

POTTERS BAR TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Viernheim & Franconville

NEWSLETTER - October 2006

Diary Dates

24th - 26th November 2006

10th December 2006

13th March 2007

11th -13th May 2007

Conference in Viernheim

Christmas Warm Up

A.G.M. – Wylyyotts

Town Twinning Weekend in Viernheim

Conference in Viernheim

24th -26th November 2006

3 members of the committee, 2 teachers from Mount Grace School and a representative from Furzeffield Sports Centre will be attending the conference this year.

Christmas Warm UP

10th December 2006

Once again we meet for our annual Christmas get together in the lower floor of Wylyyotts, from 12.00 – 3.00pm, £3.00 inc light refreshments. Please call David on 020 8482 2534, as we need to know numbers by 3rd December.

Burn-out despair for boules fans

An arson attack left the Gazebo on the Pétanque Pistes in Oakmere Park virtually gutted. Now members have nowhere to shelter until it can be repaired or replaced.

The site has been vandalised by hooligans several times over the past couple of years, with incidences of fires being lit & rubbish dumped.

Two teenage girls were arrested after the gazebo was set alight. Both girls, one aged 14 and the other 18 are from Potters Bar and have been released on police bail.

Reports on Recent Events

INNENSTADTFEST: VIERNHEIM

September 1st-3rd

The weather on Saturday and Sunday was ideal – sunny but not too hot. What a relief, as this followed a stormy and very wet August in Viernheim, as it had been in the UK.

Despite the good weather, concern was expressed by everyone about possible attendance, as Germany was playing Ireland on Saturday evening (Germany won 1-0) and the first few hours were very quiet.

Fortunately not all people are football fans and between 8pm and midnight the townsfolk turned out and business was brisk.

We were again on the site to which we moved last year, right in the heart of things. The major open fronted marquee was set up in front of the old school, with its stage used for the ceremonies and entertainment. Food, drink and conversation could be enjoyed while sitting in the central open air area, round which were various stalls. The stands for the Englischer Club, ourselves, the French and the Italians (Viernheim is also twinned with Rovigo) abutted each other on one side, giving us all

maximum exposure. Because of our 'ring side' position we were also able to enjoy the great variety of entertainment while dispensing our draught, drams and soft drinks. This ranged from a local 'oompah' band to a rock group, a magician and a Big Band with vocalist and we could watch people using the area allotted to dancing. Excellent! We had steady business on Sunday, with the last can of Guinness going five minutes before closing.

As only three members attended – myself, Chris & Michael Dawes – we had geared ourselves up for two very long days. Fortunately Heike and Robert from Potters Bar were visiting Viernheim and gave us their assistance, as did Manfred Fraas who worked with us on Saturday night...(perhaps finding it preferable to sandwich making for the Englischer Club!?) This eased the manning situation.

On a practical note- we really do need at least 6-8 people and so the apathy shown by the membership was disheartening. The Innenstadtfest is always the first weekend of September....easy to earmark well in advance in your diaries....so please do consider taking part next year.

I must say that we all had a lot of laughs, enjoyed chatting with the locals and fraternizing with the French. It's a good way of meeting up with our German and French friends while being part of Viernheim's excellent and lively two-day festival, representing our own town. Many thanks to Wolfgang and members of the Englischer Club for their invaluable help and hospitality as usual.

John Munday

Leeds Castle Weekend.

Friday 6th October to Sunday 8th October 2006.



Our French and German visitors arrived at various times on Friday evening. The first group of French made their way to High Barnet and were met at 6.30 p.m. by their hosts. The evening was to be spent at the homes of the hosts. We, Jo and Bill, had the pleasure of accommodating Annette and Catherine who are long time members of "Jumelage". Friday's weather had been variable to say the least but by the evening it had cleared up. We met at Furzefield at 9.45 on Saturday morning and although a bit windy it was fine and dry. The run to Leeds Castle was smooth and uneventful and we arrived at about 11.30. Our guests were very impressed by the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and the view of the River

Thames. The majority of us made the walk from the coach park to the castle via the "Duckery". This was a pleasant twenty minute stroll with an abundance of water birds and some peacocks to admire on the way. We started our tour of the castle from the wine cellar and gradually made our way through the various galleries, bedrooms, stairways, the library, the chapel, the gloriette, the banqueting rooms and drawing rooms. The furnishings, the paintings, the tapestries were all worthy of our attention and simply oozed history. An added bonus was that it was "The Autumn Gold Flower Show" and all the rooms and passages were beautifully and artistically decorated with displays of autumn flowers and fruits. After lunch we strolled through the Culpeper garden where the gardeners amongst us were loth to leave. However, we arrived at the Falconry just in time to see a display featuring an owl and a hawk. This was very exciting and the falconer's commentary was both informative and amusing. We couldn't resist going into the Maze where we, like everyone else, took some time to find our way to the Grotto and thus to the exit. Our next stop was the Aviary which is well stocked with exotic and unusual birds. Time was running out and we had to make a quick visit to the Dog Collar Museum. This proved to be most interesting and we were sorry that we couldn't stay

longer. It was now time to wend our weary way back to the coach park and of course the souvenir shop. The hardier souls amongst us managed the walk back but some of us succumbed to the luxury of a ride on the road train. A good run back on the very comfortable coach and we were at Furzefield by 6.30. The sun shone the whole day and Monique thanked us for arranging the weather.

The evening was set aside for the hosts to entertain their guests. Some of us had tickets for a Jazz concert in the village hall at Welham Green. The Geoff Eales Quartet with vocalist Natasha Gelston proved to be musicians of a very high quality and soon had the audience foot tapping.

The concert finished at 11.00 p.m. and our very tired guests were glad to get home to bed.

On Sunday we gathered at Wyllyotts for a brunch and after some Bucks Fizz we settled down to an excellent English breakfast. This was prepared by Kate and Joan and their helpers.

As usual there was a buzz of conversation that was often interspersed with bursts of laughter. For some reason "parsnips" became a topic of discussion as was the expression "couch potato". Keith had printed out his excellent photos from the castle visit and they were much admired by the group.

After the meal some of our French friends were taken by their hosts to Cockfosters Tube Station. From there they would make their way to Waterloo to board Eurostar. The German group left from Stansted later in the evening.

Once again we had enjoyed a well-organised and fun weekend and I am sure that we are all grateful to Elaine and the committee for their hard work.

Bill Dougan, 11th Oct. 2006.

Report from News Paper

Obituaries

Dorothy Nimmo

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dorothy Nimmo who died on 14 September 2006. She had suffered from Motor Neurone Disease for the past two years.

She was born in 1938 and lived her early life in Leeds and Lytham St Annes where her father worked as an aircraft inspector. She was one of five children and trained as a nurse in London before going to work in Canada in 1961. Whilst in Canada she was involved with the Expo '67 in Montreal and returned to England in 1968. She married in 1969 and had two children, Richard and Katie.

She kept in touch with many people she met during her nursing days in Canada, her employment at the national office of the Abbeyfield Society in St Albans and a volunteer at the Abbeyfield Potters Bar Donaldson Lodge house. She was a member of the Potters Bar U3A and the Potters Bar Town Twinning Association on whose committee she served for some time. She was a keen Scrabble player and right up to her death, played a mean game.

Her death will leave a gap in many lives. She will be remembered by everyone with affection and missed as a dear and loyal friend.

By June Procter



David Robinson

We were sorry to hear of the sad loss of David Robinson on the 1st September 2006. David and his wife Jenny have supported many events since they joined the association and he will be missed. A card and flowers were taken to Jenny by the Chairman on behalf of the committee and members and our condolences were expressed to Jenny.

Don't forget to visit our web site 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