

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2007

Diary Dates

29th April 2007

5th – 6th May 2007

11th -14th May 2007

1st – 3rd June 2007

15th – 17th June 2007

29th June – 2nd July 2007

30 June 2007

12th August 2007

31st August – 3rd Sept 2007

29th September 2007

12th – 14th October

19th – 21st October 2007

17th – 18th November 2007

December 2007

Badminton Tournament in Potters Bar

Proposed Petanque Bipartite Match in Franconville

Town Twinning Weekend in Viernheim

Tourist Weekend in Franconville – Plus Activities for URAs

Visit to London's Murky Past

Annual Trip to Viernheim

Ploughman's Lunch at Elaine's

Garden Party at the Dawes

Innenstadfest

Visit to Stockwood (Craft Exhibition)

Day in London, Franconville & Viernheim

Invited

New Wine in the Pfalz – Viernheim

Conference Weekend – Potters Bar

Annual Christmas Warm Up

Badminton Tournament

29th April 2007

16 visitors this year will attend the Badminton match at the Hatfield Leisure Centre on Sunday 29th April. We hope this will be a successful tournament.

Bipartite Petanque Match in Franconville, 5th - 6th May 2007

A group of members of the Petanque Club will be travelling to Franconville for the Bipartite Petanque Match. We hope they have an enjoyable weekend and success in the match.

Twinning Celebrations in Viernheim 11th – 14th May 2007

24 Adults and 8 young people including one chaperone will be travelling to Viernheim for this event. Young people do not forget your

sleeping bags for the hostel. The coach leaves the Wyllyotts Centre on Friday 11th May 2007 sharp at 5:00am

Tourist Weekend in Franconville

+ Activities for URAs

1st – 3rd June 2007

Franconville have invited 10 people to join them for this weekend, they will be visiting the Museum of Sèvres, national ceramics museum. They have also invited 5 senior citizens for a weekend to discover different activities, anyone wishing to attend either of these events please contact David Collins urgently on 020 8482 2534 so that arrangements can be made.

London's Murky Past

15th – 17th June 2007

9 from Franconville and 4 from Viernheim will

be joining us to visit London's Murky Past. If any member would like to join us for the trip please contact David Collins 020 8482 2534 for details and costs.

Annual Trip to Viernheim 29th June – 2nd July 2007.

We are not arranging an organised trip this year but any members who are making their own arrangements please contact David Collins (020 8482 2534) so that Viernheim can be notified.

Ploughman's Lunch at Elaine's 30th June 2007

The Ploughman's Lunch is to be held at the home of Elaine Marsh 112 Park Avenue, Potters Bar. From 12:30 to 3:00 pm at a cost of £5.00 per person (bring your own drinks). Please contact Elaine (01707 659871) for tickets, early booking recommended as this is going to be a very popular event.

Garden Party 12th August 2007

Once again The Garden Party is to be held at the home of Theresa and Chris Dawes 1a Mount Grace Road, Potters Bar. From 12:30 to 3:00 pm (bring your own drinks). Please contact David (020 8482 2434) for tickets, early booking recommended as this is a very popular event.

Innenstadfest 31st August – 3rd September 2007

Once again Marcia & John Munday have agreed to organise this event. The success depends on the number of members who are prepared to support them. **4 more people are required** to make the running of the stall viable –and to ensure all have free time to enjoy the event as well. Please contact as soon as possible with your commitment on 01707 658887 .

Please note that membership subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2007 and as agreed at the last A.G.M. single membership is **£6.00** per person and for families is **£10.00**. Please forward your cheques made payable to *Potters Bar Town Twinning Association to Elaine Marsh 112 Park Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts, EN9 5EL.*

Reports on Recent Events

Annual General Meeting 13th March 2007

The meeting was attended by approx 40 members of the association and it was held at the Lower Floor, The Wyllyotts Centre. Potters Bar at 8.00 p.m. The Mayor of Hertsmere Cllr. Martin Heywood chaired the meeting and also present was the Mayoress Cllr. Jean Heywood.

It was a very good meeting and please find listed the Officers and Committee members elected at the meeting.

Chairman	David Collins
Vice Chairman/Treasurer	Elaine Marsh
Minutes Secretary/Accommodation	Iris Ford
Admin Secretary	Myra Robinson

Deputy Social

Kate Ringham

Press/Publicity

Honey Lockwood

Committee Members

Chris Dawes, Keith Dyall, Renee & John Gallop, Chris Morgan-Gray, Rev. Peter Bevan

The committee's thanks to all who attended the meeting which ended with a social gathering.

Below is a copy of my report given at the meeting.

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION CHARIMANS SPEECH - YEAR ENDING 31.12.2006

I would like to give a warm welcome to Martin and Jean Heywood Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere, and also to thank you all for being here tonight. Another year has flown passed and another report to give.

In March 2006 a very small group of our members travelled to Franconville for a weekend including a visit to Paris. They reported back that it was a superb trip. As we are all now aware, small groups are becoming the norm and the days of a full coach load with a waiting list are long gone. Having said that, it is the small group visits that keep the association and friendships alive between our three towns.

A small group flew to Viernheim for the yearly 'picnic weekend' and we were taken by tram and train (two trains going and two on the return journey) to a small wine growers in the country. As this visit was on the day when England was playing Portugal in the world cup there was a steady stream of us from all three towns nipping in and out of the restaurant to watch the match and routing for England. As we all know England lost and the rest is history. Germany had won the day we arrived and there was pandemonium in Viernheim with car hooters honking, flags flying from cars, shouting and singing coming from everywhere. With all that celebrating we did not have to ask the result. France was due to play during the next week, so we had great fun teasing each other with our thoughts on who would win. Such a great weekend.

The Twinning celebration was held in Franconville in 2006 and a coach with some twenty members and three young people travelled for this weekend. We were able to hire an executive coach and enjoyed a comfortable journey. The young people were hosted in a hostel and took part in several different events from the rest of the party for some of the time and I believe the three young lads really had a good time.

This year, 2007, the Twinning is in Viernheim, 11th - 14th May. Viernheim have invited 25 persons plus eight young people between 14 and 17 years of age plus a chaperon. We have the luxury coach booked with 31 people travelling including 8 young people and a chaperone. Four members have chosen to travel by car.

In October we hosted a weekend to Leeds Castle. When our friends arrived on the Friday it just poured with rain, yet the Saturday turned out to be a sunny day and all enjoyed a good day out. We provided a brunch on the Sunday morning before our friends from Franconville and Viernheim departed for home.

On 3rd April 2006 a small delegation from Viernheim, their Mayor, Matthias Baass, Rudolf Haas and Wolfgang Hofmann came to Potters Bar for a meeting with Hertsmere Borough Council, which Herr Baass had requested. Also present was Alda Bauge from Franconville, Cllr. Ron Gealy, the then Mayor of Hertsmere, The Chief Executive of Hertsmere, The Leader of the Council, Cllr Donne and myself as Chairman of the Association. Viernheim hoped that with this meeting they could exchange ideas and persuade Hertsmere to support our association if not with funds then with other resources. Hertsmere

took on board Viernheim's presentation but the meeting did not prove fruitful. We gave our thanks to Viernheim and Franconville from trying to support us.

The committee arranged several events for the members which were very well attended. A Sunday brunch and Sunday lunch, a Strawberry Tea, a Garden Party, a visit to Denis Seaver House, Christmas Warm up etc. We hope that you will continue to support our events as this is the way to raise funds to support the association's future.

We were all so sad at the death of our dear friend George Haig. Things will not seem the same without him and his wonderful sense of humour. George had a joke at his fingertips each and every time you met him especially with the ladies and somehow you could never take offence even though you sometime thought 'did he really say that'

I know he certainly embarrassed me on several occasions but I always understood his humour.

Also sad was the passing of Dorothy Nimmo. Despite her problems in the early days of her illness she carried on as if things were normal. She was much admired by many people for her strength and courage as she battled on.

I know she is missed by many people and was an example for us all.

We were also sad to hear of the passing of David Robinson. David and his wife Jenny supported nearly all of our events and we were always pleased to see them. It was nice to see Jenny at the Christmas Warm Up and hope she will continue to join us at our events.

Just recently we heard of the passing of Eduard Hanf (Yorkshire Ted) as he was fondly known. He was the President of the Englisher club in Viernheim for many years and was known to most of the longer standing members. A floral tribute was sent from our association and we received a response of thanks from his wife with photos of the grave and our contribution.

This meeting and report ends my three-year term as Chairman and year as Acting Chairman. I sometimes thought I had drawn the short straw for I took the chair at a time when Hertsmere had withdrawn their financial support and the Association then needed to look at the way forward. We as an association proved that we could present a good Twinning in 2005 although a little different to previous years. In 2008 it is our turn to hold the Twinning celebrations in Potters Bar so the committee now have a good grounding to follow and maybe Hertsmere may change their stance. During my time as Chairman the committee and officers of the association have given me great support for which I really wish to thank them. Our meetings have been invigorating, brainstorming and the odd times controversial but never the less very productive. Fund raising is one of the mayor items any committee has to tackle and I have really enjoyed the challenge that was put before us. In 2005 our profit was just over £1000.00 a target we aimed for and achieved. What a great bunch the committee are, each person having their own form of talent to give to the association including our resident chef Kate Ringham with her culinary expertise. To the best of my knowledge the officers may change at this meeting but the committee overall will still consist of the same people. Chris Morgan-Gray is standing down as Treasurer tonight, and I would like to thank him for his efforts since he agreed with some trepidation to take on the task three years ago. One volunteer is better than 10 pressed men in my book.

May I remind you there is a lunch on the 25th March at John and Renee Gallop's house?

Memberships are now due. Please can you see the Treasurer after the meeting tonight who will only be too pleased to relieve you of your subs? At last year's A.G.M it was voted that the annual subscription be increased from January 2007 to £6.00 single and £10.00 a couple.

There are one or two places available for the Twinning weekend in Viernheim in May 2007. Also the Innenstadtfest really does need more support from the members. John and Marcia are prepared to organise it again this year but with more support than last year. We need at least six people to help man the stall.

To sum up may I thank you Mr Mayor for chairing the meeting this evening and I hope you and the Mayoress enjoy the remainder of your Mayoral year and I wish the new Chairman good luck with their three years to come.

It is great fun if you do not weaken.

Elaine Marsh

Chairman

Annual General Meeting

13.03.2007

Lunch with the Gallops

On Sunday 25th March 17 Members congregated at the home of Renee & John Gallop. Renee & John made us all extremely welcome and at home. Rene & John must have slaved for hours, preparing and cooking a selection of wonderful hot and cold dishes and desserts. John was constantly filling up our drinks. We must thank Renee & John for a superb lunch, and send special thanks to their daughter Stacey for all her help in the background.

OBITUARY - Eduard Hanf

It was with great sadness that we learnt, in January, of the death of Eduard Hanf. He was a regular visitor to Potters Bar from the 1970s until the mid 1990s when poor health prevented further visits. He was also a very generous and enthusiastic host.

Eduard was, in his youth, a keen handball player and maintained his interest in the local club



throughout his life. For many years, he was a member of a male voice choir which, from time to time, toured England and elsewhere in Europe.

But he will always be remembered in Potters Bar for his pioneering work for town twinning. He was one of the founding members of Viernheim's English Club and worked closely with our own Mike Watts for many years. He was chairman of the English Club from its inception in 1977 until 1995.

During the Second World War, Eduard was taken prisoner and was held in Yorkshire for three and a half years where, as he put it, he spent a happy time on a farm. Indeed, he continued to visit the family for many years, after the war.

Having learnt his English 'up north', he always spoke it with a distinctive accent. I have no idea who gave him the soubriquet 'Yorkshire Ted' but it stuck and was a name of which he seemed to be proud.

So, to Eduard, thank you for everything you did for town twinning. You were a true European. To his wife, Gisela, and his daughters, Beate and Birgit, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Martin Wiley

Don't forget to visit our web site for up-to-date news and photographs of latest trips
www.twinninginpottersbar.co.uk

If any member has any articles relating to Town Twinning Please send them into Elaine or David (david@davidcollins.co.uk) so that they can be included either on our web site or in future news letters.

Also if you can receive our Newsletters by e-mail please send your e-mail address to (david@davidcollins.co.uk)

All reports from members are entered on our newsletters as reported in their own words.

E.O&E