



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

May 2006

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Following the successful operation of the changes agreed to the Committee at last year's AGM, we continue to operate with Verna Wass and Ian Preece taking day-to-day responsibility for liaison and coordination with Ermont and Hennef respectively.

Verna and Ian have settled into their new roles well and many thanks are due to them for their hard work and achievements over the past year.

If you are able to offer help, no matter how small, please contact them, they would be delighted to hear from you.

On behalf of the Association, I would also like to thank Paul Jones and his colleagues at Banbury United. The work they are doing to forge ever stronger links between young footballers from Banbury and Hennef has to be admired.

On 29/30 July they will be hosting 200 young footballers for a weekend of Friendship through Football with lots of family events at the Club's Spencer Stadium. The work involved in organising such an event is enormous and Paul would be delighted to hear from anyone who is able to offer help with this extremely worthwhile venture.

Ron Barnett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some 30ish members attended the Association's Annual General Meeting on 16 March in the Town Hall, with our President, the Town Mayor of Banbury, Councillor John Brooks.

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 Coles	(01295 810084)
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)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOOK NORTON BRASS BAND VISIT TO HENNEF

PLACE: Hennef

DATES: THURSDAY 8 to Sunday 11 June 2006.

EVENT: Hook Norton Brass Band and representatives from the Association and other organisations in Banbury visit Hennef as part of our 25th Anniversary celebrations. Further details can be obtained from Ian Preece (01295 710379).

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 28 June 2006 7:30pm

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

MAYOR OF HENNEF VISITS BANBURY

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Friday 30 June to Saturday 1 July 2005.

Event: The new mayor of Hennef and his wife make their first visit to Banbury along with representatives of Hennef Twinning Association.

FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FOOTBALL

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 July 2006.

EVENT: Banbury United host 200 youth football players from Hennef for a weekend of "Friendship through Football". This will be a fun weekend for all the family at the football club Spencer Stadium and anyone able to help with this fantastic event should contact Paul Jones (01295 254027).

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 14 September 2006 7:30pm

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

BANBURY OPERATIC SOCIETY VISIT HENNEF

PLACE: Hennef

DATES: Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 October 2006.

EVENT: Banbury Operatic Society will be visiting Hennef to give a performance.

MESSIAH FROM SCRATCH

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Friday 10 to Monday 13 November 2006.

Event: 100 guests from Hennef join us for the climax of our Anniversary celebrations in a Messiah from Scratch.

SUCCESS

Youth Football Visits

Every year in January Banbury United continue to support the local Twinning Association's objective of developing sporting links with our European partners.

2006 not only saw the United Girls sections but United's football partners from Banbury Town Boys travel to Hennef, to compete in the respective annual international 5-a-side competitions.

Not only competing against sides from the Hennef area, but also teams from France and Poland, age groups of Under 12, 14 and 16s (Girls) and Under 13 and 14s (Boys) were represented.

Two visits took place over the month and while the standard of competition remained very high, for the first time a team from Banbury was able to secure a tournament victory.

In a very close final, Banbury Town Boys Under 13s eventually defeated Hennef 05 after a dramatic penalty shoot out in the final.

While other teams just missed out on progressing from the league stages, the Girls Under 12s must consider themselves a little unlucky as, despite being unbeaten failed to reach the finals on goal difference.

However just important as the football, is the social development that the youngsters experience by staying with the host families of their German counterparts.

In addition, everybody enjoyed a visit to Cologne, including the cathedral and a guided tour of the 2006 World Cup stadium.

Paul Jones, Banbury United vice-chairman commented "As usual the hospitality was second to none and while a tournament win was an added bonus, the main objective is to raise the youngster's social confidence and international awareness".

Golf Trophy Returns to Banbury

The weekend 4-7 May saw the biannual visit of the Banbury and District Twinning Association to Ermont made up of 23 golfers and general visitors for the Annual Golf Match.

Thursday was spent travelling by Grayline coaches with a very obliging driver Steven Dean. We arrived in the early evening for a Reception at Ermont Town Hall and then a very pleasant meal with our host families.

Friday dawned an overcast day but after some light showers the sun came through and it was bright and hot. The non-golfers in our party were taken out to various venues of their choice, and the golfers were taken to the Golf and Country Club at Chemin en Vixen for our Annual Inter-Town Golf Match 11 teams taking part.

The Course was very challenging with some very interesting holes which put all players to the test. The result was very satisfying in that Banbury won by 18 points, a change from our usual result as handicaps in France are different from those in the UK.

The top scores for the men were achieved by Howard Davies and David Futter and for the ladies by Catherine Jenkinson and Lesley Hill. After the Match a very nice lunch was served at the Club House and the remainder of the afternoon was spent sampling wine, beer and sun.

In the evening we attended a sporting complex and were joined by our non-golfers for an excellent dinner where the results and prizes were given.

Saturday saw the majority of us visiting the beautiful estate of Versailles, the summer palace of Louis X111, with its magical gardens, fountains, lakes and walks.

In the evening we were taken by our hosts to L'Imprevu Restaurant by the River Seine for another excellent meal.

Sunday saw us saying farewell to our Ermont friends, whom we hope to see in Banbury next year for the return Match.

Brian Hill

THINGS TO COME

Our year of Anniversary Celebrations with Hennef continues with a visit by Hook Norton Brass Band and other guests for a "Picnic in the Park" celebration weekend in Hennef.

Leaving early in the morning of Thursday 8 June and returning on Sunday 11 June there is a full programme of events including a trip to Cologne and open air concert.

On October 26th-29th, 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!

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.

We are now also beginning to plan for 2007 to be a year of celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of our Twinning with Ermont.

Early ideas include an international art exhibition.

Members who would like to know more about Ermont should phone 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.

TWINNING ON THE WEB

Banbury & District Twinning Association is now a name to be found on the World Wide Web. Yes you now find out all about us on www.banburytwinning.org.uk

HELP WANTED

We continue to get requests for young people to come to Banbury for short period of work experience. If you are able to help with either offers of work placements or accommodation for these young people please contact either Ian Preece or Verna Wass.