we shall be off to Eschweiler for a good fun weekend - and a great opportunity to meet the Eschweilers. Please let me know if you are interested - I shall be happy to answer any questions - so that we can think about our travel arrangements.

Graham Powell, 01737 761903

Other news

St. John's School, Redhill will be visiting Enfant Jesus School, Wattrelos, during their visit to France in October.

Condolences - Michael Smith, a long-time member, died in May. He and his wife, Barbara were strong supporters of Twinning in the past. Our sympathy is extended to Barbara and the family.

Interesting web sites

www.pav-eschweiler.de - Twinning website

www.london.diplo.de - Germany embassy

www.ville-brunoy.fr - Brunoy town

www.jumelage-brunoy.com - Twinning website

This Newsletter is compiled on behalf of the Twinning Association. Please send articles, comments etc., to:

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