



# Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

January 2007

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At the turn of the year it is customary to look back over the closing year and make resolutions for the New Year.

There can be little doubt that 2006 was a wonderfully successful year for Banbury twinning, and this is entirely due to the hard work and commitment of all those involved together with the support and encouragement of the Town Mayors and the Town Council. We therefore offer a very big thank you to each and every one of you.

So what can we hope for in 2007?

Undoubtedly another successful year celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Banbury's twinning with Ermont. But during all these celebrations let us not forget that Twinning is all about bringing peace and harmony to the world through better understanding and friendship between people of different nations.

So perhaps the best resolution we can make for 2007 is to extend the hand of friendship to someone new at every opportunity, and to open our minds so that we may better understand the views and traditions of people with different ones to our own.

Ron Barnett

## A TIME TO CELEBRATE

With the close of 2006 we conclude the celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Banbury's twinning with Hennef, and look forward to celebrating 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 join us for our '25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner' on 10 March at the Banbury House Hotel.

The evening is a celebration of the work done by everyone who has been involved with Banbury's twinning over the past 25 years. Tickets are limited so please book your place as soon as possible.

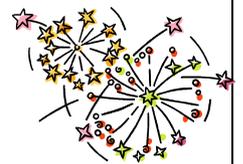
For further details and to book your place please contact Jenny Tustian on 01296 254461.

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We wish you all  
a Happy New Year  
un Bonne Année  
ein Frohes Neues Jahr



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Association Committee Meeting**

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 18 January 2007 7:30pm

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

### **Banbury Youth Football in Hennef**

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: 27 – 28 January 2007

Event: Youth football teams from Banbury United will again be visiting Hennef to take part in a Youth Football Tournament. Further details can be obtained from Paul Jones (01295 254027).

### **25th Anniversary Gala Dinner**

PLACE: Banbury House Hotel

DATE: Saturday 10 March 2007 7:00pm

Event: A celebration of 25 years of friendship and hard work for all Banbury twinning and friends. Further details can be obtained from Jenny Tustian (01295 254461).

### **Annual Ermont Golf Match**

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 May 2007

EVENT: Golfers and friends for Ermont will be visiting Banbury to play our annual inter-town golf match. Further details from Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404).

### **Hobby Horse Festival & Town Mayor's Sunday**

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Friday 6 to Monday 9 July 2007

Event: Friends from Ermont will be joining us in Banbury to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Twinning. Further details can be obtained from Verna Wass (01295 258222).

### **Ermont Fête des Vendanges**

PLACE: Ermont

DATE: Friday 28 to Sunday 30 September 2007.

Event: We are invited to take part in Ermont's annual Fête des Vendanges and celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Twinning. Further details from Verna Wass (01295 258222).

## SUCCESS

Since our last newsletter we have enjoyed a whole series of events celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our link with Hennef.

### **Students from Hennef visit Banbury**

In May a group of students from Hennef were hosted by Banbury School. The students took part in a joint project with Banbury School students and it is hoped that this will be the start of many such exchanges between the two schools.

### **Hook Norton Brass Band in Hennef**

In June Hook Norton Brass Band and representatives of the Twinning Association visited Hennef for a weekend of celebrations.

The weekend was a tremendous success and included a visit to Cologne, a concert by the band in Hennef Market Place and culminated with a 'picnic in the park' and open air concert excellently performed by Hook Norton Brass Band.

### **Football World Cup in Hennef**

At the same time as Hook Norton Brass Band was in Hennef, a coach full of Banbury United officials and supporters was in Hennef for the start of the World Cup matches.

The atmosphere in Cologne for this event was absolutely fantastic. Good natured football fans from many countries were thronging the streets where many of the squares were set up with big screens, beer and food stalls for all to see the opening matches.

It is very pleasing to report that the fans from England were excellent ambassadors for the country and the whole atmosphere was one of a fun carnival.

### **Hennef Bürgermeister in Banbury**

In July the Hennef Bürgermeister Klaus Pipke and representatives of the Hennef Twinning Association visited Banbury for the annual Hobby Horse weekend and Town Mayor's Sunday.

### **Twin Town Tapestry Unveiling in Hennef**

Representatives for Banbury were present in Hennef for the unveiling of the Twin Town Tapestry. The Tapestry contains tableaux from Banbury, Hennef and Hennef's Twin Towns

of Le Pecq and Nowy Dwór Gdanski, each of which had been designed and embroidered in its home town.

The pictures for the Banbury section of the tapestry were designed by local primary school children and we are planning to have the Tapestry on display in Banbury in the Spring.

### **Music and Celebrations in Hennef**

October saw the Banbury Operatic Society and a party of twinnings visit Hennef to give a performance of their latest show, 'An Evening of Songs and Snatches', and take part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

Performing the first theatrical production to take place in a newly rebuilt hall, the performance was rapturously received by an enthusiastic audience.

The following day the whole party was taken on a trip to the Ahr Valley for wine tasting and lunch. There is a saying in Germany to the effect that if you've been to the Ahr Valley wine tasting and can remember it – you have not been to the Ahr Valley wine tasting! So it was inevitable that everyone had a great time.

In the evening a special reception was held to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Banbury/Hennef Twinning at which the Hennef hospitality was again in abundance along with some more entertainment by our friends from the Operatic Society.

### **Music and Celebrations in Banbury**

November saw the climax of our year of celebration with sixty friends from Hennef visiting Banbury for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

The celebrations started with a Dinner hosted by the Mayor of Banbury, Councillor John Donaldson, in the Town Hall on the Friday evening.

Whilst many of the Hennef visitors rehearsed for the Saturday evening performance, others were given a guided tour of Banbury by local historian Brian Little.

The highlight of the visit was a performance of Handel's "Messiah" from scratch in St Mary's Church on Saturday evening when under the direction of Philip Shaw and accompanied by the Cherwell Orchestra with professional soloists a massed choir of Banbury and Hennef singers gave a magnificent performance.

On Sunday morning our Hennef guests joined the Town Mayors Parade to take part in the Town's Annual Act of Remembrance. And then in the evening hosts and their

guests came together for a 'Songs of Praise' service in the Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

When the bus left on the Monday morning, there was no mistaking the positive feeling of friendship on all sides.

## THINGS TO COME

### **Another Year of Celebration**

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

In July, we have invited friends from Ermont to join us for the Town's annual Hobby Horse Festival and Town Mayor's Sunday. We are hoping that some of our guests will be brave enough to be dressed as hobby horses and take part in the parade.

Hopefully they will also be willing to enter for the Hobby Horse races. Perhaps some of us should go into training and enter a Banbury Twinning team as well.

In September we have been invited to visit Ermont for the Town's annual Fête des Vendanges. Our friends in Ermont have offered to make a float for us to 'man' in their parade. So this will definitely be a visit not to be missed.

Anyone interested in further details of these events should contact Verna Wass on 01295 258222 or e-mail [Verna.Wass@BTInternet.com](mailto:Verna.Wass@BTInternet.com).

## 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.

## SPRECHEN SIE ENGLISCH?

We have had a request from Hennef for someone to go and stay with a family and help their son improve his English. Obviously this would be a stay of more than just a few days and could suit a student wishing to improve their German or a retired person. For further details please contact Ian Preece on 01295 710279 or e-mail [preece44@aol.com](mailto:preece44@aol.com).