

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - November / December 2010



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



Diary Dates 2011

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| 16 th January 2011 | Sunday Pub Lunch |
| 13 th February 2011 | Talk on Visit to Great Wall of China |
| 7 th March 2011 | Annual General Meeting. |
| April 2011 | Ploughman's Lunch(Date and venue to Be Advised) |
| 15 th – 17 th April 2011 | Cultural Visit to Franconville |
| May 2011 | Minibus Outing to the Coast(Date and venue to be advised) |
| 20 th – 23 rd May 2011 | Annual Excursion to Englischen Club in Viernheim – 10 members invited |
| 10 th – 12 th June 2011 | Tripartite Twinning Ceremony In Potters Bar - 10 V & 10F Invited |
| July 2011 | Cream Tea on the River Lee(Date to be advised) |
| 8 th – 10 th July 2011 | Barbeque in Viernheim – 6 members invited |
| August 2011 | Lunch at Lynda's(Date to be advised) |
| September 2011 | Outing to Houghton Hall and Ely(Date to be advised) |
| 30 th Sept – 3 rd Oct 2011 | Trip to the Pfalz, Viernheim – 8 members invited |
| October 2011 | Outing to Bletchley House (Date to be advised) |
| 1 st – 2 nd October 2011 | Invited to take part in "3F" Fair in Franconville - 6 invited |
| 18 th -20 th November 2011 | Conference in Franconville |
| 4 th -5 th December 2011 | Invitation to Franconville for Christmas Fair. |
| December 2011 | Christmas Warm Up(Date to be advised) |

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

16th January 2011

Sunday Pub Lunch

Please join us for the very popular Sunday Pub Lunch, if interested please contact Elaine 01707 659871

13th February 2011

The Great Wall of China

Due to the success of Martin Wiley's talk on his walk "Up Kilimanjaro" last year we have arranged for Martin to give his talk on his visit to the Great

Wall of China. Please contact Elaine on Tel: 01707 659871 to book your place.

7th March 2011

Annual General Meeting

Please put this date in your diary. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Wylllyotts Centre, please arrive at 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm start.



This year we are selling Christmas Cards; there are 5 different designs and 10 cards in a pack selling at £3.00 per pack. We will be selling these at all events leading up to Christmas or contact Lynda Armsby on telephone 01707 644805



Reports on Recent Events

Afternoon Tea @ Elaine's 22nd August 2010

25 members gathered in Elaine's home for afternoon tea. We were served with sandwiches, cakes, scones with clotted cream & jam and of course numerous cups of tea. Thanks to Elaine for the use of her home and organising the event.

Viernheim Innenstadtfest 2 – 5 September 2010

My involvement in the annual trip to the town festival in Viernheim came about by accident. I am really a language student and I wanted to practise my German so I jumped at the suggestion that Potters Bar Town Twinning Association was short-handed for their stall in the town festival this year, and jumped on board the trip.

As the only woman with three men in David Collins' car driving over to Germany, I listened to all those subjects that men talk about in the absence of women. Keith Dyall was in the front with David so I heard little of their conversation. However, sitting in the back with John Munday, I became well-briefed on Pearl Harbour, Stealth bombers, F16s, British intelligence, cars, trains, and the history of German autobahns.

Our German hosts were absolutely delightful. I stayed with Brigitta and Peter Sauer and they could not have been more hospitable. They allowed me to speak German even though it was entirely unnecessary as their English was excellent. They delivered and fetched me to and from everywhere in spite of my protestations, and fed me superbly. They were just marvellous.

Chris Dawes joined the four of us to run the stall. In spite of the sunny weather, it was the general view that business was down on preceding years. The stall sells Guinness and some excellent Scottish whiskeys. There were also some of the Association's Christmas cards, of which a few packets were sold. The drop in business was attributed to the many competing events in nearby Mannheim, together with the possibility that "the young ones are not so interested". I suspect the latter comment may be more a mark of our age than anything else. However, as a newcomer I could view the stall objectively and I felt that some visual materials such as a big picture of a Guinness can would make its produce much more visible to passers-by, and lift sales.

The town of Viernheim is flat and very neat. I noticed that it is exceptionally quiet which, I think, is a result of its flatness because vehicles are not changing gears to drive up hills and so forth. Also it has no station so there's no train noise. In many way it matches Potters Bar because it is a satellite of Mannheim, a larger town. On Sunday morning I went out to the woods on the edge of town and saw a wonderful arrangement of wires and platforms in the trees for people of any age to learn climbing and abseiling. However, I soon had to go back into town to do my shifts until the festival ended in the afternoon. I'm told we made a profit – which is good!

Alison Hunt

British Comedy Afternoon

On the 26th September 2010 approx. 19 members of the Association sat and listened to Chris Morgan-Gray's afternoon of British Comedy. With the use of his CD collection he played excerpts from various comedy legends being Stanley Holloway, Flanders and Swann, Joyce Grenfell, Pam Ayres to name a few. Chris also relayed various stories appertaining to the legends and it was good to see people laughing and singing along. Mind you I was amazed at how many people knew the words. Tea and scones were served during a short intermission and Chris continued on whilst we munched and drank. We certainly will not see the likes of those comedy artists again. Thanks were given to Chris for an entertaining afternoon and for parting with his knowledge to all of us and also thanks were given to the ladies who prepared the afternoon tea.

Elaine

Visit to Franconville 14th - 18th October 2010

David Collins and I set off for Franconville and decided to go via St.Omer, where we stopped for lunch and a little retail therapy. We continued across the first world war battlefields of the Somme, stopping at La Boisselle, which was on the front line at the beginning of the offences on the 1st July 1916 and where a huge mine was detonated, supposedly to destroy German trenches.

We arrived in Franconville at around 6pm and David was immediately dispatched to fill up with petrol for the return journey, in view of the likely shortages to be caused by the forthcoming general strike of workers defending their current retirement age of 62 years. We then spent a quiet evening with our hosts.

Friday we were taken to Chantilly, a wonderful palace and home to the Museum of Horsemanship, which we visited and of course the delicious cream, which we just had to sample.



We met up with the delegation from Viernheim in the evening and on Saturday we visited a mother of pearl factory nearby which originally was set up to make dominos and to supply the big couture houses of Paris with buttons. After a pleasant lunch in Isle d'Adam, we had a guided tour of the town, which is similar to Deauville, and we were amazed by the sight of the biggest water rats ever, commonly known as coypus.

Saturday evening we all went to an Italian restaurant in Franconville and enjoyed an excellent meal together.

Sunday morning we went on a whirlwind tour of Paris by car, which, when arriving from Franconville, involves driving round the Arc de Triomphe, which was fun.

Monday morning David and I left, but not before visiting Cora to stock up on wine. However, when we come out the whole car park was blocked with cars attempting to fill up with petrol, which fortunately, David had already done. We came home via Beauvais to visit the newly cleaned cathedral, which was magnificent. All along the autoroute were messages indicating that the next service station was out of petrol. We were pleased to get back to Calais and on the ferry home, as we knew it was unlikely that any ferries would be running the next day when the strike was due to take place.



However, it was a great trip and very interesting and as always, sad to say goodbye to our friends.

Lynda Armsby

Conference - 20th November 2011



6 Delegates from Viernheim, 6 Delegates from Franconville & 4 members from our Association together with the Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor Linda Silver, met in the meeting rooms at Borehamwood council offices for our Tripartite conference. The delegation included official representatives from each country, Scouts, School Teachers and Youth workers. The programmes for each of our twinned towns were put forward and discussed in detail. Our programme for 2011 is

listed above. After the conference was closed by Cllr. Linda Silver we had a buffet lunch within the meeting room where small groups discussed further details of the programmes. Cllr Linda Silver invited everybody to visit her Parlour Chamber to view the Twinning charters.

Saturday evening we all met up at the Old Manor for a meal together, we were joined by the Lady Mayor and her consort.



If you are able to host for the events in Potters Bar, please contact Iris Ford on 01707 650105

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