



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

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February 2008

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Enclosed with this newsletter are invitations to attend both the Association's Annual Dinner on Friday 4th April and our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 13th March 2008.

The Annual General Meeting is an important event in our calendar as it is your opportunity to elect your officers and committee and make your views known about the future activities of the Association.

This year we are also organising a display of events that have taken place so that we can all share in the tremendous warmth of friendship that has been developed between the peoples of Ermont, Hennef and Banbury. This is intended to be an open exhibition so please bring along your memorabilia of Twinning for us all to share.

It would be a genuine pleasure to see all our members on the 13th sharing with each other the very many happy memories they have of friendships with our Twin Towns.

Twinning is a totally non-political world-wide movement aimed at bringing about world peace through knowledge, understanding and friendship. Every new friendship made is another step towards that goal, so let us all try and make at least one new friend during the coming year.

Ron Barnett

BANBURY'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY

Having celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our links with Hennef in 2006 and the 25th Anniversary of those with Ermont in 2007, we now have the opportunity to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the granting of a Charter to Banbury by James I on 28th June 1608.

The Town Council, in collaboration with numerous Banbury groups and organisations has drawn up a magnificent programme of events taking place throughout this year of celebration.

The Town Mayor elect, Councillor Ann Bonner, particularly wants our friends from Ermont and Hennef to join us in celebrating this anniversary.

It is also pleasing to report that the Town Council has agreed that the Banbury Tapestry produced as part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations is to be kept on permanent display in the Town Hall.

We are delighted to announce that friends from Ermont and Hennef have been invited to join us in Banbury for the official unveiling of the Banbury Tapestry in its new permanent home, and celebrate our anniversary with us in June.

Further details are available later in this newsletter.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATES: Thursday 13 March 2008, 7:30pm.

EVENT: This is your opportunity to hear about events which have taken place during the last year and elect your Committee for the coming year. It would be good to see as many of you as possible, so please come and join us.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

PLACE: Rose & Crown Charlton

DATE: Friday 4 April 2008 7:00pm

Event: You are cordially invited to attend the Association's Annual Dinner. Full details are enclosed with this newsletter, places are limited so contact Jenny Tustian (01295 254461), as soon as possible so as not to be disappointed.

ERMONT ANNUAL GOLF MATCH

PLACE: Ermont

DATE: Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 May 2008.

EVENT: This year's inter town golf match is taking place in Ermont. Full details are available later in this newsletter. This trip is open to non-golfers who would like to visit Ermont. Further details from Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404).

HENNEF EUROPAWOCHE

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: 30 May to 1 June 2008.

Event: An opportunity to enjoy some international friendship and entertainment. Full details are available later in this newsletter. Further details from Ian Preece (01295 710379).

BANBURY FESTIVAL OF ARTS WEEK

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: 23 to 29 June 2008.

Event: This week of events is part of the celebrations for the 400th Anniversary of the granting of a charter to Banbury, and guests from both Ermont and Banbury have been invited to unveil the Banbury Town Tapestry and join in the celebrations. Further details available later in this newsletter.

SUCCESS

Ermont 25th Anniversary visit to Banbury

In July 2007 Les Chevaliers d'Ermont graced us with their illustrious presence for a weekend of festivities centred around Banbury Hobby Horse Festival and Town Mayor's Sunday.

Our guests had particularly requested a weekend which would enable them to experience Banbury's own heritage. The weekend opened with a formal dinner to celebrate 25 years of twinning between us, at which we presented our friends from Ermont with a Banbury flag to mark our 25th Anniversary.



The weekend programme included a guided walk of historic Banbury with Brian Little, a chance to experience that very English art of change ringing as the St. Mary's band attempted to ring a quarter peal in honour of the occasion.

At a truly British ceilidh hosted by the Hobby Horse Festival our guests really let their hair down. Video footage of Ermont's great and good performing an Egyptian sand dance to the "Old Bazaar in Cairo" could well ruin political careers if it ever fell into the wrong hands!



Our guests handled their steeds well in the mayoral procession for Town Mayor's Sunday really entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Adorned as Chevaliers de France, they were mounted on four fine jousting horses originally made at Eton College for a production of Parsifal.

These beasts are now in the care of Banbury Hobby Horse Festival, earning their keep with the odd appearance in theatre or opera.

Our guests were finally entertained to an al fresco buffet in People's Park. They were fulsome in their praise of the hospitality they received, and were very favourably impressed with the catering!

Very many thanks to all those who hosted our visitors, and who helped with such thankless tasks as putting up (and taking down) the gazebo in the park. You know who you are.

Banbury 25th Anniversary visit to Ermont

September found us in Ermont for the return match.

Travelling out via Boulogne we spent a very happy, if rather soggy, hour exploring the gastronomic and historic delights of the old city. At Ermont's l'Hotel de Ville we were welcomed and presented with commemorative rugby balls, before being whisked off by our hosts to prepare for a theatrical evening.



Saturday morning found us, accompanied by the Ermont Town Band, crowding onto a traffic island in an attempt to see just how many people could be photographed with a street sign inscribed "Rond Point de Banbury". This was followed by a sumptuous luncheon to commemorate the 25th anniversary.

As course followed course, and bottle followed bottle, we were entertained at our tables by a magician. An artist circulated sketching caricatures of the group. I am told the Banbury Guardian is keen to feature these on a weekly basis in exchange for a small contribution to our funds!

After a short break for sightseeing, recuperation and supper (!!!!) with our hosts, we gathered again for the evening procession of the "Fête des Vendanges".

I am not quite sure how Bloxham Morris managed to get off the ground in their dancing, but the evidence is on YouTube, and I am pleased to say the reception from the Ermont crowd was fantastic. The fireworks as ever were awesome.

Sunday morning was relaxed, with a buffet lunch at one of Ermont's many sports centres. This one was once a social club for one of Ermont's companies, and has a pleasing air of faded grandeur. It really was very hard to tease ourselves away, but a stop off in Amiens on the return journey provided a pleasing end to the weekend.

Verna Wass
Ermont Coordinator

Impromptu in Hennef

On Thursday 13th September 2007 a group of 12 singers from Impromptu boarded a plane at Birmingham airport bound for Hennef. This was a somewhat daunting prospect to some of the group because although we are used to performing locally this was altogether something much more "up market", almost scary!

Nothing could have been further from the truth, our stay in Hennef was wonderful – the welcome, the hospitality, the appreciation, the fun, I could go on and on. It was a truly remarkable visit.

The concert on Friday evening was at Meys Fabrik, a factory converted into a concert hall, a really good place to sing and a very appreciative audience as well. It was also good to be part of a programme with our hosts and a nice touch to end the evening with a joint rendition of the European Hymn. The concert raised €1400 for "Hennefer Tafel".

The Sunday morning performance at Margot Bell's art exhibition was also very interesting it could almost have been called a Promenade Performance, it being difficult to separate singers from audience.

All members of the group agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable visit.

Alan Cooper
Impromptu Chairman

THINGS TO COME

Association Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner is being held on Friday 4 April at the Rose & Crown Charlton. There is a choice from an excellent menu, and the promise of some convivial company, all at a cost of £21.

Numbers are limited due to space availability so it's first come first served for the lucky 30 people who contact Jenny Tustian to book their places.

Full menu details and a booking form are enclosed with this newsletter.

Ermont Annual Golf Match 2008

This year's inter town annual golf match is taking place in Ermont, and arrangements have been made for a coach to travel to Ermont on Thursday 1st May and return on Sunday 4th May.

We are hoping that about 28 golfers will wish to make up the Banbury Team, and with a 50 seat coach there will be plenty of room for non golfers wishing to enjoy a visit to our friends in Ermont.

We are hoping to have at least 40 people on the trip at a maximum cost of about £110, with a £10 discount for Association members. The cost will be pro rata depending on numbers so the more we have the cheaper it will be.

Further details and a booking form can be obtained from Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404), further information about Association membership can be obtained from Jenny Tustian (01295 254461).

Europawoche in Hennef

We have the opportunity to visit Hennef to celebrate Europawoche (Europe Week), from 30th May to 1st June, along with other visitors from Hennef's twin towns of Le Pecq (France), and Nowy Dwór Gdański (Poland).

Many of the activities are centred around the Market Place where there will be stalls, displays and a large open-air stage with music and dance involving participants from all four towns, all in a very festive atmosphere.

If you know of a music or dance group who might be interested in taking part, please let Ian Preece (01295 710379), know as soon as possible.

On the Saturday they have organised a multi-national sporting event with:-

- Half Marathon
- 10,000 metres
- Short Fun Runs and Walks
- And even a 900 metre dog walk!

All these events are open to anyone and designed for all levels of ability, the emphasis being on taking part rather than breaking records!

Does this appeal to you, either in taking part or enjoying watching others? Then contact Ian Preece (01295 710379).

It would be good to have a representation from Banbury and you would have to opportunity to sample the legendary hospitality of our friends in Hennef.

Ian Preece
Hennef Coordinator

Banbury 400th Charter Anniversary

This year is the 400th Anniversary of the granting of a Charter to Banbury by James I on 28th June 1608. To mark this event the Town Council has organised a programme of events throughout the year involving numerous Banbury organisations and societies.

One of these events is a Festival of Arts week from Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th June, and the Town Mayor elect, Councillor Ann Bonner, is very keen to welcome guests from both Ermont and Hennef to be part of this celebration.

I'm sure those of you who saw it will remember the excellent tapestry that was produced by ladies from the Embroiderers' Guild. Having finished its tour of Hennef, Le Pecq and Nowy Dwór Gdański, the Banbury Tapestry is to have a permanent home in the Town Hall, and a ceremony is being arranged for its unveiling on Friday 27th June.

This promises to be an excellent weekend with our guests with events and visits focused purely on Banbury. We will, of course, be relying on the traditionally tremendous friendship of Banburians to host our visitors. So if you are interested in hosting old friends, meeting new friends and taking part in an enjoyable weekend, please either contact Verna Wass (01295 758222) or Ian Preece (01295 710379).

A letter from a friend

Hello I'm Patrick Huhn and 14 years old. My birthday is the first of March 1993. I live in Hennef (Germany). I'm in the 9th class on the gymnasium of Hennef.

My hobbies are music and PC. In my free time I play the acoustic and electric guitar and I'm also playing in an orchestra. My favourite bands are Iron Maiden and Judas Priest.

My favourite kind of sport is football. I play it over 6 years. For a while I played volleyball, but it was not the right sport for me. Now I'm looking for another sport, I'm thinking of something like jiu-jitsu.

Sometimes I play on my PC or chat with friends.

Now to main topics.

2 years ago I stood with the twinning association for my first time in Banbury. In the next summer holidays I want to visit Banbury for 2 weeks again. It may help me to practice my English language. I would like to join a family with child/children of my age.

After this visit it can be changed, so next time your children may come to Germany.

It would be nice if I can visit you in July.

Many regards

Patrick Huhn

Is anyone able to help this young man? If so please contact Jenny Tustian (01295 254461)

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.