

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2011/4



Tom, at the Summer Lunch, July 2011

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that we record the death of our President, Honorary Alderman Thomas Curtis, MBE, who died on 5th October. It is due to Tom that our first successful twinning adventure began, and it has continued to thrive for more than twenty-six years. Tom was a most supportive President and, even though he had moved away to Shalford in the west of the County, he continued to support a variety of our events. This past July, when already approaching his 92nd birthday, he drove to Redhill to attend our Summer Lunch. We are so pleased we were able to chat with him at what was to be his last Twinning event. He was always great company. He later wrote that he wished to step down as President at the next AGM, when he would have passed his 92nd birthday. Several of us attended Tom's Thanksgiving Service on 28th October. Diana Bowes, a former chairman, has written a tribute to Tom. We will always treasure happy memories of our late President, and I am confident that members join in sending our sympathy to his family.

---o0o---

A further change within the Association will take place as our treasurer, John Buckoke, has tendered his resignation from the end of this year (2011). John has been in post for more than 17 years, a phenomenal time in a voluntary association. We owe John a huge debt of gratitude. John is happy to answer any questions from possible replacements.

Our French friends visited in September when we went to Colchester. I had never been so to me the trip was of great interest. Special thanks go to Anne Miller, nobly supported by Monique Potage, for their special hard work in organising everything.

Your committee is planning future events for this year and next. I must thank all who are organising these activities. I hope to see many members at our next social events, listed below.

I can only add, even though I write this in October - Seasonal Greetings!

Penelope Horsfall, Chairman

Tom Curtis - Tribute

“A Knight there was, and he a worthy man”

This quotation from Chaucer seems me to be a perfect description of Tom

Tom was a Borough Councillor and served two terms as Mayor, 1973-1974, and 1980-1981. He was appointed an Hon. Alderman in 1994 – an honour well deserved. His services to the community were also recognised nationally when he was awarded the MBE by Her Majesty the Queen in 1993.

It was due to Tom's inspiration that Reigate and Banstead have their town twinning civic partnerships, initially with Eschweiler in Germany and then with Brunoy in France. With the approval of the Borough Council and local support, Tom led the formation of the Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association as an independent organisation to run the town twinning link. He became its first chairman and recruited councillors and local people on to the committee. A local resident who had been brought up in Eschweiler in Germany informed the Mayor that Eschweiler Town Council was looking for a twinning partner and the rest is history. Tom persuaded a number of people, including myself to become involved. Under his leadership the official twinning partnership was ratified with ceremonies in Reigate and Eschweiler in 1985. Tom was also instrumental in masterminding the link with Brunoy in France, proposed by some local residents who had met people from Brunoy in France on holiday. Tom was a good chairman, one of the best I have worked with - involving everybody and using their talents. I personally learnt so much from him and he encouraged me to go on and take further responsibilities. We all visited both Eschweiler and Brunoy on many occasions. He was respected and liked by our friends in both twin towns and made excellent speeches in both German and French. He had a way with words and was never at a loss when called upon unexpectedly to give a vote of thanks. After he retired as Chairman, he became President, and again he took these duties seriously, regularly attending the AGMs and other events, even after he had moved to Shalford. The last time we met was at the summer lunch in July – see photo on page 1 – held at the home of Penelope Horsfall, present Chairman of the Twinning Association,. He told me about his forthcoming summer holiday in France. He leaves behind a legacy of international friendship which those of us still

involved will to do our utmost to continue as he would have wished.

Referring to Chaucer again, “ **to this truly perfect gentle knight of Reigate**”, we say “farewell”.

Diana Bowes

---o0o---

Important Dates for your Diary

Christmas party – 02 December 2011
Subscriptions due – January 2012
Supper – 20 January 2012
Eschweiler Karneval – 17-21 February 2012
Quiz – 10 February 2012
AGM - 09 March 2012
Visit to Brunoy - tbc
Visit to Germany – 7-9 June 2012

French Link

It is certainly beginning to feel autumnal, but there are things to look forward to in the next few months. We have the usual Christmas Party and in February there will be one of Helier's popular quizzes. There are more details on Form E attached.

We are trying to organise a date for our trip to Brunoy next year, and one of the last two weekends in March seems the most likely at the moment. We will let you know as soon as we can - it involves our Committee as well as the Jumelage Committee in France. Reigate College is also interested in sending some students, but they have very strict rules regarding days off, so that limits our choices somewhat.

Penelope, Monique and I (and our Mayor) have been invited to the Brunoy Christmas Market in December, where we can sell things like hand-made cards, local produce, etc. If anyone has something to sell, or knows of a source of something like honey, for instance, I should be glad to hear about it. Penelope is unfortunately not able to go, but Monique, Edward and I will be there.

That's all till next time!

Anne Miller (Chairman, Brunoy Link) (01293 873713)
anne.miller@lineone.net

Eschweiler Link

First of all, I should like to add my congratulations to Dave Edge for his recent award by the Mayor for his work with the Redhill Corps of Drums over many years – see below. We are delighted that they will be playing at the Karneval in February in this very special year for Duerwiss - the 75th Jubilee of the Narrengarde group, and having the Prinz elected from their group.

Once again, could I ask those of you thinking of coming to Karneval to let me have your names as soon as possible? It might seem a while away, but there are quite a few arrangements to be made and the Christmas festivities are coming up....

Eschweiler is shortly to be twinned with Dalaman in Turkey and the official ceremony will be in their Town Hall over the weekend of 30/31 March. The Mayor and a small group of us will go. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know.

Our main group visit will be to Trier and the Mosel on 7 June. Details are yet to be finalised but this will be in conjunction with Wattlelos. We plan to go on Eurostar to Lille and share a coach with the French from there, with accommodation at a reasonably priced hotel in Trier. There will probably be some wine tasting involved! At the moment, I can't give a cost for the visit, but when the accommodation is finalised I will have to move fast to get seats at a good price on Eurostar. So (without commitment) if you think you might like to come, please complete Form F and return it to me.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at one of the next social events, perhaps the Christmas Party or the New Year Dinner. It's a good opportunity to get to know everyone before setting off visiting together.

Janet Powell, Tel: 01737 761903

Forthcoming events

Christmas Party – 02 December

The Christmas party will again be held at Penelope Horsfall's home in Fengates Road, Redhill (weather permitting !) 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. 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 – 21 January 2012

Due to the credit crunch, we have been asked to watch the cost of this year's annual dinner. After consulting several venues in Horley, Redhill and Reigate, the best value is still at the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club. (Form C attached)

We are delighted that the Mayor Cllr Brian Stead has accepted our invitation to attend.

All suggestions for the 2013 dinner would be most welcome – well in advance – so that they can be investigated in good time.

Janet Powell

Quiz Night – 10 February 2012

After the success of our quiz last February, we are ready to do it again! Helier Dreux (our very entertaining quiz master) and his wife Anne have kindly agreed to lead the operation in the usual venue, the URC hall at Shaw's corner in Reigate.

Doors will open at 7 pm for a prompt start at 7.30 pm. We will have an interval for a fish or chicken and chips supper. Bring your own cutlery, drinks and nibbles.

We are keeping the price at £10 per person, so do come with your friends; tables will seat 8. There will be prizes for the winners, and anonymity for the losers !

There will be a raffle, and the usual splendid prizes.

Please complete Form D and return to me by 3 February.

Monique Pottage

Eschweiler Karneval – 17-21 February 2012

The Karneval takes place this year on the weekend of 17-21 February - see the Eschweiler Link report.

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

AGM – 09 March 2012

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! Think about whether you would like to be a member of the Committee – in particular, we **urgently** need a Treasurer. More details, the Attendance Form and Agenda will be sent with the next Newsletter.

.Visit to Brunoy – March 2012

For details, please see the Brunoy Link article.

.Visit to Eschweiler – 30-31 March 2012

See the Eschweiler Link report.

Visit by Eschweiler – June 2011

We have already reported on the visit in the previous Newsletter. However, I received a report from the young German girls who came over, and thought you would like to reach their comments – in their own words – see Appendix A on page 6.

Visit by our Brunoy twinners, September 2011



Our French friends arrived –and were greeted by the Mayor, Cllr. Brian Stead, who provided a reception at the Town Hall. Everyone then departed for their weekend accommodation with their hosts. We were fortunate that the programme for the visit had been changed around, and we all met again later in the evening for an evening meal at the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club. The evening went very well. The Chef was astounded that the "crumble" was such a popular dessert – but we British knew that it would be! On the Saturday,

a visit had been arranged to Colchester. The castle museum was very interesting – I am sure many of us learned a lot about British history.

In the meantime, the students who had come over from Brunoy were accompanied to London by the Reigate students, who had visited Brunoy in May. They visited Camden Market – and the word is that a great time was had by all.

The weekend always goes so quickly – Sunday morning is free for hosts and guests to please themselves. It's a great opportunity to show our visitors around the Borough – and do a little shopping.

Elspeth Blythe & others

Visit to Wattlelos – 23 September 2012

For the last six years, in October, members of the Eschweiler Karneval Committee have visited the Wattlelos Carnival Committee, and this year, a small group from the Borough – mainly "Carnival-goers" - were invited to join them.

On the Saturday, we visited Clairmarais near St. Omer – and had a short trip on the canal. We were all treated to an excellent lunch of "local" produce – including Potje Velsch*. After lunch, we visited the Houille distillery – and tasted "genièvre". Apart from being drunk, this is also widely used in cooking.

*(N.B. – there are variations in the spelling – but whatever the spelling, it is very tasty.)

On Saturday evening, we ate at a restaurant – believed to be in Belgium – but with the meandering border, we are not too sure!

However, on Sunday morning, the French/ German/British group paid a visit – to Tournai in Belgium! This is a very interesting town, which has changed hands so many times over the centuries – even being ruled by Henry VIII at one time!

This was a very enjoyable – truly international – visit and we thank our French hosts very much for their excellent hospitality. We are all now looking forward to the "Carnival" season in early 2012.

Redhill Corps of Drums

This has been quite a year for the RCD – celebrating their 30th anniversary.

As most know, the RCD were already involved with Eschweiler before we were "twinned" – first visiting Karneval in 1983 – with members attending Karneval every year since! (see Appendix B on page 7).

As well as assisting at the Karneval, they have performed on various occasions, most recently the 150th anniversary of the town of Eschweiler.

In the summer, the band visited Italy – Lake Garda – and had a wonderful time. The Italians were most impressed with their renditions of, amongst others, *Toselli's Serenata*, and the old Eurovision favourite *Volare!*

Over the years, they have won many awards at various competitions that take place around the country. This year, they will be participating in the Lord Mayor's parade in November – together with the National Youth Marching Band (Saturday, 12 November – No. 34 in the parade!)

Each year, the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead asks for nominations for awards to local people involved in services to the community.

So, to round off an excellent year, we are very pleased that Penelope Horsfall and Janet Powell nominated **Dave Edge**, band master for the last 20 years, and he received his award in October.

Language practice – Shakespeare in French

As part of the Cultural Olympiad preceding the Olympics next year, the Globe Theatre will produce various Shakespeare plays in other languages. Booking starts 17 October 2011.

Timon of Athens will be performed in French on Thursday 31st May at 2.30pm and Friday 1st June at 7.30pm.

Much Ado About Nothing will be performed in French on Friday 1st June at 2.30am and Saturday 2nd June at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost from £5-£35 Booking by phone 020 7401 9919 or online

www.shakespearesglobe.com

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

VACANCY

As already indicated, we **urgently** need a Treasurer from 1 January 2012. John Buckoke will be happy to tell you what is involved.

Please contact Penelope Horsfall on 01737 761209 to volunteer !

Subscriptions for 2012 –

As you are aware, the membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and therefore subscriptions will become due on 1st January 2012.

I would appreciate it if the forms can be returned in good time, to avoid the need for reminder letters and e-mails.

Many thanks in advance.
Joanna Lloyd, Membership Secretary

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Margaret and Nigel Plumpton
Tony Trent
Graham Bryce
Ian Thiele
Pauline Murray

Congratulations

Dave Edge – award from the Mayor for services to the community - see previous item.

John Buchanan and Linda Gear – who got married on 1 October.

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

Elsbeth Cawtheray, 8 Woodfield Close, Redhill, RH1 2DL (Telephone: 01737 764974)
e-mail: richard.cawtheray@ntlworld.com

Appendix A - The Reigate Interview

In order of appearance: Anja (44), Janis (12), Ayleen (12), Jaqueline (17), and Viola (13)

- Anja: Well, since this was my second time in Reigate and I was the one who persuaded you lot to join me this time, I think I can take the role of the interviewer. How did you like England?
- Janis: Persuaded? You didn't have to ask us twice if we wanted to go, too.
- Anja: So I didn't exaggerate when I told you about my last visit?
- Janis: Are you joking? Not at all. I enjoyed every minute ... the host family was so nice and they cared so well for us. The trips were great, the Pier in Brighton was a lot of fun and the shops in the Lanes are cool. I also liked the flowers at Sissinghurst and smelling and guessing the herbs.
- Anja: Yes, you're right, everything was organised just perfectly. Jaqueline, this was your first trip to England, what was your first impression?
- Jaqueline: In the little towns it looks just like in Harry Potter, with the little shops and everything, very different from Germany. The journey was fantastic. London was really exciting with all its sights, especially Buckingham Palace with the Changing of the Guards. But I was sad that there was no time left for the British Museum and London Dungeon.
- Anja: Don't be sad. May be next time. Ayleen, what about you?
- Ayleen: I agree with Janis and Jaqueline. Everything was great, but I didn't like the Underground in London.
- Anja: And what was the most exciting thing for you?
- Ayleen; Hmh... a hard question. I liked the little streets, Tower Bridge and Brighton with the beach and the pier. But I think, may be, the most exciting thing were the cute and tame squirrels in the parks near Buckingham Palace.
- Viola: Well, I think the most exciting thing was the host family.
- Anja: Ah, that's interesting. Why do you think so?
- Viola: Because there was a girl in my age and she was very nice. We talked a lot and that was one of the reasons why my mum and I wanted to visit England. I like to speak English to someone who only understands this language. It makes more sense than the lessons at school.
- Anja: You said this was one of the reasons, what were the other reasons then?
- Viola: At school we have learned a lot about England and the sights in London, so I wanted to see this in reality and not only on pictures. But unfortunately we couldn't see everything because there were too many people, for example in front of Madame Tussauds. And another reason was that you and a friend from school, who visited Reigate before, told us so many wonderful things about the trip. So we just couldn't say no to this opportunity. And finally we children didn't have to go to school in Germany on one day... haha.
- Anja: Haha... But in Reigate you probably did more for your English than at school because you listened to it and had to speak it all day long.
- Viola: And this was much more fun than the English lessons at home. I'm looking forward to the next trip to England.

Appendix B - Memories of Eschweiler & Duerwiss Karneval by Terry Norman

The first visit by members of Redhill Corps of Drums was in 1983 after a lot of research by the late Tony Earchy, former Bandmaster of the RCD. Five members, including myself and Tony, gathered at Gatwick in Best Band Uniform for a flight to Düsseldorf. The flight was delayed for some hours due to falling snow so, like all good musicians with time on their hands, a visit was made to the Bar. Seemed like a good idea at the time. Eventually we were called and took our seats on a BAC 1-11. Several of the group had not flown before so it was with great apprehension we took our seats, especially as there seemed to be a problem with closing the rear door. The Captain was called and eventually decided that it was OK and said "let's get this show on the road". BAC 1-11's take off very fast and almost vertical, and I was worried about the door for some time. Upon landing at Düsseldorf, we had to prise one Band Member's hands from the arm rest. Leaving the plane, we found that there was around 2 feet of snow and a windchill which dropped the temperature to below freezing. Our uniforms were going to be totally inadequate for the conditions.

So here I was, in Germany at midnight - with limited German - travelling to meet our hosts. Surely that can't be them dressed in Blue, Yellow and White Uniforms complete with feather-banded tricorne hats straight from the 1700's? Surely they can't be looking for us? They were! and we were quickly bundled into another vehicle and whisked off to Duerwiss. Our hosts were from Die Kaafsack and I was soon introduced to Helmut Pesch and his wife Katchen (Katie) who were going to look after me. They have remained best friends since that day.

We had no knowledge of what a German Carnival was all about. However we soon found out that it involved long hours and a great deal of drinking. music, dancing girls, uniforms of all colours, parades, early morning visits, early starts, late finish was all part of the weekend. Where are we now, how do we get home? Not a problem when you're with Helmut. Would you be allowed to play your Trombone on the bus in England? "It's Helmut", they all say. At some stage I swapped uniforms with a Member of KG Naarengarde and a photo was taken. How did it happen, and how did my Uniform appear the next morning?

This was all a prelude to what was to happen for the next 25 years. During this time, Duerwiss was the base for many visits made by members of the Redhill Corps of Drums. Why the link with Die Kaafsack, as the style of Bands is a complete contrast? Simply the love of performing music! The strength of our links with Duerwiss would not have been possible without the help of Danny and Heidi Canning. Danny's knowledge of the German people and his fluent German made him a noted figure in Duerwiss. When called upon to help, he responded whatever time of day, no arguments he just dealt with it.

In 2008, a change was made to find a new base for our visits for no reason other than lack of accommodation in Duerwiss. Did this affect our link with Duerwiss? Not really, it is only a short walk from Eschweiler, and all the usual haunts are still visited - 'Bie Kelche', 'Jacobs', 'Alten Rathaus', the small Spieshaust Restaurant where we always get a table regardless of numbers, the 'Festhalle' with all its noise and memories - and that is just Duerwiss. In Eschweiler, we have 'Altenduitsche' and 'Kaiserhof', and not forgetting storming the Rathaus on a Saturday. No Ticket! Not a problem. And now we have new venues, "Berghof" and the Mandarin Chinese Restaurant. Where else would you get a Band marching in for Dinner?

Will I be there in 2012? No doubt Dave (Edge) will be on the phone saying he is planning a small trip to Karneval by Minibus and am I interested? God willing, I will be there. The sight of the Karneval Prince is no longer such a surprise, and as we are now getting new blood to Karneval, it is nice to sit back and watch them and quietly think that was me at one time.