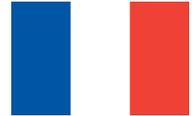




BILLERICAY TWINNING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER No 28 JANUARY 2018

Over a year has passed since the last Newsletter and there are several events that have taken place that will be described in this Newsletter.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR TREVOR STANSFIELD

The start of the year was a sad time. On 5th January Trevor Stansfield passed away. Trevor was the prime-mover in creating the Twinning Association in 1997 and was its Chairman from 1997 to 2008. Trevor and his wife Margaret drove forward the twinning of Billericay with Fishers which culminated in the signing of Sister City charters in Billericay in 1998 and reciprocated in Fishers in 1999. Trevor was also involved with the twinning with Chauvigny and represented the Town Council as their Chairman when our charter was signed in Chauvigny in 2005.

Several of the Association attended the funeral service at Bentley Crematorium on 26th January and later that day at Christ Church in Perry Street.

The Association has arranged for a park bench to be placed in Lake Meadows in memory of Trevor and his wife Margaret and also celebrating 20 years of twinning with Fishers.



Bench unveiled in Lake Meadows with Marion Wilson and Trevor's daughter (seated)

It is expected a plaque for Trevor will be placed beside the plaque for his wife Margaret located beneath the tree planted in Margaret's memory in Billericay Park in Fishers.

VISIT OF THE CHAUVINOIS 16th to 20th May 2018

By Mary Hawkins

Once again we were very happy to meet our old friends from Chauvigny. They arrived on Wednesday 16th May and after they were welcomed at Stansted Airport, an official reception was held in the Town Council Meeting Room. This time we were pleased to see new members who were coming to Billericay for the first time.

A day with the hosts was planned for the Thursday. Several people visited Stow Maries Airport and museum with its First World War memorabilia. This seemed appropriate given that 1918 marked the end of the Great War. Following this, for several people, fish and chips at the nearby 'airmen's pub' seemed essential!

Others were taken to Lavenham in Suffolk to admire the heritage of the ancient market town and to enjoy the hospitality in the "Number 10" Restaurant.

Friday was our Big Day with a visit to Canterbury. We left early at 8.30 by coach and arrived at the Cathedral for guided tours in French and English. The French were, understandably, impressed by this magnificent building, much of it built with stone from Caen.

A short walk across the river took us to Chapman's where we had an excellent lunch of fish and chips and apple crumble. Afterwards, some people chose to explore the city on their own while others had a guided but short scamper round the most historic buildings including the 16th century Old Weavers' houses, the Eastbridge Hospital, built for pilgrims, and the 12th century castle (built by the English, but captured by the French in 1216).

We had a good journey back to Billericay in spite of the rush hour!



Outside Canterbury Cathedral

There was a short meeting of the joint Committees on Saturday morning, 19th, and in the evening the traditional dinner was held at Downham Village Hall with excellent catering from Lambourne Catering. Smoked Salmon, Loin of Pork and a Lemon Meringue Roulade were much enjoyed by all!



Jeannine speaks at the Dinner

Then on Sunday, our visitors departed for Stansted and home and were picked up by coach from the High street. Goodbyes took a long time as everyone had to be kissed with fond farewells and promises to meet again in Chauvigny in 2020. As always, we feel privileged to have this opportunity to get to know

and meet regularly our friends from Chauvigny, our Twin Town.

WALK OF FRIENDSHIP BRENTONICO, ITALY 19-25 AUGUST

By Maggie Kingston

The annual walk with our friends from Chauvigny and their twin towns of Geisenheim and Trino was in Italy last year. We stayed in Brentonico, a ski resort in the mountains not far from Lake Garda. There were only four of us from Billericay (Mary, Janet, Maggie & Martin) this time and the group overall was smaller than usual. Five of the usual walkers had to withdraw this year due to medical reasons. On our arrival there was the usual briefing and welcome drinks – this year they made a particular effort decorating the tables with flags of the different nations.



The British table at Brentonico

We had a glorious week with some superb weather and the views on the walks were stunning. We were either in the mountains with views of the lake or walking along close to the shore.



Close to the shore

A range of walks was on offer and the ascents for Group 1 were up to just over 2,000m with 'via ferrata' metal ladders attached to the rocks. Some of the paths even for the other groups hugged the side of the mountains with steep gorges below and on one occasion the path was very narrow and we needed the help of a rope to keep us on track.



With the help of a rope handrail

We had an excursion to Limone in the middle of the week when we took a cable car down to the lake and then a boat to the other side.



A view from the boat

We visited a 'limonaia' where they grow lemon trees and other citrus fruits on a series of terraces after which there was time for some retail therapy.



Onwards and upwards



Experiencing more magnificent views

Martin and I enjoyed relaxing on our balcony at the end of the day and we were sometimes joined by Mary and Janet. The social activities in the evening included a presentation of last year's walk, bingo, singing and dancing.



Relaxing after a long day

We extend thanks to our Italian hosts for their organisation, hospitality and friendship and we're now looking forward to renewing acquaintances on the walk this year which is in the south of Germany near Oberstdorf.

QUIZ NIGHT

We hope that many of you will be coming to our Quiz Night on 26th January. The event will take place at the Canon Roche Hall, Laindon Road. The quiz will start at 7:30 and it is hoped that you will be there by 7:15 so that we can arrange the tables for teams of 8. The cost is £5 a head.

You should bring your own drinks and nibbles and we are hoping that everyone will have a great and challenging time. As always, Martin Hart will be question master and Maggie Kingston will manage the event and keep score. Mary Hawkins will run the raffle.

AGM

A date for the diary:

This year's AGM will take place on 18th March at the Town Council Meeting Room, Crown Yard, Billericay High Street. It will begin at 7:30pm and members should be seated at 7:15.

A formal invitation, agenda and accounts etc will be sent to all members in due course.

Refreshments and nibbles will be provided as usual.