



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

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December 2008

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In the last couple of years we have had many anniversary celebrations: Hennef/Banbury 25th; Ermont/Banbury 25th; Banbury 400th; Ermont Ville d'Europe 30th; and Mandolinenorchester 85th.

It is good that we have so many things to celebrate, and it is good that we have been able to celebrate them with so many friends. But it is important to remember, particularly at this time of Christmas celebrations and in a difficult economic climate, that it is the sharing of our friendship that is the most important gift we can give and friendship itself the most important thing to celebrate.

I suspect that most of us will by now have forgotten what the menu was at a celebration event or what wine they drank, but I equally suspect that all of us will remember vividly the friends whose company we so much enjoyed at those events.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all resolved to make at least one new friend before the end of 2008, and at least ten new friends in 2009.

Ron Barnett

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

2008 has been a fantastic year of celebration events marking the 400th Anniversary of Banbury being granted a Charter by James I in 1608, It was this Charter that gave Banbury the right to have a Mayor and its own Council.

The celebrations have included numerous local groups and organisations, and we were delighted to have civic representatives and colleagues from both Ermont and Hennef attend a Civic Dinner hosted by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ann Bonner, as one of the celebration events.

It was at this event that the Town Mayor and civic representatives from Hennef and Ermont unveiled the 25th Anniversary Tapestry. A truly beautiful work of art designed by local primary school children and made by Banbury Embroiderers it shows the history of Banbury in pictures.

The tapestry is now permanently on display in the Town Hall housed in a splendid glass case constructed by our own Roger Solesbury.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was a visit to Banbury by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in recognition of the 400th Anniversary, and the Association Chairman, Ron Barnett, was delighted to be invited to represent the Association at the reception held for our Royal visitors in the Town Hall in November. Her Majesty was interested to learn about the Association and asked about its history and the exchange visits which have taken place.

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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

Association Committee Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 14 January 2009 7.00 pm

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: 13 to 15 February 2009

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).

Hennef Karneval

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: 20 to 23 February 2009

Event: One of the high points of the Hennef calendar and an experience not to be missed. For further details please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379).

Association Annual General Meeting

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 12 March 2009 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 30 April to Sunday 3 May 2009.

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

Annual inter town golf match in Ermont

Our biannual visit to Ermont took place from 1st to 4th May . 28 members in total set off for France early on a dismal, damp Thursday morning. The journey down to Dover by Martin's Coaches (of Tysoe) was speedy and uneventful. The crossing was a little bumpy but our trip down to Ermont for a 6.0 p.m. arrival went without a hitch.

The usual Reception in their Town Hall went well and hosts were introduced to their guests from Banbury who were then taken back to their homes for the evening.

Friday started off with an early mist and the golfers headed for Ivery-le-Temple and the Golf Club Des Templiers. 23 golfers took part. The sun had made an appearance by the time we started to play and gradually it got hotter as time went on. The Match was a shot-gun start so we were all back in the Club House at nearly the same time. Waiting for us were the non-golfers who had visited the historic monuments in Beauvais via our coach ready to join us for a very enjoyable three-course lunch.

After this we went back to our hosts just in time to get showered and refreshed before setting out for the restaurant L'Olivier in Eagbein Les Bains for our evening meal, drinking and convivial conversation, and leaving there rather later than anticipated. After a long and tiring day most of us were just glad to drop into bed while some hardy folk stayed up chatting with their hosts.

Saturday morning was spent with host families and ours took us to the open market in Ermont where they did some shopping and bought fresh ingredients for our lunch. They took us to Saint Dennis where we visited the Basilica. Saturday afternoon was spent with most of our party visiting the Abbaye Royale de Chaalis near Ermenonville. This was the site of a former Monastery (mostly in ruins to-day) and a building which had been erected to form part of a new Abbey, only one third of which had been built, and was now established as a Museum with many interesting exhibits.

We returned to Ermont just in time to freshen up and then set off for our evening meal, Prize Giving and entertainment at the Café de la Paix at Auvers sur Oise a short distance from Ermont.

The Golf Match was won by Ermont The results were as follows:-

Best Banbury Male Golfer was Malcolm Nutt.

The longest male drive was by Malcolm Nutt.

The best Banbury female golfer was Catherine Jenkinson.

The longest Banbury female drive was by Margaret English.

Nearest the pin – male was Brian Croft

Nearest the pin – female was Lesley Hill.

At the conclusion of the prizes giving we had a marvellous buffet with entertainment by a very good young conjurer who visited the tables and kept everyone baffled and amused. Music was supplied by a very good Quartet and dancing was assisted by a very able couple who soon got people up on their feet and trying lots of new steps. As you can gather the evening went with a 'swing' and it was very late when we started leaving.

Sunday morning was another early start to get to the coach with the usual joining of hands for Auld Lang Syne followed by our thanks to our hosts and au revoir until next year. We then set off for Banbury arriving back about 5.0 p.m. only to be met with light rain. A very busy but very enjoyable visit with our friends again and we look forward to the return Golf Match in Banbury 2009.

Brian Hill

Europawoche in Hennef

This now well established event involving art, sport and cultural events was attended by a small but enthusiastic delegation from Banbury from 30 May to 1 June.

Banbury Charter 400th Anniversary

As part of the Town's celebrations of the 400th Anniversary of the granting of a charter by James I on 28 June 1608, the Town Mayor, Councillor Ann Bonner invited our friends from both Ermont and Hennef to join us in Banbury for 27 to 29 June.

Our guests from Ermont included a senior Councillor, and from Hennef a Deputy Town Mayor.

On Friday evening our visitors were guests of the Town Mayor at a Civic Dinner held in the Town Hall. It was an excellent evening with some first class entertainment being provided by members of the Banbury Operatic Society.

The following day our guests were able to enjoy the many celebration street entertainments that took place in the town centre before being given a guided tour of Broughton Castle followed by cream teas.

Saturday evening was spent in St' Mary's Church enjoying a splendid "Songs of Praise", part of the Church Choirs 300th Anniversary celebrations.

Celebrations in Ermont

Ermont has also been celebrating this year as it is the 30th Anniversary of the formation of "Ermont Ville d'Europe" (the Ermont Twinning Association).

A delegation from Banbury joined them for their celebrations on 12 to 14 September.

THINGS TO COME

Football Tournament in Hennef

Banbury United have been invited to send youth teams to take part in an international football tournament in Hennef on 13 to 15 February. Further details can be obtained from Paul Jones (01295 254027).

Karneval in Hennef

20 to 23 February sees Hennef celebrating its annual 'Karneval', and we have been invited to send a delegation to take part in this fantastic event. Anyone interested should contact Ian Preece (01295 710379), as soon as possible.

Ermont/Banbury Annual Golf Match

The 2009 annual Ermont/Banbury Golf Match is taking place Friday 1 April 2009. Having lost the trophy to Ermont in 2008 we are intent on winning it back again in 2009.

But whether you are a golfer or not this is always an extremely enjoyable weekend, so if you would like to get involved please contact Gareth Jeremy (01296 266404).

Mandolinenorchester in Banbury

Celebrating their 85th Anniversary in 2009, the Hennef Mandolin Orchestra will be visiting Banbury on 29 May to 1 June.

It is some years since this excellent and unusual orchestra visited Banbury, but the memory of their magnificent performances is still strong. We very much look forward to hearing them again in Banbury.

For further details please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379).

Europawoche 2009 in Hennef

This is an excellent international event organised annually in Hennef, and well worth attending. In 2009 it is the week ending 21 June. Banbury Operatic Society is planning to take part, and would love some travelling supporters! Please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379) for more details.

Vokalensemble in Banbury

Vokalensemble, a group of singers, will be making a return visit to Banbury on 1 to 4 October, and we hope for good support for these highly talented performers.

Again, please contact Ian Preece (01295 710379) for more details.

Primary School links

St. Mary's School has sent a collection of letters, postcards and other materials prepared by children to Ermont and are continuing to develop links with an Ermont primary school.

Please contact Verna Wass (01295 758222), for further details.

New Contacts for Ermont

Following discussions at the Ermont 'Forum des Associations' we are actively pursuing links between youth groups such as scouts/guides, young musicians, and older groups such as the University of the Third Age.

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

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.