

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2018/4



Important Dates for your 2019 Diary

✚ Annual Dinner-----	18 January
✚ Twinning Quiz night-----	8 February
✚ AGM-----	15 March
✚ Eschweiler Karneval-----	28 February - 6 March
✚ Visit to Brunoy-----	12-14 April
✚ Barbaraschule Eschweiler visit Reigate Priory School-----	6 -10 May
✚ Visit from Eschweiler to Reigate-----	30 May- 2 June

Message from our President

Greetings to all our readers and friends. Casting my mind back over the past year we can claim to have been most active.

A trip to Brunoy in April, to celebrate 25 years of Twinning, was especially memorable. This was followed by a most enjoyable visit to Eschweiler in July. The most important elements of these exchanges is the continual friendships maintained across the Channel. Without Twinning we would be much poorer. I personally find a great joy in seeing - now old friends - on these journeys.

I, with Monique and Ted Pottage, had the honour to be invited to Brunoy by their Mayor to join their commemorations to mark the end of the Great War. The mayor of their German twin town, Wittlich was also present, as were two delegates representing their Portuguese twinning. Gathering round the town's War Memorial, exactly 100 years after the Armistice, was a poignant moment for all those attending. It is a very sobering thought that more French soldiers died during the First World War than British. I lost two great uncles, aged twenty one and nineteen while other family members survived. I suspect that most of us twinning will have similar stories, too.

On a lighter note it poured with rain during our ceremony. I understand it did too at the Cenotaph. We share similar weather!

My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Penelope

Brunoy Link

Dear friends

We are nearing the end of a special year for French Twinning as we celebrated 25 years of friendship with Brunoy, first in France in April and then of course in Reigate in September. Thank you all for supporting our celebration festivities, specially on the Saturday evening and for sending photos for our displays of twinning events over the years.

Now we are looking forward to our next visit to Brunoy : As the first choice of date corresponded to the Brexit weekend, we have been persuaded to go for the weekend of the 12-14 April when, hopefully, the border crossings will not involve too much delay. Our friends from Brunoy plan to take us to Rambouillet, a picturesque little town close to Paris and Versailles. The town is famous for its recently refurbished historic château which has hosted many famous people, from French kings and Napoléon to Hemingway and De Gaulle among others... The château is set in a beautiful park, close to an extensive forest which was formerly a royal hunting ground.

More now than ever, we need to maintain our close links with our European twin towns. Twinning is above politics, n'est-ce pas !

So please note the date in your diary and contact us via the form attached to this newsletter so that we can start making arrangements.

As this will be the last newsletter this year, Anne and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year full of friends from all over Europe and the world too.

Anne and Monique

Anne Miller (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link)
and **Monique Pottage**

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Eschweiler Link

At this time of year we think especially about the end of the Great War and those who gave us our freedom. As we recently spent a holiday with our German friends in Spain, we reflected how lucky we are now in Europe to be able to live together in peace and friendship.

In Germany their remembrance day is the following week, but on 11 November the Eschweiler Karneval season begins when the Prinz for the forthcoming year is announced. This year it will be Prinz Paulo with his brother Pedro as his Ceremony Master - their family actually comes originally from Portugal, but have lived so many years in Eschweiler that they are now a real part of it!

In September we received a surprise invitation from the Mayor of Watrelos and their Carnival group to attend the 40th anniversary celebrations with Eschweiler at their annual Berlouffes festival. Berlouffes dolls are thrown from the church in the main square to commemorate a local historical event, with a bonfire afterwards. In conjunction with this and also traditionally, on that day cars are banned and the entire town of Watrelos becomes a kind of giant car boot sale as residents take over the pavements outside their houses to sell whatever they want to get rid of from their attics. It was the first time we had been and we had a great time, thanks to the members of the Confrerie du Carnaval (who also act as the Twinning Association with Eschweiler).



Now as the weather cools, our thoughts turn to the forthcoming Twinning season. Please do come along, bring your friends and support our social events which the Committee work hard to organise. It is so nice to meet everyone and they also help us to raise funds for our guests' visits. You are all very welcome to join us participating in Eschweiler Karneval as usual (28 February) and they will be visiting us 30 May-2 June. Whether you speak any German or not, if you would like to attend Karneval, or host and/or help when Eschweiler visit us, I would be very pleased to hear from you

Janet Powell

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Recent Events:

▪ Visit by Brunoy – 21–23 September

In this, the 25th anniversary of Reigate and Brunoy becoming twinned towns, one would hope and expect the weather gods to be beneficent. But no! Our dear friends from Brunoy arrived on Friday 21 September forty minutes late due to a dodgy channel crossing amidst sessions of heavy rain. They left at 1pm on Sunday with the clouds still depositing their loads and with umbrellas prominent.

Were spirits dampened? Of course not. Within Reigate Town Hall, champagne, cheese and cake ensured that the mutual bonhomie was instantly rekindled. Our hosts were the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor Mrs. Dorothy Ross-Tomlin and her consort Jim Ross-Tomlin. Right our Mayor with M Gallier



Following her speech of welcome, M. Gallier, Mayor of Brunoy, replied citing the spirit of 'oneness' as invoked by Shakespeare. The cake, provided by the twinning association, was simply magnificent, being half lemon and half chocolate (how is that done?).

Saturday added a distinct chill to the proceedings but at least the hardy travellers had the prospect of the tropical plant houses at Kew Gardens to look forward to. Our guests, Christine and Pascal Bousset, reported that some of the houses were closed but they had an excellent time visiting Kew Palace, particularly in the Royal Kitchens, where the guides, in period costume, were skilled in playing their roles. Pascal was in his element having worked in a plant nursery as a younger man. Ever adventurous, he even took to the tree-top walkway for a closer and more spectacular look. After lunch at the Victoria Plaza cafe, a stroll round the rock garden (a real favourite) and a look at the famous Pagoda, it was time to hit the road again and another damp welcome at the Town Hall.

Guests at the Gala dinner on Saturday were welcomed to Reigate College with a glass of Pimms and the chance to recall people and places by viewing photographs taken over the 25 years of twinning. Quintetplus, a superb 13 piece group, provided early background music and, after dinner, delightful dancing music. Their rendition of 'The Stripper' brought forth some interesting moves, while everyone eagerly rose to vigorously sing 'La Marseillaise'.

The meal itself was excellent and our praise must go to the catering staff for providing such fine fare to the one hundred or so diners. Thanks must also go to the organising committee for putting together such a suitable and well-organised programme.

Roger Dale

▪ **Redhill Corps of Drums**

A few of us recently attended a most enjoyable afternoon performance by the band for parents, relatives and supporters, over some delicious tea and cakes. We heard all the different sections playing a variety of music and it was good to see how the younger members' musical skills have developed. Some started from scratch, being taught to read music and learn to play an instrument. Penelope was there to present the Town Twinning shield, awarded annually, with other awards and certificates given for attendance and efforts over the past year.

We look forward to hearing the RCD again when they join us for the Eschweiler Karneval processions next March.

Janet Powell

▪ Skittles Evening - 20 October

Partly thanks to the overarching Brexit situation, a relatively small number of members enjoyed a relaxed evening of skittles and excellent supper in the smaller Colman Hall on 20th October. Special thanks are due to Janet and Graham for an early departure from the Brexit march to organize the presence of an ingenious self assembly bowling alley complete with soft pillows to reduce impact effects. Personally my bowling skills leave much to be desired because I think that I was the only person who needed two hands for the task of sending a fairly heavy ball in a straight line down the alley. So the winners respectively well deserved their bottles of wine. A splendid pudding completed the evening. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Chris Eade

▪ Autumn Walk

On Saturday 17 November a group of 15 of us, plus two dogs, met in the morning to start our walk along the very interesting and historic Deepdene Trail in Dorking. We were guided by Peter Sturgeon, from the Dorking museum, who gave us plenty of information and commentary on the fascinating history of the area. We could not have wished for better weather, mild and gloriously sunny, which made our leisurely walk most pleasurable and enhanced the bright and natural autumn colours. Although at times the uneven terrain made the walk somehow challenging, on the whole it was very pleasant. Highly recommended!!

Most of us finished with a convivial lunch at the Dorking golf clubhouse.



Conchita Wright

Forthcoming Events

❖ Annual Dinner – 18 January

Dear friends,

This year again, we are organising a "January meal" as a post Christmas celebration and a convivial get together at the start the new year. Please fill in the form attached to this newsletter. You will notice that we decided to keep the price down and thought that a two course meal would be just right after all the rich food of the festive season. There will be a warm welcome for all, whatever the weather. I hope to see many of you.

Monique

❖ Twinning. Quiz - 8 February

By popular request, we are pleased that Helier Dreux is able to host another quiz evening for us. It will be held in the URC Upper Hall, Shaw's Corner Redhill and includes a fish/chicken/veggie and chips supper (or no meal option) - bring your own drinks. Tickets are £12.50. There will be tables of 8 so do start thinking about your team now and get the date in their diaries. If you book and pay as a team of 8 we will reserve a table for you. Don't worry if you can't manage to find a team though - we can pair you up with others. Do bring your friends as this is always a fun evening. Application form will follow in the next newsletter.

Janet Powell

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Membership Secretary



We need to say a big thank you to David Wylie who has been sorting out our membership records for us. He has had to step down from the Committee although he and Sue will be able to continue as members. I have thanked him for his work on behalf of the Committee.



Luckily Robert Bogin, our Treasurer, has very kindly agreed to take on the membership in addition to being our Treasurer. So please make things easier for Robert by renewing your membership as soon as possible on the form provided; not leaving it until you forget and he has to remind you!

Janet Powell

Treasurer

Subs for the year have covered administration expenses with a small surplus

Fund raising events have all brought in good income and enabled the Association to fully cover the costs of entertaining the Brunoy Club on their visit here.

Accordingly there is a positive income for the year to date

The balance sheet is healthy with good reserves of funds

Robert Bogin

Membership

At present there are 100 Members with one leaving at the end of the year due to relocation. Fourteen members have joined in 2018.

A Membership Details form is included with this Newsletter. Please complete and return it to:
Robert Bogin: robert.bogin@btinternet

with a copy to
Ena Bishop: embishop573@btinternet.com

or post to
Robert Bogin, 64 Church Street, Reigate RH2 0SP

Robert Bogin

New Member

Welcome to

😊 Hazel Floodgate