

# POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

## NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2006

### Diary Dates

3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2006	Bipartite Pétanque Match
11 <sup>th</sup> June 2005	Potters Bar Carnival
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2006	Strawberry Tea Party
30 <sup>th</sup> June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2006	Viernheim's Bar B Q Weekend
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	Sunday Lunch
7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	Hidden Hertfordshire
30 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	Pétanque Mêlée & B B Q
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2006	Garden Party
1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2006	Innestadfest Viernheim
6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Leeds Castle
24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	Conference in Viernheim
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Christmas Warm Up

### 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006

#### Potters Bar Carnival

We intend to hold a stall at this years carnival in Elm Court to raise funds and awareness of our Town Twinning Association, anyone interested in helping please contact Elaine (01707 659871). We really need your help.

### 18<sup>th</sup> June 2006

#### Strawberry Tea Party

##### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

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)

### 30<sup>th</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006

#### Viernheim's Bar B Q Weekend

9 People will be travelling to Viernheim for a Bar B Q on the Sunday and they will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twinning with Franconville and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twinning with Potters Bar with a small celebration. This event has been well supported and is fully booked.

### 9<sup>th</sup> July 2006

#### Sunday Lunch

By popular demand we have arranged a 3 course Sunday Lunch at £7.00 per head at the Lower Ground Floor Wylliotts. To ensure your place is booked please contact Iris (01707 650105). Please bring your own drinks.

### Pétanque Mêlée & B B Q, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006

The Pétanque club is holding its yearly mêlée & BBQ in association with the Aldersgate Ward Club of the City of London at Oakmere Park for further details please contact Chris Morgan-Gray (01707 850984)

### 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006

#### Garden Party at Chris & Theresa Dawes Home

The Garden Party is to be held at the home of Theresa 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.

### 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Innestadfest

#### 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005

We will be running our usual pub on the Saturday and Sunday, for those interested in attending the Innestadfest please contact John and Marcia Munday tel: 01707 658887 as soon as possible to arrange the best travel deal.

## REMINDER

Subscriptions are now due. Anyone who has not paid this years subscriptions please contact Chris Morgan-Gray (01707 850984) 50 Shillitoe Avenue, Potters Bar, EN6 3HG  
£5.00 Single £8.00 Family

## Reports on Recent Events

### Town Twinning in Franconville 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006



A party of 23 people from the Potters Bar area went to Franconville on 14-16<sup>th</sup> May to the annual twinning celebrations along with a group from Viernheim in Germany. This was the first time I had ventured abroad with the town twinning group. We have had German and French people to stay and I thought it was about time I went to see them at home. In recent times the group has travelled on Eurostar but this time we went by coach and on the ferry. On the way over we sat on deck enjoying the hot sun imagining next stop might be Trinidad.

On arrival we were met by the families with whom we were to stay. My family were Madame et Monsieur Lagree and their three daughters who live five minutes walk from the town hall. They cooked me a delicious French meal and we got to know each other via a mixture of my very rusty school French and their very good English! Both the older girls have visited England on school trips and are coming to England to work in a hotel over the summer. The family were all very kind and did their very best to make me feel at home. We swapped information about our towns, local issues, politics, football and gardening. I promised to find out why golf is called golf (any ideas?). They have only recently joined the local twinning group and this was the first time they had put someone up – I hope I did not put them off!

On Saturday the whole group, plus families, went into Paris to see the new Cezanne/Pissaro exhibition at the Musée D'Orsay (an old train station a bit like Kings Cross, beautifully recycled into a national art gallery). This was very apt as I have been watching 'The Impressionists' on Sunday evening TV at home. We walked through Paris to the Eiffel Tower and had coffee in a pavement café just as it rained. In the evening a grand reception and dance complete with entertainment non-stop and numerous changes of costume which we had to stop counting! We were able to talk with other people both French and German, dictionaries at the ready. You don't have to have a lot of French or German – it's just fun to have a go.

On Sunday morning I was taken on a tour of Franconville by car and to the Sunday market where I bought some bread to bring home. I had really enjoyed the different breads and in particular a sort of savoury sponge my host Marilynne had made for our supper on Friday. Then we joined up with the group for the official ceremony. Intertwined with this was entertainment from local young musicians, dancers and a local family demonstrating their family roots with traditional dance and music from Brittany. Franconville has what they call a music and dance academy – not a school but classes run by voluntary groups, but which we saw is of a very high standard. The local council has funded a new building built in traditional style which I had seen on my morning trip. Then a wonderful send-off buffet where I met up with a previous family who had stayed with us in Potters Bar. We boarded the coach for home arriving late on Sunday evening. A very interesting weekend, I have already started an email correspondence with my new friends, half in English and half in French and am looking forward to meeting up again soon.

By Margret Ohren

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Our twinning visit started very pleasantly with boarding our luxurious modern than coach – a real transport of delight – at Wylyotts. Having enjoyed a smooth and sunny Channel crossing we were greeted by our hosts in style at the Espace Saint-Exupéry, an amazing barn like structure with a soaring roof space. Following an excellent meal in the lakeside restaurant in Enghien-les-Bains, a prosperous Spa town nearby, we were treated to a tour of Paris by night, the most memorable site being the Eiffel tower lit up like giant Christmas tree and trying very hard to ignore the near suicidal tendencies of some drivers in the city centre.

The next morning found us rejoining the coach for a visit to the Musée D'Orsay which was converted from a disused railway station some twenty years ago. The main hall of the ornate building conveys a strong feeling of light and space and is well used by a diverse mix of visitors, many budding artists among them. Following an inspirational tour of the Cezanne – Pissarro exhibition we enjoyed lunch in a former Hotel annexed to the museum amidst a spectacular setting of painted ceilings, gilded mirrors and crystal chandeliers. The remainder of the afternoon was spent browsing amongst the stalls along the Seine and departing for refreshments to an extraordinary nineteenth century glass pyramid in the Louvre grounds – a structure called the Napoleon hall.

The evening saw us enjoying a formal dinner to the rousing sounds and sights of the live showband who effortlessly took us through various decades and styles of popular music.

The final morning found us at the flag raising ceremonies – not all of us having found the energy for mass after the previous night's exertions!

Then it was back to the Saint-Exupéry centre for the official twinning ceremonies and speeches by the three mayors interspersed with various musical interludes and enthusiastic performances by the Franconville Dance Academy. The prize for the most unintentionally comic moments went to the corps de ballet of tiny tots whose sense of direction was not uniformly even. The ceremony was rounded off with traditional Breton dancers supported by bagpipes, oboes and percussion instruments.



On we went to a sumptuous cocktail reception and an exhibition of photographs, pottery and glassware. Alas all too sudden it was time to return to the venue of Friday's welcome party for a delicious buffet lunch and to say our farewells to hosts and friends alike.

Fond thoughts and thanks go to our hosts for arranging an action packed weekend including some memorable moments, superb food and an extensive range of entertainment.

By Olga Grignon

We are pleased to report that the Guitarist David Massey who performed at our twinning ceremonies last year has become a finalist in this years BBC's "Young Musician of the Year" competition; we wish him every success in the future.



**Don't forget to visit our web site**  
**[www.twinninginpottersbar.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:david@davidcollins.co.uk))***