



Banbury and District Twinning Association Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2005

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Change is necessary for things to grow and develop, and in order to ensure that the activities of the Association continue to develop and thrive we have refined the way in which the Association's Committee operates.

The AGM accepted a recommendation from last year's Committee that we model ourselves on our colleagues in Ermont and Hennef.

The Chairman of the Association now acts as a coordinator and leader of the Association, with Verna Wass and Ian Preece taking day-to-day responsibility for liaison and coordination with Ermont and Hennef respectively.

This approach will more evenly distribute the workload amongst Committee members as well as give Verna and Ian the opportunity to develop new links with our Twin Towns.

With the development of the links by Banbury United Football Club and Banbury School, and the prospect of new links being made by Primary Schools we are continuing to see a greater involvement of Banbury young people with young people of France and German.

The greater knowledge and understanding that young people of different nations have for each other the more we can be confident that the world will become a safe and peaceful place for everyone.

Ron Barnett

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some 30ish members attended the Association's Annual General Meeting on 17 March in the Town Hall, with our President, the Town Mayor of Banbury, Councillor Surinder Dhesi.

The meeting received reports from the Chairman, outlining the very successful year that had taken place and looking forward to an equally, if not better, year to come, and 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)
Paul Jones	(01295 254027)
Harry Lord	(01295 259671)
Tony Mephram	(01295 264246)
Elsie Milne	(01295 709726)
Ian Preece	(01295 710379)
Sylvia Preece	(01295 710379)
Roger Solesbury	(01295 710316)
Eileen Steele	(01295 788593)
Verna Wass	(01295 758222)
Iain Wittwer	(01295 267327)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HENNEF UNDER 16 GIRL FOOTBALL TEAMS

PLACE: Banbury

DATES: Saturday 4 to Sunday 5 June 2005.

EVENT: Banbury United Football Club will be hosting teams of under 16 girls for matches at The Spencer Stadium Station Approach. Further details can be obtained from Paul Jones (01295 254027).

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 29 June 2005 7:30pm

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

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Thursday 15 September 2005 7:30pm

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

JUMELAGE IN ERMONT

PLACE: Ermont

DATE: Thursday 29 September to Sunday 2 October 2005.

EVENT: Ermont will be hosting Twinning celebrations with its six Twin Towns. Please see "Things to Come" for more details.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

PLACE: Banbury

DATES: November 2005.

EVENT: Friends from Hennef will be joining us for the Town's Annual Act of Remembrance.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: Town Hall

DATE: Wednesday 30 November 2005 7:30pm

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

HENNEF 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

PLACE: Banbury and Hennef

DATES: 2006.

EVENT: We plan to celebrate our 25-year Twinning with Hennef in both towns, please read future newsletters for further information.

SUCCESS

Ian in at the deep end!

Greetings from a greenhorn!

Having been persuaded on to the Twinning Committee, I was immediately 'press-ganged' into the position of Hennef Representative. How naïve is that?! Not that I mind, really, since my wife Sylvia and I have made many friends in Hennef over the years.

This year we went to Carnival for the first time, and it was a truly memorable experience! Time and space forbid a proper report of a crowded week. Suffice to say we were treated like royalty, and quickly learned to shed our inhibitions and join in the fun!

As I have said too many people since our return, Carnival in Hennef has to be on the list of things to do before you die! The Germans do have a sense of humour, especially against themselves, and boy, do they know how to have a good time!

Shortly afterwards, we hosted a small delegation from Hennef who came to the Mayor's Ball, and had the opportunity to discuss future plans and activities. As a result, soon afterwards we were back in Hennef, officially, representing Banbury at their Europe Week, a huge organisational enterprise, with cultural, sporting and commercial activities throughout the week, involving the twin towns from France and Poland, as well as Banbury.

Next year we celebrate 25 years of twinning with Hennef. We have come a long way together, and on present evidence, the future is bright.

Ian Preece.

Under 16 Girls Football teams visit Hennef in January; Under 16 Boys Football teams visit Hennef in February

The Banbury Twinning Association's brief of creating links with our twin town of Hennef, continues to expand, following recent Banbury United trips to Germany.

Normally teams from the Boy's junior section have taken part in an annual international 5-side tournament, however this year, in addition to their Under 16 and 18 teams, the girls section took part for the first time, competing at under 12, 14 and 16 level.

In addition to games against various German opponents from the Hennef area, the Banbury teams also pitch their footballing skills against teams from France (Le Pecq) and Poland (Nowy Dwor Gdanski). The standard of football was again very high and, although no Banbury team was victorious, there were some very creditable performances notably from the Boys Under 16s who won their way through to the semi finals before eventually taking 4th place overall.



However, more importantly, the event is also designed to broaden the social and international awareness of the children and in addition to stopping with their German hosts for the weekend, sight seeing trips were also made to Cologne Cathedral and the 2006 World Cup stadium.

The association and trip organisers are indebted to various local and national companies for their continued support - notably on this occasion, main sponsors Jungheinrich of Leighton Buzzard and Jeffs Coaches with further contribution from RJ Barbers in Banbury and John Nicholls at Bicester.

Paul Jones

Twinning Sponsors Banbury United Match

In recognition of the excellent work being done by Paul Jones and his colleagues at Banbury United, the Association was delighted to be the Club's Match Sponsor on 28 March 2005.



Ron Barnett and Verna Wass attended the match and were honoured to be invited to present the match ball prior to the match kick off.

We were delighted that Banbury won the match against Solihull Borough 2 – 0 to the

Town Mayor's Dinner Dance

In recognition of the 23 years support to the Banbury Twinning given by the retired Bürgermeister of Hennef and as a welcome to his successor, Karl Kreuzberg and the new Deputy Bürgermeister, Thomas Wallau, were guests of the Town Mayor, Councillor Surinder Dhesi, at her Dinner Dance on Friday 22 April.

Also attending the event as guests of the Twinning Association were Erika Rollenske, Chairman of Hennef Twinning Association, and Gudrun Schwellenback, Vice-Chairman of the Hennef Twinning Association.

Hennefer EuropaWoche

The 30 April to 8 May saw a non-stop kaleidoscope of events in Hennef for their Europe Week celebrations. Joining with our friends in Hennef for these celebrations were students from Banbury School, representatives of various local Churches and members of the Twinning Association Committee

The Banbury School students from years 10, 11 and 12 under the leadership of Tanja Köllner visited Hennef to take part in an international project with students from Le Pecq (France), Nowy Dwór Gdanski (Poland) and, of course, Hennef.

The project culminated in a mock EU Parliament debate about a Draft Directive on the content of chocolate. The debate was held before a packed public audience and the conduct of all the young people taking part was excellent.

The students from Banbury were perfect ambassadors not just for Banbury but also for the whole UK, and all the visitors from Banbury were extremely proud of them.

One of the main highlights of the week was an international interdenominational church service. Held in a packed Market Place the international congregation seemed to radiate a warmth and friendship that made the torrential downpour of rain seem irrelevant.

Led by Church leaders of various denomination from Germany, Poland, France and England with hymns and prayers in German, French, Polish and English the service was a truly moving experience and showed the love and unity that results from understanding and respect.

Ermont Golfers visit Banbury

On Thursday 19 May, thirty friends from Ermont arrived in Banbury to be greeted at the Town Hall by the Deputy Mayor of Banbury, Councillor John Donaldson.



Twenty-one of the guests were members of the Ermont Golf Club visiting Banbury to play our 15th annual inter-town golf match, and the whole party enjoyed three days of sport, culture and fun in and around Banbury.

During Friday, the Ermont and Banbury golfers braved the English rain to play the 2005 tournament at Cherwell Edge Golf Course, whilst members of the Twinning Association took our non-golfing guests to Waddesdon Manor.

That evening the visitors and their hosts came together for a "Friendship Evening" at the Town Hall hosted by the Deputy Town Mayor, where everyone was treated to some excellent entertainment by the Banbury group "Impromptu".

The following day both hosts and guests attended a Dinner/Awards Ceremony at the Masonic Hall Marlborough Road.

The results of the inter-town golf match showed it had been a closely played competition. Both the longest drive winners were Ermont players, whilst both the nearest the pin winners came from Banbury. The overall result, however, gave Banbury a small winning margin of 519 points to 491.

Early Sunday morning our guests and their host families joined hands for a rousing chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" before the coach set off for the return journey to Ermont.

THINGS TO COME

It's Party Time in Ermont this Autumn!

... and do the French know how to organise a party?

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

The excuse (sorry occasion) for the party will be the annual "Fêtes de Jumelages" held jointly between Ermont and its inter twinned partners in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Italy. The good news is that this year it will be held in Ermont and we're invited together with Ermont's new twinning partner town in Spain.

On 16th April delegations from all the towns involved met in Ermont to finalise plans for the event which will take place from Friday 30th September to Sunday 2nd October 2005. The programme proposed by l'association Ermont Ville d'Europe looks full and varied including:

une Grande Soirée Européene -

to include a meal and live music/comedy cabaret staged by local artists, and performers from each partner town

visits to places of interest in the company of host families

a range of exhibitions mounted specifically for the occasion

participation in the annual "Fête des Vendanges" a traditional evening street festival culminating in a firework display

a final "giant" barbecue with entertainment on Sunday at lunchtime.

There are also plans for a public conference on European citizenship, and a special church service for those who don't want to neglect their intellectual and spiritual health.

Should guests have any spare time over the weekend the covered market in Ermont is famous throughout the department and well worth a visit!

Members who would like to take part in this event should phone or fax Verna Wass on 01295 758222 with an initial expression of interest, write to her at 3, Chapel Row, Cropredy, Banbury OX17 1NS, text her on 07831 632206 or e-mail: verna.wass@btinternet.com .

Travel arrangements will be decided after discussion with participants, and in the light of numbers going. Places are limited, and need to be confirmed to our hosts by the middle of June so please respond asap.

Other issues of common interest were discussed, including ongoing humanitarian projects, and initiatives to promote contacts and exchanges between a range of organisations and voluntary groups in partnered towns. I also visited a number of schools in Ermont with a view to setting up some exchanges more of this another time

Verna Wass