

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2010/4



**WITH BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Dear members,

This past autumn has seen us having a very busy time.

In September we greeted our French friends from Brunoy for the weekend. A report on this is included. Then in October, our friends from Eschweiler came to celebrate 25 years of twinning. Elsewhere, there is a full report on this successful, if very wet, weekend! Finally, children from St. John's Primary School, Redhill, visited Infant Jesus school in Wattrelos, also in October. You may recall that Wattrelos, near Lille, is twinned with Eschweiler.

Now we are looking ahead to our annual Christmas party. This year it will be at my home. Very many thanks are due to Diana Bowes for hosting it for several years. It will be on Friday 3rd December so do come along. Details are on the form attached to this Newsletter.

Another important date for your diary is 22nd January 2011. Richard Cawtheray, our PR guru, and Graham Powell, are organising a Burns Dinner, including the traditional piper.

This is a new venture and we hope for a great deal of support for this innovative idea. If you have never been to one, and I have only been once, they are great fun. We should all be reading Robbie Burns for the New Year!

I look forward to seeing many of you in the run up to Christmas. Seasonal greeting to all.

Penelope Horsfall, Chairman

Important Dates for your Diary

Christmas party – 03 December 2010
Burns' Supper – 22 January 2011
Subscriptions due – January 2011
Eschweiler Karneval – 4-8 March 2011
AGM - 11 March 2011
Quiz – February/March - tbc
Visit to Brunoy - 30 April-2 May 2011
Eschweiler visit us – June 2011 - tbc

French Link

A big Thank You to everyone who made the visit of our French friends in September such a success. Now it is time to consider our return visit next May. We have consulted both internally and internationally and the general opinion in France is that a weekend at the beginning of May would suit them better. So, we are proposing a trip to Brunoy from Saturday

April 30th to Monday May 2nd. This is a shorter visit than usual but we hope that it will be easier for those members who need to take time off work, as the Monday is a Bank Holiday. Also, any members with children would not need to take them out of School, and it would be great to have some young people with us.

We plan to leave by coach on the Saturday morning, arriving in Brunoy mid afternoon to have some time with our hosts. On the Sunday we plan to visit Chartres, which is not too far away and has many interesting places to visit apart from the magnificent Cathedral, which must be top of the list, even if you have seen it before. On the Monday it is not a Bank Holiday in France, so we will leave relatively early and have some free time in a town on the way to Calais - suggestions welcome!

PLEASE put these dates in next year's diary as soon as you get it, and also fill in the Form D at the back of the Newsletter. We do need to get a good number of us going to make up for the

disappointment of last May. In January's Newsletter there will be a form to book and pay a non-returnable deposit, and by that time we should have an idea of costs. Obviously, the more people who go, the cheaper it will be for everyone. If you have not visited Brunoy before, now is an excellent time to experience the superb hospitality of our French friends. If you have been before will know what a good trip it can be, so the more the merrier!

Anne Miller

Eschweiler Link

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the 25th twinning anniversary visit to us by Eschweiler last month. (see report) Now that there is a lull in our twinning exchanges for a while, we shall concentrate on social events which also raise funds for next year's activities. We do hope to see some of our new members at the Christmas evening or the Burns' Supper. It's a great way to meet other members before going on one of the visits, and we would also like the chance to meet you! So if you haven't been before, please do come along.

We are also looking forward to Karneval, which this year is later than usual on 4-8 March. This year it's the turn of Prinz Stephan from the Pumpe area of Eschweiler (by St Barbara's School) who has now been "inaugurated". A group of us will join in the Karneval processions as usual, so if you think you might be interested, please do give me a call. You can do as much or little as you wish and those who go regularly will tell you that it's great fun. I look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events.

Janet Powell, Tel: 01737 761903

Forthcoming events

Christmas Party – 03 December

The Christmas party this year will be held at Penelope Horsfall's home in Fengates Road, Redhill. Since this is a fund-raising, as well as a social, event, the cost is £10.00, which includes wine and soft drinks **AND** you are requested to donate an item of food. There will not be a raffle, so no need to bring a raffle prize! Form A is attached – and you may hear from the Catering Committee, to change your offer of food – so that we do not have too many mince pies!

Annual Dinner/Burns' Supper – 22 January 2011 –

The questionnaire earlier this year suggested that we do "too much of the same". Therefore, this year, Richard Cawtheray and Graham Powell, under the guidance of Jim Scott and Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, are organising this event. The Piper has been booked, the (Scottish) menu arranged, and we are sure that it will be a very enjoyable evening. It is being held at the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club in Pendleton Road, Redhill.

Please complete Form C and return it to us as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Eschweiler Karneval – 4-8 March 2011 -

The Karneval takes place this year on the weekend of 4-8 March. Although it is not strictly speaking a Twinning event, we like to show support to our Twin Town. Some members including Janet and Graham Powell, and members of the Redhill Corps of Drums, have attended for many years. It is great fun, and you get to meet a lot of the local people in Eschweiler.

There are different ways to get there, including car-sharing, and different grades of hotel and guest house accommodation available. For more information, please do contact Janet and Graham who will be happy to answer all your questions – on 01737 761903.

AGM – 11 March 2011 – t.b.c.

It will be held in the United Reformed Church, Shaw's Corner, Redhill, followed by the usual supper party. Do come along – and have your say! Attendance Form and Agenda will be sent with the next Newsletter. Think about whether you would like to be a member of the Committee – and what you can do for the Association.

Quiz Night –

A date has not yet been set for the Quiz Night, but it is likely to be around the end of March. It is always a popular evening, and Helier and Ann Dreux do an excellent job in preparing the questions.

More information/Attendance forms will be provided in the next issue (to be distributed in January/February).

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Visit by our Brunoy twinnings, September 2010

Despite the alleged traffic problems on the M25 on Friday afternoons, our French friends always arrive on time – and in fact, early this year! As usual, they were invited to a Welcome Drink in the Town Hall, by the Mayor, Cllr. Pay.

On Saturday, hosts and guests visited MileStones, near Basingstoke. Although very few of us had heard of Milestones, everyone agreed it was very interesting and well worth a visit. In the evening, we played host at the United Reformed Church to a lively gathering of over 80. Following the meal, we were entertained by Nicola Saravalle, a young gentleman from Brunoy, who studies music at the Brussels Conservatory. Although unexpected, it was very pleasant and relaxing.

On Sunday, hosts and their guests had the morning free, and all too soon it was time to say "goodbye" and "au revoir".

Elspeth Blythe & others

Visit by our Eschweiler twinnings - October 2010 - Celebrating 25th anniversary



Following our visit to Eschweiler in March, our Eschweiler friends visited us in October – as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations.

They arrived on Friday evening; some went off with their hosts, others to a "bangers and mash" meal at the Yew Tree Pub, and the Mayor and Councillors of Eschweiler to a reception at Gatton Park, hosted by the Mayor of Reigate & Banstead, Cllr. Pay.

On Saturday, we had an enjoyable visit to Guildford and a trip on the river, despite the weather. In the evening, we hosted a dinner at the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club – it was well attended, and we are grateful to the Redhill Corps of Drums Quintet, who played before and after the meal. We were spared speeches (!), as the formal event would be held on the Sunday

Cllr Mrs Spiers and the Borough Council did us proud with the Civic Ceremony at the Town Hall on the Sunday. Eschweiler presented us with an ash tree (ash=Eisch) to mark the occasion. This was ceremonially planted in the Town Hall garden by the Mayors - partly because of the awful weather on the Sunday. However, it will be relocated to Priory Park, where more people will be able to see it and the accompanying sign explaining our twinning link.

Our German friends then piled into their coach for their return trip. They arrived in heavy rain, and left in torrential rain.

Various

Visit by St. John's School to Wattlelos – October 2010



On the morning of 13th October, 20 very excited Year 4 pupils from St Johns School set off to visit our partner school in Wattlelos, France. For some of the children it was their first time abroad, and for most of them it was their first trip without their family. After a smooth crossing to Calais and a leisurely drive through Northern France, the children explored Lille, looking at the buildings in the Old Quarter.

By this time, the children were anxious to visit L'Ecole Enfant Jesus, and to possibly meet up with the friends they had made when the French party visited us in March this year. We

arrived in the centre of Wattrelos to be greeted by Madame Masurel, the head teacher, standing outside the town hall waving a union flag to direct us! The welcome was just as warm inside the school, with English songs being sung and English displays put up to make us feel at home. Some of the French children had returned to school in the evening to take part in a very lively game of bingo with the English children. During dinner, the children mixed and made great efforts to communicate with each other.

On our second day, we had a quite unexpected start to the day. A journey to Disneyland necessitated an early breakfast, to be taken at the school. However, much to the children's amusement, our coach was blocked in by a car, and unable to leave the hotel car park. The sight of a coach driver, the hotel manager and four French men (who should have been on their way to work!) bouncing the car to turn it sideways brought much hilarity from the children!

Our final morning in Wattrelos was spent at L'Ecole Enfant Jesus, and once again we were made to feel very welcome by staff and children alike. The French children greeted us with a chorus of 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' and the St John's pupils sang 'Allouette' for our hosts. In groups, the children were involved in activities including singing, cooking crepes, making collages and learning the story of the traditional festival of La Berlouffe. At break time, staff from the town hall visited the school and had tea and biscuits with us, and brought gifts for all the English adults and children. We were privileged to watch some of the French children cast their votes to elect two children to the council which meets at the town hall regularly, and allows the children their say in what happens in and around Wattrelos.

Watching the children running around on the playground before we left, it was impossible to distinguish between the French and English children. They really enjoyed each other's company and played together as if they had known each other for a long time.

We were delighted that our visit to Wattrelos was such a success, and we are keen to repeat the exchange in the near future.

Karen Moyle, Languages Teacher, St. Johns.

Language courses

The Everyman Cinema in Bancroft Road, Reigate, is showing foreign language films throughout the winter.

For full listings and to view trailers please visit www.everymancinema.com. Please make sure to book early to ensure you don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!!

The East Surrey College continues to run language courses, and details of these can be found on their website : www.esc.ac.uk

Subscriptions for 2011 – A Plea from the Membership Secretary

As you are aware, the membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and therefore subscriptions will become due on 1st January 2011.

I appreciate it is very easy to put the form to one side and think "I'll do that later", but then it is easily forgotten. It takes a lot of time to send individual letters or emails reminding people that payment has not been made (not to mention the cost of postage for 'snail mail').

I shall be standing down as Membership Secretary at the next Annual General Meeting and therefore would ask for your co-operation to ensure that all subscriptions are paid by no later than 1st March.

Thank you for your support during my term of office.

Mary White, Membership Secretary

New Members

We welcome the following new member:

- Elisabeth Davis

This Newsletter is compiled on behalf of the Twinning Association. Articles, comments etc., please to:

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