



KONTAKT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD LANDKREIS ROTH
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION 1979
2014—2015



AGM 2014

Our AGM Meeting took place on the 19th of June in the Town Hall.

Our Chairman Roger Winter welcomed the committee and the members as did our new Mayor Vicky Davies, who would be our President with Mr Roger Keeble as Vice President. Roger Winter gave account of events held in the past, present and future.

There were no great changes as far as the committee members were concerned other than that Mrs Christine Seymore had retired from her post as a Liaison Officer. A replacement has not come forward as yet.

Mrs Debbie Wood our treasurer, was able to report that our accounts, even after the visitors from Germany, are still in good shape.

Mrs Anne Long had the sad task to reflect on the great loss of Eric Walker and Jill Dimmock, who both contributed so much to the continuation of The Town Twinning with Roth and will both be remembered for a very long time.

The meeting ended with refreshments of tea, coffee, cold drinks and cakes provided by Anne and Angela.



Kaffee und Kuchen

This afternoon went really well in spite of the low attendance. Mayor Vicky Davies seemed to enjoy the cosy atmosphere created by Angela Bailey as well as everyone else.

Above all, the afternoon provided an occasion to chat to friends and acquaintances and exchange the latest news.

There was a very generous raffle for much needed funds.



The Stollen Event

Like last year, the 'Stollen Party' took place at Roger and Jane's house in Ingatestone on the 18th November

where the Mayor Vicky Davies was also in attendance.

The centre Piece was of course the very unusual 'Wooden Christmas Tree'. It might sound strange but the way it is constructed and decorated makes it a work of nativity art. Truly beautiful.

The table was laden with stollen, mince pies of various sizes, cakes and other goodies. It was well attended and judging by the chatter amongst friends everybody seem to enjoy the afternoon.

Jane and Roger put in a tremendous amount of work and the effort was well worth it.

Thank you very much indeed.

A very successful raffle saw to it that our coffers were replenished. *Peggy Rice*

Annual Dinner



There was a warm welcome from our Chairman Roger Winter who also apologised for the absence of the Mayor Vicky Davies. Although there were far fewer people than in previous years, there was a nice atmosphere and the food justified the high reputation of the Golf Club. It was a very good evening.

Kaffee und Kuchen

Again one of Angela's superbly organised coffee mornings on Saturday the 28th March.

There was a severe lack of attendance I have to say, but it had the usual cosy atmosphere we have come to appreciate from each of all the events at Angela's home. Dianne Mathews also brought three German guests who were well impressed with some of the English cakes. There was a sale of books and DVD's and together with a raffle, there was a profit to be had.

Peggie Rice

Harlequins' Lingua Londinii **"In London Town" 23rd April, 2015**

Dynamic Diane demonstrated impresario adroitness, giving us an evening of great theatre on Shakespeare's birthday in the cosy Friends' Meeting House in Shenfield.

Old favourites, such as Bentjeman's "Business Girl", were mixed seamlessly with the ancient work, "A Monk's View", Richard of Devizes, ca. 1185 and "I went to London and it had Gone", Jeremy Clarkson, 2007 (yes, really). Unobtrusively well-balanced, the programme led us from Carol Ann Duffy's sinister "The Kray Sisters", through the pathos-to-bathos "Tyburn Widow", Leon Garfield, to a final selection of rib tickling Limericks and Epitaphs, e.g. Spike Milligan's "I told you I was ill!"

All did not go to plan; the inter-reading link music, presumably on a memory stick rather than pianola roll, had been left in Upminster. But few minutes delayed, the performers sallied forth regardless.

The Harlequins - During their Parthian Fusillade of Smart-Crude London Wit



The Shakespearean veterans from Havering really showed their mettle, inducing mood swings in the audience worthy of a grumpy teenager. Music did punctuate the post tea and biscuits session. The experience was definitely different for it but better or worse? Just different, would I peradventure.

If you missed out on this hugely enjoyable event you should be feeling quite Tom and Dick - you'd better Christmas Eve it! (19/20 in the rhyming slang quiz counted as failure.)

Diane Matthews is to be congratulated on her imaginative triumph and sterling efforts to pull in us punters, raising loadsa bread and honey for next year's Besuch.

John Saxton

Dates for your Diary

29th January, 2016 NEW VENUE for our annual dinner - after many happy annual dinners at Thorndon Golf Club we are moving the 2016 event to Bentley Golf Club.

13th March, 2016 Pub Fun and Games Evening N.b. this date is provisional

...and a reminder, our German guests are here 1st-6th September, 2016.

AGM 2015

By Anne Long

The AGM wasn't well attended and my thanks go to those who did come along but there were more than enough members present to elect a new committee chairman of the Association.

Cllr Jon Cloke has taken the position on from Roger Winter who has stepped down after his allotted three year role.

We thank Roger and Jane Winter for all the hard work and effort they put into the Association, and are pleased that they will continue to be involved as members, as will Peggy Rice who was also thanked for her work on the Committee and has been our Kontakt Editor for several years, but can no longer continue with it.

I am pleased to say that John Saxton has taken on the role as Kontakt Editor as well as Publicity and we welcome him to the Committee along with Elizabeth Scannel.

The Committee:

Chairman Cllr Jon Cloke

Vice Chairman Robin Staines

Treasurer Debbie

Secretary Anne Long

Membership Secretary Helen Jackman

Publicity and Kontakt Editor John Saxton.

Ordinary Members are: Angela Bailey, Diane Matthews and Elizabeth Scannell.

We are hoping that someone will be interested enough to help out with the Youth /School role.

We welcome our new Mayor Cllr Mark Reed as the President for the coming year and

Cllr Noelle Hones as our Vice President.

Strawberry Tea



I don't care what anybody says, English Strawberries are the best, This was quite obvious at the fabulous strawberry party that Diane Matthews so kindly staged for us, at her beautiful home, on 12th July, 2015. Gazebos provided plenty of seating and shelter from the threatening rain. A groaning board was graced by a large

variety of strawberry cakes, flans and a generous bowlful of mouth watering English strawberries; temptation quite irresistible.

Previously enjoyed CDs and books rewarded discerning browsers with personal bargains, painlessly boosting the 2016 hospitality fund. Together with the (very reasonable) "ticket" fee and the raffle, those sales helped raise a total of £188. Well done Diane!

Having politely refrained from crashing the party, the rain finally fell at the end of the happy proceedings. Thanks again to Diane and her ground team, who "struck camp" in the nick of time. Storing soggy gazebos really is better avoided. *Peggy Rice*

Roth 2015

Farming Diversification:



Herr Schnell Gets Serious about Pumpkins

The warmth of our host mayor's official welcome lent sharp relief to his feelings of regret. Herr Eckert, Mayor of Roth, declared cheerful anticipation of renewing friendships and getting to know new town-twinners. He then referred to the sad fact of linguistic imbalance. German is now very little taught in Brentwood schools. School exchanges have therefore dwindled to near zero. Surely that's a challenge we shall rise to. Our movers and shakers are doubtless already drafting notes to education chiefs and elected politicians.

Mustering at the Brentwood Centre then travelling to the Stansted shopping arcade by coach continues to be a low-stress, practical arrangement. Thanks are due to the Winters for arranging that and many other essential details.

The sight of a smiling friend at arrivals is a treat after enduring the manic process of air

Travel, so the group of union flag waving German friends greeting us at Nürnberg was hugely appreciated.

Our days were splendidly and punctually full. Most of our hosts accompanied us on the well arranged visits, adding to the enjoyment with local knowledge and exchanges of special vocabulary.

Amazing machinery for the cultivation, harvesting and processing of pumpkin seeds was explained by diversifying farmer Herr Schnell during our visit to high tech farm and restaurant. Tastings (and subsequent purchase) of said seeds with a wide variety of added flavours proved the head shaking of his neighbours in the early days over such a crazy venture to be completely wrong.

It was inspired to take us to the Faber Castell "castle" on the day of our departure, en route to Nuremberg, now "Albrecht Dürer", airport. Our guide brought the business, technology and the generations of enterprising owners of the oldest private company in the world to life. Having been "appropriated" during WWII, the castle was refurbished in 2014 and is now open to visitors. The family is no longer in occupation.

John Saxton

In at the Deep End

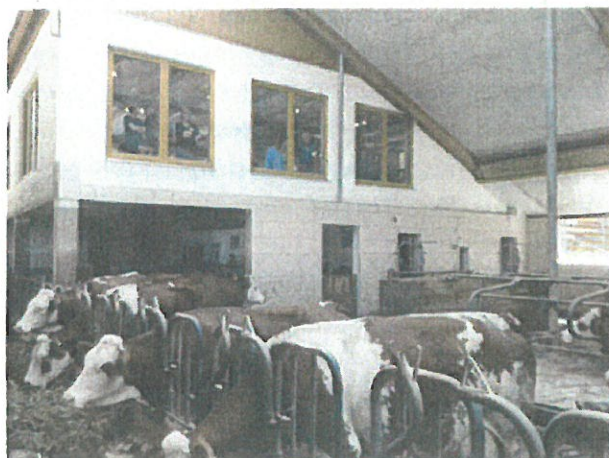
In my first year as Chairman I'd like to thank the committee for their sterling efforts in fund and fun raising. I look forward to hosting our friends from Landkreis Roth in September and am working hard to revive my fluency in German, building on my GCE study of the language in school days.

If you would like to host German guests and 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".

Jon Cloke

Kaffee und Kühe

German Twist on Kaffee und Kuchen!!!



Cream Supplies

Much to the disgust of my hostess the most fascinating visit for me was the dairy farm coffee shop! She would not even join us that day as she did not want to encounter the repugnant aromas, mixing the smell of coffee with the smell of cows (or was it the smell of cows with the smell of coffee?)

Upon arrival I had no idea what this visit was all about as we were taken into a beautiful coffee shop with large windows which overlooked the cow sheds. As the waitresses produced a wonderful display of freshly baked Kuchen we ordered our drinks, helped ourselves to the delights of the table and viewed the beautiful, if not lazy, cattle in the sheds below - our Kaffee- Kuchen mornings will never seem the same to me again!

Diane Matthews



Must I choose just one?