



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

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June 2007

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is always exciting when you celebrate a 25th Anniversary, but this is doubly so when there are two to celebrate. Following the tremendous success of last year's celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of our Twinning with Hennef, this year we have the opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our Twinning with Ermont.

When celebrating important anniversaries it is usual to look back at events that have made the previous years successful, but whilst having fun it is important that we remember what the international Twinning movement is all about.

Born out of the ashes of the Second World War, Twinning was founded on the belief that by ordinary members of a society getting to know ordinary members of society from other nations it would become increasingly difficult to persuade them to take up arms against each other.

Twinning is a totally non-political world-wide movement aimed at bringing about world peace through knowledge and understanding, and dare I say preventing our political leaders taking us to war on the basis of misunderstanding and possibly even misrepresentation.

There is still much to do!

Ron Barnett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual General Meeting on 14 March in the Town Hall, with our President, the Town Mayor of Banbury, Councillor John Donaldson.

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. The Treasurer, Gareth Jeremy, also reported in detail 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

ERMONT VISIT BANBURY FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

PLACE: Banbury

DATES: Friday 6 to Sunday 8 July 2007.

EVENT: Representatives from the Ermont Twinning Association will be joining us in Banbury to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our Twinning. See Things to Come for further details or contact Verna Wass (01295 758222).

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 6 September 2007 7:00pm

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

"IMPROMPTU" VISIT TO HENNEF

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 September 2007.

EVENT: Banbury vocal group Impromptu are planning to visit Hennef to give a concert in Mey's Fabrik with local Hennef group Vokalensemble. Further details from Gareth Jeremy (01295 266404).

BANBURY ART EXHIBITION IN HENNEF

PLACE: Hennef

DATE: Saturday 15 September to Friday 9 November 2007

Event: "Where the Wind Blows", and art exhibition of Banbury work. Further details from Margo Bell (01295 210005).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

PLACE: Banbury

DATE: Sunday 11 November 2007.

Event: Representatives from Hennef join us for the town's annual Act of Remembrance.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 21 November 2007 7:30pm

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

SUCCESS

25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Saturday 10 March 2007 saw many members of the Association gather at the Banbury House Hotel to celebrate the work done by the members of the Association over the past 25 years and more.

All those who attended enjoyed some excellent company, shared many stories of Twinning exploits from the past and had a superb meal.

We were delighted that our President, Councillor John Donaldson, and his wife Paula, were able to join us, and we suspect he was even more delighted to take home the first prize in the raffle of several bottles of excellent wine.

All in all, a brilliant evening, superbly organised by Jenny Tustian to whom we are extremely grateful.

Ermont returns for Golf challenge.

May 8 saw our Ermont golfers arrive in pouring rain after a long and arduous journey. Following a meal and a good night's sleep all our Ermont visitors made their way to the North Oxford Golf Club where non-golfers were taken off for a tour of Oxford on an open-topped bus.

Golfers joined the Banbury contingent for our annual golf match. The weather stayed fine and a good competition ensued. After the match the golfers were joined by the non-golfers for an excellent buffet lunch at North Oxford Golf Club.

Friday evening was spent with host families, many going out to various venues for their evening meals.

Saturday morning was again spent with host families and in the afternoon a visit was organised by Gareth Jeremy to Broughton Castle for a tour which was very kindly conducted by Lord and Lady Saye and Sele. This was very much appreciated by all twinning participants.

The evening was spent at Overthorpe Hall where a medieval feast was arranged with appropriate costumes worn by all and a very nice supper provided. Entertainment was laid on by Bodicote Handbell Ringers, Verna Wass Group, and a contingent from Banbury Operatic Society was followed by Graham Anker, conjurer!



The evening concluded with the results and prize-giving by the Mayor of Banbury, Councillor John Donaldson, and his wife Paula, for Friday's golf match. The top Ermont lady golfer was Suzy Defarges who also won the Ladies Longest Drive; the top Banbury lady golfer was Barbara Davies; the top gentleman scorer was Malcolm Nutt who also had the longest drive; the best male player from Ermont was Didier Parmart; a prize was also given for Nearest the Pin, won by Brian Hill; unfortunately no female golfers had reached the green where this was marked.



Sunday morning bright and early saw us say au revoir and bon voyage to our Ermont visitors after the usual rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

It was a most enjoyable visit and a win at the golf for Banbury made it a hat trick — watch out next year!

Thanks to Thelma and Gareth Jeremy for all their hard work and organisation.

Brian Hill

The Tapestry arrives in Banbury!

The specially commissioned tapestry, commemorating 25 years of Twinning with Hennef came to Banbury on 19th May, to be displayed in St Mary's Church until 8th June.



It is a magnificent piece of artwork, with scenes, not only of Hennef and Banbury, but also of Hennef's other twin towns, Le Pecq in France, and Nowy Dwór Gdanski in Poland. Each of the four sections is distinctive in style and content, and each a work of art in itself.

The tapestry is a truly stunning tribute to the work of the Banbury and Hennef Twinning Associations over 25 years.

To remind you of how it came into being, local school children were asked to draw their impression of their home town, and it was from those pictures that the tapestry was created.

Four Banbury schools responded to the invitation to take part, and they illustrated quite graphically the history of Banbury castle, the siege and the great fire, Banbury Fair, Maypole dancing, Banbury cake, and the world famous nursery rhyme, as well as familiar landmarks in the town.



All of these were combined, with great skill and artistic flair, into a 5 metre long section of the tapestry by the Banbury Embroiderers Guild. A similar exercise was carried out in the three other towns, resulting in the completed work of almost 25 metres in length.

This is currently 'on tour' around the twin towns, and was in St. Mary's Church, Banbury from 19th May until 8th June. Thereafter it will be in the Tourist Information Centre until 2nd July.

Please make a point of coming to see it, and tell your friends to come along too.

Ian Preece

THINGS TO COME

25 Ans de notre Jumelage 2007

Yes this year offers **two** more opportunities to party with our French friends from Ermont... and do the French know how to party?

Well if the Golf weekend was anything to go by the answer is "Oui, bien sûr!"

This years excuse (sorry occasion) for partying is quite an achievement: 25 years of twinning friendship. Our very own "Silver Jubilee"

Members of Ermont Ville d'Europe, our sister organization in Ermont, are looking forward to the visit in July very much, and have expressed an interest in learning more about our historic market town. They have therefore chosen to time their visit for the weekend of Banbury Hobby Horse Festival/Town Mayor's Sunday.

The programme for the weekend will include: a formal dinner to celebrate our Jubilee on the Friday night; opportunities to experience various aspects of Banbury's history, including the music, dance and spectacle of the Festival on the Saturday; a ceilidh for all on the Saturday night; participation in Town Mayor's Sunday, to include a buffet lunch

We hope that the ringers at St. Mary's Church will ring a "quarter peal" sometime over the weekend in honour of the occasion, and introduce our visitors to the gentle, and very English, art of change ringing.

If you would like to take part in this event by hosting new, or old friends from Ermont please contact Verna Wass (verna.wass@btinternet.com or 01295 758222)

We are also invited to visit Ermont for the very colourful spectacle of the annual "Fête des Vendanges" a traditional evening street festival culminating in a firework display. This year's theme is sport, and Ermont Ville d'Europe have chosen equestrian sport for their display - how appropriate!

Again if you would like to take part please contact Verna Wass (details above).

Other plans for the year include educational exchanges and a joint arts project culminating in an exhibition at Banbury Museum in Summer 2008. We are actively seeking local artists who would like to be involved in this so again please contact Verna if you are interested, or can suggest artists who may be.

Verna Wass