

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2007

Diary Dates

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

16th December 2007

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

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

Still some places left for the Ploughman's Lunch which 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 at a cost of £6.00 per person (bring your own drinks). Please contact David (020 8482 2534) 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.

Day In London 12th -14th October 2007

We have invited 6 people from Viernheim & 6 from Franconville to join us for a cultural visit into London. Anyone interested in hosting or joining us for the day please contact David (020 8482 2534). More information will be available in our next news letter.

Reports on Recent Events

BIPARTITE PETANQUE WEEKEND IN FRANCONVILLE - 5th-6th May 2007

We arrived in Franconville on the afternoon of Friday 4th of May and we were warmly greeted at the airport by the President of Franconville Petanque Club and a few of its members. We were then taken to their petanque HQ where we discovered their newly built chalet, an impressive building that contains all the necessary amenities accommodating their 150 members.

A welcoming committee made up of the Franconville Petanque Club members as well as Alda Bauge (responsible for the town twinning) gathered in the chalet to greet us. On this auspicious occasion, Mr Roger Landry, the Chairman of the Sports Council of Franconville honoured us with his presence and made a welcoming speech. He expressed his appreciation and pleasure in seeing the bonding of two nations through the medium of sports. Champagne and 'amuses gueules' were offered and it was a merry time of making new friends and greeting old ones.

The British team members then made their way to their respective hosts' dwellings. After dinner some of us met for a tour of "Paris by night" whilst the others did their own thing.

On Saturday morning we all met again at the Chalet for breakfast before the games began at 10am. We were all given a souvenir T-shirt, which all wore proudly on the day. Each team had two games to play before lunchtime and another two games to play in the afternoon. As the British team did not have enough male members, the French graciously spared us a few of their members to make up the mixed doubles. At the end of the day, unfortunately the British team lost to the French 9-19 despite the Potters Bar Petanque Club putting in a brave effort. We were honoured by the presence of Mr Roland Chanudet who is in charge of Sporting activities at the Borough of Franconville. He made a heart-warming speech followed by the award presentation. Margaret Chatfield and partner Guy came in fourth best player whilst Janice Alphonse and Aris Savvides were ranked 5th best player. Sylvia Forge, Robert Cushion and Aris Savvides were each presented with a medal to thank them for their friendship with Franconville. Each member of the British team was also remitted a glass chess set as a departing gift / memento.

It was a day of friendship, of camaraderie and exchange. The lunch affair was as buoyant and merry as one would expect it to be. Our hosts were most hospitable and no efforts were spared to make our stay enjoyable and memorable. Franconville Petanque Club pleasantly surprised us with an impromptu wine tasting session at one of their local cellars. It was indeed a great experience as there was also a professor in oenology to answer our queries. Finally we went back to the chalet for a festive dinner.

On Sunday, sadly, it was time to leave. We all gathered in the chalet for a last 'pot de l'amitie' and to say our goodbyes. We left behind our heart to this nice and convivial place that is Franconville but especially to its members, which have given a new meaning to the word *hospitable*. We look forward to welcoming them next year in Potters Bar.

Janice Alphonse

Report of the Twinning Weekend in Viernheim

32 members including young people left Potters Bar by coach at 5.00am . After an uneventful journey the Burgermaster received the party at the Rathaus together with the hosts and other delegations. In the evening most of the party were entertained by their hosts and some were taken to the French club for an evening with the Fraconvillians.

On Saturday morning we were taken to Mannheim. The city is celebrating its 400th anniversary.



The coach drove around the city to places of interest, which were explained to us by a guide who was very good and spoke English. Lunch was served by the Germans in the Wasserturm, which is Mannheim's city symbol. The Tower is in the centre of the city and was built in 1889. It was used as a central water tower until 2000. Open rolls were served for lunch together with a variety of drinks.

In the afternoon the party visited the Mannheim Palace. The construction of this palace was commenced in 1720. It is one of the largest baroque palaces in Europe second only to the Palace of Versailles. It was originally the main residence of the Prince-electors of the palatinate of Baden-Wurtemberg. Recently a number of

rooms have been renovated in time for the 400th anniversary

In the evening back in Viernheim the council laid on a musical evening, including dinner, with the MSC Big Band of Viernheim and the Harmonie Big Band of Franconville. This was a most enjoyable occasion.

On Sunday representatives of the delegations of the six towns attended church and then went on to the Burgerhaus for the official Twinning ceremony. The head of each delegation gave a speech which was interspersed by musical and dance performances by local children. Afterwards our hosts entertained us.

In the evening the English guests were entertained by the Englisher Club where food and drink were again dispensed (no good being on a diet).

The party left at 7.00am Monday for the return journey. It seems everybody enjoyed themselves thanks to the efforts of our German friends.

Derrick Shapland

Franconville Tourist Weekend 1st – 3rd June 2007



Five of us represented Potters Bar and with a larger contingent from Viernheim we joined the members of Rencontres to make a party of about 30 for a visit to the National Ceramics museum of France in Sevres, south of Paris. The story of the development of ceramics from early pottery, through chinaware to porcelain was told in the displays and by our enthusiastic guide. With everything in French, we had to use the snippets translated by our hosts to piece together the story, but this did not detract from our marvelling at the science, the craftsmanship and the art and design which were on show.

The weekend started with a reception in the Town Hall staff restaurant on Friday evening followed by evening meal with our hosts. Saturday morning we visited Sevres after driving across - perhaps more under - Paris. We were then treated to a super lunch in a nearby hotel and had the afternoon free to visit a little known but fascinating formal garden and museum, the Albert Khan Museum, in the Capital.

In the evening we gathered at the home of the Claviers to enjoy a barbeque, French style. No oily burnt offerings here! Using just a few cinders on the ground, Jean-Pierre turned out the most



superbly cooked brochettes (kebabs) on his newly constructed garage roof terrace overlooking the town. The final touch was provided by Francine who sang for us and played the guitar. It was truly a memorable occasion.

The efforts involved in making the journey were repaid a hundredfold. Thank you Rencontres for another wonderful weekend.

Theresa and Chris Dawes

Visit to London's Murky Past – 15th – 17th June 2007

We greeted 7 visitors who arrived from Franconville Friday night of which 4 were first timers.



Saturday morning we all met at Cockfosters tube station and travelled to London Bridge by Underground. At 11:30am we ventured into the depths of the London Dungeon travelling back in time to a very graphic and visual experience of what London must have been like many years ago.

The tour around the Dungeons led us from Crime and Punishment and to, torture, to besieged towns and the various punishments that were dished out.

Actors and members lectured us in a very graphical way about the Plague, The Great Fire of London, Jack the Ripper and Sweeney Todd. We were taken on a barge ride through the sewers of London.

There was a mock court room where Elaine was picked on to stand in the dock luckily they allowed her to go free.

The last thing was to experience the hangman where we were dropped from a height in a special ride. Monique forgot to take her camera and had a second go.

We all had lunch in "The Horniman" Pub in Hays Wharf, where we met with Keith Dyall and Len Harvey. After the meal they led a walk about showing sights of London which most of us have not seen before.

Sunday Lunch time we all met up again for a light lunch before our friends, old and now new, left for the Eurostar back to Franconville.



Editor

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