



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

July 2009

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is clear that friendships, knowledge and understanding continue to develop between the people of Banbury, Ermont and Hennef, and I'm sure that those who founded the Association in 1978 would be proud of what has been achieved since then.

But, one may ask, do these links between towns of different nations matter as much today as they did 30 years ago?

I suspect that the answer to this question lies not in looking back but in looking forward and asking ourselves what sort of world do we want for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Again I suspect that most of us will want them to inherit a world of peace, a world of mutual respect and understanding, and a world where people of every nation work together for the benefit of each other.

If that is the case then most of us share the aims of the Twinning movement which is precisely to achieve these objectives. We can all in some way help to shape the future and what better way can there be than making new friends in other countries.

Ron Barnett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on 12 March in the Town Hall, with our then President, the Town Mayor of Banbury, Councillor Ann Bonner 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)
Brian Hill	(01295 670276)
Paul Jones	(01295 254027)
Tony Mephram	(01295 264246)
Ian Preece	(01295 710379)
Sylvia Preece	(01295 710379)
Roger Solesbury	(01295 710316)
Verna Wass	(01295 758222)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chairman's Message
- 1 Annual General Meeting
- 2 Calendar of Events
- 2 Success
- 3 Things to come

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Banbury to Ermont Cycle Ride

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: 31 July 2009

EVENT: Ben Allcock sets out to cycle to Ermont (see Things to Come).

Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 3 September 2009 6.300 pm

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

Association Dinner

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: 11 September 2009

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

Vokalensemble in Banbury

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Friday 2 to Monday 5 October 2009

Event: The choir will perform a concert with Impromptu and at Banbury Canal Day.

Remembrance Sunday

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Sunday 8 November 2009

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

Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 19 November 2009 6.300 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 27 to Sunday 29 November 2009

Event: The Association has been invited to send a delegation to visit Hennef's annual Christmas Market. If you are interested, please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379).

SUCCESS

Annual inter town golf match

Sadly as most hosts will know, our Ermont Twinning friends did not pay their usual bi-annual visit to Banbury this May for the Golf Match.

However, it was decided that as the Golf Course, food and days off work had all been booked, that those of us who play golf would still go ahead and take advantage of the booked date.

1st May started off a bit cloudy for our visit to Wychwood Golf Club, where 5 ladies and 27 gentlemen attended for a game of golf. Unfortunately, two of our lady golfers (Sylvia Manning and Barbara Davies), were indisposed.

The weather picked up and teams were sorted and so off we went. The Course was in lovely condition and everyone I think made the most of it even though our French friends were not with us.

On completing the game, we came in to a nice lunch and long awaited drink followed by a Prize Giving organised by Gareth.

Prizes were given to Margaret English for Ladies Longest Drive and Best Overall Lady Player, to John Moreward for Longest Drive and Overall Best Male Player, and to Ian Preece for Nearest the Pin.

Those who were able to later attended a Social Supper Evening at North Oxford Golf Club which included some NOGC Members providing entertainment and also some Whisky sampling which all helped to round off a very enjoyable day.

Our thanks go to all who took part in the day's events. Please keep a lookout for our dates for our Golf Match with Ermont next year.

Brian Hill

Mandolinenorchester in Banbury

Friday 29 May saw the arrival in Banbury of the Mandolinenorchester Hennef-Kurscheid 1924 e.V. to be greeted by the Town Mayor, Councillor Tina Wren, their hosts and members of the Twinning Association.

The Mandolinenorchester had visited Banbury on several occasions and those who had heard them perform previously were very much looking forward to hearing them again.



The orchestra which was founded in 1924 had chosen Banbury to visit as part of their 85th Anniversary celebrations.

After a relaxing morning with their hosts the orchestra members came together to rehearse in the Town Hall for what was to be a truly enjoyable evening of musical entertainment.



At the concert hosted by the Town Mayor, Councillor Tina Wren, the orchestra supported by Banbury's very own "Hunters Key" gave a packed audience and excellent evening's entertainment.

On Sunday our guests were taken to Oxford where they were given a guided walking tour followed by lunch in a local restaurant.

Sadly the weekend was over too quickly and our guests and their hosts gathered at The Cross early on Monday to say a fond farewell after a rousing chorus of Auld Lang Syne.

Europawoche in Hennef

Thursday 18 June saw a fleet of cars containing members of the Banbury Operatic Society and the Twinning Association heading for Hennef to partake of their Europawoche activities.

On Friday we were joined by guests from Hennef's Twin Town of Le Pecq for a visit to Limburg, a beautiful medieval town at the Lahn. After a guided tour, lunch and free time to explore we returned to Hennef for the members of the Operatic Society to rehearse for their performance the following day.

Saturday was a day of entertainment in the Market Place and the performance given by the Operatic Society was greeted with thundering applause.



Saturday evening saw a capacity audience gather in Meys Fabrik for a fantastic evening of entertainment provided by the Banbury Operatic Society and the Vokalensemble Hennef.

Again Sunday morning came only too soon and everyone got back in their cars for the return journey home.

THINGS TO COME

Vokalensemble in Banbury

Vokalensemble, a group of singers, will be making a return visit to Banbury on 2 to 5 October, and we hope for good support for these highly talented performers.

Please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379) for more details.

Cycle Trip to Ermont

On July 31 Ben Allcock, will be waved off by the Town Mayor, Councillor Tina Wren, as he begins a 300 mile bike ride to Ermont to promote the services of the local county-charity, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (OAB).