



KONTAKT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD LANDKREIS ROTH
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION 1979
2018—2019



Sonnenschein needed no translation at Twinning's 40th Anniversary Celebration



Founder members, Rita and Keith Brown, played hosts to a wonderful afternoon garden party that was blessed by perfect weather, on Sunday, 2nd September, 2018.

Willkommen to sunny England!



A truly gemütlich table
Addresses given by Bürgermeister Herr

Klaus Vogel and Keith, our host, were particularly poignant, referring to the ever greater importance, especially to the young, of long term friendships across borders.



A Wake Up Call

Calling all members! As is true of all clubs and societies, attracting new members has been and always will be essential to Brentwood-Roth Association's happy continuation.

Dear fellow members, regardless of whether or not you are serving on the committee, please bring new people along to our social events. There they will hear talk of the modern, lively and oh-so-friendly Germany that we have all learned to enjoy on our wonderful town twinning adventures.

Lest anyone be concerned about fluency in German, please assure them it is NOT necessary in order to fully participate in Twinning events —see over.

Events Programme 2019

Sunday 26th May 2019 3-6 pm.
Tea Party at 49, Shenfield Rd.,
 garden games + bring-and-buy plant
 sale. £5 on the door

Sunday 30th June
Strawberries, Pimms and Wurst—
 now an established culinary highpoint
 £15.00 (New venue—Tony & Jean's
 garden)
 Phone John Saxton 07778 422648

29th August – 3rd September 2019
40th Anniversary visit to Roth

Sat 7th September 2019 3-5 pm.
Debriefing meeting for members
 returning from Roth at 49, Shenfield
 Road.

Bierfest at Brentwood Brewery or-
 ganised by Jon, *date tba.

Sat 12th October 2019
Quiz+Ploughmans at Shenfield
 Parish Hall 7 p.m., organised by Ange-
 la

Early December ***Secret Santa party**
 with mulled wine+mince pies,
 date+venue tba.

January 2020 ***Annual Association
 dinner** at Bentley Golf Club

February 2020 **Vintage 20's** dress-
 ing up tea party - *date+venue tba.

*Final details will be emailed a.s.a.p.

**New members will be made wel-
 come.** Phone or text Membership
 Secretary Noelle on 07986 174969

Marks Hall Arboretum



On Friday, 31st August our north Es-
 sex trip ended in Marks Hall Arbore-
 tum. It was a revelation for the
 "home team" and Elizabeth is to be
 congratulated for finding this gem in
 the Essex countryside.

Now being beautifully maintained and
 restored, the estate can boast an 800
 year old oak as proof of its long histo-
 ry. Edvard Munch's famous painting is
 evoked by "The Screaming Oak" a
 magnificent ancient and gnarled speci-
 men.

After the incursions of air force bases
 in the 1940s the ancient house was
 considered to be in a dangerous condi-
 tion and demolished in 1950.

Trees from all temperate areas of the
 world have been introduced, including
 some on the extremely endangered
 list in the hope they be saved from ex-
 tinction.

Our guide paused frequently in her
 vivid explanations of the life cycles
 and importance of the huge variety of
 trees we strolled past to allow for
 translation for the group of guests less
 confident in their grasp of botanical
 English.

Our visit to Maldon

3rd September 2018



It was a particularly beautiful early autumn day when we visited Maldon. The coach stopped at the top of the High Street and we wandered down to The Hythe, admiring the patchwork of architecture and the tempting small shops on the way.

My heart always gives a leap on seeing the white wooden spire of St. Mary the Virgin's church, (a beacon for sailors) and the russet sails and intricate rigging of the Thames Barges lying at anchor off The Hythe. That day, under mild sunlight and a wide sky, the Blackwater mud looked as silvery as the incoming tide.

We had lunch on board the Thames Barge, Hydrogen and then sat on deck sipping coffee — or something stronger!

Some guests strolled back up into town.

Others paid their respects to Byrhtnoth, the brave but not very bright Anglo-Saxon ealdorman, at his statue at the end of the promenade. His defiance in 991 of Viking raiders, his death in battle and the desperate rearguard action of his doomed followers, are told in an Anglo Saxon poem, 'The Battle of Maldon'.

Many guests and hosts visited the Museum in the Park which was opened especially for us. Of particular interest to our guests were the programme of a

concert put on by German First World War prisoners of war who were interned in a camp in Maldon and the toys they made for local children. I would have liked to tell our guests a bit about Hydrogen, but time was too short and the day too beautiful to linger below decks.



She was one of three sister ships, the others being Carbon and Oxygen, built in 1906 as tankers under sail to take oil to Scotland. Hydrogen was fitted with an engine only in 1941, when she was requisitioned for war work in Scotland. In 1978 she was bought by Arthur Bell & Sons, the whisky distillers, who converted her into a floating replica of a Victorian pub and took her all round the British Isles, promoting Bell's whisky.

In 1992 she was bought by Top-sail Charters Ltd and converted back into a traditional barge, a rare relic of a past industry and way of life along the Essex coast. She was privileged to participate in the Thames Pageant in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. E S

Strawberry Tea



The weather was perfect for the Annual Strawberry Tea on Saturday 7th July hosted by John Saxton in his beautiful garden in Ingatestone. We did feel lucky.

Warm sunshine, gazebos erected, comfortable chairs, strawberries & cream, cakes, trifle, tea & coffee and of course, Pimms and ale. What more could we ask for? Well, as it happened, delicious hot Thuringian Bratwürste and mixed salad plus much laughter and animated conversation. Several lucky guests went home with raffle prizes.

Not so many Members attended as in 2017, caused in part by clashing with an important football match in Russia. We were not to know that the English team would STILL be competing on that Saturday afternoon. In future a lesson to be applied by the Social Committee.
Anne Long.



By Popular Demand... Square Dance + Traditional Supper

Our guests' appetite for complicated footwork powered by fish and chips remained undiminished from previous years. By happy chance the band's caller was able to give instructions in German as well as English.



Beautiful dirndls were worn to great effect by two guests, bringing an exotic touch to the evening.



More very social and slightly competitive activity was enjoyed during the following, Monday, evening, playing traditional pub games in the welcoming surroundings of the Blackmore Sports and Social Club. JS

Visit to Sandford Mill

In 1879 German physicist Heinrich Hertz confirmed Scottish physicist James Maxwell's theory that electricity, magnetism and light are all manifestations of electromagnetic fields — he showed how electrical discharges across a spark gap caused sparks at another spark gap some distance away.

Model of Hertz's Apparatus



Peter Watkins, a volunteer at Sandford Mill Technological Museum, explained how that experiment was key to establishing wireless communications.

Hertz died in 1894 leaving others to develop practical applications of his work. A young Italian scientist, Guglielmo Marconi of Bologna, read the work of Hertz and others such as Tesla. Replacing Hertz's vertical dipole with a vertical wire topped by a metal sheet, with an opposing terminal connected to the earth, Marconi transmitted radio signals for about 1.5 miles in 1895. The Italian Minister of Post and Telegraphs rejected his request for development funding, suggesting he be consigned to an insane asylum, but Marconi received support from the Chief Electrical Engineer of the British Post Office and was granted a British patent. In 1897. Eventually radio Morse code signals could be transmitted using an antenna supported by a kite as far away as Newfoundland in Canada

from a transmitter in Cornwall. Marconi was awarded the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics for contributions to radio sciences, the use of wireless communications and for equipping ships for life saving and navigational directional purposes. Marconi equipment on the Titanic summoned assistance when she struck the iceberg in 1912.

Wooden huts that housed the first public broadcast transmitting station, 2MT, in 1922 in Writtle have been preserved at the museum, complete with equipment of the time.

The Marconi company was at the forefront of development of microwave communications and TV, the Marconi-EMI system being adopted by the BBC for its public television system, the first in the world. Our own photographer, Manfred Klier, made a broadcast to the group, using equipment of past decades, and was given a disc copy to take home with him.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking Peter Watkins and his volunteer colleagues for the very interesting tour of the museum.

Tony Sleep

Mock-up of Titanic's Wireless Cabin



Crossing Temple & Coggeshall

Friday 31st August

Cllr Keith Parker welcomed our guests in the "Tin Church" of St John in Mountnessing -the "ersatz" venue for the civic welcome, as the Ingrave Road, Brentwood town hall was being renovated. A close-up view of the windmill was an unplanned bonus for our guests.

Crossing Temple Barn



Crossing Temple Barns started our day's adventures. Two groups, guided by our own members, one in German, the other English, learnt of the stunning scale and durability of those ancient structures. They spoke of the power and influence once held by the Knights Templar, suppressed by the Pope in 1319 after two centuries of military and innovative economic activity throughout Europe. During that time much of the wealth generated by 160 tenant farmers on the 6000 hectare estate went to support the crusader campaigns in the holy lands. Amazingly, they had developed a banking system across Europe such that travellers to the holy lands could, once there, draw on deposits made in their home countries.

As well as those great "storage facilities" equipment for processing crops and, importantly, for brewing ale added to the understanding of lives led nine centuries ago.

Luncheon in The White Hart



Choosing the ancient White Hart Inn for luncheon led us to visit the delightful town of Coggeshall, with Paycocke's House and that pretty clock house and tower dating back to the 14th century. Our day continued at Marks Hall Arboretum. (See page 2)

Coggeshall Clocktower and Clockhouse

