

Spring 2011

Spring forward into 2011



From the Chairman

Dear Twin Town Members,

Happy New Year to you all. We have another busy year of events coming up and I look forward to seeing you at them. There are visits planned to Carcaixent, Feltre, Bagnols and Eeklo and we look forward to welcoming a group from Feltre in September. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Chairman but 2011/12 will be my last year in the role. I would encourage anyone who would like to get more involved on the committee to come forward to support our activities. It is a very rewarding job working with very enthusiastic colleagues, both in Newbury and with our Partners across Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Haslam

Newbury Twin Town Association

Winter Social Event Quiz and American Supper

St. Mary's Church Hall, Shaw
(Church Road, Newbury)

Saturday 29th January 2011

7.15pm to 10.00pm

£5.00 per person payable on the night - cash or cheque

Fancy pitting your wits against your fellow Twin Towners?

Got some well-informed, intelligent friends? Get them on your team!
Teams of 4 or 6.

Bring a plate of food per person to share and whatever you like to drink.
Help save washing up on the night and bring cutlery and paper plates or crockery
for your team.

Phone me to book your places and don't worry if you can't raise a whole team, just
come along and join up with others on the night.

Karen Cameron Taylor
07703 497561

NEWBURY TWIN TOWN ASSOCIATION

The Twin Towner

AGM

Our 2011 AGM will be held on **Saturday 19th February** in the Town Hall at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there. The AGM will be followed by a light buffet and drinks. Membership is due for renewal after the AGM.

Coffee Morning

We will host a fundraising coffee morning in the Town Hall at 10am on Saturday 19th February. Donations of cakes and small prizes for a tombola would be much appreciated. Please come along for a coffee and a chat. If you can stay for a bit of washing up, even better !!



The Newbury party limbering up for their dance on the bridge.

Bagnols-sur-Cèze and Kiskunfélegyháza celebrate twinning again.

A small party from Newbury join in the celebration.

Marian Hatfull reports

In November, eleven of us travelled to Bagnols-sur-Cèze to join with members of other nationality groups from within the Twin Town Association to attend the twinning celebrations of Bagnols with Kiskunfelegyhaza. There was never a dull moment, with highlights being the visit to Avignon, where we made sure to dance on the bridge (in the sunshine), before being whisked away to visit the historic 'Palais des Papes' followed by an evening enjoying the traditional and colourful spectacle (not to mention the wine tasting) of the procession of the new Cotes du Rhone wines. The theme for the visit included the place of volunteering in sport and a fair amount of sport was included in the programme, whether rambling or cycling in the countryside to the slightly less strenuous option of a walking tour of the town of Bagnols itself. Several group occasions were held (mostly centring around meals, of course) and the soup competition (prepared by our hosts) was much enjoyed, though it resulted in everyone being declared a winner! Everywhere we went, we were surrounded by warm and welcoming people, who had clearly worked very hard to ensure a happy and successful visit and we are all very much looking forward to the next one.



Phillippe Eysseric and Tibor Nemes-Nagy shake hands after signing the twinning agreement



Families for Europe

Two families from Newbury took part in the Braunfels New Year Celebrations.

Michelle Humphries reports

We took part in our first twinning trip along with another new family and participated in the Families for Europe event. The whole experience was an amazing one. We met wonderful and welcoming families in Braunfels as well as friends from Carcaixent, Spain.

The programme started with a trip to an independent sweet maker who makes unique and yummy sweet items in the basement of his house. We had a visit to the Senkenburg museum in Frankfurt and some free time to explore Frankfurt City Centre, which looked beautiful in the snow with Christmas decorations.

We also enjoyed a guided tour of Braunfels and learnt about its history before a visit to the Castle. New Years Eve was spent at a party organised by the committee of Braunfels and a fantastic night was enjoyed by all. We enjoyed a leisurely New Year's morning before going to Giessen and visiting the Interactive Maths Museum.

The whole trip was well planned, very well organised and very much enjoyed by us all.



Youth For Europe

New Year in Newbury had an International flavour as the Youth for Europe section of the NTTA welcomed visitors from Feltre, Braunfels, Kiskunfelegyhaza and Carcaixent to join them in celebration.

Chris Harper reports

At the end of the Youth for Europe event in Bagnols last summer we thought to ourselves “what a shame that we have to wait a whole year to see each other again.” Well, why did that have to be the case? Following on from last year’s amazing New Year trip to Feltre, we thought we’d hold it in Newbury this time!

After months of planning the event, all our guests, comprising eleven Italians, two Hungarians, two Spaniards and a German, arrived on 29th December. The next day the task of moving into The Waterside Centre began. Afterwards we gave them a quiz of Newbury, where they had to count the number of trees in the high street, find out what happened in 1643 and find the most expensive house for sale in the whole of Newbury, amongst other things.

Other highlights included a trip to London, visiting the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and the British Museum where we saw the Rosetta Stone, a trip to Winchester, where we had a beautiful session ice-skating by the cathedral, and also a fantastic New Year’s Eve party hosted by the Hunt family.

The task of cooking was handled very well, with the hosts cooking English meals such as fish and chips, bangers and mash, alongside a fry up for breakfast on New Year’s Day itself. The Waterside was a brilliant place for us to stay. Perfect space to eat and socialise, more than ample sleeping space and lots of hiding spaces for games such as sardines, the childhood classic, which came back with a force.

The holiday was a huge success. At the end, our guests were very reluctant to leave us, as we were to see them go! We’d had a wonderful time and met some new friends along the way. It was excellent to get some new young people from Newbury involved and I am sure we’ll be seeing them at future events.

I’d like to thank the NTTA for financial support with regards to the hiring of the Waterside Centre. Without it, we would have had problems ensuring the trip went ahead.



Youth for Europe group in front of Winchester Cathedral



Youth for Europe at home in the Waterside

Viva Newbury

The Spanish came, they saw, they bought.

A weekend in Newbury was enjoyed by visitors from our associated town in Spain, Carcaixent, last September. A tour of Newbury following the historic buildings guide produced by the Newbury Society, a group BBQ, a tour of London and a day at Newbury Show (with free tickets for the visitors kindly donated by the Showground) were packed into a busy weekend of activities. A group from Newbury are now looking forward to the return visit in March for the ‘Fallas’, or Spanish Fire Festival.



Visitors and hosts in the members enclosure at the Newbury Show



Ich bin ein Berliner

Berlin was the destination for a group visit in October. Organised by the Braunfels Association, this was the latest event in a three year project partially funded by the European Union exploring the issue of migration within Europe.

Rachel Haslam reports

Berlin was chosen due to its huge immigrant community of mainly Turkish citizens. The group from Newbury met with members from the other six European towns in the twinning network for an interesting weekend that included official presentations from community leaders, academics and politicians. The Migration and Integration theme is certainly a hot topic in Germany at the moment with daily coverage in the press and television. A politician and former member of the German Bundesbank, Thilo Sarrazin, has sparked heated discussion in the country following his statements about German immigration policy and Jewish genetics in relation to the publication of his recent book *Deutschland schafft sich ab* ("Germany Does Away With Itself"). The Newbury group were able to submit questions to the expert panel in order to find out more information about the particular Migration and Integration issues in Berlin.

In addition to the formal element of the visit, the Newbury group were able to visit the main tourist sites in Berlin including the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag Parliament Building and of course the remains of the Berlin Wall. The 20th Anniversary of German Reunification was also celebrated by citizens of Berlin during the weekend and the Newbury group were able to enjoy the festivities and open air concerts with their German hosts. Group meals were enjoyed and many new friendships formed with other members of the different Twinning Associations. Your Chairman celebrated his birthday while on the visit and his ability as a trainee belly dancer was much admired by the group during one of the evening events !



Strictly Come Dancing - German Turkish style.

Driving in Europe

General motoring advice if you plan a car trip in Europe.

Anyone planning to drive to our Twin Towns this year should be aware that on the spot fines will be issued by police if cars are not properly equipped. The equipment list varies between countries but includes a GB Sticker (unless you have number plates with the GB symbol), Headlamp Beam Converters, an Emissions Sticker, Warning Triangle, High Visibility Jacket (for each occupant of the car) and 1st Aid Kit. If you travelling in the winter your car should be fitted winter tyres and you may need wheel chains even if you car is fitted with winter tyres. If you break down, your high visibility jacket must be worn as you get out of the car. Please check you have a full kit before setting out, by consulting any UK motoring organisation.