

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



## Twinning News

2016/1



Dear members and friends,

As we approach better weather, my thoughts go to our future adventures within our twinning family. A visit to our French friends is always a keenly anticipated event, so roll on April! September will be busy with our friends from Brunoy visiting us, and, at the end of that month our friends from Eschweiler come here too. Our German visitors will help celebrate 30 years of friendship.

I think our 'founding fathers' Tom Curtis (Eschweiler) and Norman Spiers (Brunoy) would be delighted to see us still very much in action.

During the year I hope to catch up with my many friends in Reigate and Banstead, Brunoy and Eschweiler. In the meanwhile I send our readers greetings and best wishes.

Penelope Horsfall, President

### Important Dates for your 2016 Diary

1. Subscriptions due - NOW
2. AGM - 11 March !!
3. Visit to Brunoy - 8-10 April
4. Walk - 7 May
5. Visit by Brunoyens - 16-18 Sept
6. Visit by Eschweiler - 30 Sept-3 Oct

### Membership

A warm welcome is extended to new members

Angie Potter and Jan Westell

Thank you again to all who have paid the subscription promptly - only a few are still outstanding. However, if you have not paid before the AGM, you will not be able to vote!!

David Wylie, Membership Secretary

### Brunoy Link

Dear Friends,

Looking forward to Spring is always an exciting time and there is plenty coming up for Twinners this year.

In April a good number of us will set off on our annual visit to Brunoy and a very interesting programme is promised. Meaux, while not being very far from Brunoy, has a great deal to offer apart from the usual French plethora of restaurants and cafes. The architecture of the town is mixed and includes a striking Cathedral and Bishop's Palace as well as a Museum. Food lovers will appreciate the Brie de Meaux and we are sure all will find it an interesting visit.

We must not forget the Quiz in February and the Annual General Meeting in March - details elsewhere in this Newsletter. There is also a walk with Pub Lunch, something which is always popular among walkers and non-walkers (but eaters!) alike.

We look forward to seeing many of you at some of these events and hope for good weather for the various trips in prospect.

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## Eschweiler Link

We celebrated New Year in Eschweiler this year, as we had been invited on 2 January to the Prinzenproklamation (when the Karneval Prinz is `enthroned). You can see a bit about this and the new Prinz Rene and his Ceremonymaster Daniel on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCPIP6iZy-4>

As usual, a group of us including the Redhill Corps of Drums will be braving the elements to take part in the Karneval celebrations and processions on 5 February and whatever the weather may throw at us, I am sure we will have a very warm welcome and a great time.

We also had the chance to talk about Eschweiler's group visit to us this year. It will now be from Friday 30 September to Monday 3 October. The Mayor-Elect David Powell has said he will host a reception for them on arrival, to celebrate our 30 Years of Town Twinning. We also proposed a day visit to Hever Castle and plans for other visits are in hand. If you were hosted by Eschweiler last year during our very entertaining visit, please keep the dates free and let me know if you are willing to host, entertain or otherwise `look after` our visitors. Some of them may wish to stay in a hotel but we hope to be able to look after them all as best we can. More details later.

In the meantime, please do come along to our events and feel free to bring like-minded friends with you to `try us out`. If they decide to join us, new members would be warmly welcome. Do you have any ideas for other social/fundraising events? The Committee would be pleased to hear suggestions if so. It does take us quite a lot of time and effort to organise these things, so help is always appreciated - the AGM is coming up, so give it some thought.

Janet Powell, (Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link)  
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## Karneval - 5-9 February 2016

As this edition of the newsletter goes to publication, we have just returned from the Karneval itself. The weather was very kind to us, although there were some worries by the Karneval Committee just beforehand because of the very strong winds which resulted in other karnevals in Duesseldorf and Mainz having to

be abandoned because of safety concerns. We were supported as ever by a good number from the Redhill Corps of Drums who played during both Sunday and Rosenmontag processions and also at Eschweiler Town Hall and a couple of group Sitzungen. Eschweiler folk are always so appreciative that we make the effort to support their most important annual event and we are given a wonderful friendly welcome. It's always a great chance to sample the camaraderie and meet more of the people there and is well worth considering for next year.

All the best - Janet



Redhill Corps of Drums - in Eschweiler for Karneval

## Recent Events:

### Christmas Soirée - 5 December 2015

There was a change of venue this year, which, of course, could not be as comfortable as Penelope and Tim's home. The room was a good size but perhaps we could do something better with the lighting if we use the venue again (in winter). However, the kitchen facilities, and the parking, were excellent. Otherwise, the evening went well. Thanks to Janet and Monique for the organisation.