

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - August 2009

Please note that membership subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2009. Single membership is £6.00 and for a family £10.00. Please forward your cheques made payable to *Potters Bar Town Twinning Association* to the Treasurer, **Elaine Marsh**, 112 Park Avenue, Potters Bar, EN6 5EL

Diary Dates

4 th -7 th September 2009	Innenstadtfest – 15 invited
25 th - 27 th September 2009	Churchill's War Rooms – Invited 6 Franconville & 6 Viernheim
2 nd – 4 th October 2009	Visit to Provins – 10 Invited
16 th – 18 th October 2009	Trip to Pfalz – 10 invited
26 th -29 th November 2009	Conference in Viernheim 10-12 invited
6 th December 2009	Christmas Warm Up
7 th -10 th May 2010	Twinning in Viernheim

To All Petanque Members

As you should all be aware the Petanque club is affiliated to the Potters Bar Town Twinning Association and therefore welcome to join any of the events including visits to Franconville & Viernheim and we hope to see you at our future events. For further information, or to add items to our newsletter, please contact Elaine (01707 659871) or David (020 8482 2534)

Innenstadtfest-Viernheim

4th -7th September 2009

We now have seven members who are taking part this weekend and looking forward to running the stall, meeting up with our friends from Viernheim and Franconville and also enjoying the diverse stalls, entertainment and atmosphere of this festival. MM.

25th – 27th September 2009

Churchill's War Rooms

We have invited 6 members from Viernheim and 6 from Franconville to join us for a visit to Churchill's War Rooms. We are still firming up our plans and anyone who would like to join us on this outing with our friends

from Viernheim & Franconville please contact David on 020 8482 2534.

2nd – 4th October 2009

Provins – France

Franconville have invited up to 10 members from Potters Bar / Viernheim to join them for this weekend. They will be visiting the Medieval town of Provins in the Seine-et-Marne region. Anyone interested in the weekend please contact David 020 8482 2534.

16th – 18th October 2009

Trip to Pfalz

10 Member of Potters Bar Have been invited by Viernheim to join them on their yearly trip to the Pfalz, Anyone interested please contact David tel: 020 8284 2534 to discuss arrangements.

26th – 29th November 2009

Conference in Veirnheim

A small delegation will visit Viernheim to discuss the forthcoming programme for 2010

6th December 2009

Christmas Warm Up

As usual the very popular annual Christmas Warm Up will be held in the Lower floor Wylyotts, further details to follow.

Members wishing to attend any event must book and pay beforehand.

Reports on Recent Events

Franconville - Town Twinning 8th - 10th May

Day 1

We met at Crews Hill station at 8:00am, then got on the train and headed for Kings Cross. When we arrived, we went through a lot of security checks, then rushed to our platform and got on the Eurostar, heading for Gare du Nord.



On the Eurostar, Skip was introduced to Nintendogs on Nintendo DS. We talked a lot and did crosswords and Sudokus, and Skip made friends with some ladies who were sitting opposite him. It was great fun. But there was a lot more to come!

When we reached the Gare du Nord, we met our hosts. It appeared that Skip was staying with one family, and Emily and I with the other. Me and Emily did not know much French, and the families did not know much English, but luckily Skip was there to translate.

and generally just wandering the streets. We bought some lovely souvenirs. We were going to go up the Eiffel Tower, but unfortunately the top floor was closed, so we gave it a miss.

Then we got on yet *another* train with our hosts to Paris, where we spent the rest of the afternoon. We visited lots of monuments, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, a crypt

We then travelled back to our hosts houses on a double-decker train, and had a laugh about whether it was best to say 'Comment t'appelles-tu' or 'Comment tu-t'appelles', and got to know some of the people we would be staying with. We were all invited to mine and Emily's hosts' house for dinner. After that we went straight to bed. We had had a long day of walking and our feet were aching and sore.

DAY 2

Emily and I did not have much of a good sleep - there was only one double blanket and it was not very big. We got up and had breakfast, chocolate milk, bread and toast and we met their guinea pig called Chocolat! We spent most of the day at a castle called 'Chateau de Versailles' which was on the outskirts of Paris. From the garden there were trees and grass as far as the eye could see. There was even a boating lake! It

was absolutely beautiful. Skip bought us all huge ice-creams too which were really nice.

We went bowling that night, and Skip thrashed us all! I was rubbish, and afterwards we played air hockey and table football.

We went back to Skip's hosts' flat and they had set out delicacies on plates. I didn't really like the look of any of them but I had to be polite and eat some. I had some bread and potatoes and a few tomatoes, which I liked. Then I tried some spiced ham I really didn't like. There were a few more things like asparagus and cooked tomatoes absolutely smothered in garlic which I couldn't eat either. Skip made us eat this sausage thing which looked horrible, and he was going to tell us what it was but we stopped him, saying it might put us off our dinner. We found out afterwards it was intestines! Yuck!

Day 3

We went to a big theatre where the mayor of Franconville recited his speech, and there were some little girls doing a flower fairy dance. Then the Mayor of Viernheim read his speech in German, with a bit of French and English. Then we saw some clowns doing an act including a piano which was really funny. Finally a letter by the mayor of Potters Bar was read by the Chairman of the Potters Bar Twinning Committee, after which there were some more dancers. We then had a lovely lunch in the large theatre auditorium and we made friends with a friendly German schoolboy who spoke very good English.



We then travelled to a nearby Scout HQ with our hosts, where some younger French Cubs were mixing up some mud and water. They were so dirty and their uniforms were splattered with it. Apparently they were making the base of an alter fire. This is a fire that is set on an elevated base, so that the ground underneath is protected.

After saying goodbye to everyone, we got our bags and left for the station. We got on the Eurostar and a short time later we were back in sunny England.

Overall I'd say it was a brilliant trip and I would love to do it all over again! I am certainly looking forward to the opportunity to take part in the joint camps that we have planned for the future months.

By Becky Harvey, age 12
Patrol Leader (Eagle Patrol), 1st Cuffley Scout Troop

5 Go To Viernheim

Sonntag, dem 19 Juli

George, myself and Skip, (our Scout Leader), set off by car on a long, exhausting journey to Viernheim. We travelled through France, Belgium and then into Germany finally arriving at Viernheim. We were introduced to our German hosts and after a short stay at the youth office we headed for the scout hut that was to be our home for the next week. We set up our beds and were soon tucked up in bed and fast asleep.

Montag, dem 20 Juli

We spent the day at the Big Top playing with the equipment provided. We played some football (fussball), table tennis (tischtennis) and basketball. The Germans made a list of the 100 words they wanted to know in English and we made a list of the 100 words we wanted to know in German! Emma and Elizabeth, who flew out to us, arrived just after funf Uhrs, (5 o'clock to you and me!).

Dienstag, dem 21 Juli

We were woken early on Tuesday because we wanted to get to the swimming pool before it got busy. After a quick bit of breakfast and a short car journey we reached the pool where Christian (one of our German hosts) bought our tickets we went in the rest of the day was spent alternating between going down a huge metal slide and diving off the diving boards. When we had finished we had a shower bought another ice cream and bought sweets. When we got back from the pool we had to get ready to go to a posh restaurant that the Germans were taking us to. I had schnitzel and some very nice potatoes.



Mittwoch, dem 22 Juli

On Wednesday we played with the equipment up until lunchtime. Just after lunch we signed a form that asked for our age, name and other safety questions. We were going to a course of ropes, zip wires and various other James Bond like activities through a forest's treetops. When we arrived we were kitted up with a harness, a helmet and a couple of safety clips. Because George and I were too young to do the course by ourselves Skip had to supervise us around the course. We started at level 2 because level 1 was only about a metre off the ground. All of us did level 1 But only George, Skip and myself did level 3 because the girls skipped the other levels and did level 6. Once we had done level 3 we decided we'd had enough so we climbed down. Shortly after us Emma and Elizabeth came down.



Donnerstag, dem 23 Juli

Thursday was an early start as we had to catch a tram to Heidelberg. The journey was quite long. When we arrived we walked through the old streets to the castle which was at the top of a very steep hill. Christian told us some historical facts about the castle. I found it interesting hearing about



the old gunpowder tower which exploded one stormy night when a bolt of lightning struck it and set off the gunpowder. After a packed lunch we headed for the shops. I bought a beer hat for my brother. As it was raining Skip took us into Starbucks and treated us to a drink. Then we carried on with a bit more shopping before heading back to the tram. Once back in Viernheim we went shopping as we would be cooking a 3 course meal for our German hosts. I baked a cake for dessert then helped with the main course (chicken stew). We set up the table beautifully and waited for our guests. I poured the wine and the meal began. The starter was fishcakes and a side salad (Emma made the fish cakes). Soon everyone had guzzled down their starter so we moved on to the main course. A lovely chicken stew with a bread (without any salt) made by Skip. After everyone had finished their main courses we gave out the dessert – the cake with custard. When everyone was finished we had a chat and cracked open a jar of Quality Street. After such a tiring day and the guests went home, we were happy to get to bed.

Freitag, dem 24 Juli

Friday was our last day at the camp so we made the most of the equipment and played lots of games. Lunch was good old English fish and chips which were cooked perfectly. After an afternoon of playing with the equipment we went to Tedi's (a cheap euro shop) and I came up with a challenge called the **EURO CHALLENGE** everyone had to buy a crazy but useless item and the judges would be our German dinner guests. After we had revealed our items to each other we began preparing the campfire. When the guests arrived we had bread and sausages over the fire. The winner of the crazy item challenge was Elizabeth with her useless clay ball.



Samstag, dem 25 Juli

Saturday was an early start as all of us had to go early; Emma and Elizabeth went early as they had to check in for their flight. We hit the road just after half past eleven and got back to Dover at about five o'clock. Eventually, I was glad to be back home to sleep in my own bed, but I had had a fantastic time and can't wait for the next scouting adventure.

Oliver Virtue, 11, APL Otter Patrol

Barbeque Weekend in Viernheim

On Friday the 17th July my sister and I travelled to Heathrow to catch the 1.50pm flight to Frankfurt. We travelled by British Airways from Terminal 5 and enjoyed a trouble free flight with no stress or hold ups. The new Terminal 5 is just great and a pleasure to be there. On arrival at Frankfurt we headed for the train station in Terminal 1 to catch the ICE high speed train to Mannheim where we were met by Peter Lutz. It took about 30 minutes, Mannheim being the first stop. One thing we did feel was the German train fares appear more expensive than ours. We were asked to travel by train due to road works on the autobahns, it was holiday time and the roads would be chocker block being a Friday afternoon. Unfortunately it had started to rain as we drove to Viernheim and after we arrived at Helga and Paul Kemp's we quickly changed and were whisked off to the barbeque. Lucky for everyone it was held at the Sports Centre on the veranda which is under cover and we were greeted well by everyone when we arrived. They dished up wonderful steaks and sausages with a large variety of salads that were prepared by some of the ladies of the Englisher Club. Wine, beer, soft drinks and coffee were available and there was also a sweet (if you had any room left). Seconds of steak were available but all the salads had been eaten first time round. Wolfgang tells me that Pamela and I were the first people from Potters Bar to attend their annual barbeque.

Saturday morning was warm and sunny so we walked to the Rhine Neckar Centre for a look around the shops. Helga and Paul met us and we went for lunch to the restaurant on the terrace of the Bergerhaus. A group of 11 including Pamela and I met outside the Kemp's house and three cars drove to a town called Freinsheim in the Pfaltz. It is an old medieval city and from 17th-20th July they hold the Stadtmauerfest, a bit like the Innenstadtfest. We arrived at about 5.00pm and as it was not too crowded we took a short walk around to look at the houses and the old buildings. Finally we found a place to stop and have a few drinks followed by a meal. The favourite thing ordered was liver dumplings so I tried a little and was surprised how light and tasty they were. A must if I go there again. We started to leave around 9.00p.m to find the place was heaving so it took a while to get to the car park. Once back to Helga and Paul's our beds were calling. It was a great afternoon and we thanked the members of the Englisher club for laying on this trip.

Sunday we took a late breakfast and had a lazy day in the sun with the family. In the evening the Kempfs Pamela and I went to a local restaurant and ended up in the town centre at 10.00pm listening to a concert being held just by the Church. It was a warm evening and we ended up listening to music and eating ice cream opposite where we have the Potters Bar stall at the Innenstadtfest. This was a nice end to the weekend. At 10.30 Monday morning Peter came to collect us, we said our sad goodbyes to Helga and Paul and off we went to Frankfurt Airport to enjoy another trouble free journey and arrived back in Potters Bar at about 5.15p.m. It was a nice relaxing weekend that we both enjoyed immensely.

Elaine

Sunday Lunch on the Pride of Lee

On Sunday 9th August 2009, 11 members and friends of the PBTТА took to the water for lunch aboard the Pride of Lee.

We boarded onto the beautifully prepared dining facilities of the Pride of Lee at Broxbourne at 12.15 and were served a delicious roast lunch consisting of either tomato and coriander soup or prawn cocktail, roast chicken or beef and to follow strawberry champagne baskets, cheesecake, ice cream or cheese and biscuits and then coffee and mints.

The weather was perfect and the scenery along the banks of the River Lee wonderfully varied with colourful houseboats, pleasure cruisers, paddleboats and an array of wild flowers and birds. We negotiated several locks along the way, with the added advantage of not having to open the locks ourselves!

Our floating restaurant moored at around 3 p.m. and we reluctantly returned to our cars and back to Potters Bar, after a most enjoyable time. Thanks to Elaine for organising such a nice event, but particularly for laying on the sun.

Lynda Armsby

Farewell from Hal & Sheila Armit

After some 44 years living in Potters Bar, it is time to downsize, so we have decided to move closer to our daughter in Rainhill (between St.Helens and Liverpool)

We joined The Potters Bar Town Twinning early 1974, not knowing anybody, but the first Twinning Trip to Franconville quickly changed that - we were all wined and dined in the State Banqueting Suite on the Eiffel Tower, touring Paris, followed by a Grand Ball in Franconville, -it was a superb week-end - the first of many!

Vienheim also welcomed us very lavishly, and we all became "Cousins" with The Vienheimers - our Ladies quickly learnt the art of German Cooking - with the German ladies learning how to make English Tea and boil eggs-needless to say on the next journey we took English Tea Pots, Electric Kettles and Egg Timers!! On one Coach Trip to Vienheim 5 Hostess Trolleys were taken (as these were unavailable in Germany)

In the early days when Twinning started, it was somewhat unusual for people to travel abroad, so we quickly enrolled them, and after 1 Visit, they were hooked, making very happy and close relationships with their Hosts. It was also agreed that all members travelling would stay with families and not in Hotels, on a reciprocal basis, thus learning a different way of life and making long and good relationships.

In the early days, we financed the Twinning ourselves, -money was tight, but we had many enthusiastic members -we produced a good 6 month Social Programme - House Parties were the norm including Wine & Cheese, Fancy Dress and even a Scouse Party -One of our biggest Fund Raisers being an enormous Bring & Buy Sale at Wylllyotts Hall with many stalls- cakes, glassware, Clothes (old and new)Toys being very successful and profitable.

Although we could not compete with Franconville or Viernheim, we always put on a good show, with Grand Balls at Mount Grace School Hall - weeks of making Paper flowers and decorating the hall being the norm, followed by House Parties at member's homes. Trips, included visits to The House of Commons & Lords, Windsor Castle, Boat Trip to The Thames Barrier and many more. Our Guests being very pleased with the English way of Life!

One year the Viernheim Burgermeister - Joseph Boumgetner asked whether we would partake in The Innenstadtfest - we said YES and for many years we have continued to man The English Pub selling English Beer and Whisky -hard work but great fun.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time with The Town Twinning, which has been successful, with so many strong friendships made, and wish The Potters Bar Twinning every success in the Future.

Hal & Sheila Armitt.

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 to Elaine or David (david@davidcollins.co.uk) so that they can be included either on our web site or in future newsletters.

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