

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



## Twinning News 2016/3



### Important Dates for your 2016 Diary

- ✚ Visit by Brunoy ----- 16 -18 September
- ✚ Visit by Eschweiler ----- 30 September - 3 October
- ✚ Walk ----- 5 November \*
- ✚ Pre-Christmas soiree ----- 2 December \*

### Message from our President:

Dear friends,

Reflecting on the catastrophic "in my opinion" happenings over the past few weeks here, in the UK, I have been pondering a great deal about what our twinning association means, especially to me. I think the great bond we all share, both at home and in Eschweiler and Brunoy, is a blessing.

Joining the twinning association, following my mayoral year, was such a positive move for both Tim and I. I am confident that we will continue our close ties. Certainly I cherish our association and its members.

Roll on September when we meet again! Every best wish wherever you live.....

*Penelope Horsfall. President*

### Brexit – messages from our French and German Friends



Mes chères amies,

Plus que jamais nous devons soutenir notre jumelage, au nom de l'amitié, et cultiver à la fois nos différences et nos points communs, sources de richesses.

Notre but sera de faire en sorte que le passé historique de « frères ennemis » de nos deux pays s'estompe au profit d'un renouveau entre « bons voisins »

Avec toute mon amitié.  
Danielle

Now more than ever, in the name of friendship, we must support our twinning links, at the same time cultivating both our differences and all we have in common as that is what enriches us.

Our aim must be to bring about a change of relations between our 2 countries, from our long history as traditional enemies to being "good neighbours".

Bonnes vacances a tous.  
Monique



I want this mail to stress once again that of course nothing will change in our close friendship. On the contrary: Many people seem now really inspired to promote the spirit of Europe.

I feel very much sadness about this among the people in Eschweiler, my friends and me in recent days. I find it extremely unfortunate that the idea of Europe seems not understood by some people in the UK. I also think that the dispute of the Tory party has led to this.

Your country is now unfortunately facing a major ordeal. I sincerely hope that there are politicians with you who can keep a cool head in these times, but also understand the hearts of the people.

We in Eschweiler know in any case, that the Proposed referendum on United Kingdom membership of the European Union may have been carried out politically, but brings closer together the people of Europe. And the friendship here to people in Reigate & Banstead is an important part of this.

Best regards  
Patrick Nowicki, Editor of Eschweiler Zeitung

## Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

Well, what a Summer it has been so far! We feel deeply for both our French and German friends after the terrorist atrocities which have happened in Nice, Rouen and Munich over the last few weeks. This makes it clear that our international friendship is more important than ever in keeping Europe and the world on an even keel. Long may our Twinning activities prosper!

Turning to more immediate matters, September is fast approaching when our French friends will be visiting us. The Mayor is kindly hosting a Reception when they arrive on Friday evening, September 16th. Trips to London on the Saturday will be followed by Dinner at Reigate College in the evening. Everyone is welcome to come to this, and we will also be joined by His Worship the Mayor and his Mayoress. There is a form for this event in the Newsletter.

Some French members of Brunoy Athletic Club will be taking part in the Reigate Run on the Sunday before they head home. All we need now is good weather to put the icing on the cake!

All the best from  
Anne and Monique

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## Eschweiler Link

Dear Friends

I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful weather we are having at present. At last summer seems to have arrived, at least for a while! We have just spent a lovely couple of weeks in Alsace and the Black Forest, enjoying the various delights and sights. We stayed on campsites where people from all over Europe were living together, and very much enjoyed meeting and talking to them. I do so hope that the UK will be able to continue to be a real part of Europe even if not the EU. Several people from Eschweiler and Brunoy were concerned about Reigate's majority "Leave" vote – see separate item – and we were pleased that our new Mayor, Cllr David Powell, wrote reassuring them that our friendships

would endure despite political events. In that respect, we would ask for your special support of the visits by our friends from Brunoy and Eschweiler in September. For Eschweiler in particular, it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our twinning, and our Mayor has kindly said that he will be taking an active part in it, attending all events.

The plan for the visit is that our visitors will arrive late afternoon on Friday 30 September for a reception given by the Mayor at the Town Hall. Following that, we will split into groups for dinner. Saturday we will go to London by train in small groups for the day. In the evening the Redhill Corps of Drums have kindly organised a concert with food for us at Salfords Village Hall. The group will visit Hampton Court by coach on Sunday and the anniversary dinner will take place at Reigate College early on Sunday evening before they leave after breakfast on Monday (which is a public holiday in Germany). All our members, not just those involved in hosting, would be most welcome to come and meet our visitors on Saturday and/or Sunday evenings and we really look forward to seeing you. A form is provided at the end of the newsletter. We have sufficient hosts but if you would like to help with the visit, or have any questions, do please call me.

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## Recent Events:

### ▪ Walk – 7 May 2016

The walk on 7 May saw 14 of us and 1 dog meeting at Earlswood Lakes carpark. The weather could not have been better. We were also joined by Monique's brother, Bernard, who was visiting from his home in France. He is responsible for the attached photo. The walk took us past some stunning displays of bluebells and fields with horses grazing. The one thing that my little legs struggled with were the 6 stiles that had to be traversed. The lucky one was Cassie Cawtheray who just needed to go through the gap at ground level. Round about some 2 hours later we were back at the start point ready for lunch and a chance to refuel our bodies.

Thanks to our guides Sarah and Paul Walters.

