

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2019/1



Important Dates for your 2019 Diary

Barbaraschule Eschweiler visit Reigate Priory School	6 - 10 May
Spring Walk	25 May
Visit from Eschweiler to Reigate	30 May - 2 June
Twinning Summer meal	6 July
Visit from Brunoy	13 - 15 September
Skittles evening	18 October

Role Reversal

This year the Twinning AGM was the occasion of a few changes as you will read in an article later in this newsletter.

One of the changes concerns Anne Miller and myself. We are playing musical chairs! Anne who, as many of you know, was at the origin of our Twinning with Brunoy, suggested that I should become the Co-Chair with responsibility for the Brunoy link. After 25 years of building links and maintaining close contacts with our friends from Brunoy, she is pushing me to the fore and of course we'll carry on working together. We are all very grateful for all she has done for our French link as well as Twinning in general.

We hope to see many of you at the varied Twinning events in the pipeline: the Twinning walk, the visit from our German friends and, before the summer break, a convivial Twinning Summer lunch.

Monique Pottage

Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

As usual our visit to Brunoy was very successful while we were there.. I will not try to describe it in details for those of you who did not join us this time since Ena has managed to "recruit" a professional journalist to do so. The other articles will only show clearly what a bunch of amateurs we all are. Unfortunately the journey to Brunoy was the longest in years and not at all because of Brexit, as some secretly feared. Just a lot of traffic around Paris. Such a long journey even if we have a lovely time in Brunoy! . Once again we need to think of other possible options. Our friends in France have also put their thinking caps on.

Enough of the past, we now need to plan our next Brunoy event, the visit of our friends in September. Not only do we expect our usual twidders but also a few "sportifs" to take part in the Reigate semi marathon and perhaps a couple of members of the Brunoy "club photo" keen to capture the Surrey Countryside in the Autumn. The local Lycée may send a teacher and a few sixth-formers too. Over the last few years, we have welcomed a range of people with a variety of interests to our families in Reigate and Banstead, from cyclists to bridge players. It shows that, in spite of our present political uncertainty, friendship links are always valued and we need to strengthen our bonds.

Monique and Anne

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

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Dear Friends

I hope the lovely Easter weather has inspired you to think about the summer and our forthcoming Twinning activities. The annual school exchange by the Barbaraschule Eschweiler to Reigate Priory School takes place very shortly and I hope the weather is as good for them. This year they plan to visit London together – more about this later.

Earlier this month we attended the Carnival in Wattrelos near Lille, together with many from Eschweiler, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Carnival there. The twinning link between Eschweiler and Wattrelos is very focused on this annual tradition in Northern France, and this wonderful occasion, which Eschweiler helped to found, brings everyone together from both towns. It is a good excuse for a last re-run for Eschweiler's Carnival Prinz Paulo and many of the Eschweiler marching bands in uniform come especially to support it. On the Saturday evening there is a Carnival Soiree with music and dancing, at which the forthcoming Wattrelos Prince and his Dauphine are chosen. On Sunday there is a Reception in Wattrelos Town Hall where we were proud to be given the honour of inauguration into membership of the Confrerie du Carnival I by the Mayor. The Carnival procession begins after lunch and is led by the three famous giants of Wattrelos, with many different associations from Wattrelos participating with marching bands and dancers.



We now look forward to the group from the Eschweiler Twinning Association visiting us at the end of this month (Thursday 30 May). We shall be visiting the Bluebell Railway and Sheffield Park Gardens with them on the Friday. Space on their coach will have to be limited to hosts, so if you are not hosting and would like to join us travelling by car please let me know. On Saturday we shall visit London in groups. Whether you are hosting or helping or not, I would encourage as many as possible to come and meet our Eschweiler friends on Saturday evening (1 June) at Reigate & Redhill Golf Club. Simon the Chef is cooking a barbecue spread with lots of salads and desserts and we can eat inside if it gets a little cool. There will be accordion music provided by Tony Trent so I am sure it will be a good evening and the Eschweilers would be delighted to see you.

Please see Form A attached with this newsletter.

Looking forward to a good summer!

Janet Powell

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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Recent Events:

▪ AGM

The meeting was opened by our President delivering an entertaining account of the attendance of Penelope, Edward and Monique Pottage at the centennial commemoration of the end of the first world war in Brunoy which was of course reported in the last Newsletter.

Anne Miller then brought us up to date on matters Brunoy, especially the very successful 25th Twinning Anniversary celebrations both in Brunoy and Reigate, thanking everyone for the enormous effort which went into the organisation, resulting a most memorable programme. Anne also mentioned the April trip to Brunoy which will include a visit to the château de Rambouillet (where de Gaulle said "Non" to Harold Macmillan).

Moving on to the Eschweiler link, Janet Powell reviewed the visit to Eschweiler last year and the carnival celebrations which have taken place since. It was encouraging to hear about the continuing exchange links between the Priory School and the Barbaraschule. Arrangements for the forthcoming visit from Eschweiler are well in hand, although Brexit uncertainty is already causing travel problems for the Eschweiler delegation. We were reminded that the barbecue on the Saturday night at Redhill and Reigate Golf Clubhouse was open to all members. Janet went on to mention her liaison with Angie Potter organiser of the Meet-up for languages initiative (a flyer was sent out with the last Newsletter) and concluded with an appeal for support from members for our hard working committee, many of whom are now doubling up on their roles.

Robert Bogin presented the treasurer's report which showed the finances of the organisation in good shape. The report was unanimously accepted as was the proposal to request Andrew Lewis to continue in his role as auditor. Robert went on to review the membership which currently stands at 92 including a number of honorary members. The paying membership is 73 but 7 of these have not yet renewed their subscriptions. However these totals include group and family membership, so the actual number of members is considerably higher.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the committee members. We are extremely fortunate that the team is largely unchanged except that some members are now taking on more than one role. Penelope will remain as our President, Robert Bogin is willing to remain Treasurer combining this with the role of membership secretary. Tammy Meduna-Scott is resigning as minutes secretary as she is embarking on an MBA course. Appreciation was shown by the meeting for Tammy's contribution over the past few years. Sally Baker is continuing as Secretary. Anne Miller will support rather than lead the Brunoy link and Monique Pottage will take over the lead role. Janet and Graham Powell will continue in their current capacities as head of the Eschweiler link and publicity and carnival respectively. Finally a very welcome addition to the committee are Ros Borkowski and Rosemary Jones.

AOB led to a discussion about future events. There was a broad consensus that the current programme satisfied most of the needs of the current membership. The main problem facing the organisers was the diminishing supply of premises suitable for accommodating events and the high cost of meals.

The meeting concluded in a convivial manner with a feast of cheese and wine, organised by Monique and Sally, and, Graham and Janet.

Rodney Garrard

▪ Visit to Brunoy

No red lines for twinning Two internationally significant events were scheduled for April 12th - departure of the Twinning Association's annual visit to Brunoy and Brexit. Fortunately the red line melted away, the M20 wasn't turned into a lorry park and the Turbostyle coach transporting Reigate's devoted twinners made it from Dover to Calais without incident.

Progress was entirely normal. An Aire stop for sandwiches, an hour's delay caused by crashes on the Francilienne main road round the east of Paris and a warm welcome from our French friends once we reached Brunoy.

After that the highlights came thick and fast. Brunoy's mayor laid on a fantastic reception at the town hall with lashings of Cremant de Bougogne and so many tasty canapes that we almost didn't need our late evening dinners en famille. Note the almost.

So by Saturday morning we were all up for an excursion, to château de Rambouillet and its garden, an hour's drive west of Brunoy.