



# Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that 2006 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Banbury's twinning with Hennef. As well as a time for celebration, this is also a time to remember those dear friends who played such a vital part in the development of the links between our two towns and who are sadly no longer with us.

Perhaps more importantly it is a time to look to the future, to make plans to ensure the continuation of the ever growing mutual knowledge and understanding of the peoples of Hennef, Ermont and Banbury.

To this end it is vital that every effort is made to include young people in twinning activities. Already Banbury United Youth Teams have regular exchange matches with Hennef teams, Banbury School students are involved in exchange projects with Hennef students and plans are in hand for students from St. Mary's Primary School to visit Ermont next autumn. But there is more to do.

We owe it to future generations to ensure that they can live in a peaceful world full of understanding and friendship.

Ron Barnett

## A TIME TO CELEBRATE

We are about to embark on two years of celebrations; firstly in 2006 we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our link with Hennef; and then in 2007 we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our link with Ermont.

I'm sure that all of us have a treasure trove of memories of the events we have attended and the people we have met over the past 25 years of twinning. I suspect there are also many photographs tucked away in drawers some of which show us looking much younger than today!

Why not share your memories and photo's with us all, and if we get enough contributions perhaps we could produce a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet.

If you're into the world of computers, scanners and the internet please send your contributions to [Banbury.Twinning@BTInternet.com](mailto:Banbury.Twinning@BTInternet.com). If all this new fangled stuff is not your style please send contributions to 39 Waterloo Drive, Banbury OX16 3QN.

Go on, write down all those funny stories that you've told at dinner parties over the past 25 years and let's all remember all the happy times we've enjoyed together.

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We wish you all

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Un Joyeux Noël et un Bonne Année

Ein Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Frohes Neues Jahr



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Banbury Artists work Exhibited in Ermont

PLACE: Ermont

DATE: 19 December 2005

Event: Five Banbury artists have had their work selected to be exhibited in a "Hommage à Vincent Van Gogh" exhibition in Ermont..

### Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: TOWN HALL

DATE: Thursday 19 January 2006 6:30pm

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

### Football Club Youth Teams Visit Hennef

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: January 2006

EVENT: Banbury United Football Club Youth Teams have been invited to take part in a youth football tournament in Hennef. Further details can be obtained from Paul Jones (01295 254027).

### Association Annual General Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 16 March 2006 7:30pm

Event: This is your opportunity to contribute to the future success of the Association, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

### Ermont Annual Golf Match

PLACE: Ermont

DATE: Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 May 2006.

Event: Our annual golf match with Ermont will be held in Ermont. As well as golfers who are willing to uphold the honour of Banbury, we are also looking for folk who simply want to visit Ermont and have an enjoyable weekend. If you are interested, please contact Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404).

## SUCCESS

### Fêtes de Jumelages in Ermont

Earlier this year we posed the question: "do the French know how to organise a party?" I'm sure everyone who took part in our visit to Ermont for the "Fêtes de Jumelages" in October would answer with a resounding **yes**.

The "Fêtes de Jumelages" is an annual event held jointly between Ermont and its inter twinned partners in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Italy. This year it was Ermont's turn to host it and we were invited, together with Ermont's new twinning partner town in Spain.

The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with "Une Grande Soirée Européene". Over 700 people sat down to dine in the large hall at the Theatre Pierre Fresnay. The four course meal, followed by coffee and petits fours was sumptuous, well worthy of a high class restaurant despite being on such a huge scale. Between courses we were treated to music and dance performances ranging from rustic clog dancers from Holland, through spangly French cabaret acts to smouldering sophisticated Spanish Flamenco.

During Saturday most people did their own thing with host families, many coming along to the Town Hall for the grape pressing; presided over by Msr Le Sénateur-Maire Hugues Portelli, in boater and striped apron.



Dusk found us gathering, replete from meals with our hosts (some of us even between courses), for the annual "Fête des Vendanges"; a traditional evening street festival culminating in a spectacular firework display staged on the roof of the theatre. Much to the delight and amusement of the local officials, Banbury was represented in the procession by the Fine Lady hobby horse, complete with her Fool in attendance.

On Sunday morning the groups from all seven nations came together for an ecumenical international church service, and by lunchtime the catering team were in action again, producing barbecue food on a massive scale at one of the local sports centres. The gazebo erected to cover the diners at table could have housed a locomotive, and individual teams stationed at intervals along it beavered away spit roasting and grilling. The wine, as ever flowed freely, and a good time was had by all.

During the weekend Deputy Mayor John Donaldson, Tony Baldry MP, and I spent some time visiting public facilities in Ermont, and discussing future projects with local councillors. One result of this is that a Banbury primary school plans to use a sports hostel for a residential visit in Autumn 2006, linking up with a local primary school. We hope that this will be a starting point for more educational links, and would like to hear of any schools in Banbury interested in such a project.

John and Tony have also pledged their support to help build our links with Ermont, with the aim of celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Twinning in style in 2007.

Members who would like to know more about Ermont should phone or fax Verna Wass on 01295 758222, write to her at 3, Chapel Row, Cropredy, Banbury OX17 1NS, **text** her on 07831 632206 or e-mail: [verna.wass@btinternet.com](mailto:verna.wass@btinternet.com).

### **Hennef at Banbury Remembrance Day**

We were again delighted to have Gudrun Schwellenbach representing both the Mayor of Hennef and the Hennef twinning Association join us for the Town's annual Act of Remembrance on 13 November.

### **Art in Ermont**

Ermont's main art society L'Art en Vie is currently staging a major exhibition: "Hommage à Vincent Van Gogh". Artists in the Town were invited to submit work in a range of media inspired by the work of Van Gogh. This invitation was extended to all of Ermont's twinning partners, and Banbury artists exceeded all others with 5 local artists being selected.

The successful artists, Margot Bell, Belinda Ellis, Lis Mann, Gemma Challenger and Christine O'Sullivan, are setting up their work in Ermont, as guests of L'Art en Vie, ready for the opening on 20th December. The exhibition runs until 7th January.

## THINGS TO COME

### **A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS**

Preparations for celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twinning with Hennef are well under way.

There are a number of sporting events, especially junior football exchanges, starting in January.

In April, a group of students from Hennef will take part in a Theatre Arts workshop at Banbury School.

There is a visit to Hennef on June 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, by Hook Norton Brass Band, for a concert to re-open Blankenberg Castle after refurbishment. There may be some spare seats on the bus for members wishing to go on a social visit. Contact Ian or Ron if you are interested.

In July, we have a visit from a dancing troupe who will take part in the Hobby Horse Festival.

Ongoing throughout the year, embroiderers in Banbury, Hennef, and twin towns in Poland and France, are already busy producing a commemorative tapestry (20 metres long!!) representing life in those towns. The tapestry will officially be presented at a ceremony in Hennef in September, and will come to Banbury later in the year.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, Banbury Operatic Society will be taking a musical production to Hennef.

As a climax to the celebrations, on 11 November there will be a performance of Handel's 'Messiah' "from scratch" in St. Mary's Church, with singers from Banbury and Hennef. In order to make this event a success, we need as many singers as possible. If you sing or have sung in a choir or other group, then we need you! If you know anyone else who sings, or you have contacts with any local choirs, please spread the word! If you just want to come along and listen or join in, then please, please do so. We want the year to finish with a great flourish!

You will appreciate that this programme needs a lot of organisation and support from the whole Association and beyond. Please do all you can to support the events, not least in the matter of providing accommodation during the year to Hennef visitors. We really do need your cooperation.

We are confident that this will be a year to remember, and we would like you to be part of it!

Members who would like to know more about Hennef should phone Ian Preece on 01295 710379, write to him at 44 Chacombe Road, Middleton Cheney, Banbury OX17 2QU or e-mail: [Preece44@aol.com](mailto:Preece44@aol.com)

## HELP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We frequently receive requests from both Ermont and Hennef to help find a range of work experience placements for young people wanting to improve their English.

They often need short term lodgings for the duration of their stay. It would be helpful if we could compile a register of possible placements so If you can help, or know someone else who can please get in touch.

If you are able to help either phone or fax Verna Wass on 01295 758222, write to her at 3, Chapel Row, Cropredy, Banbury OX17 1NS, **text** her on 07831 632206 or e-mail: verna.wass@btinternet.com, or phone Ian Preece on 01295 710379, write to him at 44 Chacombe Road, Middleton Cheney, Banbury OX17 2QU or e-mail: Preece44@aol.com

## FRENCH & GERMAN TIES

We have a stock of both French and German "twinning" ties and also similar ladies head squares. They are extremely reasonable prices at £8.00 per tie and £6.50 per head square and make excellent gifts for host families.

To purchase one or several of these please contact Gareth Jeremy on 01295 266404.

Hurry while stocks last.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions are due on 1 January each year. Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership Application/Renewal Form. If this could be completed and returned to Gareth as soon as possible it will ensure that you are kept up to date with our activities, and also help ensure the continued success of the Association.

## AND FINALLY.....

In an age when we are all encouraged to be entrepreneurs this advert must take first prize!

