

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

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



Twinning News 2010/3



Dear members and friends

It was splendid to see so many at our Summer Lunch. Including Tom Curtis, our President, who drove over from Shalford; you will remember, Tom broke his hip last December – just before his 90th birthday. . It was, weather wise, a good day, too.

Now we are looking ahead to our French friends' visit in September, and our celebrations to mark 25 years of twinning with Eschweiler, from 1st – 3rd October. This follows our trip to Eschweiler earlier in March.

At the next Committee meeting, we will be planning our Christmas party – probably 3 December, but this will be confirmed in the next Newsletter. . A date for the Annual Dinner (and a surprise) has been set for 22 January 2011 – put it in your diary now. Watch this space.

As this is a smaller edition of the Newsletter than usual I am keeping my comments brief, too! Enjoy the rest of the summer. I am sure we will all meet up soon.

Penelope Horsfall, Chairman

Dates for your Diary – no excuses, please!

10-12 September 2010 – Brunoy visit us
1-3 October 2010 – 25th anniversary with
Eschweiler visiting us
03 December 2010 Christmas Party (TBC)
22 January 2011 (TBC) Annual Dinner
4-8 March 2011 Karneval in Eschweiler –

From the Chairman of the Eschweiler Link

As you will know, we will celebrate our 25th anniversary of twinning with Eschweiler on the weekend of 1-3 October. Plans for this are now well in hand, including a visit to Guildford on the Saturday. We still need a few more volunteers to help with meeting/greeting on Friday evening and the Saturday visit. On Saturday evening, there will be a buffet dinner with our Eschweiler friends (hopefully also a small French contingent) at Reigate & Redhill Golf Club. Please DO come along to this and meet everybody, to support this weekend. A response form is at the back of the newsletter. We look forward to meeting up again with long-time members, and also our newer members who may not yet have met our Eschweiler friends. Hope to see you there!

You may also remember that Eschweiler were enquiring about email friends in our Borough. If you are considering a few German lessons to while away the Autumn evenings, East Surrey College will be running classes and you might like to have an email contact to back this up. Your German need not be good! We are also looking for people who would like to make family connections, perhaps as their children are doing German at school. Very pleasingly, we now have an increasing number of schools with Eschweiler connections. Please do let me know if you are interested.

Janet Powell, Tel: 01737 761903

From the Chairman of the Brunoy Link

The visit of our French friends from Brunoy is now well organised, and just over 40 are coming. There will be an opportunity for some of us to go to Basingstoke in their coach on the Saturday, so I need to know now who would like to go. I am not sure until they arrive how many seats will be available, so please send in the form at the end of the Newsletter and it will be first come, first served. Also if you would like to come to the Saturday Supper, there is a space on the form for that. The cost of the Supper is £7.50 for British - the French are our guests.

The hosts will provide a dessert as usual.
Thank you all in anticipation.

Anne Miller

Visit to Brunoy – May 2010

We caught a virtually empty ferry, earlier than booked, and taking our time, arrived in Brunoy at 2.30pm on Friday 28 May. The Borough was also represented by John and Yvonne Lee, who like us, were combining their holiday plans with their visit to Brunoy.

That evening, we met up with several of the French twinningers (20-25 people) at Jean-Pierre and Dominique Huille's house in Brunoy. We had a very pleasant time sampling the various dishes provided by each of the attendant families.

The following day, we had a conducted tour of Brunoy and Yerres with the Bousset family, this was most enjoyable as we had seen very little of the town on our single, previous visit. The tour culminated in a visit to the Parc de Reigate and Banstead (see photograph attached).

We spent the evening, at home, with the family barbecuing and "Eurovision Song Contest-browsing".

On Sunday, after a traditional French breakfast and fond thanks and farewells, we left for the South of France.

hospitality.

Paul George



Let's hope more of us can make it to Brunoy next year !

Ed.

Reigate Community Fair - 26 June

On a lovely sunny, warm day, we once again erected our gazebo in the Reigate Priory Park for our fund-raising Tombola – many thanks to all those who donated prizes, and to those who manned the stall during the day.

We raised £220 – not as much as last year, due to the position of our stand, as well as the fact that there were a lot more stalls this year. Therefore, we may have to re-think the set-up for next year.

Richard Cawtheray

"14 July" - Boules Tournament

The sun shone and the band played but, hélas, the hottest day ever for the tournament also saw the shortest involvement ever for the Twinning Association's two boules teams. Although both were knocked out in the first round, there could be some pride in a spirited 13-9 first round defeat to the eventual winners, "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" from the *Elm Shades Pub* in Redhill, who went on to defeat the estimable *La Barbe* team in a dramatic semi-final.

Prizes were presented by Mayor, Councillor David Pay, accompanied by his wife, Barbara, as they got in the mood for their Bastille Day visit to Brunoy.

Thank you to all the twinning boulistes once again and, of course, to Serge Tassi of *La Barbe*.

Mark Walker



"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" with the Mayor, Cllr Pay, and Serge Tassi, of "La Barbe"

Summer Lunch

As already reported by Penelope, the Summer Lunch again had a lovely sunny day to welcome the members and guests. It was equally successful as previous years, and much enjoyed by all.

Many thanks – as always – to Penelope and Tim for the use of the garden and to Monique, Marie and team for producing the food.

Visit to Brunoy 14 July Celebrations

My wife and I were pleased to represent the Twinning Association at the Fête Nationale (Bastille) celebrations at Brunoy on 14 July.

We were part of the Reigate & Banstead contingent, headed by the Mayor of Reigate, Cllr David Pay, his wife, Barbara, and including Councillor Raj Rampertab.

In fact, the Mayor of Brunoy hosted three mayors for the celebrations: Reigate & Barnstead's, and Wittlich's and Espinho's (the German and Portuguese towns with which Brunoy is also twinned).

As a result, we were treated to four mayoral speeches at the official reception held on the evening before the celebrations. Thankfully, all were short, but listening (and interpreting) wasn't helped by the ceiling canopies billowing overhead in the restaurant.

Our hosts had devised a full, interesting programme for the Fête Nationale. Everything went smoothly, apart from some minor adjustments due to the heavy rain disrupting the local Brunoy celebrations in the morning and early afternoon of the 14th: this, we heard afterwards, was as nothing compared with the massive deluge which had befallen the national celebrations in the morning on the Champs Elysées in Paris itself!

In any case, our group missed most of the rain, because we were enjoying the lunch provided by the Brunoy Twinning Committee. After lunch, we went to the main Brunoy celebrations, and the sun shone.

Brunoy has its own island in the Yerres river. The Brunoy citizens flocked there to enjoy the juggling, marionette show, bendy balloons, bouncy castle, bouncy dancing (pasodoble) and free aperitif laid on by the municipality. The dancing and aperitif took place in the "grange"

(barn) of Brunoy, on the island. This is an open-sided timber-framed mediaeval building (with a water-tight roof) equipped with rustic tables and chairs, and it proved to be an ideal setting for the dancing, drinking and bring-it-yourself picnic which followed the aperitif.

Once again, the members of the Twinning Committee excelled themselves: the picnic which they provided for themselves and their guests turned into a gastronomic feast spiced with various regional specialities.

Then, as dusk fell, the climax of the celebrations: a procession from the grange to the Cultural Centre. Thousands of Brunoyens, of all ages and races, and the mayors and their entourages, dutifully took hold of their paper candle-lanterns and walked cheerfully and solemnly through the darkened streets of Brunoy to the former chateau grounds, over a mile away, where the municipality had laid on its firework display.

I'm moving ahead of myself. The climax was not the firework display, wonderful though it was, synchronised with (Italian) classical music. It was the glass(es) of champagne offered by the mayor to his official guests inside the former chateau at around midnight. A fitting nightcap for so many moments of friendship shared and deepened.

John Lee

Work experience in Reigate Town Hall – by a young Brunoyenne

I am Laura Castello, a 20 year old student from Brunoy, and I stayed with M. et Mme Pottage for a week while doing work experience in Reigate Town Hall, kindly arranged by the mayor, Cllr Pay. I have already had work experience in the town hall of Brunoy.

I was working in Democratic Services, which is a part of the Corporate Development Unit, with the Head of service, Chris Cook, and his colleagues. I attended several meetings, really interesting even if it was pretty hard for me to understand everything.

Chris Cook gave me much information and many pictures so that I could write an article for the Brunoy twinning newspaper, called *Jourmelage*.

Reigate & Banstead's town hall is really nice and quite big. Brunoy's looks old from the outside but is modern inside. At Reigate, there are new offices in old style rooms. The meeting

rooms are wonderful, with pictures on the wall and a beautiful old ceiling, but the old Council Chamber is the most amazing. In the new council chamber, there are big chairs, with a microphone and a plug at each desk, screens at every corner and huge windows. I tested the overhead projector with remote control to check that a quiz worked, it was funny. Everybody I met was nice and helpful.

It was my first time in England, but it was not as different as I imagined. The couple who put me up that week helped me a lot and made me discover a lot of things. Moreover, I was eating each day different English meals, and I have to say it was really good. They knew the borough's history, took me on visits to Reigate and London and got me an interview with Councillor Brian Cowle which will be published in the *Jourmelage*.

What surprised me the most is that cars often stop when you want to cross the road, in France it's really rare. I have to admit squirrels are pretty surprising too, but I succeeded in taking some pictures of them.

One week was too short. I only dared enter Starbucks and buy a take away capuccino on the Friday, even though I was taking a walk each day in the town centre. I realised my English was a little better and I was more confident at the end.

For my last day in England, we visited London before I took the Eurostar. It was Queen's birthday so we saw the parade and we saw several famous spots like Big Ben, Tower Bridge and of course, Buckingham Palace. We were taking photographs like typical tourists on a typical tourist day. I even thought about buying an "I love London" top, but that was too cliché.

In a nutshell, I am very grateful for this English trip and will return someday, not only for shopping in *Topshop* but also because I really enjoyed everything.

My many thanks to all who made this visit possible.

Laura Castello

Future events

Visit by Brunoy friends on 10-12 September – see form attached. This year again, we will be self-catering for the French twinning visit in September. So that no-one has to be stuck in

the kitchen washing plates and dishes during most of the meal, we are asking you to **bring your own cutlery, crockery and glasses** for yourselves and your guests and take them home to wash. We will provide napkins. If you are **not hosting** this year and you would like to come and join us for the meal, you will be **most welcome**; we would appreciate that you bring **a quiche or a salad**.. Hosts will be bringing desserts. See attached form.

Monique Pottage

Visit by Eschweiler – 1-3 October – see form attached.

Christmas Party – further details in the next Newsletter – probably 3 December.

New Year Dinner - 22 January 2011 – at the Redhill and Reigate Golf Club - in the form a Burns Night ! Further details again in the next Newsletter.

Karneval – 4-7 March 2011

We are now starting our planning for our next visit to the Karneval. We always welcome newcomers, and is very enjoyable, especially participating in the procession. You can do as much or as little as you want though. Hotel/guest house accommodation is available, according to your preference, but needs to be booked well in advance. Please let me know if you are thinking of coming as we would like to share transport if possible.

Graham Powell, 01737 761903

Learn a language . .

For information on language (and other) courses at the East Surrey College, visit their website www.esc.ac.uk, or contact the College on 01737 772611

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

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