

Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association

Covering the areas of Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and Horley



Twinning News 2025/1



Important Dates for your 2025 Diary

- Quiz----- 7 February
- AGM ----- 21 March
- 40th Anniversary Visit to Eschweiler----- 19 - 22 June
- Visit to Brunoy----- 18 – 21 September

Message from our President

New year Greetings to all members

I hope all our readers had a memorable Christmas and New Year. It all disappears so quickly. I always wonder "where did it all go to"!

We now have our annual Quiz evening on 7th February. I hope many will join me for a fun time! Usual venue, of course.

Big hugs all round – Penelope

Penelope Horsfall
President, Reigate and Banstead Twinning Association.-

Brunoy Link

Dear friends,

Now that the Christmas and New year festivities are over, we must start thinking of our twinning year. The quiz will be our first twinning event after the post-Christmas twinning dinner. These days, the quiz is our main source of income, so book early and invite your friends!

At this time of year we also plan our own holidays, but let's not forget the dates of our twinning visit to France from the 18 to the 21 of September. Many of you hosted our French friends last Easter when we celebrated our 30th twinning anniversary, and all can be sure of a warm welcome in Brunoy. Since the tradition in France is that you can send your best wishes for a happy new year till the end of January, this may be the opportunity to catch up with your guests from last Easter. I know that the Brunoy committee is already thinking of where they may take us, perhaps to the historic town of Sens or to Barbizon with its artistic connections. I hope very soon to be able to contact you with more details and costings for this visit.

Other news about Brunoy: The two schools of St Pierre in Brunoy and Reigate Priory here have established a good link and exchanged Christmas wishes. Also, in a trip organised by Helier and Ann Dreux, the Redhill and Reigate choral society will be visiting France singing in Brunoy and Paris. They will be welcomed by our French friends in the twinning Association.

Bonne Année et bonne santé à vous tous.

Monique

Monique Pottage (Joint Chairman & Brunoy Link) (01737 221073) mpottage@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Twinners

Happy New Year to members and friends near and far!

We are looking forward to seeing you all again and getting to know our new members before our visit to Eschweiler in June. The coach is now full and the Mayor-Elect Cllr. Rich Michalowski will be joining us as well as the forthcoming Deputy Mayor Zelanie Cooper who is also our Twinning Representative on the Council. Eschweiler Twinning have booked hotel accommodation and are organising host families for those who requested them. I have been promised further information from Eschweiler next month about our visit.

The Karneval celebrations will be starting in Eschweiler later this month with the official Proclamation of Karneval Prinz Frank and his Ceremony Master "Juppi" whom we have known for many years. The Karneval proper is at the end of February and we'll be taking part as usual, joined once again by the Redhill Corps of Drums whose playing is always much appreciated by the crowds.

So once again, a lot going on and a chance to further deepen our towns' friendships in this special Anniversary Year.

Christmas visit by Eschweiler Deputy Mayor

Last summer I was approached by Reigate Business Guild, who organise the annual Reigate Christmas Market and Illuminations in December. As the Market was to have a German theme, to celebrate the forthcoming 40th Anniversary of Twinning, they asked if the Eschweiler Mayor would come to open it. Nadine Leonhardt has very recently visited Reigate & Banstead Council to discuss mutual areas of interest, so she kindly agreed for her deputy Stephan Löhmann and his wife Marion to represent her.

It was the first time that Stephan and Marion had visited Reigate. They travelled by Eurostar to St Pancras and were met by myself and Graham and escorted to Reigate, where they met members of the RBG over dinner. The following morning they were collected by our Mayor Eddy Humphries and his wife Sarah and opened the Market together, after the compere had explained about Twinning and both towns' connections. Reigate College choir sang 'Silent Night' in both German and English and there were several German vendors at the Market. After lunch with the Mayor, the new German kitchen shop in Reigate 'Kuchenhaus' hosted fizz and nibbles, and the Löhmanns were able to meet some Twinning members before a quick visit to Reigate Caves which were open for the day. Both Mayors returned to the stage to officially switch on the Christmas lights as darkness fell, by which time the street was full to bursting with families enjoying the festive atmosphere, food, glüwein and ice skating.

The Löhmanns really enjoyed their visit to Reigate and look forward to seeing us all in June. Stephan Löhmann asked that I relay his speech in full for those members who were not able to attend, so here it is:

"I am very pleased to be here in Reigate for the first time. It is a great honour for me to open the Christmas Market. I would like to thank the Reigate Business Guild and Reigate & Banstead Twinning Association for this opportunity."



What we have seen of Reigate so far is very impressive. It is a wonderful historic town. We are grateful that next year we will be able to celebrate 40 years of cooperation and partnership with you. In these difficult times, it is truly good to have close friends and partners you can rely on, and we can continue to build and deepen our friendship. We wish you all a very successful day at the Christmas Market."

Stephan Löhmann
Deputy Mayor - Eschweiler

Janet Powell
Chairman - Eschweiler Link
01737 761903 07891 375555 janetelizabeth.powell@btinternet.com

Recent Events

▪ January Meal -Twinning Association Conviviality

I nearly didn't go! The weather as we all know has been miserably cold, I didn't know where Chipstead was, and frankly an evening in front of the telly seemed preferable. Then Sue called, offering to give me a ride, and it all changed. It turned out that Chipstead is easy to get to, and the choice of the Well House Inn was a brilliant one. If there's one thing England does well, it's pubs, and this one was no exception. It was old, it was cosy, it was warm, and they were able to accommodate us - all 35 of us - very comfortably indeed. A small bar just for us, and a goodly number of friendly staff to help put the seal on it - this one is a keeper!

Once we had taken our seats we were welcomed by Janet and Monique and the fun could begin. We had all made our choices from the menu beforehand, but they must have been aware of the average age of each of us, because the staff kindly took into consideration those of us whose memories are no longer as good as they used to be. As each dish came from the kitchen, Izzy shouted out the name of the person who had ordered it, and one of the staff handed it over. It was slightly frenetic, but it was done with great good humour, and it worked. The dishes must all have been very tasty (mine certainly was) because all the plates I saw were emptied. I bet the kitchen staff doing the washing-up were happy.

It would have been fun to be a fly on the wall listening in to all the conversations, as people inevitably broke into smaller groups, but frankly, at my end of the table we were hearing some amazing stories. All I will say is, I now know that the film Home Alone is not entirely fictitious, and is probably based on the experiences of some members of the Reigate and Banstead Twinning Association! I leave you to work that one out.

Cinderella may have made it to midnight, but we didn't. It was still cold and icy outside when we started to make our way home, but the warmth of the pub, and the conviviality of the company we had shared certainly made up for it and stayed with us. It was a lovely evening.

Brenda Juntunen

Treasurer 's Report

TREASURER

The 2024 accounts to date show a net loss of £686 due to the Anniversary weekend by the Brunoy Club - this outcome was expected. Cash at the bank is still at a good level. As the 2025 year has just started there is little point in a financial report for the current year. Membership subs are coming at a good rate.

Robert Bogin