



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

August 2010

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In this edition of our newsletter are two reports from fellow twinners; one from Terry about his lifelong friends in Ermont; and one from Lorna about her experiences of life and work in Hennef.

Terry wanted to share with us the obvious joy that his Ermont friendship has given him and thank the Association for giving him the opportunity some years ago to create such a lasting friendship, and Lorna wanted to tell us about her experiences in and around Hennef whilst she is also hopefully making those initial steps to creating lifelong friendships.

In so many ways these two stories epitomise what Twinning is all about: giving people the opportunity to experience and develop a greater knowledge and understanding of other cultures, and bringing people of different cultures together to form true and lasting friendships.

Terry and Lorna are wonderful examples to us all as they demonstrate that not only does a greater understanding and knowledge of other cultures create a more peaceful world, it also gives us as individuals the opportunity to create lifelong friendships with all the joy and pleasure that goes with such friendships.

Thank you both for sharing your experiences with us.

Ron Barnett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on 11 March in the Town Hall, with our then President, the Town Mayor of Banbury, Councillor Tina Wren in the Chair.

The meeting received reports from the Chairman, our Ermont coordinator, Verna Wass, and our Hennef coordinator, Ian Preece, outlining the very successful year that had taken place and looking forward to an equally, if not better, year to come, as well as a report from the Treasurer detailing the Association's income and expenditure over the last financial year.

Your officers and committee members elected at the meeting for the current year are as follows:

Officers:

Chairman:	Ron Barnett (01295 278810)
Vice Chairman:	Catherine Jenkinson (01295 750997)
Secretary:	Peter Davis (01295 259671)
Treasurer:	Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404)
Membership Secretary:	Jenny Tustian (01295 254461)

Committee Members:

John Donaldson	(01295 271712)
Ian Preece	(01295 710379)
Sylvia Preece	(01295 710379)
Roger Solesbury	(01295 710316)
Kim Taylor	(01295 252766)
Lloyd Taylor	(01295 252766)
Verna Wass	(01295 758222)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: 8 September 2010 6.30 pm

EVENT: Please contact a committee member or come along to the meeting if there is something you wish to have discussed.

Banbury Canal Day

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Sunday 3 October 2010

Event: We've invited a delegation from our Twin Town of Ermont to visit us for the weekend of Banbury Canal Day. If you'd like further details or would be willing to host one of our guests please contact Verna Wass (E-mail verna.wass@BTInternet.com Tel 01295 758222).

Remembrance Sunday

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Sunday 14 November 2010

Event: Guests from Ermont have been invited to join us for the Annual Service of Remembrance.

Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 17 November 2010 6.30 pm

Event: Please contact a committee member or come along to the meeting if there is something you wish to have discussed.

Hennef Christmas Market

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: Friday 26 to Sunday 28 November 2010

Event: The Association has been invited to send a delegation to visit Hennef's annual Christmas Market. If you are interested, please contact Lloyd Taylor (E-mail Lloydtaylor2001@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01295 252766).

SUCCESS

Annual inter town golf match 13th to 16th May

Friends and golfers set out from Banbury for a four day trip to Ermont. We had a good journey to Dover for the ferry crossing which was very calm.

The journey down to Ermont was made in time for the Official Reception at the Hotel de Ville where we were introduced to our hosts and greeted with champagne. We all then dispersed to their various homes for a meal.

Friday dawned a dull but mild day and the coach delivered the golfers to the Course at Bellefontaine depositing their equipment before taking non-golfers to Senlis, a royal city and then on to Chantilly Castle.

The weather stayed fine and after playing, we were reunited with the rest of the party for a welcome drink and a Buffet Lunch in the Clubhouse. We spent the remainder of the day with our hosts, some meeting up for a Chinese meal and others elsewhere with their hosts.

On Saturday more golf was on offer but otherwise we were entertained in various ways by our hosts. The scheduled evening event/prize giving was held at Ablieges Golf Club where an excellent buffet supper was provided along with the prize giving. Nearest the Pin - Pauline Hawley; Longest drive - Jean Paul Pegorier; Best Overall - Malcolm Nutt; Runner up John Donaldson.

After the prize giving there was a Karaoke with everyone joining in and some rather energetic dancing late into the night.

On Sunday morning we all met at the Hotel de Ville to say good bye to our hosts, finishing with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Our owner/driver Martin tried to catch an earlier ferry but unfortunately just missed it giving us a one-and-a-half hour wait.

We had very heavy rain on the M25 but arrived in Banbury at 6.00 p.m. Another very enjoyable if tiring four days had passed in a flash and our thanks go to Garth Jeremy and the Twinning Committee for making this trip possible.

Anyone who feels that this type of trip might be for them would be made very welcome by contacting the Twinning Association.

Brian Hill

Lasting friendships

A line to let you know that the family Colas, from Ermont, whom I met about 23 years ago, and with whom I am still in regular contact with, recently invited me and my wife Debby to the wedding of their daughter Barbara.

I met Barbara when she was just 3 !! and it was at her request that we were to attend but that she expected us to entertain the guests...

The celebrations lasted for three days highlighting on the Saturday with a dinner for 150 guests. It was during the dinner that we (Debby and I) were asked to entertain between the starter and the fish !! Two sketches and a song in French plus a poem in English later and we had made another big step in Anglo-French relations.

A wonderful time was had by all especially Debby and I .And all this because of a twinning visit all those years ago.

Friendship is a wonderful thing. Many thanks to the Twinning Association for the part it played.

Terry Andrews

Life in Hennef

My name is Lorna Stephen and I come from a little village outside of Banbury called Aston-le-Walls. After completing my A-levels at Chenderit School last June I am now spending part of my gap year here in Hennef before going to Sheffield University to study Modern Languages.

The fact that Hennef is very similar (in both size and population) to Banbury makes it feel like a home from home. My host family have done everything possible to immediately make me feel comfortable and my new au pair/nannyng job is both exciting and a new life experience. Certainly a far cry from the waitressing I was doing throughout my studies!

Luckily for me my two passions of music and languages are being very well catered for. Almost every weekend there is some type of concert to be found, whether it be in the Mey Fabrik or local church, and of course the music in the bars and pubs! Everyone is under strict instructions to speak German to me and always correct my mistakes; however I don't mind helping them practise their English every once in a while!

With regard to location I couldn't be happier. Half an hour on the train takes me to Köln (and all the good shops) whereas 20minutes in the other direction takes me to cultural Bonn and, my personal favourite, the museums-mile.

After being told that snow was rare in these parts we were promptly landed with 4 weeks of the stuff! Even so, the weather did little to hinder Karneval celebrations across the Rhineland area. 'Karneval' is something one has to take part in to fully appreciate; - the costumes, Kölsch (local beer) and comedy, the parties, Rosenmontag Zug and the song... it all adds up to one cracking atmosphere. I would come back every year if I could!

After almost two months here I am feeling very settled in. Having joined two choirs (including the Vokalensemble that have sung in Banbury), starting a Swedish course and finding a lovely group of friends, the social diary is filling up and I'm really looking forward to the next few months!

Now all we need is a partner town in Spain so I can brush up on the other side of my languages...!!

Schöne Grüße aus Deutschland!

Lorna Stephen. 01.03.2010

Europawoche in Hennef

Thursday 17 June saw the arrival in Hennef of delegations from Le Pecq, Nowy Dwór Gdańskia, and Banbury to partake of their Europawoche activities.

On Friday we were all taken to the Volcanic Museum in Andernach on the Rhine, and after an interesting exploration of the museum we went on a short boat ride to visit the world's tallest cold water geyser. Following which we had lunch in Nickenich before visiting the Maria Laach monastery and returning to Hennef for a reception in Meys Fabrik.

We finished the afternoon in the Market Place enjoying the entertainment provided by Banbury's very own "Spank the Monkey", and then spent the evening with our host families.



Saturday morning everyone again climbed aboard the coach for a trip to Stadt Blankenberg, followed by another enjoyable afternoon in Hennef Market Place with more entertainment from "Spank the Monkey".

In the evening guests of all nationalities and our host families gathered at Hennef Gesamtschule for a communal meal and more entertainment including an international sing-along.

Sunday morning we all gathered once again in Meys Fabrik for a panel discussion on the subject of "Nature, Culture, Climate beyond Frontiers", after which we all had lunch together in the Market Place before the various groups of different nationalities departed for the return journey home.

Honorary Member

The Association has been in existence for over 30 years, and during much of that time it cannot have escaped the attention of anyone who has been involved with visits to Banbury by our friends from Ermont or Hennef that we have received tremendous help and support from one person in particular.

Someone who is always there working away in the background seeking no reward of any kind for herself. Someone without whom things would simply not be the same.

In recognition of the support given to the Association for many years the Committee has made Tricia Campbell the Association's first honorary life member.

We're all very appreciative and extremely grateful for all the support that Tricia gives to the Association.



THINGS TO COME

BBQ and Swim

Next year it will be our turn to host our friends from Ermont for their golfing visit, and Brian and Hazel Croft are very kindly hosting a BBQ & SWIMMING PARTY at their home (1 The Bothy, Aynho), on Saturday 21st August to help raise funds to provide entertainment for our guests.

The Swimming is not compulsory (but the water is guaranteed to be lovely and warm). The fellowship is warm and this is a great way to get to know your fellow members better.

You'd be very welcome to come along, tickets cost £10 and please book in advance so that the food can be arranged by calling Brian and Hazel on 01869 810517.

Some help with salads and puddings would be appreciated and if we can raise enough prizes from the bottom drawer we'll also have a tombola.

Hennef Christmas Market

We are planning a visit to Hennef for their fantastic Christmas Market on 26 to 28 November 2010. This really is an experience not to be missed.

If you're interested in joining us please contact Lloyd Taylor (E-mail LloydTaylor2001@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01295 252766).