

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - December 2009



Wishing all our Members and Friends
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Diary Dates

24 th January 2010	Sunday Lunch
7 th February 2010	My Climb Up Kilimanjaro
8 th March 2010	Annual General Meeting
9 th -12 th April 2010	Visit to Franconville
23 rd – 25 th April 2010	Audley End & Saffron Walden
7 th – 10 th May 2010	Twinning Weekend in Viernheim 7-10th
6 th June 2010	Sunday Lunch on the River Lea
12 th June 2010	Picnic in Viernheim
9 th – 12 th July 2010	Barbecue Weekend in Viernheim
25 th July 2010	Summer Lunch @ Lynda's Home
22 nd August 2010	Afternoon Tea @ Elaine's
3 rd – 6 th September 2010	Innenstadtfest
25 th September 2010	Themed Evening
8 th – 11 th October 2010	Trip to the Pfalz in Viernheim
15 th -17 th October	Trip to Franconville
19 th -21 st November 2010	Conference in Potters Bar
5 th December 2010	Early Christmas Warm Up



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)

24th January 2010

Sunday Lunch

We are arranging a Sunday Lunch at The Plough, Crews Hill. Please contact Elaine, telephone 01707 659871 to book your place.

7th February 2010

My Climb Up Kilimanjaro by Martin Wiley

Martin Wiley will be giving a very interesting talk, with slide show, on his walk up Kilimanjaro. This will be held at the Lower Floor Wyllyotts Potters Bar. Cost £5.00 including refreshments. To book your place please contact Elaine, telephone 01707 659871.

**8th March 2010
Annual General Meeting**

To be held at the Lower Ground Floor Wyllyotts at 7:30 for 8:00pm start. We would be pleased to see as many members as possible. Please see attached Letter and Agenda.

**8th – 10th April
Visit to Franconville**

Franconville has invited 6-8 people to join them for the weekend, no details have as yet been advised. If you are interested in the this weekend please contact David, tel: 020 8482 2534, no later than 15th February to make arrangements.

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



Reports on Recent Events

But Officer, I only had one glass!!!

Gill and I went to Viernheim to try the 'New Wine in the Pfalz' over the weekend of 17th/18th October. We decided to drive this time and avoid the endless queuing and waiting at the airport and the trials and tribulations of travelling on Mr O'Leary's airline. As we drove along the empty continental motorways in the sunshine, we felt fully vindicated.

As we had arrived a couple of days early, we were able to do some sightseeing and relaxing with Wolfgang and Elke before the weekend. On Saturday, the weather was wet but by the time we set off, it had stopped. Nevertheless, we wrapped up, as we were travelling by tram,



train and foot. This particular New Wine Festival was held in Mussbach at a winegrower's cooperative and it was about a thirty minute walk (in the drizzle and against a strong headwind) from the station.

Enjoying the new wine is a relatively new tradition in Germany but judging by what we saw, it was very popular. There were about a thousand people sampling the new wine, many of whom were seated outside! We were inside a barn but with a large open door – we were very glad of the extra clothing. Elke had prepared a sumptuous picnic and we tucked in enthusiastically. I tried the white wine first but soon decided that I preferred the red.

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The tradition in the Pfalz region is to drink wine (and not just new wine) from rather large glasses – half a litre, in fact – that's nearly a pint as you can see in the photo.

To save going to the bar too frequently, most people seemed to have a large container (about 2-3 litres) to collect their wine. As a result, several people seemed to be topping up my glass, long before I had finished. Consequently, I soon lost track of how much I had drunk.

Later, a band began to play and as the afternoon and evening wore on, there was much laughter, chatting and singing. There were plenty of conversations with old and new friends and a great time was had by all.

Sunday was a quiet day.....

Martin Wiley

Twinning Conference held in Viernheim

from 27.11.09 to 30.11.09

by Lynda Armsby

The delegation from Potters Bar consisting of David Collins, Elaine Marsh, Lynda Armsby and Alex Bedwell set off on Friday 27th November 2009 for Viernheim. Alex Bedwell went by Euro Star via Brussels and the rest of us flew from Heathrow Terminal 5 to Frankfurt International Airport. The Mayor of Hertsmere, Rosemay Gilligan and her brother Simon were due to travel with us but unfortunately their father had had a fall so they had to stay at home with him. However, The Mayor kindly sent her car to collect us, as had been planned, and to take us to the airport and also to collect us on our return. We therefore had a very easy journey and were met by Wolfgang Hofmann on arrival and driven to Viernheim to our respective hosts.

The conference started at 9.30am on Saturday morning. After the excellent official welcome speeches by Alda Bauge of Franconville Council, David Collins of PBT TA and the Leader of the Viernheim Council, Martin Ringhof, on behalf of Mayor Baas, who was visiting



Franconville in celebration of the opening of the Railway tunnel and 20 years of the Berlin Wall having been knocked down, we divided into our relevant discussion groups. David, Elaine and Lynda discussed culture, leisure, sport and occupation and Alex, schools and youth exchanges. A summary was given of our discussions, followed by a delicious finger buffet. After a relaxing afternoon we met up again at the Restaurant "Galicia" in the Burgerhaus for a superb dinner.

Sunday morning we all went into Mannheim to visit an exhibition about Alexander the Great and the opening of the world. An excellent insight into the opening of Trade routes as well as

into his life and achievements. Sunday evening, in celebration of the first Sunday in Advent, several of us went to a Big Band Jazz concert, at which David and Elaine appeared on the front page of the Daily Viernheim newspaper on Monday.

All too soon it was Monday morning and time to leave for the airport and train station after saying our goodbyes. The flight home was thankfully uneventful and we were very pleased to see Ray, our driver waiting for us on arrival. Even the M25 surpassed itself by not being too congested on our way back to Potters Bar.

Warm Up - 6th December 2009

On Sunday we met together for our annual warm up at our usual venue. The hall is now booked on a regular basis every Sunday morning so we decided to ring the changes this year by having an afternoon tea. It was nice to see members and friends, some of which we do not see so much and we missed those of our regulars who unfortunately had other engagements on that day. We think they missed a very sociable afternoon.

Thanks go to Kate and her band of helpers. There was a lovely spread put on and with people chatting, exchanging Christmas cards and catching up, all in all it was a successful afternoon. Everyone seemed to take part in a small quiz (a little different from the normal type of quiz) and the winners were Barbara and John Clifton and the winner of the Caption prize was Jim Hurd. It was fun and once everyone cottoned on to how it worked they were all going great guns. Birthday wishes were given to Ted Pearce, Chris Morgan-Gray and Len Harvey who had celebrated birthdays recently and to Madge who was celebrating her birthday that day. Also birthday wishes were given to John Clifton for his forthcoming birthday on the 31st December.

The committees' thanks go to all of you who came along to support us and a special thank you to Joan Ward who comes along and helps at lots of our functions although she is not a member of the association. Like most clubs our membership is getting smaller so every pair of hands is a blessing.

Elaine



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