

# Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



## Twinning News 2024/4



### Important Dates for your 2024/25 Diary

- ✚ The Mayor's charity race night (flyer attached)----- 22 November
- ✚ New Year meal -----10 January 2025
- ✚ Quiz-----7 February 2025
- ✚ AGM -----21 March 2025
- ✚ 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visit to Eschweiler----- 19 - 22 June 2025
- ✚ Visit to Brunoy----- 18 – 21 September 2025

### Message from our President

Hello members and friends

I am sure you would like to know that your Twinning Committee is working hard to ensure next year's activities continue - to reflect close friendships with our twin towns of Eschweiler and Brunoy.

Since becoming Chairman of the Twinning Association I have been able to attend most of these meetings. It is very helpful they are generally held in my house! I am always impressed with the hard work your committee puts into all the activities we embark upon every year.

Our Mayor, now in his second year as Patron, continues his support. His Mayoress, also, is most gracious and helpful.

On these happy remarks I finish wishing all our readers a happy time ahead.

**Penelope Horsfall**  
President, Reigate and Banstead Twinning Association.-

### Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

After the Brunoy special newsletter it's now Eschweiler's turn to get the limelight. However, I would like to ask you to note the date of our visit to Brunoy in September 2025, from the 18 to the 21. I do hope that many of you will reserve these dates since our old friends, and the new friends who came over at Easter, are anxious to return the warm hospitality they received here. I will contact you later with more details.

This year our friends from the Brunoy Twinning Association are also getting ready to receive the members of Reigate and Redhill Choral Society for a joint concert in St Medard Church in Brunoy. The English choir will also sing in the much more famous church of La Madeleine in Paris. This trip will be organised, at the end of May, by our friends Helier and Ann Dreux if the choir overcome their present difficulties and appoint a new choirmaster.

I have also heard that the children of the Priory school in Reigate and those of St Pierre in Brunoy have started exchanging letters and photos, thus beginning to discover each other's culture. It's never too early to become friends across the sea.

I hope to see most of you for the post-Christmas twinning meal in January.

A bientôt,

*Monique*

**Monique Pottage** (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01737 221073) [mpottage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mpottage@hotmail.co.uk)

Dear Twinners

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit to Eschweiler next June. Although it might seem early, group travel to Europe has become much more difficult. Fewer coach companies now venture outside the UK and there are less Channel crossings available; that's why we were advised to make our arrangements early for this important occasion. Our coach is nearly full and I will be writing out to everyone once I have heard about the hotel/host arrangements from Eschweiler.

The Mayor and his team were pleased to welcome Nadine Leonhardt, Mayor of Eschweiler, and her Director Rene Constantini, to the Town Hall earlier this month. It was Nadine's first visit here and she was very interested to look around and meet members of the Council - see report below.

Reigate Business Guild organise the Reigate Christmas Market every year. This year it will be 30 November. The Deputy Mayor of Eschweiler, Stephan Löhmann, is coming to open it together with our Mayor, and later to turn on the Reigate Christmas lights. This is to help publicise and celebrate our upcoming 40th town twinning anniversary.

Reigate Priory School were once again kind enough to host another trainee teacher, Selina Prinz, to help her with her knowledge of English language and culture as well as improve her teaching skills. Selina found some interesting differences between school systems and her piece can be found below. We hope that the usual visit from the Barbaraschule Eschweiler to Reigate Priory School will take place at the end of March. Read Selina's message further down in this newsletter.

In the meantime, a warm welcome to our newest members, some of whom have joined with a view to coming to Eschweiler next year. You are all very welcome to come to any of our events before then, and we'll be pleased to start to get to know you.

### **Janet Powell**

*Joint Chairman & Eschweiler Link*

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## **Eschweiler Mayor's visit to Reigate Town Hall**

After Nadine Leonhardt became Mayor of Eschweiler, she told me she would like to visit Reigate and asked me to arrange it. Then came Covid and the awful flooding, so it was some time later that she was able to find time and we were able to welcome her and Rene Constantini, her Director of External Relations, to Reigate.

Graham and I met them from Eurostar and on arrival at Redhill, she was met by Zelanie Cooper, our Councillor for Twinning, who took them on a tour of the Borough. Later that evening, our Mayor and Mayoress hosted them for dinner, together with Rebecca Paul, our new MP, and myself. It was interesting to hear the differences in both Mayor's roles as well as how the aftermath of the Eschweiler flooding was being dealt with.

The following day, there was a tour around the Town Hall followed by coffee with Diana Bowes, Founder of Twinning, and Penelope Horsfall, our President. Sam in the Mayor's office had organised a full programme of meetings with Officers and the Council Leader on subjects of mutual interest, followed by a quick revival visit to Priory Park before the start of their journey home.



Before the departure of Eurostar to Brussels, there was just enough time for a quick trip to Platform 9¾ of Hogwarts' fame, and both their families will have been pleased with the large carrier bag of goodies they were able to grab in the shop there.

I hope it was useful for all the participants to get to know one another, and hope that it may lead to further joint cooperation on issues both Councils face. I know that Nadine and Rene very much enjoyed their visit and appreciated all the organisation and help.

## Recent Events

### ▪ Summer Lunch

Once again, Ros and John Borkowski hosted the summer lunch at their house. It was to be a garden party in beautiful summer sunshine however the Twinning Committee did not provide the correct weather. With a forecast for heavy rain, the event was held indoors and our hosts were able to provide 3 separate areas to seat the 24 people. Those attending included one visitor from Australia (Jean Mason's sister) – the reputation of our Twinning events is clearly worldwide.

We were warned of four way traffic signal chaos caused by SESW outside the house for the few days before the event but apparently Ros shouted at them and they had departed earlier.

John and Ros generously provided some bubbly to get things going and soon all three tables were hard at work eating, drinking and chatting. A range of topics seem to be in evidence – Twinning, UK and Continental politics, medical issues and all those subjects that concern such a varied group of people

I surprised several people by revealing a French word commonly used in Germany today “Chapeau” which means “respect” (emanating from ‘I take my hat off to you’). Even Adel was unaware of this usage.

The delicious range of desserts provided by everyone who came was astounding and would have graced a Ritz afternoon tea. There were 12 choices meaning half a dessert/cake for each person there. Seconds and even third helpings were observed but the writer desists from embarrassing those people who were clearly only showing respect to those who had prepared the dishes.

Finally after coffees and teas and general circulation between the tables, the lunch ended around 4.15 pm. Again many thanks to Ros and John and also the members of the Twinning Committee who helped to set up and clear up afterwards. An excellent afternoon despite the weather.

### *Robert Bogin*

### ▪ Summer Walk

#### **Twinnings go traipsing**

It's a week before the Autumn Equinox and 15 members of RBTA (and a couple of dogs) are treading The Pilgrims Way. Going to Canterbury, Winchester or Walsingham?

None of the above – the mini-pelerinage followed a four and a half mile circular route from the Watermill at Pixham. It was the now-annual RBTA walk.

Organised and led by Judy Bromley on Saturday 14 September, the walk crossed the River Mole by the Pixham Mill, climbed gradually and joined The Pilgrims Way under Box Hill, then cut south to Brockham (crossing The Mole twice more) and wound its way back to Pixham along the old coach road past Brockham Golf Club. No stiles, good weather and great company. What more could one want?



Well, refreshments were the answer. The Watermill provided those for the 25-plus members of RBTA (the walkers were joined by other members) and did a good job despite it being a very busy Saturday.

So thanks to Judy for organising it all and congratulations to the walkers (and dogs) who completed the challenge. (NB: No medals were awarded).

### *Peter Lloyd*

## ▪ Visit to Denbies

The weather gods were on our side for our lovely walk around the vineyard; blue skies and sunshine showing up the beautiful autumn colours all around us. Some of the grapes were still on the vines waiting to be picked but there was already a large heap in the trailer waiting to go back to the wine press. We were able to watch as the harvesting machine went slowly up and down the rows but later learned that some of the grapes for sparkling wines have to be picked by hand so that the skins are not damaged

We enjoyed lunch in the cafe before joining the others for the explanatory talk on the winemaking process. It began in the cinema, with a film about the history of the vineyard accompanied by a glass of their refreshing Bacchus fizz. Our guide then showed us around the manufacturing process and it was interesting to see the variety of labels and varieties of bottles there - apparently they process grapes for other companies at quiet times to maximise use of the machines.



The tasting cellars had several beautifully decorated oak barrels made from wood salvaged from the Great Storm which we admired whilst sampling samples of sparkling wine, whites and red. We learned about the variety of grapes grown in the vineyard, the majority of which were now German, although they had started experimentally with a mix to see which grew best.



We finished our visit with a visit to the shop, and were pleased to see the seasonal reduction on some of the bottles of wine so we were able to take home a tasty reminder of our visit.

A great idea to visit here - thank you Rosemary for organising it.

*Graham Powell*

## Message from Selina Prinz

My name is Selina Prinz, I'm studying to be a primary school teacher at the University of Koblenz, Germany, and as one of my subjects is English, I'm currently doing my time abroad in the UK. My mother was born in Eschweiler and through friends I got in touch with Janet Powell who helped me to organise the internship at Reigate Priory Junior School. I am very grateful for this opportunity as I have met so many great people, gained valuable experience and an insight into the British school system.

The most obvious differences to most German primary schools are the afternoon lessons and the school uniforms, which I was already aware of. But there are many more differences, as I quickly discovered. For example, in Germany, history, science and computing are not taught until secondary school, and children are generally not enrolled until they are 6 years old.

Another thing I will always remember is the first time I stood in the school playground in the afternoon, waiting with my class for all the children to be picked up by their parents. The sight of parents streaming in after the gates were opened was completely new to me, as in Germany children go home alone.

The location of Reigate Priory Junior School is also very positive as it is right next to the huge Priory Park, which can be used for PE lessons and special days such as 'bonding days'. Having so much nature right next to the school is a huge advantage for the children.

All the people I met in Reigate, whether teachers or pupils, were very kind and friendly. I was included in lessons and felt very welcome. The teachers were very dedicated and this was reflected in the motivation of the students. I was able to gain a lot of experience and learn many things that I would like to use later in my career as a primary school teacher.

I really enjoyed my time at Reigate and I'm thankful for the experience.

## Forthcoming Events

### 🍷 Twinning Group Dinner

Friday 10 January 7 pm for 7.30 pm. The Well House Inn Chipstead CR5 3SQ. Menu choices to follow. This venue is a little further afield than usual, (but only just off the A217!) due to the difficulties in finding a venue big enough to accommodate us. If you need a lift, let us know and we'll try to organise one.

## Treasurer 's Report

### TREASURER

Nothing to say re accounts as no real change.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have gained 11 members since the start of the year

*Robert Bogin*

## New Members

Welcome to

- ☺ Sally and Derick Wallis
- ☺ Angie and Andy Baker
- ☺ Anne and Roy Mundy
- ☺ Michael Chambers
- ☺ Zelanie and Mollie Cooper
- ☺ Margaret and David Howes