

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



## Twinning News 2019/5



### Important Dates for your 2020 Diary

✚ Annual Twinning Dinner -----	10 January
✚ Quiz -----	28 February
✚ AGM -----	20 March
✚ Visit to Brunoy -----	12 – 14 June

### Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

As we said in the September newsletter, our French link is evolving. Mainly because there are some changes afoot in the Twinning Committee in Brunoy: Marcelle Benattar, who has worked so hard and so effectively to maintain strong links with us in Reigate, is giving up her role and will be replaced by our friend Dominique Ryan.

Here, our Twinning Association is self-funded and therefore unaffected by local politics. It is not the case for our counterpart in Brunoy where most voluntary organisations are financially supported to some extent, by the town hall. Over the last few years this financial support has been getting smaller. As there are also local elections next March, the Comité du Jumelage has decided to cancel their visit to Reigate in 2020 and to invite us for a visit later in the year. This will be an opportunity to see Brunoy in June. The date has been carefully chosen to correspond with a major photographic exhibition in Brunoy, and Reigate Photographic Society has been invited to participate. We hope the photographers will join us on our weekend visit and reconnect with the friends they made when some Brunoy photographers came over in September and at the end of October.

Let's keep all our friendship links going! We will send you more details and a survey about the visit to Brunoy after Christmas.

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année à tous et à toutes.

Monique and Anne

*Monique and Anne*

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

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### Eschweiler Link

Dear Friends

I can't believe we are nearly at the end of this year! Karneval season in Eschweiler has now begun and this year Prinz Simon and Zerm. David will be leading the celebrations.

We shall be attending their Proklamation in the middle of January and of course the Karneval itself which is being held from Friday 20 February. We have a longstanding invitation which is open to everyone. If you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible so we can organise transport. You can do as much or as little as you want - participate in the processions or just watch them go by. It's a fantastic atmosphere either way!

I have heard that Rudi Bertram, the Mayor of Eschweiler, will be standing down next year, following his recovery from a serious health problem. He has served Eschweiler for more than 20 years and the fact that he has been re-elected four times is a testimony to his popularity and hard work. Our Mayor has written a letter to him to express thanks for supporting our twinning link.

I would like to wish all our friends here, in Germany and France a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

**Janet Powell**

Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link

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## Recent Events:

### ▪ Skittles Evening

On 18 October Twinners, Rotarians, Family and Friends gathered together at St Joseph's Church Centre, Redhill for an evening of fun friendship and a little fundraising. Redhill Redstone Rotary Club kindly loaned their Skittle Alley. Everyone joined in at having a go at rolling the ball. Some more skilled than others, myself being not included in that category!

Twinners Family and Rotarians were all in the top 5!

1<sup>st</sup> Janet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vic, 3<sup>rd</sup> Max, 4<sup>th</sup> Reg, 5<sup>th</sup> Wendy

At half time sustenance was provided by Supreme Fish and Chips deliciously hot and freshly cooked! Thank you Phil for helping me to organise this.

Thank you also to Janet and Graham Powell who provided the liquid refreshments and prizes as well as the transportation of the Skittle Alley and to the fellow Rotarians and partners for your help with this. St Josephs was an excellent venue lots of room for parking centrally based with easy access for all, no stairs to climb!

TO ALL OUR Members: We do hope YOU will be able to join us in future planned events. Please ask family and friends along. The more the merrier! Keep a look out for the News Letter! Your support is always WELCOME!

**Rosemary Jones**

### ▪ Winter Walk

On Saturday the 9th of November 10 Twinners and 2 dogs appeared out of the gathering mist at Denbies. We were all wrapped up, for 2 degrees, damp and gloom reminded one of the song 'Mad dogs and English men.....'. Together with our trusty hounds Rufus and Charlie, Natasha led us out the back of the vineyard. A steady climb followed all the way past Ranmore Church to Ranmore Common. We exchanged good mornings with runners, cyclists and walkers and our dogs explored the undergrowth. Ranmore Common is a wonderful viewpoint but not that morning, visibility 20 yards with a ghost train hooting in the distance. A sharp descent showed the benefit of having 4 legs and we were urged on by our canine chums. Not before a photo at the wood carving. The walk back down to Denbies was a gentle and enjoyable stroll with time to discuss physical shortcomings and the current political scene. As we reached our cars the rain started. We were joined for lunch at the Stepping Stones Pub with other Twinners. Thank you to Natasha for an enjoyable walk and Rufus and Charlie for barking at us to keep up!



**Brian Cowle**

## Forthcoming Events

### ◆ Annual Twinning Dinner 10 January

To be held at the Home Cottage Redhill

Please see attached form for menu choices, and please make a note of these.

Please let me know your menu choices before Christmas if possible, in order to avoid a last minute rush. I have to let them know final numbers by 3 January latest but it would be good not to have to chase people during the holiday season! If you are paying by bank transfer please inform Robert and me.

**Janet Powell**

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## Treasurer and Membership

We are nearing the end of the Association year and despite substantial net expense from the visits here by both Eschweiler and Brunoy Twinning groups, the Association funds stand at a healthy level. Good receipts from the Reigate Quiz and Summer lunch have helped to maintain this level.

Administration costs are less than last year and the increase in annual subscription means that these costs are well covered. We have moved our deposit account from a Shawbrook Bond to the Hampshire Trust Bank who offered an improved interest rate on a 30 day notice account.

All members are reminded that Membership subscriptions for next year are due at the beginning of January. Many members have standing orders set up but we ask the others to pay as early as possible by bank transfer or by cheque. There is a payment form with full details included in this Newsletter

**Robert Bogin**

## Visit by Club Photo de Brunoy – 25-27 October 2019

The visit followed 5 years after John Fisher and his wife Cathy, and Sandrine and Stephen Hewes went to Brunoy to help them celebrate their 50th anniversary. It was decided to offer a return visit at which a small French contingent would be hosted by Reigate Photographic Society and twinning association members.

Organisation at their end was led by Michel Lefort, a member of both Club Photo Brunoy, and their twinning association. The four visitors were Mr. Michel Lefort – hosted by Ros and John of Reigate twinning association, Mme Dominique Ryan (twinning association) hosted by Ena of Reigate twinning association, Mr Frédéric Leloarer – hosted by Sandrine and Stephen Hewes, and Mr Patrick Herckel - hosted by Jill and Peter Flower.

The weekend started with a meeting at the Yew Tree pub, a convenient point for us to rendezvous with the Brunoy members after their journey from the Dover ferry. Patrick was very keen to reacquaint himself with British ales, having worked for a time in London in his youth. On leaving, Frédéric looked like he wanted to drive Stephen's car – just the old trick of the steering wheel on the wrong side!

Saturday morning we made a prompt start to get to the Reigate PS exhibition where we put up 12 pictures brought from Brunoy in the corridor leading to our exhibition. We then had time to look round the exhibition before leaving at 11:00 to catch a train from Redhill to London Bridge.

The group went on a photo safari in the rain. A detailed report with many of their interesting photographs can be found in their newsletter on line at <http://www.reigatephotosoc.com/RPS/index.php/newsletter-122>



*Photo by Peter Flower*

*Michel Lefort, Patrick Herckel  
and Frédéric Leloarer*



*Photo by John Fisher*

*The group enjoying  
teas and coffees*

That evening was spent at Stephen and Sandrine's house where 8 of us enjoyed a splendid dinner with much laughter and animated conversations.

On Sunday morning we started out early to head to the Brooklands Museum in three separate cars for their classic car breakfast, and clearly the turnout has caught them a bit by surprise and they were out of eggs.

By early afternoon it was time for our French visitors to leave. We bid our farewells and the French 4 head to Dover, a mini-cruise, then home.

This was a very enjoyable weekend and a great opportunity to firm up links with another club. Brunoy have invited us to their exhibition in June 2020

***Stephen Hewes and Jill Flower***

## **Redhill Corps of Drums and Band Evening**

A group of us attended this very enjoyable annual event in October. We were treated to performances by all sections of the band and it was great to see that so many new younger members have joined them. The instructors do a great job training up youngsters from 8 onwards to read and play music from scratch. A lot of members have been there for many years and were rewarded by certificates and awards for their work. Penelope presented the annual shield awarded by Tinning and we all enjoyed the delicious tea and cakes.

***Janet Powell***

## **Obituaries**

### **John Aldred**

We were very sad to hear, at the end of September, of the death of John Aldred, Anne Miller 's partner. John was more interested in sports than in twinning but he was always ready to support Anne's twinning quiz team and to host French visitors. We send our condolences to Anne who has masterminded our French link since the early days of twinning with Brunoy.

***Monique Pottage***

## **John Alastair Meech : 31 January 1935 – 14 November 2019**

We are sorry to hear of the death of John Meech who was a loyal member of the Twinning Association. He came to fund-raising events, joined in when visitors came from our twin towns and went to Eschweiler to the Carnival on many occasions.

He was born and lived in Reigate, attended Holmesdale Primary School (being evacuated to Dorset during the war) and then to Reigate Priory School, where he was Head Boy. His education was completed at Redhill Technical College where he studied Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. He was an excellent draftsman and an artist.

He served in Germany in the RAF in the Air Traffic Control division. After three years as an instructor attached to the Royal Dutch Air Force, he left the RAF in 1956 to continue his career in engineering.

His interests were all things sporting, particularly athletics. He was a member of the Redhill and Surrey Beagles Athletics Club for over 50 years. He was involved in politics too being a staunch Conservative, holding many appointments in the party. He was first elected to the Reigate Borough Council in 1970 representing Reigate Central and continued in that capacity when the Borough of Reigate and Banstead Council was formed in 1974 serving until 1980. On moving to Horley he was re-elected to the Borough Council representing one of the Horley wards in 1992 retiring in 2008. He was Deputy Mayor twice, 2002 - 2003 and 2004-2005. He was made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough in 2016.



John was a true gentleman who was friendly, reliable and conscientious. We were sorry when he suffered ill-health in recent years but admired his determination to continue to do things as long as he could. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

***Diana Bowes***