



## From the Chairman

Dear Twin Town Members,

Welcome to the Spring issue of our Newsletter. We have had a busy few months and I look forward to reflecting on all our activities at the AGM in February. This has been my 4<sup>th</sup> and final year as your Chairman and I have enjoyed the experience very much. While it appears as if some UK towns are talking about dissolving their twinning links, it is satisfying to note that Newbury's ties are as strong as ever and I look forward to being involved in many more events in the future.

Best wishes,

Ian

## International Reunion in Eeklo

16 visitors from Newbury, including our Mayor and Patron Councillor Jeff Beck and Mrs Beck, attended the International Reunion in Eeklo last August. An enjoyable and busy weekend included a Belgian Beer Tasting event and an excursion to Middelburg and Lake of Veere in the Netherlands. Each of the seven towns offered free local produce to the local residents at a 'Market Stall' and West Berkshire Beer, Chutney and Wiltshire Cheeses were very favourably received by all the tasters.



### Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning will be held in the Town Hall on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 12 noon** in aid of Twin Town funds. Please come along to support us. If anyone is able to help serve drinks for an hour or more, provide a cake or a small prize (e.g. unwanted Christmas Presents?) for the tombola, please contact Rachel Haslam.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 in Newbury Town Hall**. We look forward to reviewing the many events of the past year and planning another busy year in 2012. A light buffet will be served after the meeting and there will be a chance for you to renew your membership and collect your 'Coffee and Dining Club' card.

## Book Appeal for Kiskunfélegyháza

Do you have any spare books that you would be able to donate to Kiskunfélegyháza, our associated town in Hungary? There are lots of children and students in the town who would like to learn or improve their English and the town library has appealed for some extra texts. They have asked especially for children's books, classics, fiction, fantasy (eg Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings etc.) and books (or CDs or DVDs) which help students to learn languages. Please contact Elizabeth Anfield (01635 42210 or email [mail@ema-accountants.co.uk](mailto:mail@ema-accountants.co.uk)) if you can help.

---

## Newbury Choir spreads HARMONY abroad

A group of 35 members and friends of Harmony Choir, under the very capable leadership of Helen Tuck, visited **Braunfels in August**. They held a rehearsal with the 'Singchrist' Choir in Braunfels and took part in a service in the Braunfels Church. The main concert was held in Siegen with some ad-hoc busking by a few brave members in Braunfels. An enjoyable time was had by all the visitors and we hope that a return visit by a choir from Braunfels can be arranged at a future date.



Singchrist and Harmony relax together for a group photograph

---

## Spanish Students

We have invited a group of Spanish Students from Carcaixent to visit Newbury between **15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012**. The students will be accompanied by their teachers and look forward to improving their English while staying with a host family. They will be occupied with activities during the day but we would welcome involvement from any of our members who would be interested in providing accommodation or helping to plan an interesting programme for the visitors. If you would like to take part in the weekend, either as a host or a general helper, please contact Rachel Haslam.

## Feltre visit

A group of 8 people from Feltre enjoyed a visit to Newbury last September. Events during the weekend included a visit to Saffron Walden, a day at the Royal Berkshire Show, a day in London and an indoor BBQ (it rained!) for the visitors, hosts and other NTTA members. An enjoyable weekend was had by all and we look forward to repeating the experience again in the future.

---

## Visitors from Eeklo

We have invited a group from Eeklo to visit Newbury between **6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012**. This will be the weekend of the Heritage Open Days and also the Newbury Real Ale Festival so we look forward to showing off the culture of Newbury to our visitors in all its various forms. If you would like to take part in the weekend, either as a host or a general helper, please contact Rachel Haslam.

# Frank Harvey Graham

25th June 1922 to 25th December 2012

We were sorry to hear of the death of Frank Graham on Christmas Day 2011 after a short illness. Frank was one of the original committee members of the Newbury—Braunfels association and was Chairman of the Association from 1973 to 1981. He retired from the committee in 2008. His extensive knowledge of the Association's history meant that his contribution to our committee meetings were always very valuable and he had many stories to tell of the numerous visits that he had taken part in. Our deepest sympathies are with his family at this sad time.



Frank with his wife and a young Gunter Jakob (kneeling)

## Retiring

Mary Wallace-Sims and Jim Turner will be retiring from the Twin Town Committee at the AGM after many years of dedicated service to the Association. We would like to thank them for their valuable contribution and hope to see them enjoying our events in the future without having to be involved in their organisation !

## Project Funding

The current 3 year programme of twin town events for the 7 towns in our network has been partially funded by the European Union under the 'Thematic Network' initiative. This project finishes in May 2012 and an application has been submitted to fund the next 3 years of activities. We heard recently that this application, submitted on behalf of the 7 towns by our colleagues in Carcaixent, has not been successful. An amended application will be submitted shortly and we will keep you informed of its progress. The Newbury event that was planned as part of this programme was our celebration of 50 years of twinning with Braunfels in September 2013. This event will still go ahead, even without extra funding from the EU, so look out for more information coming soon.

## School Language Prizes

We are pleased to announce that the NTTA Language Prize was awarded to the following talented students in 2011.

Bethanie Saunders - Trinity School

Camilla Dickson - St Bartholomew's School

Marcus Davies - Park House School

## Secretary Appeal – Your committee needs you !!

The position of Secretary will become vacant at the AGM as Rachel Haslam is retiring after 5 years. This is an important role as the Secretary is the main contact point for the NTTA, as well as the person who takes minutes and supports the Chair and other members of the committee in their roles. If anyone is interested in taking on this interesting and valuable post, please complete the nomination form or contact Rachel for more information.