



Brentwood
Borough Council

KONTAKT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD LANDKREIS ROTH
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION 1979
Winter-Summer 2013



Our special events for 2013 started off with a Coffee Morning at Roger and Jane Winter's beautiful home in Ingatestone.

Walking into the house was like walking into a picture gallery. Beautiful paintings, prints and drawings all tastefully framed were present in every room and gave a nice and warm feeling.



The table was lavishly covered with a great variety of home made cakes, which everybody seem to enjoy together with bottomless tea and coffeepots.

The event was well attended and the raffle successful.

Many thanks to Jean and Roger for all the hard work and for being such perfect hosts.

Jazz Evening

Paula Jackman's Jazzmen gave us another superb entertainment on the evening of 23rd February at the Holly Trees Primary School Hall.

Members brought along some of their friends as well and it was well attended.

Everybody enjoyed the music and the solo performances of each instrument. Judging by the tapping of the feet in accord with the rhythm showed that everyone entered the mood of the evening.

Paula's witty remarks and anecdotes went down well and were very refreshing.

We were also privileged to have been shown a brand new Instrument designed and built by Brian Marsden himself. Craftsmanship indeed.



In the interval, Fish/chicken and chips were provided followed by a raffle. A very successful evening indeed.

Fun at the Coach House

The theme was: 'Kaffee und Kuchen and Bring and Buy'. This event took place at the lovely house of Robin and Barbara Staines who were so generous as to put up with 40 members entering with muddy boots leaving traces of the horrible weather all over the carpets. There was an overwhelming amount of books and DVD as well as cassettes brought in by the members which found quite a lot of buyers.



Alongside the Books and DVD's was the table with the display of 'Kuchen'. Looking at these, the first thought that springs to mind is: 'forget about the calories', just tuck in.

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Apart from the delicacies seen on the table, there were a few hidden away in the kitchen, lest we ran short.

The house soon filled with members and a very cosy atmosphere prevailed due to the sound of chatter and tea and coffee cups.

It was well attended and together with the raffle and the sale of the books, DVDs and CDs, we were able to add a good, much needed sum to the coffers.

Thanks to all the members who came in spite of the cold and damp weather.

A very special THANK YOU to Barbara and Robin for letting us use your cosy home.

Our Annual Dinner

This year it took place on April 19th instead of the usual month of February. We all look forward to this event because it is our major event of the year. The general opinion was in favour of April since the fierce cold has passed by that time and it has a more comfortable feeling about it.

The event was again at the Golf Club by the courtesy of our dear Roy Stevenson who kindly arranges this every year for us.

The Carvery was up the usual standard and deserved the verdict 'Excellent.'

Apart from Anne and Malcolm who were in Australia at the time, a few other people were missing which left at least one large table unoccupied.

The raffle was a successful one and contributed nicely towards our funds.

Was there something missing? Yes indeed. It was Roy's speech with a few of his amusing anecdotes to conclude the evening.

THE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of 2013 took place on the 13th of June in the Town Hall.

Our chairman Roger Winter welcomed the committee and the members. He then gave his account of the past, present and future events to date.

Our new Mayor Madeline Henwood was not able to attend and the Deputy Mayor Cllr Roger Hirst addressed the meeting instead.

The Secretary Mrs Anne Long had the sad task to announce that regrettably, Fred Green had, due to poor health, stepped down from the Executive Committee.

His readiness to always stand by with good advice given with a touch of humour will be missed. Mrs Debbie Woods, our treasurer, was able to

assure the members that the accounts are in good shape and well on the way to meeting the expenses for the year 2014 when we will be hosting our friends from Roth.

The meeting ended with the customary refreshments and cakes supplied by Angela's Bakery.



Strawberry Party.

The weather was ideal. Not too cold, not too warm.

Tony Steep and Jean had kindly let us use their house and garden for our annual indulgence in strawberries.

Tony greeted each of us with a big welcoming smile and a refreshing 'Pims.'

The members had contributed strawberry cheese cakes, cup cakes, flans, little appetising biscuits with a dollop of cream and a strawberry on top, and naughty chocolate cake with strawberry and cream. All of it designed to put a couple of inches on our hips by the time we got home.

The large superbly kept garden was a delight to look at with an abundance of flowers for which Tony himself had installed an extensive irrigation system.

Thank you, Tony and Jean for all the work you had to put in, in order to make it a successful afternoon.

The attendance could have been better since there were only twenty seven members. The missing members missed a good event and a good nosh.

Visit to Germany 2013

Thursday 5th

The flight to Munich for our visit to Roth was a good one. We arrived 20 min earlier than expected and the bus was waiting for us. After boarding nothing seemed to move or happen for a good while and then it was announced that a failure of the battery was the cause of it. This could take up to two hours to repair.

The weather was nice and sunny and we sat outside on a patio of the airport and were served Frankfurter and Weisswurst Sausages with chunks of bread to soften the two hourly wait.

Our hosts were waiting for us when we finally arrived at Roth with a warm welcome and a hug. Many of the members on either side have known each other for 34 years and were delighted to meet again.

Friday

After exchanging all the news with our friends well into the late hours on Thursday night, we met the following morning at the town Hall (Landratsamt) for the official greeting. Landrat Herbert Eckstein delivered his speech in near enough perfect English: 'I have the pleasure to welcome you in Roth....' he began and then proceeded to express his approval of the new Chairs that had been appointed replacing Ingeborg with Anne Klier and Angela with Roger Winter, therefore assuring the continuation of our Town -Twinning- Association. Our Mayor Madeline Henwood praised the effort that gone into arranging the visit. She then exchanged presents with Herbert Eckstein. Jill Dimmock read a letter given to her by Roy Stevenson in which he expressed his sorrow not to be able to visit this time. 'The diagnosis,' so he said, 'is old age' but I hope to see you all next year in Brentwood. Everybody was deeply moved by the letter. In the afternoon an interesting guided tour through the historic part of Nuernberg was conducted and still left ample free time to do any shopping.

Saturday

The Limes Museum we visited on Saturday is of an unusual modern design and devoted to the Romans. The German Limes Road runs from the upper Rhine to Regensburg on the Danube and depicts the Borderline.

There are numerous historically interesting stations with rebuilt watchtowers that are strategically placed in order to watch over the border fortifications. (resembling very much the watch-towers that used to line the East German borders separating the East from the West.) Inside the museum we could see various Roman relics and images of buildings and lifestyle of the people from the past. By the way, the Limes Museum did win a design award in 2010.

Lunch in Gerolfingen at the brewery restaurant 'Gasthof Roetter' was a welcome break, were the Schnitzels went down a treat with beer and wine.

In the afternoon the visit to a health farm called 'Schmalzmuehle' was quite an experience.

The farm is a working dairy farm which produces its own cheese and bakes its own bread.

We were invited to produce our own cheese and eat it. Placed at a long table, we were served a plate with various cold meats and cheeses with

Then a container with milk was put in the middle of the table and a young man with a good sense of humour came and injected the milk with rennet so it could set. After 20min a bucket with some disinfectant came along and someone had to put a finger in it ready to test the milk for its consistency.



When it was pronounced set, it had to be cross-cut to produce squares. Everybody took part in it. Some of the squares were not really true squares due to the amount of wine that had been consumed.

Then the cheese had to be put on a large sieve so the whey could drain off and leave an edible soft cheese.



Here you can see Jill scooping out the little squares.

The owner entertained us with the history of the farm, laced with witty remarks.

That afternoon was full of fun and everybody had a really good time.

Sunday

The Service at the Protestant Stadtkirche in Roth took place at 10 o'clock and was conducted in German as well as English. It was a very moving service and well attended by the Twin Towing from Brentwood.

After the service there was time and opportunity to have coffee and cake and a chat with the priest who was a very interesting young man. The rest of the day was free to meet with other friends and acquaintances.

Monday

In the morning we were welcomed by the Mayor Georg Kuttinger in the Town Hall of Thalmaessing and we had our lunch at the restaurant 'Zum Loewen'

Our guide was Fritz on a motorised grass cutter, who spoke a very strong Bavarian Dialect and Roger did an excellent translation that was not at all easy.



The Museum showed every aspect of how the Celts used to live, sharing the living quarters with the animals. It was a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon with lots of sunshine.



In the evening we attended the customary "Friendship Evening" at the restaurant "Waldblick."

A very nice venue indeed.

In the speeches, our Mayor Madeline Henwood, and our Chair Roger Winter were praising the hospitality we received and the well organised outings we enjoyed during our stay.



Anne Klier, Chair for Landkreis Roth, expressed the wish and hope for a long continuation of our friendship between our two towns.

After the speeches, presents were exchanged, followed by a very generous buffet with wine.

We said our good byes to the friends who would not be able to accompany us on our last day.

Tuesday

It actually rained. After all the brilliant sunshine, it poured. Yes, it did, it poured.

We were in Ingoldstadt and seeking shelter by visiting a few shops and then look for somewhere to have a drawn out lunch.

At 14.00 hrs we boarded the bus to the Munich Airport in order to depart with Easyjet at 16.35.

Having settled in the departure lounge, the announcement came that our flight would be delayed by one hour..

We eventually arrived in Stansted and subsequently in Brentwood two hours later than the expected time.

A very successful visit indeed, leaving us with lots of nice memories.



Sadly we have to inform of the death of Maurice Stevenson, after a long illness.

Maurice has been a member of the Association for a long time and along with his wife Joan, has travelled to Roth as well as hosting here in Brentwood for many years.

They have been great supporters of the Association and attended many events and fund raising activities. Our sympathy goes to Joan and the family.

We also report the death of Jack Ochiltree who has been a member of the Association along with his wife Iris for many years. In fact, Jack was one of the very first members and has always been a good supporter of our events over the past few decades. He loved attending the Annual Golf Club Dinners, so that he could meet with old friends and catch up with the news.

He will be greatly missed by his friends in the Association.