

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - October 2009

Diary Dates

26th -29th November 2009	Conference in Viernheim 10-12 invited
6th December 2009	Christmas Warm Up
7th February 2010	My Climb Up Kilimanjaro
8th March 2010	Annual General Meeting
7th -10th May 2010	Twinning in Viernheim

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)

26th – 29th November 2009

Conference in Veirnheim

A small delegation will visit Viernheim to discuss the forthcoming programme for 2010

6th December 2009

Christmas Warm Up

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the booking of the hall, this year the Christmas Warm Up will be a Special Afternoon Christmas Tea. The event will held in the Lower floor Wylyyotts from 3:00 to 5:00pm at a cost of £3.50 per person. To make sure to

have your place booked please contact Elaine on 01707 659871.

7th February 2010

My Climb Up Kilimanjaro by Martin Wiley

Keep this afternoon free for a very interesting talk. Details to follow in next newsletter

8th March 2010

Annual General Meeting

Full details to following in the next newsletter.

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

Reports on Recent Events

Innenstadtfest 4th – 7th September 2009

On Thursday 3rd September our Chairman, David, picked up his harem consisting of Kate, Lynda and Iris to head for Dover.

We had an enjoyable crossing to Dunkirk and booked into a very comfortable hotel and proceeded to a recommended restaurant for a super meal.

We left after breakfast on Friday for a comfortable journey to Viernheim where we met our hosts for the weekend.

We met at 10am on a dry Saturday morning to help set up "The Potters Bar" with John Munday who had brought the drinks in his car, and Chris and Theresa Dawes who had come via Franconville. It is amazing to see how our German friends set up the electricity for the fridges and lighting, in between the "Bon Jours" and "Guten Tags", with lots of kisses all round. We had large parasols between us and the French stall so when the rain started in the afternoon, just in time for the opening ceremony, we were able to keep dry.



Unfortunately this prevented many young families coming to the festival, but people ventured out in great numbers later and business picked up for us. The last shift finished at 1am and as the band played nearby we were able to enjoy the music with a little singing and dancing during the evening.

We opened our Bar Sunday morning in good weather and finished at about 4 p.m. In between our duties we had time to visit the other stalls, partake of the French crepes and the lovely German meats supplied by a local farmer. This is a fun weekend and we were sorry (as ever) to leave our friends early on Monday morning and drive back to Dunkirk for another good crossing and home to Potters Bar by late evening.

Iris Ford.

Report on a visit to Potters Bar from the 25th to 27th September 2009 By Gisele Certes

On the week end of the 25th, 26th and 27th September 2009, the Association "RENCONTRES" of Franconville organised a trip to England: to Potters Bar a small town on the outskirts of London for 6 of their members.

Thursday 25th September 2009

We all met at 7.45 a.m. at Franconville Station to catch the train to take us to Gare du Nord. After a gliding departure we took our places in the crowded train, as you would expect at that time in the morning, and we arrived at the Gare du Nord at 8.15 a.m. After changing our money and passing customs we took our booked seats on the Eurostar. We got £10 sterling for 11 euro. We learnt that to get to England it was a direct train, just like travelling by car. We arrived without any problems at St. Pancras at 10.36 a.m. local time.

After leaving our baggage at left luggage at King's Cross at a cost of £8.00 per bag we went off to visit London. Monique and Alain left with an English friend whilst Maud, Lorie, Genevieve and I took an English bus towards Trafalgar Square. We

met up with a friend of Maud's, Collin, who lives in London. We ate in a vegetarian restaurant near Piccadilly and we really appreciated our meal.

In the afternoon we visited London on foot and by bus. We particularly admired the shop Liberty's. We abandoned Genevieve in Marks and Spencer's as we had to top up our tans in Hyde Park. After meeting up again with Genevieve, we walked along the South Bank of the Thames, where we admired an elephant on the beach! (An elephant sculptured out of sand by an artist.)

Having said "Goodbye" to Collin, we made our way to Kings Cross to meet Monique and Alain to find our luggage and catch the 16.57 train for Potters Bar, arriving at 17.20. David was there to meet us and take us to "The Old Manor" for a drink and to meet our hosts, Kate, Lynda and Iris and also the German visitors. After a drink we left for the homes of our hosts, Maud and I to Iris's house. At 8 p.m. we went to Lynda's for dinner, where Genevieve was staying, and Kate and Lorie joined us too. Our jolly hosts had together prepared us a delicious meal with plenty of wine. Lively conversation followed on various subjects such as Cliff Richard. Maud and I spent a comfortable night in the home of our dear host Iris.

Saturday 26th September 2009

We got up at 7 a.m. to find Iris already preparing our breakfast, and we left in Joan, a friend of Iris's car for Cockfosters Tube station on the Piccadilly line, where we met all the others. We travelled to Westminster to visit the Museum of Churchill and his War Rooms, which took 2 hours to see. We were amazed at the reconstruction and conservation work done to the place. The maps of Europe and the Secretaries' and soldiers' desks took us back 60 years. Whilst having lunch in a restaurant in the middle of St. James' park we admired all the animals wandering freely around, squirrels, ducks and pelicans.

We spent the afternoon ambling around the streets of London, around St. Paul's and we crossed the pedestrian bridge to see the artists, musicians and painters amongst the crowds, around the Tate Gallery, which we visited and whilst coming out saw many people disguised as animals in fur costumes such as bears, wolves and monkeys. We also watched some Morris dancers. At 6p.m. we returned home by tube, to find Joan's car waiting for us at Cockfosters.



We all met up again at a charming restaurant in Potters Bar where we had a good dinner and a most enjoyable evening, laughing and chatting. At 11 p.m. we said our Good byes, especially to the Germans who we wouldn't be seeing again, and went home to bed.

Sunday 27th September 2009

After a good rest we got up at 9 a.m. and at 10 a.m. Helen, a teacher we had met in Franconville when she bought her class over from Wroxham, came to see us at Iris's. At 11.30 a.m. we said good bye to our hosts with the promise of seeing them again soon.

I have a very good impression of my first trip as a member of the Association "Rencontres". I was overwhelmed at the kindness and friendliness of the English. London was a very welcoming and interesting town. In conclusion such a week end is truly revitalising!

My First Impression of Franconville by Lynda Armsby

At the unearthly hour of 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday 30th September 2009, I set off with David Collins on my first visit to Franconville, having said "Au revoir, a bientot " to my host, Maud only three days earlier when she visited Potters Bar.

After an easy drive down to Dover, arriving with time to spare, we found the restaurants at the docks closed until 6.30 a.m. which fortunately meant only a short wait for an awakening cup of coffee. The Crossing on the LD lines catamaran to Boulogne was fast and smooth and we arrived in fine weather and set off to make our way slowly in order to enjoy the French countryside. We stopped for a most interesting lunch just outside Abbeville at a delightful roadside restaurant, where they did amazing things with strips of courgettes. We continued our journey in bright sunshine arriving in Franconville by 4 p.m. where our first stop was the super market "Cora" as David just couldn't wait to start shopping for wine bargains. Having filled the car we set off for our hosts' homes. I stayed with Maud, who lived very centrally, opposite the Town Hall. She took me to the shopping centre, which was huge, where we ate with Gisele, who had accompanied Maud the previous week end to Potters Bar. Afterwards I went with them to "Choir practice" in the nearby music college of which Gisele's daughter is the Principle. The singing was of a very high standard and they practised for 3 hours. Hopefully we can arrange some "twinning" with music groups in Potters Bar, or perhaps arrange for interested people to attend performances during twinning visits.

After a very good nights' sleep we set off with David and his hosts, Emmanuel and Laurence for Monet's delightful garden in Giverny, only a 45 minute drive from



Franconville. Our visit was breath taking as so many vivid coloured flowers were still out, and of course we went in his house there, where the most striking feature to me was the colour scheme in his kitchen. After a delicious lunch we were taken to view the Seine from high up in the hills and also to see the Chateau, at La Roche-Guyon, which had been Rommels' Head Quarters during the Normandy invasion. That evening I had dinner with a lively group of Maud's English speaking friends. The following day a real treat was in store. David and I were taken to

Auvers sur Oise where Van Gogh had spent his final 70 days. The village has been perfectly restored as has the inn where he had lived. We went in his room, untouched since he died and saw the spot where they hope to hang one of his last three paintings once it has been purchased from America. We saw the village church instantly recognisable from his painting, and also his grave next to his brothers' in the local cemetery in a field nearby. The whole visit was very moving.

That evening we met up with visitors from Viernheim and Kate and Iris and Mr & Mrs Cushion from Potters Bar, at a reception in the Town Hall. The following day



was the main trip of the twinning week end which we all attended, to Provins a medieval walled town near the Champagne region. We had a guided tour which ended in the Tithe Barn where we learnt it was a major centre of trade in the 13th Century which made the Counts of Provins very rich indeed as they took 10% of all deals struck in the town. Once again we enjoyed perfect weather and returned to Franconville in time for the evening entertainment of an American Country style buffet and dance.

Unfortunately the decibel level was too high for most of us, so we had to resort to stuffing serviettes in our ears to protect them. The food however, was amazing, and the music interesting. On Sunday morning a delicious brunch was organised for us before we left, where we had the opportunity to meet up with even more friends and saying our "Au revoirs" before heading home. The friendliness, care taken in organising our trips and the fun we had just being all together, totally overwhelmed me and I can only hope to be invited again.

Obituaries

Wally Pye

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Wally Pye, a founder member of the Potters Bar Town Twinning Association. In the days it was called "The International Friendship Association". Wally was a quiet gentleman who worked tirelessly in the background and organised many of our original twinning visits. Over the last few years ill health prevented Wally from taking an active part, but he was always interested in the current progress of twinning and came to the AGMs as long as possible. But for Wally and the original committee we would not have formed the wonderful friendships with families in Franconville and Viernheim. We send our condolences and best wishes to Avril and her family and would like to thank her for Wally's kind bequest to the Association in his will.

Iris Ford.

Councillor Martin Heywood.

It is great regret I have to report the passing away of Councillor Martin Heywood. He was always a great friend and help to our association. Even though I have only

know him for a relative short time my meetings with him was always full of fun and laughter which I will miss. He was always there to help and support, where he could, our association will deeply miss him. Our sincere condolences and sympathy go to Jean and her family.

David Collins

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