

KONTAKT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD LANDKREIS ROTH
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION 1979
2016—2017



AGM 2016

As usual the formal elegance of the borough council chamber was the setting for the well attended thirty sixth association AGM but it will not be so for the thirty seventh as the town hall is about to mutate into luxury flats, (sorry, apartments!) library, police station and borough council accommodation, so will be a hardhat zone for quite a while in the near future.

The Committee:

Chairman Cllr Jon Cloke

Vice Chairman Roger Keeble

Treasurer Debbie

Secretary Anne Long

Membership Secretary Helen Jackman

Publicity and Kontakt Editor John Saxton

Ordinary Members are:

Angela Bailey, Diane Matthews & Elizabeth Scannell

The vacancy for the Youth/School liaison role persists.

We welcomed our new Mayor Cllr Noelle Hones as President and Cllr William Russell as our Vice President.

Spread It About - The Eagle Did Land SPREAD EAGLE Bier und Bratwurst Bash

Very many thanks to Jack, manager at the Spread Eagle in Brentwood, who kindly hosted our twinning recruitment bash by organising a B-B-Q in the garden for an all day function to help promote the fun we have as members of the Brentwood/Landkreis Roth Town Twinning Association.

Mayor Cllr Noelle and Councillor Jon Cloke

traded shoe leather for new members, delivering hundreds of invitations in Brentwood to the event on the day of the unorthodox parking manoeuvre. Fortunately they were safely playing postmen in a nearby street at the time of the incident.



*Novel Car Parking Technique
in front of The Spread Eagle*



Bier and Bratwurst banner

We were very lucky with the weather and managed to attract much interest by chatting to people who had either had flyers through the door or seen the lovely banners around the town and outside the pub. We have now gained a few more members from this event so I hope we can organise more like this. DM

Friday 2.9.16 – Ex-Mayor's Dramatic Town Tour



After the formal reception of our visitors in the town hall, Councillor Mark Reed led a walking tour of Brentwood, including a look behind the scenes in Brentwood Theatre. Mark, who is theatre manager, pledged to conduct the Spaziergang around the town when visiting Roth as association president in 2015.

To many of us who live or work there, the fascinating wealth of history in the town came as a great surprise. The Germanic "Brent" in the town name, referring to the burning of the forest to create a clearance for settlement, immediately struck a chord with our guests.

Bypassed only as recently as the 1960s, Brentwood had lain on the main route between London and the ancient towns of Colchester and Chelmsford for over two millennia, which, together with the soldiers from Warley Barracks, supported a large number of hostelries. Those included the White Hart, (Sugar Hut) visited in 1392 by Richard II.



Brentwood's growth also owed much to the passage of pilgrims en route to Canterbury, to which the ruins of the chapel to Thomas Becket and Pilgrims Hatch or "gate", bear witness. Henry VIII, well known to our guests as the "serial murderer," stayed in Mary Green Manor.

Mark enumerated the many cultural activities of Brentwood residents, theatrical (of course!), operatic, choral and sporting.

Dirndl, Dance and Deutsch

Return to Ingatestone, Sunday 4.9.16



Following the church service in Ingatestone, we returned to the village on the Sunday

evening for an event that has become a firm favourite with the our visitors.

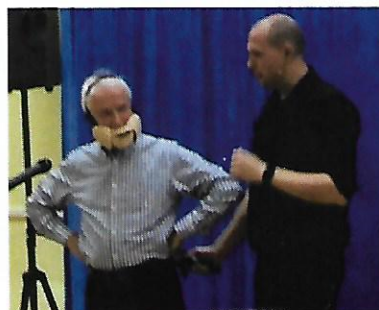
Our Landkreis Roth guests have developed a taste for a traditional British dish and enjoy an energetic dance. To satisfy those two partialities, musicians, claiming with justification to be the best square dance band in Essex, not only played irresistible dance numbers but even called the moves in German, while Ingatestone and Fryerning Community Association provided excellent fish and chips and a spacious dance floor.

Two of our younger guests turned out in traditional dirndls, with lace bodices, full skirts and aprons, lending the evening an eye-catching degree of folk authenticity. Full marks for taking the trouble to pack those beautiful garments. Association chairman, Cllr Jon Cloke, did an excellent job of organising the evening and even joined in the fun, despite his recently having undergone knee surgery.

I HATE MAGIC but oh, what a night!

I arrived at the hall with great trepidation as magic is certainly not my thing, but what a wonderful surprise the evening turned out to be! Not only did we have magic at our tables and right under our noses but we were actually given some props to perform the tricks ourselves and we still could not work out how it was done!

The evening was laced with our own nibbles and drinks followed by an interval with a vast ploughman's spread. During the second part of the evening, which started with not only magic but lots of humour when a very sporting David Minns volunteered to "Help the comedian perform some tricks" (see photo), each magician rotated round our tables with even more eye popping activities and wonderment on everyone's face. I am now certainly looking forward to the next Magic Show, hopefully, next year.



With many thanks to Angela Bailey and her team of helpers who put the whole evening together. Hats off to them, but no surprises there!!! DM

Ingatestone Hall - History Personified

Having heard about much of Brentwood's past from the lips of Cllr Mark Reed on his walking tour of the town, our guests were conveyed straight to Ingatestone to receive the most authoritative account possible of the five century history of Ingatestone Hall and the Petre family from the XVIIIth Baron John Lord Petre.

Ingatestone Hall



After his welcome to all in the open courtyard, Lord Petre explained how Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries led to William Petre, the dynasty's founder, being able to purchase the estate and build the enclosed courtyard hall. (Now missing the northern section, so presenting a U shaped rather than a square plan.) His son Dominic now has private quarters in the Hall with his young family, so making the buildings a home rather than a museum. Lord Petre led half of us on the house tour while I interpreted for Joan, the guide assigned to the remainder, comprising mostly those less confident conversing in English.

Who needs an hour hand?

(The clock over the entrance to the hall doesn't irritate us with a bothersome minute hand.)



Joan related the amazing tale of survival by the Petre family, despite its keeping doggedly to the Roman Catholic faith throughout times of internecine religious strife. The two priest holes seen during the tour were concrete evidence of the seriousness of the threat of state control in religious matters at the time. Invited by Joan to add anything I felt pertinent, I mentioned William Byrd, sixteenth century composer, considered to be the father of English music, who lived in nearby Standon Massey and was a frequent guest at the Hall, where he both composed and performed his works.

Although once implicated in the Gunpowder Plot and despite his adherence to Roman Catholicism, he retained his freedom—and his head! Also, Queen Elizabeth I moderated her persecution of Roman Catholics greatly on account of her love of church music, such as Byrd was writing. We all then enjoyed an excellent Ploughman's Lunch, that creative triumph of the Milk Marketing Board! JS

Church Service 4.9.16 - St Edmund and St Mary's, Ingatestone



The beautiful parish church in the centre of Ingatestone village hosted the service to which all our guests were invited.

With readings and prayers in German and English, the service was appreciated by the many Twinning participants in the large congregation, particularly for its friendly informality. Rector Patrick Sherring, who had clearly prepared the order of service very much with our Roth guests in mind, gave a thoughtful address, reminding all of the plight of so many refugees and homeless around the world.

Andy, Director of Music, provided wonderful organ and piano accompaniment to the hymns then addressed the congregation in excellent German - a man of many talents.

Service over, our guests enjoyed the refreshments provided, surprisingly, for those visiting from Germany, in the church. They expressed interest in the historic building and the various photographs on display, demonstrating the huge range of activities and the involvement of the local community.



Olympic Park and River Lea



Diane climbing up to magnificent views followed by a "holterdiepolter" downward spiral on the Olympic helter-skelter.

The last full day was started with a truly athletic tour of the Queen Elizabeth (Olympic) Park followed by a boat trip on the River Lea.



An inspired shot of the group passing through Westfield shops.



Radiant smiles as the official reception draws to a close in Brentwood Borough Council's Chamber.

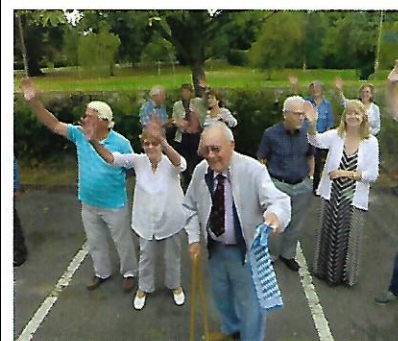
Willkommen in Council Chamber

Mayor Cllr Noelle Hones graced the welcoming reception in the council chamber where cordial exchanges replaced the usual political strife. Mayor Hones read parts of the 1979 founding document to remind us of the pledges of friendship between the two administrative districts, Landkreis Roth and Brentwood Borough.



Visitors about to present appreciative floral tributes

Homeward Bound



View of Hosts from Departing Coach

If you would like to host guests from Germany and also spend time in turn getting to know them in their own town, get in touch with Anne Long, the Secretary of the Town Twinning Association tel 01277 372698 . You don't have to speak German! There are fund raising social events around Brentwood throughout the year where you can get to know the "home team".



Farewell Pub Night

Traditional pub games in the Chough, south Brentwood, proved popular with our guests, who managed to thrash the home teams at darts.

The Chough put on a grand spread of pub food to suit every palate, keeping up the strength of bar footballers, billiard tyros and darts players.

Brentwood Association Chairman, Cllr Jon Cloke, took the opportunity to emphasise how the many friendships, old and new, between the visitors and hosts, would long remain intact, despite Brexit.



The winning darts team