

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2006

Diary Dates

7th April 2006

12th - 14th May 2006

11th June 2006

7th - 9th July 2006

13th August 2006

1st - 3rd September 2006

6th - 8th October 2006

24th - 26th November 2006

10th December 2006

Hidden London

Twinning Weekend in Franconville

Strawberry Tea Party

Hidden Hertfordshire

Garden Party

Innestadfest Viernheim

Leeds Castle

Conference in Viernheim

Christmas Warm Up

31st MARCH – 2nd April 2006

Visit to Fontainebleau

Franconville has invited 10 people to join them for a visit to Fontainebleau which is south of Paris. Morning visit of the castle, then restaurant then a "surprise"

Please let Elaine (01707 659871) know as soon as possible if you are interested in going.

7th April 2006

Hidden London

A trip to the Docklands Museum.

If any members are interested in this event, please will they contact Chris Morgan-Gray by 30th March 2006.

12th – 14th May 2006

Town Twinning Celebrations in Franconville

Recontre have invited 30 adults and 5 teenagers to celebrate there Town Twinning Celebrations. There are still some places available, **please contact Elaine (01707 659871) as soon as possible** so that travel arrangements can be made, the costs will be between £55.00 and £85.00 per person depending on numbers travelling together.

11th June 2006

Strawberry Tea Party

The strawberry tea party will be held again this year at the home of Chris and Joan Morgan-Gray. Cost will be £4.00 per person, Please book early by contacting Chris (01707 850984)

13th August 2006

Garden Party at Chris & Therea's Dawes Home

The Garden Party is to be held at the home of Therea's and Chris Dawes 1a Mount Grove Road, Potters Bar. From 12:30 to 3:00 pm at a cost of £5.50 per person (bring your own drinks). Please contact Elaine (01707 659871) for tickets, early booking recommended as this is a very popular event.

6th-8th October 2006 Visit to Leeds Castle.

Viernheim and Franconville have shown an interest for this weekend. We would like to hear from any member who wishes to visit the castle (which is in Kent). Please can you contact Elaine on 01707 659871 if you are interested and also if you can host please contact Iris Ford 01707 650105.

Innestadtfest 1st – 3rd September 2005

We will be running our usual pub on the Saturday and Sunday, for those interested in attending the

Innestadtfest please contact John and Marcia Munday tel: 01707 658887 as soon as possible to arrange the best travel deal.

Reports on Recent Events

Annual General Meeting - 1st March 2006

Due to inclement weather there was only a small number of members who attended the Annual General Meeting which was chaired by The Mayor of Hertsmere Cllr. Ron Gealy. The meeting was moved to the Featherstone Room due to a booking error, but we found that the room met our needs. A small buffet was prepared by Kate Ringham and when the meeting had concluded members enjoyed some food and drink whilst they mingled and chatted. The treasurer reported that the club had made a net profit in 2005 of £1052.73.

A proposal was put forward that the subscription be increased from January 2007 to £6.00 for a single person and £10.00 for a couple (residing at the same address). It was put to a vote and agreed by the attending membership. The Twinning Weekend was also discussed.

Thanks were given to The Mayor and Mayoress of Hertsmere for attending. Members were asked to forward their subscriptions for 2006 to Chris Morgan-Gray.

The election of officers and committee were as follows:-

Chairman	Elaine Marsh
Vice Chairman	Iris Ford
Deputy Chairman	David Collins
Treasurer	Chris Morgan-Gray
Minutes Secretary	Iris Ford
Administration Secretary	Myra Robinson
Deputy Social	Kate Ringham
Press and Publicity	Honey Lockwood

Committee Members

Renee Gallop John Gallop Chris Dawes Keith Dyll.

The Rev. Peter Bevan wished to stand down from the committee for this year due to other commitments. Thanks to Peter for his support and hope he will return to the committee next year.

We would also like to thank those members who regularly give a donation in addition to their subs.

Dennis Severs House

On Monday the 6th of February 15 members of the Town Twinning Association, Met on Platform 15 of Liverpool Street Station in London at 6.30 p.m. for a visit to Dennis Severs House, at 18 Folgate Street, Spitalfields.

Chris Gray had already circularized members with an extract from the website for Dennis Severs house which prepared them for a visit to a time capsule of Georgian living, and we were let into the house by Mr M. Pedrolli the caretaker whose team had lit all the fires and candles to create an atmosphere of living in the past.

We were warned not to talk as we walked round the house, so that we would really get the atmosphere Dennis Severs (an American artist who previously owned the house) had created, by looking into paintings of the period and resurrecting a house of the period which had not changed.

Walking round I think I was most impressed by the first floor sitting room with its moulded plaster ceiling, and deep wing chairs, as well as the basement kitchen with its dresser stacked high with the daily household china, and washing up still in the sink.

At 8.00 p.m. as many people as wanted to adjourned to “The Shooting Star” pub, where those who wished ordered a meal after visiting Dennis Severs House, and the landlords very hospitably opened up their Function Room so we could all sit down together.

This function was a bit of a departure for the Association as the tickets for Dennis Severs House were £12.00 per visitor, and we thought that if we added food on top to that price many people would have been discouraged from coming. So although we did not make a profit on the event, we did not make a loss either. We must however try to equal our triumph of last year by making a profit on our social events, so it will be something of a one off affaire.

By Chris Morgan-Gray

A Weekend in Viernheim – Theresa & Chris Dawes

One of the high points of Town Twinning is when a host family invites you to join them in marking a significant family event. Thus it was a real joy and privilege to be invited to attend the 50th birthday party for Manfred Frass.

Leaving home at 5.00 a.m. on Friday, we flew to Baden – Karlsruhe in a less than half full aircraft, arriving at 9.30a.m., and took the bus to the centre of Baden Baden where we spent the day, booking into a hotel in the centre. We were expecting snow and grey skies, but were treated to a superbly sunny day with locals sitting outside the cafes despite the freezing air temperature. With most shops shut for twelfth night (celebrated in Baden-Wurtenburg and Bavaria) it was window shopping for us in one of the most expensive resorts in Germany, exploring the bath houses and trying the hot spa water (guaranteed to cure all ills!) in the Trinkwasser Haus, a wonderfully ornate building, which along with the hot baths and casino give the town it's history.

Rudolf from Viernheim Town Hall (who lives nearby) had offered to show us an interesting restaurant for dinner and met us at the hotel with his wife and we went for a superb traditional Bavarian meal, but with rather generous portions for our appetites. Afterwards he said that we must see the inside of the casino, magnificently refurbished by a French nobleman, and this required passports and jacket and tie. The visit was well worth the effort – to see the décor and feel the tension as large sums of money changed hands between the punters.

Lack of sleep was beginning to catch up with us, and we only just made the breakfast deadline in the morning. On Saturday many shops were open and “window” left “shopping” resulting in the credit card melting under winter sales offers.

With Manfred's party in the evening, we took the bus to Baden Baden station and the train to Mannheim (40 minutes) in time to have lunch in the cultural centre café, opposite Water Tower square. Getting to Viernheim was just a short tram ride, and on by foot for a wonderful welcome chez Fraas.

Then the party – at the ski hut, well known to Twinners. To say we were in bed at 5.00 a.m. afterwards almost says it all. The entertainment included a 5 piece band, a folk singer, a 14 yr old Madonna sound-alike (singing in English,) a highland piper in full regalia, sketches and games, all by members of the Viernheim Twinning clubs and family friends. With this, and with the endless food, drink and dancing, we did not realise when morning arrived.

The Fraas family, particularly son Fabian, are passionate followers of the Mannheim ice-hockey team and they were playing an important match later that day. So after seemingly only a few minutes in bed, we were off to the magnificent new ice stadium in Mannheim to watch the Mannheim Eagles beat the Kassel Huskies by three

goals to none in the final 20 minutes. There was much rejoicing in Mannheim that night and in the Fraas household.

For our return to Baden Karlsruher airpark we were spoiled by an offer by one of the Englischer Club members to be chauffeured door to door. Our evening full flight landed at Stanstead in good time for us to be home and fall into bed before midnight.

We now reflect on really exciting, enjoyable and memorable weekend.

Theresa and Chris Dawes

WHAT A LIVE ASSOCIATION IS AND IS NOT.

A live association has parking problems.
A dying one does not.

A live association has lots of noisy people around,
A dying one enjoys peace and quiet.

A live association changes the way things are done to
do things better,
A dying association does not need to change a thing.

A live association dreams great dreams for the
future,
A dying association has nightmares.

A live association invites people to risk involvement
and tries new ideas.
A dying association never risks anything.

A live association supports European involvement,
A dying association thinks only of local issues.

A live association uses its traditions to serve its
members,
A dying association uses its members to serve its
traditions.

A live association works hard to build,
A dying one worries,

A live association is filled with subscribers,
A dying one is filled with moaners.

A live association is filled with entrepreneurs,
A dying one seldom makes mistakes.

A live association looks for challenges and
opportunities,
A dying association looks for problems and
dangers.

A live association fertilizes,
A dying one fossilizes.

Amended by Chris Morgan-Gray
With apologies to High Wycch Parish magazine

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 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)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Events in Viernheim

We have just received information from Viernheim regarding two events they are inviting Potters Bar and Franconville to attend. If you are interested in travelling to either of these events, please will you contact Elaine in 01707 659871 as soon as possible.

26th - 28th May 2006

Viernheim are planning a day's outing to Baden Baden on Saturday 27th May 2006.

30th June - 3rd July 2006

Viernheim's Bar B Q Weekend.

Viernheim will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Twinning with Franconville and the 35th anniversary of Twinning with Potters Bar. This will be marked with a special ceremony on the Sunday afternoon and the Bar B Q will be held on the Saturday.