

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2019/1



Important Dates for your 2019 Diary

- ⊕ AGM ----- 15 March
- ⊕ Eschweiler Karneval ----- 28 February - 6 March
- ⊕ Visit to Brunoy ----- 12 - 14 April
- ⊕ Barbaraschule Eschweiler visit Reigate Priory School ----- 6 - 10 May
- ⊕ Spring Walk----- 25 May
- ⊕ Visit from Eschweiler to Reigate ----- 30 May - 2 June
- ⊕ Visit from Brunoy ----- 13 - 15 September

Message from our President

Dear readers

Spring is almost here as I write (tap!) this message to all our Newsletter readers. So much is happening at the moment in the field of Twinning and beyond. I am keeping a level head as I am sure you are too.

When in France for the commemorations to mark the end of the First World War I, together with Monique and Edward, was presented with a picture by local artist Henri Pierre Murard. He had drawn four different pictures, first for Brunoy, then one for us, one for their German twinned in Wittlich, and the fourth for the delegation from Portugal. All the pictures are completely individual, the scenes taken from photographs of the time. Ours is the trenches manned by British troops. A sombre setting.



Our executive committee agreed we would like to present it to the Surrey History Centre (S.H.C.). They already have the Association's archive, kindly organised by Diana Bowes. Please see the photograph of this presentation to Mike Page, co-director at the Centre. I trust that they will be able to display it every November. It is in safe hands.

Please, enjoy the remaining planned visits to our friends and their trips to us.

Penelope

Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

Here we are with the first Newsletter of 2019 and wondering where all the days have gone since the first of January! It seems no time at all and now we are looking forward to our trip to Brunoy in April. With the news at the moment making things sound a bit uncertain it is encouraging that we have very nearly enough participants to make our trip self-financing. Monique has worked very hard to get our numbers up so we thank her very much for that. While we do not always make a profit we usually break even. However, this year, unless we get a few more willing to join us, we shall have to ask the Association to subsidise us to a relatively small extent. This is possible because we all feel that keeping International friendships flourishing is even more important than ever. Also that is what our fundraising is for – we use it to entertain our French and German guests and in extremis, as this year, to help us continue our schedule of visits. So, whatever sort of Brexit emerges we shall go off to Brunoy in good spirits and have a successful visit. The Chateau de Rambouillet sounds a fascinating place – for many years it was used by the French Government for entertaining foreign Heads of State and other official visits, so it should be well worth seeing.

On a practical level I have checked with our Coach Company. Turbostyle do not expect any problems – as they said, the security checks can hardly be made any worse than they were last year and they do not expect the French to turn away a coach-load of people willing to spend money in their country.

So we need to look to the future of our very successful link with Brunoy and show everyone that friendship matters more than politics!

Anne and Monique

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

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Eschweiler Link

Dear Friends

A very belated “Happy New Year” to everyone on this first 2019 issue of our newsletter! This was not because nothing was happening – we have already held our annual Twinning Dinner in January and the very successful Quiz Evening earlier this month. As you know, we do try to hold some kind of event every month if possible, to ensure that all members get the chance to meet one another and socialise together, as well as raising funds for the visits to us by our friends in Brunoy and Eschweiler. This all takes quite a bit of time and effort and it would be great if we could have some more help – the AGM is coming up so please give this some thought and speak to me or anyone on the Committee if you have any questions or comments. This need not be an onerous task – every little helps!

The Brexit situation is of course as difficult for twinning as everyone else. As a result, Eschweiler Council are extending their twinning arrangements to include another EU town, Sulzbach-Rosenberg in Bavaria. This is on financial grounds and I have been assured this will not impact on the longstanding relationships with ourselves or Wattrelos, their twin town in France.

It is now more important than ever that we strengthen our European friendships. We look forward to the annual exchange of the Barbaraschule children from Eschweiler with the Priory School in Reigate – their visit to us will take place in April. We are grateful to all the teachers and helpers on both sides for making this experience possible for the children. For many it is their first overseas experience without their parents. We know from previous visits that this is an excellent incentive to learn about foreign languages and culture, with all the advantages this brings for them in the future.

As usual we will participate in the Eschweiler Karneval later this month, together with a group from Wattrellos. This year it is a very international affair, as Prinz Paulo and Zerm. Pedro are of Portuguese origin although they have lived in Eschweiler for many years. We attended the Proklamation ceremony in January (when the Prinz begins his Karneval reign) where there was a large Portuguese contingent with the Portuguese Ambassador as this is an Eschweiler "First"!

The Prinz, Zerm. and some of the Karneval Committee also had the honour of being invited to Berlin to meet Mrs Merkel.



At the end of May we will host our Eschweiler Twinner friends. I have not had guest names from Eschweiler yet. If you are interested in hosting or helping with the visit please complete the form at the end of the newsletter. It would be great to see as many twinners as possible coming to meet our Eschweiler friends at the Saturday evening barbecue (eating inside) at Redhill & Reigate Golf Club.

Janet Powell
Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link
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AGM

As in previous years, after the AGM on 15 March, we will be providing a simple snack supper, mostly bread and cheese with a glass of wine. Please remember to bring your own plates, cutlery, glasses etc. To help with catering, could you let us know if you intend to stay for this friendly supper. Sally Baker, the secretary of the association will also help with the catering. Please contact one of us by 13 March.

Monique tel: 01737 221073 e-mail: mpottage@hotmail.co.uk
Sally tel: 01737 221766 e-mail: sallybaker@talktalk.net

Sally will include a form with the AGM papers for those who prefer to inform us by post.

Language Lessons

Please see separate flyer attached to this newsletter with regard to French and/or German lessons

Recent Events:

▪ Annual dinner

On a cold 18/1 evening members gathered at The Black Horse, Reigate Road, Horley (not Lloyds Bank or The Black Horse, Reigate to which this correspondent went from force of habit - a senior moment (what's that in French and German?)). A speedy recovery followed.

The venue was warm and welcoming and more than 40 members were there to enjoy the evening, chatting with old friends and new acquaintances. Cheerful staff coped with serving the various pre-ordered main course and pudding in somewhat cramped surroundings. It was difficult to ascertain the most popular of the 3 choices available - obviously a range of tastes.

No guest of honour so no speeches, an entirely social occasion.

The only downside was having to venture out into the cold night for the homeward journey. How one wishes one could say 'Beam me up, Scottie'.

Bob Reeve

▪ **Quiz**

We had a good gathering for the quiz night. As usual the questions were set by Helier Dreux, who unfortunately was unable to be present. Sarah Walters bravely stood in and manned the computer whilst Ann Dreux did the marking.

The mayor, Cllr Dorothy Ross Tomlin, joined us for the evening, don't know how her table did. In all there were 14 tables and the winning table was No 1.

The quiz was up to the usual standard with some questions quite easy others were fiendishly difficult. At half time we had a fish supper which everyone seemed to enjoy and the raffle finished off the evening. A good time was had by all and we all look forward to the next one.

Jo Chantler

Treasurer

The 2018 accounts are with the auditor. There was a good positive income for the year and the balance sheet shows good reserves held for future Twinning visits to this country.

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

All fund raising events were successful and enabled us to host Brunoy in September.

Robert Begin

Membership

At present there are 98 Members of whom 77 are subscription paying – the rest are Honorary Members and members of our twinned clubs. As at the end of January, 47 members had not paid their subscriptions for 2019 and e-mail reminders are being sent out.

Robert Begin



Special thanks are due to Reigate & Banstead Council and Frank Kelly in particular, for funding the music at the Brunoy 25th Anniversary Celebration dinner. Music was provided by the David Skinner Quintet & Big Band.

Robert Begin

Obituaries

◆ Bryan Reynolds

We are sad to pass on the news that Bryan Reynolds died on 31 January – having been unwell for a short time. Bryan led a very busy life with many interests. He and Rose have been members of Twinning for several years, and were regular visitors to Brunoy, as well as hosting French friends on their return visit. One of Bryan's last outings was to the Twinning Dinner when Brunoy visited Reigate last September. The Twinning Association's thoughts and condolences are with Rose and all the family.

Elspeth Cawtheray

◆ John Buckoke

Sadly John died mid January. He had been a member of the Association since its inception and, following retirement from the council, became treasurer for many years. He and his wife Doreen were active for a long time before health and age intervened.....C'est la vie.

I particularly remember when Doreen played piano at Christmas parties held at Diana's: John organised many of our New Year dinners. They will be remembered.

Our deepest sympathy to their family.

Penelope Horsfall