

Letter from the Chairman



The Twin Town Association is currently without a Chairperson so the hard-working committee are job sharing this role until the next AGM. There is lots to catch up on in this issue of our newsletter so we hope you enjoy reading about our activities and can join us at our next social evening on 4th July, or at another future event.

We were very sorry to hear about the death of John Lee recently. John had been a very active member of the Association for many years and will be sadly missed by his Twin Town friends. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

Bagnols-sur-Cèze Visit

20 NTTA members visited France in November to attend the International Reunion of Twin Towns in Bagnols-sur-Cèze. This event included local walks and tours of the area visiting sites of interest including a chateau and a Roman Aqueduct. A historical presentation in French and English by local school children informed the visitors about the history of the region and the students enjoyed dressing up as cavemen, roman nobility and artists to demonstrate different aspects of the town's history. There was also plenty of opportunity for the visitors to spend time with their French hosts and enjoy tasting the local produce and the Côtes du Rhône *Vins de primeur* wines produced in the region.



British cheeses and chutneys were shared with the hosts and visitors during a buffet lunch. Contributions of food and drink from all seven towns, including German beer, Spanish oranges, Italian sausages and Belgian fries were enjoyed by over 200 people and the produce offered on the Newbury stall was much in demand.

The event also included a commemoration of the 100 years since the start of World War 1 with a display of artefacts from all the towns. Newbury's contribution included a copy of the colourful and fascinating panels



'The Countryside at War' originally produced for display at The Royal Berkshire Show last September. The young flag wavers from Feltre demonstrated their skills during the weekend and they are always a pleasure to watch. At one of the evening events

guests were able to help make a special cheese and potato dish prepared in a vast cauldron for the group.



Newbury Mayor, Jo Day, on her first trip to Bagnols enjoyed taking part in the visit and made a speech in French and English thanking all the hosts for their generous hospitality.

A return visit by a group from Bagnols will take place in July.



Twin Town Youth Groups Enjoy European Travels

The Youth members of the NTTA have enjoyed visits to our twin towns recently and are looking forward to the next event in Kiskunfélegyháza in August. Last summer they travelled to Feltre for the annual meeting and enjoyed a trip to Venice as part of the programme.

A group of seven travelled to Eeklo to join the New Year Celebrations organised by the Belgian Association. They stayed together in a sports hall and enjoyed catching up with the Belgian host group as well as friends from Newbury's other Twin Towns in Italy, Germany and Spain.

The visit included a trip to the market in Brussels and the chance to see an amazing light show in the evening. All the buildings in the main square were illuminated with LED lights and changed depending on the music. There was an opportunity to explore Eeklo and also to visit Bruges where they had the chance to make their own edible souvenirs at a chocolate museum. Mark Stopher commented 'It was lovely to see some familiar faces on this visit and also to meet some new people. A lasting memory for the English will be introducing the other guests to the game 'cards against humanity.' We would like to thank the Eeklo hosts for organising such a great gathering.'



Congratulations Steve and Eveline

Members of the NTTA were delighted to receive an invitation to attend the wedding celebrations of Steve Eeckhoudt, Newbury Secretary on the Eeklo Twin Town Committee, and Eveline D'hooge. Steve has been involved for many years with the youth group in Eeklo and has helped to organise a number of successful events. Our very best wishes to Steve and Eveline as they start their married life together.



School Visit from Eeklo to Newbury



A large group of children from Eeklo visited Newbury with their teachers in March for a tour of the town lead by NTTA members. The group were staying together at the Youth Hostel in Streatley and enjoying a week in England that included trips to Windsor Castle and Avebury.

On their first visit to Newbury they were interested in learning about the history of the town and finding out about the latest developments. They were warmly welcomed to the Town Hall by Mayor Jo Day and enjoyed a buffet lunch cooked by Jackie Snell and her team of helpers.

A memorable highlight of the visit for the students was trying out the new gym equipment in Victoria Park and discovering that there was a 'Superdry' store in Parkway!

Happy 50th Birthday Newbury Twin Town Association



The NTTA celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its initial meeting with an event at Newbury Town Hall in December. The minutes of the original meeting were read aloud and members were able to hear about future plans and forthcoming events. Members were also able to taste a piece of the special Anniversary Cake (thank you to Jackie Snell), that was cut by the youngest member present at the meeting, Clara Gilmour. The evening concluded with an opportunity for all members to enjoy a glass of champagne and toast another successful year of events for the Association.

Christmas Meal 2014

Twin Town members were able to enjoy their annual Christmas Dinner in the warm and welcoming surroundings of the Watermill Theatre Restaurant last December.

An enjoyable evening was had by all with a chance to catch up with friends old and new. The more energetic members were able to dance away the extra calories consumed after the meal while others retired to the bar for a quieter end to the evening!



The Rain in Spain.....

The annual Fallas festival in Carcaixent was a spectacular event as usual but slightly marred this year by cold and wet weather.

Diane Smith attended and enjoyed meeting old friends during the visit. She commented, 'Some of the planned activities were adjusted or simply couldn't take place due to the weather. We still had a great time but probably drank more coffee and hot chocolate than usual!' Please contact Zita Lang if you are interested in attending the Fallas in March next year when the weather will hopefully be a little warmer and drier.



Social Events



Our Social Events, Quizzes and Monthly Coffee Mornings are a great opportunities for members to meet up and get to know each other. Our next social event will be a bring and share supper on **Saturday 4th July** during the visit of the group from Bagnols-sur-Cèze. This will be held at St George's Hall, Wash Common and will start at 7:30pm. All members are very welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Rachel Haslam for more details if you would like to take part.



Newbury Carnival 2015



Planning for the Newbury Carnival on 5th July is well underway and many twin town members are already busy sewing, hammering, painting, tuning their instruments and singing in preparation.

Our float will be based around the Magna Carta and will fit in with the 'Heroes and Villains' theme of the carnival. King John (our villain), surrounded by his court, musicians and knights will be busy stamping the official document while Robin

Hood and his merry men will be doing their best to steal the king's gold and distribute it to the poor of the town.

We are looking forward to taking part in this great community event and (hopefully) repeating our winning success of two years ago. Please come along to support us if you are in Newbury.

Thank you to Gardner Leader for supporting us once again with funding for our carnival float. We are also looking forward to welcoming some Gardner Leader staff who are going to join the fun on our float for the day.

During the same weekend, we are delighted to welcome a group of 30 visitors from Bagnols-sur-Cèze who will stay with host families in Newbury, take a trip to Oxford and take part in the Carnival during their visit. We hope they will enjoy this very English tradition and also the fete in Victoria Park after the parade.



Other Forthcoming Events

June 2015 – Newbury Rotary Club will be organising their annual 'Boules in the Square' Tournament in the Market Place on Sunday 28th June. Please come along to take part or spectate.

July 2015 – A group from Newbury will attend an event in Eeklo to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Eeklo's twinning with Braunfels and the formation of a new twinning link with Carcaixent.

August 2015 – Harmony Choir from Newbury are planning a visit to Belgium and will sing in Ghent and Eeklo.

October 2015 – A group from Newbury will attend the Annual International Twin Town Reunion in Carcaixent.

September 2016 – Planning for the Twin Town International Reunion in Newbury has already started. We expect to welcome 100 visitors for a 5 day visit to our town and have begun planning an interesting programme of activities. If you would like to get involved as a host or helper for this event, please contact Rachel Haslam.

Contact Details

Chairman – Vacant

Braunfels Secretary – Elizabeth Anfield 01635 42210 or email mail@ema-accountants.co.uk

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