

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



## Twinning News 2023/1



### Important Dates for your 2023 Diary

- January Lunch -----20 January
- Twinning Quiz-----3 March
- Visit to Brunoy -----31 March to 2 April

### Message from our President

I am sure that we all in our three twinnings associations hope that the year of 2023 will bring us together again. Our "pre covid" shared memories are years ago, sadly! Many members have regularly kept in touch with our French and German friends. I think that is a great accolade to all members. Thank goodness for high technology!

We in the Borough of Reigate and Banstead are having a Twinning lunch at a local hostelry on 20th January. A wonderful opportunity for a great catch-up.

I send everyone warmest wishes for the year ahead. My fingers are firmly crossed for us all!

*Penelope Horsfall*

### Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

Now Christmas is over we can look forward to planning our twinning year and meeting our foreign friends again. There are still a few places available for our trip to Brunoy at the end of March 2023. Please see the attached flyer and form for all the details and do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions regarding this trip.

I have just met a few of our Brunoy friends on the sad occasion of Victor Redstone's funeral in Redhill. I do intend to write a proper obituary for the next newsletter for this very interesting man, a former member of Reigate and Banstead twinning association. However not now as this newsletter is urgent because of our post Christmas Twinning meal on 20 January.

I hope to see many of you at the meal. Do also remember the date of our famous Twinning Quiz on 3 March.. Please talk to your friends and invite them to Brunoy and the quiz.

Bonne Année à tous et à toutes.

*Monique and Anne*

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Dear Twinners

A very happy New Year to all our Twinning friends, whether here in the UK, in Germany or in France. We wish you all a very healthy, happier and more peaceful 2023.

We look forward to starting our programme of social events for this year and hope to see many of you at the Twinning Lunch on 20 January (see below for details). The Committee are also planning a return of the long-awaited Quiz Evening in March

So that you can keep up to date with what's happening in Eschweiler, I've included below a translation of the New Year's message from their Mayor Nadine Leonhardt. Karneval will be going ahead as usual in February and we have been invited for the Proklamation ceremony in the middle of this month. Reigate Priory and Barbaraschule are trying to reinstate their annual school exchange and a Twinning group from Eschweiler are hoping to visit us on 8-11 June. Due to the steeply rising costs of hospitality, if anyone could help with accommodation or assistance with meals or transport for the Twinning visit I would be pleased to hear from you.

**Janet Powell**

*Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link*

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### Eschweiler Mayor's greeting for Christmas 2022 and the turn of the year 2022/23

Dear fellow citizens!

The past year has not been an easy year for all of us. However, we tackled it together and showed that we want to shape the future of Eschweiler. The flood disaster, the most devastating event in our town after the Second World War, marked its first anniversary. Even though many people were able to return to their homes and apartments and some businesses reopened, there is still a lot to do. The town administration has put its focus on reconstruction in the following year. The signs are particularly good at daycares and schools at the moment and all Eschweiler students will return to study in Eschweiler in 2023. However, due to the ongoing construction work at the Realschule Patternhof and the total demolition of the Willi-Fährmann-School, it will take some time before the students can move into their new buildings.

Also the Jahnstraße Sports Center - with the indoor pool renovated in the nineties - is facing demolition. A new pool with a sports hall will be built at the same place. Preparations are already underway with regard to the demolition and the future design of the new sports centre.

Besides the challenges of reconstruction, we are also feeling the effects of the war in Ukraine. Eschweiler showed itself in solidarity with the people who had to flee Ukraine in the following months. The accommodation for refugees, operated together with Stolberg, (neighbour town) and the numerous private people in our city, took in those seeking help and gave them a new home. But above all the impacts on the energy market directly related to the war, which developed into an energy crisis in this country, represent a huge burden.

In addition to all these challenging tasks, after two years of Corona pandemic, in 2022, we have shown that our city is alive. A wide range of events and culture with countless summer festivals, marksman's festivals, sporting events and large events invite you to escape everyday life for a moment and enjoy life with family and friends.

That's why I feel positive that the Eschweiler City Management Association has succeeded in restarting. Thank you very much to those involved in the board for volunteering for our city. I would like to thank everyone who volunteers in clubs, associations, organizations and in communal politics. They do important work locally in their neighbourhoods, but also in our city's political boards.

In the days to come, but also beyond, we should continue to live with each other, continue to stand up for each other and look out for others.

Wishing you and your families a blessed, peaceful and thoughtful Christmas! Success, personal well-being and above all good health shall be your companion come 2023.

Your  
Nadine Leonhardt  
Mayor

## **Treasurer and Membership**

Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership.

As a reminder to others please pay direct to our HSBC Business account: HSBC Reigate  
Sort Code 40 38 10, A/C No. 81060333 Account Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association  
Or  
send a cheque made out to "Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association" and post/deliver to  
Robert Bogin, 64 Church Street, Reigate RH2 0SP

Fees are: £10 single adult, £20 couple/family and £25 for groups/businesses

**Robert Bogin**  
**Treasurer & Membership Secretary**